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Scotus Central Catholic RockBottom

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC VOLUME 15 · ISSUE 1 · OCTOBER 22, 2013 COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

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Club shows its colors

VAL BORER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Mac Mapes is painted like Toucan Sam by Senior Jenny Ryan on Circus Day of Homecoming Week. Students supported the art club by paying for face paints.

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

The same industrial, relaxed khaki paint has been covering the walls of Scotus for years. With the launch of the 2013-2014 school year, the walls of Scotus became less bare, as pops of color began to appear on the walls. Student projects found their homes in places they had never been before.

Art Club has been revamped, as first-year teacher Lindsay Dannelly takes a more visual approach with her students. She has been incorporating school-wide projects in efforts to encourage student involvement.

"I want to get art out into the school, decorate this place up a little bit, and have some fun with it," Dannelly said.

Senior Amy Price was appointed president of Art Club. Her presidential duties include running meetings alongside Dannelly and other elected officers.

"I love art but don't have time in my schedule for an art class. Art club lets me do what I love," Price said.

Art Club currently has thirty-four members, eight of which are not currently enrolled in an art class.

"I hope that we make a good name for ourselves, and that it's something respectful and fun. Art should be fun and a stress reliever," Dannelly said.

However, Dannelly doesn't just have fun and games planned.

"I would like to do more charity-type work where we are doing something to help others because I think that is very important. That could be done through art, or even through a community service project," Dannelly said.

During homecoming week, Art Club offered face painting the morning of "circus day" to any high school student interested. The morning of October 3, nineteen students had their faces painted by club members.

"There is a lot of creative talent in this school which makes me proud to be a Shamrock. I love that we're a well- rounded school," Price said.

Art Club is currently offered as an extracurricular activity for high school students; however, three honorary eighth graders have been accepted.

"The eighth graders are really doing their part; they are really good art students," said Dannelly.

Art Club meets once a week to ensure the dedication of its members; these meetings are mandatory.

"A Long term Art Club goal would be to go on a trip to New York or Miami," said Dannelly.

New York and Miami are well-recognized for their art. The cities feature hundreds

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Itzel tiene quience años

By Carly Burkhardt
Editor

"¡La fiesta del siglo!". On August 31, 2013, multiple cultures were brought together to celebrate the coming of age of freshman Itzel Chilapa. Chilapa's quinceañera started at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church and the reception followed at the Platte Center Auditorium. The quinceañera followed the outlines of most Hispanic cultures.

"It's a ceremony to show that you're not a young girl anymore but a young lady; it's a rite of passage," Chilapa said. "A quinceañera is a lot like a sweet 16. We go all out; it's very big."

The grandeaur of a quinceañera is not something that can be thrown together in five hours of planning, but extensive time has to be put into one.

"It took about nine months to plan" Chilapa stated.

The planning for the night not only dealt with the venue and invitations, but the party dress.

"The dress was to symbolize that you were queen of the night; the night is all about you. You have to plan absolutely everything, including the big dress," Chilapa commented.

The dress was not the only part of the night to symbolize that she was the queen.

"One part of the night was the coronation, which added to the idea that I was supposed to be 'Queen of the Night,'" Chilapa said.

The quinceañera contained

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Scotus attracts foreign students

By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

The foreign-exchange program at Scotus, through the company Educatius, has certainly expanded in the past few years. While senior Sandy Chi, junior Chris Beon, and sophomore Sam Suo have returned for another year of academic excellence, ten new students from countries around the world have come to Scotus this year to study and experience the American way of life as well.

Sophomore Khang Nguyen, of Vietnam, came to America because he has relatives that had previously studied in the U.S.

"They all come to America to study and they now have become successful and so I think that I can go to America and be successful," Khang said.

Manuel Ruiz-Castro Cano, also a sophomore, arrived here from Spain on August 10 with a little less enthusiasm.

"Last year, when I was finishing my school there (in Spain), my parents asked me if I want to come to America to study," Manuel explained "because in the future it's going to help me with my English and other things. I say 'No! I'm not going to go to America. Never!' But my parents continued the process and now I am here studying."

Annie Worayosgovit of Thailand is also in the sophomore class. There are two new foreign exchange juniors as well: Anh Ta of Vietnam and Maria De Lima Alves Valadares of Brazil.

Flavia Del Veccio de Oliveira, a senior from Brazil said, "I wanted to come here because I wanted to improve in English. I really liked the country; I've been here before and I like it." Along with Flavia, seniors Ophelie Brassauet of France, Alice Bovy and Amandine Ripet of Belgium, and Begona Torrejon of Chile are studying here at Scotus as well.

So how exactly did all 10 of the new foreign students end up in Scotus Central Catholic, let alone Nebraska? Pam Weir, the school counselor, gave her opinion on this matter.

"When I ask why middle America? Why Nebraska? We have really high academics. Nebraska's probably in the top 3% to 5% academically, and Scotus being within Nebraska, we really have excellence in academics. Therefore, they're attracted to our school."

She went on to say, "Educatius probably learned of our excellence and our good track record with students graduating, and so they asked to be able to send more students."

Weir also spoke of how the culture here in the Midwest has played a role in drawing in new students.

"In the exit interviews, the students have had really good

JACK HOPPE/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Back Row, From left to right: Christ Beon (Jr, South Korea), Khang Nguyen (So, Vietnam), Sam Suo (So, China). Middle Row: Amandine Ripet (Sr. Belgium), Begona Torrejon (Sr, Chile), Maria De Lima Alves Valadares (Jr, Brazil), Sandy Chi (Sr, Taiwan) Manuel Ruiz-Castro Caro, (So, Spain). Front Row: Anny Worayosgovit (So, Thailand), Alice Bovy (Sr, Beligium), Ophelie Brassauet (Sr, France). Flavia Del Vecchio De Oliveria (Sr, Brazil), Anh Ta (Jr, Vietnam). Scotus has the largest group of foreign-exchange students in its history.

experiences in terms of friendships, being incorporated into the class," Weir explained, "The families have treated them well, and I just think there are some really good core values in Middle America."

Manuel recalled how he ended up in Columbus, Nebraska to study.

"You send to the company a page with your name, your hobbies, the sport that you play," he explained, "Scotus chose me to study here, and we needed to find a family near Scotus, so the family chose me too."

Manuel is staying here with Wayne and Karma Zysset. Khang, who is also staying with the Zysset family, recalled, "They chose for me Nebraska, Iowa, and California, but I prefer Nebraska more because it's in the middle."

The foreign exchange students have found that Scotus is indeed quite different compared to their previous schools.

"Scotus is very very different from my school; first off in my school we don't have girls, we only have boys. My school has 3,000 students, only boys," said Manuel. "You are always in the same class

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STUDENTS

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same people, you don't need to change to another class with different people."

Khang recalls how the classes in his old school were also done quite differently.

"My previous school is traditional. We don't have air conditioners, the students stay in class and the teachers have to move to class. But at Scotus, we have to move to class."

Flavia, who came here not knowing what to expect, found the classes here at Scotus are different as well.

"We stayed in one classroom, and we didn't change classes. In my previous high school I knew almost everybody. Here, I'm getting to know people," Flavia explained.

Not only have the new foreign-exchange students had to adapt to a new school, they have to adapt to an entirely new lifestyle as well.

"It's very different in my country, for transportation we use mostly motor bikes and bikes," Khang explained. "We often get up at 5:30 and then we prepare for school starting at 6:30. School ends at 4:20, and I have to take some extracurricular activities until 8 or 9, but here it's different. Americans, they like to play sports, and they love outdoor activities."

Flavia noticed as well how transportation is different here in America than in her home country.

"We don't drive until we are 18, and you guys drive when you're 16 and that's so cool."

Manuel stated that he experienced quite the culture shock after first arriving in America.

"There are some things here that in Spain we never thought existed. The food here is like all kinds of, how do we say in Spain, we say like bad food, like pizza, burgers and those things," he continued, "There are a ton of sports that we don't know how to do in Spain."

The three students have come here looking for new opportunities in education and in improving their English, all three of which agreed it was the most difficult thing to adapt to. They have experienced culture shock and a new way of doing things, but they are starting to get used to it.

"I was thinking before I came here that I will understand nothing," Manuel stated. "I will be alone, I won't have friends, the school is not going to help me. But now I am here and it's changed how I think."

ART

Continued from Page 1

of galleries for up and coming artists, as well as famous areas such as New York's So-Ho district.

"I'm excited about Art Club! I love it! The kids are getting really involved," Dannelly said.

Art Club is planning on a few up and coming fall events. They are sponsoring a Halloween dance to be held at Scotus on November 1. The members are also doing their part to ensure that Scotus hallways look as haunted as ever with spooky Halloween décor. Teachers will also be asked if they would like the Club to make signs for their classrooms.

"I love the energy of the students, I love when they have ideas. Hopefully we will keep thinking of fun new things to do," said Dannelly.

ITZEL

Continued from Page 1

various elements throughout the night; special destinations had to be met along the road to the reception.

"The quinceañera first starts out at church with a Mass, then you go take pictures in the park, and finally drive to the reception," Chilapa said.

The reception contained various symbolic presentations throughout the evening.

"I had a grand entrance to the party, and then we danced the waltz. There was the presentation of the last doll which symbolized you're not a little girl anymore.

Next was the changing of the shoes from flats to high heels; it was a way to show the transformation to womanhood," Chilapa commented.

Scotus students Freshmen Tyler Brandenburg, , Evan Chohon, River Liebeg, and Zach Sevelah, and brother Ivan Chilapa were members of Chilapa's court.

"The purpose of the court, as Father Andrew Sage explained, was to have a group of people to pray for me and be my back up for me for when I fall," Chilapa stated.

One of the members of the court, Zach Svelah, had to learn the waltz for the ceremony.

"There was a lot of preparation for the ceremony. It involved many practices throughout the summer; we usually practiced Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at Pawnee Park. We also had to go to the place of the reception and practice there a couple of times too," Svelah said.

Chilapa is the one of the 18 Hispanic students out of 396 students attending Scotus.

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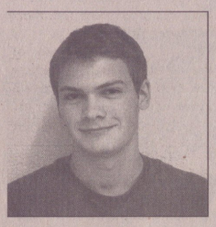


By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

Times are changing. The days are growing darker as we speak. Memories cherished by so many of us students were completely obliterated, without any mercy, over the course of the previous summer. Something unique to Scotus is almost gone, nearly erased by time itself. I'm talking, of course, about the brick walls in the 1st and 2nd floor boys' restrooms. Rumors arose that it would come down to this sooner or later, but another unspeakable crime has also been committed with the historic walls at SCC, one that nobody, or at least me, saw coming. Several classroom dividers, the ones that were so fun to slide back and forth, have been removed as well.

So what exactly were the changes made to the walls of SCC? As many of the guys here at Scotus have probably noticed, the three foot tall brick walls dividing the toilets in the 2nd floor restroom have been replaced with legitimate stalls. The 1st floor boys' restroom still retains its brick walls, though they may be replaced within the upcoming years. Many people might say good riddance to these walls, but it is my belief that they gave Scotus character and comical relief during a stressful day at school. Even when I was at Boys State, I was able to share the stories of these walls with many of my fellow Boys Staters, most of whom found them intriguing and quite laughable. The walls have become a legend to Scotus and are part of what makes this school so unique and so diverse.

> ***"The walls have become a legend to Scotus and are part of what makes this school so unique and so diverse."***
>
> ***~Jack Hoppe***

The other changes made involved the sliding classroom dividers, one replaced last year and two replaced this year. The sliding divider between Mrs. Salyard's classroom and Mr. Swanson's classroom was replaced with a dry wall last year. This had little effect on me because I have no memories of that divider ever being open when I had a class in one of those two rooms. The dividers that were replaced this year were between Mr. Brockhaus's and Mrs. Zanardi's rooms, and Mr. Coulter's and Mrs. Bomar's rooms.

Perhaps these changes were for the betterment of the teachers, but I feel it has affected my learning experience in a way I never thought possible. I walk into Spanish IV, expecting to see Mr. Coulter come through the divider to get something he printed out, or to just make some ridiculously funny comment about a student. Instead, there's just a wall there, staring me down with its off-white hues of gloom. Aside from that, there is one other thing that I miss most of all about the dividers.

I would be sitting in Mr. Brockhaus's classroom, and he would mention something about how our country is going down the drain. Almost immediately, Mrs. Zanardi would open the divider and be there to add to his claim or to make a flawless joke alongside it. I can only describe those occurrences with two words: good times. But those are just memories now. The Dividers are no more, replaced with bland, generic dry walls that feel like they are going to topple over when you lean on them (no offense Mr. Swanson).

These walls that have given Scotus so much character and have become legendary to many Scotus alumni are nearly gone. They have left such an impression on me throughout the last five years here that I feel it is my duty, and the duty of anyone else who remembers them like me, to help to preserve what is left of the brick walls and classroom dividers here at Scotus. It is a shame that the students who are coming in to Scotus may not be able to enjoy the same experiences I had with these walls. In conclusion, all I can say is this: Mr. Morfeld, do not tear down these walls.

Growing pains

By Kristen Ohnoutka-
Layout Editor

I have had all summer and these first weeks of school to comprehend the reality of this school year being my last year of high school, but I still find it difficult to see myself someday leaving Columbus and my Scotus community behind.

Don't get me wrong, I have always dreamed of this time, my last year of high school, but now that it has arrived, I'm not sure how to feel about it all. Especially all the new pressures and responsibilities that come along with it.

I'd consider myself to be an active person. I am involved in several activities: mock trial, student council, and three sports. However, now that I am the oldest and am looked to as a leader in these groups, it's a bit overwhelming.

Sometimes during volleyball practice when things aren't going too well, I keep waiting for Kara Moore or Alyssa Foltz to walk in and step up and get things done to get us out of our slump. It's not going to happen, and now it's time for me and my other senior teammates to take the leadership role for the team.

It's a scary thought that everyone in the gym is looking to you to lead them out of the dark, but it happens every year and has to be done in order to be successful in anything you do. Whether it'd be sports, or dance, or cheerleading, or anything else for that matter, everyone has to step up in some way their senior year.

Another part of growing up and being a senior is you have to learn responsibility and how to take responsibility on and carry it maturely and honorably. Doing this is a very scary, necessary step we all have to take.

This summer was a huge eye opener for me. For the first two months I did nothing or only what I had to, but one day my dad stopped me and really made me realize how important this year is. He ran off a huge list of what seemed like a million points of everything I have yet to do before my senior year starts.

"You need to get a job, be helping out around the house more, planning college visits, narrowing down your college search, and start taking responsibility for all your actions."

At first it really stressed me out and scared me, but as time went on and I started to actually do these things, I realized I should've been doing this a long time ago. Even though I haven't been too responsible lately, I know what I have to do now to prepare myself for what is to come.

Growing up isn't always ideal for everyone; in fact, growing up is one of the scariest parts of life. Unfortunately, I know I have to do it at some point so I can finally become independent and my own person.

The thought of going off to a different city, miles and miles away from my family and friends, and leaving behind a place I've called home for so long is terrifying.

What if I don't pick the right school? What if I can't decide on a major? What if I go completely broke? There is nothing sure about the future, which is what scares me the most.

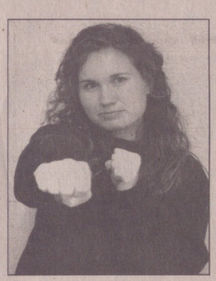
To add to all this uncertainty there are a million steps I have to take to prepare for something I am afraid of, which makes it all ten times worse.

I am scared to death of change, especially one as massive as this. Why would I want to have to stress myself out every single day with scholarship forms, or college applications, or worrying about being a good leader for your team or group? To me this is all too much to take on at once.

Columbus has always been my home, and leaving here and everyone is exciting and horrifying all at the same time. There's things here I'm going to miss very much but I am ready to move on.

Even though I may not be ready now, I know it's a huge part of my life and I need to take responsibility for it and take charge. Though it does scare me, I know I have plenty of love and support from my family and friends to help me along the way. I know everything will work out the way it's supposed to be, but until then I've got some growing up to do.

Resurrect the respect:part two



By Brooke Olmer
Staff Reporter

There I was, just a little freshman sitting at the front of the cross country bus wondering what it would be like to sit in the back, thinking that I can't wait to become a senior and finally sit at the back of the bus. August 19, 2013, it might not seem like an exciting day to other people, but for me it was finally the day. The day I've been waiting for since I was a freshman; it was the day I would finally get to sit at the back of the cross country bus.

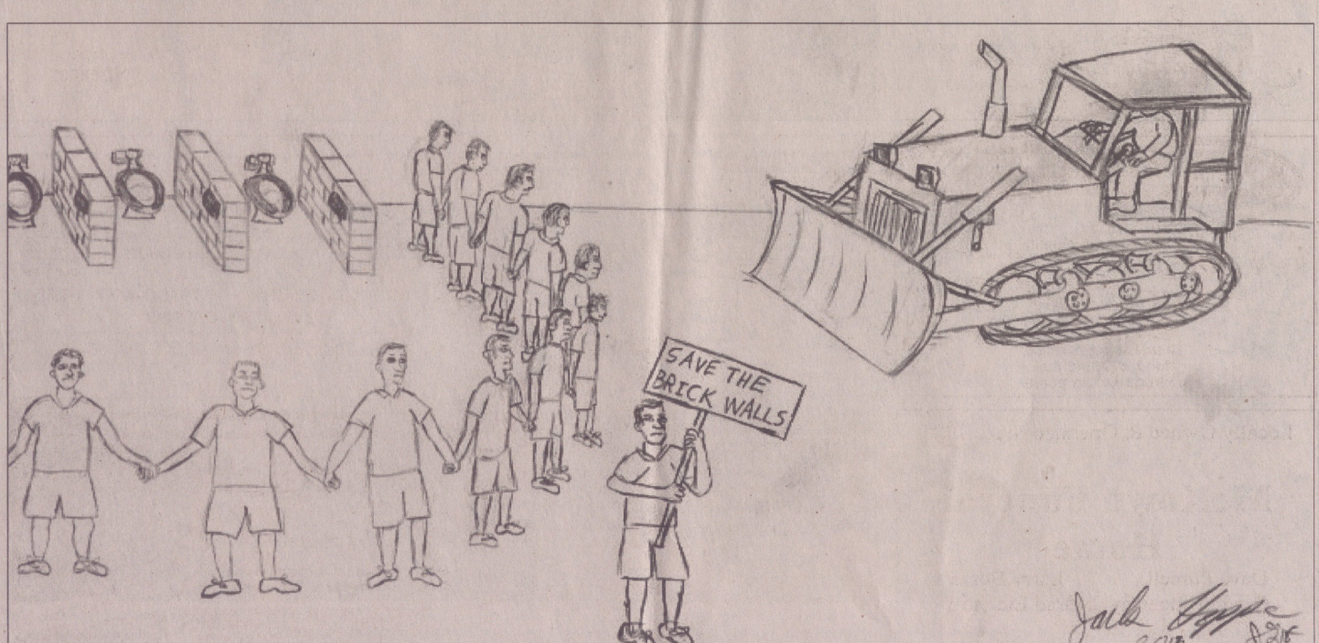
So on August 19, 2013 I walked onto the cross country bus to see that it was already full. So you want to know what happened? I marched to the back of the bus, made a big scene, and yelled at the new freshmen and made them go sit in the front. I felt a little bad, but, hey, I had to use seniority and show them who was boss. Okay, just kidding, that actually didn't happen. In reality I actually ended up sitting at the front of the bus doubled up with Coach Sokol.

Many of the upperclassmen are probably thinking that I should have just went and made a younger person sit in the front, but that's not the kind of person that I am. I feel like the underclassmen should have just automatically sat at the front of the bus or at least offered me their seat in the back since I am a senior. It sounds cliché, but upper classmen will agree with me that the underclassmen do not have as much respect as we did when we were younger.

As a 7th grader I was quiet and would have never even thought of trying to take a senior's spot in the bus. Respect has not just ended on sports busses, it has also gone away in other areas such as the hallways.

Now I'm not saying that the underclassmen need to bow down to us in the hallways and immediately run to the side and make a path as soon as they see us. I'm saying that they need to just say excuse me if they run into us or maybe just try to avoid plowing into us all together. I know this year I have been run into multiple times as the 7th graders sprint through the halls. I do understand that they are scared they are going to be late, I mean I was a 7th grader too and also shared the fear of being late, but a simple excuse me would be much appreciated.

Many underclassman might not even know that they are being rude and disrespectful, but hey now the ones reading this do. The upperclassmen are not asking underclassmen to follow us around waiting on us hand and foot even though that would be nice(just kidding). We are just asking that when loading the sports team bus, the underclassman sit in the front, and also that they don't plow into us in the hallway. Just in simple terms please show us some respect.



Circus night wins for everyone

By Carly Burkhardt
Editor

"Welcome to the Greatest Show on Earth!" The circus theme ran through the senior hallway, and the scene was set for the upcoming homecoming week. Each year Homecoming week brings about surprises for both the students and the faculty.

"I believed the students showed great spirit all week with their unique costumes, and it was overall an exciting week," Student Council Advisor Joan Lahm stated.

This year Homecoming week started off with Superhero Day on Tuesday, Nerd Day on Wednesday, Circus Day on Thursday, and Spirit Day Friday. Each year one specific day stands out above all the rest for each student.

"Superhero day was my favorite dress up day. I love Marvel comics and superheroes, so I was excited to see all the costumes and to dress up myself. I went as all the Avengers because I couldn't pick just one," Junior Abby Allen said.

While Superhero Day was a new one for most students, Nerd Day made its return from 2010.

"Nerd Day was my favorite day because it was the only day that all the students were dressed up," senior exchange student Begoña Torrejon commented.

Along with dressing up, students decorate their hallways in various themes.

"My favorite part of Homecoming week was seeing the freshmen's *Despicable Me* hallway. I love minions!" sophomore Paige Vance said.

Each year the hallways present some difficulties for those who decorate.

"My least favorite part about homecoming week was when the sophomore hallway's decorations fell down before the week even started," Vance stated.

The day of Homecoming consisted of the annual Homecoming pep rally, and then the school day ended, setting the stage for the Homecoming football game. The Shamrocks went up against Pierce, to which they had previously had a 13 year losing streak. The Shamrocks, though, came out on top and broke the streak, with the final score 40-19.

"My favorite part of the night was watching the team beat Pierce. I would have loved to be part of it because Pierce was picked to beat us. They've been a great team in the past years, so it was great to see the Shamrocks take home the win," senior Dan Strecker commented.

After the football game ended, coronation took place on the football field. The temperature was near freezing, especially with the heavy winds, as the candidates waited for the king and queen to be announced.

"I just wanted the coronation to go by fast because I was so cold; I had no clue who was going to win," senior Homecoming Queen Carley Foltz said.

Carley Foltz and Dan Strecker took home the title as 2013 Homecoming Queen and King.

"I'm very thankful to have won. I didn't think it would have been me, but I am glad it was. The other candidates were some of the best guys in our class, and anyone of us would've made a great homecoming king," Strecker stated.

After the coronation, students had 75 minutes to finish getting ready and take pictures before they had to show up at the dance.

"By the time students got there and started dancing, they really only had about an hour and a half to actually dance. They did a great job; we didn't have any problems. It seemed like they were having a great time. Overall it was very positive. I was very proud of the student body, especially the student council, for all of their work and for getting the job done and done well," Lahm said.

Jessica Schaecher/Yearbook Staff

Homecoming King and Queen, Dan Strecker and Carley Foltz, smile for a picture at coronation.

Blake Schroeder/Rock Bottom Staff

Freshman Layne Schroeder strolls the hallaway as a cheetah during Circus Day. His face was painted by Art Club.

Blake Schroeder/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Keaton Swanson flashes a smile during Nerd Day.

Jessica Schaecher/Yearbook Staff

Juniors Callyn Larsen and Shannon Spulak, and seniors Hannah Merrill, Kate Rambour, and Alycia Alt strike a pose during their halftime performance at the football game.

Alex Pandorf/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Jaimee Beauvais and senior Megan Miksch twirl their flags during the Homecoming Pep Rally.

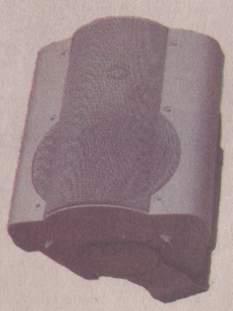
Jessica Schaecher/Yearbook Staff

Sophomore Jake Bos runs the ball against Pierce on Homecoming night.

Angie Rusher/Rock Bottom Staff

Seniors Phil Levos and Mikayla Gasper twirl through a crowd of people at the Homecoming dance.

Out with the old, in with the new



PA System:

Scotus' new PA system has cost the school $48,000 to install. However, Scotus supporters and donators helped pay $12,000 towards this $60,000 process. In the near future, Morfeld hopes to be able to use the PA system to lock doors automatically and to shut down the computers. Without this new system, future possibilities like these would not even have been possible.

Snacks:

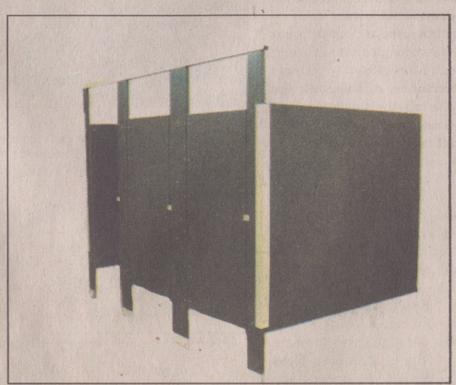
Another new addition at Scotus is an extra five minutes in the school day for a snack time break. The school day is starting five minutes earlier to provide a five minute snack break in between second and third period. Mr. Morfeld has been considering this change to Scotus for the past few years.

Walls:

Scotus has knocked down and built up its share of walls over this past summer. Classrooms like Mrs. Bomar's and Mr. Coulter's rooms once shared a bond with each other, however, there is now a plaster wall separating the two rooms. These dividing walls were put up in Mrs. Ohnoutka's and Mrs. Schaer's rooms, and Mrs. Zanardi's and Mr. Brockhaus's rooms.

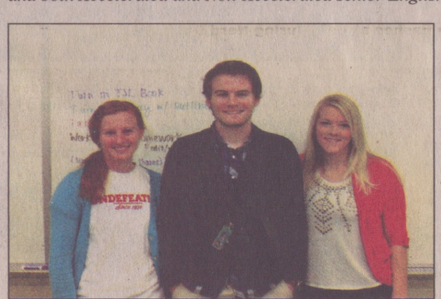
Stalls:

Not only were walls built up but walls were knocked down. The second floor boy's bathroom's once popular "half-walls" are now nonexistent. Instead, actual stalls have replaced these legendary brick walls. All these changes occurred over the 2013 summer break.



Teachers:

Scotus has added three new teachers to its faculty this 2013-14 school year. The three new teachers are English instructors Jordan Kuszak and Danielle Masur, and new art teacher, Lindsay Dannelly. Mr. Kuszak teaches eighth and both Accelerated and Non-Accelerated senior English. Ms. Masur teaches sophomore English and speech. She is also the head of Scotus' Speech team. Ms. Dannelly is the new head of the Art department following twenty year art teacher, Nancy Shadle, who retired after last school year.



BYOD:

Bring your own device. Scotus has added a bit of technology to its every day classes. Now students are allowed to be using their devices, whatever they may be, in classes and study halls. Of course, texting, games, and other inappropriate uses of one's device are still prohibited, but students are able to log into power school from sitting in their desks. This is Scotus first year trying the BYOD program.

Desks:

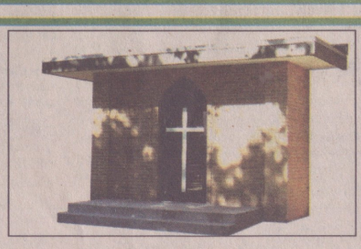
Scotus has added new desks to almost every classroom except for the large third floor study hall room and Father Roza's first period classroom. These desks are much flatter and bigger on the surface than past desks, but there have been issues with fitting these large desks into classrooms. However, President, Mr. Morfeld commented, "The positives, involving the desks, outweigh the negatives."

Table Tops:

The science wing classrooms were all upgraded to new table tops for their lab station and desk tables. This includes: Mrs. Dusel's chemistry room, Mrs. Lahm's, Mrs. Morfeld's, and Mr. Salyard's rooms. This is the first time the lab station desk tops have ever been replaced since Scotus' Chemistry room was first constructed.

Chapel Entrance:

The chapel entrance on the southeast corner of the school received a face-lift this summer, early fall. Though a door has always been present, the entrance was extended out to make for a more prominent and aesthetically pleasing entry as well as to provide more storage inside for the school's chaplain to prepare for Mass.



By Conner Moran
Staff Reporter

One of the best memories made in football was when a fellow teammate laid out one of the opposing team's players. Watching another player go airborne is just so much fun. Sometimes I watch football games just to see guys get destroyed in the secondary by the free safety, or to see the quarterback get nailed by the defensive end as he throws the ball.

All the excitement of the big hits and plays, then, that yellow flag comes flying through the air like the so-called "defenseless receiver" that got knocked out trying to do a jumping catch. In recent years, the various players' associations of collegiate and professional football have been cracking down on sports injuries, more specifically concussions.

Concussions are seeming to become more common through all levels of football. Concussions are caused by either repeated blows to the head or one large hit to the head.

I don't agree at all with the new and changing rules being put in place in football.

More and more, I see flags thrown for unnecessary roughness, such as head-to-head contact and hits on defenseless receivers. The new rules insist that defensive players can't make hits on receivers that don't see the defensive players, but instead they should lead with the shoulder pads or make contact below the neck. I understand that they want to help prevent injuries, but it's football; injuries are inevitable.

Less commonly, there are flags thrown on the offense for roughness, like when Kenny Bell made the booming block against a Wisconsin player during the 2012 Big 10 Championship.

Football is considered a "contact sport." How can it be called a contact sport if a good hit is considered illegal?

Although I strongly believe that there should be less restrictions and just let everyone hit each other, I still believe that the players that constantly get hurt should not be allowed to play until completely cleared of injuries. Many of the substantial injuries are mainly because of poor tackling form, but that should be an easy fix.

In the early years when it was way less popular, football wasn't played with nearly as safe of equipment as they use now. They used to play with leather helmets and shoulder pads. No one complained about concussions, probably because they didn't know about them yet, but they shouldn't take the "contact" out of contact sports because of injuries.

Since there is so much concern over concussions and other contact injuries, maybe the players' associations should invest some time and money into better equipment. But if they are unable to upgrade the equipment that will add more cushioning and lessen the impact, then, it looks like players are going to get just as injured as they do now.

I would suggest full iron-clad armor (mainly for fun) but I don't think that would go over too well.

Girls' golf team makes history

By Blake Schroeder
Staff Reporter

This season, the girls' golf team was one to remember.

The team performed at a level not often seen by a girls' golf squad.

"At the Oakland-Craig Invite, which we won, there was a team victory by 100 strokes over the second place team," Girls Golf Coach Tanya Niedbalski said.

They have had numerous individual medalists as well as team victories this year. The best individual score of the year was shot by Amy Price, a senior on the team, with an 81; the lowest team score was an impressive 364 outing at the Blair Invite. The team won seven invites on the year.

"Overall, we're just more experienced and trust in our own game," Price said.

Besides their seven victories, they also have two runner-up finishes on the year. The team worked together to continue their winning ways.

"I think that since we are such a close knit group, we are able to shoot the scores we do…We've realized that the only way to achieve our goals is to work together as a team," senior Emily Allen said.

Even with the accomplishments the team racked up this season, they still lacked a scoring leader. The team had three different golfers have a team-best score at an invite. The JV was in competition for varsity spots throughout the year as well.

"The JV team has pushed the varsity all year long – vying for starting positions," Niedbalski said.

Even with all the internal and individual competition, the team is still put first.

"The team score [is stressed more]," Price said. "Individually we're all pretty good golfers, but as a team we're much more impressive. It's easy to individually have a bad round, but as a team we can count on each other."

The young players have also gained experience for the seasons to come. They have been watching this team perform well all year, and the seniors have led the way.

"All of the [senior] girls seemed to grasp their roles on the team and pushed one another to be successful and improve every day," Niedbalski said.

The players understand that golf is more than a sport – it's a mental game, too. They have learned how to keep a solid state of mind on the course.

"I go onto the course knowing that if a bad round of golf is the worst part of my day, then life's pretty good," Price said.

"There's no tears in golf – we all have to be tough physically and mentally. At the same time, we think about relaxing, trusting our swing, and playing our own game," Allen added.

The team earned a valuable win at districts, ending with yet another victory to add to their long list of accomplishments this year. State, on the other hand, came down to the wire.

Scotus played well enough to end the day with a 406. Two other teams, Minden and GICC, also came off of the course with a team score of 406. This caused a large discussion between the NSAA officials on how to decide which team would walk away as state champion. They decided on playing a 5-hole playoff, having each player assigned a hole and totaling up each team's score in relation to par on those holes. Scotus came within a single stroke of winning a state title, but missed the playoff and came away as runner-up.

Despite the heartbreaking loss, the team had a statistically magical season. They hope to carry that momentum into next season.

TERESA TREMEL/YEARBOOK STAFF

The State runner-up golf team poses for picture with their trophy: Coach Niedbalski, Emily Allen, Elizabeth Preister, Amy Price, Nieve Johnson, and Abby Allen. They made history by participating in a three-way playoff for first place.

Football fights for success

By Alex Pandorf
Staff Reporter

Triumphs and tragedies: This year Scotus football has had highs and lows, mountains and valleys, with its success this season. The football team this year has fought with a hard schedule, and survived due to improvements in conduct, inspiring wins, and new coaching decisions.

"I think we've accomplished some great things this year so far as a team, but there is still some room for us to improve," senior Trey Wortman commented.

The great things referred to above obviously included tackling two ranked teams, Pierce High School and Grand Island Central Catholic, and playing tough against the number one ranked team, Boone Central. These victories were followed by cheers from the stands along with celebration on the field. The Pierce victory was especially stimulating due to the win paving the way for a great homecoming night.

Roger Kreinke, head coach of the varsity football team commented, "I think we are disappointed with our record, but are encouraged by the fact that we beat a ranked team in GICC and competed well overall."

To counter these large victories, however, is the hard losses of the season. The season started off on a low note with the loss to David City Aquinas, an old rival. Another disappointing loss was in Wahoo against Bishop Neumann. The game against Neumann was especially disappointing due to the game going into double overtime in a thrilling battle of offenses. The last of the Shamrock's losses so far was to the number one ranked team, Boone Central. The game showed that the Shamrocks could compete, but it was a consensus that Boone's record was no excuse for a loss.

"We need to become more mentally tough," senior Colt Clarey commented.

New coaches and different ways of practicing have brought improvements to the team. New rules, such as Coach Bos' chinstrap-mouth piece rule, have prepared the Shamrocks for long, rough games where there isn't much time to rest with their helmets off.

A new idea put in place by the seniors is designed to help the team concentrate and intimidate the other team through silence.

"I think the silent treatment will be very intimidating this year," Clarey added.

Other ideas, such as the new kickoff return team, have provided fresh looks for new teams to adapt to. The cross and hit design of the return is meant to use speed to take out opponents rather than upfront-strength. Correcting fundamental mistakes had become a priority for the team.

"Mental mistakes have cost us in key situations. We have addressed this in practice and our athletes are committed to improve in this area," Krienke added.

Scotus continues its season this year with city-rival Lakeview before the opening of the playoffs.

CONNER MORAN/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Cody Zimmerman runs the ball against David City Aquinas. The Shamrocks lost to Aquinas 0-21.

Cross country running strong

By Jacob Neinaber
Staff Reporter

The Scotus Cross Country boys and girls teams have surprised many people in class C this year including their coach. Both teams are 1st and 3rd in the state respectively, and both won the conference meet. The girls' record is 97-1 and the Boy's is 95-4. Both teams are surprising Merlin Lahm, the team's head coach.

"Our boys are much improved over last year, and though I thought we had a pretty good team because a lot of guys got mileage in the offseason, I didn't know we would be as improved as we are. The reason I believe that is 6 of our top 9 are 1st timers. I have to point at a couple freshmen Nathan Ostdiek and Kaylee Tonniges, both good runners. I didn't know they would be as good as they have been right away,"Lahm stated.

Both teams have shown that they are capable of winning big meets. The girls took 1st at the UNK invitational out of 18 teams, and the Boys received 3rd out of 25 teams.

"We win a lot more meets; winning is always fun," junior Eduardo Lopez, said.

The girls have been one of the bigger stories of the cross country year losing super senior Morgan Benesch last year and the girls upgrading their distance to run the same 5k race that the boys run.

Senior Brooke Olmer praised the success of her team stating, "It sounds cliché, but I really feel like everyone is just working and competing extremely hard especially with the new distance change for the girls."

The cross country team has had the tradition of the 200 mile club each summer. Scotus had 14 people in the 200 mile club with multiple people going over the limit for a total mileage of 3,213 miles. One runner ran more miles than any runner, and by a large margin. Junior Eduardo Lopez shattered the old mile record of 381 miles set by Joel Ostdiek years ago, and ran 402 miles this summer.

With the quality and quantity of runners on the team, there can't help but be competition for spots on the team which has benefited the team throughout the season.

"Competition is the biggest thing. For example, last year I thought it was the strength of our girls team. Teammates were the biggest competition last year. Everyone is fighting for that 6th spot this year, and it causes everyone to be better," Lahm stated.

That improvement has the Shamrocks looking at a possible title run on both sides.

"It would mean a lot to get my picture up on the wall along with my teammates. In order to do well at state, we will need to run hard and fight at practices and meets leading up to state," Lopez stated.

"It would seriously be awesome to end my senior year of XC with a state championship. We've all worked so hard!" Olmer stated.

However, even with the success of both teams, Coach Lahm is still not totally convinced about a state run.

"I am not confident at all; it's something you have to do on a given day," Lahm stated.

However, both teams will get that shot at Kearney on Oct. 25th at the state meet.

CARLY BURKHARDT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Freshman Kaylee Tonniges and sophomore Jessica Lahm round the corner at the Scotus Invite. The girls and boys both won their home invites.

One- Acts recommence at Scotus

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

In a school where fans pile in by dozens, packing closely together, chanting, cheering, and anticipating victory, one audience has remained silent. As the gymnasiums of Scotus Central Catholic continued to be as boisterous as ever, the Little Theater remained empty, patiently awaiting the return of its spectators.

After a two-year hiatus, One-Acts is once again offered at Scotus.

Sophomore English teacher Becki Zanardi has decided to teach Drama classes this year. Drama II will be offered first semester as a performance class where the One-Act plays will be prepared.

"Mrs. Zanardi has an extensive background in drama; she is endorsed in that area; she has experience. This isn't her first rodeo with one act plays. I know she will do a great job," President Wayne Morfeld said.

Zanardi has had eight years of prior experience with One-Acts, Drama classes, and Speech.

"It needs to be here; we have the reputation for our athletics and academics, but the arts? We need that," Zanardi stated.

Scotus students' need for fine-arts has been evident throughout the course of the two-year One-Act gap. Senior Jenny Ryan was vocal about her attempts to bring Drama back to the school.

"I decided to turn in projects, essays, and speeches about theater in to teachers when I got the opportunity," Ryan said.

Ryan had met with Morfeld on numerous occasions and had been striving to save Drama classes prior to Mrs. Bernt's retirement. She is pleased with the outcome of these efforts.

"I like seeing faces of people who wouldn't normally perform onstage taking part in the class," Ryan said.

The Drama II class consists of sixteen students; ten girls and six boys.

"We have a talented group of kids, so this will be a good year. Lots of fun," Ryan said.

The first semester of Drama is geared toward juniors and seniors. There will also be a Drama I class offered second semester for freshmen and sophomores who are interested in theatre. This year will be a trial year for Drama; classes are likely to be tweaked in the future.

"Everybody needs to have patience with me as I get this figured out; it's a work in progress for sure," Zanardi said.

ANNY WORAYOSGOVIT/MEDIA STAFF

One- Acts director Becki Zanardi instructs seniors Carly Burkhardt, Emily Kosch, and Jenny Ryan during Drama Class. One- Acts is making a return after a two-year hiatus.

One-Acts will be competing at Conference November 25 at Omaha Concordia. They will also be having a public performance on November 20 in the Memorial Hall Gym. District One-Acts will be held in early December, venue and exact date to be announced.

Softball struggles through season

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF

Junior Hannah Krings tags an Elkhorn player at third base. The Discoverers finished the season 11-25.

By Michael Kurtenbach
Staff Reporter

With a slow start to the season, the softball team improved, and they had an improving record to show for it.

"It's been okay; we've gotten better since the beginning of the season, and I think we're ready for conference and districts and maybe have a chance to go to state," sophomore outfielder Savannah Robertson said.

The Discoverers softball team started the season strong, winning four of their first six games. Then the softball team went on a slump and lost 11 games. However, the team had played some top notch teams.

Third baseman Hannah Krings is in her first year with the team. Krings said, "The best team we've played is Skutt. Their pitcher has had a full-ride scholarship to Nebraska since sophomore year."

Not only have they played some good teams, but they have also lost some close games.

"Yes, we have played some close games, but to me it's not how close the game was but how well we played," senior first baseman Bre Walker said.

Even though the season hasn't exactly gone as well as the team hoped, there have been some highlights.

"In the Norfolk tournanent we got 3rd. Our first games of the season reserves, JV, and varsity swept northeast 6 and 0. 1st time that's happened since 3 years ago when they swept North Star," Walker said.

Krings also commented on the team's performance in games.

"We've had a few homeruns hit and one grand slam," Krings said.

Robertson focused more on the off-the-field improvements.

"This year we have 3 new coaches. Last year we only had 2 and this year it's been better because we have one coach for infield and one working with the outfield," Robertson said.

The coaching staff has worked on many improvements with the team, but one in particular.

"One thing Coach has really tried to help us with is adjusting to different pitching speeds. When our timing is right, we hit the ball well, but a lot of the time our problem is our timing which is something you just have to adjust to," Robertson said.

Krings concurred with Robertson.

"We are hitting, but we are trying to hit to the holes, not right to the players," Krings said.

As the team improved, they looked forward to the end of the season. They had hoped that they could make a postseason run.

"We hope to win conference on October 5th and hopefully make it to state." Krings said.

Unfortunately, they didn't win conference. The team won on the first day of districts on October 10th, but their season ended on October 11th with a loss to Lincoln North Star.

Volleyball set for improvement

By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

The prominent volleyball program at Scotus Central Catholic has kicked off the 2013 year with another promising season of success. The 21-1 Shamrocks began the season with several returning key players, and head coach John Petersen felt this was a major advantage.

"The greatest strengths that we have are seniors that have played a lot last year: Payton Chohon, Emily Kosch, Carley Foltz, Kristen Ohnoutka, Alli Bos. They all played last year so I think that was a great building point for us to start with."

With these returning players, the shamrocks started the season off with a superb victory at the Shamrock Invite tournament.

"I think winning the opening tournament gave us a lot of confidence," Petersen explained. "Beating Lakeview in our opening tournament followed by wins over ranked teams GICC and Omaha Concordia set the standard for success."

The large number of seniors on the team certainly is one of the biggest strengths this season, but that doesn't mean the team still doesn't have work to do.

"Depending on which match we play, we have struggled in different areas. Probably the 2 most important things in Volleyball are passing and serving consistently," he explained. "When we haven't played as well our serving or passing has broken down. Those are areas that you constantly have to keep working on," Petersen said.

Senior Kylie Rollman, who transferred from Lakeview last year, has found other matters within the team that need work.

"Our communication on the court is not up to the standards of being a successful volleyball team," said Rollman.

Rollman is playing her first year of varsity volleyball for the Shamrocks this year. "The addition of Kylie Rollman has been a positive contribution, to the team," noted Petersen.

Even though the Shamrocks still have plenty of work to do before the season is over, progress has certainly been made. Coach Petersen also felt the team has made some improvements.

"One thing that we're always looking for is improved work ethic, that we keep working harder and harder, and I think we're gradually getting there. It still isn't where I want it to be but it's getting closer," Petersen said.

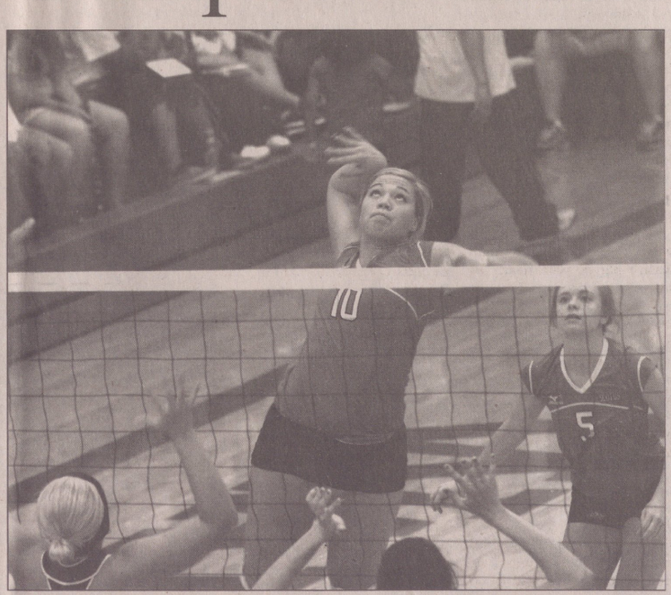
Hard work has certainly led to some major wins this season, and Petersen explained how each game is just as important as the next, regardless of whom they are playing.

"I always say the biggest game is your next one, and I still say that every game's a big game. You have to be ready to play every one," he said.

One other part of Scotus volleyball that is ever present at varsity home games is the student body.

"Well I can't praise the Rowdy Dowdies, cheerleaders, and the fans enough because it's just amazing what they do," Petersen said. "It certainly makes the games more exciting. For the players it's a great atmosphere for them to play."

Rollman stated that having such a large student body at games really contributes to the energy on the court. Whether the whole student section comes dressed in all white, or one student comes dressed as Jesus, the Rowdy Dowdies are certainly a key aspect to the volleyball program at Scotus.



MARY KATE RAMBOUR/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Payton Chohon goes in for a spike during a game against Schuyler. Chohon is one of the leading hitters for the Shamrocks.

The Class C1 Shamrocks have had a successful season so far, with only one loss to Grand Island Northwest, ranked number one in Class B. With less than four weeks left until the state tournament, the team still has time to improve.

"There's still a lot of work to do," Petersen stated. "We have to finish strong and hopefully keep getting better."

The Shamrocks finish off their regular season play with the Lincoln Lutheran Tri on Tuesday, and Omaha Skutt on the 29th.

Mean Girls means more

By Carly Burkhardt
Editor

"That is sooooo fetch!" If you are a girl between the ages of 13 and 26, it should have taken you seconds to recognize what movie this quote is from, and yes, I know some of you guys guessed it as well. *Mean Girls* has topped off my list for best movie of all time. Aside from the hilarious quotes and comedic plot, there is more depth to the story than most people might recognize. Valuable life lessons are thrown out throughout the movie but are usually overlooked because of the comedic way they are portrayed. If you take a deeper look into the memorable quotes, though, you can find the moral lessons hiding within.

"'If someone said something bad about you, you'd want me to tell you, right?' 'No'" (Gretchen Weiners, *Mean Girls*). I'm not sure as to why almost every teenage girl finds it necessary to tell other girls the terrible rumors people say about them, but they do. It's almost as if something is wired into their genetic code that compels girls to do so; there seems to be a gravitational force pulling girls to each other that then results in chaotic word vomit. Why would you ever feel the need to tell another person the hurtful things that are being said about them? Is it helping them in any way? Does it help you in any way? Does it have any other effect besides a negative one? No, of course it doesn't! We as girls need to stop trying to make life harder for other girls. The next time you hear something negative about another person, do you and her both a favor and leave it alone. Stop spreading the hurt.

"Calling somebody else fat won't make you any skinnier. Calling someone stupid doesn't make you any smarter. And ruining Regina George's life definitely didn't make me any happier. All you can do in life is try to solve the problem in front of you" (Cady Heron, *Mean Girls*). Think back on your existence in the "girl world" and think of all the times that you've been made to feel bad about yourself because of what someone else has said about you. Now, continue thinking, and think back on all of the times you've said something about someone else that made them feel terrible. I know, this sounds the same as another clichéd *Mean Girls* quote, but saying mean things to other people will accomplish nothing in our lives. This is one of the most underrated quotes throughout the movie; it calls for self-reflection and questioning. We aren't going to be able to fix others with our unkind words, and utilizing these unkind words only makes for a more problematic life than before. We can only deal with what we are given, and we need to realize that sometimes we are the ones who need to change.

"Cady, I know that having a boyfriend may seem like the most important thing in the world right now, but you don't have to dumb yourself down to get guys to like you" (Mrs. Norbury, *Mean Girls*). Without avail, the classic "bubbly blabbering blond" syndrome comes out in every girl at least once in her life. All it takes is a new crush and suddenly every ounce of intelligence flies out the window. One of the saddest things to see, in my opinion, is a beautiful, smart girl dumb herself down to win over the attention of a guy. For starters, why would you even want to consciously try to degrade yourself in front of anyone, especially guys? Guys aren't going to want to have relationships with girls who don't have some depth or complexity to them. Guys are going to want to be able to talk and have interesting conversations, conversations that wander outside the realm of simply *Gossip Girl* or *90210*. I know we all suffer from dumb blonde moments, but do your part to represent yourself the best way possible.

"There are two kinds of evil people in this world. Those who do evil things and those who see evil things and don't try to stop it" (Janis Ian, *Mean Girls*). Four for you Glen Coco, you go Glen Coco… But seriously! Just read that quote and think it over. Evil people are not only those who treat others poorly, but those who witness it and don't try to put an end to it. Girls! If you hear something mean, or see a girl being mean to other girls, do your part to stop it! You don't have to continue the gossip, and you can help stand up for those girls who are getting gossiped about.

I realize that to most people *Mean Girls* is viewed only as a comedy dealing with drama in the girl world, but I hope now you can see the valid life lessons that lie within the scripts. If you take anything from this article, I ask that you cut down on the "girl-on-girl crime" and focus on the more important things in life… Oh, and also, "On Wednesdays we wear pink."

Sushi surprises Columbus

By Brooke Olmer
Staff Reporter

"I am sick and tired of eating at the same old restaurants all the time, can we please go to Omaha and eat some where exotic?" This might be a typical phrase said by the citizens of Columbus. The city of Columbus now has a new exotic restaurant. Nagasaki Grill and Sushi is a Japanese restaurant located by Cubby's gas station, on the corner of 23rd street and 48th avenue.

My first thoughts when arriving at Nagasaki Grill is that it is a little peculiar to be eating Japanese food out of a log cabin, but I decided to put that aside and try the food with an open mind. I opened the menu and the prices of a typical entrée were around ten to fifteen dollars, which is not badly priced considering it is a sit down restaurant. If you want to go all out and get a more expensive item such as lobster, it would cost around twenty to twenty five dollars. I decided to go with the single entrée chicken dinner.

All entrees are served with soup or salad, rice, and vegetables. I went with the salad and was pretty disappointed with it. It was just an extremely small salad that looked like it came out of a bag bought at Hy-Vee. Next time I'm definitely going to go with the soup! Overall, the entrée was extremely good. It came with a variety of sauces, and I especially liked the veggies and rice that came with it. I also ordered a side of egg rolls, which were extremely tasty, and I was glad that one order came with three egg rolls. I thought the chicken entrée was excellent, and I would definitely recommend it to others.

I was too scared to try the sushi, but I have heard from others that it is some of the best sushi that they have ever had. The service at Nagasaki was superb. The food was served to us in a short amount of time, and the waiter was friendly and came over multiple times to fill our water glasses and see if we needed anything. Even though the food and service was wonderful, I would suggest using the restroom before you leave your house as they were not the cleanest when I went there.

Nagasaki is a great restaurant; it has fantastic food and service, it's also convenient that Columbus now has a place to eat Sushi. (No more traveling to Omaha for Sushi lovers). I would definitely recommend going to eat at Nagasaki, and if they keep making the food that good, I could maybe get used to the whole idea of eating Japanese food in a log cabin.

BROOKE OLMER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Nagasaki Grill and Sushi is located at 4704 Howard Boulevard. Nagasaki Grill and Sushi is a new sit-down sushi restaurant in Columbus, and it has been in Columbus since late this summer.

Teacher Quotes:

"So who has tweet?"

-Mrs. Rusher

"My coffee is tasting scurvy this morning."

-Mr. Salyard

"The Scotus buses; they're always there. Where do you think I hide my dead bodies?"

-Fr. Roza

"Thats what I teach in newspaper, how to threaten and stalk."

-Mrs. Rusher

"We are going to enslave the Nienaber race."

-Fr. Roza

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HTTP://ISSUU.COM/SCOTUSJOURNALISM

Scotus honors veterans

By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

Veterans Day is a day of remembrance and gratitude. November 11 is not a day where America as a country glorifies its men and women who have served and are serving in the armed forces. Instead, it is a day where the people thank them for serving and protecting this country and for the sacrifices that they have made to preserve the America's freedom and the freedom of others.

Last Monday Scotus hosted, for the second year in a row, the annual Veterans Day program. Vern Beckmann, one of the American Legion chorus members who sang at the program on Monday, felt that the program is an important reminder to the students and faculty at Scotus of the sacrifices made by America's veterans.

"I think that the youth in the high school need to recognize some of the accomplishments of the veterans that took place in the past wars," Beckmann said.

Beckman is a Korean War veteran who served in the U.S. Navy from 1948 to 1952.

"Freedom is not free, so I think that it helps to explain that point to the students in the school," Beckman added.

The SCC band performed at last Monday's program as well, playing the national anthem, the marches of the armed forces, and "The Stars and Stripes Forever." Senior Phillip Levos, a member of the band, also saw the importance of Monday's program.

"I believe it's important to have the Veterans Day program at Scotus because we as students have the responsibility to give back to those who have dedicated themselves to serve our country, defend democracy, and protect our freedom," Levos stated.

Like other students at Scotus, several of Levos' family members are veterans.

"My uncle Terry Jones is a retired National Guardsmen who served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan," Levos said. "My great uncle Leonard Wirges is a retired Army vet of the World War II Pacific Campaign and my other great uncle Leonard Schrad was in the Navy during Vietnam."

Several other relatives of Levos, including his grandfather Donald Schrad, have also served in the United States Armed Forces. Schrad, a Korean War veteran, was one of many veterans to attend the program at Scotus.

While Veterans Day is a day of thanking those who have served this country, there are still many young men and women who are choosing to go into the armed forces and serve their country. Last year's graduating class of 2013 had four students who went into the armed forces. Pat Brockhaus, a long-time teacher at Scotus, was quite impressed with the number of graduates joining the military.

"I think it's kind of neat. It's amazing that they're willing to sacrifice," Brockhaus said.

The students to join the armed forces were Kyle Bonk (National Guard), Jake Gilson (Air Force), Bibiana Lopez (National Guard), and Nathan Schacher (Marine Corps). Levos also felt that it was great to have graduates from Scotus enlisting.

"It shows us that we have proud citizens in not only our community," Levos said, "but in our school that will dedicate themselves to the protection and safety of the United States."

PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA LEVOS

Above: Senior Phillip Levos stands with his grandfather, a veteran of the Korean War, Donald Schrad.

Rocks take 4th at State

Team appreciates support

By Blake Schroeder
Staff Reporter

Scotus volleyball has deep tradition, making State 24 times in the past 25 years. This year's team was no different.

The Scotus volleyball team this year went 26-5. The team was just off a 5-set comeback victory to win sub-districts over Lakeview and a 3-0 sweep over Fillmore Central and was carrying momentum. The team's first round challenge was against the 8 seed Syracuse. The Shamrocks took the win in 4 sets.

"[Against Syracuse,] we served and passed great. We limited our errors and played with enthusiasm. We went out there and did what we needed to do to win the game," senior Alli Bos said.

The team moved on to play Friday against 4 seed Minden at the Heartland Event Center. The Shamrocks lost the first two sets 22-25 and 12-25, respectively, before winning the 3rd set 25-19. They lost the 4th set 15-25.

After the loss on Saturday, the team headed back to Grand Island High School to play for third place. They were matched up against 2 seed Ogallala. The team lost in five sets to take fourth place overall for the year.

Some of the players had final messages for their fans.

"Thank you for all the support throughout the volleyball season. Without your support we would not have made as far as we did," Bos said.

Senior Emily Kosch also praised the support.

"Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us and cheered us on the whole time. I know it must have been hard to watch but they stuck with us the whole way through, and that makes them truly the best fans in the state," Kosch said.

AMY PRICE/YEARBOOK STAFF

(above) Senior Kylie Rollman and sophomore Kim Stutzman stuff a hitter from Syracuse. (top left) Senior setter Kristen Ohnoutka celebrates after winning the rally during the game against Syracuse Thursday night. (left) An emotional senior Payton Chohon and sophomore Kim Stutzman leave the floor after their loss to Minden on Friday night.

Senior Kylie Rollman took part in the State competition with the Shamrocks for the first time this year, and the fan support caught her eye.

"From coming from Lakeview to Scotus, one of the biggest differences I've noticed is the fan support. I couldn't be more thankful for such a great group of fans. Thanks for all the support throughout the whole season. Even though we played in the consolation match, we still had a great crowd and it was at least twice the size of any other school's crowd, so thank you!" Rollman said.

Dowdies follow legacy

By Carly Burkhardt
Editor

"Olé, Olé, Olé, Olé, Olé... Olé!" The Rowdy Dowdies can be heard chanting on from the student section letting everyone know that the match point is in effect. Tensions are high, and the final point is spiked down by one of the players. The student section erupts with cheers as the Shamrocks take home another win.

Along with Scotus' legacy of high academic and athletic achievement, the legacy continues with the Rowdy Dowdies immense presence at most sporting events, starting with volleyball.

"The cheering fans really help keep the energy up on the court. They are especially there at times when we are down and need something to pick us up; the student section does that perfectly!" senior volleyball player Emily Kosch stated.

Not only do the Rowdy Dowdies make their presence known at volleyball games, but they do at football games as well.

"I love the cheering fans! They give me a reason to play football. They give me the motivation to keep on fighting for Shamrock pride!" senior football player Brandon Cook said.

The Shamrocks have been known for their pride in their cheering and support at most sporting events.

"I wish they would get as excited about all of the contests and all of the things we do here at school, whether it be a volleyball game, football game, or the musical. I would like them to get involved in as much as they do during volleyball. Obviously you can't go to a speech meet and have chants, but I think it would mean a lot to the kids to have them there and have their support," Athletic Director Gary Puetz commented.

See Rowdy: Page 2

Rowdy

Volleyball has been known to draw the biggest crowds for Scotus, but this year a large crowd of 138 Scotus students was drawn in support of the runners at State Cross Country.

"The cheering fans are always cheering and encouraging us to run faster; it really motivates us. They make us feel like we need to do better," junior cross country runner Jessica Schaecher said.

Last year Scotus won the sportsmanship award at State Volleyball, which was a high honor for the school.

"I think it has some effect. I think it sets a tone for the game, especially volleyball and basketball, it does for football too, but the fans are farther away. I think when it's in a gymnasium the student body and our adult fans set the tone for the game," Puetz stated.

Gary Puetz is in charge of monitoring the student section as the Athletic Director.

"The student body has a responsibility. I don't think we should have to have an adult standing by them and screening everything they have to say. They know what their bounds are. Do I want them to be excited and into it? Absolutely. I want them to be somewhat under control and show some sportsmanship and cheer for our team, not against the other team," Puetz commented. "This year, let's go win that sportsmanship award at State Volleyball and let's let it roll all the way into basketball and all of our winter activities."

AMY PRICE/YEARBOOK STAFF

A plethora of Shamrocks cheer on the volleyball team with a rainbow theme. The volleyball team defeated Syracuse to continue advance to Friday's game.

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Reputation: everyone's responsibility

Think of a group that you are in, whether that is your class or a sports team in which you participate. Now just imagine that a few of the people in that group were caught doing something stupid or illegal like drinking. Okay, now imagine that the whole group got a reputation based on those few people. If this were to happen you, you would most likely get upset about this happening. I could give quite a few examples for groups around school, but that would be doing exactly what article is trying to prevent.

If this were to make you upset, then you know how it feels to get a bad reputation. I understand that most of the people in these groups don't fit the mold that they are put into.

The problem is that a small group of people can give a larger group a bad rep. This happens all too often to high school classes. Even high school students do this to the teachers.

So all of the blame for this happening goes on the minority of people. The small few in a class might drink and are the only reason the class gets portrayed in a bad light. Not exactly.

The reputation is a responsibility for everyone in the group. The majority of any given class doesn't party all the time and get drunk. The majority is the group of kids that do the right things, but that gets overshadowed by the behavior of the few.

So how is the reputation dependent on the majority? The majority of the people, those who do the right thing, have to try to stop the people making bad choices, such as drinking, smoking, bullying, gossiping, etc.

There may be no hope for the many. Perhaps they have tried repeatedly, but the idiots just won't listen. If you are in the majority, listen to me. You can't simply give up on the idiots. It is your job to try to convince them to stop. It may even have to go as far to get someone getting kicked out of a group like NHS or FBLA. If you can't make a difference there, then you at least have to work at being the leader your class needs. In the very least, stand up for yourself. Don't let the outspoken, bad choice making students represent you.

Now, the few that make the bad decision, your responsibility is to do the right thing. It is the few that give a class a bad reputation. Listen to that little voice of reason in your head that is telling you what you are doing is wrong. Please, the majority is begging for you to stop.

The bottom line is that everyone can be held responsible for the reputation that a group gets. Not all the blame can go on the bad choices of the few people in the group. It is true that in the end, they are responsible for their actions, but the people that don't want this reputation can do something about it. The majority of people have to convince the few that what they are doing is wrong. We all have to try to change the way we are perceived. Remember, it's not just you that is being judged, it is your class, your school, and your family. The only way we can change the way we are perceived is by all taking on the responsibility.

Breaking through bad days

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

"Valerie, wake up you are going to be late for school!" I sprint into Scotus two minutes before class starts. My hair is a mess, and I don't have an ounce of makeup to cover my newly broken out face. On my way into class a teacher scolds me for missing an important meeting earlier that morning. As I sit down in my desk, stomach growling from the pang of hunger, I come to the realization that in my morning haste I had forgotten to brush my teeth. I glance at the white board and see the dreaded four-letter word; of course, I had also forgotten to study for the test today.

"Cause you had a bad day, you're taking one down. You sing a sad song just to turn it around. You say you don't know. You tell me don't lie. You work up a smile and you go for a ride. You had a bad day" (Daniel Powter, *Bad Day*).

The dreaded bad day. Everybody has them, yet few people know how to cope with them in a healthy way.

Don't get me wrong, I would have thoroughly enjoyed throwing a tantrum the morning of my forgotten test, storming out of the room and/or punching someone in the face.

Although those scenarios are desirable to imagine in the moment, I knew it would not be in my best interest to cause a commotion. After all, others didn't have to have a bad day simply because I did. There are much better ways to survive those rough days:

Listen to music. Hard rock and rap tend to relieve tension and built up anger, while country and christian music can soothe and relax a troubled heart. Music can be an effective way to cope because the lyrics are typically relatable.

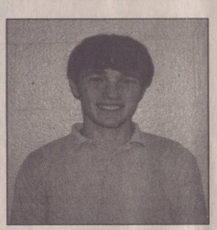
Let it out! Vent to a friend or family member about the bad day. Venting strengthens personal relationships; it allows others to bond over shared feelings and experiences. Although it is important to not allow venting to turn into constant complaining, it can be a successful way to let go of anger, frustration, and sadness.

Try to limit association with people who bring others down. Establish healthy relationships with uplifting people. Surrounding oneself with positive people is a fantastic way to receive the support needed to survive the difficult periods.

Lastly, relax! Find a calming activity to unwind. Whether that is watching a movie, drawing, putting a puzzle together, shooting hoops, or taking a shower, relaxation is key to enduring struggles. Whatever relaxation technique is chosen, it will also produce rejuvenation.

Most importantly, remember that everyone struggles with bad days. If you encounter someone struggling through a bad day, make sure to approach them with sympathy and understanding. Use healthy coping skills and don't get caught up in negativity. "So you had a bad day", but tomorrow will always be a new day.

Illusions of first love



By Blake Schroeder
Staff Reporter

There are some experiences in a teenage life that can't be forgotten; for example, the first day of high school, a major athletic moment, or the numerous memories that are made with friends. Unfortunately, a serious first relationship is usually thrown into that mix. Recollections of the times spent together can be constant for months after the breakup. Typically, one wanted out and the other wanted forever. There's no sin in wanting forever – it's happened before (see Amy Reisdorff and Eric Tubbs), but having that expectation isn't usually realistic.

Everyone takes relationships to a certain level. Some people want to test the relationship waters, and others want to dive right in. There's nothing wrong in wanting to be together forever. I'm not trying to say that it's impossible. Follow the heart, but listen to the mind.

With that being said, to all relationship rookies, my best advice is to be ready for heartbreak. Statistically, the odds are greatly against any high school (or junior high, especially) relationship turning into something serious. Then again, if the relationship isn't taken seriously, what's the point in being in one? Don't enter a relationship just to be in a relationship – it won't end well. Enter a relationship with the whole heart into it, just be ready to be hurt one way or another.

> ***"Dont enter a relationship just to be in a relationship - it won't end well"***
>
> ***~Blake Schroeder***

The main reason that emotional pain is inevitable is because one of the two people lacks the responsibility to be in a relationship to begin with. This kind of person could end up making the other wonder what they're up to, leading to jealousy and anger. Without trust, there's no way a relationship can survive. There's not much doubt that following a first relationship, trust will be lost in some way. It will become apparent that trust is the key factor in making a relationship survive.

Trust is built through honesty. It's common knowledge that telling the truth is always the right thing to do. That is no different when it comes to relationships. If it's going to be taken seriously, then honesty isn't a choice, it's a necessity. A relationship is a great way to learn that honesty is a valuable trait to have, because it's quite common that relationships end over a lack of just that.

Trust can be regained through communication. Whether it's texting each other for the fun of it or having a serious face to face conversation, communication is a main key to the success of a relationship. The want to talk and see each other is what makes a relationship flourish – metaphorically and literally, they're the other half. If that want isn't present, that means one of the two isn't fully into the relationship. Learning that constant communication is extremely important is one of the biggest gains out of a failed relationship. This knowledge will help not only in future relationships, but future friendships and even careers.

The one spot communication is especially important is when someone finds themself in a long-distance relationship. Since the two are typically incapable of seeing each other, the only way they can talk is through texting/calling. These types of relationships are the hardest to make succeed. The two people that find themselves involved in this kind of situation will learn that self-control and responsibility have to be put first. I believe it can work, but it takes a whole-hearted effort from both people for it to happen. In the case of a break-up, the two will walk out of the relationship with valuable lessons learned.

With all this being said, I send out my warning to all people wanting their first serious relationship. There are many factors that go into making a young relationship work, and, sorry to say, it probably isn't going to end up working out. Regardless, go into a first relationship with the entire heart and soul into it, and enjoy the experience – but don't be surprised if that experience doesn't end the way it does in fantasies.

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Apple vs. Droid

By Alex Pandorf
Staff Reporter

The business world is a cut-throat game of who has what. If one company becomes too powerful then they achieve a monopoly and their products are usually the only or most prominent on the shelf. Many people thought that this would be the case for the company Apple and their line of phones, tablets, and other devices.

Android, linked with the company google, has risen to oppose Apple. The two most prominent phones on the market these days are Apple iPhones and Androids.

The iPhones are a series of the same phone model that gets sleeker, more efficient, and faster with each new model. The same model has been used for the iPhone since the iPhone 1. The most recent iPhones are the iPhone 5s and the iPhone 5c. The 5c has all its aluminum replaced with a plastic-like substance, making it cheaper. It also is featured in five different colors aside from the typical black and white. These various colors appeal more to a younger crowd. The cheaper price also seems to appeal to a younger group who cannot afford the more expensive 5 or 5s.

The iPhone 5s is a more expensive upgrade of the 5. It is made of the same material with several added features such as a retina display and a new processor .This processor, according to imtimes.com, is up to 40 times faster than the original iPhone.

Aside from the iPhones, Apple also has a series of tablet and music players known as the iPad and the iPod. These are much more widely popular than any android alternative. Apple has continually introduced new models of iPads from the mini to the air. Some people argue that they produce too many models, whereas android produces too few.

These Apple products produce a greater appeal to students and professionals who need simple technological devices that they can carry around in the workplace.

The android operating system is used for phone companies such as LG, Samsung, and some other phone models. Android systems use google play, rather than the app store. Android systems appear intimidating at first, but it is actually slightly more simplistic and user friendly than Apple's iOS system.

Android phones normally come in larger models with an easily viewable screen and a durable base. Although there is a larger diversity in Android models than in apple models, Apple appears to be more popular in many areas.

According to dashburst.com, the App Store from Apple averages a sale of 30 more apps per phone than Android's Google play. However, recent Android models have begun to become a challenge for Apple's near monopoly. With an upcoming update to the Android system that is predicted to bring it to a level above the iOS, there is no way to be sure which system will come out on top.

Smartphones

54%

of students have a smartphone

60% have an iPhone

40% have an Android

Do you think the BYOD program at Scotus has been effective?

"We do not use it that much, and when we do, I feel left out. I think it is not effective and more and more people have to pay $20 because they forgot to turn it off."
Nathan Donoghue, 8

"I don't have to wait in line for a computer to figure out what a word means in Spanish."

Adam Starzec, 11

"It allows me to procrastinate more effectively by looking things up and studying the class before."

Mac Mapes, 11

Shaping social media

By Brooke Olmer
Staff Reporter

According to factz.com, Facebook users spend over 700 billion total minutes per month sharing information, pictures, and videos. Besides Facebook, there are also other social media websites that people spend their time on. Some examples of other websites are Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, and even Youtube. This might seem like too much time to be spending on social media sites, but social media sites can help benefit people.

According to parentfurther.com, kids can gain social confidence which can make them feel more secure in new situations. Social media can also help people stay connected with friends and family members that live far away. It can also benefit learning. Schools all over the world are using technology to enhance education. Many textbooks are now offered online. There are also websites like Quizlet that make it easier for students to study and prepare for tests. There are also classes that use blogs to discuss certain classroom topics.

Although there are multiple benefits of social media, there are also disadvantages. An obvious disadvantage would be that kids are spending too much time on social media websites instead of going out and actually playing with friends. They are not talking and interacting enough with people.

Another disadvantage of social media would be the highly talked about cyberbullying. Kids getting social media accounts open themselves up to cyberbullying. According to ftijournal.com, predators can terrorize individuals completely anonymously. There have even been multiple accounts where students have been cyberbullied so badly that they've tried to hurt themselves or even commit suicide.

There is also the disadvantage of privacy. By putting information on social media websites people can find out facts about others private lives. Random people or maybe even people that are known such as employers can search a person's name and see pictures or other information posted that a person may have not wanted to be seen.

On Pinterest more than 69% of users are female

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60% of twitter users access it from mobile

80 % of total Pinterest pins are repins

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TO GET THE MOST RETWEETS IS TO POST ON A WEEKDAY BETWEEN 9-3 P.M.

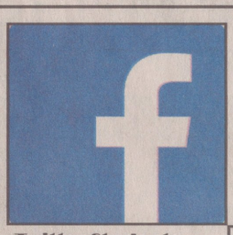
There are over 288 million monthly active users on Twitter

23% of Facebook users check their account more than 5 times a day.

An average of 400 million tweets are sent per day

365 million photos are uploaded to Facebook each day

According to factz.com

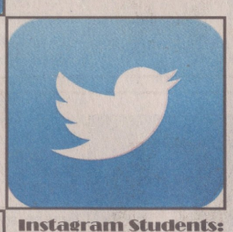


Facebook Students: 249

% of Student Body: 69%

Twitter Students: 189

% of Student Body: 53%



Instagram Students: 193

% of Student Body: 54%

Pinterest Students: 72

% of Student Body: 20%

"Other" Students: 72

% of Student Body: 20%

Devices dial up development

By Jacob Nienaber
Staff Reporter

With the rise in technological advances, schools around the nation have been more and more willing to allow their students to be electronically savvy. Every day there are stories about schools and their goals to make this vast rising technological society one for the better, not only for their school, but for society as well.

This year Scotus is one more school that has instituted a BYOD or Bring Your Own Device program which allows students to bring their electronic devices to school and use them into the classrooms for educational purposes.

"The students and the school have an opportunity for more collaborative education. For example, being collaborative between different classroom departments, such as English and science, would benefit the school and students. We are trying to incorporate students into using the devices in a business like way and not just playing games, but using applications that are used in the real world," Scotus President Wayne Morfeld said.

Of course, with new ideas and policies come new troubles.

"The data we took last fall was a little skewed; not all students have devices, but we would like to be prepared for those who don't. We have a bank of ten excess machines for students who do not have devices to check out; however, we don't want to purchase more machines than we need to and have them just lying around and collecting dust," Morfeld added.

The use of the BYOD program has also been useful to teachers in their classrooms.

One teacher using technology in the classroom is junior American History teacher Jeff Ohnoutka.

"It allows us to be more flexible in terms of finding information rather than having to go to a computer lab. Technology in education has grown in the last four to five years, so much that we needed to be on the cutting edge for that. One way that I personally use the BYOD system is through a site called Socrative. I quiz the students three questions from that lesson, and it gives me feedback to which students are getting the info and which ones aren't," Ohnoutka said.

However, there are mixed reviews on the BYOD program.

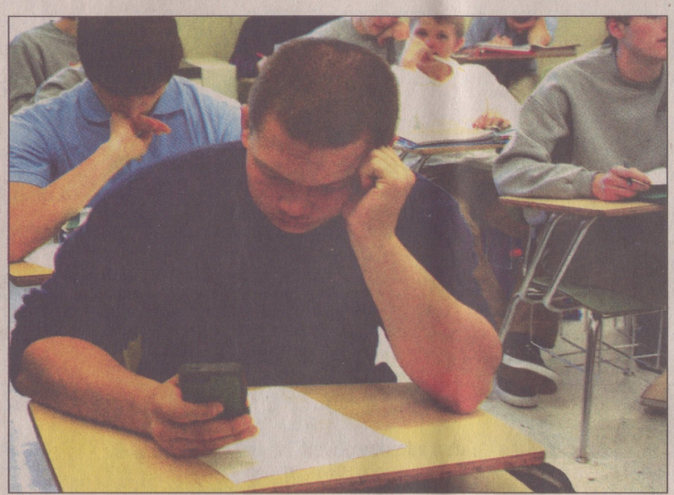
"I think it was a good idea to get the BYOD system into Scotus. For one, students sometimes forget their textbooks and this is a good way to look at a textbook without turning any pages," freshman IPhone user Cody Mroczek said.

Some students feel as if the BYOD is harmful to the school.

"People don't seem to know how to affectively use their devices for classes and the Scotus Network partially blocks sites," junior Erin Kwapnoski said.

Laptops have not yet been allowed on the list of devices for use, but this rule may change as the year goes on and the number of students who do have laptops and other technologies rise.

"We aren't content to be behind the curve. Technology comes and goes; smart boards were huge years ago, but now smart boards are a near dead technology. 'Here today and gone tomorrow' it seems in the world of technology. When we were setting this whole operation up, I said to my tech guys," 'Don't be climbing up the mountain; be on top looking out to see what is coming soon so we can be well equipped for the future,'" Morfeld added.



EMILY KOSCH/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Conner Lusche uses his mobile device during study hall. When the school year started students were not allowed to use devices in study hall.

Technology takes down romance

By Carly Burkhardt
Editor

It's a girl's night out, and dinner's destination is Applebee's; everyone has ordered, yet no one is talking. Each girl is glued to her phone until one of the girls bursts out, "My boyfriend just broke up with me!" Gasps and looks of disbelief are directed toward the now ex-girlfriend as she clings to her phone and composes a text full of outraged words and fuming emojis. Hours later, she finally accepts the truth: she has been a victim of technology's influence on romance.

Technology has invaded the world of romance. From the beginning of the pre-historic cell phone to the modern smart phone today, the way people get to know each other the most is through technology. People hide behind cell phones and rarely take the time to get to know one another in person. The increased use of technology has caused a lack of face to face interaction. There is less of a need to see one another due to the convenience that the cell phone allows. While there is no denying that texting makes communication easier, texting also causes many problems in relationships.

A major fault with texting is that there is no tone; many harmless comments are misinterpreted as sarcastic or rude ones. Countless numbers of fights are started because one person in the relationship misinterpreted what the other said. Of course smiley faces can be used to attempt an understanding of tone, but in reality nothing compares to that of face to face interaction.

The convenience of texting and technology has also caused teenagers to become attached too quickly to their significant other. When the breakup comes around, it is harder to handle. Technology has provided a way for the other person to be at their fingertips every moment of every day. Once the relationship stops, suddenly they're left to feel empty because they no longer have someone texting them every second. They become dependent on the convenience that texting has given them. Not only does texting cause attachment issues, but it also takes away from necessary social skills.

Calling someone on the phone has become obsolete to texting, which has seemingly become the only form of communication between teen "lovers". Texting has taken away from the necessary phone skills needed in life. Teenagers lack the ability to carry on normal conversations via phone.

Whatever happened to receiving hand written love letters in the mail? Whatever happened to the undying romance that surged the hearts of young men and women? Technology, that's what happened. The digital convenience of the cell phone has replaced the written novelty of a love letter.

Society as a whole needs to take a step back from technology when it comes to romance. We need to get back to the days of a romance more meaningful than a few texts and heart emojis. Society needs to get back to a time where writing love letters and leaving love notes was a norm. We need to get back to a time where getting to know a person was more than just texting. Society needs to focus on a world where romance has a true meaning, a world where romance is real.

Do you think technology helps or hurts relationships?

"It's another way you can talk to each other, and people who are in relationships always post really cute pictures together, which are fun to look at."

-Maddie Sinovic, 9th grade

"Everyone knows about the relationship and tries to get into their business even though it isn't their business."

-Jennifer Belson, 10th grade

It's good to recieve messages once and awhile, but I believe it shoudn't replace face-to-face communications."

-Maddie Sueper, 7th grade

"Social media can help relationships just because that is this generation's largest communication style, but it is also a very large reason people are bullied, especially on ask.fm.com"

-Grace Odbert, 8th grade

"You can say anything online, and you can never take it back."

-Matt Strecker, 8th grade

"Having an internet relationship and a real life fac-to-face relationship are two different things."

-Jackson Kumpf, 10th grade

Sign out of cyberbullying

By Kristen Ohnoutka-
Layout Editor

Living in the days of extreme technology and gaining lightning fast knowledge at any possible second has its benefits. However, the use of all these amazing new inventions is not exactly being used to its fullest potential, especially when it comes to adolescent's use of these modern gadgets.

Being an American teenager may be the most beneficial and opportunistic style of living. However, so many teenagers are not using or making the most of the gifts they are so lucky to have been given. According to bullyingstatistics.org, over twenty-five percent of kids are bullied in some way over social media interactions.

"Its [social media] a good way to communicate, but also leads to a lot of miscommunication that happens all the time," sophomore Anna Wickham said.

Through the new kinds of technology present today, people are given the option of being able to communicate with their friends, family, and others through the use of social media. Though there are several positives that come from the creation of a social media world, it seems more negatives are arising from it rather than positives.

"Cyberbullying hurts relationships because what you put online could be taken differently than what you actually want it to mean, and then you could get into fights over something that you didn't even mean," sophomore Mikayla Nienaber said.

Miscommunications through social media affect relationships in all sorts of ways. Friendships can be torn apart, petty fights can occur, and hurtful words can easily be exchanged through the simple action of typing on a keyboard and hitting the send button without considering the consequences.

"Relationships cannot be based on an online experience. You cannot have a good conversation online with someone because it is too easy to just type something rude instead of being face to face with someone," sophomore Lydia Schaecher said.

Cyberbullying can be found in any school across the entire world. It has become just as common as the social media site itself. It seems social media cannot exist without cyberbullying and vice versa.

Even at Scotus, a Catholic school, cyberbullying can occur. Kids are getting the impression that they are invincible when hiding behind the screens of their laptops or phones. They think that just because they aren't saying it in person it gives them the power to still say or do it.

In October, Scotus had an entire assembly on the subject of cyberbullying. In this presentation, Officer Strecker made the relevant point that once someone posts something, "It is FOREVER!"

"Every day, it seems like my friends are talking about what happened last night on Twitter, Facebook, etc., and who said what about someone else," eighth grader Kendra Wiese said.

According to dosomething.org, 81% of young people think bullying online is easier to get away with than bullying in person, and about 75% of kids have visited a website bashing another student.

"We know what to do and how to be safe, but sometimes it gets out of hand. It only takes that one person to say one wrong thing to hurt the relationship," seventh-grader Rebecca Hergott said.

Coach Kreinke resigns

By Conner Moran
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday the 13th, there was an impromptu football meeting after school. None of the players went in knowing what it was about. They came to find out some shocking news: Coach Krienke will not be the head football coach at Scotus anymore.

"I'm mad about it. It made me very upset," junior Adam Starzec commented.

Krienke had been head coach of the football team for the past 10 years. At the meeting he said that he was resigning for some reasons, although unknown to the players at the time, but good reasons nonetheless.

"I came to the realization that it would be beneficial to have a head coach that has more contact with the guys, not just at practice and in the weight room," Krienke said.

There have already been rumors spreading about Krienke taking other coaching jobs at different schools. Krienke, though, is all about the green, and no, it's not about the money.

"I love Scotus and bleed green. I want to see my two sons and daughter graduate from Scotus. It is a very special place," Krienke said.

Krienke's leaving will not only effect the players, but it will surely effect the coaches, the fans, and even the teachers.

"I have a lot of respect for him and the whole football team. He did everything for his best intentions and I respect him for that," Mr. Lahm said.

The head coach now will be Tyler Linder. This is Linder's fourth year as a teacher and a coach at Scotus.

"I knew early on Coach Linder was an up and coming coach. He has been given more and more responsibility every year… He is going to do an excellent job," Krienke commented.

Krienke will now be the defensive and offensive line coach, along with the special teams coach. Linder was the defensive coordinator, and now Coach Pelan will take his place. Krienke's ever-present positive attitude still remains even after the resignation.

"I believe it is in the best interest of the overall football program. The entire coaching staff is going to do everything in our power to get the 2014 Shamrocks down to Lincoln. I feel blessed to be a part of [this football program]," Krienke added, "Go Rocks!"

Conner's take on technology in sports.

By Conner Moran
Staff Reporter

Technology has come a long way in the world of sports. Moments including the nail-biting touchdown calls, and even to the more simple tennis replays that merely determine who wins a rally and who receives the point. Who can forget the great replays that Sports Center plays that wouldn't be possible without technology?

New technology has also received some bad rep, too.

There are many occurrences when the call was obviously wrong, but somehow the officials do not see it so the favorable call is not made. In this case, the phrase "ignorance is bliss" comes into play, because, really, who wants to know that the outcome of a game could have been changed based off of one replay?

I believe that technology for sports is completely necessary. Without it, the outcome of a game-changing play lies in the perspective of the nearby officials, not the perspective of the many cameras around the field as in games today.

Although I think that it is completely necessary, I don't totally agree with the use of technology in sports. For example, Texas University is hands down the biggest and richest school in the Big 12 Conference. I believe that they bribe the officials with some extra money to change how they officiate and decide replays during the game in Technology still has its ups. The Kenny Bell hit from the 2012 Big 10 Championship Game was unforgettable, and, thanks to technology, now the world can have that memory forever!

Technology allows fans to hold the replays and the victories, and even the losses throughout the sports world, close to our hearts. It helps one reminisce on the good old days, even if those days were from last year's College World Series.

Even though technology can haunt a player forever by embedding their embarrassing mistake on the internet, and even though that technology can be an upsetting game changer, it is still quite useful and will only get better with time.

Girls go gold again

Hannah Merril/Yearbook Staff

Sophmore Jessica Lahm, senior Brooke Olmer, freshman Kaylee Tonniges, juniors Le;sey Kessler, Carly Fehringer, and Jessica Schaecher take off at the start of the State Cross Country meet. The girls were the Class C Champions.

Girls dominate C-1

By Michael Kurtenbach
Staff Reporter

Scotus will have to make room for another banner to hang in Dowd Activity Center. In recent years, there have been many new banners going up in the new gym, including a girls cross country title last year. At least one more will go up for the 2013-2014 school year.

State cross country took place on October 25, at Kearney County Club. The Shamrock girls won by 15 points. They beat runner-up Norfolk Catholic 45-60, and the team was led by junior Jessica Schaecher who finished fifth, the only Scotus medalist.

"We needed Jessica Schaecher (or someone) to finish high. But after her, you could omit any other two runners, and we still win the team title," head coach Merlin Lahm said.

The other team members that ran were junior Carly Fehringer (20), senior Brooke Olmer (22), junior Kelsey Kessler (24), freshman Kaylee Tonniges (30), and sophomore Jessica Lahm (32).

Even though the state meet is obviously the biggest meet of the year, the team tried to have a simple mindset.

"Mr. Lahm told us to treat it like any other meet, but there was no way that was possible. There were so many more people that came to watch, and there were just a lot more nerves since it was state," Olmer said.

This mindset may have given the girls confidence going into the meet.

"I was pretty confident that if we all ran like we had been running then we would get great results," Fehringer commented.

Olmer agreed, "I was confident with my team because we run so close together that if one of us has a bad day we can back each other up."

The team was ranked first going into the meet. A big reason for that was how they ran at every meet.

"Our girls have run in that kind of tight pack all year long," Lahm noted.

After the race, there was some concern that the team didn't pull it off.

"I was really happy with how I ran, but I looked back and didn't see my teammates. I freaked out at that point, but I had confidence they were going to compete like they always do," Schaecher said.

Once it was announced that they had won, there was a collective sigh of relief from the team.

"I was relieved once it was announced that we had won. We worked so hard all season and it was such a great feeling to hear that we won," Olmer commented.

Scotus showed up to support the team, and the fan support really helped.

"Thank you for the 138 people that came to support us," Kessler said.

In the end, all that matters is that the team brought home a win.

"Thanks to everyone who came and watched us! It helped!" said Fehringer.

Football falls short

By Alex Pandorf
Staff Reporter

For the Shamrock football team this year, the odds were at many times against them. Despite the odds, the Shamrocks rose to the occasion to play teams that were ranked much higher than themselves.

Starting off the season with a loss and a big win, the Shamrocks had a season of ups and downs leading toward the annual rivalry game with Lakeview. This included a three win-streak following a homecoming win, and the shutout of GICC early in the season. Later in the season, the Shamrocks toppled Madison to the point of playing their junior varsity the entire second half.

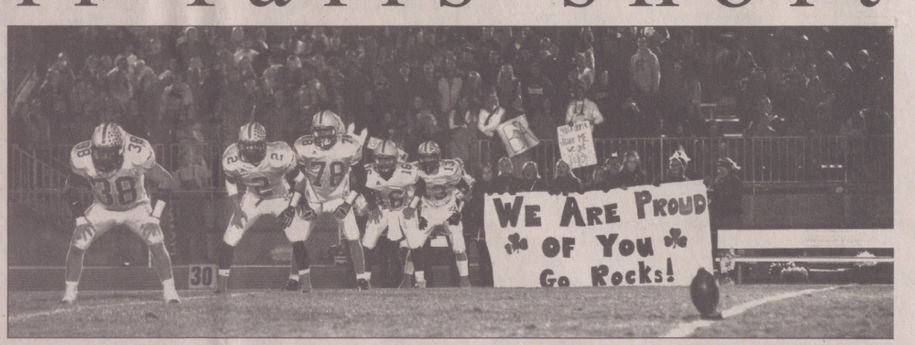
The team was set to play Lakeview for their last regular season game. The game against Lakeview was a dogfight the entire game, with both teams smacking each other back and forth. The game was a thriller with an ending score of 16-17. The Shamrocks lost by a field goal in the last 10 seconds of the game.

"I felt as though we could have won. I know we played to the best of our abilities. Especially our seniors!" Senior Brandon Cook said.

The Shamrocks would not be disappointed with their drawing for the playoffs. In the first round they were set up with a rematch with Lakeview. An occasion such as this is extremely rare in high school football. It gave both teams another shot at proving themselves to each other.

On the way to battle Lakeview for their spot in the playoffs, the Shamrocks were cheered on by a plethora of students, parents, and faculty. The fans were set up in front of the north doors and along 18th Avenue.

"That was the greatest thing ever! It really pumped me up, and I am still shocked," senior Trey Wortman said.



Jessica Martys/Yearbook Staff

Scotus football players are getting ready to kickoff against Lakeview. The season ended with a loss against Lakeview 14-35.

Such encouragement from the fans prepared the Shamrocks for a night of rough football and cold weather. However, the Shamrocks would end their season in the first round after a long game against Lakeview. For the seniors, this was the last time many of them would play football.

Despite the loss, the seniors weren't scared to shake hands and share memories.

"Nothing compares to all the emotion that was shared the end of the season for us seniors, it was the last time we got to play football with each other," Cook commented.

The Shamrocks ended the season with 4 wins and 5 losses.

"I am proud of what our team accomplished this year," Wortman said.

The season was filled with many thrilling games that came down to last few minutes of each game.

"I felt like we had a lot of close games that we should have won, but overall it was a fun season," senior Tony Zoucha said.

Four compose into All-State

By Jacob Nienaber
Staff Reporter

Besides all the concerts, pep rallies, and games they play at, four students have prepared, competed, and been chosen to perform at the state level. This year, four musically gifted students have been chosen to receive one of the highest honors for music department students. Senior Jacob Nienaber, junior Elizabeth Preister, and sophomores Adam Smith and Brady Pryzmus have been selected to participate in the All State Chorus (Nienaber, Smith, and Pryzmus) and Orchestra (Preister).

"I was in shock. I honestly couldn't believe it. Many people told me sophomores normally didn't make All-State so it was amazing to know that I would be a part of it," sophomore tenor Adam Smith said.

The musicians participating put many hours into perfecting their art.

"I came to Scotus a couple days a week to practice my parts with Ms.Gardner. I never honestly really 'practiced' at home, but I always found myself singing the songs around the house because they were kind of catchy. I owe it all to Ms.Gardner really, she helped me out a lot," sophomore bass Brady Pryzmus stated.

The three students from her Shamrock Singers group certainly have E.J. Gardner enthused about the All –State selections.

"I am delighted when anyone can make All-State because it's just a really good experience, and when three can make the All-State Chorus it is just three times the charm. All three are deserving of making it; they worked really hard and put a lot of effort into making the choir. However, I was disappointed to find out that none of the girls made it, but I am happy for the talented gentlemen who made it," said Scotus choir director E.J Gardner.

One who has had the experience of All-State before is cello player Elizabeth Preister, who, like the others, put just as much if not more time into her craft.

"I am honored to be able to participate in the orchestra again this year. It has been hard work getting my music prepared, but it is very rewarding to play with the 'top notch,' high school musicians of Nebraska," Preister said.

The way the students are selected for All-State is through an audition process.

"This year they instituted an online audition rather than a live audition. It put less stress on the auditions rather than the teachers themselves because we were responsible for getting the auditions on the computer and sent off correctly. I was also concerned with the quality of the video, such as the sound quality of the performers, but we got it all figured out. It was also a benefit to the auditions because they got to audition more than once rather than once through a live audition," Gardner said.

As expected, All-State consists of very difficult music choices.

"This year the songs are mixed genres of music. There is Handle which is difficult, there is a new piece, which isn't even a formal language, there is also a couple Latin spiritual songs, and a folk song. It is quite a nice roundup of music this year," Gardner said.

All State is in Lincoln on November 23rd at the Lied Center.

"I am definitely looking forward to All-State! It can be a life-changing experience ,and there are a lot of learning experiences from it," Preister said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN SCHUETH

Sophomores Brady Pryzmus, Adam Smith, senior Jacob Nienaber, and junior Elizabeth Preister pose for a All-State picture. The four recently found out that they will be participating in the All-State Chorus and Orchestra on Nov. 23rd.

Dannelly delivers dance

BLAKE SCHROEDER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Staff members Lindsay Dannelly, Shelly Adams, Ken Hash, and Mrs. Dannelly's sister, Nicolette, pose in their costumes at the Halloween dance. Prizes were given out to the best costumes at the dance.

By Brooke Olmer
Staff Reporter

November first was a dark and cold night. Skeletons, monsters, and all different kinds of creatures filled the school cafeteria. They were there for the first ever Halloween dance that was put on by art club.

"My art club completely came up with the idea to have a dance themselves so all the kids get complete credit for that," Art teacher Lindsay Dannelly said.

There was plenty to do to get ready for the dance. The cafeteria was fully decked out in Halloween decorations.

"Mostly we had to get schedules together for who was working what, get music together, and as far as decorations went, I basically told them to bring what they had. That day no one really knew what was going to happen, and it ended up turning out really great," Dannelly said.

The Halloween dance was a fundraiser put on by art club. As students entered the door, they were greeted by Lady Bug Mikayla Gasper, Peacock Shelby Beller, and Flapper Gabrielle Paczosa, collecting money. It cost three dollars to get into the dance. Students were also allowed to bring out of school dates, but had to pay five dollars for them to get in. Each student that came dressed in a costume received a glow stick.

"All of the costumes were funny and creative. It was cool to see people dress up," Danelly said.

There was a variety of fun costumes at the dance such as sophomore Courtney Brockhaus dressed as a beach, Dana Hoppe dressed as Waldo, and freshman Alison Zoucha dressed as a banana. Even the dance supervisors Shelly Adams, Ken Hash, and Lindsay Dannelly dressed up. Adams dressed as a lunch lady, Hash dressed as a fireman, and Dannelly dressed as a flapper. Junior Teddy Paprocki dressed up as a bloody zombie doctor with date junior Carly Cremers as a matching bloody zombie nurse.

"It's hard to say what my favorite costume was because there was so many good ones, but Teddy Paprocki was dressed up as a bloody doctor, and he played the part all night. He even limped when he walked," Danelly said.

Prizes were given to the best boy, girl, and duo costumes. Abby Allen (won the girl costume contest) dressed as a black and white movie star, and Phil Levos (won the boy costume contest) dressed as a naval officer. Some of the prizes included brownies and Moody Girl Salsa donated by Mrs. Zanardi

"Overall, I thought the dance was a success. There was good music, fun decorations, and enough people showed up where I thought it was a really fun time. Art club celebrated with a pizza party," Dannelly said.

The Halloween dance will definitely not be the only thing Scotus will see that comes from Art Club. They have other fun activities planned for the future.

"We are going to help decorate for the fall play and also make sure that the school gets decorated around the holiday season," Dannelly said.

Mock trial maintains streak

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

"Objection your Honor!" The cries of attorneys echoed through the courthouse last Monday morning. No law degree was needed for the attorneys, though, because they were high-school students.

On November 11, these students prepared for their first (and for some their last) mock trial competition of the year as districts were held at Platte County Courthouse. For the second consecutive year, a Scotus verses Scotus final will be held.

Junior Abby Allen is a third year participant in mock trial.

"We were relaxed on the morning of districts. As our trial approached, we became more nervous/ excited. Once it started, I was just focused on what I needed to do, and I wasn't as nervous," Allen said.

Mock trial members are given their case two months prior to district competition. In that period of time, members prepare for the trial with the guidance of their team's attorney coach.

"There is a lot of planning that goes into preparing for the competition. Each student attorney is responsible for writing up both direct and cross examination questions for two witnesses, one for the prosecution, and one for defense," Senior Carly Burkhardt said.

Burkhardt has been an attorney on her mock trial team for four years. Burkhardt's team is one of four Scotus teams. In addition to the senior team, Scotus has a junior team, a sophomore team, and a freshmen team.

Scotus' freshmen team advanced to a second round, defeating the Howells freshmen team. The junior team advanced to the finals, defeating Howells varsity team. The senior team also advanced to finals, beating both the Scotus sophomore team and the Scotus freshmen team.

Scotus religion teacher Cheryl Rambour sponsors all four Scotus teams.

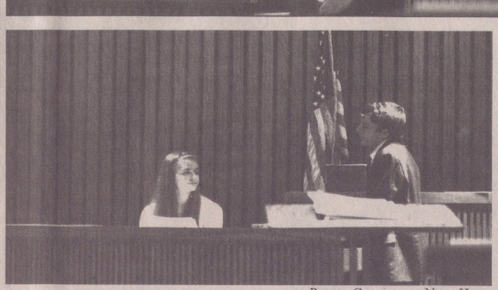
"I enjoy spending time with the kids outside of the classroom. It's very different than working with the students in a school setting. I am very proud of the students, and I take pride in the program," Rambour said.

After months of planning, the students are given the chance to take pride in their efforts.

"There is nothing better than when we compete and something goes perfectly. Whether we have an objection that is sustained, or we get a witness to admit to something, it's all great," Allen said.

The Scotus verses Scotus district final will be held on Tuesday, November 19 in the district courtroom at Platte County Courthouse. Scotus students are welcome to attend.

"Our whole team wishes the juniors the best of luck, but be assured there will be no mercy. Rock the Mock!" Burkhardt concluded.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NIKKI HINER

Senior Attorney Carly Burkhardt examines fellow team witness Valerie Borer at the Platte Country Court House. The Scotus Seniors won, and they will face the Juniors tonight at seven for the district chamionship. (left) Freshman Attorney Zach Svhela examines fellow team witness Courtney Flint. The Freshmen team lost to the Seniors in the semifinals.

Cinema Switch:

Jack and Kristen critique each others' favorite movies

By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

I watched, for the first and probably last time, the movie all teen girls have in their top ten list: *The Notebook*. An enchanting love story based on a book that was based upon previous enchanting love stories that became box office hits, all of which stem back to the original *Romeo and Juliet* storyline, *The Notebook* is about Noah and Allie, two youngsters who fall in love during the 1940s.

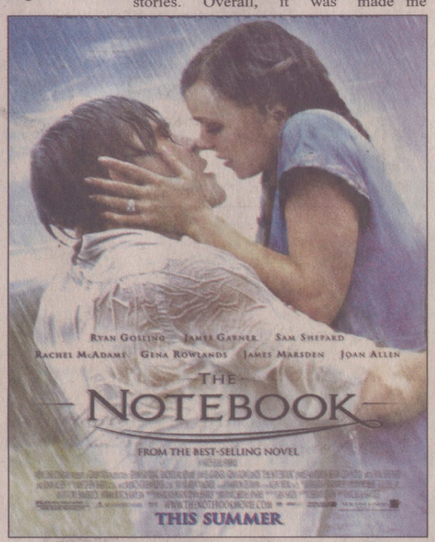
As with typical love stories, there is always someone or something that steps in to barricade the two from seeing each other. In this case, it is the stereotypically rich parents of Allie who feel that Noah, a humble lumberyard worker, is not good enough for her. Her controlling, interfering mother with a light southern accent wants to break their relationship into pieces, while her pushover, Joseph Stalin lookalike father stands to the side and lets it happen. Allie is forced to leave Seabrook, North Carolina, the town where they found each other and go to New York where she will go to school.

Not hearing from each other for over a year, Noah joins the army during the outbreak of WWII and Allie volunteers as a nurse. While she is taking care of a maimed man wrapped up in bandages, he asks her out on a date, to which she declines. The man heals and eventually finds Allie at her school. Stunned to discover he is a brutally handsome (and quite wealthy) officer named Lon, she decides to go out with him. I'm not going to ruin anymore of the story, so I'll finish by saying it basically boils down to Allie having to choose either the hardworking and humble Noah, or Richie Rich (Lon). Ok maybe that was a bit of a spoiler, but the whole movie was fairly predictable anyway (sorry ladies).

I'll say that *The Notebook* definitely was not a bad movie. I actually somewhat enjoyed the movie for the most part, and I'm not normally enthralled with gushy love stories. Overall, it was well-done and I thought the director did a nice job with the direction of photography in it. The sets were also done with much detail, and I was quite impressed with the acting. On the other hand, *The Notebook* certainly does not deserve to be put on a mantelpiece like so many teenage girls tend to do.

I felt *The Notebook* was extremely fast-paced for a chick flick, and there were very few intimate moments of dialogue within the movie, which, in my opinion, are key to developing characters and making them relatable to the audience. In fact, I didn't think the characters or the storyline were well-built at all. Because it was so fast-paced, the scenes did not flow together well, and I felt the movie was rather anti-climactic. Towards the end of the movie, the story seemed to keep building up then slowing down over and over, which made me lose my interest over and over again. Too much of the storyline played out through what the narrator said (yes, the movie does have a narrator) and not through the dialogue and actions of the characters themselves.

Disregarding the flaws I took note of while watching *The Notebook*, it was overall a well-done movie that kept me interested for the majority of the time, with some exceptional acting. It certainly isn't a movie I feel the need to watch over and over, and it certainly isn't one of the absolute top movies of all time. However, it is not one of those movies where you really want to jump off a cliff the whole time you're watching it, and it is much better than the average love stories seen in today's movies. Because of this, I will admit that I did enjoy watching it. Actually it wasn't that great, I'll give it a B+.



By Kristen Ohnoutka
Layout Editor

The Fellowship of the Ring is one of the three films in the epic trilogy of the *Lord of the Rings*. At first I was very reluctant towards the idea of watching one of the Lord of the Rings movies. I am definitely not into the whole mystical creatures and heroic battle kind of movies. I especially am not interested in movies whose main characters' names are just as hard to pronounce as they are to spell. Frodo, Aragon, Gandalf the Gray, Legolas, and Boromir. What kind of author comes up with this kind of stuff is my question. However, I have to admit I loved this movie.

The Fellowship of the Ring is the story of a voyage a young hobbit makes to return the corrupt ring of power to its original home at Mordor. The ring is pure evil and corrupts anyone who wears it. No matter how pure or good the person is, the ring can destroy any living creature's best morals. The hobbit, Frodo, sets out with eight other companions to complete this rigorous task and save the world.

The entire idea of *The Lord of the Rings* was always a joke to me before I actually gave the movie a chance. The thought of watching a movie about little midget people running around trying to get a ring or whatever, taking on giants and all kinds of other beasts along the way did not appeal to me whatsoever. However, I really loved this movie and it left me wanting more after the extreme cliff-hanger at the end of the film.

I still found a lot of the movie to be exaggerated and fairly funny at times when it shouldn't have been. For example, the fact that these nine travelers, including: a dwarf, some hobbits, a wizard, a couple humans, and an elf, were able to take on at least a thousand "orcs", which are basically beastly, freaky monster things. This seemed a bit extreme to me. Though the effects and everything were great, the fact that nine guys took on basically an entire army is a bit too far.

I also found some scenes to be quite light-hearted when actually they were meant to be serious moments. When the two wizards, Gandalf the Gray and Sauroman, were battling with each other I found it pretty entertaining! Sauroman is using his magic or whatever he has to swing Gandalf the Gray around through the air and spinning him in circles. I have to admit seeing a hundred some year old man being spun around through the air was hilarious. I know it wasn't supposed to be, but it was.

Even though I don't have some huge philosophical explanation about life, death, greed or power to say about *The Fellowship of the Ring*, I still loved the movie and will most likely be watching the rest of the trilogy and probably *The Hobbit* as well. It goes to show trying new things, even though you think they're dumb, is worth it. Also I apologize to all *Lord of the Rings* hardcore fans if my explanation was not adequate enough for you.

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Courthouse

Wednesday, November 20
One-Act Public Performance, 5:00 P.M.
Memorial Hall

Thursday-Saturday, November 21-23
All-State Music
Lied Center, Lincoln

Thursday, November 28
Happy Thanksgiving!

Thursday, December 5
Girls /Boys Basketball, 5:30/7:00
Hastings St. Cecilia

Thursday, December 5
Swimming, 4:30
Fremont

Friday, December 6
Wrestling, 4:00
Lakeview

Wednesday, December 11
State Mock Trial
Lincoln

Scotus Journalism

Go to the Scotus website and click on the *Journalism Pictures Sales* link to view and order pictures

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Scotus sets new finals schedule

By Kristen Ohnoutka
Layout Editor

Starting this first semester, Scotus will be testing its brand new semester test day schedule. This new schedule is yet another new addition Scotus has made to its 2013 school year. After a few years of thought, President Morfeld believes they have a new, successful schedule ready for the school to try out.

"The first day, Wednesday the 18th, will be Math from 8-9:05, English from 9:20-10:25, and Spanish from 10:40-11:45. The second day, Thursday the 19th, will be Science from 8-9:05, Social Studies from 9:20-10:25, and Religion from 10:40-11:45," Morfeld said.

The point of this new schedule is so that students are able to prepare for a test and not have to sit through an elective class that does not have a semester test. If students do not have a test but would like to get work done, then students are given the option of studying in the Media Center. The main focus the school wants to make is that students are only here for their tests and that they only need to worry about the semester test they have ahead of them. The school wants students to have plenty of time to prepare in any way they need.

"I think this new schedule is really going to benefit the school by helping with not having students here who don't need to be here. Also the schedule is a lot more like a college exam day schedule," Mrs. Bomar said.

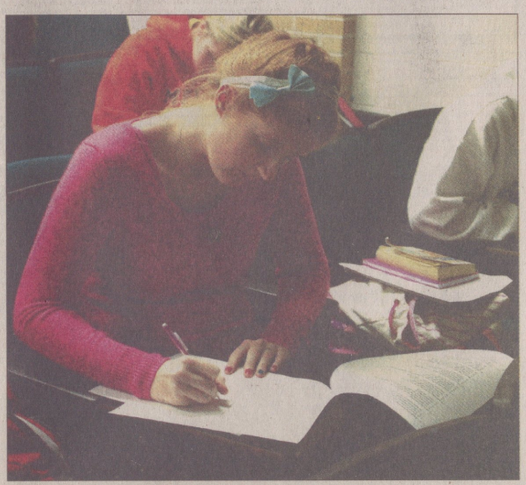
Some accommodations have had to be made in order for this schedule to be as progressive as possible. For an example, the freshman class does not take a Social Studies class, but the Social Studies test is in between tests on the second day. Since most freshmen are not able to drive, the school has made it so that the freshmen class will just have a study hall in the Little Theatre to make it most convenient for them and their parents.

"If students do not have a test to take, I don't want them here. If we would allow them to be here, it would just be a distraction to others who are testing," Morfeld said.

Students will be placed in large rooms throughout the school, such as Memorial Hall gym, study hall rooms, and adjoining classrooms. The students will be given about an hour for their tests and will then either proceed to their next test or leave school, depending upon their schedule. Teachers will all be at school these two days in order to supervise the test taking and the students in the Media Center studying.

"The best part about all of this is that no one will have to be in the building unless they are being tested. This really frees up all the teachers from having to do exalted babysitting of kids who are just sitting there waiting for the time to be over. I am really looking forward to trying out this new schedule," Bomar said.

Scotus plans on continuing to use the new semester schedule for all future semester test days. The new testing will begin December 18th – 19th.



JESSICA MARTYS/ YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Ashlea Rinkol concentrates on her Ethics Midterm. Scotus will begin their new finals schedule this semester December 18th and 19th.

Groups continue to give to community

KELSEY KESSLER/ YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Bailey Honold and seniors Nate Ebner, Phil Levos Jessica Martys, and Alli Bos package candy canes. The candy cane sales earn $450 each year for the Holiday Coop.

Honor students give back

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

"Christmas, Christmas time is near. Time for toys and time for cheer. I've been good but I can't last. Hurry Christmas. Hurry fast!"("*Christmas don't be late*", Alvin and the Chipmunks).

While thousands of children eagerly await opening their presents on Chrismtas morning, a handful of children are not as fortunante. Families around the world are not able to afford such gifts for their children.

Scotus participates in the annual Holiday Coop, a program designed to provide gifts to those families who are in need of assistance over the holidays. Jane Dusel has been heading these efforts at Scotus for the last eight years through NHS.

"To me, Christmas is a season of giving, I want my Honor Society members to understand the importance of giving verses receiving," Dusel said.

Scotus provides gifts for ten families annually.

"When I do this project, I try to stress the fact that these are the absolute only gifts that these kids will get. That is a hard concept to wrap your head around when you have always had someone give you a gift," Dusel said.

NHS uses the money raised from Christmas candy sales to fund the gifts. The NHS officers meet at Walmart over Thanksgiving break to purchase the gifts.

"I usually send out a message to see if any staff would like to 'adopt a kid'; some individuals ask for one or two children's names so they can buy those gifts themselves," Dusel said.

These gifts were purchased and taken to the St. Isidore's convent by a number of organizations throughout Columbus that support this cause.

"The people who organize all of this deserve a lot of credit because they have to organize who really needs the gifts. I drop of the gifts and they have to find a way to distribute the hundreds of gifts within the Columbus community. They need the credit for organizing that kind of a project," Dusel said.

This year 1,800 pieces of candy were sold, and these sales raise around $450 each year.

Classes compete in food drive

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

As Christmas quickly approaches, many people are looking forward to delicious meals consisting of ham and countless sweets. However, what is an assumed reality for them, is out of reach for the many who are less fortunate.

Scotus participates in an annual food drive in which the students donate food for those in need. Father Andrew Roza heads these efforts at Scotus.

"The food drive was here when I arrived. They had done it in the past, and we realized that the best thing we could do is help the Simon House," Roza said.

The Simon House is open to those who cannot afford food for their families. This is especially appreciated during the holiday season.

"It's really important for people to do something concrete for other people; especially to do something concrete for someone they don't know personally," Roza said.

Traditionally, the holidays have been known as a time of giving. This often includes giving to those in need.

"We gain a lot when we understand where a person is coming from regardless of whether we see them on a daily basis or not. Having that kind of understanding is a really good human quality to have," Roza said.

Many Scotus faculty members have the same "spirit of giving", as they assist Roza with food collections.

"We try to get teachers to help with collecting, and then try to get the students going in terms of bringing things in. After that it is just a matter of getting the food organized and getting it to Simon House. It's quite simple really," said Roza.

Scotus students have a competition to see which class can donate the most food. The winning class receives a free dress-down day.

"We try to not allow too many incentives because that's not what we are about," said Roza.

Point values are given to foods to encourage students to bring quality items most needed at the Simon House. The winning class is determined by the highest point average per student. Campus ministers help Fr. Roza count the food.

This year's drive brought in 5,525 points of food, which is 14 points per student. The freshmen, juniors, and seniors had the highest point totales, but Fr. Roza commented that the junior high had a great showing this year.

The junior class won the competition with 30.4 points of food per person.

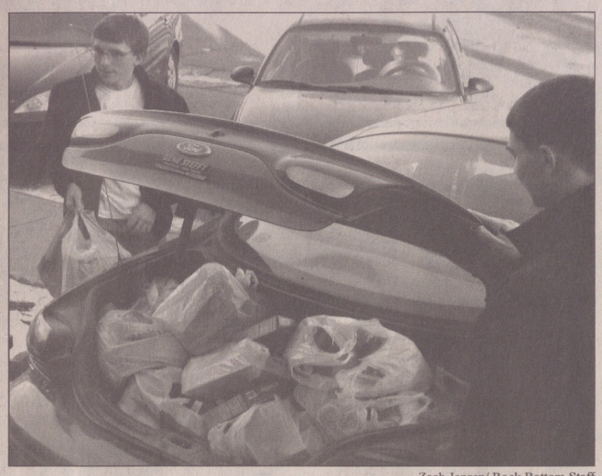
ZACH JEPSEN/ MEDIA STAFF

Fr. Roza packs up the donations getting ready to be shipped to the Columbus Simon House. The food drive filled two and a half cars with food.

Semester Test Schedule:

Day 1, December 18th
Math: 8:00am-9:05am
English: 9:20am-10:25am
Spanish: 10:40am-11:45am

Day 2, December 19th
Science: 8:00am-9:05am
Social Studies: 9:20am-10:25am
Religion: 10:40am-11:45am



Zach Jepsen/ Rock Bottom Staff

Seniors Jordan Zoucha and Ian Ostdiek pack donations into the trunk of Zoucha's car this past Saturday. The counting and packing process took two and a half hours.

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Preparing for unsheltered future

By Carly Burkhardt
Editor

With Christmas being right around the corner, it's the time of year everyone examines their life to see what they all have to be thankful for. This year, I'm thankful for so many parts of my life, but one aspect that gets looked over on a regular basis is my education.

I've been fortunate enough to have been sent to a Catholic school where I've received a wonderful and faith-based education. Going to a Catholic school has given me the best possible knowledge on my faith, but in some retrospect, I believe going to Scotus has sheltered me in a way.

With college right around the corner, I am realizing that I will be put in situations that will challenge me to defend my faith. I believe Scotus has adequately prepared me to do such. One aspect that Scotus hasn't quite given me the opportunity to do, though, is put my defense into action. I wouldn't necessarily say that it is completely Scotus' fault either. I've lived in primarily Catholic Columbus all of my life. I've never been put into a situation where radicals are questioning me about what and why I believe what I do.

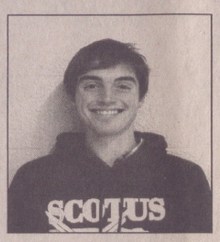
I have, though, been given the opportunity to learn about other philosophies and why people believe what they do. This year I took the college Ethics class with Fr. Roza. This class examined numerous philosophies and required that we defend and attack each view. I'm very thankful that I was given the opportunity to take this class because I believe that it has provided me with a glimpse of what I will have to do in college.

College is an exciting and mysterious experience, and I cannot wait for what there is to come in the future. Sometimes I wish I wouldn't have gone to Scotus, or lived in Columbus for that matter, because it is such a sheltered community. If you've gotten used to your sheltered life and are planning on going off to a college in a bigger city, some may be in for a rude awakening.

I think that hiding behind your faith is something that everyone needs to be aware of and understand how not to do so. You have to embrace whatever it is you believe in, and know how to defend it. You also have to be respectful of other people's beliefs and listen to them with an open mind. Don't think that just because you've been born and raised Catholic that it is the only belief out there.

If you are a senior going off to college, take the rest of this year to figure out why it is that you believe what you do. Learn how to defend it, and don't hide behind your sheltered life forever. Become educated and prepared for what the future will bring.

Preparing for failure



By Jacob Nienaber
Staff Reporter

"Think of nobody here and the feeling of fear and the darkness of night." This famous line from the play *Seussical* can sum up a good majority of what makes up every day fear. Many of us fear one thing or another. Whether that is popularity, relationships, or how to write this particular article acceptable for a spot in the school paper, we all have to keep a positive attitude about what will happen.

Not everyone is happy with where they are right now (at least a good majority of people). We all want to improve, do things, and change the world for the better. However, our attempts at greatness tend to fall short. Many think that they are no good if they fail and give up.

However, failure is a gateway to success. I mean how did the greats do it? Michael Jordan didn't make the high school varsity basketball team, and Michael Jordan is considered one of the best basketball players of all time. If sports aren't your thing then think of this, Thomas Edison took numerous attempts to perfect the light bulb; after the light bulb was perfected it was an invention that many of us can't seem to live without. Many people still fear failure and what to do when they experience failure.

Failure isn't bad, it only becomes a bad thing if you don't get back up and, as the old saying goes, try, try, and try again. There are other positives to failure as well, such as maturing. That's right; there's maturing through failures.

Failures can be one of the greatest learning tools that the world can offer. For example, if someone makes a mistake on something you would hope that that person doesn't make the same mistake, but this isn't always the case. Failure isn't something that can simply be taught, it has to be experienced for someone to understand what success will feel like. That's where fear can kick in.

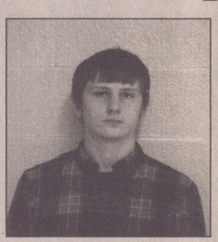
Now there are two types of fears. The first is small fears such as school work, what to wear, trying to figure out what the fox truly says. These fears take very little time to figure out how to care of them, but the bad thing is these fears, can cause us to feel overwhelmed and could turn into a big fear of failure.

Many of these small fears can easily be taken care of with a little time, soul searching, and reflection. The bad thing is if we decide to not take care of these small fears, this is the way in which problems pile up and can become a big fear. The best way to take care of these small problems is to deal with them any way you would a big problem, with time and reflection. We have to reflect on a problem and all the possible outcomes of it. If we do this it can help better analyze the situation we are in, and which angle to attack it from. Big fears can get, well, seriously bigger.

Bigger fears can include the following: death, depression, relationships, etc can all be classified as big fears. These fears don't usually happen all at once, but if they do, they can take much more time and a lot more help to overcome than small fears. One of the best ways to attack big fears is to seek advice from someone who has been through the same thing before, which can be a very difficult task in itself. Another good way to overcome big tasks, well any task really, is to pray about it. If we have confidence in the Lord to help us out with what we have, big or small, we should at least give him the courtesy to help us out. Lastly, what we can do to help us relieve the stress of big fears is to accept what we have going for us and strive to better the situations.

No one is going to be perfect, and we all will fail at times, However, take the failures one at a time, and let them lead to success.

Classes prepare for college, not life



By Alex Pandorf
Staff Reporter

The biggest disappointment about growing up for me was having a portion of my first paycheck paid to the government. As a kid I always heard about how adults hate paying taxes, but I never really imagined that one day I would be paying the "man."

Before getting a job, I had never really had the taxing system of the United States explained to me. The world outside of school was as foreign to me as the teacher's lunch table. I always heard that I would need to know how to do this for college, or how to do this for high school, but rarely heard, 'You will need to know this for life outside of school.' In grade school they always told me I'd need to write in perfect cursive for high school. Now that I'm in high school I write in a mixture of English, Spanish, cursive, print, and hieroglyphics.

Recently I made an endeavor to buy a car. I had no idea what I was doing, how much insurance would cost, or how to buy and judge insurance. I had no idea how payment plans or other forms of credit would work, which I did not use and hopefully never will.

None of my classes in high school, thus far, had prepared me to do so. Someday I'll have to do all these "adult tasks" and at the moment they worry me because I have no clue what I'm doing.

Some people would say it's the job of parents to teach their kids these life skills. There's only so much I can learn from frugal, old-school Paul Pandorf. I'm not insulting my dad here either, but he's about as closed minded as me. The point is, and I can't speak for everyone, but parents don't really teach their kids the life skills they will need until they do need them or after they need them.

> ***"Now that I'm in highschool I write a mixture of English, Spanish, print, and hieroglyphics."***
>
> ***~Alex Pandorf***

Unless students at Scotus decide to take certain electives, they don't learn these skills in school. Classes like accounting, personal finance, economics, and other electives commonly get shrugged off as boring or useless classes by most students. I did exactly this, but now in retrospect, I should have taken some of these classes during the years where I was less busy. Sometimes you take electives you think will be useless or fun rather than more important classes. Cough, cough, Journalism.

Scotus is too small of a school to be able to afford classes that will teach students skills they could use as a basis for a career. These classes include workshop, mechanics, and other forms of hands-on learning. Most of the classes aside from fine arts, deal with reading from a book every day or only taking notes. This makes learning hard for those who are more visually and actively oriented.

Students have to learn the skills they need for life outside of class. Some students do actually learn everything they need to, but many do not. I'm not saying Scotus is a bad place, but sometimes I question what I'm learning. I could give a speech on the Pythagorean Theorem, but if you ask me to talk for a minute about how I plan to succeed after high school or college, I'll probably struggle to even find a start. The next time you're picking classes for next year, consider which of those classes will help you outside of school, and make the decision that will be best for your future.

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Going their own way

Whether hunting lions or riding bulls, these students have some unique hobbies

Rambour continues tradition

By Brooke Olmer
Staff Reporter

Some students spend quality time with their fathers by going out to eat or maybe to a movie. Senior Kate Rambour spent quality time with her dad by going on a hunting trip up North to Craig, Colorado. This wasn't any normal trip hunting deer; the Rambour's were hunting a mountain lion.

"The guide goes hunting at 3 A.M. to find tracks, but you can't start hunting until 30 minutes before sunrise which was about 6. Most days we were up by about 4 A.M.," Rambour said.

This did entail Rambour to wake up early and travel far, but she still thought it was a great bonding experience for her and her father.

"I went on Monday November 18th and was unsuccessful, so we went again on Friday when the conditions were better," Rambour said.

Having to go to Colorado twice allowed Kate and her father to spend more time together. Although the trip was supposed to be just Kate and her father, they had guides to help them track the mountain lion.

"The first time there were three guides with us. Kirk was the main guide. He was so nice and really knew what he was doing. He made sure I knew what was going on at all times. Ron was another guide; he was old and crabby. I didn't talk to him much. Then Kirk's son came with us as well. The second time only Kirk came with us," Rambour said.

The guides were an important part of the trip and were helpful with filling in Kate with what was going on. Kate is not new to hunting. She has been going along for the ride and hunting since she was little.

"Most of the time we just sat in the ranger and looked at the mountains. It's beautiful out there. It was only when we were getting closer to the lion that it was intense and when I got a rush," Rambour said.

Kate was successful on the second trip up to Colorado.

> ***"It was only when we were getting closer to the lion that it was intense and when I got a rush."***
>
> ***~Kate Rambour***

She shot a three year old female mountain lion from about 40 yards. She shot it in a tree which it was chased up in by the dogs they had with them. This was a bonding trip for Kate and her dad, but there are people that disapprove of shooting mountain lions.

"I know that it offends some people that I shot a mountain lion, and I realize that they are beautiful animals. In the mountains they are overpopulated. When so many are shot, game and parks cut mountain lions off the list. By killing a mountain lion I saved about 50 deer and elk. There are many ranchers where I was hunting, and the mountain lions kill all their livestock. So even if you disagree with what I did, just keep in mind that I saved a lot more lives than I killed, "Rambour said.

Kate and her father plan on getting the mountain lion stuffed, and will continue to hunt ducks, turkey, and deer.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATE RAMBOUR

Senior Kate Rambour smiles as she holds up the mountain lion that she shot. kate and her dad traveled up North to Craig, colorado for the hunt.

Jepsen's journey to fame

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

"Smile! That's it, the camera loves you! Hold that pose. Perfect, you are a natural model!"

Scotus students may be surprised to know they have a model in their midst. Scotus senior Zach Jepsen, however, has been modeling for over a year.

<For those wondering how Jepsen was discovered, the answer might be unexpected.>

"My cousin was a model. At first it was a joke. We sent my pictures to modeling companies, but then they actually started calling me back, so I decided, 'why not?'" Jepsen said.

These phone calls soon turned into interviews as Jepsen was introduced to the glamorous modeling industry.

"I went down to Florida so I could meet agents, and I had 'go-sees'. That's where I got my agents from," Jepsen added.

Jepsen currently has two agents from well-known modeling companies; which include Abrams Artists Agency in New York and Rage Models and Talent in Los Angeles.

"The company in New York wants me to be down there for at least two weeks before I could do anything with them. Rage wants me to move down to Los Angeles because they have a lot of stuff for me," Jepsen said.

Jepsen is considering moving down to Los Angeles next year to model while continuing his education. He is also considering moving to Omaha, in order to attend college in Nebraska.

"In California, a career that would take four years of college in Nebraska would take six to eight years in LA. I might just stay here because there are agents in Omaha, and I could do stuff with them until I actually move to California," Jepsen said.

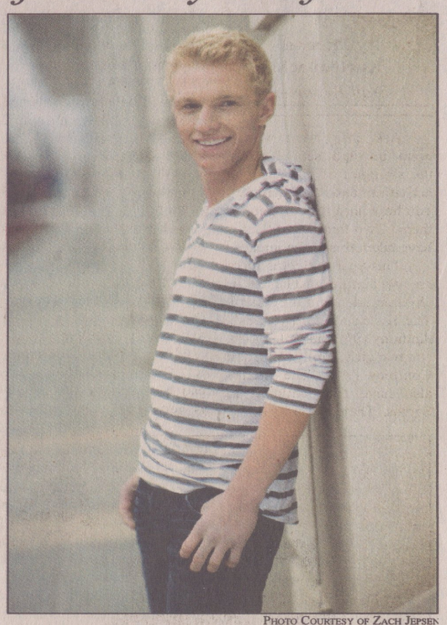


PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACH JEPSEN

Senior Zach Jepsen strikes a pose for his modeling photo shoot.

Jepsen also came to the realization that the modeling industry is filled with many surprising misconceptions.

"At first I thought that the fashion models, like the ones that do Gucci, were paid more. They are actually paid less than commercial models, like McDonald's models, because there are more people that eat at McDonalds versus Gucci," Jepsen said.

Jepsen plans to attend college to major in criminology, with a minor in business. He would like to eventually become an investigator.

"The modeling would be something that would help me get enough money for a business I would like to pursue in the future," Jepsen said.

Jepsen has modeled in a swimsuit runway show in Florida. He has also taken part in an ad campaign for Apple mini, and has had the opportunity to meet prominent commercial advertisers.

"Modeling gives me confidence in myself. In the future, when I have more experience with it, I hope to be inspiring to people who aren't very confident with themselves. I want to show them that there is nothing wrong with being who they are," Jepsen said.

What originally started out as a joke to Jepsen, modeling has become an important step in achieving his life goals.

Wheelock excels at extremes

By Blake Schroeder
Staff Reporter

There's the kids that play a sport, there's the kids that have a hobby, and there's even the kids that have a special talent. Then there's Jeffrey Wheelock.

Wheelock is involved in multiple crazy activities like kickboxing, bull riding, dirt bike racing, and snowboarding. During his entire childhood, he's added a new zany sport to his arsenal; he's been riding bulls since he was two years old. When he was four, he hopped on his first dirt bike. He picked up snowboarding when he was ten. Just about a year ago, he decided to start kickboxing.

Becoming interested in these types of sports isn't natural. For Wheelock, witnessing them first-hand was what inspired him to partake in them himself.

"Just being around all of these things my whole life [is what got me started]," Wheelock said.

Having started one of these sports opened the door for many others. For him, starting bull riding at such a young age is what opened possibilities for his other activities. However, nothing catches his interest more than the roots of where he started.

"Bull riding [is my favorite activity] because I like how intense everything is and I can be myself," Wheelock said.

Having such deep experience in bull riding has given him unique skill. For the small number of kids that bull ride today, Wheelock ranks among the highest. He is planning on proving it. Riding for over ten years has provided him with enough moxie to show off his talents on the national level.

"I'm going to be in the youth pro bull riding tour this summer," Wheelock said.

Having this kind of success is special. They are risky activities to do, but his parents are always supportive of him. However, just like any others, they worry about him.

"My parents worry about me. My dad gets nervous every time I go to sit on the bull because he's right there above me helping me get the bull rope on," said Wheelock.

Not everyone can just decide to begin partaking in these types of activities. Wheelock started when he was young and grew up surrounded by these sports. Ever since, he has dedicated himself to these sports. He warns others that they aren't as peaceful and fun as they might seem.

"There's consequences for every sport I do. You have to be able to face the fact that you can die doing one of them," Wheelock added.

Although death is a small possibility, it goes to show the bravery that he possesses.

"They know if I die; I died doing what I love," Wheelock said.

Wheelock continues to work hard and improve at his unique sports. He is hoping to compete well at the summer bull riding tour.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HEIDI WHEELOCK

Freshman Jeffrey Wheelock comes out of the gate during a bull riding competition. Wheelock has been riding bulls since he was two years old.

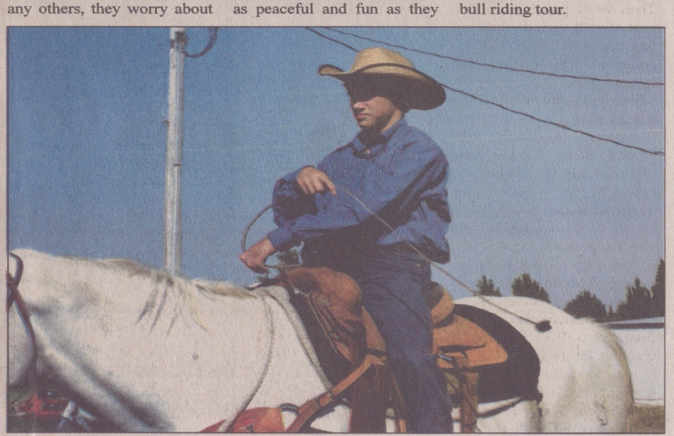


PHOTO COURTESY OF HEIDI WHEELOCK

Jeffrey Wheelock sits on a horse ready for his roping competition. Wheelock grew up surrounded by these types of sports.

Keeping it in the family

From school to vacation to work, these students know the importance of family

Families fund four at a time

By Michael Kurtenbach
Staff Reporter

Ask any parent with a child in high school about the struggles of making it to activities, and they will tell you how hard it is to manage them. Two families at Scotus have taken this to the max.

This year at Scotus there are two families that have four children attending the school. The Kosch's have two boys, Anthony (9th) and Caleb (7th), and two girls, Emily (12th) and Courtney (7th). The Allen's also have four children in Scotus. They are Emily (12th), Abby (11th), Wren (8th), and Hannah (7th).

There are some perks to having so many siblings at school.

"It's nice to know that if you have a problem with something, you always have someone to go to," Hannah Allen said.

However, not everyone in the Allen family feels the same way.

"It is not so bad if you just ignore them. I have 3 sisters here, so they like to try to embarrass me, but you get used to it," Wren Allen said.

One of the challenges that can be faced by the parents is getting all the children to school. Lucky for them, both families have children who can drive, so there is more than one way to get to school.

"I usually bring all of my siblings unless they have morning practice," said Emily Kosch.

Things aren't so organized at the Allen household.

"I drive myself, go with my sister, or go with my parents depending on the day," said Abby Allen.

Getting to school isn't the only problem parents can face. Often, with so many children, there are conflicting extracurricular activities. The parents have to find a way to deal with these conflicts.

"They try to go to everything, so it seems like they are always going to something. My dad goes to a lot of Wren's sports, and my mom comes to speech meets. They try to do a lot together though. They both came to all of the golf meets and Hannah's volleyball games. We all know that since we are so involved that our parents won't be able to make it to everything," explained Emily Allen.

With three siblings at school, there is no doubt that they see each other during the school day. They treat each other different depending on where they are.

"At home we are very rude to each other, but at school we keep it down," said Courtney Kosch.

"We are way weirder at home!" agreed Emily Kosch.

The question on everyone's mind is: who is the favorite child?

"I am definitely the favorite child because I am the oldest," commented Emily Allen.

"I am the favorite because I'm not as difficult as my siblings, and I'm better at going with the flow," said Abby Allen.

"I am the favorite because I'm totally awesome," noted Wren Allen.

"I'm the favorite because I'm awesome in that way," Hannah Allen said.

While there may be some disagreement between the Allen's, there is no doubt for the Kosch's.

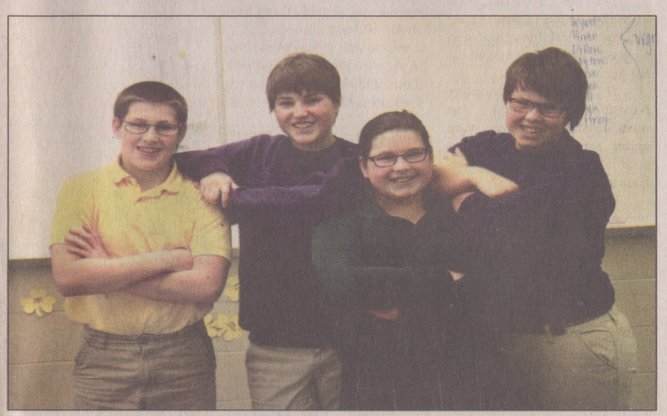
"I'm not the favorite child. Caleb is very perfect," noted Courtney Kosch.

"Caleb is the favorite by far," agreed Emily Kosch.

Not only do these families have four kids, they both have a fifth child. This is the only year that both will have four children at Scotus because the fifth child for both families is still in grade school.

Angie Rusher/Rock Bottom Staff

Seventh grader Caleb Kosch, Senior Emily Kosch, Freshman Anthony Kosch, and Seventh grader Courtney Kosch pose together. It can be a challenge for the parents to balance going to each kid's activities.



Angie Rusher/Rock Bottom Staff

Eighth grader Wren Allen, Junior Abby Allen, Seventh grader Hannah Allen, and Senior Emily Allen smile togethr for a picture. The Allens also have a brother Ryan who is a kindergartener at St. Bonaventure.

Moddes make floors

By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

There are many students at Scotus who don't seem to say a whole lot at school, but in actuality lead a lifestyle outside of school that is indeed unique and eventful. One of these students is Nick Modde. Modde, a senior, works for his father at Sealco, which is a business that applies polyurethane coatings to floors and roofs of industrial-sized buildings.

"I've always really liked chemistry and that's part of the work that I'd be doing for him like formulating the coatings, and that just kind of inspired me," Modde stated.

He elaborated on the process of their work through several steps.

"First, we'll grind the whole floor down and get it flat and make sure it's clean. Then we'll put down a first coat, we'll grind that off because it gets rid of all the pores in the concrete and it increases the aggregate, which makes it smoother," he explained.

After repeating the second step, Modde said that they can start laying the epoxy, or type of material the customer wants on their floor.

"I've been working with him for probably about three or four years, on and off in the summer," Modde said.

He spends most of his time at Sealco grinding the floors as well as mixing the coatings for them.

"I do quite a bit of grinding, that's probably 90% of the job. Just getting the floor prepared with the first two coats and then the last 10% I do with him," Modde said.

"He can just leave for the day once he gets me started on the grinding but then he'll come back for the mixing because that requires more expertise and assistance."

Modde has always had a keen interest in chemistry, and working for his father has only fueled that interest.

"One of the main things I like is the mixing part of it just because I like chemistry and it has a lot to deal with it," he explained.

He noted how he enjoys working with his father on the different ratios that each epoxy mix needs for the specific floor it's being applied to.

"For every single job that he does, he formulates a new epoxy for it with different ratios of things like corrosion inhibitors, rust inhibitors, and stuff like that to make sure it's durable and it lasts as long as it's supposed to," Modde said.

Although he does plan on going to college and going into the field of chemistry, he doesn't plan on leaving his father's business behind.

"I plan to get a degree n chemistry and then hopefully improve his product and get a patent on it and continue his work," Modde said.

He went on to explain that his father may retire within the next few years and is planning on leaving the business to Modde and his two brothers.

"As of right now, it looks like my brothers and I are taking over as a co-ownership, I guess you could say," he said. "I'm not sure how much longer he's going to be running the business so it's probably going to be pretty soon."

Jack Hoppe/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Nick Modde and his father pose in front of the Sealco trailer. Modde plans to take over the family buisness with his brothers.

Srikumars travel the world

By Kristen Ohnoutka-
Layout Editor

Thirty-four states, eight countries, and now Columbus, Nebraska. The Srikumar family has traveled all across the globe and have seen all different kinds of cultures, however, not a lot of people know about their global adventures.

The Srikumar family includes Jainaha (junior), Anjana (freshmen), and their parents and younger sister. The Srikumars moved here from Florida, but also lived in Texas and Massachusetts prior to that. They chose to move to Columbus after their father was offered a job here in town as a cardiologist three years ago.

"I've gotten to go shopping in Paris, eat pizza in Italy, go to Hollywood, watch opera in Vienna, and climb 1,000 stairs in a church in Madrid. I've also gotten to go snorkeling in Mexico, parasailing, surfing, and jet skiing," Anjana said.

Apart from being here for only three years, both the girls are very involved in their school and community. Anjana is a part of the school's art club, speech team, mock trial freshmen team, and is involved in dance. Jainaha is also kept busy by all her extracurricular activities.

"I'm on Scotus' speech and mock trial teams, NHS, the spring play, musical, One Acts, Thespians, and tennis. I also started playing the violin when I was three and stopped when I was twelve. I have just recently started to play again," Jainaha said.

The Srikumars are the only Hindu family attending Scotus, but what most people may not know is that the Srikumars have to make exceptions every day in order to accommodate for their faith. For an example, Jainaha and Anjana must adjust any day that the meal contains beef and have seaparate school lunches made for them. This is because in the Hindu faith they do not allow the eating of anything that comes from a cow.

"It is interesting being the only Hindu family. I get asked a ton of bizarre questions, and it makes eating school lunches a bit complicated at times," Jainaha said.

Like any other teenagers, the girls have plans for their futures that include college and getting a job once they have graduated. Jainaha wants to go on to a medical school, hopefully somewhere near a beach.

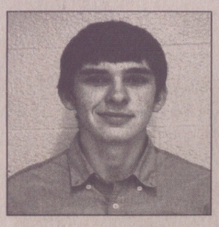
"One day I wish to be trilingual once I have graduated from college," Jainaha said.

Anjana also hopes to one day attend an Ivy League school and study in the medical field and become a doctor like her father.

The Srikumar girls continue to stay involved at Scotus and in their community. They also plan to continue traveling and seeing the rest of the world as a family.

Photo Courtesy of the Srikumar Family

Anjana and Jainaha Srikumar (center) pose for a photo with Josh Dallas (right), Prince Charming from ABC's *Once Upon a Time*. The Srikumars came across the filming of the TV show while on their travels to Canada.



By Conner Moran
Staff Reporter

'Tis the season... for bowl games

With the holiday season once again approaching, many people will be looking forward to the extra time they will have to be able to watch the various sporting events. The biggest of these being the college football bowl games.

This 2013 season, the Nebraska Cornhuskers have proved again that they are not able to keep their composure and then choke during big games. Now, because of their inconsistency, Nebraska will not be headed to the Big 10 Bowl Game. Instead, the Huskers will be headed to the Gator Bowl to face the 8-4 Georgia Bulldogs. This is not the same Georgia from last year because they really aren't that good this year. Huskers seem to be following the same suit. *Nebraska 34-22*

One of the bowl games I'm actually looking forward to will be the AT&T Cotton Bowl. The 11-2 Missouri Tigers will go up against the 10-2 Oklahoma State Cowboys in Arlington, Texas. Remember that OSU basically destroyed Baylor in week 13, who were undefeated at the time. But, Missouri and their great defense defeated Johnny Football and the Texas A&M Aggies 28-21, so they should prove to be a formidable foe against the Sooners. *Mizzou; 30-20.*

Another game that should be good will be between the Stanford Cardinals and the Michigan State Spartans at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. #5 Stanford finished the season at an incredible 11-2, while the Spartans ended with an even better 12-1, and the one loss being to Notre Dame. I will be surprised if one team decides to choke and the game becomes a blowout. Oh well, it happens. *Stanford; 17-13.*

One last game, and probably the biggest of all, will be the Vizio BCS National Championship game played by the #2 Auburn Tigers going against #1 Florida State Seminoles. Auburn defeated the Alabama Crimson Tide, who were ranked number one at the time, which also gave them the BCS berth. The undefeated Seminoles, led by Heisman-nominated Jameis Winston, will charge onto the field January 6th where they will face one of their toughest opponents. *Auburn; 23-21*

Maybe the bowl games this year might actually turn out to be worth watching, but I usually don't watch many of the bowl games anyway. Remember to pray for the Huskers, they need all the help they can get. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Other Notable Bowl Games

Capital One Bowl
Wisconsin (9-3)
vs.
South Carolina (10-2)

Belk Bowl
Miami (9-3)
vs.
Louisville (11-1)

Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl
Michigan (7-5)
vs.
Kansas State (7-5)

Basketball teams set the pace

By Blake Schroeder
Staff Reporter

The girls' basketball team has their sights set high, looking to improve on their 14-8 record from last season.

"One thing the coaches really want us to work on is running the court and doing a lot of fast breaks to get the game going much faster," junior Jessica Schaecher said.

This new play style has been pushed by coaches Jarrod Ridder and Wade Coulter. Along with the change in offensive strategy, they have also implemented a new way of pumping up the team and instilling energy in the players.

"Before every practice Coach Coulter yells a chant, and we have to yell back at him," Schaecher said.

The new antics and creativity are playing a big role in the chemistry of the young team.

"During basketball season, we all spend so much time together. It's so fun – there's never a dull moment. It's a huge part of the game!" senior Payton Chohon said.

Both players and coaches believe that this can be a successful year for the team.

"Coaches and players both have to be confident that we can win the game, but we've got to get better," senior Kylie Rollman said.

The season hasn't started the way the girls expected, as they lost their first two games against St. Cecilia and GACC by scores of 25-54 and 26-47. They regrouped to get their first victory of the season against GICC, winning 37-28.

The boys' team this year is hoping to mirror their hot start from last year, and keep that momentum going on a longer stretch. The goal, for Grant Lahm, is as basic as it gets.

"[The goal is to] get to state, and when we get there, win it," junior Grant Lahm said.

Lahm is a returning scorer from last year's 14-10 team. Five of those ten loses came from district foes, as they went winless in divisional matchups. This year's team has more experience and hopes to change that.

"We only had two seniors last year so a lot of people had to see the court and that helps with experience," Lahm said.

Senior Derek Kaslon also thinks the team has improved from last year.

"[We've gotten] more experience and we've grown closer," Kaslon said.

Jessica Schaecher/Yearbook Staff

Senior Nathan Ebner drives to the basket against a Hastings St. Cecilia defender on December 5th. The Shamrocks won in double overtime 50-41.

On top of the experience the team has, there are also freshmen Cody Mroczek and Dalton Taylor who hope to make an impact on the varsity squad. Mroczek has already had a key moment this year, draining a three to give the Rocks the lead late in the fourth quarter in the season opener against St. Cecilia. He wants to contribute toward a state-contending team as well.

"[I want] to play at Pinnacle Bank Arena, which means we would have to win our first game at State," Mroczek said.

Both players agree that, to accomplish these goals, the team will have to remain united and work together to maintain team chemistry.

"It's pretty important because we all need to trust each other to score," Mroczek said.

"It helps when things get bad – we don't blow up on each other," Lahm said.

The boys' season has started just as planned, as they are 2-0 with a 51-40 overtime victory at St. Cecilia and a 66-20 crushing of GACC. The Shamrocks had a special night holding GACC to only 20 total points, breaking the previous record-low of 26 points set first in the 1971-1972 season. They played GICC in another overtime thriller and won 47-45 thanks to clutch free throw shooting from Mroczek and Lahm, as well as a late go-ahead layup from Ebner.

The girls' and boys' basketball teams travel to Omaha to play Concordia tonight at 6:30 and 8:00.

Wrestling dominates early season

Val Borer/Rock Bottom

Sophomore Wyatt Gutzmer attempts a pin of his opponent at the Nebraska Duels on Saturday. Gutzmer finished the weekend with an 8-2 record.

By Jacob Nienaber
Staff Reporter

The Shamrock wrestling program, which began one year ago, is looking to build off of last years' experience. Last year the Shamrocks were 14-9, and had many highlights such as winning the last three regular season tournaments. The team has been taking strides to prepare for the upcoming season.

"We have put a lot of effort in this past summer, wrestling and weight lifting; we should make some substantial gains on the mat, and we are very excited about our programs first home dual January 23rd," head coach Tracy Dodson said.

Although coach Dodson is pleased with his team, he also sees room for improvement.

"Last year we had six wrestlers that were "one the bubble", and one injured at districts, this year they will be our strengths. However, we are still a very young team with a good array of freshman coming in this year ranging from 106 pounds all the way up to 182 pounds; our upper weights are going to be a key for us to compete in duals," Coach Dodson added.

In wrestling, many wrestlers have to lose weight in order to maintain position inside their own individual weight classes.

"It's been kind of hard losing about 15 pounds, but it could be worse of course," said sophomore state qualifier Mason Brandenburg.

The Shamrocks have 19 high school wrestlers out this year with eleven total returning letter winners, two returning state qualifiers, and one state medalist.

"I am really looking forward to our first home dual versus High Plains as well as redemption against Schuyler for redemption purposes. Another thing I am excited for is state," sophomore wrestler and state medalist Marcus Dodson said.

This year the shamrocks are looking to take bigger strides when on the mat, and some are taking different methods of accomplishing this.

"We are washing our hands regularly and showering thoroughly to stay healthy. On a personal note, I am taking off my shoes and socks and meditating for twenty minutes before going to bed. It helps me take a trip to my happy place," Marcus said.

The boys have had two meets so far this year placing first at the Lakeview Invite and 8-4 at the Nebraska Duals.

Young team faces tough opponents

By Conner Moran
Staff Reporter

The CHS Swim and Dive started the season with their first invitational at the YMCA in Hastings. Peter Dolezal, senior, is a starting swimmer. This is his third swimming season, and he thinks the talent seems promising.

"Our team is very young this year. We lost a lot of swimmers from last year, but we should still compete well," Dolezal said.

There are six Scotus students participating in swim and dive for the 2013-2014 season. Only several swimmers from last year returned.

"We don't have a lot of returning swimmers. We got a few new kids that are pretty good. Last year we had 55 on the team, and now we have around 35," Dolezal commented.

With almost two dozen kids not coming back, there would seem to be less key swimmers, but the team is coping well.

"Everyone has the potential to be our biggest weapon because they can cut time and earn points for the team," Telegram Super Senior Laura Miksch said.

Even with the time cuts and the many talented swimmers on the team, there is still the factor of opposing teams and players.

"In every race, there will always be someone who is going to push you to go faster and there are a lot of talented swimmers this year," Miksch said.

Although there is pressure to do well and win (same with every sport), there are just as many positives about the season.

"[The best part is] going to the meets and talking with all of your friends you meet from swimming from Columbus and other teams," Miksch noted.

The CHS Swim and Dive team won their first two meets of the season, but suffered two consecutive losses, one of the losses being to one of their biggest opponents, Lincoln Christian.

Zach Jepsen/Media Staff

Senior Peter Dolezal takes a breath during his race at the Columbus Relays on Saturday. The team goes to Elkhorn for their next meet on Saturday.

Even with the slow start, the team's aspirations are high.

"We're trying and hoping to get to state of course, and as an individual I want to qualify for state and also see the team improve as a whole," Dolezal said.

Miksch and Dolezal were both state qualifiers last year with Miksch bringing home two gold medals.

The team travels to Elkhorn for their next meet on Saturday.

Christmas Concert wraps up semester

By Brooke Olmer
Staff Reporter

Music director Ms. Gardner went out on a high note for her last Christmas Vocal Music Concert on December 8th.

"We started practicing Christmas music about six weeks before the concert at the end of the first quarter. Sometimes the kids pick the songs they want to do, and I usually pick out a couple that I like to do," Gardner said.

Although the theme of Christmas was the same as every other Christmas concert, the concert was changed to a different date. It was held on a Sunday this year.

"I liked doing the concert on a Sunday afternoon. I was afraid that a lot of people would have family plans on Sunday, but it turned out that not very many people had something else going on," Gardner said.

Ms. Gardner had performances by the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, John Dunn's Chorus, and the Shamrock Singers.

"I was very happy with how the concert went, I thought that the kids were very well behaved," Gardner said.

The theme of Christmas is the same for the concert each year, but it is important to try and make each concert original.

"I let the kids choose what they want to sing and usually it's different every year. Last year we did "Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber, and this year the eighth graders chose "Last Christmas". I usually try to let the Jr. High kids pick at least one song because they like to put their mark on it," Gardner said.

Besides the date change, this Christmas vocal concert was also significant because this is Ms. Gardner's last year at Scotus.

"It's sad that Ms. Gardner is leaving, I've always had a heart for her," senior Bre Walker said.

The vocal music concert isn't the only fine arts event taking place at Scotus. The Christmas band concert also took place last night.

"The high school band has spent every single minute, even before school, to rehearse because the time has been really short for this group to prepare. This is because Scotus hosted the Veterans Day program and that meant the band needed to prepare music for that event. We also had to rehearse pep band music for state volleyball because we have so many new people in the high school band this year, and we also have a new percussion section. Usually that whole week we're working on Christmas music. So those students have had extra practice outside of class," Band director Mrs. Cox said.

Brooke Olmer/Rock Bottom Staff

Seniors Dan Strecker and Bre Walker along with other members of Shamrock Singers recognize Ms. Gardner on stage after the Christmas Vocal Concert. This is Ms. Gardner's last year at Scotus.

Like Gardner and the vocal music concert, Mrs. Cox also tries to spice up the concerts each year.

"I try to change the music up from year to year. With the elementary bands it's not as easy because there are only so many notes that they know; and there's only so much music out there in general for Christmas music. From year to year each band puts their own little flavor or twist on how they are playing a particular Christmas carol. So it never will sound the same even if it happens to be the same song," Cox said.

One Acts tackles sensitive topic

Mikayla Gasper/Yearbook Staff

Seniors Jacob Nienaber, Carly Burkhardt, Conner Moran, Val Borer, and Jennifer Ryan are shocked during the public One Act performance on Wednesday, November 20th. The cast struggled with a sensitive issue this year.

By Alex Pandorf
Staff Reporter

It didn't just come back; it came back with weapons. This year's One Acts group took on the challenge of a sensitive issue.

"Tackling a serious production is much more complicated than a humorous one," senior Carly Burkhardt commented.

In this year's performance there is not only a mentally handicapped role, but also a suicide during the performance.

"It's a difficult subject to talk about, but it's something people should be aware of," senior Dan Strecker said."

A family gathers around their T.V. set as they watch their son/brother discuss each member's effect on his life. The family goes through ups and downs as they realize just how crucial they've been to his development. Jack Hoppe plays the mentally handicapped boy Charlie. He received most outstanding actor at Districts.

"I think the cast has done a really great job of keeping it realistic," Mrs. Zanardi the One-Acts coach commented.

The senior led cast survived conference and competed at districts. At conference they received mixed reactions from the judges. Some gave good input and compliments, while others did not understand the point the cast was trying to get across.

"We had one judge that gave us some great advice, and one judge that really didn't get it," Zanardi said.

One Acts is a lot of extra work for many people.

"I want people to be aware and to be excited about it," Burkardt said.

It isn't always acting and fun, it also involves memorizing lines, preparing the set, and getting along with the other members.

"The hard work and the crabbiness was worth it in the end," Zanardi said, "The fun comes when everything come together and falls into place."

The cast had success in their performance at Scotus and at the conference competition, but they fell short of districts. This year's One-Acts group will not be going to state, despite all their work.

One Acts will return next year as a semester class opposite of Beginning Performance, which current Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomore's took during their Junior High classes. This coming semester in 2014, Beginning Performance will be taught by Mrs. Zanardi for those who have not taken it. You must complete beginning performance before you can perform in One Acts. When it returns next year, students are encouraged to take the class and try their skills on the stage.

"You might be surprised by your acting skills," Hoppe commented.

Mock Trial takes 8th at State

By Michael Kurtenbach
Staff Reporter

Scotus mock trial has been a mainstay at the state competition for a few years. This year was no different. The senior mock trial team won the district competition and got their ticket to state.

The team competed at the state competition on Tuesday, December 10th and Wednesday, December 11th in Lincoln. While in Lincoln, the senior team competed in three rounds.

"Our first round we went against Dundy County and we represented the defendant, Chris Deeds in the case. In the next two rounds we were plaintiff for both, and we went against Norfolk High in the second round and Platteview in the third round," senior attorney Carly Burkhardt explained.

Each side of the case has a few witnesses, and these witnesses are critical to the case. One of these witnesses was played by senior Val Borer.

"I played Mel Evolence. My character was a CNA, certified nursing assistant, and what I was trying to prove was that Chris Deeds needs to get rid of his dog, Duke, because Chris, in my professional opinion, doesn't have PTSD. So I'm thinking that, for betterment of the entire apartment building, that Duke needs to leave," Borer said.

The team took 8th this year. The scoring for mock trial is a far cry from any other sport.

"There are three judges and they keep scoring ballots. At the end, you get placed based on how many ballots you win so there could be a team that we beat that beats us overall. We clearly beat Dundy County. That's not set in stone because we haven't seen the ballots, but you can just tell. So, because they played worse teams in their other competitions they ended up with more ballots," Burkhardt explained.

The senior team competed against a non-Scotus team for the first time this year at state. At districts, they had beat the freshmen, sophomore, and junior teams.

"I think it's easier to go against a team that you don't know because you can be harsher and more assertive, and they won't have any predisposed ideas of you. If you go up against a Scotus team and you try to be super harsh, they know that you aren't really like that and it's hard to be more intimidating," Burkhardt said.

The state competition comes at a bad time of year for the students involved. This year it took place the week before semester finals.

"I had my English paper which is supposed to be three to six pages. Then I had an algebra test to study for and make up, a government test that I had to make up, and then trying to get a little bit of studying in for the ethics midterm. Then I had two short newspaper articles to write and I didn't have a laptop or way of writing them which was also difficult for the English essay," Borer noted.

While at the competition, the team had very little down time in which they could try to do their assignments.

Other Scotus teams will have to keep the important, yet stressful, tradition of making it to the state competition.

"I think we did really good job at state, and we all had fun even though it was stressful with school," Borer concluded.

Shelby Beller/Yearbook Staff

Attorney Eric Klutman, seniors Emily Allen, Carly Burkhardt, Payton Chohon, Peter Dolezal, Zack Jepsen, Val Borer, Brooke Olmer, and Kristen Ohnoutka pose for a team picture in the Platte County Courthouse. The senior team competed at state and finished in 8th place.

Movie sparks hot reaction

By Carly Burkhardt
Editor

After two long years of waiting, the day had finally come. I arrived at the theater 45 minutes early, (expecting but not finding a large crowd), found the perfect seat, and began the countdown to what would hopefully be worth the two year wait. The lights dimmed, the finally full theater hushed, and *Catching Fire* began.

I. Was. Ecstatic. Finally, the book I had read years ago was brought to life in a beautiful display of cinematic perfection. I was in love with and hated the movie all at the same time. I loved how perfectly the scenes I had imagined while reading were brought to life right in front of me, and at the same time I hated it for how well it captured the sickening circumstances the characters were subject to.

Catching Fire is the sequel to *Hunger Games* and is book number two in the three part series by Suzanne Collins. The books are set in the country of Panem which arose from the ashes of North America. The surviving people were separated into 13 districts, and the lower classes were victims to social unrest. An uprising of the districts occurred which brought about the birth of the *Hunger Games*. The Hunger Games acted as a reminder that another uprising should never be repeated.

One of my biggest pet peeves is when a movie strays too far away from the plot of a story or implements new scenes that weren't there to begin with. Both *Hunger Games* and *Catching Fire* resembled almost exactly what was laid out in the text of the book. Like any movie, not all of the book's scenes could be implemented, including Katniss' conversations with members of District 8 in the woods, Peeta's heightened artistic ability, and so on, but all the scenes that were implemented ran for two and a half hours.

One drawback to such an amazing action- packed book trilogy is that in order to include all the necessary factors, the movie is a bit rushed. Coming from someone who has read the book, I followed the story line with ease, but it could be difficult to keep up with all the action if you were not aware of what was happening in the first place.

I think, though, that it truly says something about the movie that the first 80 or so minutes did not even include any part of the games. It captured all of the events leading up to the games without losing the attention of the audience. As the games approached, the anticipation of the theater kept growing and growing until they finally started.

The rest of the movie was a whirlwind of excitement and twists that kept me yearning for more. I found myself on the edge of my seat for most of the movie and even found myself in tears at one point (which isn't that big of a deal seeing that I cry at everything).

Overall, Catching Fire lived up to my expectations and then some. I highly suggest going to see the movie, and if you need someone to go with, I would gladly go again.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WWW.IMDB.COM

Modern movies make me mad

By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

There's something about today's movies that just doesn't make them seem so special anymore. I'm not sure what it is, but I simply don't enjoy new movies like I used too. Perhaps it's because I don't have as big of an imagination as I once did, and movies don't seem that believable to me anymore. Or perhaps movies are just being made differently than they once were. Regardless of what anyone's opinion is about whether or not movies are better or worse than they used to be, there is a simple fact that movies just aren't done the same way they were done ten, twenty, thirty, even forty years ago. Some may view that as a good thing, but I, however, see this as a problem with the cinema industry today. To me, today's movies just don't carry the pizazz that they once did.

When I watch a recently-made movie, I just don't become absorbed in the story like a once did. I watch them and see all kinds of flaws and mistakes that I never see when I watch older movies. There are parts of the story that don't add up, characters that do ridiculous things for no reason, and there is stuff going on in the movie that is completely irrelevant to the story. Also, movies don't seem to flow well anymore. For example, a movie I'll regrettably be watching will be going at a slow pace with some of the overly-complicated, yet unbelievably unoriginal plot being explained. Then, in the blink of an eye and for no apparent reason, there will be 5 minutes of mindless action that is more amusing than it is entertaining, and a main character will die for a pointless and dumb reason. Then I'll be wondering why they didn't build that main character up a bit more before they killed him off, but before I can ponder whether or not that character was even necessary in the first place, there will be some more pointless action with an over-the-top effect that would have been way cooler if it wasn't poorly done in CGI.

> ***"There are quite a few weaknesses I see in modern movies that I know for a fact could have been done a little better."***
> ***-Jack Hoppe***

If I had to take a wild guess as to why today's movies aren't all that great to me, I'd say that they are simply being rushed too much, and too little effort is being put into perfecting them. Now I am a bit of a perfectionist, and if you're going to do something that requires a lot of skill and effort, then you better do it right. There are quite a few weaknesses I see in modern movies that I know for a fact could have been done a little better. Whether it be cheesy effects, poor acting, or just the screenplay in general, I think some producers in the movie industry need to put a little more effort and creativity into what they're doing, or I'd be just as happy if they found new jobs.

On the subject of creativity, the majority of modern movies seem quite unoriginal to me. The plots of today's movies all seem fairly generic anymore. There just doesn't seem to be any creativity in them, and the big majority of movies seem to follow the same formula for their genre. I feel as though no one wants to take the time to come up with something new, and instead they'd rather rip off a classic and put in a bunch of mindless action and a few corny jokes to make it a bit more appealing. On occasion there are some excellent ideas with a lot of potential, but the people in charge of putting that idea onto the big screen always seem to end up butchering it.

I've learned that regardless of what movie I'm watching, there will always be someone who won't enjoy it like I do. The bottom line is today's movies are not done like they used to be, and the movie industry lacks in the creativity it once had. However, that doesn't mean all modern movies are bad, as there have been a number of films in the past few years that were very well done and thoroughly thought out. That being said, sometimes it's best to just shut up and watch the movie, as they may exceed your expectations.

Upcoming Events

December 18-19
Semester Tests

December 20-January 6
Christmas Break!

Friday, December 20
JV/V Boys/Girls Basketball
4:30/6:15/8:00 P.M.
Home/Pierce

December 20-21
Swimming
Elkhorn Invite

Saturday, December 21
Wrestling
Logan View Invite
9:30 am
9th Grade Boys/Girls Basketball
10:00/11:30 am
@Pierce

Wednesday, December 25
Merry Christmas!

December 27-28
JV/V Boys/Girls Holiday Tournament
Home

Wednesday, January 1
Happy New Year!

Saturday, January 4
JV/V Boys/Girls Basketball
12:00/1:45/3:30
Home/Fort Calhoun

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Catholic schools celebrate identity

By Carly Burkhardt
Editor

CARLY BURKHARDT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seniors Jach Jepsen and Kate Rambour swing dance during Catholic Schools Week in the Dowd Activity Center. Catholic Schools week was wrapped up with a day of movies or swing dancing.

All across the country, schools are being criticized for their use of "God" in the pledge of Allegiance. There is absolutely no tolerance for any form of God in the public schools system, fortunately though, attending a Catholic school allows for the free expression of faith and learning experiences every day. One week out of each year, Catholic schools are celebrated during Catholic Schools Week.

"Catholic School's week is a time when we celebrate our identity and try to promote who we are to the wider culture that maybe doesn't understand very well what our mission is or what the value of what we do here is," Scotus Chaplain Fr. Roza said.

The mission of Catholic schools is integrated into the core of daily education at Scotus.

"The mission of Catholic schools is to be able to be educated while integrating spirituality and faith, in particular our understanding of Catholicism and faith. We can grow in our faith, we can integrate faith, and we can use faith in every subject that we study that applies, or if the teacher knows how. We can pray together and not worry about somebody coming in and trying to sue us, and that's fantastic," Roza said.

Catholic school's week started out with a day off of school on Monday, January 28th while the teachers attended a retreat at the Benedictine Center in Schuyler, Nebraska. . The rest of the week had special activities and "treats" planned. Tuesday featured an all school mass, ice cream sandwiches were provided at lunch on Wednesday, Thursday was Catholic t-shirt day, and the week rounded off with movies and swing dancing being offered in the afternoon Friday. The week's events, the same as years past, are planned long in advanced.

"I'm the chairperson on the Catholicity committee, and there is a group of five of us who get together, and we start planning Catholic Schools Week usually a couple months in advance. We take into account whether there will be an all school mass, and we also look into whether or not a speaker would possibly be available to come in during that week. Last year we did a living rosary, so this year we went back to the movies and swing dancing again, which I think is pretty popular with people. It's a chance for all of us to relax and have a little fun," Catholicity Chair Jeff Ohnoutka commented.

The one week a year taken to celebrate Catholic schools stems from the very roots of their beginnings. Catholic schools were founded in large part because there

See SCHOOLS, Page 2.

Letter jackets make a comeback

By Michael Kurtenbach
Staff Reporter

ANGIE RUSHER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomores Jake Bos and Jackson Kumpf model the different styles of letter jackets while Mike Kurtenbach sports his dad's vintage jacket. Letter jackets are making a comeback at Scotus.

Not only can Scotus pride give a student motivation in academics and athletics, but it can also keep him/her warm. How? Letter jackets.

Letter jackets have a big history at Scotus. The letter jackets go so far back that they originally had a "B" on them for St. Bonaventure High School.

"Traditionally, going way back, the jackets were green with green sleeves. That was always traditionally Scotus," S-club sponsor Tyler Linder explained.

"The tradition was green sleeves with a green jacket because back then we had a big rivalry with Schuyler, and when we went to events we wanted nothing to do with Schuyler," Dr. Rex Kumpf, a Scotus alumni commented.

Last semester students were asked to answer a questionnaire that was about the comeback of the letter jackets. The survey included a question about what color of letter jackets the students would prefer to buy. The results came in and a resounding majority of the student body said that they would prefer a green jacket with white sleeves.

"Ninety percent of the student population were for the white sleeves," Linder said.

Linder didn't really volunteer for the job, but he didn't turn it down either.

"It was passed my way because I am the liaison between the athletic administration and our students. That's what the S-club is," Linder said.

Since Linder is the one of the connections between the administration and the students, he went to the students with a survey for a specific reason.

"We are seeing a lot more kids lettering earlier. They feel that it would be a wise investment to get a letter jacket, as opposed to a junior that only letters in track that will only wear it one year," Mr. Linder commented.

However, this result caused a bit of a conflict. This conflict dates back much longer than just a few years. Many alumni prefer the jacket to be the traditional green on green.

"Roughly ten years ago the switch was made from green on green to green on white. One of the previous S-Club sponsors changed it to green on white after surveying some kids. At the time it seemed that the kids were happy, but the alumni weren't happy because the green with the white sleeves is traditionally what Schuyler has," Mr. Linder noted.

Kumpf is one person who wanted the traditional colors to make a comeback.

"We wanted the student body to understand where that green on green came from. In part it was a distinction. We were getting away from the Schuyler colors," Dr. Kumpf explained.

However, both Kumpf and Linder agreed in the end.

"Just to see [the students] wearing them, whether they are white sleeve or green sleeve, that is the main thing," Kumpf finished.

Linder agreed, "As long as the letter on the jacket is an 'S' with a shamrock, that is all that matters."

Students defend life

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

"I am an N, I am an N-E, I am an N-E-B-R-A-S-K-A-N. I wear R-E-D to show that I am L-O-Y-A-L, and I am P-R-O-L-I-F-E! Prolife!"

The chanting of hundreds of Nebraskans could be heard from the nation's capital on January 22, 2014 as they participated in the National March for Life.

The March for Life takes place on the anniversary of Roe versus Wade, the court case that legalized abortion 41 years ago. Hundreds of thousands of people attend the March each year to protest the act of legalized abortion. Scotus had its largest group of participants yet, with 39 students, along with religion teacher, Cheryl Rambour.

Among these students, sophomore Brady Przymus made his first pilgrimage to Washington.

"I have a baby brother, and I love him more than almost anything in the world. I never want anything bad to happen to him. The fact that millions of babies have been refused their right to life in very harsh and painful ways really hurts me," Przymus said.

Students made their trek to Washington, DC by bus, about 28 hours each way. A total of around sixty hours of the week was spent on a charter bus.

Sophomore Hannah Thomazin has participated in the March for Life for two years now.

"The bus ride wasn't necessarily uncomfortable, but it was really long. Luckily, the people on the bus were great, and the chaperones rocked," Thomazin said.

Religion teacher Cheryl Rambour actively launched the Teens for Life group at Scotus seven years ago. She also helped initiate the March for Life availability to Scotus students.

"Abortion is a life or death issue. It's not one of those issues to be neutral about. As Catholics, we are called to follow the gospel and commandments, which are definitely pro-life," Rambour said.

Students had the opportunity to visit many sights during their trip, including Independence Hall and the Basilica of St. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, as well as The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and a variety of Smithsonian museums in Washington, DC.

Students were absent from school for four days to make their pilgrimage.

"The only uncomfortable experience was having to worry about the loads of homework that I had to make up," Przymus said.

Students were encouraged to bring their homework on the pilgrimage, but a joint effort between students and teachers had to be made upon return in order for the students to complete their assignments.

"I look back at my high school; I don't remember the lectures, but I remember the outside experiences. I think the success we have had with kids really deepening their faith is because of Steubenville, JC camps, and the March for Life. These are opportunities for kids to really dig deep with their faith and

See MARCH, Page 2

SCHOOLS

was so much anti-Catholicism in the 19th century.

"The schools were founded in response to the faith being persecuted seriously within the wider culture and within the curriculum of the public schools. The Bishops considered the schools a really important thing in terms of establishing an identity in their culture for Catholics. They were established so that Catholics could learn how to become great and good American citizens, but also be strong in their Catholic identity," Roza explained. I think that is still the goal of Catholic school: that people can be competent and good and successful in all these other areas of life and we prepare people well to do that, but also that they know how to integrate their faith and use their faith as they navigate the challenges that will be there in the future."

Just as the Catholic faith was persecuted long ago, persecution continues to take place, and being Catholic is becoming harder to do.

"Likely in the future it will be more and more difficult to be Catholic in the world, and Catholic schools will become just as important as when they were first founded," Roza commented.

Catholic Schools Week is a chance for the Scotus community to come together and celebrate as a family.

"It's a chance for us to get together and have fun together outside of just the normal classroom setting. It's a time for us just to relax and watch a movie together, to have some snacks and have some laughs," Ohnoutka said.

MARCH

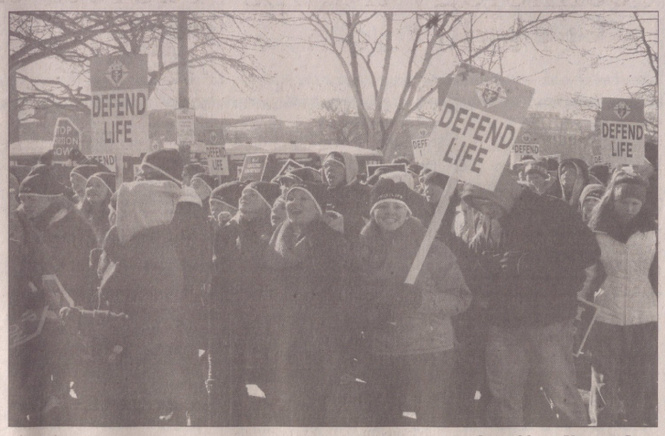
don't think it is so much what happens in the classroom. I think the memories and the big "aha" moments are from outside the classroom," Rambour said.

Sam Patocka-Brewster was one of ten Scotus seniors that participated in the March this year.

"It's not just marching for the babies. We went to church every day. There is guitar music and loud singing. It was so much fun to get closer to God and find Him," Patocka said.

Since January 22, 2013, the date of the last March for Life, 87 abortion mills have closed in the United States.

"One day, when abortion is illegal, I can say that I was a part of that because I went on the March and fought for the babies," Patocka said.



JESSICA MARTYS/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Emily Kosch and Carley Foltz chant prolife cheers at the March For Life in Washington D.C. Students from Scotus gather together every year to attend the March in support of their beliefs.

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Technology trumps tradition

By Kristen Ohnoutka
Layout Editor

In a world not so far away, kids of the future will face a completely different school system than any of us could ever imagine. The way technology is going, soon everything will be online. Schools will hand out tablets like they are pieces of loose leaf paper torn from a notebook. Homework will all have to be submitted to turnitin.com, and there will be no such thing as "worksheets" anymore. Students will have to face the fact that they won't be able to create some elaborate excuse anymore as to why they don't have their homework done. The old "my dog ate my homework" excuse will be history along with hundreds of other excuses students have mastered over the ages.

This year, Scotus added a new program to its daily classes and curriculum. This is the B.Y.O.D. program, which allows all students to bring in any sort of device they own and use it for studying or as a research source. But is the B.Y.O.D. program helping or harming the student body?

So far, I think the B.Y.O.D. program is very useful and helpful to students, but as technology advances, then so must the rules that go along with it. In the near future, schools all across America will be adding all sorts of new technology to their education programs. Yes, this will help to enhance students' knowledge but at the expense of losing the customs and traditions of using books and other school supplies.

Enterprises like Wal-Mart and Target will lose thousands of dollars once schools stop making school supply lists in the summer. The only necessity students will need to get them through a school day will be the latest and of course most illogically priced Apple IPads. Soon students won't even be taking notes anymore. Their teachers will just type up all of the notes on their own Quizlet page for the students to study from.

It's already happening, in fact. St. Bonaventure Elementary school has also made some new technology advances to their student body. One option the students are given to study for certain tests is through Quizlet. They do not hand out any notes or take any in class, everything's online.

Because of these new technological advances, kids as young as six to seven years old are getting IPads, tablets, or even phones. It's ridiculous to think parents are alright with their kids being exposed to the world of the internet as early as they are able to read. Let's face it, the internet, though even on its best day, is not always a safe and/or appropriate place for children as young as six years old to be roaming around.

Schools should of course be embracing and accommodating for the rapid change and growth of technology, but they also need to keep in mind that losing tradition is not always the best option. I can't read a book on one of those ebook, nook, tablet things. It drives me crazy. I, personally, have to have the real book in my hands and have to turn the pages with my own hands, not swipe a button.

Keeping books and tangible forms of homework around keep the spirit and life of school alive. I think this generation of high school students is the last to have seen the days before a technology-obsessed world. We will be the last ones to remember what it was like bringing home actual books and notebooks full of handwritten and hand-aching notes. Kids of the future will carry laptops around with them and homework will be submitted in a matter of seconds. Where's the paper, the pencils, the school supply shopping?!

Tablets take away time spent outside

By Brooke Olmer
Staff Reporter

"Brooke it's time to come in for supper!" I can still remember my mom yelling this to me as I was playing with my neighborhood friends Cheryl, Erin, Kylie, and Matt. We would go outside and play any chance we got. During the summer, our days were spent swimming, catching bugs, rollerblading, riding our bikes, and playing with pets. We hardly spent any time inside. In fact, I remember our parents encouraging us to spend most of our time outside.

Today kids can still be found playing with their pets, but for a majority of kids this entails being inside on a tablet feeding their "virtual" pets on websites such as Webkinz. Instead of playing games outside they spend most of their time on tablets playing games. According to MarketingProfs, 75% of American kids under the age of 8 have access to a smartphone or tablet. Kids seem to always be found playing games on their parents' phones.

Personally this makes me sad. I'm glad that I grew up without a tablet or having to be on the computer. I'm so thankful that I spent most of my childhood exploring the outdoors with my friends, making up games, and just having a great time.

When the kids of today grow up and look back at their childhoods, they will realize that it was not really a "childhood." Spending all day playing video games or on an iPad is hardly a childhood. They should be outside running around having fun with their friends.

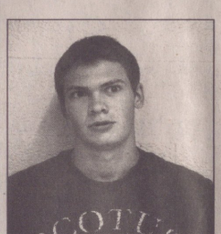
Kids are also losing social skills. Their time spent with friends actually playing in person is decreasing. This is preventing children from being able to interact with people. They don't know how to hold a simple conversation with another person.

> ***"I'm so thankful that I spent most of my childhood exploring the outdoors with my friends."***
> ***~Brooke Olmer***

Since kids have always had technology, they do not appreciate it enough. I remember getting my first phone; I was so excited, and it was just a simple flip phone that came free with the plan. Now kids in elementary school expect to have phones, and most of them expect nothing less than a smartphone. I don't know who I would have even texted in elementary school. The only people I can think of are my mom or older siblings.

Overall, kids are missing out on a fun childhood and the decrease in actual interaction with friends is not good. When my mom was younger people used to randomly go to her house and pick her up to cruise around. They would also call her home phone and ask to speak with her. My mom and dad met when they were out riding bikes. Now almost everything is done over the computer or through cell phones. Kids today are missing out on the simple things in life. Parents no longer need to yell at their children to come in for supper, they can just text it to them…

Privacy: the final frontier



By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

A simple text sent to a friend. A post on a social media website. A phone call made to a relative. An email inquiry sent to a guy in Iran. Excluding the last one, these actions are everyday occurrences for many Americans. What many Americans don't know, however, is that although many advancements may seem to make our lives easier and keep us all "connected" to each other, they are actually destroying the concept of "privacy." Whether it be the NSA spying program, or a teenager posting pictures of every waking moment of his/her life on Instagram and/or Twitter, technology has brought about a serious threat to privacy.

Because people use technology in so many different ways throughout the day, a lot of information about them is revealed through their usage. A prime example of this would be social media. Social media is a great way to keep in touch with long-lost friends and other unemployed people who have nothing better to do. It is also nice to keep up to date with your friends and reminisce about old times by stalking their profiles and looking at their pictures from five years ago. However, social media can certainly get out of hand quickly and easily when it comes to the amount of information a person chooses to share.

When girls *cough*, I mean nameless people, decide to post a multitude of facts about themselves online from where they live to what they ate for lunch yesterday, they are putting a lot of personal information out to the public eye that does not need to be shared. Also, the tone of certain posts and the use of profanity can leave people with an image they may not want to have. Sure, people can change their "privacy" settings all they want, but the fact remains that colleges as well as potential employers have access to view just about anyone's Facebook profiles and posts.

According to ancient myths that have arisen since Edward Snowden came into the news, government agencies such as the NSA (National Security Agency) also have access to Facebook profiles, as well as emails, phone calls, texts, and any other way, shape, or form of electronic communication. Not only that, but the NSA plans to have over 30,000 new surveillance drones in the skies over America within the next few years.

Some other forms of surveillance that have come into the spotlight recently include GPS tracking devices in automobiles, as well as license-plate scanners in police cars. It seems that the idea of "getting away from it all" won't be much of an option for the strapping young lads of upcoming generations (they probably won't be able to unglue their eyes from their futuristic smartphone screens anyway).

With the rise of technology leading to the fall of privacy, there must be something that can be done to keep the ideology of having a private life alive. In actuality, there isn't much that can be done. Younger generations continue to put their personal information on social media websites, and government agencies continue to use technological advancements to their advantage in their surveillance (spying) programs. However, being careful of what you post on social media websites (or just not having social media accounts at all) as well as knowing your constitutional rights as an American can help you keep your privacy both in the short run and the long run. One more thing to note: by the time this article is published, the NSA will likely have Jack Hoppe on their watch list.

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

Turn in to Mrs. Rusher (215) or send to Scotus care of the *Rock Bottom*

Scotus Journalism pictures for sale

Go to the Scotus website and click on the *Journalism Photo Sales* link to view and order pictures

Valentine's Day Facts

Over 50% of all Valentine's Day cards are purchased in the six days prior to the holiday, making Valentine's Day a procrastinator's delight.

220,000 is the average number of wedding proposals on Valentine's Day each year.

15 % of U.S. women receiving flowers send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.

Teachers will receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.

In the U.S., 64 % of men do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with their sweethearts.

Approximately 145 million valentines are sent in the U.S. each year. That's second only to Christmas with 1.6 billion units, and followed by Mother's Day with 133 million units.

infoplease.com

How would you want to be asked to be someone's sweetheart?

"I'd like it to be in a cute homemade card that has a cliche joke in it to make me laugh."

Jenna Salerno, 8

"I would just want someone to ask me in a way that makes me smile. Just a smile on my face makes me happy."

Grace Odbert, 8

"A giant message in the sky."

Trey Wortman, 12

What's the best Valentine's gift you could receive?

"They wouldn't have to get me anything. Just them being there with me would be perfectly fine!

Alyssa Morton, 8

"A pet dragon and a bag of potato chips."

Cole Alexander, 12

"Bacon. I love bacon."

Katie Reisdorff, 12

There are many gifts in the sea

By Alex Pandorf
Staff Reporter

The pressure of Valentine's Day can be stressful for many people, especially those in relationships. Guys are usually expected to do something special or to even buy their girlfriend a special gift. Most of the time this gift is something either expensive or sentimental to show that the guy cares. This can range from giant teddy bears to a piece of paper with just a few words on it.

Most people would agree that flowers are the most commonly used gift on Valentine's Day, especially red roses. These frail plants are mostly accompanied by some cheesy lesson about every rose having thorns or some other comparison from the girl to the flower.

After roses, jewelry is the second most popular gift. The problem with jewelry is that it's too expensive for most teenagers who don't have a job.... otherwise known as bums. The other issue is that these teenagers are throwing money into a relationship that probably won't last the rest of their lives. Jewelry, however, can really impress a woman (I assume), which is something that Valentine's Day is about.

The other popular Valentine's Day gift is chocolates. The problem of money also prevents certain bums from buying chocolates that are ridiculously over-priced. They could probably buy the same amount of chocolate and caramel from those heart shaped boxes for one tenth of the price, if they bought it in any other season.

> ***"One gift which women love is a gift from the heart."***
>
> ***~Alex Pandorf***

Another gift which is apparently popular is perfume. Most guys have no idea what smell their girlfriend or significant other would like, so this gift is questionable. Men should stick to those top ideas unless they want mixed results with their significant other's reaction.

One gift which women love is a gift from the heart, or a sentimental gift. These gifts are usually items that are special to the guy or gal in some way, or they are something cheesy that they made up on the spot. If a woman gives a man a sentimental gift, the man probably won't give it much thought. Men aren't as emotionally oriented as women.

A sentimental gift is usually much less expensive and easier to acquire, but these gifts come with the responsibility of having a good meaning or a cheesy pun to go along with them. It really depends on the person that the gift is being given to. Some may prefer the more expensive gifts, while others would much rather have something cheap with a powerful meaning.

Whether you decide to buy an expensive gift or a sentimental one, Valentine's Day is more about spending time with your significant other, rather than spending the day trying to find them the right gift. So next time Valentine's Day rolls around, you can think about what its true meaning is, and maybe even save yourself some money.

Top 10 Love Movies

1. *Gone with the Wind*
2. *The Notebook*
3. *When Harry Met Sally*
4. *Dirty Dancing*
5. *Casablanca*
6. *500 Days of Summer*
7. *The Proposal*
8. *What Women Want*
9. *Titanic*
10. *Sleepless in Seattle*

Top 10 Love Songs

1. Diana Ross & Lionel Richie "Endless Love"
2. Whitney Houston "I Will Always Love You"
3. Wings "Maybe I'm Amazed"
4. Ray Charles "I Can't Stop Loving You"
5. Van Morrison "Crazy Love"
6. The Temptations "My Girl"
7. Joe Cocker "You Are So Beautiful"
8. Edwin McCain "I'll Be"
9. Elton John "Can You Feel the Love Tonight"
10. Lonestar "Amazed"

Slim chance for highschool sweethearts

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

As Valentine's Day quickly approaches, the essence of young love drifts through the air. What some may refer to as "fickle", high school relationships can last a lifetime.

According to "Should You Marry Your High-School Sweetheart" by Brian Palmer, only 2% of couples who begin their relationships in high school have a marriage lasting ten years or longer. Despite the challenges high school couples face, it is possible to make that relationship last.

In an eHarmony survey, hundreds of couples were asked to rate their overall marriage satisfaction on three categories; overall happiness, time spent together, and couple cooperation. Overall, high school couples were scored happier than those who were introduced through family and friends. High school sweethearts scored slightly below the satisfaction of those couples who met at church.

Scotus, fortunately, has the best of both of these worlds. Not only do Scotus couples share the same education, they are also active in the Church.

For those Scotus couples out there: congratulations! You have a serious chance of making a relationship meaningful and long-lasting.

Realistically, a substantial number of high school relationships crash and burn. According to Palmer, better couples married in their teens have a 54% chance of remaining married for ten years. Those couples who marry between the ages of 20 and 24 have a 69% chance of a marriage lasting ten years. Couples who wait until they are 25 or older increase that chance to 78%.

Divorce rate has declined over the last ten years. (According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, for every 1,000 couples, only 3.6 get divorced each year). This is the lowest divorce rate in recorded history.

The average age of the first time bride has helped contribute to this low rate. In 1970, the average age of the first time bride was 21. In 2012, that average age increased to 26.

Researchers believe that because the brain continues to mature with age, a couple who marries in their late 20's has had a chance to fully mature, which in turn strengthens their marriage over the long-haul.

For those who find themselves single throughout high school and college, there are always forms of online dating. Although online dating was once viewed as sketchy and unsafe, hundreds of people meet their spouses today through online dating.

According to the New York Daily News, 33% of couples married within the past year have met online. Online dating sites have become a multi-million dollar industry, and in turn, provide as much security as possible.

As a final note, do not be alarmed if a potential spouse has yet to present him/herself. There are hundreds of opportunities to meet a life partner, do not be overly concerned about the timing.

Love legacy lives on

By Carly Burkhardt
Editor

As Valentine's Day draws near, love floats throughout the halls of Scotus, and there is a sort of "Legacy of Love" that can be found within Scotus' history.

High school sweethearts are sometimes laughed at or overlooked, being viewed as an unrealistic fairytale. Seeing that only 2% of high school sweethearts go on to marry one another, a fairytale is what high school love appears to be.

However, here at Scotus, the high school sweetheart rate seems to be higher than average. Many of the sweethearts who started out in Scotus classrooms have gone on to marry, move back to Columbus, and raise a family. Some current Scotus students are the children of "Scotus' Love Legacy". Cole Harrington is the son of Tim and Amy (Maguire) Harrington, Class of 1977 and 1978 respectively, Jared Duren is the son of Todd and Lisa (Cielocha) Duren, Class of 1985, and Callie and Landon Sokol are the children of Class of 1988 and 1987 graduates, Doug and Amy (Hefti) Sokol. The legacy continues to this day, with more modern day sweethearts moving back. One of the couples is Steph and Tanner Johnson.

"Tanner and I started dating January 2006. Dating in high school was easy and just fun. Tanner and I were both pretty laid back in high school, so we never took our relationship too seriously. We enjoyed doing the same thing and hanging out with the same people. At that time, that's all that really mattered, just having a good time," Class of 2006 graduate Steph (Levos) Johnson said.

Steph and Tanner Johnson, now new parents, survived the 2% high school sweetheart survival rate.

One of the biggest break-up factors for high school sweethearts is long distance relationships. Melissa (Schmidt) and Jeff Kosch started off their relationship first their sophomore year and then again their senior year. After high school, they both went their separate ways, seeing that their colleges were too far apart.

"We actually did not date at all during college. We went to different colleges that were too far apart. We were broken up for five years, and during that time we both dated other people. We got back together because we realized we were better together," Class of 1999 graduate Jeff Kosch commented.

Most high school relationships start off as simple and fun. The thought of marriage usually does not even cross the minds of soon-to-be high school graduates, but there were some who had thought about it.

"Melissa did not think she was going to marry her high school sweetheart, but I thought it was possible," Kosch stated.

Class of 1996 graduate, Ashley (Morris) Karges was also one of the few who thought about a future spouse in the relationship.

"I did think about marrying Nathan, but I knew if I didn't marry him, I would want to find a husband just like him," Karges said.

After surpassing the high school and college statistics, the three couples found themselves back with one another. All three of the couples have since moved back to Columbus to raise a family.

"We moved to Columbus in 2011 for a job opportunity presented to Nathan; with two sets of twins, ages four and ten months at the time, it was also appealing to have extra help from our parents who live in town," Karges said.

A common reason high school sweethearts find themselves moving back to their hometown is for "family values".

"Knowing our in-home babysitter and Owen's pediatrician avoids a lot of stress! Having both sets of grandparents and a few aunts and uncles in town has its perks too!" Johnson commented.

Columbus' small town atmosphere also offers appealing value.

"Easy living is a term we like to use. We have a lot of friends in town and we know others in various areas of expertise. We both had great childhood experiences and feel Columbus is a fantastic place to raise a family," Kosch stated.

Another appealing aspect to marrying the high school sweetheart is the history.

Karges added, "One part that I really enjoy about being high school sweethearts is that we can talk about the same high school memories. We have always been great friends, and I feel that there is really a strong bond and trust that comes from knowing someone so long and "growing up" and changing together. We like to credit Mrs. Matz, a substitute teacher, for making us table partners in her class our junior year—and the rest is history!"

Jeff & Melissa Kosch
Class of 1999
"We actually did not date at all during college. We went to different colleges that were too far apart. We were broken up for five years, and during that time we both dated other people. We got back together because we realized we were better together."
-Jeff Kosch

Nathan & Ashley Karges
Class of 1996
"I did think about marrying Nathan, but I knew if I didn't marry him, I would want to find a husband just like him."
-Ashley Karges

Tanner & Steph Johnson
Class 2006 & 2005
"Dating in high school was easy and just fun. Tanner and I were both pretty laid back in high school, so we never took our relationship too serious. We enjoyed doing the same thing and hanging out with the same people. At that time, that's all that really mattered, just having a good time."
- Steph Johnson

Making it Facebook official

By Blake Schroeder
Staff Reporter

The common purpose of social media accounts like Facebook and Twitter is to satisfy the need to keep others updated on the happenings in life through a few keystrokes on the computer or phone. Facebook attempts to create a digital version of a person, per se, by having a user enter information such as interests, hobbies, hometown, family members, and relationship status. Having a relationship go "Facebook official" can be exciting for the two involved, letting all of their social media friends know that they are together. Likes and comments from all these friends are soon abundant on the post, giving a feeling of satisfaction to the couple. While this feeling is great to have, there are negatives involved that many people don't think about. According to Ashley Page in "Good Reasons to keep your Relationship Status off Facebook":

1. Fewer people will be involved. Keeping a relationship status off of social media will keep others out of the loop. A relationship is intended for two people, not twenty. When a relationship is kept personal, there will be far less judgment from others simply because they don't know what's going on between the two.

2. Ex's won't have a clue. Once a couple breaks up, odds are they will still occasionally look at each other's profiles on social media to see how their life is going without them. Although posting pictures and statuses about your new boy/girlfriend seems like a good way to get revenge, it actually can have the opposite effect. An ex may see this and get jealous, wanting to ruin the happiness of their previous partner. He or she might go out of their way to interfere with the new relationship. Without all the posts about how deep in love and how cute the newfound couple is, the ex will have no idea how the love life of their former partner is.

3. It gets annoying to others. When going through Twitter or Facebook, nobody likes to see constant messages and flirting between couples. It can anger those who are just checking out their accounts to see what's going on with their friends. A message once in a while never hurts anyone, but seeing consistent "I love you" messages on a daily basis gets really old, really fast.

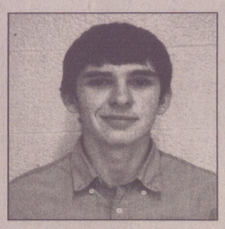
4. Having a love rush and wanting to tell the world about it isn't uncommon. It's natural for people to want to share all the positives in their lives to others. As long as it's kept in moderation, social media can help relationships as well. According to Damion Hall from Cupidspulse.com.:

5. It's an easy way to keep in contact. When a couple can't always see each other, communicating via Facebook or Twitter is effective. Again, keep it in moderation or use private messaging.

6. It allows for research. Adding someone on social media gives the opportunity to look a bit deeper into that person's life. This helps generate topics of discussion for future reference.

7. It can create trust. When a boy/girlfriend looks at their counterpart's Facebook or Twitter account, they can see if there is devotion to each other, or if he/she is talking all kinds of other guys/girls.

8. Finding the happy medium between making a relationship public and posting constant love messages to each other can be hard to do. For the sake of the couple and others, try not to keep everyone updated on the happenings in a relationship – odds are they don't care anyway.



LeBron, get off of SportsCenter.

By Conner Moran
Staff Reporter

In recent years, the nine-time NBA all-star LeBron James has been given the title by many fans and sports analysts as the greatest player in the history of the NBA. But, I'd have to disagree, which I say with slight bias because I have grown very tired of hearing of the Miami Heat and how great they are. Don't get me wrong, James is an amazing player, but some of his opponents are just as skilled.

James, who was the first overall pick in the 2003 NBA draft, has lead the Miami Heat to two consecutive NBA Finals Championships and has scored over 22,000 points in his 10 year career. Not bad for a kid who was fresh out of high school when his NBA career began. He's had a great career so far, but he's not the only one.

Kevin Durant, small forward for the Oklahoma City Thunder (ranked number one in the power ratings), is one of the best scorers in the league. He is averaging 31.3 points per game with 7.8 rebounds per game this season. He also has an astounding 28.6 points per game during the postseason. While James on the other hand averages 28.1 points during the off season. Granted, he's played more games than Durant, but I still see Kevin Durant having the potential to pass or even come close to James' season and career stats.

Another player that I can't forget to mention is Carmelo Anthony. He was part of the same draft class as LeBron, but Anthony was drafted out of college while LeBron was out of high school. Melo (as many like to call him) is averaging 27.2 points and 8.9 boards this season. In fact, he dropped 62 points and grabbed 13 boards in their home game against the Charlotte Bobcats. He is having a great season so far, but sadly for him, his team isn't doing quite as well as he is, and their 16-27 record shows it.

There are plenty more top-notch players that are not only team players but are also clutch in those vital final minutes of the big games. Players like LA Clippers point gaurd Chris Paul, or the Brooklyn Nets guard Deron Williams. These players do great, and so do some of their teammates, and there's a chance that one may hear of it but more often than not, it's not talked about often.

Maybe there's so much hype over LeBron because he's on a great team that's won two consecutive NBA Finals, or maybe because their coach's head looks like a brick; I don't know why, but either way there's too much hype over LeBron James and the Miami Heat. Still, I strongly believe there are many underrated players that aren't getting the deserved credit because SportsCenter is too concerned about the Heat and the Super Bowl. No matter who gets the hype or not, I don't like the Miami Heat or LeBron James. Although, Dwayne Wade is total beast...

Wrestlers have high hopes for state

By Brooke Olmer
Staff Reporter

After a successful first season, the wrestlers' hopes are even higher for season two of Rock wrestling. They won the Lakeview invitational early in the season, a meet they got 5th at last year. Even though the team seems to be competing well, they are still overcoming the challenge of being a young team.

"The season has been on track from where we thought we'd be. We're still a really young team so we're looking at everything we did last year, and we are right on schedule. We still have some things to fix so hopefully we can fix them by districts," Head Wrestling Coach Tracy Dodson said.

With only one wrestler per weight class, it can be hard for the wrestlers to maintain a certain weight without fluctuating into a different weight class.

"My biggest competition is the lunch ladies. The food is so tempting and tasty. They make it hard to resist, and I'm usually overweight," sophomore Marcus Dodson said.

Besides having to resist the temptation of food, they also have to worry about competition.

"The High Plains meet has been by far the most beneficial tournament, as well as the Nebraska duals because you see everyone from class A to class D, and you get to see how well you compete," Coach Dodson said.

Sophomore Mason Brandenburg had to wrestle against Doyle Trout at the 45th annual High Plains meet. Trout is the all class number one wrestler in the state and is well known nationally. Mason put up a good fight against Trout and did not get pinned.

"This year I have improved on my pinning. Last year, I only won by points, but this year almost every win is a pin," Brandenburg said.

Mason isn't the only Brandenburg that has improved. His little brother Tyler Brandenburg has also made large improvements.

"I didn't see Tyler last year on the varsity team, but he has improved tons. In the last two weeks Layton Mullinix has gotten unbelievably good. He's wrestled two kids in class B that are ranked. He's taking them all the way to the championship rounds. Conner Lusche has also improved quite a bit as a senior. The whole team is on a pace, and they're all pretty close together," Dodson said.

The wrestling team is young. There are ten freshmen, eight sophomores, and only one junior and one senior. Being on a young team has been beneficial to sophomore Seth Gutzmer.

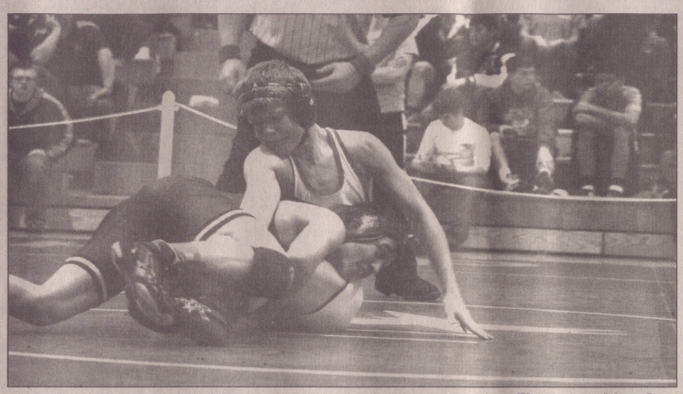
"I think sophomore year is easier than freshman year. These next two years should be easier because most of my competitors are seniors," sophomore Seth Gutzmer said.

The wrestling team has high hopes for state. All of the wrestlers that qualify for state get to ride in a limo on their way to the state tournament. Last year the team took one limo, and this year they have the goal of taking two.

"Some of the kids on the team have a really great shot of making it to state. Every tournament one of our biggest goals is to try and get 23 pins. Our last few tournaments we have been getting 25, 43, 24, 32, 26 pins. We know that we are on task at getting pins, and if we keep on task, we know that we have a shot at winning our district tournament. If we can win our district tournament, we have a shot at wrestling at the Nebraska Duals which takes place after the Nebraska State Wrestling Tournament," Coach Dodson said.

On Thursday January 23, the Scotus Wrestling team had their first ever home meet at Scotus. Scotus won the meet. In fact, only one Scotus wrestler lost to a returning state qualifier. On January 25th, the Scotus wrestlers took home the conference championship. The Scotus wrestlers were undefeated at the Lakeview Triangular on January 30th.

"We can't be complacent, none of our wrestlers are undefeated and none of the have been crowned state champ," Coach Dodson said.



Anny Worayosgovit/Media Staff

Freshman Layton Mullinix tries to avoid a takedown from his opponent. The Scotus Wrestling team took home their second Conference Championship on January 25th.

Boys' basketball strives for state

By Alex Pandorf
Staff Reporter

With a record as positive as this year's boys' basketball team, it's hard not to have dreams of state. The Shamrocks basketball team began their season with an undefeated 10-0 record, home and away. The success of the early season brought forth enthusiasm from both the team and the fans.

It wasn't until their game against Norfolk Catholic that the Shamrocks lost their first game. It was a disappointing game for the Shamrocks, ending their ten game win streak and bumping them down in the rankings. Norfolk Catholic wasn't predicted to win and wasn't consider a top team in the area.

"It was unfortunate to lose, no one wanted to lose. We learned a lot about ourselves as a team," head basketball coach Jeff Ohnoutka said. The Shamrocks followed up the loss with another two wins against Lincoln Lutheran and Lincoln Christian to restore the team's morale. During the game against Lincoln Christian the fans were especially loud, even being told to tune it down by Athletic Director Gary Puetz.

The team this year only includes two seniors and a few juniors, with many of underclassmen making up the varsity lineup. Younger players such as freshmen Cody Mrozcek and sophomore Miles Putnam have contributed to the team's success.

"I think we have a great makeup to our team. We are playing guys that come from all four classes," Ohnoutka commented.

The Shamrocks lost again to Boone Central in a disappointing game. There was a 25 point difference that didn't leave the shamrocks much hope. The players needed to look ahead rather than dwelling on their two losses.

The boys' basketball team sits at a record of 12-2, still deeply positive and very successful. They continue to be a top notch team and a force to be reckoned with.

"My philosophy is to just win the next game on the schedule," Ohnoutka said.

The Shamrocks would follow this philosophy with a big win over Fremont Bergan, restoring their hope.

Amy Price/Yearbook Staff

Senior Derek Kaslon goes up for a basket against Lakeview. The Shamrocks defeated Lakeview 65-52 during the Holiday Tournament.

Girls continue to bounce back

By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

The Scotus girls' basketball team has had its ups and downs this season, but head coach Jarrod Ridder believes that the team has been putting up a good fight.

"Our girls have done a good job competing against good teams," he said. "Right now we are committed to getting over the hump and beating a good team."

With a 7-9 record, the girls' team has had to adapt with many newcomers and inexperience on the court.

"Our biggest weakness right now is our inexperience. We have played a lot of girls that have not played a lot of varsity basketball," Ridder said. "This, however, will turn into a strength as the season goes on."

Though inexperience has been a challenge for the team, there are other areas where the team has seen quite a bit of improvement.

"We need to develop into a consistent scoring team," Ridder commented. "I think our two seniors are doing a good job."

Kylie Rollman and Payton Chohon are the only seniors on the young team.

"They both lead us in scoring and rebounding," Ridder explained.

Besides the two seniors, other players have stepped up to benefit the team.

"Eastyn Klink, a freshman, and Jessica Schaecher have been draining 3's," Chohon said. Schaecher, a junior, agrees that Klink has had an impact on the team.

"She really stepped up to play varsity," Schaecher explained.

Chohon believes that another reason for some of their success is them working as a team.

"We have good team chemistry," she said.

Coach Ridder is convinced that the Rocks' defense has also greatly benefited the team this season.

"We have played very good defense this year and are continuing to improve in that area," Ridder explained.

Besides working well as a team and playing good defense, some big wins and good performances have given the girls the confidence they need to have a successful season. One example is the game against Wahoo Neumann, in which the Shamrocks lost 39-48.

"We played our best game, and it gave us confidence to win a lot of other games that are coming up," said Scheacher.

The girls dominated Schuyler 64-22 in the first round of the Columbus Holiday Tournament on December 27th, and beat Lakeview 31-17 in the finals on the 28th. They then pulled off another victory on January 4th against Fort Calhoun, winning 57-33.

"We are setting our goals to play in the district championship and have a chance to play in the state tournament," Ridder commented.

Schaecher said that the team's most important goals were to get better each day and get to state.

Rocks play Lutheran High Northeast tonight.

Carly Burkhardt/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Jessica Schaecher brings the ball up the floor against Grand Island Central Catholic. The Shamrocks defeated GICC 37-28.

Singers participate in Choral Clinic

By Jacob Nienaber
Staff Reporter

The Shamrock Singers recently attended a one day event that polished their singing abilities and enjoyed the music. The Boone Central Choral Clinic, which was held on January 20th, was a day for relaxation, laughter, and most importantly singing. Every year Boone Central hosts the event which supports a whole gym full of singers from numerous schools. During the day they practiced selected songs and performed them after a whole day of rehearsal in the evening for friends, family, and the community.

"I think the fact that there are 600-700 students attending the event, and the fact that they can get together and perform in one day, is impressive. On top of that, it is also impressive for all of the various small groups that perform at the clinic as well," Scotus Chorus Director E.J. Gardner said.

The Albion choral clinic has been going on for 69 years and hosted a total of sixteen schools this year from around the area.

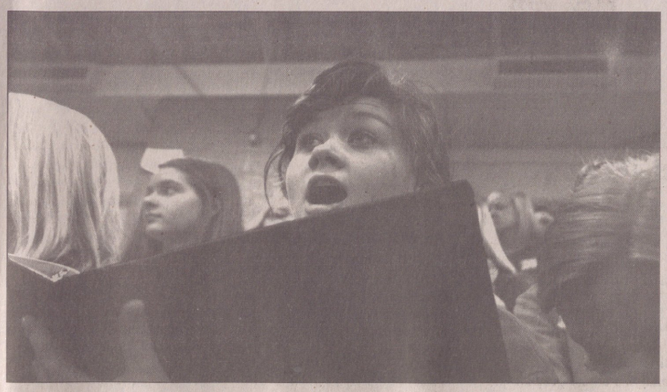
"The Boone Central Choral Clinic was put together to just get kids and schools from around the area together to sing. It used to be a two day event with the kids staying overnight at other's houses. It is a great event, and I hope that it will continue to be a success in the future," Don Bussy, the Boone Central Choral Clinic Director, said.

This year's director was Paul H. Gulsvig, who was chosen by Bussy. This is the 43rd year that Gulsvig has been conducting music.

"There isn't a group more well prepared that I've been directing at this event than the one I am directing right now. In most situations like this some schools come in ill prepared. In fact, some directors will hand off the music as the kids are coming off the bus. I can see improvement in the teachers who are stepping up and preparing their students to become talented, to embrace that talent, and to be fabulous at what they do," Gulsvig said.

The music this year consisted of numerous pieces, ranging from Handel to Spiritual Gospel songs. The students attending the annual event enjoyed the atmosphere and the songs. There were 26 singers attending the annual event from Scotus.

"I really loved going to the Boone Central Choral Clinic, a lot more than when I was a freshman, because of the sound of the members from the sixteen different schools. To just get that many kids who sang out and to be one who could sing out and not stand out was just a great experience," junior choir member Carly Cremers said.



Jacob Nienaber/ Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Bre Walker sings at the Boone Central Choral Clinic in Albion. Singers from sixteen schools attended the clinic to get the chance to sing under the direction of a professional conductor.

However, with many students in the choir being able to attend this year, there is one important entity that will not return next year: Ms. E.J. Gardner, who is retiring after this year.

"I looked forward to seeing all of my friends who attended this event. I've been seeing them for years and years, and it is going to be for the last time, which is kind of sad. I guess I feel a lot like the seniors do, every event of every day is the last time we will be doing these things, so that is bittersweet. But, it was a joy to see my friends and hear the choir again," Gardner said.

Speech takes third at home meet

Valerie Borer/ Rock Bottom Staff

Seniors Ian Ostdiek, Jordan Zoucha, Jackson Prokupek, and Jacob Nienaber deliver a speech about *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* at the Scotus home speech meet on January 25th. Scotus placed third at the meet.

Valerie Borer/ Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Jenny Ryan and sophomore Olivia Rath preform their speech at the Scotus home speech meet on January 25th. Mr. Kuszak and Ms. Masur are both new speech coaches this year.

By Blake Schroeder
Staff Reporter

The Rocks' speech team talked its way to a top three finish.

The Shamrocks hosted thirteen teams and over 150 individual entries on January 25th and placed third at their home speech meet. Individually, Olivia Rath placed first in dramatic interpretation, Jacob Nienaber finished second in humorous interpretation, Phil Levos finished third in extemporaneous speaking, and Emily Allen placed third in persuasive speaking.

Head speech coach Danielle Masur saw her first home meet go well for her team. Ironically, the teacher tried to learn from the experience.

"I am learning a ton this year about the program, as well as about how Scotus 'does speech' in general," Masur said.

Masur and assistant speech coach Jordan Kuszak have taken over as heads of the speech team. The former coach, Anneliese Ploetz, moved closer to home in New York over the past summer, leaving the opportunity open for the duo of new teachers. Even though the team lost Ploetz as the veteran coach, senior Jackson Prokupek doesn't see the new coaches as a problem at all.

"It hasn't fazed me too much. I like the new coaches, so it doesn't bother me," Prokupek said.

Senior Emily Allen believes the coaches are doing well adapting to their new positions.

"There are lots of new ideas and insights, and I think Ms. Masur and Mr. Kuszak are starting to get the hang of things," Allen said.

Unlike other activities, the speech team only has one home event. Masur doesn't believe the location of the event plays as big a role in speech as it might in other activities.

"They might have a few more spectators to support them than usual, but not always. It's nice when you have friends there to laugh at your jokes in entertainment, humorous interpretation, and oral interpretation of drama," Masur said.

Prokupek agreed that speech is more about talent than any other factor.

"I feel like the location doesn't really matter as much for speech than it does for other events," Prokupek said.

The team doesn't find its motivation from simply being at home. Each member has their own motive for trying their best at meets.

"The fact is, no matter how good you think you are, there will always be that one judge that just rips your speech apart. I can constantly add or change things based on judges' comments," Allen said.

Prokupek, on the other hand, finds motivation in finishing well at events.

"The thought that I can go to finals and get an award if I do well is the only motivation that I need," Prokupek said.

The motives they have help each member work towards the goals they set for themselves.

"I would like to make it to finals, but my only true goal is to enjoy myself," Prokupek said.

"I want to go to state again in persuasive and informative. To be double entered at state would be such a huge accomplishment," Allen said.

The speech team will travel to Crete on February 8th for their next meet.

Athletes prepare for spring

By Conner Moran
Staff Reporter

The winter season has the fewest activities compared to fall and spring. There is only wrestling, swimming, and basketball, and for non-athletic activities speech is the only available NSAA activity. Many kids won't be doing any of these NSAA activities, so what better way to stay busy in this cold, dreadful winter season than by having winter conditioning?

The winter conditioning program started at the beginning of the second semester with the end of Christmas break. The program is meant for the upcoming spring sports season along with the football players that will be a part of the 2014 football team. It is not only open to upcoming sports participants, but anyone that wants to be fit.

"We're happy to take in anyone that just wants to work out. The weight room is open to the general public, not just athletes," head football coach Tyler Linder said.

During the program, the football players split apart from the track athletes. The football kids are separated into teams; throughout the winter season these teams are awarded points based on attendance and performance. At the end of the season, whichever team has the most points will be rewarded with a steak dinner paid for by Linder.

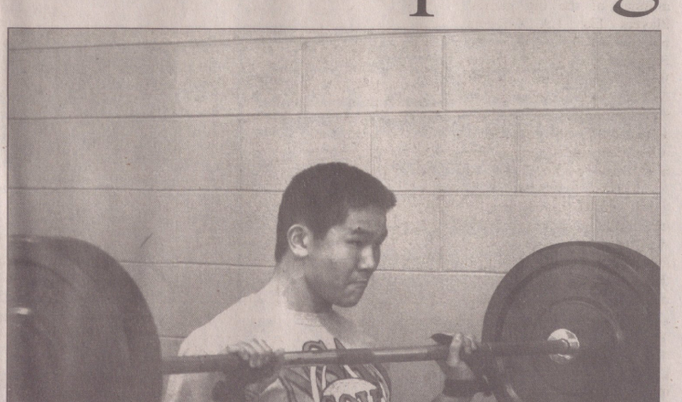
"We really want the kids to embrace winter conditioning, so this year we put a standard on it with a bit more of an incentive," Linder commented.

The track kids, on the other hand, are not necessarily separated by teams, but instead by which event(s) they do in track. They all warm up together and separate after that, and they will either lift or run.

"We separate the kids into groups with the other track coaches, Coach Ron Starzec does hurdles, Coach Grubaugh with the pole-vaulters, and sometimes the distance runners will just go outside and run a bit," added head track coach Merlin Lahm.

Both coaches want kids to be as prepared as possible for the upcoming sports season along with the football lifting program during the summer. The soccer program also prepares for the upcoming season.

They prepare for the upcoming season by holding indoor soccer practices to help students get back into the rhythm of things again. With many on the roster being in a winter sport, there is a drawback with not having the whole team practicing together.



Conner Moran/ Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore Jacob Wright lifts after school as part of the winter conditioning program. The winter conditioning program helps keep athletes in shape for the spring season.

The winter season is a great time to build team chemistry for the spring sports teams.

It may be freezing outside, but the various winter conditioning programs have many students warming up for the upcoming sports. Spring sports commence on March 3rd.

Duck Dynasty rules reality tv

By Michael Kurtenbach
Staff Reporter

Warning, many of the shows mentioned in this article are some people's favorites. Some may be offended by what is said about their favorite show. Reader discretion is advised.

Now that I got that out of the way, I can talk about all these absolutely terrible reality TV shows. Let's start with one of the biggest shows, the *Bachelor/ Bachelorette*. To all people with two "X" chromosomes it's time to face the music, in the seventeen seasons that the Bachelor has been aired on ABC, only one couple chosen at the end has stayed together. That's a whopping 6% success rate! If ABC is trying to put love on the TV, they are doing a terrible job. ABC's love shows aren't the only reality shows that are just plain awful.

If you've got nothing to watch, you'd be better off just staring at a cardboard box than watching any one of the seven shows in Bravo's *Real Housewives* franchise. That's right. There are **seven** of them. That's a pointless show for everyday of the week. In fact, IMDb doesn't even have a plot for five of the seven shows. That's the definition of pointless for a TV show.

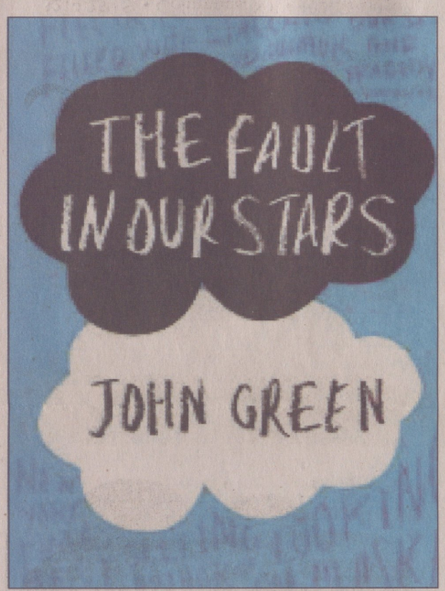
It may seem that I think that all reality TV shows are bad. While it is true that most shows lack any entertainment value what so ever, I do like some reality shows. In particular I find *Duck Dynasty* on A&E to be a great one. It is by far the best reality show on TV right now. One reason that it is such a good show is because it is just flat out funny. There is something about watching rich rednecks go around a city of only 13,000 people (9,000 less than Columbus) doing insane actions that appeal to me. I can't even imagine some of the stuff they do on the show happening in Columbus. For example, I can't build a picture in my head of grown men racing on lawnmowers.

Another part of the show that I really enjoy is the fact that the Robertson family hasn't changed due to their fame. It happens all too often when a person gets his/her fifteen minutes of fame and suddenly become a completely different person. Phil Robertson got in trouble for sticking to his guns about how he feels about homosexuality. Sure he offended some people, sue him. I'm just impressed how the fame and money hasn't affected him in the slightest.

Photos Courtesy of www.newsbusters.org.com

When it comes down to it, I suggest that no one wastes their time watching shows like *Here comes Honey Boo Boo* or *Basketball Wives*. Instead of watching those, I would recommend watching *Duck Dynasty* as it is one of the best reality shows airing on TV right now.

Love isn't always in the stars



Photos Courtesy of www.npr.org

By Kristen Ohnoutka-
Layout Editor

The novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green was written in 2012 and voted a New York Times #1 Best Seller. Green was also voted as New York Times Best Selling Author for his prior novel *Looking for Alaska*. They are both tragic love stories, but *The Fault in Our Stars* is not your typical Nicholas Sparks, cheesy love tale.

The Fault in Our Stars is the story of two teen cancer patients who fall in love. Throughout the entire book the young teens, Hazel and Augustus, learn about living, dying, and what it means to fall in love with one another.

The young couple travel to Amsterdam together in their critical states in order to find Hazel's favorite author, Peter Van Houten. After writing his famous and manic book *An Imperial Affliction*, also Hazel's favorite book, he went into hiding to seclude himself from the attention and lime light he was getting from the book.

Hazel and Augustus slowly and completely fall in love throughout the trip and learn more about each other than they ever thought they could. However, they also come to realize Van Houten isn't the man they expected him to be.

The main character, Hazel, shows true courage and maturity throughout the book. She carries herself with grace even though she is forced into a life that no one would choose to live. She spends most of her days thinking about death and what life has offered her, and yet she stays strong. She never lets the fact that she is sick bring her down. Though she is logical and straight forward about her fatal illness, she never shows how scared she is of what dying has in store for her.

This love story isn't your typical, simplistic tale of boy meets girl. It teaches what it means to be alive and healthy and how lucky people are to have "normal" lives. It is a gift to not have to think about dying every day, and this young, terminal couple shows the readers that even they can find what's most important in life and be happy with what little time they have on this earth.

> ***"She carries herself with grace even though she is forced into a life that no one would choose to live."***
> ***-Kristen Ohnoutka***

If you are into tragic love stories and incredibly well written books, I suggest you look into reading *The Fault in Our Stars* or any other book by John Green. The book is also coming to theaters this summer, so I suggest reading the book before it hits the big screen. That way you can say you read it before it was cool.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 4
Parents Night
JV/ V Girls/Boys Basketball
4:30/6:15/8:00 pm
@Home

Thursday, February 6
Swimming
4:00 pm
@Grand Island
JV/ V Girls Basketball
6:00/7:45 pm
@David City Aquinas

Friday, February 7
JV/V Boys Basketball
6:00/7:45 om
@Neumann

Saturday, February 8
Speech
@Crete
Wrestling
Bergan Duals
10:00 am

Monday, February 10
Band Dinner Concert
Dinner 5:30
Concert 7:00 pm

Friday, February 14
Sweetheart Dance
Wrestling Districts
@ Adams Central

Saturday, February 15
JV/V Boys Basketball
5:15/7:00 pm
@Lakeview
Speech
@David City

February 21-23
Wizard Of Oz Musical
Fri: 7:00 pm Saturday 7:00 pm
Sunday 2:00 pm

Scotus Journalism

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RockBottom

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HTTP://ISSUU.COM/SCOTUSJOURNALISM

Petersen puts down playbook

By Carly Burkhardt
Editor

The nets have been taken down, balls swept away, and the playbook has been set down forever; Scotus' 37 year legacy of Head Volleyball Coach John Petersen has finally come to an end.

Petersen had a 42 year reign in the coaching field. He spent 40 years as a head volleyball coach and coached basketball for 40 years as well, 25 of which he acted as the head coach. He started with a coaching position at New Castle High School in 1972. He coached 4 years at New Castle, 1 year at Little Rock, Iowa, and 37 years at Scotus.

"Coach Gary Puetz was the one who told me about this job, and I came down and interviewed and got the job, and it has been a great ride since," Petersen said.

There have been speculations in previous years as to when his resignation would come, and Petersen put an end to the speculations when he announced his resignation to his players on Wednesday, February 12th.

"For the last two or three years it has been at the back of my mind. We won a state championship in 2011, and I kind of thought about it then a little bit, but I wasn't ready to stop. The last couple of years have been a lot of fun, and I've enjoyed it. We had a great year this year, but it was just time to be done," Petersen commented.

After 40 years of high school coaching, Petersen will finally have some free time of his own. He hopes to be able to golf, fish, and spend more time with his grandchildren now that his time will not be filled with practices and games.

"When you put your heart and soul into something for so many years, and suddenly it's over, it's hard," Petersen responded.

Aside from the obvious state championships and awards, there are some surprising aspects that he will miss.

"I love to go to practice; I love to see kids that work hard, and I've been very blessed here to have so many kids that have really worked hard to improve, not only to become better teams, but to become better teammates," Petersen said.

He also knows that stepping away from the playbook means missing out on what used to be everyday events.

"There will be lots of things I will miss, the camaraderie with the coaches, the practices, the thrill of the games, the and excitement of competing," Petersen commented.

It's no surprise that with 37 years coaching volleyball at Scotus comes 37 years of opportunities for success. Petersen has a leading record of making it to State for 14 consecutive years, and in 2011, Petersen was named National Coach of the Year after being nominated for the third time. Petersen has a record of 863 wins and 136 losses. Along with his success, he has had help from numerous assistant coaches throughout the years.

Assistant Coach Janet Tooley has been by his side for the last 25 years. Along with Tooley, Julie Blaser, Jane Dusel-Misfeldt, Joan Lahm, Joe Held, and Danielle Wessel have contributed to the volleyball team's legacy of success, helping coach the team from seventh grade to the varsity level.

"Number one, our coaching staff has been tremendous. Most of my staff have been with me for over twenty years. Not many staffs stay together that long," Petersen responded.

Along with the coaches

See Petersen, Page 2

AMY PRICE/YEARBOOK STAFF

Coach John Petersen talks to his volleyball players during a time-out like he has done for the past 40 years. Petersen has been head volleyball coach for Scotus the last 37 years with 863 wins and 136 losses.

Villa ventures to Vegas

By Brooke Olmer
Staff Reporter

Thirteen year old Pedro Villa goes to school every day like an ordinary 7th grader. Recently, he had to miss four days of school. He wasn't sick; he was missing school for a different reason. On February 4, Pedro Villa competed in the National Archery Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"My step-dad got me involved in archery. He took me to the range where kids can shoot downtown, and I just got really into it," Villa said.

Villa has been involved in archery for four years, and his step-dad is his coach. His step-dad, Ed Christman, set a world record at the International Field Archery Association (IFAA), got first in the IFAA competition, and also got first at nationals.

"My step-dad is a really good coach, but he's extra hard on me because he's family," Villa said.

Villa shoots with a high tech bow, that, with everything put into it, has cost around two thousand dollars. He has a new bow coming in that's top of the line. This bow is a PSE Phenon short draw. Every weekend he competes in archery. He competes against 12-15 year olds and usually wins all of the local competitions.

"I usually compete in Fremont or Lincoln and at some small tournaments in Nebraska. I only compete out of state for sectionals, nationals, and worlds," Villa said.

Last year, Villa competed at the IFAA world's competition in Yankton, South Dakota. This year it will be held in South America, but it is too far away for Villa to attend. Villa got third place at worlds last year. In order for Villa to get this experienced, he has to practice hard.

"I try to practice four hours every other day. I stand about 5 yards and just work on my form, then I'll go back twenty yards and work on my sight and aiming," Villa said.

This year, Villa competed at the National Field Archery Association world's competition in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"There's a lot more people at worlds, and it's louder. Everyone is usually quiet at normal competitions. At worlds there's a lot of other stuff going on like a trade show. There's also a lot more people that watch, and the competition is a lot harder," Villa explained.

Villa got 16th out of about 100 people at the NFAA world's competition. World's is a big difference from regular competitions that he is used to competing in. At regular competitions he competes against 12-15 years old, and there is usually one professional archer that shoots. Villa sometimes beats the professional archer.

"The experience of worlds was one of the best parts. It was cool to see some of the world's best archers shoot. My parents had to fly out a few days ahead of me; my step dad was voted to be a state director so he has to go to meetings," Villa said. Villa wants to continue to peruse archery for the rest of his life.

Students simulate strategy

By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

With the centennial of WWI coming up, many history buffs are beginning to get into the spirit of remembering the Great War that took place so long ago. In 11th grade American History, instructor Jeff Ohnoutka decided a World War I simulation involving strategy and teamwork would help the class to understand more about the war.

"I wanted to find something that would engage the students in not only thinking about the war and the strategies of war, but also strategies of communication that come with it when you have the Allies and Central Powers," Ohnoutka explained. "You have people that you're working with and you're working against. It forces you to communicate with those people."

Just as WWI did, the simulation spans from 1914 to 1918, with two turns per year per country. The Allies mainly consist of France, Britain, the United States, and Russia, while the main Central Powers consist of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire. Each student chooses a country to command and Alex Pandorf, a history buff and avid strategist, chose Germany as his country.

"I was definitely a leader, virtually being the supreme commander of the Central Powers," Pandorf stated. "I enjoy strategy, and it's something I'm very good at and have been doing for a long time. So this was something I was interested in."

JACK HOPPE/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Juniors Keaton Swanson, Teddy Paprocki, and Adam Starzec plot their next moves during the WWI simulation in Mr. Ohnoutka's 7th period history class. This was the second year that the American history class participated in the simulation program.

The simulation takes place on a circa 1914 map of Europe with each country starting out with a certain amount of troops based on that country's military capabilities of the time. Germany, at the time, had one of the largest and most advanced armies.

"It has the best army, but its location forces a two-front war," Pandorf stated.

Spencer Lechner, being in the same class as Pandorf, chose to take on Germany in the simulation.

"I chose France because I could see that France had strength when it came to defense," Lechner said. "What gave France good defense was the number of soldiers, the Ardennes Forest, and neutral Belgium's position between France and Germany."

The countries were also allowed to make alliances with each other, though some alliances were stronger than others. Mac Mapes, who commanded Germany in another class, did not have an overall good experience with the alliances he made.

"I made an alliance with that two-faced, honor-less coward known as Italy, and he broke it," Mapes said. "Later when I accepted him on his knees into my alliance he stabbed me in the back again. I will have trust issues for the rest of my life because of this."

Each country was given a

See WWI, Page 2

WWI

number of objectives that they had to complete by the time the simulation ended, and it was up to them to find out what strategy would work best to complete those objectives. Ohnoutka believed that a defensive strategy, especially for the Central Powers, was the best way to fight the war. Mapes, however, felt an offensive strategy worked best for his country.

"It was hard to strategize when Italy switched sides every turn but I'd say taking Belgium sealed my survival," Mapes said.

One aspect of the simulation that certainly caught the attention of students and faculty at Scotus was the propaganda posters in the third floor hallway. Originally, that was not part of the simulation.

"We decided to make that an extra credit portion of the project, and the students have gone crazy with that," Ohnoutka said. "They show a lot of initiative, and they draw a lot of laughs from people as they walk by."

Adam Starzec, who played as France in his class, saw some irony come out of the propaganda posters.

"I strongly believe that every poster that was targeting me was hilarious because in the end I won and they lost," Starzec stated. "I was a strong voice of reason and led my class to what I saw as a humane and decisive victory for the Allies."

Erin Kwapnoski, who played as Italy, believed that the outcome of the simulation was a bit different.

"Adam Starzec was intense. It was fun to conquer France from him," she declared.

Just as war is, the simulation was full of chaos and indecisiveness. In the end, however, some countries still were able to keep to their objectives.

"My objectives were to keep my original territory, get land from Austria-Hungary, stay neutral until 1915, and make an alliance with the Allies in 1915. I did all of them," Kwapnoski said.

Abby Allen, who played Austria-Hungary, felt that in the end, it was best to just stick to her gut feeling and be independent.

"I had an alliance with Bulgaria but that failed, and I had a short one with Italy, but that ended quickly," Allen said. "I ended up just doing whatever seemed best to me and not really following

Petersen

contributing to years of success, Petersen also attributes his player's hard work to the legacy.

"Finally, and probably most importantly, I've been able to coach a lot of really good student athletes. The types of kids that we've had here have been amazing to work with. They're willing to sacrifice a lot of time and put in the time it takes to be a good player, and to form great teams," Petersen said.

This success did not, however, stem solely from one coaching perspective. Throughout the years, Petersen has worked hard to improve his coaching skills, from attending coaching clinics to reading up on how to improve.

"I would hope as a coach that every year you coach you get better. That somehow you can improve in different ways," Petersen commented.

Characteristics from the court don't simply stay there, but they are incorporated into the classroom daily.

"My expectations are high, but I'm the same way in the classroom. I expect people to do the best they can and work as hard as they can," Petersen responded.

Although he may be demanding at times, all that he does is done for the betterment of his team.

"If you're going to demand things, the players have to know you really care about them. I say all of the time that attitude is everything. There has to be a lot of teamwork and camaraderie within your teams, and hopefully I have helped to develop some of that," Petersen said.

There is no doubt that Petersen has and always will stand out as an instrumental and vital coach in the history books of Scotus Central Catholic. He has devoted the larger part of his life to coaching teams to success, and his legacy will never be forgotten.

Petersen concluded, "I would just like to thank all of the people who have been a part of this. Again, from the members of staff, the coaches I work with, the other teachers, the administration, the fans, the parents, and especially all of my players who have played for me. As well, I want to thank my family, especially my wife. She has been so supportive of my desire to coach and has been there every step of the way. I cannot be more appreciative than I am."

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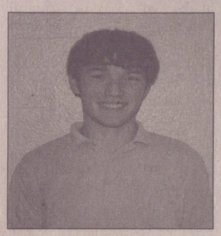


By Blake Schroeder
Staff Reporter

Lunch today was beef stew. I, like many others, wasn't all that thrilled to hear that. Part of a great Friday was slightly hampered by the unappetizing choice of food. For many students, a simple nap after school has to wait until after a long practice. Even the simple task of waking up for school in the morning can be quite grueling at times. What's forgotten, though, is that what is seen as a burden by many would be a blessing to someone else.

Let's take attending Scotus as an example. The opportunity to continue learning with the ability to show our faith is a great privilege to have. In many public schools across the world, faith is being censored. It is getting to the point where the Pledge of Allegiance is starting to get banned because of the one simple line, "Under God". Prayer before each class is something not many others get to do, and many would love to have. The Hail Mary that's taken for granted before English class is the same Hail Mary that a child in poverty puts all his faith in. Remember that.

The food eaten for dinner and the clothes worn from day to day are all aspects of life that are put in the back of the brain and classified as normal. Never does it really occur that parents are the source of these necessities. From working full-time jobs to saying a meaningful goodnight before bed, parents perform many actions that are overlooked by children. In the madness of growing up and constant homework and activities, it can be forgotten that parents age, too. Try to do as many things with them as possible before they get too old because time flies.

Most importantly, experiencing life in general is the greatest gift of all. People have the chance to make of their lives whatever they want. Traveling through the twists and turns of achieving goals is what makes them special. It's inevitable that with all the ups in life, there will be downs as well, but without those downs, the ups wouldn't mean near as much. That's why the downs in life shouldn't be taken for granted either, as crazy as that sounds. For example, imagine someone having a goal of becoming a state champion at their sport/activity. The process of getting to that point is difficult. There needs to be hours upon hours of practice put in complimented by a pursuit for greatness. Putting in the extra reps or playing those overtime minutes may not be the easiest things to do and might be extremely tough (the downs), but when that person accomplishes their goal, holding that state championship trophy will feel a million times better (the up). The hard work is exhausting, but never take it for granted.

Many people complain about how awful school was today or how gross the school lunch was. When comparing these struggles to someone less fortunate, what they see as problems, others would see as royalties. Going to a Catholic school, having a mom and dad to see every day, and being able to experience life to the fullest are privileges that not everyone is blessed with.

I'm scared of money!

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

Like the majority of seniors in high school, I cannot wait to graduate and begin the next chapter of my life. As May is only a few months away, a common concern has been plaguing my thoughts to no end. I have no idea how I am going to pay for college! Thinking about money, more so, my lack of it, scares me immensely.

As Scotus students, many of us are labeled as "rich", and it is automatically assumed that we are spoiled and that our parents are going to pay for all of our expenses throughout college. This surely is not the case for me. I have not been blessed with a college fund, meaning my college expenses are my problem.

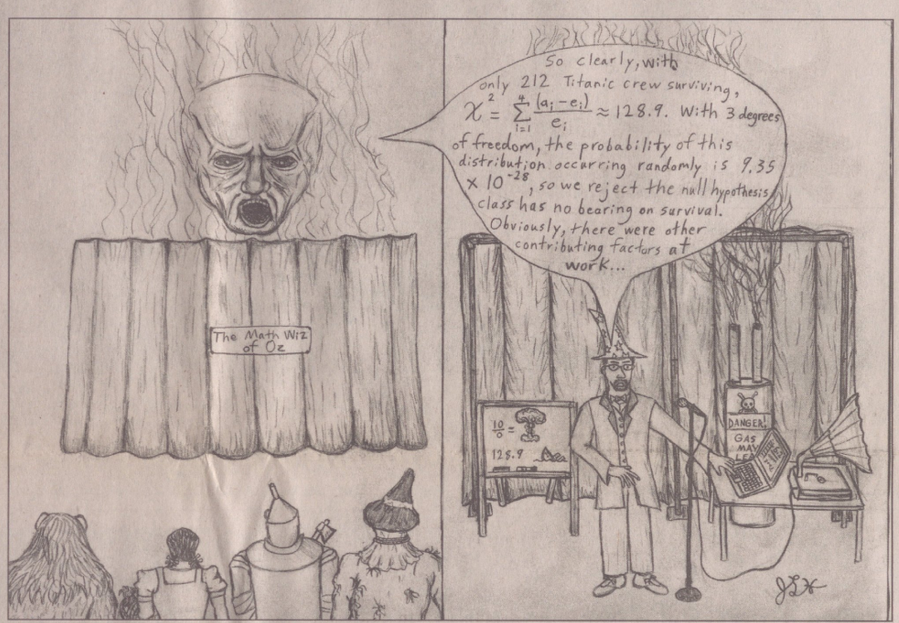
Obviously, the easiest way to overcome this dilemma would be to get a job and save money. The first part of this, getting the job, has never been a problem for me. I have had a job since the age of 15. The part that gets me in trouble is the *saving* money aspect. I work in a retail store, and facing the temptation to buy clothes every time a new shipment comes in is difficult. I will admit, I have a tad bit of a shopping problem.

As shameful as my lack of self-control is at times, it's not realistic to not allot any money for necessities, as well as the occasional splurge. Although my parents do pay for my food and schooling, I pay for many of my other expenses, such as gas and my cell phone bill. I also think it is important to allow myself a treat every now and then. I feel better about myself when I am able to have a new outfit filtered into my closet every couple of months or so.

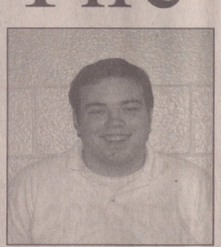
Nonetheless, saving is still immensely important, so start saving now! Although the occasional ice cream run or new top is not going to kill all saving efforts, too many of these treats a month can add up over time. I am going to start taking a set amount of money out of my paycheck each month and give it to my mom for safe keeping. As long as my mom has my savings out of my reach, I won't be tempted to blow my paycheck each month.

For those out there who aren't fortunate enough to have a college fund, scholarships are a wonderful alternative. Unfortunately, scholarships are extremely competitive and cannot be a guaranteed way to pay for college. For students like myself, who can't rely on scholarships (I will be going to cosmetology school so there are few out there for me), this pretty much leaves me with the options of student loans and savings as a means to pay for my entire schooling.

As I near graduation, this is my crunch time. This is the time to get serious. I am greatly looking forward to my future, but that does not begin to mask the large amounts of fear and dread I have for my near financial future.



The fame monster



By Michael Kurtenbach
Staff Reporter

Recently every media source has been exploding with information about Justin Bieber and his downfall. From drag racing to smoking weed on a plane, Justin is not holding anything back and seems to be taking on the YOLO mentality. However, he isn't the first and definitely won't be the last teen star to fall down the ladder. I would insert a joke about Miley Cyrus, but she has been pretty good recently by her standards.

Four years ago Justin Bieber was the heartthrob of millions of teen and preteen girls around the United States. Many of those girls have grown up now and realize how silly they were (hopefully). Maybe the girls going crazy about One Direction can take notes. History has a weird way of repeating itself, so let us take a look back in time to see other teen stars that basically ruined their lives.

Amanda Bynes was the star of the Nickelodeon series *The Amanda Show*. After the show ended in 2002, Amanda acted in many movies, but she always got goodie two shoes parts. She wouldn't get the parts that say Lindsay Lohan got. I would go into depth with Lindsay, but that is for later. Anyway, Amanda got fed up with it and basically went off the deep end. In 2012 she managed to get arrested for a DUI and get her black BMW impounded for driving on a suspended license. She was tried for two counts of hit and run.

Another female star that lost her marbles is Lindsay Lohan. She is famous for her parts in movies such as *The Parent Trap* and *Mean Girls*. Her legal troubles began in 2007 when she was convicted twice for drunk driving, once for cocaine use, and made three trips to rehab. That's a busy year in my books. However, the legal problems didn't stop there. In February of 2011 Lohan was charged with felony grand theft. In March of that same year she made her ninth court appearance in just ten months. She was sentenced to 120 days in jail and 480 hours of community service.

> ***"I would insert a joke about Miley Cyrus, but she has been pretty good recently by her standards."***
> ***~Michael Kurtenbach***

The scary thing about these super famous people getting in trouble isn't just the fact that they are ruining their own lives; the scary part is what their crazed fans will do in response. A great example is the "cut for Bieber" movement that happened when the rumors of Bieber smoking weed first came out. The fact that people will mutilate themselves for a singer is worrying. This may be an extreme case, but there are little things that happen all the time. Even getting depressed for a famous person is too far because honestly they probably don't even know you exist.

The point is that no one should ever harm his/herself for a celebrity. Yes, you like their music, but really, cutting yourself? Don't go and get all crazy about these famous people. They are human and bound to make mistakes. There is no reason to do harm to yourself or others over a famous person. Even if your favorite celebrity is ruining his/her life that is no reason to ruin yours.

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Anny Worayosgovit/Media Staff

Senior Jordan Zoucha jams out on his air guitar in the center of the dance circle.

Sandy Chi/Media Staff

Candidates & royalty strike a pose for coronation. Back row left to right; Alyssa Foltz, Brennan Brockhaus, Alice Bovy, Derek Kaslon, Queen Alli Bos, King Phil Levos, Payton Chohon, Jacob Nienaber, Mikayla Gasper. Front row left to right: Alex Wallick, Kristen Ohnoutka, Naomi Robertson, Amy Price, Colt Clarey.

Anny Worayosgovit/Media Staff

Seniors Clare Bohac, Jessica Martys, Carly Burkhardt, Payton Chohon and Mike Kurtenbach bust a move to "The Wop".

Anny Worayosgovit/Media Staff

Seniors Megan Miksch & Halle Fuchs alongside Mrs. Zanardi are caught striking a pose in the photo booth Friday night.

Dance sweetens Valentine's Day

By Alex Pandorf
Staff Reporter

This year Scotus' Sweetheart dance fell directly on Valentine's Day. This made the winter dance especially romantic for couples. It also made it a convenient and fun way to celebrate Valentine's Day in an proper atmosphere. The dance allowed couples to be together without spending money on an expensive meal or two movie tickets.

This year, a new addition to the Sweetheart dance was the introduction of a photo booth. Students could pay beforehand to receive a photo booth pass. This allowed the student and his/her date to use of photo booth several times for extra fun and memories. A portion of the profits from the pass sales would go to the sophomore class. The photo booth was a big success with the students.

"I think there was a positive reaction," Sophomore Class Sponsor Stephanie Schaer said.

"The photo booth was a great idea. It seemed to be well liked by everyone," senior Phil Levos commented.

The photo booth will also be returning for future dances due to its success at Sweetheart. It may be a feature at future proms and post proms for students to use much like they did at Sweetheart.

"I heard a lot of kids talking about they would like to have it at prom or at other dances in the future," Schaer said.

This year the title of Sweetheart King was won by senior Phillip Levos. The title of Queen was won by senior Allison Bos.

"I'm content to say that everyone up for royalty was well deserving of the title," Levos said.

Neither of this year's candidates expected to the get the title, but both were very accepting of the results.

"I didn't really expect to win. I was convinced that all the guys had a really good chance of winning," Levos said.

"I didn't expect to win at all," senior Alli Bos said.

This was the last sweetheart dance for a majority of the senior class this year, which made the dance even more memorable.

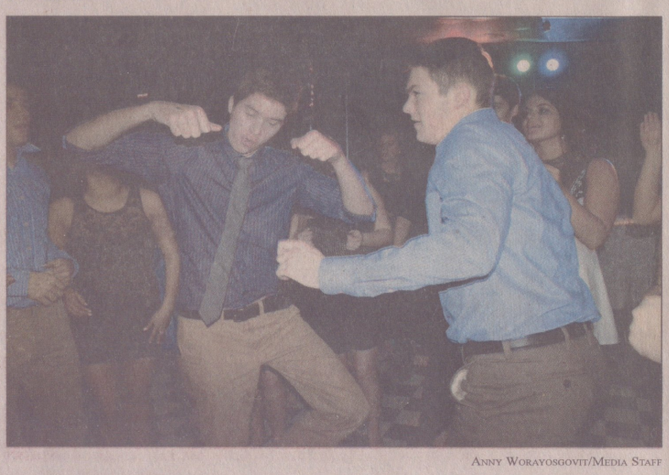
"I thought the Dance was so much fun and the music was great," Bos said.

The dance suffered a bit from low attendance and a large exodus from the dance by bored patrons.

"For the people that stayed the entire dance, they seemed to have a great time. All of the technical help and underclassmen were great," Levos commented.

Anny Worayosgovit/Media Staff

Senior Alli Bos is crowned Sweetheart Queen, and royalty winners Alli Bos and Phil Levos pose in the photo booth after coronation.



Anny Worayosgovit/Media Staff

Brothers Dana & Jack Hoppe break it down and battle it out on the dance floor.

Sandy Chi/Media Staff

Seniors Jackson Prokupek, Emily Allen, and Jacob Nienaber enthusiastically dance to the song "YMCA".

Musical says goodbye to Gardner

By Jacob Nienaber
Staff Reporter

Singing, smiles, and tears were shared during this year's musical performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. The musical follows the same storyline of Dorothy Gale trying to get back home to Kansas from the 1939 film. During this quest she has some quirky journeys along the way with a Scarecrow, Lion, and a Tin man. The cast consisted of 80+ people, roughly a fifth of the entire school population. The musical was chosen this year for the 75th year anniversary of the release of the movie as well as being one of musical director E.J. Gardner's favorite musicals.

There was much enthusiasm radiating off sophomore Brady Pryzmus, who played the Tin man.

"The musical was a blast! It has been one of the most enjoyable things that I have done in high school, and I am so glad that I came out for the musical this year. It was quite frankly one of the greatest experiences of my life," Pryzmus said.

Senior Dan Strecker, who played the cowardly lion, in his third year as a musical lead.

"It has been such a blessing working with the people I have over the last four years. Especially this year touring with the Dorothy's friends, and as a cast I felt that the chemistry really clicked and that everything came together really well," Strecker said.

That chemistry played out well throughout the entire weekend as the fully packed memorial hall laughed and followed Dorothy on her journey to return home. However, there was a hint of somber emotions throughout the weekend. Much of the focus other than the play itself was on the retirement of E.J. Gardner, the choral director and the director of the musical for the last 17 years. One student that is appreciative for all Ms. Gardner has done for her is junior Carly Cremers, who played Dorothy.

"I am going miss her so much next year; she is such a great director; she gets everyone on task and has the ability to have fun, yet at the same time get it done. The musicals under her direction have always turned out great. She has given me a strong appreciation of music; she has shown me all of the fine details of music, and it has been great," Cremers said.

Not only has the passing of the torch been a somber experience for the cast under the direction of Ms. Gardner, but it is difficult for her also.

"It is a bittersweet time for me. In a way I am glad it is over, but yet I am going to miss it a lot. In fact I was already thinking of what we would do for next year and thought for a minute and realized that I'm not doing this next year," Gardner said.

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF

Musical director, E.J. Gardner, receives flowers and a necklace from the musical cast recognizing her for her seventeen years of service to the Scotus Musical.

During Sunday's performance the cast purposefully changed the script allowing Ms. Gardner to come up onto the stage and receive a necklace, which the cast purchased for her. Now the question arises of who will take over where she left off? Whoever decides to take the position will be taking over a suspected large cast. As the curtain closes on Ms. Gardner's career a great legacy is left behind.

"I will miss the sense of accomplishment, and the very great and talented people I have had the privilege to work with over the years; that will be the thing I miss the most," Gardner said.

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF

Junior Eduardo Lopez, freshman Anthony Sprunk, and junior Lucas Cox mock the scarecrow during the musical.

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF

Sophomore Brady Pryzmus, junior Justina Wemhoff, senior Jacob Nienaber, junior Carly Cremers, and senior Dan Strecker prepare for Dorothy to go home.

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF

Senior Dan Strecker, junior Carly Cremers, senior Jacob Nienaber, and sophomore Brady Pryzmus prepare to see the wizard.

MELISSA THALKEN/MEDIA STAFF

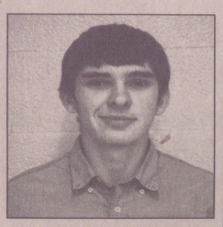
Senior Valerie Borer rides her bike evilly across the stage. Borer played Miss Gulch and the Wicked Witch of the West.

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF

Juniors Elizabeth Preister and Hannah Krings and senior Bre Walker, the evil trees, prepare to throw apples at Dorothy.

MELISSA THALKEN/MEDIA STAFF

Juniors Teddy Paprocki and Carly Cremers look into the magical ball at Dorothy's home town in Kansas.



Recapping the Sochi Winter Olympics

By Conner Moran
Staff Reporter

From February 7th through February 23rd, the world participated in the 22nd Winter Olympics, which took place in Sochi, Russia. The Winter Olympics, though, not as significant (in my opinion) compared to the Summer Olympics, are still quite entertaining.

I was pumped, mainly though, because it's the United States performing on the world stage to show off how awesome we are (and sometimes aren't) at winter sports! This gives hundreds of athletes a chance to perform at the highest levels of competition that thousands can only dream of! And not only that, but it brings so many different countries together for one big event. It's not like people see this every year (it's actually every other year).

If there was one thing to pick from the Olympics that definitely surprised or amazed me, it would have to be the Jamaican bobsleigh team. It's Jamaica…in the Winter Olympics…Jamaica doesn't get snow. Well, they could probably build a crazy awesome ice rink place to practice in, but still. IT'S. JAMAICA. What was even cooler about them racing was that at the end of their last race the camera panned out and showed all, and I mean all, of the fans cheering for the Jamaican duo that most likely overcame much adversity to get to Sochi, and one could see what the spirit of the Olympics are all about.

One event which surprisingly interested me was curling, or as I like to call, "giant shuffleboard with people." I never really appreciated curling until Fr. Roza explained it to our class during the first week of the Olympics, and now I see this sport from a different perspective. Even though the United States did awful, I still found enjoyment by watching other countries compete. It's so simple, yet awesome in its own special way.

Even with my busy schedule, I could still find time to watch something in the Olympics, and I never got tired of it either. The United States represented its people well, and it was great to see the accomplishments and trials of so many athletes. Unfortunately, the United States finished second in overall medals just five behind Russia. Now, we wait another two years for the Summer Olympics once again.

Final Results of Sochi 2014

United States	
Gold:	9
Silver:	7
Bronze:	12
Total:	28
Russia	
Gold:	13
Silver:	11
Bronze:	9
Total:	33
Canada	
Gold:	10
Silver:	10
Bronze:	5
Total:	25

Miksch retains titles

By Blake Schroeder
Staff Reporter

Senior Laura Miksch won state for three straight years this past weekend.

Miksch qualified in the 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, 50 freestyle, and the 100 freestyle. She won her fourth and fifth career gold medals in the 50 and 100 freestyles. These victories cap a 3-peat in the 50 freestyle and a back-to-back gold showing in the 100 freestyle.

Senior Peter Dolezal also made the trip to state and qualified in the 100 breaststroke, 200 free, 200 medley relay, and the 400 free relay. Dolezal finished just outside the top ten in the 200 freestyle relay and the 200 medley relay and was short of medaling.

Having so many events means there must be a large amount of preparation for them.

"It's a long and exhausting time preparing for the state competition. For the past couple of years, I've trained eight months, two times a day for the state competition. I train 15-20 hours a week," Miksch said.

Putting in endless hours of time can be draining for the swimmers. Each person has their own reason for the hard work they put in.

"I love swimming – it's very enjoyable. My team motivates me the most. I want to do well in order to help my team win; my team cheers everyone on in order to improve," Dolezal said.

Miksch's motivation is the opportunity to always strive for improvement.

"I'm never satisfied with how I swim because I know I can always do better. I will still be happy if I get a personal best, but soon that excitement is taken over by curiosity to see how much faster I can go," Miksch said.

Jessica Martys/Yearbook Staff

Senior Laura Miksch competes in the breast stroke earlier in the season. Miksch finished

It is also the seniors' job to motivate the underclassman to perform their best as well. They use their knowledge from previous meets and events and share that experience with them.

"[Being a senior] helped me better people's skill and help improve their confidence," Dolezal said.

The state competition was the final event for Dolezal, but Miksch will continue her swimming career at Division-I Iowa State University next year.

Wrestlers medal two at state

By Michael Kurtenbach
Staff Reporter

The future is looking bright for the Scotus wrestling team. In its second season, the team sent eight wrestlers to state. This is a six man improvement over the inaugural season when only then freshman Mason Brandenburg and fellow freshman Marcus Dodson qualified.

In their sophomore year, both Brandenburg and Dodson qualified once again along with freshmen Tyler Brandenburg, Wyatt Gutzmer, and Layton Mullinix, sophomores Gage Speicher and Alex Foltz, and senior Conner Lusche. The Shamrocks went 4-4 in the first round causing half the team to immediately go to the losers' bracket which is called wrestleback. After it was all said and done, two wrestlers were left standing for Scotus. They just so happened to be the original two state qualifiers from last year.

Mason Brandenburg was one of the wrestlers who lost in the first round of the 120 pound weight class. He then went on to win his next three matches to get into the consolation semifinal match where he lost by decision 6-4.

Marcus Dodson only lost one match during the whole tournament. Unfortunately that loss came in the final match of the 152 pound weight class. However, this was a bittersweet moment for him.

"I am the first wrestler from Scotus to make it to the finals, and it was a crazy atmosphere," Dodson stated.

Both wrestlers had goals going into the state tourney. Brandenburg in particular had many

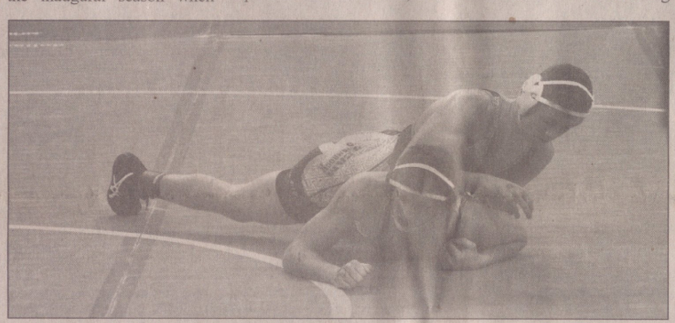
"My goals were to place and finish my other goals from the year: not getting pinned, placing, and having under ten losses," Brandenburg said.

Dodson had a much different path to his medal. He won his first match by pinning the other wrestler in the first round. In the quarterfinals he won by decision over Colt Wakefield of Blair by the score of 7-4. In the semis Dodson again won by pinning his opponent.

"In my semis match, I pinned the guy in like 38 seconds. This was my most exciting moment because he was supposed to beat me. He was expected to go to the finals, and I wasn't even supposed to make it passed the quarterfinals," Dodson explained.

Dodson had plenty of momentum going into the finals. Unfortunately, he couldn't bring home the gold for the Shamrocks. However, this isn't the end. The program is looking to improve in the coming years and send more and more wrestlers to the state tournament in the hopes that more will medal.

"We are looking good for the years to come. We're in good shape. We'll be taking more kids, and they will be placing higher," Dodson explained.



Jessica Martys/Yearbook Staff

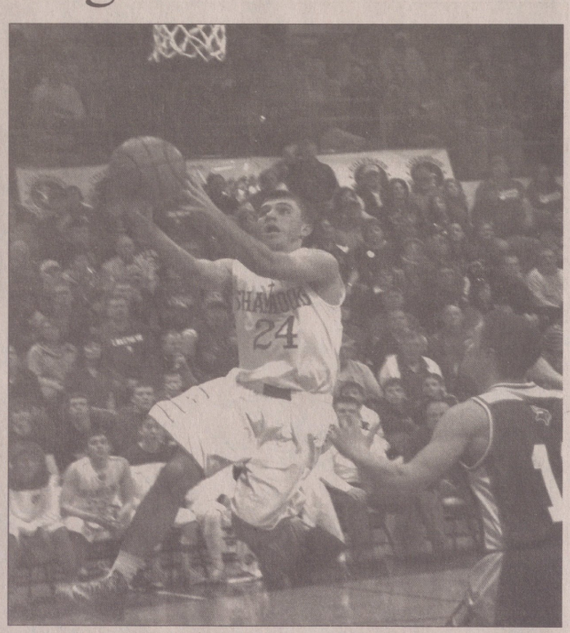
Sophomore Marcus Dodson struggles while trying to pin his opponent at the 2014 State Wrestling Championship. Dodson received a runner-up medal at state.

Basketball teams fight at districts

Begona Torrejon/Yearbook Staff

Senior Kylie Rollman shoots a three verses North Bend at CHS during the subdsictric game.

The Scotus girls' basketball team wrapped up their postseason play last week in the district tournament. In the first round of districts, the girls defeated North Bend Central High School at Columbus High. They then went on to defeat cross-town rival Lakeview with a final score of 47-43. The girls went on to lose to Fairbury High School in the district finals at Lincoln Christian last Friday. The girls ended their season with a 13-9 record.



Payton Chohon/Yearbook Staff

Sophomore Miles Putnam goes up for a layup against a Lakeview defender.

The Scotus boys' basketball team began their district play last Tuesday against North Bend Central High School. They went on to defeat North Bend 66-35 that night. Next the Shamrocks faced off against Lakeview in a brutal game last Thursday night. The Shamrocks pulled off a win, though, with a tight score of 42-39. The Shamrocks advanced into the district final game with a record of 21-4. The Shamrocks played the final last night at Seward; they faced the 22 and 3 Milford Eagles.

Bowlers compete at state

By Conner Moran
Staff Reporter

On February 8th and 9th, three Scotus students participated in the first of two bowling tournaments this winter, but not for Scotus. Instead, these students are part of the CHS club bowling team.

Junior Adam Starzec is one of the three Scotus students on the bowling team. Junior Keaton Swanson and freshman Matt Hoenk are also on the team. Since it is not an official high school sport, the bowling team takes part in two separate bowling leagues.

"The leagues are different but only slightly. There is the bigger league, Federation, and then there's the other league, Coaches State, which isn't as important to me," Starzec commented.

The team participates with other Class A schools such as Lincoln East and Elkhorn South. There are three Scotus students and three CHS students. After school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the players go to Westbrook Lanes to bowl a few practice games.

"[For tournament play] we play three full games, then we play through five rounds of Baker's style play, and the top 2 of those play for the championship," Starzec said.

The teams play through three full games to compete to get the top spots for the Baker's rounds and to boost their totals in deciding the final pin count. The Baker's rounds are one game rounds in which each individual of a five-person team only bowls two frames, so the first bowler bowls on frames 1 and 6, next bowler does 2 and 7, and so on. Whoever has a larger total at the end of the game will win that Baker's round. These points are added to the overall total from before, and whoever has the most points wins it all.

"Overall as a team, we finished third in the Federation league. Our best player can always change. It all depends on the day and the conditions," Starzec added. "Every bowler is different in their strengths and weaknesses. The trick to doing well consistently is being able to adapt how you bowl to fit the lane conditions and to work with what you have."

Cox celebrates twenty years

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

As another band dinner concert rolled around, instructor Kristen Cox struck up the band to celebrate her 20th year at Scotus, as students from Scotus, as well as the Catholic grade schools, participated in Scotus' 19th dinner concert.

"The idea [of a dinner concert] was inspired by a concept from the band director I student taught with, Mr. Dennis Ummel. The first year (1996) I collaborated with Scotus' former vocal music teacher, Amy Krance. Since then, the Scotus dinner concert has truly taken on its own identity," Cox said.

Throughout Cox's twenty years at Scotus, chairmen Milan and Linda Levos, as well as Terri Morrison, have assisted Cox in the planning of these concerts. This is Milan and Linda's last year serving as chairmen.

"Levos' have created all of the memorable themes with their decorations, dining atmosphere, and scripts for the master of ceremonies. Linda is very creative, and Milan is able to put her ideas into reality. Terri has chaired the kitchen portion of the dinner concert for the past nineteen years. Even though her last child graduated in 2006, she still volunteers her time to help the band," Cox said.

Senior Phil Levos, son of Milan and Linda Levos, has participated in band for eight years.

"It was really great having my parents recognized. The band department is thankful for their twenty years of service," Levos said.

The night consisted of flashbacks to the previous dinner concerts throughout the years. Seniors were given special tasks including introducing the acts, learning a special script, as well as handing out gifts to Cox, Morrison, and the Levos'.

Senior Melissa Thalken has actively participated in band for eight years.

"We had lots of gifts to hand out. I had to be sure everything was where it was supposed to be. In past years I hadn't had to do any of that because the seniors always took care of it all, but this time it was my turn," Thalken said.

A theme is chosen for the dinner concert overall every year. This year, the dinner concert combined the previous 18 themes for the 19th dinner concert theme "Strike up the Band".

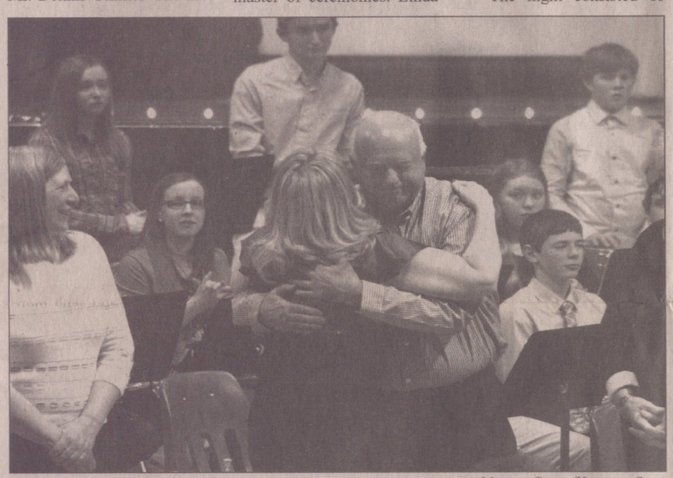
"It was a red carpet event. We had on tuxes and prom dresses! It was so fun and a fantastic end to Mr. and Mrs. Levos' years helping and making Mrs. Cox's 20th year a celebration," Thalken said

Senior Jacob Nienaber has participated in band for six years.

"I've enjoyed the services provided by Mrs. Cox and the Levos'. I am glad for the gift of music and to share that with the community," Nienaber said.

Cox agreed with Nienaber that this year's dinner concert was one to be remembered.

"This year's dinner concert was a special event. It was a trip down memory lane, not only for me, but for everyone. Each year holds a special memory for me, and I hope it does for my students as well. The success of the dinner concert has been made from a team effort".

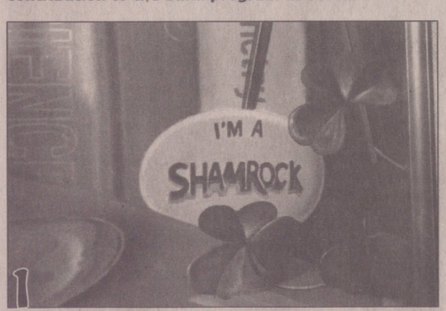


Mikayla Gasper/Yearbook Staff

Milan Levos embraces Mrs. Cox at the 2014 Band Dinner Concert. Milan and Linda Levos were honored along with Terri Morrison (left) for their 20 years of contribution to the band program at Scotus.

Mikayla Gasper/Yearbook Staff

The senior high band plays a song in Memorial Hall at the band/dinner concert on February 10th. The selection of songs were picked from the past Band Dinner Concerts Mrs. Cox has had at Scotus.



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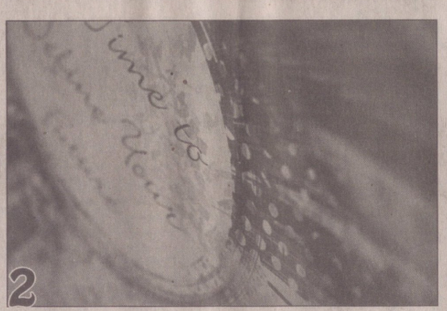

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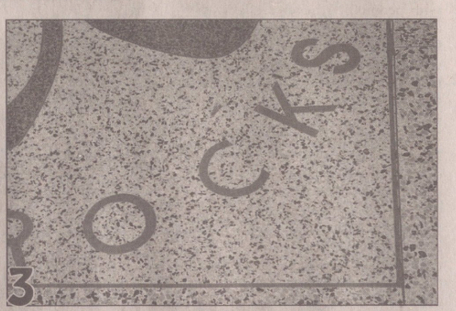

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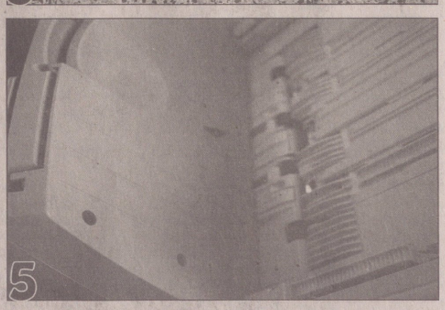
Can you guess what these photos are, and where they were taken? Write down your answers and turn them into Mrs. Rusher. The first person to get all 8 answers correct wins a free movie pass.



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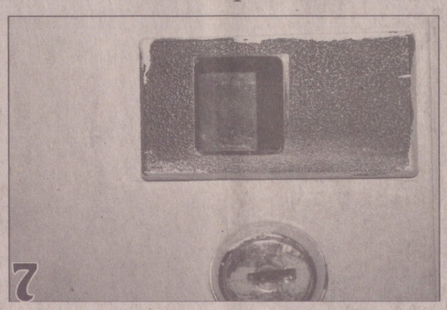

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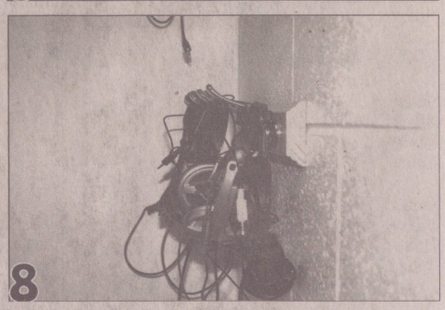

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Everything awesome about the *Lego Movie*

By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

"Everything is awesome. Everything is cool when you're part of a team." I could not get those last two sentences out of my head even a week after seeing *The Lego Movie* in 3D. The theme song of the movie "Everything is Awesome" pretty much sums up the entire movie itself.

The entire concept of *The Lego Movie* is what I like to call revolutionary. Taking one of the most beloved toys of all time, building an entire original story off of it, and putting it on the big screen is something that has likely never been done before (the Nickelodeon Bionicle and Barbie movies don't count).

When I had first heard of *The Lego Movie*, I didn't think much of it. However, after learning that some friends of mine were excited to see it, I figured it might be a good movie after all. Going into the theater, I had fairly high expectations for it. I never was a fan of 3D movies, and I still am not. Just to get this off my chest, the 3D feature of the movie was completely unnecessary, and it only made it difficult to watch at times. However, the movie itself was excellent.

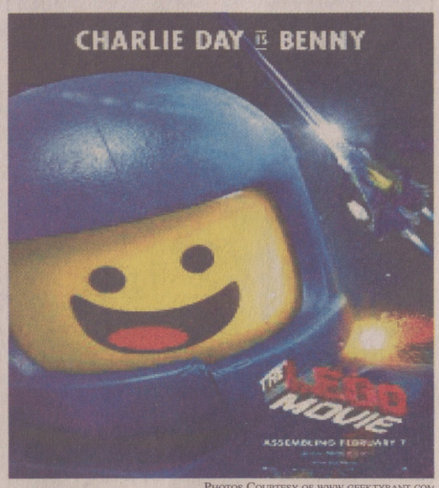
The Lego Movie follows the life of Emmet, a normal Lego construction worker who follows the instructions of everyday life given to him and everyone else by President Business, the ruler of Lego Land (if that's what their world is called). One day, Emmet happens to fall into a hole where he discovers a mysterious relic that shows him a vision when he touches it. The relic becomes stuck to his back, and as it turns out, President Business (who is actually the evil ruler called Lord Business) has been looking for this piece to take over the world. Emmet is captured by him, but is soon rescued by a Lego lady who calls herself Wyldstyle.

Emmet learns from her that he is the chosen one from a prophecy told by Vitruvius, the leader of the master builders. The master builders are those Lego people who can build anything they come up with from any Lego parts that are in their surroundings. Lord Business' goal is to eradicate the master builders and to rebuild and reorder the entire world in his design.

Overall, the plot of *The Lego Movie* was fantastically crafted and well thought-out, jam-packed with diverse characters and unexpected twists and turns. It was full of dry humor and excellent satire that pokes fun at a multitude of genres and trends that have been adapted into Legos. One thing I enjoyed was the amount of the jokes that only someone who has played with Legos, like myself, would understand. Also, the fact that you're watching a movie done almost entirely with Legos is downright hilarious.

At first glance, *The Lego Movie* may seem like another kid-friendly movie focusing on dumb jokes and the generic good vs. evil theme. However, the movie holds within itself a couple of lessons that can be taken to heart. One theme that was prevalent throughout the movie was the theme of using your imagination and creativity to be your true self. In order to save himself as well as his friends, Emmett is forced to step outside of his comfort zone of being normal and become someone who he has always wanted to be. Another theme from the movie, one that tied in to the previous one, is that a group of individuals can use their ingenuity and creativity to work as a team, rather than for themselves. Emmett himself makes the master builders realize that this valuable lesson is crucial if they are to succeed in defeating Lord Business.

The Lego Movie is a gem in today's unoriginal and meaningless cinema industry. With an excellent story and memorable characters, this movie is one that won't only entertain kids, but adults as well. The movie is almost perfectly balanced with dry humor and meaningful messages, making it a joy to watch. Whether someone is in need of something to lift their spirits or could just use a few laughs, I highly recommend seeing this movie while it is still in the theaters. After all, everything always looks better on the big screen.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WWW.GEEKTYRANT.COM

Is love really endless?

By Brooke Olmer
Staff Reporter

The movie *Endless Love* came out just in time for Valentine's Day. People all over America grabbed their sweethearts and went and saw *Endless Love*. I ended up going and watching it with my friend. I thoroughly enjoyed this movie, but I am always a sucker for love stories. I've probably seen *The Notebook* about ten times.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF INSIDEMOVIES.EW.COM

Endless Love is definitely a chick flick. In fact, as I was leaving the movie, I heard a dad say to his two daughters that there's no way this movie would ever happen in real life. He explained that there's no way that people who have only known each other for a few days would love each other that much. The two daughters then proceeded to argue with their dad and told him that he was wrong.

The movie starts off at a high school graduation ceremony. It seems like the typical love story: there's a boy that has had a crush on a beautiful girl all throughout high school, but, of course, the girl doesn't even know that he exists. The only thing peculiar about the beautiful girl is that she has no friends. She spent most of her high school career studying and preparing for college so she didn't take the time to meet friends. Long story short, the boy and girl fall in love and want to spend as much time together as possible.

Like any typical love story, there is a barrier that is trying to keep these two lovebirds apart. That barrier is that the girl's father thinks the boy is not good enough for his daughter. This seems cliché and has been used countless times in different love stories. Even though this movie is cliché, a girl can't help but hope that a love like this movie happens in her life.

Besides this movie being cliché, it is overall great. The lead actor and actress do a fantastic job portraying their characters especially since they are not well known "A" list actors. Any audience could tell that they have a lot of chemistry together. They are also both extremely good looking so that makes people fantasize about a love like that even more. The bad thing about this movie is that it definitely seems to be centered around the teenage crowd. It's not really a movie that adults would want to see unless for instance it's a dad only going because his two daughters want to. The movie does seem unrealistic considering that the couple falls in love in such a short period of time, but once again I am a sucker for love stories so I like to believe that it can happen.

Another cliché moment in the movie is the fact that the girl and boy are separated when the girl goes far away to college. I couldn't help but feel sad for them that they couldn't be together. They are apart for many years and the audience all hopes that somehow they will end up together. Do they end up together? I guess you will have to go watch the movie to find out if this couple's love is in fact endless.

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March 5th
Ash Wednesday

March 6th
Team Scotus Day

March 7th and 8th
Girls State Basketball

March 12th
End Of The 3rd Quarter

March 15th
St. Pat's Parade
Omaha, Nebraska

March 13th-16th
Boys State Basketball
Spring Break

March 18th
District Speech
Wayne State College

March 20th
Pep Rally
JV/V Baseball
Norfolk, Nebraska
5:00/7:00 P.M.

March 22th
Indoor Track
Wayne State College
10:00 A.M.

March 23th
Mr. Shamrock
7:45 P.M.

March 26th
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Seven participate in State Speech

By Kristen Ohnoutka
Layout Editor

This year's speech team has set new standards for years to come. The team just missed third place at districts by six points, was the district OID champion, and took five more than last year competitors to state.

"I really hope that this experience [state speech] "lights a fire" for our upcoming members and draws in new students for next year," head coach Danielle Masur said.

The speech team competed in the state competition on March 27th and took seven students with them to compete in the final meet. This is the most Scotus has had compete in a few years, and three of the categories they sent were district champions.

"Districts will be unforgettable as I retained my title as persuasive district champ!" senior Emily Allen said.

Allen was the highest scoring Scotus member at the state competition with a 10th place finish out of 18 competitors. Along with Allen, sophomores Mikayla Nienaber and Olivia Rath and seniors Jacob Nienaber, Ian Ostdiek, Jackson Prokupek, and Jordan Zoucha also competed at the state level.

"You compete fiercely against your rivals during the round and have friendly conversation outside of it. But yet, you both remain supportive of each other through it all," senior Jordan Zoucha said.

Mikayla Nienaber and Rath both performed their Serious Interpretation of Prose Literature speeches, Jacob Nienaber performed his Humorous Interpretation of Prose Literature speech and then also his Oral Interpretation of Drama with his partners Ostdiek, Prokupek, and Zoucha. Allen gave her Persuasive Speaking speech for her performance at state.

None of the competitors continued on to the finals in their events, so the school overall was not scored. However, this did not affect the positive experience the competitors had at state.

"My performance has improved so much since the beginning of the season. Preparing a speech is a long process, and it requires several changes and drafts. Although it may have been rough in the beginning, it was a good end to the season to give my best performance at state," Allen said.

This speech season was also the first year Coach Masur and Kuszak headed the speech program at Scotus. Both teachers are first year teachers at Scotus and both chose to take on the speech program left behind by former coach, Ms. Ploetz. The experience of state speech was not only new and foreign to the students, but to the coaches as well.

"A huge regret I have after this year is that I never even thought about doing speech team when I was in high school. Here at Scotus, we all give athletics a try, which gives us some really talented athletes. If more people would give speech a try, I think many would find something else they are really talented at and maybe even be on the state speech medal stand some day!" Masur said.

Masur and Kuszak plan on continuing with the speech program next year, but eight seniors will be saying goodbye to their high school speech careers after this season.

"Speech has given me stronger friendships, built my confidence, and, most importantly, reminded me of the importance of sportsmanship. Being able to connect with your opponents; to laugh, cry, and learn from them, creates a unique spirit of sportsmanship, one that is seldom found in many other forms of competition. If there is one thing I'll carry with me from my first and last year of speech, it is the sense of sportsmanship I gained, because without it, I would have gained nothing," Zoucha said.

MELISSA THALKEN/MEDIA STAFF

The state speech qualifiers and coaches gather for group photo during the State Speech Contest in Kearney on Thursday, March 27th. (back row) Coach Jordan Kuszak, seniors Ian Ostdiek, Jordan Zoucha, Jackson Prokupek, Jacob Nienaber, and Coach Danielle Masur (front row) sophomore Mikayla Nienaber, senior Emily Allen, and sophomore Olivia Rath.

Business professionals prepare students

By Alex Pandorf
Staff Reporter

"So tell me about a time that you were interviewed during school."

This year, Business and Industry Day came to Scotus with new ideas and a new layout. Rather than spending a week learning to shake hands and answer questions, students were given live interviews with workers from a plethora of businesses around Columbus.

"This is our first time doing it through the Chamber of Commerce," modern government teacher Pat Brockhaus said.

The idea of having the Chamber of Commerce and other businesses come to Scotus for the event originated with President Wayne Morfeld.

"It was my feeling that we'd done the same thing for many years and that it needed to grow," Morfeld said.

In the past, teachers have gone to the businesses to make connections between the work force and school. The teachers would then relay the information. This year, however, the middle man was cut out with people from many different businesses coming to Scotus to teach the students directly. This came out through the planning of Wayne Morfeld, Pat Brockhaus, and Jeff Ohnoutka.

"The teachers used to always go to the businesses and get told a lot the things that the students were told, and we'd come back and relay that to the students," Brockhaus said.

ALEX PANDORF/ROCKBOTTOM STAFF

Junior Noah Schacher and Amethyst Walnofer are interviewed in Memorial Hall during the Business and Industry Day activities by representatives from Columbus businesses. The mock interviews prepared students for future job and college interviewed.

"I felt like the most important person was being left out, the student," Morfeld said.

By having the business come directly to the students, students can get a more realistic and interactive experience with job interviews.

"I think it was way more beneficial. The mock interviews were really good. You get it from the first hand source," Brockhaus said.

Juniors and seniors participated in Business and Industry Day. If it were to return next year, the junior class would repeat the process learning much of the same ideas. Because of this issue, the future of Business and Industry Day is in conflict.

"I think that we're just at the beginning. The next challenge is that the next time we do this, we need to go more into it, and not do the same-old same-old every time," Morfeld said.

The student body appeared to have a positive reaction to the process, which encouraged it to

See Business, Page 2

Scotus replaces bleachers

By Jacob Nienaber
Staff Reporter

The Dowd Activity Center will look different this May. This year, the addition of new bleachers will be made a reality in the school. These new bleachers are planned to be ready to go for use by graduation. There were a few setbacks with the old bleachers, and it was only a matter of time before they were replaced.

"The stability of the old bleachers was poor. A lot of our students don't realize that because in the student section a good chunk of students are near the bottom of the bleachers. If you are a senior citizen or supporter, and you have to travel all the way to the top of the bleachers, the lack of stability on top of the stairs is a concern. The last thing we want to do is to have a supporter injured because we have not provided a safe environment. We do a considerable amount of maintenance in the summer on them, and it is beyond time that we get them replaced," Scotus President Wayne Morfeld said.

This vision of new bleachers wasn't made overnight. There was much structural and financial

See Bleachers, Page 2

BLEACHERS

planning.

"We've been working on the financials with the endowment board for the last two years. The endowment board is the ones whom we talk to with the question of what is in the best interest of the school financially and how we can make it possible. Of course, we are unable to create a totally different building, but we want this school to be the best it can be with the resources we are provided," Morfeld said.

The bleachers, which have been in Scotus since the Dowd Activity Center was built, have been torn down and scrapped for cash. The funding in this year's SEC drive will also allow for the making of a new parking lot just north of the school, which is needed for students and faculty alike.

"We own two rental houses on the north side, and we hope to demolish those houses in the start of June for a parking lot, or at least the foundation to a new parking lot before start of the school year," Morfeld added.

The bleachers were purchased out of Kansas City and will support the colors of kelly green and grey. They will be made out of plastic, a different material than the normal wood and metal bleachers seen over the years. The bleachers will also be motorized to come in and out with easier access, as well as handrails for safety.

"I believe there are a lot of plusses when it comes to the comfort and safety of the bleachers for our fans," Morfeld said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN SCHUETH/

Over 100 volunteers helped remove the old bleachers in the Dowd Activity Center. New bleachers will be installed time for graduation.

BUSINESS

return in the following years.

"Everything I saw was really good, and I've heard a lot of positive feedback," Morfeld said.

The feedback for the event came back as positive from students, parents, and faculty.

"It was very informative, and I learned a lot of new things," senior Peter Dolezal said.

With many seniors on their way to get summer jobs in preparation of leaving for college, the interviews came at a crucial time. Skills learned at Business and Industry Day can be applied for years to come, not only during job searches, but also in applying for colleges and other special events.

"We want to continue to build on what we learned this year," Morfeld concluded.

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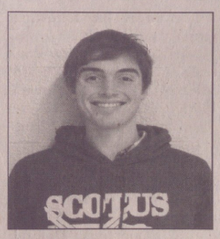
Attacking addictions



By Jacob Nienaber
Staff Reporter

Ladies and gentlemen, I have a confession to make. I am an addict, but not your typical addict. Some things I am addicted to the most are my busy lifestyle, my phone, my girlfriend, and chocolate! Just kidding, chocolate isn't my usual cup of tea. Bigger addictions such as sex, alcohol, or smoking, which are most likely treated by numerous rehab sessions (see Lindsay Lohan and coming soon to a rehab center near you Miley Cyrus), are the obvious addictions. It is the smaller ones such as phones, social media, or pointless sites (see Michael's article), we have to face and fight head on.

Most addictions that we don't see are things that we are the most addicted to. In this world of mass technology, everyday tools and applications such as phones, social media, and the internet are all addictions that we can find ourselves controlled by. Some people are unable to put their phone down in their free time for more than a couple minutes at a time. This idea of being constantly busy and distracted is one that can take a toll on people, but they are so fascinated by the latest sports update or getting a high score in flappy bird that they miss out on what's really important in life.

Another problem is the stress of unneeded social media. In social media we put so much pressure on what others' opinions are that we lose sight of who we truly are. Rather than a select group of people who we care about, we are pressured into believing that the opinion of 500 other people matters, too. Luckily there is a light at the end of the tunnel and a way to take care of addictions.

To move on from an addiction, we must first find something to distract us that is positive. Some of these can be, but are not limited to, sports, work, schoolwork, and, of course, random pie eating contests. All of these can take our minds off of bad habits and transition into good ones. Once we are free from the addiction for a little while, we must strive to stay on the right track.

Secondly, we must try to obtain help from trusted friends. One of the best ways to stay clean from any addiction is having someone whom you trust aware of it, and who you can report to so you can keep honest. They would be a helpful source when it comes to inspiration and encouragement.

Lastly, the final way is detoxes. Much like the English seniors had to do "Kuszak's detox: seniors week without technology", take a break from something that you are addicted to and record the struggles you have. This journaling can be an important tool in assisting you to get over your addiction. By the end of the time period, you may realize how hard the addiction was, and how you may not be controlling it, but it may be controlling you.

Addictions rule the lives of many, but with a little help and willpower, we are able to control them. Sometimes we don't even realize that we have one, but whether the addictions are large or small, we are all able to control them by taking our minds off of them, finding a trusted friend, and committing to detoxes. Find that inner strength and take all that makes you weak, and build it into a strength.

Sticks and stones

By Carly Burkhardt
Editor

It's funny, really, how quickly each of us is to judge others. Her hair is too short, and she always looks like she's smelled something rotten. The boy who is such a jerk has way too thick of glasses. And does that sad-looking girl seriously think those pants are cute? While we go about our daily lives passing judgment to those who do not deserve it, rarely do we step back to see what secret battles are being fought within.

That girl with short hair who always looks mad? Her parents are going through a divorce. The jerk boy? He had been bullied and overlooked by his older brothers forever. And that sad-looking girl? She's fighting a constant battle with clinical depression.

Everyone has at some point in their lives gone through a trial or has fought an internal battle that no one knew about. It can be something as small as dealing with low self-esteem, to something as serious as an abusive home life or self-harm.

These internal battles are never anything to brag about or romanticize, and too often than not, these battles are bottled up and people are left alone to deal with it themselves. Seeking help is a much harder feat than most would realize because most people are not willing to admit that they have a problem at all. This is kind of funny, though, because most of the time people try to portray their lives as being sunny and perfect all the time even though everyone goes through struggling times themselves.

Of course no one likes to deal with crabby people, and it can be easy to make a snide comment about their actions or how they appear; you never know what has pushed them to act the way they do. Sure, they could simply be a mean-hearted person, but some people are dealing with internal battles far more severe than anyone realizes.

We need to realize that every person is different, and each person goes through daily struggles that can be unbearable at times. A mean comment usually gets back to the person and they usually find out who said it. You may not have even intended to make someone feel badly, but if someone is truly dealing with a struggle, a harsh comment could just add to their pain.

Instead of gossiping or spreading false rumors about the unhappy individual, try offering a smile to them as they pass in the hallway. A friendly hello and a smile can make all the difference in someone's day.

Remember, not everyone is on the same level of happiness as you are. There are uncountable storms that could be brewing inside others, and one harsh comment could be all its takes to unleash that storm. Words carry immense power, a power that is often taken lightly; never underestimate the power your words can have on others.

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can hurt forever…"

Proud to be Pandorf

By Alex Pandorf
Staff Reporter

"Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it." Many times it is the mistakes we make in life that teach us the greatest lessons. The same can be said for history. There is no better way to prepare for the future than by looking at the past.

Many people these days say that the best thing to do is to forget the past and work on moving forward. I disagree. If we don't dwell on what has happened, then we will forget it, and as soon as we forget it, we will make the same mistake that hurt us so much in the past

History is not only a way to learn from how you and others have failed, but it also a way to link yourself to something greater. I take a lot of pride in the fact that I have my family's signature look. For once in my life, I'm not embarrassed by frugal, old-school Paul Pandorf. This is because I know my personal history. I'm only 17, and I'm already hanging onto the family land that I hopefully will someday inherit. I'm not saying I want my parents to die, but the fact that I will own the land that holds the history of my family in the US, is something that I look forward to. I can look any distance into the past and find something I love. It comes up quite often in my thoughts that I am descended from German knights. It's something I can read about and hold over the head of those who don't know their history.

> ***"Many people these days say that the best thing to do is to forget the past and work on moving forward. I disagree."***
>
> ***~Alex Pandorf***

By now most of you reading this probably think I'm crazy, and I am, but that's not the point. I've always wanted to be linked to something bigger, something dramatic. I find this link in the history I learn. It makes me feel like I'm the current chapter in a novel that spans thousands of years.

From a very young age I loved history, especially military history. The articles I read and the battles I studied have made me so much more prepared for challenges that have come up. I haven't studied for a history test since Mrs. Green's hardcore, go big or go home, history tests in the sixth grade. When the name of Turkmenistan or Honduras comes up in the news, I know where it is on a map and what the conditions there might be like. History has given me an understanding of what, where, and why events occur around the world today. Today, after all, is what matters to most people.

Today, history is undervalued. As said by General George Patton, "A pint of sweat will save a gallon of blood." History is a vast early warning system. By spending a pint of sweat to learn it now and apply it, we can save ourselves a gallon of blood we would lose by repeating past mistakes. We should look back at what has happened and use that to better ourselves today. Instead of neglecting history and dreading it, we should take our time to learn it and immerse ourselves personally in it. For most people, there could also be a lot of satisfaction in finding some small detail from their past that could bring them pride today.

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March makes much madness

By Conner Moran
Staff Reporter

Where do I start? This NCAA men's tournament has been unpredictable to say the least. First, before I continue…what the heck Kansas?! The Jayhawks should be going to the Finals but no, Stanford decided to do work that game. Glad that's out of my system. The first day of the second round had four overtime games, that's astounding! The majority of the games have been really good games, but for most they have also been bracket-ruining.

After the Harvard win, over 85% of ESPN brackets lost the chance to be a perfect bracket. Many of the games have been upsets, but they still were good games (except the American verses Wisconsin game; that game was pathetic).

The lesson that I have learned so far through the tournament is that seed has absolutely no effect on how the games will go whatsoever. The only factor that really plays a part is the team's mindset and the confidence in themselves. To quote Grant Lahm: "teamwork makes the dream work."

I have been pretty impressed, though, with how well some of the teams have held up in the tournament. One of those teams is the Dayton Flyers. According to ESPN, over 80% of people picked Ohio State over Dayton for their brackets. I was part of that 80%, and after that my bracket went downhill, unlike Dayton, who also ended up beating Syracuse in the third round. In the Sweet 16, the Flyers defeated 10-seeded Stanford 82-72 in the Cinderella story of the year.

One of the biggest upsets of the whole tournament so far had to have been Mercer over Duke. Mercer was a 14 seed coming in the second round while Duke was seeded at number three. The game was pretty much déjà vu of the 2012 tournament when Lehigh came in and beat the notorious Blue Devils. Even after such a dramatic loss, some of the Blue Devil fans still think that their team is the best ever even though they tend to choke and lose to teams they're supposed to beat. There's a lot to be said about Duke, but I don't want to waste my time talking about a team I absolutely, strongly dislike.

A final thought, the tournament has taught me many lessons besides don't ever pick Duke because Duke likes to succumb to smaller teams. Another lesson was to go for the underdog because half the time they tend to come out as victors. I'm already ready for next year's tournament because I mistakingly picked Oklahoma State to make it to the Elite 8, but we can't always have nice things. But, for right now, I and many others, can hope for a good rest of the tournament and that the Spartans will make it to the finals against Louisville. I'm going for the Spartans only because they are my last hope for having a decently good bracket...I blame Obama.

Boys take third at state

By Conner Moran
Staff Reporter

The boys' basketball team had a record-breaking season with an all-time high number of wins overall and at State. They made it to State, and although they finished with a third place medal, it was still a very positive experience.

"We're starting a tradition of winning," junior guard Grant Lahm said.

The team accumulated 1644 points along with 23 wins and only five losses during the season. The boys also beat the previous record of holding another team to the least amount of points by keeping Guardian Angel Central Catholic to only 20 points in the second game of the season.

"When we played as a team, we could win any game that we wanted to," freshman guard Cody Mroczek commented.

In the first round of the state games, the Shamrocks handled the Kearney Catholic Stars and won 72-57. The second round against Bishop Neumann did not finish the same. The Shamrocks lost to the Cavaliers by two points in overtime.

"We can live with the results, but you can never be satisfied," freshman forward Dalton Taylor said.

In the final round of the tournament in consolation, Scotus beat Wayne in overtime to win the third place spot. Even with the third place finish at state, the *Omaha World Herald* ranked the Shamrocks at number two behind Bishop Neumann.

"If I were told at the beginning of the season that we would end up 2nd in class C-1 in the final rankings of the season, I would have accepted that with no questions asked," senior guard Nathan Ebner said.

Without a State trip since 1996, chances of a third place medal were far away at the beginning of the season.

"Going to state has set a new standard for the team for years to come," Taylor commented.

Bishop Neumann won the state title and were ranked number one by the *Omaha World Herald*, but how they won made an impression on some of the Shamrocks.

"Neumann was by far the best team we played because they all played for each other, and no one was selfish," Ebner commented.

With the Bishop Neumann game and the record-breaking season behind them, the team is already looking forward to the next season.

"We can use the lessons from this season as motivation to be even better than we were," Taylor commented.

Jessica Schaecher/Rock Bottom

Junior Tyler Morton grabs the ball on a fast break at the first round of state basketball against Kearney Catholic. The Shamrocks defeated Kearney 72-57.

Soccer sets high standards

By Blake Schroeder
Staff Reporter

The Shamrocks are going for the gold this year.

For the girls, Emily Kosch hopes to close out her high school soccer career in the dream fashion she's always wanted.

"A team goal that I've always had since freshman year is to win state, and that would just be the best way to end my high school career," senior Emily Kosch said.

Both the boys' and girls' soccer teams were ranked in the top ten preseason. The girls were placed at No. 5. The team wants to maintain chemistry to continue the hype around them.

"[We're going to need] team chemistry and to individually work hard every day to get better," senior goalie Payton Chohon said.

Kosch added, "[We have to] be able to work together and be able to score. We can't win without goals!"

Through the first few games, the girls have shown that they can compete at the level they want. They have won both games against Lakeview 3-0 and 2-0, respectively.

"Defensively, we look really good. We're fast and good in the back so no worries there. Offensively, we're good and fast, but we need a scorer," Kosch said.

Kosch plans to continue her soccer career at the University of Nebraska – Kearney, a Division II school. She expects to play forward.

The girls continue the season with their next game at Lincoln Pius on April 3rd.

The boys have a similar goal as the girls this year.

"We want to get to Omaha and make a run for the championship at the state tournament," senior Walter Cordova said.

The boys started the season ranked 4th. Following two season-opening wins against Lakeview 4-1 and 4-0, the team is now ranked 2nd. To make the deep run this year, a couple of factors will need to go their way.

"We need to have effort and determination to win," senior Cody Zimmerman said.

Cordova added, "The biggest factor I think will be getting the whole team to work together to make a run for the trophy. We have all the pieces to the puzzle, but we need to figure out how to put it together. We will all need to be on the same page."

Zimmerman and Cordova each want to close out their season on a high note, wanting to be the best individually and as a team.

"I want to be the only 3-time all-state choice in Scotus history, as well as win state," Zimmerman said.

Cordova, a transfer from Schuyler, has a goal to beat his former team at districts.

"A win against Schuyler at the district championship would be amazing. Transferring from Schuyler made them my #1 rival," Cordova said. "The season would have to end with a state championship title to put up in the hallway."

Zimmerman plans on attending Hastings College, an NAIA school, to play midfielder next year. Cordova plans on attending the University of Nebraska – Omaha and try out for their Division I team, or play next year at CCC.

The boys played in the Creighton Prep tourney on Saturday and will travel to Lincoln Pius on April 3rd.

Zach Jepsen/Rock Bottom

(top) Junior Noah Schacher and (above) sophomore Bailey Honold both control the ball during their games against Lakeview. Both teams played and defeated Lakeview for their first two games of the season.

Teams get back on track

By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

As another year of academics draws closer to an end, so too does another year of athletics at Scotus. Though the fall and winter sports have come and gone, the spring sports season is early and still holds many hopes and dreams for the track and field team. With a number of returning state qualifiers, as well as several state medalists, both the boys' and girls' track teams have great expectations this season.

The returning boys' state qualifiers are Ivan Chilapa, Alex Wallick, Grant Lahm, Eduardo Lopez, Garrit Shanle, and Jared Duren. Lahm was the only one to medal. Returning girls' state qualifiers include Laura Miksch, Jessica Lahm, Kristen Ohnoutka, Sarah Schumacher, and Mikayla Gasper. Head boys' track coach Merlin Lahm believes that leadership is a key factor in the succeeding this year.

"Our seniors are standards for us because they've been out for so many years: people like Ivan Chilapa, Trey Wortman, Conner Moran, Tony Zoucha, and Alex Wallick," Lahm said.

The senior leadership is not only stressed on the boys' team, but on the girls' team as well.

"We always expect our seniors to provide leadership. We have eleven seniors out this year so that's always a nice number," Head girls' track coach Janet Tooley stated. "We have a nice team, and we have a good time because a lot of times seniors are ready to be done, seeing graduation around the corner, so I always take pride in the number of seniors that we get out for track, those who continue to want to be part of the program that we have. I think all of our seniors are willing to step up and take that role and help our young kids out."

Not only has the leadership been showing in both teams as a whole, but it has also shown in the different event groups that make up the team.

"With track it's a little unique because as far as leadership goes, each event group is a little team within itself," Tooley said. "Carly Fehringer and Kelsey Kessler are going to be big leaders for us in the distance crew."

Though the seniors have proven to be major examples of leadership as expected, some underclassmen have stepped up as well and helped lead the team to accomplish greater achievements.

"There are a lot of juniors that have become standards for us. We've got some good freshmen and sophomores that are already contributing. We had a sophomore, Brady Przymus, win the 400 and a freshman, Cody Mroczek, win the 200 at our first meet, so those guys have already contributed," Lahm commented.

Tooley believes that young athletes on the girls' track team are also showing some great strengths this season.

"A lot of our freshmen are untested, but at the same time, I've been really pleased with what they've done in practice. I'm watching for everybody this year to do some good things," she said.

With only two meets down and this year's season still in its early stages, Lahm and Tooley have their goals for the season laid out.

"We want to win meets," Lahm said. "We believe that we have a chance to be a meet champion or a meet runner-up every time we got to a track meet, and that's our goal."

Tooley holds similar expectations for the girls' team, with both team and personal goals.

"Our goal always as a team is to finish in the top three of every meet," Tooley stated. "And, of course, the thing with track is at the end of the season I want all of our athletes to feel that they've accomplished their personal goals, that they're in better shape, and that they've set a bunch of personal records."

Shamrocks strut their stuff

By Michael Kurtenbach
Staff Reporter

After questions of whether there would be enough support, the Mr. Shamrock Pageant took place on March 23 in Memorial Hall. When the contest was first announced, there were only a handful of senior boys willing to compete for the title. However, eventually there was enough support for it, and ten senior boys stepped up for the challenge.

"Well, I've never been to a Mr. Shamrock contest before, so I wanted to do it this year. People have been asking me since last year if I was going to do it, and I didn't want to let anyone down, including myself," Mr. Shamrock winner Jack Hoppe explained.

Runner up Peter Dolezal had other reasons to give the contest a try.

"I thought that it would be really fun and entertaining," Dolezal said.

The contest has three parts to it. First, the contestants must answer various interview questions. While some are answering questions, others prepare to show the crowd their special talent. Once all Mr. Shamrock hopefuls are done with the interview and talent portions, they show off their "catch your dream girl" outfit.

Originality is a big part of what makes the acts so funny. Quick thinking comes in handy when answering the interview questions.

"My favorite question was 'If everyone in the world was listening, what would you say?' The best answer was 'The cake is baked people; the cake is baked!' by Trey Wortman," Dolezal said.

The originality didn't stop at the interview questions. Second runner up Jordan Zoucha used his name in his act.

"I decided to embrace the nickname 'JZ' and accept the fact that I was born to rap. My Rowdy Dowdiness level inspired me to write about Scotus," Zoucha explained.

The judges gave the award to Jack Hoppe in the end, and the runner up agreed with that decision.

"Jack should have won because his act/talent was really funny, and his costume was perfect," Dolezal said.

The second runner up also agreed with the judges decision.

"Jack will always be 'Mr. Shamrock' to me," Zoucha added.

However, Hoppe was humble in his victory.

"Honestly, I didn't care so much about who won it. I just wanted to have fun and make people laugh, and I think each one of us accomplished that; so in the end, I'd say we all earned something out of it," Hoppe explained.

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF
Mr. Shamrock, Jack Hoppe, busts a move in his Ghostbusters ensemble.

The three finalists all hope that the junior boys will be able to keep the tradition going next year.

Zoucha put it simply when he said, "Go Nike and 'Just do it.'"

The pageant goes beyond just winning a felt hat and getting a title.

"I will certainly cherish the memories and the inexpensive felt hat that I got out of Mr. Shamrock. It's one of those things from high school that you just can't think back to without having a few laughs yourself," Hoppe concluded.

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF
Senior Alex Wallick races Charlie the turtle.

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF
Senior Trey Wortman strikes a pose in his fur coat.

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF
Senior Conner Lusche dips Mrs. Zanardi during his swing dancing/singing talent.

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF
Seniors Jackson Prokupek and Ian Ostdiek battle with lightsabers.

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF
Senior Zach Jepsen asks junior Jessica Schaecher to prom during the talent portion of Mr. Shamrock.

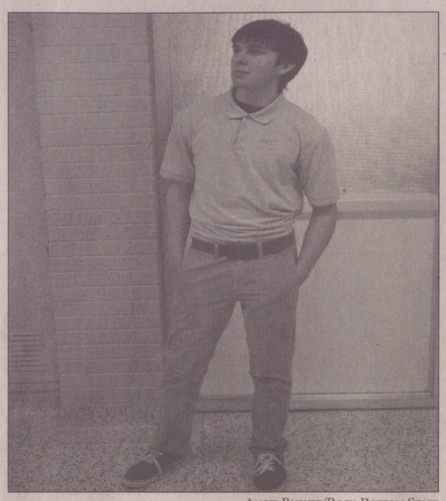
ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF
Senior Jackson Prokupek struts down the runway in his King Arthur attire.

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF
Senior Jacob Nienaber and his girlfriend Cayla Cuba sing a duet to the song "New Again".

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF
Mr. Shamrock runner up Peter Dolezal dances as Napoleon Dynamite.

ALYCIA ALT/MEDIA STAFF
Second runner up Jordan Zoucha raps his own version of artist Jay Z's song "Empire State of Mind."

Strict changes coming for 2014-2015 school year



Angie Rusher/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Conner Moran models the new dress code to be enforced next year. A blue polo, khaki pants, and either black, gray, or white loafers will be required.

By Carly Burkhardt
Editor

Every year as the school year nears its end, handbook rules, and the teachers enforcing them, become more and more lenient. Students tend to take advantage of this leniency and start exploiting the handbook's guidelines. For the 2014-2015 school year, however, this leniency will not be tolerated. There are big changes coming to Scotus for the upcoming school year.

"There has been a lot of deliberation put into these changes for the upcoming year. I've met with the student council a couple of times, and we've had a few board meetings on the changes. Overall, I think this will be for the betterment of our school," President Wayne Morfeld said.

Some of the major changes to be seen in the next year deal with the dress code.

"Probably the biggest change will again deal with the dress code. We've gotten too many complaints within the last couple of years to ignore it any longer. Although implementing these new changes and getting the students on board with the changes will be difficult, I do think it will be very possible," Morfeld said.

One of the new implementations to the handbook's guidelines this upcoming year will deal with the shoes students are allowed to wear. Boots during regular school days were taken away a few years ago, and recently they were brought back for dress down days if worn with pants. However, this will no longer be the case; students will have to purchase a specific brand of footwear and socks, and the colors of the shoes will be limited to black, gray, or white.

"As far as dress code is concerned, during the winter months boys will be required to wear pants, and if the girls choose to wear skorts they will have to have solid, black tights under them. Every Monday students will be required to wear a blue polo shirt with a gray sweatshirt. These are just a few of the changes we have implemented; I'm sure this can sound on the extreme side, but it's our decision to better the uniformity of the school," Morfeld said.

These changes have been long rumored among the school, and more recently they have been deliberated behind the closed doors of Student Council meetings, and few students are happy with the changes.

"Our last two or three meetings have been focused largely on the handbook changes. Not all of the students are 'excited' for the changes, but I do think they are necessary," Student Council Advisor Joan Lahm commented.

For the senior class, these changes do not provide any conflicts. Some seniors are speaking out for the underclassman on the changes.

"I think that these changes are way too strict. We already have a uniform to wear with set guidelines to follow; I don't think that there is any need for more extreme regulations. I feel sorry for the underclassmen; I'm just glad they wont's be around when I will have to deal with them," Senior Class President Trey Wortman stated.

Not only will students see a total of three extra pages added to the dress code section of the handbook, but the fines are becoming stricter as well for those teachers and staff who do not enforce the rules.

"This past year we toyed around with ideas on how to enforce the new rules for the 2014-2015 school year. After a year's worth of discussion, the school board has come to a set decision. The first minute of every class will be assigned to a dress code check off. Each class will have a rubric as to what is and is not acceptable to be wearing, and any found in violation will be sent to the office," Morfeld said. "The student will then receive a 'Handbook Violation Strike' which is wiped clean at the end of each semester. For the first strike, the student is fined ten dollars and has to change. A second violation consist of a twenty dollar fine and the student has to change. Any strike thereafter the student is fined thirty dollars and is sent home for the rest of the day."

In addition to being sent to the office, if the teachers do not perform the regular check lists they will be the ones who are fined for each student out of their first period class out of code.

Morfeld concluded, "I, along with the school board, realize that these changes will not be praised in the beginning. Our hope is that by the end of the 2014-2015 school year the students will have accepted the changes and hopped on board with them. We are constantly striving for excellence here at Scotus, and I believe that by adapting to these changes we will be on path to become the best we can be. The most important thing any of us can do is what we are doing right now, and right now we are transforming the face of success."

Gardner adds plot twist

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

As the goodbyes continued to tally throughout the year, they became more than vocal music instructor EJ Gardner could bear.

After weeks of deliberation, Gardner announced that she has canceled her retirement plans to continue teaching at Scotus

"Early on I was having doubts about my decision to retire; opening night of musical I knew I had made a terrible decision. Through much soul-searching I was able to see that my work isn't done here at Scotus; in fact, my work may never be done here," Gardner said.

Junior Carly Cremers has been involved in the musical for three years and is also a member of Shamrock Singers.

"During *Wizard of Oz* rehearsals, Ms. G. would make little comments here and there about how she didn't want to leave Scotus. Some of the cast members and I began to wonder if she actually was going to retire, or if she was going to stay," Cremers said.

Not only were some curious about Gardner's retirement, other people were adamantly against it.

"When Ms. Gardner originally mentioned she was going to retire, I strongly discouraged it. I felt that her leaving Scotus would be a huge mistake on her part," President Wayne Morfeld said. "I had a feeling she wouldn't go through with it. I hadn't even begun the interviewing process for possible job replacements. Just like the other teachers here, she has no life outside of Scotus."

> ***"I had a feeling she wouldn't go through with it. I hadn't even begun the interviewing process."***
>
> ***~Wayne Morfeld***

Drama teacher Becki Zanardi had speculations about who was to replace Gardner as musical director in the upcoming years.

"Thank the Lord she's staying! I knew Mr. Morfeld had his eye on me to carry on the Scotus musical legacy. Those are too big of shoes for Mama Z to carry on her shoulders!" Zanardi said.

Beginning next year, Gardner will continue with her first semester schedule as usual. Upon the arrival of musical season and the start of the second semester, Scotus will be making some adjustments to provide accommodations for Gardner. A temporary substitute will be hired to teach Gardner's classes during musical season while she focuses on the production.

Zanardi is in favor of this schedule change.

"People simply do not understand the hours upon hours of hard work it takes to put a theatrical production together. We cannot let the Scotus musical legacy die; it is something we are known for. Ms. G was getting worn out, and this schedule change won't only better accommodate her, but her musical students as well. Scotus will be able to put together some of its greatest performances yet because of that extra dedication," Zanardi said.

Gardner remains dedicated to her students and classes.

She concluded, "I just couldn't bear to leave them, Scotus as a whole has become my family over the past years. Who knows, I may be at Scotus until the day I die!"

Alycia Alt/Media Staff

Musical director E.J. Gardner shares with her musical cast the good news of how she has decided to stay at Scotus. The musical cast was the first to hear about Gardner's decision to stay.

Blob breaks Bohac

Payton Chohon/Yearbook Staff

Senior Clare Bohac is thrown off the blob at the 2013 senior retreat. The retreat was held at the Timberlake Camp in Central City. Bohac sustained several injuries from her fall.

By Kristen Ohnoutka
Staff Reporter

Every year the senior class takes a trip to Camp Timberlake for a day of fun-filled activities and class bonding. The trip includes energetic group games, meaningful conversation, and, of course, the blob.

Seniors look forward to the inflatable water bouncy house every year, and it never seems to let them down. Students go flying high through the sky, spinning and turning multiple times in the air before finally violently hitting the water. The blob, however, is not looked forward to by everyone once the senior retreat day arrives, and does not always go as planned as some of the students learned.

"I was extremely terrified of the blob! I didn't want to get hurt and injure myself for the rest of the year, but everyone else was doing it, so I wanted to give it a shot," senior Hannah Merrill said.

Merrill was not the only one doubtful of what the blob had in store for them. Senior, Clare Bohac, was another one of these skeptical participants. However, she did not let this stop her from having fun at her one and only senior retreat.

"I was so scared and didn't want to do it, but my friends kept egging me on and finally I just gave in and got in line for the blob. Little did I know what was in store for me once I agreed to give it a shot. If only I knew then what I know now," Bohac said.

Bohac climbed the steps up to the top of the platform and stood there staring fear, in the form of the blob, in the face. She hesitantly slid on and crawled to the edge of the inflatable catapult as Mr. Coulter readied himself on the platform, preparing to launch Bohac. Once he jumped and landed onto the blob, Bohac instantly went flying through the air spinning all sorts of directions. Just before hitting the water, Bohac made one last turn and entered the water head first.

"I had never felt so much pain in my entire life. The second I hit the water I knew something bad had happened. Before I knew it, a few boys were carrying me out of the water and laying me on the beach," Bohac said.

Bohac sustained several injuries from her accident including a broken arm, ankle, and several back and neck injuries. None of her back and neck injuries resulted in any major side effects, but she did have to wear a neck brace for a month after the incident.

"I wasn't able to come to school for almost two months. My head hurt every day, and I couldn't move my neck side to side at all. All I did was lay in bed for two months straight! It was awful; I missed so much school and dance I was miserable," Bohac said.

Because of Bohac's accident, the blob will no longer be a part of the annual senior retreat. There also will not be any water festivities for the next few senior retreats just to minimize any risk of further accidents occurring.

"I really think this is what's best for not only the students' safety, but also for the protection of Timberlake's reputation. We love going there for our senior retreat and have been going there for years. However, after Bohac's accident, I don't want to see anyone else getting harmed in any sort of way," Father Roza said.

Columbus schools combine

By Blake Schroeder
Staff Reporter

A heated city-wide rivalry will soon come to a close.

Scotus, Lakeview, and Columbus High have all agreed to join in athletics to create what is projected to be a Class-A powerhouse next year.

"We've thought about it for a long time. We finally started to seriously talk after the sub-district final basketball game, when we realized both teams were good enough to compete at the state level," Scotus Athletic Director Gary Puetz said.

Scotus beat Lakeview by a narrow margin of three points in the sub-district final. That game propelled Scotus to have a near lock at the top seed in the state tourney, while it ended Lakeview's season on a sour note.

"The sub-district game was a tough one for our school to take. Gary and I talked the next day, and he proposed that we combine all of our athletics, and I told him as long as Columbus High is on board, I'd definitely consider it," Lakeview Athletic Director Jake Shadley said.

All sports are predicted to have a dramatic increase in skill level. As many Scotus fans remember, Lakeview won both football games between the two schools last year. Ironically, the Lakeview football team ended Scotus' season with a victory in the first game of the state tournament, a reversal of fortunes from the basketball season. With the closure of the rivalry between Scotus and Lakeview, the football team has high hopes for the upcoming season.

"The team should be overflowing in talent [next year]. Each school brings their unique athletes that will fit in perfectly to create a skilled team to represent our city," future football head coach Tyler Linder stated.

Columbus High has opened selected athletic programs with Scotus in previous years. Scotus students have been able to partake in Columbus High's baseball, softball, tennis, swimming, and bowling teams.

"We're very excited to welcome in Lakeview as part of our combined athletics program. We have had many Scotus students take advantage of the programs we offer to them, and we expect Lakeview students to do the same," Columbus High Athletic Director Mark Brown said.

The combined athletic department will participate in Class-A competition. The school will boast a combined student enrollment of over 1,850 – more than qualifying them for Class-A entry. They will compete with the likes of schools such as Creighton Prep, Bellevue East and West, Omaha North, South, Burke and Westside, Lincoln East, Northeast, Southeast, and Northstar, as well as Grand Island and Kearney.

JESSICA SCHAECHER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Scotus' mascot, Tony the leprachaun, steals the horn from the Lakeview Vikings at the Scotus/Lakeview boys' basketball game. Columbus High, Lakeview, and Scotus have recently decided to combine for sports this next school year.

"The increase in competition is something we're looking forward to – I believe to be the best, you have to compete with the best," Puetz said.

With the inner-city rivalry between the three schools gone, Shadley hopes that the negative energy that was previously shown between them will turn into a city-wide positive surge of support.

"I hope that all previous negative interactions between the three schools can be forgotten and we can move along in a positive way into the future," Shadley said.

Rambour on hunting rampage

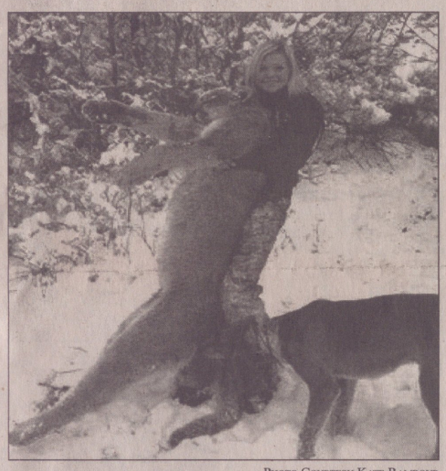


PHOTO COURTESY KATE RAMBOUR

Senior Kate Rambour holds the mountain lion she shot in Colorado. Rambour has since shot three more mountain lions illegally.

By Brooke Olmer
Staff Reporter

The Rock Bottom recently did an article on Kate Rambour and her adventurous mountain lion hunt in Colorado. Readers may think that the story ended at that, but there is now more to the story. Rambour has started going on a wild animal killing frenzy.

Some of the wild animals include deer, rabbits, squirrels, beavers, pheasants, turkeys, geese, ducks, and others. Hunters might think that there is nothing wrong with this, but she has been doing all of her hunting without a permit. She just goes out to the wilderness and shoots multiple deer. Don't even get started on the amount of ducks she has shot without a permit. The numbers are unbelievable.

> ***"Permits are stupid; they're just a waste of money. I'm not afraid to get caught. I do what I want when I want, and I dare people to try and stop me."***
> ***~Mary Kate Rambour***

"Permits are stupid; they're just a waste of money. I'm not afraid to get caught. I do what I want when I want, and I dare people to try and stop me," Rambour said.

Avid hunters would be shocked to hear this remark. Rambour thinks that she can get away with it, but numerous animal protective groups have heard about her hunting and are after her. PETA, The Fish and Wildlife Service, Nebraska Game and Parks, World Wildlife Fund, and The National Wildlife Federation are after her. They have even issued a warrant for her arrest.

Rambour was just seen at the site where she killed her first mountain lion. She shot three more mountain lions in the same area. Citizens of the state of Colorado wonder how she was not spotted, but it has been heard that she lived off the land in a cave while she was in Colorado so she wouldn't be spotted.

"I have recently learned to live off the land. I'm not afraid of the cold, and I can handle almost anything. There is no way that I could get attacked by a mountain lion; I would now consider myself an expert at hunting them," Rambour said.

Hunters all over the world have agreed that Rambour needs to be stopped. They worry that she will start going after more endangered animals. Rumors have it that she might even try hunting a bald eagle. Killing a bald eagle in the United States is a felony and can be a fine of up to 250,000 dollars and a maximum five years in prison.

"There is no way that we can allow Rambour to try and hunt a bald eagle; it is a crime against our country," President Barrack Obama said.

Word on the street is that Rambour was last seen boarding a boat to the Arctic Ocean where she is going to try to hunt Orca whales. If you have any information about Rambour and her whereabouts or actions call 1-800-123-456 immediately!

Senioritis strikes Scotus seniors

By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

Senioritis: the word itself is a gateway that leads to the black hole in which nearly all of the futile schoolwork and homework done over the course of high school is sucked into. In other, simpler words, senioritis is what causes high school seniors to give up on their scholastic labor and send it straight down the drain. But just what is senioritis, and how is it affecting the students at Scotus Central Catholic High School?

Senioritis, according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is "an ebbing of motivation and effort by school seniors as evidenced by tardiness, absences, and lower grades." Senioritis is not simply a fad or an emotional reaction to certain circumstances that arise in high school; it is a serious illness that affects millions of students nationwide.

"It makes me want to do absolutely nothing," explained senior Austin Ewers, just one of the millions of victims of senioritis.

Despite its seriousness, senioritis often goes unnoticed, as symptoms are continuously misrepresented as "laziness" or "poor work ethic". Senior Trey Wortman is convinced this is an issue that needs to be better addressed.

"I believe that we need to raise awareness for it," he said. "The school is starting to seem like a ghost town due to the fact that so many kids have had to stay home sick with senioritis."

"I think that it is a very serious condition and should be treated as such," Ewers added. "Society in general should be more sympathetic to those who have it."

Though often misunderstood, this disease has been brought to light in recent times by leading doctors and world-renown medical examiners. Despite overwhelming evidence that senioritis is becoming an epidemic, many adults, as well as some seniors in denial, believe that it is nothing more than hocus-pocus.

"Senioritis is a made-up disease. I can't think of a time that a majority of students in any class wanted to do schoolwork," senior Colt Clarey clarified.

Regardless of whether or not this issue is debatable, one faculty member at Scotus has stepped up to curb the ever-increasing amount of youth affected by the illness.

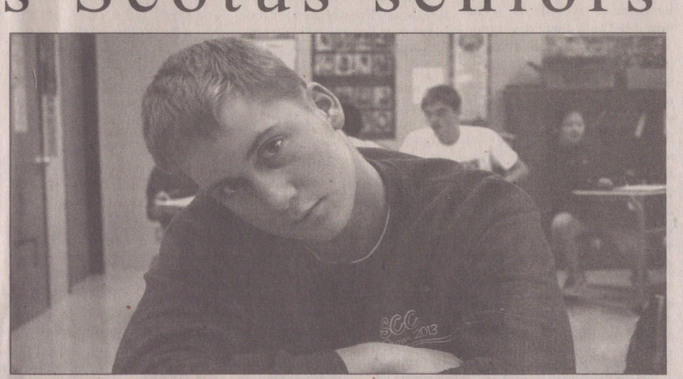
Family and Consumer Sciences Instructor Carmen Johnson, who has taught at Scotus for 33 years, decided it was time to put two and two together and offer counseling for those stricken with senioritis.

"Well, I've been seeing quite a bit of a lack in effort by my students over the years. I always believed it was due to their laziness and poor sleep habits," Johnson said. "Recently, I've noticed an increasing number of students who sleep in my class and complain about their homework. I began to realize there was a greater underlying issue behind all of this, and it was my obligation to do something about it."

The Senioritis Rehab Sessions, as they are called by faculty members and students alike, were first started in November of last year.

"I originally started the sessions to help seniors cope with end-of-semester struggles. I started to hear from more and more seniors who were struggling with their senioritis, and it just took off from there," Johnson explained. "The sessions are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:15 to 7:45 before school every week in my classroom. The students have done so well with them, I hope to hold a summer session in July to prevent further spread of senioritis before the new school year this fall."

Although senioritis generally occurs within the final half of senior year, some rare cases can occur at the end of junior year. Junior Jaimie Gasper, who has been attending the sessions regularly, is one such example.



JACK HOPPE/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Cole Alexander struggles through English class with a serious case of senioritis. Common symptoms of senioritis include bad posture and a blank stare, as well as failure to be attentive.

"After intense sessions of meditation and tears, I have learned to pretend that studying is like in the movie *Billy Madison*….Chris Farley asks me a question and for each one I get right he says, 'That is correct.' The rest is history."

Although the sessions have proved to be highly successful in getting students back on track with their schoolwork, the fact remains that many simply do not know about the sessions.

"No one ever told me there was rehab," senior Katie Reisdorff said. "I've been dealing with this problem for so long now, at least seven months."

"I didn't know they existed, but they probably wouldn't help unless she [Mrs. Johnson] did my schoolwork for me," Clarey commented. "You can't prevent others from being infected by something non-existent."

Although some efforts are being made at the local level to prevent further spread of senioritis, the fact remains that many still do not take this disease seriously.

"I think it's best to just accept the infected, and not treat them like outcasts," Wortman elaborated. "After all, I'm pretty sure our ancestors came to this country with senioritis, so we shouldn't judge those who develop the disease now."

If you or someone you know has a serious case of senioritis, don't hesitate to come to the Senioritis Rehab Sessions offered by Mrs. Johnson on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Otherwise, call Mrs. Johnson's assistant, Jenny, at 555-867-5309.

Pointless sites promote procrastination

By Michael Kurtenbach
Staff Reporter

May is just around the corner and that means that this school year is almost over. This is the one part of the year where everyone gets stricken by the procrastination bug. I'm sure most of you don't need any help procrastinating, but if you do, this is the ultimate list to help pass the time. Without further ado, this is the five best pointless websites (with honorable mentions) on the internet in no particular order, and don't worry, none of these are viruses.

***Text Particles* - <http://william.hoza.us/text/?t=Pointless>**

This is a personal favorite of mine that I call text particles. If you are the type of person who is amazed by disintegrating words into individual particles, then this is the website for you. This website is pointless because you don't accomplish anything but a feeling of dominance over the words that you type.

***English Words Quiz* - <http://quizicon.com/100-Most-Common-English-Words-Quiz.html>**

This is a fun quiz that only takes five minutes of your time. People like me who wonder what the most common words are will love this because that is all that this. I suggest doing this with a group if possible because you'll need all the help you can get.

***Feed the Head* - <http://www.feedthehead.net/>**

Feed the head is an intricately designed game. After you beat it, the whole thing just starts over again starting an endless cycle of feeding the head. People who are curious will love this one. The challenge is trying to find out what to do in the game. It took me about 3 class periods to figure it out. Lucky for us, there is an app on iPhone and iPad so you can play it anywhere.

***Whatta Click* - <http://www.whattaclick.com/.>**

If making people happy is your thing then you'll love this one. The goal is to make the most happiness you can in the fewest amount of clicks. The feeling you get from making smileys happy is more than enough to offset that nagging feeling that you should be doing something productive with your life.

The last one goes to Llamafont. The name says it all. This site types words with llamas. (See picture below) In case you can't read llama font that says www.llamafont.com.

Honorable mentions include websites such as:

***Balls 2* -. <http://www.cesmes.fi/#balls2>**

This site has a hidden picture under the balls. If you have the patience to uncover the picture, you deserve a cookie or some form of award.

***Seven Billion World* - <http://www.7billionworld.com/>**

Ever wonder what the population of the world looks like on one webpage? Well follow this link and you can find out. By the way, I am number 5,804,908,108 and props to anyone who finds me.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.FEEDTHEHEAD.NET

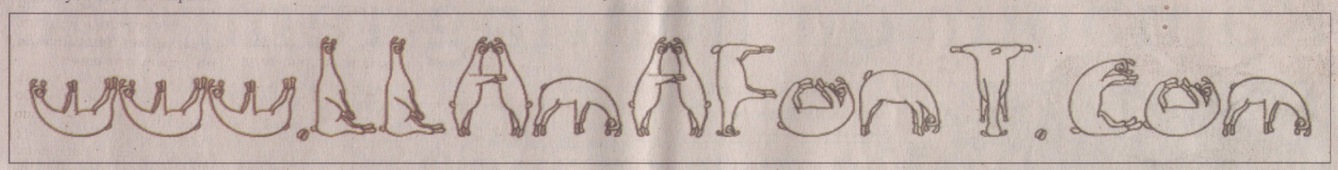
***Puppy* - <www.sanger.dk>**

People who love cute things licking a screen will love this. Sanger.dk is a sure way to get that "ahh" from people when they look at it for the first time and every time after that.

***Spot the Difference* - <http://www.spotthedifference.com/explorer.asp>**

A Classic spot the difference game with some interesting effects and a Great way to spend a journalism class or two.

That concludes the list of the most pointless sites on the internet. Almost all of these were found on www.pointless.com. If you want to build a list of your own, I would recommend starting there.



Sharknado- enough said

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

Fifty inches of pure LED perfection, gifting our living room with its presence. A new television has greatly improved my family's cinematic experiences. The act of bringing such a grand gadget into our home required an equally extravagant ceremonial first viewing. There was only one choice, one movie equal in glory. The one and only Syfy original movie, *Sharknado*.

I would like to start out by expressing the degree to which *Sharknado* has changed not only my life, but my view on movies in general. I do not believe in my seventeen years of existence that I have encountered a film with a more intriguing plot line, wonderful production, and truly epic special effects. At the center of it all was a spectacular cast who mastered the emotional complexities and subtleties of their dynamic characters.

For one hour and twenty-six minutes, I stepped into the shoes of Fin, a loving husband desperately trying to save his estranged wife and children from a series of tornados forming at the front of a hurricane. These tornados pick up thousands of Sharks from the Pacific Ocean and spew them into the streets of Los Angeles.

> *"My life will never be the same."*
> *~Val Borer*

Finding his family turns out to be the easy part of the ordeal for Fin, for the tornados only become more forceful, and he can no longer outrun them. Fin, his son Matt, and friends Baz and Nova come up with a plan to save the city of Los Angeles, endangering their lives in the process.

The clan comes up with a brilliant idea to make homemade bombs to throw into the tornado. Conveniently, Matt is enrolled in flight school and is able to find a helicopter to operate. As Matt flies the helicopter as close as possible to the tornados, trying not to get sucked up by the heavy winds or eaten by sharks in the process, Nova throws the bombs into the tornados.

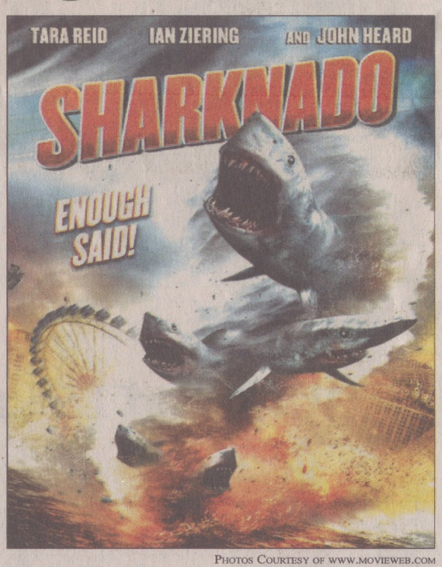
As one tornado after another goes down in flames (literally), the live sharks continue terrorizing the citizens of Los Angeles as they fall from the sky. My adrenaline continued to pump as Fin and his family used chainsaws and guns to ward off the demon sharks.

I will now control my inner fan-girl so as not to taint any more crucial details. It would be a tragedy to spoil any of the twists and turns of this dramatic and thrilling masterpiece.

My life will never be the same. *Sharknado* was a physical, emotional, and spiritual experience, and one of mankind's greatest achievements. This movie will not only blow your mind, it will blow your soul.

Some of the best news yet, *Sharknado* is available instantly on Netflix to all who wish to bask in its glory. For those who don't have Netflix, it would be worth the monthly fee if only to bring *Sharknado* into your life and your heart.

Luckily, *Sharknado* is only the beginning, *Sharknado 2* is set to air July 30 of this year, bringing cinematic perfection to us once again. As a side note, April fool's y'all!



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HTTP://ISSUU.COM/SCOTUSJOURNALISM

Fr. Roza says goodbye

By Michael Kurtenbach
Staff Reporter

After six years of being a teacher at Scotus, school chaplain Father Andrew Roza has been given a new assignment by the Archbishop. Father Roza discovered in early April that he would be not be returning to Scotus for another year of teaching and preaching.

"I found out a few weeks ago. I emailed the Archbishop to ask him if he knew what my plans would be for the next year so that if I was leaving I would be able to say goodbye. He emailed me back and told me that he had other plans for me so I could go ahead and say my goodbyes," Roza explained.

The decision as to where Roza goes is largely out of his hands.

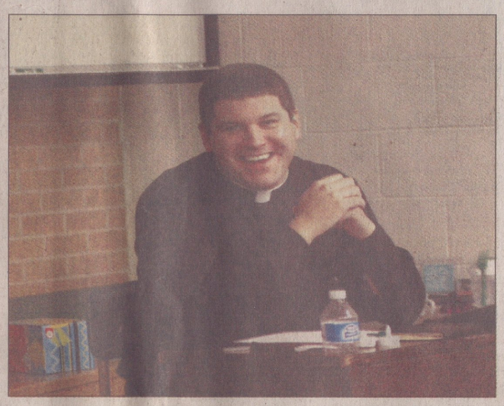
"They, a group of priests that work with the Archbishop, listen to my preferences. They take into account what I might want, what I might be good at, or what my priorities might be. After that they really take the rest of it from there. So I have some say, but not a whole lot. When the Archbishop asks, you go," Roza said.

For all the students currently enrolled at Scotus, Father Roza is the only campus chaplain that they have ever had. Most students will miss having Father Roza around school, and he reciprocates that feeling.

"I think I'm really going to miss being around teenagers during the great times of their lives. I'll miss being on the sideline of football games. I'll miss being on some of the retreats where you can just see things happening in somebody's heart. I'll miss watching people grow up. Being able to see people every day for six years and watch them grow up through six years. If I'm not at a high school, I'll really miss that," Roza said.

Roza didn't only work as the school's priest; he also worked as a theology teacher for eighth graders and seniors. He has had an unquestionable impact on many student's lives over the last six years. However, Scotus has also impact on him.

"I came here as a brand new priest with hardly any experience at all. I've been really continually impressed by how much faithfulness and holiness there is out there. I know that we don't like to give ourselves too much credit, and there are plenty of ways that we fall short, but this is a community with a lot of people who really strive to put the Lord first. That has been really humbling for me," Roza explained.



KATE RAMBOUR/YEARBOOK STAFF

Fr. Roza smiles for the camera during a Senior Religion Class in the Little Theater. Roza will be transferred to St. Roberts in Omaha.

As Father Roza moves on with his next assignment, Scotus will always stay with him.

Roza concluded, "I'm really grateful for the time that I've had here. I didn't think that I would be here this long. It's been such a blessing to be here and people have been so ridiculously good to me, and I'll definitely carry that with me. It will be really hard to leave."

Roza will continue his vocation at Saint Robert's in Omaha, and he invites everyone to visit him there.

Columbus gives big

By Brooke Olmer
Staff Reporter

Columbus will soon get the chance to support their favorite charities in a new event called the Big Give. The Columbus Big Give encourages residents and fans of the city to contribute to nonprofit organizations that are members of the Columbus Area Philanthropy Council. These nonprofits serve the Columbus community, and all funds during the event will be used for the betterment of the Columbus community, but there is a catch, it only lasts 24 hours. It will be kicking off on May 18-19, and Scotus Central Catholic will be one of the participating charities.

"We (The Columbus Philanthropy Council) are trying to find ways to develop a culture of giving in Columbus to excite people," Scotus Development Director John Schueth said.

The idea of the Columbus Big Give came from other communities. Lincoln did a big give two years ago and raised 1.2 million dollars. The small community of Lexington, which is about half the size of Columbus, also did a big give and raised 300,000 dollars their first year, and 700,000 dollars their second year. The Big Give event will also feature multiple prizes for the participating charities.

"They will do hourly drawings, and if our name is pulled out of the hat, we will get a matching gift for what was given. At the end of the 24 hours, the charity that has the most individual gifts will receive another huge grant. All the charities will have an opportunity to raise some big dollars," Schueth said.

Scotus is encouraging its alumni, supporters in the parishes in town, and anybody that wants to give to consider giving during the 24 hours to the school. Scotus Central Catholic will be competing against the other charities to see who can raise the most money.

"I know the Scotus nation. Whenever they see a competition, they don't want anyone to beat us. Some of the other charities include Columbus High School and Lakeview High School, and those are competitors for us. We want to win," Schueth said.

There are different ways for members of Scotus and citizens of Columbus to donate. They can go online to www.ColumbusBigGive.org. They can also donate at two different giving stations located at Columbus HyVee and the Columbus Public Library from 7pm to 9pm on May 18th, and from 7am to 7pm on May 19th. They can also mail checks to the nonprofits of their choice, but they must make sure to indicate on the check that the donation is in honor of the Big Give event.

"The one thing about fundraising is that it has to be fun raising too; it can't just be a chore. Whenever we do something at Scotus, we hope to present an opportunity for people to really feel good about contributing to something." Schueth said.

For any questions or for more information on the Columbus Big Give, visit www.ColumbusBigGive.org.

Prom sails away

By Carly Burkhardt
Editor

On Saturday, April 12th, the juniors and seniors sailed away to Prom for a night full of excursions. The day provided beautiful weather, great food, and an upbeat atmosphere. Prom is different from other high school dances in the fact that it is a dance for only juniors and seniors. Prom pictures have to be scheduled, a Mass is celebrated for those attending, and a dinner, dance, and post prom festivities close out the night. For those who had never attended prom before, the dance proved to be different than what they had experienced in the past.

"I really enjoyed prom. It was different than any other dance because we got to eat food there, and it was only juniors and seniors," junior Tori Rinkol commented. "I really like how it was only juniors and seniors because it wasn't crowded, and I actually like the majority of the seniors."

Prom 2014 was an overall success to those who attended the night.

"My favorite part was dancing the night away and going crazy," senior Melissa Thalken said. "I wish it could have lasted longer; everything was perfect this year! I made the *Columbus Telegram* for the second year in a row. I'm so glad I went with the 1920s theme."

Thalken and her date, senior Jackson Prokupek, sported 1920s attire, complete with a fedora, high-necked dress, and a vintage hairstyle. Prom tends to be the one dance of the year where the overwhelming majority of participants have a date. For senior Zach Spencer and junior Allie Anderson, this was their second prom together.

ANGIE RUSHER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Students bust a move in the cafeteria at Prom. This year's Prom theme was Come Sail Away.

"My favorite part [of the evening] was getting ready; I just wish my date would have danced more," Anderson replied.

Although Spencer was not a fan of the dancing, he was pleased with the music choice.

"I don't like dancing, but I liked the songs that got played. I give [Prom] a 10 out of 10 for the dance."

After the dance ends, students are given an hour to change out of their dresses and tuxedos and into more comfortable clothing for post prom. Post prom lasted from one until four in the morning and had many activities for the students to partake in.

"My favorite part was playing blackjack and winning money. I found out I really like blackjack, and someday I may actually be able to get real money from it," Rinkol commented.

This year's post prom differed from post proms of the past in various ways. There was not the usual General Store where students could "buy" prizes depending upon the money they had collected from the games. Instead, people were drawn randomly to choose the prize they wanted, and the money they collected was turned into raffle tickets. Each raffle ticket cost $10,000, and the tickets were then placed into a drawing of whatever "big" prize the hopefuls wanted.

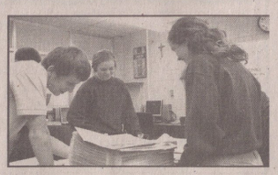
In the past there have been special prizes for seniors solely that would primarily be used for their college years. This year, however, the prizes for juniors and seniors were more evenly distributed. The entertainment during the night also differed from past years as well.

"My least favorite part was Family Feud. I even participated in the game, and we didn't really do anything. When we were done, it was kind of boring just watching," Rinkol responded.

Although a general feeling of dissatisfaction came with Family Feud, the overall feelings about the night were positive.

Rinkol concluded, "I liked playing all the games and winning money to enter into the raffle. Even though I was really tired by the time I got there, when I got in and actually started doing stuff, I wasn't tired anymore."

Rock Bottom Seniors sign off



Carly Burkhart

As I sit here writing my last article for the *Rock Bottom,* I'm at a loss for words; I've been thinking about this article since last year, and yet, I still have far too many thoughts to fit into 300 words.

I've encountered this countless times before, not sure what topic to choose for the paper. But as I sit here with my fingers stroking these keys for the last time, I realize this time is different. This potentially will be the last time I will have my writing published; this could be the last time I pursue writing. This might be the last time my voice is heard.

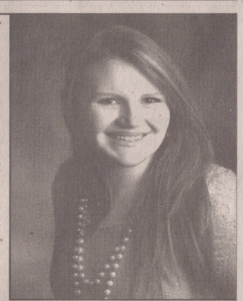
Then a thought occurred to me: just because high school is over, it doesn't mean I have to stop pursuing what I love. High school has given me countless opportunities to pursue what I love, and far too often I feel once high school stops, some people's dreams stop.

College, work, and the "real world" are suddenly upon you, and the frivolous activities you once enjoyed now seem to have no place in your schedule. Just because high school is over, you don't have to lose sight of your dreams. It will be easy to do so once the pressure of college and due dates approach, but don't get too caught up in your pursuit of greatness to appreciate what you once held as great.

Take time to enjoy the little things in college: intramural sports, art, drama, and photography clubs, reading a book, or whatever it is that you enjoy. So often do people go off to college looking to discover themselves that they forget who they've become for the past eighteen years.

My final advice to you, faithful reader, is never forget who you are or lose sight of what you love. As my final article comes to a close, I wish you all the best of luck. This is Carly Burkhardt, signing off.

Valerie Borer



It is crazy to think that my high school years are nearly over. I have been anticipating this moment practically my entire life. As I reminisce about my high school experience, I realize how difficult it has been for me at times. I have had my fair share of trials and have come to the conclusion that there is no possible way I would have gotten through those hard times without a solid friend system. Despite several positive friendships, I have also shed many tears throughout the years as some of these relationships seemed to crumble.

Everybody goes through changes during high school; it's a natural process. Some of us mature faster than others. Many of us change because of the hardships we face. They can knock us down while also teaching us the meaning of life. It is understandable that throughout these ups and downs, our friend groups change. We find others that we can relate to at certain points in our lives, causing other friendships to drift apart.

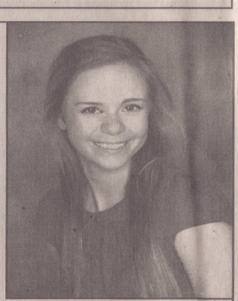
Appreciate your friends while you are close to them; break out of your shell, let your guard down, goof off together, and make memories. These are the memories you can look back at forever.

Personally, I will never forget the countless hours I spent riding four-wheelers, swimming at Lake North, camping, and cruising with some of the best friends I have ever had, even though we seemed to go our separate ways eventually.

Cherish the memories you have made with these friends, but be prepared to let them go. Sometimes it is much healthier that way. As we all grow and change, we make our own paths. We decide the direction we wish for our lives to go. That is simply a part of growing up.

To anyone who has been a friend to me throughout the years, thank you. Because of your help, I will be able to look back at my high school experience and always view it in a positive light. I will never forget the memories we have shared. This is Valerie Borer, signing off.

Kristen Ohnoutka



Scotus has been home to me for the last six years. I have spent exactly 7,392 hours at Scotus as a student alone. This doesn't include the hour to two hour long practices I would have after school nearly every day, or the hundreds of meetings I've been to before school even started. Suffice to say, I am plenty ready to move on to new surroundings. However, I will not be leaving Scotus and Columbus behind me completely come this August. The people I have met and the opportunities I've been given I will always carry with me.

At the beginning of the year I was excited to leave Columbus as soon as possible. However, now that graduation day is drawing closer, it's hard not to doubt the road ahead. There are so many uncertainties that are yet to come for me, but I know for sure I can always call Columbus my home.

Growing up in Columbus, especially the Scotus community, a lot was introduced to me, such as the competitive and almost "perfectionist" attitude it seems most people have. Excellence has always been expected from everyone here at Scotus. Whether it's a teacher, a coach, a parent, or even a student, the bar is always set a little higher.

Working hard and always having a respectful attitude is difficult at times. Throughout my years at Scotus I have dealt with success and defeat. However, what I've taken from my years here the way I deal with these situations is what defines me. Not the place I got or the outcome of the event.

This mindset that all the members of the Scotus community have taught me will always be present in every decision I make in life. The people here have taught me to work hard, support my fellow students, and to never stop trying no matter how hard life gets. All these people have made an impact on my growing up, and I can never thank the Scotus family enough for all they have done for me. This is Kristen Ohnoutka signing off.

Brooke Olmer

The quote "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened" describes my life. When a thrilling event is going to happen, I get super excited. I can't wait for it, and I count down the days until it happens. I even plan/play out the day in my head. After all of this planning and waiting, the event finally happens, and it's usually pretty awesome! During the event, I have a great time, but then it ends.

After it is over, I usually find myself thinking about life and realizing how disappointed I am that it's over. I mean, I looked forward to it for so long, and then it's finished. I then usually find myself feeling down for the next couple of days.

The last time I was sad after an exciting event in my life concluded, I found myself thinking that this is not something to be distressed about. I began to feel bad about being low-spirited about something so silly. I realized that there are people out in the world with life-threating diseases or starving and here I am moping around about something fun in my life being over. That makes me sound ungrateful.

I have come to the conclusion that I will no longer be sad after something exciting happens in my life. Instead, I will be happy that I participated in something that will leave me with memories I will cherish for the rest of my life.

I have amazing friends and family, and I am thankful to them for being in my life and helping me make wonderful memories. On May eleventh when we march down the aisle in the gym to the traditional graduation music, when we go hand the flowers to our parents, or even when we watch the slideshow about all the fun memories with my class, I will cry. But they will not be tears of sadness, instead, they will be tears of happiness. This is Brooke Olmer, signing off.

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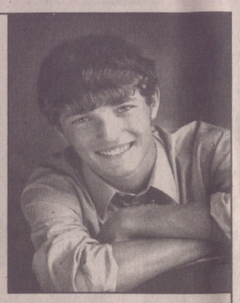


This feels very surreal, writing my senior signoff when it feels like cross country ended last month, and I'm still feeling the slight heartbreak of the football team losing to Lakeview at the end of the game. Now that I'm this close to never walking these halls with a uniform again, I can look back at what I did over the years and be happy with the activities I took part in and the memories I made during them.

I tried football in 7th grade and track in 8th, but decided neither of them were my type of activity. Freshman year rolled around and it was time to get serious with my extracurriculars. I gave football one more chance. I enjoyed it more that year, but still didn't think it was for me.

My true passion, though, has always been golf. I actually plan on going into PGA Golf Management for my college major, so the game has really left its mark on me.

Up until senior year, I hadn't played in any sport other than golf. I thought hard about trying out for cross country over the summer, and I prepared by practicing long runs in case I were to decide to do it come fall. I still remember standing outside Mr. Lahm's room, thinking hard about it. My last thought was, "Eh, let's go for it." And, man, am I happy I did. Cross country was an absolute fantastic experience for me, and I loved taking part in all the competitions and vying for a varsity spot all season long. I created many memories that I'll have for the rest of my life.

It took me until the start of my senior year to break my comfort bubble and try something new. Cross country turned out to be a great experience, and one I wish I would've been a part of a lot earlier in my high school career.

My advice to you is to branch out, and maybe try something for the fun of it – you never know what kind of memories you might make. This is Blake Schroeder, signing off.

Conner Moran

Rule #32: Enjoy the little things. This is one of the thirty-three rules found in the 2009 movie, *Zombieland*. Now, I usually don't take lessons from movies or books, but when I do, they seem to be pretty beneficial and useful in life.

If you have ever seen *Zombieland*, then you will know the rule above is pretty important. We never know when our last day will come, but we better make the best out of everything.

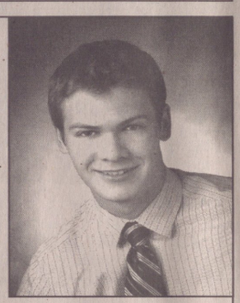
It was grey, old, and boring…it was my 2000 Dodge Stratus. For those of you that know what a Stratus is, then you know what luxury isn't. These cars are pretty standard four –door sedans even though there are coupe models. The majority aren't very fast, but gas mileage is decent. Some look good, and some don't.

My stratus was neither fast nor aesthetically appealing, but it was mine, and I took pride in that ride. Although it wasn't the perfect car, I still appreciated it because of the memories made with that car and because it got me from point A to point B almost every day. When I sell that grey beast, I will probably miss it…for maybe an hour, but I'll never forget the many memories that were created because of it.

The older that I have gotten and that I'm becoming, I'm starting to apply rule #33 to my life much more than my younger years. Like the old saying goes, you don't know what you've got until it's gone, and once it's gone, you're going to wonder what ever happened to it.

Pride and enjoying the little things should go hand-in-hand, because it's harder to have fun with something that you're not really proud of having. When someone says, "Whose old, ugly Stratus is that?" I can happily say with a grin on my face, "That's mine." This is Conner Moran, signing off.

Jack Hoppe



The final homestretch approaches as I prepare to depart from this chasm of dark suppression and constriction of freedom that is withheld within the bricks of these walls….just kidding, it was fun.

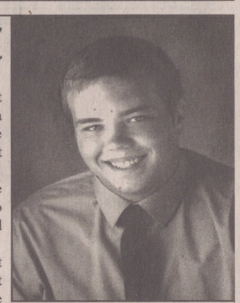
My years at Scotus have been filled with all kinds of lasting memories, from ordering pizza during lunchtime to rolling down hills in barrels, to turning in papers on *turnitin.com* three minutes before they were due. However, like all things do, my time here at Scotus has come to an end. All of the awesome experiences I've had over the past six years are ones that I can look back to and just laugh at how crazy and funny some of them were.

Cross Country, Mr. Shamrock, and One Acts are all activities that I am proud to have been a part of, and I will never forget the memories from those times and the people I was able to share them with. I still look back to 9th period English last year and think of all of the good times my class and I had. *The Wizard of Oz* musical was easily one of the best experiences I've been a part of at Scotus, and with all of the new friends I've made and the crazy stuff we did during that time, I can say with certainty that I will miss it.

Other school projects, like the Ethics and Spanish movie projects, are what I have enjoyed doing with my friends more than any other school assignments. All of the great times I've had with my friends, in and out of school, have given me memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Activities like four-wheeling, going to burrito stands, and going on bike rides have become somewhat of a tradition for us, and it's those things, the simplest things, that I will miss the most. It's been a long run, but the ole dusty trail has reached its end. Some things I will miss, and some things I won't. Looking back now, all I can say is that it was a good run, and I'm glad to have been a part of what I've done.

Jack Hoppe, signing off.

Mike Kurtenbach



In the last month all I have heard is how the seniors can't wait to get out of Scotus. I'll admit that even I have said it a few times, but recently I have realized something. Everyone is so eager to hurry through their lives, but everyone just needs to slow down and enjoy the moment.

As children we all wanted to be grown-ups, but we were all wrong. We have this mentality that being an adult is so awesome, but who really wants to worry about taxes and healthcare?

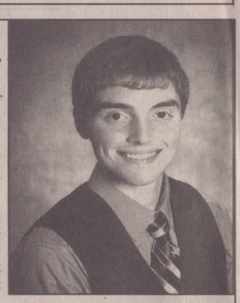
Everyone just flies through their time on Earth without stopping to have fun. If all you do is worry and sprint through life, when you are old you'll look back and realize that you never truly lived.

Life isn't a sprint; it's a marathon. This pertains to everything that we do in life, whether that is school, work, or someday watching your children grow up. My parents' friends always remind me of this. They remind me of when I was a little kid. I hate it, but they have a point. Time flies and there is no way to catch it or slow it down.

Don't get me wrong, I'm ready to move on with my life. A third of my time on Earth has been spent as a student at Scotus. Six years ago I thought this day would never arrive, but here we are already.

I know I may be coming off as crazy. If someone told me the same thing two years ago, which someone probably did, I would have shrugged it off. What I'm trying to say is enjoy where you are in life. That doesn't mean to stop striving for your dreams, but take your time, have fun, and make friends. That way when you are old, you'll have a life to look back on. This is Mike Kurtenbach signing off.

Jacob Nienaber



The saying goes that America is the land of opportunity; this saying holds a special place in my heart when I exclaim, "Scotus is the school of opportunities!"

I have learned over the past six years here that no matter what you do, there is an opportunity for you to grow as a person.

There are the highly praised sports programs as well as well-known productions that occur here. I believe that truly every day is a good day to be a Shamrock, and I hold that ideology of improving yourself and making your being known in a faith-filled environment is a blessing that not many in the school may be able to understand.

I can tell you this with satisfaction and honesty that if I didn't have Scotus in my life, I don't know what kind of person I would be. I know that I wouldn't be a National Honor Society member, a state champion, a learner, a leader, or a winner.

This school has blessed me so much, and I believe that this success comes from, not only the mentality of the students, but their educators as well. The teachers at Scotus come in with a passion for what they do and a drive to teach their students to be great. We are taught to, not only take a passion for what we study, but to take this knowledge and educate others.

Lastly, I have felt so blessed to be a part of a community that supports young people with our goals and aspirations and treats us as though we are equals. We are able to believe and achieve more than we ever had before, and I believe the environment we have been blessed with over the years has been for me the true, "cherry on top".

I would like to thank Scotus for everything it's helped me accomplish over the years, and I know as I move on to bigger life challenges that they have prepared me well. Thank you for making everyday a great day to be a Shamrock. This is Jacob Nienaber, signing off.

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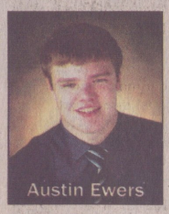
University of Nebraska Lincoln

Sandy Chi

Major: Business

Memory: When we read the letters from our parents at the senior retreat.


Austin Ewers

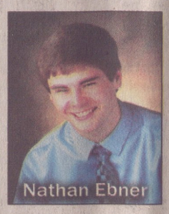
Major: Undecided

Fact: I don't have a dream.

Alycia Alt

Major: Child Development

Fact: I am the shortest in our class and proud of it!


Nathan Ebner

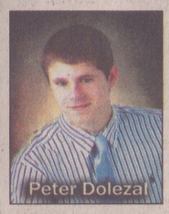
Major: Chemical Engineering

Memory: 8th grade P.E. class with my favorite teacher.

Shelby Beller

Major: Health

Memory: Freshman basketball when Coach Petersen called me an airplane because my arms supposedly flew everywhere…not true though.


Peter Dolezal

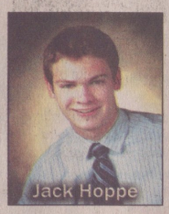
Major: Pre-Health

Fact: I am not marrying Payton, and I'm moving as far away as possible.

arley Foltz

Major: Nursing

Memory: Ms. Dannelly's art class.


Jack Hoppe

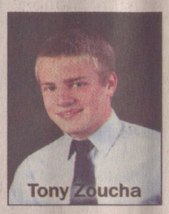
Major: Film and New Media

Memory: Cross country barrel-rolling.

Phil Levos

Major: Business Administration

Memory: Going out for cross country my senior year and enjoying every minute of the season.


Tony Zoucha

Major: Business

Memory: Junior high track with all the people who quit.

Teresa Tremel

Major: Accounting

Memory: Alice Bovy is my favorite memory of Scotus.

Michael Kurtenbach

Major: Chemical Engineering

Memory: Playing human foosball at the senior retreat.

Trey Wortman

Major: Wildlife Biology

Memory: When I was "blacking out", and my coach told me that, "The first thing I need to do is put my helmet back on."

Amy Price

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Memory: Junior high volleyball was a blast!

Derek Kaslon

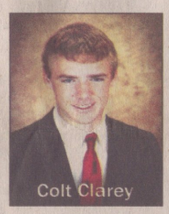
Major: Chemical Engineering

Memory: Mrs. Rusher made us sign a contract so we'd stop harassing each other going to lunch freshmen year.

Carly Burkhardt

Major: Psychology and English

Fact: On Wednesdays, we wear pink.


Colt Clarey

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Memory: Sophomore year computer apps.

Kate Rambour

Major: Pre-Nursing

Fact: I am the only Scotus cheerleader to have ever received the "All-American Cheerleader" award.

Rockhurst University

Emily Allen

Major: Biochemistry and Medical Physics with a Pre-Med emphasis

Fact: Being legally blind, I have to sit front and center for each class. I have sat in the same seat in Mrs. Lahm's room for two years.

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez

Begoña Terrejon

Major: Journalism

Memory: At the beginning of the year, I would say "yes" and "okay" when really I had no idea what people were saying.

Iowa State University

Laura Miksch

Major: Kinesiology

Memory: Ms. Ploetz teaching while standing on her desk.

Nebraska Wesleyan University

Kristen Ohnoutka

Major: Undecided

Memory: Cheering at state basketball.

Alli Bos

Major: Forensic Science

Fact: I've had six MRI's, five x-rays, three knee surgeries, two concussions, a broken arm, and surgery on my wrist all during my high school career.

Xenon International Academy Hair • Skin • Nails

Val Borer

Major: Cosmetology and Esthetics

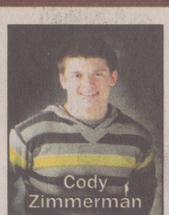
Fact: I am unusually snarky and sassy sometimes (just ask Mrs. Rusher).

Halle Fuchs

Major: Cosmetology

Memory: Mr. Salyard running back to his iPad screaming "Die!" When the music was playing.

Hastings College


Cody Zimmerman

Major: Biology

Fact: I will be playing soccer next year at Hastings.

UNK

Gabrielle Paczosa

Major: Business

Memory: In Mrs. Johnson's freshmen religion class, Peter brought a universal remote and kept messing with the TV when we were watching a movie. Mrs. Johnson still has that remote.

Hannah Merrill

Major: Pre-Veterinarian Science

Memory: Ripping my pants at cheer tryouts my senior year when I wasn't even the one trying out.

Cole Alexander

Major: Criminal Justice

Fact: At age six, I won the all-around at the AAU National Gymnastics Meet in Orlando, Florida.

Emily Kosch

Major: Undecided

Memory: Kate Rambour changing English songs to Spanish. "Yo tengo una fiesta! Una fiesta para dos!"

Ryan Fuchs

Major: Undecided

Memory: Cheering at volleyball games.

Conner Moran

Major: Agri-Business, Industrial Distribution

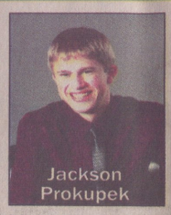
Memory: During district track in the 300m hurdles, I fell on two of them and still beat a kid.

Central Community College

Callie Sokol

Major: Elementary Education

Memory: When Mr. Lahm was being sarcastic, hit his knee, and said "That's a knee slapper!".


Jackson Prokupek

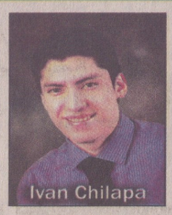
Major: Computer and Software Design

Memory: Reliving my childhood with Fr. Roza by watching old cartoon intro songs during his aide period.

Bre Walker

Major: Undecided

Fact: I've had scoliosis since sixth grade, but I can't do anything about it because I've been in sports.


Ivan Chilapa

Major: Undecided

Memory: Winning state cross country and barrel-rolling.

Katie Reisdorff

Major: Accounting

Memory: At both our junior and senior class sweetheart breakfast at Trey's house, I ate all the bacon.

Jenny Ryan

Major: Theatre

Memory: Sixth period study hall with Mrs. Bomar…we had the joke, word, and math problem of the day.

Jacob Nienaber

Major: Broadcasting- transfering to UNK/UNL

Memory: Ripping my shirt off at the junior high dance for a dance off…I won.

Zach Spence

Major: Undecided

Fact: I never got a tardy until my senior year. Coincidence? I think not.

Melissa Thalken

Major: Undecided

Fact: I can't wink or frown, but I can twist my arms all the way around.

Payton Chohon

Major: Nursing

Fact: Peter and I are getting married regardless of the distance between us.

Ian Ostdiek

Major: Computer Science

Fact: Everything is my fault.

Blake Schroeder

Major: PGA Golf Management- transferring to UNL

Fact: I will be playing golf on scholarship in college.

Dan Strecker

Major: Education

Fact: I can sing all four parts in vocal music (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass).

Alex Lyons

Major: Undecided

Memory: Taking the Hill-Valley Cup from Lakeview two years in a row…soon to be three.

University of Nebraska Omaha

Megan Miksch

Major: Undecided

Memory: When Ethan Forney got all of our 8th grade study hall to drop their books on the ground all at once. BOOM!

Alex Wallick

Major: Exercise or Neuro-Science.

Memory: When Teresa bit my skull at the senior retreat, and I bled everywhere.

Clare Bohac

Major: Pre-Nursing

Fact: I'm the youngest in the senior class.

Mikayla Gasper

Major: Undecided

Fact: I can juggle chainsaws.

Zach Jepsen

Major: Business and Criminology

Memory: State volleyball in Grand Island.

Brooke Olmer

Major: Nursing

Memory: I crowd surfed on the cross country bus one time…I made it two rows.

Walter Cordova

Major: Aviation and Professional Flight

Memory: The very first time I toured Scotus, I felt like I was walking through teleportation portals. I was lost! I didn't think I'd ever find my way around.

Jessica Martys

Major: Elementary and Special Education.

Fact: I had hip surgery twice and had my gallbladder & appendix removed…all in six months junior year.

Universidade de São Paulo — Scientia Vincet

Flavia Del Vecchio

Major: International Business

Fact: Always check the law before you go to another country.

WSC

Jordan Zoucha

Major: Undecided

Memory: When I set off the Breathalyzer at Sweetheart… good thing Scope doesn't stay in your system long.

Samantha Patocka-Brewster

Major: Social work

Memory: Graduating.

Chantel Shanle

Major: Mortuary Science

Memory: Pole vaulting at track meets.

Angelo State University 1928

Kylie Rollman

Major: Marine Biology

Memory: Senior year volleyball.

hénallux Haute Ecole

Alice Bovy

Major: Accounting and Foreign Languages

Memory: My first soccer game.

Southeast Community College

Nick Modde

Major: Chemistry

Memory: Playing football with Sean McGuire.

Brandon Cook

Major: CAD (3-D Designing).

Memory: Senior year of football. To see all the guys come together as a family and support each other is like nothing I have ever seen before. I have to laugh at myself, though, because I've always been the kid that would slack and get yelled at by the coaches, but in the very end, I'm glad I stuck it out.

Northeast Community College

Conner Lusche

Major: Lineman Training

Fact: I can bench press over 300 pounds.

Ashlea Rinkol

Major: Early Childhood Education

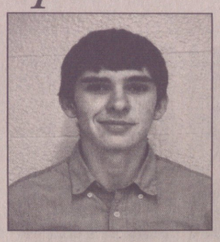
Fact: I've always been the tallest in my class, preschool through sophomore year. Now I'm just the tallest girl in my class.

UCL Université catholique de Louvain

Amandine Ripet

Major: Journalism

Memory: The people I've met here are my best memories. I've met such good friends like the other exchange students, as well as Bre Walker and Evee Birkel.



A summer of endless sports

By Conner Moran
Staff Reporter

As the year comes to close, so does my monthly column. This will be my final column in the Rock Bottom, but the sports seasons are all but final. First, the NBA regular season ended April 16, but the start of the road to the NBA Finals started April 19. We also have MLB baseball and college baseball going on in full force. There's also the World Cup approaching in a little over a month, so the world isn't short of sporting events, which also means it should be an eventful summer.

This year being my senior year, and just being generally busy, I haven't had time to really watch any of the NBA games. But, I have had time to look at some recaps of Blake Griffin slamming it on anyone in his path. Paul George and the Indiana Pacers are still at the top of the standings along with LeBron James and the Miami Heat in the Eastern Conference. The Pacers have struggled through the playoffs so far. The San Antonio Spurs are on a roll with over sixty wins this season and making buckets like it's nobody's business to take the lead in the Western Conference. The Utah Jazz and the Milwaukee Bucks (which the franchise is being sold for $550 million) are at the bottom of the standings in yet another season.

Something that really surprised me was how good Kevin Love has been doing this year after missing numerous weeks and the playoffs last season with hand surgery. He's averaging at least 25 points per game and over 12 rebounds. Then again, he is K-Love, and he can pretty much do anything, except not quite like Kevin Durant. KD this year is the points leader with over 30 points per contest and shooting at over 50%. He has been an outstanding shooter, and he never ceases to amaze the thousands of fans that fill Chesapeake Energy Arena every home game.

Somehow, with the 'Trio' (Tim Duncan, Tony Parker, and Manu Ginobili) averaging over 35 years-old, experience seems to be triumphant over youth with the San Antonio Spurs. Coached by the legen– wait for it – dary, Greg Popovich. The Spurs have had 40 playoff appearances along with four national championships, most under the great Popovich.

I have no doubts when I say that the playoffs will be amazing this year, and I can't wait for the Finals. Although, I'm a little saddened that Mike Woodson got the boot even after an impressive 2012-2013 season. But, the World Cup will also be happening in June, so my summer won't be short of having to DVR most of the sporting events, especially baseball, because let's be honest, sometimes nine innings is just too much to watch. Enjoy the summer and stay classy Shamrocks.

Soccer shoots for success

By Alex Pandorf
Staff Reporter

This year, both Scotus Central Catholic soccer teams have had rocky schedules, forcing what would be a regular season to have several postponements and cancellations forced into it. Despite the poor weather and rocky schedule, the teams have seen a lot of success.

The girls kicked off the year with three wins in a row, two of which were to cross-city rival Columbus Lakeview. With these wins, the Shamrocks were set up for a big game against another home town team, Columbus High School. The game against Columbus High would end with the girls being defeated in a shoot-out. The following game against Lincoln Lutheran would also end in defeat; however, both of these losses were to teams with records greater than their own.

Following two disappointing losses, the girls' team had two more wins against Norfolk Catholic and Omaha Duchesne. The girls followed these wins with another disappointing 2-0 loss to Gretna. The girls followed up this defeated with a 5-1 win over Schuyler.

With a current record of 5-3, the girls are hoping to head to state and take a shot at winning it.

"Our goal is of course to win state," senior Emily Kosch said.

The girls' team isn't the only team striving for success against strong opposition. This year, the boys' team started off their season with two big wins over Lakeview, similar to how the girls' did. Both of these wins were by margins of three points or more. Their next game would be a loss, however, to Creighton Prep. Following their disappointing loss, the boys defeated Omaha Skutt in a shoot-out.

With a 3-1 record, the boys were ready for success during the second half of their season. This would be interrupted by a 1-2 loss to Lincoln Pius X. Following this defeat, the boys went on to win their next five games in a row against Columbus High, Lincoln Lutheran, Norfolk Catholic, Mount Michael, and GICC. With five big wins, the boys were boosted to a record of 8-2 with their only two losses suffered to skilled teams with superior records.

"8-2 is a good record, but Schuyler will be a real challenge," sophomore Cole Harrington said.

Schuyler proved too big of a challenge for the boy's team as they lost in a double over-time shootout with a score of 4-3.

Both boys' and girls' soccer teams will go on to play at Districts today at a location that is to be announced.

Kristen Ohnoutka/Rock Bottom Staff

Seniors Ryan Fuchs, Peter Dolezal, and Walter Cordova control the ball against the Mount Michael Knights. The Boys defeated the Knights 1-0.

Track teams keep striving

By Blake Schroeder
Staff Reporter

Some may be down, but as a team, they're definitely not out.

"We've had some injury and illness this year, just like most teams do in the spring," girls' track coach Janet Tooley said.

One member, Laura Miksch, has been hurt all year, but has continued to run for her team.

"We've been holding back a little bit on her [Laura]. She just ran four events for the first time at the Schuyler meet. She has always had a chronic quad problem throughout her athletic career. Obviously, she's a big impact," Tooley said.

Senior Kristen Ohnoutka believes the team is deep enough to keep their stride.

"We've had quite a few injuries this year, and in almost every event, the team has suffered at least one. However, we have overcome most of them and are deep enough in our events that we have multiple people who can come through for us on short notice," Ohnoutka said.

The girls competed at the city triangular with Columbus High School and Lakeview on April 28th. The meet was unscored. They placed fourth in the Schuyler Invite on April 24th.

The boys have continued their consistency all spring. Senior Conner Moran sees many individual standouts on the team.

"Grant Lahm, once again, is doing well with the long and triple jump, and medaling. Tony Zoucha did work with the sprints. Cody Mroczek and Dalton Taylor have done a great job as well," Moran said.

Boys' track coach Merlin Lahm agrees that there are several standouts on the team.

"Ivan Chilapa has been our best distance runner, Ryan Mustard broke our school record in the discus, we have three quality long jumpers, three quality triple jumpers, Cody Mroczek is a freshman who has been very successful for us, Adam Starzec and the hurdlers have been doing a great job, and I can't forget our vaulters, our vaulters have been great," Lahm said.

Unlike the girls' team, the boys haven't had as many injuries affect their season. Senior Tony Zoucha has been the only key injury they've had so far.

"[The biggest injury has been] Tony Zoucha. He's been a key sprinter for us that sprained his hamstring, and at the varsity level that was very important to us. We've tried to replace him, but it's been hard to find guys that can do the same thing he can in the events where he's been successful," Lahm said.

The team has been winning nonstop, being undefeated through the city triangular. They are hoping to continue this momentum into the district and state competitions coming up soon.

"Before the season, McCook and Scottsbluff were the favorites in our class, and I still think that's true. I don't know that we have a lot of big-time placers in the state meet, but it looks like there's a chance…we've won every meet so far," Lahm said.

The boys continue their season with the girls at the Boone Central quad meet today.

Jordan Zoucha/Media Staff

Junior Shannon Spulak, senior Melissa Thalken, and sophomore Mikayla Nienaber compete in the hurdles at the Knights of Columbus Invite. Both the boys and girls track teams were champions of the home meet.

Golf sets out for improvement

By Jack Hoppe
Staff Reporter

The 2014 Scotus boys' golf team has had its ups and downs so far in the season. With ten meets down, the team has seen what they are capable of, as well as where they need improvement. The Rocks finished 7th out of 16 teams at the York Invite on April 17, with senior Alex Lyons medaling at 10th place.

"This undoubtedly was Alex's best performance to date of his career, but he still has plenty of upside and I am very proud of him," head coach Karl Dierman stated.

Though the Shamrocks fell short as a team, the meet gave them a look at the course they will play for districts.

"The course was new to us and took patience, target golf, and a very clean short game. We lacked in all three of those areas and now have a target to work on," Dierman went on to say.

"I think the York Invite showed us where we stand right now and Alex shot a great round there," senior Michael Kurtenbach said. "He medaled and hopefully that'll give him some confidence and give us motivation to get better."

The team boasts many strengths this year, with one of the bigger ones being their leadership and experience.

"Any of the top four varsity members are fully capable of finishing top ten at any given invite, so really it comes down to whether or not each player can execute the shots needed to shoot the score they're capable of on that given day," senior Blake Schroeder said.

Schroeder, who is a 4 year letterman in golf, is the team's leading scorer, followed by sophomore Jacob Wright, senior Conner Lusche, and Mike Kurtenbach.

"Blake is our #1 and he'll shoot low, but I think we need to keep an eye on Jacob," Kurtenbach said. "He is fundamentally sound and can go low on any day."

Wright, a letter winner and varsity team member, feels that he has seen a lot of improvement thus far in the season.

"They [the seniors] have helped me and taught me things to become a better player, and I want to become a better player to help out the team. They make the meets and practices more fun as well," Wright said.

Though Wright has seen much improvement in his golfing abilities, he believes there is more he can still work on.

"This season I would like to improve on my mental game. I can't think about my score when playing," Wright explained. "I need to take one shot at a time, relax, and have fun."

The Shamrocks hosted the Scotus Invite on April 28, finishing 4th out of 12 teams overall. Wright placed 9th and Kurtenbach placed 12th in the Jack Nicklaus Division. In the Tom Watson Divison, Lyons placed 6th while sophomore Brandon Johnston finished at 7th place.

With their final season entering the homestretch, this year's group of seniors have one more goal in mind they hope to accomplish.

"The seniors coined the phrase 'Leave a Legacy' to remind ourselves to compete and practice to our full potential day in and day out," Schroeder explained. "I think all of the seniors have really embraced the fact that this is our last chance to make an impact on the team this year."

The boys' golf team plays today at the Logan View Invite and will host the varsity Centennial Conference Tournament at Quail Run golf course on Saturday, May 10.

Emily Kosch/Yearbook Staff

Senior Blake Schroeder holds his follow threw after a shot at the Scotus Invite. The Shamrocks placed fourth at their home invite.

Stations focus on scripture

By Kristen Ohnoutka
Layout Editor

Scotus' annual Stations of the Cross took a different spin with a brand new set-up, location, and, for the first time in years, the scriptural stations.

Scotus chaplain, Father Andrew Roza, decided to make several changes to the stations this year. One of the most obvious changes was the switch to the scriptural stations instead of the traditional Stations of the Cross. Scotus has performed these before, but not in the six years that Father Roza has been the head chaplain.

"I liked the changes to the stations. Having the scriptural references with each station made it feel even more realistic. It felt like we were actually there," freshman Tate VunCannon said.

The students had to contribute their own reflections, time, and effort to make the new stations a success. Some of the seniors had to write their own reflections for the point of views that were played in the stations. The stations gave different perspectives from several different people including Mary, Simon, Pontius' wife, and soldiers. All of the characters were played by Scotus students ranging from freshmen to seniors.

"It felt humbling to actually take part in the stations rather than sit in the bleachers and watch. I felt more immersed in the experience of the passion. It was a great experience, and I'd love to be able to do it again," said VunCannon.

It was also a first for the stations to perform live for the St. Bonaventure parish. The teens put on a performance for the church a week before their school performance.

"At first, I was only supposed to play Pontius Pilot, but then the day of our performance for St. Bonaventure, Father Roza told me I was now playing the part of Jesus. I was extremely nervous to perform on such short notice, especially with such a huge role, but I also felt very privileged and excited to get to be a part of it," senior Trey Wortman said.

All the new changes to stations required a lot more work and effort from the participants. The students had to come in early in the morning before school to practice and perfect the performance. Roza also had much more planning and preparation to do for the stations.

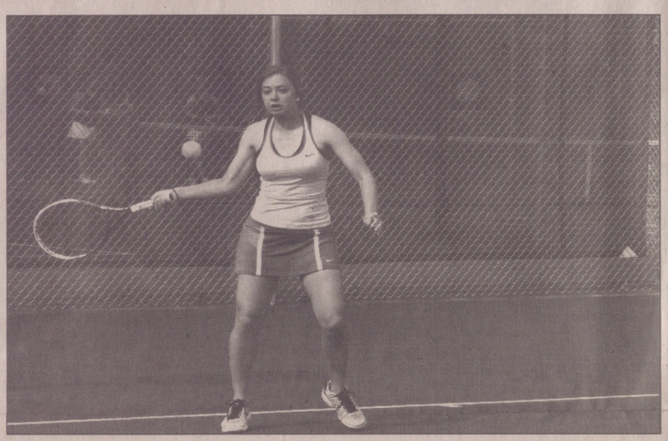
"It took me personally a good investment of time. For some of our seniors who wrote reflections they had to put a good amount of time into those. We were only able to practice a couple times before our actual performance," Roza said.

The Stations of the Cross were performed on the last day of school before Easter break in Memorial Hall due to bleacher construction in the Dowd Activity Center. The performance took approximately an hour and included fifteen stations overall.

"I think it is really good for students to reflect a little bit upon what the passion really means. It is important for us to perform so in a way that appeals to teenagers as well. It's hard to reflect on the stations sometimes in the midst of everything that's going on in our lives. However, once we are able to stop and reflect upon them, it becomes easy for us to relate our lives to each station and their meanings," Roza said.

BLAKE SCHROEDER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Trey Wortman portrays Jesus as he carries the cross at Stations of the Cross on April 16th in Memorial Hall. This year they did the 15 scriptural stations instead of the traditional stations.



HANNAH MERRILL/MEDIA STAFF

Junior Elizabeth Preister goes to return the ball during a dual. Preister at 1 singles is 14-4 as of May 2nd.

Tennis starts strong

By Jacob Nienaber
Staff Reporter

The Columbus High tennis team has had a strong start to the season, picking up 40 wins on their first 7 meets of the season. The Discoverers have suffered 23 losses during the season but have boasted some impressive talent this year. They placed second at Lincoln North Star as a team and are continuing to make improvements halfway through the season.

"We could still get better on our second serves, and we need to develop more consistency on the depth of our volleys," junior tennis player Elizabeth Preister said.

Elizabeth has a 12-2 record in #1 singles division play. Senior Carley Foltz is 8-5 in #2 singles division and a 4-2 with Elizabeth, her doubles partner. Senior Amy Price is starting out slow with a 0-3 record at #4 singles division, but she is doing well with her doubles partner Shawna Staack holding a 10-7 record in #2 doubles division.

"It would be nice to have at least 3 out of our 4 positions get a seed at state, and scoring in double figures points would be a huge accomplishment as well. I hope we can continue to improve through the rest of the season, there is still a lot of tennis to be played," Price said.

JESSICA MARTYS/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Miles Putnam heads back to first base after attempting to steal second. The baseball team has a record of 15-3.

Baseball brings in wins

By Jacob Nienaber
Staff Reporter

The Columbus High School varsity baseball team is off to a hot start this season with a 15-3 record. The Discoverers won their first two games of the season by a total of 13 runs and shut out Norfolk in the home opener. They then dropped the next two games by a combined total of 2 runs. The Discovers have been on a tear, winning their last ten games. The biggest letdown of the season so far is that there have been of five games canceled due to weather conditions. The team has scored 129 runs while allowing 62 runs. The points earned so far has been 759, and the team is currently ranked seyenth in class A standings.

"We have won some close games, and some went into extra innings. Also, Spencer Humphrey hitting his home run was a cool thing to see," Putnam said.

District music ranks superior

By Valerie Borer
Staff Reporter

Scotus students showed their passion for music on April 25th and 26th as many performed at the district music contest at Central Community College.

District music consists of both vocal and instrumental performances from various schools. Each school in the district gathers to compete with each other as they perform a combination of group performances, as well as solos and duets.

Senior Phil Levos has taken part in band for eight years and has performed at district music the past four years. He participated in the concert band portion in addition to a trumpet quartet and a trumpet solo.

"I practiced a lot and it paid off. I had a good time performing," Levos said.

Levos received an excellent rating in both of his individual events. The band as a whole received a superior rating from all three judges. Band instructor Kristin Cox was elated to hear about this rare and prestigious occurrence.

"It is quite difficult to earn a superior rating for instrumentalists at district music contest. To earn a unanimous superior is an honor. I'm very proud of the band. They have shown tremendous dedication throughout the entire year, and their hard work paid off," Cox said.

Carly Cremers took place in seven events this year. She took part in Shamrock Singers, band, and John Duns Chorus; as well as a trumpet ensemble, trumpet solo, vocal duet, and a female vocal ensemble.

"It got a bit hectic towards the end as we approached the date. I had to make four outfit changes the Friday of district music and had to keep everything straight," Cremers said.

Cremers received a superior rating in three of her events and an excellent rating in the remaining four.

In addition to Cremers personally feeling overwhelmed, Shamrock Singers were forced to make some last minute stressful changes.

"We had to find a new song the day of competition since the official copies of our song never came in the mail. Those copies are necessary in order to compete," Cremers said.

Singers changed their original song choice of "Radioactive" by Imagine Dragons to "Route 66" by Nat King Cole. Despite these hectic changes, they still received a Superior rating. Musical instructor E.J Gardner was thrilled to hear this news.

Both groups were able to perform their district events at their respective spring concerts. The vocal music concert took place on April 23rd and the band concert performed the following Wednesday. Shamrock Singers and Scotus band continue to prepare for their performances at graduation which will wrap up their successful year.

BROOKE OLMER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Scotus band students perform in the Dowd Activity Center during the band concert on April 30th. The Scotus band received a superior plus rating at District Music Contest.

La comida buena

By Alex Pandorf
Staff Reporter

La comida en el restaurante de El Mezcal es muy delicioso. A new restaurante has sprung up on the eastern end of Columbus Nebraska. El Mezcal, a restaurant which originated in Norfolk, has added a Columbus location to its chain. I was tasked with the quest of reviewing this new Mexican-style restaurant located in the mall just south of Walmart where King Buffet was formerly.

The décor in El Mezcal seemed authentic with a lot of woodwork for the benches and booths and with several paintings hanging on the wall. The lighting from the large windows in the restaurant was nice. It had a real Hispanic atmosphere to it with Spanish music playing in the background. The workers are professional, and the service is very attentive.

To start off the meal, they serve complimentary chips and salsa. The salsa was mild with a small kick to it that really left a lingering taste. The drinks come first just as at every other restaurant, but wait, they have straws in them, with bends! I didn't have to crane my neck or do excessive lifting to take a drink, and it really made my day. The price of the drinks are a little much, but refills are free.

The menu contains a wide variety of Mexican eatery at reasonable prices. I was impressed by the size of the menu which included over two full pages, front and back, of spicy Mexican dishes to tempt the taste buds.

El Mezcal is a much better quality restaurant than many of the other Mexican restaurants in town. Its food easily stomps the cheap, greasy, and overall mysterious food at Taco Bell. When compared to other sit-down Mexican restaurants, it stacks up well. The amount of food served and the size of each meal along with the chips and salsa seemed to dwarf other restaurants' sizes.

After the experience of eating at El Mezcal, I would recommend it to anyone who asked. In my mind, it sits among the better restaurants of the Columbus area. For the price, it is definitely one of the more reasonable places to get a sit-down meal.

The Scotus Rap

"The Scotus Rap" by senior Jordan Zoucha orignally performed at the Mr. Shamrock Contest on March 23rd

1st verse
Yeah I'm at the courtyard, now I'm in the MC
Right next to the tunnels, too bad I didn't bring a key
I'm the new chilaha and since I made it here
I can make it anywhere, yeah, they love me everywhere
I be the very last in line, all of my fajitas
on the menu in the hallway, try a beating that McDonald's
Me I'm down at breakfast, lunch ladies feed me
Catch them in the kitchen cooking pizza sticks and pastries
Hanging in the C wing, bleach white polo
Going to homecoming, think I be ridin solo
Me, I'm out at Mass now, Shamrock choir singing
Father Rozas' speaking, his sermons are inspiring
Say what up to Brockhaus, hanging in his junk truck
Watchin courtside, Ebs and Kaz makin slam dunks
Mr Lahm be spiked out, his hair be done with pert you see
Don't divide by zero, his numbers be imaginary ....

Chorus
At Scotus, brick and tiles carpet and captives
There's nothin' you can do
Now you're at Scotus
15th street just met 18th avenue
Nabers will inspire you
Let's hear it for Scotus, Scotus, Scotus

2nd verse
Catch me at the stadium with Linder at a football game
Heck, I make a battle cry more louder than a husker can
You should know I bleed green
and dont ever wear blue
I'm no cowboy and I do not like supporting Lakeview
Welcome to the Salyard shop, still lacking on the soda pop
Maklemore be envious, better than a thrift shop
mc pass, ar pass, teacher pass, call Craig at
910-2284 leave a message and he'll call you back
3 stacked stories, no elevator nation
Crawling to third floor, half of y'all won't make it
Me, I got a fine, uncovered book, wrong parking space
If a teacher sees my shirt untucked I'm payin' prezi Wayne
One more detention, three more tardies
Catholic schools week, turn down at pep rallies
Tony the leprechaun, ghost haunts the hallways
Long live King Phil yo, I'm in a private funded place that's

Chorus
At Scotus, Brick and tiles carpet and captives
There's nothin' you can do
Now you're at Scotus
15th street just met 18th avenue
Nabers will inspire you
Let's hear it for Scotus, Scotus, Scotus

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