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SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

VOLUME 13 , ISSUE 1 , OCTOBER 13, 2011

COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

## Miksch swims on to Olympic Trials

**By Stacia Rawhouser** Editor

Every four years, people make it a priority to flip their televisions to the Olympics in order to support the USA athletes. All the athletes on the screen had to qualify and try out for their positions. Among these athletes to be trying out this summer will be one of Scotus' own. Last August, senior Ryan Miksch competed in the Junior Nationals swim meet and swam a time in the 50-meter freestyle that qualified him for the Olympic trials.

"In order to compete in meets like this, you have to make times that qualify you for them. The faster the times, the better meets you qualify for," Miksch said.

To achieve a goal such as this, it is obvious that it is subjusted to

To achieve a goal such as this,

To achieve a goal such as this, it is obvious that it requires training in the off-season, as well as long hours of practice during the season.

"I swim anywhere from 10-17 hours a week depending on what part of the season I'm in. My 2-a-days are on and off all year round. We practice as a team a lot, but sometimes it's just me," Miksch said.

Time and effort are both

Time and effort are both

major factors in becoming a dedicated swimmer. The will to practice alone takes a high percentage of self-motivation.

"I just want to be the best that I can, and if that means I have to practice, then I guess that's what it takes," added Miksch.

As swimming.

As swimming consumes most of his schedule, Miksch finds a way to

of his schedule, Miksch finds a way to deal with the constant training.

"Swimming is fun and rewarding, but it is a lot of hard work,"
Miksch said, "it is a lot of drilling hours, but it's all worth it in the end."

but it's all worth it in the end."

Competing in such high quality meets puts a lot on the line for swimmers; therefore, stress may come into play and affect the level of performance executed. However, this is not exactly the case for an experienced swimmer of 13 years, since he is still able to perform well while carrying the weight of nerves that so many athletes struggle with.

"The bigger the meet, the more nervous I am. You just have to keep your focus and do what you came to do," Miksch said. "Nerves are going to happen and you have to learn to deal with them. I have adapted better with experience, but I definitely still get nervous."

Qualifying in August made it easier and less stressful for Miksch, because it was the last chance he would have to compete in a 50-meter pool for six months. It took some of the pressure off of him knowing he had competed well and succeeded during his final opportunity, rather than having to wait and stress for another chance.

"I was obviously really excited. I knew I had reached my goal," Miksch said.

I knew I had reached my goal," Miksch said.

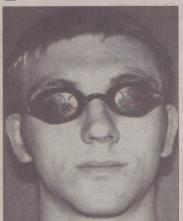
Having the chance to compete in the Olympic trials is a successful achievement. All the athletes that have or will compete in the Olympics must be present at the trials. There will be 1,200 swimmers total attending the trials.

"It will be an amazing experience getting to meet them all," Miksch said, "I can't wait."

With plans of possibly swimming in college, and continuing to swim throughout his life, Miksch's main focus right now consists of the Olympic trials. He has his eyes set on the goal ahead, and is continuing to work hard to reach his potential.

"I'm hoping to compete the best that I can," Miksch said, "I want to leave the pool knowing that I gave it my

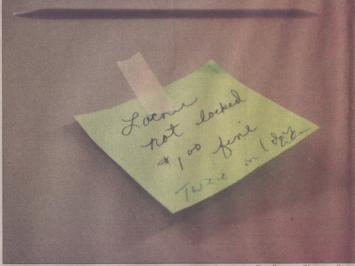
leave the pool knowing that I gave it my



Senior Ryan Miksch qualified for the 2012 Olympic Trials this summer. Miksch will be competing in Omaha with approxiamtely 1,200 other competitiors.

hours a week depending on what part of the season I'm in." ~Ryan Miksch

## Students"locked down" by new handbook rules | New teachers







TREY STUTHMAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

ANGIE WIESER/YEARBOOK STAFF

A junior student is fined \$1.00 for failing to lock their locker. President Wayne Morfeld placed many notes on students' lockers within the first few weeks of school.

By Rachel Rambour Staff Reporter

The hallways of Scotus Central Catholic High School may look different then previous years. Students' shirts are tucked in more often, no one is wearing activity t-shirts, and the junior and senior lockers now are locked up. This is due to many handbook changes this

year.

"The changes to the handbook were from committee discussions within the faculty," Scotus President Wayne Morfeld said. "I applaud the senior class for their leadership; the new locks on their lockers is a change that is going to take

some time to get used to, but they are doing a great job The new uniform rules, which is going to be everyone's hot topic, was a committee of faculty which was open to all faculty members who wanted to take part. The conference room was full the day of the meeting," Morfeld said.

Scotus students are no longer allowed to wear activity shirts on activity days anymore, such as football jerseys, mock trial T-shirts, etc. Also, if a student gets caught out of dress code (wearing a colored t-shirt under their uniform, colored socks, illegal shoes, or illegal shorts or pants) they are sent down to the office 1st period and fined \$10.

"The reason we have

to charge the students for dress code is to make them take it seriously. Also, we cannot afford to wear activity shirts anymore because the big concern was the fact that we had students that were in uniform less than half of the time. Groups of kids were tending to violate it. The next thing, which is very important, is the financial cost. We have many kids who are on tuition assistance, yet we mandate them to buy 10 t-shirts a year. That seems kind of inconsistent. It will be tough to adjust to, but the student body is doing a great job," Morfeld said.

Morfeld has nothing but positive things to say about how the student body has been handling the sudden

changes, but students, on the other hand, have a slightly different view. Student Council president Angie Wieser said, "I think the price of \$10 is a little high, but I guess they have to do what they have to do to get people to follow the rules." She also said that the student council had no part in any of the new handbook changes.

"I think some of the new rules were necessary.

"I think some of the new rules were necessary, while other's were not. I understand the reasoning, but for example, the no lock lockers has always been a privilege for juniors and seniors that has been taken away from is."

away from us."

On August 24th, the Scotus football team held their annual football scrimmage at

Pawnee Park. On this day, the football boys have always worn their jerseys to school, but not this year. In order for the team to show their passion about the new rule, and for the tradition, they pinned their jerseys to their book bags.

Mr. Morfeld

jerseys to their book bags.

Mr. Morfeld
commented, "I thought this
was creative! I coached
football for 22 years, and so
I know how important the
tradition is. But if we say that
football can wear their jerseys,
but no one else can wear
activity shirts, it would not be
fair. I really believe we need
to give team Scotus Days an
opportunity. We will not find
out how it is until after we try
it. All of us support all of the it. All of us support all of the activities, we just need to find a way to make it fair."

### make impact in classroom and on field

By Jake Huss Staff Reporter

Every year the Scotus faculty welcomes one or two new members to their staff. This year Scotus welcomes a new face in Mr. Tyler Linder and a face that has been seen on the Scotus grounds in the past in Mrs. Becki Zanardi. Mr. Linder teaches religion for 7th and 11th graders, while also teaching geometry essentials. Mrs. Zanardi teaches 8th grade study skills and 10th grade English.

Mr. Linder is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He also attended Dakota St. on a football scholarship and Grace University in Omaha for more religious studies. Last year he student taught at Fremont Bergan, which also happens to be his alma mater. Mr. Linder did not originally go to college to become a religion teacher.

"I decided when

"I decided when I got to Omaha, I took an introduction to world religions class and that really sparked my interest. I've always been a pretty faithful person; I went to church every Sunday, but it wasn't until I got to experience other religions that it really interested me," Linder said.

Mr. Linder is also an assistant football coach for the varsity team. He wanted to become a teacher and a coach for specific reasons.

"I wanted to see See Teachers, Page 2

### News

#### **Teachers** Continued from Page 1

the finished product."

encourages students on the third floor to stop by and say

"It's not an immediate gratification, but when you hear how a kid has done down the road and just knowing you might've helped out just a little bit with that."

~Becki Zanardi

Mrs. Zanardi is not a "new" teacher to Scotus. In fact, she taught at Scotus from 1999-2005. She left Scotus to help start a family business, which is still running today. Her business is a family salsa. All a student has to do is look for a salsa labeled, "Moody Girl," to try it out. to try it out.

The The main differences from "old" Scotus to "new" Scotus is mainly the technology. Teachers are now found with laptops and the Internet is much faster than before. The technology does not change the fact that she returned here to see the results of her teaching.

"It's not an immediate gratification, but when you hear how a kid has done down the road and just knowing you might've helped out just a little bit with that," Zanardi said.



Above, new Scotus teacher Tyler Linder is showing off his football skills as well as his religious knowledge, while Becki Zanardi, pictured below, flashes a smile from her podium. Mr. Linder and Mrs. Zanardi are the two new teachers at Scotus this year.



#### **Teacher Quotes of the Month**

Mr. Brockhaus

- "If it's general knowledge and I don't know it, then it's not general."

- "Go hack a lougie on my truck. I don't care."

- "Teachers - you put a lot of us in a room, and we talk about Jake."







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## **Opinion**

#### Grin and Bare it



**By Andy Heusinkvelt** Staff Reporter

"The lunches suck! The new rules suck! This school sucks! My life sucks!" Then change it people! So often walking down the hallways, I walking down the hallways, I hear people complaining about something. They don't like this; they hate that. Bottom line: our country is a bunch of lazy, crybaby pinheads. If we don't get something we want, we scream; if we don't like something, we complain. Grow up people. As the words of the infamous Michael Scott, "You can't act like a baby, it makes me look like I hire babies."

America today has been softened by this attitude, "we get what we want...all the time." Instead of, God forbid, getting up and taking care of the problem, we sit around and wait for someone else to solve it for us, which is an unending circle. If we all have that attitude, then who's going to get it done for us?! No one, that's who, then America will fall into a bottomless pit of apathy. (And if you don't know what that word means, I refuse to define it for you, get up off your butt and get a dictionary.)

We simply need to realize that we have to solve our own problems. We sit around and complain until life sucks, which might possibly have led to all the suicide and drugs today, who knows? The simple solution: we need to get a nice little slap in the face, have a reality check, and get going on fixing our own problems. Your life sucks? Go fix it. Sit down and think about why exactly your life sucks, then solve it. If you need help

why exactly your life sucks, then solve it. If you need help on this, I'll help you through it. Do you need to join a club?

it. Do you need to join a club? Join a club. Have you noticed a gaping hole in your life? Sing in the shower. These are just a few simple ways to make your life enjoyable.

For the things you can't change, like the lunches or the rules or anything else that sucks, there is another tactic I believe we need to try. It's called sucking it up. Complaining about rules we can't change is just silly. You're always going to be You're always going to be complaining about it, and eventually everyone will be mad at you for it. So I'm just going to grin and bear it, and everyone else should too. For those who are always so pessimistic, see the glass as half full please, if not for your sake, for ours. But of course, there are those people who will always complain about will always complain about everything and never do anything about it. All I have to say is that if you can hate your life and still continue to live the same way, kudos to you. You deserve an award for class A not caring.

## I locked my lock..but I killed my spine

### One student's war against the lockers of SCC



By Lauren Kuta Staff Reporter

You're walking down the hallway towards the down the hallway towards the media center and notice that one locker is still open after 5th period has already started. Upon further inspection, you see that the lock is locked, but the locker door is wide open. This situation leads to two different conclusions: either someone believed that they were sneaky and tried to dodge the locked locker policy, or their book bag was just too big, and in their honest attempt to close their locker, it attempt to close their locker, it just happened to swing open.

The latter of the two situations describes my daily pain of smashing my book bag in my locker during Chemistry. This battle, however, was the beginning of my locker

get along. Ever since I started my career at Scotus Central Catholic High School in 7th grade, I have been in constant war with the lockers. First, it was the height issue. Being vertically challenged, I could not, for the life of me, reach the top of the locker to put my books in it. I had to jump locker, which was numerous times during a day. Then I would trample everyone below me in an attempt to use their lockers for a boost resulting in pain and anguish for all those involved. In conclusion, the

lockers were up by one when I entered 8th grade.

The following year I tried a new tactic, expandable locker shelves. These are locker shelves without legs that will expand to fit any

locker size. I happily adjusted them, assured that they would work. Overnight, however, on me. It magically expanded causing my shelf to become too small to fit properly. As I opened my locker the next day, it sprang open, throwing all of the contents across the

hallway.

In my freshman
year, I developed a new game year, I developed a new game plan: ignoring my locker completely and carrying all of my books and notebooks on my back. Of course, this plan completely backfired. Studies revealed that if I continued this course of action, I would end up with a painful spinal injury as I trekked across the three floors of Scotus Central Catholic. Basically, I was killing my spines. As in spines I mean both my actual spine and the spines of my 100 spines I mean both my actual spine and the spines of my 100 pound books. By my senior year, the student body will be calling me the Hunchback of SCC.

This year, I went for the happy medium between

using the locker and a book bag to haul my essentials around. Because Chemistry does not allow book bags in the classroom, I am forced to stuff my book bag into my locker during 5th and 6th period. After my first Chemistry class of the year, I returned to my locker to find the infamous red slip of paper stuck to my locker. It was a fine for having my locker open. I raged in protest because I knew that I protest because I knew that I had locked my lock, but the locker door had sprung open due to my large book bag not fitting in the locker properly.

The next day, I began another new strategy. I decided to take all of the books out of my book hag shove

decided to take all of the books out of my book bag, shove the book bag into the locker, and kick it as hard as I could to get it shut. Call it locker abuse, but I thought it was necessary. When I returned to my locker after Chemistry, I saw another red note slapped on to the front of the locker. I was furious for my locker. I was furious for my lock was locked but the door was

first days, I did develop yet another strategy, and now I'm finally winning this battle. The next anticipated battle, my winter coat. Red notes versus two blocks of chills. Bring it on.

To solve and defeat

Bring it on.

To solve and defeat the lockers at their own game, we could get better lockers, the ones that actually shut when a student closes them. Another solution would be to dig out some money and buy Kindles or Nooks for students to use. Trust me; a Kindle would cost much less than spinal surgery. Yet another resolution is getting rid of books, notebooks, and even homework all together. This would make everyone happy! Students wouldn't be tired anymore, teachers couldn't be crabby about grading papers, and the overall morale of the school would soar. The most school would soar. The most probable resolution to this crazy predicament would be to attack the problem at the source, the lockers that cause



By Michael Albin Staff Reporter

There is a disturbing trend that has caught this world by storm. It's probed the minds of billions of people and has led to depression, robberies, murders, suicides, and general hatred. Material wealth seems to be the only thing that matters any more.

I have spent many hours contemplating my future, wondering where my path will lead and how life is going to be once I'm out on There is a disturbing

going to be once I'm out on my own. I've looked at people, studied how they live life, and how happy they are. What I've discovered is that people

their material possessions and worry less about themselves are much happier than those who hoard their belongings. If you don't believe me, go on a

food drive.

In godparents every year, we go from house to house asking for food for the poor. If you go up to a small house with an untrimmed lawn and a rusted out pickup in the driveway, you'll probably leave with an armful of food and a smile on your fore. leave with an armful of food and a smile on your face. If you go up to a mansion in a gated community, they probably won't answer or say they aren't interested. Why doesn't the rich person donate more than the poor person when they have so much more to give? It is because happiness isn't in what you own, but how in love with life you are.

What makes a person happy? Sure a huge T.V. and a new pickup truck are pretty sweet, but it doesn't take long to take them all for granted. Happiness is not measured in the successes, but rising from the failures. There is a certain satisfaction that only helping

a fellow man can give.

Friends have told me, as well as the media, that the most important person and the only person that matters is myself. But that's not true in the least. That may be the easiest road, but it's not the

" Happiness isn't in what you own, but how in love with life you are."

~Mike Albin

I've seen the poorest people this country has to offer on the two mission trips I took during my high school career. The Native American people of the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming have seen a new all time financial low. The majority of the propulation are all time financial low. The majority of the population are living in government provided project homes made out of reused and not inspected materials. They only survive because they watch out for

Mike Moser (402) 564-9431

each other. I personally have never seen such a community that reaches out to each other even when they can barely care for themselves. If everyone

that reaches out to each other even when they can barely care for themselves. If everyone acted with such generosity, think how amazing this world would be. If people actually put others before themselves, or even just went out of their way to help someone in need, this world would be exponentially better, on almost every level.

Another fact people have to realize is that there is a world outside their own. Too often people walk through life with blinders on. I'm driving to work. I'm eating my lunch. I'm going to sleep. When you see someone stuck on the side of the road, you stop and ask if they need any help. If the homeless guy is sitting outside of McDonalds, you give him a sandwich. If someone rings the doorbell late at night, you need to answer. Life isn'teasy, for anybody. If we all have that in common, why can't we for anybody. If we all have that in common, why can't we help each other?

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need to stop focusing so much on ourselves, and what our futures will hold, especially if it gets in the way of what God really wants us to do.

Matthew 10:8

"Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received, without cost

you are to give.



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## Homecoming





Freshman
Cade Nichelson happily plays the
drums during
the Homecoming pep
rally.





Scotus celebrates a Sweet Homecoming

By Claire Fuchser Staff Reporter

The 2011-2012 seniors walked down their final Homecoming week on a colorful, curvy path. This year, the hallways were filled with many colorful decorations. Candy was seen everywhere in the senior hallway: on the ground, on the lockers, and even hanging from the ceiling. While walking through senior hallway, the image of Candyland was everywhere.

This year, 2011-2012

This year,
Homecoming week was a bit different. Instead of there being five dress up days, there were only four because Monday was Labor Day, so students and staff had the day off

Student Council Sponsor Joan Lahm thought that the week was less of a hassle knowing there were not the usual number of days for students to dress up. She was also impressed with the hallway decorating and thought that they were very well done. The juniors won the hallway contest this year with their theme, "Disney World". The teachers were very impressed with the various paintings done by the junior girls.

The first official day

The first official day that the students dressed up

was on Tuesday. Students dressed up as inanimate objects and wandered through the hallways as non-living things. The hallways were filled with all different sorts of food, as well as a few major appliances found around the house.

appliances found around the house.

Wednesday the hallways were quieter than usual with the seniors being gone on retreat, but the rest of the high schoolers dressed up for Board Game Day.

Many enjoyed Thursday's Culture Day, and the hallways were filled with numerous different backgrounds and types of dress.

dress.

The week was topped off with Friday's annual Spirit Day. Homecoming Queen Stacia Rawhouser said that, "Spirit Day is one of my favorite days because everyone is welcome to participate. It's fun to see the Jr. High go all out in their green!"

The week ended with the annual Homecoming Pep Rally, where all the candidates were asked to join in the pep rally game.

Later on that night,

Later on that night, the football game was a success with the boys winning against Battle Creek, 42-14.

Directly following the victory, coronation was underway after much preparation.

"The whole

Homecoming process takes about 4-5 hours to complete. Most of the time goes into typing the programs and collecting everything for the newspaper as well as collecting the crown and money clip," Lahm said.

Ryan Miksch and Stacia Rawhouser are the 2011-2012 Homecoming King and Queen.

"I was really

King and Queen.

"I was really surprised and excited! I couldn't believe it! I felt really honored to know that I am considered a good role model," Rawhouser said.

Last year a few

Last year, a few new rules were added to the dance policy such as dress lengths and out of school date guidelines. This year, the same rules were imposed.

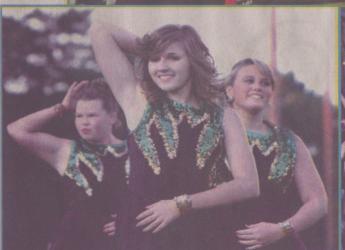
"The students were very well behaved," Lahm said.

In fact, Lahm also said that many Lincoln High Schools as well as those around the country are starting to become stricter when it comes to dance policies. Some of the major rule changes discuss "dirty dancing" as not acceptable and will not be tolerated as well as not allowing out of school dates. "I don't believe the out of school dates rule will be enforced at Scotus, but I

be enforced at Scotus, but I do think that other rules may be in line sometime in the future," Lahm said.



Ryan Miksch and Stacia Rawhouser were crowned Homecoming King and Queen after the Homecoming football game against Battle Creek. Scotus won the football game 42-14.



Flag Corps members Emily Allen, Tara Starzec, and Megan Wright perform a routine during the half-time of the Homecoming football game.



Scotus students and their dates throw their hands up during the Homecoming

## In-Depth

## Students continue tradition

By Andy Heusinkvelt Staff Reporter

From being pictured on the front page of the Omaha World Herald, to simple cheers at volleyball games, the Scotus student section has made sure to support every sport at Scotus. School spirit runs deep throughout the student section. The student section's hission statements to cheer on the teams while having fun at the same time. The Scotus students more than fulfill that o a t h

everything they can to keep cheering. But unfortunately, after doing the same things each year, it can get rather old and monotonous. Fortunately Scotus has a new tactic to boost the number of students

boost the number of students cheering.

Scotus had more than just football to enjoy on Friday evenings this year at the Pawnee Park Stadium; this year a few senior boys began the timeless tradition of tailoging.

tailgating.

Mitchell tenior and one of the organizers of the event,

a good time.

"We're just out
there having fun; the football
game can get kind of boring
sometimes, and we just want
to spice it up," Peterson said.

There were, however,
a few who criticized aspects
of the tailgating.

of the tailgating.
"Once the

"Once the game starts the guys out there need to come into the stadium. By not coming in, I think that showed disrespect to their classmates and the coaches and the football team by trying to draw attention to themselves instead

Director Gary Puetz stated.

He did, however,
find some silver lining in the

activity.

"The fact that the "The fact that the guys are out there tailgating, as long as they're not bothering anybody, it looks like its probably fun, and I don't have a problem with it," Puetz said Tailgating is not the only thing the Rowdy Dowdies bring to support school spirit. Every year the student section shows up to all the volleyball games

they can to show support to the girls. A tradition that has been noticed.

Five Scotus seniors went down to McCool Junction on September 28 to show other regional high schools what Scotus can achieve.

"Representatives from the Nebraska Southern Conference, a collection of 12 area high schools, have

Volleyball over the years and asked if some of our students would come and direct a program on cheering to their students," said Puetz. "This is

not just sent to individuals, but to the entire Scotus school spirit. "Tradition does not graduate." That saying holds true to the student body.



# "We have spirit, yes we do"

## Change it up, but keep the cheers coming

By Stacia Rawhouser

Editor

Scotus has always known for having been known for having a loud and rambunctious student section. Every year, the seniors have stepped up and lead the student body in cheering on our fellow Shamrocks and hyping up the crowd. With such success we have had in the past, don't you think we should keep our

positive reputation going?

The object of the student section should ultimately be to motivate our seems like we change our main be hard sometimes because, honestly, when our team is doing well, what more do we want to do than to rub it in our opponents' faces? Even though it's tempting to brag up our teams' awesomeness all of the time, we need to remember that we represent Scotus with every comment that we make

Picking out certain Picking out certain players or competitors on the other team and making fun of them is probably not a very presentable strategy when it comes to cheering. I'd say our best bet in keeping a constructive atmosphere for BOTH teams would be to focus our attention solely on

that our team executes.

At the same time, the student body's duty is not to distract from the game. For example, the volleyball players probably don't appreciate it when we yell their boyfriend's name as they're trying to concentrate on serving the ball. Take it from serving the ball. Take it from a former volleyball player; it is hard enough to focus on the game without people shouting distracting phrases and words at you; especially if you're someone like me who is easily distracted and thinks everything deserves a laugh.

"I take my school spirit super seriously because I honestly care about Scotus' sports."

~Stacia Rawhouser

There are actually people who consider it their job to help the crowd cheer in the right ways. I don't know if you guys have noticed all those pretty looking ladies that line up behind the football players and against the wall for the volleyball games, but they work really hard. The cheerleaders might not be everyone's idea of promoting school spirit, but we do what we're told, and we do the best we can. There are actually



Junior Cheerleader Hannah Harrington smiles and shows her enthusiam at a Scotus football game. The cheerleaders have helped lead cheers this year at football and volleyball games.

The cheerleaders often lead the parents' side in group cheers during time outs, but sometimes they go over to the student section as well. I've experienced this situation from both sides, as a cheerleader and as a student, and I feel that the student section could be more respectful. I know the

cheerleaders don't always have the most exciting cheers, but it looks bad when the student body doesn't cooperate.

The cheerleaders are limited to the number of

sideline cheers they have, and some of them (probably too many of them) instruct the crowd to stand up. When they come over to the

student section chanting, "Stand up and cheer," it is

students do the opposite and sit down.

I take my school spirit super seriously because I honestly care about Scotus' sports. No matter what game or match we're cheering for, I always want the Shamrocks to

take home the "W," and I don't take home the "W," and I don't think there is anybody that would disagree. Therefore, don't you think that our student body should reflect our positive school spirit? We have a rowdy group of seniors this year that hope to continue the tradition, so let's all continue it in the right let's all continue it in the right

## **Sports**

## Cross country runs to the top

Staff Reporter

The 2011 boys' and girls' cross country teams have both been performing at top levels. Not only are they both ranked number one in the state, but they both may have the talent to fulfill their high

Coach Merlin Lahm does not believe that being ranked number one has

ranked number one has negatively affected his team. "No, I think they just give you recognition for what you've accomplished so far," coach Lahm said.

coach Lahm said.

[Senior runner Nick
Preister is leading the boys,
while the girls are being led
by junior runner Morgan
Benesch.] Coach Lahm by Junior Morgan Benesch.] Coach Lahm has been happy with both of his team's performances, labeling there season so far as "successful."

On the boys side of things, depth has been no problem. Seniors Nick Preister and Joel Ostdiek along Preister and Joel Ostdiek along with Sophomore Ivan Chilapa, have all been consistently finishing in the top 15 of most meets. With the senior filled varsity roster, leadership has not been an issue. Coach Lahm gives the team's strong unity and leadership to Senior. unity and leadership to Senior

leader, he leads the pack during practice and pushes his teammates to be their best,"

With what may be one of the best Scotus boy's cross country teams in awhile, their only focus is to come back from Kearney on October 21 with a state championship.

"Our goal is to come home from state with a trouby." Senior Nilet Pointer

trophy," Senior Nick Preister said.

said.

The girl's cross country team has also had a successful season thus far. They have won many major meets like the Wahoo Inv. the Boone Central Inv, and they prevailed at the Conference. Although they have had a few minor slips, like the UNK Inv. where they finished 3rd against a tough group, UNK Inv. where they finished 3rd against a tough group, they have still remained number one. The girls' top runners include senior Stacia Rawhouser, juniors Morgan Benesh, Shayla Wieser, Bridgette Brune, Tessa Stuart, and sophomore Brooke Olmer. The girls only have two seniors out this season, Mackenzie Paczosa and Stacia two seniors out this season, Mackenzie Paczosa and Stacia Rawhouser. Although there are only two seniors, junior Morgan Benesch doesn't think that leadership has been

an issue.
"Most of the juniors iek. have been varsity runners

"Joel is the team since their freshman year, so



Senior Adam Moore leads a pack of runners at the UNK Inv. The Shamrocks will be competing today in Norfolk for districts.

I think we all have leadership qualities, and we are all really self-motivated," Benesch

The girls'have a lot of high expectations considering they are the defending district champions and last years state

runner-ups.

"We want to win our district and then focus on placing high at state," Benesch

Both the girls' and boys' cross country teams will be competing today in Norfolk for their District race.

## New season brings new success



Senior fullback Austin Wortman carries the ball against David City Aquinas. The Scotus football team travels to David City to play David City High tonight at 7.

By Stephani Jarecke Layout Editor

With the With the talent carrying over from last year, the Scotus football team only needed the heart to succeed this year. With the help of the

driven seniors, the boys' team has a winning record of 4-2. "Last year's rocky season ended in a high note season ended in a high note which carried into this year's success," head football coach Roger Kreinke said.

The season's opening game proved the team had potential. The close game with David City Acquires gave

game proved the team had potential. The close game with David City Aquinas gave Scotus their first loss. This loss did not slow the boy's down, instead it gave them the drive to want success.

"The team agreed to set our minds with a positive attitude knowing that we can

attitude knowing that we can

After the David City game, the team came out

with the big win o v e r Battle state."

to win four

f o u r
more games with only one
other loss putting their record
at 4-2. The tough competition
made the boys push harder to
pull through with the wins.
"This year our senior,
junior, and sophomore classes
possess the will to win, which
is something we lacked last

win every game and play with every team in the state," senior Kade Hoefer said. year. Also, our line is very experienced as well as our backfield," senior quarterback experienced as well as our backfield," senior quarterback Josh Spenner said.

The football players this year are able to compete

"The team agreed to set from their our minds with a positive experience attitude knowing that we can win every game and play with every team in the

~Kade Hoefer this year, as well as many key seniors and juniors playing with experience. This helps the younger players feel comfortable to step up also.

"The fact that everyone is getting better and is able to be depended on is a great momentum builder,"

The season last year was a tough season, but the boys learned a lot from losing. The football team last year had an ending record of 3-6, with the big win against the cross-town rival Lakeview High School. The team did not let last year's down fall hold them back from success this year.

this year.

"Last year we went into games hoping to win, but this year we go into each game expecting a win," Hoefer

The team is ready to finish the season with more wins and an appearance at

state.

"We want to win a district championship, and once we meet that we can move to the next phase," Kreinke said.

The football team has the strength physically and mentally to start new traditions for the Scotus program.

program.

"This is a team that

"This is a team that can do some things. I really have confidence in our guys, and I am excited to see what we can do in the next few weeks," Kreinke said.

Last Friday's big win over North Bend brought the team to a whole new level of playing, and they are ready to take on David City High

#### Scotus Football Scoreboard

DC Aquinas -28-21 3OT (L) Battle Creek -42-14 (W) -49-15 (L) Raymond Central -44-8 (W) Tekamah-Herman -42-19 (W) North Bend

-47-7 (W)



By Michael Albin

way, let me start by saying my heart goes out to Husker Nation as they move through their first Big 10 conference season. For those who do not already know, I'm not a card carrying member of Husker Nation, and I completely understand what it is to lose. I am actually a die-hard Missouri Tigers fan and also root for the Chiefs when I have the patience. Trust me, I

have the patience. Trust me, I know your pain.

All mourning aside, the face of college football is changing drastically faster than it has ever before. Some conferences are losing members faster than Saturday Night Live, while other conferences are considering the possibility of becoming 16 team super conferences. Every other week there is a story about someone removing their athletic teams from conferences. Most certainly their athletic teams from conferences. Most certainly the conference with the biggest chance of collapsing

is the Big 12.

For those who do not remember, probably the biggest reason teams started biggest reason teams started shopping around was because last year the University of Texas and Missouri claimed they were exploring the possibility of changing conferences. Within two months of this statement being released, The University of Nebraska and Colorado both decided to inwe the sun and

Neoraska and Colorado both decided to jump the gun and switch conferences.

This season is more of the same, with Texas A & M officially removing themselves from the Big 12.

It is only a matter of time before the Big 12 completely collapses. Those who do not really follow college football may be asking themselves why? The answer is... Texas.

In January of 2010, The University of Texas made a deal with ESPN to have a T.V. deal for the next 20 years, giving the Texas Longhorns their own television station and a nice \$300 million. With that fowl swoop, the Texas that fowl swoop, the Texas Longhorns managed to kill another conference (the Texas Longhorns were a member of the South-East conference before everyone jumped ship

before every
there too).

Give it a few years,
but when the Big 12 has
disappeared, completely disappeared, Texas will most likely move to another conference. But why? Why do down and out teams have to deal with the reign of Texas in their conferences?
There are two options here that could work.

First, and most

First, and most easily, Texas could take a page out of Brigham Young's and Lou Holtz's books and go independent. This would actually be beneficial for the University of Texas, because then they would not have to share their money with other members of a conference. But there is no way the Big 12 would let that happen while they are still a conference. Or there is another nobler path to

take.

If someone says think about the history of college football, you think of dynasties that once were. Michigan, Notre Dame, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Miami are among some of the teams that come to mind when someone thinks about college football. What most people do not realize is that dominate powers come and go, and the powers come and go, and the same is true for Texas. Stick it through, and eventually Texas will have a low period and that's when other teams can shine through. That's why it's called the Big 12 instead of the Big 1.

## Activities

#### doesn't shake Rocks nexperience

By Rachel Rambour Staff Reporter

Experience is not necessary for success, and the 2011 Scotus volleyball team has shown this with their 20-0 record with only 2 returning starters from last year. Success takes hard work, determination, and commitment, and according to legend volleyball coach John Petersen, this year's team holds all three of those traits.

traits.

"A big thing about this team is how hard they work. They are less experienced than previous years, but they are all hard workers, and we are definitely improving," Petersen said.

The team has beaten the pre-season ranked number 1 team, GICC, and two top

1 team, GICC, and two top rated class B schools, Skutt and GI Northwest, along with 16 other wins. Only two starters returned from last year's team, setter Jordan Chohon, and outside hitter Lauran Hellbusch. Petersen

said that those two, along with the other seniors, have shown great leadership on and off the

"We are not very experienced this year, with most of our starters having little to no varsity playing time in the past, but they are stepping up and being great leaders," Petersen said.

Coach John Peterson has lead the Shamrocks to 12 state championships since 1995, and has had 15 state final appearances. Petersen says that his goals for this season are no different than any other year.

season are no different than any other year.

"Our three goals for the season are: to become the best team we can be, to improve as much as we can, and maximize our potential, and, of course, we would like to win a state championship" Petersen said. "Some years you achieve that, and some years you don't, but I think this team has a chance. Right now we are not good enough, now we are not good enough, but in time I think we can On Saturday, September 24th, the Shamrocks defeated two of the top rated Class B teams at the Grand Island Northwest Invite. They started out the day by defeating number 2 rated Grand Island Northwest, then ended the day sweenings the number 6 rated sweeping the number 6 rated, Omaha Skutt.

"It was a confidence booster for team knowing that we can play at a high level. Whether or not we won is less important than knowing that we can compete and play at that level. It is and play at that level. It is also important for wildcard points, and when you play teams at that level it shows your deficiencies and shows the ways in which you can improve," Petersen said.

The team is off to a good start with an 11-0 record, and will be playing in the Columbus tournament this coming weekend.

coming weekend.

a lot to accomplish our goals, but I think this is a hard working group of girls, and I think it can be done."



Senior setter Jordan Chohon sets the ball during the home game against Lake

and marches to first superior



Scotus marching band is hard at work at their final dress rehearsal practice the day before the Harvest of Harmony Parade in Grand Island, NE, where they received a superior rating.

By Megan Wright Staff Reporter

learning the music, weeks of hardcore practicing, and waking up at the crack of dawn, the Scotus Shamrock Marching Band joined 98 other schools to march at the Harvest of Harmony Parade

in Grand Island, where they placed 6th out of all of the schools, and walked away with their first ever superior

"It was the first year that our band has earned year that our band has earned a superior at the Harvest of Harmony Parade. That is quite an accomplishment for us, and we have been striving for that ever since our band started attending the parade," Scotus band director K. Cox

The parade is the largest in the state of Nebraska. This year there were 98 bands total.

"We have been very close the last three years we have gone; we have been one point away from a superior. It is very exciting and rewarding that they did it this year. To make it even a little bit sweeter

for us is the fact that they got a superior, but they got fourth in class B, and our overall rank was 6 out of all of the bands,"
Cox said.

It hasn't always

Cox said.

It hasn't always been this great for the Scotus marching band.

"When we started a marching band here, I believe it was my second year teaching here, and our band had never marched before,

started off with snare drummers, and one bass drummer our first year there. That morning our base drummer actually chickened drummer actually chickened out and didn't show up, and we had to march our band with only 2 snare drummers. Our band our very first year, even though they worked very hard, our ranking was last place," Cox said.

It has been through the dedication of the marchers they deput they were that they

the dedication of the marchers throughout the year, that they are where they are today.

"We have slowly but surley edged our way up through the years. How proud I feel of the success the band has now is thanks to all of the band alumni that came through here before. They share in it and if it wasn't for them trusting me and trusting share in it and if it wasn't for them trusting me and trusting themselves and going out an trying something that the whole student body didn't have a part in at all, for them to trust that and keep working at it to know that one day it could be this it shows great character for all the kids tht came through here before."

character for all the kids the came through here before."

Another big part of the Scotus marching band this year was the flag corps, who has undergone some major changes, one of which is a new coach.

new coach.

Head coach Kristen
Cox gave her insight of her
expectations for the team,
and what she sees in the team
that is different from previous

"I expect our team to keep the same level of performance as they have in

the past years and have been known for, but I also see a sense of unity in the tream that I haven't seen in past years,

She is also excited about the new changes and new direction of the flag

"We have a new assistant coach this year, Morgan Gilson, and she brings Morgan Gilson, and she brings to us experience because she was a former member of flag corps for four years. She has numerous years of dance experience and is now dancing at the college, so she brings a lot of experience and fresh ideas."

As for the team, they said they are excited about the

As for the team, they said they are excited about the changes, and as for music and routines, the favorite was the homecoming routine "On the Floor". Mrs. Cox on the other

hand couldn't pick just one.

"I cant pick one. I love all of the routines. I love the hip-hop feel of "On the Floor", but I also like the the Floor", but I also like the Usher routine. The drum line routine is awesome, and I think it is some of Desiree's best production work. I think she is really proud of it as well. They are all so different and unique." and unique

and unique."

As of now, the Scotus Marching Band's fall marching season is over. They will march at the annual St. Pat's Parade in Omaha this spring. The flag corps is on a break right now, but will start performing again for halftime at basketball games this winter.

### "adopt" Spiritual Baby Students

By Lauren Kuta Staff Reporter

To help off-set the To help off-set the anti-life message bombarding students, Teens for Life are leading the "Spiritual Baby" project, which was newly adopted by Scotus and will involve activities throughout the anti-e school year.

involve activities throughout the entire school year.

"Teens for Life is always looking for projects to get the student body involved and educate them on pro-life issues, so we decided to give this one a try," Teens for Life sponsor Cheryl Rambour commented

According to the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, the "Spiritual Baby" is a nine-Kansas City-St. Joseph, the "Spiritual Baby" is a nine-month period of praying for the souls of aborted babies or babies in danger of being aborted. The purpose of this project is to increase awareness of the cruelty of abortion and to pray for those who are contemplating abortion abortion.

Throughout the nine-months, activities will be led by Teens for Life to celebrate and educate students about the maturity of a baby. A teacher of the students' choice will be

given an electronic baby used in the Child Development class for a day to celebrate its "birth" to conclude the project.

"Students will like the project because we're doing a lot of fun activities planned for each month. If they get involved, they can. It'll be fun," Teens for Life member Hannah Harrington, a junior in charge of the project, said

In October, the students played a trivia game using heart-shaped cards to mark the hearing of the baby's heartbeat. Sixth grade students from all three

will be voting on the gender of the baby, and after Christmas, the sixth grade students will the sixth grade students will vote on an appropriate name for the baby. To celebrate the baby's first kick, a soccer shoot-out will be held, and after Christmas, the baby's name will be decided.

name will be decided.

In the spring, a baby shower will be held for the "Spiritual Baby." Lastly, in May, the students will celebrate the birth of the spiritual baby. In order to celebrate, the teacher who raises the most money through a collection will take care of one of the electronic babies.

"Looking at the development of the baby and how early things develop in a baby in the first few weeks, it gives them a greater understanding that life does start at conception and that abortion is wrong at all stages," Mrs. Rambour added.

Mrs. Rambour added.

Mrs. Rambour and the Teens for Life members believe that this project will deeply impact the hearts and minds of the students by showing them the process of the development of a baby.

"I'm hoping that this project will change some people's minds about abortion. I know that there

are some people who don't have the same feelings as a lot of people here, so hopefully it'll open people's eyes to abortion," Harrington said.

Earlier this year, Teens for Life members prayed in front of an abortion clinic in Omaha to protest abortion. They also recently participated in the Life Chain, and in Silent No More, a day where students remain silent in order to remember the anniversary of the legalization of abortion. Members are currently preparing for the currently preparing for the March for Life, which will take place in the spring.

## Entertainment

## Carrie's Critiques: The Help



Staff Reporter

It has a popular tagline, "Change begins with a whisper." It was in the theatre for seven weeks; it has been in the top ten in the box office since it was released in theater. The Help has been an extremely popular movie with

major success.

The Help is a popular

The Help is a popular movie that is playing right now. The Help deals with the racism African American maids had to go through in the South during the 1960's when they were still discriminated against.

It all starts when a young white girl named Skeeter gets a job at the Jackson Tribune, their local newspaper. She gets stuck with the "Ask Myrna" column, which is a column about household management. She asked her friend if her

maid could help her with her column. While she is over at her friend's asking questions, she notices how bad they treat their maid. She is inspired to write a book from "the help's" point of view. She has a hard point of view. She has a hard time finding willing African American maids though because they are afraid of being targeted and punished. While Skeeter is secretly talking with a couple of the maids, her extremely racist friends start to notice she is acting differently, and in fact acting differently, and in fact she is even acting out to spite them and support the African American maids.

American maids.

The things on the plus side of *The Help* were how they emotionally connected with the audience. It showed the real trials that real African American maids had to go through while they were working. It showed how desperate they were to try to

best future possible. Even though most of the movie is serious, they added in some comic relief that makes you think, "Wow, did they really just say that?" but in the good way not the "that was really

This was a very long movie, close to three hours, but its still one of those hours, but its still one of those movies that you don't want to ever end, and you want to keep watching it again and again. The very end of the movie was touching, and many people were in tears.

Even though the movie was good, it had its down points, so here are the

down points, so here are the negative sides of *The Help*. In this movie they made all the white folk seem unintelligent; the only remotely smart one was Skeeter, and even she wasn't the brightest crayon in the box. They made it seem like no white person in the South could do anything for themselves. They were all

whites in the movie look the whites in the movie look shallow too. They all had their weekly bridge meetings where they could sit and gossip about other people in town. They had an exclusive club that they wouldn't let in the poor people in society.

Nottotake away from the injustice that was going on.

Not to take away from the injustice that was going on at the time, it just seems that at least the unbiased main character could have had a bit more common sense

This movie is probably going to be more liked by girls than by boys, basically because it is a chick flick. It would be a good movie to take your girlfriend to though

This is a great film about black discrimination in the South and how to make change happen. I would recommend this movie to

## -The Facility: Chapter

By Michael Albin Staff Reporter

What you are about to experience is a tale of friendship, hope, and struggle through a citywide crisis in Columbus, Nebraska. What you are reading is fictional, and may shock you. This story will take several issues to tell, so if you want to know why the upperclassmen are the way they are, read on. If not, read any way. It's good.

"I'll be home by midnight! See you later!" Jake Kratochvil said later!" Jake Krauccivii Salut to his parents one Friday night. Throughout Columbus, dozens of excited teenagers spoke similar phrases. All of them were making false

promises.

Jake was well on his way to Fritz Hoppe's house for a night of delicious food and a few good movies. He was driving steadily, obeying all the traffic signals, and was in a way expression to way law. no way suspicious to any law enforcement officers. That is why Jake was surprised when he saw the red and blue lights appear in his rear-view mirror. He pulled over quickly; even signaling he was going to make a complete stop. The officer widely stepped out of his cruiser with an angry scowl on his face. He was holding handcuffs in one hand, and his other was held firmly on his firearm. Jake wasn't going to make curfew tonight.

Not too far from Jake's location, in line at

Not too far from Jake's location, in line at Hyvee, another teenager was purchasing food for the friends he was going to have over that night. Jens Paprocki loved playing Magic the Gathering with his friends, and tonight he was going to take his new favorite deck and destroy all in his path. He pulled his wallet out and rooted around for some singles when a stubby finger poked him hard in the back. A young officer with an incredibly angered look was staring him right in the face.

"You're coming with

"You're coming with me sonny," said the officer smartly.
"Huh!? What did I

"Don't play this game with me. We can do this the hard way, or you can come

quietly. Either way is fine with me."

Jens turned around to the clerk and something caught him completely off guard. The clerk had a big smile on her face, and while Jens was being pulled backwards, she started to laugh. Something was afoot in the small town of Columbus tonight.

Jens walked with the

Jens walked with the police officer to his cruiser just outside. The officer sternly commanded him to stretch his commanded him to stretch his upper body across the hood while he was searched. As the officer searched him, he turned his head over towards the windshield and saw someone he knew. No, he saw three people he knew inside the police cruiser.

Craig Ackman.

the police cruiser.

Craig Ackman,
Emmie Odbert, and Rachel
Rambour were all crammed
into the back seat. They
looked just as confused and
shocked as he was. Then
some static police code came
over the police officers radio.

"Yea that's a 10-4.
I've got another full load. I'm
taking them to the facility

taking them to the facility now," replied the officer. He grabbed Jens hard



around the neck and guided him to the passenger seat. He handcuffed Jens's hand to the bottom of the chair; so that he was hunched forward so far his forehead was pressed into the dashboard. Jens thought to cruiser?'

himself.
'What is the facility? chapter two of *The Facility*.

Tune in next issue for





















Killy Homnath

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SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

VOLUME 13 · ISSUE 2 · NOVEMBER 18, 2011

COLUMPOS, NEBRASKA 68601

# Double the



Coaches Merlin Lahm and Amy Sokol help the Boys' cross country team show off their trophy shortly after being crowned champions. This was Scotus' first Boys' State Cross Country title. See page 6 for the full story.



### 'Rocks complete perfect season

By Megan Wright Staff Reporter

Winning the first two Winning the first two sets, losing the next two, and down in the fifth; it was not looking good for the Shamrocks as they played Kearney Catholic in the championship. Everyone watched in anticipation as the girls made their comeback. For the 15th time in Coach Petersen's career the Scotus Shamrock volleyball team not only celebrated another state championship, but also a perfect season.

"Exhilaration.

Unbelievable. I just felt so good

Unbelievable. I just felt so good for the kids. You work so hard during the season that you just hope that something like that can happen. I was surprised. I didn't

know if the team had enough talent to be able to do it, but they did," Petersen said about the victory last Saturday.

Kearney Catholic had beaten GICC in the semifinals and became the rival team for the Shamrocks in the finals. Kearney put up quite a fight giving the Shamrocks one of their toughest matches. In the end though, the Shamrocks pulled through for an incredible outcome that they worked hard for during the year.

"We played a lot of really good teams and were able to come up with the confidence to play tough teams in tough situations. Coach Tooley did a good job of helping them, regain their enthusiasm and composure between the fourth and fifth sets. We basically said hey, it's

teams in tough situations. Coach Tooley did a good job of helping them regain their enthusiasm and composure between the fourth and fifth sets. We basically said hey, it's

eally supportive. It is reall See Shamrocks, Page 2



Emotional Caitlin Weihn, hugs teammates Alyssa Foltz and Emmie Odbert while celebrating with Lauran Hellbusch. Scotus defeated Kearney Catholic in a 5 sets.

## Students soar with Scout projects

Staff Reporter

Seven Boy Scouts, who are also current students at Scotus, defied the odds and completed their Eagle Scout, the highest award that can be achieved in Boy Scouts.

"I wanted to get my Eagle Scout because it's just an honor to be one. It's different, and not many people have completed one. It's an extremely hard project," Sophomore Phil Levos, who recently completed his Eagle Scout Project, commented.

completed his Eagle Scout Project, commented.

According to the boys' Scout Master, Charlie Bahr, only two out of every one hundred Boy Scouts complete their Eagle Scout project after finishing the project's other requirements, including completing specific Merit Badges.

"If you look at it, the people who will work hard enough at this level to earn this award will work hard at whatever they will choose

to pursue in life," Boy Scout Master Charlie Bahr commented.

Along with extensive paperwork, the boys spend hours upon hours working on the project, but this work does pay off in the end.

"It's a lot of busywork. We "It's a lot of busywork. We had to fill out when we ranked up, and we completed our Merit Badges, so it's just a lot of monotonous work. It's worse than homework," senior Mark Ternus, commented.

Mark Ternus, commented.

Seven boys from the same troop and school completing their Eagle Scout is extremely rare due to the amount of work that the Scouts complete in order finish the project. Three of these boys completed Eagle Scout Projects that directly affected Scotte.

Scotus.
This summer, Senior Adam Moore installed concrete landscape edgers, replaced mulch, and tore out old bushes along the North doors at Scotus in order to complete his Eagle Scout project.

"Boy Scouts helps a lot

with leadership skills, and it also helps improve skills that we usually don't learn in school," Adam Moore

said.

Phil Levos transformed a small, wooden, and desk-like box into a full-blown tech booth in order to complete his Eagle Scout project. Similar to Moore, Levos agrees that his project and involvement in Boy Scouts was well worth it.

"Boy Scouts helped me to be a better person, accomplish more tasks, and take on more responsibilities," Phil Levos said.

Trenton Kuta, another

responsibilities," Phil Levos said.
Trenton Kuta, another senior in Boy Scouts from Scotus, took on the task of tearing down a dilapidated garage, ripping out fencing and concrete, and pulling weeds to help expand the bus lot.
"My best part of the project was watching the "Ranger Danger" a Ford Ranger pickup truck] bring down the garage. It was satisfying

down the garage. It was satisfying and fun to watch it fall," Senior Trenton Kuta added.

The other four Boy Scouts,

projects, and strived to benefit the

"Boy Scouts helped me to be a better person, accomplish more tasks, and take on more responsibilities." ~Phil Levos

Ben Heusinkvelt's project beautified the Downtown area while recognizing local historical figures. Surrounding the sundial at Frankfort Square stands a ring of stands and plaques honoring famous Columbites, which Heusinkvelt constructed during the summer.

Benches lining the walkway of Pawnee Park were also the work of two different Boy Scouts from Scotus, Brad Steiner and Mark See Scouts, Page 2

### Flu season is upon us

By Carrie Bartholomew Staff Reporter

It's that time of year again everyone! That's right, it's flu season! Yea! Or not. No one is ever in the mood to be surrounded by sneezing, sniffling, and coughing. There are some protective measures that everyone can do to prevent getting our old friend, the flu.

Right now at Scotus, there aren't very many kids going home sick.

sick.

"It's not bad, it fluctuates anywhere from around two to 10, but it will get worse once flu season kicks in," School registrar Kathy Kruse said. "Once we get to 10% of the student body absent, we really have to be concerned if we have an epidemic of the flu or not, that is why washing your bands is so is why washing your hands is so important."

According to the American Lung Association, nationally 1 out of See Flu, Page 2

### News

#### Scouts

Lastly, but certainly not least, senior Michael Albin, worked on clearing the crawlspaces at St. Bonaventure Church, preparing the site for the new heating and air conditioning ducts that will be placed there.

Andy Heusinkvelt, yet another Scotus Scout, is still in the planning stage of his Eagle Scout Project. With his completion, eight Scotus students will be recognized for their service accomplishments.

"All my family has completed it, and it was my grandpa's wish to continue the legacy of having the boys in the family finish their Eagle Scout Project," senior Ben Heusinkvelt responded.

### Shamrocks

racking, but it was great especially with such a good outcome," Chohon said. The highlight of the Shamrock volleyball

season was winning the state championship, but it also finished out a perfect season

"It's a surprise. We thought we would have a competitive team, but I don't think you ever anticipate think you ever anticipate having a perfect season. It was especially surprising because of the schedule. We are in a tough conference. The teams are good with Hastings Saint Cecilia, GICC, Lincoln Lutheran; you can just go down the list. Then there are the class B schools we played with Omaha Skutt



The Scotus student body and members of the volleyball team celebrate as the Shamrocks pulled off the win against Kearney Catholic.

and Seward," Petersen said.

and Seward, "Petersen said.

With only two
returning starters Senior
Jordan Chohon, and Junior
Lauran Hellbusch, the girls
had a great deal of steps to
take in order to grow as a

"First of all the team has to believe they can do that, and play well together as a team. I think they did that. I thought the kids got along really well together. They did things right during the year. No one got injured or sick for any matches besides the minor things, so I think we had some luck with that," Petersen said.

being his fifteenth. But what makes this championship different from the others? "First of all, I think they are all special and all a little different because they are all different kids. This

one is special because it is a new group. This is the first time that most of the kids had time that most of the kids had the chance to play for a state championship team, so that makes this special for them. It's special for me because at the beginning of the year, I didn't know if we were talented enough. My hats are off to the kids for their great effort."

#### Flu

d from page 1)

people get the flu each year There are around 226,000 hospitalizations due to the flu each year. There is a wide range of deaths that occur each

range of deaths that occur each year from the flu too. The flu, along with pneumonia, is the 8th leading cause of death in America. Many people take the flu lightly or think that they won't get it, but everyone is susceptible to get the flu.

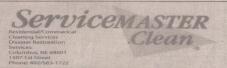
Every year Scotus has a shot clinic for students and teachers. This year it was Thursday, October 27th. Nurses come to Scotus and give teachers and students the flu shot. For \$20, students had to get a parent's permission if

There are many places in Columbus that people can get a flu shot. Some places include Walgreens, Hy-Vee, Wal-Mart, Super Saver, or

any doctor's office in town.

Some people are not a big fan of needles poking into their skin, so there are alternative measures that people can do to prevent getting the flu. Washing your bands is a major feeter in not people can do to prevent getting the flu. Washing your hands is a major factor in not getting sick. Don't touch the face; bacteria can get into the body through the mouth, nose, and eyes. Keep hydrated! That doesn't mean pop, drink water. Avoid people who are sick; they can spread sick germs to you. Get a lot of sleep. The immune system needs sleep to be able fight off bacteria. Another way to prevent getting sick is taking vitamins and eating well.

No one wants to get sick or be around sick people. Everyone can make choices to try to prevent getting sick, so it's about time to say goodbye to our friend, the flu.







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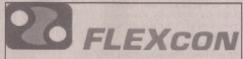












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## **Opinion**

## Remember The Time...

Jake takes a turn grinding his gears



**By Jake Huss** 

Do you know what grinds my gears? What I mean by Haters. What I mean by "haters" are those people who hate on something without ever experiencing it. For example, I go to school and ask someone, "Hey, have you seen the new T.V. show? It's really good!" They reply, "No, I hate that show." That's fair enough, but then I ask that same person whether they've watched it, and they just say no. That's what grinds my gears; someone they've watched it, and they just say no. That's what grinds my gears; someone who bashes on something that they clearly know absolutely nothing about. The person is too incompetent and ignorant to even give the show a chance. I mean, seriously, it is no big deal if they saw the previews, and they did not seem appealing, but to just say "I hate that show" is wrong. The wrongful hating does not stop there.

Another horrible

Another horrible Another horrible act of hatred is when people dislike someone for doing something good. I'm going to use myself as an example. I try to eat healthy and stay away from junk food. That doesn't seem like a big deal; junk food isn't good for you so why eat it, right? Well, I often receive criticism for a choice to try to criticism for a choice to try to

hating on someone who stands up for someone else being bullied. That good Samaritan is standing up for someone who is getting unrightfully picked on; yet they are getting made fun of for having the guts to do what's right. The guy is getting criticized for sticking up for someone being wrongfully hated. These acts of hatred still don't cease.

It really really grinds my gears when someone hating on someone who stands

It really really grinds my gears when someone automatically dislikes another person without ever saying a single word to them. Let's pretend there is a new student, and my friend tells me about how this kid is "not cool" or is a "loser;" why would that mean that I have to think that too? That's an injustice that happens far too often within the typical school. Make your judgment on a student based on what you think of him/her, not about what your friend not about what your friend

do is try to get to know the kid. He just moved to a new school for crying out loud, of course he's going to be nervous and unwilling to try to spark conversations with total strangers. The students should try to welcome him, then judge based on his true identity, not the identity of a nervous new kid. This act of not giving people a chance is one of the biggest crimes committed in schools everywhere.

So just remember that you should judge someone or something based on what you think, not on some idiotic idea of how you're too cool for something or of what your judgmental peers think.



By Stacia Rawhouser

"Stacia! Wake up!" my brother, Jimmy, shouted in my face, disturbing me from my peaceful sleep. "Why was he waking me up so early?" I wondered as I tried my best to blink away tried my best to blink away my blurry morning vision and gather my thoughts. After a nice stretch and a yawn or two, I remembered his motive. It was time for another weekly 7am episode of the original Pokémon before heading off to school.

Those were the days; back in the 90s when the only care in the world was trying your best not to miss your favorite cartoons and

key-chain pet alive. Now everyone is concerned with reality television (not that I reality television (not that I don't love Jersey Shore) and Michael Jordan's brand of clothing. It's true, he is the king, but back then he was king on the coout, rather than in our clothing stores. Instead of gossiping about who kissed whom on Friday night, we were too busy wondering when Kimberly, the pink ranger, and Tommy, the red ranger, would realize they were meant for each other.

It's kind of sad

It's kind of sad thinking about the 90s and how life has changed since then. I had no idea the lifestyle that was popular when I was little would someday disappear. Though technology has improved drastically, and improved drastically, and clothing is supposedly "moving forward," I think society is forgetting all the "simplicity" that the 90s used to bring us

samphety that he 90s used to bring us.

I don't know about you, but when I don't have my cell phone with me, I almost feel naked. I literally feel like a piece of me is missing.

Trust me, I know how pathetic that sounds, but it's the truth, and whether you want to admit it or not, I'm sure you're attached to some piece of technology too. Maybe it's your Xbox, laptop, iPod touch, or if you're Mr. Lahm, your scientific calculator, but either way, we can't live without them.

Imagine not having all those objects to get you through the day. The 90s was a time back before texting and Internet altogether. I know, that sounds like the caveman days, doesn't it?

days, doesn't it?

days, doesn't it?

Though technology hasmadeleapsofimprovement, that doesn't necessarily mean it has made life easier. Think it has made life easier. Think of how often our words can be misunderstood in a text message, and how "meeting" each other on Xbox live for some NCAA has replaced actually playing outside with your friends. We might think that the more trouble-free our world will be; well, that's not always the case.

Look at all the fashion magazines that are

up and guaranteed, once you flip through all the worthless advertisements, you'll see pictures of girls wearing some pictures of girls wearing some short dresses, giant sunglasses, sandals that buckle halfway up their legs, and purses that are so big, they could easily be used to abduct a small child. What happened to the cut-off jeans? The light-up, Velcro tennis shoes? The scrunchies and slap-on bracelets? Where did the days go back when fanny packs were a necessity? That sounds silly now, but I bet it was mad chill back then.

speaking of "mad chill," what does that even mean? The way teenagers talk is getting out of hand.

Apparently, everyone you walk by in the hallway is related to you since they are referred to as "bro," or "brah." When The Carter IV came out, someone said it was the "illest album ever!" So I guess when something is "awesome," it is now referred to as "ill." What happened to "ill" meaning sickly? During the 90s, everything was "da

it?!"
Fights are breaking out everyday, and they usually result from some "he said, she said" rumor. Drama like that was always avoided back then with the simple "talk to the hand" and walk away. Now that I think about it, teenage lingo is always confusing, no

lingo is always confusing, no matter what generation you come from, but I think it gets worse as the years go on.

All these changes that our world is undergoing are supposed to be making life easier and less complicated. Well, it's a fail. Even though I love my technology, and Well, it's a fail. Even though I love my technology, and I don't totally hate all the popular fashions of today, I do miss the days when my brother used to wake me up for cartoons, back when you couldn't DVR them for later. As society continues to move forward, I strongly encourage you to not forget the 90s because trust me, they were "the bomb."



By Megan Wright Staff Reporte

6:30, wake up. 7:30, go to school. 8:25, school starts. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 periods. 3:35 go home. At home: do homework, go to activities, eat, sleep, wake up at 6:30, and do it all over again. This is the monotonous pattern of the average student's day, give or take some steps.

Every day, without variation, I do the same things, over and over and OVER

Repetition: You gotta love it

again. It comes to the point when I go through the motions without even thinking about it; I just do it out of pure habit. No emotion, no excitement, no enthusiasm, completely lacking pizazz, simply going through the routine, and getting ready to do it again the next day.

I was thinking about

I was thinking about it the other day: how my daily routine is exactly that; a routine. It is pretty much the same thing, all day, every day. I just feel like I am lacking that excitement and drive that really makes me feel ready and eager to start my day. I believe it is that way because the routine, the one I've been doing for years, is getting really old. I just can't help but wish for change sometimes; wish for change sometimes; maybe mix things up a bit. Go to school, and THEN eat breakfast... I know... maybe a little bit too much excitement.

a good thing because I know from personal experience, when that routine is tampered with a little, all hell breaks

"I just feel like i am lacking that excitement and drive that really makes me eager to start my day." ~ Megan Wright

Okay, so you are going through your ordinary routine. Everything is going as usual, until... Oops! It's Mass schedule, and the periods are shortened and mixed around! Well isn't that the most inconvenient thing you have encountered all week? Someone didn't get

their math done because they thought they had study hall before math, but now, study hall is after math, and the periods are shortened so you can't get it done before class! What about when they throw in that half day somewhere in there, and you have to come to school at 7:45? That requires you to alter everything in your normal routine, just to accommodate the stupid half day that they so graciously planned. It just throws your whole day off. You go through all of the periods of the day, and you are about to enter 6th period. You are excited because its lunch time! Time to eat and talk with your friends, but oh wait, early out, no lunch 6th period. early out, no lunch 6th period. Regardless of the time of day, you are still hungry 6th period because that is the routine time you eat! You get really crabby too because you had to

wake up a half hour early to get to school 40 minutes early. It just plays with your mind and assures that you will not function like a normal person

function like a normal person for the day.

Routine is part of all of our lives. Some, the same old thing "all day every day." Even though we all might want to break away from the monotony of the same old-same old and just find some excitement in life, I sometimes wonder if it might just be a good thing that I get to do the same, boring thing every day of my life.

Rock Bottom

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## In-Depth

## Fatting Facts: Fast Food and Teenagers

By Lauren Kuta Staff Reporter

How much food a teenager stuffs into their face is the least of their worries when eating. They only have a single word on their mind: FOOD. This mentality towards gobbling down food has led to an increase of weight-related health problems for teenagers.

According to CBS

problems for teenagers.

According to CBS
News, 3 out of 4 American
teenagers go out to eat at least
once a week, and about 1/3
eat out 6 days a week. Eating
at fast food restaurants, where
consumers tend to digest
more calories than when
eating at home, is one of the
leading causes of obesity in
both teenagers and adults.
Because of this, people may
believe that <u>all</u> teenagers who
eat out on any given day eat eat out on any given day eat more than other days when

This, however, is not necessarily true. Even though overweight adolescents tend overweight adolescents tend to eat approximately 400 calories more a day when they eat out than on a day that they do not, leaner adolescents consume about the same amount of calories regardless if they eat fast food or prepare a meal at home.

Any teenager eating too much food per day is a major issue. All teenagers eat about 61 percent more food than required. Because almost all teenagers eat too much

than required. Because almost all teenagers eat too much food, the difference between lean and overweight children is the amount of exercise.

O ver we ight teenagers do not exercise as much as lean teenagers, which leads to an increase in health risks in heavier adolescents.

In order to lose weight, doctors. In order to lose weight, doctors and researchers recommend that teenagers count calories,

most teenagers do not count calories or even pay attention to the calorie counts posted.

to the calorie counts posted.

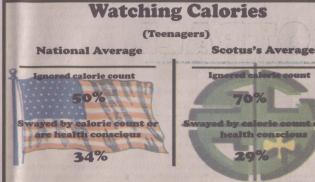
According to *The New York Times*, only 9 percent of teenagers were swayed by the calorie counts posted on the menus of fast food restaurants. Of this same group, only 50 percent even noticed the calories, and only 25 percent of them said that they were conscious of their were conscious of their weight.

weight.

When eating out, teenagers eat an average of 725 calories per meal. This calorie consumption is roughly the same amount as before the posting of the calorie counts in restaurants. To help decrease the amount of calories that a

the amount of calories that a teenager consumes, here are a few useful tips for eating out.

According to kidsheath.org, eating a balanced meal, watching portion sizes, and drinking



water or low-fat milk with a meal instead of pop are a few ways to decrease calorie intake. When eating out at a restaurant, choose half portions, take part of the meal home, or share with a friend in order to reduce calorie consumption. A teenager can also order sauces and dressings on the side, order baked, broiled, or grilled meat, and choose fresh fruits instead

of caloric and fatty deserts.

When eating at a food court or a fast food restaurant, try to stay away from fried foods and stick to smaller,

almost snack-like sized meals Some healthier choices would be items such as a baked potato, frozen yogurt, grilled or deli sandwiches, or even a small hamburger. Watching what a teenager eats and how much food they eat can lead to a healthier, happier lifestyle.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO EAT IN TOWN?



Mcds- It is quick, unhealthy, and greasv...America!

~Ian Robak



Applebees- the cherry limeades are vummy. Monday night karaoke is hilarious to watch.

~Jade Mostek



Taco Bell- I can eat an unlimited amount of chicken burritos.

Jake Kratchovil



The Stack- It's just super chill, and the hot chocolate. You can't really beat breakfast for dinner. Catherine Swope



Quiznos- They have the best BLTs ever. ~Katie Reisdorff

## Pizza places flood Columbus

Staff Reporter

If someone is looking for pizza, boy o boy have they come to the right town. Recently, Columbus has seen an increase in pizza places leaving many options for those pizza lovers out

If an avid pizza lover If an avid pizza lover would have visited Columbus 3 years ago, they would have just seen traditional pizza places: Godfather's, Pizza Hut, and Valentino's. Now, that same pizza lover can go to those traditional places as well as to some of the newer joints like Pizza Ranch, Little

places opening up, one might think that these traditional places might be feeling the heat of the battle for customers. Valentino's, which has been in Columbus since 1996, does not think that these new pizza places cost the company in the

long run.
"It affects us a little at "It affects us a little at first because customers want to try out the new place, but they usually end up coming back after they have tried it," Valentino's manager Angie Andreasen said.

These new places

These new places might not affect the customer

places present their products.
With some of these new places
bringing their own flavor to
the pizza business, these oldschool pizza places need to
change a little to be able keep
up. An example of this is
when Pizza Ranch came into
town in March of 2011.

"When Pizza Ranch

came into town, we decided to add chicken and mashed potatoes to our buffet," Andreason said.

Columbus eight different pizza places: Godfather's, Pizza Hut, Valentino's, Papa Murphy's, Sax's, Little Caesars, Pizza Ranch, and Domino's. They all provide their own individuality to how they

make and present their pizza.
Though Godfather's owner,
Bob Kuta, did not comment
on the effect new restaurants
have, he did give a reason that
makes Godfather's stand out.
He said Godfather's,

He said Godfather's, which has been around since 1971, stands out through, "Quality service and cleanliness."

So with the increas So with the increase of pizza places in Columbus, one might think that the old-school places would be worried. As it turns out, most of them don't change anything about themselves. Most of them depend on loyal customers, and they let their pizza and service do the rest of the talking.

Domino's- Out of the

3,868 places we have, they have great pasta

bowls when we go down over yonder.

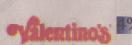
~Bubba Bolte

#### Favorite Pizza Poll













### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE DIZZA **PLACE IN TOWN?**



Godfather's- I don't want to cross the Mafia.

~Derek Lahm



Godfather's-Something about their hamburger, bread, and cheese

-Anna Perault



Pizza Hut-Cheesestuff Crust! ~Queze Campos



I'm sick of pizza. Why can't we have an Olive Garden or HuHot?!

~Jack Hoppe

## -Features

## A cornucopia of Thanksgiving topics

By Jake Huss

Thanksgiving family traditions consist of such cuisine as turkey and stuffing. Most Americans also include football into their yearly schedule. Families crowd schedule. Families crowd around the television, after a breathtaking feast, to enjoy watching their favorite teams

This year the NFL (National Football League) has three games for fans to observe. Those include Green Bay vs. Detroit, Miami vs. Dallas, and San Francisco vs.

Dallas, and San Francisco vs.
Baltimore.

A n n u a l
Thanksgiving football viewers
might notice the names Detroit
and Dallas. This is because the
Detroit Lions and the Dallas
Cowboys compete every Cowboys compete every year against someone. This tradition is one of the great things about Thanksgiving football. It is a tradition that would seem absolutely absurd

to change.

The Detroit Lions consistently The Detroit Lions have been consistently playing on Thanksgiving games since 1934. That game featured them losing to the Chicago Bears 19-16. The vilest opponent that the Lions faced on Thanksgiving is the same team that they have to play this year, the Green Bay Packers. They played each other in a 12 year span (1951-1963) and will face each other once again this year.

The Dallas Cowboys have been playing turkey ball

The Dallas Cowboys have been playing turkey ball since 1966. They faced the Cleveland Browns and were victorious in a 26-14 final

Both of these teams have helped build a Thanksgiving tradition that does not involve turkey. Turn on the television to watch these games, which are not only football games, but a Thanksgiving tradition.

zons

By Carrie Bartholomew Staff Reporter

Do you know what my family tradition is on Thanksgiving? We go eat my family tradition is on Thanksgiving? We go eat with family, we eat with the other side of the family, then we go home, and there's some football tossed in the mix occasionally. Isn't that exciting? No, but these are possible solutions that I think my family should do to liven up the family tradition.

We could have a casual family rumble for the turkey wishbone. It might

casual family rumble for the turkey wishbone. It might end in some screaming, bloody noses and possibly crying, but it would be funl I love coming from a competitive family.

We could pretend we were vegetarians and make an entire vegetarian meal. We would really be saving the turkeys! Or

could be slightly more

wo could be slightly more boring and prepare the meal as a family...Nah.

To keep the kids entertained, we could prepare a Thanksgiving scavenger hunt around the neighborhood. That would keep me occupied for sure.

We could plan out a route for the annual Black Friday shopping. Every year

Friday shopping. Every year my family says they aren't going to go, but we end up going anyway, so we could plan a route in advance for the Black Friday shopping we "won't" do. Now if my family

did any of those activities fo Thanksgiving, I would look forward to Thanksgiving forward to Thanksgiving every year, but I guess it's just back to eating with family, eating with the other side of family, and getting bored with the mixed in football.

### THANKSGIVING

By Megan Wright Staff Reporter

We are approaching the Thanksgiving holiday. It's the time to be with family, watch lots of football, eat too much, and most importantly, be conscientious of everything you have to be thankful for. You have a home, a loving family, food on the table.

oe conscientious of everything you have to be thankful for. You have a home, a loving family, food on the table, MW3... the list goes on and on. On that note, I got to thinking about the things that are taken for granted and forgotten. The things that we should be thankful for, but never fully appreciate.

As I was doing my algebra homework the other night, I realized how thankful I was that someone invented calculators. Now that I am aware of how much easier that calculator makes my life, I appreciate it so much more. Imagine life way back when calculators didn't exist and you had to do advanced math and calculus without a calculator. Yeah...not fun. Thank God for calculators.

Another thing that I think is underappreciated is paper. We all go through

millions upon millions of sheets of paper. Those of you who went through Mrs. you who went through Mrs. Bernt's speech class are the prime examples of this. It is truly something we all use every day; yet, it is so widely available to us, that we never really appreciate how great it is. When paper didn't exist, people had to carve things into rock and wood...such an inconvenience. So, thank God for paper.

God for paper.

In all seriousness, I think that people should be thankful for calculators and paper, but in a broader view, it isn't just about those two devices. It's really about ALL of the things that we have in our lives that are so truly great that we tend to overlook or take for granted:

Food, water, a warm house, great families, technology, and education. There are people that aren't going to have food, or water, or a warm house, or a family to celebrate the holidays with. So, this Thanksgiving, give thanks, and I mean for everything! Especially all of blessings that we tend to take for granted.

#### my rambunctions family

By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

"There is a thin line

between love and hate. That line is family." – Ron White. My brother Joe once convinced me to get in once convinced me to get in a dryer. He claimed it was possible to open from the inside, but he wanted to make sure. I was of course very hesitant, but he promised he would let me out if the door did not open. Naïve as I was, I believed every word that came out of his mouth. Once in, I tried hard to open the door but it would not budge. I started kicking and screaming, pleading for and screaming, pleading for my brother to set me free. I dented the door before he let me out. When my parents got

back from work, they shook their heads as my brother attempted to explain why the dryer door was dented *out*. Just another day in the Albin

People do not really People do not really understand me until they meet my family. My family is full of diverse, loud, and very opinionated people. Family gatherings quickly turn into heated battles, each turn into heated battles, each member with his or her own view (which is the only one that is correct, of course). This can get extremely annoying, especially being the youngest member of my family. My opinion usually makes me a target. But whatever, happens, we are whatever happens, we are family. We love and forgive one another, and that is a gift I can hold onto forever.

### BLACK Friday

By Rachel Rambour Staff Reporter

There's the crazies, and then there is the CRAZIES!

CRAZIES!
You might think you have a crazy mom, sister, or even a crazy girlfriend, but, you haven't seen women "crazy" until you join the psychotic fun of Black Friday shorping.

shopping.

Over the years have yet to see a guy do half of the insane things a women will do for her half-off, brand name shoes. Guys just don't get it. You men out there do not know what it is like to finally get a hold of that one pair of jeans you have wanted so bad, and now that they are on sale, you can finally buy them. That is, until that crazy women tears them out of your hands and runs away with them.

Women will do merely anything to get the things they want on Black

hilarious. Girls, we all know Black Friday is coming up, so I urge you to be respectful. As much as you want to yell horrible names at that woman who tore those jeans out of your hands, don't. Maybe she needed them a lot more than you did. Maybe those jeans are the only Christmas present her daughter is going to be getting.

No matter how crazy women can get fighting over stupid stuff, it might not all be stupid. So men, don't make fun of us. At least we're out buying your presents, while you're sitting on the couch watching football.

So don't think Black Friday is all that bad. For some people, it is the most important day of the year. As stupid as it might sound, it's kind of enjoyable waking up at 3 a.m. to watch girls push each other around, and cuss each other out just to get that one pair of jeans.

and cuss each other out just to get that one pair of jeans.

**By Lauren Kuta** Staff Reporter

when someone mentions Thanksgiving, people tend to think about food, turkeys, Pilgrims, and football. The first aspect of Thanksgiving that pops into my mind is NOT food or other subjects commonly assured.

All that I ho have experienced throughout

have experienced throughout the school year, I need to chill, relax, and sleep.

Sleep deprivation has been my constant illness throughout this school year. I usually wander through the school day as a zombie, dead tired after staying up all night

year because even on the weekends I have events and activities that interrupt my sleep. Homework, unlike sleep, is one necessity that I want to live without during the break.

"All that I honestly look forward to for Thanksgiving is the break from school." ~Lauren Kuta

Before Thanksgiving break, I have had to deal with a ton of unceasing homework I sincerely hope that the teachers will be merciful on me and not give me any homework over the break. If I get a project over the break, especially a group project, I'll totally freak out, and my entire Thanksgiving break will be for nothing. I might will be for nothing. I might as well attend school for those days!

#### Thanksgiving Story: The

By Stacia Rawhouser Editor

For years, I have heard little tidbits of how Thanksgiving came about. All I picked up from the stories is that there were Pilgrims sailing around who crashlanded on a big rock and got help from a big Indian named Squanto so they wouldn't die. Squanto so they wouldn't die. After looking into the topic a bit further, I got the scoop on how this whole feast really

Yes, there really was a big Yes, there really was a big Native American man named Squanto. Honestly, who names their kid "Squanto?" They could have done better with something like "Squantizzle Man," but they didn't; so his name was Squanto, and he is where our story begins. A really long time

A really long time ago, Squanto lived on a land called Plymouth Rock. Life was good on "the Rock," there

were no troubles, no worries, just corn. Everything was going splendidly, until the day tragedy struck.

These strange white men just barged in on the Natives and captured a bunch of them. After capturing the majority of Squanto's home tribe for slavery purposes, the white men sailed off onto a six week journey across the Atlantic. This was not a headling contine atther, the These strange white he Atlantic. This was not a headline cruise either; the conditions were awful. Almost everyone from Squanto's tribe died before reaching the desired destination of Spain. When the ship reached Spain, the captives were to be sold into slavery. What the white men forgot to take into consideration was that Spain is a Catholic country. During this time, Catholics strongly prohibited the enslavement of Indians.

As a result, Squanto

As a result, Squanto was set free to do whatever he wanted...except go home because he did not know

would do in that situation... he jumped on the first ship headed to London. He spent three years in London, and learned to speak fluent English. Remaining stranded for two more years, Squanto was fed up. He missed his family and his old life.

"That'd be like seeing the World's Largest Frying Pan for the first time..."

Stacia Rawhouser

Though he had no idea where he came from, he did know that wherever it was would be in the southern direction. Squanto sailed south for a long time, and finally recognized the land he had been longing for. How amazing that must have been; that'd be like seeing the World's Largest Frying Pan where he came from, he did

for the first time...except that the frying pan was his home. Squanto set foot on his homeland, and the feeling homeland, and the feeling of the dirt against his toes was like a family reunion. Oh how he missed that dirt. Unfortunately, Squanto's "family reunion" was interrupted when he was captured by the new inhabitants of Plymouth Rock

Rock.

The leader of the tribe that seized Squanto was named Massasoit. (Seriously, what is the deal with these names? Whatever happened to the simplicity of John, Tom, or Jim? Nope, this guy goes by Massasoit.)

A year later, some Pilgrims planned to sail to Virginia in search of a better life, or at least that's what they life, or at least that's what they said; they were probably just avoiding a trial or something, those sneaky Pilgrims. On their way to Virginia, the Mayflower veered off course and ended up at Plymouth that ship had to be pretty embarrassed, especially since they arrived at Plymouth Rock right at the beginning of a harsh winter, causing half of the Pilgrims to die out. Talk

Stacia

about a waste of a journey...

The remaining Pilgrims made it their goal to simply survive, which is kind of ironic. They came in search of a better life, now they were doing whatever they could doing whatever they could just to remain living. The first encounter they had with the natives happened when the shifty Pilgrims decided to steal ten bushels of corn. When Massasoit found this out, he wanted the Pilgrims exterminated; not only for their thievery, but also because they brought with them disease that wiped out 95 percent of Massasoit's tribe.

Massasoit's tribe.

Despite the Pilgrims lack of direction, manners, and hygiene, they did have one valuable quality: weapons.

Massasoit feared that his

easy target, but the white men brought guns. Rather than killing them, Massasoit spared them by sending Squanto, who spoke fluent English, to

Style

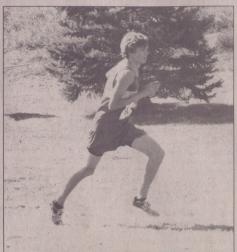
Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to fish and how Pilgrims how to fish and how to plant corn; rather than stealing it, which obviously wouldn't gain them a lot of respect. After picking up on these lessons, the Pilgrims and the native tribe came together for a feast. It was a nice gesture from the Pilgrims that basically said "thank you for not killing us"

that basically said "thank you for not killing us."

That's why we celebrate a Thanksgiving feast every year, not because we're thankful that someone didn't kill us, but because we are thankful in general for all the blessings that we have, including people that make a difference in our lives as Squanto did for the Pilgrims.

## **Sports**

## Rocks run to state vict



Senior Nick Preister strides for the lead at state.
Preister finish 9th overall.

**By Andy Heusinkvelt** Staff Reporter

"Jesus died for us and because of this we ran for him." This was the cross country team's inspirational motto for the season, and they took it to heart and ran all the way to state victory.

By winning boys'

and girls' districts on October 13, both teams qualified all six of their varsity runners for the state meet on October 21 in Kearney. With both teams taking the maximum limit of runners, they each had a fighting chance to win both the boys' and girls' titles. The boys clenched the 2011 Class C Championship title, the first ever boys' cross country win

All season long the boys' team had been running neck and neck with Ogallala and Milford High School, and only after the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team had been announced, did Coach Lahm realize his team had won.

"It was probably impossible for any All season long the

"It was probably impossible for anyone to tell where we were as a team, and when they began to announce the top three, I remember thinking don't be Scotus, just don't be Scotus because we wanted to be runner up or champions, and when we heard that Milford was runner up, we knew we had won it,"

heard that Milford was runner up, we knew we had won it," recalled Lahm.

Senior Joel Ostdiek, who has been running since 7th grade, felt this was the most satisfying way to end his senior year.

senior year.
"It was probably the "It was probably the most gratifying way to see all the years and the mileages pay off in this way," Ostdiek said. "I feel like it was a combination of not only talent but a lot of hard work and good coaching that led to our success."

Lahm said Lahm said in response to their success this season. "Cross country is a commitment to running, you

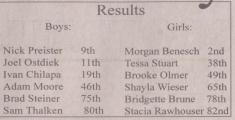
as that the runners that edaled in conference ran oth in a spring sport and ontinued in the off season,"

Leading runner for the Shamrocks, Nick Priester, recalled the moment he crossed the finish line.

ust really relieved for finishing top en, but at the same

Although ost of the leading runners for the boys' team are graduating, Coach Lahm remained optimistic about next season.
"I think

the boys are going to be successful again next year, that the seniors showed this year." commented Lahm, "We need to go out and log those miles and make that commitment to running."





Junior Morgan Benesch makes a break for the finish line at state. Benesch finished 2nd overall.

### The Albatross Perspective



By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

Before I mention anything about No Basketball Association, let me congratulate the Cheifs on building me up. Only a few more weeks until they tear me back down. Again. But at least the Chiefs get to play. Lebron cannot say the same.

Sports Center this summer was one of the most

Sports Center this summer was one of the most boring things on television. All of the programming was based on one infallible statement that had to be emphasized: The NFL locked out its players. For three months, I awoke and turned on the television and heard that statement. Surely nothing was more important than the NFL lockout, and so that is all ESPN fed to its loyal minions for the entirety of the summer season. But lurking behind all the nonstop NFL news was the NBA lockout. The NBA gave the NFL a lesson on how gave the NFL a lesson on how

gave the NFL a lesson on how to really hold a lockout.

The NFL settled their disputes before the season, and everything ended up okay. Ocho Cinco hung up his soccer cleats, and everything was peaceful. Meanwhile, the NBA administration was predicting that they would predicting that they would follow in the NFL's footsteps.
That prediction came in late July. The NBA is showing its bigger brother, The NFL, "Anything you can do, I can do better."

do better."

The difference between both of these disputes is the players in the NBA have more power than the administration. The players

recieved approximately 57% of the total income before the lockout. The administration wanted to swing this ratio more their direction, making it 60/40 in their favor. They have cut that down to a 50/50 split, but still no one is making a move

have cut that down to a 50/50 split, but still no one is making a move.

The problem with this whole dispute is that nobody is held accountable. The fact that the players make more than the administration is a formula for failure. To put it simply, the ball is in the player's court. How could an administration believe that it could force pay cuts on its players in the first place?

Now that games are getting cancelled and negotiations have not moved forward at all, we are being presented with a startling possibility. There may not be an NBA season this year. If I were the commissioner of the NBA, and I couldn't pack up and move to Puerto Rico, I would cut the salary. keep everyone accountable. First, I would cut the salary cap for superstars in the NBA. The salary cuts that the NBA was trying to impose hurt the low-income members (if there is state a thing).

low-income members (if there is such a thing).

Secondly, I would limit the amount of money that the administration could pocket. Instead of funneling profits into official's pockets, perhaps a better plan would be improving the league. Maybe some excess income could improving the league. Maybe some excess income could foster a new and better NBA, but regardless, someone is going to hurt before things get better. So the administration needs to be kept in check, and the players need to carry their own weight.

It took the NFL 127 days to figure out how to create a functional system that both the players and the administration could live with. Almost 6 months later, the NBA is showing the NFL

the NBA is showing the NFL how to actually lockout its players.

### Fehr makes record board in CHS tennis

By Rachel Rambour Staff Reporter

Senior Ryan Fehr showed his true colors during his fourth and final season with the CHS boys' tennis team. His final season consisted of hard-work, new friends, and two new records that were broken by Fehr.

"I played much better this year. I won a lot more matches, and I feel like I improved a lot," Fehr said.

These improvements

improved a lot," Fehr said.

These improvements by Fehr included breaking two records: the number of season wins, and the number of career wins. His single's season gained him 29 wins, beating out the old record of 27 season wins. He also accumulated 65 career wins, whereas the previous record whereas the previous record was 52 career wins. "It's really cool to

be able to see my name on the CHS tennis record board,

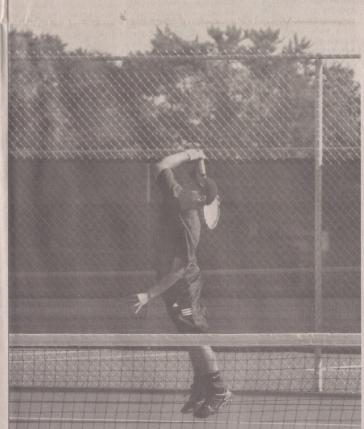
especially since I don't go to
"It's really cool to be able to see my name on the CHS tennis record board, especially since I don't go to school there," ~Ryan Fehr

school there," Fehr said.
Fehr opened up at state beating the #7 seed, North Platte. He then continued the day by beating the #10 seed, Omaha Westside. His season came to an end after losing to the #2 seed, Lincoln East in the quarter finals, who ended up with the runner-up title. Fehr ended up placing 7th at the state tournament.

"State was a lot of fun, but I was also disappointed because I would have really liked to make it to the second day of the state tournament," Fehr said.

Fehr got the opportunity to co-op with

opportunity to co-op with Columbus High School for tennis, and ended up gaining



Senior Ryan Fehr serves the ball during a CHS tennis match. Fehr finished his career with 65 career wins and got 7th overall at the state tournament.

the number one singles spot all four years. Other sports that Scotus co-ops with CHS are: girls tennis, softball, swimming, and wrestling.

"It is a great

swimming, and wrestling.

"It is a great
opportunity to get to co-op
with CHS. It gave me the
opportunity to meet new
friends and compete with
different people," Fehr said.

Another Scotus
tennis player that contributed
to the success of the CHS
tennis team was junior Craig

Ackman.
"I thought I made a

"I thought I made a lot of improvements this year, even if my record didn't show it," Ackman said.

Ackman competed at the state competition in the doubles tournament with his teammate from CHS, Grant Jirka.

pretty. Grant and I did not click as well as we had earlier in the season. We tried our hardest though," Ackman

said. "But I really enjoyed the

said. "But I really enjoyed the season, and I am excited to come back strong next year."

Other Scotus students that participated on the CHS boys' tennis team were senior Trenton Kuta and juniors Dylan Kuta and Ian Robak. These three boys participated on the JV squad this year.

The CHS tennis team will have 3 returning Scotus

The CHS tennis team will have 3 returning Scotus athletes next year, and they are looking forward to another successful season.

## Activities

## Fall play taking new direction

Staff Reporter

With roller skates, With roller skates, cross dressing, and a few glasses of punch, the fall play debuted on October 28 under new direction.

Lori Sinovic, who has directed a number of plays in the past, was pleased with the students involved this year.

"I think the kids this year worked really hard, and it's been really rewarding for me as a director to see them have fun. They are a good group of kids, and they work well together," Sinovic said.

The play Leading Ladies, written by Ken Ludwig, is about two broke actors who impersonate women to steal inheritance money from a dying woman. Along the way, they find that love is more important than

money,

Thetwoactors, played
by seniors Tom Schumacher
and Andy Heusinkvelt, are
broke, unemployed, and have
lost all hope.

Heusinkvelt said
that he will never forget
the experiences he had as a
woman.

woman.

"Well,itwasdifferent.
It took a lot of practice, and it was really fun trying to learn.
I almost sprained my ankle a couple of times. I also had to wear nylons. My voice change was actually pretty simple, but towards the end of the performances it would get the performances it would get more difficult. I lost my voice and so now it's hard for me to make my voice go up that

Meg, played by junior Megan Wright, is one of the main characters in the play. Meg is the true niece of

accept the people around her for who they truly are instead of who she thinks they may

"I always get sick the week of the play. It just makes things more stressful. I always desperately pray that I don't mess up, and afterwards I freak out. I am never nervous though just anxious to get out. though, just anxious to get out there and perform," Wright

said.

The play consisted of an old woman who never seemed to die (Carrie Bartholomew), a greedy reverend (Jacob Nienaber), a bubbly ginger ditz (Valerie Borer), a doctor who didn't care about any of his patients (Ben Heusinkvelt), and a love struck young man (Jens Paprocki).

Paprocki).

"I'm very proud of the cast of *Leading Ladies*, and I hope to be back at Scotus soon directing another play," Sinovic said.



CLAIRE FUCHSER/ROCKBOTTOM.

Seniors Thomas Schumacher and Andy Heusinkvelt show off their feminine side in the fall play Leading Ladies.

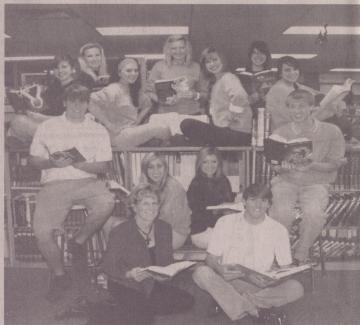


Sophomores Jacob Nienaber and Val Borer, Senior Ben Heusinkvelt, Junior Carrie Bartholomew, and Senior Jens Paprocki act in their scene where Auntie Florence played by Bartholomew has a heart attack.



Stephanie, played by Senior Andrew Heusinkvelt reacts in shock as Meg played by Junior Megan Wright suggests that Stephanie be in the play that she and Leo Clark, played by Senior Thomas Schumacher are putting on.

Senior book club



Senior Book club poses with different books during their first meeting. All seniors are encouraged to join Book Club and read any of the books on the book list.

As many students are finishing up with fall activities and moving onto winter events, the senior book club is in full swing. They can read one book or all seven books. Book club tries to meet once a month depending on the book and other school activities going on. "

month depending on the book and other school activities going on. "

Book club is nice because I don't have to be required to do anything; I can read the book or decide not to depending on how busy I am," senior Chloe Kucera said.

Scotus media center specialist Kathy Podliska gives seniors the chance to read popular adult books so they can discuss the plot, characters, themes, and whether they liked the book or not. The group meets during lunch in the media center conference room while they are allowed to eat there.

Podliska took over book club five years ago when English teacher Becky Zanardi left Scotus to start her own business and spend time with her children. Zanardi started book club for seniors in the mornings before school, but when she left there was no

seniors.
"I am glad to be able to take part in the discussion and I don't have to 'lecture', I can simply talk with the students," Podliska said.
Book club is designed to give seniors the

"Book club is a way to read interesting books that are not required for a class."

chance to read more adult books for entertainment and discuss their opinions. For senior Jessa Gaspers, book club gives her the excuse to make time for reading.

"Book club is a way to read interesting books that are not required for a class," Gaspers said.

Book club chooses interesting books that come from New York Times Best Sellers List, Outstanding Books for the College Bound, or books with popular awards. Podliska picks fifteen books she thinks would be the best for the seniors.

Then. the students

interested in Book Club pick their top four choices to read. Podliska counts the picks and is able to choose the top six books. Book club reads the popular books throughout the year as well as one Christmas book chosen by Podliska in December.

"I participate in book club because I enjoy finding good books to read, and it is fun to have other people to discuss it with," senior Kiley Bierman said.

Book club has finished reading and discussing Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, and the students are reading 90 Minutes in Heaven during this month. Seniors are still able to sign up for upcoming books that they are interested in reading. The book list can be picked up from Mrs. Podliska in the Media Center.

#### Senior Book List

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close -90 Minute in Heaven The Devil's Highway. A True Story

-Sarah's Key

## **Entertainment**

## Carrie's Critiques: Paranormal Activity 3

Staff Reporter

Everyone ready for another horror film? I thought I was too, until I saw Paranormal Activity 3. I was scared out of my mind. By the last 15 minutes, I was sitting curled up in my seat with my hands mostly covering my eyes. This movie was the definition of scary.

This movie is the third installment in the Paranormal Activity movies. The movie goes back to the late 80's when Katie and Kristi from the first two movies were

from the first two movies were

late 80's when Katte and Kristifrom the first two movies were just little girls.

The movie begins when the younger one, Kristi, started talking to her "imaginary friend" Toby, then strange events started happening around the house. Their mom's boyfriend, Dennis, started video taping their house at night to try to see what weird actions were happening. As time goes on, the horrible events get worse. It came to the point where Toby was physically hurting people who came into the house. He would also break

objects around the house. The kids ask to go to their grandmother's to get away from everything which, in the end, was a bad decision.

Paranormal Activity
3 was single handedly the scariest movie I have ever seen. The way the film is made makes it seem like the people are actually recording this by themselves, which makes it scarier. This movie this by themselves, which makes it scarier. This movie kept me on the edge of my seat the entire time. Everyone is waiting for something bad

is waiting for something bad to happen. This movie has some very demonic, twisted scenes that people who like scary movies will love. Some of those scenes include the cult of old, demon-worshipping women, a floating dead body on a stair case, a man dying women, a floating dead body on a stair case, a man dying by having his back snapped in half, and a small child being forced into a crawl space and pulled up by her hair. I have one word for that: Ouch!

one word for that: Ouch!

Even though I was covering my eyes most of the movie, I still noticed some down sides to this movie. In all three of the movies when something bad was about to happen, they



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Katie and Kristi play bloody mary in the bathroom against their parents wishes. Paranormal Activity 3 was sold out the first weekend it opened in Columbus.

put a rumbling sound in the movie. In this movie, along with the rumbling sounds, they put in a very high pitched buzzing, it is sort of like the "receptive" interest. Movie is also rated R, so unless you are 17 or older, you won't be able to get seared out of the properties.

their ears. They also use a lot of profound language. This movie is also rated R, so unless you are 17 or older, you won't be able to get scared out of

your mind without a parent's permission.

Overall, I think

this movie is a great horror film to watch. I wouldn't recommend watching this

movie by yourself though unless you are one brave soul that never gets scared, but I would recommend this movie to anyone, as

## The Facility: Chapter 2

**Bv Mike Albin** Staff Reporter

Last time: Jake
Kratochvil was stopped by
a gruff police officer who
arrested him unfairly. Across
town, Jens Paprocki was
attempting to buy Magic: The
Gathering cards when he too
was arrested. While he was
being processed, he noticed
that Craig Ackman, Emmie
Odbert, and Rachel Rambour
were all in the police cruiser
as well. That brings us to
the beginning of this second the beginning of this second chapter of **The Facility**.

Jens's flead began to action. His wrists began to sting with pain, and every time the officer had to slow down, his head would bang into the dashboard. The ride was completely silent besides the actional static voice over occasional static voice over the radio. While the voices inside the vehicle were silent, the voices inside Jens's head

wrong, and he knew that, but

then why? As Jens' thoughts rolled through his mind, he noticed the officer had looked over at him. When Jens raised his eyes to meet the officer's, he realized the officer was looking out the passenger window. Jens rolled his head over and looked over to see the flashing lights of a cop car next to him next to him

next to him

Jens's confusion was doubled in an instant as the officer yanked his wheel hard to the right, smacking into the other cruiser. Jens rocked back and forth, hitting his head into the door and center console. In a moment of pure clarity, he realized the officer was completely distracted, and stretched out his neck to bite the keys off of the officer's belt. The car rocked hard again and Jens's face pressed hard into the officer's lap.

"What are you doing!" yelled the officer as he struggled to keep control of the

doing!" yelled the officer as he struggled to keep control of the vehicle. The officer realized what the more pressing issue was and refocused onto the other cruiser. Jens quickly tore the key off of his belt with his teeth and spit it onto the ground furiously to get his handcuffs removed. handcuffs removed.

The hardest hit yet came from the other cruiser. The officer yelled and barely

A few tense seconds later, the vehicle was back on the highway. Jens maintained the highway. Jens maintained the initiative, turned the key and took his hand out of the cuffs. He immediately sat straight up and noticed a hand out of the corner of his eye from the other cruiser. Something flew out of it in front of their vehicle, and both right side tires popped instantly. The car lost control and careened into a ditch. Jens seemed to be in slow motion as the car rolled, and when the vehicle finally came to a stop, right-side up,

and when the vehicle finally came to a stop, right-side up, Jens blacked out.

He heard a voice getting louder and louder. He couldn't quite make out what it was saying, but he tried hard to hear. He awoke suddenly with an outstretched hand above him.

"We need to get moving before they figure out what happened," said the low grumbly voice.

Jens looked up to see his savior's face. He was instantly overcome with joy.

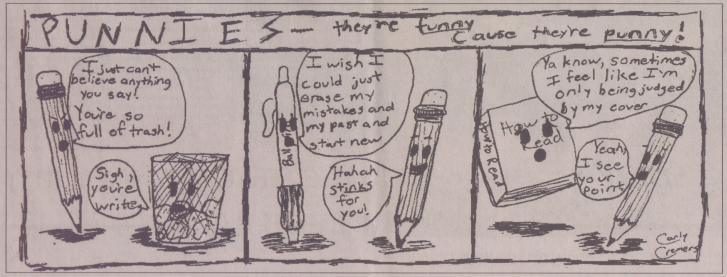
"Jake Krat? ... you

instantly overcome with joy.

"Jake Krat? ... you look great today."

Jens leaned back and passed out.





# us Central Catholic

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC VOLUME 13 , ISSUE 3 , DECEMBER 20, 2011 COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

## Competition improves food drive



Fr. Roza sits triumphantly on top of the pile of food collected for the Advent Food Drive. Students gathered a record-setting amount of food that was delivered to the Simon House on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

By Lauren Kuta Staff Reporter

annual food drive, which is usually a friendly competition between classes, escalated as the senior class plotted a winning strategy, but the main reason of conducting this food drive is not the competition

"We're able to do something like this during this time of year as a tradition and way for us as a community to give gifts to those who are less fortunate than ourselves," Fr. Roza, Scotus Campus Minister, commented.

The food drive is an annual The food drive is an annual event hosted and run by Campus Ministry. Students collected food for the week of November 29th to December 2nd that would be later donated to the Simon House. This food was and will be distributed to families that are less fortunate.

To engage the student body, a competition is held between the classes with the prize being a Dress

a competition is held between the classes with the prize being a Dress Down Day during semester tests. Every food item is assigned a certain point value, from one point for Ramen Noodles to up to five points for a jar of peanut butter.

This year, the students went all out and shattered the record by himping the proof food were recorded.

bringing the most food ever recorded in Fr. Roza's time at Scotus. The scores were calculated by the average amount of food brought in

In first place were the seniors at 31.87 points per person, and in second place were the freshmen at 22.1 points per person. The junior class took third place with 12.05 points per person, and in fourth place were the 8th graders with 9.68 points per person. Lastly, the sophomores received fifth place with 6.14 points per person, and the 7th graders took sixth with 5.18 points per person.

Each class had a sponsor with Fr. Roza being the senior class sponsor.

sponsor.
"He [Fr. Roza] said that "He [Fr. Roza] said that our class needs to be a class and work together and get involved. We needed to do something good for the community, and Fr. Roza kept enforcing that," senior Sara Dolezal

The seniors, the winning The seniors, the winning class, had a strategic plan in order to collect the most food and defeat the reigning champs, the freshmen. First, they gathered about \$5 from each of the students, and the final total of donations was \$315.

Then, two students, Trey

Then, two students, Trey Stuthman and Angie Weiser, went to both Super Saver and Hy-Vee for two hours to purchase food. Along with the food donated by the other students, all of the food brought allowed the seniors to win and make countless records because the senior to win and make

"He just kept reminding everyone to bring money, and he helped a lot himself by giving

See FOOD DRIVE, Page 2

By Rachel Rambour

The Annual craft boutique was held at Scotus on December 4th, filling both Scotus gyms and the school cafeteria with anxious shoppers and happy venders. The craft boutique is put on by the Scotus Mother's Club, but made possible by Scotus students and other volunteers. other volunteers.

other volunteers.

"The craft boutique is a gift and craft show with a lot of Christmas emphasis to it, and it is sponsored by the Scotus Mother's Club. The Mother's Club is responsible for raising a certain number of money at Scotus for our yearly budget, and this is one of the main ways we can do this," Janet Tooley, Scotus mother and teacher, said.

and teacher, said.

The craft boutique is one of the biggest in the state, and venders from all over come to sell their crafts

at Scotus.

"A lot of the venders have been coming for years, and we also send our flyers to other craft shows as well as venders by word of mouth,

carrying in crafts for the venders, to serving meals on Sunday.

"We get so many cool compliments because we are one of the new craft boutiques that has our students help carry stuff in and load and unload for the venders.

See CRAFT SHOW, Page 2



Scotus student Amy Heusinkvelt looks at jewelry at the Scotus Craft Show held on December 4th. The Craft Show filled both gyms and the cafeteria with shoppers and venders.

#### In this Issue: Features Boys Basketball Music Channel Sports Page 5 Page 6 Entertainment Christmas Break

Activities Wrestling Page





### Stuthman leads Catholic youth

By Claire Fuchser Staff Reporter

The mission statement at Scotus Central Catholic speaks of a faith-based Catholic education a faith-based Catholic education through academic excellence and diverse extracurricular activities. Many of the students at Scotus have participated in numerous faith-centered extra-curriculars such as JC Camp, Steubenville, NCYC, and March for Life. The most recent of these was NCYC, which was held November 17-19 in Indiagnalis. Indiana

in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The eight Scotus students and sponsors traveled by bus with teens from all over Nebraska. The trip takes 13 hours. Out of those that participated from Scotus,



Senior Trey Stuthman was one of the people chosen from across the country to help with the organization

See STUTHMAN, Page 2

### News

#### FOOD DRIVE -

Continued from Page 1

money," Angie

Fr. Roza also decided to pitch in money for the seniors and to be generous in giving during the holiday season. This money allowed the seniors to have more money to buy more food for

ouse. 'It's an opportunity

for the students to step outside of themselves and to recognize that there are people who have needs that they don't have and to give thanks and be generous in responding. It can have an impact on the students that choose to simply do things for the right reasons." Fr. Roza

### CRAFT SHOW-

Continued from Page 1

The students also serve as waitors and waitresses,

serve as waitors and waitresses, and it is such positive P.R. [Public Relations] because of our students helping out so much," Tooley said.

Besides the student's that help out with the setting up and taking down of the craft boutique, other students that are involved in band and shamrock singers, play a significant role in the success of the craft boutique.

The Shamrock

of the craft boutique.

The Shamrock Singers caroled from 1-3 p.m. at the craft boutique to bring more Christmas spirit to the event. The band held a bake sale for the entire duration of the craft boutique, requiring each band student to either make a treat they could sell or to donate \$10.

The boutique was a success for Scotus this year, as well as previous years.

According to Scotus Mother's Club members Barb Brockhaus and Karla Tremel, the craft boutique makes about \$8,000 to \$9,000 a year, and there was between 80-90 crafters filling over 100 tables or spaces this year.

or spaces this year.

The Scotus craft boutique is one of the primary ways the Scotus Mother's can raise money for Scotus, and it could not be done without the help of many Scotus parents and students. and students

Tooley said, "Setting up and taking down the craft boutique takes a lot of man power, and that comes from the Scotus students and parents



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#### STUTHMAN

Continued from Page 1

attended this year, plus the 40,000 that watched

plus the 40,000 that watched it live over the internet in 98 countries.

The new Lucas Oil Stadium, where NCYC was held, is able to hold 80,000 people. In the stadium, six giant megatron screens were present. This enabled those sitting farther away from the stage to see and be a part of everything that was going on.

Stuthman Thas

Stuthman has attended NCYC twice. This past experience presented him with the opportunity to be an

with the opportunity to be an animator.

"The job of an animator is to help the audience engage in the conference. There were 85 animators. We help lead all the songs, dances, prayers, introduce people, and more. Basically we run the whole show," Stuthman shared.

Out of the many applicants who applied, Stuthman was one of three lucky teens from the Omaha Archdiocese selected to be an

Archdiocese selected to be an

Archdiocese selected to be an animator.

"I am very proud that I was given the chance to design the entire opening Mass ceremony. It turned out better than what I thought it would. I am so much deeper.

Mass ceremony. It turned out better than what I thought it would. I am so much deeper in my faith because of the experience" Stuthman has been involved in many activities to prepare him for NCYC such as Thespians, fall play, musical, band, and church activities. Although there have been many people at these events, the size of the crowds could not compare to the participants at NCYC.

"It was unbelievable. Performing in front of 24,000 plus people is remarkable. The adrenaline rush you get from everyone screaming for you is indescribable, an experience I will never forget," Stuthman shared.



Scotus senior Trey Stuthman dances on stage at NCYC with a fellow cast member. Stuthman was chosen to be one of eighty-five animators at NCYC.

Upon preparing for his first visit, the senior began to investigate and discovered how to apply for a position such as animator at the

conference.
"I thought about it "I thought about it in 2009 but was too busy. So I already knew about it, but I just found the information online and went for it," Stuthman said.

Stuthman also shared that the application process to be an animator is a very stressful one.

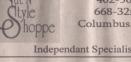
"I started my audition process back in March when I had to do a video of me singing, dancing, and reading, singing, dancing, and reading, answer five essay questions, and have Virgil Tworek write me a reference letter. I found out in June via email. I was bouncing off the walls. I was cheering so loud, and I posted it on Facebook immediately," Stuthman laughed.

The next faithfilled pilgrimage that Scotus teens and sponsors will be participating in is the March for Life in Washington D.C. in January. There are tentatively 40 students signed up.



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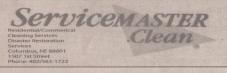
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## **Opinion**

### The "No Opinion" **Opinion Article**



Cool story BRO

By Carrie Bartholomew Staff Reporter

You know something that makes my entire life complete? Something that I might die a painful death without? (figuratively of course). Humor. My favorite types of humor are sarcasm, randomness, and dry humor.

randomness, and dry humor.

Sarcasm can be
meant to be funny or harmful.
An example of sarcasm would
be,. "We're having absolutely
great weather, aren't we?" and
it's raining outside. See? The
weather isn't great outside;
this imaginary person said
that because he doesn't want
to be all glum about the to be all glum about the terrible weather, and he is lightening the mood. To be able to survive in this sarcastic able to survive in this sarcastic world, you need to be able to take sarcasm lightly. Join along in anyone's sarcastic conversation. In the end, its pretty funny and you will have a riot. Can you feel the sarcasm in my words? I can.

Another type of mis-understood humor is randomness. Being random keeps a person guessing

randomness. Being random keeps a person guessing what you're going to say next. However, some people may find randomness stupid or annoying. If you are a random person, either keep it to yourself or keep it in your close group of friends or you will probably have judgement cast upon you. An example of randomness is having a conversation about school or something else and then adding something off the top of your head at the end of the conversation such as "oh and conversation such as "oh and then I found five dollars!" or any other example. If you do this correctly it should have nothing at all to do with the topic of discussion, and you will successfully confuse

topic of discussion, and you will successfully confuse your friend into a laughing submission. Mwahaha.

My favorite type of humor, or deadpan humor. To be a master of dry humor, you must be able to be absolutely serious while saying something absolutely hilarious. A popular phrase of dry humor is "Cool story bro. Tell it again." An example of dry humor is trying to be 'gangsta' when you're, in of dry humor is trying to be 'gangsta' when you're, in the words of Mrs. Rusher, a "white girl" and you say it in a monotone voice, kind of like I do, apparently. Thanks Mrs. Rusher! (That's sarcasm). An appropriate time to use dry humor, in my opinion, is any time you have deemed it usable.

Humor is a part of everyone's life whether they want to admit it or not. Humor want to admit it or not. Humor is especially big in my life. Maybe these types of humor don't fit your fancy, but don't fret because there are many other types of humor in this world; find your style and roll with it brah, just as long as you remember, "This is a cool story bro. Read it again."



By Claire Fuchser Staff Reporter

The world is filled with opinionated people. People who voice their thoughts non-stop and let everyone else around them know that they are right. If they're not right, they set out to try and prove that Person B (everyone BUT themselves) is wrong, even if Person A's

I start off my day at home. Naturally, I wake up, I brush my teeth, I get dressed, I eat, I brush my teeth again, and then I leave for school But before I get the chance to leave, before I can even get out of bed, my mother screams

out of bed, my mother screams at me, and every morning, it's the same thing.

"I don't care if you want to sleep five more minutes! You need to get up!"

Well thanks, mom. It's 6 AM and my alarm doesn't go off until 6:45, and you're already ordering me around is making my day that much better! So basically what mother is telling me at this point, is that even though I am 16 years old and am fully capable of getting ready for school, I still need her

assistance. When I say I can handle preparing myself for the day, I usually mean it. Her opinion about whether or not I can take care of myself seems to always be more important than my own opinion of my capabilities

"Her opinion about whether or not I can take care of myself seems to always be more important than my own opinion of my capabilities." ~Claire Fuchser

If high school were totem pole, I'd be at the ottom. There is always omeone higher up than

classmates, other students that classmates, other students that I've never talked to in my life, or my brother in 8th grade, other people's opinions are always more substantial and valued than mine. I guess you can say that I have learned to just not have an opinion because no one wants to hear

because no one wants to hear it anyway.

After school, I head off to work where, unfortunately, I have bosses. That's right. Not one. Not two. But seven. Seven bosses. Managers to be exact. I suppose that you could say that there are no points in my day where I control my life. I am always being told what to do and how to do it.

So is all hope lost for my ideas? Not necessarily.

Not everyone in this world becomes the CEO of a major company. People learn as they grow older to take orders from grow older to take orders from those higher up than they are. It's a fact of life. After a while, those people who no longer have welcomed opinions learn that it's okay. Don't get me wrong, having an opinion is always important, but people learn that it does not always need to be shared with every need to be shared with every single living species on the planet.

planet.

This article is dedicated to all the Person A's out there. Not the Person B's because I realize that you all know what I am saying. I just want the Person A's to know that reading this opinion about my opinion really just wasted your time. Afterall.... my opinion doesn't matter. my opinion doesn't matter.

### with Perfection My Problem



By Stephani Jarecke Layout Editor

Staring, staring... nope that looks bad. Move it to the left, move it to the right. Perfect... No that's not right! It's only a picture frame, but it matters so much for some strange

reason.

OCD- Obsessive
Compulsive Disorder- an
anxiety disorder in which
people have unwanted and
repeated thoughts, feelings,
ideas, sensations (obsessions),
or helavious that make them or behaviors that make them feel driven to do something (compulsions). We learn about it, we joke about it, but, more than anything we live

other people in the world, I seek perfection to the point of obsession every day. the word "disorder" makes people think of a medical probl but almost everyone is OCD about something.

Obsessions can be

over school, friends, clothes,

over school, friends, clothes, complexions, sports, driving-almost everything.

I have many different problems to deal with because of my OCD. I lose concentration, I waste time, and most of all, I create unwanted stress.

The simplest issues can get me worked up all for perfection, such as placing my books in the correct spot in my locker. It is not a big deal as long as they are easy to access, but they have to be in order and looking straight at me.

Countless I have sat trying to do my homework but erase the first three words twenty times because I do not like the way they look. I know I will hand the paper in, it will be graded, recycled and never seen again. But no, that does not stop my OCD from wasting fifteen minutes of valuable homework time to get the perfect handwriting I want

My OCD problem does not wait for me to get to school either. The moment I do my hair, perfection has to be reached before my hair is okay. On days I decide to wear a messy bun, I will stand in front of the mirror for thirty minutes. One strand of hair out of place calls for a do-over. It should be called a perfect bun because I will redo the bun fourteen times to make it look just right.

make it look just right.

Another daily
struggle I run into is my paper dilemma. Papers are made straight and meant to stay that way. If papers are bent in any way, shape, or form, I have to

way, shape, or form, and get a new copy.

I come to class and pull out my neatly kept paper while some students pull out their wrinkled and half torn assignment. I stare and question how they can use papers like that.

The funny part is

DAYLIGHT

ONUTS

that there are some things that do not bother me at all. I can be so unorganized at times. I leave something lay and forget about it completely.

Mrs. Rusherhas OCD

about clutters and is always on me for my "workspace" being too messy.

Someone could walk

in my bedroom and would think a tornado came through it, but it does not bother me one bit. As long as my sweatshirts and shirts are in

sweatshirts and shirts are in different places, I do not care where they are.

Another ironic part of my OCD is I can be around my friends and be so annoyed of their own weird obsessions. Senior Hannah Spenceri, is obsessed with her face. She is constantly nutting different ossessed with her face. She is constantly putting different creams and face washes on to keep it in good condition. I do not understand how she has the patience and time to treat

the patience and time to treat
her face like royalty.

Senior Caitlin Wiehn
is OCD about her food and
teeth. The food she eats
cannot touch her front teeth so
she puts her food to the back
of her mouth so strangely.

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sticks her fingers clear to the back to avoid her front teeth as if it's not a big deal.

back to avoid her front teeth as if it's not a big deal.

I have laughed at these girls many times before I realized people probably laugh at me. Those people have their own obsessions that get laughed at also. Everyone has their own unique OCD problems, and you have to accept how they feel and give them patience.

With my own perfection glitches, there comes a time and place to step back and say "Let it go Steph". It is hard to meet my standards of my OCD so there are times when I have to walk away from it. It is painful and sits in the back of my mind for a while, by I get over it and learn to move on. OCD is a big problem in my life, but finding a way to my life, but finding a way to live with it and deal with it is a huge accomplishment.

Rock Bottom



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Columbus MUSIC

## Music

## Music moves your moods

**By Stephani Jarecke** Layout Editor

Everyday, music fills the lives of people everywhere. People listen to music in the car, while doing music in the car, while doing homework, with friends, getting ready for school or work, after school, playing sports, while shopping, and many other places.

Listening to music becomes second nature to most teenagers. Young people can listen to a song three

can listen to a song three times and have it memorized. All the while, their brain is processing the tune and beats.

In fact, music can be

It is not only about enjoying the beat; music can affect many different areas in

life.

According to American Academy of Pediatrics, music can affect the brain and enhance the level of learning. Having music while engaging in new information stimulates the left and right brain. The student is attracted to the tone and sound which bring attention to the which bring attention to the

Memory can be improved through putting beats, pattern, and rhythm to the learning. Music helps keep students tuned in with the attraction of the fun beats.

There are many ways to use music as a source of learning.

Students are known to keep focus more with soft, quiet background music playing because the brain does not grow tired of the repetitive material being learned. Using music to play along with the new information is used by new information is used by many teachers, especially those who teach younger students. Many people still memorize the alphabet by using the ABCs song.

According to Laurence O'Donnell, who wrote a famous paper "Music and the Brain", music has even helped famous people. Albert Einstein was one of the

smartest people in the world. When he was young, he did poorly in school. The teachers even advised his parents to take him out of school.

Instead of that solution, his parents bought him a violin, hoping he could learn to play. As he progressed on the violin, he advanced in school and helped himself to channel his abilities.

The violin was also known to have helped Thomas Jefferson write the Instead of

also known to have helped Thomas Jefferson write the Declaration of Independence. The music he played helped him meditate and find the correct phrases to use.

Music is not only used to help with the brain

and learning, but also for emotional reasons. Types of music and genres can match a personality.

Listening to soft music is proven to affect how a person acts and feels. Many teenagers match their personalities and interests with the types of music they listen to.

with the types of music they listen to.

Music can also change moods based on the rhythm and tune. It is shown that doctor offices and dental offices usually have slow and relaxing music to help patients calm any anxieties they are calm any anxieties they are

having.

Music has been proven to help relieve stress

busy college students. Also, music is one of the factors that help people come out of depressio

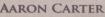
This is the reason for Ins is the reason for the recommendation to listen to all types of music. It even helps your emotions. This normal everyday activity, that teens know like the back of their hand, can be life changing by the way it is used.



### eficial in many different me now.

By Megan Wright Staff Reporter

a quick look at some artists from the past





ate 1990's to early 2000's

Then: Solo Boy Singer Then: Solo Boy Singer
Now: Aaron has made a
reappearance in the world
landing spots on Dancing
with the Stars and the off
Broadway show The Fantastics. He was arrested for
possession of paraphernalia and he may no to price. lia, and he may go to pris-on for owing more than 1 million dollars to the IRS. But that's okay, after all, Michael Jackson gave him

#### THE BACKSTREET BOYS



1992-1995

Then: Boy Band
Now: Have reunited for Reunion Tours and to make some

Brian Litrell: Brian signed with a Christian Record Label. hmm... who would have thought... especially since no one has ever heard of his music as a Christian artist. He is also married with kids.

Nick Carter: After battling with a 10 year addiction to drugs Nick Carter: After battling with a 10 year addiction to drugs and alcohol, being fat, losing weight, making a solo album, and being diagnosed with a heart condition, Nick is living skinny and happy these days... Good for you Nick! Howie Dorough: Go figure...He did some acting just like all of these other people. He also set up the Dorough Lupus Foundation in memory of his sister.

AJ McLean: Did some acting..... and now really doesn't exist.

Kevin Richardson: He acts yeah... that's about it.

#### **BRITNEY SPEARS**



1998 to prese But not constantly... she 'Made a comeback' like 3

times....
Then: Everyone's favorite
pop sensation with hits like
"Baby One More Time" and
"Oops... I Did it Again"
Now: After a bad divorce
and a 72 hour marriage,
Miss Spears has had, let's

say, 3 comebacks, but still seems to be somewhat suc-cessful.... And then there was her little drug addiction and notorious mental breakdown. ... Oops...



Then: British pop group

Now: Well, unfortunately, none of them are fat, ugly, or no

Victoria "Posh" Adams Beckham: She did some modeling, had a solo career, acted, designed clothing, and then married soccer superstar David Beckham and mothers 3 boys

and one girl.

Mel "Scary" B: She is married, has kids, wrote a book, had a reality show, starred on Broadway, made a series of workout DVDs, and hosted television shows like *The X-Factor Aus*-

DVDs, and nosted television shows like *The A-Pactor Australia* and *Dance Your Ass Off*.

Geri "Ginger" Halliwell: Ger wrote some books, worked on her solo albums.... Sang "It's Raining Men," which is pretty much hilarious considering she has dated half the male, British population in the past, let's say, two decades... Melanie "Sporty" C: She acts, is a successful solo artist, and mother

mother.
Emma "Baby" Bunton: She had one of the most succe

ful solo careers out of all of the spice girls, she appeared on television and did some acting, and she is married and has

VT1CS

By Stacia Rawhouser Copy Editor

"How can you listen to country music? It's terrible!"

"Well, it's better than

"Well, it's better than trying to decipher what those rappers are trying to say!"

There are obviously a lot of different opinions when it comes to preferred genres of music, but I want to encourage people to give all of them a chance. The country vs. rap feud is probably the most common because these are two types of music that are

on completely opposite ends of the spectrum.

people are coming from when they say they HATE country music because I used to HATE country music too. I thought it was all about guys with their boots on, driving their big ol' trucks to a campfire somewhere to party, or it was about how their life is all downhill because their girlfriend left them, and coming their girlfriend left them, and all they have left is their old fishing rod. That accusation may be true for some country

songs, but not all of them. In a family with two older brothers and my cousin Trev, I am forced to listen to country music anytime I am at home. However, I wouldn't call it "forced" anymore since now I can sing along with it.

g e I changed my opinion on country music this summer when it was pretty much the only station that would come through the static of my car's radio. Though I was ridiculously biased towards country music at the time, I started to look past that and listen. Some of the songs made me smile because the lyrics were cute; they were the kind of lyrics I wish I could say to someone I cared about.

Throughout the

summer, I allowed my country music station to unwind me after my stressful days at work. Hard to believe I used to despise that sound, and now it makes me relax. I've learned that if you listen to the music before

Alternative

you discriminate a song by its type, you can often get more out of it. This is especially the case when it comes to rap music, or "rap crap" as my mom calls it.

Whenever we're in Whenever we're in the car together and I put in my own CD, my mom can't handle it. She immediately turns the dial so the "noise" can't be heard. She knows I freak out when she does that, but her only defense is "they aren't even saving anything" aren't even saying anything."
Actually, that's not true...they
are saying A LOT in a short
amount of time.

I didn't always like

music either. To all some bragging me, it black guy about how

wesome he is, and how his life is so "G," or it was a bunch of lyrics describing some "shorties on a floor that like to shake their bodies." In other words, it wasn't exactly my kind of tune. After hearing about how awesome Lil' Wayne and Eminem are all the time, I decided a couple

the time, I decided a couple years ago that maybe I should give them a chance.

At first it was only "noise", and I couldn't understand it, but that's because I wasn't really trying to listen. After a while, I started to listen to the lyrics; they were fascinating. I was they were fascinating. I was impressed by how different pronunciations of a word could make it rhyme with

another word that no one would even think to link to it. It was like poetry, except better because it was easier for me to understand. Plus, it

for me to understand. Plus, it didn't hurt to have a loud bass in the background that would sound on queue to emphasize a certain line in the song.

Everyone has their own opinions on what they want to listen to, but try listening before you judge a song, or a whole genre for that matter. Take it from someone. matter. Take it from someone who enjoys both country and rap, as long as a song can make you relate or feel something, then it's a good song; it doesn't really matter what kind it is.

Rock

Scotus' favorite types of music. 16%

Rap

Country

Classical

4%

### Music

Some other activities

Ostdiek has been musically involved in have been:

singing the National Anthem

and being accepted into various honor choirs. Ostdiek has also

nonor choirs. Ostalek has also had several large, and in some cases lead, parts in musicals, another way to strengthen his voice repertoire. Although he is not sure what he would like to do after high school in the direction of a major, he still

direction of a major, he still

intends to have music be a

ntends to have music be a part of his life.

"I am still unsure of my plans next year," Ostdiek said, "but I know wherever I go, I will continue to be involved in music. I can't even include my life without it."

accompanying

**By Andy Heusinkvelt** Staff Reporter

Joel Ostdiek Joel Ostdiek is what some people might call "musically gifted." Perhaps that title comes from his ability to sing and play the piano, violin, and trumpet. One might even say that he may be the most "bilingual", in musical terms, person in the school

Ostdiek started his

Ostdick started his musical career in first grade when he heard a violin.

"I remember hearing it and really liking the sound, and decided I wanted to play it," Ostdick recalled.

He went from

He went from playing and singing at mass to receiving requests to have him play at weddings and other events. He eventually went on, to be persuaded to enter competitions.

"My most humbling bonce was when my yould

honor was when my vocal partner, Mollie Shevlin, and I were voted 1st place in the Columbus Days' Talent Show

winning first place there also,"

Ostdiek said.
Ostdiek's recent honor was receiving acceptance into the High School All

State Orchestra with his violin, an honor granted to only 120 high school students

ss the state.
"It had been a goal of mine for a long time, and I had been practicing intensely for the audition," commented Ostdiek.
The

Orchestra performed on November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Lied Center for Fine and Performing Arts. Ostdiek was the only Columbus teen to be

Ostdiek recalled the



he favored i took him moment

picture my life without it.'
When asked

"Music is music, I don't want to pick, but if I had to, I would say my voice. I'm interested in pursuing vocal stuff, I'd like to see where that takes me," said

Ostdiek.

(Light Background) Cheers cheers for ol' Scotus High To us the memories will never die

Ye, everyone in Scotus knows how it's goin' when the words get to flowin' and the teachers get

to borin' and all the students get to snorin'
Scotus is the best; always has been always will be, other schools wish they had the tradition of SCC.

But they can't and won't and never will because they ain't got what we do.

All the students are the best whether its academics or athletics.

We has the tradition that won't be stopped and the players to make the competition drop.

Because we have...Sham-rock...Pow-er... and we bleed green That's right Sham-rock...Pow-er...and we're the best

Yeah that's right we're the best and we represent excellence.

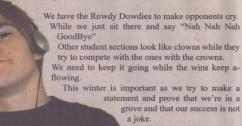
Whether it be volleyball or soccer, we be feared by the rest.

All we do is bring home gold because bronze and silver are for the lows and we make the city proud by bringing home the crown.

State titles are nothing new we produce them like making stew.

And we always get rowdy during games to make the opponents resort to shame.

Because we have...Sham-rock...Pow-er... and we bleed green That's right Sham-rock...Pow-er...and we're the best



we'll keep pushing to make sure that the opponents keep shushing while we raise the trophy once again.

Because we have...Sham-rock....Pow-er.... and we

bleed green
That's right Sham-rock Pow-er...and we're the

## Senior honored for music | Practice makes Preisters

By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

It is not uncommon to hear beautiful music emanating from the Preister household. This distinctive family has had musical talent for many years, and by no small chance has it been this

Senior Nick Preister and presser have been playing music since their youngest days. Taught by their mother, Nick and Elizabeth both took early aptitude towards piano.

"My mom started teaching me when I was about five. When I turned ten, I started to take lessons in Omaha," Nick said. Elizabeth was taught

at about the same age, and before too long they both started expanding their music knowledge. Nick can play the saxophone and drums at a fairly high level, whereas Elizabeth took to

the lighter side music by

prodigies have managed to attain their music talent outside of school.

"It's hard to practice during the school year. I try to practice a few times a week, but school comes first," Elizabeth said.

Nick's solution

balancing out his school and music life is a little more mundane than Elizabeth's.

"I like to multitask.
Sometimes I will practice
while studying or watching a
game," Nick commented.

Besides the difficult Besides the difficult task of finding time to practice, both agreed that the most stressful thing about music is the stress of memorizing pieces. With minimal practice time, it is difficult to get went thing instricts but they the

everything just right, but they have done their best.

Both Nick and Elizabeth have used their talent in many ways. They play for Church services, funerals, and any other events that they are invited. that they are invited.
"It affects
our lives because

we get money, and that's pretty nice (laughing),

no, actually being musically gifted lets us have some

cello. But both of these music

With their talent, Nick and Elizabeth have played for many events. They have also competed in Nick played They have also competed in several competitions, such as the Nebraska Summer Music Olympics, and the Nebraska Music Teachers Association. They often come away with awards. In both cases, however, the Preisters enjoy more than the material benefits of playing music.

"I love expressing

benefits of playing music.

"I love expressing myself through music," Elizabeth commented.

The Preisters have come a long way since their young days of playing simple melodies on the piano, and people have taken notice. They have gained some notoriety, and invitations to events are becoming more common. That is one of the many benefits of being musically gifted, but one benefit, in particular, fulfills Nick the most.

"After I get done



#### **Band** and Vocal Concerts

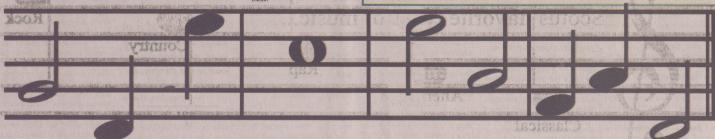
The band and vocal concerts were held on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> respectively. The band featured vocalists Joel Ostdiek, Trey Stuthman, and Cami Cox, where the singers featured some percussion.

Seniors Jens Paprocki and Michael Albin sing softly during a solo at the vocal music concert. The men's section of Shamrock Singers is comprised of seven seniors, 1 sophomore, and 1 freshman.

Sophomore Bre Walker, freshman Hannah Krings, and senior Tay-lor Sprunk sing loudly during the vocal music concert. The concert was held on December 15th, and the Shamrock Singers have been busy singing around town for various events.







#### The Albatross Perspective:



Recent Scandals **Rock Sports** By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

Jim Boeheim and Joe Paterno have had very successful coaching careers in their respective athletic events. But recently, instead of the usual press conferences answering questions about their teams, they have been explaining something much

their teams, they have been explaining something much more important. Something much more disturbing.

This year has been full of big news, and the world of athletics off the field seems to be much more important than it has been in the past. In the case of the Penn State scandal, and now the problems at Syracuse, it's obvious more had to be done. It's obvious more should have

obvious more had to be done. It's obvious more should have been done earlier.

There is clearly a lesson to be learned here. Holding back a confession is as bad as lying. If Tiger Woods had owned up immediately to his problems instead of shutting himself off from society for some weeks, people would not have made such a huge deal about it. The situations at Penn State and Syracuse are clearly The situations at Penn State and Syracuse are clearly much bigger, but how people decided to handle these situations (especially at Penn State) is the worst possible way to go about them.

I, unfortunately, along with many other people, have lost a lot of respect for Ioe.

along with many other people, have lost a lot of respect for Joe Pa after these events. While he was not solely responsible for what happened, he was fired justly and deservingly. Albert Einstein once said, "The world is not as will bless the sevents."

Einstein once said, "The world is not an evil place because of those who do evil, but rather because of those who sit back and let it happen."

Had Joe Pa taken the initiative when he heard these allegations against Jerry Sandusky, he may not have won championships, but he definitely would have kept his job and his reputation intact.

So, if two schools have come forth with child-sex cases, what are the odds

have come forth with child-sex cases, what are the odds that another college is also having similar situations going on? Administration should be more responsible, and people should show a little bit more integrity and admit what goes on inside of their organizations.

their organizations.

It really is unfortunate that I am able to write so many sports stories that have nothing to do with the actual games. Clearly sports are no longer about who wins and loses (sarcasm intended). It definitely matters to the fans like me, and the to the fans like me, and the people who support their teams through thick and thin. But, unfortunately, it doesn't matter to those who run these

teams.

Morally, it should have been clear. Joe Pa's first reaction should have been to alert more than just his superiors. It makes sense to any down-to-earth person, but for some reason people in positions of power don't realize that they have a huge effect on people's lives. effect on people's lives. However, these are the things we have to live with in this world. So here is hoping that my next rant is about actual sports!

## **Sports** eadership defines new team

Though the boys' basketball team has 4 of their starters returning, they look like an entirely new group out on the court. With much preparation including attending five different camps, and playing a total of 25 games over the summer, the Shamrocks have used their training to benefit them during their tough schedule

The team began the season by participating in a Jamboree game in Bennington, Nebraska. This was something new for the Shamrocks, and head coach Jeff Ohnoutka thought it was a positive way to start off.

"The Jamboree was good for us. It showed what we needed to work on. It gives me, as a coach, a chance to look at all my guys in a game

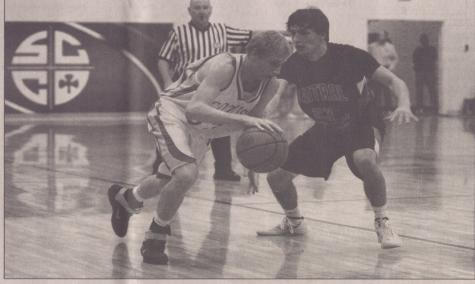
Because the boys lost their Jamboree game, the Shamrocks have been working to improve every day

"Practices are more Practices are more competitive this year, and we always go at our highest intensity to make ourselves better," senior starter Ryan Ohnoutka said,

After the Jamboree, the boys' first game of the actual season was a difficult matchagainst Hastings Cecilia. Losing that game, the Shamrocks quickly shook it off and recovered with a win against West Point CC and an

against west Point CC and an exciting victory over GICC.

Early in the season, the team battled some obstacles with injury and illness. Senior starter Alex Bolte was one who was both injured and



Freshman Grant Lahm dribbles past a defender during the basketball game against GICC on December 9th. With a record of 4-2, the Shamrocs will travel to Wayne tonight for their match up against the Blue Devils.

fighting the flu during the first

Personally, being injured "Personally, being injured in the beginning of the season is not the ideal way to start off the year, but the team has a lot of depth, and we quickly filled the spots to do what was needed to pull through," Bolte said

said.

Coach Ohnoutka speaks highly of his team and of the seniors providing such direction.

"Senior leadership has been outstanding this year. They set the tone every day in practice on what's going to happen. I am very pleased with what these boys have done so far," Coach Ohnoutka said.

Freshman Grant Lahm is

Freshman Grant Lahm is

has seized a starting position.
"It's tough for a freshman to

come in and be a starter right away," Coach Ohnoutka said, "But he has handled it with humility, and he understands that his teammates make him

With only 2 years of Scotus basketball experience in jr. high, it must have been hard to upgrade to a starting varsity

spot so quickly.

"I was scared at first because I've never played at that speed," Lahm said. "I was

that speed, "Lahm said." I was nervous until I made my first shot against Hastings," With Lahm added to the returning starters, there are high hopes for the team this

"We have high expectations

of this group. We can be a team that, in the end, has

a team that, in the end, nas pushed for a spot in the State Tournament," Coach Ohnoutka said.

Tonight the boys play against Wayne, and will also participate in the Holiday Tournament on December 29-

Some of their tougher matches up ahead include defending class C-1 State champs, Norfolk Catholic, and defending class C-2 State champs, Lincoln Christian. With such a tricky schedule ahead of them, the Shamrocks will need to stay focused if they hope to achieve their

"We look forward to every game we play. Every time we

step on the floor, it is a chance Ryan Ohnoutka said, "I want this team to advance to State. Our goal is to finish the season

in Lincoln."

The boys' basketball team chooses a theme for each season. This helps them stay motivated, and this season's theme is "our time." theme is "our time.

theme is "our time."

"It is time Scotus gets noticed for basketball. We want to prove it to the state that Scotus basketball deserves respect," Ryan Ohnoutka said, "Day in and day out, we will work hard to achieve this honor and our goals. Scotus will be heard!"

### CHS swim team dive right into the new season

By Rachel Rambour Staff Reporter

As the season begins, swimmers are diving into new experiences and a season they might say is different than any before.

Starting off season, the Aquatic Center closed down for maintenance purposes, keeping the swimmers out of the water swimmers out of the water until four days before their first meet. This obstacle did not phase the swimmers, as they swept Fremont in their first season dual. Columbus posted two state qualifying times in their first dual. Ryan Miksch qualified in the 200 and 100 yard backstrokes. Laura Miksch also qualified in the 100 freestyle and the 200 medley team.

The CHS swim team has a new co-head coach, Annie Peters, who has high hopes for the season.

"We have very strong individuals and when we combine those talents, a powerhouse is created," Peters said.

Peters said.

The team will rely on super senior Ryan Miksch to show leadership to all of the younger swimmers this year.

"Ryan is a great role model to younger swimmers as he is the product of what hard work and dedication can do," junior swimmer Brandon Hahn said. "Ryan is a great swimmer, and it is always a challenge to keep up with him. He is a good mentor and I really enjoy swimming



Junior Brandon Hahn take a breath while swimming the 100 freestyle. Hahn recieved a seconday qualify-ing time in the 100 freestyle with a time of 53.96

with Hahn, "Ryan's ability to balance academics with athletics is inspiring. Coach Lovici and I are excited to see Ryan go on to swim in college, the Olympic trials, and beyond."

and beyond."

Brandon Hahn has been a part of the CHS swim team's success, and being only a junior, there is a lot of hope for him in the future as well. Brandon swims the 100

freestyle, the 100 backstroke 50 freestyle, and the

relays.
"We lost some good "We lost some good swimmers last year, but I think we will still have a really successful year with a lot of talented swimmers returning," Hahn said.

The team is off to a read start, qualifying 4 races

good start, qualifying 4 races into the state competition after the first dual, and they are hoping to qualify more.

"My goal is to

"My goal is to make it to state this year, and hopefully, our team can make it as well."

~Brandon Hahn

hopefully, our team can make it as well," Hahn said.

The team has more

than just individual goals, while they would like to see some team success as well.
"I would like to see our swimmers and divers work as a team this year. I would like to see the older swimmers ten into the leadership rale and step into a leadership role and help the less experienced swimmers grow," Peters said.

Scotus athletes are a big part of the CHS swim team this year, as there are 11 Scotus students on the team.

## -Sports/Activities-

## Defense paves the way for Shamrocks

The 2011 girls' basketball team started the season by knocking off the number one and defending state champs, Hastings St. Cecilia. The win was possible thanks to an outstanding defensive performance from the Shamrocks. This included holding St. Cecilia to zero points in the fourth

There was a bump in the road when they faced number one in class D-1, West Point Guardian Angels. West Point came out right from the start applying a tough full court man to man defense. It proved affective causing the Shamrocks to turn the ball over 31 total times in the contest.

"We couldn't the full-court press, we need to work on that," junior guard Alyssa Foltz

The girls did not let this affect them too much as they beat their next opponent Grand Island Central Catholic 41-

Scotus faced another bump in the road when they lost a tough double overtime game to Omaha Concordia 45-

So far the girls have escaped a tough opening schedule which featured four out of the six teams being ranked in the top ten. With a in the top ten. record of 3-3 the Shamrocks feel like they should be able to have a great season in hopes making it to the state tournament. There are a

handle their pressure in couple of things that the girls' think will help lead them to Lincoln.

"We are a lot of pride in our defense this year. If we make a run in the playoffs that would be why, Foltz said.

Through games, the Shamrocks have held opponents to just 38 points per game. A nice statistic considering they allowed 53 against West Point and 45 in their double overtime game.

job of working together and talking to each other on defense," girls basketball coach Jarrod Ridder

have plenty of areas to improve if they want to make it all the way to Lincoln.
"We need to im-



Scotus senior Jordan Chohon (22), Sophmore Payton Chohon (23), and Junio Alyssa Foltz (4), fight for possesion of the ball during the Wespoint Central Catholic Bluejays game. The girls travel tonight to Wayne.

ball over, rebounding, and playing together," said Ridder, "we also need to develop consistency throughout games and practice and treat

prove on not turning the practice like a game."

The girls' are hoping for many more victories this season and are banking on their defense to give them the

is the backbone of this team, we will depend on it if we want to be playing basketball in Lincoln." Foltz said.

#### make wrest

By Carrie Bartholomew Staff Reporter

For the first time in three years, Scotus has senior high students participating in wrestling.

The high school wrestlers this year are sophomores Walter Cor-dova and Nick Modde, and freshmen Michael McGuire, Riley Gilson, and Christian Stutzman.

This could be attributed to last vear's new Jr. High wres-



Sophmore Walter Cordova throws Riley Gilson onto the mats at wrestling prac-tice. Cordova and Gilson are two of the five Scotus wrestlers this year.

#### The head Jr. High coach is Tracy Dodson and the assistant coach is Tyler Linder. "We're doing pretty well actually, we have a lot of guys with a lot of experience, aid assistant coach Tyler

Linder.
Scotus has had co-op with Columbus High for 14 years. The head varsity coach, Rick Benson, has been coaching at Columbus High for 30 years, 27 of which he was head coach. He also had six years of coaching in Sioux City.

"We are excited that the program has had the interest and success that it has. The more experience our young wrestlers get, the better prepared they will be entering the high school program," Benson said.

There is one Scotus wrestler on varsity this year. Although he is a freshman, Christian Stutzman has showed promise.

"I think it's awe-some. Not very many people get a chance to do this especially in class A," Stutzman said.

Stutzman's is a wrestling coach in Madison, so Christian has been wrestling for 12

"He most defi-nitely has helped me throughout my years of wrestling. He tells me what things I do wrong and how to fix things and do them better. One thing I don't like about my dad being a success ful coach is the pressure from other coaches,' Stutzman stated.

comeback

So far there have been 2 duals, one against Lincoln North Star and the defending state champions, Grand Island. The team won 63-15 against North Star, but they lost 55-17 against Grand Island. The next dual with be at home on December 20th against Millard South, then January 10th against Norfolk and January 26th against Fremont.

"Theteam has worked extremely hard this season and performing as we would expect at this point," Ben-

#### case ose

By Megan Wright Staff Reporter

hours preparing for this year's competition were well spent as Scotus Central Catholic's Mock Trial Team had a successful year. They won districts and competed at State Mock Trial in Papillion for the

second year in a row.

With a few exceptions, Scotus With a few exceptions, Scotus Team 1, consisting of Tom Schumacher, Brad Steiner, Sara Dolezal, Jordan Chohon, Ryan Miksch, Trenton Kuta, Rachel Rambour, and Kelcey Robak has been together for all four years that they have been competing. They spent an estimated four to six hours a week writing their hours a week writing their arguments, practicing their parts, and learning about participating in a

many hours of reading depositions, studying rules, and memorizing questions. senior Rachel Rambour said.

Rachel was the witness, Phoenix key witness, Phoenix Perdante, in this year's case. The case this year had to deal with an online newspaper writing a false article about Phoenix cheating in a high school state mock trial competition, and then getting a full ride scholarship revoked

took to prepare for the competitions paid off landing Scotus Team 1 a spot at state.
"I think we did

really well this year," Rachel said, "I joined because my mom is the sponsor, and she really wanted me to do it. stuck with it all this time because I love it.

All of Scotus's Mock Trial Teams did

well this year. Scotus Team 4 beat Scotus Team 2 in round 2 at districts. Scotus Team semi-finals. Both Scotus Team 3 and Scotus Team 5 did not make it past round one, but still did well for their first years.

Sponsor Mrs.
Rambour has been the mock trial sponsor for four years.

"I enjoy working with the kids and being around them outside of the classroom. Most of the kids are very enthused about it, so it is fun to see them start from the beginning. Mrs. Rambour said.

Although it was hard to work with schedules. everyone's the teams tried to meet every Sunday to work on the case with their teams. Most teams also had individual practices between witnesses and attorneys, so they could

practice on asking answering questions.
Some members also
met individually with their coaches to go over how to make objections, write opening and closing statements, and other rules like entering

exhibits into evidence.

"It takes a lot of time. This year we had five teams, which probably

can't happen because is so hard to keep track of everything, Rambour

After three rounds at state, Scotus Team 1 finished 8<sup>th</sup>

overall.
"They are disappointed. went in

with high expectations. They got fifth last year, and this year they were hoping to finish in the top four, and possibly compete in finals," Mrs. Rambour said.

Mock Trial may

have a new look next

"I am not sure what the future holds as to how many teams we

are going to have. Five was too much. I have had a lot of kids come up to me and say they are interested in a freshmen team next year. I guess we will have to wait and see. I guess I always have to find attorneys to help out with the teams also, so that will have an impact on us as well," Mrs. Rambour finished.



CHERYL RAMBOUT/ MOCK TRIAL ADVISOR The Scotus Central Catholic Mock Trial team prepared for many months in anticipation for the State Mock Trial Competition. The team finished 8th overall.

## Entertainment

## Inheritance misses the gene of great literature

By Lauren Kuta Staff Reporter

Inheritance, which is the last book in the highly acclaimed "Eragon series" by the young author Christopher Paolini, was both excellent and awful, which was jumbled

all together in a confusing mess of literature.

Inheritance is the fourth book in the Inheritance fourth book in the Inheritance Cycle, which has also been known by the title of the first book, "the *Eragon* series". This book was highly anticipated by its large and diverse fan base as the third book in the series, *Brisingr*, first released in the autumn of 2007.

The series revolves around Eragon, a young farm boy from a tiny village in the fantastical world of Alegaësia, and his dragon, with the help of a rebel group consisting of humans, elves, and dwarfs, are trying to restore order to the country by felling the evil king Galbatorix and his dragon Sruikan. The story resumes in Inheritance with the stege of Belatona, another eith in the poet country of city in the vast country of Alegaësia, where Eragon and Saphira are charged with the duty of capturing the city on their way to the capital.

their way to the capital.

Inheritance can
easily be divided into two
separate parts, both of which
are polar opposites of each
other. The beginning of
the book summed up in one
word was sloppy. It had a
dull, monotonous pace, and
it consisted of useless action
that was terribly boring that was terribly boring.

that was terribly boring.

The writing style during the first part was hard to follow, and the descriptions of the settings for each action scene were hard to picture. Battles that were taking place during this part were predictable, unnecessary, and

outright boring.

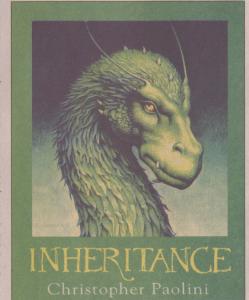
The characters were hard to connect to as they increased in power, making them feel invincible. While the characters do show some flaws, this display of emotion makes them seem pathetic and makes them seem pathetic and whiny. The whole beginning part could have easily been cut out of the story with the plot still making sense. These mishaps do carry into the next half of the book, but the entire story does improve dislatible.

About 350 pages into the whopping 849 page book, the plot makes a turn for the better. Mysteries that were presented in the earlier books, such as the Vault of Souls such as the Vault of Souls riddle, are wrapped up. The story becomes more engaging as Eragon and Saphira reach their final goal, and most of the useless action found in the beginning of the book was cut out. My favorite characters from the beginning of the series continued to be

throughout this book.

The ending was, however, almost as disappointing as the beginning of the book. It was very predictable once again, and the perceived sad portions of the book were not sad whatsoever. As a huge fan of the series since its inception, the ending was bittersweet, reminding me of the past books and the story that I had grown up with throughout my high school career. It was sad to see it come to a completion in such a strange style.

Overall, I would recommend this book to any fan of the series already. If you are slightly interested in the series, I would highly suggest starting from the beginning of the series with the first book, Eragon. But be warned, you may become disappointed with the series, especially with the finale Inheritance.





## The Facility: Chapter 3

By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

Last time: Jens was helplessly trapped within a police cruiser going to an undisclosed location when undisclosed location when a mysterious man driving another police cruiser attempted to free Jens, Craig, Rachel, and Emmie. The vehicle ended up in a ditch, and Jake Kratochivil extended his hand to help when Jens blacked out again. Now begins the next chapter of The Facility.

Jens drifted into consciousness looking into a pair of big brown eyes. He snapped back into reality once he realized who he was looking at. Emmie Odbert was fanning him with a paper plate with a worried look in her eyes. He looked over and realized he was in a different vehicle. So it wasn't a dream?

"Thanks," managed as he rubbed the back of his head. He winced in pain as his fingers passed over one of his bumps

over one of his bumps.

"You need to sit back, you've been out for a while," Emmie said worriedly.

"No, I need his full attention. He needs to know what happened," Jake said

from the driver seat.

"Where are we oing? What's going on?"

going? What's going on?"

Jens asked.

The vehicle was traveling very slowly through what appeared to be Columbus. It was a dark night and the moon was barely visible through the clouds.

visible through the clouds. The silence was heavy when Jake took a deep breath.

"People from Scotus are getting abducted. We don't know why, or how many they have. We don't even know where they are taking them. We can assume that it is somewhere east of town because that's where we found you," Jake explained.

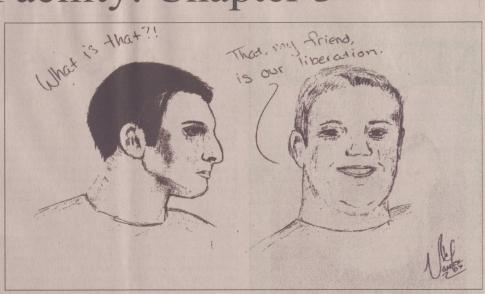
town because that's where we found you," Jake explained.

"So you saved me? How can we be sure we aren't breaking the law? This sounds too insane to be reality," Jens

"Have you ever seen one police officer arrest four different people at four different locations without dropping them off? You think its standard procedure for someone to handcuff someone to the front sear? Not only to to the front seat? Not only that, it's happening all over the city. Doesn't that sound like an insane plot to you?"

the back seat.

Jens



head and looked out the window. Could this be true? Could people really be getting abducted? The prospect that Jake and the others had presented seemed too farfetched for Jens, but something in the back of Jens's mind told him that everything they were saying was true.

The car slowed down to a stop, right outside Scotus.

"Why are westopping here?" Jens exclaimed.

answered.

Two dark figures emerged from the shadows carrying what appeared to be guns. Marshal Obal and Sam Thalken walked slowly up on either side. Sam peeked in the driver-side window and Jake gave him a wave. Sam's muffled voice was directed towards the school, and they gave Jake the go-ahead.

"The guns are just

for show. We don't load 'em,"

"So what is this?
Some kind of base camp?"
Jens asked.
"Sort of. Those who

"Sort of. Those who escaped banded together, and we decided this would be the easiest location to meet at. Plus, who would expect us to be at school this late on a weekend?" Jake explained.

"So what's the point? What can we do about it?" Jens asked.

garage. Jens looked around, accepting of the silence. Suddenly something caught him completely off guard.. "What is that!?" Jens

Jake turned the key back and coolly crossed his

"That, my friend, is

our liberation."

Tune in next issue for The Facility: Chapter 4. In-Depth Technology Buzz Page 5



Sports Wrestling Champ: Dodson

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#### Entertainment

The Facility: Chapter 4 Page 8



SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC VOLUME 13 · ISSUE 4 · FEBRUARY 8TH, 2012 COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

# aking time for art.

By Claire Fuchser Staff Reporter

When students decide what classes they will take, two factors come into play; what classes are required, and what classes they would enjoy. Top priority is making the required classes fit into a daily schedule. Without extra time, the classes that some students want cannot be taken. Art is an example of a class that is not required at Scotus.

Art teacher Mrs. Nancy Shadle has been teaching at Scotus for 12 years. Shadle's day starts with Art I and Senior Art Experience, and ends with Art III, and Art 7 and 8.

Shadle said that as students progress through their Jr. High and High School careers, Art class does not become as much of a priority as she wishes.

"What I'm sad about is that when schedules don't allow for students to continue taking art, they don't often come back," Shadle said.

Although many of Shadle's art classes

said.

Although many of Shadle's art classes are large, Art III consists of 5 students: Mike Wang, Fritz Hoppe, Sam Slegl, Vanessa Cox, and Melissa Diamond.

Shadle says that in the past, there have been many seniors in her upper level art classes. This year, there are not as many seniors as there have been before.

"My new sculpture class is all seniors. But some of them haven't been in art since Art I," Shadle shared.

Shadle shared.

Shadle shared.

Of the numerous students that have gone through Shadle's classes, many don't get the opportunity to come back to the Art Room.

However, this does not deter Shadle, who keeps the students that she has busy with many different kinds of media.

"I've been trying to do some things that other students don't get to do such as stretch watercolor paper. We work with some different.

watercolor paper. We work with some different mediums. I have the students work with 2 different watercolors, and I try to really push them. I have high expectations, but I'm very fair when I grade," Shadle shared.

See ART, Page 2



Junior Sam SlegI uses watercolors to paint a landscape on her canvas in Art III. SlegI is one of the five students taking Art III this year.

#### Scotus swings through Catholic Schools Week

By Stephani Jarecke Layout Editor

Catholic schools across the nation celebrated Catholic Schools Week January 30th through February 3rd. Scotus Central Catholic also took part in different activities throughout

the week.

The Catholicity Committee at Scotus organizes the events throughout the week for the students. The chair of the Catholicity Committee is Junior High Dean of

Committee is Junior High Dean of Students Jeff Ohnoutka.

"I think Catholic Schools Week should be a celebration of who we are. We have a nice mix of activities to represent our faith, but it allows us to have some fun as well," Ohnoutka said.

"I think Catholic Schools Week should be a celebration of who we are. We have a nice mix of activities to represent our faith, but it allows us to have some fun as well."

~Jeff Ohnoutka.

The week started off with a teacher retreat on Monday while the students enjoyed the day off. During lunch, special treats were given out for dessert such as ice cream bars and cake with a cross. Wednesday was filled with Christian Rock music during passing periods. Catholic Trivia was offered during lunch on Thursday too.

Thursday, too.
Friday was a relaxed day with shortened periods in the morning

See CATHOLIC, Page 2



Former America's Next Top Model contestant Leah Darrow gestures as she shares her story with the crowded gym. After stepping down from her modeling career, Darrow now works for Catholic.com, the second most-respected Christian website after the Vatican.

### Darrow changes more than clothes

By Stacia Rawhouser

Editor

On Thursday January 12th, Scotus opened its doors to former America's Next Top Model competitor Leah Darrow, as well as many other students and people from the community who came to listen. The juniors and seniors from Lindsay Holy Family and Humphrey St. Francis joined the Scotus students in the Dowd Activity Center to heed Darrow's message.

Darrow's message.

"We all want to be loved,"
Darrow said. "We all want to do
something amazing and make the
world a better place just because
we're in it."

we're in it."
Darrow continued the story of her personal conversion and the obstacles she had to overcome to become the role model she is today.

"I didn't love myself. I thought love was all about my body, and I had nothing to do with all the other forces of love," Darrow said. "I became self-absorbed."

After realizing that her modeling

After realizing that her modeling career was leading her down a path she did not desire, she quit her photo

shoot and decided to reinvent herself as a person.

"I control my passions and my appetites; they do not control me," Darrow said.

Leah Darrow's presentation had multiple messages, but her closing statement made her final point.

"Cleavage and pre-marital sex will not change the world,"
Darrow said. "Love will change the world."

In order to get Ms. Darrow's message to Columbus, there was a great deal of planning that had to take place. Greg Schleppenbach, who is in charge of Nebraska's Pro-Life activities contacted Mrs. Cheryl Rambour, Scotus' Teens for Life sponsor, and began the development of the assembly. Instead of arranging a teen Pro-Life day in the summer, they decided to put money towards bringing a speaker who would get more people involved.

"The Church wanted Leah because she worked for Catholic Answers, which is a very well-known and respected source," Rambour said. "The kids liked her, and it got more people involved."

Leah Darrow sapide the date was set, the idea had to be approved by the catholicity committee and the administration. After the agreements were made, all that was left to do was invite Lindsay, Humphrey St. Francis, and anyone else in the community who wished to attend.

As a result, there were approximately fifty people from the community who occupied the bleachers, not including the schools that were initially invited. The Dowd Activity Center was nearly full for Darrow's assembly.

"The assembly was a success, I heard positive feedback," Rambour said. "The kids liked her, and it got more people involved."

Leah Darrow supplied the gymnasium with laughs and life lessons throughout her story. There were multiple reactions all over the gym with some students shedding tears, some smilling, but all sparking an interest in Darrow's words.

"I feel that the most important to do the administration. After the agreements were made, all that was left to do was invite Lindsay, Humphrey St. Francis, and anyone else in the community who occupied the administration. After the administration.

### News

#### ART

Continued from Page 1

Shadle feels that students should take art because it allows for free expression and hopes that students start to see the art around them and learn to

"We live in an area where the arts aren't really prevalent. Many don't have a healthy attitude about art.

And yet, everything man-made has been touched and created by an artist. From your box of cereal to the car your box of cereal to the car you drive to the shoes you wear. We don't put a value on art. If we didn't have art, we'd be living in a black and white world, and we don't translate that as being important in our lives," Shadle said.

Although many students continue to take Art

class at Scotus, Shadle hopes class at Scotus, Shadle hopes to see more in the future because she believes that art helps people grow and learn about themselves.

Shadle said, "I

Shadle said, "I really try to stress a lot of creativity, help my students make their own decisions as well as working through their mistakes, but at the same time, having fun and not being afraid to push themselves."



Sophomores Nathan Ebner and Carley Foltz enjoy their time together preparing for the Sweetheart Dance on Friday.

#### CATHOLIC

and activities in the afternoon. The students could pick from eleven different movies or choose to participate

in swing dancing.

This is the second year the students were able to watch a movie for the afternoon, and the first year afternoon, and the first year swing dancing was offered. Around forty students learned swing dancing in the Dowd Activity Center. Scotus Champlain Father Roza had the idea of making the dancing

there were a good number of students who were

interested in this. We are very thankful to those people who volunteered their time to teach it," Ohnoutka said.

Brent Melliger,

Brent Melliger, 1999 Scotus alumni, and his wife, Carmen, were asked to teach the swing dancing class.

teach the swing dancing class. Carmen learned to swing dance at the Newman Center in Lincoln, and Brent was taught later on by Carmen.
"I was glad to have the opportunity to teach the students because it is a great way to meet people, and an alternative way to dirty dancing," Carmen Melliger said.

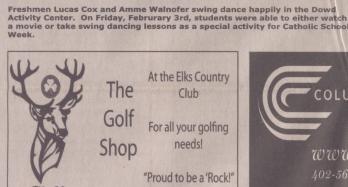
The students were The students were eager to learn swing dancing and had a good time learning different moves to do for the upcoming Sweetheart Dance. The movies in different classrooms were entertaining for the others students as well.

Obnoutka said "I

well.

Ohnoutka said, "I am thankful to the teachers and students who made it go smoothly. The teachers were very supportive and did their best to make it a fun afternoon for the students.'

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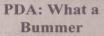


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## **Opinion**

## This sitch is totally awk.





**By Andy Heusinkvelt** Staff Reporter

To all the guys out in this crazy world: I know how nice it is when your girlfriend is feeling flirty enough to want to kiss your cheek and rustle your hair in Wal-Mart. Naturally we feel like we should return the favor, but when it gets too ridiculous, I'm here to say enough is enough.

enough.

PDA: public displays of affection. Not cool. Wait, now don't get me wrong, I think holding your girlfriend's hand is really cute. It shows how much you like that girl, and it proves you are not ashamed of dating her (FYI, if you are ashamed of dating the girl, you may want to rethink your relationship). Public affection should be a cute action that happens every once in a while to show everyone how important that special girl is to you.

The problem I have with this is doing it EVERY SINGLESECOND, especially at school. Once a guy does it a few times, they have to realize that everyone knows that he and she are dating, but after that, they can stop. Couples don't need to wrap each other in affectionate "I shall never let you go" hugs during passing period.

Everyone sees them, am I right, gentlemen? They're not the only ones in the hallway. Yes, he may think practically tackling her and wrestling on the benches is just the cutest thing he could ever do, but he needs to wake up, it's completely disgusting. There's no reason he can't wait six more hours to tickle each other's noses in private. Plus, look around; you have to wonder if they've ever noticed that we (the people around them) can't stand it? Have you ever noticed that we go to great lengths to avoid that PDAing couple, that we talk about them with disgusted looks on our faces, or how about the fact that no one likes to talk to them when they're deim it?

or how about the fact that no one likes to talk to them when they're doing it?

To that couple: you're at school to learn, not to focus on your significant other. I know you can survive a few hours without chasing her around in slow motion. Go to school, get to class on time, learn your schoolwork, and then go home!

Now don't get me wrong, performed in moderation and under appropriate circumstances I think PDA has the potential to strengthen any relationship. Now remember, don't start making out while watching TV with her family...that would be awkward (by the way, you can read more about that in the article to my right). I'm talking about sitting in the movie theater and giving her a cute, quick kiss on the forehead, not making out in your seats. You can show her that you really like her without going too far and embarrassing her along with everyone around you. If making out for hours and tickling each other till the early hours of the morning floats your boat, then I'm all for it...just do it in private.



By Rachel Rambour

So you know that awkward moment when a dentist asks you a question while his hands are in your mouth? Or that really your mouth? Or that really awkward moment when you think a woman is pregnant, so you ask about the baby, but really the woman is just fat. Or that moment when you look through your news feed on Facebook and read 20 "awkward moment" statuses that aren't even awkward

at all? Maybe we are the awkward ones here.

When I get on Facebook and read a status Facebook and read a status that says, "That awkward moment when you take your one-legged friend to IHOP." I kind of laugh. Not because it is funny, or even the least bit awkward, but because I just realized that I had wasted my valuable time reading the most pointless and stupid status.

We've all encountered real awkward moments, whether it be on a date, at school, or with a date, at school, or with people you have just met, and when one of these moments happens, we all want to hear about it. However, when you claim that taking your one-legged friend into a pancake restaurant is awkward, you are clearly a very awkward

Technology today has made us awkward people. We do not know how to communicate with people at all. We are used to texting, facebooking, tweeting, pinning, etc. We will text people comments that we would never say to their faces. When we get face to face with people, we become awkward. We have become so awkward that we think every awkward. We have become so awkward that we think every single occurrence we have is awkward. In reality, the majority of these moments are not awkward at all, and it is just living and learning in life. The word awkward means "the showing or result of a lack of expertness," not finding a funny quote and putting "that awkward moment when.." in front of it.

After you get home from your first date, and there were silent awkward moments from your first date, and there were silent awkward moments in between every sentence, don't post on Facebook or twitter "that awkward moment when you spell the word akwerd wrong while trying to tweet about a really awkward date!! Heheh!" The date was only awkward because you don't know how to hold a conversation with someone!

Another time I have noticed that teenagers are completely awkward is when they are talking to adults. We, as teenagers, do not know how to have a formal conversation.

We get anxious and tense when we are left alone in a room with our friends' parents and forced' to talk to them.

In order for our

society to become lessawkward, we would
probably need to take away
all technological forms of
communication and start
from nothing. That will never
happen, so we are either going
to have to live with being
a very awkward-society, or
make a serious change.

The more times
that you are left alone with

make a serious change.

The more times that you are left alone with your friends' parents, the less awkward it gets! Don't avoid situations that might seem awkward because facing them is the only way to make you less awkward. We all know you are awkward, but don't try to twist the meaning of the word to make you sound better. "Awkward" will never make you "cool."

## Attracted to the Dark Side



By Megan Wright Staff Reporter

In every aspect of our lives, we are faced with two options: the good, and the bad. It is obvious to us, being bad. It is obvious to us, being that it is the reasonable thing to do, that we should pick the good. So often though, we tend to lean toward the choices that are considered bad and potentially hurtful to us.

The first place we set ourselves up for failure is in relationships.

There's a girl. She loves

relationships.

There's a guy.
There's a girl. She loves him. He... well... sure... he loves her I guess. She does everything for him just to make sure he is always happy. He does what he feels like doing for her, when he feels like doing it, but expects her to be perfect. He can never do anything wrong. She seems to anything wrong. She seems to

never do anything right. They get along basically because she makes sure she never does anything to upset him, but they have their moments. He

anything to upset him, but they have their moments. He gets mad. They break up. She is crushed. He is... whatever. They take time to cool off, and they start to talk again. She says sorry for everything. He says... "yeah"... and tells her never to do it again.

She deserves better. He doesn't deserve her. She goes back to him though, even though he is not good for her. He is obviously not Prince Charming, but she still seems to think that her life is not complete without him! She could have a guy that is sweet, charming, and respectful, but she picked the boy who is just not good for her.

not good for her.

This isn't just girls; it can be the same situation for guys too. You could have the sweetest guy in the world, and for some reason, instead of being with someone who brings out the best in him, he is dating Godzilla! By Godzilla, I mean the girl who is all about what she wants, won't let him talk to or see anyone else in the world besides her, and is

probably one of the most high maintenance people of the female population.

Why do we do this to ourselves?! Why do we pick people who bring out the worst in us? If someone is controlling and makes you feel like you can never amount to anything, you obviously deserve better. If that person wouldn't do for you what you do for them, you deserve better! usually however, you don't even recognize how much better you could really do, so you settle. You completely ignore the fact that you could find someone worth your time, and lean toward the person who seems to have perfected the art of tearing you down instead of building you up.

There are also more

you down instead of building you up.

There are also more ridiculous aspects of our lives that are affected by good and bad decisions.

You are starving. You just got done running five miles... or just got done lounging on the couch watching re-runs of *The Office* for the past six hours. You go to the fridge. Your mom just went to the store. She bought a

bunch of really yummy fruits and vegetables, that you like, but, let's be serious, staring at you from across the room is something that will alter your decision making for that moment. On a plate on the counter is the most delicious looking chocolate donut with sprinkles. There goes that five miles, or here comes another 500 calories added to the ones you haven't burned while you sat on your butt all day. You should have chosen the fruits and vegetables. They aren't horrible. They are actually pretty good, but that donut, just sitting there, ruined it all. You just had to pick chocolate and sprinkles over green and leafy.

why can't we just eat the carrot?! Why does the food that is bad have to be so tempting? We are all taught from a young age that you need your vegetables in order to grow up big and strong, but we consciously make the decision to go against that and eat the junk.

Whether it is the more serious choices, like drugs, drinking, relationships, and risk taking, or the more

ngit nearted things like picking that donut over the broccoli, staying up until all ends of the morning, or hitting the snooze button on the aleman control of the plant of th

all ends of the morning, or hitting the snooze button on the alarm an extra five times, we always tend to go toward the choices that aren't on the straight and narrow path. I don't know why we do. Is it rebellion? Is it a lack of moral character? Who knows? All I know is we naturally tend to be attracted to the bad more than the good in life.

Make a conscious effort to think things through before you go off and pick the "dark and dangerous" over the "light and righteous." The consequences of the good side are far less hurtful than the bad, and your decisions not only affect you, they affect everyone around you. You and everyone else deserve the absolute best of what life has to offer.

Rock Bottom Staff



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## **Technology**

## Overload: Apple technology dominates market

Editor

Since Apple's release of the first ever iPod prototype in October 2001, the designs and popularity of the devices have expanded in all different directions over the last decade. Though the iPod was not the first mp3 player released, it was by far the most popular. When the iPod went public, it was originally priced at \$399. It was rather expensive, but the device was ahead of its time and changed the way

the device was ahead of its time and changed the way Apple made music.

The iPod put Apple on the map as a main distributor of technology. After they launched the iTunes Store in 2002,

skyrocketed. According to cnet.com, by August of 2004, 3.7 million iPods had been 3./ million iPods had been sold throughout the world. As the iPod continued to upgrade by means of appearance and space for music, the number of distributed iPods

number of distributed iPods has accumulated to over 300 million sales reported in January of last year.

When Apple released its first version of the iPod Touch in September 2007, it was the first time people began drastically using their iPod for more than only music. iTunes had thousands of apps available for download, including games and facebook. With this being the most advanced mp3 player the most advanced mp3 player that had internet capabilities at

the time, Apple quickly acted upon the iPod Touch's only unavailable app: it could not be used as a phone.

This dilemma was

dealt with by unveiling a new device known as the iPhone in late June of 2007.

play music, v i e w
e m a i l s,
surf the
web, give
directions,

and make calls. Within the first weekend of its release, the iPhone sold Times, 4 million units. Just like ransacked Apple for the the iPod, Apple insisted on newest version of the iPhone,

5th Generation

known as the iPhone 4S that went public last October.
With a

starting price of \$199, technology becon affordable since the first iPod's

According to the New York the holiday season ed Apple for the

selling 37 million in the course of two months. Along with the iPhone 4S, there was yet another "hot" item up for grabs over the holidays. The iPad is a tablet that holds all the same applications as the iPod and iPhone, but is the weight in between that of a

smart phone and a laptop.

Originally introduced in late January of 2010, the iPad has drastically boosted iPad has drastically boosted sales with its different design. According to ipadinsider. com, the first day the iPad was available for purchase, 300,000 were bought immediately, and within the first 80 days, 3 million had already gone out around the world. According to the New York Times, 2010 alone sold 14.8 million iPads; since the iPad 2 was released

in March of last year, more than 15 million have been vended around the world, selling more than any other tablet PC's combined.

With constant updates on new software and improving the already infamous devices, Apple shows no signs of slowing down.

down.

There is confirmation of the iPhone 5's upcoming release. iPhone 5 has many rumors floating about its new design including a waterproof avatar, slide-out keyboard, and a curved screen with an aluminum back panel. It is said to be ready for sales by this September.

#### **Popular SmartPhones at Scotus** iPhone 4 hTC evo DWOIDXZ



#### 1st

The iPhone 4 was released on June 24, 2011, and the iPhone 4s was released on Octobver 14, 2011. From the surveys, 46 students own an iPhone 4



#### 2nd

The DroidX2 was released on May 26, 2011. From the survey 19 students own a DroidX2.

#### 3rd

The HTC evo was released on October 20, 2011. From the survey, 15 students own a HTC evo.



### Movies predict the future

By Carrie Bartholomew Staff Reporter

old days when they made movies about what the future would be like? The old days are then and the future is

Some older movies and TV shows were set in the future, such as Back to the Future Part II, Star Trek, and Star Wars. In Back to the Future Part II Marty McFly travels to 2015 in a time machine. According to this movie, in just 3 years we are supposed to have hover boards, food hydration, flying cars, and time travel. The only machine the movie did get right is that there is video chat, which is what we know chat, which is what we know chat, which is what we know as Skype and Face Time. We haven't yet accomplished intergalactic space travel and have found other species on some far out distant planet, but this could very well be in our future.

were made more recently are also predicting the future of our technology and what can be done through it. In the 2008 movie, Eagle Eye, the 2008 movie, Eagle Eye, two random people are being tracked by an unnamed, computerized woman who can control everything they do and risks their lives countless times through the character's technology. Any motivated, maniacal person could probably do that today. The 2004 film, *I, Robot,* is one of those classic

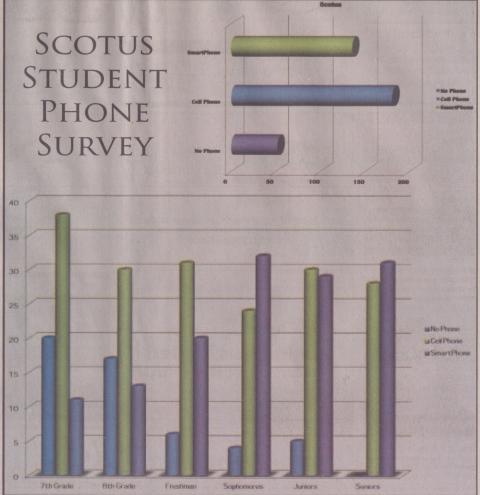
Robot, is one of those classic tales about how robots turn against humans and try to take over the world. The moyie is set in the year 2035. Lesson for life, never trust a robot with a mind of its own \*cough\* Siri \*cough.\* Good thing she doesn't have arms or less. yet

legs...yet.

The famous Wall-e, i The famous 2008 Disney movie, Wall-e, is about a robot that is stuck on earth when it is a wasteland full of junk. All the humans left earth to live in space because they ran out of space in all the landfills so all of earth was filled with trash. They are all fat because the robots do everything for them, and they never had to move off of their lawn chair. This world could be in our future because the rate of obesity in America is going up every year.

rate of obesity in America is going up every year.

The old movies and shows have predicted what the future will look like. The way the world is headed, we could live to see such accomplishments as hover boards and flying cars, in our lives. We could also live to see the accomplishments newer. the accomplishments newer movies are predicting. One day we will be the good old days and we will be the ones predicting what will happen in the future.



## **Technology**

## The Rising iClassroom

Scotus teachers explore the use of technology in the classroom

By Claire Fuchser
Staff Reporter

Society is being invaded by more advanced technology. This technology is entering the home, workplace, and schools everywhere; Scotus included.

Many of the teachers at Scotus are using more advanced technology in their classrooms. Teachers such as Mr. Lahm, Mr. Linder, and Mr. Sasges are using the new iPad. Fr. Roza is also using his iPhone to his advantage.

Lahm, who teaches multiple math classes, not only uses his iPad in the classroom, but uses calculators, a computer, many PowerPoints, and a projector as well.

Using his iPad, Lahm is able to project PowerPoints onto the white board. He is also able to control his computer via the iPad, by using a wireless connection.

"The iPad controls my computer. I can also access a remote computer. If I wanted something off of my computer at home I wouldn't have to run there, I could dig through the files on my iPad that

are correspondent with the computer at home," Lahm stated

Lahm has a website for each of his math classes that include all PowerPoints that are used in class. The website enables students to access them outside of the classroom for review, or if they are gone, they can also access it to catch up with what they missed in class.

Although Lahm says that using technology in his classroom has not made teaching easier, he does believe that Scotus has a future with technology usage.

"We're hoping that in time, we can continue to use iPads in the classroom, as well as throughout the school," Lahm said.

There are also other features that the iPad has such as Apple TV, projection, watching movies, checking email, and reading books. Lahm is still experimenting with the capabilities of his iPad.

Junior religion teacher, Mr. Linder, uses the iPad in many different ways to assist his students in learning about their faith. From accessing the internet to showing inspirational videos over the projector, Linder's iPad is used for

numerous purposes during his classes. Linder believes society has changed the way that we learn.

"Learning is no longer textbook. Reading and writing are not enough. Hands on activities such as typing, using the internet, and watching videos make it easier to teach in the classroom. New technology has made that easier to implement in the classroom," Linder stated.

Technology has

Technology has not only made it easier for students to learn, but it has also made teachers more accessible to their students needs.

"Using technology in my classroom makes me as an educator more accessible to my students. It gives me the ability to move around my classroom. I can help my students without abandoning this technology. My iPad also gives me the ability to show videos, PowerPoints, and can be used as an interactive textbook," Linder said.

Technology and business teacher Mr. Sasges also uses the iPad to assist with, not only his teaching, but his coaching. By using an app, Sasges is able to keep stats of the game and keep them on



ANGIE RUSHER/ ROCK BOTT

Religion teacher Tyler Linder helps math teacher John Petersen use the new iPad. Many teachers have started to teach through advanced technology.

record. This makes stat keeping easier, as well as making calculations about the game smoother.

the game smoother.

During the senior religion classes, Fr. Roza can be seen with iPhone in hand. UsinghisiPhone, Roza is able to project previously made PowerPoints onto a projector screen. By making the PowerPoints

on the computer, and then downloading them to his phone, Roza is able to access files faster and make handling of the Power Points easier.

Only time can tell if Scotus will see the use of more technology. The iPad is already being seen in more and more classrooms. Lahm stated, "We could buy a new computer lab but that wouldn't change the way that we use the classroom. We want teachers to have the tools that they need or could use that will change the face of the classroom."

## SCOTUS' TOP APPS



Facebook
The social networking site that took the world by storm.
144 top votes.



Angry Birds
This addicting game
involves birds, pigs,
and slingshots.
129 top votes



Words With Friends Play scrabble with your friends! That's it! 73 top votes



Fruit Ninja
How could fruit and
swords not be a great
combination?

59 top votes



Pandora
Type in any song or artist and the possibilities are endless.

44 top votes



Twitter
Doing anything? Anything at all? Tweet about it .
40 top votes

#### What is your favorite app?



"I like my news apps, like ESPN or Drudge Report, so I can keep in touch with the world around me."



Paige Lyons
"Pintrest, because it has a lot of awesome ideas from how to do you hair to cooking recipes."



Jens Paprocki-"COD Elite, because it is expected of me."



Bre Walker "iFunny; I like to laugh at funn
people who look stupid."

## Life Unplugged: Survival without social networking

By Lauren Kuta Staff Reporter

Cell phones, Facebook, Twitter, or any other social networking devices; try to contemplate a life without these digital necessities. Impossible? Well, think again. Against all the odds, a person can live a normal life without any of these addictive, life-consuming pieces of technology.

technology.

I'm a living example of this "horrible crime" that is surviving in the modern world without such technological devices. It is possible, contrary to popular belief, to live a productive and organized life without a cell phone or Facebook.

technological devices. It is possible, contrary to popular belief, to live a productive and organized life without a cell phone or Facebook.

To put it bluntly, I do not currently own a cell phone. The closest gadget that I have to a cell phone is an iPod Touch with a free texting app on it, but do not ask for my number; I have absolutely no idea what it is.

I also, shockingly, do not have Facebook. This is mostly due to my parents' insistence, but now I do not want to waste hours and hours on it waiting for someone else to get on or reading the soap opera-like events of other people's lives. Unfortunately, almost similar to every aspect of life, living without social communication devices does come with its disadvantages.

With limited communication means, I tend to be out of the loop on every "important" event that takes place here at Scotus. The only means of communication I have is a home phone which causes some problems when my friends (and my journalism teacher) want to contact me quickly.

quickly.

I also have problems finding out about general news concerning my friends and school. I watch the national news almost every day, but this does little to add to my daily discussions with friends.

The same goes with abrupt changes in schedule for meetings and events. I usually do not find out about these adjustments until I show up at a deserted school or meeting spot, completely annoyed that I missed the memo.

However, The worst is when groups plan meetings and then contact everyone through Facebook. Then I get in trouble for not showing up for a meeting that I had no clue about. Even though meetings can be a pain, there are plenty of positive sides of not having

of positive sides of not having a cell phone or Facebook.

First of all, I can have a more productive evening without constant socializing from my friends or the temptation of logging onto a social networking site. I've heard the woes of people who sat on Facebook until the wee hours of the night waiting for someone to get on and chat with

I've also listened to people talk about sneakily texting on their phones until

3 or 4 o'clock in the morning, coming to school and dead tired. I, on the other hand, do not have the temptation to stay up that late, so I generally enjoy enough sleep every night (unless I have too much homework).

homework).

Because I do not have online accounts on communication websites, I do not have to worry about colleges or businesses finding anything that could be used against me when I send in an application. I also greatly decrease the chances of identity theft from those on the internet along with becoming prey to the infamous internet stalkers. Overall, I live a much safer and happier life without social networking sites. I simply do not exist according to the networkers.

stalkers. Overall, I live a much safer and happier life without social networking sites. I simply do not exist according to the networkers.

Life without a cell phone or Facebook may be a horrible nightmare to some, but it is another aspect of life that anyone could easily live happily without.

## **Sports**

## Challenges help prepare teams

By Mike Albin Staff Reporte

#### The Albatross Perspective JoePa: A Coaching Legend

The sports world was taken aback just a few weeks ago. January 22, 2012, Joe Paterno died of lung cancer. what had happened when I saw the news update scroll along the bottom of the screen while I was eating my breakfast that a saturday morning. How could someone die so quickly from cancer? No, it was not cancer that took old JoePa to the great press box in the sky, it was a broken heart.

With the scandals that took place under his watch, Paterno's flawless watch, Paterno's flawless reputation was forever tainted. After he was fired from his position as head coach, it took less than a month for him to pass away. Hopefully with time, Joe Paterno's name will be remembered for his great victories and poise on the field and his positive effect on so many men that had the pleasure to play for him.

Joe Paterno managed a record setting 409 wins, along with Penn States only

Joe Paterno managed a record setting 409 wins, along with Penn States only two National Championships. He practiced modesty, and made his players do the same. His techniques were clean, and, for the most part, so were the men he coached. clean, and, for the most part, so were the men he coached. He preached humbleness to his players and crafted them into upstanding young men. His career was astounding, and he seemed almost saintlike to the fans of Penn State. Then people started to doubt his immaculate nature this his immaculate nature this past year, and he lost the thing he loved most: the pame of

life was jam-packed with football. He loved his career, his employer, and his players/ fans. He loved his passion for the football field so much that the football field so much that he could not live without it. Medical professionals have stated many times that the attitude of the patient is just as important as the treatment of the patient. When someone gives up the will to live, or has nothing to live for, it does not take much for someone to ness away.

In our society, we want our heroes to be 'perfect'. We want them to succeed at everything, and we want them to last forever. Unfortunately, the pedestal upon which we place our heroes is often beyond the reach of any human. When it comes down to Paterno, we have to realize that all people make mistakes. Everyone makes ugly decisions that they wish they could do over again. When we idolize people to the point of perfection, it shocks us to no end when they show human end when they show human weakness. What we need to realize is that Joe Paterno was a virtuous man. He strived for excellence and did what he was best at. That is all we can all of provents are left. ask of anyone, even JoePa

With players stepping up to fill a new line-up, great team leaders, and exciting, unexpected wins, the Shamrock basketball season has been a successful one so far for both the boys and

By Megan Wright Staff Reporter

Boys' basketball coach Jeff Ohnoutka is happy with the boys' success so far

with the boys' success so far this year.

"The team has really come together. We have beaten everyone that we were supposed to. There are always the hard games though. The ones that we lost we just didn't have enough successful plays in the fourth quarters to win

in the fourth quarters to win the game," Ohnoutka said.

As for districts, the outlook is tough, but

the outlook is tough, but promising.

"We have a tough district. We have Lakeview in it, which has a pretty good team this year. Raymond Central, David City High, and Centennial all have nice teams. I think that we will still be playing some pretty good basketball this February, and we really have some good and we really have some good things ahead of us," Ohnoutka said.

have also experienced some changes in the line-up due to injuries and disciplinary

matters.

"We have had to deal with adversity all throughout the year in terms of injuries. Some things you can control, and others you can't. I think that at times it has slowed down our team in terms of getting our guys to work together. I still think that we can overcome that and still see can overcome that and still see some good things happen," Ohnoutka said.

"We have had to deal with adversity all throughout the year in terms of injuries. Somethings you can control, and others you can't."

~Coach Ohnoutka

Last Friday the boys team was beaten by Wahoo Newman. Their next game will be Tuesday against Wahoo High.

It has been a few months of ups and downs for the girls' basketball team this year. They have had some really great wins, but also



Junior guard Alyssa Foltz jump stops in the lane with Luthern High defenders around her. The Shamrock girls are 13-7 so far this season.

some hard losses, but not without intense competition. The first time Scotus played David City Aquinas, they lost 40-21. They played

them again February 2, and won 45-37. Head girls' basketball coach Jarrod Ritter was excited about the winning

rematch last Thursday.

"It is always nice to get a win against them because they always have good teams. I was proud of the way our girls came out and played with confidence and enthusiasm,"

"It is always nice to get a win against Aquinas because they always have good teams. I was proud of the way our girls came out and played with confidence and enthusiasm.' ~Coach Ridder

The girls also played Hastings Saint Cecilia, which was an exciting win, even though they had beat them before. Those two teams were not the only tough competition the girls have encountered this year. The season has been full of teams who gave the Shamrocks a run for their money."

"When you play good teams it prepares you for tougher games later on in the year," Ridder said.

The girls did well at Conference this year.

"I thought our girls did a great job. They played a great game against Hastings St. Cecilia. Making it to Saturday is a great accomplishment for our girls," Ridder said.

As for districts, the

As for districts, the

As for districts, the outlook is promising.
"This is the fun time of the year. Our goal is to compete the best we can and

compete the best we can and put ourselves in position to win every game, "Ridder said.

The games on Thursday will be a deciding factor for the girls.

"If we beat Lincoln Lutheran, our girls will have won the West side of our conference. That is a very good accomplishment for them.

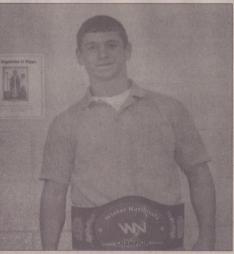
Districts for the girls starts February 13. Boys Districts starts February 20. The state tournaments for girls will be held March 1, and the boys will be held March 8. Both boys and girls will compete against Lincoln Lutheran Thursday. Girls will be at 6:15 pm, and the boys will be at 8:00pm. Districts for the girls



Zach Zarek/Yearbook Staff

Junior Derek Lahm drives to the lane against Luthern High. The Shamrock boys are 8-11 so far this season.

## Dodson takes gold at Nationals



By Jake Huss Staff Reporter

Marcus Dodson
walks through the school
every day like a normal
student. The one difference
that sets him apart from his
fellow classmates is the label:
National Champion.

December On December 29th, Dodson won the Dixie National Wrestling Tournament in Atlanta, Georgia. He competed in the 14-and-under, 155-pound division. The event had over 1,100 wrestlers representing 37 states. On

An event like this was not new for Dodson. He had already competed at the Big Horn Nationals in Loveland, Colorado. On November 6th, he won the tournament helping him qualify to compete at Dixie Nationals.

Although Dodson

could not compete this year

wrestling team due to using up his eligibility at another school, he practiced with them every day to continue working on his skills for the national tournaments ahead of him.

"I want to go to Liberty Nationals in Kansas City, and if I win that I'll get the American Triple Crown for winning three national tournaments."

-Marcus Dodson

After Scotus wrestling ended, Dodson continued to practice for his big tournament weeks later.

"I ran a lot, and I practiced with my club team in Duncan," Dodson said.

All this practice helped Dodson prepare for

of him in Georgia.

Dodson left the tournament with a 3-0 record. Two of those wins record. Iwo of those wins were falls, while the other was a 6-2 decision. The 3-0 record helped Dodson leave the Georgia World Congress with a 1st place

plaque.

Dodson's mission is not completed yet. He needs one more major national tournament victory to be presented with the American Triple Crown award. The American Triple Crown is given to a wrestler who wins at least three of the five major national tournaments in a season.

Dodson said, "I want Dodson said, "I want to go to Liberty Nationals in Kansas City, and if I win that I'll get the American Triple Crown for winning three national tournaments."

## Activities-

## Scotus Speech Team hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> annual invite



Senior Tom Schumacher performs his Humorous Interpretation during the Columbus Scotus Invite. Schumacher placed 3rd overall in his event.

### Scotus students continue to march for life

By Rachel Rambour Staff Reporter

On Thursday, January 16th, 30-Scotus students, along with 4 Scotus parents, journeyed to Washington D.C. for the annual March for Life. The March for Life is a protest against abortion to speak out for those who can't speak out for themselves. According to the U.S. Park's Department's website, close to 500,000 people attended the March. On Thursday, January website, close to 500,0 people attended the March.

people attended the March.
Scotus students did
not fly to Washington D.C.,
they were placed on busses
with students from all over the
Omaha Archdiocese for the 28
hour trip across the country.
The Omaha Archdiocese
brought around 320 people,
filling 5 busses which were
named Life Bus, Truth Bus,
Way Bus, Faith Bus, and
Hope Bus.

Kwapnoski went on the march for her first time this year.

"I made friends with people from West Point, Norfolk, and other towns. A lot of different people were on the bus, and we all introduced ourselves and made good friends," Kwapnoski said.

Scotus senior Emmie

friends," Kwapnoski said.
Scotus senior Emmie
Odbert, who went on the
March for Life for the second
time this year said, "The bus
ride is not really as bad as
everyone thinks. We all find
ways to entertain ourselves on
the way."

Before the day of

Before the day of the March, the students and chaperones experienced Washington D.C, and some of its most famous monuments and museums. They also attended a youth rally and a Matt Maher concert. Scotus freshman Tori

Rinkol experienced the March for Life for her first time this year also.

"My favorite

historical part of the trip was going to Gettysburg's battlefield and seeing all of the monuments and learning about the past. My favorite spiritual part of the trip was when we were on the March and just looking at how many people were there," Rinkol said,

people were there," Rinkol said,

Some students enjoyed the historical part of the trip, while others enjoyed the more spiritual parts.

"My favorite part of the trip was probably the youth rally we went to before the March. It was in the Armory, and it was amazing to see all off the people there for the same reason, to save babies. It was also pretty cool that an archbishop was there on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI," Kwapnoski said.

Odbert was one who enjoyed the spiritual parts of the pilgrimage most.

Odbert said, "My favorite part was the actual

By Andy Heusinkvelt Staff Reporter

Just four meets into the 2012 speech season, the Scotus Speech Team has already had its share of notable accomplishments. The most notable of which was the hosting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Columbus Scotus Invite: Forensics on January 21, 2012. Anneliese Ploetz, head coach of the Scotus Speech Team, was extremely pleased with how the meet ran that Saturday opposed to last year.

"I had a lot more student volunteers, and I was able to rely on my co-chairs and was able to go from place to place and not worry about something going wrong," Ploetz said.

The meet was so successful that Ploetz plans to raise the standards of next year.

year.

"We invited a total of seven schools this year, including: David City Aquinas, Schuyler, Columbus High, Lakeview, Wahoo Bishop Neumann, Gross Catholic, and Lincoln

Lutheran Northeast, but I am hoping to get more schools to come next year," Ploetz said.

The Scotus Speech Team was successful at the meet with Joel Ostdiek taking first place in Persuasive and second place in Entertainment, Thomas Schumacher placing third in Humorous Interpretation, Carly Burkhardt placing fourth in Persuasive, and Jackson Prokupek receiving sixth in Entertainment.

"I had a lot more student volunteers, and I was able to rely on my co-chairs"

~ Ms. Ploetz

A home meet is a chance for the students and staff to come watch the members perform their speeches.

"It benefits the team because usually we don't get a large following of people who come to watch the team perform at away meets so this allowed local people to come watch and support the team at home," Ploetz said.

In addition to hosting

Speech.

Scotus Athletic
Director Gary Puetz decided
to host the meet.

"I agreed because
Ms. Ploetz was willing to take
on the responsibility. Running
a speech meet needs someone
who knows how to run one,
and we, as a school, will help
her out, but she's going to be
the organizer behind it," Puetz
said.

Puetz also sees this

the organizer behind it," Puetz said.

Puetz also sees this as a good opportunity for the school itself.

"When a school hosts a district it gives our kids a better chance to compete. You're in your own school, you don't have to travel, and you feel more comfortable and at home," Puetz said. "I also believe it's a very good thing for the speech program and for Scotus to host districts, and if we do a good job, I'm sure we will be able to host it again in the future, and I think it's just a win-win situation for us."

The Speech Team will travel to David City this Saturday and David City Aquinas next Saturday before Districts on March 12, 2012.



The Scotus March for Life group poses for a picture in front of the Lincoln Memorial. Thirty students from Scotus went to Washington D.C. for the March.

March. It was really good to see how many people were there, fighting for the same cause."

Belinda Keiter, Saint Bonaventure's youth minister, promotes and organizes the March for Life for Scotus students and adults.

"Any teen who has

never gone before should give it a try; I'd like to say that we won't ever have to do this again, that's my prayer that we won't go on the March again next year because abortion would be illegal. But that may not be the case, and so if it's not, I would encourage

Keiter said.

Kwapnoski agreed

with Keiter.

"I will definitely go on the March for life again in the future. This experience is something that will stay with me for the rest of my life."

## Scotus choirs attend tradition-filled clinic



**By Lauren Kuta** Staff Reporter

On January 16th, the Shamrock Singers and the John Duns Chorus attended the Boone Central Choral Clinic, which is a gathering of the finest young musicians from around the state, for a day of singing and tradition. Boone Central hosts this clinic on Martin Luther King Day every year due to the fact that most students do not have school that day.

"The clinic is not a competition; it's a time for all of us to get together and share music," E.J. Gardner, the choral director at Scotus, explained.

Hosted at Boone Central High School in Albion, the choral clinic is a day filled with music rehearsals and unique techniques to enhance the voice. About 500 students from fourteen high schools across Nebraska attended, creating a diverse sound that cannot be found anywhere else. This year marked the 67th choral clinic held at Boone Central, and Scotus' 16th consecutive appearance at the clinic.

Overall, the clinic consists of three large group rehearsals that take place inside the school's gymnasium with short breaks in between each one. Before the first rehearsal, each school may ask the clinic director to critique their choir. The individual high school can then choose to perform the music of their choice during the concert at the end of the day.

"The director was a bit crazy, but I liked him. He was very different than any of the other directors we've had," commented Taylor Sprunk, a senior who has attended the Boone Central Choral Clinic for the last four years.

The director of the choral clinic for the last four years.

The director of the choral clinic this year was Dr. Peter Eckland, a director and professor at UNL. At the university, Dr. Eckland directs a freshman choir along with various other choral ensembles. He also instructs Master's and Doctorate students in music.

"All of the songs were great, and singing them in such a large group made them all sound very intense," freshman Abby Allen said.

As a large group, the choir sang six songs that covered nearly every genre

of vocal music. Due to his Lutheran background, the director chose two songs, "A Jubilant Song" and "He has the Power", that both praised God through energetic lyrics and upbeat rhythms. In contrast, Dr. Eckland also chose "Be Thou My Vision", another song proclaiming the glory of God, but with more soothing lyrics and rhythms.

Two favorites of the Scotus Choirs were "The Pasture" and "Musick's Empire", both of which have been sung by the choirs at other events. Lastly, the day ended with the long-standing tradition held at Boone Central; the choir, along with the Boone Central Band and the directors of the high schools' choirs, sang the classic "Battle Hymn of the Republic".

The songs, however, are not the greatest part of this

Republic". The songs, however, are not the greatest part of this experience.

Sprunk added, "My favorite part had to be getting to meet a lot of new people that were passionate about music."

## **Entertainment**

## Carrie's Critiques: "Marry the Night"

Staff Reporter

"I'm going to be a star, you know why?...
Because I have nothing else to lose." Lady Gaga has recently released a new music video for her song "Marry the Night." It has been one of the most viewed videos on. of the most viewed videos on YouTube for the past month, and this music video was an instant internet hit.

instant internet hit.
"Marry the Night"
was released on the internet
on December 2, 2011. In this
music video, it tells the story
of what happened to Lady
Gaga after she had a mental
meltdown, and her first record
label let her go. The song
itself is about Lady Gaga and
how it took outs to say that how it took guts to say that she hated Hollywood. All she wanted to do was go back to Brooklyn and make music. The song also tells of her love for the night life in New York

This song was actually Lady Gaga's favorite song off of her album Born This Way.

"Marry the Night," is an excellent song. I love listening to it. The song starts off soft, then the beat picks up, and it's suddenly a song I can dance to. Whenever I watch the music video, it gives me chills. Lady Gaga wrote, directed, and choreographed the video herself. The music video is creative. She adds her own story into the video; her own story into the video; it isn't just a video of her singing the song in some random place like most music random place like most music videos are. The intro to the song is ten minutes of talking; not many other music videos would do that, which shows that this video is unique. Lady Gaga also struts some of

her outrageous cionning.

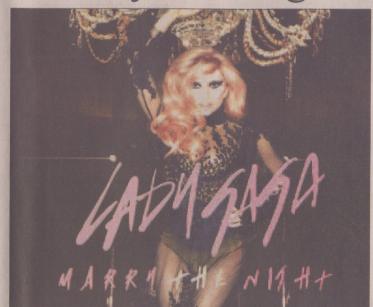
In the music video, Lady Gaga has some good messages for people, reminding them to never give up. She shows this in

the video when she keeps reaching for her goal and eventually receives her big break. In the mix of the seriousness, she adds in some funny phrases typical of Lady Gaga such as, "You may say I lost everything, but I still had my BeDazzler."

lost everything, but I still had my BeDazzler."

The music video for "Marry the Night," is literally about 14 minutes long, and it drags on in some parts. Most people know that Lady Gaga doesn't wear the most modest clothing sometimes, and this music video goes over the top with her immodesty; so over the top that she isn't wearing any clothing, which was completely unnecessary. Other than being totally naked, there really isn't anything else that is bad about the Lady Gaga's song or music video.

Lady Gaga has outdone herself again with her song "Marry the Night," and the music video that goes along with it.





## The Facility: Chapter 4

By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

woke up riding in a vehicle piloted by non-other than Jake Kratochivil. Students are Jake Kratochivil Students are banding together, and making a base camp in Scotus, and the police officers' motives are still unclear. As they arrived at Scotus, Jake revealed the plan to Jens. What Jens saw shocked him. So now begins the fourth chapter of The Facility.

"Our liberation?" Jens whispered.

the fourth chapter of The Facility.

"Our liberation?" Jens whispered.

"Yea... that's what I said. It is our liberation!" Jake replied, with a small amount of annoyance in his voice.

"Our liberation?" Jens repeated.

"I can't handle this right now," Jake said as he took the key out of the ignition and stepped out of the vehicle. Emmie, Rachel, and Craig started moving in the back and Jens remained awestruck. Wings outstretched, the metal bird-like creation stood silently as Jake pulled out a wrench and started tightening bolts. Jake had converted his wrench and started tightening bolts. Jake had converted his retired police cruiser into some sort of plane with glider wings protruding from underneath the front doors. The wings appeared to have no engines,

but they folded out to more than 15 feet in both directions. Enough wing perhaps to lift the car at speed.

"We need to leave

"We need to leave Jake to his work. He cannot be disturbed," Rachel said as she tapped Jens on the shoulder. Jens obliged and opened the door without a word, never removing his gaze from the flying contraption Jake was so busily working on.
"C"mon!" said

Rachel from the hallway

Rachel from the hallway doors.

Jens slowly walked towards her and still kept his gaze fixed on the vehicle. Once he snapped his head around towards Rachel, a million questions popped into his mind. He could not comprehend the series of events that had just led him to this place. He walked down the hallway near the Dowd Activity Center, and noticed several younger students nailing boards over the doors. Aaron Alexander ran past with a dolly filled with boxes of food shouting warnings to move out of his way. Jens's mind was reeling.

They turned towards the cafeteria and walked up

They turned towards the cafeteria and walked up the stairs into Memorial Hall. The floor was covered with hundreds of cots, and students were talking and conversing as they would normally.

"Over here!" Craig shouted at Jens from the stands. Jens followed him up to the door of the tech booth. The two girls had left the group and had mixed in with the rest of the students on the gym floor. Craig stopped and turned around.

"Jens, I know all of this has to be hard to believe,"

Craig said.

"You don't even know..." Jens interrupted.

"Oh I know exactly what you're going through right now, man, but you need to stop thinking about it so much and just help."

"We just found out where they are holding the people who were caught," Craig explained, "and we have a plan to rescue them."

"How did you figure all of this out? I mean everything. How is this

figure all of this out? I mean everything. How is this possible?" Jens asked.

Craig turned the knob and motioned Jens to go inside. Jens looked questioningly at Craig, who nodded his head without a word. Jens stepped inside and saw a dozen or so monitors saw a dozen or so monitors. word. Jens stepped inside and saw a dozen or so monitors scattered throughout. The biggest monitor, hanging in front of the window facing the stage, showed two young men crawling through brush. Jens realized there was at



least three, because someone was holding the camera. Jens recognized the two men as Keaton Schmidt and Calvin Borer. Keaton signaled for everyone to stop, and the camera panned slowly to the left. Finally Jens realized what

the was up against. A line of ten police cruisers was headed towards Behlens, and Jens caught a glimpse of a terrified face in the back window of the last cruiser as it passed. Jens jumped up with a start, and a hand came down on his

shoulder. He whipped around, and Jake calmly spoke. "Let's go." Jens nodded his head and followed Jake out the tech booth door



Coated in Color

See page 5

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC VOLUME 13 , ISSUE 5 , MARCH 12TH, 2012 COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

## Defense defines season

Sophomore Payton Chohon shoots a basket during State Basketball on Thursday, March 8th. The girls lost 19-22 against Boone Central in the first round of State.

Staff Reporter

For the first time since 2004, the Scotus girls' basketball team was found down in Lincoln competing at the State basketball tournament on March 1, 2011. Unfortunately, the excitement stopped there as Scotus played Boone Central in their first round of the State competition, losing 19-22. This was documented as the lowest scoring game in state basketball history.

"Any time you play a team twice, it becomes more difficult for both teams because they are familiar with each other. Our game with Boone was very physical, and both teams played tremendous defense," head coach

tremendous defense," head coach

Jarrod Ridder said.
Scotus girls beat Boone
Central on January 19th in another
close match, winning by only 1

Although Scotus ended their season with a tough loss, their goals for the season were

met.

"Our main goals for this year were to make it to the state competition, grow closer to each other as a team and to our coaches, and I think we accomplished that. Even though the outcome of state did not turn out like we wanted it to, we were glad to have made it that far, and we feel we definitely grew closer. we feel we definitely grew closer with our teammates and the coaches, "senior Caitlin Wiehn

Ridder also felt like it

was a successful season overall.

"I am very proud of our team this year and very proud of our 3 senior players. They accomplished most of their goals this season. They beat Hastings St. Cecilia (twice), won the holiday tournament, got to the

See BASKETBALL, Page 2

#### Journalism sells photos

By Lauren Kuta Staff Reporter

For the first time in Scotus history, the Journalism and Yearbook staff is opening up their best picture files to the public. Photos of nearly all of the activities taking place at Scotus can be purchased from its vehicite.

website. "The

"The Journalism department was barely breaking even with the budget from selling ads and printing newspapers," senior Steph Jarecke, the Layout Editor for the Rock Bottom, explained.

Because of this budget buffer, the Journalism department decided to add selling pictures as another source of income to help finance the publication of the newspaper. The paper costs about \$1,750 to publish each year, and before pictures were being purchased, ad sales were the only way that Scotus could pay for the newspaper.

newspaper.

The ads that help sponsor

the up a significant The ads that help sponsor Journalism take up a significant amount of room in the paper, causing it to contain less content. By selling photos, there will be more room for articles and businesses will not have to donate as much for the ads in the

Another purpose for selling these highly-coveted pictures is due to the feedback received from the parents and students about the photos parents and students about the photos which have appeared within the newspaper and yearbook. Making these pictures available for purchase allows these inquires to cease and gives the Scotus community an opportunity to buy them. The students, with some experience working with photo editing software, have picked up some new, helpful have picked up some new, helpful tips that can help them in future

"Even though I created and maintain the Rock Bottom website, all of the people in Journalism have had to help sort through all of the thousands of pictures we have taken," Senior Mike Albin, the website manager for Rock Bottom, commented

See JOURNALISM, Page 2

### Drive has postitive effect

By Andy Heusinkvelt Staff Reporter

The blood was flowing, the needles were puncturing, and the scene was chaotic, but the Scotus Blood Drive succeeded without a

scene was chaotic, but the Scotus Blood Drive succeeded without a single mishap.

This year marks the 8th year that the Scotus National Honor Society has been involved with the annual blood drive, but it is a tradition that stretches back to the mid 1970's.

"It started when Mr. Younger took his physiology class to the Red Cross to donate, and then just started to grow and grow until it became what it is today," blood drive sponsor Ms. Dusel-Misfeldt said.

"When Mr. Younger used to do the blood drive, he decided one year to retire from it and gave the responsibilities to me in the way of sponsoring, this because there are a lot of other schools where NHS does blood drives as a service project,"

Although this event has been happening for 40 plus years, Dusel felt this year ran no differently than the others. She has been sponsoring the annual event since 2005 and is impressed each year on the cooperativeness of Scotus to support this cause.

"It's really about the same

support this cause

"It's really about the same
as it has been each year, everything
ran very smoothly," Dusel said.

A total of 105 whole blood
units and 18 double red donor units
were received for a combined total
of 123 units. This surpassed the
Red Cross' goal of 115, setting a
new record for the number of units
donated

donated.

"Apart from surpassing our goal, the nurses informed me that only seven students were differed from giving blood; as far as high school blood drives go, they don't know if they had ever seen that before," Dusel said.

The need for blood is constantly in demand, and by

See BLOOD DRIVE, Page 2



### News



Layout Editor Steph Jarecke and Website Manager Mike Albin work diligently during Journalism class. These two seniors will be using these new-found skills in their future careers.

### JOURNALISM

Keeping up with the influx of pictures that pile up is a daunting task, and editing and watermarking them can be very time-consuming. In order to make the pictures purchase-worthy, students must learn how to use Adobe Photoskonto digitally enhances. Photoshop to digitally enhance them. They also have to place a watermark on the pictures, which is a transparent logo

that covers the pictures that are posted on the internet to protect them from copyright infringement.

Then, Albin creates Then, Albin creates links to all the pictures on the Scotus website to its Flickr account, a free photo-storage site that is open to the public. The online pictures have received quite a few views, and curious students and parents are very interested in purchasing them. "So far, we've only

"So far, we've only had a few people purchase photos, but I have had many inquiries. I am sure as parents prepare for graduation, our sales will increase," Mrs. Angie Rusher, the head of the Journalism department at Scotus, said.

Journalism sells

Journalism .

come.
"The photos are a great way to show the success of our school as well as showing the talents of the Journalism students," Jarecke

pictures of activities ranging from the fine arts to sports and hopes that these sales will help boost profits for many years to



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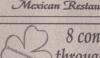
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#### BASKETBALL -

the conference finals, and won their side of conference. Also, the seniors this year I coached as freshmen my first year here at Scotus. It has been very next to see how they each have grown individually and as teammates throughout the past four years," Ridder said.

"It has been very neat to see how they each have grown individually and as teammates throughout the past four years." ~Coach Ridder

The State game was played at the Pershing Center, which was one of four event centers that held games for the State competition.
"I did not like playing at the Pershing at all, it was

hard to focus on what was going on, and it was hard to see the basket with everything in the background," Wiehn

Although this season may not have ended as the Shamrocks wanted, the future looks bright for the 'Rocks.

"I hope that our girls have high expectations for themselves and the team, and are willing to nut the time and

have night expectations for themselves and the team, and are willing to put the time and effort in to reach their goals again next year and in the future; the seniors this year were a great example for our young kids' Ridder said.

Scotus ended their season with a 17-8 record, gaining wins from high rated teams such as Boone Central, Aquinas Catholic, Hastings St. Cecelia, and Wahoo High.

"When you have great kids that work hard and are great teammates, it is exciting to watch them succeed together," Ridder said.

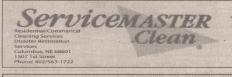
#### BLOOD DRIVE -

participating in this blood drive, those donating have the potential to those donating have the potential to save 3

"It's the only way a lot of us can save someone's life. There is no substitute for blood, and if no one donates, then a lot of people can potentially die," Dusel said.

The ability to give blood is something that almost everyone is capable of doing.

everyone is capable of doing.
"If we get someone
started donating earlier, and
they're comfortable with it,
it increases the chances that
they might do it again," said
Dusel. "It is a great way to
show how we can help others
through self-sacrifice."





Columbus, Nebraska Kitchen - Catering - Bakery

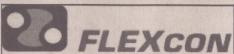
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## **Opinion**

#### The Logical Fallacy of (some) Women



By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

I am single, I am observant, and I have noticed something. It can be summed up in the statement "Nice guys finish last." Sometimes, that statement is fals, but there are some girls at this school who live their lives believing "There are no nice guys." Hearing this makes my stomach almost flip over, and stomach almost flip over, and it cannot be farther from the truth.

Women who believe that there are no good guys are usually attracted to bad guys. Too often, I have seen girls try to justify broken and unhealthy relationships by stating that there is some good in the guy. I'm in the camp that believes this statement is true. I believe that there is good or the want to do good. good or the want to do good

good or the want to do good in every person.

however, when girls are talking to their friends about how crappy their boyfriends are, that is what really angers me. Of course it should be obvious; when you date a jerk, he is going to be a jerk. Girls often spend all their time looking for that sliver-of good in a bad guy, when there are plenty of good guys standing right next to them.

I am not one to label

there are plenty of good guys standing right next to them.

I am not one to label an entire group of people. I know that there are girls in this school who understand what I am talking about. However, it would appear to me that a large portion of girls are attracted to handsome losers. If a guy really is good, he will consider the girl's feelings and well-being before his own. The same is true for the girl. That is what love truly is, putting the other person first.

Unfortunately, not everyone understands this. There are plenty of men and women who live in a self-centered reality, where the only person who matters is themself. I don't give advice because only fools give advice, but if I was in a relationship with a woman who only cared about herself.

relationship with a woman who only cared about herself, I would not complain about it. I would end it! I would

it. I would not compania adout it. I would not waste my time trying to convince myself that the other person has enough good in them for me; I would politely end the relationship and start looking for someone who can think outside themselves.

That might seem self-centered, but who can honestly say that they do not want the best? When I find a woman who can really appreciate what everyone has to offer, but respects herself enough to know what a good husband really is, I will try my hardest to reel her in.

I can completely understand why some women are attracted to good looking

understand why some women are attracted to good looking guys, but when the guy ends up being a complete loser, do not complain about it within earshot of me. I am tired of seeing great men being grouped up with the losers that hurt women. There are great guys out there, and they are not hard to find.

## Practice makes perfect



By Stacia Rawhouser

Perfect. The definition that we all want to describe us, the definition that describe us, the definition that we expect everyone else to be, but most importantly, the definition that defines no one because the perfect person does not exist. People are always encouraging us to be perfect. They tell us that if we practice hard enough at any one thing, we can become absolutely flawless.

The truth is that

absolutely flawless.

The truth is that perfection is not obtainable in this reality, but rather than accept that, we morph our thoughts into thinking that everything we do, everything we are is how everyone else is supposed to be. We all have

our own ideas about what is right and wrong, what is interesting and uninteresting, and how we should react when tossed into a situation regarding these opinions.

Because everyone is different when it comes to abilities and interests, it is not right for people to shove their opinions down others' throats; however, I am one of those people. I am strongly opinionated, and I sometimes speak my mind without looking at all sides of a situation. Thank goodness I am not the only one though; there are many people who are forceful when it comes to disagreements, so I am speaking out to all those who to disagreements, so I am speaking out to all those who are like me.

I know how it feels

I know how it feels to think that my ideas are always better than anyone else's no matter what the subject, but recently I have grown up enough to admit that sometimes I am wrong. Maybe what is right for me is not the best path for someone We need to be patient, with ourselves and with others. Instead of trying to change people and transform them into our idea of "perfect", we need to accept people for their differences. Their ideas, opinions, priorities, interests, and values make up their being in the same way that all those aspects make up who I those aspects make up who I

I have realized that it is much less exhausting to not be concerned with others' business and just focus on myself. Let people be who they want to be; after all, they are trying to figure out life the same way the rest of us are. same way the rest of us ar

"Let People be who they want to be; after all, they are trying to figure out life the same way the rest of us are." ~Stacia Rawhouser

I am impatient. I expect my mistakes to be

getting past others' mistakes. Anyone who shares a similar character flaw, I instruct Anyone who shares a similar character flaw, I instruct you to take a step back, and remember that EVERYONE makes mistakes; not only you, but everyone. Be aware of your wrongs and faults before running around pointing a finger at others when they slip un because if you are anything. up because if you are anything like me, you hate when people remind you that you are

Remember that saying "Life's tough. Wear a helmet"? It might sound silly, but high school has shown but high school has shown me the raw accuracy of that statement. Life is tough, and will be tough for everyone at different times. People go through struggles, some more than others, and those struggles affect who they are, and what type of decisions they make.

Without knowing every detail about a person's life, we cannot judge their actions or choices based on what we think is right. I

often catch myself holding the people I love to ridiculously high standards because that is how I expect them to be. I expect my mom to know everything about everything, I expect my friends to drop their ideas for mine, and I expect my dog to greet me at the door when I get home. Honestly, those are all unrealistic expectations, except the one of my dog because she has never let me down.

We cannot raise the bar to an unreachable height, or we will forever be disappointed. Accept people for their flaws just as they accept yours. Let others live their lives the way they want, and be a friend to them when they need one. Whenever you feel the need to bring to light another person's flaws and correct them don't. It

light another person's flaws and correct them, don't. It might take some time to stray from your picky way of life, but remember, practice makes



By Jake Huss Staff Reporter

We. We believe. We believe that we believe that we will win...etc. This year that was a cheer of choice before most competitions. But why, besides in volleyball, don't we firmly believe that we will win? I walk around school all the time before a competition and constantly hear the same thing... "You guys are going to lose tonight.right?" I even hear it from the people on

the team. This is the reason that Scotus has not been successful recently. Most of this happens on the boy's side of the athletic chain.

As a male athlete, I am around the boys' teams more often, so I see this first hand. The rank of the opponent or just the name of the school leads to an excuse for why we lose. No one has any confidence in themselves and in their teammates. The winning attitude is simply not active. An athlete should not say to their own teammates, "We are going to lose."

A lot of these problems are due to leadership issues. When senior leaders say that we're going to lose, then we will lose. Witnessing the lack of confidence from a leader makes everyone else have a lack of confidence.

leader makes everyone else have a lack of confidence. This doesn't all come down on senior leadership though.

Some leaders do their best, but when the underclassmen are just talking about how much they can't wait for the season to end, it makes leading a team difficult. The guys who are difficult. The guys who are supposed to be helping the starters prepare themselves to win a game don't want to be there. This, of course, leads to

an unprepared team.

The attitude around this school is the reason for the school's not-winning-ways. If you don't want to win every you don't want to win every game then why go out for the sport at all? Sure, you should go out for a sport to have fun with your friends, but I'm pretty sure winning makes it even more fun. Holding up a state trophy with the kids that you grew up with would be a lot more fun than packing up. lot more fun than packing up your bags early and sitting at home playing PlayStation 3 or Xbox.

AYLIGHT

"Holding up a state trophy with the kids that you grew up with would be a lot more fun than packing up your bags early and sitting at home playing Play-Station 3 or X-box."

One of the biggest reasons for this unwillingness to win is that people are lazy. It sounds so much better to hear that it is your last game, and you won't have to go and spend energy practicing. If you don't like practicing and not being able to go home after school, then don't go out for the sport in the first place.

Idon'tthink that most

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Rock Bottom

get to have these fun times competing and winning with your friends forever. Sooner or later you will graduate, and although some people move on to play college sports, it is not quite the same as playing with the friends you grew up playing with.

Basically, the bad attitude towards winning in this school needs to turn around. It's about time that Scotus boys' end back on top, and we stop finishing our seasons as losers.



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### **Sweetheart**



Sweetheart royalty Kelly Augustine and Austin Wortman celebrate their coronation with a photo.



Juniors Taylor Wiester and Kyrsten Wood dance the night away at the Sweetheart Dance.



Social science teacher Wade Coulter dances to his favorite song, "Jump Around!"



Junior Alex Ernst and Senior Nick Preister along with other stu-dents, enjoy themselves at the dance.

# Rocks found in the Jungle...

Staff Reporter

The last dance of the school year for many students has come and passed. Sweetheart took place on February 10<sup>th</sup> for grades 9-12 with the theme of "Jungle Love".

Spanish teacher Gail Bomar took over the sophomore class sponsorship and Sweetheart from Vern Younger. Bomar took over the responsibility of sophomore class sponsor a few years before Younger left, which included preparing the Sweetheart Dance.

"Mr. Younger left me wonderful notes on how to organize things, and what needs to be done to make the dance run smoothly. The officers this year took it upon themselves to find people to do things, and they did a great job," Bomar said.

Throughout the past few years when Bomar has been in charge of Sweetheart, she has learned to be calm, let it happen, it will all turn out fine.

of Sweetheart, she has learned to be calm, let it happen, it will all turn out fine.

The past few years have taught her about the sophomore class and how they can prepare for occasions such as dances. Because dances are a major responsibility of the sophomore class every year, she has learned that her role as class sponsor is to oversee everything that the students do to prepare.

"A lot of it is just making sure that the kids are taking care of their responsibilities," Bomar said.

Royalty at this year's Sweetheart Dance went to seniors Kelly Augustine and Austin Wortman.

Both seniors agreed that times have changed-since their first Sweetheart Dance their freshmen year.

"Well for one, I was in the ceremony [this year] instead of watching, and I danced the whole time unlike my freshmen year. I'm definitely going to miss it," Wortman said.

Augustine felt the same.

"I think you get out of Sweetheart what you put into it. If you go in with a great attitude, you're going to have fun! Compared to my freshmen year, I'd say about the same amount of people came, but more left earlier than they have in previous years."

Because of the number of students who left the dance early last year, Bomar concluded that if students and their dates decide to leave early, then there is no need to keep the dance going until midnight, and it shut down at 11:30 this year.

Although the dance ended early, Bomar was excited to see the students that did come, enjoying themselves.

"I was really glad that a lot of kids showed up, and it seemed like they were having a good time. It's always nice to see the students get together in a different environment than in the classroom setting." Bomar said.

Wortman agreed, "I had a lot of fun at Sweetheart, and it was good to see everyone around me having a good time."

The final dance of the school year is, which will be held on

good to see everyone around me having a good time."

The final dance of the school year is, which will be held on Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup> for the juniors and seniors.



Juniors Taylor Merrill, Carrie Bartholome and Larissa Loeffler enjoy a fun night at Sweetheart.



Juniors Lauran Hellbusch and Jake show off their swing dancing steps



Seniors Nicole Gasper and Mike Albin bust a move at the Sweetheart Dance.



The Sweetheart Royalty for the 2011-2012 school year pose for a picture after coronation. Former King and Queen, Nathan Wangler and Jenn Gokie stand on each end of the group. Candidates were: (L to R) Hannah Spenceri, Trenton Kuta, Nicole Gasper, Thomas Schumacher, Jenna Dubas, Jake Kratochvil, Morgan Prokupek, Kelly Augustine, Austin Wortman, Mackenzie Paczosa, Fritz Hoppe, Kelsey Newman, Cody Placek, and Forrest Casarez. The crown bearers were Rebecca Kosch and Ryan Allen.

# Musical Coated in Colo Scotus recaptures Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat

By Carrie Bartholomew Gardner said. Staff Reporter

This year's musical was different than most musicals Scotus has performed. It was the most musical of all musicals; it was entirely singing. This year's musical was called Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat.

Dream Coat.

The musical was based off the famous Bible story about Joseph and his father giving him a multicolored coat. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and then, after a series of events, ended up with the pharaoh of Egypt. Scotus performed this musical 11 years ago in 2001.

"This year's musical was a special one for me, both times we did it," musical producer and director Ms.

producer and director Ms.

The overall story was The overall story was told in song by three narrators, senior Summer Kresha and juniors Taylor Wiester and Hannah Harrington. Joel Ostdiek played the lead role of Joseph in the musical. They all had the challenge of learning the many songs because the musical has no dialogue.

"It was actually somewhat easier because songs are easier to remember," junior Hannah Harrington said.

roduction was very large. There were 45 people that tried out this year, and all 45 received parts. Along with the 45 cast members, there were 13 people working backstage, up in the tech booth, and playing the music. There were also parents of the cast

members who helped paint and set up the stage.

"Kee ping track of everyone and making sure they're doing what they're supposed to do are some of the challenges we went through," Ms. Gardner said.



During the closing scene, members of the cast present Joseph's dreamcoat of many colors. There were forty-five cast members involved in the three performances over the weekend of February 17-19, 2012

The large cast welcomed some new faces to the stage. Along with the new freshmen, there were some new junior boys that tried

definitely not new to the stage. He has been involved in the musical since he was a 7th grader. He played the piano in Jr. High, and when he was a freshman, he played the part of a reporter in *Little Shop of Horrors*. The next year he played the lead role of Charlie in *Willy Wonka*. When he was a junior, he was one of mew junior boys that tried out.

"I wanted to try something new, and a lot of people who were in it last year said it was really fun, and I'm definitely doing it next year," Nathan Schacher, who played the role of Jacob, said.

The production was a three month process. In December they practiced the music. When January rolled around, they started blocking and practicing on the stage. In February everything started coming together, and they started doming together, and they started or musical is more than just three months of practice and three days of performing. The musical is a family," Wiester stated.

Joel Ostdiek is

### Joseph and the narrators









Seniors Joel
Ostdiek and
Summer Kresha, and juniors
Hannah Harrington and
Taylor Wiester
sing throughout
the whole play
to create the
story of Joseph
and the Technicolor Dreamcoat.

# The Brothers and Wives

(left) Senior Andy Heusinkvelt (Levi) holds a picture of his brother Joseph as they mourn for their loss

(center) Juniors Ian Robak, Craig Ackman, and Jake Gilson hold bags full of grain from Egypt.

(right) Freshman Han-nah Krings and juniors Ian Robak and Gina Bose rejoices after be-ing reunited with their brother Joseph.







### Royalty-



(above left) Sopho-more Valerie Borer (Potiphar's wife) wraps her arms around Joel Ostdiek (Joseph).

(above right) Senior Ben Heusinkvelt (Pha-raoh) rests as juniors Carrie Bartholomew and Lauren Kuta cater to him.





#### And more





(above) Senior Kelsey Newman, junior Cath-erine Swope, sopho-more Gabi Paczosa, and freshman Liz Priester sing "Go Go Joseph" with Hannah Harrington.

(left) Sophomore Bre Walker (baker) expresses her drear to Joseph while ju-nior Megan Wright (butler) listens.

# Sports

# Swimmers help Discoverers' success





By Mike Albin

#### The Albatross Perspective: Bracketology

Bracketology

This NCAA men's basketball season has been a tumultuous affair. Teams that you have never heard of grace the top ten, and perennial programs are dropping like flies. Now more than ever, any team can win, and nothing is for certain. That's why I have several teams that I think people should be aware of during this March Madness.

UNLV – The Rebels this year have not been the consistent team that they have been in the past,, but they have proved one thing: they can compete with the best teams in the nation. If they can beat North Carolina, chances are they can beat just about anyone.

Murray State —

Murray Everyone knows that Murray State's schedule was not that difficult. Not everyone knows difficult. Not everyone knows where Murray State even is, but that should do nothing but help the Racers in this tournament. They have been flying under the radar, and even though they have one of the best records in the NCAA this year, I would still count them as a Cinderella.

North Carolina — Statistically, this is one of the best teams in the dance this year. They can hit the boards and light up the score board better than almost anyone. With so much emotion at

better than almost anyone. With so much emotion at the NCAA tournament, a team that is consistent has huge advantages. The only problem might be later in the tournament for the Tar Heels. They have not done well against the rest of the perennial programs this year.

Kansas — Most record will expect a good

perennial programs this year.

Kansas — Most
people will expect a good
showing by the Jayhawks,
but I would not be so quick to
put them in my championship
game as some. Not just
because I'm a Missouri fan,
but because they have lost
some interesting games this
year. The Davidson Wildcats
and the lowa State Cyclones year. The Davidson Wildcats and the Iowa State Cyclones are intimidating, but that's no excuse. Kansas recently does not have a history of meeting the lofty expectations of the pollsters, so be wary. Rock Chalk is not the tournament team it used to be.

Notre Dame – I might be going out on a limb but I

Notre Dame – I might be going out on a limb, but I think the Fighting Irish will do better than people expect. They handed Syracuse their only loss this year, and that is enough for me to have them in at least my sweet sixteen.

Missouri – I think Missouri – I think Missouri will do well this tournament. They match up poorly against teams with good post play, but that is not what I care about. This is a completely biased and foolhardy dream, but what would be better than a Kansas – Missouri rematch in the tournament? Both games this season have been tremendous, probably some of the best season have been tremendous, probably some of the best games this season. If they meet in the tournament and end this heated rivalry, you can guarantee it will be the most emotional and exciting ball game this season. Even better would be a final four, or God forbid, a Championship rematch. No, no. That could never happen. But a boy can dream, can't he?

The Columbus High 2011-2012 boys' and girls' swim teams finished their season with a splash. At the State meet, the boys finished 7th while the girls finished 9th. There were four Scotus students who swam for the Discoverers at state: Ryan Miksch, Kelsey Newman, Brandon Hahn, and Laura Miksch.

Scotus swimmers started off the meet in the prelims. Junior Brandon Hahn competed in the 100 yard backstroke where he finished 15th overall. He finished 15th overall. He also competed in relays with senior Ryan Miksch. In the 200 yard freestyle relay, the Discoverers finished 6th, and in the 400 yard freestyle they finished 4th.

finished 4th.

Ryan Miksch also raced in some individual races. He won both the 50 and 100 yard freestyles. In doing so, he broke the State record in the 100 yard freestyle with a time of 44.71.

a time of 44.71.

On the girls' side, sophomore Laura Miksch won the 50 yard freestyle and received second place in the 100 yard breaststroke. Senior Kelsey Newman competed in the 400 yard freestyle relay. This relay was disqualified due to a false start.

due to a false start.

"There is a ton of energy and excitement at the pool the day of state. That, in combination with the incredible speed that the swimmers are coming into the wall with, can cause quick reactions. In the case of the relay, it was just a little too quick of a reaction," Girls head coach Annie Peters said.

In the finals, Brandon

Senior Ryan Miksch prepares to leave the blocks before a meet held at the Columbus Aquatic Center. Miksch won the 50 and 100 freestyle at State while breaking his own 100 freestyle record with a time of 44.71. Miksch will be swimming collegiately at the University of Minnesota.

Miksch won the 50 and 10
44.71. Miksch will be swir
Hahn and Ryan Miksch
competed in the 400 yard
freestyle relay. The relay was
disqualified for leaving the
blocks too early.

"When our relay was
going, I was the third leg and
August Wagner was in the
water. When he was about
to finish I left early and that
caused us to be disqualified,"
junior Brandon Hahn said.

To finish off the
boys, Ryan brought home the
gold in the 50 and 100 yard
freestyle. He broke his own
state record in the 100 yard
freestyle with a time of 44.51.

"It was exciting to
have my best times at the end
of the season," Ryan said.

Ryan's sister Laura was the only Shamrock girl to compete in the finals. She brought home the gold in the 50 yard freestyle with a time of 23.86. She also brought home a 2<sup>nd</sup> p lace finish in the 100 yard breaststroke with a time of 1:07.37.

"It was exciting to know that my hard work paid off, but my times were even more exciting," Laura said.

The swimmers prepared for state with a lot of hard work throughout the weeks of preparation. They also did something else to prepare.

"The night before State we hard our traditional

"It was exciting to know that my hard work paid off, but my times were even more exciting" ~Laura Miksch

shaving party," Hahn said.

The Discoverers
swim team will lose two
Shamrocks for next season.
Kelsey Newman was one of
the leaders for the girls. Ryan
Miksch will be swimming
collegiately at Minnesota.

"Ryan was like a mentor to me, so it will be a tough season next year," Hahn

The Discoverers will be returning one Miksch to the pool next season, along with Brandon Hahn, Jill Bonk, Peter Dolezal, Melissa Thalken, Zach Spencer, and many other returning and upcoming freshmen.

"The team will continue to take swimmers to State. There were several very talented swimmers to State. There were several very talented swimmers on the team this year who were freshmen or sophomores. We also have a good group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders who will join us next year," Coach Peters said.

# Rocks look to improve consistency



Sophomore Nate Ebner shoots a basket over a Lincoln Lutheran player during the February 9th game. This was one of their closest games with a final score of 67-71.

By Megan Wright Staff Reporter

The 2011-2012 Shamrock boys' basketball season was a tough one. The team had some difficult changes in line changes in line up, tough competition, and a young team. Through all of these hurdles, the Shamrocks gave

it their all and did what they

it their all and did what they could to come out on top.
Shamrock boys' head coach Jeff Ohnoutka was overall pleased with the boys' efforts this season, but has certain areas and skills to improve on for next year.
"I thought at times we played well. We struggled with consistency," Ohnoutka said.

The boys struggled with a very up-down season. It seemed that as soon as they won a game, a loss was not far behind. They could not keep up a winning streak. That was not the way it seemed at the beginning of the season though.

"I think for the first half of the season we had a good work ethic," Ohnoutka

That seemed to have that seemed to have paid off for them. After losing their first game of the season against Hastings St. Cecilia by 26 points, the Rocks had a comeback winning the by 26 points, the Rocks had a comeback winning the next three games they played against Guardian Angels Central Catholic, GICC, and Concordia. That would be the longest winning streak of this

Some areas that hurt the team were inevitable such as the change in line-up due to injury or disciplinary problems, but other areas that hurt the team are ones that only time and practice can

"I thought some inexperience in certain areas especially on the defensive ends hurt us."

~Coach Ohnoutka

"I thought some inexperience in certain areas especially on the defensive ends hurt us," Ohnoutka said.

ends hurt us," Ohnoutka said.

At the end of the season, the boys could not pull off any wins, but they did not give up without a fight.

"I felt like we still gave a good effort and played hard to try to win those games. We just had some matchup problems," Ohnoutka said.

Next year, the team will be another year older, and with that can come improvement, especially with the goals they have to achieve.

with the goals they have to achieve.

"Next year, we are going to work on growing as a team and improving our shooting," Ohnoutka said.

Next year, there will be a lot of returning experience from 5 juniors, 2 sophomores, and 2 freshmen who have all played a significant amount of played a significant amount of playing time on varsity

# Activities

# Cheerleaders improve at state

18th, the Scotus Cheerleaders traveled to Grand Island to participate in the State Dance and Cheer Championships. The girls with the smiles embraced their chance to compete and began routine preparation only a month before State.

The Cheerleaders were awarded 5th place; this was an improvement from last year's 6th place finish.

Without the help of a professional, the senior captains, Abbey Schieffer and

captains, Abbey Schieffer and Sara Dolezal, choreographed the moves and cheer to fit the

"We listened to the song hundreds of times while trying different moves out that came to our minds," Dolezal

girls had been busy with the youth Sham-ROCK & ROLL Cheer Camp on January 13th, preparation for State had been set back from previous years. "Teaching the formations was the most frustrating," Schieffer said. "We literally changed them seven times until we got them right."

learned the correct moves and formations, the goal was to perfect each girl's style and make it precise.

"The main weakness

"The main weakness we had was the sloppy arms," junior Hailey Luebe said. "They needed to be more of a strict and sharp motion, and that taken presting."

a strict and shalp motion, and that takes practice."

The girls also faced a setback when three of the cheerleaders resigned from the squad only a few weeks before State.

before State.

"It put a downer on practices and games because it felt like something was missing, but we got through it, stayed positive, and I think it made our team stronger in the end," Schieffer said.

Because of the

basketball season, it was nearly impossible for the squad to get gym time for practice so they practiced almost every morning in the freshmen hallway at 7am. This lack of space was a struggle of its own. The girls finally received gym time a week before the competition, allowing enough time to run through the dance a couple of times each morning.

times each morning.
"We did the dance a million times for practices, and I could tell some people were sick of it, but on State

and I could elies some people were sick of it, but on State day, everyone was excited and full of energy to perform," Dolezal said.

When the time finally came for the Scotus Cheerleaders to take the floor at the Heartland Event Center, the pressure was on. They did their routine and waited for the results. Scotus was announced placing 5th.

"Even though we did not bring home the gold, we competed hard for our spot, and we earned it," Schieffer said. "Fifth might not sound like much, but we did better than most."



Scotus Cheerleading Sponsor Pat Engel was also impressed with the squad.

impressed with the squad.

"I am so proud of
all of them. I watched the
routine come together during
practices and transform into
a great performance," Engel
said. "I did not care if they
announced our name or not
because they worked so hard

and danced so well."

This is Engels fourth year sponsoring the team.

"I began my job with these girls when they were freshmen, and now they are seniors," Engel said. "They were great leaders and role models for the younger girls."

With 15 of the cheerleaders returning next

with experience.
"I am more than 5th place

# Spring sport practices under way



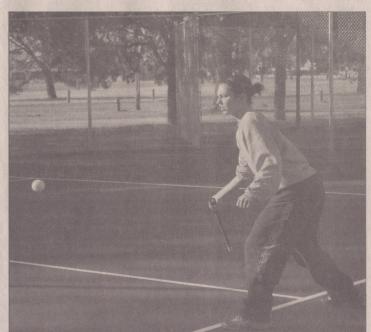
Senior Rachel Rambour and junior Sam Slegl fight for the ball in an intense game of hand ball during the girls' soccer practice. Spring Sport practices started Monday, February 27.



Scotus Track runners begin their warmup runs at Pawnee Park. The track team has their first meet on Saturday, March 17 at Wayne.



Senior Mike Wang and junior Jacob Huss warm up for soccer practice. Boys soc-cer will fight for their first win on Friday, March 16 vs. Skutt.



# Entertainment

# Separation of Script and Song

By Megan Wright Staff Reporter

I act in movies. I act on TV. I am a billionaire heiress - therefore, I can sing. Yeah... right. Just because you have been on TV, in a movie, had a record gone platinum, or just have really rich parents does not give you the talent to sing or act! So many celebrities today have this mind set. There are countless examples of have this mind set. There are countless examples of these actors-gone-singers and singers-gone-actors. Some of these examples include Miley Cyrus, Tim McGraw, Will Smith, Selena Gomez, and Paris Hilton. Although some of these people have been extremely successful and have proved to be double, even triple threats, being able to sing, act, and dance, there are those that who failed epically in an attempt to expand the in an attempt to expand the horizon of their career in the

We have all been in the position of sitting on the couch, flipping through the channels, when all of a sudden, some actor/actress has apparently just launched a solo album, but the sad thing is, they are anything but musically inclined. Some

Life on MTV, both launched solo careers in an attempt to become musically famous (2004- 2005). Only Nicole got the hint though. After (2004–2005). Only Nicole got the hint though. After realizing that just because her father, Lionel Richie, could sing, doesn't mean she could. After all, she doesn't even share his genetics; she was adopted, and the only reason she was famous in the first place was for her bff-break-up with Paris however, she is more musically inclined than her former best friend. Paris Hilton should not even be famous in the first place. Just because your dad owns a hotel franchise, you are out to find your new best friend on reality TV, and you trademarked "That's hot" doesn't give you the God-given talent of being able to sing. She launched the God-given talent of being able to sing. She launched one solo album. It was "hot", but not really. It was terrible. What was even more pathetic was the attempts she had at trying to perform her hits live. Rumor has it she is working on a second album... Dear God, help us all.

Another example of one of these actors-gone-singers is Miley Cyrus. Cute little Hannah Montana graced the screens of our televisions on Disney Channel for quite some time. Yes, she sang

on the show, but it was okay because she was "cute" and "innocent". It was forgivable.

Then, she launched her career as Miley. No offense, but stripper poles in your music videos at the age of 17 is a little overboard to put it lightly, little overboard to put it lightly, especially when you still have a full blown career on Disney Channel. She should have stayed Hannah forever. In the real world, Miley just can't make it, but in the world of unicorns, leprechauns, wizards, kids that go to school on a boat, and undercover pop on a boat, and undercover pop on a boat, and undercover popteen sensations (aka Disney Channel), she had a place where she was accepted.

On a more positive note, some celebrities truly can act AND sing.

A good spokesperson for the acting and singing world is Tim McGraw. He is an amazine country artist, but

an amazing country artist, but he is also a great actor. He was in movies like *Friday Night Lights* and *The Blindside*. Both were very successful performances for him.

Another person it seemed to work out for is Selena Gomez. Although I don't like her, she does have a successful solo career, and

a successful solo career, and she has been acting on Disney Channel for a long time. Yet another successful person in these fields is Will Smith. He was a successful 90's rapper. He was the star of the Fresh Prince of Bellaire until it ended, and has been in movies such as



Miley Cyrus is caught in an awkward pose while singing. After leaving Disney, Miley pursued a solo career.

The Pursuit of Happiness, I am Legend, Men in Black, and Hitch. I must say though, with the good and the bad, there are also the in-betweens

say, for me, there are people that I am not so sure about. I can't decide if I like them,

or not. One of these people is Flava Flav. He has done Comedy Central, an MTV reality show and has rapped and collaborated with other artists. But it's Flava Flav; He doesn't hurt the music/ setting industry. but the acting industry, but he certainly doesn't help it. He is just there, and for that, I am

perfectly okay with him

I think all in all, celebrities just need to pick one trade and perfect it. Enough with all this "I can do it all stuff." The world would just be a better place of



# The Facility: Chapter 5

By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

Last time: Jens was bamboozled by the flying creation Jake had made out of his Crown Victoria. The students who had not yet been captured were hiding out in Scotus, and Jens found out that there is a plan to rescue the students trapped in Behlens. He does not know what the plan is, but he has agreed to take a role in it.

Jens was holding tightly onto the door handle of Calvin's pickup truck. Jake in his flying, retired police cruiser was leading a group of five pickup trucks toward Behlen Manufacturing with one mission: save the rest of the student body. Jake looked like a war chief, leaning out of his driver-side window shouting and pointing at people. Jake pulled his body back in and stuck one hand out of the window. Behlen was quickly approaching, and

Jens could feel the tension with every passing moment. Jens still did not know what the plan was, but he was along for the ride. Jake's hand gave one waving motion, and the five pickups moved apart in perfect unison.

Calvin's truck was directly in the middle of the formation. Jens did not understand in the least what was going on, but the building was ever closer. The formation was heading directly for the chain-link fence, and Jens braced for impact. He turned his head to the right and saw Sam Thalken in his pickup with Marshal Obal yelling like a mad man in the back.

with Marshal Obal yelling like a mad man in the back. The trucks easily took down the entirety of the fence, and the formation moved closer.

It was at this point that Jens lost sight of the Kratochvil, and the situation got even more frantic. There were five large, overhead doors directly in line with the five pickup trucks. There had been no opposition by

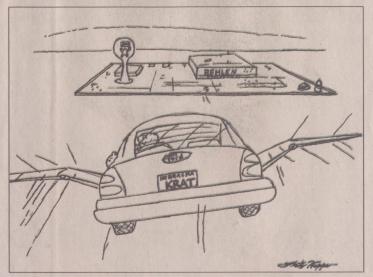
the forces that captured these students; the only hindrance being the few chain-link fences they had already gone over. These doors genuinely scared Jens because these were not standard overhead doors; they looked to be made of thick, galvanized aluminum.

"You better hold on tight!" Calvin velled.

"You better hold on tight!" Calvin yelled. Jens grabbed the door handle as hard as he could, and the trucks made terrible booms the trucks made terrible booms as they slammed through the metal doors. Jens was shaken violently, and the world was spinning as the truck finally came to a stop. Dust was swirling around everywhere, and Jens could barely see straight. Jens, for the second time in twenty-four hours, closed his eyes and passed out in the car seat.

Jens' eyelids

Jens' eyelids flickered. He had no idea what was going on or what was happening. He sat up, and what he saw rocked him to the core. Hundreds of students were lying on stretchers in



rows. All of their heads were attached to a huge hose that lead to a big light at the end of the rows of students. A

mysterious black figure was moving towards him. He was not sure who it was, but his vision began to blur again, and

he fell back into his seat. His eyes closed, and he passed out once more. Tune in next time for *The Facility*.



Scotus Soccer kicks into a new season

See Page 6



Scotus Family Autos

See Pages 4 and 5

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

VOLUME 13 , ISSUE 6 , APRIL 10TH, 2012 COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

# here's more to the team

By Stephani Jarecke Layout Editor

Scotus is known to take their sports and activities seriously. Everyone knows how important it is to strive for success and excellence throughout different sports. Many athletes put time and hard work into Scotus' achievements, but there is more to the program than the players themselves. The number of managers in Scotus activities has seen an increase this year.

"Being a manager is a good way to be involved even if you aren't athletically talented," senior Kelly Augustine said.

This year was Augustine's second year as manager of the girls' basketball and track teams and first year managing for the volleyball team. Augustine, along with many other managers, attends all of the practices and games to help the team function smoothly.

Managers, in all different sports, have important roles for the team. In soccer, managers help shag balls during drills, set up cones, and keep book during games. For girls' soccer, eighth graders Bailey Honold and Maddie Hahn manage as well as babysit head coach Kristi Brezenski's four girls during practice.

"I decided to become a manager because I am really interested in soccer, and I plan to play soccer in high school," Honold said.

Honold is managing the sitel's except team for the second

Honold is managing the girls' soccer team for the second year, and it is Hahn's first year managing. The two girls manage to get a feel for high school sports for the love of the game. eral eighth grade boys help with

boys' soccer because they cannot

boys' soccer because they cannot compete yet as well.

Not only do eighth graders manage teams, but high school students put a lot of time into managing too. Freshman Queze Campos and junior Austin Wendt are high school managers for the boys' soccer team too.

"Managing soccer was a way for me to stay involved and help the team while still being around my friends during the season," Wendt said.

Wendt played for the CHS baseball team in the past years, but his friends play soccer. Even though he has never played soccer, Wendt chose to manage the team to stay close with his friends.

Senior Mackenzie Paczosa manages the track team with Augustine.

"After being injured, I wanted a way to stay connected with the team. Managing gives me a way to be a part of the team despite not being able to compete," Paczosa said.

As a freshman, Paczosa

me a way to be a part of the contidespite not being able to compete," Paczosa said.

As a freshman, Paczosa was on the cross country and track team, but injuries soon kept her from being healthy enough to compete. This year she supported both teams as a manager.

"The track managers are so positive for the team. They love the sport, and they bring so much spirit for their teammates to succeed," girls' head track coach Janet Tooley said.

Although managers are part of the team, often times they are overlooked. Players receive most of the recognition for the hard work. The work managers do is not usually in the spotlight.

"I have felt

See Managers, Page 2



Scotus senior Kelly Augustine, keeps time at a recent track practice. Augustine is one of the many managers that are helping out with Scotus activities this year.

#### Scotus takes part in Soles4Souls

By Rachel Rambour Staff Reporter

Instead of garage sales this year, Scotus students have a giving opportunity to rid themselves of unwanted shoes. From April 2<sup>nd</sup> through April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Scotus Student Council is collecting gently worn shoes for the Soles4Souls foundation. The Soles4Souls foundation provides shoes for those in powerty-stricken. shoes for those in poverty-stricken countries. The charity collects and distributes shoes to people living in extreme poverty and recovering from natural disasters.

in extreme poverty and recovering from natural disasters.

Student Council members were to ask teachers of specific grades to be collecting points. The seventh graders will bring their shoes to Mrs. Rambour and Mr. Linder, the 8th graders bring their shoes to Mrs. Lahm, the freshmen to Mrs. Rusher, the sophomores to Mrs. Lahm, the juniors to Mr. Linder, and the seniors to Mr. Brockhaus.

"We are doing the Soles4Soles at Scotus because we didn't complete the Mr. Shamrock pageant, and we decided we still needed to do a community service project. We thought this idea sounded pretty easy and interesting," Student Council sponsor Mrs. Lahm said.

Soles4Souls asks that the gently-worn shoes be tied together if they have laces, or rubber-banded if they do not. The collection sponsors have rubber bands to be used.

"The incentive for this is a school-wide incentive. If we collect 300 pairs of shoes as a school, which is less than 1 pair per person, then we will have a 'break the shoe-rule day,'" Lahm said.

day," Lahm said.

See Shoes, Page 2

# Special invites given to 'Prom'ised ones



STACIA RAWHOUSER/ROCK BOTTOM STAE
The marquee outside of 'Stack n' Steak' shines through the darkness
with senior Ryan Ohnoutka's question for fellow classmate Jenna Dubas.
She said "YES!":)

By Claire Fuchser Staff Reporter

Prom season is beginning. Students everywhere have begun their quest for all the things that will make prom night special. For seniors, this is the last official dance that they get to experience as high school students. Although for juniors prom is not their last dance, it is one of the final dances of their high school careers.

Preparation for prom night includes many things. For girls, hair and nail appointments must be

made, shoe shopping must be done, date finding must be accomplished, boutonnieres must be picked out, and most importantly, a dress must be found.

On the other hand, the guy has to determine who his date will be, how he will ask her, and then tuxedo and corsage shopping must be done.

Many of the juniors and seniors at Scotus have begun to find their prom dates. A few students have already asked someone to prom in a special way. Juniors Brandon Hahn and Austin Wendt turned on the creativity scale when it came

to asking their dates to prom.

to asking their dates to prom.

Hahn asked fellow classmate Hannah Harrington to come to his house for a junior class bonfire. He then took dry tree bark and branches, spelled out 'Prom?', and when Harrington arrived, lit it on fire and asked her to be his date.

"She first just looked at it and then she was really surprised and said, 'Yes!'" Hahn shared.

Wendt asked

Wendt asked sophomore Carly Burkhardt using a simple stack of post-it notes. Spelling out 'Prom?' on the windshield of her car wasn't enough; sticky notes all over her windows and flowers in the front seat were waiting for Burkhardt when she approached her car.

Seniors Emmie Odbert and Ryan Ohnoutka have also asked their dates to prom in style.

dates to prom in style.

Odbert as

dates to prom in style.

Odbert asked fellow classmate Brad Steiner during Spanish IV.

"I asked him during my Spanish presentation. We were supposed to compliment people in the class and I said, '¿Me gusta

Brad porque él va a prom con me?' [I like Brad because he is going to prom with me?] And then I held up a sign!" Odbert explained.

Fellow senior Ryan
Ohnoutka was also creative while
asking classmate Jenna Dubas to be
his date.
Ohnoutka asked friend

Ohnoutka asked friend Stacia Rawhouser, who is employed

at 'Stack n' Steak', to place letters on the marquee in front of the restaurant saying, 'Jenna, will you go to prom with me. Ryan O.'

As prom approaches, more and more Scotus students have asked people to be their dates. Juniors and seniors will be celebrating prom on Saturday April 14th in the school



Kelsey Newman/Yearbook Senior Emmie Odbert flashes a sign to classmate Brad Steir during Spanish IV.

#### News

#### **MANAGERS**

Continued from Page 1

underappreciated at times. It is difficult doing important 'behind the scene' things and never being recognized," Augustine said.

recognized," Augustine said.

There are many skills involved in being a manager.

"A manager is someone who is very mature; they have to have a strong character. Managers need to be organized, reliable, and positive," Tooley said.

Paczosa agreed, "I

have learned valuable lessons on how to work for and people."

Managers are a huge

Managers are a huge help to the team and are needed for a successful season.

Augustine added, "I have seen the school in a different point of view. I have learned how important the student body, cheerleaders, band, and managers are to the teams. There is a lot more to sports than just playing the game."

#### SHOES

Continued from Page 1

Students will be able to wear whatever socks or shoes they want for the day. When the drive is

when the drive is over, Scotus Student Council will then bring the shoes to First National Bank, where the shoes will be picked up by the Soles 4 Souls incorporation.



Girls' soccer manager eighth grader Bailey Honold takes stats with injured junior Lauran Hell-busch at the Lincoln Lutheran game played Tuesday April 3. The Shamrocks won 1-0 at the en of play. Honold is one of the two junior high managers helping the girls for the 2012 season.

## Stations of the Cross



(Clockwise from right) Senior Mark Ternus, sophomore Zach Jepsen, seniors Andy Heusinkvelt and Brandon Nichelson, as well as sophomore Dan Strecker, perform at annual Living Stations of the Cross during Holy Week. The stations are put on by the seniors and are performed by Scotus Campus Ministry.



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# **Opinion**

By Lauren Kuta Staff Reporter

An English project ensists of a three An English project that consists of a three paragraph report, ten questions about the book, a collage, and a playlist of five different songs that explain the theme of the novel, a Spanish Archdiocesan project that, obviously, has to be done in flawless Spanish, a Chemistry presentation that a Chemistry presentation that must be given to 1st graders in their language, a PowerPoint Group Projects: the living nightmere of students

about Close Up for History, three different articles for Journalism, a Spring Play, District Music Contest, and plenty of days missing school for State Leadership Conference and for Close Up

Conference and for Close Up are all on my agenda for the next month, plus the daily homework that I receive. The part that I hate most about all of this is the group projects, the banes of my existence.

To be frank, group projects are not the cohesive, communication-filled, future-aiding, and overall amazing experiences that they are made to be. For students, they are the material of nightmares, terrible, earth-shaking, and painful escapades that cause

an enormous amount of stress and annoyance.

High school group projects utterly destroy the word "group". They are not group projects; they are individual projects because they are completely piled on top of the one student in the group who actually cares about his or her own grade. That student ends up putting in a gargantuan amount of hours while the others sit by and stare into space. Then, when the grades eventually come out, the other students who did not do one ounce of the work receive the same grade.

Group projects are intended to increase a

student's communication skills and the ability to work with others. These projects, however, discourage the notion completely. When a student is put into a group with people that they have never carried on a full conversation with before, there is no communication whatsoever between members. Unfortunately, it is a tough Unfortunately, it is a tough call because putting a group of best friends together will equate to a ton of giggles and gossip and no actual school

gossip and no actual sensol work getting done.

These projects should teach individual responsibility for one's part in the project. This is actually true, if you think about it in a

more twisted point of view. One person does learn to take responsibility for their own actions, as well as the actions of their unresponsive and uncaring colleagues.

On top of all of that, it completely stresses students out. They already have enough to worry about with all of the other projects that were assigned at the exact same time, which is always during the worst time of the year. Overall, a

Overall, a group project and nothing can really make it easier to complete. There are a few changes, however, that could be implemented in order to make them a tod easier or the make them at the make them at the make them at the make them at the make the make the make the them at the make the mak

the students. First It would be much less stressful if the projects were evenly spaced throughout the year and not piled on all at the same time right at the end of the year. It would also be more helpful to give students the choice of a group or individual project for those students who prefer to work alone. Lastly, there could be collaboration to ensure that other projects do not overlap projects that are being done for another class.

Now that I've finished writing this article, I'm on to the next project. There goes my weekend, to all of the torturous group and individual projects that are just screen projects that are

individual projects that are just screaming my name.

# Letting go: It's a good thing



By Megan Wright Staff Reporter

Everyone has goals. We often encounter hurdles on the way to achieving those goals. Although some of those hurdles are inevitable, some are able to be eliminated. The two types of hurdles I found that I can control in my life are the ones set up by myself, and the ones set up by other people. Sometimes our bigeest setbacks can be by other people. Sometimes our biggest setbacks can be ourselves.

I have found

I have found throughout the years that I am often one of the only setbacks keeping me from reaching my full potential. You never really think about yourself as a setback, and that is why I think that it is sometimes the most harmful. When you don't recognize how you are holding yourself back, you can't fix it and become better.

I have dealt with

I have dealt with myself as a setback. Through poor decision making, bad habits, and lack of thinking habits, and lack of thinking through the consequences of those actions, I had been putting myself farther and farther away from my goals. Only after taking a step back to look at all I was keeping myself from achieving, did I finally decide that change would be a good idea. So, I became conscious of decisions, habits, and consequences in order to

conscious of decisions, habits, and consequences in order to make positive changes for the future. Sometimes, we are not our only setbacks. Other people can keep us from being the best we can be too.

There are three types of people you want to stay away from in life. There are the manipulators, the poor decision makers, and the people out to put you down. All of these people keep you from reaching your full potential. potential.

I have had friends that walked all over me. They always wanted to make me do everything for them, and I let them. Never once did I stand up for myself and say, "Hey now, I don't think I should have to do this..," I just did it. I should have stood up for myself but I didn't. It was so easy for them to simply get me to do anything they wanted me to do. Without ever consciously asking myself if what I was doing for them was okay, I just did I have had friends

it, no questions asked. These people had manipulation down to a "t". They were able to keep me from thinking able to keep me from thinking straight, and making me think how they wanted me to think. This is dangerous. Not only can it seriously put you in dangerous or risky situations, but it can make you less of a person than you want to be. After realizing how bad these people were for me, I decided it was time to move on, so, I eliminated them from my life. They weren't the only ones that were holding me back. People who made poor decisions also kept me from being my best.

I used to spend a lot

decisions also kept me from being my best.

I used to spend a lot of time with people who made poor decisions on a daily basis. As a result, it became easier and easier to put my standards and morals aside and make those bad decisions as well. When I look back, I see my decision making process go from "NO", to "Maybe", to "Okay", to "You don't even need to ask anymore." That transition came from months and months of spending time with people who literally had no sense of good and bad decision making. When that line of good and bad gets blurred, decisions become a really big setback. Again, I looked back at all of the crappy decisions I had made with those people and decided that it was just not worth it. I let those people go too.

Lastly, there were the people that put me down. I remember a young man in my life in particular. He would always tell me how worthless I was, and that I was only defined as a person, by the person I was with. He was a pure hypocrite though, and gave some of the most important advice I have ever

was a pure hypocrite though, and gave some of the most important advice I have ever heard. "Spend your time with people who build you up, not break you down." I took that advice finally. I found out that it is okay to let go of the people that try to bring you down to less than you can be. When people are not letting you be the best you can be, they should not be in your life. Sometimes, it is just better to let go and get somewhere, than to hold on and go nowhere.

I think this quote sums it up all too well.

I think this quote sums it up all too well.

"Keep away from those who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you believe that you too can become great."

—Mark Twain

Whether they are changes that have to be made within yourself, or some changes in the people you allow in your life, don't let anyone, whether that be you, or other people, keep you from reaching your full potential.



By Carrie Bartholomew Staff Reporter

There are two kinds of people in this world: the people who start conversations, and the people who casually join in. My name is Carrie Bartholomew, and I am conversation deficient. It is to my advantage that I have conversation-starting friends though, but just what is this magic that starts these ever so elusive conversations?

Small talk is the key that unlocks the start of a conversation. What exactly is small talk? Well, it is the start of a light friendly conversation. It's chit-chat. Some basic small talk is something as simple as, "So, how's the weather?" or, "How about them Yankees?" Some of us are born small talk

about them Yankees?" Some of us are born small talk deficient, so people like us tend to find people who start conversations to be around all

Whenever I am

#### Small Talk: a big responsibility

around my friends, they are usually the ones who start talking first or bring up something to talk about. I'm not much of a texter either. The only reason I text someone is to plan some time to hang out. My friends generally text me first if they want to talk and I try to keep. want to talk, and I try to keep the conversation going for a while, but it usually ends after a few text messages. It is good for those conversation starting deficient people to find people who can start talking and keep it going. You almost never have a boring moment with conversation starters around.

conversation starters around.

If you are conversation deficient, and you want to try to fix that problem, here are some helpful tips: Realize that there are types of topics that you shouldn't bring up in a conversation, and to start a successful conversation you need to think outside the box for something to talk about. for something to talk about

for something to talk about.

A typical conversation killer is politics. It is that awkward moment when someone bashes someone from your political party. Do you hear that? That's the sound of the conversation dying. Congratulations, you just killed the conversation. Another conversation killer. Another conversation killer

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is the simple, "How's the weather?" That's like a desperate plea for help saying, "PLEASE keep talking to "PLEASE keep talking to me." The answer to that question can be answered as simply as, "good." To start a successful

To start a successful conversation, you need to find a topic that you can expand on. If you ask someone about themselves, they generally expand on their answer and that leaves room for a comment that can pertain to your own life, and then they can say something else back, and then you can say something else you can say something else, etc. Do you hear that? That is the sound of a young thriving

conversation!

Depending on who you are talking to, another way to start a conversation is by saying something random. If you are trying to talk to a creative person, they will usually find some creative answer to say back creative answer to say back. An example of a random

conversation you could have is, "If we are what we eat and we are people, does that mean we have to eat people to be people?" A conversation like this with a creative person could last for quite some

God God made conversation starters and the conversation deficients for a reason. They go together like a magnet goes on a fridge. They just naturally belong together in the world. If you are conversation deficient, there is no need to worry, there are others like you out there, and you are not alone. If you would like to become a conversation starter, with enough practice, you can change the way you are and become a successful are and become a successful conversation starter. My name is Carrie Bartholomew, and I would like to become a conversation starter.

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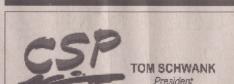
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#### **Automobiles**

# Cars keeping up with technology

By Stephani Jarecke Layout Editor



Sam Thalken: Chevy 1500



Cody Placzek: Monte Carlo



Jaimee Beauvais: Volkswagon Beetle

The first self-propelled car hit the road in 1769, but since then the car industry has been adding more and more new features to complete the automobile. In 1930, the first car radio was successfully made. The radio was a one hundred and thirty dollar unit that became popular quickly. Fighty years popular quickly. Eighty years later, new technology for cars is coming out every day. The Auto Industry is finding ways to create cars that are all around user friendly. Today's future cars are improving in speed, comfort, safety, and gas efficiency.

According to U.S.

According to U.S. News, many new gadgets have been created by manufacturers to compete with the demand for smart technology. MyKey is a new feature introduced first by Ford. It is slowly first by Ford. It is slowly increasing with young parents and new teen drivers. MyKey is a computer chip inserted in the ignition. It is able to control multiple programs such as an exceeding speed limit and audio level control. It also has a constant beep when the seatbelt is not worn. Parents are able to adjust the levels of these programs to fit an agreement with inexperienced drivers.

SplitView is a

SplitView program in Mercedes that enables drivers and passengers to enjoy their car ride as much as possible. SplitView is a



SplitView allows the driver to view seperate programs from the same screen This device was first used by the Mercedes Benz.

screen that has two separate The driver can see wiews. The driver can see maps and step-by-step directions while the passenger can watch a movie at the same time. Audio level can be adjusted side to side as well as

adjusted side to side as well as headphones for the passenger.

Climate Controls are also advancing with programs detecting pollutants in the air that can keep dust and dirty particles out of the car. They can also control the climate of the car on its own from detecting the temperature outside.

Although new

Although new gadgets are coming out for luxury cars, technology has advanced the most in safety.

Blind Spot Warning
Systems are becoming
popular in many new cars.
Often accidents happen from

the blind spot in the rear side of the car that is invisible in the mirrors. An additional mirror that has the ability to see clearly the whole backside of cars has been added to technology.

of cars has been added to technology.

Along with the blind spot, cameras have been added to rear bumpers that can be seen in a small screen on the rear view mirror. The car will sound an audible when it comes too close to an object or other car.

Technology is

Technology is advancing to systems that can detect when a car is drifting out of its lane and will alert the driver through a sound. As well as alerting the driver, industries are working to able the car to steer itself into correct position on the road.

All these

technologies are helpful to make life simpler, but the ultimate problem is saving

Many cars are using monitors to help drivers see how efficient they are being. Meters are able to show if

Meters are able to show if they are using too much gas and being wasteful or using the accelerator and brakes correctly.

Eighty years ago, carmakers wouldn't even dream of cars being so high tech, but now tomorrow can introduce the best technology, and the following day and the following day something better will be out. Technology is advancing so fast, and manufacturers are taking advantage of this to make the best user-friendly cars out there. the following

#### TEEN DRIVING STATISTICS

- death for 15- to 20-year-olds.
- \* In 2009, 2,336 15- to 20-year-old drivers were killed, which decreased by 15 percent from 2,742 in 2008.
- \* In 2009, 11 percent of all drivers involved in fatal crashes were between 15 and 20 years old.
- \* 33% of the young drivers who were killed in crashes had a BAC of .01 g/dL or higher; 28% had a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher
- \* 27% of the young male drivers and 15% of females involved in fatal crashes had been drinking

# Scotus Student Car Accident Stories



I was driving too close behind Clare when she slammed on her breaks, and I didn't have enough time to stop.

Kate Rambour



I was driving down a hill when another driver failed to viela at an intersection. I t-boned the other car -Keaton Schmidt

supplies the majority Nebraska with water.



On my birthday, I was driving to school when my waterbottle tipped over. I went to grab it, jerked the wheel, and hit a parked car.

-Shayla Wieser



My breaks failed to work, and I crashed into a massive pole.

~Tyler Zimmerman

# verything about gasoline prices crude already at \$3.84, doomsday doesn't look far behind. But what is causing this price hike? After all, haven't oil prices been slowly falling for several weeks? The answer lies in the global trade market. Just flip on the news and there are stories about the uprisings in Libya, Syria, Nigeria, and several other countries. All these countries are on America's top 50 list of oil imports. With drastically lowered to no oil at all coming out of

By Andy Heusinkvelt Staff Reporter

The government isn't doing enough to help stop Kony. The government should help the rebels in Syria and Egypt. All Americans have vivid pictures of whom the government should help, and why it's important for America to help those in need. The fact is that America often is lacking in self-help strategies. With gas prices already

strategies. With prices already skyrocketing and expecting to peak this' summer, a n d
Nebraska's average



Mitchell Peterson: Hijet Daihatesu

ntries, that doesn't bode

countries, that doesn't bode well for Americans. According to infoplease.com, the U.S. uses 20.5 million barrels of oil a day, the top consumer country in the world.

With the Middle East countries near the top of the oil supply list, the number one American oil supplier is still Canada. If Canada is so ready to give America oil. ready to give America oil, and America is obviously ready to accept it, where is it? According to Energyrefuge. reasons to this problem: there was not enough information pertaining to the safety of the Keystone Pipeline, the

Nebraska with water.

The problem also alludes corporate greed. BP Oil Company, one of the world's leading international oil and gas companies, can lower their prices whenever they feel like it. Just because the price of a barrel of crude oil dropped overnight, doesn't mean the gas pumps will see a lower number in the morning. BP can lower their prices as quickly and slowly as



Mrs. Rambour: Chevy Camero

brought oil from Canada to see fit. Usually, it makes Texas. There was also a matter of another BP like disaster and containment of the Ogallala Aquifer, which consequently applies the majority of more financial sense to lower the prices slowly, nickel by nickel, instead of lowering it to the actual price right away. This way, they can still make money even though the price is dropping, which is clear on their website since they brag of having made \$300 million in sales and revenue in 2011.
Odds are that by the time the price of oil goes back up, the price at the pump won't be anywhere near what the

lowest price originally

madness, it doesn't look like they will get better any time soon. That's why the Obama Administration has been pushing renewable, American made energy, and has been trying to decrease American dependence on foreign oil, which may be another reason why the prices have gone so high; Obama has turned a cold shoulder to imported oil. So while America waits for the hopeful drop in prices at the pump, the better solution may be a bicycle helmet.

madness, it doesn't look like



Kyle Bonk: Ford Windstar

#### **Automobiles**

#### Scotus parking lot full of personality

As you walk through the St. Bonaventure parking lot or along the sides of the school, there are see a variety of cars. Some of these cars are as unique as the person who is driving them. Whether

Brandon Hahn

Jeep Wrangler

Some of the really nice cars are a Mustang, Thunderbird, or some other really nice cars and trucks. These can be a showcase for a student. To some students a car is something that is more than just a car. One of these cars is junior Brandon Hahn's igen.

jeep.
"I enjoy my jeep
mainly because it is funto lower
the hood and cruise during
the summer," junior Brandon
Hahn said.

Besides his jeep, Hahn enjoys the nice weather on his sports bike (crotch rocket).

rocket).
"Driving my crotch
rocket around is really fun
in nice weather. The crotch
rocket itself is fun because of the control you have on it and the speed that it can reach," Hahn said.

Hahn said.

Some students show off nice cars while others go with uniqueness for their choice for a car. It's not too often at any school that a student would own a Japanese truck.

Senior Mitchell Peterson owns a 1993 Hijet Daihatsu.

"There was no reasoning for purchasing the truck, I kind of just got it for fun," senior Mitchell Peterson said.

Another thing that is unique to Scotus' driving, is the fact that there are 10 Freshmen drivers. Eight of these drivers drive on school permits, one actually has a license, and one usually just drives illegally. Out of these, freshman Jaimee Beauvais drives a Volkswagen Bug.

"I hinted towards my dad that I really wanted a Bug for a couple years, and

a Bug for a couple years, and then I got it for my birthday," Beauvais said.

Most drivers at Scotus aren't blessed with

getting what car they want. Sometimes they just have to go along with whatever their parents decide they should

get.

"My parents told me that I was getting the car that I have, and I told them that I don't want it, and they just said too bad," freshman



Zach Jepson: Ford Excursion



#### Road Rage Rampage!

By Stacia Rawhouser

Editor

The yellow traffic light. It serves as the transition light between green and red that reminds drivers to proceed with caution. The key word here is PROCEED;

key word here is PROCEED; however, some people miss that concept. These are the people who stop right in front of me when I know for a fact that I could have made it through that light. These are the people who cause people like me road rage.

Raging drivers can be dangerous when they are on the loose, and the truth is: they are everywhere; but, what causes even the gentlest of people to get so irritated behind the wheel? Road rage is usually instigated when a driver's route is slowed down driver's route is slowed down even for an instant. Situations such as getting cut off on the highway or following someone who insists that it is necessary to stop for a full 10 seconds at every stop sign are obvious ways of initiating road rage

Some people are always running late, and, therefore, are always in a hurry. The last setback anyone needs when they are in a hurry is some old grandma driver poking around in front of them. Some other factors that greatly influence the degree of road rage a person has would road rage a person has would be the kind of mood they are

If someone is having an especially bad day, their chance of road rage increases drastically. A bad mood often opens the door to allow easy access for irritability. The littlest delays that do not go as planned can potentially unleash the road rage rampage hiding within. hiding within.

Going hand-in-hand with a person's mood is the type of music they listen to while driving. A person in a good mood tends to listen to someone who is upset or angry may be listening to the type of music invented for blowing off steam. Mellow, relaxed drivers most likely relaxed drivers most likely are the ones cruising around for fun. Those who are late for work, mad at the world, or simply having a riot of a time with friends are probably going to drive faster and more reckless.

reckless.

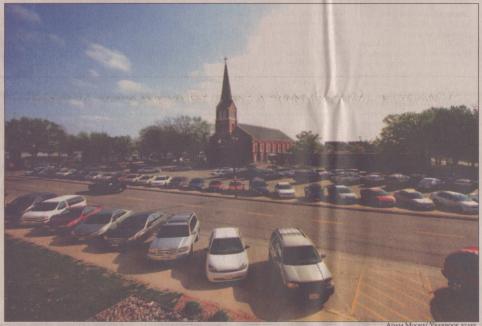
The passengers one chooses to allow in their vehicle greatly affect the car ride going to take place. For example, if I am driving in the car with my dad, it is a quiet ride, and I make sure I do not do anything stupid or illegal. I wish I could say those were my driving standards all the time, but I'm a teenager, so that's unrealistic. If my car is that's unrealistic. If my car is fulf of friends, I tend to drive more relaxed and normal rather than over-worrying about if I am doing everything

my road rage is present and easily ignited; mostly because there is no one there to witness me freaking out on a random stranger. When I attended STOP class last year, I remember the instructor. attended STOP class last year,
I remember the instructor
saying, "If you find yourself
in front of someone with road
rage, get out of their way." I
let that statement go in one
ear and out the other because

ear and out the other because I am the one with road rage, so shouldn't people get out of my way? No, apparently that is not how that works.

Then how does it work? How can we make this little road rage monster inside of us chill out? It is simple. First, follow my mom's advice of always being five minutes. First, follow my mom's advice of always being five minutes early, that way you are never in a hurry. If you're not in a rush, that unexpected train that decides to pass through town the moment you need to cross the tracks might not be such a big setback, even if it is barely rolling along. Pay attention to the kinds of music you're listening to; focus on attention to the kinds of music you're listening to; focus on the music to keep you in a good mood. When choosing a passenger, don't be afraid to pick your grandma. She is sure to keep you from having a major road rage meltdown. Most importantly, drive safe and smart. That might not cure your road rage, but at least you'll be one less person that I have to worry about.

# The Problem with Parking



ADAM MOORE! YEARBOOK ST The majority of students at Scotus park in the St. Bonaventure parking lot. The houses to the north (left) may be converted into a parking lot in the future.

By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

It's 8:23 A.M. and the bell is about to ring. Across the street, several students circle around the parking lot frantically looking for a place to put their cars. All of the spots are taken up, and the clock is ticking. The students park along the streets near school and run to the door to school and run to the door to try to beat the bell. A long day, and several slopped together homework assignments later, the students exit the school calmly only to find that a ticket has been placed on their windshield and an ache has entered their heads.

The marking around

The parking around

Scotus has been a source of contention for many years. Students who are late, or just cannot park well, have caused some problems for many people. The Students who can park, the administration, and especially the neighbors have all had to suffer because of the faw who cannot fit their.

or in front of a driveway.

"E v e r y o n e understands how hard it is to park around the school, and we are trying to do things right so the neighbors don't get upset," Athletic Director Gary Puetz said, "Do I see it as a problem? Absolutely I see it as a problem."

But rushing students are not the only problem with

the parking at Scotus. The worst time for some is when there are funerals or Mass services.

"It is pretty infeasible for the parking to work around Scotus when the parking lot at St. Bonaventure is being used. I don't understand why there can't be a parking lot for the students to use full time," senior Jesse Shanle said.

But students are not the only people who can

But students are not the only people who can disrupt the flow of traffic around the school.

"Parents after school sometimes park in front of where the buses park. Then when we try to pull one out or park one, we have to find the parents and get them to move their vehicles," Puetz said.

So what is to be done about this reoccurring problem? If it has been going on for so long, why hasn't anything been done about it?

"We own the houses on the north side of the school, and hopefully soon we will turn that into a student parking lot. But that is still in the future," Puetz said.

Until that happens.

Until that happen poor parking will still be problem. Even if there was may still be a problem. But Mr. Puetz has a solution that all students can use.

"The best way to

get a good parking place is to get to school early. And that doesn't mean at 7:00am detention!" Puetz said.



Kiley Biermen: Oldsmobile Alero



Brad Steiner: Pontiac Grand Prix



Jake Kratochvil: Crown Victoria

# **Sports**

#### The Albatross Perspective



By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

#### Tebow vs. Sanchez

A few weeks back, Tebow reclaimed his crown as the center of attention. Good try Lin, but there is a new king in town; Timsanity. Tim Tebow was traded to the Jets after Peyton Manning was traded to the Broncos. The next question is not The next question is not how Peyton will do, or how Andrew Luck will perform, but who will win? Tebow or Sanghey?

Jets head coach Rex Ryan seems to be handling himself well so far, joking around with the media that has pestered him. Rex is in for a circus act. Tebow will completely overshadow anything that the Jets may be accomplishing next year. Neither Rex nor Sanchez will be particularly happy about it either. I do not see Tebow starting at the beginning of the year because I believe that Sanchez is the more appealing option. Sanchez has had a few good years with the Jets, and he is statistically superior to Tebow. However, stats do not tell the whole story. Tebow proved that last year. Jets head coach Rex

Tebow. However, stats do not tell the whole story. Tebow proved that last year.

Tebow will most likely cause more problems than he will solve. I could see his presence really throwing the players and the staff of the Jets off for a while. The problem is not Tebow. Tebow is just a guy who plays football and enjoys it. The problem is the crowd that engrosses themselves with the man.

Whether you hate him or you love him, Tebow has become a household name. Regardless, fans on either side will voice their opinions. They won't allow anyone (especially Rex) to forget Tebow. Assuming the trend continues, I see Tebow starting about six games into the season.

Rex will not let if

Rex will not let it Rex will not let it come easily though. Rex has not been known for letting other people change his opinions. Tebow may even have a bad game here or there and lose his starting position. That's assuming Sanchez isn't too big of a baby about it. Sanchez and Rex have had turnulluous relationship in it. sanchez and Kex have had tumultuous relationship in the past. Like a dysfunctional family, daddy Rex will have to split his attention between dark horse Sanchez and the dark horse Sanchez and the goody-good Tebow. I see the conflict really causing some tension within the Jets. But tension within the Jets. But amongst the controversy, I see it having almost no effect on Tebow. When the ball is put in his hands and the game is on the line, there is no other man I would rather have than

man I would rather have than Tebow.

Tebow will get many fans' approval, and I see a repeat of last year. No Superbowl, but the playoffs should be within reach. If Tebow wins just a few games as a Jet, you can bet that the world will be watching.

# Shamrocks kick off the season in the top 10

The 2012 boys' and the season with losses against Omaha Skutt, but rebounded

the season with losses against Omaha Skutt, but rebounded with big wins against a couple top five ranked Elkorn teams.

The girls' expectations are high after coming off a semi-final appearance last year.

"My expectations for the preseason are the same as now, that we work hard and take steps on getting better and better so that we can be playing our best soccer at the end of the year, enabling us to contend for the state championship," head coach Kristie Brezenski said.

The girls bounced back from a tough opening game loss to number one Omaha Skutt with three wins in a row over some tough opponents. Among these opponents was class B number five Elkorn High School. Although the Shamrocks won,

opponents. Among these opponents was class B number five Elkorn High School. Although the Shamrocks won, they lost their top goal scorer to an ACL injury: Lauran Hellbusch. This loss has caused other girls to step up. "The whole team has [stepped up]. We realize that we have to utilize any and all opportunities that we get to score, whether that comes from the forwards, midfield or even the defenders. The defenders have to really step up as well to make sure we don't let our opponents score more than we do. So far, everyone has stepped up to the challenge," Brezenski said.

The Shamrock girls still have plenty of games to be composed to the challenge.

"We have a long way

coming up that will only make us better and show us what we need to we need to work on and where we need to be. The record is just a it comes to the end of the year, when the team that wants it the most perseveres through all," Brezenski said.

The boys are 1 o o k i n g to bounce back from a disappointing 4-12 last season. They are looking to build on a solid

season.

"I knew we would be better than last year. We have more experience and are returning a lot of core players," boys' head coach Jon Brezenski said.

The Shampocks only.

The Shamrocks only The Shamrocks only have two seniors out this year: Chris Hernandez and Mike Wang. However, Coach Brezenski does not think that leadership is going to be an issue for this squad.

"Mike and Chris are doing a good job as leaders. We also have a lot of returning players that are stemping up as

players that are stepping up as leaders. It says something when three underclassman are captains," Brezenski said.

The boys have overcome obstacles already this season, as starting goalie Taylor Johnson sprained his MCL causing a lineup change for the Shamrocks.

"I think moving Huss e brought the team



Sophomore Cody Zimmerman dribbles past a York defender. Scotus deteated York in over time 2-1 on March 22nd.

am looking forward to playing with the starters that we had penciled in the original pre-season lineup. I think we will be a dangerous team," Brezenski said.

Both of the teams are ranked in the top ten and are building on their records. The boys are 3-3 and the girls are 3-1. They are both trying to build up their teams to the ultimate goal of playing in Omaha at the State tournament.

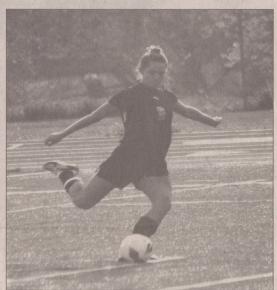
Both of the teams to the boys are both trying to build up their teams to the ultimate goal of playing in Omaha at the State tournament.

Both of the teams to the boys are 3-3 and the State tournament.

Both of the teams to the boys are some the state tournament.

Both of the teams to the boys are some the state tournament.

Catholic today.



#### Shamrocks are back on



Senior Kade Hoefer flys through the air during triple jump at the Scotus Relays The Shamrock boys finished 3rd at the Relays on March 27th.

By Stacia Rawhouser

The adrenaling coursing through the athletes coursing through the athletes' veins makes it apparent that another track season is underway. There are 38 girls and 44 boys out for track. The team began their season with a first time appearance at the Wayne State Indoor meet on March 17th. The girls were able to pull off a first place overall finish, as well as a new meet record in the 1600 meter relay, whereas the boys' team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 14 teams. Girls' coach Janet

Girls' coach Janet Tooley has kept the same goals for her team this season as she has for every year prior. "Eachyear, our goal is

"Eachyear, our goal is always to score in every event as a team, and to individually improve as much as possible. We want to give our personal best performance every time, so despite our youth year to

year, those always re goals," Tooley said.

The track season continued with another indoor meet at Concordia on March 22nd. There were multiple athletes not present at this meet due to some conflicts, but the girls tied for 7th, and the boys finished 6th. On March 27th, the nice weather permitted for a successful Scotus Relays held at Pawnee The track permitted for a successful Scotus Relays held at Pawnee Park. Both the girls and boys finished 3<sup>rd</sup> place. On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Shamrocks returned to Wayne for the outdoor Wayne

wayne for the outdoor wayne Invitational; this was the team's first regular outdoor meet of the season. Both the girls and boys finished on top and brought home first place. The team was able to run their first victory lap this year at the conclusion of the the meet.

"It was a good field. We didn't think we would be able to beat them all, especially Pierce because they had nice track athletes last year, so our goal was runner-up, but we went, competed well, and ended better than them," boys coach Merlin Lahm said.

Every day after school, the team practices at Pawnee Park. Coach Lahm is proud of the team's leadership.

"Leadership this year is not a lot different from the past. It is not unusual to have a small number of seniors out. You do not necessarily have to be a senior to be a leader, and we have people who step up and lead us in workouts every day in practice," Lahm said.

The younger athletes make up the majority of the team. Senior Angie Wieser commented on the team's

commented on the team's chemistry.

"Everyone works together well. It helps that the team is close, and we all get along. Everyone on the team supports each other's events. The underclassmen have done a really good job of stepping up at practice since we have a young team," Wieser said.

Coming soon this season, Memorial Stadium's track at Pawnee Park will be ripped up and under construction after the Knights of Columbus meet which takes place on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

"Columbus High has agreed to let us use their track after their practices for blocks, hurdles, and handoffs. We will probably be there a couple times a week, but the inconvenience will be well worth the outcome of having one of the best tracks in the state of Nebraska once it's complete," Tooley said.

The Shamrocks are looking forward to the Schuyler Invitational on April 19<sup>th</sup>, followed by only 3 other meets before Conference on May 5<sup>th</sup> and Districts on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

"Each meet has about the same area schools

"Each meet has about the same area schools usually with one or two others thrown into the mix. We watch which schools will be District match-ups, and those are the meets and events we key in on. It tells us where we need to be by District time," Tooley said.

The team will

Tooley said.

The team will continue practicing, despite the track construction, and focus on Districts in hopes of taking some athletes down to Burke for State.

"We compete as well as we can each meet. I know we have some State qualifiers on this team, so our goal is to qualify, and score some points with our elite athletes," Lahm said.

# Sports/Activities

# Boys' golf swings into a new year



Staff Reporter

With the unusually nice weather this year, the Scotus Boys' golf team has been out on the greens early this season, compared to last year at this time when snow still covered the ground. Boys'golfcoach Karl Dierman has a positive outlook for the team this year.

"The team this year is a well-balanced and deep team. We have had 9 players that went through the summer program, and the improvement they made shows. We have a great group of sophomores that will make a name for themselves over time," Dierman said.

has a good chance to qualify for the Class B State Tour-

nament in Kearney."

~Coach Dierman

"Junior Marshal
Obal has been our primary
workhorse. He is always first
to practice and last to leave.
Golf is his soul: he eats, sleeps,
reads, watches, and practices
it. When he is on the course,
you can see the joy radiating
from his face, and that is
special stuff. Sophomore
Connor Lusche is immensely
talented; perhaps as talented as
2011 Class B State Champion
Brady Vancura was. Connor
just needs to polish his skills a
little. Senior Ryan Fehr is our
leader. His work ethic and

said.

Marshal, Connor, and Ryan have this year's top varsity spots. Dierman is unsure as to who will claim the other spots on varsity this

the other spots on varsity this year.

"We have 5 players that will be continuously vying for the 4 and 5 varsity spots. They all have the ability to break over 90, and should push each other all season long. Sophomores Blake Schroeder and Michael Kurtenbach have claimed the 4th and 5th starting spots, but sophomore Anthony Smith, and Seniors Mike Albin and Ryan Ohnoutka have a fair chance at those spots as well," Dierman said.

Although it is still very early in the season, Coach Dierman already thinks he

among his team.

"The team this year has a good chance to qualify for the Class B State tournament in Kearney. We may also challenge to win the Centennial Conference tournament which we gave away late to eventual Class C state champions Hastings Saint Cecelia last year, losing by 2 shots," Dierman said.

Dierman remains positive as to what he hopes to accomplish this year with his team.

"I just hope that by the end of this season, the young men will be better people and improved players," Dierman said.

So far the boys' golf team has had a home dual against Lakeview and traveled to Pius in Lincoln for a meet on Monday April 2nd.

# Close Up gathers students to government

**By Lauren Kuta** Staff Reporter

At 2:30 AM, Sunday, March 11th, six Scotus juniors along with their History teacher traveled the long flight from Omaha to Washington D.C. for Close Up, a week long experience that allows students to get a "closer look" at the inner workings of the nation's government.

"Close Up is an organization that provides students an opportunity to participate in government. They have been hosting the Close Up experience for about forty years now," History teacher Mr. Jeff Ohnoutka explained. At 2:30 AM, Sunday,

Ohnoutka and six juniors, Sam Thalken, Ian Robak, Nick Pandorf, Kyrsten Wood, Claire Fuchser, and Lauren Kuta, were the students who journeyed to Washington, D.C. for the Close Up experience. After arriving there, the students had supper where they met with other high schoolers from around high schoolers from around the country from states such as Arizona, Minnesota, Hawaii, Mississippi, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts as well as

Massachusetts
Nebraska.

"One of my favorite
parts about Close Up was
going to go look at the
memorials. They were all
very touching, and we learned
a little about each one while

While they were there, the students toured some of the most famous memorials, such as the Jefferson, FDR, Lincoln, Iwo Jima, Korean, Vietnam, and the newly dedicated MLK memorial. Each night, the students were split up into groups and participated in workshops where they learned about current bills that are being considered by Congress. They also were able to debate about these bills amongst themselves, trying

able to debate about these bills amongst themselves, trying to convince the indecisive of which side was better.

Special events included a personal nighttime bus tour of the monuments, a debate between a conservative and a liberal that was fueled by the students' questions, a military panel that also answered students' questions, a Capitol tour with a visit with Nebraskan senators, and a Mock Congress.

"During the Mock Congress, I was able to

"During the Mock Congress, I was able to voice my opinion about a nationwide topic as well as hear others' opinions about the same topic. We learned so much about the new bills going through Congress that I wouldn't have normally learned about durins school." learned about during school,

held a Mock Congress that all of the students participated in. Each workshop group received a current bill that is being debated in congress, and the members of the group decided whether they were for or against it. Then, a few of the bills were debated by the entire group of students. This event was one of the favorites of the students as well as Capitol Hill day.

"The Capitol Tour

"The Capitol Tour was definitely my favorite part of Close Up," Ian Robak stated, "Being in the sante spot where so many momentous decisions in our country's history took place was an eerie sensation."

The Scotus students traveled to the nation's Capital

The Scotus students traveled to the nation's Capital building on Wednesday of that week. During that day, they met with Nebraskan Senators Ben Nelson and Mike Johanns and explored the Library of Congress, the Senate House, and the Capitol which included a personal tour from an aide from Senator Johanns's office. On this day, however, none of the juniors were able to tour with their new-found friends.

"Meeting new people and seeing what people do for fun in their home towns was awesome, and I have 77 new FaceBook friends now," Sam



Senator Mike Johannes, Scotus Alumnus Natalie Krings, and juniors Kyrsten Wood, Claire Fuchser, Nick Pandorf, Sam Thalken, Ian Robak, and Lauren Kuta pose for a picture at the back of the Capitol Building in Washington, D. C. The six students were able to converse with and ask questions to the two Nebraskan Senators while attending the Close Up experience.

trip was meeting the unique and diverse group of people from all throughout the nation. With their distinctive stories, and passion for politics, all of the Scotus students made numerous

new friends easily. Through interactions with others and the knowledge they gained from visiting historical sites and the formation of opinions, each of the students grew in political efficacy.

"I wanted them to

grow as people through this experience. I wanted them to become independent thinkers and develop a confidence about them so that they can achieve great things," Ohnoutka concluded.

# Scotus speech takes eight at state



Phioto counts or N Senior Joel Ostdiek presents his Entertainment speech at State Speech on March 22. Ostdiek recieved fourth place in his Entertainment and 3rd in hi

**By Rachel Rambour** Staff Reporter

The Scotus Speech team placed 8th out of 36 teams at the State competition on March 22th. The team brought 4 competitors to the State competition, Joel Ostdiek, Tom Schumacher, Stacia Rawhouser, and Carly Burkhardt, which is more than they have ever brought to tate before.

The Scotus speech team has grown tremendously over the past few years, going from 7 to 19 members in 4 years.

"When I first started coaching the Scotus speech team, I had little to no idea

Persuasive speeches.

"I loved being able to conceptualize and create the best speeches I possibly could. Being able to perform speeches I was proud of and believed in was my favorite part of speech team," Joel Ostdiek said.

Also performing well at the State competition was the senior duet of Tom Schumacher and Stacia Rawhouser. Schumacher has been involved in the speech program since his freshmen year, while Rawhouser joined the program her senior year. The duet placed 8th.

Tom Schumacher also competed individually its bestered.

Tom Schumacher also competed individually in humorous interpretation where he placed 10th, and Carly Burkhardt competed in persuasive where she placed 12th.

"Speech teaches you a lot of lessons about fairness and unfairness, success and failure, and it helps you with breaking down the fear of public speaking," Schumacher said.

The State competition was not the only meet that the Scotus Speech team competed well at. They competed in 10 meets, placing 5th out of 32 teams at the David City Public meet, and 2th out of 10 teams at the Stanton meet. The speech team had a successful year and is hoping to have more success in its future years as the team is growing in size and talent.

"As a team we've come a long way in knowing how to write speeches and knowing what will work for judges at the state level. We also had some new, awesome competitors join the team this year," Ostdiek said.

The team is gradually growing with more success, as they brought 4 members to State, an increase from 2 last year.
"The kids put in so."

year.

"The kids put in so much work writing multiple revisions, some times over 15, never settling with mediocrity. They wanted to be the best." Ploetz said.

## **Entertainment**

# Clash of the reviews: The Hunger Games

The Girl on Fire is Burning Bright

Staff Reporter

The Hunger Games

third bestselling film on opening weekend in the last few years; three theatres at the theatre were dedicated to showing this moving on opening weekend, and this movie is bigger than the entire Twilight Saga. This insane interest in the movie started with attention to the book The Hunger Games with attention to the book that has sold over 4.3 million

The Hunger Games is a book that turned into a film; it is about how in the future it is about how in the future the United States split up into Districts. The reason they had to make the Districts is because the modern civilization we know collapsed. They formed a new government called "the Capital," who hosts the hunger games. One boy and one girl from each district go and fight to the death until there is one victor. The story revolves victor. The story revolves around a girl named Katniss Everdeen from District 12, who took the place of her younger sister, Prim, in the

As a book, I liked the entire concept of the Hunger Games. There were so many sad events made me unhappy, but there was a glimmer of hope in Katniss that gave me hope for the rest of the book. Katniss winning the game gave the message that even an underdog can come out victorious if they have someone worth fighting for. The book was also a fast and The book was also a fast and The book was also a fast and easy read that was filled to the brim with action. It was one of those books that once you started reading, you didn't want to put it down. I would recommend this book to anyone who ever had a slight interest in reading it.

The Hunger Games is

By Carrie Bartholomew one of my favorite books, and they turned it into an amazing movie. Usually movies don't follow the book to the point where it annoys you, but this movie was the best movie I've movie was the best movie I've seen that followed the book. The movie had emotional parts. It was so emotional, I wanted to start crying. The movie made you feel like you were actually a contestant in the Hunger Games, and you also had to fight for your life. Even though I knew what was coing to happen I was on the going to happen, I was on the edge of my seat the entire time. The actors in the movie were believable, the exact opposite of all of the Twilight Series actors who obviously weren't meant for a movie set. The special effects in the movie were top rate; it really looked like it was set in the

Making the watcher seem like they were inside the movie was great, but at times, like when she was hallucinating in the woods, everything was going fuzzy and swaying. Since you were so involved, and the screen was fuzzy and swaying, you felt like you were going to

puke. Some people think that *The Hunger Games* gives off bad messages to teenagers, but it really doesn't. Just because we read a fictional book doesn't mean that we are going to go off and try to kill each other. Since the book is fictional we know it is not real and that this "civilization collapse" is nowhere close to our future.

Over all. The Hunger Games was one of the best movies I've seen all year, and it's one of the best books I've ad. I think everyone read this book and ever read.



#### Dousing the Girl on Fire

**By Lauren Kuta** Staff Reporter

Katniss Everdeen, the girl on fire and the star of the ever-popular series called *The Hunger Games*, helped spark a literary revolution in the teen fiction universe. However, there were several shortcomings throughout the series that caused me to shy away from this celebrated trilogy.

The Hunger Games is the first of three books that take place in the country of Panem, which is a nation that represents the United States after a governmental apocalypse and is divided into 12 districts. Each year, one girl called tributes, are picked in a drawing to fight in the Hunger Games, where the contestants are forced to fight each other to the death until one victor remains. When Katniss's younger sister is pulled from the jar as a tribute, Katniss volunteers to take her place volunteers to take ner place in the Games. From there, she enters a roller-coaster ride of dilemmas, violence, and drama as she tries to stay alive for her sister and family in the

Hunger Games.

There were a few aspects of this novel that made reading it enjoyable.
The concept of teens fighting the concept of teens righting teens in an arena in order to keep the districts from rising in protest against the Capitol was extremely intriguing. The violence in the novel is completely outlandish and fictitious so it would not inspire teens to go out and murder other teens; there are more inappropriate and influential stories that would cause teens to do immoral mischief than *The Hunger* 

The intensity and grief displayed during the melancholy scenes was perfect, for it made the novel seem more realistic. Seeing the world from Katniss's point view was also interesting because it gave the reader an inside look of the inner an inside look of the inner thoughts of a teenager who had been placed in insane situations. Overall, the depth of the storyline was decent for a young adult novel, which allowed the book to appeal to a larger crowd. Similar to any book, though, there were plenty of features of this story that caused me to highly story that caused me to highly

were plenty of features of this story that caused me to highly dislike the novel.

Being a huge reader, I have read countless other stories that completely trump this story. Even though it does bring the action of The Lord of the Rings, the drama and romance of Twilight, and the action of Harry Potter, the execution of the story was poor. The plot line was incredibly formulaic and predictable, and even the twist at the end was easily foreseen. Katniss's struggles within the arena were also slightly redundant, with each day consisting of some peril and grief. Even though this is the way the story was intended to play out, a similar plot style can be found in other novels.

Katniss, who became a glorified heroine when she volunteered to take her sister's place in the Games, was not as heroinelike as she should have been. Her character was shallow, and she mostly portrayed a

Her character was shallow, and she mostly portrayed a whiny, pessimistic teenager who wanted to throw all of her problems to the wind and live wild and free without the government breathing down her back. She was always diving into her personal thoughts. Without an ounce of happiness within her, it was hard to read her complaints and rants about her hardships. It is understandable as character in her situation to act in this manner, but she displayed a sense of hostility and anger that caused disconnect between the reader

disconnect between the reader and her story.

The most annoying part of *The Hunger Games* is not the story itself, but the pedestal that the story is placed on. Some readers have gone as far to proclaim that this is the best series ever created. as far to proclaim that this is the best series ever created. This is understandable, for it is the most recent series to have emerged from the literary drought that had surfaced after the conclusion of Harry Potter. Unfortunately, all the trilogy is recent news. The Hunger Games was the "next big thing" in the teen fiction world, but because of the flaws that exist in the characters and the plot, it cannot stand up to the timeless classics that are still popular today.

Despite my dislike

still popular today.

Despite my dislike for the series, I did go see the movie version on the opening weekend. If you enjoyed the book, you will probably enjoy the movie. It follows the book extremely well for a movie adaptation, and the only aspect that someone who supported the series may dislike is the usage of the camera. It is ierky usage of the camera. It is jerky and confusing in numerous action scenes, causing a small portion of the plot to be lost. Otherwise, the movie is worth attending if you are fan of *The Hunger Games*.

At the beginning of the "reaping", the facilitator announced one of the most famous lines in the book, "Happy Hunger Games! And may the odds be ever in your favor!" Sadly, the odds were definitely not in the favor of this overly-popular series.

# The Facility: Chapter 6

By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

Last Issue: Jens accompanied Jake and others to rescue the students who were trapped at Behlen Manufacturing. Things were going well until the convoy tried to ram through the loading dock doors where the vehicles were wrecked and Jens fell unconscious.

Jens suddenly to frantic voices. He forgot where he was, and what he was doing, and his situation made even less sense as he opened his eyes. They appeared to be in a prison cell about 15 feet wide and 20 feet across. The walls were pastel tan, and the only anomaly that broke out of the cruel uniformity of the cell was a pipe pointed downwards sticking out a few feet of the ceiling and a light fixture in each corner of the room. Calvin Borer, Levi Gasper, Marshall Obal, Sam Thalken, and Derek Lahm were incoherently. Everything came back to Jens at once, and he leaped up to his feet. The six young men were inside a room with no apparent door or windows. It looked like a prison cell.

"What happened? Are we captured too?" Jens yelled over the voices.

The room became very quiet as Jens looked around for an answer. Calvin looked as though he had been in a fight, and he probably had. He looked at Jens and silently nodded his head.

"So what are we going to do?" Jens questioned further.

"Jake will come back! He will save us!" Marshall piped up.

"No he won't," Levi said somberly.

"He couldn't have left us, I mead he is Krat!" Calvin pleaded.

Argument broke and Jens leaned against the wall to collect his thoughts and tuned out the yelling, but suddenly

talking. The sirens were sounding off, a loud boom rang through the cell they were inside, and the ground seemed to shake. The room went dark.

"What happening? screamed

voice.

The end of the pipe began to empty water into the room.
The water was rising quickly and the level of terror surged with each passing moment.
"What is

going on?" Derek

yelled.
"They are trying to kill us before we can be rescued!" Sam yelled back.

They treading water. Jens had been shocked so much recently the water did not concern him much. He told everyone to be calm. The room fell silent exept for the water rushing into

the room. The water was reaching near the top of the room, and all the young men grabbed each other's hands. Just as the room was nearly full, another huge bang rang in their ears. The water levels began to fall.

"What's going on?" a disbelieving Calvin asked.

He received no

answer. The water was escaping out of a huge hole near the floor. The six of them were sucked out of the room with a rush of water. Jens closed his eyes as he missed the edge of the hole by mere inches. Jens exhaled and opened his eyes to find a figure standing over him.

"Thank you, so

much!" said the figure.

The hero, the legend, Jake Kratochvil was extending a hand to Jens. The crumpled remains of his flying Crown Victoria beside him, Jake smiled a huge smile and hugged Jens

Tune in next time for the conclusion of The







**Scotus Central Catholic** Class of 2012







VOLUME 13 · ISSUE 7 · MAY 4TH, 2012 SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

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Varsity

wrestling

added to

Scotus activities By Megan Wright

# Scotus cruises into cash

By Carrie Bartholomew Staff Reporter

As a Catholic school fundraisers are common, but lately there have been a few new ways of bringing in the cash. This year, the school is doing many new fundraisers for different departments in the school.

This year, Scotus hosted two different fundraisers that involved test driving cars: Drive One 4UR School and Drive for Perfection. These are fundraisers where people who are 18 or older and have a valid

driver's license go and test drive new cars at the dealership, and for each one, money is given to the school.

Drive One 4UR School was through Gene Steffy Ford.

"I learned of this fundraiser through Milan and Linda Levos. Milan and Linda have been supporters of the band department since I started teaching at Scotus 18 years ago. Milan is employed at Gene steffy Ford," band director, Kristen Cox said.

at Gene steffy Ford," band director,
Kristen Cox said.

Each test drive through
Drive One 4UR School gives the
school twenty dollars. If the feature
car was test driven, the school earned
an extra ten dollars. These two
fundraisers are both going towards
different departments at school.

Last year, Scotus did the Gene Steffy Drive One 4UR School. It was held at Scotus in May after school was let out for the summer. Last year, \$6,500 was raised, and that money went toward buying three sousaphone cases. The money raised from this year's event also went to the band department. "Our band needs to replace ten of our marching uniforms, and we also need to purchase an additional five to ten uniforms to accommodate the increasing numbers we have in our band," Kristen Cox said.

This year, this event was held at Gene Steffy again, and the amount of money raised is yet to be determined. There was also a burger bash held at this event thanks to the

Drive for Perfection was done through Chevy at Ernst Auto, and every car driven brought fifty dollars to the school for scholarships. Columbus High and Lakeview also took part in this event, and out of the three schools, Scotus made the most money, maxing out the amount at \$1,400.

Another new fundraiser is called iGive. It is a shopping website, and if an account is made, Scotus receives five dollars, and for each purchase, the school receives anywhere from 1% to 26% of the money from the purchase. Also, when someone searches using iGive, Scotus receives a penny. Considering how many searches one person does a day, Scotus has the potential to raise a lot of money. So far, only \$120 has been raised.

Scotus also needs to buy

money. So far, only \$120 has been raised.

Scotus also needs to buy a new bus. People who attended gala were asked to donate or "purchase" a bus seat for \$250. There were 81 bus seats getting sponsored. All the bus seats and more have been sponsored. With the extra money that was raised, Scotus is putting it into a new bus fund for when the next bus has to retire. Gala is the biggest fundraiser the school has.

"Last year was a record year for gala, and if we're thinking that we are even half way close, it's going to be a good year," development director John Schueth said.

year," development director John Schueth said.

There are other events that go on in the summer that raise money for Scotus. One event that has become popular is the Scotus alumni golf tournament. It costs \$70 to enter the tournament. All the money raised from this event goes toward weight room improvements. Last year \$7,000



"We did a two year trial run with the junior high to see how much interest there was. I think that was pretty successful. Next, we had to approach the school board. It was a school board decision as to whether or not we would add wrestling as a winter sport at Scotus. With that, we had to break a co-op agreement that we had with CHS, which they agreed to. We then had to secure coaches and get a schedule going," Puetz said.

The idea of having wrestling as a varsity sport at Scotus is no new idea. There has been interest in it for

idea. There has been interest in it for many years.

"I think it started probably a good two or three years ago when the junior high wrestling program was adopted. I think that was kind of the first step that was made. The first step was made simply because there was hope that we would someday have a varsity wrestling program," Puetz said Puetz said.

Puetz said.

The Scotus varsity wrestling coaching staff for next year will be an experienced one.

"The head coach will be coach Dodson, who has been the head coach of our junior high program, and coach Linder here on our own staff will be the assistant coach at the varsity level. We will

See Wrestling, Page 2



Scotus junior Bibiana Lopez sends off band parent Karen Miksch at the Drive One 4UR School Fundraiser. The event was held on Saturday, April 28th.

#### Students enjoy an 'Enchanted' evening

Staff Reporter

Thunder, lightning, and tornadoes loomed in the afternoon air on Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup> while Scotus students prepared for the annual Prom dance. Early in the morning, the sun was shining, the skies were blue, and the birds were chirping. Around 1:00 p.m., the tables began to turn, as the wind picked up and everyone began to rush inside. Preparations for Prom went on as scheduled, but all engagements were held indoors.

held indoors.

"I felt bad about everyone

"I felt bad about everyone waiting outside, the girls were probably really afraid they were going to mess up their hair," prom sponsor Kelly Schaad said.

Mass at St. Isidore's Parish commenced at 5:30, with a section reserved specifically for the prom goers. Handsome tuxedos and beautiful gowns filled the hallways after Mass where 'ooh's' and 'ahh's' could be heard by the people that had attended church.

"Mass gives the kids an opportunity to attend church for the

weekend since it would be difficult for them to do so Sunday morning. It also gives church members a chance to see everyone in their formal attire and to take pictures" Roza said.

The backdrop for Prom 2012 was painted by juniors Allison Smith, Kara Moore, and Anna Perault. It was painted in correspondence with the first theme of the dance Wild at Heart. After much contemplation, it was decided that the theme be changed to Enchanted to Meet You, which better 'suited' the layout and decorations of the cafeteria for the evening.

which better stitled the layout and decorations of the cafeteria for the evening.

"Some groups in the past have had a lot of girls that work together. The junior class spent probably 30 some hours just on the backdrop, and then they had everything done on Friday, so it went fast. It only took a little bit of time, and if everyone jumps in during their free periods, it goes quickly," Schaad shared.

At Prom, this year's dinner was catered by Husker House, and the dance was held afterwards. Former students Peter Heusinkvelt and Eric Diamond DJ-ed the event. Scotus President Wayne Morfeld spoke at the occasion sharing that

if a possible tornado warning were in effect for Columbus, everyone in attendance would simply move to the kitchen area, and Prom would continue after the threat passed. "I don't think anyone really

continue after the threat passed.

"I don't think anyone really knew anything was going on outside, and I don't think they really cared!" Schaad said.

The dinner/dance ended at midnight and was followed by Post-Prom at Boulevard Lanes, which was hosted by junior parents. At Boulevard, students had the opportunity to bowl, win 'monopoly' money to buy prizes from the general store, and food and drinks were also provided. Entertainer Gayle Becwar, a magician/comedian performed many tricks and told numerous jokes to those remaining at the party.

Senior Michael Albin was one of the students asked to help entertain the group, but after the night was over, Albin got redemption by winning the iPad.

"I was really tired, so I didn't really realize that I had won an iPad until the next morning; and then I felt completely justified. Overall, it was a great night. All in all, things worked out for the best, because I won the iPad." Albin shared.



HANNAH HARRINITON/YEARBOOK STAFF Senior Emmie Odbert and Scotus guest Carlos Arciga swing dance during Prom while junior Sam Thalken sports his cowboy

#### News

#### WRESTLING

Continued from Page 1

coach at the varsity level. We will go with just two coaches for the team next year," Puetz said.

year," Puetz said.

There seems to be a fair amount of interest in the team next year too.

"We are expecting anywhere from 15-20 kids to go out next year. It could be a few more. It could be a few more. It could be a few less, but I took a poll with our eighth and ninth graders, and there are about 13 or so of those kids. Then there are others, so I think there will be a decent amount of interest in it," Puetz said.

Although Scotus will

Although Scotus will be short on gym space due to basketball, the team plans to go with what they have and to

"The team will practice in the cafeteria where the junior high practices. We will have to rotate times there, but we will make it work. If we have to, we can expand there by putting more pads on the walls and getting more mats so more kids can work out there. Right now, we are just going to try to go with what we have," Puetz said.

Being a new team, it may take Scotus a few years before they are able to jump into hosting big invites and meets.

an invitational for probably several years because you have to find a date and get teams that were going

someplace else to come to your meet instead. I certainly hope we host at least a dual or triangular next year. We will have the schedule wrapped up by June 1st hopefully and then go from there," Puetz said.

As for being a success, wrestling seems to have a well-deserved spot among the other winter sports at Scotus and is predicted to fit right in.

"Our junior high kids getto go out for both basketball and wrestling, so they can figure out where they want to go. Traditionally, wrestlers aren't basketball players, and basketball players aren't wrestlers. It takes a different type of kid and athletic ability for those two sports. We also have swimming during

wrestlers. It takes a ditterent type of kid and athletic ability for those two sports. We also have swimming during the winter. There might be a basketball player that wants to be a wrestler, or a swimmer that wants to be a wrestler, but I don't see a great deal of cross-over," Puetz said.

All in all, Mr. Puetz thinks wrestling will be a good addition to the athletic program at Scotus.

"I would like to add that most schools Scotus's size have wrestling programs. I think that it is time for us to try it. Hopefully it becomes successful, and five or ten years from now, we are talking about how great of a decision it was to have a wrestling program here at Scotus. But again, I guess we will just have to wait and see what happens," Puetz said.



Juniors Craig Ackman, Colby Engquist, and Brandon Hahn play blackjack at Scotus Post Prom. Post Prom was hosted by the junior parents and was held at Boulevard Lanes.



Sophomores Megan Miksch and Katie Reisdorff assist juniors Charrissa Zuerlein and Taylor Wiester at the sign-in table at the Drive One 4UR School Fundraiser. The amount raised at the fundraiser is yet to be determined.

#### "Rock Bottom

- Stepani Jarecke

- Stacia Rawhouser

Staff Writers

- Mike Albin Carrie Bartholome Claire Fuchser Andy Heusinkvelt
- Jake Huss Stephani Jarecke Lauren Kuta Rachel Rambour

- Stacia Rawhouser - Megan Wright

Advisor

- Mrs. Angie Rusher

Jesus Christ

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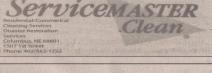
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**By Stacia Rawhouser** Editor

Before senior year started, my mom and I were sitting at the kitchen table reminiscing all the memories from my previous high school years. As the conversation continued, we moved on to the topic of senior year and all the lasts I would have to experience. This made me nervous; I wasn't ready to do anything for the last time. That was when my mom told me that there is nothing wrong with making this a year full of last firsts. Her words gave me the confidence and support that I needed to break out and be so much more than what was expected of me. After five years of Scotus volleyball, I decided to do something different. I went out for cross country for the first time as a senior, and I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

It seemed so impossible to run that much and actually survive, but I felt accomplished after each practice. No, I wasn't a State Champion, far from it. However, I worked hard enough to make it to State with the girls' varsity team, something I never thought I could do.

Sports have always been me. They are what I grew up with, and what I have been taught to participate in. Activities like speech team... not so much. Speech was something completely different that I had never even thought about. When Tom Schumacher asked me to be his partner for a duet, I wasn't exactly gung-ho about waking up early every Saturday morning for a speech meet, but I was up for the challenge.

At first, it was weird. All these people were constantly practicing their speeches to the walls and dressed so business-like; I wasn't sure how I would fit in, but I bought a blazer and acted the part. As it turned out, our duet was a success. We made it to State Speech, which I honestly didn't even know was a big deal until I was a part of it.

I made my own decision that senior year would be my chance to seize opportunities I had overlooked before. I had no one to impress, and I wanted this year to be full of new experiences. I have always liked being involved, and I believe my activities have impacted who I am.

When I was in eighth grade, I

When I was in eighth grade, I was all about sports and thought I was a tough girl. I remember trying out for cheerleading as a joke because I thought it would be funny. I had no idea how important it would become to my high school career, and now I'm going off to college to cheer Division I at USD.

Looking back on these past 4 years, I now have nothing that makes me want to say "I wish I would have done that." Taking part in so many different activities gave me the chance to make friendships I never would have considered. I don't have a "group" because I've had the chance to be a part of each one. of each one

Everything I've done has defined me as a person. My sports made me competitive. They taught me to push myself to the limits even when to push myself to the limits even when it would be a lot easier to fake an injury and stop. Speech made me confident and comfortable in front of an audience. Cheerleading made me more positive. It allowed me to be a good role model for the younger girls, one of which I used to be. Everything else filled in the missing pieces.

High school is a chance to find High school is a chance to find yourself. You are a blank page coming into this chaotic 4 years of life, so I encourage you to fill it up. Be involved, and don't feel like you are limited to what is expected of you. Be who you want to be for your own reasons, and don't forget that it's never too late for a first. This is Stacia Rawhouser signing off.

By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

On occasion, people have told me that happiness is not about what you do, but who you do it with. Friendship is one of the greatest gifts that we receive in our human lives, so why do we set limits on the number of friends that we have? It's true that I have set some of these meaningless rules into place in my life. Recently, it has place in my life. Recently, it has been easier for me to overcome some of these short comings that have plagued me for years. This is in part because I have grown up quite a bit since I was a naive young child. Ignorance of these problems is not bliss. In fact, once we are educated in other people's situations, and the more we can look past them, the happier we will all be. In the words of Plato "Ignorance is the root of all evil."

My point is to not limit friendship. I am not talking about people that you have had disagreements with, but rather the people who do not have many friends or are different than yourself. I used to look, at the world and shy away from people who were different from what I was used to. I believe that this is also true now for many of the people here at Scotus. I hate to disappoint people, but there is almost no diversity been easier for me to overcome

of the people here at Scotus. I hate to disappoint people, but there is almost no diversity at Scotus. When someone is different than the majority, they are often ostracized from groups. Never hazed or verbally harassed, but often ostracized.

I have never been on the opposite side of this problem. I have heen a judgmental person.

opposite side of this protoin. I have been a judgmental person in the past. I still struggle with being judgmental, but I have become somewhat enlightened to the human condition that most of us, if not all of us, live in; we all have a unique perspective, and we all have a certain level of strangeness in our own way. Once I came to understand this, Once I came to understand this, I found it easier to laugh at myself and to laugh with others. Nobody is perfect, which makes life perfect and gives everyone a level playing field.

If I have any regret as I am ending my journey here at Scotus, it is that I did not come to this revelation sooner. For the younger students here

For the younger students here at Scotus, do not fall into the at Scotus, do not fall into the trap of glorifying people. You might think that you're too good to be certain people's friends, or perhaps you may think that the older kids are too cool to be your friends. This is untrue. Everyone has insecurity and self-doubt. Professional athletes non stars and even the

and self-doubt. Professional athletes, pop stars, and even the upper classmen have regrets.

Do not limit friendship, you will only limit yourself. Go outside of your comfort zone once in a while and loosen up a little bit. You only live once, so you might as well get to know people, especially when you see them almost every day at school. While you work on you see them almost every day at school. While you work on that, I am going to attempt to practice what I preach. Harder said than done. I am going to end my writing career here at Scotus with a quote from a man that we all know, "Love one another as I have loved you." Michael Albin, signing off.

By Stephani Jarecke Layout Editor

After three years of writing for the school newspaper, it is time to write my last article.

For the past month, everyone

has been looking to the future, excited to get out of high school. The biggest questions everyone asks me are "What college are you going to?" and "What is "water-size?"

Well I don't know how other people feel about this, but those two questions are my whole future. They are one of the biggest decisions of my life.

After so much thinking, I began to realize I do not know the answer because I still do not know exactly who

Looking back, I have changed tremendously. Six years ago, I stepped foot into this school, and that girl is a lot different from me now. It seems that every year, I had a new personality, a new hairstyle, and a new wardrobe.

For the longest time, I had been a tomboy. My hair was cut short and slicked back in a ponytail. I never wore the cute Hollister shirts with blingy jeans; but instead, I wore long shorts and oversized t-shirts.

I started caring about my appearance come freshman year, but I sure didn't care what others thought. I went through this "wanna-be emo' stage." I once thought a girl wearing a jacket with a dinosaur tooth-hanging hood covering half her face was cool... that is not cool.

I went through a cool kid stage (everybody does) thinking I was so funny and walked with a swag (a bad one).

one).

Then I met a boy, a really cute one. I was in this whole new world with flowers and butterflies and happy smiles and giggles. I gagged at girls like this before, but that didn't matter, nothing did. Hearts and his name filled my papers. I not only started caring about my appearance and my status, but I put it above everything. The fact that I drove around with friends stalking our boyfriends for fun screams "crazy girl

obsession."

As time grew on, senior year finally came, and I hit my "I don't care, I'm graduating stage." I did what I wanted, I became lazy, and I only cared about having fun and creating my last memories with my friends.

Half way through the year, I realized this fun is going to end, and I have to decide on my future soon. I realized I really do care! All those stages that blew over have actually created the foundations to the rest of my life.

Each stage I went through made

foundations to the rest of my life.

Each stage I went through made up a part of me that I will keep forever, whether it's my personality, lessons, or memories. However, I am not finished, now, I have to make a huge life change, and this time I realized this is MY life.

This determines who I am and what I do. I have struggled on my decision of college and majors for that reason.

reason.

reason.

Throughout this spring, I have been filled with excitement and joy of what has become of me, but I know it is not yet finished. The nerves are definitely kicking in. I know I am not finished with becoming the person I am, but I know the time is near.

I have no idea what I am going to do next year, or where I will be at, but I do know that through all my different phases, I have learned one important thing. That is, change is okay. In fact, change is good. Change is how you discover yourself. It can be difficult and very scary, but in the end, happiness will always find its place. For the Scotus RockBottom, Stephani Jarecke signing off.

By Andy Heusinkvelt Staff Reporter

Good-bye to the weekends of having nothing to do. So long to having to drive a minimum of forty minutes away to get to anything fairly defined as a "mall".

"What do you wanna

do tonight?"

"I don't know, how the taco stand

"I don't know, how 'bout we go to the taco stand and then cruise main?"

Yes, because driving main in a crappy car, which probably has underbelly lights that are illegal, is the coolest thing we could ever do in Columbus. We don't even have a spot we can go to just hang a spot we can go to just hang out. My friends and I tried doing that in Dollar Tree once, but unfortunately they didn't like us "testing out" some Styrofoam swords in the aisles.

like us "testing out" some
Styrofoam swords in the aisles.
Everywhere you
go in Columbus there are
either gangsters that want to
knife you, or...well nowhere,
someone's basement I guess.
If this past paragraph hasn't
brought to light the fact that
there is nowhere to hang out in
Columbus, I don't know how
else to show you. Actually,
strike that, I think I do.

All you have to do is
go onto Facebook, or talk to
any senior in this city. The odds
that they say something along
the lines of, "Columbus is so
boring, I can't wait to get out of
herel" are probably pretty good.
Now don't get me wrong, I love
Columbus most of the time.
I mean I was born and raised
here. I'd be crazy if I didn't
want to call this place home. I
know practically every street
and building in Columbus; know practically every street and building in Columbus, but I need to get out of here; I need to go somewhere else, anywhere else. The anticipation to go and experience a new city is something I can't wait for. I just want to take a walk and see new buildings, new stores, and new excitement. Having and new excitement. Having so many potential things to do each night of the week almost blows my mind. Right now, being stuck in a town that, for lack of a better phrase, I have milked dry of all excitement, the thought of having a new activity to do every weekend fills me full of new excitement for college.

fills me full of new excitement for college.
You know what else is getting boring? My friends. I'm sorry to all my dear friends that I have made over the years, but I think it's time we all moved on. Let's face it, six years is a ridiculously long time to see each other every day. The idea of experiencing new people thrills me. There isn't any more

each other every day. The idea of experiencing new people thrills me. There isn't any more room in Columbus; everyone is smothering under the hands of familiarity. You can't do a thing in Columbus without seeing someone you know.

Going to college and getting a new roommate, joining new clubs, new activities, just gets my blood pumping, and I can't wait. Good bye Columbus, hello adventure! ...Or at least something new. For the Scotus RockBottom, Andy Heusinkvelt signing off. signing off

By Rachel Rambour Staff Reporter

They always say you don't know what you have until it's gone, but actually, you do know what you have it, you just chose not to appreciate it. As my days as a Scotus student decrease, my senioritous continues to increase. Senioritous for me, started freshmen year. I was ready to leave and not have a curfew, to leave and not have a curfew, meet new people, get away from my parents and, most importantly, not spend 8 hours a day in the classroom. During my last four years of being ill with senioritous, I have missed out on times I can never get back, and probably some of the most memorable times of my life.

There will never in my life be any more volleyball practices, mock trial practices, musical practices, and after a short musical practices, and arter a short time, soccer practices too. I have had the privilege of being coached by, whom I believe and who most would agree with me, is one of the best high school volleyball coaches best high school volleyball coaches ever. I, like many of his other athletes, went through my days where I dreaded seeing his face at practice (please don't take offense Mr. Petersen). Now that he has done his work with me and my team, leading us through an undefeated season and a State championship, I am thankful for every time he told me that his grandma could block better than me, and for the countless practices we started off by hearing better than me, and for the countless practices we started off by hearing the exact same talk from the exact same article he had about "mental toughness," and being a "T-3."

Through my last four years here, I have not appreciated some of the most important relationships in my life. I have taken my parents and siblings for granted countless

in my life. I have taken my parents and siblings for granted countless times, and now I am beginning to realize how tough it is going to be next year not having a home cooked meal every night, or someone to sit in my room with me when I'm crying. I have also gone through heartbreak, and not realizing until after the relationship ended how important it was to me, but sometimes it's too late. So to all you out there reading this, don't wait until it is too late to realize the importance of everyone in your life.

For my last few weeks here, I have opened my eyes to a better way of life. I realize that my relationship with most of the people in my class will never be the same after this year. I have now experienced my senior homecoming and senior prom, which have been some of my best memories at Scotus. I have begun to appreciate my last few weeks at this school, and also my family and friends.

For my last goodbye before I walk out of these doors the last time as a Scotus student, I For my last few weeks

the last time as a Scotus student, I would like to thank everyone who has impacted my 6 years here at Scotus and made them as great as they were. I have learned about love, friendship, family, and of course, to never wear grey socks and to keep my shirt tucked in (at least when I walked past Mrs. Dusel's room). So to all you under classmen, enjoy your time here. Don't take anything for granted, and make the best of these short 6 years, it goes way too fast. So goodbye Scotus, it's been real. For the Scotus RockBottom, Rachel Rambour signing off

## **Seniors**

# EDYASK



Interesting Fact: I enjoy playing old rock songs on guitar.



Major: Pre-Health



Major: Electrical

Best Memory: Today! My last day of school



Best Memory: Friday food with Mrs. Johnson.



Major: Dentistry and Music

Best Memory: State cross country.



Major: Social

Best Memory: Stealing Mrs. Rambour's rubber mouse and scaring Mrs. Gibson.



Major: Undecided

Interesting Fact: I can touch the botto of my foot to my face.



Major: Psychology

Beating the boys in Spanish.



Major: Bio-Psychol-

Interesting Fact: I would not be going into the major I am if it was not for my car accident.



Interesting Fact: I can recite 250 digits of  $\pi$ .



Interesting Fact: I am





Best Memory: When I scored a goal and took my shirt off to celebrate.



Best Memory: When Kelcey peed her pants in Drama.



Interesting Fact: One of my thumbs is longer than the other.



Major: Occupational

Best Memory: Locked in a locker, singing songs in Chinese during basketball.



Major: Art and

Interesting Fact: I only eat the cherry jelly beans. I don't like any other flavor.



Major: Education

Interesting Fact: I enjoy drive-thru car washes. They're so fun and relaxing.



Major: Dental Hygiene Minor: Music

Best Memory: Being in all of Mrs. Johnson's fun classe



Major: Computer In-formation System and Business Marketing

Interesting Fact: I compete in video game tournaments.



Major: Computer Information Tech-

Interesting Fact: I'm a good boy...



Interesting Fact: I've been called "The song bird" of my



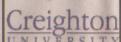
Major: Undecided



Major: Business

Interesting Fact: I can throw a grape 50ft in the air and catch it in my mouth.

(T) ROCKHURST





Interesting Fact: I fly kites on the weekend

Mark Ternus

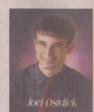
Major: Philosophy and Theology

Best Memory: Almost lighting Mrs. Rambour's room on fire and getting thanked for it.





Best Memory: My former tennis doubles partner hit me more than ten times during matches.



Major: Business

Interesting Fact: I love everything that Apple



Major: Pediactric Nursing

Interesting Fact: I like to eat ice.





Major: Biology and Physical Therapy

Best Memory: Rolling Jake Neinaber down a hill in a barrel.

REIVERS



Major: Undecided

Interesting Fact: I'm obsessed with noodles, and I guess I chew my food weird.





Interesting Fact: I've never seen *Titanic*.

## **Seniors**



Interesting Fact: I have the same disorder that goal have that makes them



Best Memory: Meeting new people



DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



Major: Undecided

Interesting Fact: When I laugh really hard, I have a tendency to fall out of my desk.



Major: Nursing

Interesting Fact: I love old people, and I like things burnt like my hotdog.



Major: Elementary

Backstage managing for Little Shop of Horrors my freshman



Major: Accounting

Interesting Fact: I'm obsessed with coach



Major: Business

Interesting Fact:
I have dated the same girl for four years.



Major: Undecided

Best Memory: New Year's Eve; that was when I met my girlfriend.





Major: Agronomy

Interesting Fact: I have owned four different fishing boats throughout high school.



Major: Agronomy and Agri-Business

Interesting Fact: I failed four classes in



NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



Interesting Fact: I can blow bubbles out of my eyes.

Major: Althetic Train-

Interesting Fact: I have herpies (cold

Major: Convergent Media

Interesting Fact: Mitchell, Jake, and I have been to wings in Monroe over 100

Major: Undecided

sores).



Major: Environ

Interesting Fact: I once nursed a dying wild Lynx in my home and released it in my backyard. He visits from time to time. His name is Gerald.





during junior high football.





Major: Engineering

Interesting Fact: Limp Bizkit is my favorite band.

Major: Electronic Systems Technology

Best Memory: CHS swimming bus rides



Major: Massage Therapy

Best Memory: Ms. Reinert's class...

Vicole Gasper

Interesting Fact: One of my eyes is half green/half brown.



Major: Undecided

Major: Psychology and counseling

Interesting Fact: I can sing and act in many different voices.

because we all got



Major: Medical Assisting

Major: Undecided

entra

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

> Interesting Fact: I use different silverware for each of my foods at lunch.



Major: Computer



Major: Convergent

Interesting Fact: I repaint my nails almost every other



Major: Medicine

Best Memory: District Music



Major: Radiology

riding the charter bus for baseball games.

#### Interesting Fact: I am obsessed with Harry Best Memory: Winning state cross country. WESTERN

Major: Agri-Business



Major: Convergent Media

Interesting Fact: I have to borrow a school shirt at least once a week because I make a lot of spills.



Interesting Fact: I can lick my elbow.



Major: Physical Therapy and Pre-Med

Interesting Fact: I'm obsessed with pecan pancakes from Embassy Suites.

2012!

# **Sports**

# Scotus girls look for improvement



By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

#### The Albatross Perspective:

#### Saint Sean

As recently as three days ago, I found myself watching another segment on ESPN about the new scandal to be sensationalized in the sports world. It turns out that the word "bounty" is synonymous with "motivation" in New Orleans. After a three year investigation, the Saints were accused of using a "Pay for Performance" program that paid players for injuring opponents on the field. This is a serious situation; no one should play the game with intent to hurt another player. Once the NFL administration determined that the Saints were guilty of these

were guilty of these allegations, four coaches were suspended without pay. Most prominently, head coach Sean Payton was suspended for the entire 2012 season. The Saints also forfeited 2nd round draft picks in 2012 and 2013.

I myself was in New Orleans not long ago. I noticed that local artists had depicted Payton in a very saintly manner. In booths, on walls, on signs, Sean Payton's face was all over the city. "Free Saint Sean." I heard that a few times too. The people of New Orleans are angry that their team was too severely punished. Who-Dat nation is angry, and in my opinion, rightfully so. In my mind, the NFL showed its ability to forego justice and make an example of the people who disobey their rules. When Payton appealed his case to the NFL, they didn't even listen to a word. While part of me says that maybe the punishment was appropriate, perhaps the possibility of Payton's innocence should have been considered. If not, at least he could have made an attempt to lessen the severity of the punishment.

What I find so interesting about the situation is the fact that none of the money came from Payton in particular. Money was pooled by players, defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, and a few others. Note of the money came from Payton. While it is in Payton's hands to distribute discipline amongst his team, he is coaching full grown adults. Not only that, he is coaching turners.

grown adults. Not only that, he is coaching extremely wealthy and cocky adults. Payton later took full responsibility for the scandal, but maybe he was just trying to protect his players. Of course, this is all speculation on my part, but I think all possibilities need to be considered on a matter with this much weight.

No matter how much

with this much weight.

No matter how much the Saints fans cry for their Saint Sean, the NFL will not let him free. What's done is done, and the stubborn administration in the NFL will prove it is still capable of harsh punishments with no chance for petition.



Senior Rachel Rambour brushes aside a Gretna player during a game. The Shamrocks were not able to overcome the Dragons with a score of 2-4. The girls are 10-5 going into the District Final.

**By Rachel Rambour** Staff Reporter

The Scotus girls' soccer team has not had the best of luck finding the back of the net in their 2012 season, but with a 9-5 record, they entered the District tournament

with the number one seed and high expectations for the rest of the season.

"So far, the season has had its ups and downs. We would take a couple of steps in the right direction, then someone would get hurt, and we would take a couple steps back," head coach Kristie

Brezenski said.

The Rocks started off the season strong, with only one loss to number one rated Omaha Skutt, then recently suffered 4 losses to Omaha Duchesne, Gretna, Papillion La Vista South, and Papillion La Vista.

"Our toughest losses."

are the ones we have been having lately because we are at the end of the season, and we still are not gelling together and getting the job done. I would say our toughest loss of the year so far was the Duchesne game because we are so much better than how we played. We came back strong, but did not get it done," Brezenski said.

Although

said.

Although
the Rocks have
undergone tough
losses, with a 95 record, they
have earned the
number one seed
in the District
tournament. The
team has high
ms and goals for the

team has high expectations and goals for the

expectations and goals for the rest of the season.

"My goals for the rest of the season are to get the girls pumped up before games, better their touches, score more often, and help them realize the game is for fun, to play for eachother, and to play to win at all costs." to play to win at all costs,' Brezenski said.

projects to try and create a better unity that will carry over in the games "I feel that the only way we can reach our goals for the season are by macing," every second on the practice/ game field count, flooding in some team bonding, and having more fun productive drills at practice," Brezenski

"I would say our toughest loss of the year so far was the Duchesne game because we are so much better than how we played. We came back strong, but did not get it done.

~Coach Brezenski

The team started off the District tournament defeating Schuyler on Tuesday May 1st and advanced to play Blair on Thursday May 3st. The team is looking for improvement and trying to find ways to compete the uppload.

improvement and trying to find ways to compete throughout the State tournament.

Brezenski added, "We still struggle with our first touches and speed of play; we have seen some glimpses, but still have not played our best soccer yet."

#### Rocks run into tough competition at Conference

By Megan Wright Staff Reporter

Although the 2012
Scotus Shamrock boys and girls track teams have been doing well this year, with a boys record of 51-10, and a girls record of 50-9, they have tough competition ahead of them as they head into the Conference and District meets. With that said, the track team has had some advantages with training earlier this season.

"We have had a lot of personal bests this year. Early training weather was excellent for us. We really started the season being able to train the way we want to. Frequently, you are fighting the weather, but this year we didn't have to. We got in some great workouts and had some good times and distances early on," head girls track coach Janet Tooley said.

With the regular season coming to a close, the girls are preparing for the difficult Conference meet.

"Our conference is a mini state meet. We haven't seen any of the entries yet, and we won't see them until the end of the week. In a lot of the events our conference will be tough because we have some of the top teams in both class B and C. It is always up in the air. I anticipate Wahoo Newman will be good on the track, and Aquimas girls will be good in the field, and then there are always those quality kids mixed in. It is one of the top conferences in the state. As usual, it will be a dog-fight, and we will have to perform really well," Tooley said.

The boys' track team will also have to compete well to come out on top at the Conference meet.

"We have won 3 of

"We have won 3 or our last four major meets. It is very unlikely that we win Conference. We might not even be runner up, but still have a great day. It is just a really fine track conference. Boys Town is a three time

to win the meet, or to even be runner up at the meet, but to have as many personal best performances as we can," head boys track Coach Merlin

The Conference meet will be held on Saturday May 5th in David City. The boys' track team has been preparing for the Conference meet, and is expected to bring their 'A'

game.

"This is the time of year when we really want to see the best performances. It is the time when we really start to taper a little bit in an effort to build our athletes back up for the end of season peaks," Lahm said.

The girls have also been working hard to prepare for the next weeks of tough competition.

"These last two weeks, the practice weather was great, but the weather at the Schuyler meet and the Lakeview Invite was poor. So the last couple weeks, we haven't seen our performances improve due to weather. I am hoping for a really nice day at the Conference meet on Saturday, so we can see those Saturday, so we can see those marks improve. We could possibly see some of those marks improve dramatically. Those marks will be what we use for Districts," Tooley said.

After the Conference meet, the track team will compete at the District meet on May 10th in Pierce. This meet will determine what athletes will be competing at the State meet.

"You can look at Districts as a qualifying meet. We want to qualify as many athletes as possible for the State meet. We want to have our best performances as individuals as often as possible, and qualify as many individuals as possible," Lahm said.



Junior Bridgette Brune runs the 800m race at the Fred Arnold Invitational meet in Schuyler on April 19. The Shamrock girls won the Schuyler meet, and the boys were runner-up.

The District meet this year will be tough, but even more so than normal with some change-ups in the way the meet is going to be

"Our district is set up a little differently this year. In class B, everything now is what we call FAT: Fully Automatic Timing. That means that all events will be timed electronically. Because of that, only 3 individuals in all of the different running events will qualify for State, instead of 4. The additional qualifiers will come from across the state, being the next fastest times ran. That will make it considerably tougher across the state, across the s

qualify a lot of girls in that 4<sup>th</sup> position. We are going to have to perform well. The kids who end up at the State meet

who end up at the State meet are going to have to perform well and will be top quality track kids," Tooley said.

The State meet will take place on the 18th and 19th of May. It will be held at Burke Stadium in Omaha. As for what Shamrocks will be competing, that is still to be determined.

"We have some State

"We have some State quality track athletes, so we really feel like we can qualify a number for State," Lahm

The girls and boys both will have to fight for their places at the State meet.

"You go into Districts, you get a personal best, and that is all you can ask of yourself. That is always our goal getting off of the bus," Tooley said.

The Sharest

The Shamrocks competed well in the regular season to prepare for the upcoming State qualifying

meets.

"It has been a great season. The girls and boys both have been a very fun, hardworking team. The coaching staff has also worked very hard. It has just been another great spring for track and field at Scotus," Tooley said

# Sports/Activities

#### Scotus girls lead tennis team | Leadership drives golf to success

By Stacia Rawhouser Editor

The Columbus High girls' tennis team has really served up success this season so far. There are three Scotus athletes on the varsity team, seniors Kelcey Robak and Caitlin Wiehn and junior Carley Foltz. CHS head coach Dave Licari would agree that they have contributed to the Discoverers' improvements throughout the season.

Discoverers' improvements throughout the season.

"Kelcey, Catilin, and Carley have played well for us this year. Kelcey and Caitlin form our #1 doubles team, and Carley is part of our #2 doubles team," Licari said.

He was pleased with the girls' performances at the Columbus Invite last Saturday on April 28th, and the Capital City Invite in Lincoln this past Monday on April 30th.

"We had a good weekend winning the Columbus Invite for the first time and also winning in Lincoln," Licari said. "The girls have won three tournaments so far this season. We also finished 6th at the Millard West Invite, which is our highest finish ever at that tournament."

Senior Caitlin Wiehn was excited for her team's first ever victory at the Columbus

Invite.

"I was shocked when we won. I was so happy for us," Wiehn said. "Kelcey and I played really hard; we were against good competition, but it was enough for us to win."

Though there are not many Scotus athletes on the team, they do not go unnoticed.

"They've added to team leadership by having

great attitudes and by not getting down when things don't necessarily go their way," Licari said.

The Discoverers will be traveling to State Tennis on May 17th

be traveling to state.

May 17th.

"This will be my first year going to State, and it's going to be really tough competition. I hope we can pull away with a couple matches; that would be a huge

accomplishment making it past the first round," Wiehn said.

Depending on whom the team draws as their first round match-ups, Coach Licari has high hopes for the

girls.

"We would like to finish in the top 10 at the State meet," Licari said. "A lot will depend on the competition and how well we play."



Senior Kelcey Robak winds back for a return hit dur-ing a dual against Fremont on April 17.

By Jake Huss Staff Reporter

The 2012 Scotus boys' golf team has shot their way to the top of most meets. They have accumulated top five finishes and, more top five finishes and, more importantly, wins in most of the meets that they have had. In a dual or triangular setting, the Shamrock boys have only lost once all season. Some of this success is due to the improvements made by the team.

team.

"The players all have improved in different ways I think. Some of the players have seen their improvements add up to better scoring, which is more important than just being able to hit new shots on the driving range," head coach Karl Dierman said.

All of these improvements are leading

All of these improvements are leading up to May 15th, when the Shamrocks travel to Hastings for their Directors.

Shamrocks travel to Hastings for their District play. A top three placement in Districts will send the Rocks to the State tournament as a team.

"We would like to be competitive in our last three tournaments, including a top 3 finish at Districts in Hastings on May 15th which would qualify us for the Class B State Tournament. We have a lot of quanty us for the Class B State
Tournament. We have a lot of
3rd and 4th place finishes in
large invites and just need to
clean some things up to close
the gap," Dierman said.

The Shamrocks still think that there is much room for improvement. They realize that all of the success

of the season is not good enough when it comes down to Districts and State. "We are not where we need to be yet. We are getting closer with Ryan Fehr leading the way with two medals in

the last two meets, but we want to peak at the end of the year with all our starting five in the running for individual medals," Dierman said.

The Shamrocks are looking to compete at these

looking to compete at these big meets under the leadership of Ryan Fehr. Other main contributors are senior Mike

Albin, junior Marshall Obal, and sophomores Blake Schroeder, Conner Lusche, Anthony Smith, and Alex

Tomorrow the boys' golf team will travel to Grand Island for the Centennial Conference tournament.



Senior Ryan Fehr tees off at the Quail Run Golf Course at the Scotus vs. Lakeview Dual.

# Superior musicians succeed at District Music



Drumline members Cade Nichelson, Craig Ackman, Conner Moran, and Bibiana Lopez perform at the band concert on April 25th. The Scotus Drumline received a superior rating and a Best Performance Award at District Music, which was held at Central Community College from April 19th to April 21st.

By Lauren Kuta Staff Reporter

With countless awards and recognitions in tow, the Scotus Band, Shamrock Singers, and John Duns Chorus performed well at Central Community College on April 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> at District Music.

"District Music is the only contest that high school musicians can participate in

only contest that high school musicians can participate in where they compete against a set musical standard," Shamrock Singers director, Ms. E. J. Gardner stated.

Besides competing individually for spots in an honor band or choir, District Music offers the only opportunity for high school students to see where they rank musically compared to those students to see where they rank musically compared to those from other schools in the area. On April 19th, performances began with piano solos and duets in the evening. Friday's performances were comprised of large group entries ranging from full bands to quartets, saturating the entire Central Community College campus with music. District Music concluded on April 21th with both instrumental and vocal solos and duets.

Sixty band members

Sixty band members and thirty-four choir members participated from Scotus in District Music. Students teamed up to form eleven small groups from choir and eighteen small groups from band. Each of these groups was then judged at Central Community College by a volunteer who is knowledgeable in the music field.

"From the judges, I

learned some tips to help me improve overall and help me realize the errors I was making that I didn't even know were mistakes," freshman Carly Cremers, who participated in five events, said.

"Through District Music, I learned different techniques that I can use to improve my sound both vocally and instrumentally." ~Taylor Wiester

Each entry is scored on a scale from one to five, one being the best and five being the least desirable score. Large groups, such as full choirs and bands, are critiqued by three judges, while small groups are assessed by one judge. Judges use a specific evaluation sheet that rates the musician's tone quality, technique, dynamics, articulation and diction, precision, and overall expression and interpretation.

"Through District Music, I learned different techniques that I can use to improve my sound both vocally and instrumentally," junior Taylor Wiester, who was a part of nine separate events, said.

This year, both the

events, said.

This year, both the Shamrock Singers and the John Duns Chorus received a superior (a one) rating. The Shamrock Singers received a superior from two of the judges and one excellent (a two) from one judge. The Chorus, on the other hand, received a superior from all

three judges, earning them a plaque. Eight of the eleven vocal groups also received superior ratings at District Music.

Music.

The Scotus Band did not receive the rating that they were hoping for though.

"I was very pleased with the band's performance but disappointed in the rating. I felt that the rating didn't truly reflect what their performance.

I felt that the rating didn't truly reflect what their performance was like," band director Mrs. Kristen Cox said.

The Scotus Band received an excellent rating at District Music and eleven of the eighteen small groups received a superior rating. The band practiced often in order to prepare for District Music, scheduling numerous practices out of regular school hours.

hours.
"Singers, Chorus, and
Band all have been practicing
since February. For my small
groups and solos, I pretty
much had to practice every
day before or after school,"
Wiester commented.

Wiester commented.

To wrap up the year, both the band and vocal music held concerts on April 25th and April 26th. Almost all of the pieces judged at District Music were performed during the two concerts as a final display of the talents possessed by these musical students and a testament to the hard work that they applied.

a testament to the hard work that they applied.

"It's so unbelievably nerve-wracking to get in front of a judge and a room full of people and play in a small group or solo, but once you're done, you're proud of yourself for doing what you've worked so hard for," Cremers concluded.

### **Entertainment**

# Gregor soars over the Mockingjay

Staff Reporter

While the nation still goes crazy at the mere mention of the words "The Hunger Games", another series is slowly forgotten. Suzanne Collin's earlier series, Suzame Collin searlier series, The Underland Chronicles, continues to travel under the radar despite being more entertaining than the highly-acclaimed young adult series. The Underland

The Underland Chronicles is a five book series with its first book being published in 2003, about five years prior to the release of The Hunger Games. The first book, entitled Gregor the Overlander, follows the adventures of 11-year-old Gregor, who is an average Gregor, who is an average boy living in New York City yearning for something to do during a boring and scorching during a boring and scorching summer. As he monotonously does laundry in the basement of his apartment complex, his 2-year-old sister, Boots, tumbles into what Gregor believes to be an air vent. To his surprise, while he quickly follows his sister, he plummets into a the sinister realm of the Underland, which is a subterranean world filled with humongous cockroaches. monstrous rats, friendly bats, and a strange group of pale-skinned, purple-eyed humans.

skinned, purple-eyed humans. Immediately upon his entry to the Underland, Gregor is swept up in the cryptic prophecies, wars, and desperate searches.

Even though it is not as highly-acclaimed as The Hunger Games series, there are several aspects of The Underland Chronicles that create a more entertaining and engaging storyline than the The Hunger Games. The major difference between the two series is the protagonists. While Katniss is a whiny, pessimistic teenager who While Katniss is a whiny, pessimistic teenager who refuses to deal with her problems, Gregor is an upbeat and lively tween who learns to accept his problems and deal with them reluctantly. Even with them reluctantly. Even though Gregor is stranded in an unknown world, fighting for his life against an army of rats with little to no hope of ever returning home, he still manages to hold himself together without a score of complaints and annoying comments. Plunging into the unknown, unexplored cravens of the Underland, Gregor can put a smile on any reader's face with his witty comments while enduring the most the most

The unique concept of the Underland also gives the novel a sense of mystery and intrigue that cannot be matched. With unexplored matched. With unexplored areas around every corner, each chapter is filled with suspense as Gregor travels throughout this dark world. The creatures that inhabit the Underland, as monstrous as they may be, give the story a unique touch and almost a sense of realism because they are merely larger versions of sense of realism because they are merely larger versions of common animals and insects found in the "real" world. The concept of an underground nation existing underneath the surface spurs the imagination, and it is much more convincing than a world where teenagers fight each other to the death.

Another aspect that set *The Underland Chronicles* set The Underland Chronicles away from other series is its fast-moving plot helps speed the story along, allowing the reader to not become lost in lengthy descriptions or useless action. Its lovable characters and perilous situations also contribute to the book's greatness, and as the series progresses, the characters and plot become even more colorful and exciting.

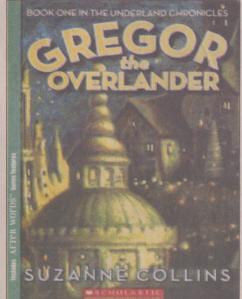
Unfortunately, there are a few parts of this

book that could have been improved upon to make the story even more enjoyable. story even more enjoyable. The plot in the first book can The plot in the first book can be categorized as stereotypical quest-based plot, but the few twists that take place at the end of the book did pleasantly surprise me when I first read it. The plot does progress dramatically in the next books of the series, but it is still rather straightforward. The characters within the Underland also at times seem undeveloped and shallow,

Underland also at times seem undeveloped and shallow, causing the reader to feel a slight disconnect from them.

This series, unlike The Hunger Games, appeals to a smaller portion of the reading population. Written for a younger audience, its simpler vocabulary and lighter plot would not attract all of the readers and fans of The Hunger Games.

The Hunger Games. Examining Examining the current status of the literary market, there are few fantasy novels that would directly appeal to the wide fan base of such books as to Harry Potter and Eragon. Personally, I have scanned and searched the young adult section for anything remotely similar to these books, and finding none, I turned back to The Underland I turned back to The Underland Chronicles. It is a light, quick



the reader into the world extended that the Underland with all of its anysteries. With all

Even though it may not be the perfect piece of literature, *The Underlander Chronicles* is still a wonderful series filled with a merry and at sometimes horrific quest, a stunning setting, and a cast of unforgettable characters.

# The Facility: Chapter 7-



By Mike Albin Staff Reporter

Last issue: Jens and several others were trapped inside of Behlen Manufacturing. Their holding cell started to fill with water, and just as hope seemed lost, Jake Kratochvil busted a hole in the wall and saved the day. Jens was lifted up and Jake gave him a huge hug and thanked him.

Jake let go of Jens and continued to smile.

"I can't believe it worked. You did great!" Jake said.

Jens was flabbergasted. Everyone was circling around him and laughing, clapping, hugging, and in general being joyful. Nothing thus far had made sense to Jens, so why should it now?

"We have to get going. There is no telling what

could happen if we wait here too long," Jake continued. Jake grabbed Jens by the armpit and moved him towards a door across the warehouse floor. The floor was still slippery from the cell where they were previously trapped. Jens looked at Jake

as they walked.

"What did I even do? I just got trapped." Jens asked.

Jake was quiet for a moment, still with a huge smile on his face.

"Don't worry, answers will come in time."

Just as they approached the door, Jake stopped. Jens continued a few more steps before he realized that he had no one walking behind him. He slowly turned around. Jake had a tear in his eye, and the smile was gone.

eye, and the smile was gone.
"What is it?" Jens

"I'm sorry," Jake said somberly.

Jake moved towards him with a quickness that Jens was completely unprepared for. Jake plunged a syringe into his arm and grabbed onto Jens tightly. Jens' muscles tightened, and for the third time, Jens started to black out. Jake was shaking his head, and sobbing quietly. That was the last thing Jens saw before the blackness completely filled in his vision...

Beep..... Jens heard the noise as his consciousness began to materialize. He awoke lying in a stretcher hooked up to equipment. Jens gained his bearings and noticed his parents sitting at his bedside.

"You are doing so good Jenzy, you were in a car accident, and you went into a coma for several weeks. But the doctor says you will make

the doctor says you will make a full recovery," said Mrs. Paprocki with a smile on her

So it was all a

dream. Jens contemplated for a moment, and accepted the possibility as fact and feltimmense relief. He smiled and looked at his parents.

"I had the craziest dream when I was..." Jens stopped mid-sentence. He moved over a bit and saw a figure standing in the doorway. It was Jake, with his arms crossed, leaning against the door frame. He winked, and opened his mouth.

"Don't tell," Jake mouthed silently. Just like that, Jake whipped around and left the room.

"What's wrong?"

"What's wrong?
Mrs. Paprocki questioned.
"Nothing, nothing.
I just thought I saw someone
I knew in the hallway. But it was... just a nurse.

Jens smiled to himself and let his head lie back. Putting his hands under his head, he yawned and went back to sleep. Thus ends The



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