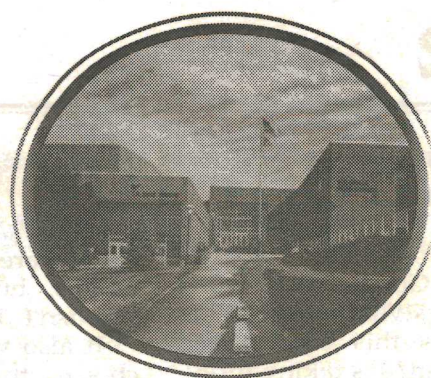


G.T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

VOLUME 68 ♦ ISSUE 1 ♦ OCT. 2, 2009 ♦ PIERRE, 57501



Swept Away: tardy procedure put on hold

by Megan Farris
and Kelcy Curtis

Students say...

"Sweeps may be a good idea, but the policy is so flawed and harsh it ends up hurting students more than helping."

— Jared Holzhauser, 11

"Teachers say this policy helps us prepare for the real world, but find me a job that fires you or docks your pay if you're late, and I'll call you a liar."

— Liz Schultz, 12

"Sure, it helped a little, though it seems a little excessive. It's like swatting a fly with a shotgun."

— Josh Svendsen, 12

"Last year by this time, I probably had 12 or 13 tardies.; I have zero this year. Most of the people who gripe about it are the ones swept a few times a week. It's not that hard to get to class. Walk faster!"

— Jacob Parsons, 12

"Everybody has a bad day when they are running late and shouldn't be punished for that."

— Heidi Reiners, 11

With a simple announcement to start out the morning yesterday, "sweeping" was relegated back to janitorial staff.

Principal Leroy Fugitt announced that the new tardy sweeps procedure that has been used since the second week of school has been discontinued for the time being due to legal questions.

"There have been no threats of suing, but questions have been raised about the sweep procedure. We referred it to our attorney, and he recommended addressing certain points to be consistent with student due process and the tardy policy itself," Fugitt said.

Under the "sweep procedure," if a student were tardy to class, he or she was not allowed into class and would only receive 75 percent of the earned score for the work turned in.

The handbook, however, states that

Eighty-three students were surveyed yesterday. These are the results.

69 of 83 (83%) have not been swept

14 of 83 (17%) have been swept

47 of 83 (57%) agree with the sweeps policy

26 of 83 (31%) disagree with the sweeps policy

10 of 83 (12%) are undecided

four "free" tardies were allowed before detention and that if a student is to be suspended from class, the administration must orally notify them.

Since students are barred from class and receive a points deduction, this procedure may conflict with the written policy.

The idea of sweeps is not a new concept for schools. Sweeps have been the policy in Sioux Falls Public Schools for over ten years. The policies have a few major differences.

Unlike at Riggs, the students in Sioux Falls receive no credit for work missed, and on the second tardy they get two detentions.

Students in Pierre still get four "free" tardies each

quarter before they get a detention and still receive partial credit for that class period's work.

Excessive tardies in past years, however, have caused faculty and administration to search for a new way to deal with the problem.

For example, in the second and third weeks of school a year ago, tardies numbered 1,372; in the same two-week period this fall after "sweeps" were implemented, only 392 tardies were recorded.

Fugitt says that students can expect the administration to rewrite the current printed policy in the handbook and to take it to the school board as soon as possible.

"My intention is that we will continue to pursue this," Fugitt said.

Teachers say....

"I thought we as parents and teachers were supposed to be in the business of helping immature young people be responsible for their actions."

— E. Jay Mickelson, Latin

"In the 16 years I have taught in the Pierre School District, I cannot remember another decision that has undermined the structure of our school discipline like this one has."

— Todd Palmer, science

"Shame on the school board and shame on the parents that coddle their children! Apparently at school, being on time does not matter. Our students are in for a rude awakening because in the real world it does!"

— Bruce Venner, history

"It is too bad that sweeps must be suspended. It has changed the atmosphere in the building so much. Students get to class, and teachers can teach without being interrupted."

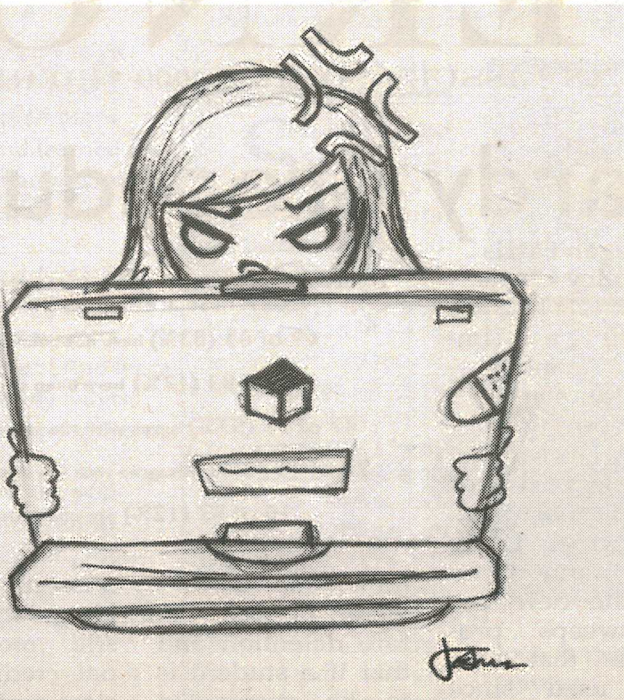
— Beata Ferris, science

Room 109 is not the enemy

Forticlient blocked my Google? Why won't my stylus work? What does this blue screen mean? It's taking forever to synchronize! What gives with these crazy computers?! While we may tend to point our fingers at Room 109, it's time to realize that the techies aren't the enemies.

EDITORIAL
Forticlient is just as big a bother to them as it is to us. Contrary to popular belief, it isn't their decision whether or not Forticlient is still on our computers; the State Department of Education gets to decide that. Anything that goes on our computers is governed by the SDE. The tech people would probably have fewer problems if Forti-

client were taken off the tablets, but that simply isn't their choice. It also was not their choice that Gateway would go under in the failing economy. Getting new parts for these computers is now ridiculously expensive, and the school can't afford all of the pricey styluses, screens, and replacement computers needed. Times are hard, and we can't blame the school for saving a few bucks. So no, the computers aren't in the best condition, but we need stop blaming the technicians. They're only here to help. Where else could you go for help with that annoying blue screen? Where else



could you go to complain about a blocked site? member to thank the techies. They're only here to help! Next time you're in Room 109, re-

GOVERNOR STAFF 2009-2010

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

Editors-in-chief♦
Kelcy Curtis
Layne Duvall

Assistant editors ♦
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
Erin Tounsley
Sarah Moreno

Reporters this issue♦
Taylor Becker
Kyle Brees
Stephen Bollinger
Timmi Lunsford
Megan Farris
Kelsey Oligmueller
Regan Duvall
Erin Tounsley

Adviser♦
Elizabeth J. Vogt

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

Thumbs

- ...to Scottish hotties like Gerard Butler
- ...to eggs
- ...to new relationships
- ...to ignoring haters
- ...to our supporters at Wegner Auto and Petersen Motors for providing vehicles for homecoming royalty
- ...to reuniting and it feeling so good
- ...to year two of the class of 2010 PowderPuff domination
- ...to exciting homecoming activities
- ...to auto-tune the news
- ...to Ron Pope's love songs
- ...to insane outfits
- ...to spinach artichoke dip from Applebees
- ...to guys like Kris Hewlett watching The Real World
- ...to Oedipus hooking up with his mom
- ...to ignorance
- ...to never-ending funerals for MJ
- ...to goat cheese
- ...to the summer ending way too soon
- ...to octo-mom
- ...to ruining futures by drinking and driving
- ...to one month of Zesto left
- ...to clogging the hallways
- ...to Kanye West dissing Taylor Swift at the VMAs
- ...to missing class due to sweeps
- ...to age-restrictions on buying eggs
- ...to negative temperatures in the lounge

Hall Talk:

What is one class not offered at Riggs that you wish were offered?



"Arts and Crafts."
—Aubrey Wald, 9



"Naptime."
—Rebekah Nelson, 10



"Body Art or French."
—Maddy Keeler, 11



"Theoretical Physics."
—Michael Burke, 12

That's not my boyfriend

Editor's note to readers: Do you sometimes make a fool of yourself? If so, you are not alone. This column will feature real stories from our columnists that capture some of life's most awkward moments. Sometimes names or details may be changed to protect the embarrassed.

My beau and I were resting comfortably as we watched "Enchanted" in between the football game.

(He felt it necessary to interrupt my movie every five minutes to see how the mud-covered men-in-tights were doing.)

He left to get food from upstairs in the kitchen. I was supposed to see if the orange-guys or the blue-guys got the deformed "ball" next.

That was boring, so I went to find him. I yelled, "I'm coming up to find you!"

"You will have to catch me first!" he responded.

I dashed up the stairs and ran to the hallway.

"Gottcha!" I yelled as I jumped around the corner. Glancing down the hall, I saw his little brother, who was now sprinting away from me.

He ran into his room and slammed the door. That was the first time

I met a member of his family. Meanwhile, my boyfriend was returning downstairs to watch the nickel-back. Quarter-back. Whatever.

After the game, my boyfriend and I went swimming. We came inside to clean up and dry off; he was looking rather handsome as always.



Regan Duvall, Dacey Beck, Becky Plumage

MY AWKWARD LIFE

I began to fix my hair as he walked around the corner of the room.

"Whatcha doing?" I questioned. "I'm trying to find a shirt to wear," he called back. Picturing him in his swimming trunks, I began to think about his abdominal muscles.

I decided it would be a good idea for him to continue the lovely summer afternoon shirtless.

I walked around the corner and I saw his back. I sneaked over to him, wrapped my arms around his waist, and exclaimed: "You look better without a shirt!"

I then noticed how small his waist had gotten...and what had happened to his adorable hair?!

It wasn't him. It was his little brother, who was desperately trying to remove me from his body.

Boys Like Girls have new album out

The beginning of school can be a stressful time. With homework, sports, after-school activities, the carefree days of summer seem to be a thing of the distant past.

This next album may take you back to those breezy days. Boston-based group Boys Like Girls just released their second album entitled "Love Drunk."

With more of a pop feel than their moody debut album, the sophomore album is energetic and bright. Our

favorites, "Heart Heart Heartbreak" and "She's Got a Boyfriend Now" are filled with catchy lyrics and summery hooks that will remind you of a day at the beach.

If you're more into slow songs, listen to **Two is Better Than One**, featuring Taylor Swift. We prefer the sounds of "Thunder" and "Heels

Over Head" from their last album, but "Love Drunk" will definitely leave you satisfied.

BLG is touring through November with Cobra Starship, The Maine, A

Rocket to the Moon and Versa Emerge. Visit their Myspace for a full list of tour dates.

For all you Twi-lighters out there



Molly Burke and Alexi Gusso
MUSIC, MEDIA
AND MORE

Swift, Snuggies, Swayze prove hot topics

When Kanye West rudely interrupted Taylor Swift at the VMA's during her acceptance speech, he lost fans. We've always loved his music but definitely lost respect for this man-- grow up!

Newsflash! Newsflash! Snuggies now come in different col-

ors and patterns, including stunning zebra and marvelous cheetah!

Oh, we forgot to tell you they now have Snuggies for your dogs

so while you are out your Snuggie today!



Charles Gageby and Morgan Finley
THE 411 ON EVERYTHING COOL

shopping for yours, pick one up for your little friend also.

Be a fashionista and go out and get

Also, what is up with Lady Gaga? Did anyone see her perform at the VMA's? WEIRDO.

I mean don't get us wrong, we still like her...music.

Last but not least, RIP Patrick Swayze. His memory will live on forever in reruns of hit '80s flicks **Dirty Dancing** and **Ghost**.

Breakfast starts the school day right

Fall is a busy time of year, getting in the swing of things for the new school year. Some students stay in shape by playing volleyball, football, tennis or other fall sports.

It's hard for most kids to make a transition from summer fun into structured school days. One way to stay focused during the day and to lower metabolism

is by eating breakfast throughout the day.

A lot of people are in a hurry to get to school or neglect breakfast to cut calories. Eating breakfast helps prevent overeating and provides more energy



Michael Lindbloom and Laura Severyn
HEALTH BEAT

The best breakfast in the morning is eggs. They benefit the body by taking in fewer calories. Protein is more satiating than carbohydrates such as a bagel.

Taking vitamins with breakfast is healthful in

flourishing the body with nutrients and minerals. Drinking a glass of milk with the eggs can help provide bone and teeth strength.

Eating breakfast is one of the best habits to establish. It is, in fact, the most important meal of the day.

Combining eating a healthy breakfast with a steady workout routine creates good long-term results.

OCT. 2, 2009

Police crack down on Govmobile antics

By Kelsey Oligmueller

Nasty, old vans painted in an assortment of colors cruise up and down the streets of Pierre. That's right, Govmobiles are back and better than ever!

This homecoming tradition has become the talk of the school and of the town. From egging to the noise to just the plain old fun of it all, everyone in the community has very mixed emotions about the Govmobiles.

For anyone who might not know how "govmobiling" works, here's how it usually plays out.

A bunch of students buy and paint an old vehicle. Then they go cruise the town and look for other Govmobiles. When they get close enough, they pelt each other with eggs.

This year, the Pierre Po-

"They should just chill out and let us have our fun for homecoming."

—senior Colton Jacobsen

lice Department has made it very clear that they will be "laying down the law" this homecoming.

One of the biggest problems about the Govmobiles is the seatbelt issue. So finding seating in a Govmobile is often tricky business for the owners.

Another issue is all the eggs, paintballs, tomatoes, and all the other unidentified flying objects that sail from Govmobile to Govmobile and even sometimes the bushes.

As for all of that noise, the Pierre Police has made it very clear that there will be zero tolerance for any of that.

"The Pierre Police Department is very con-

cerned about Govmobiling because everything that is done while Govmobiling is illegal. We are very concerned about the safety of the students involved. We want everyone to have a good time but refrain from breaking the law," School Resource Officer Sampson Boutchee said.

Riggs students have their own opinions about govmobiling.

"They should just chill out and let us have our fun for homecoming," senior Colton Jacobson said.

"The cops should relax and be more concerned about grown men swinging bats at us," senior Melvin Leveque said.



Above: The burning of the letters after coronation is a long-standing PHS tradition. Right: Jenna Feiler strikes a pose as Peter Pan on "Disney character" dress up day. Below: Juniors Kalline Barnes and Roberta Foreman got in the spirit on Disney day.



This senior girls' govmobile rolls through the homecoming parade on We-



photo by Josh Dutt

Graham Schuetzle and Linsey Peterson were chosen to reign over the week's activities.



photo by Josh Dutt

Football players Jayme Hipple and Graham Schuetzle deliver a speech to coach Joe Kramer at coronation.

Govs won't rely on luck tonight

By Timmi Lunsford

Governor pride and strength will be on the football field tonight at the homecoming game.

The Govs bring an impressive record (4-1, 4-0 ESD) into the match-up with the Stevens Raiders from Rapid City.

Almost halfway through the season, the Pierre team is not relying on the "Luck of the Govs" to win but on a combination of a tough defensive line and a skilled offense to show the Raiders how football is played east of the Missouri.

"I am having fun coaching this team. We talked about three things we wanted to do this year, and we are doing them. We talked about working hard,

having fun, and getting better," first-year head coach Joe Kramer said.

"Seniors are an important part of the Govs' success this year on and off the field," Kramer said.

"We can't wait until the game, and it is a blast to see all of the student body come out and support us," quarterback Graham Schuetzle said.

"This should be a fun game because we have been working hard and earning some really good wins," senior Garrett Weber said.

New to the school, junior Jordan Jenkins is proud to play on the Govs team. Experiencing the Govs' Green Pride spirit this week has been fun, but winning the game tonight will end the week in a perfect way for the student

from North Carolina.

"I hope to be able to go out and play the whole game as a team. We have not played a whole game as a team, and we haven't played as hard as we can. If we do that, we will dominate," Jenkins said.

If spirit is an ingredient to a winning recipe for success, then junior Parker McKittrick is the Iron Chef of the field. McKittrick played last week against Yankton and is excited about the upcoming game.

"I'm looking forward to flat-out winning the game this week," McKittrick said.

"I am excited to play because I expect a lot of people to be there watching us win," junior Scott Cichos said.

"Are you ready for some football?" Kramer asked.



Photo by Josh Dutt



photo by Abby Offert



photo by Josh Dutt

Govmobiles as far as you can see make their way down Pierre Street at Wednesday's homecoming parade.



photo by Josh Dutt

Junior Katie Sanders sports her favorite Disney character.

Columnists make NFL predictions

Here are our predictions and teams to watch for this season in the NFL. **New York Giants**--The Giants are 3-0, coming off a shut-out against

the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Even though Plaxico Burress is in jail, the other young receivers (Mario Manningham, Steve Smith, and Kevin Boss) are emerging keys to their success. The G-Men are solid on defense and their offensive line gives Eli Manning all day to throw. **New Orleans Saints**--the Saints have been tearing it up on the offensive side of the ball. New Orleans has scored

120 points in three games. Drew Brees, cousin to our own Kyle Brees, was on pace to throw 72 touchdown passes this season. Reggie Bush, Jeremy Shockey, and Marques Colston are the main weapons on offense. Greg Williams is the new defensive coordinator who has brought lots of improvement to this offense-oriented team. **Green Bay Packers**--Aaron Rodgers came out of Brett Favre's shadow last year throwing for over 4,000 yards and 28 TD's. The Packers have switched to the 3-4 defense which

will create more turnovers and pressure the opposing quarterbacks. Green Bay needs to improve their play during crunch time as they lost seven games last year where the point difference was seven points or less. **Minnesota Vikings**--The arrival of Brett Favre was by far the largest off-season move. Favre brings experience to the Vikings at the quarterback position, as he was brought in to control the game. The Vikings' defense has gone 26 games without allowing a 100-yd rusher. Adrian Peterson and Percy Harvin bring lots of explosion to the of-

fense. Minnesota's defense is anchored by Jared Allen, Pat Williams, Kevin Williams, and Antoine Winfield. **Indianapolis Colts**--Despite the losses of head coach Tony Dungy and all-pro wide receiver Marvin Harrison, the Colts are off to another hot start. Peyton Manning still has plenty of help on offense from the likes of TE Dallas Clark, WR Reggie Wayne, and RB Joseph Addai. The Colts' defense still features Dwight Freeney and Bob Sanders. SDSU grad and Colts kicker, Adam Vinatieri, thrives under pressure and offers many game-winning situations.

Oh yeah, the Detroit Lions finally won a game, their first since December 23, 2007. **SUPER BOWL PREDICTIONS:** Stephen Bollinger: New Orleans Saints vs. Cincinnati Bengals, **Saints win.** Kyle Brees: New York Giants vs. Baltimore Ravens, **Ravens win.** Taylor Becker: Minnesota Vikings vs. New York Jets, **Vikings win.**



Taylor Becker, Kyle Brees, Stephen Bollinger

Boys Golf

Last meet: "Great 8" Invitational

Next meet: State Tournament

Player comment: "State is next week, and we are expecting to place at least top three. We have really high expectations for our seniors. Four players are shooting really well. We have great potential to be state champs. All in all the year has gone pretty well." --senior Jake Greenhagen

Boys and Girls Soccer

Records: Boys: 5-5-1 Girls: 4-4-3 (W-L-T)

Last games: Saturday in Spearfish

Next game for both: tomorrow in Watertown

Player comments: "The way we played contradicted the outcome of the game. We still won, but sometimes you have to have bad games to improve for the future"--senior Linsey Peterson

Cross Country

Last meet: Thursday in Watertown

Next meet: ESD on Saturday

Player comment: "The season is going well; we are right where we want to be for our upcoming meets"--senior Sean Snyder



Girls Tennis

Last match: Tuesday in Pierre

Next match: tomorrow in Yankton

Player comment: "We are favored for winning ESD this year so we are expecting to do well in the final matches"--Kayla Inman

Competitive Cheer

Last meet: Huron Invitational

Next meet: Brandon Valley Invitational

Player comment: "It has been stressful and hard to deal with but really fun at the same time." --junior Morgan Gallagher

Football

Record: 4-1

Last game: Defeated Yankton 21-13

Next game: tonight vs. RC Raiders

Player comment: "This season has been quite a surprise. We have really been playing great as a team, our lines have been a bunch of studs and our backs are tanks. Our defense is like a steel curtain. We are making a lot of people turn their heads and think twice about playing the Govs! We are excited for homecoming and hope to give a good showing for our loyal fans! GO GOVS!" --senior Graham Schuetzle

Volleyball

Record: 4-5

Last games: Yesterday against Watertown

Next games: Saturday in Brandon Valley

Player comment: "The season is almost half over, and the team is coming together. We are getting better on a lot of fundamental skills"--junior Courtney Ziebart

compiled by Tanner Wolf and Royce Pease

Cross country team pulls closer, runs harder

By Kris Monroe

Despite runners who have not been able to run for a variety of reasons, the cross country team has presented a strong showing, winning over SF Washington, Roosevelt, Lincoln, RC Stevens, Central and others.

At the recent Rapid City Invitational, the team was ahead of all South Dakota teams, following close behind Wyoming's top three schools: Gillette, Laramie and Sheridan respectively.

In cross country, the varsity team is made of seven runners. A runner's finishing place is the score he or she contributes to the team, and the lowest team score wins the meet. This is why one runner can make a lot of difference.



Senior Tyler Sarringer leads a pack of runners at recent Cross Country race.

"Our team is looking good; we've got a tight pack which is great for scoring," junior Aaron Propst said. He's right; typically the

team with the tightest pack of runners is the team standing on top of the podium when all is said and done. "We have some very con-

sistent and capable runners who are able to deliver when the time comes, so all in all, we are going to let everyone know that Pierre is here to compete!" senior Shane Skaggs commented.

"Tropical storm Pierre is a-brewin', and we're going to be a full force hurricane come state. So all the other teams better have a survival kit ready to brave out the storm," senior Tyler Sarringer said.

Everyone on the team has something special to offer --speed, endurance, or good looks.

Another awesome thing about the entire team, boys and girls combined, is that they have a rare chemistry between teammates.

"I feel like the team chemistry is better this

year than it has been in years past. We all actually get along!" Skaggs said.

Cross country is one of the few sports with a combined boys' and girls' team. At most schools, boys and girls teams train separately, something coach Bruce Venner doesn't believe in.

"Boys need to battle to bond; girls need to bond to battle," Venner said, a quote that fits the current team well. Now that the girls' team has bonded more closely than in the past years, they are more willing to suffer through races for each other as more than just teammates; and the guys, because of running day-to-day beside each other, have pulled closer together.

For these very reasons, the team is seeing success.

New dance studio opens on Main Street

By Erin Tounsley

It is always exciting to own something new. Elizabeth Zanin, the owner of the new dance studio Pierre Dance Academy, is excited to teach girls and boys of all ages.

Zanin has been in dance since she was fourteen. She had to work to pay for her lessons. She taught aerobics to girls between the ages fourteen and seventeen.

When Zanin was sixteen, her mother helped her open her first fitness and dance studio, but it only lasted a year. Since then, owning a dance studio has always been a dream of Zanin's. "It's nice to work

"I want to help them feel confident, comfortable, and positive."

—Elizabeth Zanin

with girls because they love dance. I want to help them feel confident, comfortable, and positive," Zanin said.

Her goals are working. "I love the teachers, they are the best part of dance. I am really looking forward to dance. Elizabeth is really helping with my self confidence," sophomore Emily Spaid said.

"I love the studio! Elizabeth is a very good teacher, and I think she makes the class comfort-

able with themselves and I think they have a lot of fun also cause everyone gets it," sophomore Brittini Atkins said.

"I like the teachers this year! I think I will really enjoy the recital," freshman Madison Rodriguez said. "Elizabeth is really making it to where everyone can feel confident."

Zanin is going to focus on Latin rhythms, good posture and strength.

"The studio is for



good things, and that is the way it is going to stay," Zanin said. "This was a very good opportunity. Jesus put everything in front of me, and I had to put it all together. I was scared to start a new dance studio but I put my trust in Jesus Christ and it all came easy."

Zanin appreciates the support of her family and friends and the Pierre community believing in and supporting her.

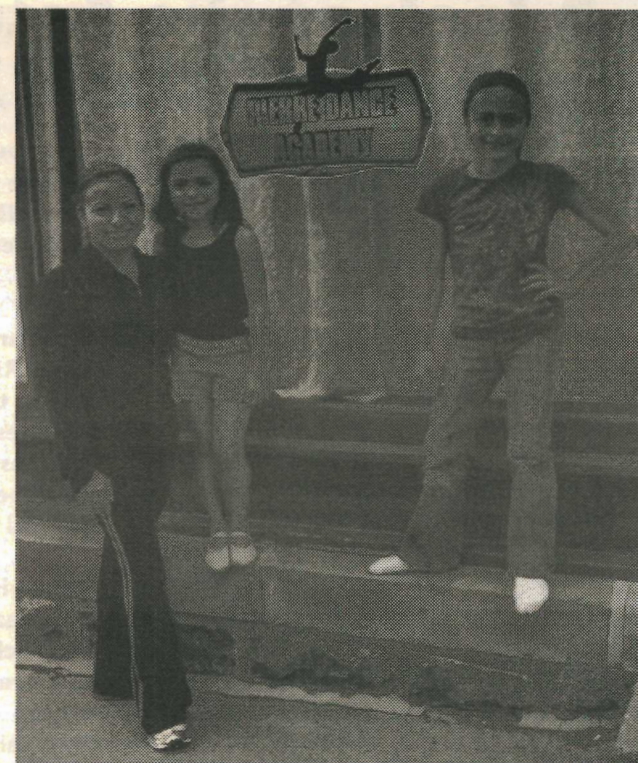


photo by Layne Duval

Elizabeth Zanin poses with her daughters Janaina and Joana outside of her new dance studio.

A word from the past

Evan Fuller '09

Major: Wildlife and Fisheries Biology

Are you glad you chose SDSU?

Yeah, I like the location. There are a lot of good hunting spots and always things to do.

How large are your classes?

It ranges from 25 - 100, depending on the class.

What classes are you taking? Biology, Speech, Mastering Lifetime Learning Skills, Wildlife and



Fisheries Management, Algebra 102, and Criminal Justice.

What are you involved in on campus?

I'm a member of the Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club. It's awesome.

What would you have done dif-

ferently in high school? I would have taken more time and learned the math material more thoroughly.

Some advice to future college students: Learn your math! And learn good study habits; you'll be using them.

Where do you see yourself in five years? Hopefully, I'll be working with Game, Fish, and Parks.

A look at the future

Abigail Burke '13

What do you miss most about GMMS?

I miss a few teachers and being the oldest in school.



Photo by Josh Dutt

So far, what's your favorite thing about Riggs?

Better lunches, more freedom, nicer teachers, more class choices, and there's a dog.

What's your favorite class?

Pottery.

What activities are you in?

Lady Gobs tennis and figure skating.

Has anything embarrassing happened to you yet?

I tripped up the stairs! Luckily there weren't too many people there though.

What are you most looking forward to here at the high school?

King of Hearts, Govmobiling and just having fun!

Did you get lost on the first day of school?

No, I never got lost.

How are the lunches at Riggs compared to GMMS lunches?

Lunches here are so much better! There are real options!

What is one rumor you heard about high school you discovered isn't true?

You really don't get harassed by upper-classmen.

Laptops' future remains shaky: technicians struggle to fix aging computers

By Layne Duvall

Shattered screens, missing styluses, vital websites blocked. Sound familiar?

Many students have made the trip down the computer tech room at least once - maybe more.

"Last year I went down there at least once a week for some problem or another," says senior Hilary Roth.

"I did once," junior Quinn Mortenson said of going to the tech room. "My motherboard crashed."

The most common setback is a blue or black error screen, or an issue with the Forticlient Firewall, according to computer technician Shie-la Mangan. These two problems can be fixed by re-imaging the computer, which also means losing all the files saved on the hard drive.

Another problem that the technicians encounter is dealing with shattered screens. To combat broken screens, the school has started using Plexiglas, a sturdy yet flexible material, to replace defective monitors.

"The whole thing with the stylus--it

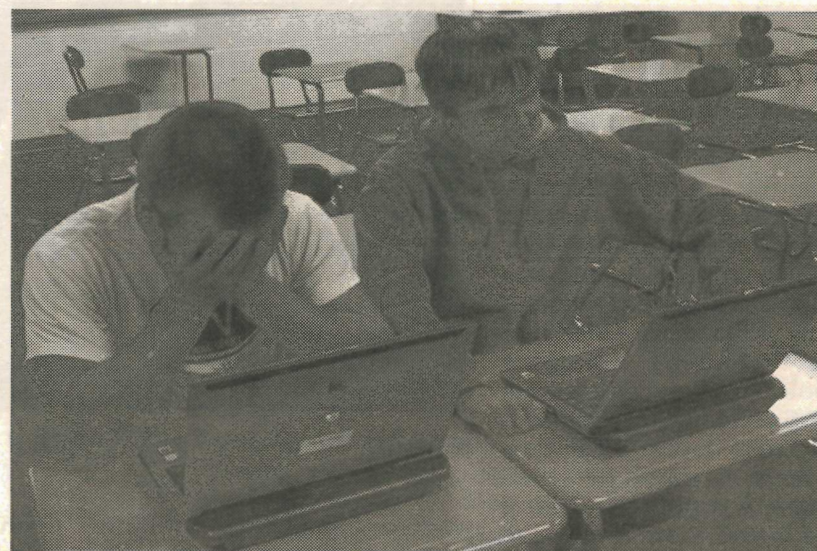


photo by Layne Duvall

Juniors Tayler Owens and Quinn Mortenson are frustrated with their laptops.

doesn't like to work except at random times," Roth said.

Missing or broken styluses are an inevitable problem in a school body of almost 900 students, but the cost of replacing one stylus is over \$50.

The price tag on styluses is too high for the school to replace even the defective styluses, much less replace the lost styluses of absent-minded teens, Mangan said.

The most confusing computer glitch the technicians have met this fall is when a student's laptop begins to rip a CD while it is being played.

Somehow the settings get changed so that the computer will automatical-

ly begin to download the songs, and they haven't found a cause.

The huge amount of downloaded memory from the CD causes synchronization to become very slow, wasting student, teacher, and class time and making it difficult to access documents that were created at home and that need to synchronize.

Students who are excited for new laptops or a different firewall have a wait ahead of them. Before the school can take action on a new firewall, they have to get the "ok" from the State Bureau of Information and Technology.

The Bureau dictates the type of

firewall and server set-up, among other things, that the school must use.

New laptops may be in the future, but there will be lots of serious discussion before that happens, according to Assistant Principal Mike Stroup.

The laptop initiative ends after this school year, meaning that the school board must make a choice between continuing with the laptops or getting rid of them.

Personally, Stroup is in favor of the tablets.

"As a whole, the benefits outweigh the struggles," Stroup said. "The consensus of most people is that it has been a valuable tool."