

T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Vol. 62 ❖ No. 3 ❖ Nov. 21, 2003 ❖ Pierre, SD

**Cultural
Diversity**
Native American
celebrates
heritage in
traditional hoop
dancing
pg 4-5



Forty years later, teachers remember day JFK was shot

By Kimberly Bartels

Tomorrow marks the 40th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

This past week numerous news stories on television have reminded us of that tragic day in American History. The History Channel has dubbed the week "J.F.K. Week." Most people over the age of 50 still remember that day. Everyone's story is different but it all started the same. It was a Friday and many had just finished eating lunch when the terrible news hit.

"Every generation has a defining moment where they will remember exactly where they were, and Kennedy's death is ours," said history teacher Bruce Venner.

Venner attended a rural elementary school that had no television or radio but did have one telephone. He said someone called the school with the devastating news.

Venner can still remember being glued to the television for the next week. "I watched Kennedy's funeral and even saw Lee Harvey Oswald get shot on live television as he was being moved from the court house to the jail."

"I was home in bed," band director Larry Johnson recalled.

Johnson had stayed home from school ill on that Friday 40 years ago which changed American History.

"We were very shocked. My family was Catholic, and Mr. Kennedy was the first Catholic president. That also made it very sad

"Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."
—John F. Kennedy



for us," said Johnson.

On November 22, 1963, President Kennedy and his wife, Jackie, were driving through Dallas, Texas, in an open convertible-limousine.

The President was on his way to make a speech to convince the people of Dallas to vote for him in the upcoming presidential election.

Many people lined the streets to take pictures or just to get a glimpse JFK.

Suddenly, two shots came out of nowhere, one

hitting Kennedy's neck while the other shaved off the back right side of his head.

Constitution teacher Skip Kurth remembers having gone home for lunch where he heard the news.

"We were numb with surprise and fear—it was just something you didn't think it could ever or would ever happen," Kurth said.

When he went back to school that afternoon, his sixth grade science teacher turned on the news, and they

watched it for the remainder of the school day, Kurth recalled.

Math teacher Betty Weiss lived on a farm without a television. After leaving school on Friday afternoon, her only source of information was reading the newspaper.

Thus, she did not really know what was going on until she returned to school on Monday.

Weiss recalled that she was in government class when the principal came in and said the President had been shot.

"It is something I still think about today," said Weiss.

"The sun was shining, the wind was blowing, the leaves rustled on the ground, and I was standing on the front steps of Mobridge High when I

heard from someone who was coming back from lunch that President Kennedy had been shot," said Latin teacher Jay Mickelson.

"When we went indoors, we had an all-school assembly at which our principal told us what had happened," said Mickelson.

Even today many people's opinions differ on the death of our President. Some believe that Oswald shot Kennedy while acting on his own.

In a recent survey of Americans, however, 70 percent believe that Oswald did not act alone. Still others think that the American public dwells upon conspiracy theories too much.

"We remember Kennedy by his death instead of by his life," Venner said.

District patrons discuss NCLB goals

By Lisa Heffernan

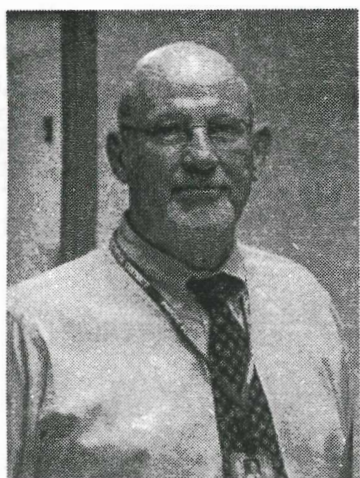
Interested parents and district administrators discussed the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the effects it will have on Riggs in a meeting last Thursday evening.

One issue to be discussed was what it means to have "highly-qualified teachers" on staff. Highly qualified teachers are those that have a degree in what they teach. The amount of time they've been teaching as well as the level they are teaching have weight also. At Riggs 97% of teachers are highly qualified, and the other 3% are first-year teachers that won't be affected.

South Dakota has made it a goal to have highly qualified teachers for the 2005-2006 school year.

Another area of concern was that students need to take the tests seriously. Principal Mike Fugitt proposed the idea of giving special incentives to encourage students to perform well on tests.

Another issue that arose was how these tests would affect special-needs students. Right now, special needs students have to take



Riggs Principal Mike Fugitt

the same tests as other students, but because it is federal law, nothing can be done on a state level.

In the future, ninth and tenth graders may also take the No Child Left Behind tests to see what they need to improve on before junior year. Each year every state must be tested in reading and math for grades three through eight and one grade between ten and twelve.

South Dakota has chosen to give the test to juniors.

No Child Left Behind's goal is to achieve the highest proficiency in reading and math by the 2013-

Majority of staff favor move to block schedule

Faculty voted 31-20 at last Tuesday's inservice in favor of pursuing a move to block scheduling.

The next step will be to take recommendations to the school board at the December meeting.

Principal Mike Fugitt says that a public meeting may be held in the future to allow for public comment.

2014 school year and to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice so that no child is left behind.

"If we see a student that is deficient, we will meet with their parents to see what we could do to help, but it wouldn't be required. It's hard to make someone learn that doesn't want to," said school superintendent John Pedersen.

"Our job as educators is to help kids succeed and get them to school. It's our job to help them work through problems that prevent learning," said Fugitt.

Scheduling improvement gives students more long weekends

By Dirk McGrane

This November 11, students appreciated a coveted four-day weekend. With Tuesday being Veteran's Day, Monday's teacher inservice could hardly have been planned on a better date.

Most students gave hearty praise for the inservice's date.

"I like it—it gives you more time to get work done, you can play longer, and you get a longer break from school," senior Jessica Nelson said.

Senior Brian Hettinger agrees. "I like the longer weekend the inservice gave us because I got more consecutive days to rest."

Other students would have preferred the inservice be placed sometime during the school week, as it often has been in the past.

"I think that having it in the middle of the week is better... it would probably make the week go faster, relieve stress, and give us time to catch up on homework," senior Lance Armstrong said.

"Even though the teachers had to come here [to Riggs] for the inservice, I liked how the students

got a nice long break," says Larry Joy, who teaches history and geography. "As long as the students are enjoying it, I have no problem with it."

This is the first year that the school board has planned for so many teacher inservices to coordinate specially with weekends and holidays. Much of the student body and many of the teachers seem to think this is an idea worth continuing.

On Tuesday, February 17, the next teacher inservice is planned so that students will have Monday off for President's Day, and Tuesday off for the inservice, giving them another four-day weekend.

On Thursday, March 18, students will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m., and will have Friday off due to spring break, allowing them to have three and one half days.

Previous dates that have been affected by inservices include October 14, where school started at 11:00 a.m. following the Native American Day holiday the previous Monday.

Teachers had an early-morning inservice on that day.

Ignorance towards other cultures must be overcome

Even after living fourteen years in South Dakota, I sat in my chair dumbfounded as Indian Education Program Counselor Coordinator Joanne Beare asked me a question during a recent interview. "What are the Native Americans tribes in South Dakota?" she said. I mumbled a few words, embarrassed that I could only think of one tribe. Beare soon told me the nine different tribes within the state. I was ashamed of my ignorance.

Native Americans make up ten percent of Pierre's population, Beare told me. I have been too caught up in my own life's values and culture to sincerely contemplate the diversity of the people around me.

I think many other people in Pierre are in the same boat as I am.

I sincerely doubt the majority of Pierre's adult and teenage population would be able to name the nine Native American tribes in South Dakota without consulting another source.

Awareness and recognition of different cultures needs to be valued by society. Riggs High School can help increase this recognition by having programs such as a Native American Day recognition program. This holiday seems to have been overlooked by others such as Veteran's Day. If we can't have a program honoring Native Americans, why should we even have school off in the first place? After all, the real purpose behind Native American Day is to pay tribute to Native Americans. I leave this challenge to next year's student body.

Do you know who they are?



Famous People in American History

I also challenge the administration to look at a new scheduling policy. Currently students must take two semesters of United States History and one semester of World History. I believe students should also be required to take a semester of Native American Studies. This would benefit the students as individuals and Riggs as a school if students were more aware of the Native American history and cul-

ture. This class, while not offered this semester, will tentatively be available for students second semester.

Joanne Beare has helped me to see we must increase awareness of all cultures in our society. Although South Dakota is predominantly white, we can still recognize the other cultures we do have, both state and city wide, in a positive manner.



Thumbs Up

...to Student Senate and their advisers E. J. Mickelson and Darlene Neiles for organizing the Veteran's Day program last Wednesday.

...to the Class of 2003 for donating the memorial bench outside the school.

...to the student body for bringing food items for the National Honor Society Food Drive to benefit the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Food Pantry.



Thumbs Down

...to the students who brag every Monday about how much alcohol they consumed over the weekend. Isn't it time they faced their problems instead of creating new ones?

Letter to the editor:

Dear editor:

Many people have been hearing about our school's potential move to block scheduling or alternative scheduling next year. Our school has been sending faculty members and student representatives to other schools in the state to observe their block scheduling.

There are two types of block scheduling: 4X4 and AB. The 4X4 schedule is usually four ninety minute classes every day for a semester, making one year classes a semester long. AB scheduling is four ninety minute classes which switch every other day. So if you have science and math on Monday you'll have history and German the next day alternating through the week.

In my opinion, our school has very little reason for going to block scheduling. I could see a require-

ment if we were slipping in our academics, but our test scores are among the highest in the state.

The strongest arguments for it are that teachers will have more prep time and our school will save money. The administrators of one school told us that they have actually lost money since the change to block scheduling. Also, many of the teachers told us that they would get a ninety minute prep time but you have to prep three times as much material. We should just change back to teachers teaching five of seven periods now.

It seems foolish to me to use money we don't have, to fix something that isn't broken with a program we aren't sure works.

Sincerely yours,
Adam Emerson, senior

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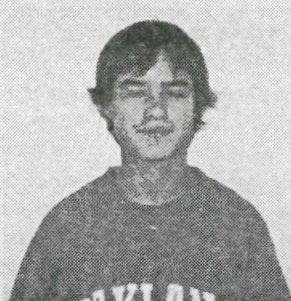
HALL TALK: WHAT EVENTS IN YOUR LIFETIME DO YOU FEEL YOU WILL REMEMBER FORTY YEARS FROM NOW?



"Getting to go to the SEMA car show in Las Vegas." —Matt Jacobsen, senior



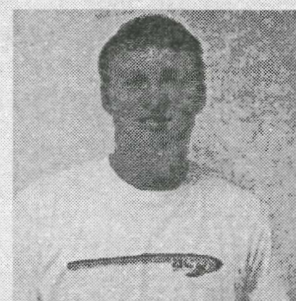
"9-11 because it was a tragedy that brought Americans together." —Jena Forsh, junior



"Getting punched in the face on the second floor during school." —Justin Nelson, junior



"Being a state officer for FBLA." —Rachelle McGruder, senior



"Quarterback Brett Favre of the Green Bay Packers started 187 games straight in the NFL." —Dan Johnson, junior



"Going to the dance competition in Vermillion with the Pierrettes!" —Karae Englehart, freshman

Jack, Jill to experience hazardous three-month winter

It seems Pierre decided that this year didn't need a fall. Firing straight out of the summer temperatures came frosty windshields and shovels. Before we knew it, we were sandal-deep in snow.

It caked our walkways and littered our roads, and although sliding around on icy asphalt was fun to watch at first, it has turned less comical and more annoying, especially for those involved.

There are two sides to the onset of winter no matter what kind of year it is. So below, I shall do a point-counterpoint on the three major stages. The first pointmaker is Jill, and the second is Jack. Here goes:

Point One: Winter in November

Jill: It's frigid as the Arctic out there! That white stuff is everywhere, and of course has to be shoveled off early in the morning while the car is struggling for life.



Columnist
Anonymous
Tyson Nafus

Then, on the way into town, I hit a dumb deer in the middle of the road. What a pain.

Jack: Great... just enough snow to be annoying! It slips your tires and freezes the sidewalk

but leaves none for the slopes! Not enough for a decent sled ride. Hardly enough for a snow angel...

Point Two: Winter in December

Jill: It got colder! How?! And more snow? Didn't we get that blizzard last month? Gosh, I had another accident with the walking antlers. Ended up standing out on 1804 for half an hour cleaning the deer remains off my window. What a state...

Jack: Finally, some decent snowfall. Should be heading out to the Hills soon for some skiing. Wait... it's December... uh oh. Ok, no need to panic. I'll grab my mom's address book and head for the mall. Let's see... now to divide \$25 between 14 gifts...

Point 3: Winter in January

Jill: This takes the cake... I'm driving out on 1804, like I always do, trying to enjoy the frosty scene over the whining heater. Suddenly, I hit this goosehunter standing at the side of the road! At the same spot of my other wrecks, no less!

Jack: Well, the goose hunting went badly out on 1804, but I recover quickly and finished the day with my limit too, despite the bad limp. That driver really seemed agitated that she hit me though... like I was insane for being out there in the cold. She must have been a traveler.

How to entertain yourself on a road trip

With Thanksgiving coming up, most people will be on the road, mostly with their families. But as we all know, being squeezed into a small car with your parents is definitely not fun. To help you out, we made a list of some entertaining games you can play by yourself or maybe with a friend.

hint: there are no pump jacks anywhere in South Dakota.)

2) See how many verses of 99 bottles of pop on the wall you can get through before you start to annoy someone.

3) See how long you and your family/friends can play the silent game.

4) This next one only requires two people to play. The fun and time-consuming game of "Who's got the but-

1) While driving on any South Dakota road, see who can spot the most pump jacks. (Hint,



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

ton?" should help entertain you and your siblings.

5) If you're in a spacious car, like a Volkswagon, you can play an intense game of hide-and-go seek.

6) If, for some reason you happen upon a frisbee in your car, try your hand at a relaxing game of frisbee golf. (Hint, hint: the driver is not one of the targets.

7) Hang your head out the window, yelling at passing cars. Make sure not to get your head ripped off and eat a bug. Then, see how many cars honk at you.

8) See what construction workers do when you pretend to know who they are. Who knows—you might make a new pen pal.

9) Count how many people you see from each state. After you wave at them, keep waving

back.

10) Last but not least, you and your friend can play a great game of Marco Polo. (Hint, hint: your friend should NOT be the driver. It's just safer that way.)

Not interested? Something's wrong with you and you can just do your homework.

So I hope we have made your Thanksgiving trip more enjoyable (or any other trip you might be taking.)

Columnist says Caucasians discriminated against

I have some great news. The angry cracker known as George Summerside has quit his duty as a columnist and is not my partner anymore. This is good, considering all he did wasum.....heuh....well, he knew how to stand sideways in photos.

I really don't need a partner, though, who goes around hugging people like a dry fish that has no bowl of water to swim in. I am going to use this column this month to advertise for a new partner. All you have to know is how to breathe because that will already put you in a category that is equal to or possibly better than George. You want to be an angry cracker? Then all you have to do is meet up with me in the halls and ask.

If you think you can't measure up to George's amazing wits, think again. It doesn't take much. All I have to say is, "Hats off to the person who taught him how to eat; it must have been pretty tough." (George Summerside has agreed to let this article be written this vigorously against



The One Angry Cracker
Andrew Berreth

him. It was difficult asking him though because the English language is tough for him as he speaks very fluent idiot.) So don't forget, if you want to be an angry cracker, just let me know.

Now for a little question I've been wondering about. Why is there a BET (Black Entertainment Channel) and no WET (White Entertainment Channel)? If there were, I think that whites would be called racist. Is this fair to white people?

Also, how about Black History Month? Why can't there be a White History Month? And if there is an American Indian Day, shouldn't there be a Caucasian Day?

I think Caucasians are now the ones being discriminated against. Caucasians need to stand up for their heritage. They are the

majority, but their great people of the past have no month or day to be recognized. Is this right? I don't think so, but there is obviously nothing George can do about it because he is still looking for his fish bowl.

If everyone wants people to be considered equal, then why do they still consider everyone different? We are all the same, so why do we single out certain groups as different? All races are human, so why stress the differences? Either there should be WET/ White History Month or there should be no BET/Black History Month.

So now once again, let me know if you want to be an angry cracker. Join, and together we can monthly poke fun of George Summerside, and the school board too if we feel like it. They will most likely do something in the future that warrants a mocking.

Happy hunting to all over the upcoming breaks we will take from school in the future. And to George, well, just keep shooting. (I still respect you, George, but this writing was just too much for you.)

Revelations about 'Matrix Revolutions'



Cinerama!
Andrew Knightlinger

*****Perfect

Movie

****A must-see

***Rental fare

**Not recommended

*Avoid at all costs

THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS *****

In a basic and indisputable sense, "Matrix Revolutions" is a fine movie and a worthy end to a dazzling trilogy. To the extent that I was able to put aside my questions, ignore logic, disregard continuity problems and immerse myself in the moment, "Revolutions" is a tremendous action accomplishment. Andy and Larry Wachowski have created sights to dazzle the eyes and a mix of live action and special effects such as I have never seen.

"Revolutions" doesn't give you all the answers because there are no answers—only questions and the beliefs we have about those answers. The Wachowski Brothers have created a world where religion and philosophy are the underlying theme. One can draw an analogy to the Bible. In Zion, Neo is the One. For a lot of us, The One is Jesus. And like Jesus, none of the characters fully believed in Neo until he'd proven himself.

In "Revolutions," the mysteries of the film's universe have to be preserved because the answers are found in one's own reflection of what they've seen, experienced and sought to understand. "Revolutions" is a new testament for a new millennium, a religious and philosophical tale of the second coming of Zion's Messiah. The whole point of religion isn't to give you the answers but to instill the faith to accept and to believe. "Revolutions" is better than "Reloaded" but still fails to top the original.

A REVOLUTION IN BOREDOM

By **Adam Emerson** (guest columnist)

The original "Matrix" was original with spellbinding fight scenes and stunts. Its only problem was the supposed actor, Keanu Reeves. This man turns acting from an art form into a form of crime. The only bright side to Reeves' acting is his short lines such as "what," "whoa," and "why," all delivered in his signature surfer-like, slow-minded idiotic voice.

The next movie, "Matrix Reloaded" seems to have been written by an eight-year old boy who just finished watching all three "Rambo" flicks. It has tiresome fight scenes, and even worse "Keanu" acting.

The last movie in the trilogy (thank God) is "Matrix Revolutions." I only went to this movie to write this review. I would have written a letter to the Worcestershire Bros. if I weren't afraid of them turning it into a script for another action movie.

~sequel to Cross Country Documentary on December 15 in theatre.

(release date subject to change)

MEXICO/HAWAII

Heritage provides bilingual upbringing

By Laura Marsh —

When she was growing up, Hyrma Zakahi's family was one of two families of different races in Pierre. Her mother is Mexican, and her father is Okinawan/Hawaiian. They met in Sioux Falls while he was training for medical school.

Zakahi grew up speaking both English and Spanish. Until she was in kindergarten, she didn't realize that most students only had one name for their household items.

"I didn't realize that they wouldn't understand me if I spoke in Spanish. I didn't even realize I was speaking another language," Zakahi said.

Until elementary school, she'd never tried things like macaroni

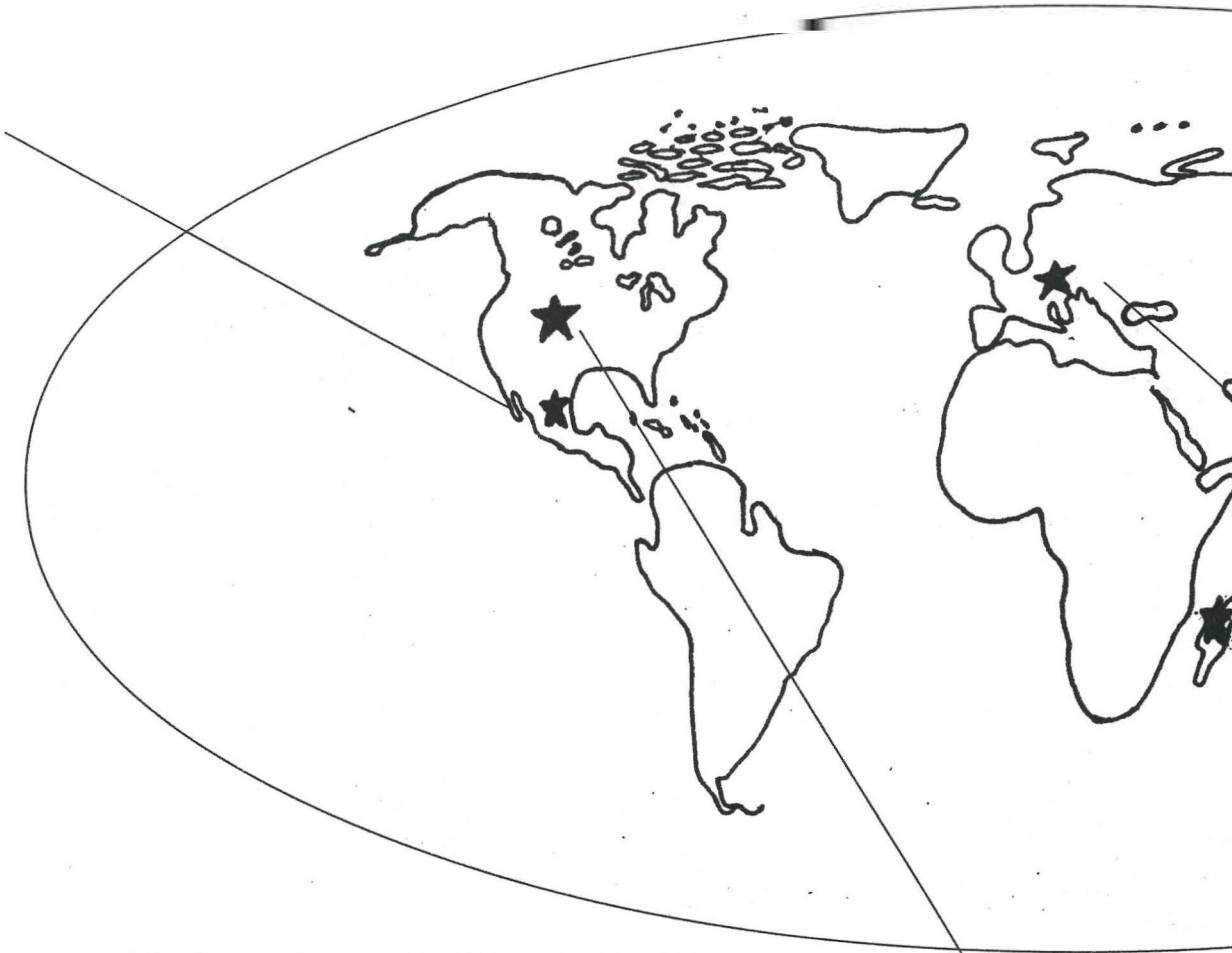
and cheese or goulash and didn't have all of the breads and potatoes that were served at St. Joseph's Elementary School. She grew up on tortillas and rice.

Zakahi said the Mexican side of her family is very Catholic, and celebrated Christmas with a 20 foot wide nativity. The baby Jesus wasn't placed in the manger until Christmas Eve.

They also celebrated the Epiphany on January 6 and the Mexican Independence Day on September 16.

Even though her family was alone as far as race is concerned in Pierre, Zakahi said she never felt left out or different.

"I never felt ethnically different because we were the only ones. You can't be a minority of five," Zakahi said.



Bridging the gap
Recognition, communication
important in overcoming racism

By BryAnn Becker —

In math and science class, answers are usually black and white. Rules can be followed and solutions can be found. In real life, however, answers may be unclear.

Joanne Beare believes these unclear items in life cause discrimination.

"People fear the unknown. That's why there's racism. They don't get to know their brothers and sisters," she said.

Beare, the Indian Education Programs Counselor Coordinator, works with K-12 graders in the six schools of the Pierre School District. She provides student services and a counseling and tutoring program.

Beare, a Lakota Native American, said people should become acquainted with their neighbors.

"I think it's very important for them to develop a bridge to bring those things together," she said.

Bridging the gap for Beare means bringing help to Native Americans students.

318 Native Americans students attend Pierre Public Schools; sixty of these currently

attend Riggs.

Beare said Native Americans have the highest drop-out rate in the United States.

In order to honor those students who do graduate, an incentive program began in 1990 in the Pierre area. Students receive specially made star quilts at a powwow usually held in May.

"We want to recognize that accomplishment," she said.

Beare would like to see more Native Americans take part in extracurricular activities.

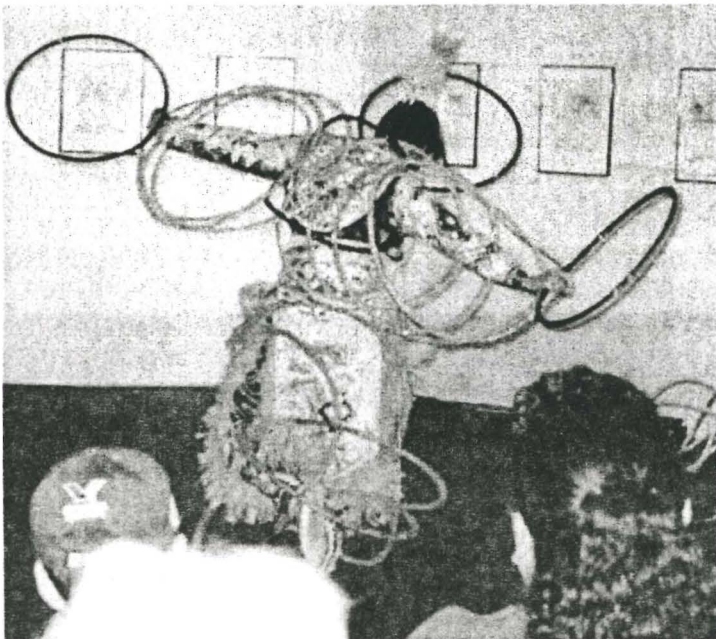
"Students have voiced to me that they feel they had to be from a predominant family in order to succeed," she said.

She said that while the students may be wrong in their thoughts, this opinion keeps them from participating in sports.

"But if they're encouraged to do it, they'd participate," Beare said.

Beare said that younger students need to have students they can look up to and see participating in these extra-curricular activities.

Beare also said it is important to try to incorporate the Native American heritage into schools to increase awareness.



Native American dancer Jackie Bird performs for a Native American Day program at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

"I think that some of our Native American students need more recognition in the school system," she said.

People need to be aware of the differences among people, she said.

"I think that they should understand diversity," Beare said.

She said South Dakotans typically see the skin differences between people but don't form relationships.

Beare said that people need to realize the similarities between people rather than the differences.

"There are so many people you

can get to know. They're so many cultures to learn about," she said.

First, a relationship should be formed and then people can become acquainted. Beare said the importance of this applies to all races of people.

Beare stressed the importance of her identity as a Native American.

"I'm very proud of my self-identity because we're indigenous. It's a self-image, I think, for any other Native American," she said.

Native American
student enjoys
traditional dancing

By BryAnn Becker

Melanie Steely likes to follow in her father's footsteps. Steely started dancing at powwows when she was young when encouraged by her father, who also used to dance.

"It's just like any other tradition. You do it out of respect of those who have gone before you," Steely said.

Steely said the powwows take place throughout the summer at reservations across South Dakota.

Steely, a Standing Rock Lakota, respects her ancestors and their shared traditions.

"I do take pride in my heritage because of my grandmother who I didn't know," she said.

Steely said the knowledge of her grandmother gives her motivation to continue dancing.

"I want to keep the tradition alive," she said.

Steely, however, doesn't feel like people treat her different because of her heritage.

"Discrimination is not so much evident here in South Dakota, but in other places I've had to deal with it. In larger cities, when I'm with my parents, especially with my mom because my mom is white and my dad is native, it's looked down upon," she said.





CHINA

Student adjusts to differences in American relationships

By BryAnn Becker

Even after four years in America, Chun Yan Zhang, who goes by Sandy, still finds the culture hard to get used to.

Zhang said the conduct of girl/boy relationships is very different in America than in China. Young people in China don't have relationships like they do in America, she said.

She also mentioned how it bothers her when students who have relationships show their affection in school.

"School should be for learning, not boyfriends and girlfriends holding hands in the hall," she said.

She doesn't feel any discrimination at Riggs, but does know that other people have varying attitudes towards her.

"In history class they look at me when we talk about China because I'm different," Zhang said.

Sandy, her mother and older brother Chun Fei (Andy) moved to America from China when she was around eleven years old. They met their father,



who had come to the United States a few years earlier.

The family lived in New York and Missouri before moving to Pierre. Sandy said she misses China sometimes; she wants to go back to

visit her grandparents and travel.

However family traditions keep Sandy in touch with China. Her family celebrates the Chinese New Year every year by cooking a large meal and eating together.

PHILLIPINES

Background has little effect on student's way of life

By Kelly Johnson

Several students in Riggs have interesting and unique ethnic backgrounds. Their experiences and stories add to the diversity of our student body. Whether the students or their parents came from a different country, customs and



experiences are enriched as a result.

Although senior Jay Corcoran was born in the United States, he has grown up with a mother who

spent many years in the Philippines. Jay's mother Benita grew up in a Philippine village. After

meeting Jay's father, Benita moved to the United States in the early 1980's.

Jay visited the Philippines in 1993 but can't remember specific details about his visit. Other than hearing stories from his mother now and then, Jay doesn't feel his family has specific differences than any other family in the area.

"My customs are the same as the average person as far as I know," Corcoran said.

MADAGASCAR

Student keeps in touch with friends from home

By Kelly Johnson

Andrew Kightlinger can tell many stories about his three-legged dog, rooster and goat.

"One day a thief tried to steal our goat. Our guard then killed him by throwing a spear through his head and out of his left eye. Later our guard was killed as well," said Kightlinger.

Kightlinger owned this goat while living in Manomabaro, Madagascar.

Kightlinger, a senior, was born and grew up in Madagascar. His parents were missionaries to the people. After Kightlinger's parents missionary term was up, they moved back to the United States when Kightlinger was in seventh grade.



Kightlinger said Madagascar is a poor country with most people living in villages or mud houses in a big city.

Being a vesaha, (white person) they owned a nicer house in town. At one point his family even had an additional family living in their garage. The man of the guest family served as a guard for the Kightlingers.

Going to French school, Kightlinger learned a different language, but spoke English with his family. Even after five years, he still stays in touch with some of his friends who have since moved to France.

Trips to France and letters bring him together with his friends he grew up with in his native country.

HUNGARY

Student hopes to return to place of parents' birth in the future

By Emma Waack

Though American born, sophomore Rahel Racz is different from many people. Racz, a Hungarian, has a father who fled to America by escaping from a refugee camp in Vienna.

Shortly afterwards, Racz's mother came to America as well. Rahel's family moved around a great deal until finally settling in Pierre when her younger brother was born. One of Racz's favorite things about American culture is the music.

"I like the fact that the music isn't so traditional," Racz said.

Racz has strong opinions on how the President is running the government.

"Even though Hungary is communist, at least they are not hurting anyone," Rahel said.

By using the Hungarian



language and other aspects of their culture, the Racz's are able to stay up-to-date on their culture including

rules regarding socks.

"You can't have holes in you sock," Racz said, "If you do, it means your either too poor to buy new ones or too lazy to sew them."

However, not all things about the Hungarian culture are unpleasant.

"I really like that our family is so close to each other," Racz said.

Nevertheless, not everyone is understanding about her cultural differences, and Racz feels that

all the jokes she receives aren't funny.

"It's not cool to make fun of people because they have a different culture. Just because certain people believe different things doesn't mean they are all that different," Racz said.

During the Christmas holidays the Racz's celebrate differently from other families.

"Our Christmas is more family-oriented than others. On Christmas Eve we put up our Christmas tree and sing a Hungarian Christmas song," Racz said.

Even though Racz will be finishing her education in the United States, she doesn't want to stay here forever.

"I don't like living here very much. I would do anything to become a Hungarian citizen. I would even give up my citizenship in America," she said.

Sweat, long hours of practice don't deter committed athletes

By Johanna Snow

Whether she's spiking the ball or dribbling down the court, junior Jill Brotherton knows what keeps her going, and that is her love for the game. She has been playing volleyball and basketball since sixth grade. She chose to play these sports because she thinks they're fun and they keep her in shape.

The volleyball season usually runs from August to November while girls basketball runs from the end of November to March.

"I like it except for the fact that sometimes girls basketball gets overshadowed by boys basketball, and we don't get as many people to come to our games," Brotherton said.

She said volleyball keeps her in shape and also keeps her busy. However, since practices last two hours every day, she doesn't have a lot of time to spend with her friends.

Changes in coaching staff is another disadvantage of volleyball, Brotherton said.

"I think the real minus of volleyball is that the team has had different coaches every year, but maybe that will change now that Shawna Fullerton is here," Brotherton said.

Junior Kaitlin Thomas plays hockey simply because she enjoys it.

"It's so much fun; even if you get tired skating you're not really tired because it's just like a night out with your friends. You're tired but you just don't wanna quit having fun," she said.

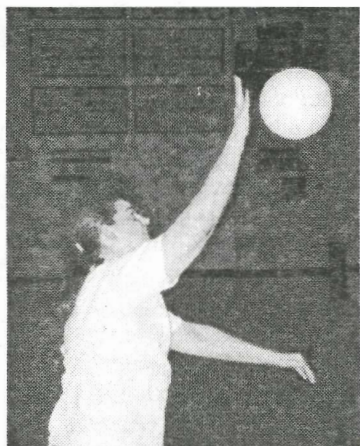


photo by Dirk McGrane

Individuals who wish to become a girls hockey player don't need to have played the game before. Experience would be helpful, but the coaches are nice enough that they'll help you learn how to skate and play the sport.

This is Thomas's second year in the sport; she says she got interested in it when her brother played it and says she tried most of the other sports out there and found out that they just weren't her style.

"The best part about the game is the speed with which it flows and the physical aggression involved," Thomas said. "I also like to beat people up."

"The only downside to hockey is that practice takes up a lot of time and a lot of weekends, so it's hard to have a job," she said. Practice usually runs on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights.

Football, basketball and track are junior Mike Zellmer's passion.

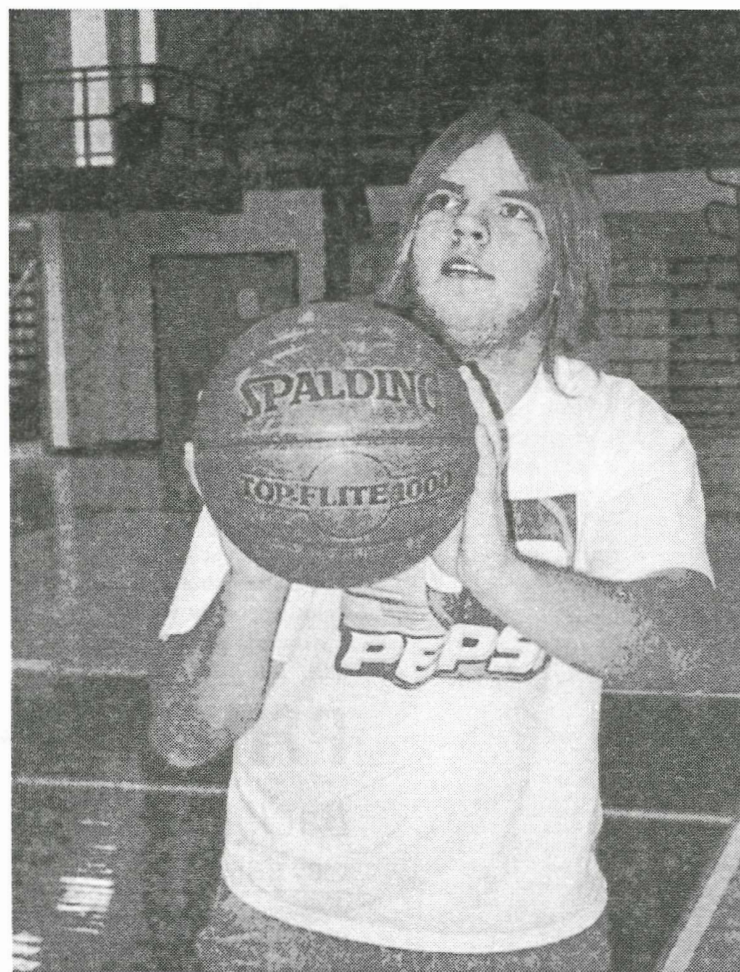


photo by Dirk McGrane

(upper left) Junior Jill Brotherton admits that, while she enjoys playing volleyball, it does have its downsides.

(above) Along with playing basketball, junior Mike Zellmer also participates in football and track.

"I chose these sports because these are what my dad did in high school and these are the sports my friends are in," Zellmer said.

The best part about football is getting to hit someone, in basketball it's fouling and in track it's winning meets, he said.

Zellmer's been making plays in football for four years, dribbling a basketball down the court for

eight years and throwing the shot-put in track for five years.

Each sport has its own number of practice hours, and the same thing is true for each sport, and that is that you don't get very much free time.

"I think the plus side to playing sports is that it keeps you healthy and in shape, and it's a lot of fun," says Zellmer.

Sports Briefs

Two runners finish in top 20

Cross country finished their season with the boys finishing 7th out of 18 teams in the state tournament and the girls finishing 15th.

Placing in ESD for the girls were Amy Brandner, Michelle Monroe, and Erin Titze.

Boys who placed in the top 20 at state include James Berreth and George Summerside, with sophomore Julian Sheard "just barely missing," placing according to head coach Torey Zeller.

Zeller went on to say that the athletes all had a great season and should be leaving this year feeling good about their runs.

Fall sport athletes earn All-State, All-ESD honors

Football

Sophomore Michael Tveidt and seniors Brian Bumann and Kyle Kurth were first team All-Conference players for football.

Sophomore Quincy Christie was an honorable mention after his first season in Pierre.

Volleyball

Seniors Emily Goeden received ESD All-conference honors.

Golf

Junior Zach Vogt earned All-ESD and All State recognition.

Soccer

All-state girls included Donielle Gustafson, Jenna Forsch, Carly Feiler with Alex Beckwith and Matt Dutt earning boys honors.

Cross-country

Senior James Berreth received All-State honors.

Former student invited to play at football classic

Scott Rislov, '99, who is the quarterback at San Jose State University in California, has been invited to play in the 2003 Blue-Gray All-Star Classic on December 25.

Rislov is having a record-breaking season at SJSU, having completed 28 of 39 passes for 543 yards and 7 seven touchdowns in one recent game.

The game will air on ESPN2 on December 25 at 2:00 p.m. Central standard time.

by Drew White

Athletes provide inspiration for kids

Every day varsity athletes are being watched. They are being looked up to by younger kids and are being judged by their parents to make sure that they are good role models for their kids.

Younger kids often compare the varsity athletes they know to people in professional sports. They think that maybe one day the high school athlete they grew up admiring may be admired across the country as a professional sports star.

I think kids generally want to be the ones that are in high school sports--they want to be the ones that are looked up to. When kids pick a role model who is in a sport, they will often try to emulate the athlete,

be it in the front yard or in their driveway.

I know some of you probably did this when you were young. I know I did.

I remember being in my driveway or front yard playing basketball or football. I remember I wanted to be like the Pierre athletes I saw every Friday night playing in front of me. I also saw them elsewhere in the community. I tried to do everything like them--whether it was how I swung a bat, shot a basketball or I wore my jersey.

When kids go to the Pierre games, they see the players on the field or court and think, "Maybe that will be me some day." Per-



Chris Mangan

haps that is why some kids get into sports and strive so hard to do the best they can.

In a small town like Pierre, where there is no college athletics, the high school athletes become the role models.

They are the ones that the younger kids want to emulate and follow.

Whether it is fair or not, varsity athletes--whether it is school sports or community sports like hockey, soccer, or baseball--are held to a higher standard. They are representing their schools and their teams at all times.

Area residents--especially kids--know who are the athletes. They are watching you whether you are in a game, on the sideline,

or out with your friends. What you do reflects on your team, school, teammates and sports in general.

Having a role model is important for kids. It may get them started in a sport they wouldn't have played otherwise. At the same time, it is important for the role models to be good role models. Kids need role models for everything not just in sport, but it shows the most in sports.

Athletes in Pierre are important because without them there would be no one for the kids to try to be like. Without athletics most of the people in Pierre would be sitting at home, and the kids would probably not strive to do anything at all.

Carrying on the legacy: former state champion wrestling coach says athletes need advice to excel

By Drew White

In the history of South Dakota Division 1-A high school wrestling, only one wrestler managed to win the state tournament four times, once for every year in high school.

This single outstanding wrestler is none other than Pierre's Rick Jensen, a physical education teacher at Georgia Morse Middle School. Jensen currently coaches varsity wrestling for the Governors.

Jensen attended high school at Watertown, where he posted a 93-1 record.

"When I was wrestling, it was very fun for me, but mostly because I was out there trying to express to the crowd my passion for the game. I knew they came out to matches because they enjoyed high-caliber wrestling, and I tried not to disappoint them," said Jensen.

Coincidentally, his only loss was to a Pierre wrestler, former Riggs principal Mike Stroup. Unfortunately in their next meeting, Stroup blew out his knee before the match could be completed.

Jensen, a state champion from 1971 to 1974, won in a different weight class every year.

"Back then, it was a big accomplishment. I mean, it still is, but more people have done it in Class B. Since nobody has ever done it in A, I'd say it's a good record," said Jensen.

However Jensen's record is in peril, as a 119-pounder named Nick Smith from Yankton hopes to receive his fourth consecutive state championship this year.

But Jensen isn't secretly wishing any harm on Smith.

"Records are meant to be broken," said Jensen. "These records are nice things to accomplish at the time, but now it doesn't af-

"I work so much with the wrestlers now, because if I have advice, I can tell them right there to help them out in the long run."

—Varsity wrestling coach Rick Jensen



fect my life as much."

After high school Jensen pursued his wrestling career at South Dakota State University. While there he earned All-American three times, National Champion once and a runner-up title one time. He also received the North Central's Wrestling Champion title four times.

Jensen learned many lessons in college that he still uses today.

"As a coach, I realize that not everybody can be like me because everybody has his own style and passion for this sport. However, when I was in college, I had so many different coaches I never really trusted them like I did my high school coach. Consequently, I thought I knew all I needed to and just went out and did my own thing," he said.

Jensen said young wrestlers need to be aware that

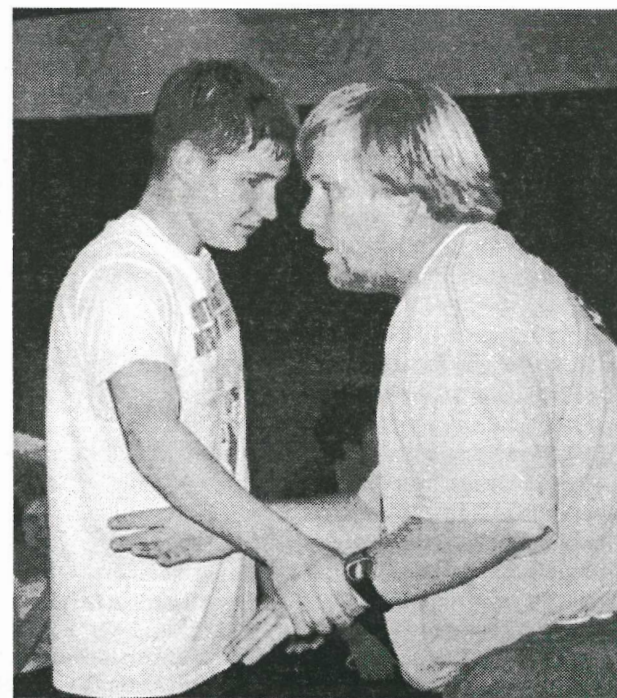


photo by Dirk McGrane

Jensen demonstrates a complicated hold on junior Alec Anderson.

they don't know everything and they can improve.

"They need to have help from their coaches. That's why I work so much with

the wrestlers now, because if I have advice, I can tell them right there to help them out in the long run," Jensen said.

Cold weather doesn't hinder skateboarders

By Jason Bakeberg

A winter wonderland can be a joy for some, but it is a burden for others. Skateboarders across the country dread the arrival of the chilling season. What is known as the off-season for the adrenaline junkies is a time for creativity to take over. They must invent ways to train despite the snow and cold.

"The last few winters have been fairly mild. There have been plenty of good weeks for skating as long as the wind stays down," said senior Chris Garry, who has been skateboarding for six years.

These athletes stay on top of their game in many ways. A winter skateboarder's best friend is a basement. A large concrete subterranean room makes a perfect substitute for a parking lot. The only problem with basements is the fact that most have low ceilings and breakable objects that cause damage to both property and/or skater.

An alternative solution to basements is the garage, which works just as well. Although never as warm, they provide a concrete pad for the days when the snow covers everything or the wind blows a board right off a skater's feet.

Garages can also be a drawback, however, because cars usually occupy the space inside. Even with an empty garage, the cars usually drag in snow and ice from outside that leave the floor strewn with puddles just looking for bearings to corrode on.

The ultra-versatile treadmill is another fun way to practice. This equipment must be stable, however, because it will take a beating.

Many people think that snowboarding substitutes as skateboard practicing during the frozen months. However, skateboarding and snowboarding are two very different sports that are not as interchangeable as some may believe.

Skateboarders don't

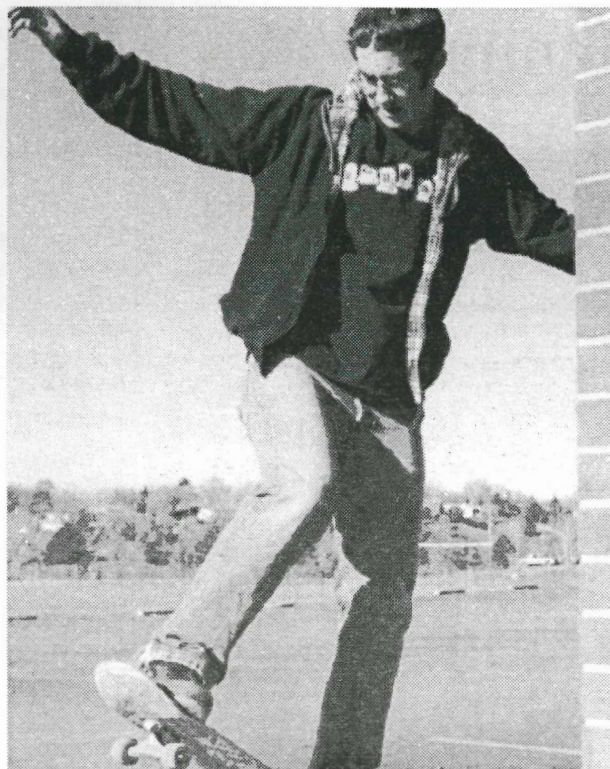


photo by Dirk McGrane

Kyle Winkler puts his fate in his board as he flies off a balcony.

spend all their time skating, though. Television plays a major role when motivation is not to be found. Video games are also a great way to pass the time. Games like Tony Hawk's Pro Skater are

a favorite of many.

Skaters have plenty of alternatives to choose from, but most like to go outside and brave the bitter cold. Snow banks, ice patches and runoff puddles are obstacles many enjoy.

Athletes to watch

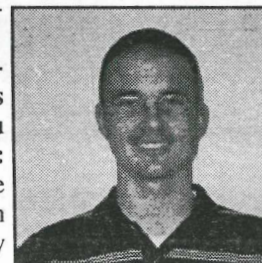
Zach Vogt

Position: #1 Boys golfer Jimmy Costello forgot his putter for the Aberdeen tournament.

Significant Win: 13th at

Best Tournament this year you played in: Pierre invite where I won a 2-hole play off.

Funniest Moment for you this year: When wind, I almost got a hole-in-one.

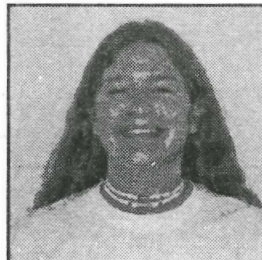


Amanda Hammer

Position: Captain of girls soccer team were held in Pierre.

Significant win: Placed 8th at the state tournament

Best moment so far this year for you: We played even with the champions most of our games that



Team Strengths: We work well as a team and also get along well.

Funniest moment this year: When we fit 12 kids into Jake Shoup's minivan for three blocks.

by Allen Goodman

Assembly honors veterans, students who died before fulfilling dreams

By Kelly Johnson

Students and faculty recently attended a special Veterans' Day assembly to honor veterans who have died in the service of this country, soldiers who are currently fighting, and those students who died before their dreams could be realized.

Major General Michael Gorman spoke about the importance of honoring all those in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines from all the past wars and the soldiers involved in current conflict. He reminded students that some students who sat at the Veteran's Day ceremony two years ago were now serving in Iraq.

Sergeant Gary Kafka presented a PowerPoint presentation honoring South Dakota soldiers presently serving overseas in the 200th engineer company from Pierre.

In addition to honoring soldiers and veterans, students also dedicated a new bench, donated by the class of 2003, outside of the school's front entrance. The bench bears an inscription honoring those students who have died before their dreams have been fulfilled.

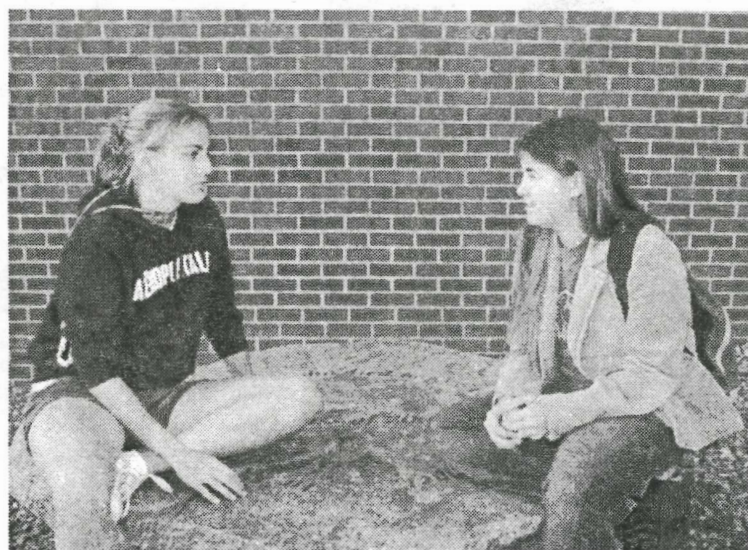


Photo by Tara Dieken
Kylie Mundt and Savannah Cromwell sit on the memorial rock bench.

One such student was former graduate Amy Dosch, '97, who was murdered by an abusive boyfriend. Dosch's mother Renae spoke to students about her daughter's lost dreams and her family's pain but encouraged students to sit on the bench and think of their own dreams for the future.

Those attending the program admired a rubbing of the memorial's inscription as they passed through the lobby before

and after the program. In addition, Student Senate left flowers by the memorial stone.

Student Body President Adam Emerson and Vice-President Kim deHueck presented Pierre's foreign exchange students Isabel Gander, Christoph Ionescu and Jonas Lauenstein with an American flag to take home with them to remind them that they are part of us as South Dakotans and Americans as well.

Students sing in 50th annual chorus

By Kim deHueck

Sixteen Riggs High students participated in the 50th annual All-State Chorus Concert earlier this month in Rapid City.

Members are selected locally by the choral directors in each high school. Each school is allowed to bring a certain number of quartets based on the schools enrollment.

This year Riggs had four quartets or sixteen out of 962 musicians performing. The participants included sopranos: Christy Sobolik, Sarah Zinter, McKayla Marso and Melanie Steely; altos: Molly Hanson, Kim Bartels, Karen VanCamp and Melinda Christiansen; tenors: Isaac Williams, Brian Boe, Craig Long and Tyson Nafus; basses: Andrew Kightlinger, Adam Emerson, Brian Bumann and Seth Hipple.

The program included a two-day workshop with rehearsals all day Friday and Saturday and a formal concert Saturday night.

The students enjoyed singing at the formal concert.

"It is really fun to get all dressed

up and perform the material we worked so hard on," said Marso. The chorus sang two of the eight pieces "Dies Irae" and "These Things Shall be" accompanied by the All State Orchestra.

Some of the members thought this particular concert topped any others they had been part of.

"After attending the concert for four years, this has been the funnest and best-sounding one I have been at. It was an honor to be a part of," said Zinter.

SD Public Television broadcast the performance live from the Rapid City Civic Center.

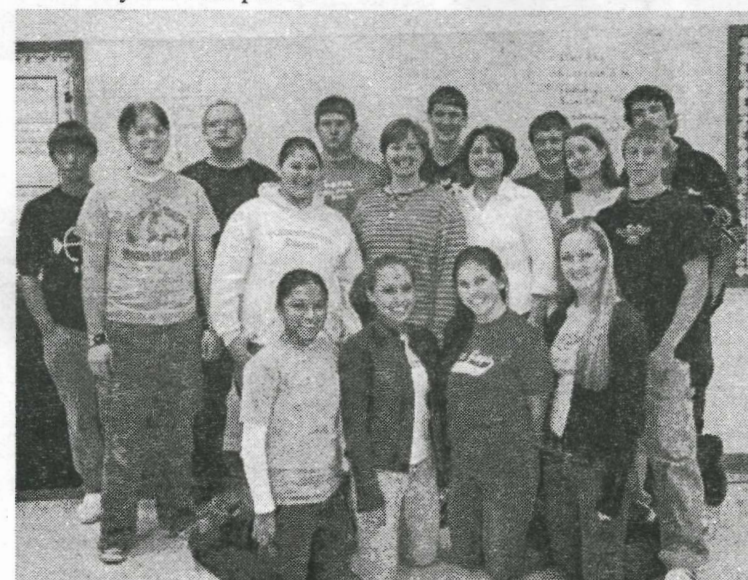


Photo by Tara Dieken
Andrew Kightlinger, Brian Boe, Adam Emerson, Brian Bumann, Craig Long, Seth Hipple, Tyson Nafus, Melinda Christiansen, Karen VanCamp, Melanie Steely, Kim Bartels, Isaac Williams, Molly Hanson, Christy Sobolik, Sarah Zinter and McKayla Marso represented Pierre at All-State Chorus in Rapid City.

News Briefs

Oral Interp prepares for state

By Will Butler

Oral interpretation has competed in three competitions during November. Three competitions out of the five total for the year will be in November, and so far the results have been good.

"The students have done very well, and I've been very pleased," coach Peggy Rose said.

Rose, who has coached oral interp for the past 15 years, also cited very decent results from her beginning participants. Oral interp is divided into seven different categories, with one entry per category going to the state competition.

On December 5-6, oral interp will have its state competition. According to Rose, participants must practice at least three times before a practice or workshop.

"I feel that the competitions were a good experience and helped to get me ready for State," senior Tyson Nafus said.

"Oral interp takes up a lot of time, but it is really fun," said junior Lisa Heffernan.

"Your experience with oral interp depends on how much you want to be involved," added senior Mary Peterson.

Rose said competition, lack of physical requirements, performance and bravery distinguish oral interp from other activities.

"Oral interp is really fun, and I wish that more people were involved with it," said Nafus.

"I feel that I've done very well at recent competitions," said senior participant Karen Van Camp.

"Oral interp gives you skills that you can use for the rest of your life," said Rose.

Two selected for All-State Orchestra

by Ursula Waack

Two Pierre woodwind players were part of the prestigious All-State orchestra concert, held in conjunction with All-State Chorus.

Kit Hartley, a senior flutist, and Andrew Wulf, a junior bassonist, were Pierre's representatives in this group.

Hartley, who plays flute, was the second chair flute at All-State. Despite marathon practice she had a great time.

"I had so much fun. It was great. Words can't describe it enough."

"There was an even mix of music for both the strings and the winds. We both got to be featured."

Wulf was the first chair bassonist at All-State. He also had fun, but he did suffer a bit. "My lips were so sore after only a day. It was worth it. I had a blast."

While an orchestra is known for string instruments such as the violin, wind instruments are essential for a well-rounded orchestra. Usually Pierre does not have many participants because of a lack of an orchestra program and the stiff competition for the few wind instrument positions.

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

Name: Luann Zuercher

Born: Reader, North Dakota

Grew Up: In Perkins County, near the South Dakota border

Family: husband David; children Anne, Rachel and Michael

Education: Undergraduate at Black Hills State with a major in math. Graduate school at Oklahoma State with a major in statistics

Why teaching?: Basically became a teacher because of a family legacy.

Classes: Applied mathematics, transition mathematics and algebra

Past job history: Taught one year in Midland. Prior to that, Zuercher was a full-time wife and mother.



Photo by Tara Dieken

Why high school math?:

Essentially because Teach Dakota offered certification classes on the Internet in this particular area

Life philosophy: Be patient and try hard at everything.

Hobbies: Laughing, quilting, gardening and reading

By Cleo Hilding