

State mourns loss of Mickelson, leaders

by Molly Robertson

South Dakota experienced a great loss Monday, April 19, with the death of Governor George Mickelson and seven state economic leaders in an airplane crash near Dubuque, Iowa.

The eight men were returning to South Dakota after attending meetings in Cincinnati, Ohio. Their plane, a Mitsubishi MU-2, experienced engine failure in the left engine. Pilot Dave Hansen radioed the airport in Dubuque, reported their troubles, and requested permission to land.

Minutes later the plane sheared off a silo and crashed into a barn just outside of Dubuque, causing the plane to catch fire.

The news reached the state capitol building about 4:30 p.m. on Monday.

Also killed in the accident were Roland Dolly, state economic development commissioner; Ron Reed, state energy policy commissioner; Dave Birkeland, president of First Bank South Dakota in Sioux Falls; Roger Hainje, president of the Sioux Falls Development Foundation; Angus Anson, general manager of Northern States Power in Sioux Falls; and state

pilots Ron Becker and Dave Hansen of Pierre.

Governor Mickelson's casket lay in state in the Capitol on Thursday and a memorial service for the men was held that afternoon. Over the course of the day more than 12,000 programs were given out.

Pierre schools were excused at 2:00 p.m. to allow students and faculty to attend the memorial service. Many people took advantage of this opportunity.

"It was very sad. I thought the media was being inappropriate when they focused on people who were grieving, but the speakers were great and it was a beautiful ceremony," said junior Sally Herrin.

"I thought the memorial service was very well done, an excellent sign of respect for not only the governor, but all those who lost their lives serving the state. As for Mickelson himself, we lost a governor who was taking great steps to help South Dakota in economic development and reconciliation. Hopefully the new governor and his staff can carry on governor Mickelson's plans," said Riggs government teacher Skip Kurth.



Governor Mickelson delivered his 1990 Budget Address to students at Riggs High School. (Governor file photo)

Swier hired as new superintendent

by Cammy Clark

Dr. Leon Swier has been selected as the new superintendent for the Pierre Public Schools.

He was one of the five applicants chosen from a group of 45 to be interviewed by the Pierre school board, the public, and local faculty members. After the interviews, the board narrowed their decision to two applicants and visited their home towns to speak to local school board and community members. Dr. Swier was chosen for the position over Dr. Craig Scott of Huxley, Iowa.

Swier has 29 years of experience as an educator. Before earning his doctorate in administration, he was a high school mathematics teacher. He has served as superintendent in Vermillion for the last three years.

Prior to that, he was the superintendent in Harrisburg.

In Vermillion, Dr. Swier has been heading up the modernization project for the school district.

"The intent of this process is to look for new ways to assess student progress, learning progress, and staff progress," said Dr. Swier.

Dr. Hank Kusters, the Director of Research and Information for the Associated School Board, researched all the applicants for the position.

"The facts that Dr. Swier has progressed to consistently larger school systems, has an advanced degree, and is spear-heading the modernization project in Vermillion were things that were very impressive to the board," said Kusters. "Dr. Swier is interested in helping kids to become lifelong learners. He feels it is important to

know what the school is doing and what it does for the students. He wants to help them learn to function in a society where change is a constant."

School board chairman Cookie Hyde feels that Dr. Swier will continue his work on the modernization project as Pierre's superintendent.

"The school board feels that Dr. Swier is a solid administrator and a strong progressive leader. He believes in the team player approach and likes to get the staff, kids, and community involved. When we visited Vermillion, everyone we talked to had very positive things to say about him," said Hyde.

Dr. Swier's goals for the superintendent position include continuing the quality of current education in the system and analyzing the strategic

plan.

"As I gain experience in the system, I hope to look for information that I can use to enhance the quality of education that the students are receiving," said Swier.

Swier believes that the middle school concept is a good idea, but the community has to want to make the change before it would work.

"If the community, staff, and students clearly feel that it is the direction they want to move in, then it will be time to make this change," said Swier.

The new Riggs High School principal will be chosen by a committee that Swier will lead. The committee will consist of three Riggs teachers, two school board members, and Dr. Swier.

Editorial: Mickelson showed commitment to education in S.D.

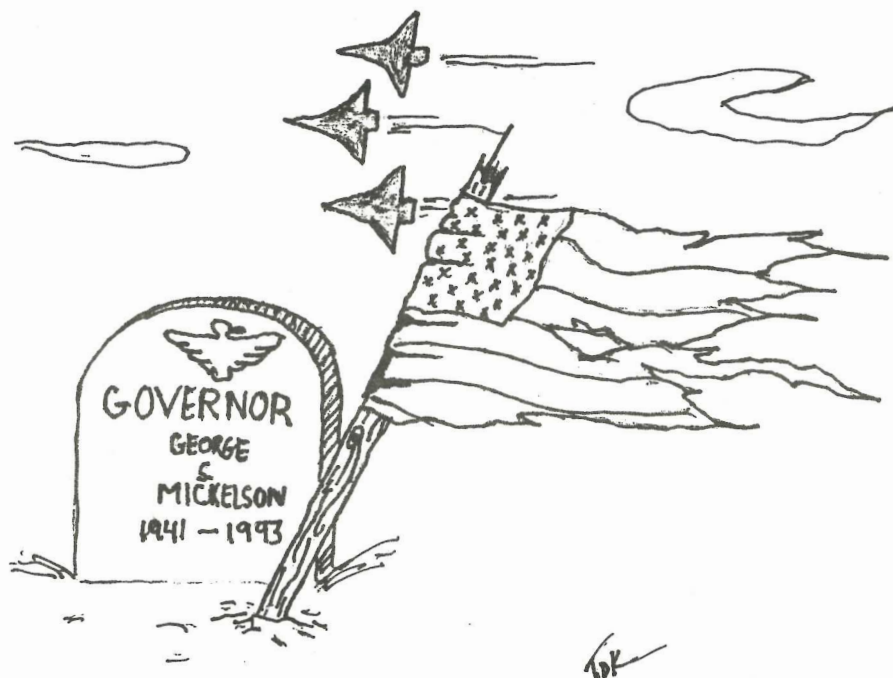
South Dakotans experienced a tragedy last Monday when a state-owned airplane crashed on a farm outside of Dubuque, Iowa. All eight passengers were killed in the crash, including Governor George S. Mickelson.

Within 48 hours a memorial service for Governor Mickelson and the others was planned. This editorial staff was impressed with the outpouring of emotion and sympathy demonstrated by the citizens of South Dakota. As soon as the accident report was released to the public, people began pouring into Pierre to show their support to the mourning families.

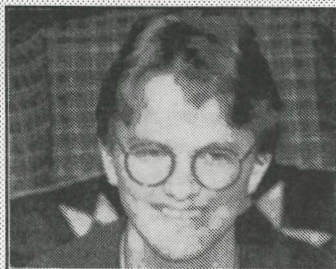
This is a tragic event for the state of South Dakota. Governor Mickelson was very involved in economic development and also worked hard to promote reconciliation between American Indians and non-Indians.

In addition, Governor Mickelson's commitment to education was evident. In 1989, he made two record increases in state aid to school districts by setting aside 56 percent of the state's sales tax revenues for education aid. His initiatives have helped to increase teachers' salaries. The National Science Foundation, impressed with Mickelson's commitment to education, awarded the state a \$7.5 million grant to improve science and math education in South Dakota from kindergarten through college. Those funds were coupled with \$1.3 million the governor secured from the legislature to modernize education.

South Dakota's educational system can only hope that it will continue to have such strong support in state government. Hopefully, Governor Miller will step forward to become South Dakota's new education advocate.



What the people say about... how Governor Mickelson will be remembered



"He was not only the governor but also a family friend. He was such a nice guy, and my dad's friend for over 30 years."

--Mark Brost, senior

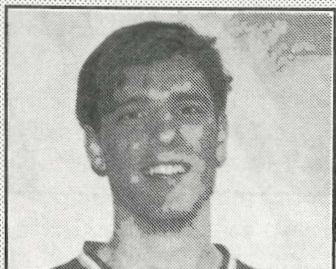
"He was like a role model. He was a leader who meant a lot to TARS (Teen-Age Republicans)."

--Sara Harens, junior



"Governor Mickelson was a powerful figure for the state and a strong family man."

--Chuck Bartlett, junior



(photos by Stacie Suedkamp)

Governor staff

Published monthly as an extra curricular activity by the newspaper staff of T. F. Riggs High School, 101 E. Broadway, Pierre, South Dakota 57501. Telephone 224-5931.

Editor-in-chief-----Jen Hauschil

Associate editors----Cammy Clair

Thomas Kamnika

Molly Robertso

Artist-----Thomas Kamnika

Photographer----Stacie Suedkamp

Reporters-----Wendy Birhanze

Nathan Brakke, Jamie Clair, Eri

Harmon, Sally Herrin, Dusty Johr

son, Mandy Johnson, John Jordre

Krista Lovald, Mary Nelson, Sar

Thorson, Sara Van Camp, Jessica Vog

Adviser-----Elizabeth J. Vog

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A tragic week in Pierre...



Bill Johnson, Bill Janklow, Scott Heidepriem and an unidentified woman listen intently at the memorial service for Governor Mickelson in the Capitol rotunda. (Photo by Brian Shekleton)

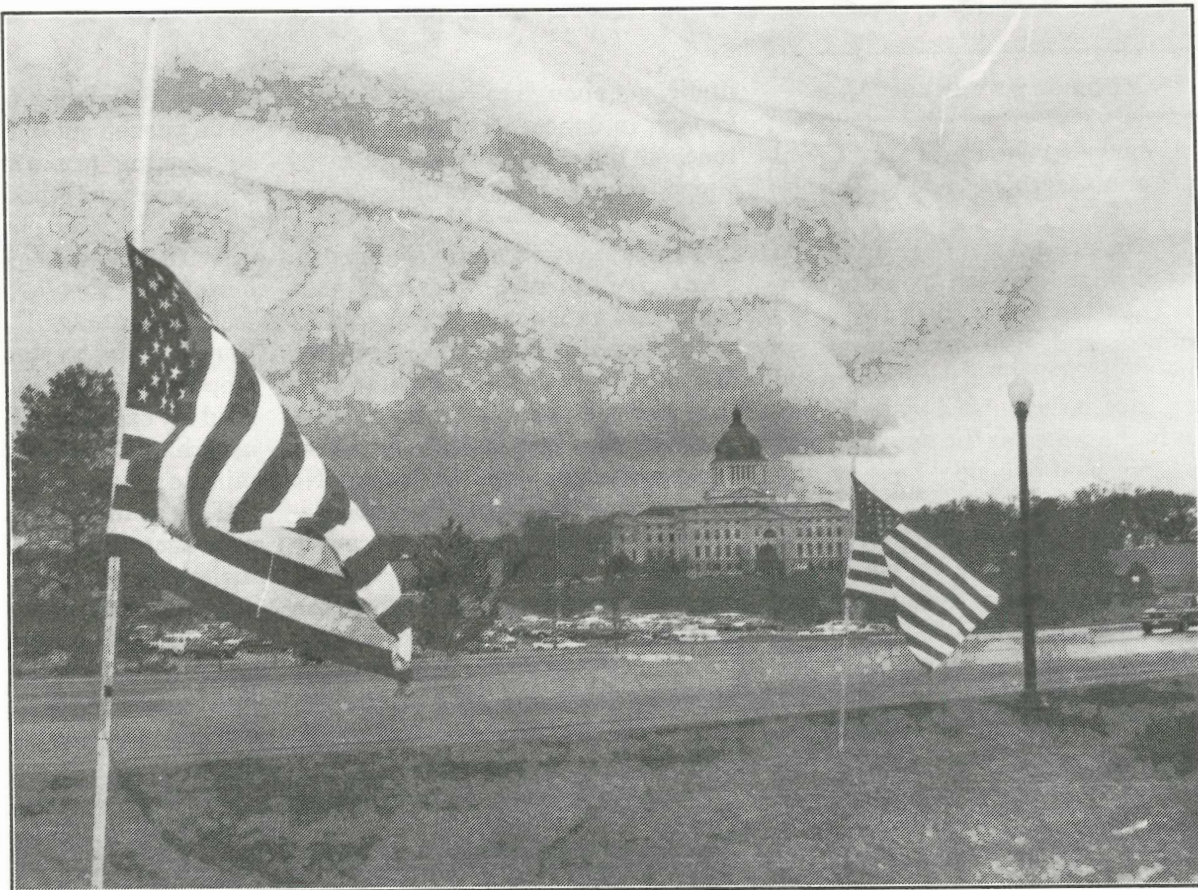


Top right:
Mourners file by Governor Mickelson's casket in the rotunda to pay their last respects. (Photo by Stacie Suedkamp)



An unidentified serviceman salutes Governor Mickelson's casket while it lay in state in the Capitol rotunda on Thursday. (Photo by Stacie Suedkamp.)

Bottom right:
Flags will fly at half-mast in Hilger's Gulch throughout the month of April in memory of the Governor. (Photo by Stacie Suedkamp)



Riggs' dancers k

Hip-hop hooray!

Students 'shake it' on the dance floor

by Jen Hauschild

They can be seen at almost every dance, swingin' and shakin' their 'thang' to the latest beat of Wreckx-n-Effect. Are they dancers of MTV's The Grind? Star Search hopefuls? No, they are just average Riggs High students enjoying the latest style of hip-hop/house dancing.

"Rap and R&B music are the best to dance to," said senior Tom Lehmkuhl. "That's the kind of music that made me want to dance."

Everyone has their own way of dancing, but the teaching methods seemed to be the same.

"I learned by watching rap videos on MTV. I liked the moves, so I tried them out myself," said Lehmkuhl.

"I didn't know how to dance until Tom [Lehmkuhl] taught me," said senior Mike Huxford.

"I would watch people on TV and music videos to see how they danced. Then, I would try out some of my own moves," said senior Karen Sjerven.

The TV is not the only way people learn how to dance; often times they make up their own moves.

"I like making up my own moves. I don't know where they come from, but when other people say, 'Teach me that move,' I must be doing something right," said Sjerven.

Each dancer has a different philosophy on dancing. These range from the fact that it's good exercise to how much fun it is.

"I like dancing because you can let loose and do the funkiest moves that may look dumb to you, but they look cool to other people," said Huxford.

"It's a way of relieving stress, but you can still have fun," said Sjerven.

Students have plenty of opportuni-

ties to go dancing to Pierre. Numerous dances have been held at the high school, Boys and Girls Club, and the auditorium.

"I go to dances whenever there is one," said Lehmkuhl.

"I go to every dance, but Ryan Klinger's are the best," said Sjerven.

The music is a key element in the success of a dance. The DJ's choice of music could be a deciding factor in whether the dance is a blast or a bust.

"I'll only go to a dance if the DJ is good," said Lehmkuhl.

"The music is the best thing about a dance," said Sjerven. "The music has to have a good beat so you can bug out to it."

One Riggs student took up the call for more dances with good music and took it upon himself to put

on a dance. Junior Ryan Klinger has been putting on dances since the beginning of the school year and got some early experience with the former group Nasty Mixx Productions. Now he puts on dances at the auditorium.

"The money means nothing to me. I enjoy doing it for the benefit of the student body. It gives us something to do besides cruise Euclid and get in trouble," said Klinger.

The next step up from high school dances is the club dance.

"I went to a club in Rapid City," said Lehmkuhl. "It kicked butt. Everyone got down and nasty. No one was afraid to dance."

Each dancer seems to say the same thing about dancing; "I don't care what people think about me and my dancing. I'm having fun and that's all that counts," said Sjerven.

The dancing fool reveals all

by Thomas Kamnikar

I remember the first dance I went to. It was a seventh grade Valentine's dance.

I still can see the floor as the DJ played what was then "popular" music. Then the music died, the lights dimmed, and slow song started to play. "WHOOSH!" Every single kid was lined up against a wall. No one was in the center as the music played. Girls were on one side; boys, on the other.

After about a minute of listening to the music, a teen-age version of the game "Round Robin" began. It would start with the boys when, by mutual consent, all the boys would crowd around one unfortunate boy and push him out in to the center of the dance floor. Then the girls would giggle and send one of their own out. The two then walked around each other like some ancient mating dance until they

finally got enough courage to go close enough to dance. Then, just as they touched, the music died and the song ended. And the whole thing began again.

Things haven't much changed in four years. Oh sure, you've got your basic couples who dance together at slow songs. But they've been together for a while. But as soon as that slow song starts, about half the floor clears as they make excuses like they have to get a drink or go the bathroom. No wonder they have to go the bathroom—they've been getting a drink every third song!

I still can't figure out what the great fear is of dancing to a slow song. I mean, is it that once you hold hands and sway back and forth you're engaged? What is so hard for a guy to go up and ask a girl to dance?

Simple, you have to know how to dance.

Going back to that seventh grade

dance, I was one of the unfortunate to be pushed out to the floor. I tried to scream, run away—anything. Why, you ask? I didn't know how to dance.

With slow anticipation, I walked out to the middle of the floor. I looked over to the DJ with desperation to see if, by some chance, he'd stop the song. The guy must have read my expression because he held up a hand indicating it was a five minute song.

Five minutes—five minutes of pure agony as I tried to fake my way through a song I couldn't even understand the words to.

I went up and grabbed my partner. After about three seconds I knew this wasn't going to work—I had already stepped on her feet five times!

Finally I stopped and confessed, "I can't dance." She stopped, turned

her head, and looked at me like I was the anti-Christ. "What?" She asked with a voice pitched just so high.

"I said, I can't dance." Without another word, she turned and left me standing in the middle of the floor.

Well, it's five years later now, and I've improved my dancing technique—except when I'm learning a new dance.

And if you can believe something else, that same boy who couldn't dance in the seventh grade, still can barely waltz now but is doing it up on stage in the musical "Cinderella" this week!

But before I go, let me take one more jaunt down memory lane, back to that seventh grade dance. The next time a slow song started, the school quarterback was pushed into the middle, and instead of dancing he followed my lead and stated that he couldn't dance. It seems that all the guys respected me for stating the truth and had the courage to do the same! No girl got a single dance that night.

k up their heels

Student council members learn country line dances

by Mandy Johnson

Howdy, Partner! Would you like to dance...in a line? That's right—line dancing. It is the newest kind of dance that is quickly spreading across the country and even into Riggs High School.

Earlier this year on a Saturday afternoon, some of the student council members and other students attended a country dance class. It was instructed by Stan Durston and lasted for over two hours. During those two

hours, the twenty kids were taught how to feel, listen, and move to the hoe-down beat of country music.

"I really enjoyed learning how to do the country dances. Stan Durston was very patient and worked with us well. Getting together with other students gave us something to do for a change," said senior Macy Welsh. "I like country music, and I'm glad someone took the time to teach me how to dance to it."

The dance class began with Durston teaching everyone how to do the basic

two-step. Then in less than two hours, the kids were dancing up a storm.

"Learning the different dances was fun, but the 'hitch-hiker' and line dances were my favorites," said senior Kara Oehlerking.

Due to the positive comments of the students who attended the dance class, Durston was invited to come to the Halloween dance and teach other students how to move to the beat of country music. Some students took advantage of the opportunity to learn

a new form of dancing while others had more fun sitting back watching everyone.

Senior Nic Miller said, "The first dance class I took was pretty fun, but when he came to the dance and tried to teach everyone, it was pointless."

Not everyone likes to dance and not everyone likes country music, but if you like to stomp your foot and swing your partner round and round, then grab a partner and head for the nearest hoe-down!

Riggs algebra teacher enjoys square dancing

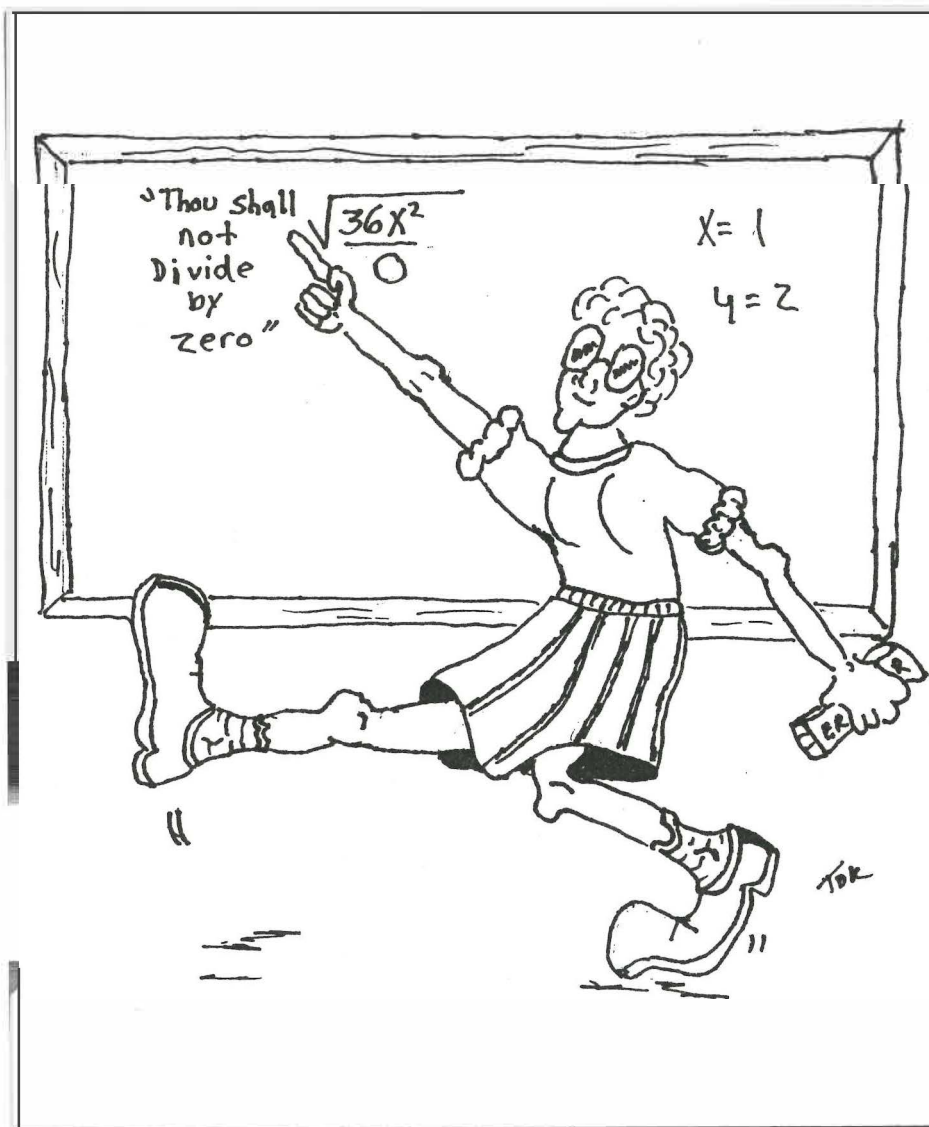
by Cammy Clark

It's 8:00 on a Saturday night; Riggs Algebra II teacher Betty Weiss and her husband hop in the car and head for the senior citizen center to participate in one of their favorite activities—squaredancing.

Weiss has been squaredancing since age twelve when she and her family cleared out their barn and sanded the floor so they could hold a barn dance with all their neighbors. Her father "called" the dances, or told everyone what moves to do.

Although Weiss and her husband enjoy dancing in Pierre with their club and traveling to other dances in the state with their friends, it wasn't always this way. "I had to literally trick my husband into taking lessons with me," said Weiss. "After I asked him about one hundred times, he told me that he would take lessons if I found another couple willing to take them with us. He didn't think that I would be able to find anyone." That very afternoon Weiss located a couple willing to take the lessons, and he has been squaredancing ever since. "He gripes about it every now and then but he has as much fun as the rest of us," said Weiss.

One of the first things that comes to mind when squaredancing is mentioned is the outfit worn by the dancers. The ladies usually wear frilly, full, knee-length skirts, and the men



stick to jeans and cowboy boots. Weiss, who never wears skirts or dresses, says the only time you'll see her in one

is while she's squaredancing. "I don't own a skirt or a dress aside from my squaredancing outfit," she said.

Weiss and her husband are members of the local squaredancing club, the Circle 8. The club meets regularly two times a month at the senior citizen center and sometimes they put on demonstrations at the mall and the local campgrounds. "There's no smoking, no drinking—it's great!" says Weiss.

None of the dances are learned beforehand. Each dance the club holds has a caller that tells the dancers what moves to do right before they do them. "It's so relaxing. You just walk out on the floor and someone puts the music on and tells you exactly what to do. Sometimes I make mistakes on purpose just to liven it up a bit so everyone has more fun," said Weiss.

The Circle 8 has members ages thirty to seventy years old. Weiss thinks that squaredancing is something that comes and goes with the generations. "I think that it's a cyclical thing; twenty years ago there was a large group of people dancing. Now I think it's just too hard for people to take the lessons; they have too many other activities," she said.

The squaredancing that the Circle 8 does is somewhat similar to the squaredancing learned in physical education at the junior high. Weiss says the calls are basically the same, but the club does some more complicated calls.

Does Weiss plan to continue squaredancing? "Absolutely!" she says, "until both feet are in the grave."

Fake and bake: a winter hazard

by Mary Nelson

A fast, safe tan is one promise many tanning salons advertise. Sure, it sounds great, but dermatologists warn, a dangerous practice. Yet despite these warnings, tanning is a craze, and the number of tanning salons is growing.

Most doctors agree there is no such thing as a safe tan. The reality is, if you receive enough light to make your skin dark, then you are getting enough sun to damage your skin and since tanning machines emit primarily ultraviolet radiation at several times

Most doctors agree that there is no such thing as a safe tan.

the level of natural sunlight, they can cause serious damage.

UVA light can cause skin cancer, as well as aging and wrinkling of the skin. These rays can also damage unprotected eyes, leading to cataracts and corneal burns. There is no way for a tanner to know how much ultraviolet radiation is coming out of the tanning bed.

Dermatologists caution that some tanning salons are operated by people not educated on the dangers of ultraviolet radiation. For example, they may allow a customer to stay in the tanning booth too long, or they permit customers to use the bed without protective eye wear.

While the Food and Drug Administration requires all tanning machines

to display warning labels advising users of the dangers of overexposure, there are no federal laws regulating how the tanning salon should be operated.

Most states have a law that requires all customers to sign a written statement acknowledging the dangers of overexposure. They must also agree to wear protective eye wear. Teenagers between the ages of 14 and 18 must have written consent from their parent or guardian, and all children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Don't be fooled: tanning can be dangerous

by Mary Nelson

Misconception: The sun is only dangerous from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Fact: These are the hours the sun is most intense, but you can still get burned before and after this four-hour period.

Misconception: Tanning booths are a safer tan.

Fact: Tanning booths use intense levels of UVA rays, which penetrate deep into the skin and cause wrinkles.

Misconception: One bad sunburn won't affect your risk of skin cancer in the future.

Fact: Sunburns are especially harmful during your childhood and teenage years. In fact, most of the damage done to your skin occurs before the age of 25!

Misconception: Tanning improves acne.

Fact: Sometimes a tan can make pimples seem less obvious. But tanning also interferes with the body's ability to perspire properly, which can aggravate acne.

Misconception: Once you've got a good base tan, you can decrease the SPF of your sunscreen.

Fact: Although an existing tan offers some protection to the skin, it's not enough to lower the amount of sun protection you need.

Misconception: Wearing a t-shirt while swimming will protect you from the sun.

Fact: You need sunscreen under a t-shirt because once the shirt becomes wet the sun can penetrate right through it.

Misconception: It's cloudy so I won't get sunburned.

Fact: The clouds don't offer any protection from burning rays. Even if it's cloudy outside, you should still wear sunscreen.

Plan to tan: students need to take precautions

by Mary Nelson

1. If you sunburn easily and don't tan outdoors, avoid tanning devices.

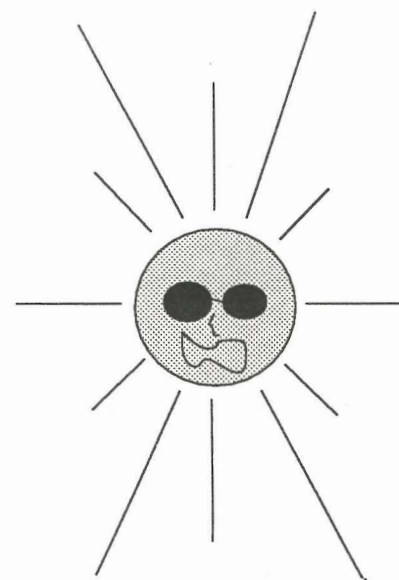
2. Don't use tanning beds if you take photosensitizing medications, including many antibiotics and antihistamines, and some birth control pills, which can make skin sensitive to light. People who take such drugs may develop a severe reaction to tanning.

3. If you tend to get cold sores, don't tan. Ultraviolet radiation may stimulate development of the sores.

4. Limit exposure to 35-40 half-hour sessions a year.

5. Wear protective eye wear.

6. Use ultraviolet-light-screening lip balm.



All skin types should be protected

by Mary Nelson

LIGHT

Fair-skinned people should take all the scary news about the sun seriously, because they're at the greatest risk. They should avoid the sun between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. when UV rays are the strongest. Sunscreen should be worn all year round for the fair-skinned person.

MEDIUM

Medium-toned skin does tan, but

usually too fast. The risk of burning is pretty high if you don't start off slowly with sun exposure. If you do burn, drink plenty of water to re-hydrate, and then lather on a water-based moisturizer.

DARK

You may not burn like fair-skinned people, but that doesn't mean the sun isn't damaging to your skin. Sunscreens are essential and since some areas of your body tan differently than others, you need to take care to avoid getting uneven color.

Rieck blackbelt 'sensei ni rei' in Pierre Karate Club

by Sara VanCamp

All of us at one time have had to "sensei ni rei" or wanted to "oi-zuki" our toe into someone's "jyodan." Although these words are in Japanese, they are used at the Karate Club and are very familiar to Riggs junior Summer Rieck.

Since the club started eleven years ago, twelve members have earned their black belts, and Summer is one of them. This belt gives her the privilege of carrying the title "sensi" which means "teacher."

Summer began Karate at the age of nine and has been training for almost eight years.

"I started because my brother was in it, and I was bored just watching," said Rieck.

She is taught by Pat Murphy and Danny Adams and often leads the class with the help of Jay Hanson, a sophomore black belt.

They teach Shodakan Karate, which is one of many types of karate. "Although it is associated with Tae

Kwon Do, it is very different," said Rieck.

One of the main differences is that Tae Kwon Do uses kicks that are head level; Shodakan uses mainly belt level kicks and punches.

Rieck said that she hopes karate will help the students to respect others, to work hard, and to improve their skills.

In training, the students are also reminded that the skills they learn are to be used in self defense. In regard to self-defense, Rieck advises students to "kick and run, and if you happen to be wearing high heels, all the better."

Some of the other moves the students learn are jabs, punches, blocks, and breakaways.

"I enjoy karate, and it gives a good all-around workout," said Rieck. "It also is a good way to learn some Japanese."

"Sensei ni-ray" means bow to the teacher; "oi-zuki" means lunge punch; and "jyodan" is a word for the face, neck, and head.



Don't mess with this girl. Summer Rieck is a blackbelt in karate and has earned the title of 'sensei ni rei'. (photo by Stacie Suedkamp)

Pearson breaks twenty-one year old discus record

by Jen Hauschild

A twenty-one year old school record was finally broken at last week's Legion Relays.

Senior Bruce Pearson threw the discus 167 feet, seven inches to set a new school record.

"I was pretty proud," said Pearson. "A twenty-one year old record is hard to break."

Pearson said he has trained for this since he was a sophomore.

"I lift weights during the off season and try to stay in shape," said Pearson. "It's been a main goal of mine to break this record."

Pearson's reaction to his record breaking throw was nothing less than

surprise.

"I've never thrown over 150 feet in practice, even after I broke the record twice," said Pearson.

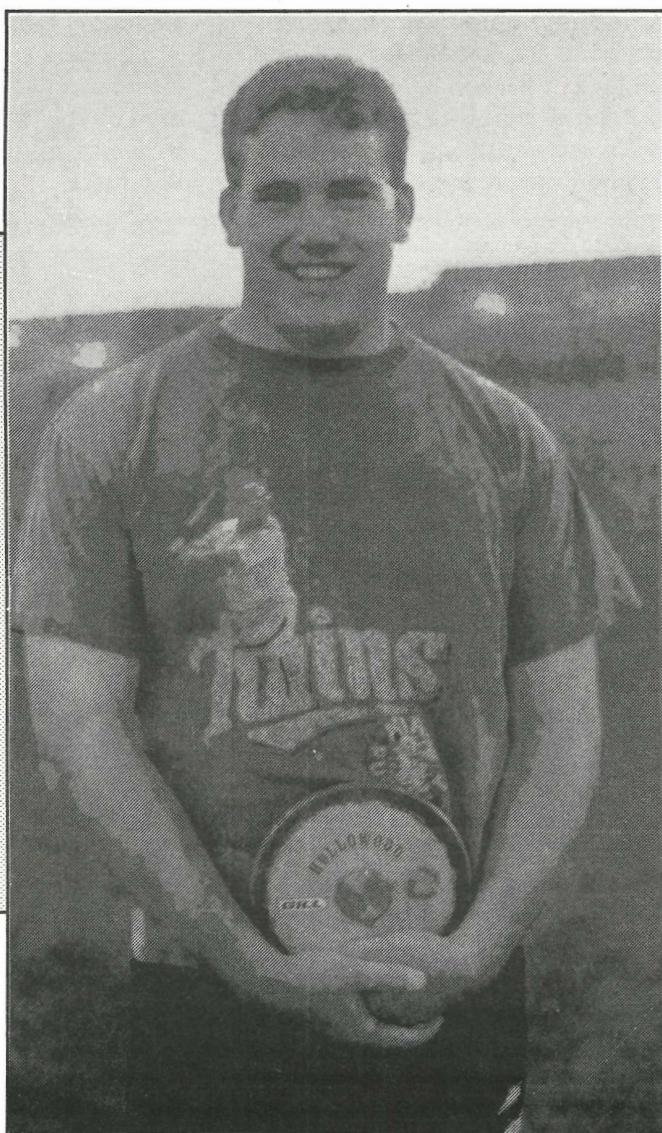
Practicing would seem to be a large part of Pearson's success, but he said he tries not to go overboard.

"I practice two to three times a week, and then I lift weights. I try not to over-do it," said Pearson.

Can Pearson keep increasing the length of his throws and break his own record?

"I hope so," said Pearson. "I think I can. Last year I threw well at the beginning of the season, but then I went down-hill. I hope that doesn't happen again."

Record-breaking throw. Bruce Pearson stands with his discus which he used to break the twenty-one year old school record. (photo by Stacie Suedkamp)



"I was pretty proud. A twenty-one year old record is hard to break.

---Bruce Pearson

Boys' and Girls' Staters selected

by Wendy Birhanzel

May 31 through June 5, eighteen Riggs High School students will have the opportunity to eat, breathe, and live government.

Eight junior girls were chosen from the top one third of the junior class. They will attend Girls' State at South Dakota State University in Brookings. To be selected, each girl had to apply and go through interviews with members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Not only did the girls have to have high academics, but they also had to be involved with school and community activities. Attending Girls' State this year are the following students: Wendy Birhanzel,

Cammy Clark, Angela Hall, Sara Harens, Sally Herrin, Tess Shatek, Mary Wendt, and Angie Wire. The alternates are Amy Manning and Sara Thorson.

Members of the American Legion chose ten boys to attend Boys' State in Aberdeen at Northern State University. Candidates went through an interview which involved answering questions dealing with national concerns. The delegates representing Riggs include the following: Ryan Bear, Jon Boer, Ben Chittenden, Jeremy Droppers, Erin Harmon, Scott Kennedy, Tyson Lindekugal, Ryan Merriam, Kevin Mills, and Chris Misterek. The alternates are Harry Bucholz, and Chris Schumacher.



Girls' Staters include: first row, Amy Manning, Sara Thorson, Mary Wendt, Tess Shatek, Sara Harens; second row: Sally Herrin, Cammy Clark, Angela Hall, Angie Wire, and Wendy Birhanzel

20th Latin Banquet held

by Jamie Clair

The 20th annual Latin Banquet took place Saturday, April 3, in the rotunda of the state capitol.

The ceremonies began with "The Latin Club Fanfare," played by the Riggs High brass group directed by Larry Johnson, Riggs band director. Following the music and a short welcome from Mr. Mickelson was a speech by Cyndy Wilner Cramsie who is studying for her masters degree in linguistics in China. Cramsie spoke of the values of Latin and her encounter with the massacre of students at Tienannmen square in 1990

From the rotunda, toga clad Latin students and parents made their way to the junior high for the continuation of the festivities. Once inside the very Roman west gym, guests were entertained by a wide variety of students and other individuals. Leading the audience through the program and the menu were masters of ceremonies Dusty Johnson, Latin I; Allison Mickelson, Latin II; and Scott Kennedy, Latin III.

The gala ended in a round of "Oh How Lovely Is the Evening" accompanied by the "Bells of First Methodist" in hopes of 20 more years of Latin banquets.



Boys' Staters include the following: first row, Chris Schumacher, Jon Boer, Ryan Merriam, Tyson Lindekugal, Ryan Bear, Chris Misterek; second row, Harry Bucholz, Ben Chittenden, Erin Harmon, Kevin Mills, Jeremy Droppers, and Scott Kennedy

OM team advances to world finals in Maryland

by Erin Harmon

The Riggs High School Odyssey of the Mind team advances to the world finals after placing first in the state competition held in Pierre on April 3.

The team, consisting of sophomore Jamie Clair and juniors Andy Durbin, Erin Harmon, John Jordre, and Scott Kennedy, won the competition by supporting almost four hundred pounds on an eighteen gram balsa wood structure.

The competition didn't start out well for them. Their wood structure was ruled illegal and had to be reconstructed for most of the morning.

"Our new structure didn't hold as much weight as we thought it

would, but our strong spontaneous showing helped us win," said Kennedy.

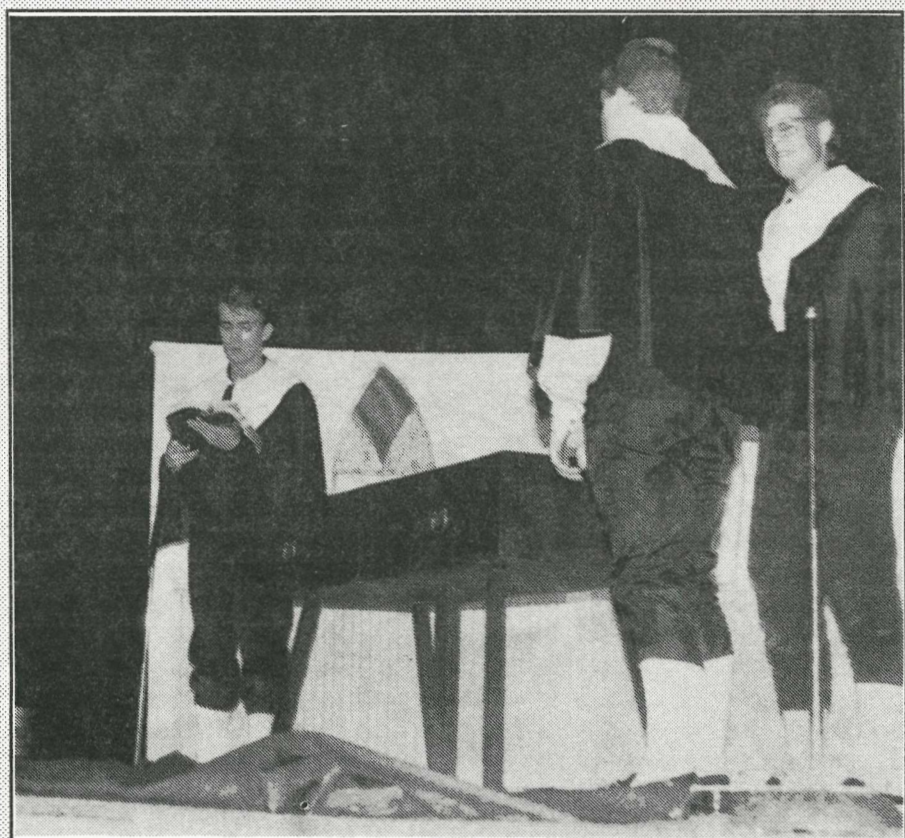
John Jordre received the highest score in the state in the spontaneous competition.

The OM team is now busy raising money for their trip to Maryland. They hope to raise the \$30,000 by selling candy bars and lottery tickets.

"\$30,000 is a lot of money to raise, but we can do it with a lot of elbow grease," said Jordre.

The world finals will be held the first week of June on the campus of the University of Maryland out side of Washington, D.C. The team is coached by Thomas and Esther Harmon.

"We've set a goal of being one of the top fifteen finishers," said Jordre. "If we don't place that high, we'll be quite disappointed in our season."



On to Worlds. Members of the Riggs High School Odyssey of the Mind team perform a skit that placed them first in the state. (photo by Stacie Suedkamp)