

Jump, Jive, Jazz: Big Band Dance teaches kids to swing

By Mary Holm

While most students are getting ready for the holidays, the jazz band students have something else on their mind. They are all preparing for the annual Big Band Dance next Thursday night.

The Big Band Dance is a dance that features three live jazz ensembles, two of which are made up of Riggs students. The three ensembles play many types of music from the 1920's to 2006, including jazz,

"It's a wonderful time when adults and students can have fun."
-Larry Johnson

rock and roll, jitter bug, waltzes, polkas, and two-steps.

In addition to great music and dancing, the attendees of the Big Band Dance also enjoy free pop and popcorn throughout the entire dance.

Although many people may think that the dance is



photo by Emily Coughlin
Sophomore Caitlin Forman and freshmen Tyler Sarringer practice for the Big Band Dance.

only for adults, it is for all ages.

Band director Larry Johnson has been putting on the dance for twelve years and finds the music easy for ev-

eryone to dance to.

"It's a wonderful time when adults and students can have fun and spend time with each other," band director Larry Johnson said.

"I like the music, the fun company and the dancing"
-senior Zak Bishop

The students who perform in the jazz band find the dance enjoyable as well and find it to be very different from other dances.

"I like the music, the fun company, and the dancing," said senior Zak Bishop.

As an added bonus this year, students can learn

how to swing dance in time for the Big Band Dance, with the help of the student senate.

"The student senate wants to get the student body more involved in student activities, so this seemed like the perfect opportunity," senior Amanda Deis said.

There are two more opportunities for students to attend swing dance lessons.

The classes will be held next Monday and Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the gym. They will take

about one hour each night and are offered free of charge.

The Big Band Dance is used as a fundraiser to help offset the cost for the band's upcoming trip to Chicago in the spring.

Tickets cost \$5 and may be purchased from any band member.

Students are selling the tickets through Tuesday. After that, tickets may be purchased at the door.

The dance will be held next Thursday from 8-11 p.m. in the gym.

Cold, creamy tradition: teacher serves spaghetti ice cream

By Katie Douglas

The day before Thanksgiving break means one thing for Latin teacher Jay Mickelson's classes—spaghetti ice cream.

This annual event, which lasts an entire class period, begins with Mickelson telling the tale of how ice cream originated.

Mickelson also explains how he first discovered spaghetti ice cream.

"Spaghetti ice cream was a dessert I learned about 40 years ago in Germany when I was an exchange student. Twenty years ago when we were

"Our friends gave us a potato ricer, called a spaetzle so we could make our own spaghetti ice cream."
-Jay Mickelson

living there as a family, I was reminded about spaghetti ice cream and loved it. On our last night in Germany, our friends gave us a German potato ricer, called a *spaetzle*, so we could make our own spaghetti ice cream,"



photo by Megan Meier
Spaghetti ice cream with "bread sticks" and "parmesan cheese" is a tradition that Mickelson brought with him from Germany.

Mickelson said.

After telling the story, Mickelson invites his students, both present and past, to eat this spaghetti ice cream.

To make the ice cream into "spaghetti" ice cream, a few steps must

be followed.

First the ice cream is squeezed through the potato ricer which makes the ice cream into "noodles."

Then strawberries are added for the visual effect of "spaghetti sauce."



photo by Megan Meier
Latin teacher Jay Mickelson serves spaghetti ice cream to students in his second period Latin II class.

Optional toppings include almond bark and wafers filling in as the

parmesan cheese and breadsticks. Mickelson's popular tradition has

lived on the past 10 years and doesn't look as if it will stop anytime soon.

Letter to the Editor: Teacher praises amphitheater

Dear Editors,

The new amphitheatre seems to have created a number of comments, some pro and some con. This discussion is great for the student body.

As a teacher I am excited that Riggs now has a wonderful venue for classes, concerts, and play.

As a Latinist and historian, it takes me back to the first places that teaching and learning happened--the

Agora of Athens and the Forum of Rome.

Here students gathered about their teachers to listen, to learn, and to question.

With a few seat cushions (like the Ancients used to bring along with them to class, but which some club or business might want to supply and the library keep), this new classroom will be great for lectures on any subject and especially useful to science teach-

"What a great classroom this will be for generations of T.F. Riggs students and faculty!"

- Jay Mickelson

ers getting their pupils into the environment.

Yes, this place has cost a great deal of money, and no, it has not been used a great deal, for the space is not yet finished.

Nevertheless, the

same thing was said of the 1,000 seat Riggs Theatre when it was completed in 1984 before the current population of Riggs was born, and it was also said of all the computer labs at Riggs when the

remodeling was complete before this year's seniors were even here.

Now the whole community knows that these spaces could have been even bigger.

What a grand tribute to Seth Parson and Curtis Egan that they have worked so hard to see this project through! What great debt of gratitude that the District owes to Midwest Construction and the Zarecky's for all of their expertise and donat-

ed time and materials!

What a great classroom this will be for generations of T.F. Riggs students and faculty!

And in the future, if new high schools are built here in Pierre, the amphitheater may be the only vestige of Riggs that remains for succeeding generations.

Jay Mickelson
Latin Teacher and
Student Senate Adviser



Thumbs Up

...to Mom buying Christmas presents and signing your name
...to your countdown to the release of Halo 3
...to Christmas break, of course!
...to oranges (Vit. C!)
...to amazing girls and boys basketball teams
...to the movie Borat--disturbing yet hilari-

ous!
...to iPods waiting to be unwrapped.
...to snow not sparkling in the sunlight
...to boys IBA teams having caused zero serious injuries to the girls
...to last-second Christmas shopping



Thumbs Down

...to accidentally telling your younger siblings Santa's a hoax
...to confinement with family in a tiny town
...to kids who get coal
...to pure luck of Mitchell's last second basket
...to application deadlines being all on the same day and others sneaking by unnoticed

...to underestimating the power of Santa
...to stress induced by research papers
...to empty wallets, all in the name of Xmas
...to naughty lists
...to oyster stew instead of a Christmas ham
...to traveling 8 hours just to see Aunt Ethel who smells like cheese

"Once, I got a body pillow and socks from my cousins and that was it."
-Devon Rounds



"I don't get presents."
- Corey Cooper

Hall Talk:

What's your worst Christmas present ever?

"I once got a bat house, you know, it's a bird house, only for bats."
-Nellie Bloomberg



"My mom gave me this really ugly shirt once, and I cried."
-Maria Deuchar

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1010 E. Broadway
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57501 Telephone: 773-7350
Editors-in-chief♦ Lindsey Coit and Renee Rodgers

Sophomore editors ♦ Emily Coughlin and Sigrid Wald

Columnists♦ Matt Blake, Katie Douglas, Mary Holm, Kristian Kongslien, Kat Lindbloom, Taya Norlander, Emma Wylie, Loryn Schuetzler, Kelly Lingle

Photo Editor ♦ DeShayne Nye

Photographers ♦ Chris Bondy, Kristen Landon, Megan Meier, Hilary Roth

Artwork♦ Kristian Kongslien

Reporters♦ Matt Blake, Lisa Bowman, Katie Douglas, Nikki Douglas, Layne Duvall, Lindsey Dykstra, Brittany Guindon, Laura Hofer, Casi Huizenga, Savannah Ivey, Kelly Lingle, Deni Lohman, Ashley Putzier, Steph Snow, Miranda Tracy

Adviser♦ Elizabeth J. Vogt

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We're right: lighten homework load

The Christmas season is upon us, the season of presents and Peace on Earth.

The season of lights, Christmas trees, and snow. The season of piles of homework and deadlines.

Wait—that last one doesn't seem quite right.

Unfortunately it is true, the days before the most wonderful time of the year also happens to be one of the busiest.

Christmas, as all students know, is the longest break in the year.

But this great gap in time also carries a heavy burden for all of us studious people with the gigantic amount of homework that is piled on right before school lets out.



Taya Norlander
and
Matt Blake

fore school lets out.

Between the two of us, we had seven tests and two 4-8 page research papers all due this week. We are so stressed out we think we might start graying by the age of 19.

This doesn't really apply to the younger students, but se-

niors also have many scholarship applications due in December.

To save us thousands of dollars in the future, we need to have an astounding application to guarantee us some money.

But how can we? We have to study for Physics or write a paper for English. We just don't have any time to succeed.

Now teachers, we know it's not really your fault. You are trying to cram all this info in our heads and test before the break because you know we will forget it.

But please, we beg you, lighten the load in December to something manageable. You know we're right!

Katie's Closet: What I'm lovin' this month!

1. Fleece

Fleece jackets are a cold-weather staple for many.

I wear mine almost every day. Scheel's carries Columbia, Marmot, and my personal favorite, Northface.

2. King of Hearts

This big winter formal is just around the corner!

It's a time to have fun with your look, so do whatever you want. Six inch heels, faux eyelashes, shiny



Katie Douglas

red lipstick—don't worry about looking like everyone else, just be your own crazy self.

3. Giving

The holidays are

a time for giving but some of us are not great at gift ideas.

Here are a few: video camera, gift sets from sephora.com, iHome, mp3 player, a good book, magazine subscriptions, or jewelry.

Don't forget about the Angel Tree! My sister and I had lots of fun shopping for a 4-year-old girl.

I wish you all a merry Christmas (or Hanukkah or Kwanzaa)!

Perspectives: Four students, four views on giving, receiving gifts

This is a common topic of the Christmas season. Everybody prefers receiving gifts to spending their money on someone else's, but there are two different directions you could go on this one.

Now receiving is great—who doesn't want new stuff?

And not only that, but stuff that you want?



Kat Lindbloom

It is a great tradition. I give props to whoever came up with it. You know how in

stories someone's life is fulfilled after they give a gift very meaningful and how good it is for their soul to know they made someone else happy?

This is also true.

Giving can lift your spirits just as much as receiving, and for this reason I'd have to say that Christmas season is great because you get to do a little bit of both.

"It's better to give than receive" is a phrase that is often associated with this time of year.

You hear this one idea almost as much as you hear "Ho Ho Ho" and "Merry Christmas."

Even though I have a vast area of expertise, I have only received gifts in my past. On a few certain occasions, I have



Kristian Kongslien

given a gift to someone who received something that they had pre-

viously picked out and told me what to get.

Therefore, I am for both, being that it is good to receive gifts and to give gifts.

So on that, I have some final words of wisdom, as I often do not.

One should give more, receive a little, and be happy about what gifts are in circulation.

I may be a little greedy, but I enjoy getting presents far more than I like giving them.

If I know that a person got me a gift, I may reach into my close-to-empty wallet to try to scrounge up a few bucks to get them something, but it will never be as good as the gift I just received.

You see, I have



Matt Blake

very little money and don't want to spend all of it on gifts. I know that Christ-

mas is the season for giving, but if you have no money to spend on yourself, then how can you do it for others?

I like receiving gifts because I have no means to give to other people.

So, if you want to transform me into a regular old Saint Nick, here's what you need to do: give me some money for presents, PLEASE!

Not to sound sappy or anything, but I think it's better to give than receive. I mean, think about it. Do you feel better after you've opened a present or after you've given something to someone in need?

For some people, a gift doesn't need to be any physical object.

A great gift could be a smile, a simple "hello,"



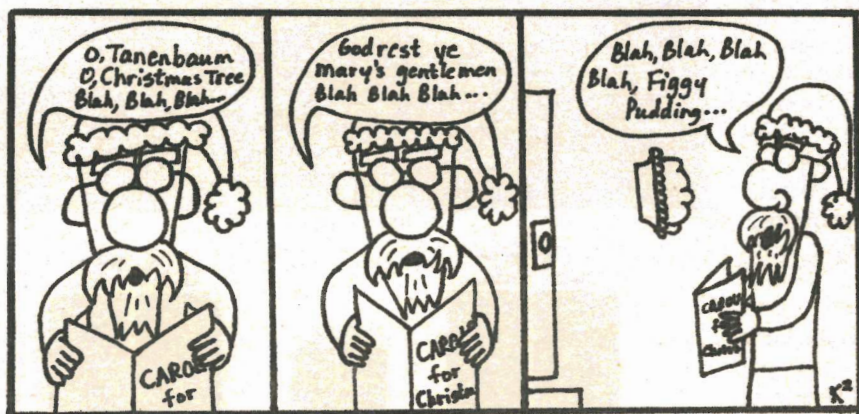
Mary Holm

or just some of your time.

These simple gifts can be worth more than the most expensive

thing in the world, and it will mean a lot more to the recipient in the end!

So this Christmas, as you write up your wish list, take the time to think about the people around you. Using your time and talent, you could give them a gift that will make their Christmas a whole lot merrier!



It's a small world:
Foreign exchange students
experience American xmas

By Mary Holm

Christmas gifts are one of the main topics of discussion this time of year.

While many people know what popular American gifts are, they may be surprised to find out that gifts are not much different in other countries.

In Asia, gifts are much like the typical American gifts.

"Children like toys and women like jewelry," Japanese foreign exchange Sakura Kimijima said.

Like Asian countries, gifts in European countries are the same as the gifts in America.

"In Norway, popular gifts include iPods, digital cameras, DVDs, and clothes," Norwegian exchange student Gjertrud Nyberget said.

"Teenagers care about the same stuff," Nyberget said.

German student Fabian Wieneke agrees.

"Gifts are the same as here. We like iPods, clothes, and candy," said Wieneke.



German exchange student Fabian Wieneke helps decorate one of the Christmas trees in the lobby. This year's exchange students will get the chance to participate in many American Christmas traditions.

In South America, gifts are also much like American gifts, but are a little more on the active side.

"Popular gifts are bikes, video games, skateboards, soccer balls, and clothes," Brazilian Tales Couto said.

Although these students are far away from home, they all are finding that Christmas in America is somewhat like it was in their home country, and that no matter where they are in the world, they hope to have a very Merry Christmas.

Gift cards:thoughtless or thoughtful?

By Katie Douglas

A gift card may be an easy way to show friends and family that you care, but is giving one really a good idea?

"Gift cards are boring. You can be more creative than that," senior Sara Word said.

"If my parents or best friend gave me a gift card, I would be confused. They should know me well enough to purchase a more personal gift for me. I guess it's the thought that counts," sophomore Jenny Ness said.

On the other hand, a gift card is simple and uncomplicated.

By giving one, you put the

power to decide on something into the recipient's hands and don't have to worry about returns or gift receipts.

And what are you supposed to buy for your spoiled rich friend who "has it all?" A gift card is the perfect solution to the problem. It's better than just handing them a wad of cash, as it shows you actually spent time on the gift and didn't just reach into your wallet in the last second as an act of desperation.

Another acceptable time to use gift cards is at a group party, when gifts are assigned randomly. The cards are a great way to make your gift unisex, and

they're also handy as you don't know who will receive your gift and therefore can't match it to their specific interests.

So while gift cards are admittedly not the most compassionate gift, they can be a great alternative to a few George Washingtons when the recipient is impossible to shop for, the gift is meant to be generic, or you just plain ran out of time.

However, to all you boy-friends out there, I would strongly discourage you from giving your special lady a "thoughtless" gift card, especially one to Menard's.

Students can help
with Angel tree

While doing your Christmas shopping at the mall, you may have noticed the angel trees.

Angel trees help families in our community during the holidays.

Shoppers pick a card off one of the trees located at the mall or Walmart.

The card tells the child's name, age, and gender.

"I like angel trees because they help kids have a better holiday," sophomore Bryan Boocock said.

After a gift is bought for the child that is chosen, the gift can be dropped off.

If the child's name was picked from the tree at Wal-Mart, then the gift can be dropped off unwrapped at the customer service desk at Wal-Mart.

If the child is from the mall's angel tree, then the gift can be dropped off unwrapped at the mall.

The gifts are then delivered to the child.

"It's awesome because it gives the less fortunate a chance to be happy," sophomore Jessica Blow said.

The angel tree makes the holidays a little brighter for children in our community.

by Nikki Douglas



Work of the hands, heart

Homemade presents show caring, thought

By Lisa Bowman

At Christmastime, many people struggle with choosing the perfect present. Most people buy gifts for close friends and family, but others prefer to make presents themselves.

Buying presents every year can create a noticeable amount of emptiness in one's bank account.

Procrastination and the lack of time are both reasons for that last minute mall-tackle everyone is too familiar with.

Some who would rather take the time to create something personal to give as a gift to someone special instead of spending money.

"My mom sometimes puts together photo DVDs for our relatives," senior Melissa Kirkpatrick said.

Homemade gifts can be a symbol of love, care and appreciation.

"One Christmas, my grandmother knitted a personalized quilt for me. It will al-

Homemade Gift Ideas:

- Cookies
- Cakes
- Brownies
- Drawings
- Paintings
- Quilts
- Ornaments
- Candles

ways be special to me," sophomore Latesha Fennell said.

Many people who are artistic and creative usually use their talents for gifts.

"I like to draw pictures for friends and family. I think that homemade presents mean more," senior Jake Gran said.

"Last year I framed a drawing I did as a gift for my brother," junior Shaina Stover said.



Senior Keely McCormick begins to make a necklace out of hemp and beads that one of her friends will receive for her Christmas present this year.

Crafts, food, blankets and cards are all common homemade gifts.

"When I am short on cash, I'll whip up a batch of cookies to give to someone," senior Renee Rodgers said.

Whatever the reason may be, many agree that making or receiving something made from scratch contains a lot of heart.

Buying gifts can be convenient, but homemade gifts are memorable.

Christmas gift advertising proves to be convincing

By Renee Rodgers

Christmas is a time of snow-covered trees, freshly baking cookies, and of course, catchy commercial jingles.

For advertisers, the Christmas season is comparable to a month-long Super Bowl. Companies spend millions of dollars to advertise their new top-of-the-line products, with the intent of convincing shoppers that their loved ones' Christmas will be ruined if the item is not sitting under their tree. One common technique is that of the jingle.

"We buy Pepto-Bismol. It has a sweet commercial," sophomore Dillon Gran said.

Others have fallen victim to the ploys of commercials such

as Kay Jewelers, with their sultry serenading of "Every kiss begins with Kay," Old Navy holiday scenes, M&M's encounters with Santa, and of course the Herbal Essence advertisements.

Sure, the commercials are convincing, entertaining and catchy, but beneath all the rhyming words and flashy pictures, do the slogans truthfully describe the product? Many believe they do not.

"That hair-braider machine just twisted my hair into knots. It was a rip-off," junior Kaitlin Johnston said.

Many find they run into false advertising particularly in the food department.

"I was pumped to get 'The Perfect Pancake,' but it

"I was pumped to get 'The Perfect Pancake,' but it leaked. The pancakes it made were definitely not perfect." —senior Emma Wylie

leaked. The pancakes it made were definitely not perfect," senior Emma Wylie said.

"Don't buy the thing to make eggs in the microwave—my grandma has it and they're gross," senior Doyle Holden said.

While there are many elabo-



The santa sleigh at the Pierre mall is a familiar sight at many shopping centers across the nation.

rate gift sets and fancy new products introduced around Christmas time, they may not fulfill high expectations.

Although "fruit-of-the-month" clubs may sound like a good idea, second thoughts may be had when one starts receiving tomatoes in August.



Varsity Scoreboard

Boys basketball

Record: 0-2

Last game: Lost to Brandon Valley last Saturday

Next game: Tonight against O'Gorman

Player Quote: "We knew we had an inexperienced team at the beginning of the season, and we'll just take the first two games as a learning experience." --senior Sam Willard.

Girls Basketball

Record: 2-0

Last Game: Won against Brandon Valley

Next Game: Tonight at O'Gorman

Wrestling

Record: 1-3

Last Meet: Yesterday in Aberdeen

Next Meet: Tomorrow at the Valentine Invitational

Player Quote: "We should have a good team this year, we have a lot of experience and a lot of good younger kids coming up." --senior Austin Rounds

Gymnastics

Last Meet: Aberdeen Invitational last weekend

Next Meet: Mitchell Invitational tomorrow

Girls Hockey

Record: 0-4

Last Game: Last Sunday against Mitchell

Next Game: In Pierre on the 29th and 30th

Boys Hockey

Record: 10-2

Last Game: Fargo tournament last weekend

Next Game: In Rapid City tonight

Player Quote: "We're finally starting to 'gel' together as a team." --junior Brian Chicoine

Two seniors to play DI ball

By **Renee Rodgers**
and **Elizabeth Dougherty**

Early morning workouts, strict diets and limited free time are all too familiar to senior basketball players Sam Willard and Sierra Moeller.

But these sacrifices have been worth it to these two basketball players who have been recruited to play basketball by Division One schools next fall.

"All my hard work has finally paid off. I've come through a lot of adversity to get to where I am," Moeller said.

Willard will be playing for the University of the Pacific in California; Moeller, for Boise State University.

Both players chose their schools based on a good fit, both athletically and academically.

They also were impressed with the city and coaches.

Both started considering their school choices this last summer.

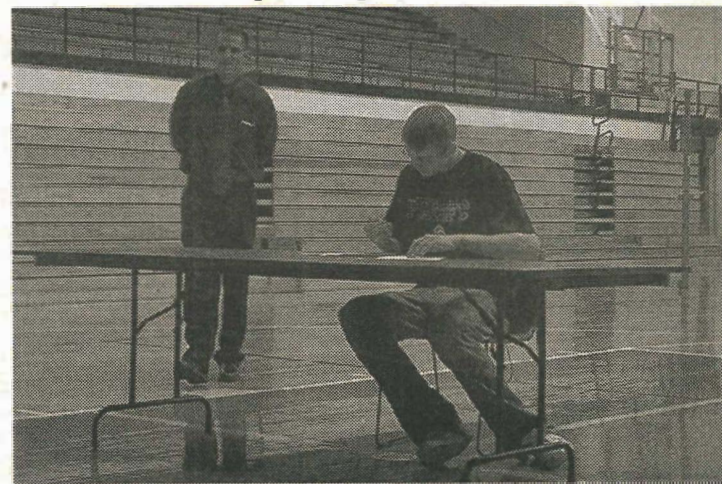


photo by Layne Duvall

Senior Sam Willard signs a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at the University of the Pacific.

Each school contacted their athlete of choice after seeing them play in several different tournaments.

If the school itself, along with the campus food, doesn't do a good enough job enticing students, the colleges have another trick up their sleeves.

Both Willard and Moeller received full scholarships to play for Pacific and Boise State, respectively.

Some students cringe at the thought of being so far away from home, but these two are too excited about their opportunities to worry about being homesick.

"It's not really nerve-racking to go far away," Willard said.

"I don't really get homesick that easy, but I plan on visiting Pierre as much as I can," Moeller said.

World's Strongest Man: he's one good looking slab of meat

One of the most understated forms of competition is The World's Strongest Man Contest. This contest is not for just anybody. These guys are--well, huge.

The World's Strongest Man Competition started in 1977 and still is going on today. It is sponsored by Met-Rx and is one good ol' fashioned blood, sweat, and tears contest.

Some of the events in the contest are the giant log lift, the dead lift (with a car), the fridge carry (they have one on each shoulder), the pillars of Hercules (the athlete stands and holds two falling pillars until he can't hold them anymore), and the lorry pull (they pull a semi-truck).

The contest has been held in many different places, including China, the Bahamas, Zambia, California, Morocco and France. The title used to be given to Americans, but Jeff

Capes was the first non-American to compete in 1983 and now the winner could be from anywhere.

Our favorite World's Strongest Man is Mariusz Pudzianowski from Poland.

He has won the contest in 2002, 2003 and 2005. He has become the fourth man in history to win three or more championships.

He is a 6'1" stud who has biceps the size of some girls' waists. If you want the exact number, it's 22 inches.

This man is not only very strong but also one good-looking slab of meat.

He benches 616 pounds, squats 836 pounds, deadlifts 924 pounds, and cleans 462 pounds--definite Gold Club material here at Riggs.



Kelly Lingle, Loryn Schuetzle, and Emma Wylie

IBAs are not just for guys

Queens of the court: female IBA team improves

By Lindsey Coit

There is a new addition to the intramural basketball court this winter—an all-girls team.

Senior Renee Rodgers and other female students have been hoping for their time to shine in intramural basketball all through high school.

Rodgers made it her mission this year to convince intramural supervisor Dan Snyder to give the girls a chance to compete and let them form their own team.

Rodgers felt that the idea would receive more positive support if an all-girls team were to be created, instead of mixing in a few girls with the boys. Others agree.

"I feel a lot more comfortable playing on an all-girls team, so I don't have to worry about the boys getting mad at me if I



Girls intramural basketball player Deni Lohman drives the ball to the basket against Chad Johnson's (Food's) team on Tuesday.

make a mistake," junior Deni Lohman said.

Scoring only two points in their opening game, the girls increased their points by 300 percent the next game with a total of 8 points.

The first few games were a little shaky for the girls, and people were doubtful of the girls' abilities.

"It's a great help for the other teams since it will give them an automatic win. I do

have great respect for the girls for giving it their all. Better luck in floor hockey!" junior Jayson Herra said.

The sun began to shine for the girls in their third game against Tom Boe's team though, when they scored 22 points, only losing by two points. This streak continued in the next night's game against Chad Johnson's team. They were short of winning by three mea-



The girls intramural basketball team poses after a close game.

ger points, 30 to 33.

"I'm sure the boys could dominate us if they wanted, but it makes it more fun this way. Don't get me wrong, they play us hard, and the fact that they're not stuffing every shot in our faces shouldn't detract from our success," senior Liz Winter said.

"The girls are actually good, and they're fun to watch. They shouldn't give up," senior Brian Graves said.

Even though there

would not have been enough participants to form an IBA league had the girls not signed up, many were wary if this all girls' team would be worth the hassle.

After their drastic improvement, however, many are coming around to the idea of sharing the court with the double x chromosomes.

"It's exciting to play them—they're very competitive," senior Jake Fanger said.

"It adds a whole new level of excitement and competition because we won't let ourselves lose to girls. I was impressed with how well they played—I even jumped out of my seat a few times," senior Trent Thompson said.

So far the girls have no complaints. They don't seem to mind facing the boys; in fact, many prefer it.

"It's a lot funner than it would be if we had to play other girls," senior Alana Stars said.

"Our team rocks, and I love it!" Lohman said.

While girls intramural basketball is something never before seen at Riggs, it has the potential to turn into a long-lasting tradition.

All the participants seem to be having fun, and if nothing else, it gives the girls a reason to shave their armpits.

Icy delight: hockey team has high hopes for season

By Matt Blake

The hockey season is well under way, with the varsity team currently holding a 10-2 record.

The Capitals believe this is just the tip of the iceberg for what they hope will be an unprecedented season.

"We have great potential with the return of so many players. Once we get our team chemistry and changes in the lines pinned down,

"We have great potential with the return of so many players. Once we get our team chemistry and changes in the lines pinned down, the rest of the season should put us in great contention for the Capitals' first state championship."

—varsity player senior Zak Bishop

the rest of the season should put us in great contention for the Capitals' first state championship," varsity player

senior Zak Bishop said.

"Teams like Brookings and Sioux Falls are always tough, but as was seen last year

when the underdog team, Mitchell, beat the Brookings legacy, there is always hope for a young team like our own. With a lot of practice, we have a good shot at taking down any opposition for first at state," varsity player junior Alex Lausing said.

The Capitals are one of the youngest organizations in the state.

They have only had a varsity team for about nine years, but many

of the current players have been in hockey since its inception.

This long-time membership of players creates an experienced and seasoned varsity team posed to possibly take the state title.

"Winning state would complete the journey for our coach and team. The head coach, Rob Kittay, has helped our association grow a lot, and with the coach of the year award

he won last year, a state championship would be the icing on the cake for him, and for all who have put endless hours into the hockey program," varsity player junior Travis Fitzke said.

The Capitals are roughly in third place now, striving to make it to the coveted first seed.

Taking the first spot and holding it until state tournament would put them in a great position for the state title.

Quiz Bowl draws in inquiring students

By Layne Duvall

The school's Quiz Bowl program has had two competitions this month but no wins.

"There's no way to beat homeschoolers," senior Nellie Bloomberg says.

Kelly Brandt is in charge of the school's Quiz Bowl program, which has about 25 members.

Brandt said that kids enjoy Quiz Bowl and like to see how well they do against their classmates.

This program is a good way for kids to be on a team, even if they are not in sports.

So what exactly is Quiz Bowl?

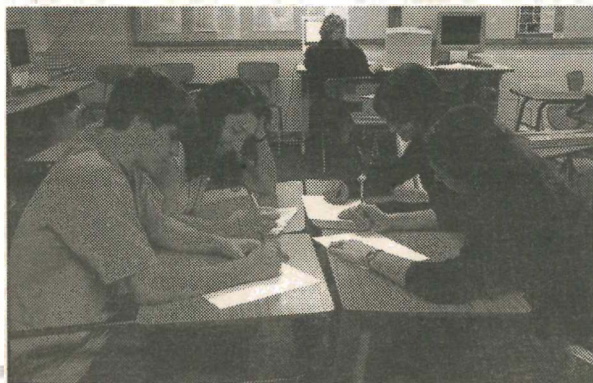


Photo by Deshaune Nye
Seth Parsons, Nellie Bloomberg, Katie Douglas, and Lindsey Coit practice for an upcoming tournament.

"Quiz bowl is for kids that want to compete at an intellectual level. Kids will be challenged by the degree of the question to test their knowledge in a variety of subjects," Brandt said. "They

like to see how they compare to their peers."

Ten kids get to go to competitions, with two teams consisting for four or five members (five members if you have a sub.)

They take a small

school bus to the other towns and play Trivial Pursuit on the way.

"When you see the nerdy kids from other schools, it makes you feel good about yourself," Bloomberg joked.

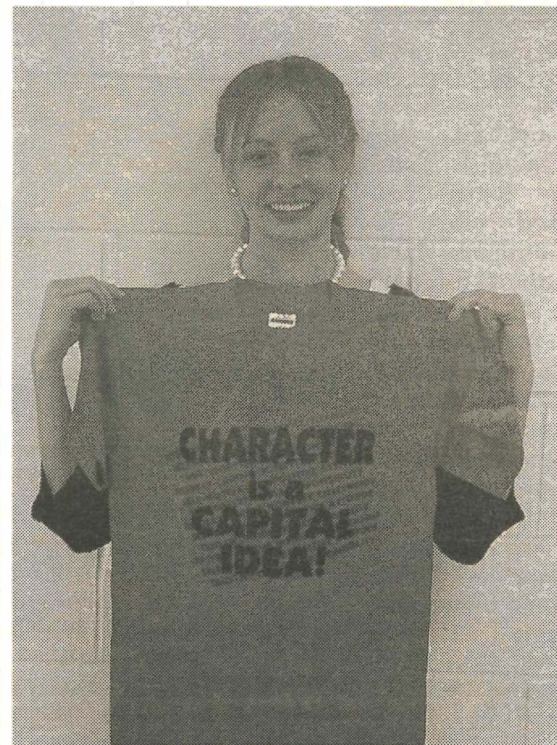
Bloomberg has been in Quiz Bowl since she was a sophomore.

"This is my first year in quiz bowl—I like it. But we have practice at 7:10 Wednesday mornings, and it's difficult to get up early," senior Katie Douglas said.

Want to join?

You can stop by Brandt's classroom (room 314) on Wednesday mornings. Just be prepared to answer random questions.

Characters of the month



Amanda Deis was named Character of the Month in November. She earned the honor by showing the trait of responsibility.

Superintendent to say farewell after six years

By Abby Dix

After six years with the Pierre School District, superintendent John Pedersen has announced his resignation.

"It's time to move on to the next chapter in my life," Pedersen said.

Pedersen has been the superintendent of various schools in South Dakota for the

past twenty-six years.

He plans to move on to something else in the educational field since school has always been a big part of his life. "My whole life has centered on education," Pedersen said.

He has always liked the school environment and was influenced by positive teachers and coaches

when he was younger. Pedersen has enjoyed his time in Pierre.

The Pierre District is the biggest school he has been part of.

Pedersen thinks that the curriculum of a large school is beneficial to the students, many of whom go on to outstanding careers.

He likes that the community has high expectations for the school

and says he is impressed with the "outstanding faculty members."

Pedersen credits its teamwork with his accomplishments.

"You never accomplish anything on your own."

Two successful programs that started during his years in Pierre are the all-day, every-day kindergarten and the breakfast program.

Youth to Youth: living above the influence

By Heidi and Nicole Halderman

For the first time Youth to Youth is planning to hold a scavenger hunt later this month. After the scavenger hunt a Christmas party will be held, and everybody is welcome to participate at no charge.

Youth to Youth (Y2Y)

is a group that helps show others in the community the importance of living a drug and alcohol-free life. The primary goal of Y2Y is to provide opportunities for leadership, to meet a variety of people and to be a role model for the community.

There are perks that come along with be-

ing in Y2Y, for example, the annual trip to California that many Y2Y members make.

While in California, kids participate in many activities that teach ways to be a healthy influence and a strong leader.

The ideas that the group brings back from California are used to

put together a mini conference for Georgia Morse Middle School.

Y2Y holds meetings on the first and third Monday of each month. These meetings take place at the building between Zesto and the movie theater.

Everyone is welcome to come and get involved.



Kat Lindbloom was named Character of the Month by demonstrating the trait of caring for December.