



T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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Pierre, SD

Students attend Olympics in Salt Lake City

While most Riggs students were glued to the TV during the weeks of the Olympics, a few students saw them live from Salt Lake City.

Senior Andy McKay, junior Kassie Schuetzle, sophomore Caitlyn McKay and freshman Kelsey McKay attended the second week of the Olympics, from February 19 to February 24, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

One of the events they attended was a quarter-final men's hockey game between Czech Republic and Russia. The game was held in Provo, a suburb of Salt Lake City. The tickets to the game cost \$125 per person. They all agreed that the hockey game was the most exciting because of how intense the game was.

"It was a really close



FUTURE OLYMPIANS...Junior Kassie Schuetzle and freshman Kelsey McKay try on speed skating warm-up suits during the Winter Olympics. (Courtesy photo)

game, and everybody got into a fight," said Caitlyn.

The other event they saw was the cross-country skiing section of Nor-

dic Cross in Soldier Hollow, another suburb. There are two parts of Nordic Cross, jumping and cross-country skiing.

"The skiers jump one day and, depending on how well they jump, compete in the cross-country skiing portion the next day," explained Caitlyn. The tickets to Nordic Cross were \$25 per person.

The group decided to go the Olympics because they have a uncle who lives in a suburb of Salt Lake City. They also thought it would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The Olympic village had a different atmosphere than they expected. With many shops selling Olympic merchandise, the village was packed with people from different cultures. There were also reenactments and teepees in the village. While in the village, the McKays and

Schuetzle saw American gold medalist Jimmy Shay.

They said the Olympics were different in person from what people might see on TV. Kelsey said it was easier to get excited while they were there in person.

"On TV, you can't get into it and see all the preparations [that occur]," she said.

They had to go through intense security to get from place to place. If they had a camera, they were only allowed to take pictures in front of the security guards, and their drinking water and bags were also checked. Every place they went, they had to go through metal detectors so it took them a while to get through security.

"There was a lot of

waiting; you had to get there two hours early to get through security," said Caitlyn.

"There were men standing on street corners with machine guns," said Schuetzle. "They had really good security."

They were surprised that there was not as much nationalism as an outsider would think and that everyone was so friendly.

"You cheer for your country, but you're proud of everyone," said Kelsey.

At the Olympics they were many different types of cultures and at certain events white Americans didn't blend in.

"I felt like a minority, especially at the hockey game," said Andy.

by Heather Mangan

School offers new ways of learning

Pre-calculus students at Riggs take a different kind of class than other students. On any given day, their teacher is always about 200 miles away. The students are taught through Dakota Digital Network (DDN), a digital communication system that connects all public schools in South Dakota.

Riggs has two classes of Pre-Calculus which are both taught by Mary Cundy, a teacher at Northern State University in Aberdeen. The fourth period class interacts live over the DDN system with her almost as if she were in the classroom

with them. The following day, the second period class then watches the tape of fourth period's lecture from the day before, which is often difficult for the second period students.

"Not having a live teacher can be hard because you can't just raise your hand and get help," says senior Erin Miller, who is in the second period class.

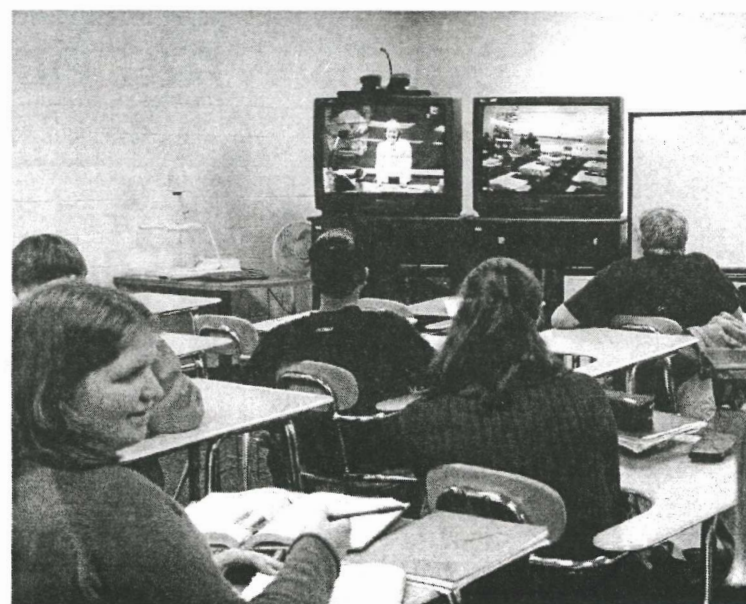
DDN has other minor downfalls as well. If the students have questions on an assignment, they have to email Cundy their questions. Also, all assignments have to be sent to her through the mail to get

graded. Usually, it takes no less than four days to get the corrected assignments returned to them.

"Sometimes we will be taking a test when we have only gotten a couple of our assignments back. We won't even know how well we did on them," Miller said.

Although it has its drawbacks, Riggs guidance counselor Bobbi Brown explains that DDN is a unique opportunity for students. It is an additional resource that comes at no cost to the school district.

by Dakota Bixler



SHE'S WATCHING...Riggs students are taught pre-calculus by teacher Mary Cundy through the Dakota Digital Network. (photo by Mallori Barnett.)

Distance learning remains second best

Teachers have long been the greatest source of knowledge for their students, but as technological opportunities increase, teaching methods may change.

Some students at Riggs are finding out what it is like to take a class with new methods of instruction—either on-line or through video teleconferencing. While changes can be good, a shift away from human interaction with live teachers is not the most beneficial for students.

While small schools may have no other choice but to utilize on-line or distance-learning classes, a school as large as Riggs should be able to provide classes with quality instructors for most subjects that students would want to take.

While taking classes on-line or through a video teleconferencing method may be a temporary staffing solution, it should not become a widely-used practice.

Yes, paying teachers means less money in the school budget at a time when budgets are getting tighter and tighter. But



isn't quality of education what all schools strive for? Can students learn as much when they don't have a teacher in the room to help them?

Some students this year are accessing Advanced Placement courses that are no longer offered at Riggs through Internet classes on their computers.

Others, like the two precalculus classes, are getting instruction

through the Dakota Digital Network. Neither option allows for direct interaction between all students and a teacher.

Teachers observe students and offer help even when the students don't seek it out themselves. For some students the student-teacher interaction is what helps them learn.

Although computer instruction may offer good information and accuracy, sometimes stu-

dents learn best when they see the teacher making a mistake. Students are more likely to remember a piece of information when they themselves have helped the teacher figure out the answer. Computers can be great tools that students can use to access information, but computers shouldn't become the teachers.

Most of the classes that use distance learning or are taken on-line are the more advanced or specialized classes. Even these advanced students benefit from having a good teacher to lead their study.

School should remain a place where teachers are the main source of learning for its students.

Yes, schools can save money by using the digital teleconferencing system, but it will never be superior to an excellent teacher interacting with students in the classroom—that is simply irreplaceable.

Good teaching will never go out of style, no matter what the year or how far technology expands.

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Watchman, what of the night?

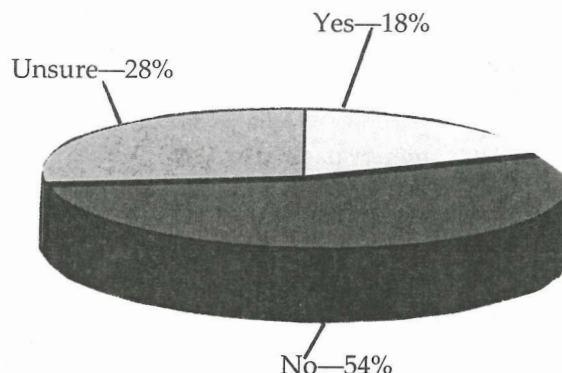
Do you think that distance learning classes prepare students as well as regular classroom instruction by a teacher?



"You don't really have a teacher to keep you in line, and it is easier to 'space out' and not pay attention.—junior Jenny Sampson



"If you have questions, it may be harder to get them answered because you aren't face to face with the instructor. Personally, I would get bored easier.—sophomore Amanda Beck



"A student can get more feedback and interaction with a regular teacher.—junior Jon Gober



"I think if the students who are watching the TV are paying attention, it would be just as effective.—freshman Tim Kalil

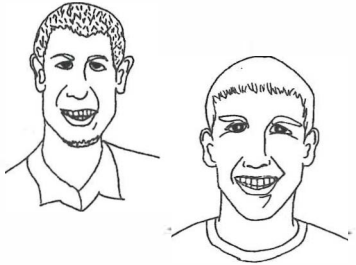


Putting off tasks leads to trouble

We believe it's safe to say that everyone, at some point in time, is guilty of it. It's a nasty habit that some of us just can't avoid. It occurs much more in some people than in others. For some unknown reason, it occurs most often in school work. We know better than to do it, but heck, we all know it's just more fun to do it.

What is it? Procrastination. This is the reason why everyone scrambles on Sunday night, or for some first period Monday morning, to get their weekend homework finished, or why everybody is on-line until all hours of the night, retrieving research for that project that is due first period tomorrow.

That nasty little bugger, procrastination, should come with a warning label also. If it did, it



Evan Roth & Erik Gilbertson
Ex-Presidential Poppycock

would read something like this—WARNING: procrastination may lead to anxiety and anger. Although, if it did have a warning label many of us may not even pay any attention to it because then we would miss all the fun.

Once you begin the task that you procrastinated to do,

things don't fall into place and you begin to feel anxiety and/or anger. That's when you start yelling obscenities at the computer or at that little clown figurine by the computer that just won't stop smiling at you. Why should he be happy that you're angry?! He shouldn't, the inconsiderate jerk. Because after all he is the one who told you to turn on the TV or get on the computer while you should have been doing homework.

Anyway, the moral of the story is this: procrastination can lead to anxiety and anger, which in turn leads to writer's block.

So don't procrastinate when you are writing, especially your column. We sure won't (ever again).

Seniors tackle Shakespeare

If you take Honors English as a senior, you can be sure of at least one thing—reading plenty of Shakespeare.

At times humorous and at others sad, each story has something different to offer.

"Hamlet" is well written and full of twists and turns that make the plot enjoyable. It is full of back-stabbing, and the tragic end makes it worth reading.

Although the plot is good, it is easy to get lost in, and it's hard to keep track of everything that happens. The long



Gerda Jorgenson
From A Redhead's Mind

soliloquies are also very hard to follow.

"The Merchant of Venice" describes many of the different types of people in

Shakespeare's day, but all in all, it was not a good play. All the boring little sub-plots made it confusing, and a lot of the play just seemed un-important to me.

"Othello" was my favorite of the plays. At times, the blind passion and jealousy seemed unrealistic, but it had a good plot, was easy to follow, and had interesting, well-written characters.

At times Shakespeare's plays are confusing and hard to read, but they prove that William Shakespeare is one of the best writers ever.

'Friends' can't hold candle to WWF



Max Huber
Random Thoughts from
the Village Idiot

Recently my girlfriend has hoodwinked me into watching the weekly comedy "Friends."

But yet as I watch and laugh at some of the funny parts of the show, a part deep inside of me is telling me to look away.

You see, I'm a pro wrestling fan (that's right, I'm not afraid to admit it), and watching "Friends" goes somewhat against who I am.

It's been quite a confusing time in my life. For the past five years of watching nothing but wrestling and watching it alone, I'm suddenly watching Monday Night Raw with my "Wrasslin Buddies" and watching "Friends" on Thursdays.

It's been quite a change for me. Those who once mocked me (Oh wait, they still do) now sit down and enjoy the show with me, proving to me that I'm not the only one who knows what's right in this world.

At first I really didn't know what to think or what to say, but after a few weeks, it seems almost normal now. There's

someone to cheer with and someone to bask in the glory of the event with me. Gives a man goosebumps.

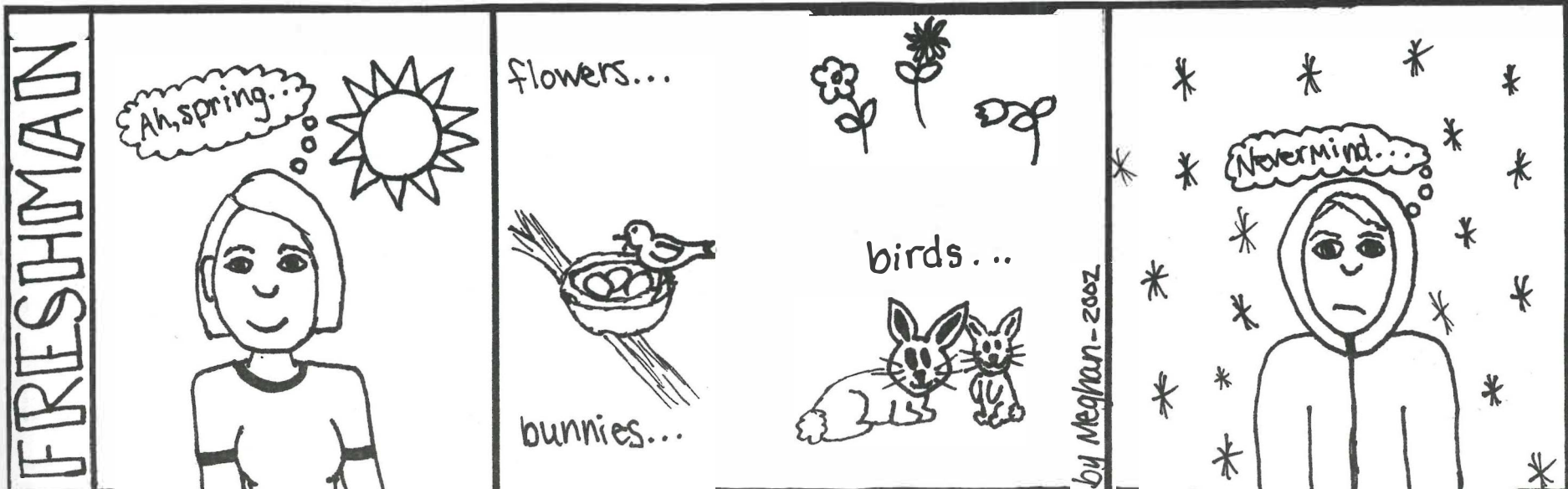
And while I watch my wrestling, I somewhat look forward to Thursday to watch "Friends." But deep down I know that wrestling is better than "Friends" in every way.

Wrestling has been on the air longer, has a live audience, is more fun to watch, and it's just better quality TV.

What does "Friends" have that is better than wrestling? NOTHING. After really thinking about it here for a second or two, I have come to the conclusion that "Friends" is nothing more than a false high, but wrestling brings pure joy to my heart.

If the "Friends" world consisted of such figures as Stone Cold Steve Austin or the NWO, "Friends" would rule. Or why can't the whole "Friends" episode just center around Joey?

Even though it is a false satisfaction, "Friends" is alright, just not better than the WWF, AND THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE, cause The VILLAGE IDIOT SAID SO!



Zoom, zoom, zoom: guys s

Cars provide useful hobby

For most people, a car just needs to get from point A to point B. Although most people's knowledge of cars doesn't go much further than pushing the pedal to the floorboard, a small percentage of students spend a large portion of their time working on cars.

Working on cars is not easy. In fact, it takes a lot of knowledge. Most of these car guys have obtained their skills by taking Joel Hieb's auto mechanics classes.

"In my Auto I classes, I expect my students to gain enough knowledge to perform basic car maintenance and to know how to give a basic inspection of the vehicle to prevent future problems," says Hieb.

In Auto I, students learn how an engine works along with other parts such as brakes and suspensions. Industrial Auto Mechanics, commonly called Auto II, is a two-period a day in-depth class for seniors who have taken Auto I.

For many Auto II students, their knowledge about vehicles is the start of a career. Hieb says that about one-third of his students pursue a career as an automotive technician, some pursue careers in engineering and several go into the military.

Surprisingly enough, most of these car fanatics don't remember how they got interested in cars.

"I probably got interested because I've always been interested in how things work," says senior Alex Jones.

"I got interested in cars because my parents aren't rich, so if I want a nice motor vehicle, I had to fix it up myself," adds senior John Kallemeyn.

"When you take a rusted piece of metal that may or may not run and turn it into a beautiful piece of machinery, you get a sense of accomplishment that buying a new car can't beat," says senior Kyle

Cummings.

Working on cars can become extremely stressful. A million things could go wrong, and problems make patience a necessity. If you don't have patience, you'll lose interest in cars.

"I keep working because in the end, the final project is so perfect that it makes all of the trouble worthwhile," says senior Jeff Christie.

"It is the burning rubber at a stoplight that keeps me interested," says senior Josh Heying, who is referring to his need for excessive power.

"I have to stay interested in cars because my friends or my brother always break things on my truck, so I always have to fix it," says senior Kallemeyn.

But the real reason these guys keep working on their vehicles is because it is their hobby. For them, working on cars is THEIR sport.

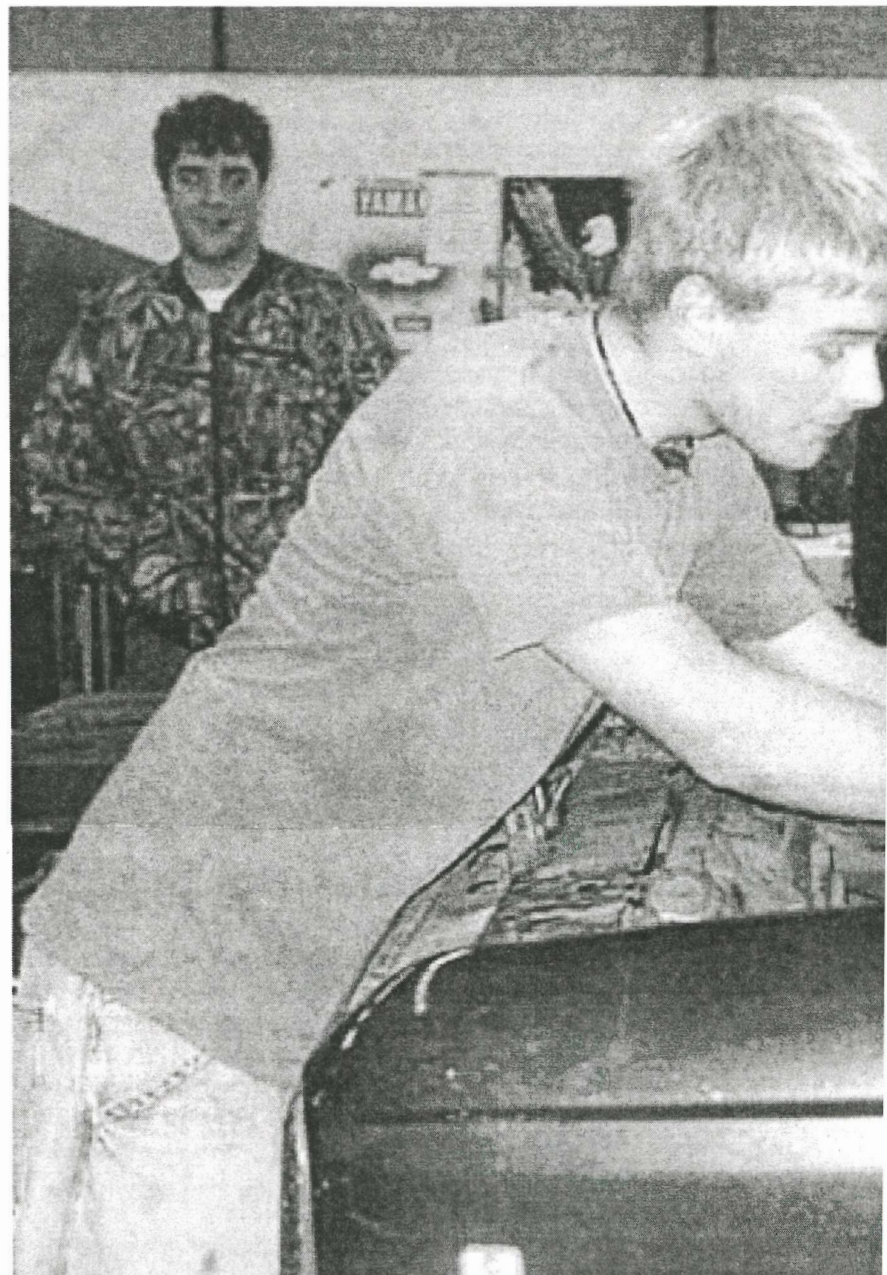
Though all these guys share a common interest in working on vehicles, each person has different preferences in vehicle type. Kallemeyn is strictly a Chevy guy while Cummings and Christie are Ford guys. Even Hieb has preferences—Dodge and Chevy cars and Ford trucks.

Because of these preferences, many friendships are put to the test, such as between the Chevy and Ford owners. Chevy owners say that Fords are inferior because of their strange brakes and goofy designed engines. But the worst fights tend to be between domestic car owners and import car owners. The owners of the big domestic vehicles think the imports are little baby cars with small underpowered motors that need to grow up! The import owners say, "Yeah, but I don't need to buy gas every other day!"

No one really knows why these guys enjoy working on cars so much. Perhaps Heying captures the reason best: "When restoring a car, you get back the feeling of that car's era. You get back that feeling of raw horsepower that you can really feel. You get the feeling of the late 60's and early 70's gas-guzzling raw V-8 power that no late-model front-wheel-drive Honda Civic can give you."

The irony? Heying drives a Honda Civic.

by Josh Vogt



Students prepare for state-wide auto contest

Gentlemen, start your engines...if you can.

Words similar to these will be spoken at the beginning of this year's Ford Motor Company AAA Student Auto Skills Competition which two of Riggs' Auto II students hope to qualify for.

This competition is a "hands-on" contest of the top two students from the top eight high schools in the state. It will be held in Sioux Falls on April 24 and 25.

Students have 90 minutes to fix a brand new Ford automobile to the best of their ability.

Winners of the state contest qualify for the national competition this summer in Washington, D.C.

Along with qualifying for nationals, the winners are awarded a \$12,000 scholarship to attend the Ford ASSET program to train to be an automotive technician. If the winners do not accept the scholarship, it can be passed down to the runners-up, all the way down to the fourth place finishers.

At the local level, the top eight Auto II students qualify to take a standardized written test to qualify for the competi-

tion. The top two scores in the class will hopefully go to the state competition. The schools with the best eight scores are those that are chosen to send teams to the state competition.

If students qualify again this year, it will be the 18th consecutive year that Pierre has qualified for the state meet. Only Pierre and Sturgis have that good of an attendance record, says Joel Hieb, Auto II instructor.

According to Hieb, his students typically do well. They have won the competition three times. Last year they

placed second.

"If it weren't for the English, math, science, electronics and computer teachers, we would not have such a good record. They are very important contributors to the success of my auto program," Hieb says.

"The competition is a driving force to strive to be at the cutting edge in automotive technology," says Hieb.

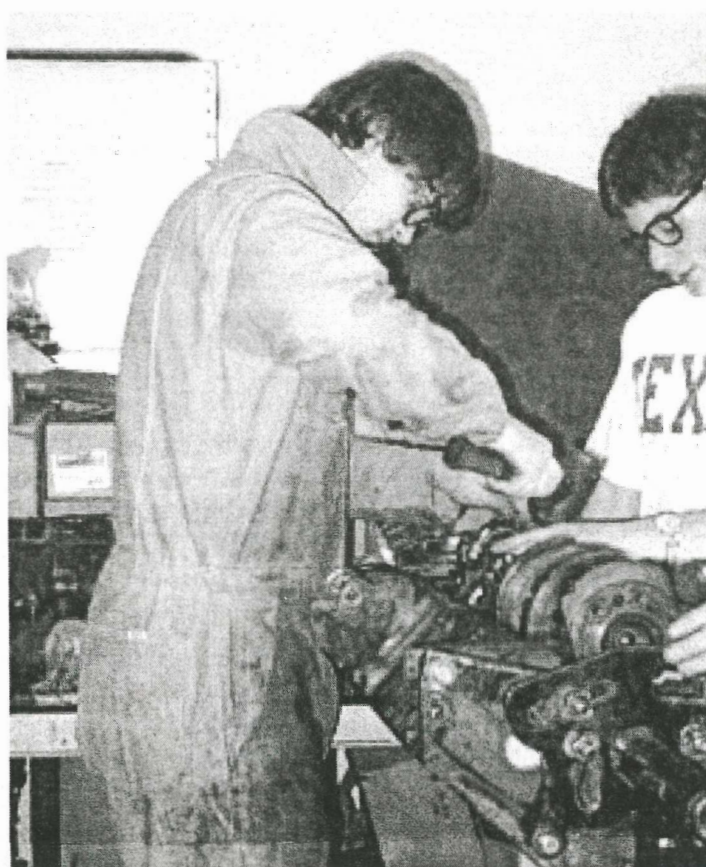
With luck, two of Hieb's students will do well at this year's competition and live up to the auto program's reputation.

by Josh Vogt

end time, money on cars



Seniors Ross Vander Vorste and Andy Heymans work on an engine in class. (photo by Mallori Barnett)



CENTER...Senior John Kallemeyn removes valve covers while seniors Jeff Christie and Kyle Cummings figure out what to do next. "What I haven't learned in Hieb's class, I've learned it by taking things apart," says Kallemeyn. (photo by Mallori Barnett)

LEFT...Seniors Brock Axthelm and Ross Vander Vorste work on disassembling an engine during their Auto II class. Other seniors besides Axthelm and Vander Vorste who recently took the standardized test to qualify for the AAA Student Auto Skills Competition and are now waiting for results include Alex Jones, John Kallemeyn, Jake Severson, Jeremy Bauer, Andy Heymans and Josh Vogt. (photo by Mallori Barnett)

BELOW...Seniors Kyle Cummings and Bryan Beringer inspect a transfer case. Each part need to be carefully inspected because sometimes a part won't fit, a bolt won't come loose or a bolt's threads will get stripped out and ruined, which can be very frustrating. (photo by Mallori Barnett)





Tyler Merriam

The Merm Made Sports Column.

How important is sports?

Watching many of my best friends in Rapid City's Heier Gymnasium two Saturday's ago fall to Stevens in the Region 2AA playoffs was a bitter pill to swallow.

There was certainly an abundance of tears that night, some from me, which I am not ashamed to admit.

I moped around this past week, upset, wishing, wanting to watch those 12 guys play in the state tournament again, and my friends got me through it.

Mainly one, the keeper of our sports scoreboard, kept telling me that sports wasn't a big deal on this level.

I got to thinking about that this past week, and kept asking myself, "Do we take sports too seriously?"

Now, I am the first to admit that sports is a love of mine, and I spend many days at school wishing the day would end so that the sports could begin.

I guess I never realized it until now, but sports is definitely a learning experience.

For almost four months, guys spent every free second with each other in the gym, in the weight room or watching game tapes. It made me think.

For many, sports is the only opportunity for them to learn how to get along with others, to work as a team.

The bond between team members is tremendous. Over the last two years, especially this past year of basketball, I've been lucky enough to share in that bond with those guys.

All that dedication, all that work, seemingly went down the drain because state tournament was not reached, because the lights on the scoreboard were brighter for Stevens.

That night will live in my mind, and anybody else that was there that night, forever.

Thinking back on it, it was a tremendous contest between two teams who wanted it, but only one could win.

But wait a second...even though they came up short of their goal of going to state, the bond is still there, and that can never be broken.

The memories of this year will stay with us forever; that's the thing that I like the best.

Over the past two years of boys basketball, I've gotten to share a bond with the players, and have Cori, Marj and Laura make fun of me.

We do it not to win state but because it's fun. I can't think of a more fun time than those Friday nights in a jam-packed gym with those people.

I've learned that the experiences in sports are more important than what ends up on a scoreboard.

IFHL becomes a reality at Riggs

For the past few years, the idea of an Intramural Floor Hockey League had been tossed around by numerous people.

This year, the idea has finally become a reality, thanks to the hard work of the student senate.

Michael Bumann and Max Huber, the president and vice president of the student senate, decided to push the idea through the senate, which they did successfully.

"We had a dream that someday intramural floor hockey would come to Riggs" said Huber. "Bumann and I were the torchbearers."

Getting the idea through the senate was just a start though, as much work laid ahead.

"We had to secure gym dates, order equipment—there were lots of things that still had to be ironed out," Bumann said.

Slowly but surely, the IFHL made progress, with the help of the administration.

Fellow student senate



The brains behind the IFHL, president Michael Bumann & vice president Max Huber. (Governor photo by Gerda Jorgenson)

member Kyle Rausch helped with the rules, and they were approved by the IFHL commissioner, gym teacher Dan Snyder.

Bumann says Snyder, who is being paid for his duties as commissioner, has been a big help.

"He's helped us plan everything out; he's guided us through this," said Bumann.

With this being a new activity, the senate didn't need to go through the school board; rather, they just had to raise enough money for equipment and other expenses.

"Pride week helped us with the costs," Bumann

said.

Sign up was held the beginning of last week, and the numbers were even better than expected. In fact, underclassmen had to be cut from the league due to the excessive numbers.

"The response has been nothing but positive," Bumann said.

The league consists of two six-team divisions, captained by one girl and one boy.

Following a five-game season, all 12 teams qualify for the playoffs, which will conclude in May with the inaugural IFHL champion.

Bumann said one of

the bigger hurdles to jump for the up-start league was gym space.

"With the construction, we couldn't use the old gym. So we had limited space with just the new gym. We had to work around other events too, but I think we avoided most conflicts."

Bumann said that the play will be much the same as in P.E. classes, but, to the dismay of the vice president, he stresses "we won't allow checking."

Huber says the league will draw fans with "quality hockey."

Huber said IFHL isn't sports-entertainment like the IBA; it's more serious.

"My girlfriend is on my team, but I'm giving her no slack. Just like anyone else, if she makes one mistake, she's gone. We are out for glory."

For more information on the IFHL, visit the official website, located at: 2002IFHL.tripod.com

by Tyler Merriam

SCHIEF'S VARSITY SPORTS SCOREBOARD

Boys Basketball

Final Record: 9-12

District 3AA: lost at Mitchell in third round; defeated Huron for third place

Region 2AA: 54-58 loss at Rapid City Stevens; failed to advance to state.

Notable Performances: Nic Hogan set new team records for single-season and career three-pointers made.

Volleyball

Last Match: lost to Mitchell in District 3AA tournament, winning one of three games.

Senior Comments: "Even though our record wasn't that great, we still had a lot of fun and played well as a team. I will miss all of those girls a lot next year." — Connie Rislov

Boys Hockey

State: Won sportmanship award at state tournament in Brookings.

Senior Comments: "The sportmanship award had the biggest trophy. It wasn't what I expected, but it was fun." — Jon Kotilnek

Wrestling

State: 119 lbs., Shannigan Heckenlaible placed 6th; 152, Matt Englund placed 5th; 160, Torey Garrett placed 7th; 189, Brandon Deffenbaugh placed 7th; 215, Dalton Decker placed 6th; Hwt., Dan Swenson placed 5th.

Senior Comments: "It was an interesting year with the Deckers. McDonald's was awesome." — Matt Englund

Gymnastics

State: Placed 11 of 16 at state meet in Huron.

Senior Comments: "It was a lot of fun with the underclassmen. I will really miss it." — Kara Kurth
"State was so much fun, I'm really going to miss my teammates." — Callie Buechler

Girls Hockey

State: Placed 6th at state tournament, held last weekend at the Expo Center in Ft. Pierre.
Notable Performances: Dakota Bixler made 56 saves in three state tournament games; Jane Stewart and Patty Heermann each had two goals in tournament play.

compiled by Jenna Schiefelbein

Nic Hogan: sets new team, state records

Nic Hogan's two years of Governor basketball are certain to live on in the record books and spectator's minds.

Hogan, a 6-foot-4 senior shooting guard, shattered numerous Governor basketball records in his tenure at Riggs.

Perhaps his biggest accomplishment was breaking the South Dakota "AA" record of single season three pointers with 76.

Hogan also holds the record for career three pointers in Pierre Governor history with 126.

Along with the three-pointers, Hogan finished his career 9th all-time in points.

"I'm very proud of everything I accomplished as a Governor," said Hogan.

Hogan transferred from New Underwood in the summer before his junior year.

Hogan was the first player off the bench early in his junior season, but before Christmas he had made the starting

lineup.

"The step up from 'B' to 'AA' was a tough one, but with the help of my teammates, it was pretty smooth," said Hogan.

The 2001-2002 Governor season ended with a 58-54 loss at Rapid City Stevens, the region 2AA play-in game for the state tournament.

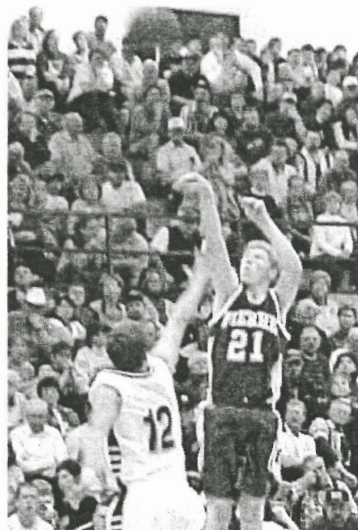
It was the last game in a Governor jersey for Hogan, Drew Palmer, Garrett James, Brad Wire, Colin Whitebird and Austin Schneider.

The Governors were rated number two in the preseason poll but failed to make the state tournament after a 8-10 regular season record.

The Governors lost in Mitchell in the first round of the District III-AA tournament, but defeated Huron at home for third place.

Their season then came to an end with the loss to Stevens.

Hogan led the Governors in scoring this year, averaging



SWISH...A jam-packed Spearfish High School Gymnasium looks on as Hogan hits a three-pointer over Spartans guard Slade Larscheid. (Governor photo by Tyler Merriam)

18.2 points per game.

The senior had several highlights this season, including tying a record for three-pointers in a contest.

Playing Brandon Valley in February, Hogan tied DJ Prue's record when he made seven

threes en route to a Governor victory.

"That game against Brandon was phenomenal. It seemed like I could make almost any shot I put up. It was a tremendous night for me and the team," said the senior.

Hogan was co-captain of this year's squad with Wire, but he was an intricate part of last year's successful team as well.

Hogan was the second leading scorer for the team during the state tournament during his junior year.

He helped the Governors reach the state championship for the first time since 1983, losing to Sioux Falls Washington 65-57.

"The state championship was the biggest game I have ever played in. The atmosphere surrounding the game was amazing. The only way it could have turned out better is if we would have won the game."

Hogan says that he isn't the only one who deserves credit for the records.

"I couldn't have had a better group of guys these past couple years. They always made it fun, no matter what the situation. They helped me a lot."

Hogan's records may not be very secure, as he says that a talented nucleus of Governors remain, and they could break some of his marks.

"Pat (Anderson), Kyle (Kurth), there's a lot of good players coming back. Next year should be fun for them. To be honest, I don't think my records are safe."

Hogan says despite it all, he'd exchange his name in the record books for a state title.

"It's all about the trophy. Just like anyone else, I'd trade all the personal things for a state title. That's what you play for, it's all about that."

by Tony Rislov

Frisbee golf becomes more popular with students

Activities for teens have expanded in the last few years, which is reflected by the students at Riggs.

One activity that many kids have taken a particular liking to is frisbee golf.

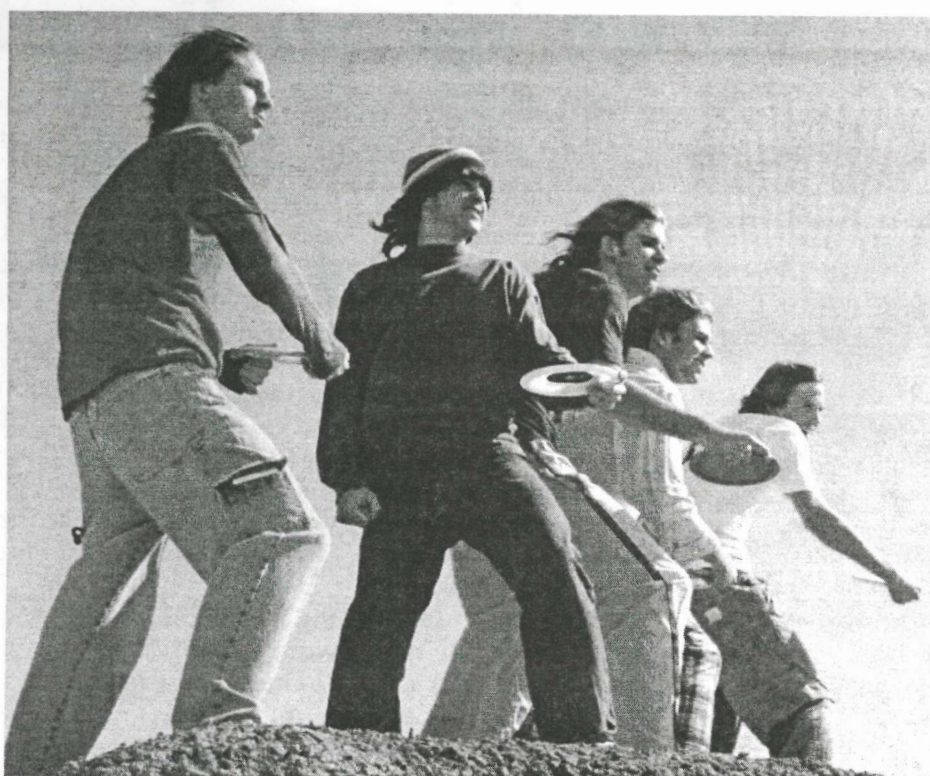
Frisbee golf is exactly what it sounds, a combination of throwing a frisbee and playing a game of golf.

The game is played like golf, with the exception that players don't hit a ball into a hole with a club.

Players simply throw frisbees at a target with as few throws as possible.

Once the frisbee is thrown, the player picks it up where it landed and attempts another throw at the target.

Players have to be able to throw the frisbee



FUN IN THE SUN...Senior Andrew Johnson and juniors Jared Lindbloom, Zach Parsons, Joseph Kean and Michael Zarecky practice their frisbee golf tosses. (Governor photo by Gerda Jorgenson)

straight while taking into consideration both goal placement and the

direction and speed of the wind.

Pierre's own frisbee

golf is at Griffin Park. The course is set up with poles varied around the

park.

In fact, it might be the only place where you can play frisbee golf without baskets.

"A person can play anywhere. All you need to do is designate objects to hit and throw at them," said junior Zach Parsons.

All of the poles on the Griffin course consist of par four's, which is the number of throws it should take a player to hit the target.

Many students believe that frisbee golf is a fun way to hang out with their friends and unwind.

"I love to play. It is a versatile game, a great way to catch up with friends, relaxing after a long school day," said junior Joseph Kean.

Parsons agrees that the game is fun and relax-

ing.

He says he first learned how to play a couple of summers ago.

Pierre is not the only town with a frisbee golf course. Sioux Falls and Rapid City also have courses.

"I like to take road trips with friends to Sioux Falls and play there," said Parsons.

Parsons and Kean both have yet to play in a tournament, primarily because the capital city has never held one, but both agree it would be fun to participate in such an event.

With all the new activities that have sprung up in the last few years, a frisbee golf tournament in Pierre would not be impossible to add to the list.

by Tiffany Murtland

Seniors compete in Junior Miss pageant

Riggs seniors Carrie Gonsor and Julia Disburg competed with twenty other South Dakota girls to prove they have what it takes to be the next Junior Miss.

The Junior Miss competition is open only to senior girls and is based on a well rounded student.

"The contest is not a beauty pageant," said Gonsor.

The competition was divided into five parts: talent, interview, scholastics, poise and fitness. The girls are scored in each area with a composite score that determines who will win the competition.

There is more to Junior Miss than winning. The girls also come out of the competition with many memories.

"It was a good learning experience. I had a chance to meet other girls and earn money for college," said Gonsor.

Gonsor and Disburg encourage others to participate. They said that even if you're not the overall winner, the competition is still fun.

"I learned a lot about success and how I'm going to be proud of myself no matter what happens," said Gonsor.

by Hannah Waack

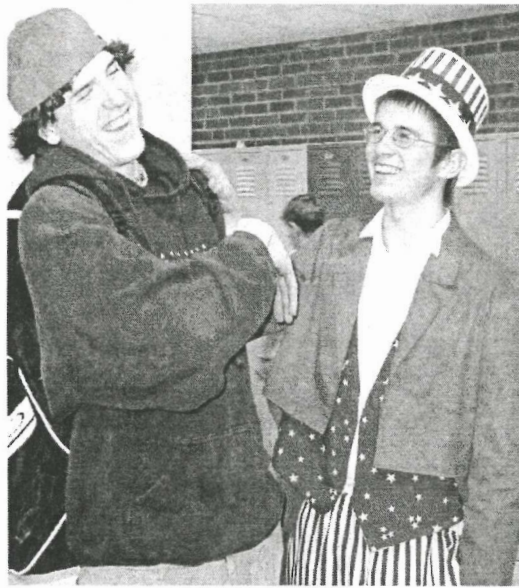
Students take pride in friends, self, country, school

Students might have wondered where they were last Monday morning as they were greeted by smiling people when they entered school. Happy people could only have meant one thing—it was Pride Week at Riggs.

Daily activities were planned by the student senate in order to help Riggs display its pride.

"Pride Week was good because it helped us to respect others and also take pride in ourselves," said freshman Brian Boe.

Students were able to receive pictures that they had previously taken with their friends and pick up gift bags from their friends on Monday for "Pride in Friends" day. People



UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU...Freshman Zach Vogt quizzes junior Sheridan Cronin on his American History. (Courtesy photo)

were also encouraged to dress as twins with another individual.

On Tuesday, "Pride in Self" day, students were given the chance to wear a hat in exchange for a one dollar donation

to Student Senate. A health fair also took place in the lobby which included booths on wellness. Anti-tobacco, hair/hand care, makeup, volunteer and other booths were set up by local businesses in the

lobby. Students also dressed in nice clothes to show their confidence in themselves.

Those students in the National Guard dressed in uniform on Wednesday for "Pride in Country" day. Mayor Gary Drewes led the student body via video screen in the Pledge of Allegiance and also read a poem by John Wayne. The activities of the day made students think about their homeland and its opportunities.

"Pride in School" was the theme for Thursday. This day presented a unique opportunity for Riggs to congratulate itself on its accomplishments. A pep rally was held second period during which students and staff

cheered themselves on. Students were recognized for their various activities and involvements. Riggs staff was also thanked for their work.

Students enjoyed Pride Week because it made them feel better about themselves and their school.

"I thought it went really well. Student senate did a good job of organizing it," said sophomore McKayla Marso.

"We need to have pride in school, but I think we have never really been pushed to do that. I think this inspired people to go ahead and be proud of Riggs," said student senate advisor and teacher Jay Mickelson.

by BryAnn Becker

Student has rare talent

Many students like music but probably aren't too familiar with accordian music. One Riggs student is a highly accomplished accordionist.

Senior Peng Xiou has been an accordionist for the last ten years. This is Xiou's first year at Riggs.

"It was hard when I first began, because I was small and the accordion was big," Xiou said.

"I like the accordion for its sound, [it] needs more work than a piano, it is unique and I can hold it on my lap," said Xiou.

In the 1820s, accordion instruments first appeared around Europe. It is played by stretching, known as drawing, and compressing, known as pushing, the bellows. The sound is produced from the air brushing over



LOOK AT ME!...Senior Peng Xiou is a third level accordionist. (photo by Mallori Barnett.)

metal tabs called reeds that vibrate.

Xiou's first home in America was in Brookings. There he played the accordion at SDSU events.

"I played at International Nights like China Night," he said.

Xiou said that he looks up to his teacher that he

had in China who taught him how to play the accordion.

"Without him, I would not have been a third level accordionist," he said.

Xiou was about ready to advance to the next level, but his family decided to move to America.

by Sean Corcoran

Freshmen thank rescue workers, police officers

When you encounter a tragedy, how do you look at it?

Greg Stluka's ninth grade English classes looked at the September 11 tragedy as an opportunity to reach out.

Students wrote letters to the Department of Defense in the Pentagon, the New York Police Department and the Arlington County Police in the beginning of October in appreciation for all their hard work.

"Writing the letters seemed like a good idea. It incorporated writing skills with patriotism," said Stluka.

Most of the students thanked the people and told them a little about their lives in Pierre.

"We wrote what our

life was like, how we felt about the attacks and how we appreciated so much what they were doing," said Ashley Livermont.

"I wanted to thank them for their services to our county. It felt good to pay respect to them," said Justin Lancaster.

The classes understood that the letters would probably be a one-way correspondence, but they wrote anyway.

However, two out of the three places they wrote to have responded.

One of those letters is from the Pentagon's Department of Defense, which is like the building's own police and fire department. In it, the Chief of Defense Protective Services, John N. Jester, thanks the stu-

dents for their prayers and thoughts.

Jester tells of how they're working hard at "Project Phoenix," hoping to restore the damaged area of the Pentagon and have it reoccupied by September 11, 2002. Jester also writes of the heroes that have arisen out of the situation.

"I am very grateful to the people that we wrote to," said Livermont. "They kept things together when it could have fallen apart and were strong when no one else was."

March 11 marked the six month anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America.

by BryAnn Becker