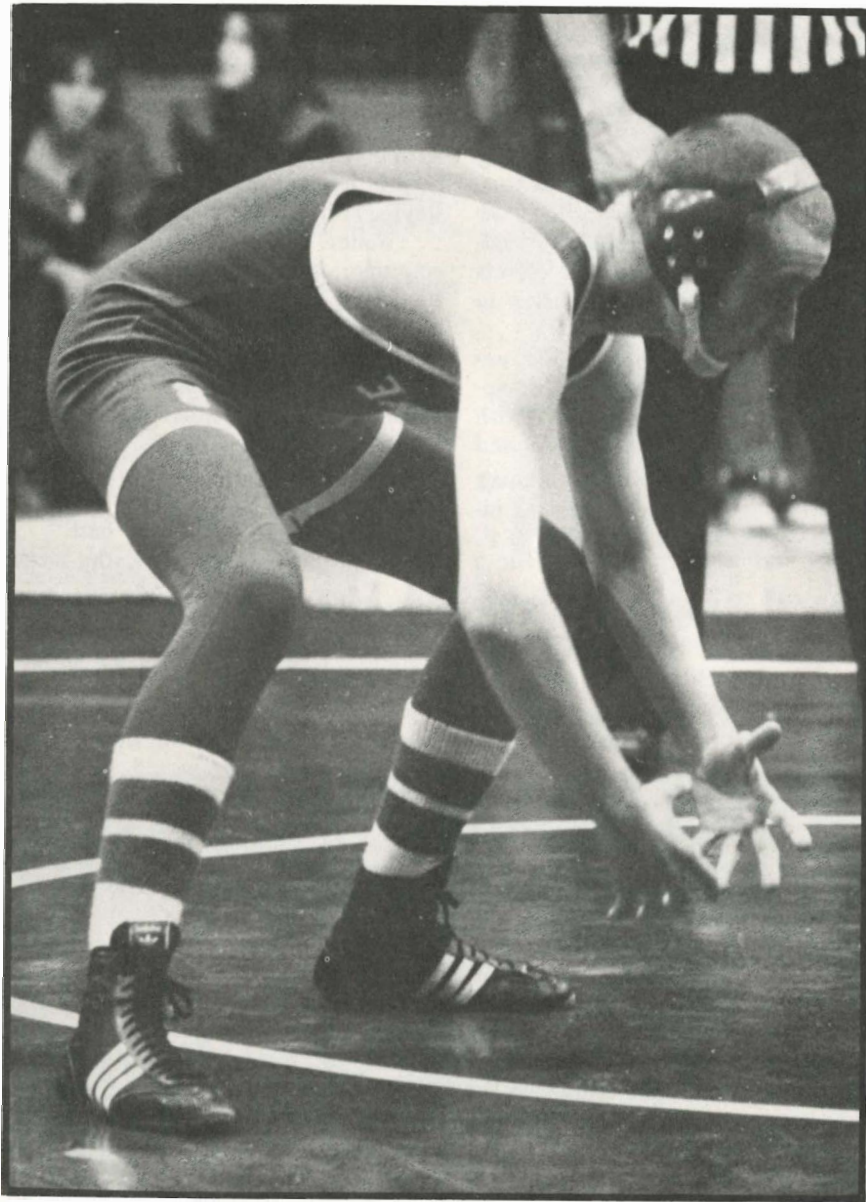


Governors On Crusade to



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GOVERNOR

RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL, PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA
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Reasons sought for decline in application of English language

Students' ability to write, read, and use our language accurately has been shown in recent reports to be declining. What are the causes, effects, and solutions of this decline?

Teachers, counselors, parents, students, and ex-high school students were asked their opinions and suggestions for improvement of the present trend.

Teachers' job

Of the six high school students interviewed, three thought that the blame rests mostly on the teachers.

One high school student claimed that the cause is a combination of teachers' and students' attitudes. Two others simply said that students do not care.

The effects of the trend predicted by high school students include future mass unemployment, lack of patriotism and pride and drunkenness. Two students said there were no effects.

"Teachers should do an extra hard job to get students interested in their classes," emphasized a junior boy. Other solutions suggested were: individual attention for pupils in school, and a stronger emphasis on the value of education, while one student thought nothing should be done.

Merilee Miller, a 1975 graduate of Riggs and a student at USD, said that college teachers expect students to know all about grammar and composition, so

they don't get into it. "What can you do if you can't talk or write?" she asked.

Home to blame?

Another graduate of Riggs thinks the problem stems mostly from the home and that school is of less importance than it used to be.

Four Riggs teachers were also asked their opinions on the problem, including two writing teachers. One replied that no one demands good writing — everyone disregards the rules and writes at their own free will.

Referring to today's students, one teacher exclaimed, "We used to have to read six books every month. They (students) don't even read the papers anymore!"

End to writing

One writing teacher sees a substitute for writing in the future. "Anything we fail at, we find a substitute for," she said.

Another teacher says that the effects have already been clearly visualized in modern movies and literature.

The teachers' suggested solutions unanimously included smaller classes, discipline, parents spending more time with their children, and more grammar and phonics.

Caused despair

One of the parents interviewed indicated that the assassination of John F. Kennedy "was a starting point for a

whole lot of bad things." He said that JFK was popular with a lot of young people and his death created a sense of despair in many young people.

Other causes reported were the affluent society, where students don't have to work as hard or think as much, working parents, and lack of motivation.

Insecurity

The parents interviewed saw restlessness because of insecurity as a major effect of the decline in learning. One thought that our teachers' colleges should be improved. He also said of the future outlook, "I'm optimistic — I think it (the decline) is coming to an end. Americans do their best when they're challenged." With an energy challenge at hand, he feels that a resurgence of library usage and staying at home will take place.

Walter Flannery, Riggs guidance counselor, said, referring to the causes of the trend, "There are as many opinions as there are people writing about it. Nobody has pinned it down and said 'that's it'."

He said that schools will have to make the choice whether to let students select all their own classes, or, in areas such as English, spell out the requirements for them. "Time will tell us in the long run which method is best."

Kathy Bickett

Electoral proposal fashioned after national system

It is time for all students to get involved in their school government. This will help them become more aware of how our national political parties are run and improve our school system.

The proposal I want to make for student election procedures is stated very generally here. The Student Council has the responsibility for making the official changes in the election procedures.

The outline of this proposal is simple. Two weeks before the general election is held, each homeroom would be divided alphabetically into two parties, Nationalist or Federalist. Each homeroom would be assigned a state name. At the time of this homeroom each party would choose a state chairman.

Meanwhile, petitions for mayor and vice-mayor would be circulated by any two seniors (or juniors in the spring election). These would require a five percent student signature. As in the present constitution, these petitions must be in at a specified time. The petitions would be a method of speeding up the conventions.

On the Monday following the

petition deadline, the National Conventions would be held by each party. At the convention the state's choice of candidates from those who had submitted petitions would be decided, the party platform would be formulated and the campaign committees chosen.

Any team with a qualifying petition and a large number of followers could form a third party at this time.

From Tuesday to Friday of the same week, campaigning, speeches, rallies, etc., would take place. Finally the general election would be held.

I feel this method will get more students involved and will also get candidates who are representative of the student body. We need some concerned students on the Student Council who will work for election reforms before the May Campaign.

Carol Baker

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Cover Photo

Mike Bryan demonstrates "gorilla" tactics to be used in his efforts at capturing a State A Wrestling Title. (photo by Laura Pottratz)

Busy weekend for Governors - Brookings, Bismarck

The Governor Basketball team experienced a busy weekend having hosted a game against the tough Brookings Bobcats resulting in a disappointing 67-42 defeat for the Governors on Friday, February 20, and then traveling to Bismarck, North Dakota, for the 21st annual Governor's Day Contest on Saturday, pulling an exciting 50-47 victory over the Demons.

The disappointing defeat the Governors underwent at the hands of the Brookings Bobcats was not without its exciting and bright points however. At the end of the first quarter, the scoring was tight with a 10-10 tie.

Junior guard, Mark Flannery, led scoring for the Governors with 14 points. Following the loss to Brookings Friday, Pierre's ESD record stands at 4 wins and 8 losses.

Saturday the Governors moved a game ahead of the Bismarck Demons by a slim margin of 3 points in the annual Governor's Day Contest that has been running since 1956. The Governor's Day matchup has always been a good one ending this year with an 11-10 record in Pierre's favor.

Charley Jansen, Mark Flannery, and Mike Trautner tied for top scorers on Pierre's side with 10 points each.

Tonight the basketball team travels to Watertown before closing season against the league leading Aberdeen at home on March 5th.



Pierre basketball players proudly display their Governors Day trophy commemorating Pierre's 11th victory in the long running series with the North Dakota Capital team. The seniors who were responsible for the victory are from the left, bottom row: Terry Robinson, Charlie Jansen, Rick Rowen: top row: Mike Trautner, Kevin Kneip, Curt Oleson, Roger Mesteth.



Surrounded by the beaming basketball boosters, Coach Roger Pries accepts his plaque from the basketball team commemorating eleven years of coaching, and the cake from the cheerleaders, honoring his birthday. From the left, Shari Boe, Coach Pries, Cathy Cruse, Tammy Hofer, Susan Jahraus and Pam Welch.

Soph basketball evaluated; inconsistency a shortcoming

"Throughout the season inconsistency has been the cause of our shortcoming."

To better illustrate his point, sophomore basketball coach, Mr. Vern Miller cited their most recent game in which the team percentage from the line was only 6 of 29.

Mr. Miller compared this to the early season record when the team was hitting a higher percentage both from the line and in the field, tallying four consecutive victories toward their 6-11 season ratio.

With two games remaining against formidable adversaries, Watertown and Aberdeen, the sophs hope to shed their omnipresent erratic shooting, adopt more productive marksmanship and combine that with a tight defense.

Determination pays off for teacher

Four sizes and 70 pounds ago, Mr. Dick Kennedy decided he should lose some weight. The decision came when he realized that hunting, his favorite sport, left him exhausted after a short time in the field. He knew it was time for action.

Weight watchers program was available in Pierre, so in February of 1975 he joined the group. Now, after a year of conscientious menu planning, Mr. Kennedy weighs 195 pounds.

He has weighed over 200 pounds for many years even during his high school days. He tried various types of fad diets, even while in high school. He tried a plain egg diet and a grapefruit diet. Then he tried fasting and went for a week without any food. When none of these worked he tried the wrestlers diet and starved.

he had to break. Weight watchers gave him the help he needed to lose weight. He didn't need to starve on the WW plan. He learned to eat what he was supposed to when he was supposed to, and he had enough to satisfy his hunger.

He didn't cheat on his diet because he had set his mind on losing weight, and that was what he was going to do. The expense also helps keep him from cheating. The high protein diet is expensive and WW meetings are \$3 per week. He knew he wasn't going to spend that much money and not get anything out of it. Despite the money, Mr. Kennedy feels the program is definitely worth it because of his success over the past year.

He feels truly healthy now, energetic and happy. Hunting is much easier for him. He no longer gets exhausted from the hours of walking he does.

He found one problem with his weight loss, however. When he weighed only 190 pounds he found that he got very cold while he was out hunting. No amount of heavy clothing could keep him warm. He realized that he wasn't getting enough calories to maintain his body heat; so he quit Weight Watchers at that time, and as soon as he was up to 195 pounds he no longer had the problem in cold weather.

Mr. Kennedy plans to remain at 195 pounds. He weighs himself daily and plans his diet according to his weight. If the scales show 194, he might eat dessert for dinner. If he is up to 196, he'll cut down on what he eats.

it solved some of his menu problems. He eats the regular school lunch this year when it is not too high in starch and sugar, but about three days a week, he eats the chef's salad.

There are many fringe benefits to a weight loss of 70 pounds, as Mr. Kennedy is happy to explain. He delights in meeting old friends who barely recognize him. They usually shower him with praise of his svelte figure and slim face. He also enjoys shopping for clothes now because he has moved four sizes down on the clothes rack to where there is a much better selection of styles and materials.

Besides that, he has the satisfaction of having broken a bad habit.

He is a strong advocate of the Weight Watchers program for any student who wants to lose weight. It takes only determination, self discipline and time.



BEFORE.

Finally, last year he convinced himself that overeating was a bad habit which

He is sorry the school lunch quit serving Weight Watchers lunches because



ONE YEAR LATER. .

