

# G.T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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## School board decision: sweeps return to halls

By Timmi Lunsford

"Sweeps" are back in a revised format, allowing students two unexcused tardies before sanctions are imposed. Students who are then caught or "swept" for the third time go to a designated room for the duration of the class period and will see the grade for the day in that class reduced by 25 percent.

"We, either (assistant principal) Mr. Stroup or myself, will then have contact with those students who violate beyond two. We will verbally notify the student of the opportunity to meet with us, and if the tardy should

have been excused under the policy, then that is what we will do," explained T.F. Riggs principal LeRoy Fugitt.

He made his statement at the November 9 school board meeting where the policy was discussed and approved.

Fugitt told the Pierre school board members that the school administration was pleased to have the policy back in place.

"We saw a positive effect in reducing the number of tardies and disruption to classes," Fugitt said.

In asking the school board to reinstate the policy, Dr. Kelly Glodt, superintendent of the Pierre school sys-

tem, said any due process problem with how the policy was instituted at the beginning of the school year had now been relieved by the procedure followed by the board in discussing and approving a refined version.

Glodt said that some people are asking, "Why are you giving students that break?" when discussing the two "free" tardies.

Glodt said the new policy solves the previous complaint that students were not warned before facing the strict penalty of a grade reduction for being late for class.

"There is strong community support for the 'sweeps' policy," Dr. Glodt said.

"The majority, the great majority of people...who came up to me and talked to me said this is important. Kids do need to learn being on time is important, important in the world of work."

The administration did not keep exact numbers after "sweeps" was on hold pending schoolboard review.

"However," Fugitt said, "In a very few days after the policy was suspended, the average number of tardies per day was back to the rate before the policy was implemented."

Students who have a third or subsequent unexcused tardy miss the class and are docked 25 percent of that

day's grade. Each teacher sets his or her own policy on whether the work can be made up or replaced through extra credit.

Although school board member Norm Lingle asked the board to direct teachers to offer extra credit or make-up work, that vote failed.

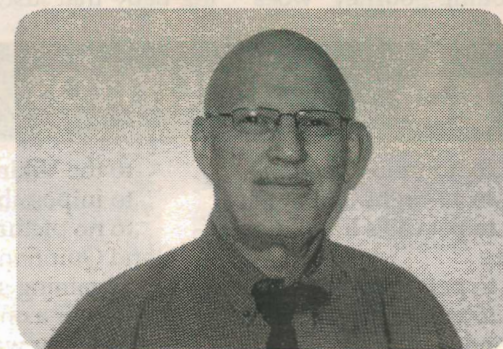
Glodt explained that the administration is not in the business of telling each teacher how to grade.

"Some offer extra credit; some don't," he said.

It is the responsibility of the student who missed the class to see the teacher and make arrangements to replace the missed class work.

*"In a very few days after the policy was suspended, the average number of tardies per day was back to the rate before the policy was implemented."*

*-Principal LeRoy Fugitt*



**One justification offered by the school administration for instituting the "Sweeps" policy is that students need to learn the importance of being on time for work. Different businesses in Pierre were contacted to determine what policy was in place for employees who are late for work.**

### Pierre Public Schools:

"When district employees are chronically late, they are generally visited with by their supervisors," said T.F. Riggs High School principal LeRoy Fugitt. "Employees are expected to be punctual in their attendance. If their attendance did not improve, they would probably be put on a formal plan of improvement and might be subject to more severe consequences."

### Federal Public Defender:

"As attorneys, we are expected to be on time for all court appearances. Being late for court harms our clients, can result in contempt of court citations, and fines may be imposed by the judges," said acting Federal Public Defender Jana Miner.

### Burger King:

Employees are given two allowances for being late and are fired on the third offense. Chad York, Pierre's Burger King manager, said, "If we ever relax the policy, then it (tardiness) becomes a problem."

### State of SD:

Scheduling is flexible, but the employee handbook says that being late for work can result in disciplinary action, with sanctions ranging from suspension without pay, demotion, or termination.



## Airlines frustrating but (mostly) worth it

It's nearly inevitable. You can Price-line it, first-class it, or even just rely on luck; but there will *always* be traveling tribulations. Driving, taking the subway or train, or taking a bus probably can be just as full of disasters and catastrophes as flying, but it seems that the most frustrating stories originate with airlines.

Even before the excessive security that now characterizes airports across the world, flying just simply wasn't – and isn't – the smoothest mode of travel. It's hard to think of a vacation without recalling some sort of frustrating mishap.

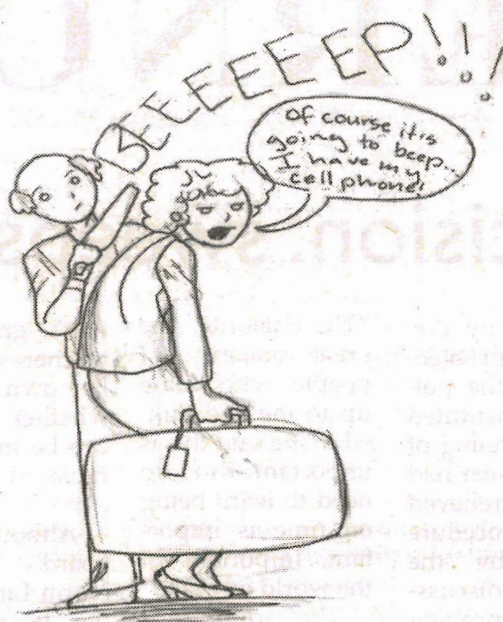
It's important, however, to remember that sometimes even the most blood-boiling journey woes

can turn into a somewhat fond, definitely lasting memory.

Yes, even having to detour to two other states because you missed a flight due to wishy-washy Denver weather can result in sight-seeing you may not have been able to accomplish otherwise. Yes, even having to sleep on the cold, hard, icky floor of the Chicago-O'Hare airport can turn into something to chuckle about after the trip is finally over.

The fact that the trip *will* eventually be over is something positive to keep in mind the next time you get taken aside and wanded at the busy airport, or when you're sitting on the runway for an hour and a half in a crowded airplane with a crying baby that just can't

seem to be consoled. No matter how dreadful the circumstance, it will be over soon. Just try to keep a positive outlook and remember that, in six months, it'll only be a comic memory.



cartoon by Josh Dut

## Ideas for next issue?

**Slide a note with  
your idea into  
locker 1041!**



# Thumbs



...to honoring veterans  
...to all-night Call of Duty  
...to psychics like Chip Coffey  
...to pets with people names  
...to yummy Thanksgiving food  
...to Taylor Lautner being shirtless in most of New Moon  
...to hockey season  
...to Andy Zarecky's delicious recipes  
...to new beginnings  
...to keyboard cat  
...to scrumptious Turkey Day leftovers  
...to Golden Girls  
...to intramural floor hockey champs Team Lauseng

...to the Vikings  
...to impossible Honors tests  
...to no pictures of Tayler  
and Quinn in this issue  
...to gaining serious pound-  
age over a one-day holiday  
...to eating way too much  
...to Voca People not being  
world reknown yet -- check  
them out on Youtube!  
...to eye infections  
...to research papers  
...to the Yankees being over-  
paid and underawesome  
...to bad days and bad dates  
...to over-played songs on  
the radio  
...to Dylan Geuther, who  
thinks Golden Girls is lame  
...to young children having  
better cell phones than us

# GOVERNOR STAFF

## 2009-2010

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T.F. Riggs High School  
1010 E. Broadway  
Pierre, South Dakota  
57501 Telephone: 773-7350

**Editors-in-chief♦**  
Kelcy Curtis  
Layne Duvall

**Assistant editor ♦**  
Timmi Lunsford

**Columnists\***  
Taylor Becker  
Kyle Brees  
Stephen Bollinger  
Michael Lindbloom  
Laura Severyn  
Charles Gageby  
Morgan Finley  
Alexi Gusso  
Molly Burke  
Regan Duvall  
Dacey Beck  
Becky Plumage  
Megan Farris  
Tanner Wolf

**Reporters this issue\***  
Jared Holzhauser  
Tanner Wolf  
Timmi Lunsford  
Megan Farris  
Kelsey Oligmueller  
Regan Duvall  
Jenaleah Block

**Adviser♦**  
Elizabeth J. Vogt

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## Hall Talk:

## What is your ideal vacation?



“Going to  
Cancun during  
Spring Break”  
—Lindsey  
Thompson,  
12



**"Going to Hawaii  
and taking long  
walks on the  
beach with a  
hunky Hawaiian."  
—Sarah Lihs. | |**



“Coon hunting  
in Arkansas.”  
—Anthony Even,  
10



“Disney World.”  
—Kyle Sarringar,  
9



## Wal\*Mart Woes

We live in Pierre, which offers very few sources of entertainment. Admit it—at one time or another, you've had nothing to do, so you went to Walmart.

Now when you go to Walmart, you make fun of Miley Cyrus' new clothing line (but secretly—you know you

like it), look at the lobsters, throw random items in peoples' carts, or play the video games in the electronic section.

Today was one of those days.

After inspecting the clothes, the lobsters, and the video games, I went to the toy section where I saw fun waiting to happen. A skateboard had been taken out of its package and lay on the floor, calling to me. What harm could one or two trips around the toy department do?

I went zooming back and forth down that back row behind the toy section. And let me tell you, it was grand. That floor is so smooth! Impressed by my mad skills, I decided it was a good idea to go faster and faster...and faster.

Suddenly, I stopped as my face collided with a box, a box that was attached to a woman. A large woman. A large MAD woman, who was now on the floor beside me as packing peanuts

drifted down around us.

I scrambled to my knees and busily grabbed handfuls of Styrofoam while apologizing to the woman.

Her face definitely did NOT resemble the happy yellow face offering Walmart shoppers low prices.

As the last piece was picked up, I

stifled a smile at the not-so-nice sales associate. She didn't smile back, so I decided it was time to skedaddle. I quickly hopped to my feet. Not smart. The monstrous woman was standing freshly picked-up box right above my head. The box was no match for my head. Déjà vu.

Once again I scrambled to help clean up my clumsiness. This time I was denied. That's right, I was asked to leave. She did not want my "help."

Maybe next time I'm bored, I'll just go sit at the free-parking lot on Sioux.

### MY LIFE IS AVERAGE

Today, I read the tag on my scarf. It says "One size fits most". I've been wondering who wouldn't fit a scarf.  
MLIA



Regan Duvall, Dacey Beck, Becky Plumage

MY AWKWARD  
LIFE

## Third time's charm for Carrey, Carrie

The colorful leaves and chilly weather may have you preparing yourself (and your bellies) for Thanksgiving, but this movie will have you forgetting about the turkey and thinking about presents, snow, and mistletoe.

Vocal chameleon Jim Carrey stars as multiple characters in Disney's third movie adaptation of Charles Dickens' 1843 story, **A Christmas Carol**. This is the classic tale of stingy, Christmas-hating Ebenezer

Scrooge who has devoted his life to money and makes it quite clear that he wishes not to share his wealth with anybody, especially during the holidays.

Scrooge is forced to reconsider his cruel ways by three ghosts who take him on a journey through moments of his past, present and future all

in one night. The experience is both horrifying and eye-opening for

Scrooge as he rethinks his selfish life.

The animation and characters, (especially the ghost of

Scrooge's dead business partner Jacob Marley) may make you jump a

few times, but the story's heartwarming moral will remind you of the true magic and meaning of Christmas. In fact, it may leave you wanting to trim a tree or break out those red and green decorations.

In music, Carrie Underwood recently released her third album, **Play On**. The music video for her new hit single "Cowboy Casanova" debuted number one on the country charts during the first week of its release.



Molly Burke and Alexi Gusso  
MUSIC, MEDIA  
AND MORE

## Major holidays on horizon, plan ahead

The next few holidays coming up are Thanksgiving and Christmas. On a diet? Don't worry! Gorge yourself on Thanks-G and don't feel bad; just work out the next day if you want to feel better!

I mean, how often do you have that much good homemade food, honestly? Skip the Lean Cuisine for a meal or two.

Also, Christmas is coming up, and Thanksgiving weekend is the perfect opportunity to get a head start on picking out that perfect present for your boo and maybe you will get something special



Charles Gageby and Morgan Finley  
THE 411 ON  
EVERYTHING  
COOL

in return.

What shouldn't you get? DON'T get snuggles for your fam. Those were so last column and are on

sale for what? Ten dollars now? People are

going to think you're cheap and out of style.

Also, no ugly Christmas sweaters. They may be good for "ugly Christmas sweater parties" but other than that, they are just a slap in the face to get as a gift. Like, hello? Where would I ever wear them?

Don't be an Ebenezer Scrooge this holiday season! Act as Tiny Tim would!

## Extra sleep boosts mood, performance

School weeks seem never-ending with five long eight-hour days. Despite the stress of piled-up homework, students can prevent anxiety and have a better outlook on life if they get enough sleep each night.

Teens should be getting nine hours of sleep each night. Most would say they get around six to seven hours per school night. Sleeping is

very important for students because it helps them think clearly, react quickly, and create memories. Not getting enough sleep on a regular basis can increase the risk of developing high blood pressure and heart disease.

When sleeping, the

body produces essential hormones such as growth hormone and a type that helps fight infections. This is why getting enough sleep helps prevent illness. Energy is required in

the release of hormones. Scientists believe that people who do not get enough sleep tend to be overweight and prefer eating foods consisting of many calories.

Having a good night's sleep is tough for some students to do. It is best to stick to a sleeping schedule, not exercise too late in the day, avoid caffeine and avoid eating or drinking a lot before bedtime.



Michael Lindbloom and Laura Severyn  
HEALTH BEAT



# What's in a Name?

*"That which we call  
a rose by any other  
name would smell as  
sweet."*

By Wendy Li

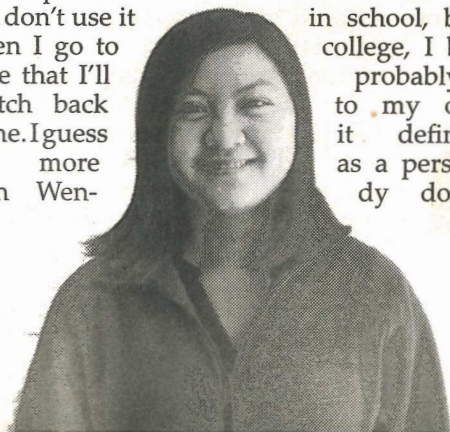
I like my name, but first of all Wendy isn't my real name. My real name is Jian Li. Jian means "see" and the Li in my name is the ending for the word "beautiful."

My mom gave me this name because I was a very pretty girl when I was really young. Jian Li became my name because the first thing that came to people's minds when they first saw me would be how pretty I was.

I think this is a very unique name because I don't think a lot of people have it.

In China, the parents make the name suit the child instead of having a child suit a name. I think that it makes my name a little special and just for me. The only reason I don't use that name right

now is because it would be harder for people to pronounce and call me by, so I don't use it in school, but when I go to college, I believe that I'll probably switch back to my old name. I guess it defines me as a person more than Wendy does.



Andrew Brown, 9: "I like my name... it means strong and manly."

Hannah Smith, 10: "I like it because means 'favored grace.'"

Jacob Wagoner, 11: "I like my name! It's short and sweet."

Blake Walsh, 11: "I love my name because it's a sexy name."

By Tyler Sarringar

Tyler James Sarringar is my whole name. I like my name, but I think cooler names could be found in the cast sea of names.

First the name Tyler is such a "normal" name. When I was little, I thought that the name Rex would have been just the coolest. Now my taste is a little different, but I would still like an original name.

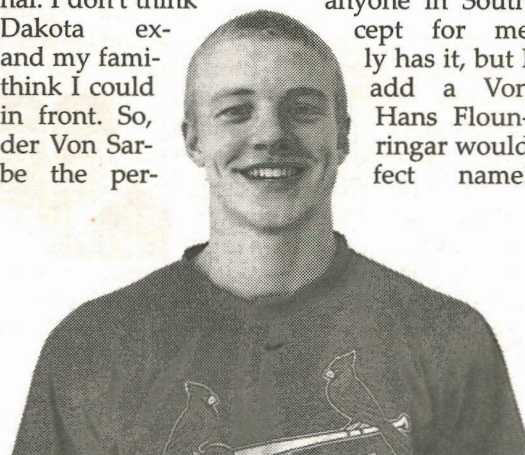
I want something cool like McLovin, but that name is already in a movie. The name Hans or Franz would be awesome! And it would fit me so well because I am Dutch.

Now my middle name James is also such a "normal" name. I think I can spice it up a bit. People always have their nicknames in quotations, but why not change that to the person's middle name all together?

And another thing, when someone says a name, the middle name is rarely ever said. If nickname were the middle name, then middle names could be used more.

So some cool nicknames would be Tiddler, Derton, Dolf, Bluto, or Flounder.

Finally, the last name Sarringar is so original. I don't think anyone in South Dakota except for me has it, but I think I could add a Von Hans Floun-ringar would be the perfect name!



By Liz Schultz

I have always wondered why I was called Elizabeth. I asked my mom this question, and she simply answered, "I always like that name, that's all."

This made me think about the nickname that my mom started calling me when I was younger: Queen Elizabeth. Now that I think back on it, this fits me perfectly.

I was often stubborn to a fault, refusing to even touch a vegetable or give in to my mother's demands of wearing any other color besides pick or purple.

Being the youngest in the family, I wanted to be waited on hand and foot. I was very bossy, ordering other children around at my daycare while they obediently did whatever I said.

What I have heard and read about Queen Elizabeth is that she as known to be very stubborn and bossy to all her subjects, especially men. She was, however, intelligent, strong, noble, and cunning – all valuable characteristics I would like to have.

Considering how much history has come with my name, Elizabeth, I have never disliked my name.

Sometimes when signing my name on a legal document, however, I often wish it was just Elizabeth, it was just too long to crunch all in one line.



By Kelcy Curtis

As a little girl, it was my dream to have some sort of keychain with my name on it. I even had a keychain with my name on it. Actually, I had a keychain with my name on it. As a little girl, it was always my dream to have my name correctly placed on a keychain.

There are multiple other "Kelsey" out there: Kelcie, Kelsee, etc. Not one single person, however, believes in my spelling of my name. I have experienced misfortune to my creative thinking.

Up until the last few hours, my mom felt sure I was picked out a very suitable name. I was named Kelsey – and was all but ready to go. As soon as I was brought home, I was given a fuzzy blue blanket. On the off chance that I was named Kelsey, she hurriedly changed my name and called it good. I finally settled for Kacey or Kat.

But my mom really had a plan. She didn't want her daughter to be confused with every other Kelsey there. (Not that "Kelsey" is a common name or anything.) So, she decided to mix it up a little, screw with the name. Only if the situation were to arise.

Alas, I was born a girl, and my mom's creative thinking to the name Kelsey, she burdened me with it. So, even though I will never spell my name correctly nor have a shiny keychain, ruler, or name proudly sprawled across my back, I'm glad I'm unique.

After years of seeing the same class of people mixed up now that I was right – I be confused other Kelsey. I'm Kelcy,







## Top ten baby names of 2008

### Boys

1. Jacob
2. Michael
3. Ethan
4. Joshua
5. Daniel

### Girls

1. Emma
2. Isabella
3. Emily
4. Madison
5. Ava

rl, it was always my  
me sort of pen on pen-  
tain with my name plas-  
tically, let me rephrase.  
was always my dream to  
rectly plastered across it.  
tiple other spellings of  
e: Kelcie, Kelcey, Kelsie,  
ne single manufacturer,  
n my spelling. I owe that  
creative-thinking mother.  
st few hours before I was  
sure I was a boy. She had  
uitable name – Landon Mi-  
ut ready to christen me as  
is brought back to her in a  
On the off chance that I hap-  
he hurriedly picked out a  
od. I think they had origi-  
cey or Katie or something.  
eally had it in her head  
ant her kid to be con-  
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elsey" is the most origi-  
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e burdened me with "Kel-  
I will never have a teach-  
rrectly nor will I ever have  
ruler, or pencil with my  
wled across it, I'm kind of

After thirteen  
ing students  
name in the  
get their pa-  
up, I real-  
my mother  
never will  
with any

and I like it.



By Sarah Moreno

My name is Sarah Lynn Moreno. I like my name, but it's a bit too common for me. At one time, the name Sarah was the number one name given to girls. It means princess, which I like. I don't consider myself a "princess," nor do I act like one, but I like the meaning just the same.

I also like how my name has an "h" at the end. I don't like when people spell it "Sara"...it's too naked!

My middle name is Lynn after my mom, Peggy Lynn. My middle name was supposed to be Noel because I was born in December, but thankfully my parents decided against it.

My last name, Moreno, has a little history to it. Supposedly, when my relatives came to the U.S. from Italy, the spelling of our last name got changed at Ellis Island. Its original spelling is Marino, like Dan Marino the football player. I guess it used to be a pretty common Italian name.

Now my last name is spelled Moreno, the Mexican way. It means "dark skinned or dark haired" in Spanish. I think it's funny because I am neither of those descriptions... I have light blonde hair and white skin!

Sometimes when I meet people for the first time and tell them my name, they ask if I'm related to Dan Marino. I always say yes, but no one ever believes me!

Who knows, maybe Dan and I have some of the same relatives, but a few lucked out and kept the original spelling of their last name!



By Miranda Bren

The meaning of Miranda is "deserving of admiration, amazing, and even strange." It originates from the Latin terms Mirandus for the male objects, Miranda for female objects, and mirandum for neutered objects.

In Latin, Mr. Mick gave us all Latin names, but mine did not change much; Mick just gave me a different form of my name Miratio. I was worried that I might not even get a name!

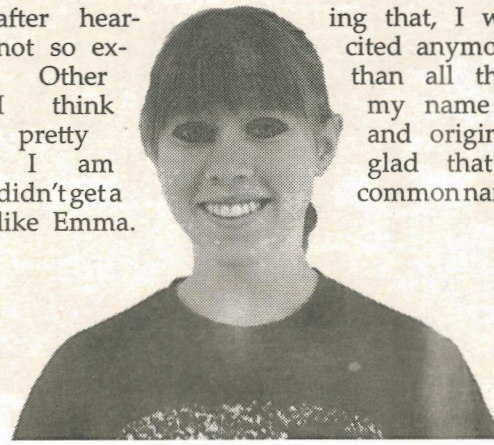
I really like my name; it is not very common. I remember when I asked my parents about how they chose my name, they told me it was a last-minute decision. They couldn't decide between Emma and Miranda.

When they finally chose my name, they did get teased a lot. Our family friends and relatives joked that they named me after the Miranda rights. I still even get the little joke a lot today.

I used to be excited or proud that my name associated with the Miranda rights, but then last year in history I found out how the Miranda rights came to be.

It was in the Miranda v. Arizona case where Miranda (which was a last name) complained that he was not read his rights and thus it was an unfair trial. The whole reason why he was there in court was because of a rape/homicide.

After hearing that, I was not so excited anymore. Other than all that, I think my name is pretty and original. I am glad that I didn't get a common name like Emma.



By Mitchell Close

Names are important to the way we communicate with each other. My name was picked from a baby book and not the town. Choices for my name actually came down to a final two – Mitchell and Zaine. My parents then asked for the wisdom of my then three-year-old sister.

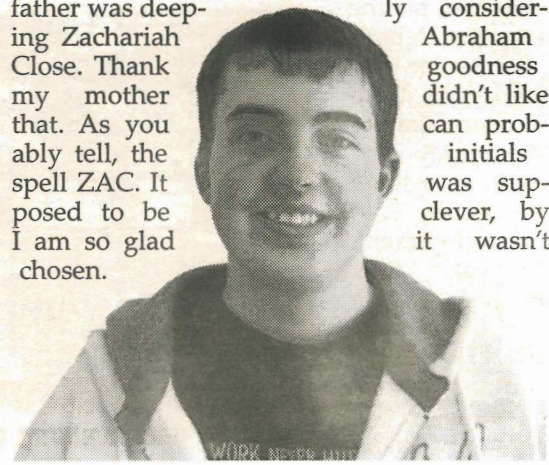
They asked her which one she preferred. She, obviously, chose Mitchell. Either name for me would have been good, but it seems that since Zaine is something I can't have, I would like it. I suppose that if my name would have been Zaine, I would have preferred Mitchell.

Anyway, besides that, there are always some things that I just dislike about my name. For one, it has the shortened name of Mitch, which I have never liked. It always reminded me of the swear-word it rhymes with.

Another thing that bothers me about Mitchell is that it's so close to its female version, Michelle. Take out one letter and add another and you got it. It's always lead to bad experiences.

Anyway, I believe my parents just liked the name, which is why they picked it for me. My middle name, Daniel, is a whole other story. That was the name of my great-grandfather, and they wanted his name for my middle name.

However, before they decided that, my father was deeply considering Zachariah. Thank my mother that. As you can probably tell, the spell ZAC. It posed to be I am so glad chosen.





# Columnists pick important NBA teams, players

Here are our teams to look at as the NBA season continues through its first month of games. We will give you some teams and players to look for, and our predictions will come later in the spring when the playoffs have started.

**Los Angeles Lakers**--The defending NBA champs made a great off-season move when they traded Trevor Ariza for Ron Artest. Kobe Bryant continues to dominate as one of the top players in the league. Pau Gasol, Lamar Odom, and Andrew Bynum **OPINION** are able to dom-

inate the paint as the big guys for LA. Derek Fisher and Jordan Farmar share the point guard responsibilities.

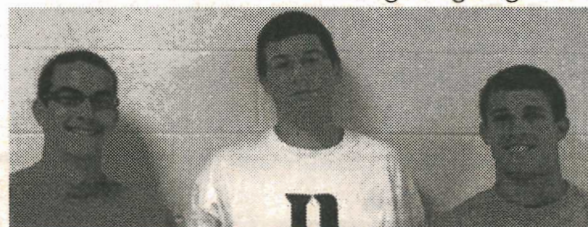
**Boston Celtics**--The

Celtics continue to use the Big Three of Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce, and Ray Allen to carry the offensive load. They also signed power forward Rasheed Wallace, who will be a huge addition to KG now that the Big Three are getting older. And now that they got Rajon Rondo's contract figured out, he can feel secure in Boston as they have trust in him to be their floor general. The Celtics are one of the best teams at utilizing their role players. Eddie House, Brian Scalabrine, and Glen Davis are im-

portant guys who contribute wherever the team needs help from night to night.

**Phoenix Suns**--The Suns have been a sur-

prise so far this year. The team was supposed to be good, but they have started out hot and used the run-



Taylor Becker, Kyle Brees, Stephen Bollinger

n-gun. Steve Nash continues to run the point guard for Phoenix despite his age (35). Amar'e Stoudemire continues to be a power house in the post, but he has suffered from major injuries in the past. Jason Richardson, Grant Hill, and Leandro Barbosa also are in the top five on the team in points per game.

**Cleveland Cavaliers**--The Cavs' signing of Shaquille O'Neal was the equivalent of the Vikings signing Brett

Favre. The only problem is that the Cavs are yet to figure out how to use Shaq effectively along with 7'3" Zydrunas Ilgauskas and 6'11" Anderson Varejao. LeBron James is still one of the top two players in the NBA and could probably win a second-straight MVP. Delonte West isn't failing to let the team

down with his continuous off-the-court problems. Mo Williams, Anthony Parker, and Daniel Gibson help LeBron out with the scoring.

**Oklahoma City Thunder**--We will write about this team because Kyle Brees is in love with them. This team is up and coming with lots of young players. Six-foot ten-inch baller Kevin Durant is a mismatch because of his size and quickness. Durant continues to be the star player/go-to-guy on this team. James Harden, their first-round draft choice, looks to be one of their critical players off the bench. Along with Durant, Russell Westbrook and Jeff Green are also on top of the team's stat sheet in points per game.

**Players to watch**--Here are a few names to watch. These aren't the Kobe's and LeBron's of the league, but they are some of the more underrated players in the NBA. Derrick Rose, (point guard, Chicago Bulls), was one of the top rookies last year and carries this team on his shoulders; he will have another huge year. Brandon Jennings (point guard, Milwaukee Bucks), scored 55 points the other night.

He has lots of explosiveness and will challenge Blake Griffin for Rookie of the Year. Chris Bosh is the power forward of Toronto Raptors whom no one knows about. He is in the top five in the NBA in scoring and is a beast under the rim.

## Competitive cheer team crushes competition

By Kelsey Oligmueller

Now two-time state champions, the competitive cheerleaders have put themselves on the map as a team to beat.

Led by senior Jesse Willard, the team got new choreography and some snazzy new uniforms to give them an edge going into the state tournament.

Last year, they won by just half a point over Sioux Falls Roosevelt. This year was a different story.

They dominated the competition by beat-

ing Sturgis Brown by 29 points, making them state champs for the second year in a row in the small group stunting

and tumbling division.

In the large group stunting and non-tumbling division, the Lady Govs got third

place, missing second by only four points.

In a tough division, that was a very good result.

The girls are already looking forward to next year and what they are going to do to make it a three-peat.

"We're going to work on more stunts and tumbling, practicing harder stunts and getting more tumblers," junior Kelsey Dykstra said.

With competitive cheerleading as a brand new sport,

these girls are determined to show the school and the state that they aren't just girls in skirts dancing around with pom-poms.

They're out to show everyone that they are athletes to be taken seriously.

But other than working hard and proving themselves to the state, they also have a ton of fun.

"My favorite part of the season was definitely the bus trips and the overnights," junior Emily Fredrich said.



The stunt and tumbling group performs at the cheer championship.

Photo by Erin Tynley



# Daktronics team adds interest to Riggs sports

By Jenaleah Block

If you enjoy the addition of the flashing bright lights and cool animations that help keep the fans involved with the fast pace of school athletics, then you can thank the members of the Venus Daktronics team.

These students utilize their computer, creativity, and animation skills to make the board come alive. Running the scoreboard and ani-

mations is only one aspect of the Daktronics team's work.

They also use Adobe Photoshop to make composites of the senior athletes. These composites are presented to the seniors on senior night.

When requested, especially by school groups, the Daktronics team will also create ads that are displayed on the board.

When asked what his favorite part of being on the team was, "Running the Dak-

*"It's a great feeling when one of your animations comes up on the board and you know that you created it and everyone at the game is seeing something YOU made."*

*-Junior Alexander Flynn*

tronics board at the games, especially football," said freshman Colby S. Johnson.

Presently seven students make up the team. Johnson added that they could use more team members.

"We need all the help we can get," he said.

"If you're artistically inclined, or even if you're not and you enjoy going to all the games and have some free time on the weekends, this would be a great

thing for you to do," sophomore William L. Lewis said.

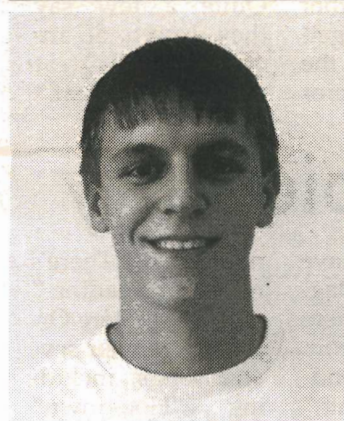
Junior Alexander M. Flynn enjoys running the scoreboard at the games.

"It's a great feeling when one of your animations comes up on the board and you know that you created it and everyone at the game is seeing something YOU made."

Any student who would like to join the Venus Daktronics team can contact adviser Cheryl Ulmen in room 108.

## Promising athletes: who to watch this winter

By Tanner Wolf



**Junior Stephen Nielson:**

A member of the basketball team, Nielson says that there is a lot to look forward to from a fan's viewpoint for this season. The team has a lot of young, talented, and fast players who will work perfectly for Coach Terry Becker's fast break style of play.

"The rest of the state will be very surprised with the depth and talent of this year's team. We should be able to run other teams to exhaustion," he said. "I need to work on improving my offensive abilities, but I'm confident this season will be better than last year for myself."

Nielson is just hoping to be on the varsity lineup this year because of the abnormal number of great underclassmen.

Also, look for junior **Josh Monroy** to start playing up to his potential with his enormous height advantage over all other humans on this planet.

Nielson challenges the entire student body to attend every game, come early, be loud, stay late, and wear green.



**Senior Linsey Peterson:**

The upcoming basketball season should be interesting since the team is going to be at a huge height disadvantage. The Lady Gavs also lost five seniors last year, so the team is kind of young.

"We are going to have to work on running and gunning because that is going to be our whole offense this season. Everyone is going to have to have good ball handling skills so anyone can bring the ball up the court," senior Linsey Peterson said.

The fans should expect to see fast-paced basketball that will keep them on their toes!

**Senior Joseph Wieseler:**

Wieseler is part of the Capitals Hockey team. He is the starting right wing and had 18 goals, low penalty minutes, and will be a major senior leader this season. Top-of-the-line equipment is a must for Wieseler as he flies across the ice.

Wieseler says they need to work on becoming a team and work up to their expectations this upcoming season, as they are rated number one in pre-season.

"One-on-one Wednesday is the practice to look forward to, and it's a lot of fun," he said. The upcoming season will be test of leadership to see if they can hold their #1 seed and make it to state. "Winning state would be a perfect way to end my senior year," Wieseler added.



**Senior Sean Snyder:**

A member of the wrestling team, Snyder is planning on wrestling 140 for his senior year. In order to prepare for his year, he is running and exercising.

He is returning from not wrestling last year and is looking for a fresh start. Snyder says he has a lot to work on but is very confident. He decided to wrestle for his senior year because he realized on his year off on how much he missed the sport.

"It's my senior year, and I figure I should do anything I can," Snyder said. He expects a tough yet fun season.



## Bachelor of the month

### Kris Hewlett '10

**Eye Color:** Dreamy (hazel)

**Height:** 6'2"

**Personality:** You ladies will have to come find out!

**Favorite Movie:** P.S. I Love You

**When was your first relationship?** Probably around age three.

**Have you ever fallen in love?** What is love? Baby, don't hurt me!

**How long was your longest relationship?**



I never really was good as math.

**What attracts you to the opposite sex?** Pheromones and fast typing skills.

**Describe your ideal first date.** A romantic candlelight dinner while sipping

sparkling cider, followed by a long walk on the beach.

**Would you kiss on the first date?** Only eskimo-style.

**What do you think is the most important value in a relationship?** It's all about chemistry, not physics!

**If you could go on a date with anyone, who would it be?** Mrs. Hanton, even though she turned me down for prom last year.

## Bachelorette of the month

### Megan Farris '10

**Eye Color:** hazel

**Height:** 5' 5 1/2"

**Personality:** Outgoing

**Favorite Movie:** Too many to count...maybe Cool Runnings or The Proposal

**What attracts you to the opposite sex?** Personality, smile, and eyes.

**If your boyfriend cheated on you, would you take him back?** Once a cheater, always a cheater.



**Do your friends have a say in who you date?** Yes, but that doesn't mean I'll listen to them.

**What is your first ideal date?** Nothing too serious, maybe a walk out when it's snowing, or maybe stargazing.

**Would you**

**ever kiss on the first date?** Depends on how the date went.

**What's your biggest turnoff?** Cockiness.

**What is the most important value in a relationship?** Trust, honesty, and a sense of humor.

**Are you currently crushing on anyone?** Yes, but it's a secret! Shush!

**Do you have an age preference?** Nope, age is but a number.

## Oklahoma! becomes fast favorite

By Megan Farris

Auditions + countless hours of rehearsals + final curtain = the elements of a play. The drama department brought all of these elements together this week in the classical musical Oklahoma!

"I would say that my favorite part was working with all the talented young people that Riggs has. Rehearsal schedule was a bit chaotic since we had people who were involved in so many different activities, but it all pulled together in the end for a successful show,"

said Hyrma Zakahi, one of the Oklahoma! directors.

"This was my favorite play out of the three years I did high school plays. The practices were long, but in the end it was all worth it. Making the crowd laugh has and always will be my favorite part of acting," said senior Kaid Knox, who played Ali Hakim.

Many elements besides auditions and rehearsals go into a play. People behind the scenes are important too, like the musicians in the orchestra pit, the set di-

rectors, and even the set builders. They are all a



Juniors Nick Burke and Meghan Snow portrayed a feisty single gal and a lovestruck cowboy.

big part of the play running smoothly.

"Oklahoma! was a blast! We hit some rough patches at the beginning and throughout the rehearsals, but by some freak of nature it was all pulled together shortly before getting in front of the audience!" senior

Kris Monroe said. Monroe's character was Will Parker.

Plays like Oklahoma! offer students the opportunity to become something they normally aren't. It lets students step outside of the box and experience new things.

"I loved the play this year," said senior Jenna Feiler, who played Ado Annie. "It gave a lot of people that don't normally do plays the opportunity to try it out. Quite a few say they want to do another, which is great which is great."

## All-State rocks Rapid City

By Jared Holzhauser

Seventeen students recently performed as part of the 2009 All-State Orchestra and Choir concert in Rapid City.

Members of the chorus included Amelia Anderson, Anna Arch, Destiny Barajas, Mike and Nick Burke, Josh Dutt, Rebecca Fahey, Jenna Feiler, Rebecca Hahn, Jayme Hipple, Abraham Kanz, Kris Monroe, Zack Smith, Megan Snow, Matt Stulken, and Anna Wempe.

The only All-State Orchestra member was Taylor Becker on timpani. The combined concert was on October 31 in Rapid City.

To get into All-State Choir, quartets auditioned the song "Roll, Jordan, Roll" for a panel of three judges. Riggs was only allowed four quartets.

"The music was definitely harder this year" chorus teacher Emily Danger said.

The list of songs by the chorus included "The Teddy Bear's Picnic" (the song featur-

ing the line "have a banana"), "Magnificat," "There Shall A Star," from *Elijah*, "Abendlied zu Gott," "There Will Be Rest," and "Promise Of Living." Every song is somebody's favorite.

All-State Orchestra members audition two etudes and part of the concert music in front of a judge. Members compete against every other contestants in the state.

"It's easier than All-State band auditions," said senior Taylor Becker, the only timpa-

ni player. "There's no sight reading."

The All-State Orchestra played several songs, including "Hoe-down" from Rodeo (the "Beef: It's What's for Dinner" song) and a Wagner symphony.

"The best part was hanging out in Rapid," Meghan Snow said.

Threat of a potential storm caused the choir to leave early, giving them a lot of time to kill in Rapid City.

"The students had a better time than last year," Danger said.