

## Pierre graduate to return as new principal

by Cammy Clark

Mike Stroup has been selected as the new principal for Riggs High School.

Stroup attended high school in Pierre, graduated from Augustana College, and earned his master's degree in administration at Penn State.

He has been a principal in White River for the last ten years where he has helped to design and build a new high-tech high school in the community. The Apple Computer Company used White River as a pilot school to study how they could revamp the technology system in a small rural school. Stroup also worked in conjunction with the program Technology in Education, or T.I.E., to complete the addition of new technology to the school.

Along with his interest in technology, Stroup has other goals for his new position in Pierre.

"The goal in any system is to make students realize the value of educa-

tion and to make learning fun. I want kids to be in school because that's where they want to be, not because that's where they have to be. I believe in reading, writing, and arithmetic, but there's a lot more to it than that. Students must feel that what they are getting out of school is practical and useful. This will help to create a better environment for the students," said Stroup. "I feel that Pierre is looking for someone new and young with some new ideas. I would like to be close to the students and staff. I feel one of my strengths is my ability to connect with young people."

School board chairman Cookie Hyde feels that Stroup will be a great addition to Riggs. "He really comes across as having a genuine concern for kids," said Hyde. "I also think that the kids and faculty will really appreciate Mr. Stroup because he will have an open door for everyone."

The White River High School, grades 9-12, has approximately 120

students. Riggs High School has approximately 600 students, so the change in school size for Stroup will be a big one.

"I'm a little intimidated. I kind of feel like the country boy coming to city school, but I know the community, and many of the student's parents were classmates of mine. I feel that the transition will be smooth," said Stroup.

During his years at Riggs, Stroup was a member of the wrestling team. One year he beat the state champion from Watertown, the current wrestling coach in Pierre, Rick Jensen. Stroup feels that athletics are important in the school but that they should not over-shadow the importance of education.

"When I was in high school, sports were the only reason I came to school. Now, looking at it from a different viewpoint, I think that athletics are over-emphasized. They help to teach kids values, dedication, and how to reach their goals, but I feel that we have to keep education at the utmost," said Stroup.

Stroup also feels that students should have a vitally important voice

in creating the rules and regulations for the school.

"I feel that student opinion should be taken seriously and considered. If students feel that they are a part of the school and its rules, then they will adhere to those rules more. I also feel that there must be clear reasons for all the rules that exist. If there isn't a good reason for a rule, then it shouldn't be a rule. Students must also try to understand some of the rules that do exist and their value to the learning environment," said Stroup.

When Stroup began his administrative position in White River ten years ago, he was the youngest high school principal in the state. He is still young for his position, and this fact is made clear by his return to the Pierre School System. Many of his former teachers are still employed here.

"When I went to high school here, Mr. Hoing, Mr. Hieb, Mr. Schneider, Ms. Pickering, Mr. Fjelstad, Mr. Bill Petersen, Mr. Wahl, and Mr. Miller were all teachers at Riggs," said Stroup. "I myself won't have a problem being the boss as far as age is concerned. I have always been one of the younger staff members."

## Conflict resolved with Swier: Board hires Rasmussen

by Dusty Johnson

The search for the Pierre school system's new superintendent came to an end Monday evening, as school board members unanimously approved Dr. Kenneth Rasmussen for the position.

"We're really very pleased," said school board president Cookie Hyde. "Ken bring a tremendous amount of experience to the position."

Rasmussen, who lives in Bennington, Nebraska, has over twenty-five years of experience in education. He has served as superintendent of schools in Sutton, Nebraska, since 1991. Prior to that, he was superintendent at Bennington for seven years.

Rasmussen is fast becoming acquainted with the business of the Pierre school district and was involved in the selection and hiring of the new junior high principal.

Rasmussen's hiring follows a

breach of contract by Dr. Leon Swier, the school board's original choice for the job. Shortly after agreeing to become Pierre's superintendent for the 1993-94 school year, Swier asked to be released from the contract he had signed. The school board sought legal counsel and eventually released Swier after a settlement was made.

Darwin Tessier, current superintendent of Pierre schools, doesn't feel the problems with Swier will have any effect on the newly-selected superintendent's term. "I honestly don't feel there will be any harmful effects once the new person is in place," Tessier said.

Rasmussen will assume the position on July 1, replacing Tessier, who is retiring.

Rasmussen is married and has three school-age children. His wife is a doctoral candidate at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and has been teaching in the School of Home Economics at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

## The Rasmussen File:

### Education:

—B.S. degree in elementary education in 1968 from Dana College in Blair, Nebraska.

—M.S. degree in elementary education in 1972 from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

—Ph.D. in education administration in 1979 from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

### Professional Experience:

—elementary school teacher and team leader in the Westside Community Schools in Omaha, Nebraska, from 1968-1980.

—elementary principal in Hastings, Nebraska, from 1980-1984.

—superintendent in Bennington, Nebraska, from 1984-1991.

—superintendent in Sutton, Nebraska, from 1991-1993.

## Editorial: Swier backs out of contract; new superintendent hired

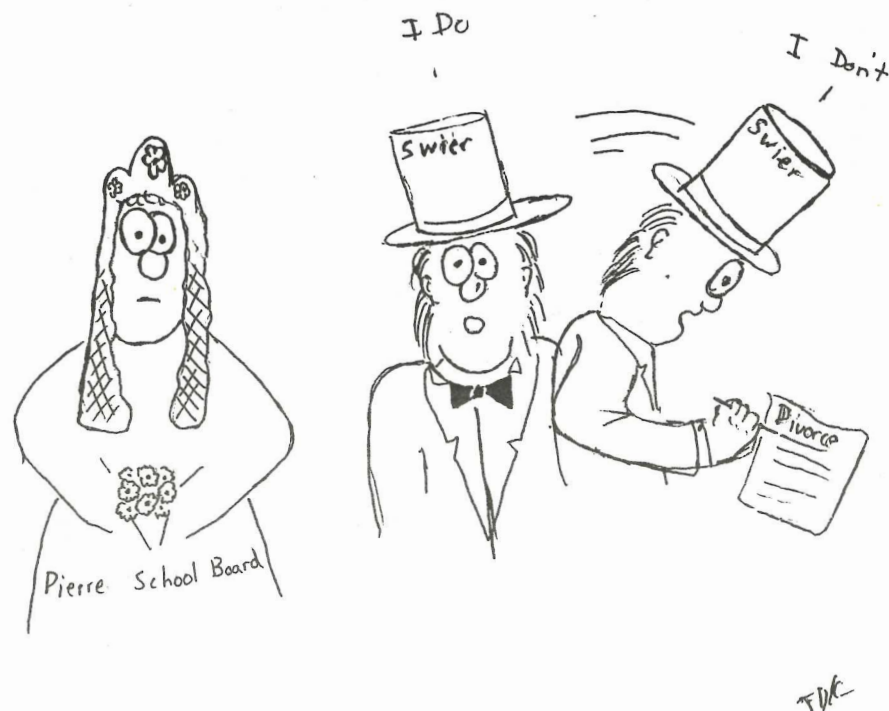
Dr. Leon Swier, the school board's first choice as new superintendent, signed his contract and shortly thereafter requested to be released from it.

Swier, the current superintendent in Vermillion, was chosen from about 45 applicants by a selection committee. After interviews and meetings with the staff and community, he was offered the job of superintendent for the Pierre Public Schools and signed the contract.

This editorial board believes that Swier's actions in trying to get out of his contract were irresponsible and unfair to the Pierre School System and the whole community. If Swier had no intention of coming to Pierre, he should not have applied. Furthermore, it is hard to imagine why he signed the contract if he had doubts about coming to Pierre. The \$1532 penalty he paid to be released from the contract is certainly justified; perhaps it should have been more.

The job has now been offered to Dr. Kenneth Rasmussen, and he has signed a contract. While he was not the board's first choice, we hope that he will provide the kind of leadership that will be an asset to the Pierre schools.

It is, however, unfortunate that the school board found itself in the position of having no new superintendent on board in May. Current superintendent Darvin Tessier informed the board over a year ago of his intent to resign. A school as large as Pierre needs top-notch administration; we hope that this situation has taught the school board valuable lessons about interviewing and hiring that will serve them well in the future.



## What the people say about... Swier's breach of contract

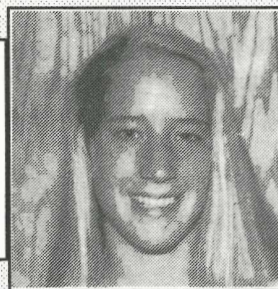


"I think if he is the type of person to go back on his word, he's not what Riggs is looking for."

-junior Heather Anderson

"I think that it was good for the school board to let him out of the contract because if he had to stay, he wouldn't have been good for us."

-senior Kara Oehlerking



"The school board was right in letting him go because if he's the kind of guy to back out of a contract the kids would have walked all over him."

-sophomore Amanda Hiatt

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# Achievements in Fine Arts recognized

by Krista Lovald

The annual Riggs performing arts awards were presented May 16, as drama, vocal, and instrumental students received various recognitions.

The Jane Riter Memorial Scholarship, offered by the P.E.O. for students planning on a summer music or drama camp, went to John Jordre and Kristina Buxcel.

Ryan Knox and Angela Hall were recognized with the Bea Lindberg Award. This award, named for one of Pierre Player's Community Theatre charter members, is given to high school students who have participated in the on and off-stage areas of the Pierre Player's productions.

Andrea Viken received one of the bigger awards of the night, the Danforth Scholarship. This award is presented to a music student to help with their college education.

Trina Jensen and Viken also received music scholarships from SDSU and USD, respectively.

Hyrma Zakahi, drama coach, presented special awards from the various plays this year: *At Risk*, *Choices*, *Cinderella*, and *The Hobbit*. The winners include the following: lead actor, Scott Kennedy; lead actress, Mandy Johnson; major supporting actress, Viken; major supporting actor, Jeremy Joy; minor supporting actor, Jim Patten; minor supporting actress, Cammy Clark; bit actress, Lyndee Clemetson; and bit actor, Tom Kamnikar. Guy Erlenbush and Allison Mickelson were awarded for their parts in *Cinderella*, Molly Robertson and Jonathan Urbach were recognized for roles in *Choices*, and Knox and Jensen won awards for parts in *At Risk*.

The tech awards went to Jed Hillested and Mary Knippling. The

firsttime acting awards were given to Kristi Gromer and Mike Huxford.

Larry Johnson, band director presented the outstanding member awards of each class which were: Jensen, senior class; Krista Lovald, junior class; and Allison Mickelson, sophomore class.

The John Philip Sousa Award, the most prestigious for band, went to Viken.

Viken, '92-'93 Drum Major, and Flag Corps Captains Lyndee Clemetson and Shelly Thorson were also recognized.

The outstanding choral awards, presented by director Will Hanson were as follows: Mike Shoup for the senior class, Kennedy for the junior class, and Mickelson for the sophomore class.

## Rawlins scholarships announced

by Molly Robertson

R.E. Rawlins Memorial Scholarships are awarded each year to six Riggs graduates attending four year colleges. The two \$5,000 scholarships went to Nathan Brakke and Rob Hall. Four \$4,000 scholarships were awarded to Guy Erlenbusch, Chris Thomsen, Jonathan Urbach, and

Bonnie Wahl. Alternates are Kara Oehlerking and Beth Wahl.

The scholarship is renewable for each of four years of undergraduate study.

Eligibility depends on grade point average, citizenship, participation in school activities, and leadership. Standardized test scores and courses taken are also considered.

# I am outta here!

by Thomas Kamnikar

It wasn't too long ago that something dawned on me that I haven't been able to get out of my mind. I have less than a week left of high school. That's it. That's all. No more. I am done!

After the initial shock wore off, I began to reminisce about the past three years. I thought about the good times and the bad—the fun times and those that ended up in the office.

I then thought about all that I learned in the past three years. And I thought, "Well, what exactly did I learn?"

I learned just how much homework could be done during Channel 1 and that putting off a research paper was NOT a good idea! I learned just how dull reading *Wuthering Heights* could be! (personally, I always thought that it was *Withering Heights*!) And, of course, I learned who "Joe neighbor" and "Billy bestfriend" were!

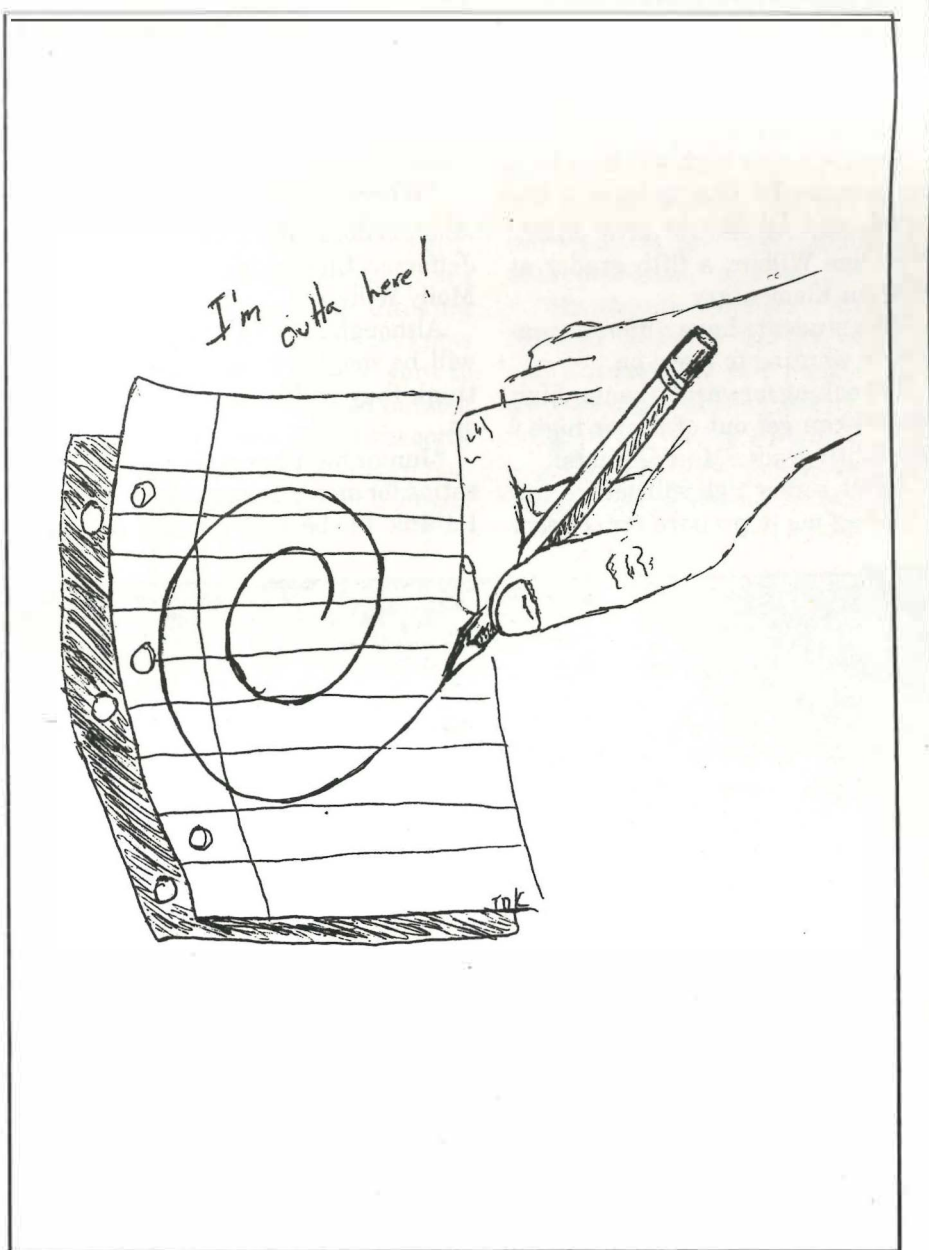
But that wasn't all I learned. I learned how to write this column, something that has brought me joy throughout the school year. And I learned just how much trouble you could get into if you flipped up the rug in the lobby!

I began to look back even more at my life here at Riggs. I thought about how when I first moved here. I was a "nobody" and didn't know anyone. I remembered having Mr. Peterson for English and having to do that awful grammar that still bothers me. I thought about having Mr. Koistinen and taking tests that were so easy that my pencil just wrote the test itself! I remember worrying that I might have to sell the deed to the family farm if I failed! I even thought about having biology and scrambling at the last minute to get my leaf collection!

Then it was on to junior year—having chemistry for the first time with Channel 1 right before, having a square-dancing algebra teacher, and struggling through *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

Senior year—this was it! No more study hall! Little did I know that a month after school started I would wind up there as punishment for turning up the rug in the lobby! I read *The Hobbit*, did trig with Mr. Drube, and, of course, studied Constitution!

Now it's all over. Only two school days left and we're out in the big world. I can't help but feel a little nostalgic as I sit and look at my old beat-up teddy bear on the shelf, and I wonder, where did it all go?



# Exploring the evolution

## Students anticipate their future: junior and senior high predictions made

by Cammy Clark

Remember the mystery that surrounded junior and senior high when you were an elementary student? The kids seemed huge, the classes sounded difficult, and you never thought you would actually get there.

Elementary and junior high students these days are looking forward to junior high and high school. They aren't sure what to expect, but they are sure that it will be a lot of fun.

"I'm looking forward to junior high because I want to know what it feels like to grow up; and I want to meet new people," said Greg Cowan, a sixth grader at Washington Elementary.

"I think junior high will be a lot of fun because I'd like to have a free period, and I'd like to have pizza," said Paige Wilbur, a fifth grader at Jefferson Elementary.

Some students have different reasons for wanting to move on.

"I'm looking forward to senior high just so I can get out of junior high," said eighth grader Matt Geraets.

"I think senior high will be directed at helping me to prepare for college;

I'll probably learn more and get the chance to play varsity sports," said seventh grader Allison Friez.

Most students agree that junior and senior high will offer more freedom, in one way or another.

"I think junior high will be a lot of fun, and I'll get to drive a car," said

**"I'm looking forward to senior high just so I can get out of junior high."**

**-Matt Geraets  
8th grader**

Washington Elementary first grader Cleo Hilding.

"When I get to junior high I will be able to choose my own classes," said Jefferson Elementary second grader Molly Wilbur.

Although they feel that the classes will be more difficult, the students think they will be prepared to move on.

"Junior high has been good preparation for me. As long as I keep in line, I think I'll be o.k.," said freshman

Mike Mehlhaff.

"I think I'll be ready to move on, I've learned a lot in grade school," said Andy Hanson, a third grader at Washington Elementary.

As for the pressures that students face as they advance into the higher grades, they don't think that it will be a problem.

"I'm not worried about the pressures that will come with senior high because I think I've had to face a lot of them already at the junior high," said eighth grader Jocelyn Newman.

"There will probably be pressure at the junior high, but I think I can handle it," said Cowan.

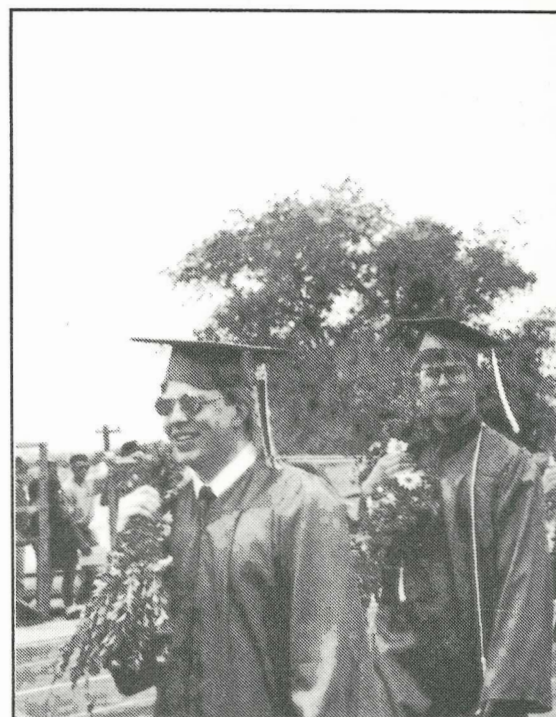
Students seem to agree that although the teachers in the junior and senior high will be tougher, they will be helpful and understanding.

"I think the teachers at the junior high will be tough, but nice," said Hanson.

"My older brother says the teachers at the senior high are good but pretty strict," said Friez.

Are students excited about their future in the Pierre School System?

"I guess as excited as I could be about school," said Mehlhaff.



Carpe diem! The graduates of 1992 'seiz

### Senior profile...

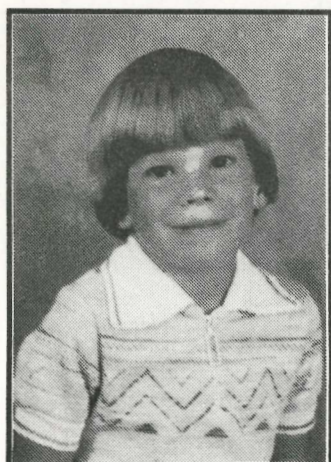
**NAME:** Darrin Dykstra

**FAMILY:** father, Brent; mother, I

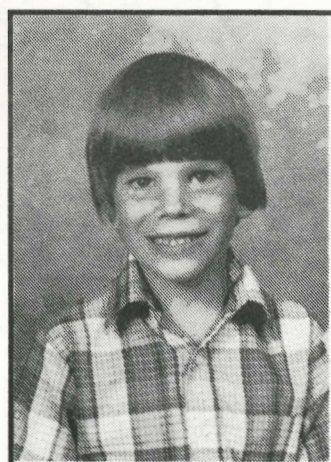
**COLLEGE PLANS TO ATTEND:**

**FIELD OF STUDY:** undecided

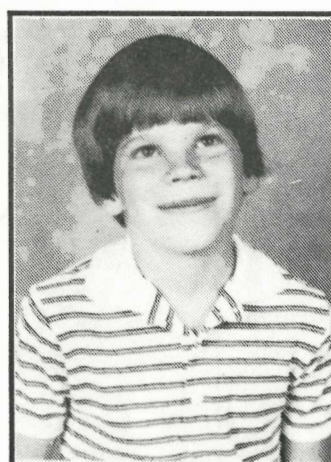
**FAVORITE MEMORY OF HIGH S**  
high school would have to be the  
got to laugh at our parents inste



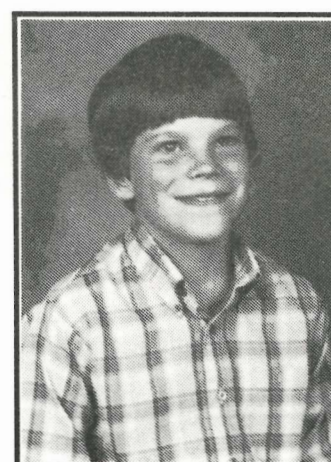
1980-1981  
kindergarten



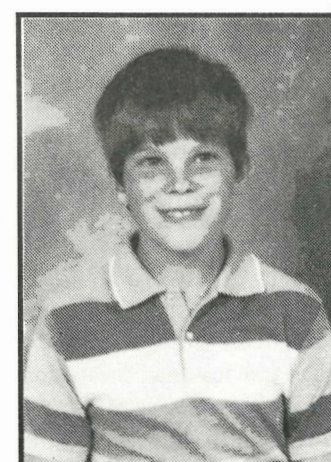
1981-1982  
1st grade



1982-1983  
2nd grade



1983-1984  
3rd grade



1984-1985  
4th grade



Darrin Dykstra is a senior at Riggs High School this year; he has attended Pierre Public Schools since kindergarten.

# ation of a student

## Seniors ready for graduation

by Cammy Clark

Graduation—an event that students all over the world look forward to every spring. Seniors at Riggs are no different.

"I am definitely looking forward to graduation. I need a change. I need to get away from this school, this town, my parents, and several of my classmates," said senior Mark Brost.

"I think that I have exhausted all my learning opportunities in the Pierre School System, and I think it has provided a good background for

my college education," said senior Ashley Suedkamp.

"The time I've spent in the system has been very beneficial to me and is sure to help me a lot in my future," said senior Lyndee Clemetson.

"It was worthwhile, but thank God it's over," said senior Guy Erlenbush.

Students have varied viewpoints on their time spent at Riggs.

"I think it was a privilege being brought up in Pierre because the educational system is excellent," said Suedkamp.

"I think I am ready to go out in the world and try living on my own," said

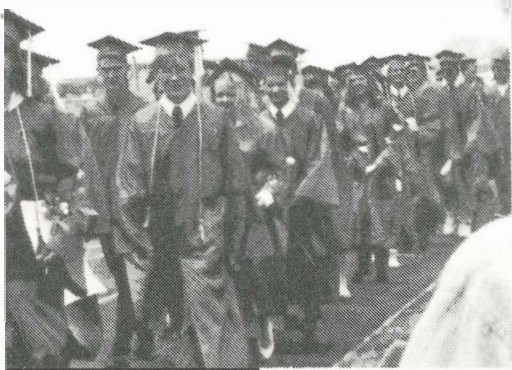
Clemetson.

"I'm basically sick of high school and am ready to try things on my own, but I'll miss my mom's help," said senior Mandy Johnson.

"I think that it was difficult to grow up in the system because conformity is such a big deal here. Athletics are so important that they come before education in this school," said Brost.

As this year's seniors prepare to move on, the juniors are ready to take their place.

"One more year and I'm outta here!" said junior Jessica Vogt.



r'. (courtesy photo)

## Faculty helps in student development

by Cammy Clark

When May rolls around, another group of seniors prepares to move on. The faculty at Riggs watches with pride as the students begin to shape their future.

"I love it; it's the greatest thing you could ever do—to watch kids grow up and mature can't be described by words," said Riggs vice-principal Gary Merkwan.

"It's fun to see students move through the system. As a counselor I get to watch them all the way through.

The most rewarding thing is when they come back to visit," said Riggs counselor Mavis Booze.

The faculty feels that after three years in high school most students are ready to move on.

"I think that by the time the students end their senior year they are ready for new things. Their thinking is more career-oriented, and they know who they are and what they want to do," said English teacher Ken Larsen.

"When college representatives come to visit, they tell us that Riggs students are well-prepared for college," said Booze.

During their high school career students rely on the instructors for help and advice in a variety of areas.

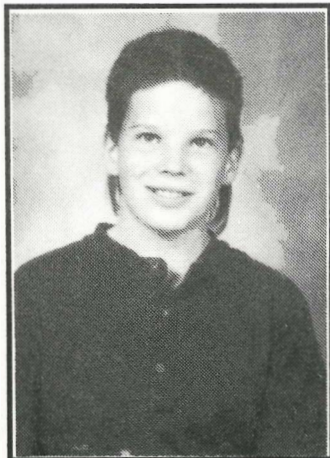
"In the guidance office we help students to plan their future academically and career-wise. We also help if the students are experiencing personal problems," said Booze.

"My job is to make sure things are running smoothly for the students, and if something is wrong, to meet with them and figure out how to solve the problem. School is a parallel to life in a lot of ways; it's a place to break bad habits and discipline yourself for life in the future," said Merkwan.

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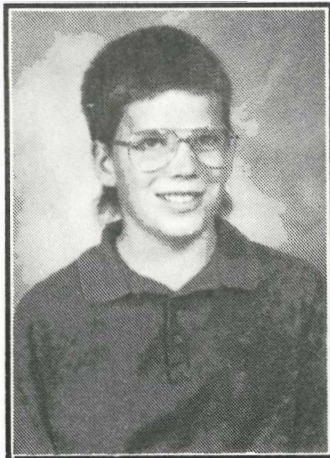
ty of South Dakota

: "My favorite memory of senior party because we am laughing at us."



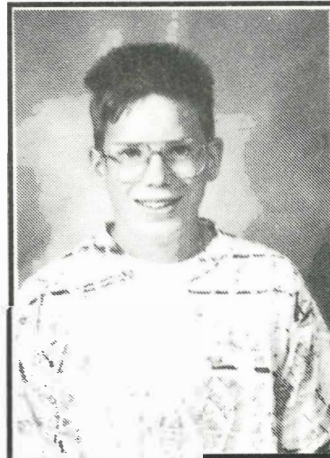
1987-1988

7th grade



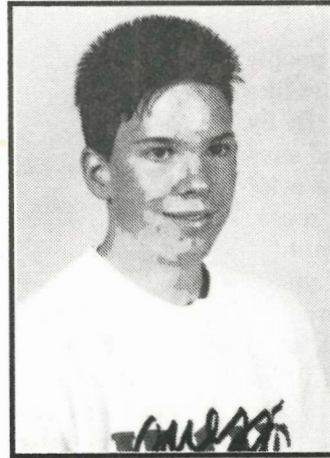
1988-1989

8th grade



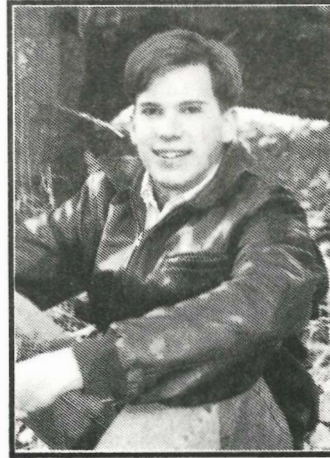
1989-1990

9th grade



1990-1991

10th grade



1992-1993

12th grade

# Those lazy, hazy, cra

## Tubing: a fun alternative to water-skiing

by Mark Brost

For many people waterskiing can be extremely dull—going back and forth, in and out of the wake over and over. The boat goes in a straight line, and nothing exciting really happens. Several students have found an alternative to skiing—tubing.

"It's much more exciting than water skiing," says senior Darrin Dykstra. "You have so much control in skiing, and that kind of takes away the fun."

Tubing gear consists of an innertube with handles being dragged behind a boat. "It's more fun if you drive all over the place," said Dykstra.

"The best way to do it is with two or more people," says senior Paul Schuurmans. "You have someone to talk to and try to throw off of the tube."

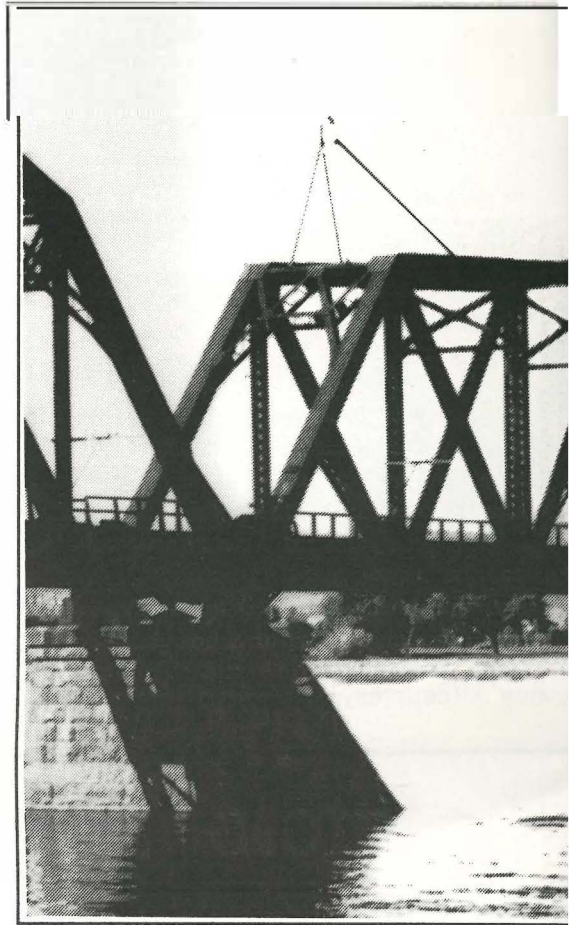
"The people riding on the tube are at the mercy of the driver," Dykstra says. "If the driver goes fast and takes lots of turns, the riders don't have much of a chance."

The driver can use several techniques to try and upset the people on the tube. Driving the boat in a figure eight can cause the tube to hit several big waves caused by the boat's wake. Going in a continuous circle can cause a large build up of waves which the tube will hit over and over again until

the rider gets thrown.

There are also several different ways a person can ride on the tube. "My friends and I like to hook up two or three tubes to the boat. Once we get going, we jump from one tube to the other. It's really hard to do," said Schuurmans. Sitting in the tube backwards can also be exciting for a tube rider. "You have no idea what you're headed for, and if you're going fast enough, you'll get a lot of air," said Schuurmans. "Your stomach goes up into your throat. It's great!"

Tubing can be somewhat dangerous, but according to Dykstra and Schuurmans, that's what makes it fun.



The railroad bridge across the Missouri River con

## Hot? Sticky? Sweaty? Motorcycles offer cool transportation

by Mark Brost

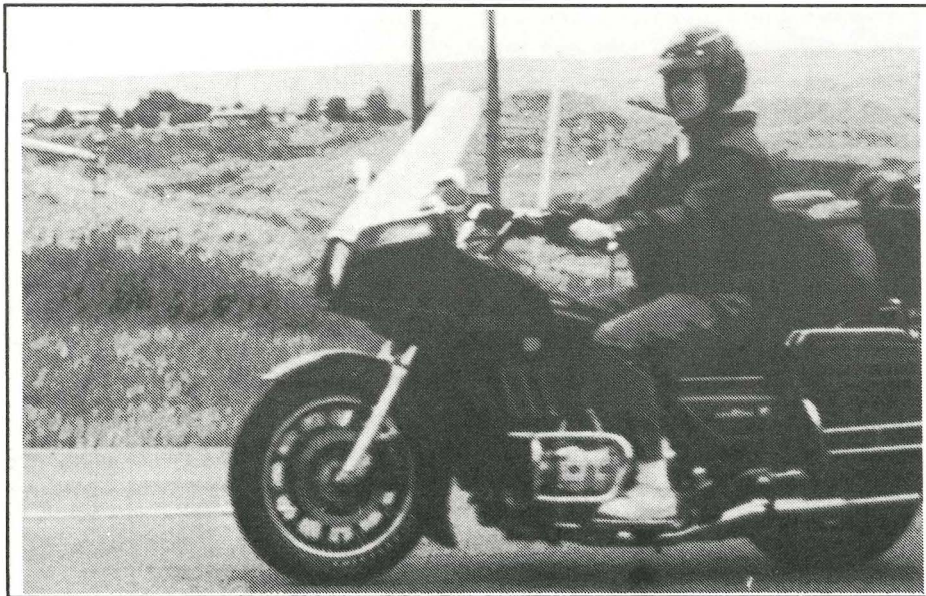
It's July, about 102 degrees outside, and you want to go somewhere. You get in your car— it's hot and steamy inside. Every one has probably experienced this except for some kids who have found a 'cooler' means of transportation.

"I started driving a motorcycle last year," said Pierre senior Craig McTighe. "My brother and I split the cost, and we shared it over the summer."

There are several reasons people are drawn to motorcycles. "I just like the feeling of having the wind fly by me and being out in the open," says Lyman junior Ryan Kotz. "It's a lot more interesting than driving a car, not to mention more fuel efficient."

Dalane Vavra, a senior at Lyman High likes his bike for personal hygiene reasons. "When I've got icky, slimy, and stinky pits, I just drive down the streets really fast and air them out. It's quite refreshing."

Safety is something on the minds of these teen bikers, or at least their parents. Their opinions of helmets vary. McTighe feels that the head gear is more of a hindrance than a help. "I never wear one while driving around town; it lessens the thrill.



Motorcycles offer a breezy alternative for summer transportation. (Photo by Brian Shekleton)

McTighe thinks the helmet makes it tough to breathe and limits his vision.

Vavra isn't a big fan of helmets, but he wears one anyway. "I'd rather look like a robot than have a crash and have my head pop open like a big zit. I guess depends on how intelligent the biker is."

Kotz is more than glad to wear his helmet. "A year or so ago I hit a puddle and my tires started hydroplaning. My bike fell over and I went with it."

Kotz's legs and arms were scraped up and quickly healed. His helmet wasn't so lucky. "Most of the of the paint had been torn off and the helmet itself was scraped down."

These kids all seem to think they'll stick with riding bikes when they get older, especially Vavra.

"I plan on forming my own gang. We'll drive around the country and rob banks and run over old ladies. I can't wait!"

## Campers bra for a chance

by Mark Brost

Summer's nice weather allows people to do lots of things they couldn't do in other seasons. One activity that some students take part in is camping.

"There's something about sleeping under the stars that is really relaxing," said senior Jason Welch. "I try to get out every weekend."

"I like to get away from my parents. They usually get on my nerves big time," said senior Tom Dalton.

Tents are rarely used by the outdoors man. "Tents ruin the whole nature bit. I think tents are for wimps," Welch said. One question that comes to mind is "What about the mosquitoes?"

"They don't get in the way too bad, but if they do, we use some anti-bug junk," said Welch. Campers usually take several things to keep them en-

# Lazy days of summer



entice students to take the plunge. (photo by Brian Shekleton)

## e bugs, weather, hunger o sleep under the stars

"There's something about sleeping under the stars that is really relaxing." ---Jason Welch

tertained. Cards and a box of Trivial Pursuit cards usually keep them occupied. Sometime a ball and a bat help pass the time.

"But the best thing to do is just sit around and discuss the universe," said Welch. "I've had three or more hour talks on religion, politics, aliens and whatnot."

Hunger is never a problem for this breed of man. "I usually bring chips and dip out. Beans and weenies or ravioli are good to cook over a fire. But you always have to eat the classic *s'mores*—those things are so good," he said.

The campers' favorite beverage tends to be beer. "Beer tastes so good with *s'mores*, it's almost like they were made for each other," Welch said. "I don't care about the laws; it tastes so good I just can't stop eating them. You don't want to drink too much, or you might stumble into the fire and burst into flames."

Waking up the morning can be somewhat scary for these rugged individuals, according to Welch. "One time I woke up and the morning dew had covered me. I thought I'd wet my pants."

Wacky, huh?

## Taking the plunge: Bridge beckons students

by Mark Brost

Pierre kids have been jumping 30 feet off the train bridge into the Missouri River for years. "Why?" is a probing question adults and the not-so-courageous ask.

"It's such a rush," said senior Todd Erickson. "I felt amazing after I did it." Other students feel differently.

"It scared the hell out of me," states senior Mandy Johnson. "Climbing back onto the bridge on that flimsy old ladder was scarier than jumping."

"When I was jumping off, I thought I saw a piranha. I tried to run back up to the bridge like in cartoons, but it didn't work," said senior Dawson Her Many Horses. It turned out there was no piranha, but Her Many Horses claims to have been bitten by a carp.

Jumping off the bridge is illegal. Students have been told by police officers they could be arrested for trespassing or attempted suicide, but no one has ever gotten anything more than a warning.

Sarah Bruse had a run-in with the law at the bridge. "We were all swimming in the water after jumping when

the safety patrol came up. They took all our names down and said that this was a warning," she said.

Jesse Krell had a more frightening experience than Bruse. "A bunch of cops chased us off the bridge. I was handcuffed and thrown the back of a squad car," he said. "It turned out that it was some new gung-ho cop from California. Another officer unlocked my cuffs and gave me and my friends warnings. It was such a farce."

Last summer the police department had the railroad cut off the ladder so there was no way to get back to the bridge without swimming clear to shore. Erickson and his friends adapted to this obstacle quite easily.

"We bought some rope and put it on the pillar, so now we can just climb up," Erickson refuses to quit jumping no matter what the law says. "It's really not that dangerous. I've never heard of anyone getting hurt. The cops just want to stop everything fun in this town," he said. "I'll never quit. There's nothing better than jumping off the bridge at night while smoking a stogie."



Student campers have many available camping spots at Farm Island and the Oahe Dam. (Photo by Brian Shekleton)

# Young golfers finish well

by Jen Hauschild

The Riggs High girls golf team finished their 1993 season last week at the state tournament in Brookings.

Sophomore Allison Stout finished third individually with a score of 177 in 36 holes. Stout had a first day total of 95 and a second day total of 82. 90 girls state wide competed at the Class 'A' Tournament.

Freshman Heather Konechne tied for twenty-seventh with a score of 199.

Pierre placed fourth in this years region meet held in Pierre.

"We play in a difficult region," said coach Todd Bohls. "Aberdeen,

Watertown, and Huron are in our region, and they were favored to win the state meet."

"The team's best meet was the regional meet," said Bohls. "They shot a 381 which was our best team score."

Bohls says he was a "terrible optimist" at the beginning of their season.

"We're a young team, and we had a lot of growing and changing to do."

Freshman Tara Sonnenschein was the most improved player on the team.

"She's only played for two years, and she looked very shaky and unsure about her game at the beginning of the season. She ended up placing fifteenth in the region," said Bohls.

Injuries weren't a large problem

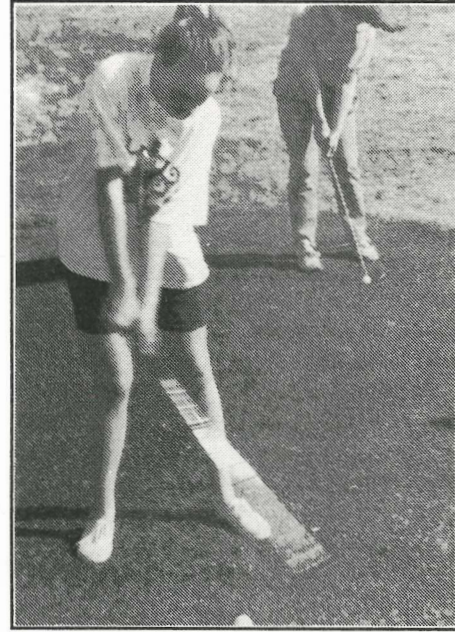
for the team.

"We were injury-free throughout the season," said Bohls. "We did have a few girls who were sick, and other commitments made some girls miss a meet or two."

Overall, Bohls feels good about their season.

"We had a very fine season and finished it off well. We've improved a lot and the young girls will make a fine team for the future," said Bohls.

The members of the varsity team are junior Sara Harnes, sophomore Allison Stout, and freshmen Becky Heintz, Heather Konechne, and Tara Sonnenschein.



Fore! Sophomore Shannon Dykstra chips the ball. (photo by Stacie Suedkamp)

# Girls track team prepares for state meet

by Jen Hauschild

Seventeen girls from the Riggs High track team go for the gold at the South Dakota State Track Meet in Sioux Falls today and tomorrow.

"That's a good number of girls we're sending," said coach Don Shields. "That's more than usual."

Shields feels that they could do well at the meet.

"I feel we can score points in all

events that we are entered in," said Shields. "Of course, we'll have to perform well both days. I think we can place in the top eight teams, and hopefully all the girls can win a medal."

All five seniors, Jenni Boocock, BillieJo Hanson, Tobiann VanderPol, Beth Wahl, and Bonnie Wahl, will be participating at the state meet.

"It's a nice tribute to the seniors," said Shields. "It caps a fine career for the girls, and I hope they can score

well and each get a medal. That would be a good way the end their last high school track meet."

Beth Wahl is returning to the state meet as the defending state high jump champion.

"She's been jumping good all season, and she has a good chance to defend her title," said Shields.

Wahl also tied the school high jump record this year with a jump of 5' 6".

Overall, Shields is pleased with

this year's season.

"We've improved a lot these last three weeks, and this is a good way to end the year," said Shields. "It was a disappointing season at first, and we missed five meets because of rain-outs, but we're looking good now."

"We've had good senior leadership this year, and they have been positive role models. They will be greatly missed next year," said Shields. "The younger kids will have to step up and fill their shoes."

# Baseball memories: Student remembers glory days

by Thomas Kamnikar

It's been a habit of mine to always read the sports section of the newspaper, not just to find out how the local teams are, but to help me remember the days when I used to be out in the field, tossing that small spherical object back and forth.

As far as I can remember, the first team I ever played on was the Cubs, a tiny tot T-ball team in Virginia. I can't remember if we won the season or even if we won a game. I do remember the joy I felt as I hit the ball and raced around the bases.

My next memory of playing the nation's pastime would be in Colo-

rado. We were a small t-ball team that had the gall to call ourselves the "Champs." I don't remember if we won then either, but I do remember having the time of my life.

After that it was on to the big leagues, so to speak. Fast pitch baseball! Throughout my childhood, and I think on into the rest of my life, I think my true love will be second base. I don't know what it is about that base, but I love playing it. And once we started playing fast pitch, that's where I was.

Now, before I go on, there must be something made clear, I couldn't for the life of me catch a grounder headed straight towards me. If it was off to the side, I could snag it easily. But if it were coming right to me, I'd side-

step out of the way! So my father, in his infinite wisdom, took it upon himself to teach me how to get down and in front of the ball. I think my biggest problem was that I had an immense fear that the ball would bounce up and cave my face in. I figured I would end up walking around like the elephant man with a bag over my head.

We started in my backyard, him throwing grounders to me that I would scoop up easily. Of course, if you have ever tried to throw a grounder in grass before, you know that it loses all speed after a second. Needless to say, my confidence was greatly improving.

We then went to the baseball diamond. At first I would scoop the ball up easily, but as they slowly became more sporadic, I quickly lost confi-

dence. Then it happened—my dad yelled out to me from home to remember to get down in front of the ball. I nodded back, determined to catch this one. What happened next played like slow motion in my head. My dad hit the ball, I bent down right in front of it, watching it go into my glove. Then, it hit a rock.

From what I recall, it hit me squarely in the mouth. All I remember is my father rushing out to me and me screaming back to him, "I TOLD YOU SO!"

After that I learned to catch the ball and not be afraid of it. I'll never forget learning to catch a ball; however, trusting parents can be hazardous to your health!