



# T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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Pierre, SD

## Memorial dedication offers student involvement

Last weekend proved to be busy for students as the World War II Memorial dedication brought excitement, huge crowds, and the opportunity to get involved.

Saturday's events started with a parade followed by the dedication of the memorial. Over 4,000 band members played in the over two-hour long procession, including the Emerald Regiment.

"I thought it was neat to be a part of the largest assembly of band members ever in the state of South Dakota," senior Kendra Dropers said.

People lined the parade route running along Capitol

Avenue to Washington School with American flags in one hand and umbrellas in the other.

Riggs students helped with the memorial through personal and organizational volunteering. The large numbers of people who attended the memorial presented some parking difficulties.

Brandi Burton, sophomore, helped move parking signs with her dad and co-workers.

"It felt good doing something to help out. I was glad I could give something back to the community," she said.

"My dad was in charge of all the parking for the dedi-

cation, so I helped him out mainly afterward directing and keeping things under control," said senior Jeff Christie.

Students pitched in wherever there was a need. Senior Rachel Wegman helped arrange floats for the National Guard, delivered water from St. Mary's Hospital, and helped correction officers assign jobs for the inmates.

"I offered assistance to the elderly and chatted with them to make them feel more comfortable," said senior Sean Corcoran. Senior Ron Machan volunteered at the Chamber of Commerce information booth handing out



*RIDIN' AROUND... Seniors Callie Buechler and Evan Roth wait to transport veterans at the WWII Memorial. (photo by Mallori Barnett)*

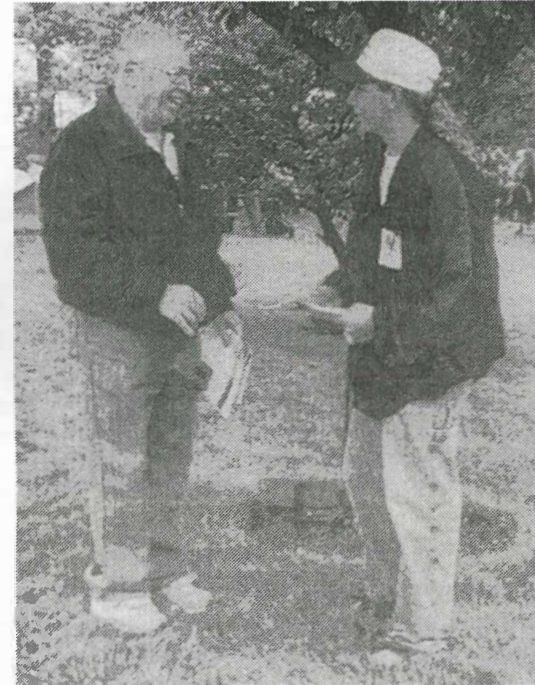
programs and giving directions. Future Business Leaders of America members helped at the USO tent by dancing and spending time with the veterans.

Many organizations and church youth groups found that the dedication presented an opportunity for fundraising. Lutheran Memorial

Church confirmation students sold bottled water, while Close-Up members sold WWII Memorial prints.

"The prints were a really good idea because they fit in so well with the event," said senior Tracy Roberts.

"It was interesting talking to the veterans about their war experiences," senior



*LOST AND FOUND... Senior Ron Machan helps a lost veteran find his way. (photo by Mallori Barnett)*

Close-Up member Travis Scharnweber said.

"It was a unique experience because I usually don't get the

chance to work with the older generation," said senior Callie Buechler.

**by BryAnn Becker**

## Ambush!: Students remember the day America was attacked

Most Riggs students and teachers will always remember exactly where they were the moment they heard about the terrorist attacks on the morning of September 11, 2001.

"Mr. Mickelson came in to our room very upset and told us that the World Trade Center had just been hit and was being bombed. We didn't know what to think," said senior Gerda Jorgenson.

Many classrooms had their TVs tuned to major news stations as students watched their country being attacked before their very eyes. Students also

clicked onto the Internet to find as much information as possible, which wasn't easy because the websites were jammed with other users.

Teachers were encouraged to turn on their TVs and let the students watch.

"High school students want to and should be made aware of what is going on in a situation like this," said principal Mike Fugitt. He said the staff didn't want the students to hear rumors and incomplete information.

President George Bush declared Friday, September 14 a

national day of prayer and remembrance. Riggs High held its own special candlelight ceremony after the homecoming football game.

"I thought it was good thing to do because the terrorist are trying to break our country up but they are only bringing us together," said freshman Joel Stars.

Even though the attack was in New York and Washington D.C., it still hit close to home here in South Dakota.

"My uncle was across the street when the planes hit the World Trade Center. It's kind

of scary to know that he could have been in the building when the planes hit," said sophomore Whitney Barnett.

The attacks have hit closer to home for two seniors. Nick Johnson and Andy Heymans, both members of the South Dakota National Guard, have been told by their unit commanders to be on alert.

Johnson and Heymans, both 18, are the only two National Guardsmen at Riggs susceptible to being called to duty because of their age. Both are to be prepared to leave on short notice and be ready for

whatever occurs.

"I feel it is an honor to defend this country and am prepared for whatever may happen," said Heymans.

"I'm ready and waiting. If they call me today, I'm ready to go," Johnson said.

Even through this tragedy, students still have high hopes for America.

"I think America will come back strong. We have a sturdy economy and we will stand together united through this," said senior John Williams.

**by Heather Mangan**



## Even freedom comes with a price

September 11 is a date that no doubt will go in the history books, not just because American buildings collapsed to the ground in a terrorist attack or because the attack may lead to war but because of the unification that has occurred.

If the terrorists' mission was to tear our country apart, they failed miserably. Although the attacks have forced us to feel pain and grief for the thousands of lives lost, they have also forced us to look at what our nation has become. People of all races and religions are coming together. Everywhere you look, signs of patriotism are evident. That's something to be proud of.

Besides patriotism, Americans have also leaned on their faith. Amazingly, a year ago American students were told by the courts that they couldn't pray over the P.A. system at a game. A year later, with no apparent objections, students across the country, including students in Pierre, prayed together.

At Saturday's WWII Memorial Dedication, Governor William Janklow said that in times



like these and in the trenches of war, there is no such thing as an atheist.

The candlelight vigil last Friday night following the football game was one of the most incredible things Riggs and Pierre has ever done. New York and Washington D.C. are thousands of miles away, but our little town cared deeply enough to hold its own candlelight service. Many students may not know that a photo from our candlelight vigil was printed in "USA Today" last Monday.

Our generation has not seen much war so we have no clue what to expect. It is really scary to think that a month from now our brothers,

our friends, or even we ourselves could be drafted. Hearing classmates talk about what military branch they want to go in is disturbing. Imagining people your age in combat is surrealistic.

This is a tragic event, but we have to remember that it happens to other countries all the time. It's not like our country has never seen something like this before because it has.

We might have lost more people in this attack than at Pearl Harbor, but we can move on with our lives and prepare ourselves for sacrifice, like our grandfathers and grandmothers in World War II did.

When we feel hurt, it is human instinct to want to

take revenge and seek out those who have caused us this pain. Hopefully we can learn to put our own needs aside and concentrate on the needs of our country.

The attack has definitely made us think about what an American really is. The one thing that comes to all of our minds is freedom. Through this whole ordeal, we have really learned what freedom is and why it makes our nation so great.

Where will we go from here is a mystery, but we will stay united. Using God and Lady Liberty as our guides, we will get through this. After all, we are the United States of America.

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## Watchman, what of the night?

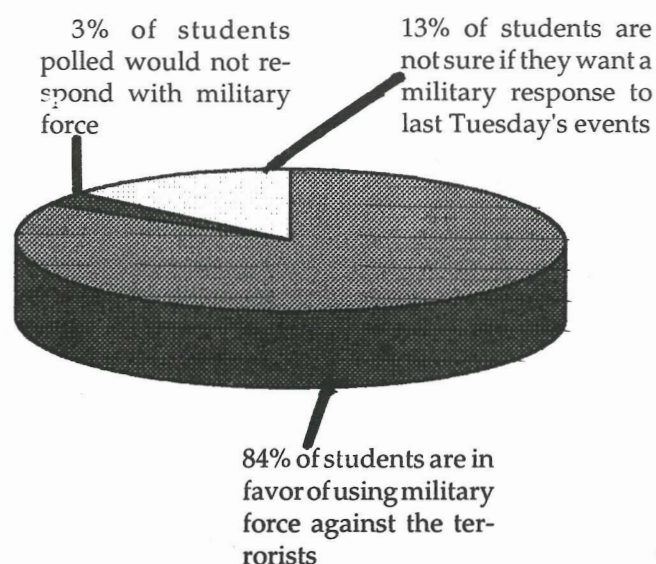
Are you in favor of using military force against the terrorists who attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last week?



"If we don't stop them now, what's going to go next? Who's going to go next?"—freshman Robin Hinesh



"I think that somebody should pay for what happened, but fighting back is just going to cost more lives"—sophomore Jeremiah Lafrentz



"I don't think we need to kill any more people. We need to just shake it off"—junior Dan Johnson



"They struck deep into our military intelligence as well as a trademark of America. I hope that they regret interfering with the greatest power in the world"—senior Lucas Scheibe



100 students polled. Compiled by Governor editors



## Are you suffering from school stroke?

Sweaty palms getting you down? Annoying beads on the brow? Pit stains getting larger by the minute? If these things are happening to you, BEWARE!

You may think you're just a normal teen who is just getting too warm in school. BUT YOU'RE NOT! Those of us who have been around the school long enough may know what I'm talking about.

You, fair citizen, why you, yes you, may have one of the rarest diseases in Pierre: SS—also known as School Stroke.

This combination of school boredom and heat stroke is usually harmless, but several cases have been recorded



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

where severe illness has occurred.

If you're sitting in English class and start to get a faint feeling and sweat profusely,

don't say I didn't warn you in advance. I recommend you seek medical attention as soon as possible, and if you can't find a doctor, there is only one thing left to do.

You must cover yourself in cold sliced sharp cheddar cheese and do cartwheels through the school halls singing "Bohemian Rhapsody" to the tune of the "Star Spangled Banner."

I know this may sound odd and absurd, but trust me it works.

Even if it doesn't work, you will have my respect and admiration for years to come for doing such an unusual and pointless thing.



**Evan Roth & Erik Gilbertson**  
Presidential Poppycock

## 'Cubed ice or crushed ice?'

Due to Erik being caught up with his girlfriend, football and who knows what else, he was unable to join me for this article. Or did I forget to tell him we were writing it?

Anyway, on with my story. As I went to get water from my Culligan water dispenser recently one morning, I noticed it was empty. Since I was too lazy to put another bottle on it, I ventured over to our refrigerator. It just so happens that it has the crushed ice or cubed ice option.

Now I don't have to deal with ice when I use my Culligan water dispenser because the water is already chilled. It was far too early in the morning for someone like me to decide in a very efficient manner what to do, but I knew I had to act fast; my Saturday morning cartoons awaited me.

The question arose: What is better: cubed ice or crushed ice? At the time, it seemed like the Question of the Century. To me, the answer could have very well unfolded the meaning of life.

So I thought to myself, "Which one of these will make my water drinking experience more enjoyable?" A flashback

came to me of the moment I last chose cubed ice.

I drank the water quite pleasurably until I came to the end of the actual water. All of a sudden when I was tipping the glass back, trying to get the rest, a cube slid loose and struck me in the forehead with an impressive force.

I was not a happy camper by any means. I shook that awful memory off and tried to think of when I last chose crushed ice. Surely, that memory could not be as horrific and painstaking.

It came to me—equally unenjoyable. I was very thirsty, so I drank my water faster than a fat man in a pie eating contest (see Max Huber). Now this wasn't water I drank so bullet-like. This was a slushy.

I got the brain freeze from Hades, and I've got permanent brain damage. To prove it, look at this article I wrote.

As soon as I thought of that, I said "Ice, schmice!" and I just settled for warm water.

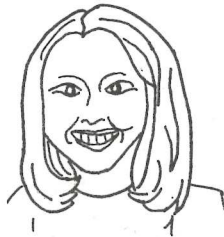
Note: I have discovered if you wait long enough with crushed iced, it actually becomes a single, giant ice cube waiting to slide loose.

## Film 'Blow' takes on controversial topics

"Blow" is a film based on the rise and fall of George Jung, the US's leading drug smuggler of the 1970's who opened the US up to Columbian cocaine.

The film mainly deals with the issues of family and the quest for richness and how drugs affect both of these, both positively and negatively.

It has a talented cast of characters with Johnny Depp starring as Jung, supported by veteran actors Ray Liotta, Paul Reubens and Penelope Cruz. Depp gives a brilliant performance, showing Jung's drive for his freewill over the love for his family and how he is affected by those around him.



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

"Blow" was superbly directed by Ted Demme who helps relay the love-hate relationship the audience feels for Jung. He shows how man can corrupt himself by the choices he makes and how sometimes, if he goes too far, he just can't come back, even if he really tries.

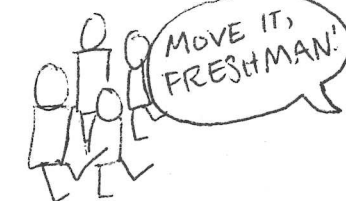
The movie does fail somewhat on the points of character depth and personality, though, leaving some characters without much room to act. It also doesn't let some characters develop into their full potentials so they are unclear throughout the movie.

I thought the best part of the film was not that it showed how drugs can affect people's lives, but that it is mainly the choices they make that can be their downfall.

"Blow", which came out on video September 11, is rated R for drug use and language. Its name is a reference to cocaine, one of the main points of the film.

Freshmen

Tracy's  
1st Day

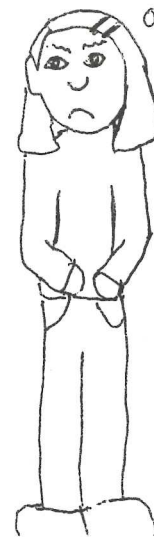


Marching Band,  
7.27 am



Hallway, 10:40 am

Meghan Larson 2001



"I'm starting to feel like a cow"

After school



# School pride reigns through Riggs' halls

# \* HOMECON

Students at Riggs always look forward to Homecoming—whether it be the big game on Friday, the chance to show school spirit or just a break in the usual school routine.

"My favorite part of homecoming is cruising around in govmobiles," said junior Dustin Hight.

Visitors to Riggs last week may have felt oddly out of place as many students participated in the school dress-up days. The seniors were allowed to relish their authority in black on Monday's Color Day, while the freshmen in pink wondered why they had ever wanted to come to high school in the first place.

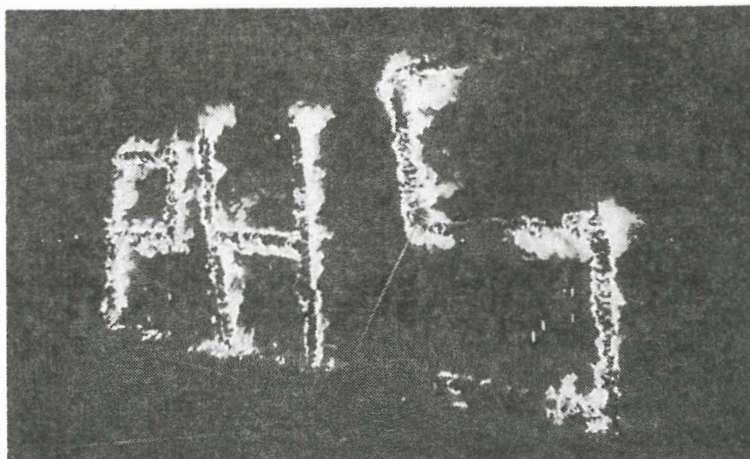
Tuesday's theme proved to be more of a "get-up" than dress-up day as students arrived in their pajamas. Cowboy or Biker Wednesday allowed students to show which "hog" they preferred, while Thursday showcased Hawaiian leis and army paraphernalia.

"The dress-up day that I liked the best was Thursday because I think that was the day that most people participated in," said sophomore Kelly Johnson. On Friday, St. Patrick's Day came early as students showed Pierre pride in green and white.

Govmobiles and floats alike filled Thursday afternoon's parade with diversity, while the Riggs Emerald Regiment gave onlookers something to cheer about.

Coronation proved to be another exciting event, especially for Homecoming royalty. This year's First Lady candidates were Cori Bechtold, Carrie Gonsor, Ami Hanson, Anita Nicholas and Connie Rislov. The Governor candidates were Pat Adams, Matt Englund, Charlie Magedanz, Austin Schneider and Brad Wire.

The Riggs chorus provided a song, fall cheerleaders presented a light show, while the coach and captains shared their thoughts on the upcoming



**LONG LIVE THE FLAMES...**The letters burned even through the rain after Thursday night's coronation. (photo by Gerda Jorgenson)



**NEW NAMES...**First Lady Carrie Gonsor and Governor Brad Wire accept their respective honors. (photo by Gerda Jorgenson)

ing game.

Katie Lakner, the 2000 Riggs High First Lady announced Brad Wire and Carrie Gonsor the 2001 Governor and First Lady. Wire and Gonsor started the fire in the traditional burning of the letters on the practice field, and then were honored at a pop and popcorn social held in the lunchroom.

Many students showed their support early on Friday by attending the Spirit Breakfast held from 6:45 to 7:30 a.m. The fall cheerleaders served the breakfast of a sweet roll, juice, and milk. School was dismissed at 1 p.m. in order for students to attend the pep rally.

Seniors once again showed their dominance by giving the loudest class cheer and winning the golden plunger in the Student Olympics. Events included "sumo wrestling," a pie-eating contest, and a Governor version of chubby burry. Students were also fired up for the football game by a song

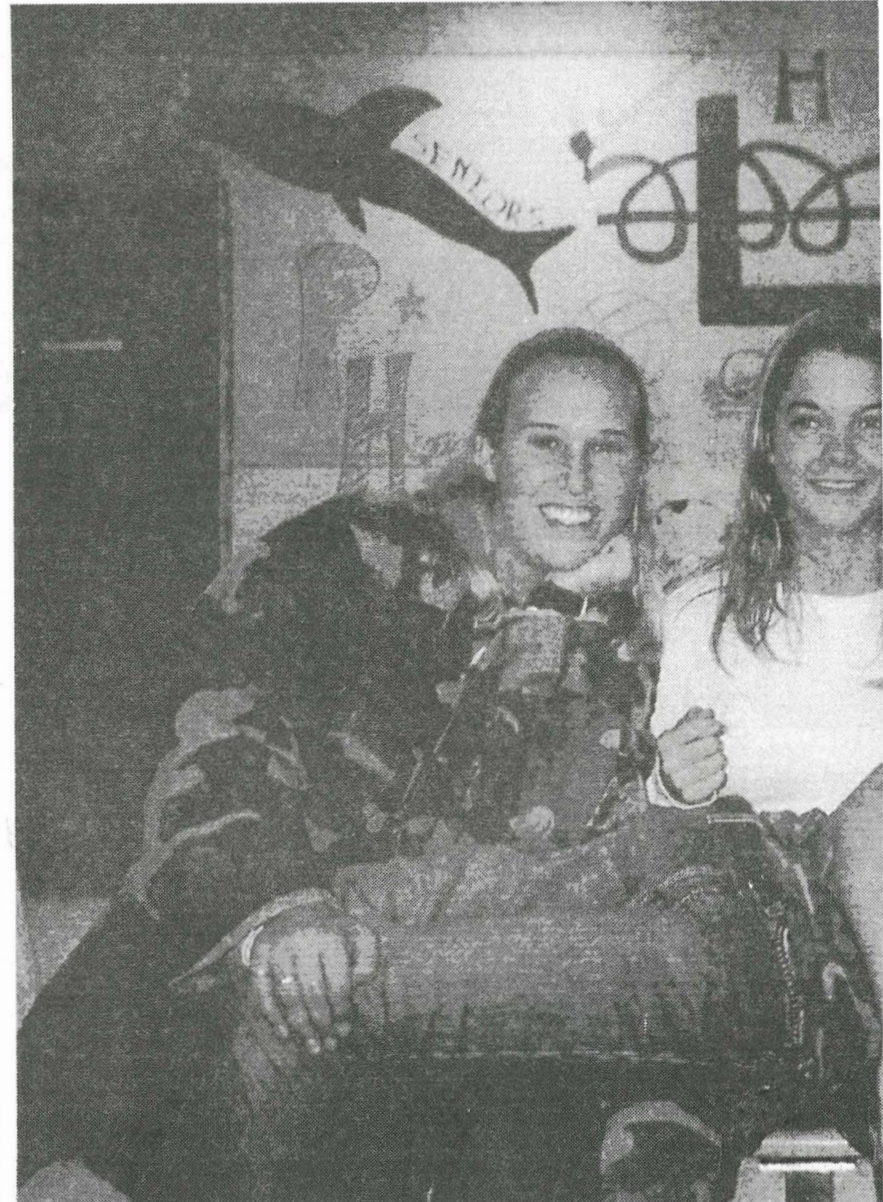
from Men @ School.

The weather may have dampened students' clothes but not their spirits, as many showed their Pierre pride by supporting the Governor football team. Riggs Emerald Regiment provided a half-time marching show, which allowed time for the Govs to regroup for their fight against the Sioux Falls Lincoln Patriots. Pierre stuck it out until the end, but lost 14-21.

However, life was put into perspective during a candlelight service held after the game. Football players, students and fans joined together to pray for and honor the thousands of Americans who lost their lives in Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

Homecoming demonstrated what great freedoms we still have in America and how enjoyable it can be to exercise those freedoms.

by BryAnn Becker



Left—ST spirit be

Above—i their own Mallori

Right—C mighty C Mallori



# ING 2001 \*

## Govmobiles: Riggs' own creation



Above—TRY ME...Senior Sean Corcoran got a double dose of excitement as he celebrated his 18th birthday along with Friday's big game. (photo by Gerda Jorgenson)

Left—GO GIRLS...Aimee Vogel, Amber LaBrie, Sara Rankin, and (in front) Kimberly Nelson participate in Army/Hawaiian Day. (photo by Mallori Barnett)



LINCOLN...Sophomore girls show their school parade. (photo by Mallori Barnett)

WE GO...These long-haired riders stand out in on during the homecoming parade. (photo by )

VERNORS GO...Chorus members sing about the fore the royalty were crowned. (photo by )



So what did you drive to school on the week of Homecoming? For over 100 Riggs High students, the vehicle of choice was their Govmobiles.

What is a Govmobile? Some ingenious Riggs students about 20 years ago created the first "govmobile" and the concept has stuck around long enough to become one of our school's trademarks.

Out-of-town broadcasters rave about them during football games and other schools are wondering why they didn't think of them a long time ago. Pierre students can proudly say we are the true founders of school spirit on wheels.

The original Govmobiles used to be just old beat-up junker cars, but today that has changed. The vehicles are getting nicer and nicer, and with all the work the kids do to fix them up, they want theirs to be reliable so their work won't have been for nothing.

Also, kids want to be able to sell them when they graduate to someone from the next class.

This year, the Riggs parking lot was home to over two dozen Govmobiles during the weeks leading up to Homecoming.

Many students love to take part with their friends and join in Pierre's tradition. Originally, the Govmobiles were dominated by senior students, but juniors and even a few sophomores now get in on the fun.

When a group of friends decide they want a Govmobile, they must round up a crew. In some cases, the bigger the better.

The average number of "owners" for a Govmobile is now over ten. Of course, you need quite a large vehicle to accommodate the number of people who will be riding in it.

Vans are by far the most popular (and easiest to get ahold of), but there have also been a few campers and buses that students have managed to get their hands on.

Govmobiles are inventive and rely on the creativity of the

### Make 'em legal

It's getting harder and harder to make Govmobiles legal; and newer, stricter laws are always burdening them.

This year kids were scrambling to find seats and seatbelts to install in their Govmobiles.

Assistant Chief of Police Ron Semmler said, "I think Govmobiles are wonderful. They not only portray school spirit but get kids involved who usually aren't."

According to Semmler, Govmobiles are not targeted by the police, as some students may think.

"They draw suspicion to themselves. We don't have to bother looking for them—they seem to find us," he says.

Law enforcement officers are concerned about the potential misuse of school spirit and misdirecting it into destruction.

"It's all fun and games until someone gets hurt," Semmler says.

kids. Most Govmobiles house couches or chairs in them, but it gets better than that.

Some kids choose to mount the couches on the roof of their Govmobile and bolt them into place, so they can ride around town seated in them.

In the past, some kids have gone as far as to weld one car on top of another—creating the double-decker Govmobile. Others cut off the roofs of their vehicles to make them convertibles, and still others have even mounted loudspeakers on their Govmobiles to blare music.

The list of crazy ideas could go on forever, and they seem to get better every year.

by Dakota Bixler





Tyler Merriam

.....  
 The Merm Made Sports Column.  
 .....

## 'Goodbye, Kris'

August 6 was a sad day for sports in central South Dakota. On that day, Kris Stephens Kornbaum, who did KCCR's play-by-play of Governor sports for ten years, died of cancer at the age of 46.

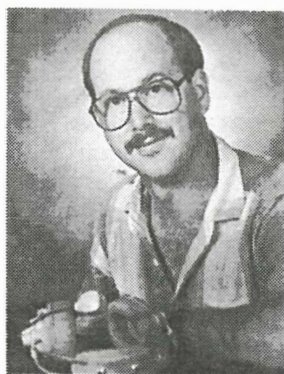
He allowed me to sit beside him for almost six years, learning broadcast journalism from him. He always treated me like a friend, taking me under his wing, opening the door of opportunity, and teaching me the tricks of the trade.

Kris got me my current job at KCCR, offering me a chance to do color commentary on football and baseball broadcasts.

Kris' health troubles worsened a year ago during the football season, as he missed three football games on the road.

When he returned on homecoming night a year ago, it was an emotional night for all involved, as Kris and Tom Maxwell of "SportsMax" and I did the game. That was the night of "the homecoming miracle," when Pierre staged an unbelievable comeback in the closing minutes of the game.

I still have that tape, and the one from the next week, when Kris and I did the Pierre-Rapid City Stevens game that Pierre won in double overtime. In excitement I screamed



Kris Stephens, 1955-2001

"O My God!" Kris' response? "It's okay to say 'Oh My!' just leave out the big man upstairs."

We worked baseball games over this past summer, and it was a July 2 game that turned out to be our last together.

I called him about ten days before he died, the last time I talked to him, and he sounded cheery. He made it a point never to talk about his problems.

That following Sunday, I left him a note, thanking him for everything he had done for me. In just a few days, he was gone.

I still think about Kris every day, and especially when I announce football games this fall.

He taught me that the person covering the game is not important. He taught me to do the job fairly and objectively. And he showed me that if you do the job well, people will respect you.

So long, buddy. You will be missed.

## Tennis gets new head coach

The Lady Govs tennis team has a new coach—Lisa Blake, a former Riggs student.

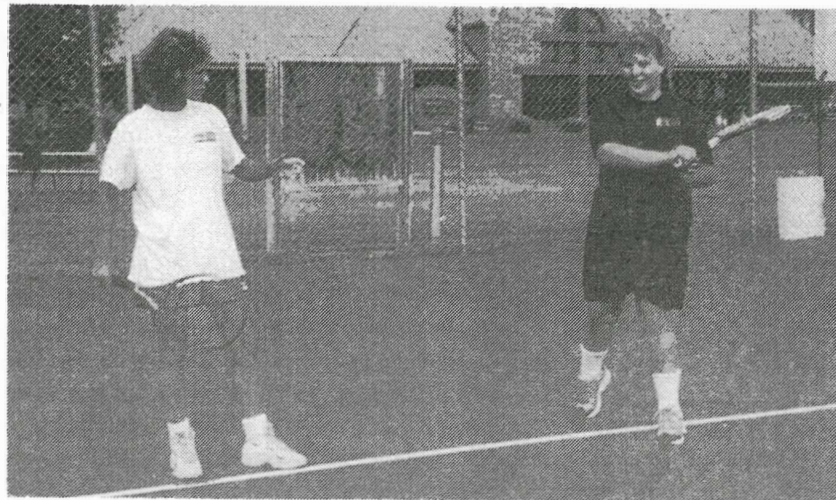
After high school, she attended the University of South Dakota. She enjoys tennis and has been playing for 10-12 years. When former coach Don Rogers decided he wanted to retire from coaching, she was glad to step in and help.

"I knew it would be a little tough but a lot of fun as well. I figured 'why not?' Change is good," said Blake.

"Blake is very enthusiastic, supportive and is doing a great job of coaching tennis for her first year," junior Rachel Zuercher said.

"Since most of the seniors are gone, it has been a little more difficult to win. Coach Blake does things differently than our last coach, but we are all rising to the challenge," sophomore Kate Wylie said.

Even though the team lost valuable players, others have been stepping up to fill those positions. Junior Chelsey Cox is playing on



THAT'S THE WAY!...Tennis coach Lisa Blake instructs freshman Michele Hoscheid on proper hitting technique. (Governor photo by Mallori Barnett)

the team for the first time.

Cox recently moved here from Palm Harbor, Florida, where her team won districts and finished second in the state.

"My dad was fairly good at tennis and taught me to play at a young age," said Cox.

Blake is satisfied with her team's progress. "Right now we have had some trial and error un-

til I get all my girls into their right playing positions. As far as progressing, all the girls have done a tremendous job and are really improving," she says.

Blake says that tennis is all about trying your hardest, giving the sport your very best and most importantly, having fun.

by Tiffany Murtland

## SCHIEF'S VARSITY SPORTS SCOREBOARD

### Girls Basketball

Current record: 4-3

Last game: 45-40 win vs. Huron Tuesday

Next game: Tomorrow at Brandon Valley

Notable performance: Kara Kurth had 16 points and seven rebounds against Huron

Coach's comment: "The team is getting contributions from everyone this early in the season"—Coach Pat McClemons

### Cross Country

Last event: Saturday at Huron Invitational; Boys placed 5th, Girls only had four runners.

Next event: Friday at Rapid City Invitational

Notable performances: Harry Decker placed 10th in Huron; Whitney Barnett finished 16th, Sasha Kean 18th

Coach's comment: "Harry Decker is steadily improving. Whitney and Sasha are competing well and learning to race together"—Coach Bruce Venner

### Football

Current record: 1-4

Last game: 21-14 Homecoming loss to Sioux Falls Lincoln

Next game: Tomorrow at Mitchell  
 Notable performances: Tyler Prue has rushed for over 100 yards in three straight games; Pat Adams broke Justin Briese's career tackle mark Friday

Coach's comment: "We are finally beginning to play as a team, and we will be in contention at the end of the season—I guarantee it"—Coach Chad Gusso

### Boys Golf

Last event: Monday in Watertown

Next event: ESD meet tomorrow in Huron

Notable performance: Zach Vogt shot a 79 in Aberdeen last Saturday, earning fifth place  
 Coach's comment: "We have been improving each meet and gaining valuable experience needed to compete at state level"—Coach Todd Bohls

### Girls Soccer

Last game: Saturday, September 8th, lost 5-3 to Sioux Falls Washington

Next event: Tomorrow, Saturday September 22, here versus Aberdeen

Notable performances: Jena Forsch and Aubrey Hunt are the leading scorers. Liz Kirk and Carrie Schlaak have had numerous assists from their midfield positions

Coach's comment: "All the girls are finally beginning to play as a team"—Coach Kevin Forsch

### Girls Tennis

Last event: Thursday, September 13; R.C. Central; 4-5 loss

Next event: Tuesday hosting Sturgis

Notable performances: Hannah Bloomberg and Kate Wiley are playing really well as the number one doubles team.

compiled by Jenna Schiefelbein



# Lowerys provide constant cross country presence

For the eighth year in a row, a Lowery is running cross-country.

Brian ran for three years, Brad for four, and now Brittany is on her first of hopefully four years for the Lady Govs.

The Lowery kids have genetics on their side since both their parents were runners.

Each of their parents ran in college, and their dad was a track coach in Vermillion before moving to Pierre.

The first of the Lowery kids, Brian was a top 20 runner in the state as a senior for Pierre.

He went on to attend the University of Sioux Falls and ran cross-country there.

He now has returned to Riggs to student teach for Jeff Dykstra's sophomore biology classes and be an assistant cross-

***"I like Brian as a coach. He treats me the same as everybody else plus he can give me more personal advice."*—Brittany Lowery**

country coach for Bruce Venner.

That means that he now coaches his little sister Brittany, a freshman at Riggs.

Brad, a 2001 graduate of T.F. Riggs High School, now attends the University of South Dakota where he runs cross-country.

He was Pierre's number-one runner since his freshman year and was one of the top two runners in the state his senior year. He also excelled in track, winning a state title in 2000.

Brittany, the youngest of the Lowerys, says she doesn't feel very much

pressure to do well even though her brothers were both great runners for Pierre.

"I try to do the best that I can do."

Venner expects a lot from Brittany in her tenure at Riggs High as a runner not just because of her name but from what he has seen so far from her. He believes that once she grows some more, "she will be excellent."

Brittany says it doesn't bother her to have her brother helping to coach her this year.

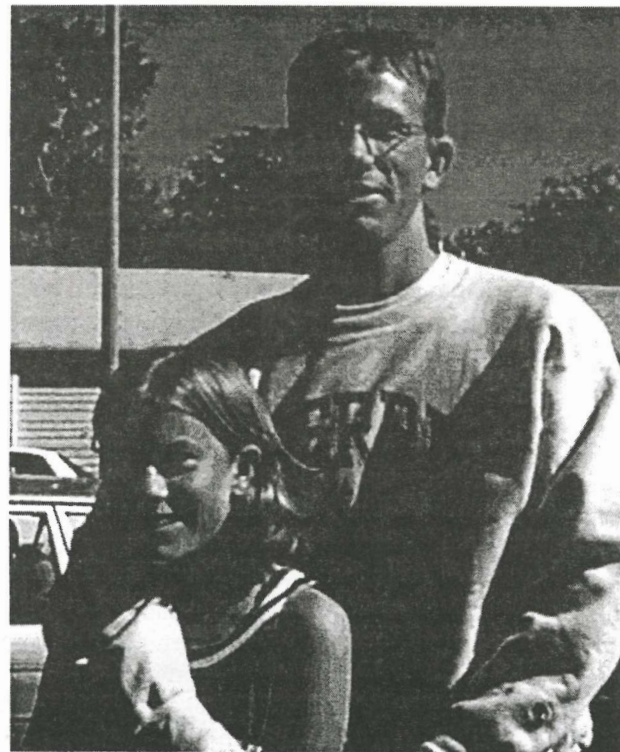
"I like Brian as a coach. He treats me the same as everybody else, plus, he

can give me more personal advice than he can other runners because he knows me better and I see him more."

Brian says he tries not to expect more from Brittany than other kids and is pretty good at treating Brittany the same as the other runners.

Maybe the most important thing all these siblings share is their love of running. All three are very hard workers and get the most out of practice.

In fact, Venner said, "The hard work and desire to run is evident in each of the Lowerys. They all just love to run."



ALL IN THE FAMILY...Freshman Brittany Lowery gets big brother Brian's coaching advice this fall. (Governor photo by Gerda Jorgenson)

This trait was instilled by their parents and their love of running in the early years of their lives.

by Tony Rislov

## Sisters enjoy rare opportunity to be teammates

Sisters stick together, and the Kocer sisters are proving that statement in this 2001 girls basketball season.

Shantel and Tynell Kocer have been playing basketball together for as long as they can remember. Shantel, a senior, is the starting forward for the Lady Govs basketball team this year.

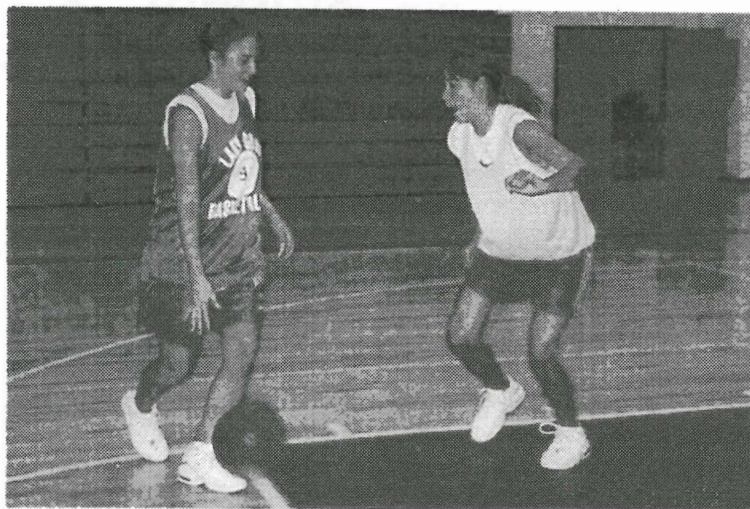
Her sister Tynell, a freshman forward, was called up this year to play varsity ball along with her sister. The sisters see plenty of floor time together.

"It's a great experience to be playing basketball with my sister, and it's fun too," Shantel said.

Tynell is also glad she gets to play with a sibling. "It's good. I look up to my sister a lot. She helps me out."

Shantel was the first person besides the coaches who knew about her freshman sister being called up.

"(Coach Pat McClemons) called me in after practice and



SISTER SISTER...Shantel Kocer, senior, takes on her younger sister, freshman Tynell, in a game of one-on-one before practice Tuesday. (Governor photo by Mallori Barnett)

told me about my sister getting moved up before anyone else knew." She said that she was happy to know first.

Tynell also found out about her varsity promotion from McClemons. She was happy and honored but at the same time nervous and sad about not being able to play with her classmates.

"I wasn't sure of what was

going to happen, and I wasn't sure if I wanted to play for the varsity team or not. I was nervous and didn't want to leave my friends on the freshman basketball team."

McClemons, the varsity girls basketball coach, talked about how close the sisters are.

"I think that as sisters, they have always been really close. But I think that their experi-

ence as teammates has brought them closer."

McClemons thinks having her older sister playing with her is easier on Tynell.

"Going from eighth grade basketball up to varsity is a tough transition. I think having Shantel with her has made it easier on her, and I think that overall she has adjusted to this level pretty well."

Sisters may stick together, but they don't always have to agree with each other. Like any other siblings, these two have their share of disagreements on and off the court.

"Sometimes I'll try to tell her something on the court, but she won't listen just because I'm older," said Shantel.

"I do listen. But sometimes she just ticks me off mostly because of the fact that she is my sister," Tynell added.

But having a sister on the team isn't all bad. It has its advantages too.

Shantel, being the older sister, is trying to do what all

olders sisters do—watch out for her younger sibling.

Shantel says she tries to teach her sister both on and off the court.

"I try to teach her how to play older and how to win at the varsity level with poise and control. I want her to play to her potential because she's really good," Shantel said.

Even though they have some problems, Tynell really enjoys the perks of playing with an older sibling.

"I'm happy to have a sister who tries to help me like Shantel does. In the future we will be able to look back on the things we've done this year."

Through all the fighting, the hardships of adjusting to the varsity level, the good times and the bad, one might think that these sisters might not want it this way.

But if you asked them, they wouldn't have it any other way.

by Pat Anderson



## Policies undergo major overhaul

School policies underwent major revisions this summer as a committee of administrators, students, parents, teachers and coaches tackled some tough issues.

Most of the revisions involved extracurricular activity participation and "training rules." As of this fall, any organized school-sponsored group is subject to this new policy, not just athletics.

In one major change, training rules are now in effect throughout the entire calendar year, not just during the months while school is in session.

In addition, the rules are in force for all students in grades 7-12, and students' violations will now accumulate through their high school career.

The violations are outlined in the Student Handbook for students to

take notice. After the first violation, the student will lose eligibility for 25% of any extracurricular or athletic activities. After the second violation, the student loses 50% of eligibility. After the third violation, students lose all eligibility for the rest of their high school career. The only exception to the third violation is if the student wants a last chance, he or she may take counseling and return to activities after sitting out a full calendar year. If a student reaches a fourth violation, the student is permanently removed from all activities with no exception.

Although the violations accumulate until a student graduates from high school, the slates are wiped clean after the 8th grade year. Students get a clean start when they

enter high school.

Another significant change comes in what was known as the "Attendance Policy." Under this policy, students who were caught attending parties where illegal activities were taking place received a penalty, even if they hadn't been doing anything wrong themselves.

With the attendance policy no longer in effect, students don't have to be as cautious where they are hanging out and with whom. Sophomore Tyler Hoffman speaks for the majority of the students when he says, "I like not being punished for choosing not to drink."

"Before, it was pointless when students got in trouble for not doing anything wrong at parties. There could be a party anywhere, and then

someone shows up with alcohol and automatically everyone there is in jeopardy of getting in trouble," said senior Jon Kotilnek.

"I thought it was wrong before when kids were punished who were at parties in order to be designated drivers and try to be a positive influence by not drinking," Jenna Schiefelbein said.

With the new policies in effect, and some of the old policies gone, senior Aaron Bumann, one of the students who sat on the committee, sums up the changes by saying, "It was interesting to work on something that actually matters to people and affects them. I definitely believe the changes made are for the better."

by Vicki Fosheim

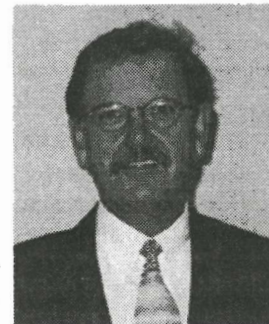
## New superintendent sets district goals

John Pedersen became Superintendent of the Pierre School District on July 1.

"In life we must continually strive to improve," Pedersen said. "Pierre is an excellent school system, and we need to work together to make it better."

Some of his goals for this district include involving more parents and providing more opportunities for students to get involved in activities. Pedersen's main goals for Riggs are to get construction done quickly and meet the needs of all students, whether they are college-bound or not.

Pedersen says the teachers and administrators during his high school years positively



Superintendent John Pedersen

impacted his decision to become an educator. He said they truly cared about students, had high expectations, and made learning fun—the best qualities of a good high school teacher.

When asked about snow days, Pedersen said he would be keeping them to a minimum, so don't get your hopes up.

by Meghan Larson

## Gym addition nears completion

Weeks before school was to begin, rumors were flying: Will school start on time? When do the teachers relocate into the new building? How long will we have to deal with cruising around the parking lot desperately searching for a parking space?

All of these rumors relate to the same thing: the ongoing construction and renovation on the school.

"The academic section in the front is ideally going to be finished around November 1," said Principal Mike Fugitt, "and the contractors have been promising use of the new gym by as early as the end of September."

The construction, due to be completed as of September 1, 2002, is for the most part running on schedule.

"For a while, the construction was a little behind schedule, but extra crews were added and now they are right back on task," vice-principal John Lakner said.

Currently, the school is at the beginning of phase two of the three phases in the contract. This whole school year will be in this phase, and phase three will start at the beginning of summer.

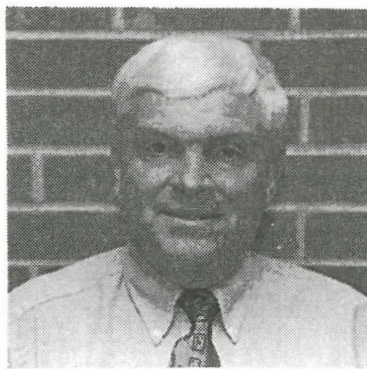
By the project's completion, all new and old parts will have air-conditioning, and all teachers should have their own rooms. Also, the English wing will be demolished due to its deterioration and costly maintenance expenses.

A new parking lot with about sixty parking spaces will be constructed in front of the new building as well.

"That lot will primarily be for staff, visitors and the handicapped, but it should be freeing up spaces in other areas," says Fugitt. He reports that there have been almost no problems with the current parking situation.

Lakner adds, "We will have improved parking in the end, but nothing to brag about."

As always, many people are



Assistant Principal John Lakner

tired of the difficult working environment and are ready for the construction to be over.

"Some days, it has sounded like a thunderstorm during first and second periods," said Joel Hieb, the auto mechanics teacher. "They were putting a new roof on the building."

Teachers currently teaching in the basement as well as in the modular classrooms may be among the first to move into new classrooms because the basement area will be the site of the next renovation.

by Hannah Waack

## Student parking stickers make much-needed debut

Did you know you can get in trouble this year if your vehicle doesn't display the school colors? A new school policy this year: if you park on school property, your car must display a parking sticker.

These green stickers were issued to students at registration or in the first week of school.

An initial violation of the parking sticker rule will result in the assignment of three detentions. Repeat violations will result in loss of parking privileges, suspension and the towing of the vehicle at the owner's expense.

Last year was the first year that teachers had parking stickers. Student stickers were added this year to help keep teachers' and students' cars separate.

Although both the teachers' and students' stickers are green, the stickers do differ in that the

teachers' stickers are smaller and are placed on a different part of the windshield.

Last year, there was a continual problem with students who parked illegally or in the teachers' parking lot. The Pierre Police Department had to run license numbers to identify student vehicles.

If students drive a different vehicle for brief amount of time, they can get a temporary hang-up parking pass in the office that are to be hung from the rearview mirror.

Lakner added that next year the administration will consider privileged parking for seniors. The administration would like to acknowledge the students with school involvement, special achievements, academic leadership and outstanding qualities.

by Amy Bergeson