

# T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Vol. 62 ❖ No. 7 ❖ March 26, 2004 ❖ Pierre, SD

Overcoming  
Obstacles  
Handicapped  
students work at  
overcoming  
difficulties  
pg 4-5



## 'Superman' retires Ardent supporter of students moves to Rapid City

By BryAnn Becker

Note to teenagers and children of Pierre: superman is retiring. The man who once performed possibly every community service possible—announcing athletic events, playing the organ for church and the piano for Riggs musicians and the Kiwanis singers, singing with Over Forte, encouraging guardsmen and women, brightening up parents' and students' days, and giving community members just one more reason to live in Pierre—is moving to Rapid City this month.

This superman, however, filled not comic book pages but the People page of the *Capital Journal*. Parker Knox, Pierre's very own superman, will finally take some time for himself after serving others.

Parker's granddaughter Olivia, who

lives in the Black Hills with Parker's daughter Holly, serves as a big draw away from this community he's lived in for years.

Parker's plans, however, don't include anything outrageous. "I'm just going to get settled and see what turns up," he said.

Parker said he'll miss being at Riggs and with students the most. "I taught school for 18 years [in Onida], but I missed contact with kids. This job [people editor at the *Capital Journal*] allowed me to continue contact with kids in what I like best—the best of both worlds, as journalism is my first love. It's about the perfect job," he said.

Parker will leave behind that "perfect job" and hundreds of friends and admirers in the community.

Parker said he's received almost 400 cards, e-mails and let-

ters from people after learning he's leaving.

This superman, however, is not one to brag of his accomplishments. "It's been sort of overwhelming...it's been sort of embarrassing," he said.

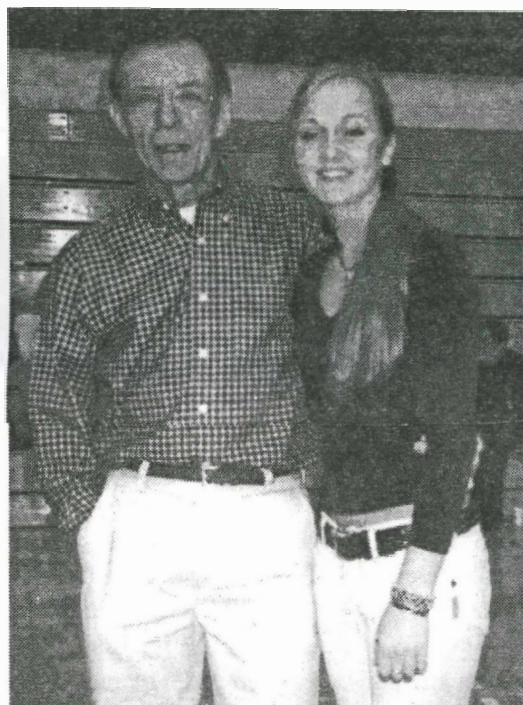
Community members did the best they could to add to his embarrassment by holding a retirement party for him in February. The two-hour long program in the Riggs gym included performances

and speeches by friends in dedication to Parker.

They need not fret too much, though. He'll be back—to visit, anyway. "I'll be back plenty of times to keep in touch with everybody," he said.

Although from the number of e-mails and letters Parker has received, he may have enough trouble trying to actually find time for himself. Parker Knox has gotten to be a household name.

Parker said he knows he'll be a wanted man in Rapid City if word gets out there's a new organist in town. Superman may have to lay for a while if he ever plans to retire.



Parker Knox and McKayla Marso say good-bye at his going-away party last month.

### Students, teachers will miss Knox

By BryAnn Becker

Riggs recently lost one of its best fans to Rapid City. Students and teachers alike will soon miss the familiar face and voice at events ranging from choir concerts to baseball games.

"You have to appreciate all he did for basketball and baseball announcing. He's just a great guy," said senior Kyle Kurth.

Choir director Will Hanson appreciates all that Parker

**"Parker is an all-around great guy."—McKayla Marso**

did for the Fine Arts at Riggs.

"He was super-willing to help whenever he could...Parker helped me out ever since I moved to town," he said.

Hanson said he could count on Parker and just gave him music that he described as the "hard stuff" that he willingly played.

Post 8 baseball player senior Allen Goodman said baseball

games won't be the same without Parker.

"He's the Harry Carey of Hyde Stadium. We'll always remember him and miss his voice," Goodman said.

Parker's personality will be missed.

"Parker is an all-around great guy. It's his fun-loving personality and undying generosity to our school that makes him so popular with the students. He'll definitely be missed," senior McKayla Marso said.

## Student volunteers make difference

By Wren Bishop

The Pierre community has benefitted from the efforts of the Youth Involvement Program (YIP). Started earlier last year by consumer and family science teacher Darlene Neiles and character education director Mary Jane Nelson, YIP has increased its members from about thirty to seventy five this year.

YIP is a group of students who do community service wherever it is needed. The group is actually comprised of several smaller groups, including TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use), Improv, Circle of Friends, and others. The group meets once a month

to discuss projects and sign up for the latest work.

"YIP is kind of like an umbrella program in the sense that if there is anything in the community that needs work, they can come to us. It gives us a feeling of self-worth and accomplishment," junior officer Amy Brandner said.

Recently the group received two grants from the Ted Turner Foundation. One is for \$5000, which they will be using to sponsor a school wellness program. The second grant for \$2500 will be used by YIP to paint two houses for needy individuals in the community.

One of the recent works is the fourth grade

mentoring program. Instead of having groups go out to the elementary schools, members visit each fourth grade class, coming four or five times a semester.

Other accomplishments include book buddies at HeadStart, crossing guards, food pantry workers, letters to troops, and book drives.

Another special project is the McKinley walkers. YIP volunteers are on hand at McKinley Elementary to walk students under the bridge and provide a deterrent to the middle school students that have been harassing elementary students who walk the route.

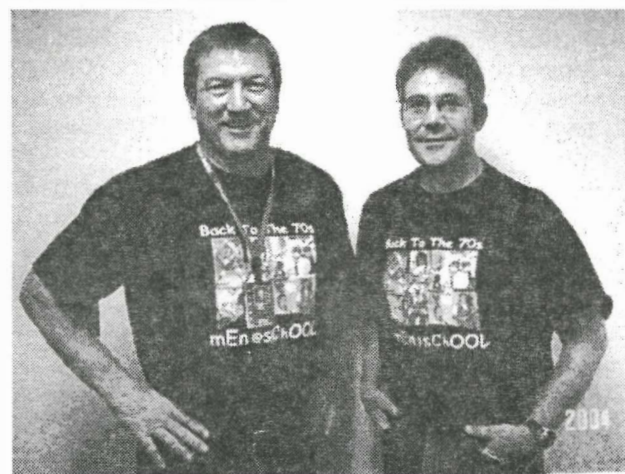
Interested students can contact Neiles at the high school.

## Week gives opportunity for display of pride

By BryAnn Becker and Andrew Kightlinger

Students had the chance to show their enthusiasm for their country, themselves, their friends and their school last week during Pride Week. Student senate organized the week with each grade in charge of a particular day.

On Monday, Pride in Country Day, students dressed in patriotic colors. National Guard representatives including SFC Gary L. Kafka greeted students in the morning. Stars and stripes were hidden around



Teachers Bob Gill and Bruce Venner sport matching band t-shirts to show they have pride in their friendship during Pride Week.

the school for students to find and receive a prize.

Students dressed up in their best apparel for Pride in Self Day. Students dressed up like twins for Pride in Friends Day. They also had the opportunity to have their picture taken by

Photography by Debbie. Thursday served as Pride in School; students dressed in green and white. The school was also decorated by seniors Adam Emerson, Adam Johnson, Andrew Kightlinger and Miranda Townsend.



## Knox sets example through community activities

Parker Knox is a community figure all can admire. Parker involved himself in many community members' lives and believed one person to be equal to the next, including teenagers.

He not only announced for crowd-drawing sports like basketball but also attended cross country races as well. He said that the runners work hard and deserve recognition for their races, also.

Parker realized the value of Pierre's youth. Instead of focusing on negative coverage of teens such as in the police report, Parker believed teens should be positively recognized. "It's important to realize all kids have something important," he said.

He has set a precedent in South Dakota for newspaper coverage of teenagers. "No one pays greater

attention to detail than Parker. Parker has papered more walls of kitchens than anyone else...I don't know anyone else who has filled more scrapbooks than Parker," said *Capital Journal* publisher Terry Hipple

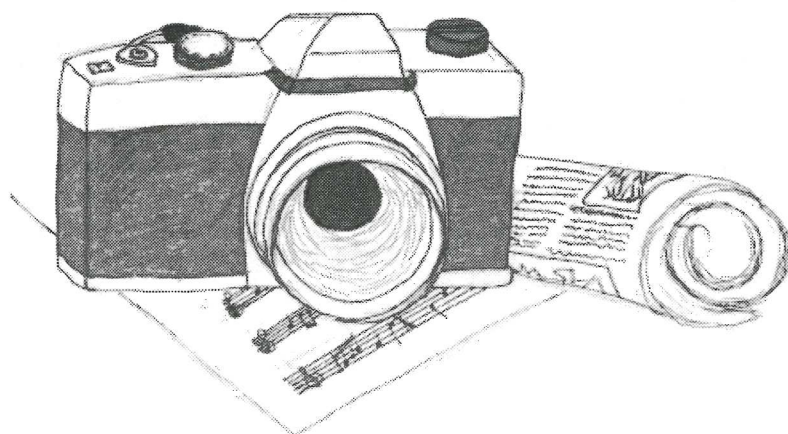
While Parker has been embar-

assed by the kudos, he would be glad if the attention resulted in more community involvement from others. Looking at what Parker has done for Pierre should encourage people to become involved in the community.

"Parker has done his share and

more. His life is deeply embedded in this community," Linus Storms, parent of a National Guardsman, said at the recent party.

Though Parker will be missed, his efforts will not have been in vain if the community of Pierre takes his servant attitude to heart.



## Thumbs Up

...to student senate for sponsoring Pride Week. The dress-up days were a fun change from the typical high school fashion (i.e. jeans and a sweatshirt).

...to the upperclassmen/underclassmen combined Intra-mural Floor Hockey Leagues.



## Thumbs Down

...to so many unnecessary intercom interruptions during class periods.

...to the slaughtering of the English language on the morning announcements. Auditions should ensure that readers have clear voices and the ability to pronounce words correctly.

## Letter to the editor:

Dear Editor,

There is a great injustice taking place in our school rights at this very moment. The principals and the school board keep hacking away at the privileges that we once had.

Since I've been at Riggs, I've seen many transgressions of our rights. The most appalling observation was this year when the school board blew \$2 million on a new lunch program because they felt it was necessary to keep freshman and sophomore students in the building because it's dangerous outside. They might get hurt.

Riggs has more accidents before and after school in a month than there were all of last year during lunch.

The next thing that caught my attention was that they took out the pop machines because pop is

bad for you, yet they serve cheeseburgers, fries, pizza, tacos, nachos and pretzels at lunch. The calories from pop are much less than the calories in these previously mentioned foods. What were they thinking?

We live under a dictatorship at school, yet we have a student senate that does its best to help us regular students with changes we want to make. What everyone doesn't know is that our student senate can pass anything they want, but, in the end, everything can be vetoed by the dictators of school. We have no power at all; we are like Caesar's Parliament. If we fight the power to get our rights back, we will be given detention or ISS. We need some way to equal out the power between students and administration.

Ross Jones, junior

## Governor Staff 2003-2004

Published monthly as an extra-curricular activity by the newspaper staff of  
T.F. Riggs High School  
1010 E. Broadway  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501  
Telephone: 773-7350

**Editor-in-chief** ♦ BryAnn Becker

**Senior editor** ♦ Andrew Kightlinger

**Junior editors** ♦ Jessica Callahan, Robin Hinesh and Laura Marsh

**Sophomore editor** ♦ Dirk McGrane

**Columnists** ♦ Jenny Badger, Andrew Berreth, Andrew Kightlinger, Chris Mangan and Tyson Nafus

**Art/graphics** ♦ Samantha Nielsen, Karen Van Camp

**Photographers** ♦ Tara Dieken, Dirk McGrane, Megan Wellner

**Reporters** ♦ Kimberly Bartels, Wren Bishop, Will Butler, Kim deHueck, Allen Goodman, Lisa Heffernan, Cleo Hilding, Kelly Johnson, Chelsea Parkinson, Emma Waack, Ursula Waack and Drew White  
**Adviser** ♦ Elizabeth J. Vogt

The policy of the Riggs High *Governor* is to report the news accurately and objectively and to provide a forum for the expression of its readers' views. Views expressed in the editorial reflect the concerns and opinions of the editorial board and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the individual reporters, editor, adviser, faculty or administration. The staff encourages signed letters to the editor but reserves the right to accept or reject letters and to edit for length, grammar or libel.

## HALL TALK: DO YOU THINK JUNIORS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE OPEN CAMPUS?



"Yes, because if you have good grades, there's no point in being in study hall."  
—Clayton LaBrie, sophomore



"I like the idea of trial opens at the end of the junior year, but all year long is not a good idea."  
—Sarah Raecke, junior



"No, because we didn't, so it wouldn't be fair."  
—Austin Blair, junior



"Yes, because in two years I will be up there."  
—Rainer Westall, freshman



"Yeah, I don't see what the big controversy is."  
—Laura Bernhard, sophomore



"Yes, if they deserve them, I don't see why not."  
—Brandon King, senior

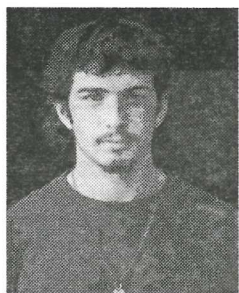


# Columnist ponders March madness

Ah, the torrential time of year for both weather and good news items is long overdue for a tribute. This year I celebrate This Column's March History Month. Let's start with some history.

Originally created by Julius Caesar to explain the time between February and April, March remained a slow time. Julius became bored with it and nearly removed it from the calendar year. Thankfully, March-supporter Brutus stopped the coup.

Several centuries later, a man came along that changed the shade of this month for all time. St. Patrick, armed with kelly green paint and food dye, took the blah and humdrum peach shade from the month forever. We thank him for the coming of color.



**Columnist  
Anonymous  
Tyson Nafus**

Long ago, the month was embraced by American presidents. However, infrequent weather and the Lame Duck period caused the government to sever ties with March. No hard feelings remain, and President Bush is seen every weekend playing golf with St. Patrick. No hard feelings.

Oh, I missed part of the history. Sometime between Caesar's scare and St. Patty's painting spree, a Greek god of war claimed

the month for his own. Unfortunately, he looked before he leaped and ended up dying in an art duel later to the infamous saint.

Today March is known for coming in like a lion and out like a lamb. Or, coming in like a lamb and out like a lion, dependent on which animal finds Earth first.

It's finally turning nice again, after the freakish blizzards that lasted only a day or so a piece. It shouldn't snow a foot then disappear in an hour, three days in a row. That just throws the mind off.

Anyway, other than everything I've mentioned earlier, March also has about one twelfth of the world's birthdays. So, to all your March babies, I wish you a happy birthday.

See ya next month.

## Passion of Christ raises questions

\*\*\*\*Perfect Movie

\*\*\*\*A must-see

\*\*\*Rental fare

\*\*Not recommended

\*Avoid at all costs

**Passion:** pa-shun; noun; from Late Latin *passio* meaning suffering a : the sufferings of Christ between the night of the Last Supper and his death.



**Cinerama!**  
by Andrew  
Kightlinger

*The Passion of The Christ* \*\*\*\*

I am a critic (sort of). My job is to review movies based on story, performances, and technique. I will approach *Passion* as only a movie, despite its subject matter.

Mel Gibson is a very brave, ambitious man. He could have played it safe with this film; there could have been no blood, gore; no Satan; no subtitles. But he didn't. He believed in what he was doing from start to finish. Much like Jesus Christ in the last hours of his life, Gibson did not quit.

Is *Passion* good as a movie? Yes. Is it good as a religious experience? I'm not quite sure. The film has not made my faith any stronger than it already is, but it did compel me to read certain passages from The Bible. I believe that each person's response to the film will vary.

I loved the use of Aramaic and Latin and subtitles. It gave the film an authenticity. And Jim Caviezel as Jesus and Hristo Shopov as Pontius Pilate shined in their pivotal roles.

The one thing that bothered me, though, was the manner in which *Passion* was filmed. The film is intense, but it could have been even more had Gibson put some visual flare and intricacy into the images on the screen.

The graphic violence in the film was disturbingly necessary. Gibson set out to depict the crucifixion, and succeeded. I did not recoil as the slicing and piercing of Jesus' skin, but instead was awed by the masterfully crafted make-up effects. Gibson's depiction of Christ's suffering was flawless, and made me appreciate Jesus' sacrifice even more. But don't get me wrong; this is NOT a movie for anybody under 13 years of age. It is just too brutal and disturbing. If it had been anyone other than Jesus on that cross, I believe that *Passion* would have been rated NC-17 (no one under 17).

As for the accusations of anti-Semitism, they are utterly ridiculous! Sure the high priest Caiaphas insisted on a crucifixion and attended the lashings, but Mel Gibson is not an anti-Semite. He only followed the Gospel (basically) and this is *his* interpretation, no one else's.

Of course, labeling the Jews as those who "killed Jesus" is a stubborn misinterpretation of the teachings and testament. No race, man, priest, governor, or executioner killed Jesus; he died by God's will to realize his purpose, and with our sins we *all* killed him. Historically, some Christian churches have no doubt been guilty of anti-Semitism, but in doing so they have violated their own beliefs. As Jesus taught many of us, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

## An article about Fuddy Duddies...April Fools!

Coming up is April and with it the one holiday that is both dreaded and loved by everyone: April Fool's Day. In anticipation of this holiday, we have put a great list together of things you can do to your family and friends. So we hope that you will enjoy.

1. When all your family members are in separate rooms, tie string to the door knobs connecting them all. Then call them all out for supper or something,

and when they all open the doors at the same time, the doors won't open.

2. In your bathroom tape the drawers closed on the inside so they can't open them.

3. Put a small amount of flour in the back of a hair dryer so when someone turns it on, the flour goes everywhere.

4. In the morning while someone is taking a shower, turn off the hot-water heater so they



**Much 'To Do' About Nothing  
Maggie Schultz & Jenny Badger**

don't have any more hot water.

5. When no one is around, switch around the salt and the sugar, so that when they want sugar, they get salt and when they

want salt, they get sugar.

6. Take your salt and pepper shakers and loosen the tops of them so when people shake them over their food, a lot of it comes out.

7. Find and empty a milk carton and fill it with cottage cheese then put green food dye into it and mix it around. Then put it in the refrigerator where your milk would be so when someone goes to put milk on their cereal, they get green cottage cheese instead.

8. Get up early and Saran wrap your family members' cars closed so they can't get into them when it's time to leave.

9. Put tape under all the faucets so when people turn them on, they get sprayed with water.

So we hope your April Foods Day is full of unexpected things. We hope that we have given you a few good ideas to do. And try to be a little creative and give your friends a good laugh. Remember to look out for your friends and remember where you planted a prank. Have a very Happy April Fool's Day.

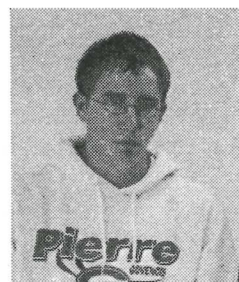
## Human body functions linked to GPA

Well, I have good news. My leg is doing better. All I have to say is, I am glad I am not a goose, or some hunters would have sent their dog after me, ripped me out of their dog's mouth, rung my neck, and tossed me into the back of their truck with all my other dead buddies. Aren't we all glad we are not geese?

I hope I disgusted tons of Democrats last month. They deserve it. Now I am going to disgust the rest of you, including the Democrats. This month's column is not about politics though; it is about the correlations that I have discovered between flushing the toilet and getting good grades.

I surveyed a total of 10 whopping people out of all the people in Riggs High School. Obviously then, these results are extremely accurate and should be taken very seriously, right?

When I asked five people who have good-to-great grades which finger they used to flush the toilet, the heavy majority



**The Angry Cracker  
Andrew Berreth**

of three to two said they flushed with their right index finger. This makes me wonder: do people who flush the toilet with their right index finger get better grades? Maybe.

Then I asked five people with poor-to-decent grades which finger they used. One said with the right thumb, and another person said they went with the double finger flush. But the other three said that they didn't flush. Out of those people who didn't flush, they said they didn't wash their hands either. This makes one ponder if flushing the toilet has something to do with one's grade point average.

All the smart, intelligent people who I surveyed flushed, and all but two of the less gifted students did not flush. This brings me to a conclusion. If you flush, you obviously care about making other people's stay in the rest room an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. On the other hand, if you don't flush, you don't care about what other people's bathroom experiences are.

I sense a parallel here. If you care when you go to the bathroom, then you care about schoolwork. If you don't care when you go to the bathroom, you don't care about schoolwork, and you get poor grades. All this research boils down to this one simple, straightforward statement. You may not like the way it is worded, but I am going to let the results speak for themselves. Data doesn't lie, so I think you should take it very seriously. If you don't, then your grades might take the consequences.

The next time you use the toilet, flush it, and your grades might go up.



# Overcoming Obstacles

## Dealing with the unknown Facing cancer at age twelve

By BryAnn Becker

Another school year had ended and summer was just beginning for twelve-year-old Cleo Hilding. She, like other kids her age, looked forward to three months of relaxation including spending time with friends and just enjoying life. However, one day in early June the summer's hot rays turned into dark, bleak shadows as an ugly monster called Cancer stared at her in the face.

The monster was found during a yearly physical when Cleo's doctor noticed she wasn't growing. After a closer look, he discovered a germinoma cell tumor in stage 4 (see side insert). The tumor had been growing since she was born. Although the cancer was fairly advanced, it was treatable.

However, the word "treatable" wasn't encouraging.

"I was in disbelief to begin with...I was terrified the first couple of weeks," Cleo, currently a senior involved in drama, newspaper and choir, said.

### Facing the truth

Cleo's life, and those of her parents, was soon sent into a spiral heading for an unknown destination. Within a week of her diagnosis, Cleo began chemotherapy treatment at Sioux Valley Hospital in Sioux Falls.

The process included nine months of therapy based on two months on and four months off. After checking in to the hospital, Cleo was hydrated and then received a high dose of chemotherapy through tubes in the oncology ward at the Children's Specialty Clinic.

When Cleo's hair started falling out after the first therapy, she got a wig. The other reactions of the drugs were not as easy to overcome.

Cleo said the intensity of the drugs caused nausea, headaches, hallucinations and a decrease in bloodcount. Although she said the doctors and nurses helped her, there was a limit to what they and others could do for her.

"I don't know if people can understand if they haven't been



Cleo with Christine Clifford, an author who has had breast cancer and writes humorously about having cancer.

### Germinoma: What is it?

The germinoma is a type of germ cell tumor. These tumors arise from sex cells. Germinomas tend to occur in younger patients. The most common location is in the mid-line of the brain.

The symptoms of a germinoma are related to its location, size and speed of growth. A common feature is hydrocephalus (blockage of spinal fluid within the brain.)

Source: Chicago Institute of Neurosurgery and Neuroresearch

through it," she said.

Cleo, however, wishes that some of her friends would have attempted to understand more thoroughly. While her classmates started their sixth grade year, Cleo faced life and death.

Cleo said that although some of her friends kept in touch, most of them, as sixth graders, couldn't handle it. "They didn't want to face it [death]...I felt shunned by a few."

Those friends and family who did comfort Cleo helped her overcome feelings of loneliness.

"I could have floated out of there with all the balloons I got," she said.

### Keeping her sanity

She kept a journal of her experiences and feelings during therapy, which may have relieved some stress. However, it wasn't her main encouragement.

"Life kept me going. I didn't want to die. Whether or not I was going to make it, I wasn't going to give up," she said.

Seeing other patients in the ward also helped her to continue her battle against cancer. She

mentioned how other patients in the oncology ward had given up.

"There was a little boy named CJ; he was all happy at first, but then he would just lay there," she said.

Cleo said that although she was angry at first, she had to accept the reality of the situation.

"There's phases you get through—being angry with everything," she said.

### Taking the next step

After chemotherapy, Cleo went through another physical treatment radiation phase. She received it five days a week for six weeks in Minneapolis.

Cleo's bright view on life shined through as she described this part of her treatment.

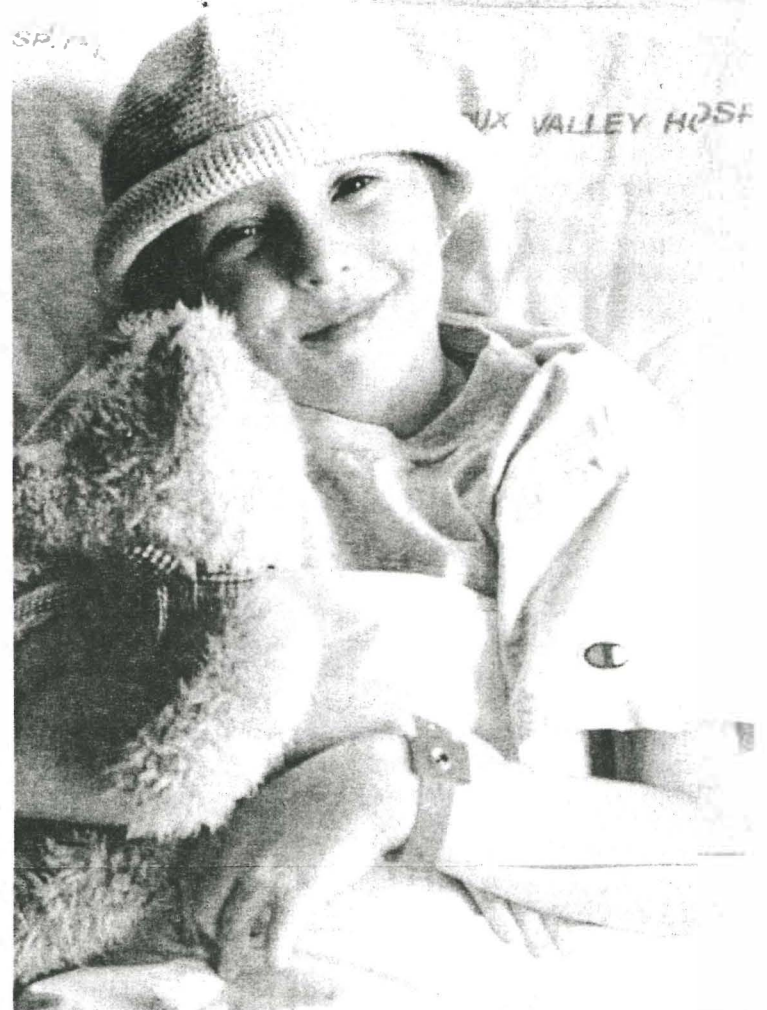
She said the nurses would draw lines on her back for where the radiation would go.

"The funny thing was, it looked like I had a creepy tattoo back there—a hip radiation tattoo."

The nurses, Cleo said, didn't like her very much.

"I would pull my 'get-me-something cord'," she said.

Cleo said that although she had



Cleo at Sioux Valley Hospital during her fourth chemotherapy treatment.

a "sunburn" (from the radiation) in the middle of the winter, the phase wasn't as hard on her as chemotherapy.

### Different views

Cleo's outlook on cancer, and life, has changed since that fateful day in June over six years ago.

"My first thought...the correlation was 'cancer and death'...but cancer is something I can beat and everyone else could too. You never know what you're made of. You don't have to plan for it," she said.

Although Cleo has been cancer-free for six years, she doesn't take it for granted. "I check, look over my shoulder to see if it's coming."

She still gets MRI's every six months to make sure the monster hasn't reappeared.

Although Cleo keeps watching to see if the monster may return, she has developed her future plans based on her experiences with cancer.

Cleo plans to attend the University of South Dakota and become an endocrinologist.

"I hadn't thought about medi-

cine before this. I see how good and bad medicine can be now."

When thinking of the good, she remembers her oncologist who worked to give the most accurate medications. She also remembers the nurse who gave her a double dose of a medication that sent her into a coma for three weeks.

"I want to help people and not screw up," she said.

Cleo also doesn't take happiness for granted.

"You have to appreciate everything, but keep an eye on life."

### Advice for others

After experiencing the physical and emotional turmoils of cancer, Cleo advises cancer patients to keep up their spirits.

"It's ok. You're not alone. Don't give up," she said.

She also offers advice for those who treat cancer patients. "Don't pity us. That's the last thing we want. We're still alive," she said.

There is no doubt in anyone's mind who meets vibrant, expressive Cleo Hilding that she is anything but alive and thriving on each new day.



*“Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.”*

*—John Quincy Adams*

## Student fights leukemia one day at a time

By BryAnn Becker

A mother's love is evident in Margie Newling's face when she speaks of her son Travis. This love has helped carry her and her family through the physical and emotional times of the past sixteen months.

“I told Travis I would always be with him. If I'm home, he's home,” she said, referring to Travis' time at Sioux Valley hospital.

Travis, as an eighth grader, was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia in September 2003. After a confirmatory bone marrow biopsy, Travis was immediately sent to Sioux Valley Hospital in Sioux Falls where he began chemotherapy.

Margie said chemotherapy was especially destructive to her son's body.

“It's hard for a teenager

because you're not done growing,” she said.

The chemotherapy and steroids weakened him, she said. Travis' bone mass and immune system deteriorated.

The chemotherapy resulted in other complications. Travis went into septic shock; he was in the Intensive Care Unit for 60 days.

Margie received perhaps the greatest Mother's Day gift of all when, after 45 days, Travis was off the ventilator.

Travis soon had to relearn everything from walking to talking to writing.

Margie mentioned the bittersweetness of this joy.

However, chemotherapy soon showed its ugly effects again. The Newlings were on their way back from Sioux Falls and were just

driving into Ft. Pierre when Travis had a seizure.

At times like this, joy doesn't flow in abundance.

“It's hard. It's an emotional rollercoaster,” she said.

Travis, currently a freshman who is homeschooled, is on phase four out of 12 treatments for his cancer. He will complete his last chemotherapy treatment on January 22, 2006—the last of the three and a half year-long treatments for the teen.

Margie said she and Travis go to Sioux Falls once a month to have a check-up with his oncologist. Travis also receives physical therapy three times a week at Medical Associates Clinic and chemotherapy at home.

Margie said Travis misses teen social activities and playing sports.

He does enjoy playing X-BOX with friends on his good days, she said.

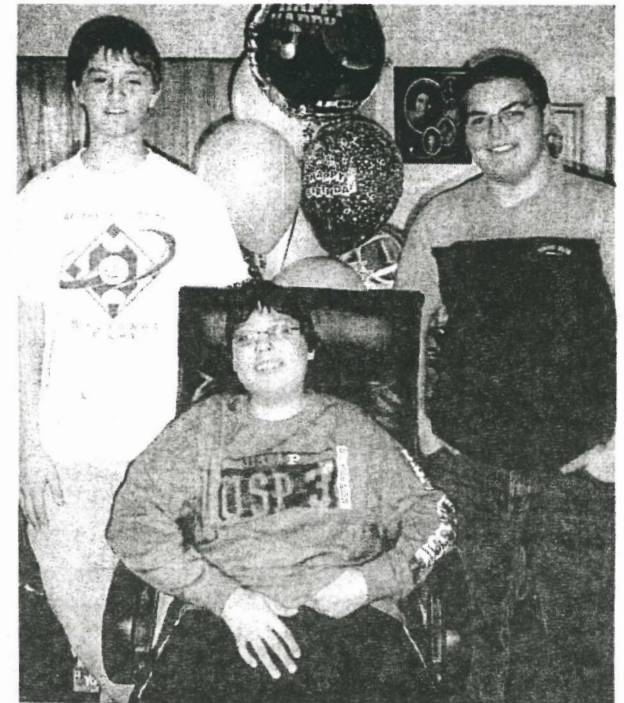
“The community support and family and friends has been so overwhelming. Travis still gets cards in the mail,” she said.

The path to recovery and normalcy, however, still seems to be long for the Newlings.

Travis had surgery on his feet last week due to side effects from the chemotherapy. He wears a back brace to support his dislocated spine and wears leg braces as well. Doctors are also looking into hip replacement surgery for Travis, once again due to chemotherapy.

The scariest part, Margie said, is not knowing if the chemotherapy is working.

“We do know that the bone marrow is in remis-



courtesy photo

Freshmen Nicholas Marso and Lukus Leidholdt celebrate with Travis Newling at his 16th birthday party this February.

sion,” she said.

Margie looks hopefully towards the future, but 2006 seems far away. She hopes

someday her sports-loving son will be able to run the bases or shoot a hoop or two as a father.

## Though wheelchair-bound, teen overcomes boundaries



photo by Dirk McGrane

Lisa Heffernan enjoys singing in Mr. Hanson's mixed chorus.

By Laura Marsh

Lisa Heffernan is like any other seventeen-year-old high schooler. She's in band, chorus, Girl Scouts, oral interp, and drama. She's involved with her church youth group, and she's a student trainer. Reading, writing poetry, and hanging out with her friends are a few of her hobbies. After high school, she plans to go to college and major in communications or creative writing, as well as having some relationships and getting married.

But Lisa was born with spina bifida, a birth defect in which the spine doesn't fully close and it protrudes out of the back. She is paralyzed from the waist down.

“I was in the hospital for two months after I was born. They also thought I would have some fluid in my brain, so they put a shunt in. A shunt is a tube from the top of my head to [my torso] so the fluid could leave my brain. Fortunately, I never needed it,” Lisa said.

While the condition prevents her from doing some things, Lisa tries to be as independent as pos-

sible.

“I can dress and groom myself, but I need help in transferring from my bed to my chair—mostly just in transfers and with some of my medicinal needs,” she said.

She can even drive with a special hand accelerator and brake in one, but she doesn't do it often.

Even though the disability can cause some disruptions in her daily routine, Lisa said more of her challenge is dealing with it emotionally. There are people who have teased her in and out of school her entire life.

“People can be very rude. Sometimes little kids stare, and they don't know it's not polite. But by the time you're older, it should stop. They seem afraid of me,” Lisa said.

Earlier this year, a group of students frequently harassed her. It has stopped for now, but that kind of treatment still hurts.

“It's hard, and it's been a challenge. But I'm tough, and I choose not to retaliate. It's not worth my time,” said Lisa.

And just because she has a physical disability does not mean

that she has a mental one.

“My dad has multiple sclerosis, but he still has the same mind that he had twenty years ago. And people with mental disabilities should still be treated nicely. No one needs to be teased. It's beyond their control.”

Some days it is more difficult to be positive, but Lisa said her friends, teachers, and parents will back her up and are extremely supportive.

“My faith also helps to get me through,” Lisa said.

There are many people who are mentally or physically disabled, or both. But they are human. Some people will compliment her on her accomplishments but add “in your condition” or “with your disability.”

“Compliments are nice, but don't act like it's something completely out of the ordinary,” Lisa said.

She mentioned that she doesn't want to be congratulated out of pity.

“If you know somebody who has a disability and think they might need help, ASK!” Lisa said.



## Indoor vs. outdoor: Soccer played in different locations adds dimension

By Jessica Callahan

When most people think of soccer, they think of playing on a grass field out in the open air. Soccer is not necessarily just played during the fall and spring but indoors over the winter months.

Indoor soccer is a game of soccer played on a hard-surface court a little bigger than a basketball court, with one player acting as a goalkeeper and four to five other players on the court. This fast-paced game is comprised of two twenty-minute "halves," which makes up the forty minute game. Since there are no throw-ins, everything is played by kick-ins. Most indoor soccer players would agree that the fast nature of the game makes it a very physical game.

Outdoor soccer is a little different. Outdoor soccer is played on a field that is one and a half times bigger than a football field. This game of soccer is based mostly on endurance, as the entire game lasts ninety minutes.

Outdoor soccer practice typically starts in August and play continues through October. The indoor soccer season can vary, though. The season begins in December and, depending on how many tournaments are scheduled, continues into the middle of March. After tournament play is done in March, another round of outdoor soccer begins in March and continues through June. With indoor soccer,

**"Outdoor soccer players are in the best shape of any athlete in any sport."—coach Chris Derry**

a lot of time is spent traveling to play. On average, indoor teams usually travel to or attend nearly a dozen tournaments throughout the duration of their season. While traveling for each tournament, players must also attend practices held during the week. Practices are usually held twice a week in varying locations.

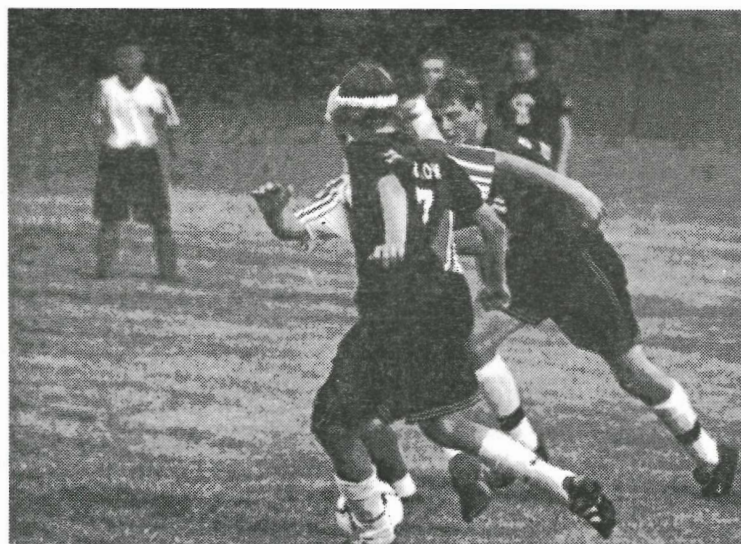
One practice is usually devoted to devising structured plays and doing drills. Since teams often see each other at tournaments across the state, the other practice is usually used for scrimmages in order to prepare the players.

Outdoor practices vary a little from the indoor practices. Since outdoor soccer is based more on endurance, the practices revolve more around the endurance of the players and requires them to be in good shape.

"Outdoor soccer players are in the best shape of any athlete in any sport," Chris Derry, the outdoor varsity boys soccer coach, said.

"Outdoor soccer is a test of inner and outer strength. How strong are you after you run and play your heart out for ninety minutes? Outdoor is a combination of strategy and patience as well as physical dominance," Derry said.

However, the fast-paced nature of indoor soccer has its advantages. "Indoor soccer really is a



courtesy photo



courtesy photo

(above) Pierre soccer players fight for the ball as teammates look on. Players used many different tactics to steal the ball away from opposing teams in order to lead their team to victory.

(left) Bouncing the soccer ball off his chest, Matt Dutt goes for the goal during an outdoor game. Students found soccer to be an interesting and vigorous sport. Dutt plans to continue playing soccer at Buena Vista University in Iowa this fall.

low-pressure sport. It's definitely a fast-paced physical game, but it's a lot of fun," Kevin Forsch, indoor U19 girls coach, said.

Soccer requires a lot of dedication on both the players' and coaches' parts. Since it is not a school-sponsored sport, equipment and tournament entry fees must all be raised by the team. But

it is a price that most of the players and coaches are willing to pay.

Whether involved in indoor or outdoor soccer, players seem to do it for the love of the sport.

"We may not have won many first places, but I think our team played really well. It was a really good season, and we had a lot of fun," junior Jena Forsch said.

## Hall of Famers deserve students' attention, respect

Harry Decker has always been one of my favorite teammates.

Whether it was playing youth soccer, traveling basketball, or now American Legion baseball, I have always enjoyed having Harry on my team. It wasn't just that that Harry was a great athlete, he was a good teammate.

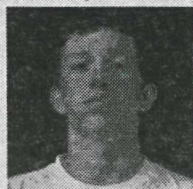
In late February, all Pierre sports fans cheered when Harry won a state wrestling championship. It was a well deserved title for someone who had been a wrestler his entire life. Riggs students and community adults who were not sports fans were happy for Harry.

This state championship has probably ensured that some-

day, years from now, Harry Decker will probably be inducted in this school's Athletic Hall of Fame. That means that some winter night during halftime of a home basketball game, Harry will be back for the induction ceremony. He will stand in the middle of the court, have his achievements listed by the PA announcer and receive his plaque.

I can only hope that Harry and other future Hall of Famers will receive a better response from students than did this year's Hall of Famers from our Riggs student body.

During this year's halftime ceremony, as each of the new Hall of Famers was recognized, Riggs



Chris Mangan

students did nothing. Some had left the bleachers and the ones that had stayed for the ceremony talked with their friends and didn't really seem to care.

This year's honorees—Charles Allen, Vincent Olson, Doug Smith and Karen Hasek—have contributed much to Pierre and to Riggs High School athletes. They had won championships, individual honors and have been good representatives for the school.

While it may have been more years ago than they would want to admit, those honorees had been students just like us. They had gone to class, taken tests, participated in sports and other extracurricular events and had their

share of good and bad times.

While some students actually did stand to honor those being recognized during their halftime, some of their fellow students yelled for them to sit down. The response of those standing students was "Not every day do you get to honor Hall of Fame inductees, so stand up."

And that is the way it should be. A high school—whether it is academics, sports, fine arts or any other project—is built and enhanced by those who came before us. It is our job to continue what they started and to recognize those who excelled.

Hopefully in future years when the Hall of Fame inductees are honored, Riggs students stand up and honor them. It is the right thing to do.

## Capitals host state hockey tournament

By Dirk McGrane

It's not often that the Boys State Hockey Tournament comes to Pierre. When it does, though, it gets noticed.

The Pierre Capitals were pumped and ready to play as the weekend of the tournament drew near. And beginning Friday night, the action began.

In their first game, against Sioux Falls Blue, the Capitals were shut out 5-0.

The Caps didn't let this keep them down, though, and dominated Rushmore the next morning, 5-2. Seth Parsons made the first goal, and Brian Hermanson made the other four, with a first period hat trick (three goals).

That night, the Capitals faced Watertown in the consolation semifinal. The game ended in a 4-1 win for the Lakers, with Pierre's only goal by Kai Hanson.

Pierre's final game was against Sioux Falls Orange on Sunday morning. The Caps grabbed their last chance for victory and didn't let go. Putting the hurt on the Flyers the whole game through, the Caps reminded Sioux Falls that this was **their** ice. The Capitals triumphed, 5-1. Scoring for the Capitals were Darren Scott, Kent Skron Dahl, and Luke Jeanotte, who made a hat trick.

But statistics just can't give you a complete look at what happened that weekend. For some things, you had to be there to get the full impact. Pierre fans flocked to the Expo Center's stands, and Riggs High's student body was there in force. When the Capitals stepped onto the ice, the noise was deafening.

Some students showed their wholehearted support for the team in more than just an audible way. They took a more visual approach, painting their upper bodies green, with a white letter emblazoned upon their chests. Nobly sacrificing body heat as they shivered through the games bare-chested, they were able to whip the crowd into a frenzy and give inspiration to the team.

This year the Capitals won their highest placed trophy in a state tournament, as they took seventh place in the tournament, giving a rewarding end to a memorable season.



Two compete in Miller

## Student says state powerlifting tournament needs more recognition

By Drew White

They don't get cheerleaders or big crowds and you won't be finding their faces on a Wheaties box any time soon. As a matter of fact, most people asked wouldn't know that Pierre even HAD a team to participate.

What is this widely underappreciated sport? Why does it go so unappreciated? It is none other than powerlifting, a strength competition in which individuals must bench, squat, and lift their paths to victory.

Powerlifting is an unconventional sport, and that is probably the reason it goes so underappreciated.

It is unlike other sports like football and basketball where you go watch teams compete against each other. It is more of a competition with yourself, said coach Greg Stluka.

The rules for getting in to state are simple: one



Michael Lewis and Isaac Williams

must merely pay a fee to be on the squad, and they are in, but it's actually doing well in the tournament that makes for a difficult time with most powerlifters.

This year there were only two Pierre students who attended the state powerlifting tournament on Saturday, March 6 in Miller to compete.

Junior Isaac Williams said that he decided to try powerlifting when he was told by a coach that he would probably be good at the sport. That decision has paid off.

Williams was the champion lifter at the 123 pound weight class with a total of 790 pounds, according to coach Greg Stluka.

That means that when

*"I think it needs better school recognition because all of the other sports get at least some attention, and we work just as hard as they do." —junior Isaac Williams*

added, his bench of 185 pounds, squat of 285 pounds, and his dead lift of 320 pounds total together for his total amount lifted.

Williams lifted more than anyone in the weight class above him. If he had lifted in the weight class above that one, he would have won fifth place.

Williams lifted almost six and one-half times his body weight. Out of nearly 100 athletes, Williams came in third for pounds lifted per own body weight.

In order to prepare himself for the tournament, Williams lifted every day after school starting in December.

"He has a great work ethic," said Stluka, "He

works really hard, and I think he could be very, very good."

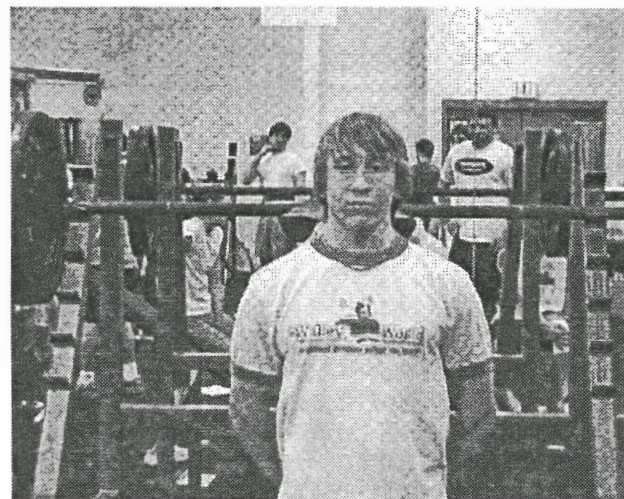
Williams believes that all of the hard work involved should be reason enough for the sport to be more widely acknowledged.

"I think it needs better school recognition because all of the other sports get at least some attention, and we work just as hard as they do," Williams said.

Pierre's other lifter who attended the meet was Michael Lewis, a sophomore.

Lewis participated in the 181 pound weight class, where his lifts earned him ninth place in his division.

Lewis had three personal bests at the meet in the 181 weight class,



courtesy photo

Isaac Williams takes a break from his intense lifting schedule.

said Stluka.

While ninth place is a solid spot to be, Lewis believes that he probably could have done a little better.

"I didn't really train as hard as I should have, because even though I lifted five times a week to get ready, I would have three hard workouts and two that were just light ones," Lewis said.

This doesn't leave him

with regrets, Lewis said.

He also mentioned that the tournament was a lot of fun, and with the hundreds of participants, it was really an enjoyable experience.

Although weight lifting may not be as popular as the more conventional sports like basketball and baseball, the athletes are just as talented, just as hard working, and deserve just as much recognition.

Make a splash...

## Swimming provides chance to exercise, bond

By Kim deHueck

"The earth is 75% water....Can you swim?" This is a favorite quote for three Riggs High Students who participated in Pierre Swim Team.

Senior Peggy Heerman, senior Christoph Ionescu, and junior Kerri Morris' swimming season concluded earlier this month with the state swim meet.

The meet, held March 5-7 at the Aquatic Center in Pierre, consisted of around 250 competitors with 40 being from Pierre.

The Pierre Swim Team is coached by Paula Weeldreyer and practiced Monday through Thursday for two hours each day.

Morris, who has been in swim team the longest, since fourth grade, was pleased with her performance at the swim meet.

"I was excited because I cut two seconds off my time for the 50 free style,

*"I really enjoy the swimming and also the relationships I have formed with the other swimmers and our coach." —Christoph Ionescu*

and I only expected to cut half a second off at the most."

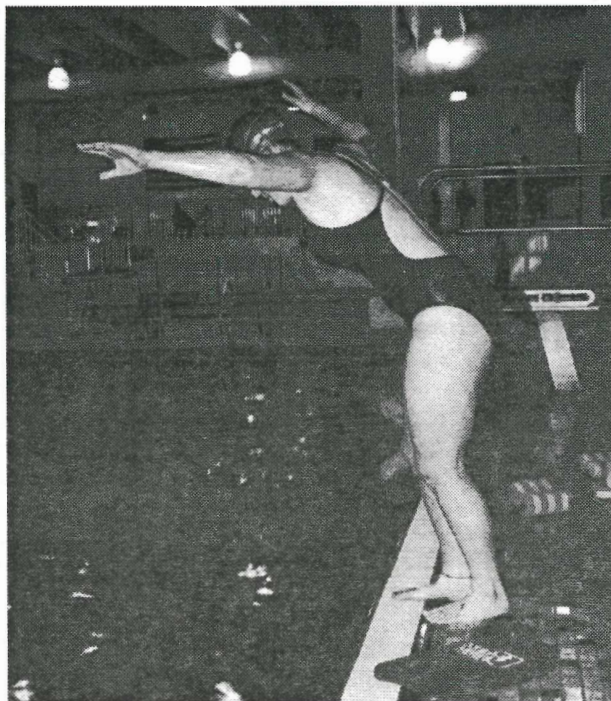
Morris said she enjoys swimming's atmosphere and plans to swim next year.

This was Ionescu's first time swimming on an organized team and competing against other towns on a regular basis.

Ionescu started swimming in Germany a few years ago and loved it, so when he saw the opportunity to swim on a team, he grabbed it right away.

In the state meet Ionescu swam the 50 free, placing eighth and also swam in two relays.

"I really enjoy the swimming and also the re-



courtesy photo

Concentrating on her technique, Carly Feiler prepares to dive at the Aquatic Center.

lationships I have formed with the other swimmers and our coach," he said.

Heerman is a member of the swim team but did not

participate in the state meet.

"I have been swimming since sixth grade and think it is a good source of exercise."

## Coaches to watch

## Coach Gross:

## Boys Track

This is coach Gross' 7th year of coaching track, his first at Riggs. He also teaches English.

## Outlook for this year:

We've got a lot of guys out, and they

have been working hard even during the offseason.



Races that look to be strong-points for this years team? Our sprint relays and middle-distance runners.

## Coach McClemons:

## Girls Track

This is Coach McClemons' second year as head girls track coach. She is also a special services teacher.

## Outlook for this year:

We've have some good senior leaders that are



looking to lead the way for our younger girls throughout this year. We are very optimistic and look to improve at all points of a team.

By Allen Goodman

photos by Dirk McGrane



# Students touch lives overseas during church mission trip

By Kelly Johnson

Most students spent their Valentine's Day week searching for cupids and trying ever so hard to steal the "hearts" of their classmates. However, on February 11, three Riggs students set off for a two-week mission trip to South America to win the hearts of the local people and children with their religious message.

Senior Jessica Nicholas, sophomore Winter Nicholas, and sophomore Brittany Burnett were part of a group of 12 who embarked on the outreach program through

RiverCenter Church. Spending their time in the country of Guyana, the group worked on remodeling a local pastor's house. The group also focused on a children's program which was similar to Vacation Bible School. They also performed a "human video" which conveyed their message to around 200 people.

The group also took some time to visit the local tourist areas. Kateur Falls and the Guyana Zoo provided some amusement for the group.

"The zoo was funny because they featured a

pheasant from North America," said Jessica.

The group had a cook who made all of their meals with whatever was on hand. Meals consisted of rice and beans. However, fresh fruits were always on hand.

"It was really fun to see how a completely different culture worships during their services and to see so many people on fire for God," Burnett said.

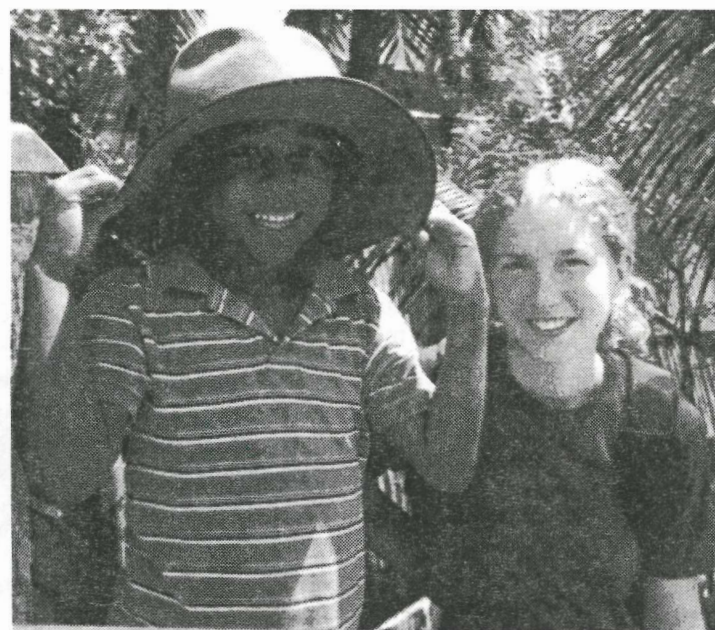
The worship services that the group attended featured dancing and music. On Valentine's Day, the church sponsored a special dinner complete with music and fellow-

ship with the locals.

"I really connected with God and with the teenagers at the Valentine's Day party. I was really impressed by the way they were so open about their faith and how they don't care what other people think," Winter said.

"It was interesting to see how people of a different culture worship and serve the same God we do in a completely different way," said Jessica.

The girls learned how grateful the people in Guyana are for what little they own and how much Americans take for granted every day.



Jessica Nicholas entertains a new Guyanese friend.

courtesy photo

## Senior wins state, advances to national speech contest

By Lisa Heffernan

Mary Peterson, senior, recently participated in the National Voice of Democracy contest in Washington, D.C. She was one of 54 high school students from all over the nation to qualify for nationals and the only contestant from South Dakota.

The theme was "My Commitment to America's Future," and her speech discussed the need for people to stand up to the government more if they think something in it is wrong.

Peterson competed at the state level in early February and won \$500; she also received \$250 and

\$50 at the local and district levels. She then submitted a recording of her reading the essay to the national judges and won \$1,000 there.

Peterson's favorite parts of her trip were meeting President Bush and meeting a woman who survived the Holocaust at Birkenau Concentration Camp. Peterson had President Bush sign a dollar bill, which she later gave to a young man that didn't get to meet him. But the best part was getting to play with the president's dog.

"I had a lot of fun with everything. I got to play with Barney!" she said.

## Film Festival promises offbeat, 'abstract,' quirky entertainment

By Andrew Kightlinger

On April 19 and 20 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. and April 23 from 3:30 to 11 p.m., the 2004 *Abstract Film Festival* will be held in the Riggs Theatre.

Admission will be \$2 the first two nights and \$3 for the last night, while all earnings will go to the Children's Miracle Network, a foundation that helps sick or deprived children. It is open to students and the public, and a viewer may show up at any time, but the price remains the same.

What is the meaning of the word *abstract*? Most would associate the word with the works of Pablo Picasso. Actually, the word *visionary* describes the film festival to a tee. Seven films will be shown, each by a different director, from different countries or different eras, and each with their own, unique story and style.

"Much of the community is not exposed to such exclusive and off-beat films," explains student body president Adam Emerson, who aided senior Andrew Kightlinger with introducing the film festival idea to student senate and the administration and also choosing the films to be shown.

The films will be shown thanks to a digital projector in the theatre sound booth.

"I was worried about the projector because the image might be grainy, but with the theatre in total darkness, it looks very good," assures Kightlinger.

The event will span three days and each session will begin with a five-minute introduction of each film, and after each film is viewed, a panel of selected students and possibly a teacher will lead a period of Q&A.

"Andrew and I are trying to play this festival out like a real festival," exclaims Emerson. "We want people to feel open and ask anything they want about either the plot or any trivia that Andrew will uselessly know."

And in order to add the film festival feel, Kightlinger and Emerson are negotiating possibilities for selling popcorn. In fact the authority himself, principal John Lakner, pitched the idea.

"Why don't we have popcorn?" he asks.

"We can't!" Kightlinger replies.

"Why not?" he exclaims.

"Because it's your stupid idea!" Kightlinger snaps. Things are being worked out as this article is being read.

On Monday, April 19, two films will be shown: *Lola Rennt* (Run Lola Run), a German techno/action film about true love and stealing large sums of cash, and *La Cite Des Enfants Perdus* (City of Lost Children), a French film noir about a mad scientist who steals children's dreams. The foreign language films will be shown dubbed in English so the viewer is not forced to read subtitles.

On Tuesday, April 20, one film will be shown: *Spirited Away*, a

Japanese animated film about a girl who is transported to another world in order to save her parents. Most people are turned off by Japanese animation, but this is an "amazing film" says Emerson. According to Kightlinger, the film is just as good as *Finding Nemo*, though not as humorous. *Spirited Away* won the Oscar for Best Animated Film in 2002. An episode of *Futurama* will be shown before the feature presentation.

On Friday, April 23, the final day, four films will be shown starting with *Whale Rider*, a coming-of-age film from New Zealand about a native tribe and the breaking of their traditions. *Lost In Translation*, Oscar winner for Best Original Screenplay this year, is a film that centers on a relationship between Bill Murray and a 21 year-old girl in a Japanese hotel. *Casablanca* is a purely American film about intrigue and immigrants during World War II. According to the American Film Institute, *Casablanca* is the second best film ever made in Hollywood.

Finally, *The Graduate* is a movie for the ages. It tells the story of a college grad (Dustin Hoffman) who has a summer-long affair with his fiancée's mother, then must suffer the consequences. It was an influential film during the high school or college years of most of Riggs' faculty.

The *Abstract Film Festival* is probably be one of the most unusual events at Riggs in years, which is incentive to go.

### Who's who...Who's new?

**Name:** Michelle Hopper

**Position:** Library assistant

**Birthday:** October 31

**Grew Up:** In Pierre all her life with a few detours here and there

**Parents:** Bev Russell

**Siblings:** Two older sisters and one older brother

**Family:** Michelle is married to Bob Hopper and has three children. Her son is Rob, age 14. Her daughters are Elizabeth and Laura. Laura is 7 and a quiet, reflective artist and reader.

Elizabeth, on the other hand, has the nickname Bizzie, which she lives up to daily. "Fortunately," laughs Hopper, "her smiles and hugs are a cure for her mischief."

**School:** T.F. Riggs High School and University of Minnesota



photo by Megan Wellner

**Past job history:** Hopper worked at a daycare for 14 years and at JC Penney.

**Hobbies:** Reading, walking, taking care of her kids and pets. **Something surprising:** Mrs. Hopper has grandchildren that are older than two of her kids.

By Cleo Hilding