

G.T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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Sweeps may return to hallways in November

By Sarah Moreno

The sweep policy is back... almost. Don't get discouraged quite yet, fellow students.

The policy has yet to be ironed out with the school board at next month's meeting.

After retracting the "sweeps" procedure earlier this month, the administration has rewritten the tardy policy in the handbook.

The administration presented the

"I'm less careful about getting my behind to class now. Actually, I was late to first period this morning!" senior Jacob Parsons

revised policy at the October school board meeting.

The school board will vote on it at their November meeting.

"We'll know the decision after November 9, and if the policy passes, we will reinstate it immediately," Fugitt

said. "Of course, it will take a few days to get things going again, but we're hopeful things will go smoothly."

Many feel that the school without "sweeps" has been close to disastrous. Many staff members admit that students are

back to their lazy, irresponsible ways.

In the last two mornings alone, students have racked up 50 tardies in first period alone.

Students are less concerned with being late to class because of the lack of consequences.

"I'm less careful about getting my behind to class now. Actually, I was late to first period this morning!" senior Jacob Parsons says about the dormant sweep policy.

Teachers are al-

ready tired of the interruptions.

"I'm very disappointed that the sweep policy is suspended. I believe it had changed things around the school for the better," said Fugitt, a strong advocate for the sweeping procedure.

Only time will tell what happens to the "sweeps."

For now, administrators, teachers and students will anxiously await the decision of the school board.

Quick update

Tardy policy in handbook has been rewritten

Revised policy was presented to school board at the October board meeting

School board will make a decision about new policy and reinstating sweeps on November 9



With a total of 32 security cameras, the school can keep close tabs on any mischievous activities, inside or outside the building.

Surveillance cameras added

By Timmi Lunsford and Layne Duvall

Additional surveillance cameras have been installed in and around Riggs in the past few weeks. Security is the number-one reason for the addition of new cameras.

"It's both security and providing protection for students and their property," Principal Mike Fugitt said. "We've used them

more for vandalism and theft than any personal security."

Some areas in the school that did not have camera coverage.

M & N Communications of Pierre did the installation.

The Riggs maintenance staff could be seen in the hallways, pulling wires for the cameras.

The new cameras have updated technology to screen the interiors of cars. Some of the cam-

eras have the capability to tilt, zoom, and scan. They are mainly devices to document what goes on during the day. The new system also allows for offsite monitoring if needed.

Five of these hi-tech cameras have been installed outside, replacing older models.

Inside the building 12 new cameras cover the previously unmonitored areas.

"Ever since we

put in the first round of cameras and security equipment, we've wanted to add some more," Fugitt said.

"As soon as we could access the money, we wanted to."

The school now has a total of 32 cameras, including 18 new cameras.

There is also a new digital video recorder. All the upgrades cost approximately \$21,500 to buy and install.

Swine flu fears going hog wild

With all the talk about swine flu going around, everyone's getting sick of the topic! Recovery from all the media attention H1N1 gets is going to take more than a little Nyquil. But

we have to wonder, is it really such a big deal?

The hype might live up to itself – if the virus caused its victims to grow pig snouts or sprout curly tails. (Isn't this how rumors get started?)

Since none of these catastrophes have happened (yet), it's time to take a closer look at the effects of H1N1.

Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. No new appendages! Sounds

like the regular flu.

The CDC, or Center for Disease Control and Prevention, states that a case of H1N1 can range from mild to severe. How does this compare to the regular flu?

It's the same thing!

The CDC says that the symptoms of seasonal influenza can range from mild to severe. In fact, the "seasonal flu" kills over 36,000 per year! Considering that so far H1N1 has killed about 2,400, perhaps the excitement should be redirected.

Of course, this doesn't mean that swine flu is fun or that it shouldn't be taken seriously. But H1N1 is a virus that shouldn't have its own spotlight. There's not enough justification yet for that.



GOVERNOR STAFF 2009-2010

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Thumbs



...to snickers with almonds being incredibly delicious
...to high-fiving
...to oatmeal cream pies
...to underdogs on swings
...to trick-or-treating
...to Oklahoma! (both the musical and the state)
...to universities giving out scholarship money
...to throw-back uniforms
...to Tayler and Quinn
...to Optimus Prime
...to Twilight's new movie coming out next month
...to Helium-making voices sound AIR-ogant
...to injuries not affecting the outcome of Tuesday's game

...to ridiculous memorizations of the 27 Amendments and the 7 Articles
...to Drew Carey--we want Bob Barker back!
...to performing ballads in Honors English 12
...to everlasting ACTs and college applications
...to racism
...to indigo getting kicked out of the rainbow
...to drunken teenagers
...to online predators
...to precipitation in the form of snow
...to Eli Manning being taken
...to no more Zesto after today

Hall Talk:

What are you doing to prevent getting H1N1?



"Hand sanitizer and staying away from people."
—Emily Dix,
9



"I already have it."
—Haley Holn,
10



"Kissing fewer people than usual."
—Charles Gageby,
11



"Not traveling to Mexico."
—Raury Cruse,
12

Zipper: I; hair: 0 | Must-see movies boost holiday mood

Two-hundred high students were attending two weeks of lectures, fellowship, and fun at Summit Ministries in Colorado. Enjoyable and totally non-awkward, right? Wrong.

It was a dark and stormy day; the classroom was getting stuffy during a two-hour lecture.

I sat next to "Matt" in the back row next to the window, and I suggested that he open it. Being a nice, quiet gentleman, he complied. A breeze rolled into the classroom and rolled my pen right off my desk. I leaned over to retrieve it, but as I sat back up, my hair did not sit back up with me. Rather, it stuck to something and pulled my head.

This is where it got interesting: my hair was indeed caught—caught on Matt. Caught in his pants zipper,

to be precise. I jerked my head up quickly, only managing to hit my head on his desk.

It must have been a funny scene: my head



Regan Duvall, Dacey Beck, Becky Plumage

MY AWKWARD LIFE

jerked clumsily as I tried to free myself with poor, quiet Matt simply frozen in horror. The classroom advisors took note of the problem from afar

but apparently decided that discretion was the better part of valor and chose to ignore the problem.

After some struggling, my head was free. His zipper, however, won the battle over my hair and kept a large chunk of it as its trophy. I tried not to stare at his zipper, but I noted that my hair remained there for the rest of the lecture. But I kept my mouth shut. (And my hair and head held high.)

My life is awkward.

Skeletons and ghosts hang from trees, decorating yards. Hideous and deformed masks of monsters and mutants occupy the main aisles at stores. Cookies and treats are shaped and decorated like severed fingers and eyeballs.

These are a few of the countless things that make October one of the most exciting months of the year.

These movies are must-sees for anyone looking for a spine-tingling way to get into this spooky season.

The Nightmare be-

fore Christmas, produced by scare-master Tim Burton, tells the twisted tale of Jack Skellington, the dapper pumpkin king of Halloween Town. Jack is bored with doing the same thing every year for Halloween.

One day on a stroll through the woods, he stumbles upon Christmas Town and is so

taken with the idea of Christmas that he tries to get the bats, ghouls, and goblins of Halloween Town to help him put on Christmas instead of Halloween.

The creatures try this idea with enthusiasm, but they can't seem to get it quite right.

This stop-motion movie may be rated PG, but the ghostly grey animation, wit-

ty songs, and creepy characters will give you just the right amount of chills and goose bumps to put you in the Halloween mood.

If you're more into horror films, watch The Amityville Horror, the story of the haunting of a colonial house in Long Island, NY, after the true-life murders of six members of the DeFeo family by their own 23 year-old son, who claimed that "voices in his head told him to." It's guaranteed to make you both cringe and jump out of your seat.



Molly Burke and Alexi Gusso
MUSIC, MEDIA
AND MORE

Keep it cute and fun this Halloween

Yo, what's up? It's your favorite columnists back in action to get you the low down on what's hot. Scandalous Halloween costumes have become the rage with young adult women and men all over the world!

Whether you are Minnie Mouse or Alice in Wonderland, you

can always skim down to barely anything. But since we're still in high school, try to find something cute AND appropriate! Try out

Charles Gageby and Morgan Finley
THE 411 ON
EVERYTHING
COOL

een.com; they have tons of outfits to choose from! Keep the tradition alive but keep it cute. Need things

to do on Halloween? Check out the Masonic Temple, go trick or treating, or watch a scary movie. If you do not want to try any of that, then you're boring and we can't help you. Sorry! That's all for now.

Have a fun, safe, and rockin' Halloween. Try not to toilet paper too many houses!

Letter to the editor:

Peacefully
We are meant to be
So equally
And sentimentally

Kind to our brothers
And our friends to be
So please oh please
Remember to see

The kindness in your heart
That you share to your mother
Keep that in mind

As you talk to another

And share with them
Kindness, not hate
It is crucial to show them
Before it's too late

That we are all equal
There's no better one
So let's all be peaceful
Let's just have some fun.

--senior Trevor Larson

Good hygiene can prevent H1N1

H1N1 has swept the nation, leaving many Americans staying home from school and work. But it isn't the first time Americans have been hit with a flu pandemic. It happened in 1918 as well as in 1957.

A few ways to avoid getting this virus include washing hands thoroughly, staying away from those who are infected and get-

ting a vaccination.

Try not to touch your mouth or face if your hands have been in unsanitary areas.

The vaccine has not yet been widely distributed for all of the doses that are needed at this time, but the

Center for Disease Control (CDC) hopes to get the doses to healthcare facilities soon.

Those who have already been diagnosed can help others by staying home if they have symptoms. Wearing a surgical mask can prevent spreading of

harmful germs. Covering your mouth with your sleeves rather than your hands can reduce distribution.

Swine flu victims should isolate themselves until at least forty-eight hours after their fevers have diminished.

As you can see, there are many ways to stay away from piggy flu. So be smart, be safe, and be aware!



Michael Lindbloom and Laura Severyn
HEALTH BEAT

FUN THINGS TO DO

Mission Impossible

What: High schoolers run through the woods at night and hidden "ropers" try to catch them. Whichever team is able to complete the most trips without being caught wins!

Where: Oahe Marina picnic shelter

When: 8 p.m. tomorrow

Cost: free

Remember to dress for the weather

Host a Costume Party

What: a fun get-together with friends

Where: you decide!

When: Plan around Mission Impossible and the BGC dance

Fun Ideas: bob for apples, costume contest, or venture out to Cedar Hill

Cost: decorations and candy

Boys and Girls Club dance

What: Halloween dance for middle school through high school age students

Where: Boys and Girls Club, 110 Ree St.

When: 7-10pm, Friday, October 30

Cost: \$5

Feel free to bring your own music on CDs or mp3 player so the DJs can play your tunes!



Photo by Layne Duvall

Junior Regan Duvall carved not one but two pumpkins this year to create a unique jack-o-lantern.



Getting in the spirit: Residents at 322 S. Harrison use infatables to decorate.

Photo by Layne Duvall

By Kelsey Oligmueller

In 2009, America has been all about going green. From cars to fashion to household items, America has jumped on the eco-friendly bandwagon. So why should this Halloween be any different?

Instead of going out to Wal-Mart and buying the usual \$20 costume, make yourself an eco-friendly and unique costume that will have all of your friends jealous.

Have a big old box lying around, just taking up space? Think about all the goofy costumes that you could possibly make out of a box! A Kleenex box, a cereal box, a television, a Rubics cube--the possibilities are endless! A crayon Box, stereo, a dog house where you're the dog? Just be creative!

"I'm dressing up as Danny Mayer to scare all the little kids!" senior Tanner Wolf joked.

Other than being super earth-friendly, you'll be a huge hit.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TREAT?

Chocolate

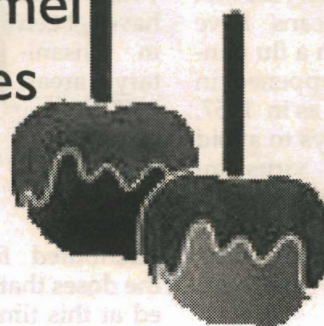
45%



Caramel

Apples

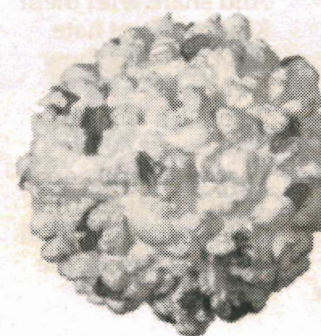
23%



Popcorn

Balls

12%



A GREEN HALLOWEEN

What about an old t-shirt lying around? You can do anything with an old t-shirt and make a cool costume. You can carry around a spoon and write "cereal killer" on the shirt. You can write a "P" on it and give yourself a black eye, and be a black-eyed pea. If you just put your mind to something, you can make a funny and unique costume out of almost anything.

Another way to make a sweet costume without breaking the bank is going to the thrift store. Think about anything you could possibly dress up as and go to a second-hand store or thrift store and just look around. You'll be amazed at all the cool stuff that you can find.

Some of the top ideas for this Halloween are Hannah Montana and Michael Jackson. So go to a second-hand store or thrift store and look for some funky sparkly clothes for Hannah and find a sweet hat, some aviator sunglasses, and

as a bonus, a white sequin glove for Michael. You'll be really surprised on the cool outfits you can come up with if you just go to one of these places and look around.

If you are planning on going out to buy a costume at Walmart because you just don't think you are creative enough to make a crayon box or something, don't go all out and save yourself some money.

If you're going to go out and buy a real Hannah Montana costume and it needs *this* microphone and *these* funky shoes, don't buy them for a billion dollars. Just make them. You can make a sparkly microphone out of a toilet paper cardboard roll, a foam ball, and some glitter and glue. Easy, huh?

Just be sure to not

buy a whole bunch of stuff you don't need or that will defy the point.

Many students, like senior Kris Monore and sophomore Ashley Zimmerman, said that they weren't even going to dress up! Other students have their ideas

planned and ready to go.

"I'm going to be a classic flapper with fishnets and a feather in my hair!" senior Jenna Feiler said.

"I'll be a giant banana!" senior Connor Briggs bragged.

Costumeing makes Halloween one of the greatest holidays ever! You dress up crazy and go around and get candy for it. What could be better than that?

Take some of these ideas, plan a fun costume, and just do it!

"I'm dressing up as Danny Mayer to scare all the little kids!"
— Senior Tanner Wolf

"I'm gonna dress up as a witch and have a cape for Chuck to wear!"

—Sophomore Annora Hayden-Moreland

"Look out! Quinn is the Spiderman!"

—Junior Quinn Mortenson

"I dress up every year—all 28 years I've been a librarian! I'm always "Media Man."

—Librarian Keith Christensen

HALLOWEEN STATISTICS

It's projected that consumers will spend an average of \$56.31 on Halloween (down from \$66.54 in 2008).

Last year there were about 36 million trick-or-treaters between the ages of five and thirteen.

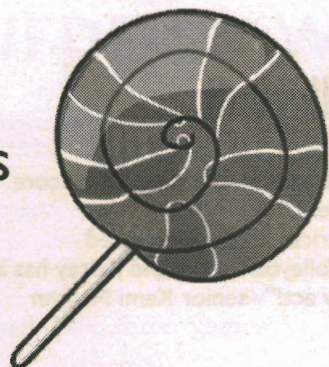
93% of households said that they consider their neighborhood safe.

In 2008 the US alone produced approximately 1.1 billion pounds of pumpkins, with Illinois leading the way at 496 million pounds.

TYPE OF HALLOWEEN CANDY?

Suckers

10%



Chewy

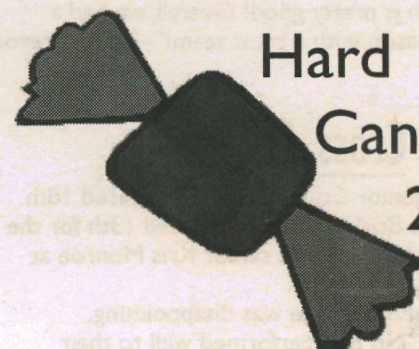
Candy
8%



Hard

Candy

2%



Yankees vs. Phillies: columnists foresee outcome

The end of October has brought about another World Series. The Philadelphia Phillies will represent the National League and the New York Yankees will represent the American League. Because the American League won the All-Star game this year, the Yankees will have home field advantage. The World Series schedule goes 2-3-2, so the Yankees will host the first 2 games, followed by 3 in Philadelphia, then the final 2 will be played in New York (Games 5, 6, and 7 are if needed). When the Yankees are the home team, the

designated hitter (DH) rule will be in use, but when the Phillies are the home team, there will be no DH and the pitchers will be in the batting order. Both of these teams have only lost two games the entire postseason, so it will be interesting to see how they bounce back from a loss.

Philadelphia Phillies got to the World Series by defeating the Colorado Rockies in four games in the National League Division Series. Then, the Phillies beat the Los Angeles Dodgers in five games to win

the National League Championship Series. The Phillies won the World Series last year and are out to defend their title. The Phillies' ace on the mound, Cole Hamels, won the MVP award for last year's World Series. The Phillies' pitching staff features a bunch of other studs including mid-season acquisition Cliff Lee, veteran Pedro Martinez, starter Joe Blanton, and closer Brad Lidge.

Offensively, the Phillies are also very powerful. Philadelphia's offense has a nice blend of power and speed in their lineup. Ryan Howard (1B), Chase Utley

(2B), and Jimmy Rollins (SS) provide the experience needed in the high-pressure environment of the World Series. Raul Ibanez, Shane Victorino (the Flyin' Hawaiian), and Jayson Werth take care of the outfield for the Phillies on the defensive side.

New York Yankees The Yankees got to the World Series by defeating the Minnesota Twins in three games in the American League Division Series and defeating the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in six games to win the American League Championship Series. The Yankees also got the World Series

because they have a \$208,097,414 salary, first in major league baseball. The Yanks have been using a three-man starting rotation that includes CC Sabathia, AJ Burnett, and Andy Pettitte. Joba Chamberlain, Phil Hughes, and Ian Kennedy take care of the bullpen along with closer Mariano Rivera. The Yankees don't have to rely on their pitching as much since they

are loaded offensively. Mark Teixeira, Alex Rodriguez, Hideki Matsui, Jorge Posada, and Derek Jeter are all home-run threats. Simply put, their lineup is capable of scoring lots of runs.



Taylor Becker, Kyle Brees, Stephen Bollinger

Predictions: The Yankees will win in seven games (the Bronx Bombers have too much offense for Philadelphia to keep up with) and MVP will go to Derek Jeter.

Boys Golf

State meet: Sophomore Seth Stadel tied for third with a two-day total of 152.

Player comment: "It was a really fun experience. I wish we could have done better at state with all the talent we had on the team." - Junior Jordan Smith

Boys and Girls Soccer

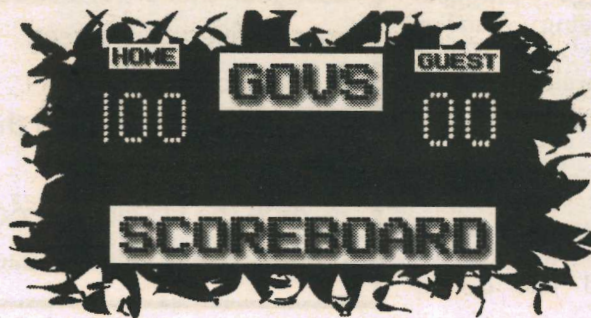
Records: Boys placed third at state; girls placed fourth at state

Player comments: "We came in looking pretty good, had an unfortunate second game, but still came out third which is pretty good! Overall, we had a pretty good season with a great team!"--senior Trevor Larson

Cross Country

State meet: Junior Courtney Ziebart placed 18th and sophomore Bridget Simmons placed 13th for the girls; the top boys finish was senior Kris Monroe at 19th.

Player comment: "State was disappointing, and uneventful. No one performed well to their expectations!"--senior Shane Skaggs



Girls Tennis

Last match: State tournament

Next match: Season ended

Player comment: "We had a really fun season."--junior Deidre Beck

Competitive Cheer

Last meet: Aberdeen Invitational

Next meet: ESD Conference meet

Player comment: "We are improving our routines for ESD. Hopefully we will see some better scores than in the past meets."--senior Jesse Willard

Football

Record: 7-3

Last game: Playoff game vs. Sturgis Tuesday night

Next game: Round two of playoffs against Brandon Valley Monday night in Brandon

Player comment: "I have mixed emotions about the playoffs because it gives us an opportunity to do either very well or very bad, but also signifies the season at its close."--senior Alec Anton

Coach comment: "We played them [Brandon Valley] once already this year, so we are familiar with them and they're familiar with us. It will be a game of adjustment, and we'll see who adjusts best."--coach Joe Kramer.

Volleyball

Record: 6-11

Last games: Last night against Aberdeen with score unavailable at press time

Next games: AA districts to be announced

Player comment: "Volleyball is fun, and Kelsey has a very humorous comedy act!"--senior Kami Madsen

New P.A.Y.S.A ice skating rink pays off

By Jenna Carlon

Ice skating programs at the P.A.Y.S.A. ice rink got underway this fall on Sept. 7.

The P.A.Y.S.A. ice rink, located on North Lowell Ave. behind Wal-Mart, offers programs in basic skating skills, advanced figure skating, recreational skating, hockey and curling.

P.A.Y.S.A. is an acronym for the Pierre Area Youth Skating Association, Inc.

P.A.Y.S.A. is a non-profit, charitable corporation organized by civic-minded area residents and parents to construct and operate an indoor ice rink.

The rink initially opened to the public last January with the first full season of skating getting underway this fall.

"I like being able to skate in Pierre instead of going to Bismarck every weekend,"

Some skaters used to travel to Bismarck nearly every weekend just for skating, but that has all changed with the new rink.

"Going up to Bismarck in the past was fun, but now that we have unlimited ice for everyone to use, it's great! Also working with a professional coach is very rewarding" junior ice-skater Jenna Carlon said.

The Central South Dakota



Synchro team "Frostbite" performs at the new ice rink in Pierre.

Skating Club conducts skating programs at P.A.Y.S.A. The club offers skating lessons in basic skills for beginning skaters, advanced figure skating for those who have completed basic skills, along with teen and adult basic skills instruction. Programs in hockey power skating skills are also provided.

The coach is Tamarah Hooper, a former professional and competitive figureskater.

She is an accredited member of the Professional Skaters Association and is qual-

ified to teach at all levels.

The rink is used by a wide variety of community members. Public skating is available on weekends.

The rink also offers the opportunities for ice rentals, Friday night teen skate, adult open skate, parent and tot sessions, along with fitness skating during noontime.

Another exciting aspect of the rink is the curling league that is presently organizing.

Programs are offered throughout the day and evening hours. It is not unusu-

al to find advanced figure skaters at the rink at 6 a.m.

As an individual sport, figure skating allows skaters to progress at their own speed and compete at regional competitions.

"I love going to competitions, but the atmosphere holds a lot of tension and stress, so sometimes it is hard to stay calm and focused," junior Timmi Lunsford said.

Competitive figure skating takes a good deal of moxie. Figure skaters skate a solo program be-

tween one and a half and four minutes in length.

They utilize artistry and athleticism as they perform footwork, spins and jumps. A figure skater performs on a sheet of ice 200' long by 85' wide - under bright overhead lights.

In front of family, friends, coaches and audiences, she will enter the arena, present herself on the ice to a panel of judges and ask to be judged.

The ice is slippery, but figure skaters learn quickly how to stand on their own two feet.

Figure skating also has a team sport component. It's called "synchronized skating." A synchro team typically consists of anywhere from 6 to 20 skaters performing choreographed or synchronized routines.

Whether as an individual or a team, advanced figure skating requires dedication, commitment and effort just like any varsity sport.

Advanced skaters skate and train every day and quite often twice a day.

Central South Dakota is fortunate to have a rink with available ice time and a highly qualified and dedicated professional coach to assist figure skaters, hockey players, adults and anyone wanting to improve skating skills or use ice skating as a fitness program.

Surprise wins brings exciting end to wiffle ball

By Megan Farris

Intramural wiffle ball season wrapped up last month with a final tournament.

"Tyler Arbach's team came from nowhere to win; they had won like three games

the whole season and then upset the two best teams in the tourney," intramural supervisor Dan Snyder said.

"It's not all about winning-unless you're the winner," senior Ryan Lauseng said.

The two best teams

were surprised when they got beaten.

"We may have done a little too much chugin' and not enough sluggin'," Lauseng joked.

"I do intramurals because I like to laugh. It helps me stay

thin and fit. It also is great for our kids to have something to do other than sitting in front of a screen. You see a lot of kids smiling when they come and go. It's awesome,"

The next intramural activity will be floor hockey.

"It's not all about winning - unless you're the winner."

-senior Ryan Lauseng

Bachelor of the month Alec Anton '10

Eye color: blue/
green
Height: 5'10"
Personality: Negative
Favorite Movie:
Capitan Ron



When was your first relationship?
Fourth grade.

Do you think everyone deserves a second chance?
Yes, unless murder is involved.

Who should pay on the first date?
Whoever chose the place.

If your girlfriend cheated on you, would you take her back?

I don't know, how hot is she?

What's the most important value in a relationship? To own a boat.

What attracts you to the opposite sex? A calm attitude and not taking anything too seriously. Also if they like watching the Price is Right.

What's the biggest turn-off? Bad breath.

True love or a billion dollars? A billion dollars can buy you love.

Are there any lucky ladies you're currently crushing on?
Probably not.

Bachelorette of the month Baillie Smith '10

Eye color: hazel
Height: 5'6"
Personality: fun
Favorite Movie:
Forgetting Sarah Marshall



When was your first relationship?
Kindergarten.

How short was your shortest relationship?
Six hours...I just wasn't feeling it!

Who should pay on the first date?
Well, technically guys should pay, but you can't always expect

Have you ever broken a boy's heart?
Yes; every guy I walk by in the halls! Sorry boys!

If your boyfriend cheated on you, would you take him back?
Umm, no!

Do you believe in

love at first sight?
Most definitely!

Looks or personality?
Personality...okay, looks!

What attracts you to the opposite sex?
A sense of humor.

True love or a billion dollars?
Or I could just fall in love with a billionaire!

Are there any lucky boys you're currently crushing on? Of course!

H1N1: Absences are rising

By Regan Duvall

First called Swine Flu, the H1N1 virus appeared in Mexico and California during the month of April. The novel H1N1 virus is a type of swine influenza, originally derived from a strain that lived in pigs, and this origin gave rise to the common name of "swine flu."

This term is widely used by the media. Despite this origin, however, the strain was transmitted between people and did not come from pigs.

The United States Secretary of Agriculture made clear that there is no risk of contracting flu from eating cooked pork products, so everyone can continue to enjoy bacon.

Though most Americans have realized that eating pork is safe, not every country sees it that way. In April, Azerbaijan banned the importation of American animal husbandry products.

The Indonesian government also halted the importation of pigs and 9 million pigs examined in Indonesia. The Egyptian government as well ordered the slaughter of all pigs in Egypt.

The majority of patients experience mild symptoms,

but some people in higher risk groups—pregnant women, diabetic people, those with asthma, obesity, and heart disease—are more susceptible to it.

In severe cases, including ones with healthy people, there is a frequent pattern of disease progression: around 3-5 days after symptoms are

then touching the mouth or nose.

Symptoms last up to a week and are similar to those of seasonal flu and can include fever, sneezing, sore throat, cough, headache and muscle or joint pains.

To avoid spreading the infection, the Center for Disease Control recommends that those

Although we have not seen too many effects of H1N1 in South Dakota, it is definitely here. In the state, one death, 191 lab-confirmed cases of H1N1 flu and 25 hospitalizations have been reported.

This pandemic is much bigger in other states and other countries; a school in California shut down after just one student tested positive for H1N1.

School nurse Jeri Wiebesaid that recently 17% of the school district's students have been absent for sickness. Only 10% of Riggs students have been absent.

Typically this time of year only 3-5% of the students in the Pierre district are absent.

When someone is sick, he or she can be tested for influenza, and if the test says that person has influenza A, it's most likely H1N1.

As with any spreading sickness, students are urged to keep clean. Do everyone a favor and stay home if you are sick, or don't get sick in the first place by sanitizing.

Consider buying a small container of Germ-x or Lysol to put in your locker, purse, or pocket. It can make a big difference.

Scary facts about H1N1

46 states are reporting widespread influenza activity, including South Dakota.

All over the country, hospitalization for flu is much higher than expected for this time of year.

The vaccine for the flu of 1976 caused Guillain-Barré syndrome, which is a form of paralysis.

The World Health Organization has put the pandemic alert level at Phase 6, the highest level since 1968.

There have been over 2,475 deaths from H1N1 in 62 different countries.

apparent, the sufferer's condition quickly declines.

Like other influenza viruses, novel H1N1 influenza is spread by sneezing, coughing, or touching contaminated surfaces and

with symptoms stay home from school, work, and crowded settings; in general, wearing facial masks was, however, not recommended, except in health care settings.