



# T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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Pierre, SD

## Potter issue raises classroom movie debates

This past month, the 'Harry Potter' movie has raised quite a bit of controversy. Anyone who has been following the newspaper knows that there has been open debate about the content of the movie and its appropriateness for middle school students.

Quite surprisingly, the decision made by Superintendent John Pedersen to cancel the seventh grade's scheduled viewing of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" had nothing to do with the movie's content. The concern, according to Pedersen, was about the "appropriate use of class time."

Pedersen says there

should be better ways of utilizing classtime than watching movies. He said our school's curriculum is very demanding, and he has serious concern about taking time in or out of class to watch a movie.

This statement raises questions not only for the middle school but also for Riggs. Is Pedersen saying that movies should not continue to be a part of the curriculum?

Riggs students often watch movies in class, sometimes after reading a piece of literature. In fact, viewing is part of the content standards of English curriculum, along with reading, writing and speaking.

After students have

completed a novel for an English class, for example, teachers will often have students watch the movie.

"It is not only fun to watch the movie after you have read the book but fills in anything you may have missed while reading the book," says senior Drew Palmer.

Many kids like the visualization that movies offer.

"Since some people learn best visually, if they see the movie, they will understand the book better and get more out of it," says junior Molly Wilbur.

"Watching the movie is a way for students not only to absorb the content better but to under-

stand concepts of the book that they might not have otherwise," says senior Jamie Gannaway.

Students find other reasons to disagree with the superintendent's view of watching movies in school.

"If students read the literature for a class, then they should they be able to view a movie through a different form of expressing it," says senior Brad Wire.

Not only are movies used in literature classes, but they are familiar in almost all courses in education. Foreign language teachers often use audio tapes as well as videos to supplement their teaching. This helps familiarize the students with the

language as well as improve speaking and listening skills.

"Being involved in a foreign language, I know that listening is a large part of the curriculum. By watching movies, one learns to understand the nuances of speaking a language fluently," says senior Brandon Coyle.

In history classes, videos help students understand what life was like during certain time periods. The videos relate to material from students' textbooks as well as what has been gone over in class.

"Some people are visual learners. It can be much easier to take in information if students can see it," says junior Jenny

Sampson.

Becoming an educated movie-watcher is an important skill.

"The movie is a very large part of our society's entertainment industry, and every American should be aware of the subtle (and not-so-subtle) changes made to literature by companies selling entertainment.

Of course, the best way to raise the general awareness of society in this area is education. Thus it follows that a student should learn in school how literature can change in the transition from print to the silver screen," says senior Dan Payne.

by Dakota Bixler

## School offers students ability to explore potential careers hands-on

School used to only teach the basics: reading, writing and arithmetic. Now a lot more classes are available which teach skills that will benefit students later on. One such class is Career Awareness, taught by Cheryl Ulmen.

"The students in this class take a look at different jobs around Pierre," says Ulmen. "They have 100 jobs, called field sites, to pick from. Then they go to that site and shadow a person."

The class is open

to both juniors and seniors for two periods a day, one semester.

However, the class is not one for slackers.

"You get what you give," senior Nikki St. Germaine explains.

When the kids are not out at field sites, there is still a lot to learn in the classroom.

"Right now, we're learning about job interviews—what's expected and what you can do to prepare," explains Ulmen.

They also have

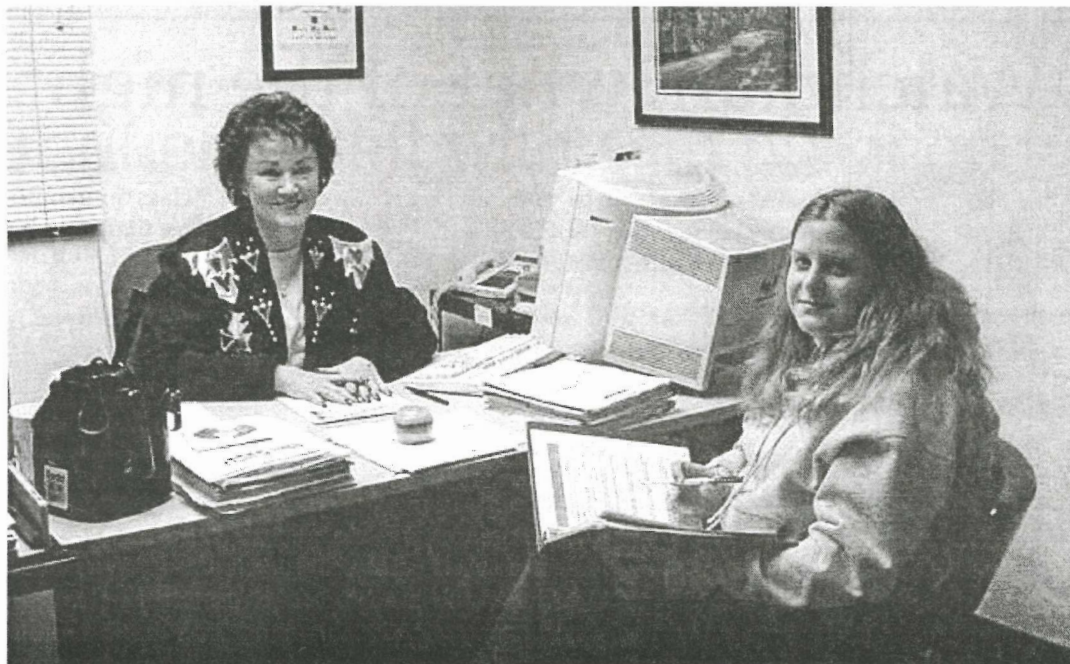
speakers come in to talk about necessary experience and what they look for in applicants.

"This is a good class for people who are not sure about what they are going to do in life," Ulmen says.

And of course, some places will just stick in your minds.

"My favorite site so far is the Hofmeister Funeral Home," smiles senior Christina Dickerson.

by Hannah Waack



WORKING HARD...Mellissa Nickerson talks to Garnet Tuttle at KCCR for the Career Awareness class. (photo by Cheryl Ulmen)



# Poor excuse doesn't fly

The cancellation of the seventh graders' field trip to see the Harry Potter movie had a weak excuse.

According to Superintendent John Pedersen, he cancelled the trip because viewing it would be "wasting class time." Yet, little more than a week later, middle school students "wasted" an entire afternoon viewing the high school performance of "1776."

We fail to see how watching a movie based on a book that the students had just read could be a waste of time. How was viewing "1776" any less of a "waste of time"? Had the eighth grade students read the play "1776"?

Don't get us wrong—"1776" was a great play and worthy of being seen by all students. But it points out the double-standard that seems to exist here and leads us to believe that the real issue is NOT the wasting class time.

The superintendent questions the use of class time to view movies. Surely the watching of movies can be overused. But most teachers are re-

sponsible about their use of movies in class and have clear goals in mind for viewing them.

In fact, viewing is one of the six major content goals in our school's language arts curriculum, right up there with reading, writing and speaking.

In our visual, entertainment-driven society, it seems important that students should learn how to evaluate movies. Viewing movies in class under the guidance of a

trained teacher should be a learning experience, not a waste of time.

Many teachers show a movie before they give a test over a book because some students, especially visual learners, understand it better. Students are more likely to score better on a test after they've seen the movie.

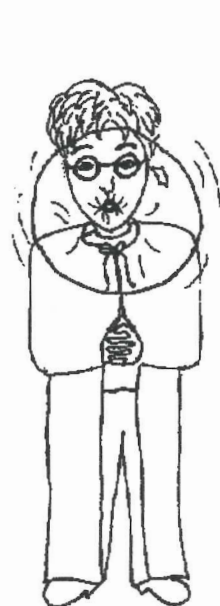
It's also a critical thinking tool for students to compare the movie and the book.

Some would argue that Harry Potter has no edu-

cation value, but it does. Many students have lost interest in reading, but this particular book made reading exciting again for them. Anything that gets kids excited to read in this day and age should be praised.

Responsible movie-watching is a valued part of the language arts curriculum, not to mention the curriculums in many other disciplines.

"Wasting class time" doesn't seem to be the real issue.



Are issues being blown out of proportion?



Are we being led astray until it's too late?

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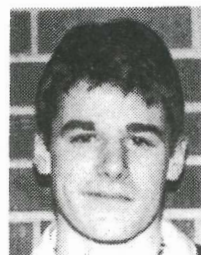
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## Watchman, what of the night?

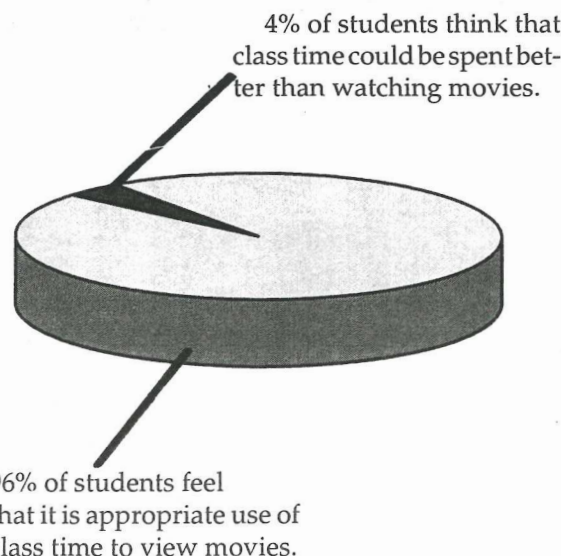
Is it an appropriate use of class time for students to view movies based the books they've been assigned to read?



"Sometimes if the book doesn't make sense at all to you, it helps to see the movie."—freshman Caitlin Bingner



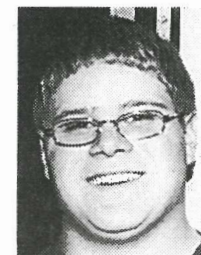
"Cinema is a tool; we use tools to teach."—junior Joe Prieksat



"I think if the movies are a lot like the book, the students will get more out of the story."—sophomore Allen Goodman



"If they watch the movies in the class that the book pertains to, that's not bad; but if they were out of class for a whole afternoon to go to the theatre, I don't know if I agree with that."—senior Michael Bumann



94 students polled. Compiled by **GOVERNOR** editors.



## It's Ponder Time: Put on those thinking caps

Not knowing what to write about this month, I decided to give you, the reader, something to think about. So by way of a website and the depths of my own brain, I have come up with these questions for the simple minded to ponder.

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

If a product is so good, why is the competition the "leading brand"?

If Superman is so clever, why does he wear his underwear on the outside?

How do you write a sequel to the "Neverending Story"?

How come whenever someone is asked if he or she could change one thing, nobody ever answers 'my underwear'?

Why do hair shampoo instructions say "Lather. Rinse."



**Max Huber**  
Random Thoughts from  
the Village Idiot

Repeat."? If you did this, would you ever be able to stop?

If we call people from Poland "Poles," then why don't we call people from Holland "Holes"?

How come dumb stuff seems so smart while you're doing it? (such as blowing up a temporary waste facility!)

Why do people on a Sit-In

say they are "standing up" for their rights? What exactly are they doing—sitting down or standing up?

If you filled your toilet with water from the Bermuda Triangle, would that eliminate the need to flush?

How come elevators have a button that reads, 'Press for Emergency'? Why would anyone want an emergency while riding in an elevator?

Is a light year just like a normal year with 50% less fat?

And I leave you with one last question to ponder, (Thanks, Venner). Why do parents (such as my own) and my teachers (especially my 6th period teacher) keep telling me to "Stop acting SMART"? Would they rather I remain dumb? Well...I am the village idiot.

## 'A Child Called It' proves to be inspirational

I never knew that a book could bring me to tears. After reading the first lines of David Pelzer's "A Child Called It," I knew I was wrong. It is a nonfiction account of the abuse he received as a child.

The book begins when Pelzer is freed from his mother at the age of nine. Then the story flashes back to when he was young, right before the abuse from his mother started.

In one of the worst child abuse cases ever recorded in California, Pelzer describes in vivid detail how his mother abused him and how he mi-



**Gerda Jorgenson**  
From A Redhead's Mind

raculously survived.

His mother used mental and physical tortures on him, but she was never truly able to wear him down. She used horribly cruel tactics such as making him her slave and stripping

him of his name and calling him "It."

She beat him, starved him and made him sleep in the garage, along with many other unspeakable acts.

The events of the story took place in a time when many turned their head to child abuse and pretended it wasn't there.

"A Child Called It" is a very moving book from start to finish that I highly recommend reading. It's inspirational in showing how someone can go through a real life nightmare and survive.

## Cheated!

### Controversy surrounds 'Contra'



**Evan Roth & Erik Gilbertson**  
Presidential Poppycock

We know many people only read the paper because of our entertaining and well-written columns. With that said, we apologize to those who won't relate to this column.

This month we are focusing our column on the truth of the matter of a very controversial subject that has been going on in gaming since about 1987: Contra. Yes, the game most of us loyal Nintendo 8-bit gamers played growing up.

It is a "Contra-versy," if you will, that has plagued gamers for well over a decade. Many consider Contra to have the all-time most controversial gaming option ever made.

What we are talking about is the option to steal your partner's lives after you die by simply pressing the "Select" button on your controller.

Together, we have come close to witnessing the demise of friendships due to this evil, evil option. We have witnessed not only controllers being bro-

ken but the hopes and dreams of many gamers as well.

We also know for a fact that almost all gamers are guilty of using it. We lose countless hours of sleep some nights by lying awake and wondering, "Did Konami Inc. mean well by creating this option?"

There's no possible way in the world they could mean well. We have gone over it time and time again and could only come up with one thing - "Contra-spiracy."

The Japanese probably created this option to stir emotions and cause havoc and chaos among American game players. Maybe they were even hoping for anarchy. We have heard a rumor that the Japanese version of Contra did not have this option.

Coincidence? We'll let you decide for yourselves. Are we just paranoid? You tell us.

But when you go to sleep at night, think about it. It just doesn't add up.

## Letter: 'C' lunch students frequently left with slim pickings

Dear editors:

I have been a faithful school-lunch eater for my entire high school career. I enjoy eating at school because of its convenience and relatively good food. Unfortunately, this year during C lunch, I have noticed some persistent problems with our hot lunch service.

I have lost track of how many times during C lunch they have run

out of the main meal. When I come to lunch, I want to eat the regular meal. Several times they have run out of hot dogs, so I have to eat pizza; or they ran out of barbecues, so I was served a hot ham and cheese but without the bun (they also ran out of buns). Yet I always get charged the full price.

Just last week we were supposed to have turkey sandwiches, but they ran

out of those, so I had to have pizza. That day I was really hungry and had planned to have a piece of pizza with my turkey sandwich, but they didn't even have enough pizza to let me have an extra piece. I have also noticed that tea rolls also are gone on occasion before I make it through the line.

The fruit selection has also become rather dismal. I always eat

applesauce, but I have gone over a week without getting a dish of it. Quite often they run out of the fruit cups, and we are reduced to digging out of a huge jar of peaches or fruit cocktail.

Last but not least, the desserts. I really enjoy school cookies, but I rarely get one. More cookies need to be made. I understand that leftover fruit has to be thrown away, but the leftover

cookies could be sold at the snack bar during sixth period.

I was told to get to lunch faster, and I wouldn't have any of these problems, but I can only run so fast. Besides, I am not supposed to run in the hall anyway.

I, on the other hand, have a better solution to the problem. The lunch ladies should make sure there is enough food to make it through C lunch

without disappointing any of the hungry folks like me. Any leftovers could be set out for anyone to take for free. That may be a bit more expensive, but at least everyone would get a full meal. Because students in C lunch have to wait so long before they get to eat, they should get a few benefits instead of being punished for being last.

Sincerely,  
Josh Vogt, senior



# Shopping has new meaning this year



'T

The holiday season was a welcome change for America, perhaps even more this year than in the past. Seasonal activities, such as gift buying, are a happy distraction from recent world events.

So far, holiday season sales nationwide are down more than two percent from last year, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers. Stores are trying to woo shoppers with deep discounts, says Dan Barry, a Merrill Lynch retailing analyst, yet they are unlikely to better last year's figures.

One probable reason for the drop in sales is that people are being more selective this year as to what they purchase.

"Shoppers aren't being frivolous. They're being more cautious as to what they're buying," said a JCPenney sales associate at the Pierre Mall.

People are also cutting back on the high-end gifts and are shopping more at discount re-

*"The September 11 attacks have actually made me want to help our economy and spend more on gifts."—sophomore Kelly Johnson*

tail stores such as Wal-Mart and K-Mart.

"We're actually doing better than last year in that we have had a respectable increase in sales. At this level, we haven't been negatively affected [by the September 11 attacks]," said Pierre Wal-Mart support manager Rob Swanson.

Most teens are still planning to buy as much this Christmas as in the past.

"I'm still spending as much money on presents this year. The September 11 attacks have actually made me want to help our economy and spend more on gifts," said Kelly Johnson, sophomore.

The majority of that money is spent on immediate family members, but where and how much is spent can vary.

Some teens find that buying

their presents outside of Pierre makes it easier to choose gifts for people because of the larger selection.

"I buy my presents out of town because it's more convenient. I usually spend about \$250 total on family and friends," said senior DeNeil Hosman.

Other students find that the Pierre area provides opportunities for shopping that are just as good, if not better, than out of town.

"I like to buy my presents here in Pierre because I'm able to get my JCPenney discount on them," said senior Carrie Gonsor, who is employed at JCPenney.

Besides shopping in malls and stores, teens also have the choice to buy from magazines or by way of the Internet.

However, even in an increasingly technological world, the Internet is not widely used by teens for their holiday purchases. Nine out of ten students polled in a survey conducted by Junior Achievement said they preferred to visit stores over shopping online.

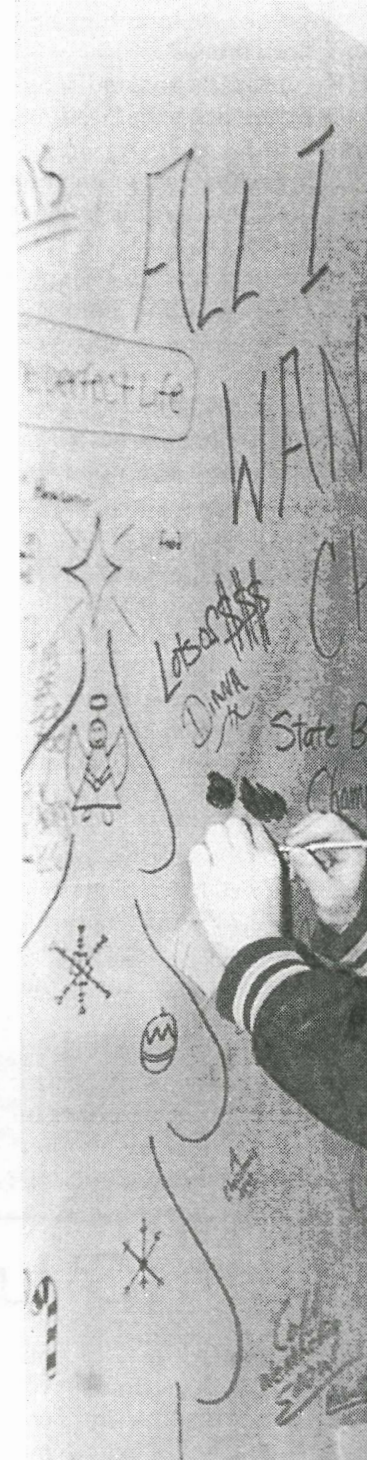
"I don't usually shop on the Internet for presents because it is just more work. Also, I don't have a credit card," said junior Nate Chappelle.

If Christmas lists are long, shopping may get to be expensive. Students pay for their presents by working, digging into their savings, or getting help from parents.

"I usually buy gifts for my immediate family members in town with my own money," said freshman Kaitlin Thomas.

No matter how many presents are under Christmas trees this year, it's important to remember to spend time enjoying the holiday with your family and friends.

by BryAnn Becker



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS...Senior (photo by Mallori Barnett)

they decided to decorate it this year.

"We wanted a better school climate," said Mickelson.

Student Senate is also sponsoring a "Decorate your Locker" contest. They encouraged students to put Christmas decorations on their lockers this past week. Today after

## Students spread joy of Christmas season



CATCH THIS...Junior Zach Parsons has fun in the snow during a snowball fight over the lunch hour. (by Gerda Jorgenson)

'Tis the season for holiday music and giving to those in need, even for high school students.

Many Riggs students are getting in the Christmas spirit by providing music at the Capitol and at the mall. Many students play Christmas carols on the piano. Junior Kacie Schneider has played at the capitol for many years, and this year she will be performing "Carol of the Bells."

"I do it every year. It gets people into the holiday season and gives them something to listen to while they check out the trees," said Schneider.

Students also play other instruments at the Capitol. Sophomore Kit Hartley and junior Jamie Rutschke will play a flute trio with their piano teacher, Gail Opoien. Rutschke says that she will enjoy playing at the Capitol.

"I like doing it," Rutschke said. "It's a nice way to wish everyone a Merry Christmas."

Student are helping in

other ways too.

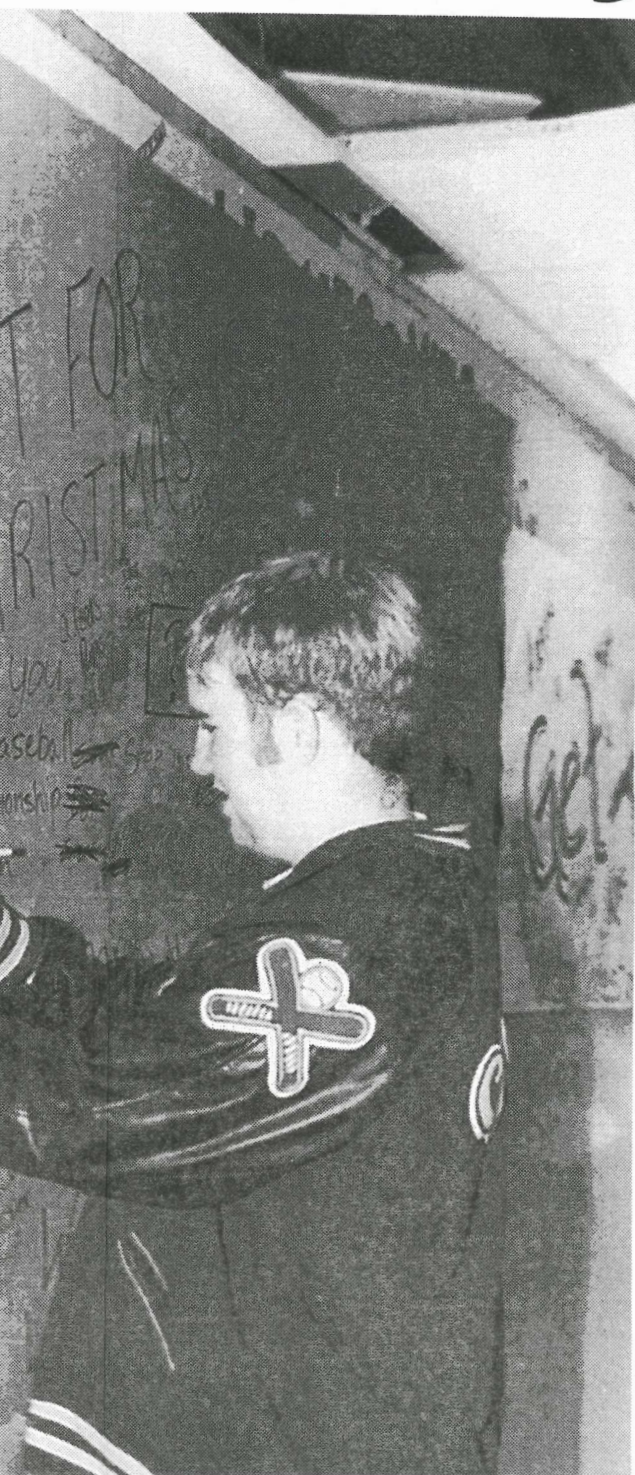
Future Business Leaders of America is doing their part for the holiday season as well. FBLA members chose a boy and a girl, both 10 years old, from the Angel Tree at Wal-Mart and bought them presents. They had \$50 to spend and spent \$25 on each. Danielle Ryan, a junior, says she was happy to do it.

"It was fun," said Ryan. "It was worthwhile spending my time so a kid can have a better Christmas."

Student Senate has been getting into the holiday spirit. A few weeks ago, parents of student senate members decorated Riggs halls. They put a tree in the lobby, "Merry Christmas" signs on the bulletin boards, red and green streamers, and a poster with markers for students to write what they want for Christmas. Student senate adviser, Latin teacher Jay Mickelson, said the school used to be decorated before construction happened, so



# the most wonderful time of the year'



Jesse Gosselin writes his Christmas wishes on the wall in the lobby.

## Students bring season's sound

With Christmas just around the corner, band and chorus students are busy preparing for the December concert.

Thursday, December 20, the students will perform their musical numbers. Five groups will be performing, including girls chorus, ninth and tenth grade chorus, eleventh and twelfth grade chorus, symphonic band and concert band. The bands will be under the direction of Larry Johnson while the choirs will be directed by Will Hanson.

One of the many pieces that the chorus will be singing is the traditional "Silent Night." The band is also playing a traditional piece, "Sleigh Ride." This year the chorus is performing "Do You Hear What I Hear" with band accompaniment.

Circumstances are less hectic now that the play of "1776" is over; therefore, Johnson and Hanson can focus on the concert that lies ahead of them.

The directors say it's hard to put students in a Christmas mood in November. The snow storm has helped with that.

"It was nice to finally get snow," said Hanson. "That seemed to put everyone in the Christmas spirit"

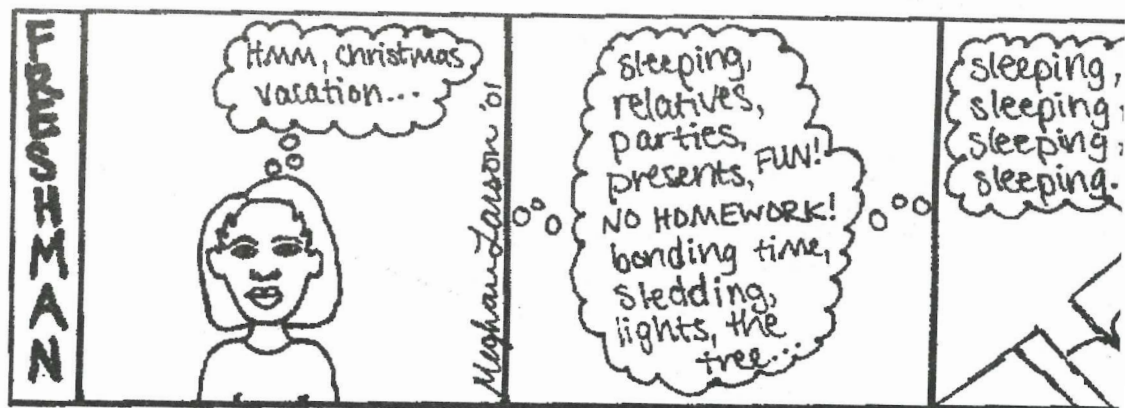
by Tiffany Murtland



school a student committee will judge the lockers, and the winner will receive a \$50 prize. Mickelson says the senate thought it would be nice to give the halls a Christmas look. "They wanted to get more of a seasonal spirit," said Mickelson.



by Heather Mangan







Tyler Merriam

The Merm Made Sports Column.

## It's bowl season

This month, I offer you a tremendous double-column, as my original idea plays into the mis-carriage of justice that occurred this past Sunday, so here we go, a double-column from Merm.

### Column 1: Take the 'C' out of BCS

Let us start with the injustice that took place in the Bowl Championship Series. Now, before all of you start on me being a Nebraska hater, let me state that I personally enjoy the BCS.

The BCS is the best system to date in place to decide college football's national champion, and it adds in other factors, not just the voters, who can be biased.

However, I have to voice my opinion on this issue, so here goes.

Nebraska lost in Colorado Thanksgiving Friday, costing the Huskers a shot at the Big XII championship, which Colorado beat Texas for the following Saturday.

Then, the BCS ranked Colorado behind Nebraska in the final polls.

Now, I don't agree with Nebraska being ranked above Colorado. However, since Colorado has one more loss, I can see the logic in that.

Here's the kicker - Oregon was robbed. Joey "Heisman" Harrington leads a fantastic Oregon Duck team that only lost one game, by seven

points to the Stanford Cardinal.

Oregon is ranked fourth in the BCS, and although their strength of schedule is poor, I guarantee if this wouldn't have happened on the East coast.

My point? If this is Florida, the Gators are playing for the national title on January 3.

Bottom line - Nebraska is a good football team, but we should have an Oregon-Miami Rose Bowl for the national title. Hey, that's my story, I'm sticking to it.

### Column 2: Bowl Names

Now, on a similar note, a condensed version of what would be my bowl games. These feature stupid names with their ideal sponsors.

First, due Sunday's sevents, I present the Fiesta Bowl, check that, the wegotjobbed.com Bowl, between Oregon vs. Colorado. Here are the rest:

—2000 Flushes Toilet Bowl (Nebraska vs. Ohio State)

—Fruit Loops Cereal Bowl (California-Irvine Anteaters vs. Western Illinois Leathernecks)

—Why Do We Play Football? Bowl (Duke vs. Cincinnati)

Hope you enjoyed it, and see you tonight at the Riggs High Gym, as our Governors demolish the Mitchell Kernels!

## Bierle takes over volleyball

"Winning is an attitude." This lesson, along with many others, is what new varsity volleyball coach Kim Bierle is trying to instill in her players.

Bierle has coached younger Lady Gov volleyball squads for the last 11 seasons.

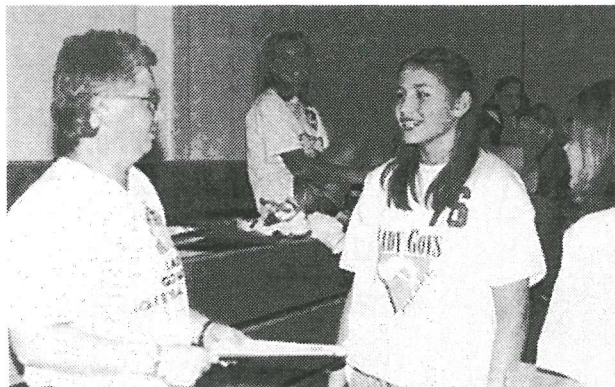
Bierle, an exceptional athlete in her younger days, competed in the college ranks as well.

So far she has been working on strength and conditioning as well as the team concept.

"We work hard in practice, but at the same time we take time out to develop team unity," said junior Sara Tillman.

The Lady Goves have a solid core of players coming back this year and expect good things out of their returning veterans.

Bierle replaced Dave Dulas, who coached the



PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE...Kim Bierle talks to freshmen Tynell Kocer during Thursday's team practice in the new auxiliary gymnasium. (photo by Mallori Barnett)

squad for four seasons.

Because Bierle also is a history teacher at Morse Middle School, she is very familiar with her players.

Bierle says knowing most of her players has helped.

"These girls all know me; I've had all of them at one time or another."

Bierle added that she won't be throwing any curveballs to her young squad.

"We're not trying to change a lot. We just want to play well and win some games. Our girls know about big games."

Bierle's team only has two experienced varsity players back in junior Lindsey Luers and senior Ami Hanson.

Despite that, Bierle is convinced she's got a winning team on her hands.

"Once you build some

momentum, you can go a long way. I think that we are doing the little things that make differences in the end."

Bierle says the girls can be good if they just stay focused.

"It's very important for us to be mentally tough. If we believe in ourselves and show mental toughness, we'll be alright."

Bierle wants the same type of following the girls basketball squad had for her team.

"We are going to play some exciting volleyball, power volleyball. We want to showcase this team and have a good following."

Bierle, who is assisted by JV coach Jamie Breske and sophomore coach Jim Sampson, will have their first home game Tuesday night.

by Pat Anderson

## SCHIEF'S VARSITY SPORTS SCOREBOARD

### Boys Basketball

**Current Record:** 2-0, ranked No. 2 in the state

**Last 2 Games:** 60-35 win at Huron last Saturday; 51-42 win vs. Aberdeen Central last Friday

**Next 2 Games:** Tonight at home against Mitchell; tomorrow at Brandon Valley  
**Notable Performances:** Nic Hogan had 46 points in the last two games combined.

### Girls Hockey

**Current Record:** 2-3

**Last 2 Games:** A 5-2 win over Aberdeen last Saturday and a 2-3 loss to Huron last Sunday  
**Next Game:** In Aberdeen on the 29th and 30th

**Notable Performances:** Adrienne Lindholm got a hat-trick in the win over Aberdeen Saturday.

### Volleyball

**Current Record:** 0-2

**Last 2 Games:** Rapid City Central and Stevens last Saturday

**Next 2 Games:** In Aberdeen tomorrow and here on Tuesday against Huron

**Notable Performances:** Kassi Schuetzle stepped up to fill in Connie Rislov's spot last weekend after Rislov sprained her ankle in Rapid City.

### Boys Hockey

**Current Record:** 3-4-1

**Last Game:** In Mitchell last Saturday

**Next Game:** In Aberdeen tomorrow night

**Coach's Comment:** Jason Rodgers is constantly improving his play and stepping up his intensity. coach Rob Kittay

### Wrestling

**Current Record:** 1-3

**Last Match:** The Rapid City Invitational last weekend

**Next Match:** Tonight in Brandon Valley

**Notable Performances:** In Rapid City Matt Englund placed 3rd and Steven Withers placed 5th.

### Gymnastics

**Last Meet:** Last Saturday in Sioux Falls

**Next Meet:** Tomorrow at the Mitchell Invitational

**Coach's Comment:** Callie Buechler has been performing consistently and is assessing her leadership role as a senior. Cliff Jorgensen

compiled by Jenna Schiefelbein



# Gonsor to carry olympic torch

Turn on your television January 9, and you'll be sure to see Riggs senior Carrie Gonsor getting the chance of a lifetime—carrying the Olympic torch.

Earlier this year, Gonsor was notified by a major corporation, Coca-Cola, that she was chosen to be an Olympic torchbearer.

She is among 11,500 men and women who will carry the torch. Thirty are from all over South Dakota including places like Sioux Falls, Armour, White River and Sturgis. Gonsor is the only torchbearer from Pierre.

Last spring Coca-Cola launched an ad campaign asking people to nomination inspirational

person to carry the Olympic torch. Gonsor was chosen from more than 210,000 nominees. She was nominated by her adult mentor, Randy Vance. For her, being nominated is a greater honor than being chosen to carry the torch.

"Being nominated, in itself, is an honor," she said. "It's great that someone thought that much of me."

Gonsor received a letter at the beginning of the school year saying she was being considered for a torchbearer. After filling out an application, she received another letter saying she had been chosen, but she wasn't able to tell anyone.

"They told us not to say anything because

they hadn't released anything to the media yet," Gonsor said.

Since South Dakota is one of the four states that the torch will not go through, along with North Dakota, Minnesota and Hawaii, Gonsor will carry the torch in the Greater Omaha region in Nebraska.

She will carry the torch January 9 or 10, because the exact time it will take the torch to reach Omaha is not yet known. She will run with the torch for a fourth of a mile.

A support runner, someone who makes sure that the torch won't be dropped or that nothing happens to it, will run alongside her.

The torchbearers are

able to purchase their torches. Gonsor will receive the torch from her parents for Christmas.

She will also receive a special running suit that all torchbearers will wear.

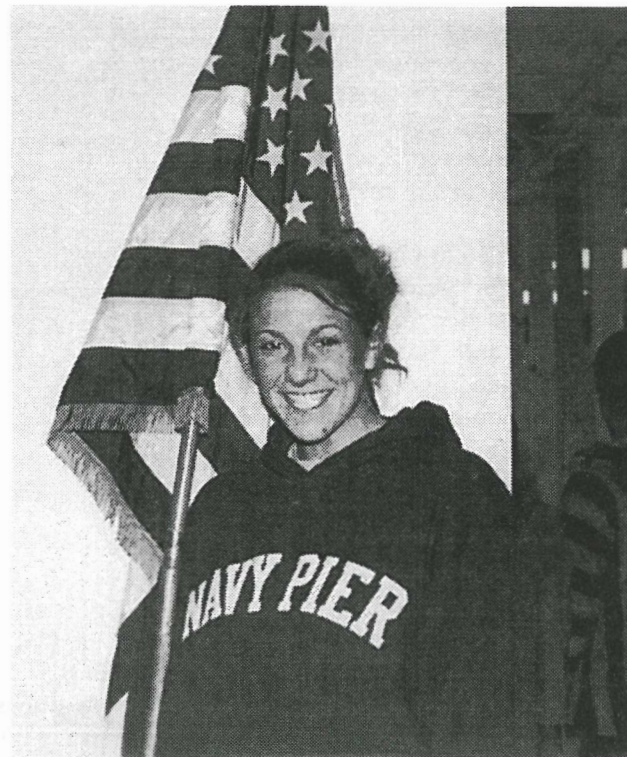
Gonsor sees this as an opportunity to be a role model. She says she is representing another generation on a whole new level.

Gonsor says earning honors like this comes from hard work.

"You reap the benefits of what you sow," Gonsor says.

The torch relay began in Atlanta, Georgia, on December 4 and will end in Salt Lake City on February 8 at the opening ceremonies.

by Heather Mangan



CARRIE-NG THE BANNER...Carrie Gonsor, holding an American flag, will carry the Olympic torch this February. (photo by Mallori Barnett)

## Managers, trainers important to team

When most people think of a high school sports team, they usually think of the players and coaches.

Players and coaches are not all the of team; an important part is played by the student managers and trainers.

Almost every sport at Riggs has a student manager, and it is not an easy job.

They each have to be at all practices and games and do almost everything the coaches ask them to.

It is not a activity for anyone who is not willing to work.

Varsity boys basketball has three managers and two trainers this year. They include four-year managers seniors Cori Bechtold and Marjoanne Schmidt and junior Tyler Merriam. The trainers are junior Laura Winter and sophomore Britany Gonsor.

The managers keep themselves busy throughout the season. During practice the managers carry in equipment, help with drills, and help out the coaches in various ways.

At games, they become much more busy. The managers split time taking statistics on a laptop computer, filling up water bottles, and again doing coaches' errands.

When asked why she does it, Marjoanne Schmidt replies, "I have been doing this since my ninth grade year, and I'm not a quitter."

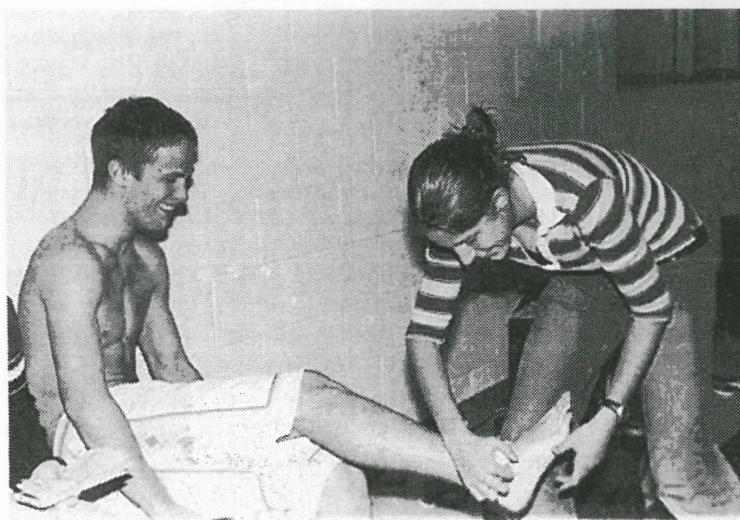
The trainers also have many responsibilities. Working under St. Mary's athletic trainer Cathy Petra, they enjoy being at practices everyday.

The trainers' responsibilities include evaluating injuries, taping and icing all parts of the body, and working on rehabilitation programs with the athletes.

"It's a lot of fun and also some good experience," Gonsor said.

The wrestling program has two managers, senior DeNeil Hosman and junior Nicole Ormesher, and a trainer, senior Aubrey Hunt, to help the athletes and coaches.

While the trainer basically



HOLD STILL...Wrestling trainer Aubrey Hunt tapes Chad Grunewaldt's ankle. (photo by Mallori Barnett)

does the same things as the basketball trainers, the managers are quite a bit busier.

The managers are responsible in practice to take attendance, work on statistics, help the trainers, get ice for the wrestlers, call the media to report matches, and also help the coaches in many ways.

Ormesher says she wanted

to be a manager because "it is a good afterschool activity, and it is fun."

The volleyball managers, junior Lea Robinson and senior Shantel Kocer, find themselves in an inactive role compared to the other managers.

During practice, they are responsible for getting equipment out when the coaches

come and sometimes helping with the team drills.

At matches, the managers rotate taking statistics in all the games and helping the coaches as needed

In addition to serving as a manager, Kocer also is a trainer for volleyball. She is joined by senior Vicki Fosheim.

They basically do the same thing for players as the other trainers do for their teams.

Taping, icing, and rehabilitation take up most of their time during the season.

Fosheim says she is training because she would like to get a minor in athletic medicine in college so she can be involved in sports wherever she goes.

Student managing and training is serious and can be very hard work.

These people deserve the respect of everybody because without them, athletics would become very messy and troublesome for coaches and players alike.

by Tony Rislov



## Exchange students like South Dakota

Barbara Egger and Eileen Winkler were unfamiliar faces at the beginning of the school year but are now becoming familiar figures in the halls. Don't get too used to them though. They are both exchange students and will be returning home in the beginning of June.

Egger, a 16-year-old, left behind her parents and 13-year-old brother, plus her dog Dana and birds Pipsi and Maxi in Vienna, Austria. When Egger heard about coming to South Dakota, she had no idea where it was. The pictures in her mind of America were big cities on the coast. Much to her surprise, she ended up at Randy and Rebecca Vance's farm.

"There are so many animals," says Egger. "It's very different than what I thought."

Egger came to the United States to perfect her English, to get away from home and to participate in an easier school curriculum.

"School is much easier here," she says, "and I don't have as many classes now as I did in Vienna."

Her schedule is still a busy one, however, as she is enrolled in German II, Spanish II, English 11, American History, weights and conditioning, and yearbook.

"In Austria we are not allowed



**FRIENDS FROM AFAR...**Foreign exchange students Eileen Winkler and Barbara Egger enjoy America's new opportunities. (photo by Mallori Barnett)

to choose our classes, so here I took a break from math, French and biology," Egger says.

She finds that she has adapted well to the U.S.

"I used to translate the words to German in my head. Now I think of them in English."

Contrary to her previous thoughts about America, she says she will think of her friends in Pierre when she hears the word "America" from now on.

When 17-year-old Eileen Winkler was told she was going to South Dakota, she immediately thought of Mt. Rushmore.

"I came here to improve my En-

glish and to see how the people are and learn about their culture," Winkler explains. "Plus, I wanted to be more independent."

Winkler also enjoys an easier school curriculum than back at home as she takes Biology II, Spanish I, Pre Calculus, American History, drama and English 11 here at Riggs.

"In Germany, we have classes every other day, so I would have math only three times a week," she explains. With that system, Winkler took 17 classes a year.

"I really enjoy all the people that I meet here," Winkler says. "When I go back, I will take many memories."

by Hannah Waack

## Students, teachers to move into new addition

As the building project nears completion and the new addition begins to look more and more like a school, several questions begin to arise about the new building.

According to Vice-principal John Lakner, chairs, desks and other classroom materials will be moved into the new classrooms over Christmas break. Teachers will have to make adjustments over the break, and several math, English and social studies classes will be

taught in the new building beginning January 2, 2002.

When the new parking lot opens up in front of the new section, some of the west parking lot will become student parking again.

"About twenty spots should open up for the students," said Lakner.

Students and teachers alike are anxiously awaiting the new year and the completion of the new school.

by Gillian Woodburn

## What's in a name?: reasons for naming streets

Since Euclid is a popular street for students to cruise on, the question of who or what is a Euclid and why there is a street named after it may have entered your mind once or twice.

As it turns out, Euclid was a Greek mathematician who is thought to have lived sometime around 300 B.C. He wrote a well known geometry text called "The Elements" and is often called the father of geometry.

Other street names in Pierre are just as interesting.

Numerous streets share names with former governors. These streets

include Mellette Avenue, Herseth Drive, Green Street and Norbeck Drive.

Streets often have the same names as places, such as Baja Street being named after Baja California. The roads in the new Highland development were named after places in England.

Glennis Zarecky, who named the streets, says she's always liked England and found the street names Stratford Place, Bristol Place and Camden Court on a tourist website.

Some streets were named after people who played key roles in our local and state develop-

## Financial Aid night set for December 17

Financial Aid Night for students and their parents is set for Monday, December 17, at 7 p.m. in the theatre. The night is an opportunity for students to go over their options for paying for college.

Mostly seniors attend the annual event. This year, Stanley County will be invited. Usually 150 to 200 people show up, weather permitting, but more are expected to show up this year.

Riggs counselor Bobbi Brown is in charge of the event.

"I go through the students' resources, prepare the parents and students for what to expect, and give them an overview of their options."

At the event, many area banks and military recruiters set up booths to give students information.

Students can apply for many different

types of financial aid.

They can fill out a Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA) which determines whether or not the student is eligible for federal aid for college.

Area banks issue student loans that have to be paid back within a certain amount of time.

Scholarships can be obtained from colleges and several different organizations or clubs. They act as a "gift" since they do not need to be paid back.

Grants are like scholarships, as they also do not need to be paid back. There are a very limited number grants and are awarded mostly upon the income of the parent or guardian that the student is living with.

For more information on Financial Aid Night, contact Brown

in Student Services.  
by Katie Gorneau



**THE CRUISIN' STREET...**Teens spend countless hours cruising up and down Euclid. (photo by Mallori Barnett)

ment. For example, Case Drive was named after Francis Case, a U.S. senator. He published the "Hot Springs Star" and openly encouraged the building of the Oahe Dam.

Now that teens' atten-

tion is off the question of the origin of the name of the street they cruise on, maybe it could be moved to their car speedometers instead.

by Robin Hinesh