

Candidates battle for student body leadership

By Katie Douglas

Along with the last months of school, second semester brings new leaders to fill the student body president and vice president's positions.

Three teams are vying to fill that position, including Matt Blake with Maari Sweetman as his running mate; Bryan Beck with Riley Hult-

man; and Andy Smith with Laura Hofer.

The candidates must be seniors.

The teams have a few of the same ideas and some different.

Usually elections yield hallways full of campaign posters, but this semester's election teams decided to focus on their speeches.

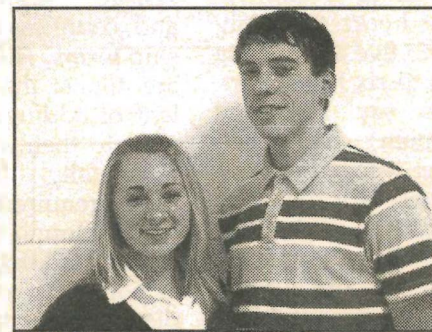
They explained to the voters why each should be



Matt Blake and Maari Sweetman



Bryan Beck and Riley Hultman



Andy Smith and Laura Hofer

the presidential team for second semester at the assembly yesterday. "Riley and myself have some awesome ideas for this school if we get

elected. A couple of them are putting recycling bins by all the garbage cans and maybe hosting an independent film festival. Since we both love mu-

sic, we thought perhaps a battle of the bands/jam festival would be cool," candidate Bryan Beck said.

Laura Hofer and Andy Smith's

campaign theme is "We'll be your friend."

"There is a good group of kids running against us, and I feel this election will be close. I re-

spect my opponents, and I guess we'll wait and see who comes out victorious," says Blake, who is running with Maari Sweetman. The new pres-

idential team will be announced today or Monday, depending on how long it takes student council officials to tally up the votes.

Administration ponders addition of semester tests for all students

By Casi Huizenga

Semester tests might be on the horizon for all returning students next year. A faculty and administration committee is currently studying the issue and will soon be making recommendations for the coming school year.

Currently, teachers can give semester tests but don't have to. Most teachers, in fact, do not give them.

Semester tests normally cover all the information a student has learned in a particular class up for the semester.

What is the reason for a change?

"Seniors have gone to college and not felt prepared," German teacher Susan Peterson said. Peterson serves on the committee that is studying the issue. Most college courses require a "final" examination at the end of the semester that is cumulative in nature.

Not surprisingly, many students don't like the concept.

"I think they're a waste of time that could be spent doing other things," junior John Reiser said.

"I think semester

tests are good because they help prepare students for college," freshman Israel Kanz said.

While semester tests prepare students for college, some believe the tests would not be necessary in every class.

"Semester tests would be good in some classes but not others," sophomore Dawn Beck said.

The committee is discussing what kind of tests could happen in different classes, such as home ec. or tech. ed.

The committee is also still work-

ing out the schedule details for the tests, Peterson said.

They're thinking that each test could be an hour and a half to two hours long. The committee is not yet sure how they would set up the schedule, especially at the end of the year when seniors typically get out a week earlier than the rest of the students.

Students will not face mandatory semester tests this year in May, but if the committee recommends a workable plan, it just might happen next year.

Rising freshmen failure rate could force changes

By Brian Chicoine

Due to an increased number of freshmen failing one or more classes, the administration is considering some changes to required credit hours.

"We feel some students may be more successful during their freshman year by taking five classes instead of six. We also think seniors should be taking a more rigorous schedule preparing them for post

secondary transition," counselor Carol Carney said.

Much of the faculty at Riggs has noticed the struggles of freshmen.

"Freshmen don't seem to be as prepared for high school as they should be," history teacher Bruce Venner said.

Students, however, feel this change is unnecessary and will only create problems in the future.

"The freshmen think they will have time to catch up in their classes later but don't realize

that high school gets even busier so they won't have time," junior Kai-te Buhler said.

"It would rock to only have five classes your freshman year, but it would stink to have six your senior year," freshman Morgan Finley said.

The administration is considering many options to deal with the problem and will be making recommendations later this year.

Editorial: Don't give seniors even more to do

Due to the increasing number of failing grades dished out to freshman, the administration is considering changing required credit hours for freshmen to five and raising them to six for seniors.

We say that you freshmen had better get it together now, or you will have to pay dearly for it later!

Not only is raising seniors' hours unfair, but it's very impractical. The senior year is stressful enough. Many

students are breaking their backs to maintain or raise their GPAs. On top of that, seniors are burdened with tedious college applications and countless scholarship forms. Those tasks are almost the equivalent of adding another class to their schedule.

Actually fulfilling these requirements is work enough in itself without adding another course to a senior's plate. Balancing these chores is stressful, and the pressure to make de-

cisions about the future can be overwhelming.

In addition, many students devote many hours of their time to work this last year of high school, as the steep costs of college are looming on the horizon.

The bottom line is that senior year equals no free time and the occasional ulcer! Seniors should not be required to increase their credits. They have earned the right to decide what and how many classes

are right for them. If seniors are old enough to vote and fight in wars, they should be mature enough to decide on their own schedules!

In reality, students who are truly concerned with their futures have enough sense to take classes that are beneficial and make sense for them. Those that choose to slack off would continue this pattern, even if they are forced to take more classes. Dumping

more unwanted courses on students may increase their laziness, not motivate them.

While many freshmen may be failing, there is no reason to blame their curriculum or number of courses they are taking. As with anything in life, people can succeed if they try hard enough. Those freshmen receiving F's are the same students that are sleeping through class, playing hide-and-go seek during their study halls,

and just plain not caring about their schoolwork.

It's not that the work is too challenging. It's just that these students are lazy and unmotivated.

Unfortunately, some students are going to fail—no matter what. Giving freshmen even less to do and punishing seniors with more work won't solve the problem.

The school must find ways to give help to struggling freshmen without punishing seniors who already have a full plate.



Thumbs Up

...to one-acts
...to non-eventful nights spent Facebook-creeping
...to lemon bars
...to yoga positions
...to suspenseful IBA playoffs
...to election speeches getting us out of class
...to volleyball for boys
...to engorging yourself

with food now that there is no KOH dress
...to numerous home-games
...to the "Bring the Noise" music video
...to yesterday—all my troubles seem so far away
...to new seasons of "The Hills" and "Two-a-Days"



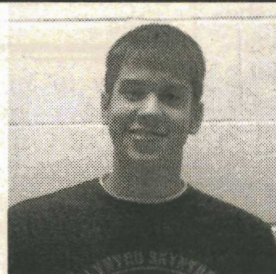
Thumbs Down

...to ingrown toenails
...to near death experiences on the black ice
...to empty juice cartons
...to deciphering the world of Bill Shakespeare
...to acupuncture gone wrong
...to you poor souls starting Constitution

...to scheduling conflicts with indoor soccer and hockey tournaments
...to law-breaking juniors using the senior lounge
...to ear wax buildup impairing hearing
...to frowning
...to talking voices being equivalent to yelling

"Just because you have the funniest speech doesn't mean you're the best candidate."

-Miranda Tracy



"Leadership, confidence, originality, and they have to have good solutions to any problem."

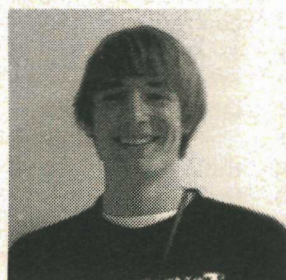
- Ben Baldridge

Hall Talk:

What qualities should a president/vice president candidate possess?

"They have to have a good, solid speech."

- Mick Hofer



"The candidates must have an outey belly button."

- Jayme Hipple

Governor Staff 2006-2007

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We're right: you're not at NASCAR

Teens already have the reputation of being bad drivers, but the teens here at Riggs prove that to be a very accurate statement.

When driving into the Riggs parking lot, you automatically take your life into your own hands. For some reason, the kids here believe that when they pull into the lot, they are no longer just average students but rather NASCAR drivers.

Cars fly in and out of the parking lot at very high speeds and try to turn corners at 30 MPH in a place that should have a top speed of maybe 10 MPH.

This is already a



Taya Norlander
and
Matt Blake

problem, but in the winter it gets ten times worse! Now they seem to think that it's okay to increase their speed to 40 MPH. Cars are spinning around doing cookies left and right.

Not only are the speeds a problem, but the parking is atrocious!

Cars are parked in every possible direction. In yellow zones, in fire zones, and when there's snow on the ground, cars are completely sideways taking up three spaces!

We think that some particular students--you know who you are--should think about either retaking your driver's test, getting your eyes checked, removing your lead foot, or removing yourself from behind the wheel altogether!

Some of us would like both ourselves and our cars to arrive in one piece.

Because after all, you know we're right!

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

World of Good

This company sells ethically sourced jewelry, bags, and some random house wares. Local artisans in 31 countries handcraft everything that World of Good sells, which helps to eliminate unemployment in the third world. The website is www.worldofgood.com.

Juice Beauty

Juice Beauty is a line of moisturizers, masks,



Katie Douglas

and cleansers that is all organic. Everything is paraben, fragrance, and petroleum free, so it's got to be good for you. And it does not harm the environment!

DuWop Lip Venom 2nd Sin

I fell in love with Lip Venom a few years ago, so when I heard about this I was really excited. 2nd Sin has an added cooling effect for maximum lip plumping. Mwah!

Patrick Dempsey

McDreamy is one hep cat, baby. That is all there is to it.

Perspectives: Four students, four views on Student Senate's role

Student senate opens doors and gives the school potential. I like that the student body gets to decide on the members, and there can be great accomplishments with a group of hard workers.

Student senate does many things unacknowledged, but a number of things are completed or brought



Kat Lindbloom

up with each meeting. With as few meetings as there are, a few student senate members

shine and really try to complete their tasks.

I love that Mrs. Neiles and Mr. Mickelson keep things going as well. They are great with the program, and they help student senate to achieve everything that it does.

It is awesome getting to be a part of the student senate meetings and the activities that go on in the school.

In my seven glorious semesters at T.F. Riggs, the student senate has done many things. One accomplishment I can think of is the amphitheater, which has received very little use but that of gathering falling snow or rain, but that is not the subject so we move on.



Kristian Kongslien

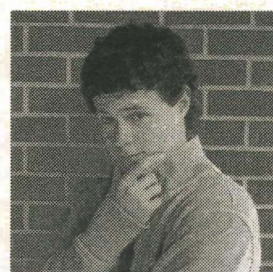
I do not care for the voting aspect of the elections, because

I personally think it is all about popularity and not about the candidates' ideas.

In the end, I say we get rid of the student senate and just have a general popular vote so all the students get to know and help decide what is happening at their high school.

The current topic is one that I do actually have some experience on. I have been in student senate most of my high school career.

I think this is one of the most beneficial groups in the school and does many good things to improve the lives of the students. From making the school pretty during the holidays



Matt Blake

to getting activities for the students to do, it is a vital part of Riggs. Some complain that

student senate does nothing and is a popularity contest. This is far from the truth.

We do many things that some students don't even realize, like teacher appreciation dinners and getting speakers.

As for the argument that it is a popularity contest, that's not true either. Just look at me-- I'm in it!

I can't help but think about what a big asset student senate is to the school.

The members give a lot of their time to make the school a better place for us, but yet they many times go unacknowledged.

I mean, think about it. Did you enjoy all of the dress up days and activities during home-



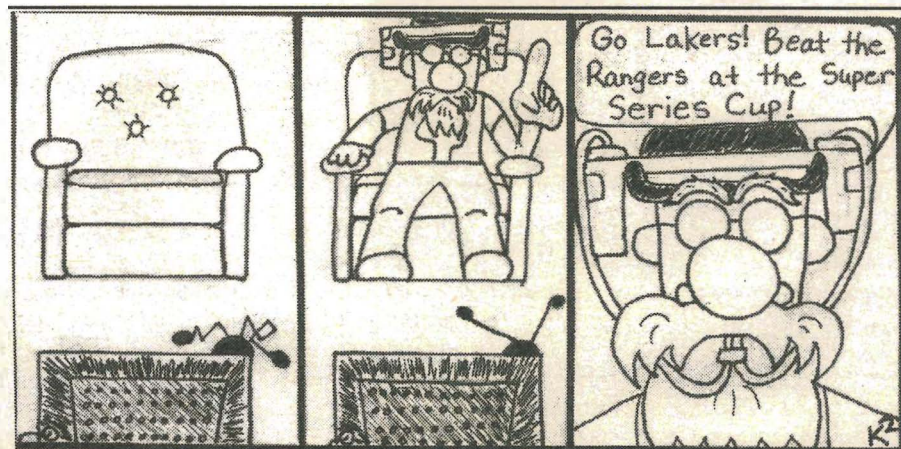
Mary Holm

coming? You can thank Student Senate for that. And what about the amphitheatre? Al-

though we haven't been able to use it much, it will be very beneficial to the school once spring comes.

Students will get a nice break from "regular" school.

So take the time to think about all the things student senate has done for us. Thank them for all of their hard work!



‘Creatures of the road’ Geese share city streets with drivers

By Mary Holm

A peaceful drive through town can lead to a sudden panic, when all of a sudden the car has to stop because strange creatures are in the road. There is no hope driving past these creatures. Frustrated, a driver has no choice but to wait for the creatures to clear the road. What are these creatures? Creatures Pierre knows all too well--geese.

Every winter, it seems that geese take over the city.

They land on lawns, lakes, and many times, roads.

While everyone has different feelings towards the geese, many find it annoying that they block roads.

"It's annoying because you have to slow down for them," junior Casey Ortbahn said.

"I'm tempted to just run over them," senior Kara Marks agrees.

Although many people find the geese annoying, some people find them humorous, especially when they honk at drivers who honk at them.

"[The geese] are funny, but they are annoying if it takes too long [to clear the road]," senior Seth Hipple said.

Some people, however, find the geese neither annoying nor bothersome.

"The geese don't bother me, so I'll let them be," sophomore Rika Beck said.

No matter what people's feelings toward geese are, the geese call Pierre home just as much as people do.

They return every year and will inevitably be "a creature in the road."

Canada Geese facts

Longest known lifespan in wild:
24 years

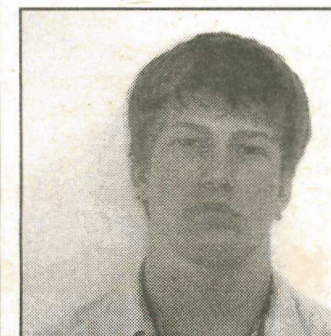
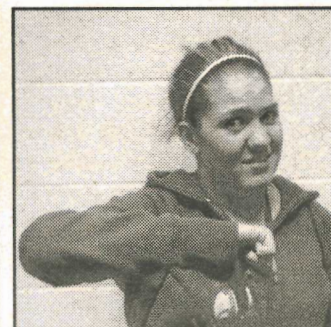
Longest known lifespan in captivity:
42 years

Length: 35-79 inches

Mass: 2.42-17.6 lbs

Predators: gulls, ravens, crows, skunks, dogs, humans

Foods: leaves; roots and tubers; seeds, grains, nuts, algae



Students enjoy time-honored tradition of feeding geese

By Megan Meier

On many days during the winter months, a drive by Capitol Lake yields a view of people of all ages feeding the geese.

The feeders toss out anything from bread to popcorn to even crackers.

At one time a corn feed dispenser was found right next to Capital Lake. For a quarter a visitor could have hours of fun feeding the geese handfuls of corn.

Why do people feed the geese?

They do it for the enjoyment of spending time with nature in an urban setting.

Many times the geese become tame enough to come up and eat right out of your hand.

"It's really fun, and the geese are very friendly, especially if you feed them five gallons of corn," the father of three young children, Ben Wieseler, said.

Many students have fond

memories of feeding the geese down at the Capitol Lake.

"Feeding the Geese is a time-honored tradition," senior Lucas Solberg said.

"I use to throw a whole

loaf of bread in the water and watch the geese chomp after it," senior Lukus Leidholt said.

One of the byproducts of this entertainment is the mess they make in the yards and

walkways, but that is a simple and small inconvenience compared to the many hours of enjoyment that hundreds of people experience each year while feeding the geese.



Capitol Lake is a favorite location for area people who like to feed the geese.

photo by Sydney Thompson

off...

"Geese are a pain in the butt!"
—senior Kelly Lingle

"Geese are everywhere in town, on the roads, in my yard. They are a total nuisance and need to be eliminated from the town of Pierre."
—senior Zak Bishop

"They crap everywhere!"
—senior Kody Clark

"They are a pest! I got in trouble for not stopping for geese in the road. People are treating geese like people instead of treating them like they should and keeping them out of the way."
—senior Brady Beck

Duck, duck, goose: watch your step

Students love or hate Pierre's yearly invading geese

By Sydney Thompson

Here they come. Cover your head to avoid their green droppings.

Every year in the fall, Canada geese fly into Pierre. They land in people's yards, around schools, and especially at Capitol Lake.

The geese have a positive and negative impact on humans. Students have some opinions about the flying, migrating animal.

"The geese look nice, but they take over people's yards! They poop everywhere, and I hate walking on sidewalks," freshman Layne Duvall said.

Others agree about the nasty green waste. "They poop too much," sophomore Tessa Bollinger commented.

"They are everywhere, and they poop too much," sophomore Megan Sarvis agreed.

Some students may feel a bit frightened of the geese.

"They are scary. I always feel like they're going to poop on me from the sky," sophomore Emily Moses said.

The geese are usually Canada Geese that fly around fall in a familiar "V"-shaped form and can fly thousands of miles at a time day or night. Migration routes are passed on from parent to offspring, generation to generation.

Sometimes geese are not noticed flying or on the ground at all in Pierre. Some people in Pierre are used to the geese.

"I don't ever really



ME AND MY SHADOW...This Canada Goose takes a swim in Capitol Lake.

photo by Sydney Thompson

"The geese look nice, but they take over people's yards! They poop everywhere, and I hate walking on sidewalks." —freshman Layne Duvall.

I always feel like they're going to poop on me from the sky."
—sophomore Emily Moses

think about them," sophomore Kat Lindbloom said.

The geese can bring a positive impact to the city of Pierre. The geese may leave cylindrical green droppings, but isn't there some good in the geese being here?

"They are pretty," Bollinger said.

"They obviously like Pierre because there's an awful lot of them," Lindbloom said.

When one family of Canada Geese discovers that the city or town is a good place, that family will remember and return the following year along with their young and any flock mates.

When the geese do come

to Pierre, however, some students do not see the good in the geese or perhaps may not like the geese at all.

"I don't see any good in them," Moses said.

"That's the geese," sophomore Nick McDonald commented.

Whether or not we like them or do not like them, the geese have a role in the environment, which is to disperse seeds of many plants they eat.

They are also an important prey for many predators in the habitat where they live. One habitat they live in is well-known Capitol Lake, and some students may have gone to Capitol Lake either in the past or recently to feed the geese;

bread or crackers is ideal.

"Oh yeah! All the time!" Bollinger said.

"I have in the past, not recently though," Lindbloom said.

"Yeah, I used to go there until I got bit by a swan!" Moses commented.

For some, going to Capitol Lake is not a great place to go to feed the geese.

"I don't go down there; there is too much poop," McDonald said.

The geese do leave Pierre though...eventually. The geese can bring a negative impact as well as a positive one. The geese are not here, however, to ruin our lives—just to migrate.

Varsity Scoreboard

Boys basketball

Record: 6-6

Last game: Jan. 18--defeated Aberdeen Central, 63-43

Next game: Tonight against Spearfish at home

Girls Basketball

Record: 10-2

Last Game: Jan. 16--defeated Aberdeen Central, 47-40

Next Game: Tonight at Spearfish

Player Quote: "Our team is awesome! This is the best Lady Gov's Basketball team Pierre has seen in a long time," senior Hillaree Leif said.

Wrestling

Record: 2-10

Last Meet: Jan. 20--Pierre Invitational

Next Meet: Tonight in Yankton

Gymnastics

Last Meet: Yesterday in Sturgis

Next Meet: Feb. 3 in Mitchell

Player Quote: "Every tournament our team's scores get higher and higher," freshman varsity gymnast Mollie Holden said.

Girls Hockey

Record: 0-8

Last Game: Last weekend in Brookings

Next Game: This weekend in Sioux Falls

Player Quote: "The team is improving a lot this year; we're making progress," junior Alana Thomas said.

Boys Hockey

Record: 17-2

Last Game: Last weekend against Aberdeen

Next Game: Today and tomorrow at home against Brookings

School to make decision on competitive dance, cheer

By Lindsey Dykstra

Starting next year there may be two more sports girls can go out for in the fall--competitive cheer and dance.

Athletic Director Mike Stroup will give a presentation to the school board on whether Riggs should add these sports. Then a decision will be made. Students yesterday completed a survey in homeroom that will be used to help make the decision.

According to South Dakota High School Activities Association, the following AA schools have already made the decision to support competitive cheer and dance for the 2007-2008 school year: Aberdeen Central, Brandon Valley, Huron, and Yankton.

Some students are very positive about cheer and dance becoming sports.

"I like how there will be more sports for girls," sophomore Nicole Douglas said.

"I like how there will be more sports for girls,"

-sophomore Nicole Douglas

"I think it'll be the same girls that are already in dance and cheer," -sophomore Katie Kurth

Others, however, don't feel that quite the same.

"I think it'll be the same girls that are already in dance and cheer," sophomore Katie Kurth said.

"I really don't think a bunch of girls waving their arms around and shouting 'Oh yea, let's go, whoo-hoo!' really requires competition," sophomore Amanda Gallegos said.

The competitive cheer and dance teams will start their season in July and finish with the state competition on November 10.

Competitive cheer and

dance will follow basic school sport guidelines.

The maximum contests for the teams to participate in are eight. In order for a team to participate in the state competition, they must compete in two competitions.

Dance team divisions will include pom, jazz/kick, and funk/hip hop.

The team sizes will be anywhere from 4-30 girls.

Cheer will have four divisions: stunting/tumbling, stunting/non-tumbling, non-stunting, and co-ed, which requires at least two males.

Anywhere from 1-26 students could compete in cheer.

Tennis is HOT down under

While we were sitting in front of the tube this weekend watching the Australian Open, we realized something--how hot tennis boys actually are!

A typical match for guys singles takes an hour and a half to two hours.

And this hour and a half is full of delicious eye candy.

The men hit serves at a speed well over 130 miles per hour. This leaves very little time for them to react. These matches go by fast and are entertaining.

I mean who wouldn't want to watch Andy Roddick smack the ball back and forth with another tennis hottie like Roger Federer?

Not only are tennis professionals like Rafael Nad-

al, James Blake, Federer, and Roddick smokin' hot, but they also light up the tennis court with skills that take years to perfect.

For example, Federer moved out of his house at age fourteen to go to a tennis academy and never moved

back to his home... that is determination.

Every one of these professionals has his strengths and weaknesses, like a backhand or volley.

The game has progressed

over the years to not just hitting the ball back and forth across the court but hitting with huge speed and impossible angles.

These athletes are able to react quick enough to decide whether to slice or put top spin on a return.

This is what professional tennis is about now.

Don't worry; the Australian Open

is still going on.

You can catch the action all next week with the semis and finals of men and women's tennis going on.

Check it out... it is definitely worth the time.



Kelly Lingle, Loryn Schuetzle, and Emma Wylie

Hall of Fame inducts four

By Chris Bondy

Four new people were added to the Athletic Hall of Fame during half time of the boy's varsity basketball game on January 13.

The new inductees are Cathy Gardner, class of '83; Lyle Stuart, class of '65; Gaylord Sonnenschein, class of '65; and Dr. Gerald Herrin.

Both Sonnenschein and Stuart called the football field home during their high school years.

Gardner participated in gymnastics.

Gardner still holds the record for the best-ever finish for the Pierre gymnastics team.

Sonnenschein and Stuart played together during the late Phil Trautner's last year as coach of the Governor's football team.

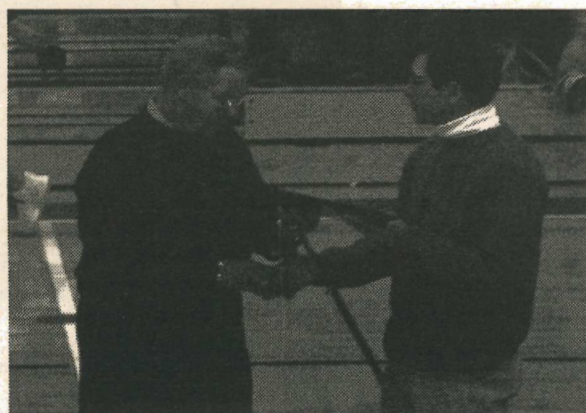


photo by Chris Bondy

Gaylord Sonnenschein accepts congratulations on his Hall of Fame selection from retired Activities Director Dusty Kracht.

During that year, the football team's record was 7-1, losing only to Rapid City.

Dr. Gerald Herrin helped injured athletes by treating them and getting them to have fast recoveries so they could go back and be a part of the action.

The Hall of Fame is located along the hallway next to the cafeteria.

Plaques are displayed

to recognize and honor the inductees of the Athletic Hall of Fame.

The plaques that are hung include the name of the honoree along with his or her picture and a brief history of the inductee's individual accomplishments. The coaches' group who coordinates the awards hope the plaques give inspiration to all.

Farris breaks hockey record

By Renee Rodgers

Just as rules are made to be broken, so are records, especially when they're your own. Junior Matt Farris recently set the new Capitol's record of most goals scored in one game. Farris scored five goals, beating the previous record of four which was held by him and several other team members. What enabled him to break this record?

"Aberdeen sucked," Farris laughed. "No, really the goals actually came from good play of my line-mates—they're what gave me the opportunity to score goals."

While Farris attributes most of his success to the play

of his teammates, his work habits undoubtedly contributed as well. Hockey practice prepares players for the games, targeting individual skills. What really gets Farris' game polished, though, is training in the off season and overall devotion to his sport.

Cross training may include weightlifting and rollerblading. The hardest part is often not the training itself but setting aside the time to do it. This usually means sacrificing precious sleep.

During the summer, Farris starts his day at 7:00 am, when most are still asleep. He lifts for around an hour and a half, then shoots 500 pucks, stick handles for another hour, and ends his workout by riding

a stationary bike.

A stable diet is part of the training too. A healthy meal plan will help cut fat and build up the needed muscle.

Farris' hard work is focused around one goal: getting college paid for and playing hockey for a D1 school. He's on the right track, both on and off the ice. Farris is committed not only to his athletics but also to his schoolwork as he holds a 4.0 GPA.

While Farris has big plans for his future, his main focus is the current season.

"We're having a really good season. We play great as a team, which is important since it takes everyone, not just any one player."

The wheels on the bus go round and round

By Nellie Bloomberg

For many students who participate in athletics, competing against opposing schools is enjoyable, but it's the trip to away events that often provides the most memorable fun.

Different sports teams have different experiences on bus rides, of course, depending on the leniency of coaches. But no one can deny the high number of sport-participating students who rank bus rides on top of the 'funnest-part-of-our-season' list.

Everyone in South Dakota has heard the infamous horror sto-

ries of sports teams' bus rides getting out of control ('ahem' Roosevelt), but in most cases, the fun is just harmless and innocent.

"Our quiz bowl team finds a wide assortment of things to keep our attention on the bus to quiz bowl tournaments, like Trivial Pursuit, jamming out to music, and trying a variety of snack foods," senior Lindsey Coit said.

Pierre, being in the middle of nowhere, is a good two hours from most opponents. This allows plenty of time for movies. But a movie doesn't do the trick for students who are stuck on the 'cheesebox,'

(the term of endearment used to describe the short yellow bus).

The little yellow bus is a class act with its permanent 'what-the-heck-is-that-stain' on the right side, last seat. The Cheesebox also lacks a TV and air conditioning.

"Our bus for football broke down 40 miles outside of Watertown, and we had to cram our sweaty gear into a cheesebox. We didn't even get home until four in the morning—it was bad," senior Nate White remembers about a night on the cheesebox.

Senior Caitlin Fell-

"Our bus for football broke down 40 miles outside of Watertown."
—senior Nate White

er recalls another bus memory of the times on the cross-country bus where boys and girls would sometimes ride together.

"Boys would sing music to entertain themselves, and the girls would talk and tell stories about ghosts and other ran-



Courtesy photo

Freshmen Amanda Stout and Mandi Atkins enjoy good times on the bus while traveling to a volleyball match earlier this year.

dom things with Coach Venner throwing in his two cents," Feller said.

The next time your team goes on a trip,

remember to enjoy the small moments.

Buckle-up if your bus has a seatbelt; if not, hold on and enjoy the ride.

Winter dance provides fun

By Nikki Douglas

King of Hearts dance has come and gone, but many people are still talking about the night's events.

"I like how the girls have to ask [the guys]," junior Jordan Forsch said.

"Oh, it was a blast. I really liked the music videos," sophomore Shelby Badger said.

The dance was Sunday, January 14.

For most, the night started off with getting ready, either putting a dress on or maybe a tux.

Then many groups made their way to the Capitol for pictures.

After pictures, dates settled down for a nice dinner.

Groups then began to arrive at the dance, which was held at the Ramkota.

"I had fun dancing it up with my girls. The DJ was jamming, and it was fun getting dressed

up," sophomore Lindsey Dykstra said.

Joey Stahl of Onida was crowned king by Job's Daughters, who sponsors the dance.

"It was fun, but they [the Ramkota] needed to turn down the heat," junior Bri-

an Chicoine said.

The dance started at 9:00 p.m. and ended at 1:00 a.m. so there was plenty of time to enjoy the dance.

"The whole night was awesome," junior Josh Dykstra said.

"I like how the girls looked really fine in their dresses," junior Will Clark said.

Students are already counting down the days until next year's King of Hearts.



Taking pictures at the Capitol were Kourtney Nystrom, Zach Engbrecht, Mollie Holden, Mike Coit, Sarah Moreno, Jordan Heckenlaible, Morgan Finley, Jayme Hipple, Jesse Willard, Jacob Parsons, Paige Undeberg, Miles Schock, Ericka Denecke, Brian Chicoine, Kirsti Garrett, and Landon Starks.

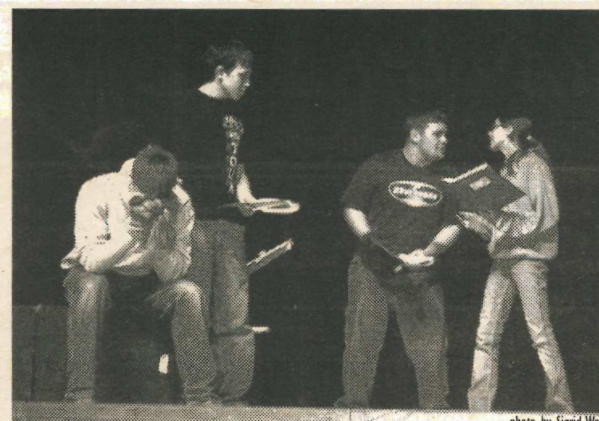


photo by Sigrid Wald

Nate White, Tanner Wald, Lukus Leidholt and Lisa Bowman prepare a scene for the contest one-act.

One-acts ready for competition

By Sigrid Wald

Next weekend cast members of the one-act play "The Boys Next Door" will be heading to Brandon to compete.

This play is about one social worker trying to deal with four adult handicapped men.

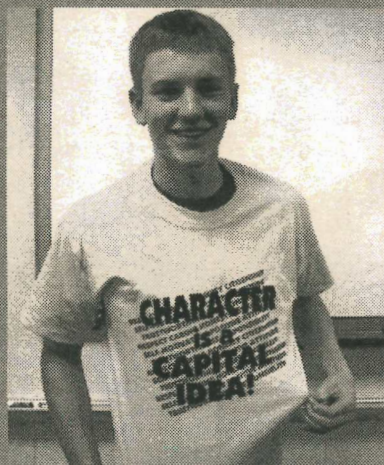
"One-acts are short plays that will go to Brandon to compete against other AA schools," said direc-

tor Hyrma Zakahi.

"The best part about being in the one acts is that you get to become your character and dress up like that character. I've always liked that," said junior Tanner Wald, who plays Arnold, one of the mentally handicapped men in the house.

"The experience of seeing all the plays at the invitational is definitely the best part," said sophomore Matt Dosch.

Fitzke wins character award for January



Junior Travis Fitzke was named Character of the Month. He earned the honor by showing self-motivation.

Students help with inaugural events

By Layne Duvall

Many students had an opportunity to help with the 2007 inauguration ceremony of Governor Mike Rounds earlier this month.

The Teen Age Republican organization got kids to help as coat checks at the dances on January 10. All the teens were split into two groups, one for the Capitol and one for the Ramkota.

Freshman Shelby Smith was a coat check at the Capitol building for the dances held

"I got to introduce people to the governor and lieutenant governor."
-junior Casi Huizenga

there. The first dance was formal and the second was a casual dance.

"What we did was hang up people's coats with a number. When people came back for their coats, they gave us their numbers and we found their coats. We charged \$1 to hang someone's coat."

"We had 30 minute breaks so that we

could look around the Capitol and see what was going on, and that was fun," Smith said. "We also got pizza!"

Sophomore Jonathan Treetop was part of the group that went to the Ramkota as coat checks. There was one formal dance at the Ramkota. The TAR's there used the same system for keeping track of coats that

was used at the Capitol. Treetop's night wasn't all work and no play - his group made a small trip to McDonald's.

"When we got hungry, we just walked over to McDonald's to grab some food," Treetop said. "It was fun."

Junior Casi Huizenga helped with the inaugural Saturday afternoon at the Capitol.

"I got to introduce people to the governor and lieutenant governor. There were mostly seniors doing it. And it was all girls except for one guy!"