

Three new courses proposed for next year

by Cammy Clark

Proposals that will add three new courses to the Riggs curriculum have been made to the Pierre School Board.

The board is currently considering the additions of an alternative chemistry course, an additional physical education course, and a Russian language course.

The new chemistry course would be offered to juniors and seniors and focus on chemicals and how they work in the community. The course would be an alternative to the traditional chemical theory classes being taught now.

"The idea behind this course is to

basically give kids another option and to introduce some chemistry that is more applicable to their lives. It doesn't give as much background and is not as much theory as the other course," said Riggs Chemistry and Biology II instructor Jon Gonsor.

The course was designed by the American Chemical Society and meets the standards for science literacy that the society feels every student should know when they graduate from high school.

"I would highly recommend that students who wish to go into one of the science fields take the traditional chemistry course because that's what they will need in college. The new

course would be for students who don't wish to go into a science field but need another science credit to attend some kind of schooling after high school," said Gonsor.

The Russian language course would be offered during first period in the basement of the Capitol building. The students would be hooked up by a two way audio/visual system to the South Dakota State University (SDSU) campus. SDSU will sponsor the course that will be worth one high school credit and four hours college credit. The course will focus mainly on conversation skills.

The proposed physical education course would be an alternative to the

current course of lifetime sports that is offered in the Riggs curriculum. The course would focus on weight training, aerobic activity, and would include information to help students develop good lifelong health habits. It would be open to all high school students and would probably take place in the afternoon.

"All our physical education courses at Riggs are geared toward lifelong health habits and activities, but this course would focus more on weight training and aerobics. I guess you could say it will be more of a cross-training course," said Riggs physical education instructor Dan Snyder.

New system for athletic physicals

by Cammy Clark

The Pierre School System will move to a new method of athletic physicals starting next school year.

All students will be required to take a full physical in a doctor's office every three years and to fill out a medical history form every year.

The Pierre School Board passed the proposal for the tri-annual physical because of some new requirements put in place by the South Dakota High School Activities Association. The requirements stated that the physicals be much more thorough than they have in the past.

The physical will cost approximately twenty-five dollars and will be conducted at the doctor's office, instead of at the school as they have been in the past.

Athletic director Dusty Kracht is working on a schedule to accommodate both doctors and students.

"We hope to work something out that will help the students adjust to the new system and not overload the doctors," said Kracht.

'At Risk' third semester AIDS education

by Dusty Johnson

Students with AIDS—it's not a subject that everyone's comfortable talking about. Despite that fact, or maybe because of it, it's the subject of the upcoming Riggs drama department production "At Risk."

The play focuses on high school students and how their actions can

have deadly consequences. One by one, the characters learn that some decisions in life are more important than others. The purpose of the performance is not only to entertain but also to inform students on the danger some of their actions might be placing them in.

Due to the subject matter and wording of the play, a few changes were

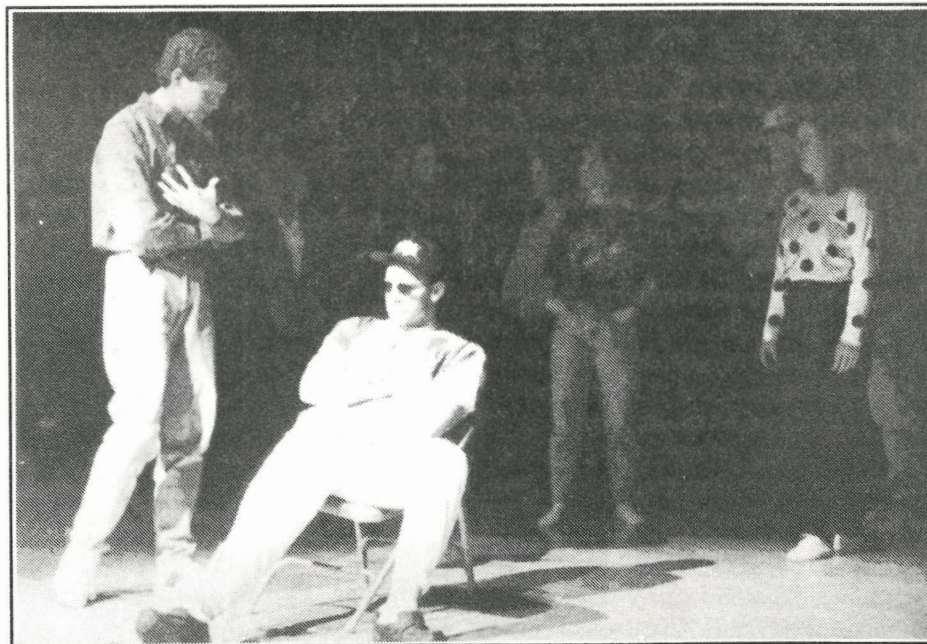
made to the script before production began. "There has been some modification to make it appropriate for school use," said principal Roger Lonbaken.

"There were some language problems, some swearing—which I always take out of any show we ever do. Also, there was one scene that was removed because there wasn't any consequence for the risk that the character took, and that's what the play is about," said director Hyrma Zakahi. "All decisions about changes to the material were made jointly between myself and the administration."

Both Lonbaken and Zakahi feel the play can portray some very powerful messages. "The theme of this play is to show the great variety of ways people, particularly students, can contract the AIDS virus. Each person will interpret this in their own way. I think that this helps us develop an understanding of this serious, deadly disease," Lonbaken responded.

As Zakahi commented, "There's a message in there for everyone. There are characters that speak to each individual. You just have to look for him or her."

"At Risk" will be presented to the student body during school on March 9. This is a part of AIDS education for the student body.



"Coach" (junior Scott Kennedy) demands to know why "Stacy" (junior Ryan Merriam) has been skipping practice before the big game. (Photo by Stacie Suedkamp)

Editorial

It's a hat thing: students, faculty tackle the issue

Student senate's latest charge against the seemingly impenetrable walls of the administration involves lifting the ban on wearing hats in school.

If the student senate's hat proposal passes, the students will have one week to wear hats and prove that they can handle the responsibility. If the hat week does not work well, the issue will be dropped.

One of the arguments against hats is that they would be disruptive in class. Guidelines have been drawn up by the Student Senate that would specify where and when hats can be worn and what kind of behavior is appropriate when they are on.

There is also the issue of proper etiquette. Etiquette says that it is proper for women to wear a hat to accentuate an outfit, but for men it is not acceptable to wear hats indoors.

This editorial board believes that hats would be a creative way for the students to express themselves. They are great for people that don't get up early enough to do their hair or to accentuate that great outfit you bought last weekend. It's basically just freedom of choice. If students can't handle the privilege, then it won't last, but don't they deserve the chance?



What the people say about... wearing hats in school



"I wouldn't wear a hat, but I see no problem with them being worn."
---Kellie Englehart, sophomore

"I don't like idea of wearing hats in school because it's disrespectful."
---Becky Turbiville, junior



"It poses no threat to our learning atmosphere."
---Nic Miller, senior

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Who is at risk?

Smokers put own lives and others in danger

by Sally Herrin

Although it is hazardous to their health, many students at Riggs High School smoke. Nearly all of those who don't smoke know someone who does.

Many students are being subjected to second-hand smoke. It is no longer just the "wild kids" who smoke. Every kind of student is represented in the smoking scene.

Students know the risks of cigarettes, so why do they smoke? "Smoking is a way to relax my thoughts," said senior Reggie Hutcheson.

"I smoke because it does relax you, especially after a hard day at school, so if it kills you, at least you'll be relaxed," said senior Troy Pitlick.

Surprisingly, most parents of students who smoke know of their children's vices. On occasions they allow their son/daughter to smoke in front of them. Some parents even pur-

chase cigarettes for their underage children. Most of these parents are also regular smokers.

The pack-a-day smoker is still out there, but most of the students who smoke have between 5 and 10 cigarettes a day. The majority of the smokers at Riggs High have never tried to quit.

There are still some students out there who do not smoke. Many of them are afraid to start and possibly become addicted; others just don't like the taste or smell.

"I tried it and didn't like it," said junior Jon Boer.

Many students have not considered the long-term health consequences and have fallen prey to the "I'll never die" mentality of youth. Boer adds, "I think it is just a rebellious thing. Most people just want to see how much they can do and not get caught."

Suicide: no second chances

by Krista Lovald

"Suicide." The dictionary defines the word as the act or instance of taking one's own life voluntarily and intentionally, a denial of self-preservation, a will to die, an end.

However it is defined, it is a reality among teenagers.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death of 15 to 19 year-olds in the United States.. Every 38 seconds a teen attempts suicide, and every 90 minutes someone succeeds. Fifteen die every day.

The statistics are frightening, but what is more frightening is that 80 percent of those who die give definite warning signs of suicide and therefore could have been helped.

There are many ways to help a friend. The most important thing to do is to get help; you cannot help them yourself.

You can look for possible warning signs. Look for changes in moods or behavior, withdrawal from friends, neglecting personal appearance, unexplained crying or depres-

sion, and sleeping or eating more than usual.

Also be aware of feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness, shame or guilt. Notice if they have talked about suicide. Do they have a detailed plan? Have they started making final arrangements like giving away prized possessions?

If you notice any of these signs or if they have talked to you about it, take them seriously and get help.

The first place to go is a counselor or a teacher at school. They will refer you to a professional psychologist.

If you are having suicidal thoughts, talk to someone.

"Get help, talk to a friend, tell someone," said Mavis Booze, a guidance counselor at Riggs. "I never take it lightly; even one case is a problem."

Most youth do not understand the finality of suicide. It is a permanent end to temporary problems. There are no second chances, no do-over.

To drink or not to drink: Child of alcoholic parent says no to peer preesure

by Charlene Gooding

As most teenagers feel when they first experiment with alcohol, I was confused. I wasn't sure if I should say "yes" or "no" to that first drink. Most of my friends quickly drank it and then asked for more. I didn't know how to react to these people who were my friends only an hour before. Now they seemed to be possessed by alcohol...the very drug thathaunted my mother and destroyed our family. My mom is an alcoholic, and she got into a lot of trouble because of this senseless drug. I knew the effects of drinking. I've seen what it does to a family, to a friendship, and even to someone down the street. The consequences of drinking are scary. The aftermath of making the wrong choice is parallel to a real nightmare.

Yet even knowing all of this, the confusion still rang through my mind. There wasn't someone there to tell me what to do. It was my decision. I was

on my own. While I was looking around the room, I saw all of my friends. These people weren't the same. They were entertained with a new world. It was time to make my decision. Should I join their seemingly fun-filled world, or sit by myself—all alone?

Staring at the bottle, which seemed to be calling out to me, I began to realize that the bottle represented destruction, confusion, and an escape. It stood for the destruction of a family and a friendship. It represented the confusion of teenagers taking their first drinks and an escape from the truth. It was solely an escape from reality. The manipulation of alcohol supplies you with a mere excuse to be someone you're not.

There were so many appalling things encased in only one bottle...which was now unattractive to me. Looking around the room, I saw my friends in a different light. They were immersed in this evil substance, laughing with wicked smiles. They

were transformed. They were not the warm, loving people I knew only an hour before. They were in another realm—an entire universe of which I was excluded. I felt alienated. I felt that I didn't belong. The only question left, however, was if I wanted to belong. The choice was mine. I longed for someone to tell me the answer. I made the resolution to deny this temptation. I wasn't needed in their world. I didn't want to be there. I, of course, felt out of place, but I would rather be excluded from this kind of fun.

The night was over. The evil was gone. I had no regrets. My friends were back to their same old personalities. They acted no different than their same selves, but I was changed now. I was somehow different. I was in my own world filled with security and pride. I was in a world that they couldn't be a part of—a world that would not allow them to enter. I was

fulfilled by my decision. I had no desire to drink. Thoughts of confusion no longer lingered throughout my mind. I had made my decision. I knew that with my judgment there were no more threats of becoming an alcoholic, no more fear of tearing down my future family because of making the wrong choice that night. Some say that not drinking is a sacrifice, but when you look at the big picture, it's a rather small thing to give up. Each drink has the potential of becoming a daily routine. It is a disease which spreads from the alcoholic to its victims. Even the people who have exiled alcohol from their lives may become casualties. Maybe it's because I am a should be thoroughly thought out. It's a decision that you alone must make. Nobody will appear and tell you how to react to that hideous bottle calling your name—the bottle which is filled with only destruction, confusion, and an escape.

Who is

Students give reasons for risky business

by Cammy Clark

The word *daredevil* has been used many times to describe the common teenager, probably because of the amazing number of risks that teenagers take everyday. Is it the age? something in their young blood? mere stupidity?

According to a Governor poll, today's teenagers are playing with fire. 45 percent are sexually active and 8 percent don't use any protection against sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.

"I think sex education is a big MUST in this school. Obviously teenage pregnancy rates have steadily increased at Riggs in the past years. Not only is it sad, it's also frustrating because it is so preventable. People need to be better educated about these things," said senior Sandi Hanson.

Teenage drinking and driving is another issue that the poll addressed. 72 percent of Riggs students have been in a vehicle where the driver was intoxicated, and 38 percent have driven while intoxicated.

"I seriously think that if there was

anything at all for a person to do in this town, there wouldn't be nearly as much drinking going on," said junior Dejae Mikkelsen.

Students agree that most teenager's hunger for excitement can be satisfied by a risk that might put their life in jeopardy, including everything from jumping off the train bridge to driving drunk and experimenting with sex.

"I think that teenagers are daredevils simply because they like to show off and have a lot of fun," said sophomore Mike Anderson.

"Peer pressure is a big part of it; students really feel the need to fit in," said junior Wendy Birhanzel.

Often the fearless escapades of students result in damage to merchandise, damage to personal property, unwanted accidents, diseases, and pregnancies. The students are affected by the outcome of their adventure, but does the punishment fit the crime? Student opinions are varied.

"Sometimes I think the punishment fits the crime, but a lot of times a kid will get in trouble, pay his or her fine, and go right out and do the same thing again," said Birhanzel.

Although taking risks is a tempt-

ing way of relieving the stress of those teenage lives, it can be avoided or maybe just outgrown.

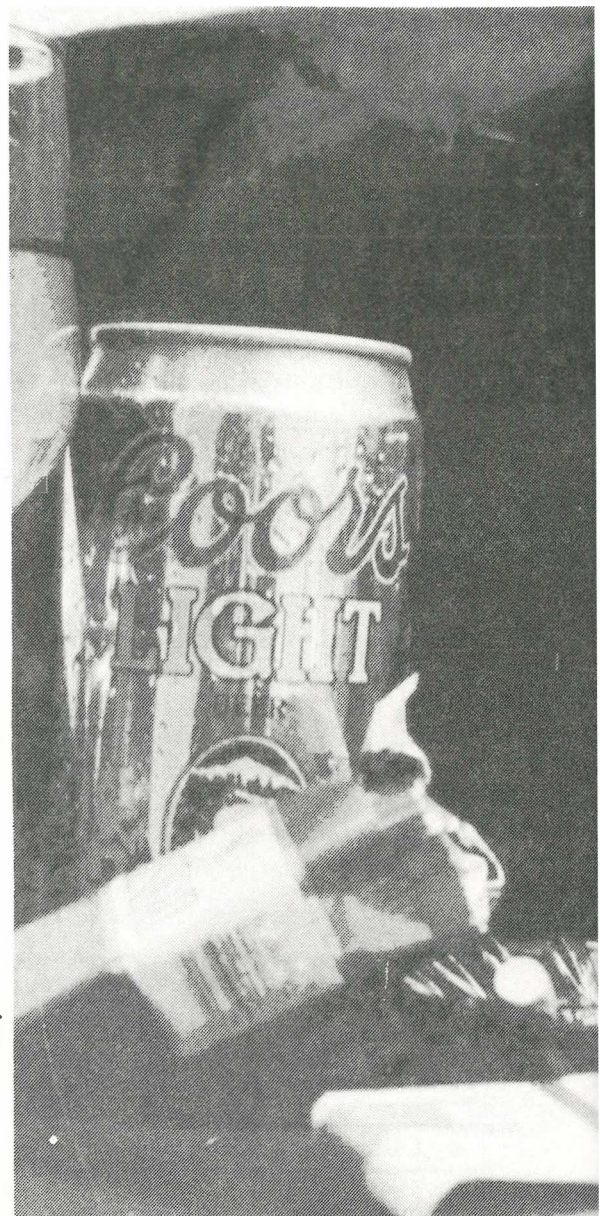
"It was a lot harder to resist taking risks in junior high because down there everyone wants to be a part of the crowd, and no one is much of an individual," said Birhanzel.

As for the teenagers of tomorrow, Riggs students feel that the risks teenagers take will only increase in danger as time goes on.

"The future will probably hold a greater risk of AIDS and a higher suicide rate. I'm sure that as teenagers mature they will realize that they don't have to be like everyone else and maybe think twice about their actions," said Birhanzel.

"The problems in the future will probably involve a lot of drugs and weapons. It's a problem in the big cities right now; it's only a matter of time until it reaches the small towns," said Anderson.

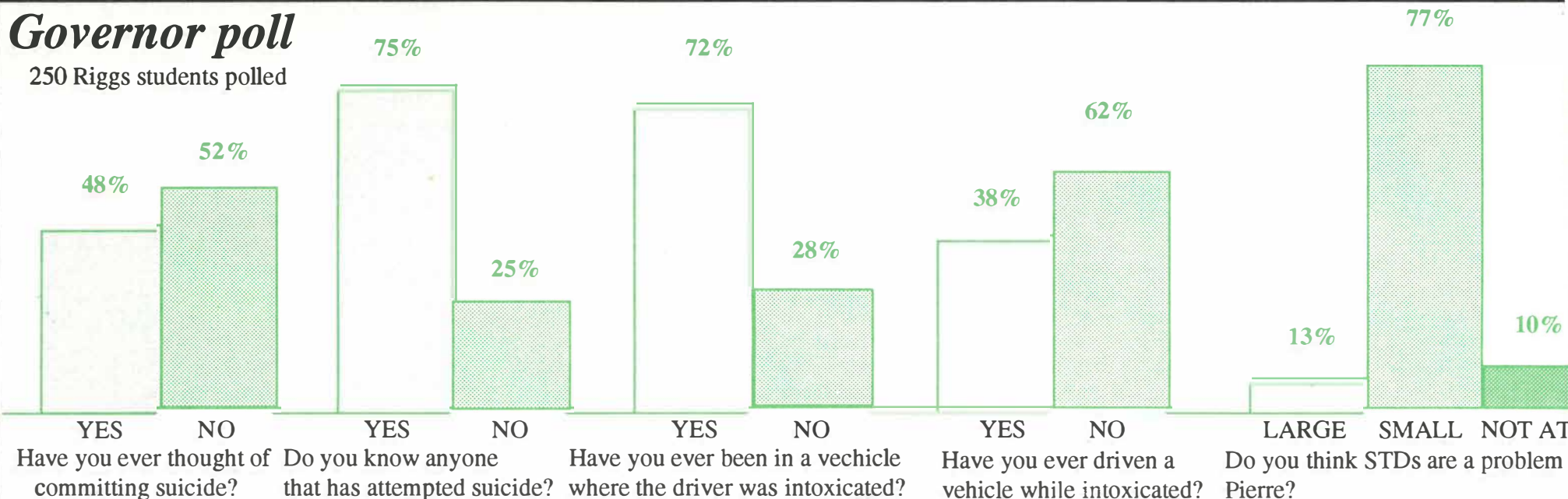
"I think that discipline will be a big problem in the future because right now teenagers think they can do whatever they want and don't really care what adults say," said junior Jon Boer.



Experimenting with alcohol and cigarettes are two

Governor poll

250 Riggs students polled



at risk?

Sexually transmitted diseases: a sobering reality for teenagers

by Molly Robertson

In a recent Governor poll, 77 percent of students said that they thought STD's were not a big problem at Riggs. Of the over fifty percent of students who are sexually active, only 47 percent use some form of protection against STD's.

While it seems that many students are not concerned about the risks of catching an STD, some are painfully aware of their presence in Pierre. "Megan" is a Riggs student who has been jolted into reality. She recently found out that she has an STD.

Megan and her boyfriend have been dating for about a year. After being together for six months, they began having sex. Megan was a virgin, but her boyfriend had had sex with two other people before her. Both girls had told him that they were virgins. Megan and her boyfriend had talked about every aspect of sex before doing it. They used condoms every time and thought that they were completely safe.

After two months of being sexually active, Megan decided to start taking birth-control pills to reduce the risk of

"Trust me, it can happen. I thought there was no chance of getting anything. I thought pregnancy was my only worry."

"Megan"

and is now recovering.

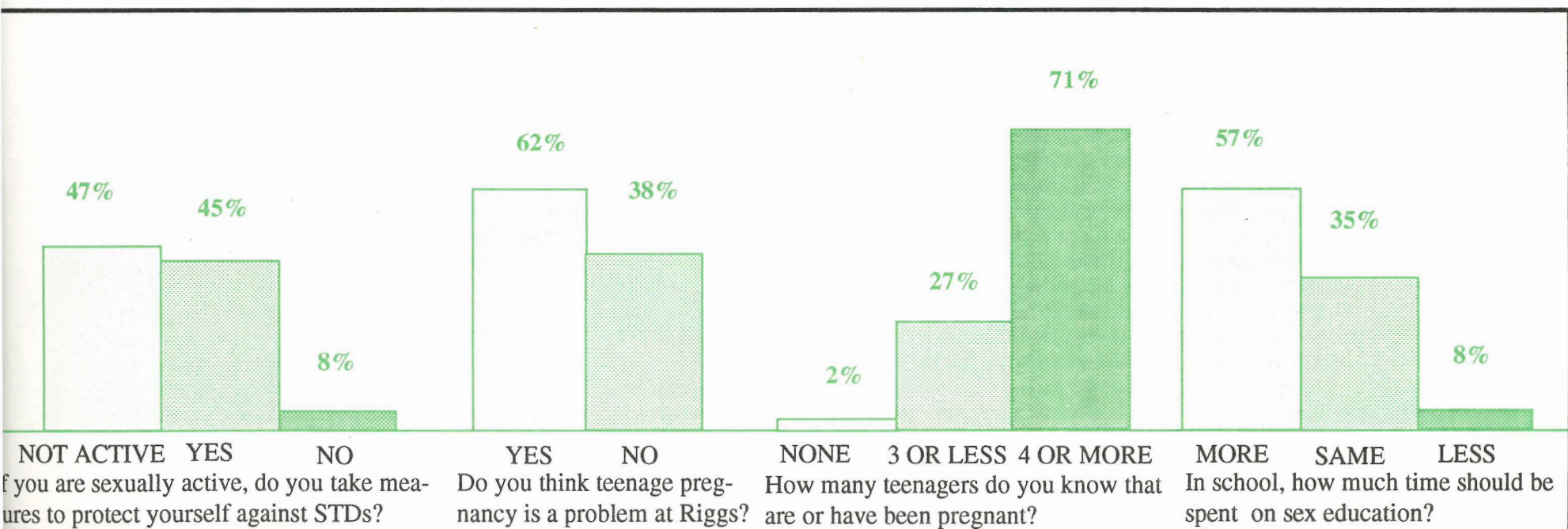
Megan never told her parents about her STD. "I don't think they even know I've had sex," she said. Her boyfriend paid for everything.

Megan's story demonstrates the very real possibility of getting an STD. "Trust me, it can happen. I thought there was no chance of getting anything. I thought pregnancy was my only worry. I was really scared when I found out, but I'm glad I got it taken care of. I urge everyone who is sexually active to get tested. It's definitely worth it," she said.

There are many different kinds of STD's. Although all of them are preventable, not all are completely curable and most have no noticeable symptoms until they are quite advanced. Girls who are sexually active or eighteen or older should have a yearly exam. Condoms should always be used. Since sex is an issue of trust, precautions must be taken. Megan's advice to anyone who is sexually active is to always be careful. "I've changed my whole outlook. I'll never be as trusting. I know that the only way to avoid catching anything is to protect myself, even if I think I know the person. Love or attraction isn't an issue. My health is."



ays teenagers put themselves at risk.



Gymnasts have fun at state meet, show improvement

by Jen Hauschild

The Lady Gov gymnastic team finished their 1992-93 season with an eighth place finish at the South Dakota State Gymnastics Meet in Huron.

"It would have been nice to finish in a higher place, but we finished exactly where the polls predicted us to finish," said head coach Vicki Semmler.

The Lady Goves had their highest team score of the season last weekend.

"It was a nice way to end the season. We had a good meet with no injuries," said Semmler.

There were no medal winners at the meet, but senior Anne Kenyon had the highest place on the team with thirteenth on the beam and floor exercise.

"It was a good experience for the girls," said Semmler. "The level of gymnastics in South Dakota gets

"It was a good experience for the girls. The level of gymnastics in the state gets higher every year. It's fun to say you've competed against the best in the state."

---head coach Vicki Semmler

higher and higher every year. With skill levels as high as they are, it's fun to say you competed against the best in the state. It's really intimidating and challenging, but I hope the girls had fun."

Semmler felt that the season was good and that the gymnasts performed well with improved scores, but there were a few unfortunate injuries.

"Each senior had at least one or two meets where they received their ca-

reer high score," said Semmler. "It's a real reward for all the hard work they did. We wanted to see improvement and ended up with career high scores."

Injuries also caused a lot of problems for the gymnasts.

"Each senior had at least one injury, whether it was a new one or a nagging one," said Semmler. "That alone caused a lot of problems and frustrations. There was also a lot of improvement with the underclass-

men."

With four seniors graduating and one student moving away, next year's team will consist of mainly eighth and ninth graders, said Semmler.

"The seniors' spots will be hard to fill. They will be missed, but junior Mary Wendt and Beth Weischede and sophomore Val Lauck will provide good leadership," said Semmler. "They've improved a lot, and there is much enthusiasm for next year."

Brakke's BOX

by Nathan Brakke

In the past few months little miracles have been occurring regularly in Riggs' gym. On Friday and Saturday nights practically the whole student body and the whole town have been yelling, screaming, waving and standing in support of their Governor basketball team. One person who can take well-deserved credit for all of this is junior Dave Fiala.

Fiala moved here from Aberdeen before his sophomore year and has since developed a strong love for the Governors. He played for the sophomore basketball team last year but didn't go out for varsity this year claiming he has "to work so I can get a new car." Fiala, who has played basketball since the fifth grade, is currently par-

ticipating in IBA's, averaging about 20 points per game.

Wearing a hard hat and a referee's jersey, Fiala became an instant hit during the December Watertown game.

He remembered, "I was feeling pretty good that game, so Matt Joens and I got up and started the wave." The wave is now practically a tradition, and Fiala has since become quite famous.

Fiala explained, "Ladies will come up and say how much their kids like me." He added, "Little kids always want to wear my hat." Fiala's fame has also included recognition from the student senate. He has also been mentioned and applauded for his efforts in Capital Journal letters to the editor.

Fiala says he enjoys pumping up the crowd. He says, "It's all in my

heart. I used to play basketball, and I know what it feels like to have the crowd pumped up."

Fiala said, "I just think of stupid stuff to do. I usually don't get my ideas until the Wednesday before the game. I think I have more fun doing this than playing."

Fiala is very much looking forward to the State AA Tournament, but he also added, "I hope I don't get beat up." He said he doesn't have any tricks up his sleeve, but he did say, "I would really like to get the whole crowd to do the wave."

Based on his success and popularity this year, will Fiala want to be the mascot next year?

"I might. I was told if you tried out, you could only do it for only two games and then someone else would, and so on. If they do that, I think I will just

stay with the hat and the shirt."

Fame has not affected Fiala though. He refuses to take any credit for raising school spirit. He claimed, "I don't take any [credit]. Everyone in the crowd should take the credit. They have the most [spirit], and it's all up to them."

Fiala added, "I would like to thank the people in Pierre for writing letters to the newspapers and supporting the student body. I hope to see a large student body at regions, districts, and especially State AA's."

Well, on behalf of students at Riggs, I would like to thank Dave Fiala for all his enthusiasm and excitement. We've all had a great time cheering alongside him, and we'll see him again, no doubt, at State AA's.

Riggs junior raises spirits of students, crowd, town

On to state: Governors hope to finish in top ten

by Jen Hauschild

The Pierre Governor Wrestlers pulled out a third place finish at this years regional meet in Todd County.

The regional winner last Saturday was Winner and Mitchell placed second.

"It was mainly a triangular region," said Coach Myron Bryant. "The region is clear dominated by the two AA schools."

Pierre placed twelve out of thirteen wrestlers who will advance to the state meet.

"I was pleased with the results of the regional meet, but there were a few disappointments. Overall, we wrestled well," said Bryant.

Regional champions from Pierre are seniors Levi Hillmer, Chris Stotts, and Ryan Noyes.

Wrestlers finishing second are freshman Torry Zeller, sophomore Eric Sprinkle, and junior Eric Tobin.

Third place finishers are eighth grader Toby Bryant, sophomore Jason Robinson, and juniors Joe Gunderson, Mike Haas, and Jason

Irion.

This years State Wrestling Tournament will be held at the Barnett Center in Aberdeen this Friday and Saturday.

"A realistic goal for the tournament is to place about five or six wrestlers," said Bryant. "We have the talent and we have a shot to place a few wrestlers. I'll be disappointed if we don't have any wrestlers place. Of course, we would like the seniors to come out with medals and a few underclassmen, too."

Milbank is favored to win the state tournament this year with Watertown and Huron coming in second and third.

"We hope to place in the top ten, but anything can happen," said Bryant. "There's a good balance of teams that could finish fourth through tenth place. Anyone could win."

"We need an outstanding performances this weekend to do well," said Bryant. "We have to do better than we did last weekend. We just need to pick up the intensity level a bit and if that happens, we'll have great success."

Lady Gov netters stay positive for regional meet

by Jen Hauschild

The Pierre Lady Gvs Volleyball team will host the Region II volleyball meet tomorrow.

The Lady Gvs have to contend with Huron, Aberdeen, and Mitchell. All three teams placed in the top four at the district meet.

"They're the toughest teams in the state," said Head Coach Jamie Breske.

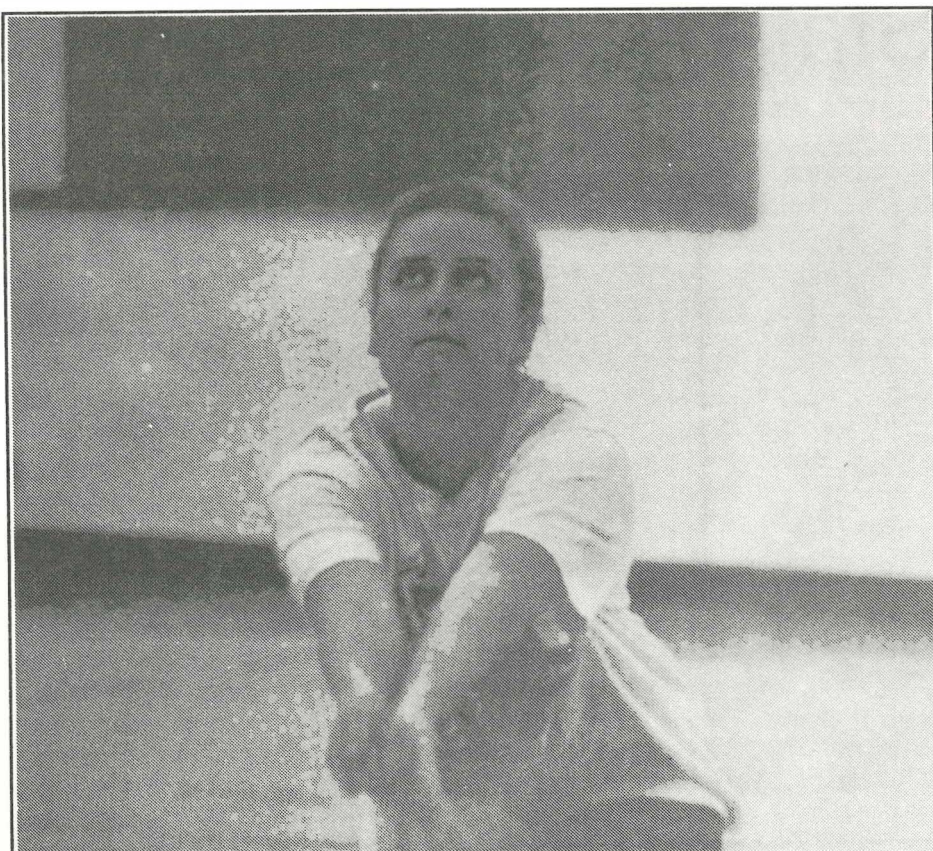
To be able to advance to the state meet, a team must place in the top two

positions.

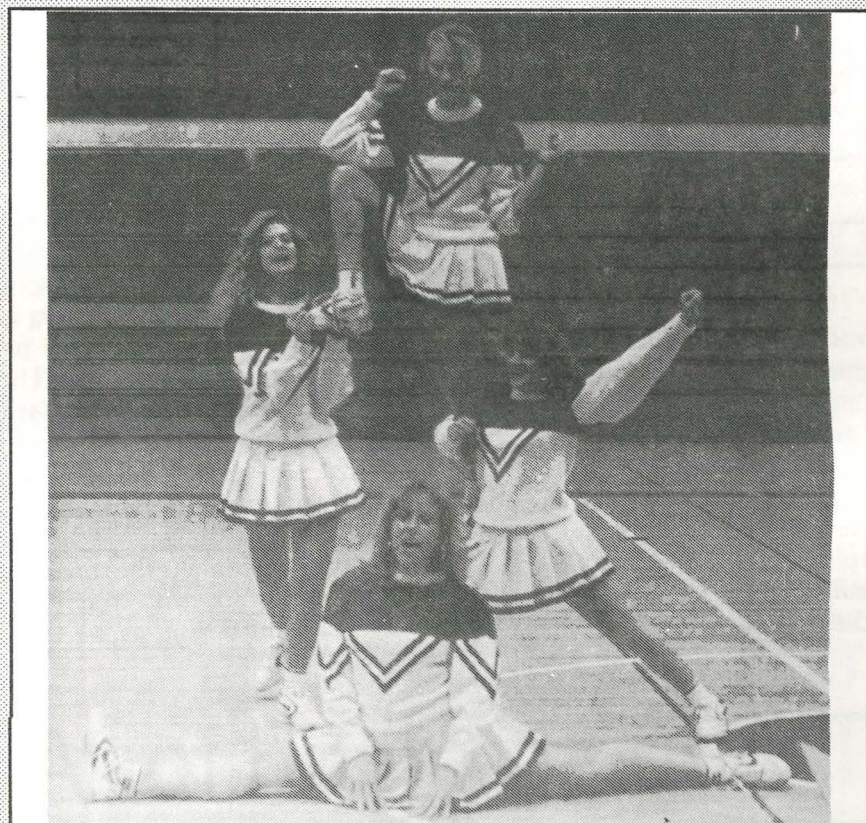
Pierre ended up eighth seed after the district meet on February 20 in Brandon Valley.

"We played well in Brandon Valley," said Breske. "Our first game was against Mitchell and well did quite well. They ended up beating us, but they are ranked first in the state."

"I feel we could make it to state," said Breske. "We have a few nagging shoulder injuries dragging us down, but we just need to stay positive."



I've got it!... Junior Jen Schlekeway bumps the ball during volleyball practice. (photo by Stacie Suedkamp)



Go, fight, win!... Wrestling cheerleaders perform a mount that the boys basketball cheerleaders used in their award winning performance. (photo by Stacie Suedkamp)

Varsity cheerleaders place in competition

by Sally Herrin

The varsity boys' basketball cheerleaders placed third in the 1992-93 State Cheerleading Competition on January 30. It was the first time Pierre cheerleaders attended a competition.

The cheerleaders placed third in the A/AA small group competition. About twelve squads from across the state also competed in this division. The first place award went to the Spearfish squad; placing second was Sioux Falls O'Gorman.

The competition proved to be a

good experience for the squad, and they were pleased with the results. Cheerleader adviser Carol Pickering said, "It appears that competition is becoming a bigger factor; it is very athletic and physically demanding on people who participate."

Varsity basketball cheerleader Kristin Viken added, "I think that our squad improved as a result of all the extra practice which we did because of the competition. We also had a lot of fun and learned from the other squads who competed."

Thirty-three new NHS members to be inducted

by Sara Thorson

Thirty-three students from Riggs High School will be inducted into the membership of the National Honor Society at an evening ceremony in the Riggs High School Theater on Tuesday March 2, 1993 at 7:30 pm. Parents and special guests will be invited and a reception will follow.

Students who will be inducted include:

Seniors: Jennifer Boocock, Samuel Hahn, Jennifer Heidelberger, Richard Jackson, Meridith Jensen, Laura Knippling, Kelley Lucas, and Kylie Tracy.

Juniors: Wendy Birhanzel, Benjamin Chittenden, Camela Clark, Stephanie Ellenbecker, Nathan Hamm, Teri Hardwick, Sara Harens, Erin Harmon, Sarah Herrin, John Jordre, Scott Kennedy, Ryan Knox, Sarah Kringel, Krista Lovald, Bridget O'Connell, Molly Robertson, Jennifer Schlekeway, Teresa Shatek, Jaime Snyder, Cindy Sonnenschein, Sara Thorson, Rebecca Turbiville, Kristin Viken, Mary Wendt, and Angela Wire.

Membership in the National Honor Society is based upon excellence in three areas: Scholarship, leadership/service, and character. Each category

is judged independently. To be eligible for membership a student must have an accumulative G.P.A. of at least 3.2. In addition to the academic requirement, participation and leadership in school activities are required. Students who qualified and wished to join N.H.S. had to fill out an application detailing their extracurricular and community activities.

A Faculty Advisory Committee composed of five teachers select the students for membership and hear dismissal cases. Selection for membership is by majority vote. New members were notified of their selection on

Tag Day, Tuesday, February 22. Each new member received a navy and yellow pin to symbolize the N.H.S. colors.

"National Honor Society members are expected to continue their exemplary contributions to the school," said Mavis Booze and Gary Schneider, Faculty Advisors. N.H.S. is one of the oldest and most prestigious national organizations for high school students. Chapters exist in 3/4 of the nation's high schools and since 1921, more than 6 million students have been selected to membership. Riggs' Chapter has been active since 1929.

Baccalaureate won't be school-sponsored

by Cammy Clark

The Pierre Ft. Pierre Ministerium will sponsor baccalaureate this spring due to the Supreme Court decision last year that ruled school-sponsored baccalaureate an improper merger of church and state.

As a result of this decision, baccalaureate can be held, but it can not be sponsored by the school. The ministerium has decided to sponsor the ceremony.

"We think baccalaureate is an important part of the community where we seek to ask God's blessing as our seniors embark into a new part of their lives," said Pastor Brad Urbach, who is a member of the ministerium and pastor at Faith Lutheran Church.

The school board has agreed to rent the theater to the organization for the ceremony.

"We plan to make the theater available and work with the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Ministerium as we think ap-

propriate, recognizing the Supreme Court's ruling," said Riggs principal Roger Lonbaken.

Because the ceremony is not sponsored by the school, the seniors will not be required to attend, but they are encouraged to participate by both the ministerium and the school, said Lonbaken.

"We see baccalaureate to be an important part of the graduation experience and encourage the seniors to attend as a class," said Urbach.

Band, chorus students earn superior ratings

by Jamie Clair

Riggs High School band and chorus members recently participated in the Region VI small group contest in Mobridge on February 10, bringing home 73 superior ratings out of 106 total entries.

Representing the chorus were twenty-eight female vocal solos, eleven male solos, twenty-two duets, and fifteen ensembles.

The band had twenty-one soloists and seventeen ensembles performing.

Chorus claimed 23 superior ratings and two superior plus ratings out of 71 entries.

"I was pleased with the overall performances," said choral director Will Hanson. "Some could have performed better, but some performed well over expectations."

Band received 20 superior ratings and two superior pluses by Jen Hauschild, senior, and Allison Mickelson, sophomore.

"I'm very pleased with the results. We did very well," said band director Larry Johnson.

The judging this year proved to be somewhat tougher than past years as three new judges worked the contest this year.

Riggs band and choral members are now looking forward to the Region 6 large group contest in Mobridge on April 2.

Three selected for All-State band

by Krista Lovald

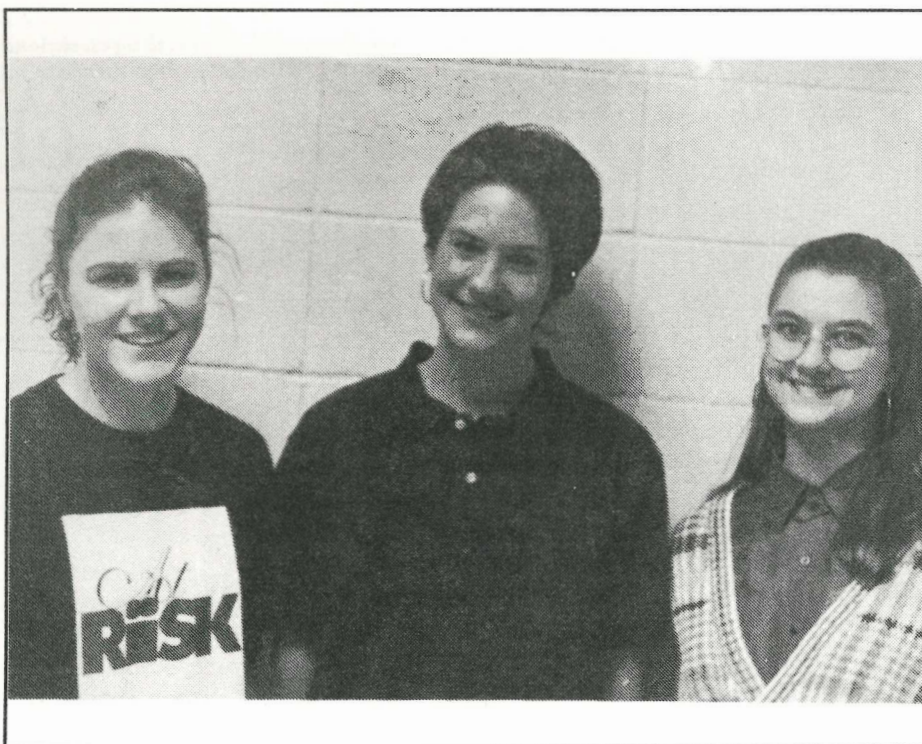
Three band members have been selected for the prestigious All State Band, based on auditions held in January. Seniors Andrea Viken and Jen Hauschild and Sophomore Allison Mickelson will represent Riggs.

This is Viken's second year being chosen; she will play second chair flute. Hauschild will be playing eighth chair trumpet. Mickelson will be fifth chair french horn.

The band members were required to play through various scales, sight read music, perform a solo, and take a written test over musical terms. Thirteen Riggs students auditioned.

The concert will be held March 27 in Sioux Falls.

Forty schools will be represented in the 168 piece band. "This is the best showing Riggs has ever had to my knowledge in fifteen years," band director Larry Johnson said.



Allison Mickelson, Andrea Viken, and Jen Hauschild were chosen to represent Riggs at All-State Band. (Photo by Stacie Suedkamp)