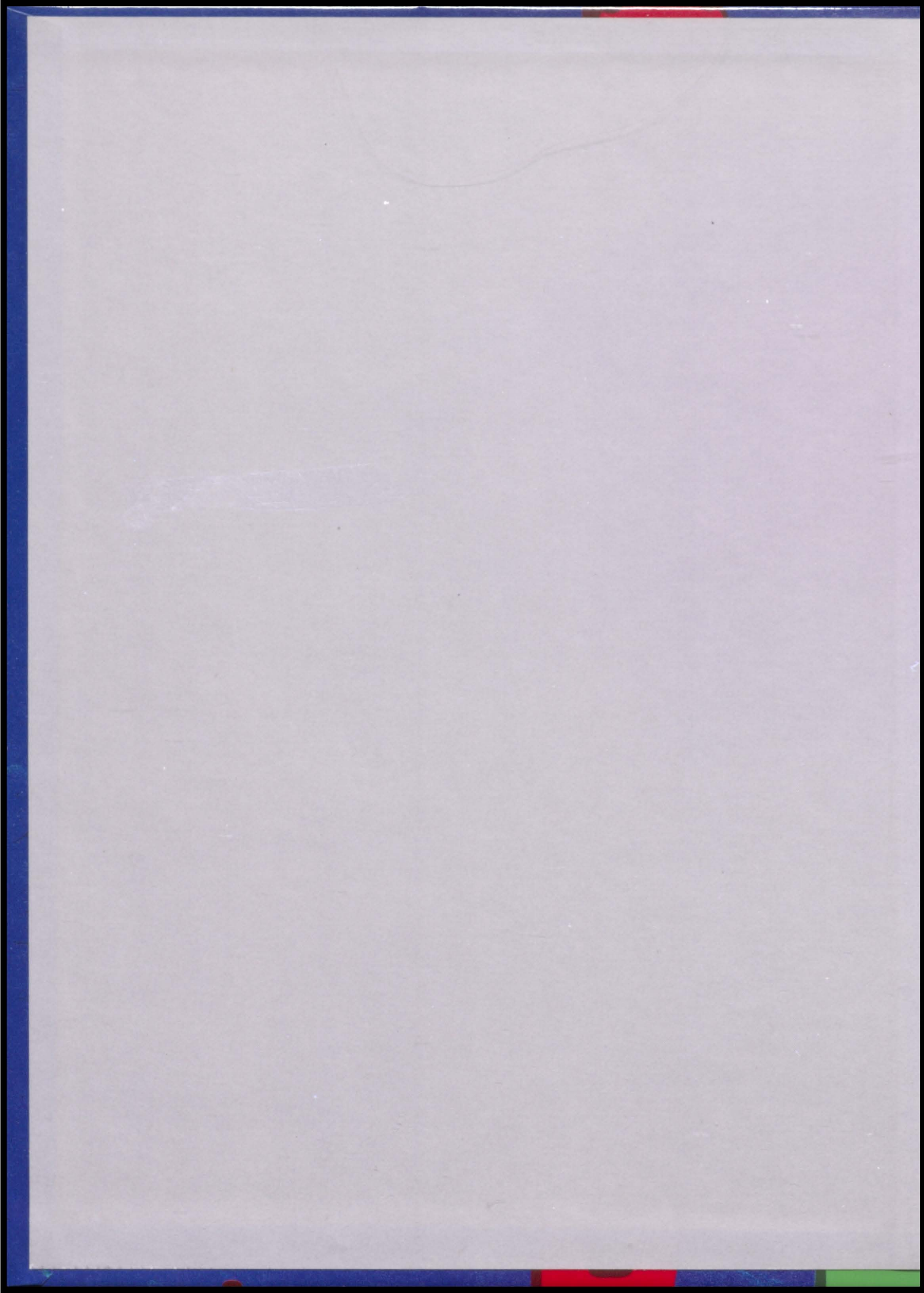


putting it
ALL
together

Koobraey



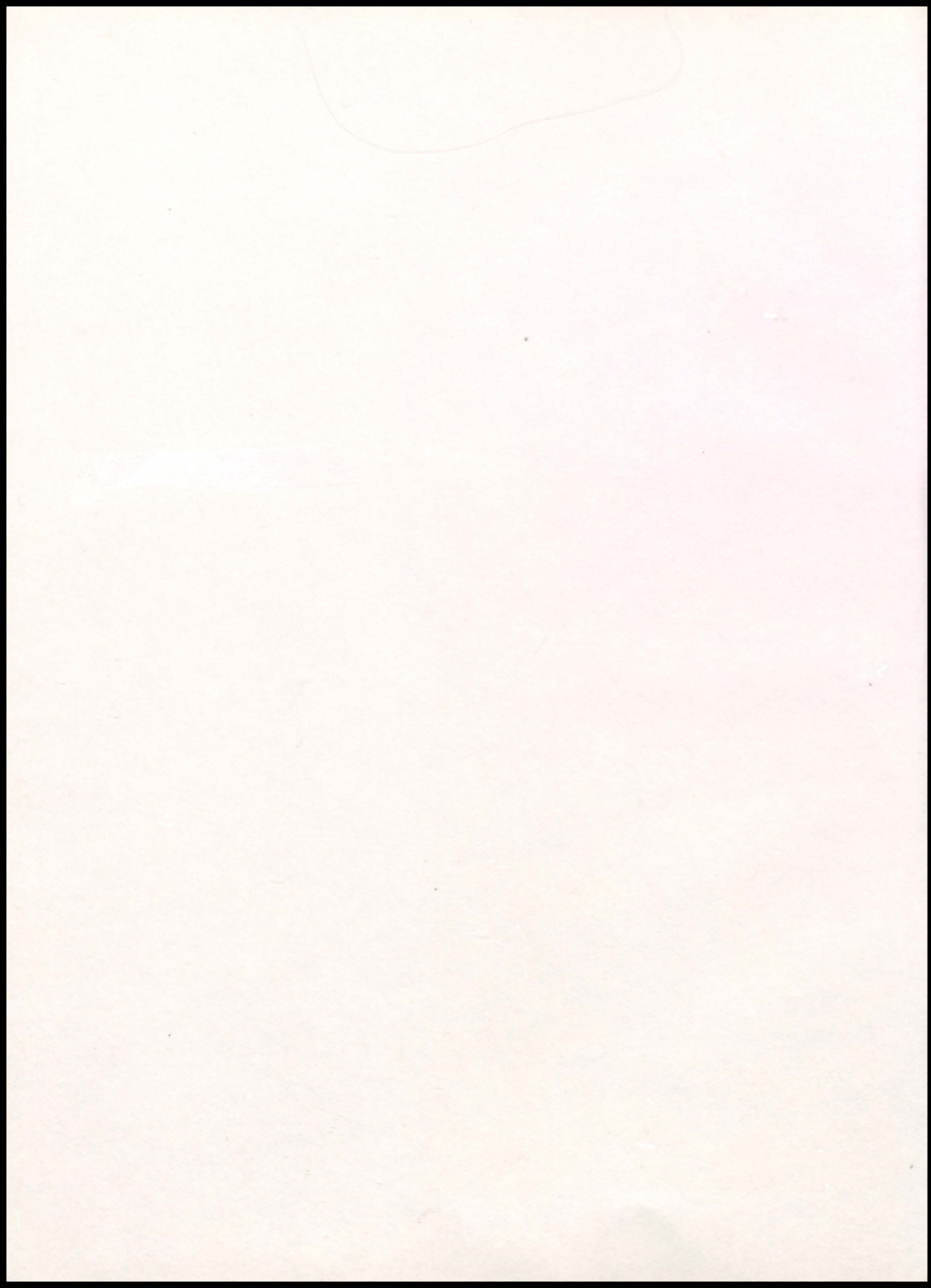
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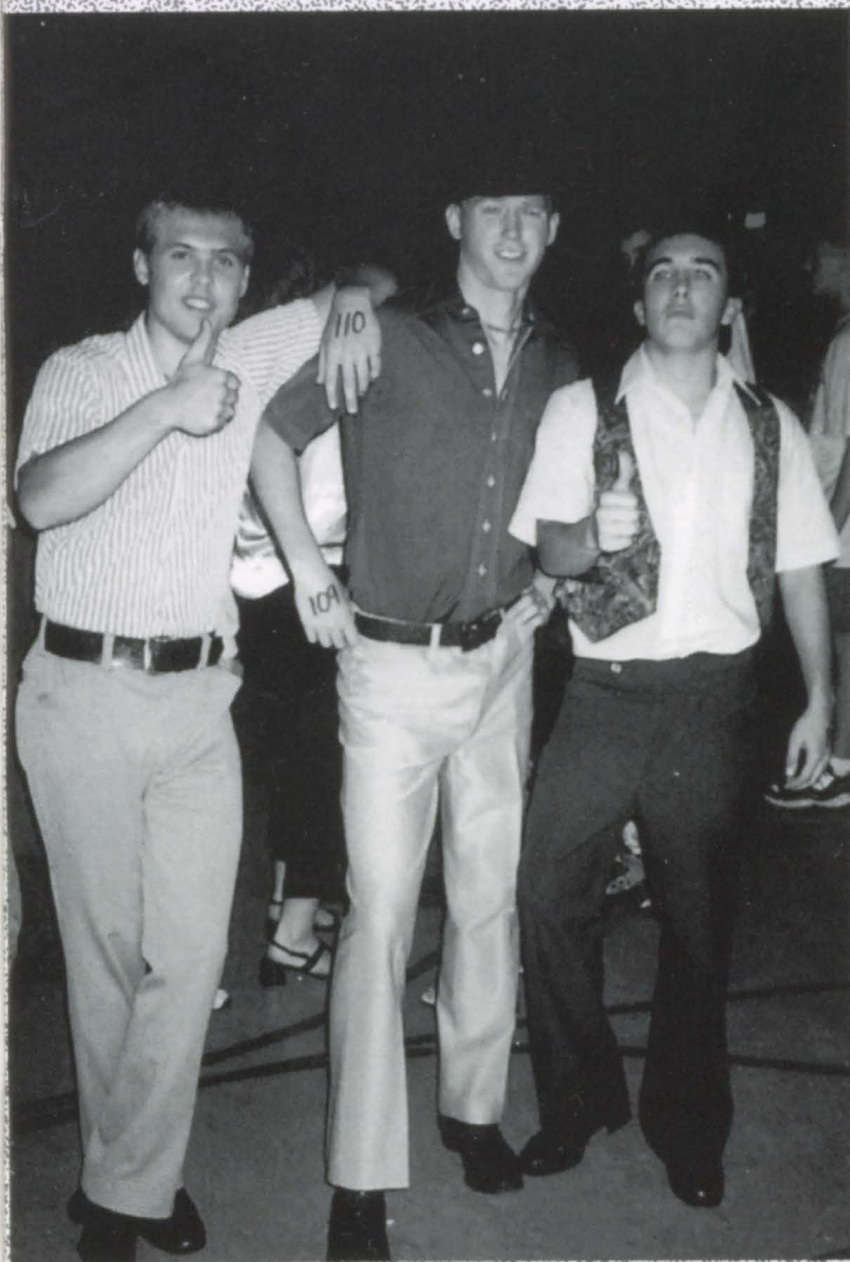
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putting it
ALL
together



'99
Koobraey

published by

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High School*

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Student Population:

*K-5: 146
6-8: 83
9-12: 172*

Total students: 401

70's Chic

A shopping trip to Savers in Sioux Falls yielded polyester outfits for Jon Harms, Kent Peterson, and Matt Barnett to wear to a fall dance.

putting it ALL together...

For McCook Central students, faculty, and staff, this was a year of picking up the pieces and “putting it ALL together” again literally and figuratively after Spencer was hit with a tornado on May 30 destroying the homes of many families who attend or work at school.

All year the school and the Spencer and Salem communities attempted to put things back together again. From replacing awards and yearbooks to rebuilding homes, the process continued with people pulling together to put it all together.



Bricks and mortar. The McCook Central High School is built from bricks and mortar, but the students and staff make the school what it is.

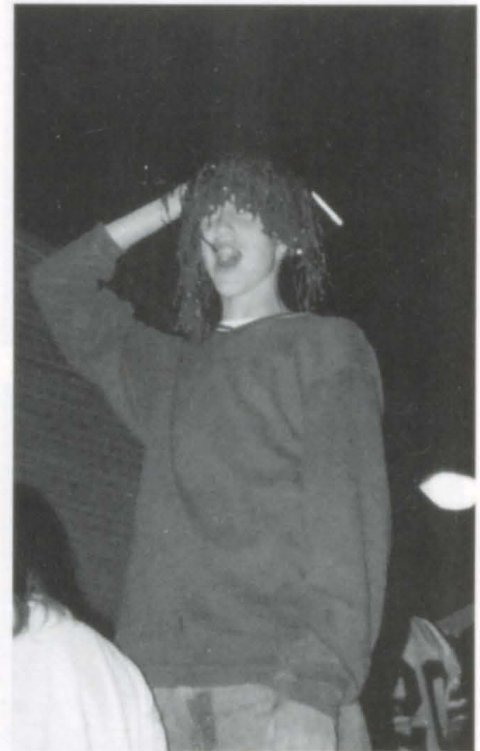
Tornado damage. Mrs. Shirley Koepsell stands in front of Security State Bank in Spencer after the tornado. The vault is all that remained of the building.





Wrestling maneuvers? Cross country runners Tom Chase and Brad Gessner relieve a little stress at a meet.

New hairstyle. Sophomore Justin Wubben clowns around with a pom pom at a football game.

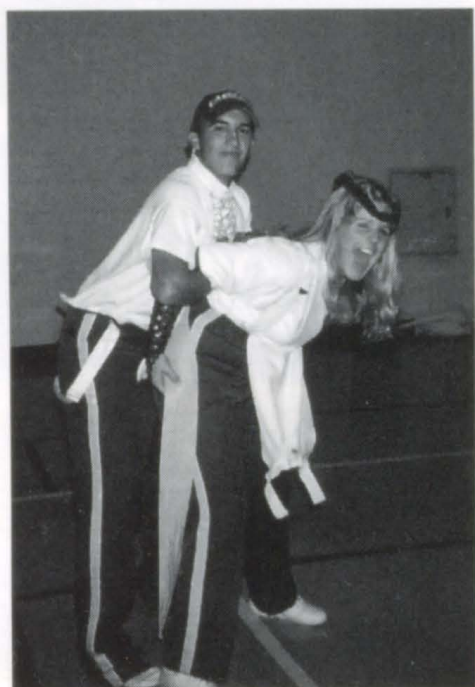


Behind the scene. Amy Pulse, Tara Benson, and the other flag girls fold and put away flags after each performance.

Study hall. Andy Olinger, Kyle Myren, Mike Gottlob, Jeremy Gross, and Joey Rotert share a table in the study hall.

They put it all together. The football team was the only team in the history of the school to make the playoffs.

Now, where do we go next? Andrea Roth and Robin Stanga consult the formation charts at marching band practice.



Backstage antics. Matt Barnett and Brandy Stiefvater have fun before a marching band performance.

Good luck! The cheerleaders hold a good luck banner for the football players at playoffs.





Thumbs up. Sophomore Jon Harms gives a thumbs up signal. This was a "thumbs up" kind of year for MCHS.

Winners. Jazz band members Andrea Roth, Kim Ecklein, Jessie Weber, Sue Pulse, and Melissa Eichacker perform one of their award winning numbers.



...one piece at a time

Putting together a team, an academic program, or an activity relies on the efforts of many individuals. Each person has something to contribute to the overall picture that is McCook Central.

The Cougar football team pulled together to make the first round playoffs. The jazz band polished its performance to award winning quality. The boys' track team won the regions again. The girls' golf team won the state meet.

Sometimes pulling together means quietly helping a friend through a hard time. Whether in private or before a crowd, Cougars "put it ALL together".



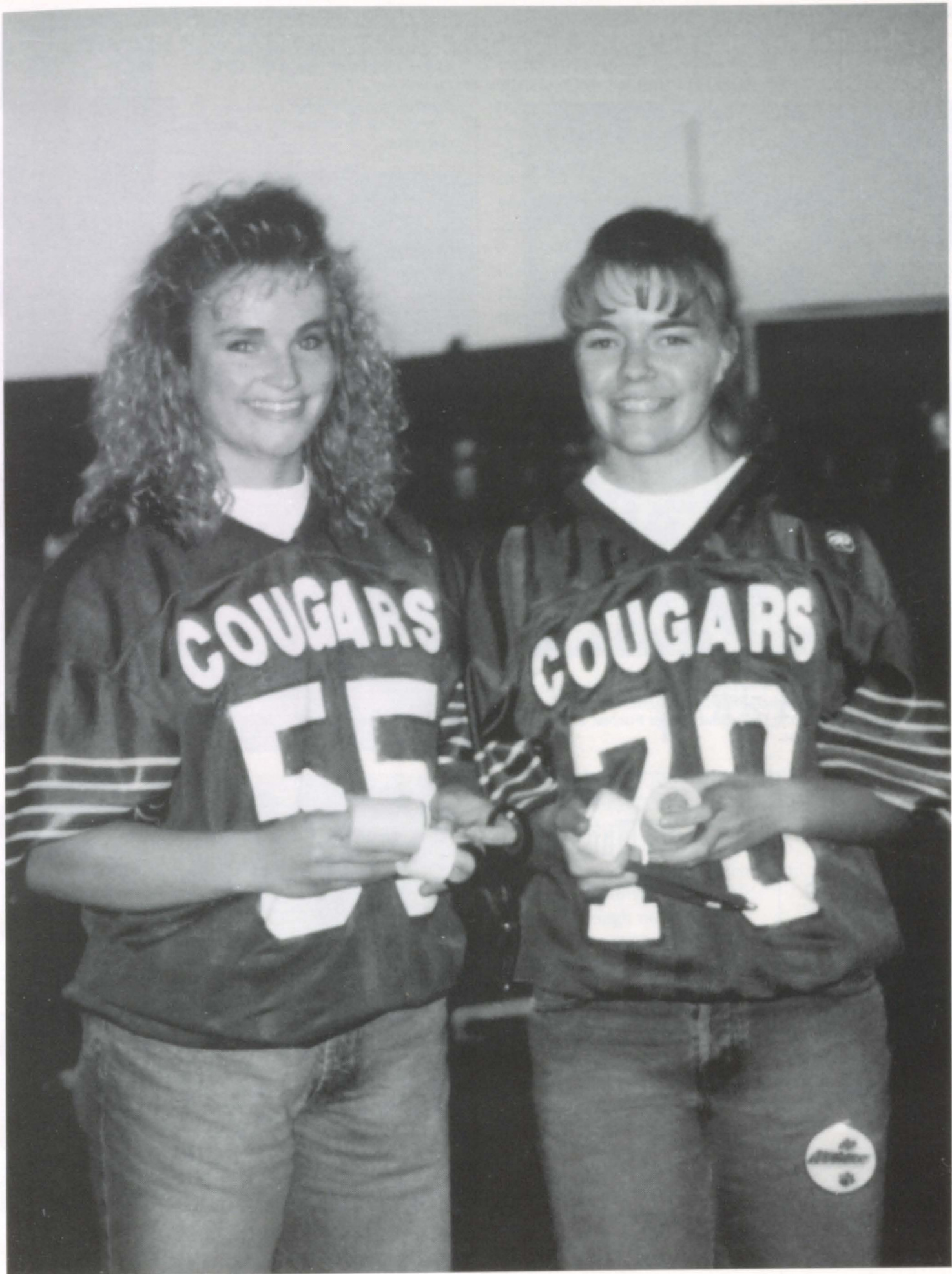
Putting it ALL together

Sports

Sports are important not only to the athletes who participate in them, but also for the student body. To succeed in any sport, it takes practice, persistence, talent, and support. The Cougars had all of these going for them as they enjoyed one of the best sports seasons in years. School spirit was shown at all of the games through cheering, words of encouragement, and good fan behavior.

In a major turning point for the football players, they made the first round of play-offs. Mr. Keith Huber, the high school principal and head football coach at Harrisburg said, "I would like to compliment your students, parents, fans, and football team for their sportsmanship and behavior during and following the play-off game. You have a class act there."

Tape 'em up. Student athletic trainers, Katie Huls and Angie Duxbury carry rolls of tape with them at a football game.



Boys' Cross Country. Front row: Eric Shierholz, Darrin Eichacker, Danny James, Grant Bartscher, Reese Ecklein. Row 2: Brad Gessner, Doug Koch, Jesse Bruns, Tom Chase, Derek Eichacker.



Girls' Cross Country. Front row: Becca Aden, Beth Mehlbrech, Jennifer Streff, Amber Fischer, Sherri McGregor. Row 2: Andrea Peterson, Stephanie Dickson, Heather Fischer, Kristina Ecklein, Amber McGregor.

“Cross country is awesome! I love the teamwork and the pop-sicles.” —
Amber Fischer



Boys' Meets	
Beresford	2nd
McCook	4th
Jesse James	3rd
Freeman	1st
Howard	2nd
West Central	1st
CVC	3rd
Garretson	
Region	3rd
Madison	
State	15th
Mitchell	

Determination. Sophomore Doug Koch shows his strength and determination as he strives to finish off Garretson's hilly course. He placed 19th at this CVC meet.

Striding. Amber Fischer runs to a second place finish at the CVC meet in Garretson.

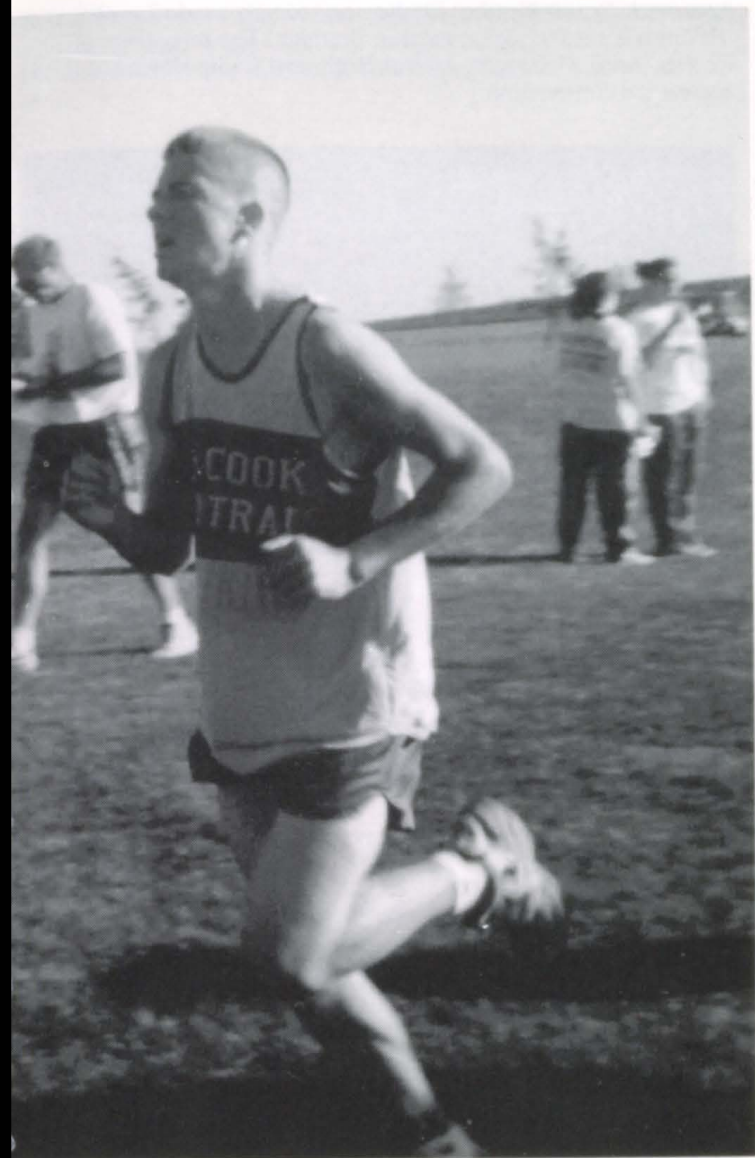


Girls' Meets	
Beresford	2nd
McCook	2nd
Jesse James	2nd
Freeman	4th
Howard	2nd
West Central	3rd
CVC	3rd
Garretson	
Region	4th
Madison	
State	*
Mitchell	

*No placing



Strategizing. Planning a winning strategy (front) are Derek Eichacker, Tom Chase, Brad Gessner, and Grant Bartscher. Overseeing the operation (back) are Jesse Bruns, Patti McGregor, Sherri McGregor, and Beth Mehlbrech.



Discipline, hard work, and dedication are just a few of the ingredients for an outstanding athlete. Cross country takes all of these things and the willingness to go the distance. Many of the new runners on the teams had never run so far in their lives before. Each person had to defeat their own mind game in each race.

"During practices you would hear the encouraging voice of Coach Gene Danielsen. He reminds the runners as they pass to stay positive because it is a mental game," said senior Kristina Ecklein who was out for cross country for the first time.

The cross country season began on the morning of August 13.

"Getting up for practice at seven is nice when I know that I will be back

"Long slow distance practice days were my favorite." —
Heather Fischer

Run Fast Cross Country Work Hard



Stretching it out. Senior runner Kristina Ecklein stretches to help her relax before a meet. Kristina, like other first-year cross country runners, always wondered if it was normal to be a little nervous for a race.

in bed before the football and girls basketball players even start," said Sherri McGregor.

The boys took an entire team to the state meet. Heather Fischer and Amber Fischer ran for the girls' team. Although not everyone qualified for state, they were all there to support their teammates until the end.

The girls' team grew close this year making it hard for seniors to leave the team.

"To myself and others on the girls team, it was a chance to release our social problems and offer advice and guidance to one another that we could receive at no other place," said Heather Fischer.

Kristina Ecklein, Heather Fischer, and manager Jennifer Streff were the seniors on the team. — *Heather Fischer, Jennifer Streff*



Pacing through the middle. Junior Amber McGregor concentrates on her running form to help her get through the middle of a race.

“Track was fun and very productive for the team.”
— Chris Van Ormer

Both the boys' and girls' track teams started the season by winning the McCook County Relays April 6. The boys won firsts in 13 events and a new meet record in the 110m high hurdles was set by Jon Harms. The girls' team placed first in four events with Missy Tuschen breaking the meet record in the shot put.

Harms set a new school record of 14.2 for the 110 high hurdles at the CVC meet. He broke meet records in that event at Howard Wood, West Central, Danielsen, and finished first in the regions and the state.

Harms also broke the CVC meet record in the 300m intermediate hurdles, set a new school record during the season, and finished third in the state.

Goals, Focus Track Persistence

Teamwork. Senior Heather Fischer runs for the handoff in the 3200m relay at the region meet in Brandon. The relay team of Fischer, April McGregor, Andrea Roth, and Callie Hey place third against the competition.



Casey Nelson set a meet record in the long jump and Chris VanOrmer set meet record in the 200m and triple jump at the CVC. Other athletes breaking school records during the season were Chris VanOrmer with a triple jump of 44'8 1/4", and Brent Roth who set ninth grade records in the 800m and 1600m runs with times of 2.04.31 and 4.44.3.

The boys won Region 3A with eight firsts: Brent Roth, 1600m run; Chris VanOrmer, 400 m run and triple jump; Jon Harms, 110 m high hurdles and the 300m intermediate hurdles (a region record); Casey Nelson, high jump and long jump; and the 800m relay team of Harms, Roth, VanOrmer, and Mitch Rayman.

The 800m relay team of Lisa Peterson, Heather Fischer, Mindi Ecklein, and Becky Mokros placed first in the region meet.

Bounding. Senior Mindi Ecklein triple jumps at a home track meet.

Taking notes. Senior student manager Dawn Stoffel and sophomore student manager Angie Duxbury compare notes at the Cougar Invitational. The two girls took stats throughout the season, rain or shine.



Girls' Track. Front row: Lisa Peterson, Callie Hey, Sheri McGregor, April McGregor, Missy Bungler, Lisa Bellack, Amber Fischer. Row 2: Meganne Gourley, Meredith Gourley, Amber McGregor, Mindi Ecklein, Katie Huls, Marie Petree, Ashley Deters. Row 3: Brandy Stiefvater, Kim Ecklein, Kristina Ecklein, Andrea Roth, Heather Fischer, Becky Mokros, Missy Tuschen. Row 4: Jessie Weber, Tammy Eichacker, Sue Pulse, Sarah North, Tara Benson, Laura Nelson, Stacey Blindert.



Boys' Track. Front row: Tom Chase, Doug Koch, Derek Eichacker, Matt Tjaden, Kent Peterson, Casey Nelson, Jon Harms, Scott Peterson. Row 2: Grant Bartscher, Jesse Bruns, Sean Vandewalle, Mitch Rayman, Justin Wubben, Rick Meyer, Brent Roth. Row 3: Matt Bungler, Chris VanOrmer, Ben Culp, Zach Binfet, Aaron Gough, Jeremy White, Brad Gessner.



Girls' Track

Meet	Placing
McCook County Relays	1st
Cougar Invitational	1st
West Central Invitational	5th
Danielsen Relays	3rd
Central Valley Conference	3rd
Regions	5th
State A	*



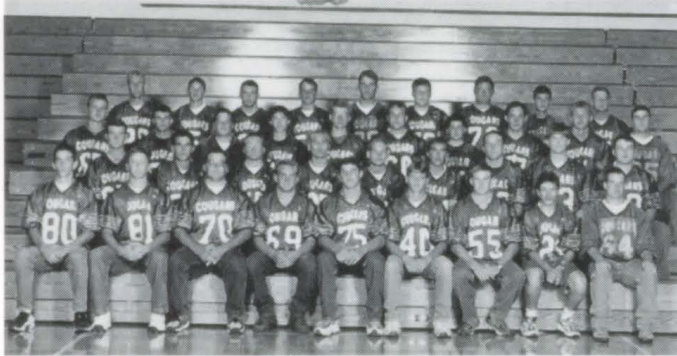
Boys' Track

Meet	Placing
McCook County Relays	1st
Cougar Invitational	1st
West Central Invitational	1st
Danielsen Relays	1st
Central Valley Conference	1st
Regions	1st
State A	9th

“We worked really hard and supported each other well.” — *Kristina Ecklein*

Handing off. Junior Jesse Bruns hands off the baton in the 3200m relay at the Cougar Invitational track meet.

Throwing the pass. Senior Kent Peterson goes back deep before launching the ball to a fellow teammate.



Football. Front Row: Scott Peterson, Brian Sabers, Josh Harvey, Tyler McGregor, Craig Heumiller, Casey Nelson, Brent Deters, Brian Snyders, Jeff Heumiller, Jon Harms, Chris VanOrmer, Matt Barnett, Austin Gregg, Sean Vandewalle, Aaron Gough. Row 3: Jeremy White, Dan Lobien, Mike Oyen, Matt Bunger, Dusty Even, Cam Howard, Josh Pulse, Bo Stevens, Kent Peterson, Terry Krempges. Row 4: Mitch Rayman, Brent Roth, Craig Selland, Joey Rotert, Andy Olinger, Alan Tuschen, Rick Myer, Jasten White, Matt Tjaden.

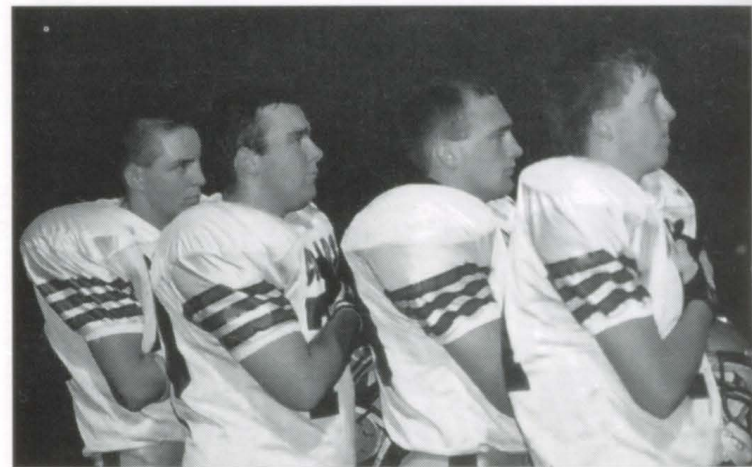


“We had a lot of fun this year, and it was good to see that our hard work finally paid off.”
— Craig Heumiller

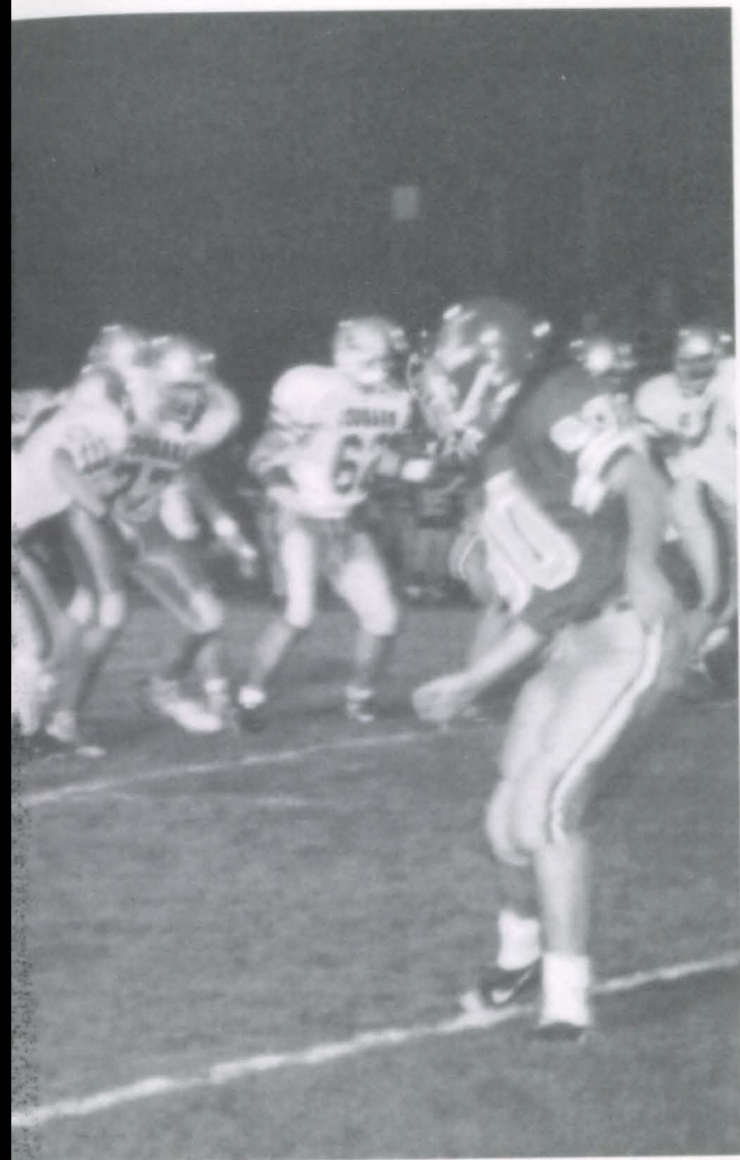


Opponent	We	They
Tri-Valley	22	8
Howard	26	8
Montrose-Canistota	21	8
Sioux Valley	14	7
Dell Rapids	12	18
Flandreau	30	34
Alpena-Wessington Springs	34	0
Garretson	14	0
Harrisburg	13	47

Season Record: 6-3



Pre-game pause. Seniors Austin Gregg, Josh Harvey, Tyler McGregor, and Brian Sabers stand at attention while “The Star Spangled Banner” is sung prior to first-round playoff game against Harrisburg.



When the football team started off with a 22 to 8 win over the Tri-Valley Mustangs, no one expected that the team would make it as far as the first round of play-offs.

"The kids came in with a good attitude having worked really hard in the weight room in the offseason. I was very pleased with our performance this year," commented head coach Jason Huska.

It didn't matter that the Cougars suffered a devastating loss of 13 to 47 against the Harrisburg Tigers in the first round of playoffs, their fans were behind them all the way. Neither the McCook Central Cougars, the Salem Cubs, nor the Spencer Cardinals had ever reached a play-off game prior to the 6-2 regular season of 1998.

"We made it into the play-offs for the first time which leaves the younger kids hungry for the next year." —
Mr.
Huska

Playoff Football Payoff



Post-game huddle. Coach Huska gives the seniors his final talk following a loss against the Harrisburg Tigers in the play-offs. This game wrapped up the football career for most seniors on the team.

Major contributors to this season's success were junior Chris VanOrmer and sophomore Jon Harms.

VanOrmer completed the season with 1,175 total yards of rushing, receiving, and returns. Harms was close behind with 1,079 total yards for the season.

Senior quarterback Kent Peterson completed 35 of 78 attempted passes for a total of 516 passing yards for the season.

A key linebacker, Tyler McGregor averaged 12.7 tackles per game with a total of 114 tackles for the season. McGregor was named honorable mention for the All-State team because of his efforts.

"It was a great season and a great way to get the program started," said senior Aaron Gough. — Dawn Stoffel



Team spirit. Juniors Melissa Eichacker and Kristi Myren show their enthusiasm during playoffs.

“Great things happen when you work hard.”

— Jeff Heumiller

In one of their greatest wrestling seasons, the Cougars finished in 11th place with 54 points at the State B tournament in Aberdeen. Jeff Heumiller won a state title, the first freshman in school history to do so.

The Cougar wrestlers tied the school record, set in 1998, for the most points and highest placing in a state tournament. The wrestlers who qualified for the state tournament are: Jeff Heumiller placing first at 130 lbs., Craig Selland wrestling at 145 lbs., Matt Tjaden placing seventh at 152 lbs., Austin Gregg wrestling at 171 lbs., and Tyler McGregor placing second at 189 lbs.

Three strong seniors, McGregor, Gregg and Tjaden led the team and also broke many school records themselves.

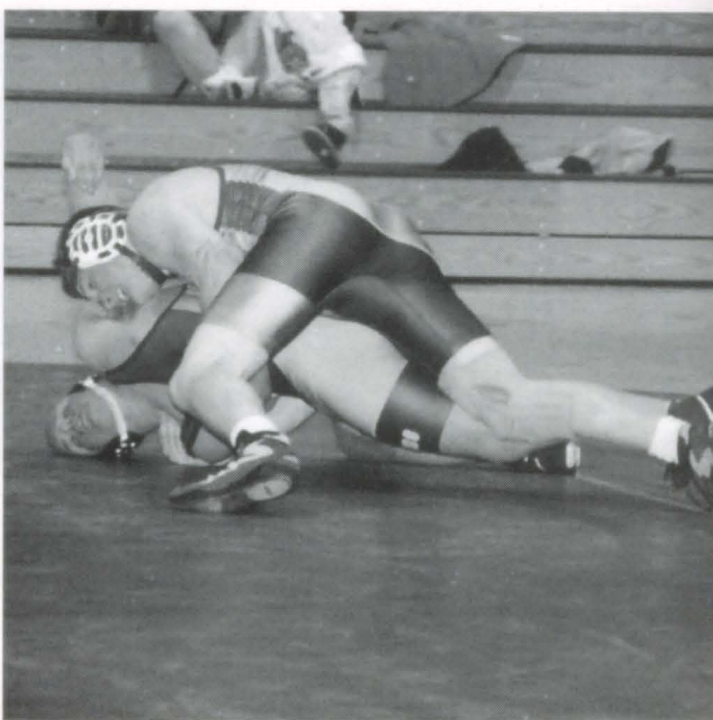
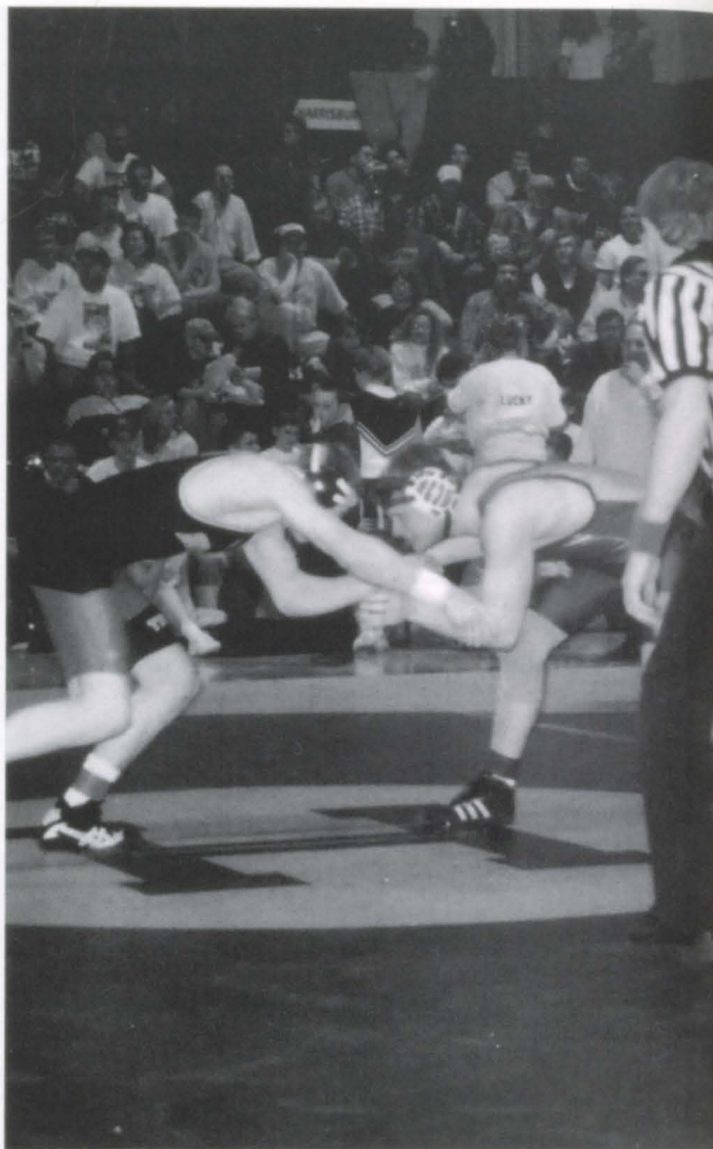
Confidence Wrestling Conditioning

“We lost three great wrestlers, but we have some fine young men coming up in the next few years,” said head coach Mr. Andal.

McGregor was selected to the 1999 all-star team, which made him the first wrestler from McCook Central or Salem to do so.

This year Andal had a new assistant coach, Jake Kamps, in his first year of coaching. Statisticians were Sue Pulse and Megan Gregg, student managers were Seth McGregor, Brandon Mehlbrech and Jeremy Matthies, and cheerleaders were Katie Huls, Stephanie Wahle, Sandi Shape and Kristy Roling.

“I thank my statisticians, managers, and cheerleaders for being there for these guys this year. This was one of the most exciting years that I have ever coached,” said Andal. — *Katie Huls*



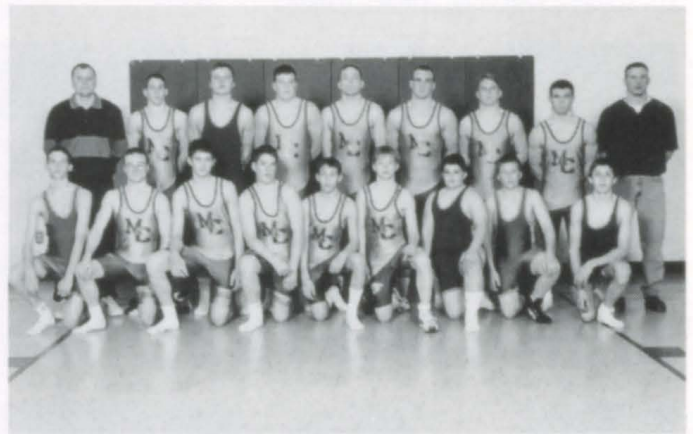
Taking control. Senior Matt Tjaden holds Justin Sisson of Harrisburg for a potential pin at home meet.

Focus. Senior wrestler Matt Tjaden prepares himself to take down Nick Wolf at the Howard tournament.

Last time. Senior cheerleader Katie Huls gives senior wrestler Tyler McGregor his first place medal for the last time at regions.



Wrestling. Front row: Darrin Eichacker, Jeff Heumiller, Jasten White, Mike Oyen, RJ Shape, Matt Braden, Josh Pulse, Duane Pulse, Bryce Mayrose. Row 2: Coach Scott Andal, Jeremy Pulse, Jeremy White, Alan Tuschen, Austin Gregg, Tyler McGregor, Matt Tjaden, Craig Selland, Coach Jake Kamps.



Having fun for the camera. Dr. Gary Harms and sophomore wrestler Matt Braden take time out to smile for the camera.



First place! Freshman Jeff Heumiller stands at the top of the awards stand at the State B tournament and shows that he really is number 1. Jeff placed first in the 130 lbs. weight division, and defeated a senior returning state champion. Jeff is the first wrestler from McCook Central and Salem to earn a state title as a freshman.

Start 2 Finish

Wrestling		
Chester	57	15
Plankinton	52	22
Chester Inv.	2nd	
Howard Invitational	7th	
Flandreau	39	36
Sioux Valley	28	43
CVC Tourney	6th	
McCook Central Inv.	2nd	
Garretson	48	21
Howard	15	42
Sioux Valley	30	39
Dell Rapids	38	36
Harrisburg	24	42
Tri-Valley Inv.	6th	
Tri-Valley	48	27
West Central	35	27
Dell Rapids	34	42
Pipestone-Jasper	29	45
Arlington Inv.	5th	
Yankton JV	43	23
Tri-Valley	42	30
Marion/Freeman	40	26
BonHomme	24	47
Parker	41	25
Flandreau	39	31
Vermillion	48	27
Districts	3rd	
Regions	3rd	
State	11th	
Record:	13-7	

“I love this sport! It takes a lot of hard work and determination, but that’s what wrestling is all about.”
— Tyler McGregor

Varsity girls' basketball. Front row: Heather Peterson, Jessie Weber, Mindi Ecklein, Kim Ecklein, Andrea Roth, Lacey Weber. Row 2: Meganne Gourley, Katie McCormick, Becky Mokros, Kim Westhoff, Meredith Gourley, Missy Tuschen, Tammy Eichacker. Row 3: Kristi Myren, Dawn Stoffel, Katie Huls, Angie Duxbury, Amber Wilkins.



Junior varsity girls' basketball. Front row: Lisa Bellack, April McGregor, Lisa Peterson, Laura Nelson, Alison Klinkhammer, Ashley Deters. Row 2: Jessie Weber, Lacey Weber, Meganne Gourley, Tammy Eichacker. Row 3: Kristi Myren, Dawn Stoffel, Katie Huls, Angie Duxbury, Amber Wilkins.

“I enjoyed playing basketball with all the girls. The season was fun but it went by fast.”
—Lacey Weber



Opponent	We	They
Montrose	78	48
Parker	66	42
Sioux Valley	54	65
SF Christian	78	45
Chester	65	49
Flandreau	42	48
Parkston	55	54
Dell Rapids	85	62
Tri-Valley	47	56
Desmet	58	49
Howard	70	52
West Central	51	66
Garretson	57	26
Garretson	47	33
Tri-Valley	48	66
Howard	52	50
Hanson	57	60
Freeman	62	50
Howard	70	47
Parkston	55	68

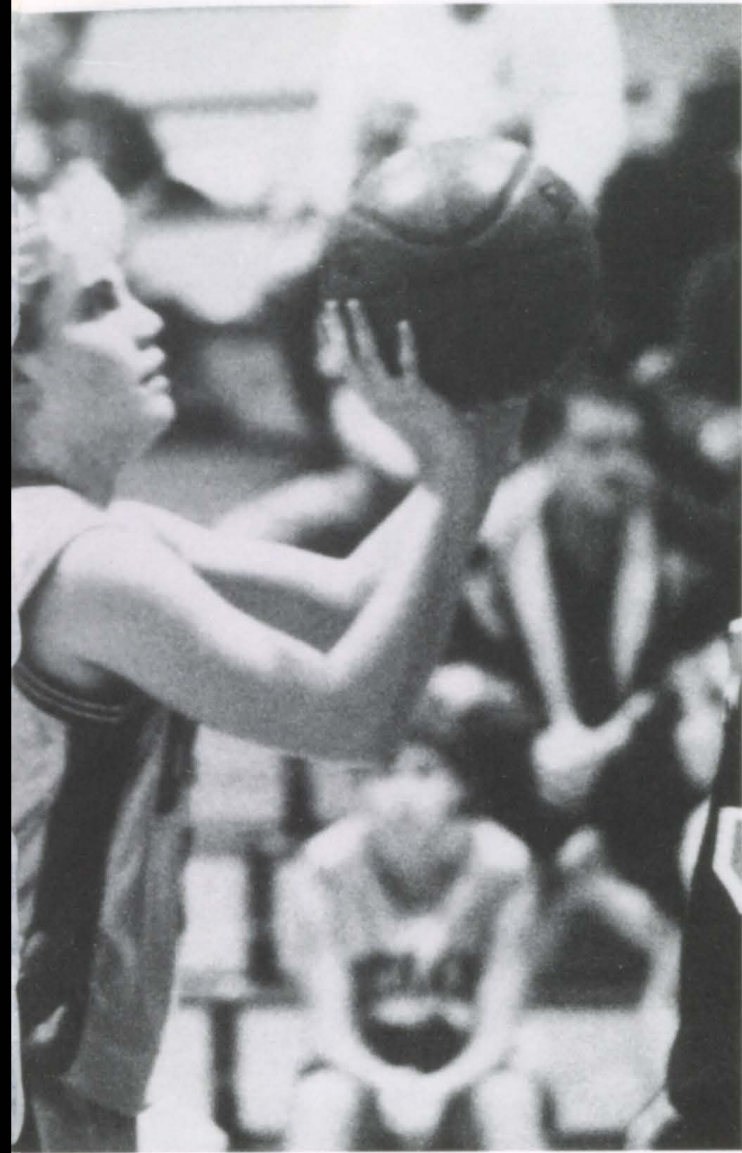
Season Record 13-8

Concentration. Senior Mindi Ecklien concentrates on a freethrow in the Howard game.

Hug. Seniors Katie Huls and Heather Peterson give each other a hug at parents night. They spent the last four years together on the court.



Huddled up. Coach Rasmussen and Wilkins give the girls a quick pep talk at a time out.



On September 24 the Cougars entered the Parkston Trojan gym both excited and nervous. The game was a highlight for many of the players. Mindi Ecklein scored her 1000th point in the first quarter. The Cougars won the game, but not without a fight from the Lady Trojans. A last second shot attempt by Amber Powell counted as two putting the Cougars up by only one point when the buzzer sounded.

Mr. Wilkins coached the team through the conference and district tournaments after Mr. Rasmussen became ill.

The girls' basketball team went 13-7 this year. They brought home a third place victory against Howard in the Central Valley Conference tournament.

“We had a lot of close games this year. Those games make playing ball exciting.”
—Katie McCormick

Team Girls' Hoops Effort



Get fired up. The players give each other a quick pep talk before the game got started.

Seniors Mindi Ecklein, Becky Mokros, Heather Peterson, and Andrea Roth led the team through the season on the court, while Katie Huls helped coach from the bench. Dawn Stoffel kept things organized as the student manager and Katie Huls made sure the team was injury free by participating as the team's head trainer. Both not only helped out physically, but also were a big support through out the season.

“This year's season was a lot of fun! Toward the end, the season was filled with tears, especially from the seniors. In the years to come, I will look back and know the good times are what I'll remember the most. As a coach, I am proud of the team, and as a senior, I'm sad to see it all end. My basketball season's are something I'll cherish forever,” said senior Katie Huls. — Andrea Roth



Think fast. Senior Andrea Roth tries to beat her opponent to the other end of the floor.

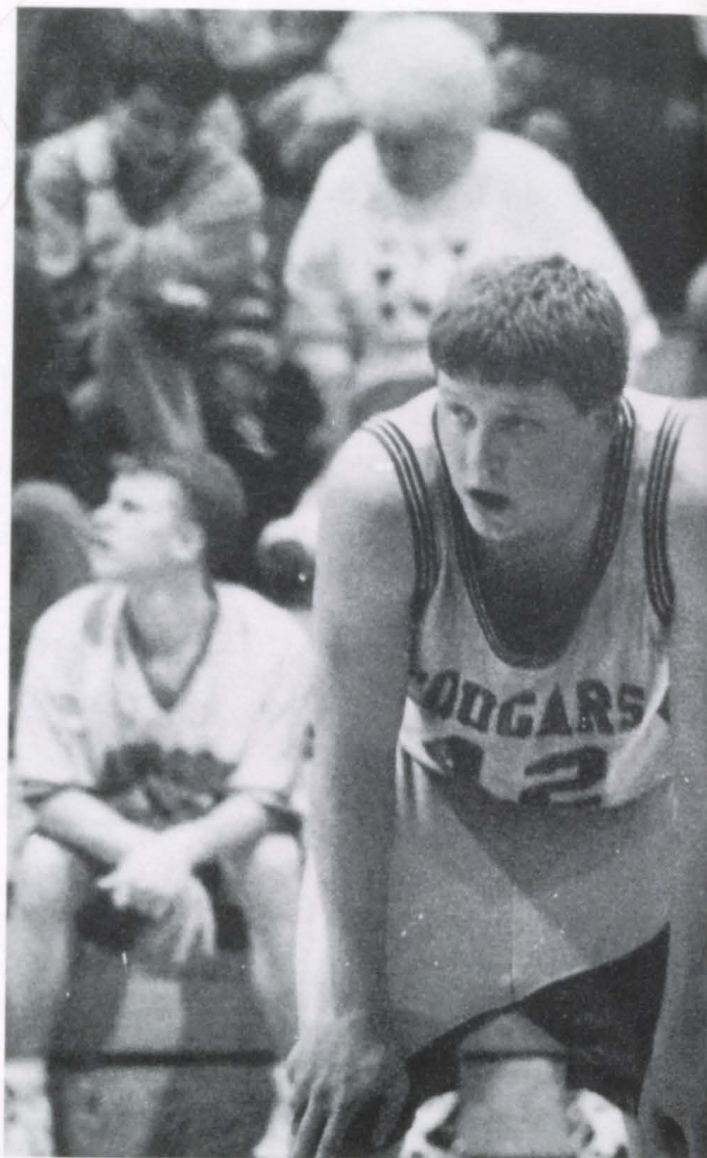
“This was a great bunch of guys; that made it easy and fun to coach them.”
—Coach Grady

As the 1999 boys' basketball team entered a new season, players and coaches were excited and pumped. Five seniors would lead the team through the ups and downs that every season brings. Casey Nelson, Craig Heumiller, Kent Peterson, Scott Peterson, and Brian Sabers stuck together to succeed as a team.

The varsity team finished off the year at 11-8. Junior Chris VanOrmer led the team in points by averaging 19.2 points per game and 6.3 rebounds per game.

The JV team ended the year with a 13-6 record. They were led by Brent Roth who averaged 9.2 points per game, while Pat Barnett brought in an average of 4.6 rebounds per game.

The team enjoyed playing together and helped each other along the way.



Hustle Boys' Hoops Defense

If one player had a rough game, he had his teammates to get him going again.

To succeed as a team it takes more than just one player. It takes dedication from all the players and coaches, determination, and drive. This team did that and had fun along the way.

The boys never traveled without their fans. The student body, parents, teachers, and just loyal Cougar basketball fans attended many of the games.

Some of the games are quite far away, but the McCook Central crowd always seemed to be full. The students became even more involved at district time when they came in school colors to support the team.

—Andrea Roth

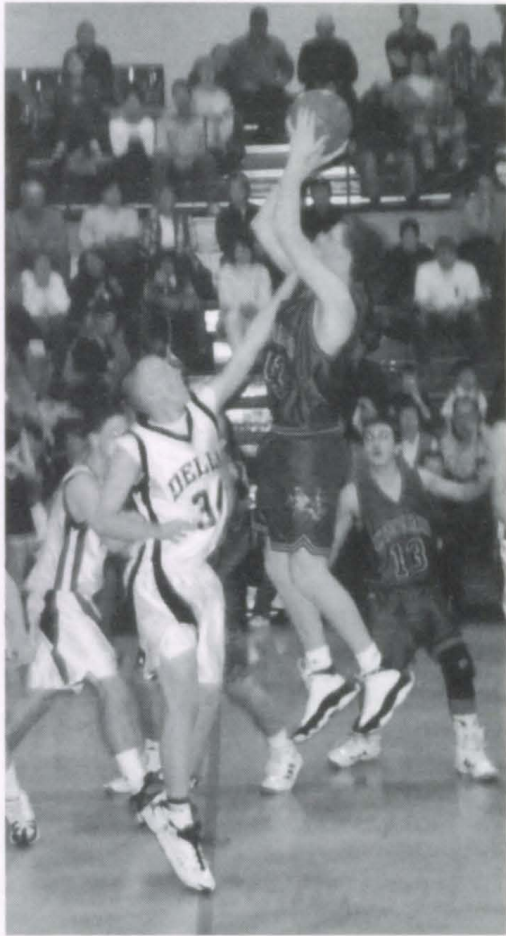


Concentration. Senior Kent Peterson concentrates on his free throw in a home game against Tripp-Delmont.

Jump shot. Junior Chris VanOrmer shoots a jump shot for two against Dell Rapids.

Determination. Senior Brian Sabers and wait to get the rebound from the freethrow being shot.

Shot. Senior Brian Sabers shoots against his opponent in the game against Dell Rapids.



Varsity boys' basketball. Front row: Jesse Bruns, Jon Harms, Casey Nelson, Pat Barnett, Wade Klinkhamer. Row 2: Matt Barnett, Chris VanOrmer, Mitch Rayman, Dusty Even, Brent Roth. Row 3: Bo Stevens, Brian Sabers, Craig Heumiller, Kent Peterson, Scott Peterson.



JV boys' basketball. Front row: Doug Koch, Kyle Myren, Matt Bunger, Grant Bartcher, Gordon Schmidt, Brad Gessner. Row 2: Marshall Hansen, Justin Wubben, Ben Culp, Luke Blindert, Jarad Deters, Micheal Gottlob.



Hustle. Senior forward Scott Peterson hustles down the court to help rebound.



Opponents	We	They
SF Christian	60	66
Howard	70	41
Hanson	48	57
Parker	62	53
Garretson	67	54
Dell Rapids	31	65
Sioux Valley	65	67
West Central	85	92
Sioux Valley	58	68
Emery	49	43
Montrose	70	59
Flandreau	51	55
Tripp-Delmont	69	58
Freeman	64	75
Dell Rapids	70	67
Parkston	45	61
Garretson	49	43
Canistota	69	37
Tri-Valley	71	64
Parkston	65	74

Season Record 11-8

“We had a great group of guys which made basketball fun this year.” —
Kent Peterson

Varsity Volleyball. Front row: Kristina Ecklein, Alison Gottlob, Shelly Karel, Marcia McCorkell, Meganne Gourley. Row 2: Meredith Gourley, Kristi Myren, Tammy Eichacker, Sandi Shape, Jenny Twedt.



Junior Varsity Volleyball. Front row: Tammy Eichacker, Marcia McCorkell, Jenny Twedt, Kristi Myren, Sandi Shape, Diana Schierholz, Megan Warns, Kristin Bruns. Row 2: Sarah Rotert, Angie Van Den Hemel, April McGregor, Callie Hey, Alison Klinkhammer, Maria Jordan. Row 3: Laura Nelson, Ashley Deters, Jolene Krempges, Amber Fischer, Tara Benson, Lisa Peterson.

Teamwork. Meredith Gourley and Alison Gottlob go up together to double block the opponent's spike.

Concentration. Sandi Shape watches closely as her serve goes over the net.



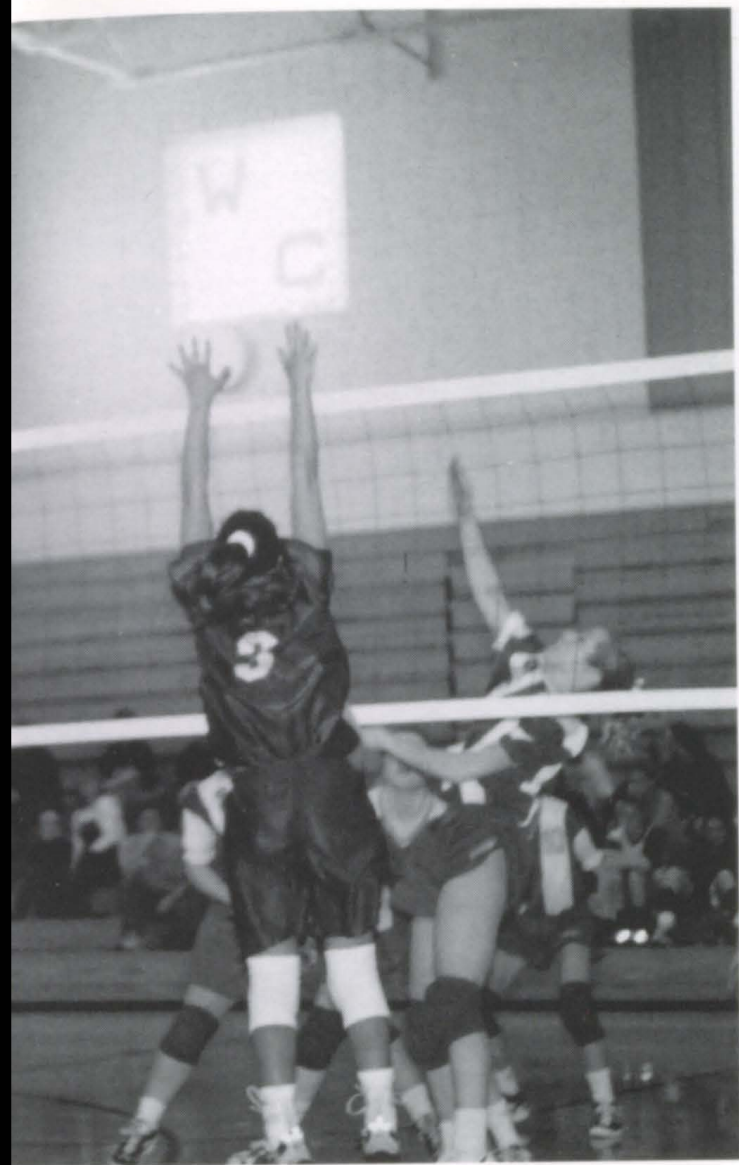
Spike it! Sarah North goes up hard at the net as her fellow teammates prepare for the return.

“Our record didn’t show how hard we worked. Everyone was very supportive of one another.” — Alison Gottlob



Opponents	Scores
Hurley	6-15; 6-15
Tri-Valley	3-15; 2-15
Deubrook	15-7; 15-4
Hamlin	5-15; 7-15
Great Plains Lutheran	15-5; 15-4
Madison	4-15; 3-15
Sioux Valley	2-15; 15-12; 12-15
De Smet	10-15; 15-10; 12-15
Dell Rapids	6-15; 8-15
Garretson	15-13; 15-4
Hanson	15-10; 6-15; 7-15
Scotland	14-16; 6-15
Marion	9-15; 9-15
Avon	10-15; 7-15
Parker	4-15; 4-15
Freeman	3-15; 9-15
Parkston	7-15; 9-15
Flandreau	6-15; 15-7; 0-15
West Central	14-16; 7-15
Scotland	4-15; 15-9; 11-15
Bon Homme	4-15; 1-15
Garretson	15-13; 15-13
West Central	8-15; 0-15
Flandreau	4-15; 4-15
Howard	1-15; 15-13; 10-15
Menno	15-6; 13-15; 15-9
Parkston	2-15; 4-15
Howard	6-15; 12-15

Season Record: 5-23



Twelve girls lined up along the court facing their opponents. Excitement and nervous anticipation could be felt throughout the gym as, one by one, their names and numbers were called out. The anthem was sung, and the girls ran along the net, wishing their rivals "good luck." Combinations of feelings showed — determination, focus, and looks of seriousness. The MCHS volleyball team meant business.

"I liked the half an hour we had to prepare right before a game began. I usually used it to warm up, stretch, and get my mind mentally focused and ready for the game," said junior Shelly Karel.

The volleyball team was young with only two seniors. Although not

"Our season wasn't the greatest, but we still managed to make it fun."

—
Tammy Eichacker

Young Team Volleyball Develops Skills



Warming up. The Cougar volleyball team warms up for the game with a quick scrimmage.

only age, but also size, was a drawback, the players made up for it with talent, skill, and hard work.

"We had some very dedicated players this year that improved many of their skills throughout the season," said coach Deb Eichacker.

The Cougars went through many ups and downs this season. There were old faces gone, new teammates to work with, and a new junior varsity and assistant coach, Wendy Erickson. Hours on the road, wins and losses, and many injuries were weekly occurrences. The season was long and hard but the players never gave up.

"The girls played really tough all season, especially at districts where they lost to Parkston who went on to win the state tournament in Watertown," said Coach Eichacker.

— *Kristina Ecklein*



Ace serve. Kristina Ecklein reaches toward the ball as she finishes up her service point.

“It was a fun year.

It was great to actually win the state title and finish second (individually.)” —

Lacey Weber

Winning the girls’ state golf championship thrilled the MCHS golfers.

The emotion involved in winning a state title was something that I have never experienced. Watching Lacey finish off her second round was so cool. We knew it was going to be close, so when we found out we won, we all were thrilled,” said senior Andrea Roth.

Lacey Weber placed second in the state tourney in Huron.

The girls won the Jesse James Invitational Tourney with Heather Peterson placing first individually.

A first at Dakota Valley followed that win.

In the Dell Rapids Tourney, Lacey Weber placed first and helped the



Self-Confidence GOLF State Win

girls to another team win.

At Marion, it was one, two, three for Lacey Weber, Heather Peterson, and Katie McCormick, again earning the team a first place. They won again at West Central.

In the regions, the girls won a first with a second, third, and fourth place finish by Lacey Weber, Katie McCormick, and Heather Peterson. Kent Peterson placed first.

Firsts for the boys teams were earned at the McCook Triangular with Kent Peterson medaling and at West Central with Brian Sabers medaling.

One of the big plusses of being on the golf team was the camaraderie that developed among the golfers. The boys’ and girls’ teams were close and supported each other. Not only that, but also the golfers got to know many of the golfers from other towns.

Start 2 Finish

Boys' Golf Meet	Placing
Dakota Valley Inv.	2nd
Two Rivers	
Dell Rapids Tourn.	3rd
Dell Rapids	
McCook Central	
Triangular	1st
Salem	
Jesse James Inv.	2nd
Garretson	
Central Valley	1st
Conference	
Marion Inv.	2nd
Par-Mar	
West Central Inv.	1st
Central Valley	
Regions	2nd
Two Rivers	
State B	9th
Hillcrest	



Waiting. The boys’ and girls’ teams held an informal putting contest while waiting for the awards to be handed out at the CVC tourney. Pictured are Heather Peterson and Kent Peterson.



Relaxing. Kent Peterson relaxes at the welcome home party for the golfers in the all-purpose room the day after the state tourney.



State champs. The McCook Central girls won the state B golf championship. Participating in the state meet were Andrea Roth, Katie McCormick, Heather Peterson, and Lacey Weber.

Girls' Golf. Front row: Katie McCormick, Heather Peterson, Lacey Weber. Row 2: Andrea Roth, Andrea Peterson, Mindi Rayman.



Boys' Golf. Front row: Brian Sabers, Kent Peterson, Mitch Rayman, Marshall Hansen, Pat Barnett, Mike Oyen, Jasten White, Drew Peterson, Ross Wickman. Row 2: Brent Roth, Nick Snyders, Matt Barnett, Justin Koch, Brian Snyders, Dan Lobien, Chad Schulte.



Relaxing. Golfers Marshall Hanson, Mitch Rayman, Brent Roth, Pat Barnett, Matt Barnett, and Brian Sabers relax outside the Central Valley clubhouse and wait for awards after the CVC meet at Hartford. Both the boys' and girls' teams placed first in that meet.



Girls' Golf	Placing
Meet	
Dakota Valley Inv.	1st
Two Rivers	
Dell Rapids Tourn.	1st
Dell Rapids	
McCook Central Inv.	1st
Salem	
Jesse James	1st
Garretson	
Central Valley Conference	1st
Central Valley	
Marion Tourney	1st
Par-Mar	
West Central Inv.	1st
Central Valley	
Regions	1st
Two Rivers	
State B	1st
Fox Run	

“Golf was fun this year. We had two great teams that made traveling together fun.” — **Kent Peterson**

Wrestling cheerleaders. Front row: Kristi Roling, Katie Huls, Stephanie Wahle.

Energy. The competition squad performing the 1998-1999 routine for the home crowd.



Smile. Senior Andrea Roth and junior Amber McGregor cheer on the basketball team in the districts game in Parkston.

Spirit. Senior Julie Bauer cheers on the football team at a home game.



“The morning practices were early but things came together eventually.”
—Julie Bauer



Cheerleading competition squad. Front Row: Andrea Roth, Brandi Stiefvater, Mindi Ecklein. Row 2: Julie Bauer, Sherri McGregor, Kristina Ecklein. Row 3: Stephanie Wahle, Kim Ecklein, Amber McGregor, Katie McCormick. Row 4: Kim Westhoff, Missy Tuschen, Angie Duxbury.



Varsity boys' basketball and football cheerleaders. Front row: Amber McGregor, Kristina Ecklein, Andrea Roth. Row 2: Kim Ecklein, Mindi Ecklein, Julie Bauer.



"We got spirit! Yes we do!" The cheerleaders did many things to cheer on their teams and lift school spirit. The year was full of games and practices. All the squads were busy helping pump the kids up for big games and matches.

In January, 13 cheerleaders and non-cheerleaders joined together to make a competition squad which participated in the state cheerleading competition in Huron.

Placing fourth at the state level was an exciting time for all the members of the the squad involved.

The girls choreographed the three minute routine themselves and set up practice times to learn the up-beat routine.

All the girls' schedules were busy so they resorted to early mornings.

"Our routine was tough, but we pulled it off. The setbacks just pushed us to work harder."
—Kristina Ecklein

Dedication Cheerleading Determination



JV boys' basketball cheerleaders. Front row: Jenni Schock, Lisa Bellack. Row 2: Tara Benson, Maria Jordan, Andrea Mayrose.

The morning practices left them tired, and conflicts made the road tough for the girls, but all paid off in the end.

The home crowd was very supportive of the cheerleaders. They cheered loud for the team and their spirit shone through at districts when many students dressed in the school colors and came to Parkston to cheer the boys' basketball team on. With the first trip to the football playoffs, many students arrived to cheer on the the team from the sidelines. The trip to the playoffs attracted more than just football fans. Many faces in the crowd appeared for the first time.

Five seniors, Julie Bauer, Kristina Ecklein, Mindi Ecklein, Katie Huls, and Andrea Roth cheered their final games this season after six years of hard work as cheerleaders.—*Andrea Roth*



Emotion. Seniors Austin Gregg and Katie Huls hug while Austin receives his medal at the Dell Rapids tournament.



Putting it ALL together

Clubs & Academics

MCHS students put the year together by filling their spare time with a variety of activities. They participated in sports, clubs, and music while other students participated as fans for those activities and gave their support to those who were involved.

Homecoming put the year into high gear and was a fun time for classmates to get together and socialize while working on their floats.

For some, the school year seemed to drag on; others felt that the school year went by way too fast.

The April prom, with the Beauty and the Beast theme, made students realize that one more year was almost over.

Graduation was the last piece to fit in the puzzle and make the school year come to a final closing. — Melissa Newbrough

Bandos. Senior band members Katie Huls and Dawn Stoffel wait for a marching competition to begin.



SUPREME COURT TRIP

View Justice

The senior class viewed the South Dakota Supreme Court proceedings held at Washington High School on October 19.

"I liked watching the personalities of the justices. I also liked watching to see how prepared the lawyers were and also how they reacted to the justices' questions," said senior Kent Peterson.

There were three cases argued before the Supreme Court.

"I liked being in the middle of actual justice," said Sue Pulse.

After the court proceedings were finished, the seniors had the choice of eating at Sanchez Taquitos, Ming Wah, Zandbros,

Philips Avenue Bakery or Minerva's.

"It was good food, but not quite my style. I prefer something less formal such as fast food," commented Dawn Stoffel about Minerva's.

However, not all the restaurants received such rave reviews. "The food at Sanchez Taquitos was greasy and pasty," said Matt Kimmel.

The seniors also toured the Old Courthouse Museum and walked through the metal detector at the new courthouse to see the mobile hanging from the ceiling that depicted the history of South Dakota. — *Melissa Newbrough*

Look at the camera. Julie Bauer smiles for the camera while touring the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls.



Look at that. Casey Nelson checks out a helicopter at the National Guard Museum which was one of the last stops during the senior class trip to Pierre.

Viewing history. Kent Peterson and Sue Pulse tour the Old Courthouse Museum.

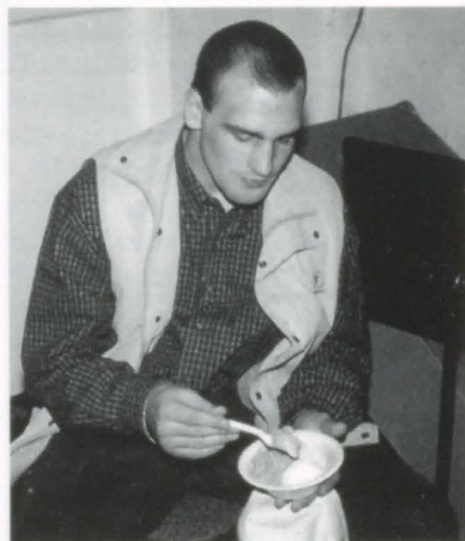




EXPERIENCES

Say cheese. Seniors pose for a picture on the bus during the trip to Pierre.

Cool treat. Tyler McGregor enjoys a dish of ice cream that was provided at the capitol.



Will we ever get there? Seniors who chose to ride on the van to lunch got a surprise when the van stalled because the lights had been left on.



Curious senior. Craig Heumiller checks to see if the legislators keep any goodies on their desks.

Oh, Christmas tree. Dawn Stoffel was decorated like a Christmas tree by the third grade children.

Teacher Assistants

Julie Bauer — Mrs. Vinz
 Kristina Ecklein — Mr. Danielsen,
 Mr. Andal, Mrs. Hansen
 Mindi Ecklein — Mr. Grady
 Mary Beth Feterl — Mrs. Danielsen
 Heather Fischer — Mr. Pfann
 Alison Gottlob — Mrs. Ecklein
 Austin Gregg — Mr. Andal
 Josh Harvey — Mr. Grady
 Katie Huls — Miss Shearer
 Nick Jacobson — Mr. Wilkins
 Matt Kimmel — Miss Shearer
 David Klingberg — Mr. Wilson
 Meredith Lampe — Mrs. Danielsen
 Tyler McGregor — Mr. Rasmussen
 Becky Mokros — Mr. Andal
 Casey Nelson — Mr. Wilkins
 Melissa Newbrough — Mrs. Pistulka
 Beth Palmquist — Mrs. Keehn,
 Mrs. Flanagan
 Heather Peterson — Mr. Rasmussen
 Kent Peterson — Mr. Huska
 Scott Peterson — Mr. Huska
 James Petree — Mr. Pfann
 Sue Pulse — Mrs. Norberg
 Kim Rieckman — Miss Moerke
 Brian Sabers — Mr. Huska
 Ruth Schlenker — Mrs. Anderson
 Brad Schock — Mr. Rieckman
 Brian Snyders — Mr. Grady
 Dawn Stoffel — Mrs. Ecklein
 Jennifer Streff — Mrs. Keehn
 Matt Tjaden — Mr. Wilkins



Is it right or wrong? Sue Pulse grades papers for the first grade class.

Check it out. Library assistant Ruth Schlenker checks out books for Kim Braden.



NEW EXPERIENCES

Teacher Assistants

"Mr. Danielsen really let me do what was best in many situations. He trusted my opinion," said Kristina Ecklein.

Kristina was one of thirty-one seniors who served as teacher assistants.

Some of them used the experience to explore the possibility of becoming a teacher in the future.

"I plan to attend college to become an elementary teacher. I used this to reassure myself that I want to do this for the rest of my life," said senior Dawn Stoffel who served as a teacher assistant in the third grade.

Others combined being a teacher assistant with their favorite subject.

"I was really excited about working with the kindergarten, and the more I can be using music in my school days the better," said Beth Palmquist.

Most of the seniors learned a lot from being a teacher assistant; some of them even learned things from the elementary students.

"I learned how to use all the equipment (copy machines,

laminator, and binding machine). More importantly, I learned how to use PowerPoint on the computer from the third graders," said Dawn Stoffel.

Casey Nelson said that he learned how to be a very good car washer while washing the school vehicles for Mr. Wilkins.

Mary Beth Feterl liked working with the first graders and remembering the fun times she had when she was first grader.

Some seniors realized what it means to be a teacher.

"I learned how difficult it actually is to be a teacher, what you must put up with from the students," said Heather Peterson.

The seniors did not enjoy all aspects of being a teacher assistant. Heather Fischer, Sue Pulse, and Julie Bauer hated rushing around at the end of the period while Matt Kimmel didn't care for the copying machine. Kent Peterson disliked running off entire books for Mr. Wilson. —
Melissa Newbrough

I found it. Becky Mokros helps Mariah Mickelson look for information for her history class where Becky served as a teacher assistant for Mr. Andal.



CLASS CHANGES

Choices, Choices

Students had a large selection of electives to choose from including the new advanced chemistry, the changes in English IV, and a new independent study.

When asked to comment on advanced chemistry, Andrea Roth stated, "It was very difficult, but it taught me the study skills needed for college next year."

The advanced chemistry consisted of labs and tests, using the same format as chemistry, but on a higher level. The class was given in association with Southwest State in Marshall, Minnesota.

The first semester of English IV remained the same as last year's format, writing personal experience essays, profiles, and the big term paper.

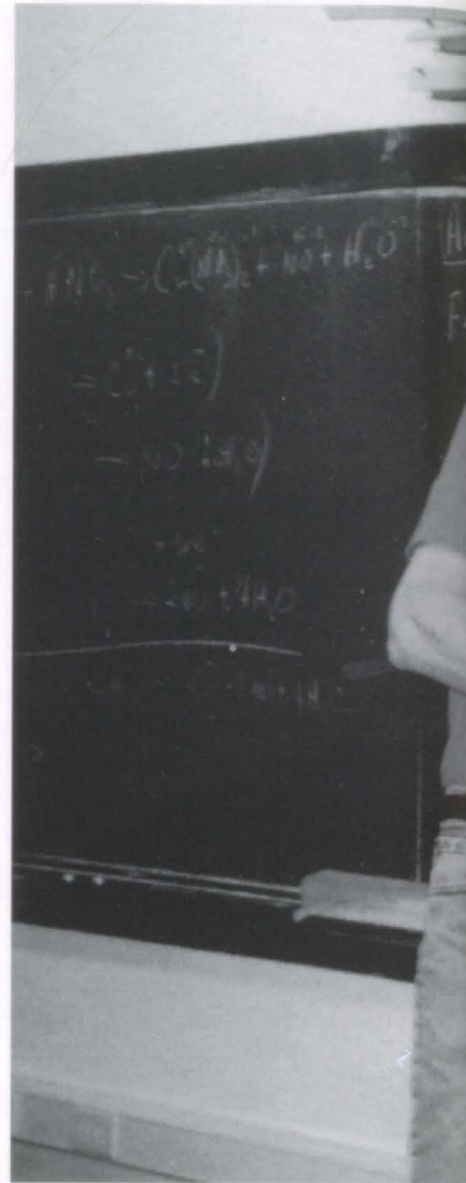
Changes came in second

semester when instead of writing poetry in creative writing, students wrote analytical essays about short stories and novels. This class was also in conjunction with Southwest State.

An independent study in computer programming using morphing was also new. The four students in the class created the senior slide show.

"It was fun to hear about all the comments after graduation. It was hard to get everyone in the slide show in equal amounts, though. The morphing process was a lot easier than I expected it to be," said senior Andrea Roth, who participated in independent study.

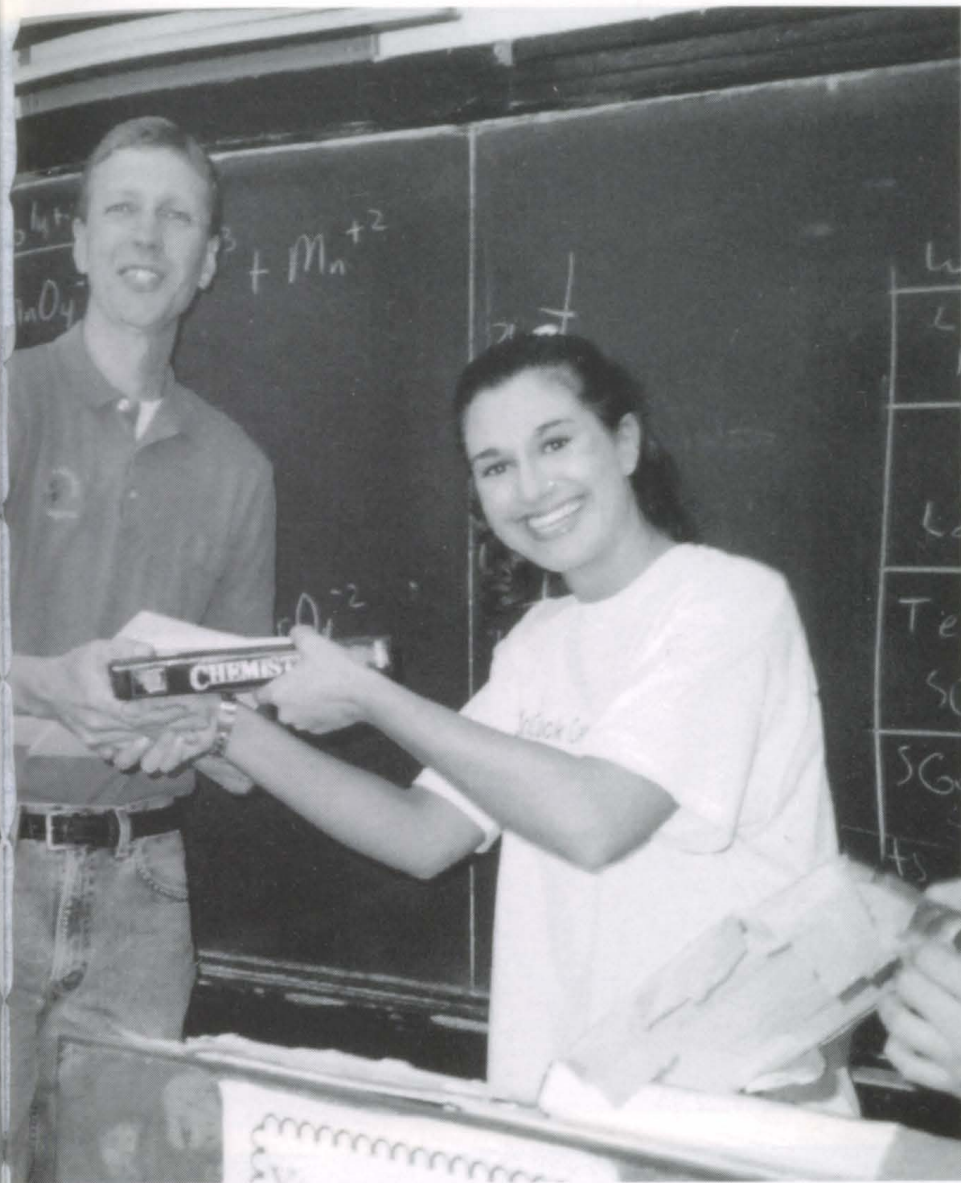
Thirty-one seniors served as teacher assistants to elementary and high school teachers and coaches.— *Alison Gottlob*



Studying intently. Melissa Eichacker is hard at work in study hall. Students are allowed to get pop or food from vending machines during the last twenty minutes of study hall.

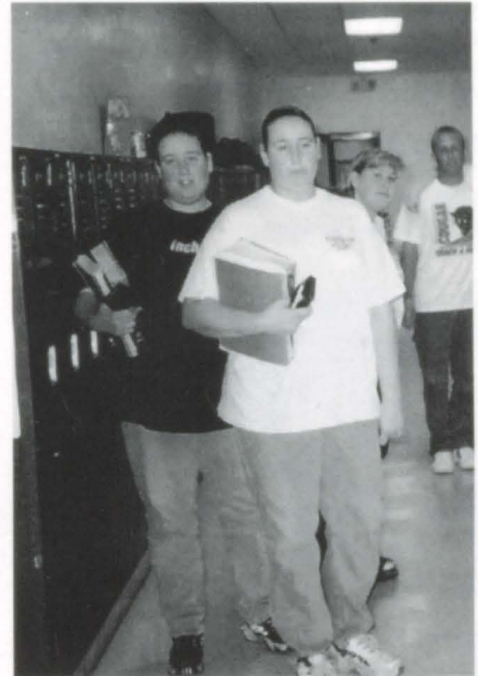


Farewell, Mr. Kimmel. The seventh-hour English IV class breaks one last time before it's time to hand in all those books. Writing term papers, analytical essays, and personal experience essays were some of the tasks assigned to students throughout the year. The class had one junior and a Japanese exchange student with the seniors.



Last day. Alison Gottlob smiles big as she hands in her chemistry book on the last day of school. Seniors last classes were on Friday, May 14.

Taking a break. Jill and Tracy Nowak stop to rest in the hall in between their classes.



Clowning around. Dusty Even, Missy Tuschen, and Sherri McGregor are having fun in Spanish class.

Smile, it's over. Juniors Brandy Stiefvater, Meredith Gourley, Jesse Bruns, and Kristin Kolbeck are all smiles on the last day of chemistry. Kristin, also known as "Kob," shows her peace sign and outgoing sense of style. Students in chemistry were assigned labs, study guides, and tests among other things. Mr. Pfann taught this class, which was his favorite.

Steak, chicken, or shrimp? Senior members Kristina Ecklein, Kent Peterson, Sue Pulse, Katie Huls, Ali Gottlob, and Brad Schock prepare to eat before the induction ceremony.

Region champs. The quiz bowl team consisted of Brian Kuhl, Matt Kimmel, Matt Barnett, Brad Bies, Aaron Gough, and Andrea Peterson.



Tradition. Matt Kimmel lights his candle as he becomes a new member of the National Honor Society.



New inductees. Front row: Melissa Eichacker, Stephanie Wahle, Amber McGregor, Kristi Myren, Shelly Karel, Meganne Gourley. Row 2: Keri VanOvershelde, Meredith Gourley, Kim Ecklein, Jesse Bruns, Matt Barnett, Lacey Weber, Laura Sherman.

SANDWICHES AND SINGING

Honor assignments

Pork, pork, and more pork was all that the National Honor Society members could think about during the March 30 FFA Production CDE's when the NHS was put in charge of feeding all of the different chapters from around the area.

During the day, the society cut and made pork sandwiches, provided pop and chips, and sold lunch tickets for the FFA Career Development Event. This fundraiser was among many projects that they took part in throughout the year.

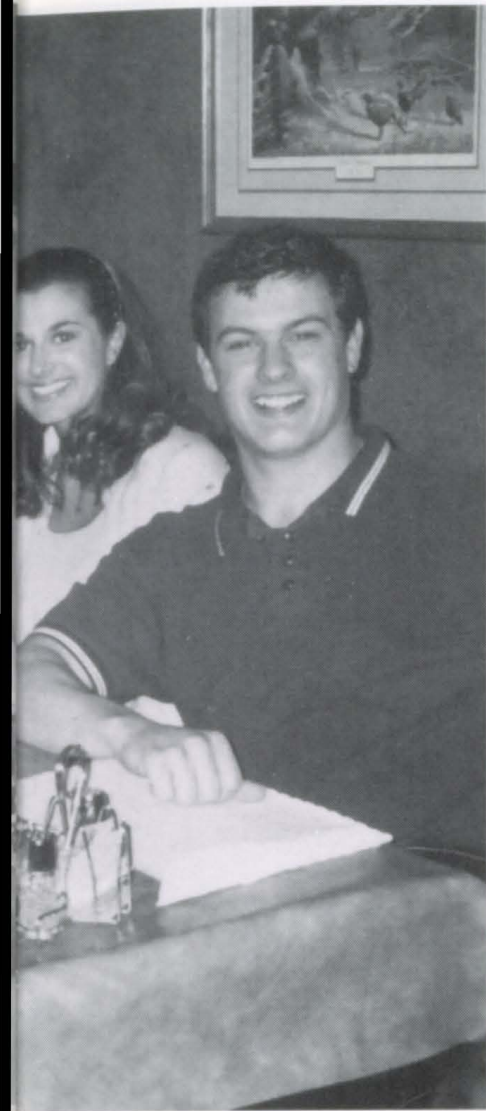
"We had many tasks this year, but I believe that we tackled them when they had to be done," said chapter president Scott Peterson.

The group's volunteering project was spending an afternoon at

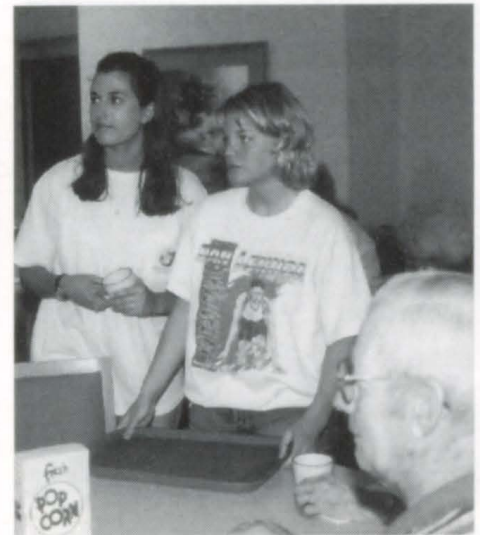
Colonial Manor where they put on a program of music including piano solos, a saxophone duet, and selections from the choir, show choir, and madrigal. The event was finished off when they passed out cookies, coffee, and juice and shared in a time of fellowship with the residents.

Decorating for baccalaureate and graduation, sponsoring the quiz bowl, holding elections, and running the induction ceremony were among the other duties and responsibilities that the society performed.

When elections took place, Scott Peterson took over as president, Katie Huls as vice-president, and Sue Pulse became the secretary/treasurer. — *Kristina Ecklein*



National Honor Society. Front row: Sue Pulse, Dawn Stoffel, Beth Palmquist, Alison Gottlob, Andrea Roth, Kristina Ecklein, Kim Rieckman, Heather Peterson, Melissa Newbrough. Row 2: Brad Schock, Scott Peterson, Matt Kimmel, David Klingberg, Katie Huls, Heather Fischer, Kent Peterson, Aaron Gough.



Service project. Ali Gottlob and Kristina Ecklein serve lunch at Colonial Manor as a NHS volunteer activity.

OUTSTANDING COUNCIL

Wins Again

The student council has proven time and time again just how successful they really are. For the fifth year in a row, the MCHS student council received an outstanding student council award. To qualify, a council must rank in the top eight out of all the councils in the state.

To kick off the year the council attended the South Dakota student council state convention held in Mitchell in August.

To begin the year, their task was choosing a homecoming theme and honorary parade marshals. They decided on cleaning products for the theme and Janet and Alan Karel for the marshals.

Student council members also attended region and state

meetings. Aaron Gough, MCHS president, also served as the South Dakota state student council president.

"I think the student council does a lot for MCHS. Whether it be for entertainment or for those in need, the student council is always there, and I am truly proud to have been a part of such an awesome organization."

The council served meals at The Banquet in Sioux Falls. Members helped do everything from pouring milk to doing dishes. Craig Heumiller summed up the experience by saying, "I really had fun. It was a great experience for the student council. Everybody should do it at least once."—

Katie Huls



Stuffed. Senior Heather Fischer proves that you can only eat so many marshmallows at one time during the student council homecoming games.

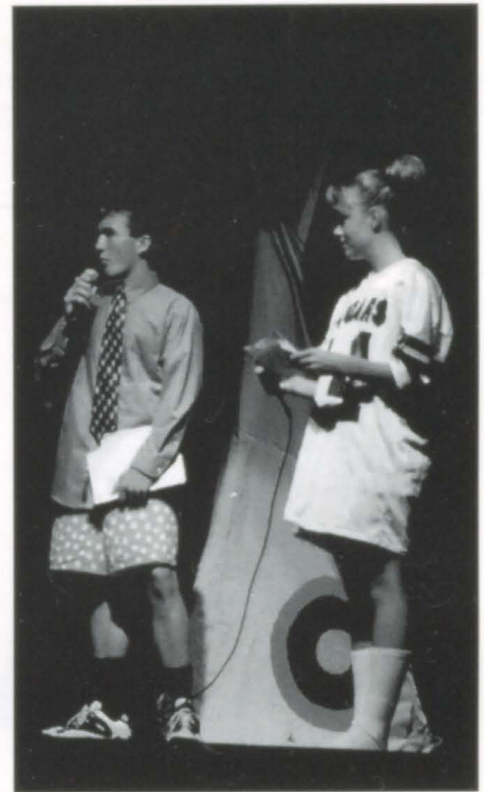


Student council. Front row: Justin Wubben, Pat Barnett, Amy Pulse, Jon Harms, Amber Fischer. Row 2: Tom Chase, Matt Barnett, Chris VanOrmer, Kim Ecklein, Dr. Gary Harms. Row 3: Kent Peterson, Katie Huls, Aaron Gough, Kristina Ecklein, Craig Heumiller.



Sophomore float. The class of 2001 was sure that they would wipe out the contending classes in the homecoming parade.

Homecoming emcees. Junior student council members Matt Barnett and Kim Ecklein take control of the coronation ceremony.



Clowning around. Seniors Brent Deters, Heather Fischer, Doug McCorkell, and Mindi Ecklein, are puckering up for the food eating relay.

Tug of war. Seniors Becky Mokros and Mindi Ecklein pose for the camera after putting up a mighty fight in the tug of war competition.

Community service helps out. Laura Sherman and Andrea Mayrose help students create St. Patrick ornaments to celebrate the season.

Face painting. Ruth Schlenker paints faces for Halloween during their after-school child care activity.



Juniors win! Megan Warns prepares the cake for the junior class for winning the FHA trivia contest.

FBLA members. Front row: Kristi Myren, Lacey Weber, Mindi Ecklein, Brandy Stiefvater, Shelly Karel. Row 2: Angie Duxbury, Katie McCormick, Kim Ecklein, Justin Koch, Brad Bies, Marshall Hansen. Row 3: Kent Peterson, Doug Koch, Nick Snyders, Mitch Rayman, Luke Blindert.

FHA LEADERS

Reach Goals

The FHA, advised by Mrs. Roni Williams, set high goals in the beginning of the year. Some of those goals were to increase membership, inform students of FHA, and have more participants at the district and state meetings.

This FHA group met those goals head on. They increased membership by 24% and Beth Mehlbrech, Laura Sherman, Andrea Mayrose, and Megan Warns all attended the state meeting on April 25-27 in Sioux Falls.

They stayed very active with community service projects. Some projects were the community Halloween party, holiday sharing tree, after-school child care, and the annual Easter egg hunt.

The group also held many fundraising activities like the Tom-Wat sales, cupcake sales, scholarship raffle, candygrams, and a dance for the MCHS students.

During the FHA week the members reached out to not only the high school students, but also to the community members.

"We had a successful year by involving high school students not involved in FHA and by the younger members becoming more involved," said Megan Warns.

The FBLA, advised by Mr. Wes Bjerke, was led by the president Mindi Ecklein, vice-president Shelly Karel, secretary Kim Ecklein, and treasurer Lacey Weber. — *Shelly Karel*



FHA members. Front row: Stacey Larson, Sarah Stubbe, Emily Kerkhove, Angela Gough, Beth Mehlbrech, Kim Braden, Darrin Eichacker, Doug Mentele, Harry Meyer. Row 2: Heidi Kolbeck, Laura Sherman, Megan Warns, Ruth Schlenker, Sammy Selland, Amanda Streff, Zach Anderson, Nick Schmeichel, Jeremy Paulsen, Ross Wickman. Row 3: Jaya DeVries, Andrea Mayrose, Elizabeth Engum, Angie Lampe, Katie Cone, Tanya Massie, Molly Corcoran, Jessica Meyer, Cassie Even, Bryce Mayrose. Row 4: Dustin Mehlbrech, Doug McCorkell, Mike Sherman, Josh Harvey.



Piecing it together. Andrea Mayrose prepares a scrapbook full of all the FHA activities.

KOOBRAEY & HAPPENINGS

Keep records

The yearbook staff had a gigantic increase in members for the '99 *Koobraey*. Thirteen new senior members signed up to help "put together the pieces" of the yearbook.

When asked why she signed up for the yearbook staff her senior year, new member Andrea Roth said, "I wanted to make sure that it got done and no one had to wait a year to get their yearbook."

Each member was responsible for at least two pages of the yearbook.

Largely because of schedule conflicts, the Tuesday yearbook meetings usually were held with four or fewer members present.

"One of the big contributions of the new senior staffers was their generous contribution of their own photos for use in the book," said Mrs. Shirley Koepsell, yearbook

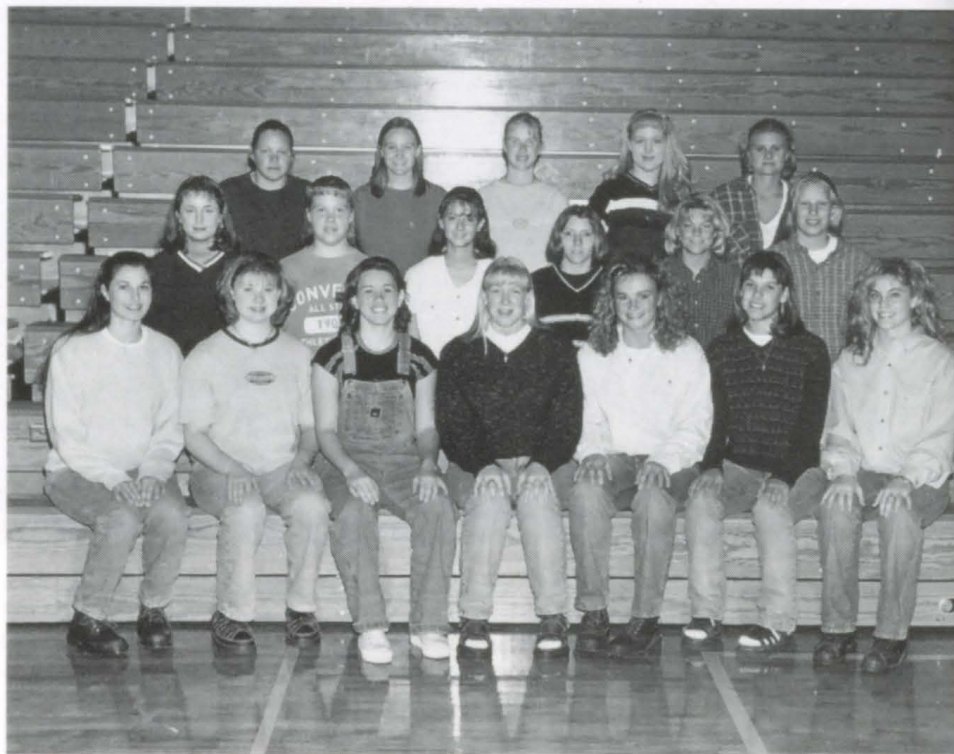
adviser.

This year the school newspaper, *MCHS Happenings*, had three editors instead of the usual two. In the past, it was common for the staff to have two editors, but this year Aaron Gough, Sue Pulse, and Dawn Stoffel filled the position. They took turns expressing their opinions through the editorials that they wrote.

Mr. Kimmel, the adviser for *Happenings* said, "Because these three individuals — Aaron, Sue, and Dawn—had all put in years of work for the newspaper, and all three were interested in an editorial position, I thought tri-editors rather than co-editors would give all three a chance to express their opinions." *MCHS Happenings* was distributed every other week in a section of the Salem Special. — *Julie Bauer*



Yearbook Staff. Front row: Alison Gottlob, Jennifer Streff, Andrea Roth, Dawn Stoffel, Katie Huls, Julie Bauer, Mindi Ecklein. Row 2: Melissa Newbrough, Laura Sherman, Robin Stanga, Jenny Phillips, Kristina Ecklein, MaryBeth Feterl. Row 3: Catlin Stevens, Shelly Karel, Elizabeth Engum, Meredith Lampe, Heather Fischer.





Snack Time. Yearbook pieces weren't the only thing that were picked up at meetings. Andrea Roth pours some salty treats into a tin to snack on during a yearbook meeting.

Food for thought. Yearbook staffers Meredith Lampe and Shelly Karel snack while brainstorming theme ideas.



Newspaper Staff. Front Row: Dawn Stoffel, Aaron Gough, Sue Pulse. Row 2: Andrea Mayrose, Terry Kremppes, Brad Bies, Stephanie Wahle. Row 3: Melissa Newbrough, Megan Warns, Miranda Tjaden, Ruth Schlenker, Mr. Mark Kimmel.

Family affair. Mike, Christie, Melissa, and Michele Eichacker pose at the state convention. Michele and Mike served as chaperones to local members, while Christie received her American Degree.

Pinning it up. Mr. Rieckman helps Ali Gottlob pin her new State Degree gold chain to her FFA jacket in the Frost Arena hallway during at the state convention.



Honored. Mr. Charles Gregg and Mr. Terry Rieckman, FFA advisor, receive their Honorary Degrees at the national convention. Mr. Rieckman received his because he was the South Dakota representative and Mr. Gregg received his because his son, K.C., was a National Finalist in the Star Agribusiness Degree area.



At National. The McCook Central delegation at the national FFA convention included current students as well as grads. Front row: Jerry Osterberg, Lee Osterberg, K.C. Gregg, Brad Schock, Shane McGregor, and Barry Jacobson. Row 2: Ben Roling, Kandi Shape, Doria Gregg, Adam Lauck, Ali Gottlob, Kim Rieckman, Christie Eichacker, Jessica Mehlbrech, Melissa Eichacker. Row 3: Mr. Terry Rieckman, Craig Heumiller, Kent Peterson, Tom Chase, Nick Sřreff, Scott Peterson, Brent Deters, Mike Schock, Matt DeMent, Marc Tuschen, Paul Roling.

Awards

Fall leadership CDE's:

Creed Speaking: Jenni Schock

Job Interview: Amanda Streff,
Katie Huls (4th in District III)

Prepared Public Speaking: Jessica
Mehlbrech, Megan Gregg

Ag Journalism: Amanda Streff

**Greenhand Parli Pro (1st in
District III):** Eric McGill, Jenni
Schock, Jasten White, Joe Rotert,
Mike Oyen, Mike Gottlob, Josh
Pulse

**Senior Parli Pro (1st in District
III):** Scott Peterson, Alison Gottlob,
Kim Rieckman, Kent Peterson,
Brent Deters, Sandi Shape, Craig
Heumiller

**Ag Marketing (2nd in District III,
2nd in State):** Kim Rieckman, Alison
Gottlob, Melissa Eichacker

**Ag Issues Forum (1st in District
III, 5th in State):** Brad Bies, Doug
Koch, Jeremy White, Tom Chase,
Miranda Tjaden, Kristin Kuhl,
Kristi Roling, Jessica Mehlbrech

Production CDE's:

Crops: Mike Gottlob, Jasten
White, Danny James (bronze)

Dairy Foods (silver): Jenni Schock
(silver), Joe Rotert (silver), Josh
Pulse, Eric McGill (bronze)

Dairy Cattle (2nd-gold): Jeremy
White (gold), Kristin Kuhl (gold),
Jamie DeMent (gold), Matt Braden
(silver)

Livestock (gold): Scott Peterson
(gold), Brent Deters (gold), Tom
Chase (silver), Amanda Streff
(bronze)

Natural Resources: Ryan
VanEmmerik, Rick Meyer (bronze),
Craig Heumiller

Horses (gold): Jessica Mehlbrech
(gold), Doug Koch (gold), Brad
Gessner (silver), Jared Deters
(bronze)

Ag Mechanics: Cam Howard,
Brian Kuhl, Toni Castrogiovanni

Floriculture (4th): Katie Huls
(gold), Alison Gottlob (silver), Kim
Rieckman (bronze), Kristin Norris

Food Science (4th): Miranda
Tjaden (gold), Megan Gregg (silver),
Melissa Eichacker, Sandi Shape

Star Greenhand: Jenni Schock

Star Farmer Degree: Tom Chase

Star Agribusiness Degree: Wade
Klinkhammer

Top Fruit Sales: Mike Gottlob

Outstanding FFA Member: Rick
Meyer

Top Record Book Award: Doug
Koch

Honorary Chapter Degree: Karen
Streff, Shirley Koepsell

Blue and Gold Business Award:
Sherman's Feed

NATIONAL CONVENTION Traveling to K.C.

FFA members attempted to leave for the national convention in Kansas City on November 10, but because of winter weather conditions, they were forced to depart on the morning of November 11.

After waiting for the interstates to open, Mr. Rieckman drove members down in the Suburban. They had to race against time to get the dairy cattle judges down in time to take their written tests.

After arriving, everyone settled down. Other drivers included Mr. Bennett, Karen Streff, and Norman and Mary Rae Peterson.

FFA members were busy in those three days. High school as well as collegiate members were to receive awards. K.C. Gregg, a MCHS graduate, was a national finalist for the Star Agribusiness Degree. Only two others in the

nation were up for this award.

Mr. Ron Bennett received the Honorary State Degree.

Along with these high honors, McCook Central had five National Proficiency finalists including Matt DeMent, Scott Peterson, Paul Roling, Melissa Streff, and Nick Streff. Nick Streff came out a national winner in the Swine Production area.

The last of the awards included the dairy cattle judging team coming out in 20th place, placing in the silver category. These judges included Brent Deters, Matt DeMent, Melissa Eichacker, and Mike Schock.

Many other junior and senior FFA members attended the national convention, keeping busy with different sessions, concerts, professional rodeos, and dances.

— Ali Gottlob



Just us girls. Melissa Eichacker, Alison Gottlob, Jessica Mehlbrech, and Kim Rieckman take a rest after touring the Career Show, an exhibit show with hundreds of information booths. These four were the only high school girls from McCook Central that attended the national convention in Kansas City. They are displaying their many buttons and pins collected from different states.

WHERE SINGING MATTERS

Choir Performs

Choir was different from the years before; instead of having concert choir and mixed chorus there was a blue and a green choir.

The reason for dividing the 97 concert choir students into two equal choirs was to have outstanding, average, and struggling musicians mixed together to have two extremely good sounding choirs.

Dividing the choir into two equal choir also kept the students from comparing the two choirs as one good one and one bad one.

Depending on the event or events that were coming determined whether or not the choir would practice separately as blue/green, guy/girl, or as one huge choir. Splitting the choir into two groups to practice at different times helped make the learning of

the songs easier. Having 97 students in one large choir is a lot to manage.

"I feel this has been one of the most talented choirs overall that I have ever had the privilege of conducting," said Mrs. Keehn.

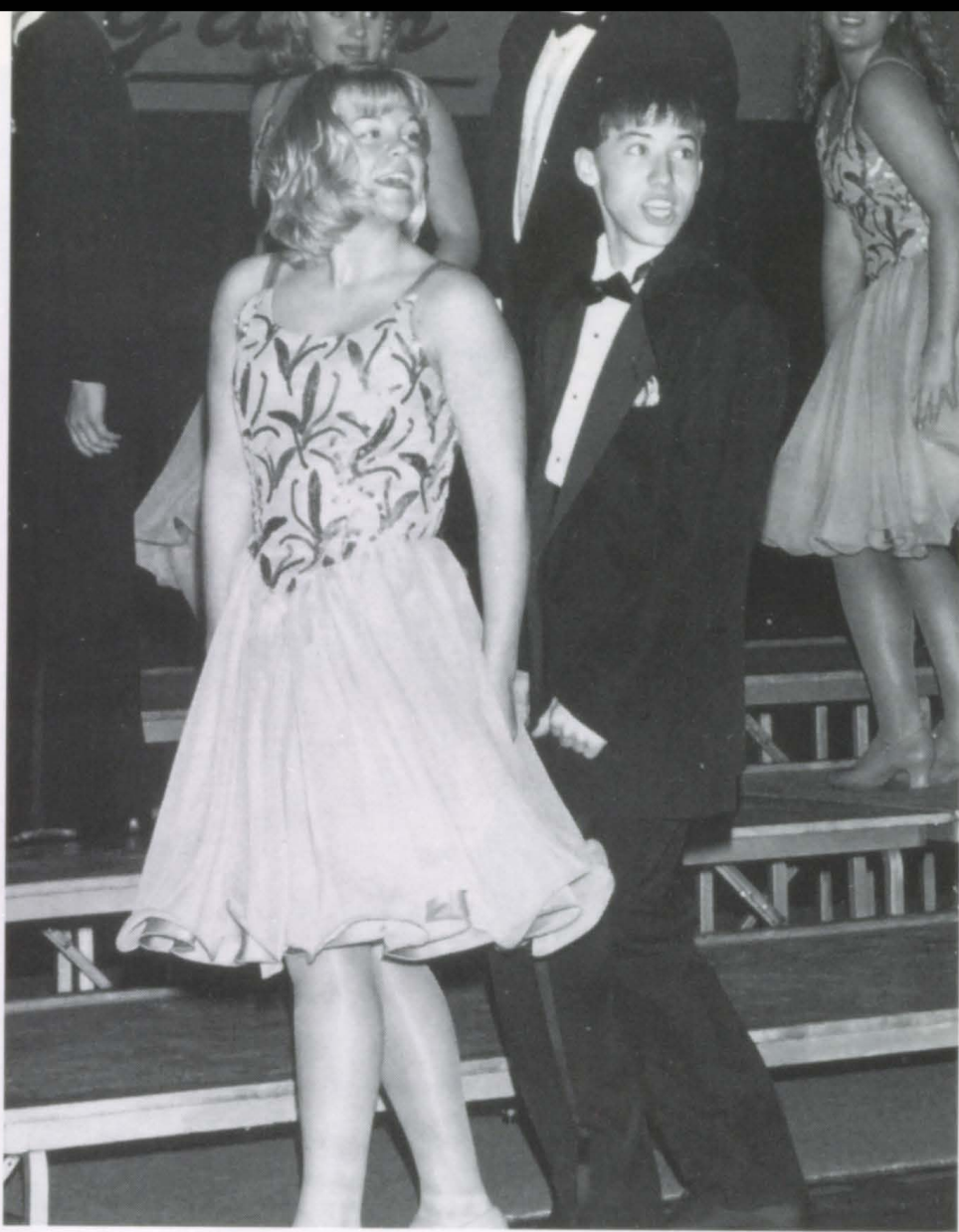
Show choir and madrigal change every year because of the musicianship skills of the students (sight-reading, tone quality, rhythm, coordination, intonation, tonal memory, and so forth). Balance is also a factor on how large show choir and madrigal are going to be.

"Every minute of show choir was exciting. Even the morning practices were fun and it was not that hard to wake up for if you really enjoyed being in it," said senior Kristina Ecklein. —*Jenny Phillips*

Nostalgia time. Heather Fischer and Kent Peterson sing one of the show choir's slower songs, "As Time Goes By" from the movie *Casablanca*.



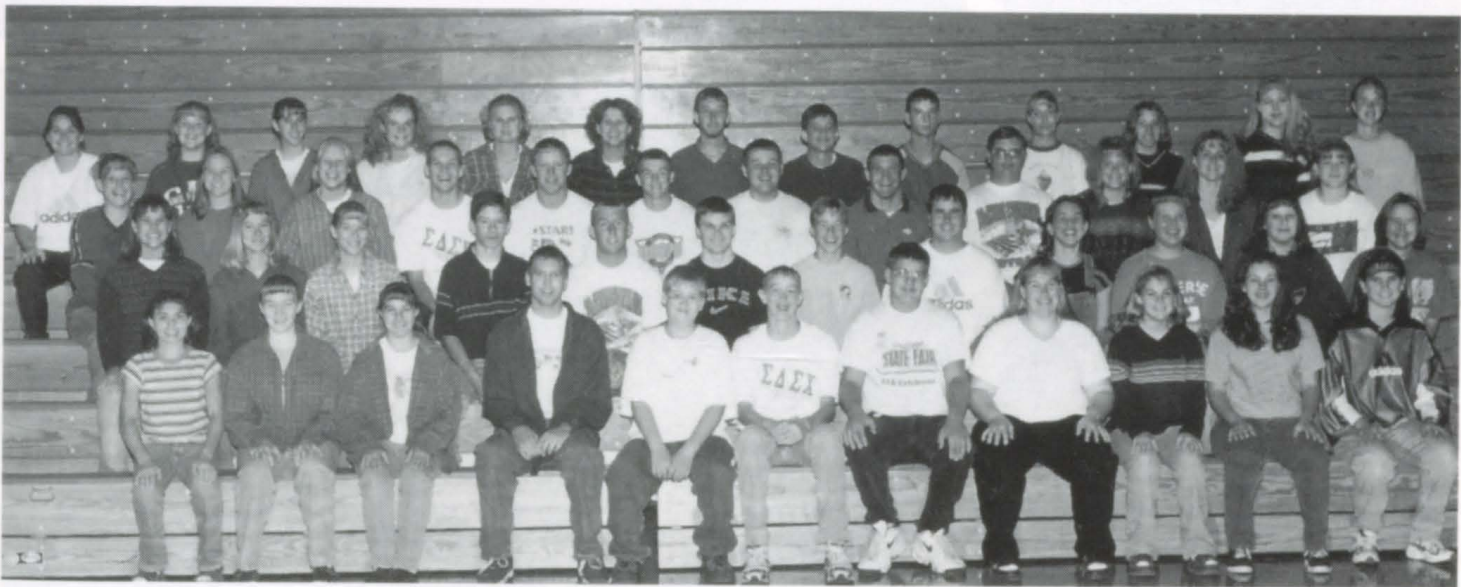
Blue Choir. Front row: Kristi Myren, Jenny Twedt, Kristina Ecklein, Robin Stanga, Matt Braden, Derek Eichacker, Matt Bunger, Ali Gottlob, Laura Nelson, Jennifer Streff, Mrs. Keehn. Row 2: Tara Benson, Keri VanOverschelde, Bobbi Jo Cherry, Jaya DeVries, Amber McGregor, Luke Blindert, Casey Nelson, Joey Rotert, Lisa Bellack, Mindi Ecklein, Andrea Peterson, Megan Warns, Callie Hey. Row 3: Melissa Eichacker, Sandi Shape, Meganne Gourley, Katie McCormick, Greg McCormick, Brent Roth, Kent Peterson, Danny James, Kyle Myren, Angie Van Den Hemel, Meredith Gourley, Jessica Mehlbrech, Andrea Mayrose. Row 4: Dawn Stoffel, Diana Schierholz, Gordon Schmidt, Neil Kimmel, Jeremy White, Nick Snyders, Marshall Hansen, Andy Olinger, Tammy Eichacker, Sarah North, Angie Duxbury.



THE BEAT

Singing their hearts out. Kristina Ecklein and Matt Bungler sing and dance during one of the show choir performances at home.

All State Chorus. Jennifer Streff, David Klingberg, Kristina Ecklein, and Aaron Gough attended all state chorus in Aberdeen.



Green Choir. Front row: Amber Fischer, Maria Jordon, Jenni Schock, David Klingberg, Jeremy Gross, Justin Wubben, Jamie DeMent, Beth Palmquist, Sherri McGregor, Sue Pulse, Kristin Norris. Row 2: Julie Bauer, Sammie Selland, Lisa Peterson, Brian Snyders, Mitch Rayman, James Petree, Grant Bartscher, Terry Kremppes, Andrea Roth, Laura Sherman, Stephanie Wahle, Toni Catrogiovanni. Row 3: Melissa Wallace, Shelly Karel, Mary Beth Feterl, Chris VanOrmer, Brian Sabers, Doug Koch, Rick Meyer, Kim Ecklein, Missy Tuschen, Alison Klinkhammer. Row 4: Marcia McCorkell, Kristy Roling, Jolene Kremppes, Katie Huls, Heather Fischer, Tracie O'Daniels, Doug McCorkell, Jasten White, Jarad Deters, Marie Petree, Jenny Phillips, Meredith Lampe, Elizabeth Engum.

Standing out. Kim Ecklein entertains the home crowd with her solo.

Going solo. Sue Pulse plays her solo part at one of the jazz band's home performances.



Get the beat? Greg McCormick on drums, Aaron Gough on bass, Kent Peterson on bongos, and Jon Harms on guitar carry the beat for one of their many performances.

Friends. Seniors Mindi Ecklein, Dawn Stoffel, Julie Bauer, Kristina Ecklein, and Katie Huls pose after marching band.



KEEPING THE BEAT

Jazz band soars

The jazz band had an unforgettable year. They steadily improved with every competition that they competed in.

"Jazz band had an excellent year. It was a lot of fun, and it's the best they have done since I've been here," said band director, Mr. Terry Keehn.

Their first competition was at Morningside and they placed seventh out of fifteen bands.

Next they went to Augustana and placed first out of nine bands.

At the USD Jazz Festival they placed fourth out of fifteen bands.

Finally at the large group contests they received all 1's.

At all of their performances they received many outstanding soloist awards.

"Jazz band is a lot of fun and I enjoy it a lot. I am glad we had a successful year," said senior Kristina Ecklein.

The MCHS marching band also had a good year.

"I think that the marching band looked good and was entertaining," said sophomore Jenny Phillips.

At Tri-State Band Fest, they placed fourth in field and second in street.

In the Festival of Bands, they placed second.

At Quad State, they placed third in field.

In Sioux City for the Star Fest, they placed first. This was the marching band's first year performing at the Star Fest.

They also marched in the McCook Central homecoming parade and in Montrose's homecoming parade.

"I had fun this year and I liked the morning practices because they were always interesting," said Andrea Roth. —Robin Stanga



Band. Front Row: Kim Ecklein, Mindi Ecklein, Heather Fischer. Row 2: Laura Sherman, Jaya DeVries, Justin Wubben, Scott Peterson, Heather Peterson, Alison Gottlob, Grant Bartscher, Tami Eichacker, Katie McCormick, Andrea Peterson, Missy Tuschen, Kristy Roling. Row 3: Sherri McGregor, Mary Beth Feterl, Andrea Roth, Robin Stanga, Megan Gregg, Craig Selland, Brent Roth, Andy Olinger, Brent Deters, Beth Palmquist, Aaron Gough. Row 4: April McGregor, Amber Fisher, Jesse Bruns, Matt Bunger, Angie Duxbury, Jessie Weber, Katie Huls, Kristi Myren, Kim Westhoff, Shelly Karel, Matt Demaray, Megan Warns. Row 5: Ashley Deters, Meganne Gourley, Ruth Schlenker, Jill Nowak, Tracy Nowak, Meredith Lampe, Dawn Stoffel, Amber McGregor, Kristin Bruns, Brandy Stiefvater, Meredith Gourley. Row 6: Matt Barnett, Jon Harms, Kent Peterson, Justin Koch, Gordon Schmidt, Andrea Mayrose, Pat Barnett, Matt Kimmel, Greg McCormick, Alan Tuschen, Tom Chase. Row 7: Lacey Weber, Mellisa Eichacker, Sue Pulse, Jenny Schock, Amy Pulse, Jennifer Streff, Jolene Krempges, Kristina Ecklein, Stephanie Wahle, Tara Benson, Lisa Peterson, Keri VanOvershelde, and Julie Bauer.

THE BOYFRIEND PROJECT

Take One

The Boyfriend Project, chosen and directed by Mrs. Maureen Feterl, consisted of eleven cast members. However, she had plenty of ideas to keep the remaining 15 students busy. Mrs. Feterl wrote a side show to accompany the play and contribute to the fun and to get more people involved.

The Boyfriend Project follows the five young actresses as they tell the audience of their problems with their boyfriends and how each of them are planning on dealing with them. Julie Bauer (Donna) is tired of being the center of Aaron Gough's jokes, Kim Ecklein (Katie) would just like David Klingberg (Tony) to commit to her, Mindi Ecklein

(Tracy) would like to conform Justin Wubben (Paul) to her clothing styles, Andrea Roth (Natalie) will not be embarrassed by Brad Schock (Ralph) anymore, and Shelly Karel (Barbara) would like Kent Peterson (Frankie) to pay attention to her instead of Kristina Ecklein (Cheryl), the school flirt.

Mrs. Feterl's side show consisted of a few songs that would tie the play together. They were acted out by Angie Duxbury, Tammy Eichacker, Missy Tuschen, and Katie McCormick. To help them out was the curtain boy, Matt Barnett. Also, there was "The Brandy Show", a take off of the Oprah Show, hosted by Brandy Stievfater. — *Shelly Karel*



Out of control. Kent Peterson, an out of control robot created by his girlfriend, carries Kristina Ecklein on his back.

"They're all mine." At the end of the play Kristina Ecklein walks away with all the boyfriends and leaves the other girls in shock and the boys with smiles on their faces.





"Hi! I'm Donna, your Doggy Basket waitress." Aaron Gough, Kristina Ecklein, Brad Schock, and Andrea Roth take a lunch break at the Doggie Basket Diner. Kristina Ecklein is on her way to "study" and Julie Bauer is upset with her boyfriend, Aaron Gough, as he makes every attempt to get a laugh at her expense.

Stealing the show. Matt Barnett, the curtain boy, entertains the crowd in the side show written by Mrs. Feterl.



Lounging around. Andrea Roth ponders about her problems with her boyfriend, Brad Schock.



All-School Play Cast and Crew. Front row: Mindi Ecklein, Justin Wubben, David Klingberg, Brad Schock, Julie Bauer, Jenni Schock, Kim Ecklein, Brandy Stiefvater. Row 2: Angie Duxbury, Tammy Eichacker, Missy Tuschen, Kent Peterson, Andrea Roth, Kristina Ecklein, Shelly Karel, Andrea Peterson. Row 3: Andrea Mayrose, Meredith Gourley, Meganne Gourley, Keri VanOvershelde, Angie Van Den Hemel, Sue Pulse. Row 4: Chris VanOrmer, Mitch Rayman, Craig Heumiller.

It's an art. Beth Palmquist and Mindi Ecklein just get finished with their make-up and hair as their director, Mrs. Hofer, puts in her last tips.

Lights, camera, action. Kim Ecklein gets set for her debut as Doris in *The Committee Meeting*.



Dress rehearsal. Mindi Ecklein, Kim Ecklein, and Shelly Karel prepare themselves for the school performance.



One Act Play Cast and Crew. Front Row: Mindi Ecklein, Kim Ecklein, Shelly Karel, Angie Duxbury, Beth Palmquist. Row 2: Meganne Gourley, Robin Stanga, Jenny Phillips, Andrea Mayrose. Row 3: Laura Sherman, Kristy Roling, Meredith Gourley.

ORAL INTERPRETATION

Act Out

Mrs. Tara Hofer, the director of the one-act play, chose a comedy with an all-girl cast that centered around a church group's committee meeting.

The Committee Meeting by Joellen K. Bland consisted of six actresses. Angie Duxbury acted as Mary, Kim Ecklein as Doris, Beth Palmquist as Amy, Mindi Ecklein as Edith, and Shelly Karel as Sue. Laura Sherman, Meredith Gourley, and Meganne Gourley were the student managers. They aided Mrs. Hofer in whatever way necessary and helped with the set and make-up as well. Along with them were Jenny Phillips, Robin Stanga, and Ruth Schlenker in the make-up and hair department. The prompter was Kristy Roling and the fill-ins were Andrea Mayrose, Kristy Roling, and Jenny

Phillips.

Mrs. Linda Kimmel, the oral interpretation coach, encouraged the students to set high goals. The oral interpretation team met those high expectations by sending three students to regions. Those students were Justin Koch in humorous, Angie Van Den Hemel in serious prose, and Shelly Karel in non-original oratory. Shelly Karel went to the state contest and received a superior rating with *A Child's Last Hope*.

The other members include Kim Ecklein, Brandy Stiefvater, Megan Warns, Elizabeth Engum, Andrea Mayrose, Matt Kimmel, and Aaron Gough.

"Oral Interpretation is an activity just like any other, it takes hard work and determination," said Shelly Karel. — *Shelly Karel*



Oral Interpretation. Front row: Shelly Karel, Kim Ecklein, Brandy Stiefvater. Row 2: Megan Warns, Elizabeth Engum, Andrea Mayrose, Angie Van Den Hemel. Row 3: Justin Koch, Matt Kimmel, Aaron Gough.



Words of wisdom. Dr. Harms shares some of his knowledge with the oral interpretation students involved in the Readers' Theatre.



Putting it ALL together

Student Life

How do you de-stress from the demands of courses, studying, and class projects?

One way is to get involved in the fun activities of homecoming and prom. Another is to join an activity such as FFA, yearbook, or sports. Yet another is to just hang out with friends.

Putting it ALL together challenged MCHS students and tested their committment.

Cramming in school activities, keeping up their grades, and having a social life more than filled students' days. Sleep became a memory, not a reality as times really got busy.

OK, these overfilled lives may not de-stress you, but they do give memories and laughter when they are recalled in months and years to come.

A new field maneuver? Senior band members form a pyramid. Front row: Beth Palmquist, Sue Pulse, Jennifer Streff, Dawn Stoffel, Scott Peterson. Row 2: Mindi Ecklein, Katie Huls, Heather Fischer. Row 3: Meredith Lampe, Jill Nowak, Tracy Nowak. Row 4: Andrea Roth, Kristina Ecklein, Brent Deters, Heather Peterson, Matt Kimmel, Mary Beth Feterl, Kent Peterson, Julie Bauer, Aaron Gough, Ali Gottlob.



Homecoming includes fun and a victory

Labor Day weekend ended with the excitement of coronation on Monday night. The first half of the evening was spent crowning the royalty. Mindi Ecklein and Kent Peterson won princess and chief.

The second half of the evening consisted of the presentations of nine different lip syncs. The top three lip syncs were the senior guys and girls with *Sister Act*, which got third; sophomores Jon Harms, Pat Barnett, and Mitch Rayman with the song "Torn Between Two Lovers" which received second; and the senior guys with the Spice Girls' song "Wanna Be" won first place.

After congratulating the royalty, the crowd moved to the armory parking lot for the burning of the "MC".

For spirit week Tuesday was "team day", where people could wear shirts from teams ranging from McCook Central to the Seattle Sonics. Wednesday was "twin day", where two people from the same grade dressed alike. Thursday was "no cloth day", where students showed up wearing

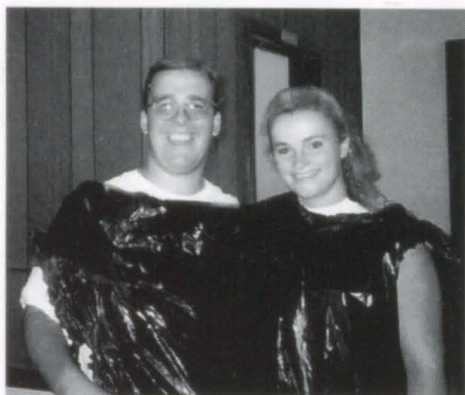
anything from garbage bags to burn barrels.

Thursday was also the day when the games took place. The games started at 1:30 with the scavenger hunt. People had to find items like \$1.69 in change to someone wearing Hanes underwear. Then other games like weenie queeny and pulling Aaron Gough's truck were held. This year's tug-of-war pit was filled with food products such as honey, ketchup, and grape juice instead of mud.

Friday was the parade, so each class spent half the day working on floats. Seniors won grand prize for their float. The freshmen, juniors, and sophomores received first, second, and third, respectively.

The football team also won the homecoming football game — for the first time in years — against Montrose/Canistota by a score of 21-8.

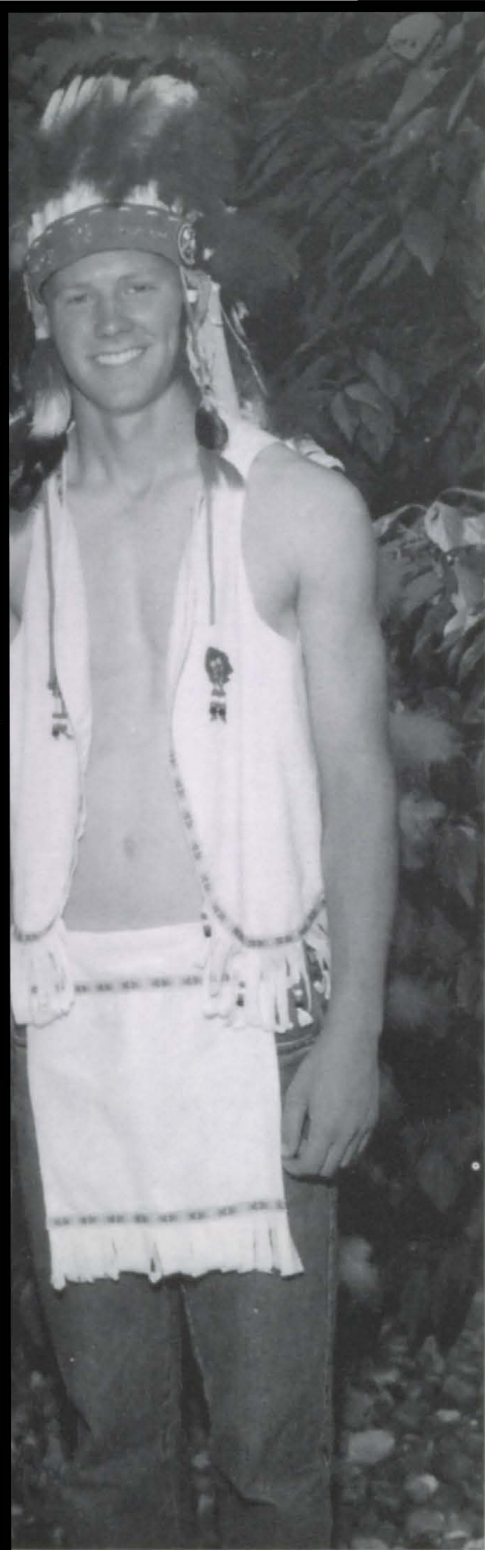
A dance was held with a big screen showing music videos and the people on the floor dancing. — *Jenny Phillips*



Alternative dress. Josh Harvey and Katie Huls showed up at school wearing garbage bags on "no cloth day".

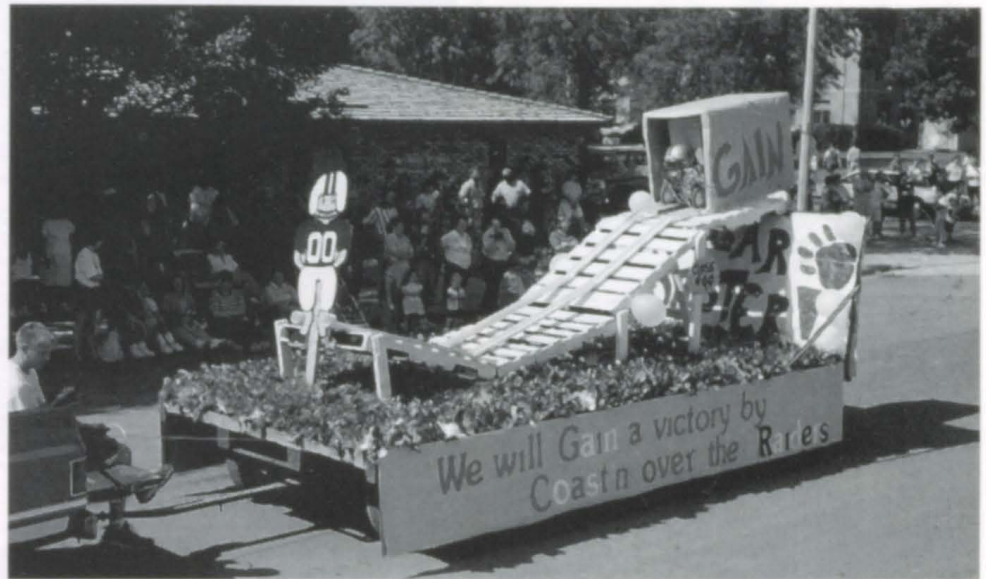


Pull or be pulled. While Mindi Ecklein, Casey Nelson, and Kristina Ecklein pull on the rope for tug-of-war, the other students watch to see whether these seniors will be beaten or not.



Royal couple. Mindi Ecklein and Kent Peterson presided over homecoming week beginning with their coronation on Monday night.

Thrill ride. The animated senior float, seen in the two pictures below, coasted to a grand prize win in the homecoming competition.



Eat 'em up. Brett Bellack and Kent Peterson compete in a bean eating relay on games day.

Dial up a victory. The junior class float won second place in the parade competition.

Big money. The students enjoy their food and games as they strive to win big money for the prizes to be given out at the end of the night.

Grooving out. Kim Ecklein puts on her dance moves during the prom dance.



Peace out. Amber Fischer and Callie Hey enjoy themselves during the prom dance on April 10.



Hanging around. Jessie Bruns, Brent Roth, Craig Heumiller, and Justin Koch take a breather from the dance floor and have some quality bonding time.

Prom creates friendship and fun

The junior class, advised by Ms. Brenda Moerke, created a prom centered around the story of "Beauty and the Beast."

They chose Bette Midler's *The Rose* as the prom song that was sung at the banquet by seniors Jennifer Streff, Heather Fischer, and Aaron Gough.

Mr. Brad Wilkins spoke at the banquet along with junior class officers Matt Demaray, Brandy Stiefvater, and Megan Gregg.

The class voted in Katie McCormick, Justin Koch, Sherri McGregor, Mitch Rayman, Kim Westhoff, Terry Krempegs, Pat Barnett, Tammy Eichacker, Marshall Hansen, and Angie Duxbury as their waiters and waitresses for the prom banquet.

Mr. Keehn supplied the music

during the dance.

After the dance 161 students gathered in the all-purpose room for food, games, and plenty of fun. The students were served pizza, pop, nachos, and subs. Some of the games the students played were Plinko, darts, blackjack, prairie poker, turkey bowling, Jenga, and ship-captain-crew. The purpose of these games was to win money that could be transferred into prizes. Some of the bigger after prom party winners were Casey Nelson and Aaron Gough with 19" color TVs, Brent Deters with a 13" TV and VCR combo, Kristina Ecklein and Andrea Roth with microwaves, and Brian Snyders with a bike. Door prizes were also given out to each student. — *Shelly Karel*



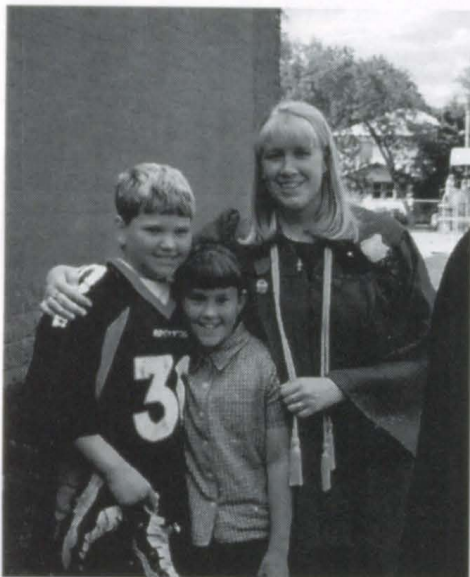
Dance all night. Heather Fischer, Kristina Ecklein, Brandy Stiefvater, and Katie McCormick jam out to the music all night in their prom dresses and bow ties.



Senior friends. Alison Gottlob and Brent Deters enjoy their last high school prom together.

Saying goodbye. Katie Huls and Dawn Stoffel exchange hugs in the receiving line following commencement exercises.

Role model. Dawn Stoffel pauses for a picture with Rachelle Schulte and Katie Marso on graduation day.



The guys. Craig Heumiller, Doug McCorkell, Brian Snyders, Brian Sabers, and Casey Nelson express their happiness prior to graduation.

Honors. Seniors with a cumulative average of 3.5 or better are Front row: Alison Gottlob, Melissa Newbrough, Dawn Stoffel, Mindi Ecklein, Andrea Roth, Kristina Ecklein, and Sue Pulse. Row 2: James Petree, Matt Kimmel, Aaron Gough, Kent Peterson, Scott Peterson, David Klingberg, and Brent Deters.



Morphed slide show highlights graduation

On May 23 in the McCook Central auditorium, the seniors prepared themselves for the day they had waited eighteen years for.

As a special way of viewing past memories, a PowerPoint slide show was presented before the processional. This year a new technique was used to make the show even more unforgettable. A group of four seniors, Mindi Ecklein, Aaron Gough, Andrea Roth, and Beth Palmquist, worked throughout the last semester of the year on a program called Morph. The class counted as credit for computer programming. By using Morph, the baby picture slowly turns into the senior picture. This is the first year that the Morph program was used and the results were spectacular. The fifteen minute presentation also included group photos containing the seniors.

"The slide show was a lot of

work, but the results were well worth it," said Mindi Ecklein.

The three speakers at the ceremony included senior representative Brad Schock, the salutatorian Melissa Newbrough, and the valedictorian Mindi Ecklein.

A group of twelve senior girls sang the class song, "It's Hard to Say Goodbye," which was accompanied by Kim Ecklein.

The class motto was "We cannot discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of the shore." The class colors were royal blue, black, and silver, and the class flower was the yellow emblem rose.

Honor ushers were the six juniors with the highest GPAs. Those students included Matt Barnett, Kim Ecklein, Shelly Karel, Amber McGregor, Lacey Weber, and Stephanie Wahle.

—Dawn Stoffel



Now it's real. Katie Huls receives her diploma from school board president Cliff Tjaden while Heather Fischer and Mr. Bennett look on. On this day forty-four seniors walked across the stage to receive their diplomas.



A moment of song. Kristina Ecklein plays "Big Band Classics" with the band at graduation.

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Making Friends. Kim Ecklein poses with one of the Mexican children in the village in which she taught Bible School and helped with a housing project.

Students serve in Mexico

Seven MCHS students and Pastor Mark Dickson spent a week building houses and conducting Bible school classes in Mexico.

"In spite of living in the poverty-filled conditions that they faced every day, most of the people we met were happy. They readily gave of their time and few possessions to people who needed it," said senior Kristina Ecklein, one of the volunteers.

In this area, the project was spearheaded by Pastor Mark Dickson of Sun Prairie Baptist Church. The Salem group joined a group of 16 people from Ham Lake, Minnesota for the trip. There were three Spanish speakers among the group. The group was gone for ten days in June. Two days were spent in San Diego, California and two days were spent travelling.

There were some restrictions that were complied to in deference to the culture. No one could wear shorts or sleeveless shirts. Females had to wear long dresses.

Participants included David Klingberg, Kim Ecklein, Kristina Ecklein, Mindi Ecklein, Amy Hanson, Marshall Hanson, Kristi Demaray, and Pastor Dickson.

Smile. Kristina Ecklein holds a little girl that she met while in Mexico on a mission trip.





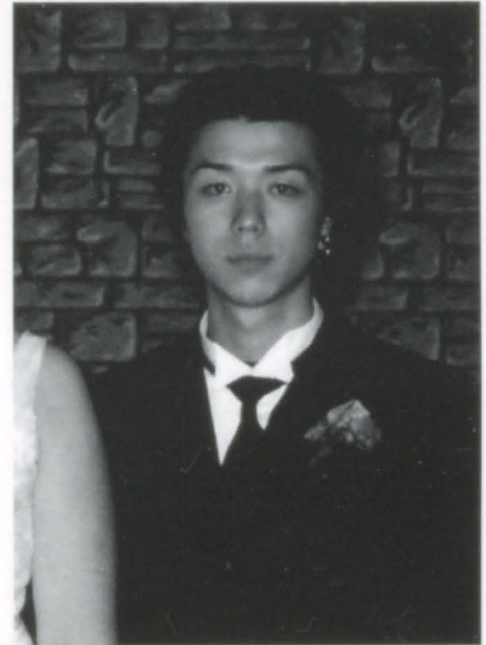
Food Choice

What is the best thing to eat at break during study hall?

M&M	32
Gardettos	26
Doritos	26
Cheetohs	25
Cookies	23
Starbursts	22
Skittles	21
Reeses	13
Gummi Candy	12
Crackers	2

172 students polled

A high school tradition. Learning about American customs, Mamoru Ishiyama attended the prom.



Pick a Color

What is your favorite color?

Blue	36
Green	14
Yellow	10
Red	8
Orange	6
Purple	5

172 students polled

Mamoru Tries American School

Mamoru Ishiyama came to MCHS in March from Sendai, Japan. All of his family are still in Japan.

While Mamoru was here he stayed with Randy and Sheri Fischer.

Some of Mamoru's hobbies include running, writing letters to friends back home, shopping and swimming.

During his stay he took the following classes: American history, choir, economics, English I, English IV, multimedia, and weight training.

After the school year he wants to attend DSU in Madison where he hopes to master English and study computers. —Robin Stanga

Music of Choice

What kind of music do you like?

Alternative	84
Country	21
Heavy Metal	20
Rap/R&B	20
Classical	4
Easy Listening	1

172 students polled

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South Dakota Junior Miss. Mindi Ecklein was crowned South Dakota Junior Miss in competition held in Sturgis in February. She won \$4600 in scholarships and other prizes. In May, she flew to California for a four-day event connected with the pageant. She will represent the state in a national pageant in Mobile, Alabama in the summer.

State, Local News

On May 30, 1999 the town of Spencer marked the one year anniversary of the tornado that devastated the town. A new parish hall for the Catholics was dedicated by Bishop Carlson.

Trinity Lutheran Church rebuilt in Spencer and held its dedication June 5. The church met for nearly a year in Howard Heidelberg's garage which was quickly erected after the tornado. The polling place for the November elections was also at the garage.

US Senator Tom Daschle and Representative John Thune were

reelected in the November general election. Governor Bill Janklow won a fourth term as governor.

Senator Dennis Daugaard and Representatives Clarence Kooistra and Kevin Crisp retained their seats in the South Dakota state legislature.

The John Adam Collection, a gift and antique store, opened in the old bank building in Salem in December.

Shirley Puthoff opened her massage therapy business at the Salem Wellness Center in June.

National, World News

The Senate found President Clinton not guilty of impeachment charges.

Jesse Ventura, former professional wrestler and Navy SEAL, was elected governor of Minnesota on the Reform Party ticket.

The stock market broke 10000 for the first time in history.

NATO launched an extended bombing attack on Yugoslavia in an attempt to force President Slobodan Milosevic to stop persecuting the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

A school shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado left the two killers and 13 others

dead. The nation searched for answers to school violence by examining depression, parenting, gun laws, video games, music, and movie and television violence.

Former Transportation Secretary and Red Cross president, Elizabeth Dole, explored the possibility of a presidential bid on the Republican ticket. Texas governor George W. Bush also generated interest among Republicans as a candidate.

First Lady Hillary Clinton considered running for the Senate in New York.

Businesses and individuals worked to get their computers Y2K compliant.



Grand entrance. Alison Gottlob is escorted into the Military Ball as a contestant for Miss Battery B.

Gottlob represents MCHS in pageant

Senior Alison Gottlob walked away from the National Guard Battery B Military Ball with a runnerup award for Miss Battery B and a Miss Congeniality title.

Gottlob was one of ten contestants from area schools to participate in the day-long event. She received a \$100 savings bond for participating in the contest, a \$50 bond for being first runner-up, and a \$25 bond for being Miss Congeniality.

The public was invited to the pageant and dance.

Obituaries

"Buffalo Bob" Smith, host of *The Howdy Doody Show*, died July 30, 1998 at age 80.

Olympic athlete Florence Griffith-Joyner, 38, died suddenly of heart problems at her home in California in September, 1998.

Dr. Spock, 94, died of old age. He was a renowned writer on books with ways to raise children.

Bob Kane, 83, who created the *Bat Man* comic strip in 1939, died November 3, 1998.

Former Alabama governor and presidential candidate, George Wallace, 79, died in September, 1998. He was famous for his 'stand in the schoolhouse door' in which he tried to prevent two black students from enrolling in the University of Alabama in 1963. He survived an assassination attempt while campaigning in 1972.

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Fads

The *Star Wars* craze started again with the anticipation of the release of the newest movie in the series, *Star Wars: Episode 1 — The Phantom Menace*. Collectors sought out the latest memorabilia.

Stone Cold Steve Austin is pretty much the best thing that has happened to pro wrestling since Hulk Hogan back in the early days.

Going to music concerts was a big hit, too. People went concerts likes Reel Big Fish, Zebrahead, KoRn, Rob Zombie, Sugar Ray, Orgy, Vanilla Ice, Dial Seven, and others.

Having a short hair cut is still in, but with a little color added. Nothing too extreme, just the average hues like blonde and red.
— *Jenny Phillips*

Hair Hues

What color hair do you prefer people to have?

Brown	53
Blonde	37
Black	8
Reddish	6

What to Watch

What is your favorite on TV?

NBC programs	45
<i>South Park</i>	40
Fox programs	30
<i>Days of Our Lives</i>	29
<i>WWF Raw/War</i>	21
MTV programs	19

172 students polled



Show me the money. Matt Barnett and Jon Harms collect money from people wanting tickets for the first showing *Star Wars: Episode 1 — The Phantom Menace* which opened May 19 just after midnight.



Milk — *Where's your mustache?* Senior Mindi Ecklein, one of 25 student-athletes in the nation chosen as winners of a \$7500 Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year scholarships, flew to New York to accept her award. Her milk mustache picture appeared in the June 29, 1998 issue of *Sports Illustrated*.

Awards banquet. Olympic sprinter, Florence Griffith-Joyner poses with Mindi Ecklein at the SAMMY awards banquet in New York where Flo-Jo was a speaker.

Fashion

People this year are wearing more comfortable looking clothing. The jeans are bigger, wider legged, and all around more comfortable. The clothes are still name brand like Tommy Hilfiger, Jnco, and Lucky.

When walking down the halls and seeing this more comfortable look, people may feel better about themselves knowing that they really do not have to impress anyone.

"Students in the school should wear what they want to wear and not what others are wearing," said sophomore Robin Stanga.

Another rather popular clothing item is the ever-famous pajama pants. Shirts with music groups' names such as KoRn, Nirvana, and lesser known bands, have been really popular also. — *Jenny Phillips*

What to Wear

What is your favorite brand of clothing?

Tommy Hilfiger	43
Levi	40
Nike	31
Calvin Klein	15
Jnco	10
l.e.i.	5
Union Bay	5

What to Read

Which magazine do you prefer?

<i>Sports Illustrated</i>	32
<i>YM</i>	26
<i>Seventeen</i>	23
A wrestling magazine	10
<i>People</i>	9
<i>Rolling Stone</i>	6

172 students polled

State Champs

Football	
(11B)	Gregory
Cross	
Country	
Girls (A)	Hot Springs
Boys (A)	Lead
Basketball	
Girls (A)	Wagner
Boys (A)	DeSmet
Wrestling	
(B)	Miller
Volleyball	
(A)	Parkston
Track	
Girls (A)	Lennox
Boys (A)	Winner
Golf	
Girls (B)	<i>McCook</i>
	<i>Central</i>
Boys (B)	Britton



Putting it ALL together

People

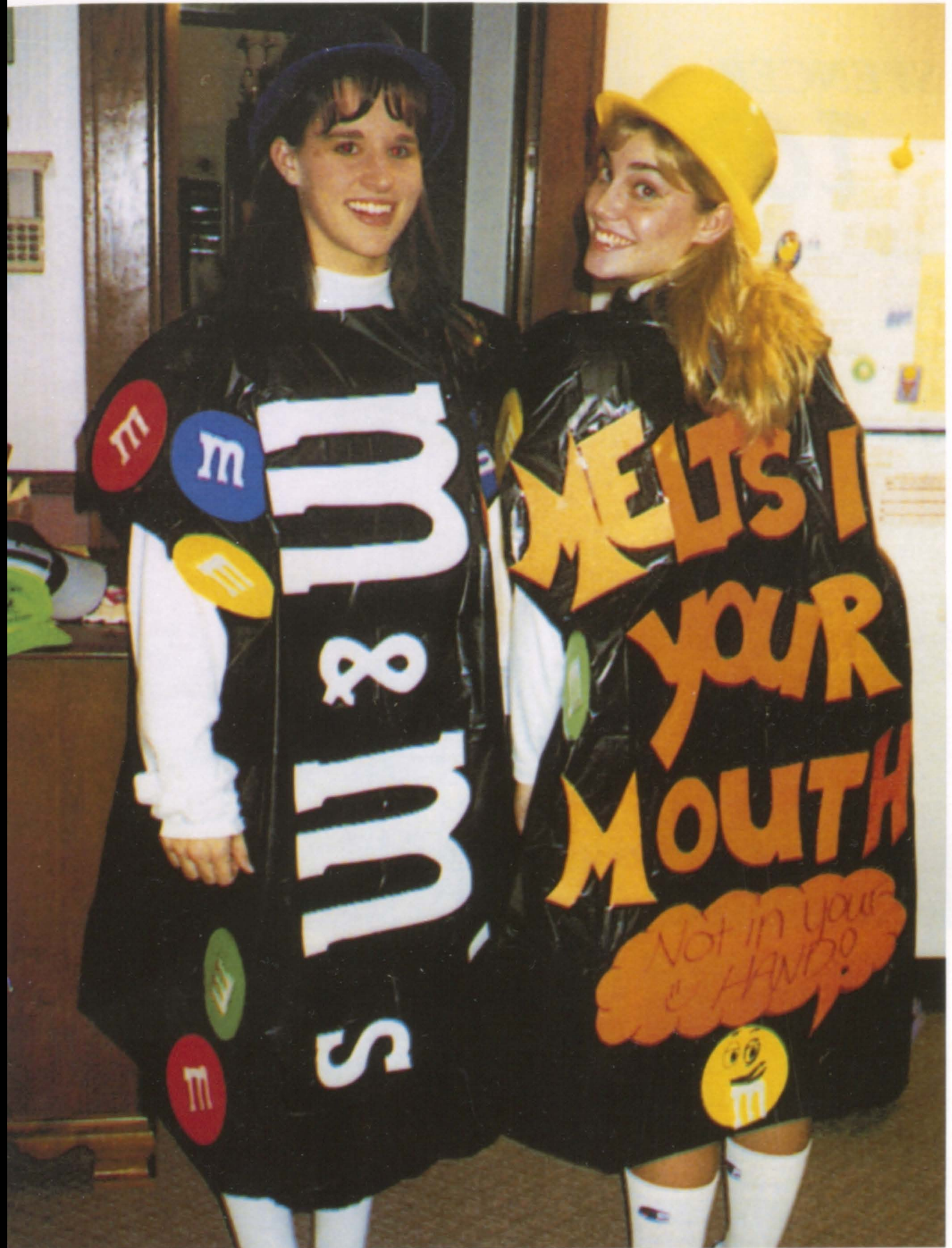
The success of any project depends on each person doing his or her part. If someone doesn't come through, the whole project suffers.

Any event depends on the scheduling of the athletic director or activities director, the setting up by the custodians, the preparation by coaches or advisers, the practice by students, and the attendance by parents and community members. If the event is out of town, bus drivers need to be on time to load up students and deliver them safely to their destination.

If there is a break in any of the above links, the event won't come off as anticipated.

Being responsible for one's part in this web of connectedness is part of building character.

Candy costumes. Jessi Weber and Mindi Ecklein model their costumes for the Halloween dance.



SPENCER

TORNADO

May 30, 1998 will forever live as a day that many McCook Central students will never forget.

A killer F4 tornado swept out of a steamy spring sky destroying almost all of Spencer. Many students lost relatives, homes, and cherished possessions to the wind. As a result, some students had to relocate with their families and face the challenge of starting again in a new school.

Others had to live in campers or move to farms or Mitchell. Those that moved to farms or Mitchell had to face a daily commute. On the other hand, some students and their families rented, bought, or built homes in Salem.

As the school year began, students were faced with many challenges. For one, they did not have school supplies — no paper, pens, pencils, crayons, or erasers. A tough realization for students was the that they had lost their prized awards they had worked hard for in school activities.

“It was horrifying. Something that I would never really want to

go through, but I had the unfortunate experience of going through it. If there is anybody out there who thinks tornados are fascinating, they are wrong,” said Jenny Philips.

Staff was also affected by the storm. Three of the cooks, LaVern Yost, Mary Hoiten, and Sue Morehead, lost their homes and possessions to the storm. LaVern and Mary have built homes in Salem, and Sue has moved back to Spencer.

“The tornado changed our lives really drastically. You go looking for a spatula or can opener and it is not there, so you have to run to the store and buy it. You think that you have a pair of socks to match your blouse, but when you look they are not there. I have never been to stores more in my life than I have in the past 12 months trying to buy back things that I have had all my life. You can’t even show pictures of your kids when they were little because the pictures are gone,” said Sue Morehead.— *Melissa Newbrough*



A helping hand. DOC persons helped families search for treasured belongings.

Shattered homes. The remains of the Spencer Development apartment complex on main street where two of the tornado victims were killed.





Vivid images. The destroyed water tower became one of most memorable images of the destructive force of the tornado.

Bulldozing memories. A damaged home is torn down.



Bare landscape. Cleanup crews finish clearing away debris left behind by the tornado's wrath.

Car graveyard. The Spencer school yard became a temporary resting place for all the vehicles that were destroyed.

Personal Experience

The Worst Night of My Life

What started out as a normal night baby-sitting for my cousins Kyle and Kurt Zulk would end as a night that forever changed my life. As Kyle and I walked into the living room, a report on the scanner said that there was a tornado on the ground in Farmer, only five miles west of Spencer. I was starting to panic. Kyle and Kurt's house had no basement, just a dirt hole. Kyle called his father, Kenny, in Canova. Kenny said that he was on his way home to get us and told us to sit in front of the couch.

The next report on the scanner was terrifying. It said that there were two tornadoes on the west side of Spencer. This time Kyle called Kenny on his cell phone. Kenny said that he was on his way to get us and that we should lie down in front of the couch and cover up with blankets. By the time we did that, the phone was ringing. It was Kenny calling to say that we should get our shoes on and be out in the porch.

As Kenny pulled into the yard by the garage, we took off running for the car. Kenny was screaming for us to run faster. As we were running for the car, Kenny saw the neighbor's trees being ripped up out of the ground and the neighbor's belongings flying around, about one block away. As soon as we climbed into the car, Kenny yelled for us to look. When we looked, we saw a huge black mass of swirling dirt coming up behind their house. When we were

about one block away from Kenny's house, the tornado was tipping the Explorer on its side and trying to lift it. Kenny floored the Explorer and ran all the stop signs on the way to Dick and Karen Burnham's house.

Kenny led us down to the basement and then went back upstairs. He soon came running down the basement stairs. He told us to get down, and he lay on top of us and grabbed onto a water pipe. Kenny watched it take the house. He said it picked up the whole house and looked like it was going to slam it back down on us, but then it looked like the house went through a meat grinder. We were all terrified and screaming. Kenny kept looking down at Kyle, Kurt, and me because his biggest fear was that one of us was going to be stabbed and killed.

Kenny could feel himself being lifted up, and then it started lifting my legs up into the air. I screamed Kenny's name, and he could feel me letting go; he screamed for me to hang onto his hair.

The next sound we heard sounded like a cave-in. Bricks and lumber started hitting all of us on the head and piling on top of us. I thought that we were going to die. If we didn't die, I thought that we were going to get knocked out. I have never felt anything as painful. Kenny was screaming for God to help us. Then the suction and roar stopped as the tornado moved on to the next house. —
Melissa Newbrough



In Memory

The following people were killed by the tornado:

Beverly Bintliff, 68
Elizabeth Burnham, 85
Mildred Pugh, 93
Gloria Satterlie, 70
Ron Selken, 62
Irene Yost, 77

The two stories on this page are excerpts from a senior English assignment written by Melissa Newbrough and Becky Mokros. Other seniors from Spencer are Julie Bauer, Austin Gregg, Josh Harvey, Nick Jacobson, Natalie Kreutzfeldt, and Doug Mentele.



Tornado survivors. Kenny Zulk, Kyle Zulk, Melissa Newbrough, and Kurt Zulk reenacted the night of the tornado for the Discovery Channel at Denny Bennett's home in Spencer.

Reliving the nightmare. A Discovery Channel crew films the reenactment.



Personal Experience

Terrifying Tornado

What started out as a great night, ended up being the worst night of my life. I had left for the state track meet in Rapid City on May 28, 1998 and was gone until May 30. I could not wait to get home. I had placed eighth in the 200 meter dash and was very excited to tell my mom about it.

We began our journey home at about 4:00 p.m. We were all telling stories, and, all of a sudden, there was a big news flash on the radio station we were listening to. The announcer said that there had been a big tornado spotted four miles west of Spencer. I was a little nervous, but we never thought much about it.

About five minutes later, the announcer came back on the radio and told us that the tornado had totally wiped out over three-

fourths of Spencer. I thought this couldn't be true. I took Mindi Ecklein's cell phone, and first I dialed my house number, and, while I was crying my eyes out, I got a huge smile on my face because the phone started ringing, and I didn't realize that it would still ring if my house was gone.

I called my mom's cell phone. My mom got on the phone. She was screaming and said that we had lost everything; she said that all we had was my car and the clothes that I had with me at the state track meet. She told me that she was hurt, but she didn't tell me how badly before she hung up.

We got to Mitchell, and it looked like a war zone. Cops were speeding down the interstate while helicopters were flying overhead. Fire trucks were rushing to in case

of any fires, and ambulances were racing to save lives. It just made me feel worse because I was stuck in the crusty old blue school van, while seeing all of this chaos going on around me, and not being able to do anything about it.

After collecting Michael Jordan stuff and everything I have ever earned in school for seventeen almost eighteen years, it was totally wiped out in about two and a half minutes. That is unbelievable. But three days later my dog, Jordan, returned home without a cut, so for a while life seemed all better again. It felt just like a nightmare had happened, and I couldn't bring myself to believe it for a long time. That is what I call the worst night of my life. It's a memory I will never forget.— *Becky Mokros*

MEMORIES

Memories

Memories

"Party, lookin' for a party," shouted Tyler McGregor and a chorus of senior boys as the bus approached the capitol during the senior trip to Pierre. It had been a long ride, and they wanted to make sure everyone was awake and raring to go.

"It became our theme song throughout the day. Everytime we got on the bus we all joined in and sang it. The more we heard it and sang it, the more we all laughed and had fun," said Katie Huls.

Another incident that rated high on the seniors' favorite memories of the year was when a few of the senior boys became Spice Girls for a day.

"Tyler, Austin, Casey, Craig,

and Brian were hilarious when they lip synced to the Spice Girls at coronation during homecoming week. I didn't know that Casey looked so good in a mini skirt," said Dawn Stoffel.

Leading the football team to the play-offs also topped the seniors' lasting memories list.

"McCook Central has never made it to the play-offs in football, so leading the team there our senior year was a major accomplishment," said Craig Heumiller.

Prom was the last high school dance for many seniors.

"We had a ton of fun. The night flew by too quickly," said Alison Gottlob. — *Mindi Ecklein*

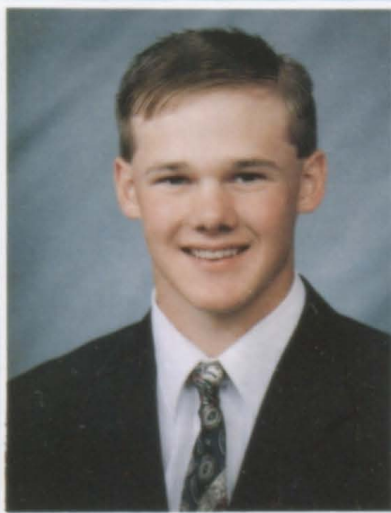
Runway model. Tyler McGregor models his provocative costume during the Halloween dance.



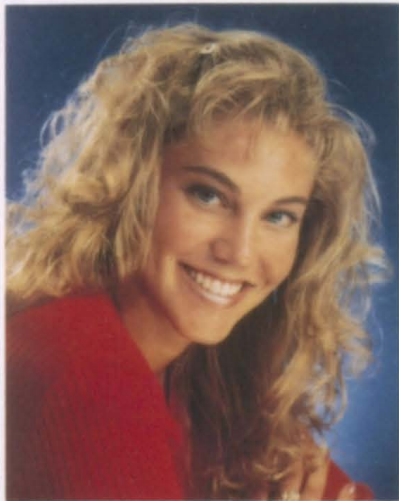
Finally finished! Matt Kimmel, Brent Deters, and Scott Peterson, show their enthusiasm in being done with marching band at the last competition of the season, as Aaron Gough monitors their celebration.

Weenie queenies. Alison Gottlob and Ruth Schlenker choke down raw hot dogs to earn points for the senior class during the homecoming week activities.





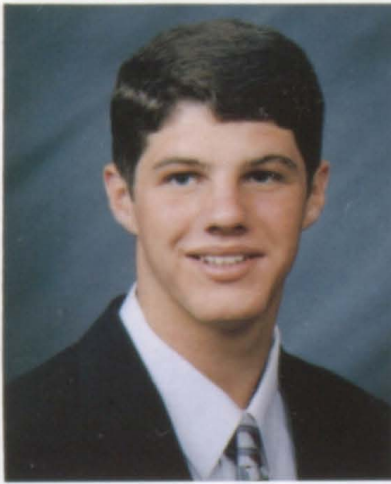
*Julie Bauer
Brett Bellack
Brent Deters*



*Kristina Ecklein
Mindi Ecklein
Mary Beth Feterl*



*Heather Fischer
Alison Gottlob
Aaron Gough*



*Austin Gregg
Josh Harvey
Craig Heumiller*

FINALE

Finale

Finale

When the graduating class of 1999 walked across the stage to receive their diplomas, they became the last seniors to graduate from McCook Central during the twentieth century. This is not the only "last" the seniors have faced, however. The year was packed full of final chances to make memories, fulfill dreams, and be together as a class for quite possibly the last time.

"The bus trip home from our last marching band competition will be a lasting memory for me," said Heather Fischer. "All of the senior band members sat in the back of the bus and laughed and joked about everything we had been through together. It was so

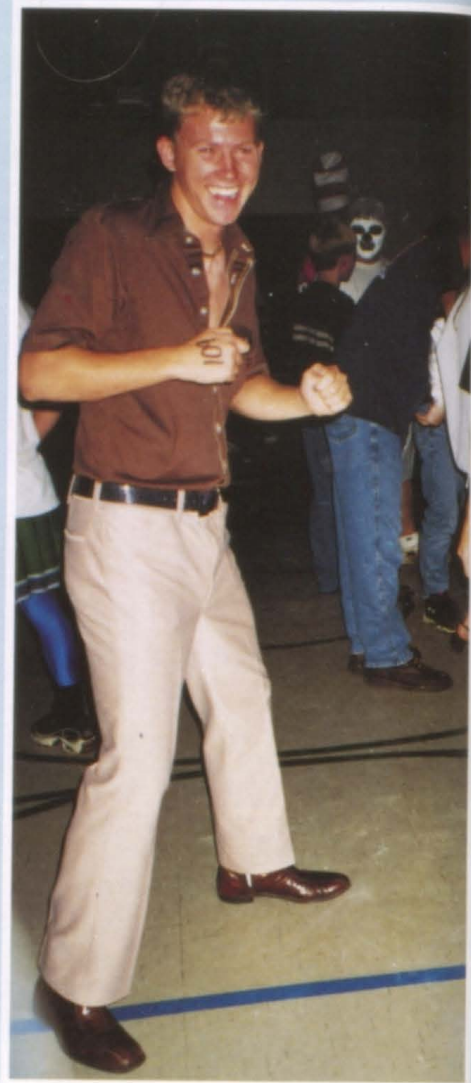
much fun!"

"Performing at the last Potato Supper was really hard for me," said Jennifer Streff. "I have been a flag member since my freshman year, so I am really going to miss it."

"Friday, May 14 was the best day of the entire year. It was the last day of chemistry, finally!" said Dawn Stoffel.

"Walking out of the gym for the last time at graduation was really sad. I can't believe the four years that our class was in high school together went by so fast. Our class has made so many wonderful memories together that we will all take with us," said Beth Palmquist. — *Mindi Ecklein*

Stayin' Alive. Saturday Night Fever swept over the Halloween dance when Kent Peterson strutted through the door doing his best rendition of John Travolta's famous boogie. Peterson made sure everyone was stayin' alive throughout the entire night.



Tattoo time. Casey Nelson, Craig Heumiller, and Mike Sherman show off the tattoos they got on the way home from the senior trip.

Gettin' jiggy wit it. Kristina Ecklein, Katie Huls, Mindi Ecklein, and Dawn Stoffel "jam out" to the music at the homecoming dance.





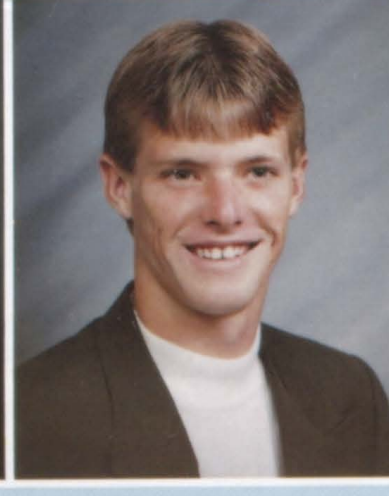
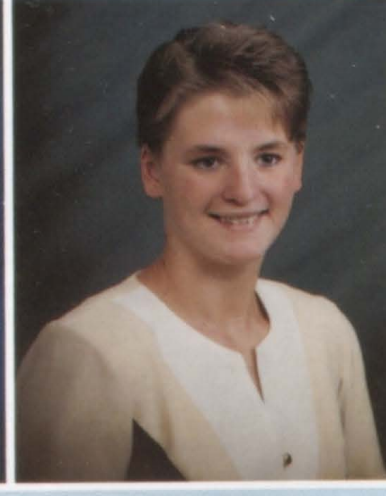
*Katie Huls
Nick Jacobson
Matt Kimmel*



*David Klingberg
Natalie Kreutzfeldt
Meredith Lampe*



*Doug McCorkell
Tyler McGregor
Dustin Mehlbrech*



*Doug Mentele
Becky Mokros
Casey Nelson*

ADVICE

Advice

Advice

After facing the best and worst that school has to offer them, seniors had a few words of wisdom.

"Experience is what you get when you don't get what you want. If you don't like something just consider it an experience and move on," said Beth Palmquist.

"Don't procrastinate like I did," said Dawn Stoffel.

Others suggested getting involved.

"Keep working hard, do your best in sports, in school and anything else you're in," said Kent Peterson, Andrea Roth agreed.

The best advice comes from those who are involved.

Mindi Ecklein said, "Get

involved. Challenge yourself because no one else will."

Other advice given was appropriate for the school scene.

"Take as many gym and ag classes as you are allowed. Don't try to be an over achiever like I was," said Craig Heumiller.

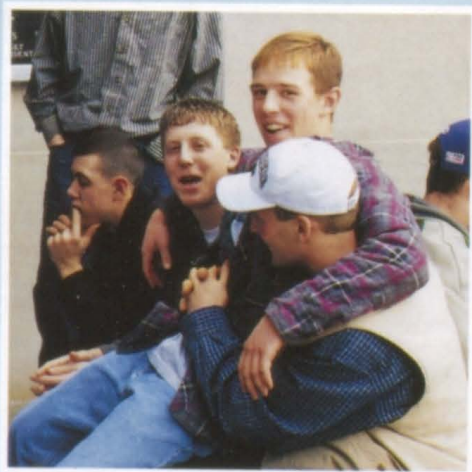
"Get your homework in on time and read all your government chapters," said Tyler McGregor.

Alison Gottlob said, "Don't take chemistry unless you want a headache." After taking the class during her senior year, Alison wished she would've avoided it.

Some of the most basic advice came from Nick Jacobson.

"Pay attention in class!" —
Katie Huls

Relaxing and goofing off. Alison Gottlob and Heather Peterson sit down after a long day in Pierre to relax and take a break at the National Guard museum while Brent Deters goofs off during the senior trip to Pierre.



Togetherness. Brett Bellack, Brian Sabers, Mike Sherman and Tyler McGregor demonstrate togetherness outside the Oahe Dam.



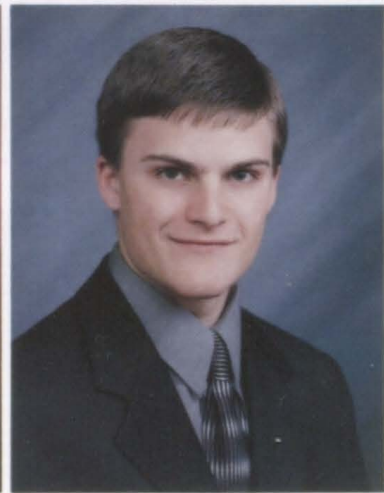
Thirsty royalty members. Homecoming royalty members Craig Heumiller, Aaron Gough, Katie Huls, Julie Bauer, Kent Peterson, Mindi Ecklein, Kristina Ecklein, Dawn Stoffel, Scott Peterson and Casey Nelson stop to get sodas and quickly pose for a shot while riding around in a pickup after coronation before heading to the bonfire in the armory parking lot.



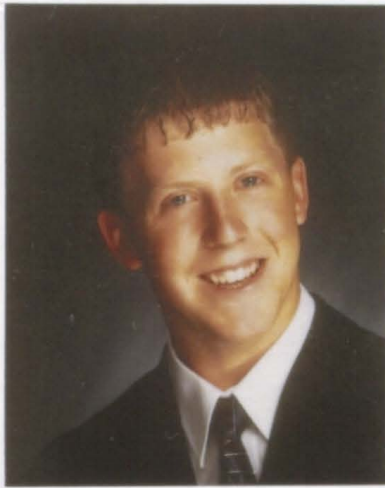
*Melissa Newbrough
Jill Nowak
Tracy Nowak*



*Beth Palmquist
Heather Peterson
Kent Peterson*



*Scott Peterson
James Petree
Sue Pulse*



*Kim Rieckman
Andrea Roth
Brian Sabers*

PLANS

Plans

Just when you thought you had squeaked by one person, here comes another saying, "So, what are your plans for the future?"

Some seniors replied with a simple "I'm not sure yet," but others gave a line just to be sure that same person wasn't on their case about their future plans.

"I usually just say the first thing that comes to mind. One day I was going to be a lawyer, and the next day I was going to be a dentist," said Beth Palmquist.

All of this decision making made some seniors very stressed out. Parents, teachers, coaches, friends and family all wanted to be

sure that the seniors were going down the right road.

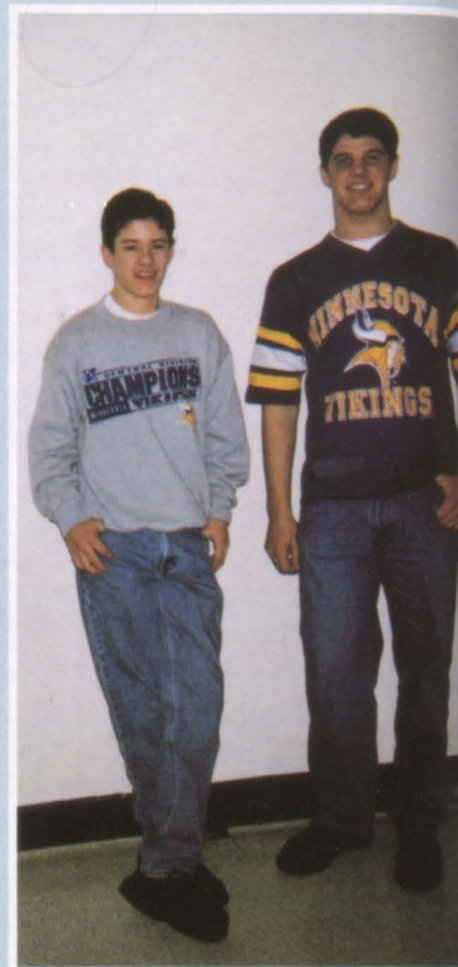
"I got stressed out just trying to think of something to tell them. But the hardest part was deciding for myself," said Katie Huls.

"I had no problem answering people. I have always known what I wanted to do," said Dawn Stoffel.

By the end of the year most of the seniors had decided what their next step in life would be, but a few still feared the person walking down the street just hoping that they could sneak by without being asked the "future" question. —

Katie Huls

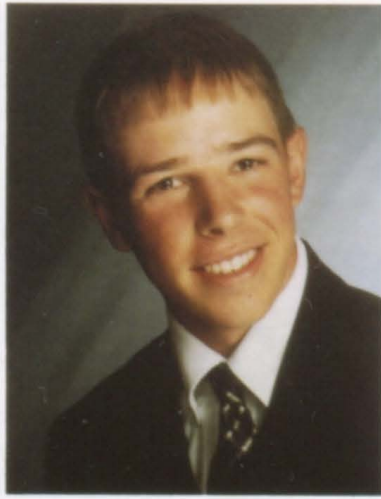
True Vikings fans. Brian Snyders and Craig Heumiller are proud to show off their love for the Vikings with their t-shirts. These faithful Vikings fans were crushed to find that their team was unsuccessful at making it to the Super Bowl.



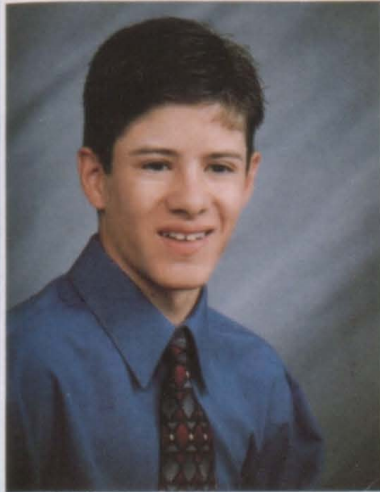
Chowing down. Aaron Gough, and Scott Peterson eat as many plates of food as they can at the Steak and Buffet in Sioux City, Iowa at the last marching band competition.

Homecoming royalty. Front row: Casey Nelson, Kristina Ecklein, Julie Bauer, Scott Peterson. Row 2: Craig Heumiller, Katie Huls, Dawn Stoffel, Aaron Gough. Row 3: Princess Mindi Ecklein, and Chief Kent Peterson.





*Ruth Schlenker
Brad Schock
Mike Sherman*



*Brian Snyders
Dawn Stoffel
Jennifer Streff*



Matt Tjaden



Senior tea. Front row: Jennifer Streff, Heather Peterson, Alison Gottlob, Julie Bauer, Andrea Roth, Meredith Lampe, Mindi Ecklein. Row 2: Kim Rieckman, Beth Palmquist, Heather Fischer, Sue Pulse, Ruth Schlenker, Kristina Ecklein, Dawn Stoffel, Melissa Newbrough. Row 3: Mary Beth Feterl, Beck Mokros, Tracy Nowak, Katie Huls, and Jill Nowak.

FRIENDS

Friends

Friends

“Boots!” “Pookey!” “Gadget!”

If you hear these names being yelled in your neighborhood, don't worry, it's probably one of the 47 juniors calling home their pet.

Jeremy Pulse's mixed breed dog, Skittles, is one of the 38 dogs that have masters in the junior class.

“Skittles is my hunting buddy,” said Pulse. He's hunted with her for four years. She will bring back ducks and pheasants, but she's afraid of geese.

Jolly Beau, Kristin Kolbeck's little poodle lives with two cats and another dog.

Sarah North's cat and six little kittens add to the juniors total of 28 cats.

Large animals also help make up the juniors' menagerie.

Jessica Melhbrech uses her horses in shows during the summer. She contributes two horses to the five.

Brian Kuhl even has a pet cow, his 4-H cow, Josette.

Lastly, let's not forget that one fish, which belongs to Ricky Myers and brings the class pet count to a grand total of 73.— *Laura Sherman*

Do dogs smile?

“Boots doesn't smile because he doesn't have anything to smile about.” — Megan Gregg

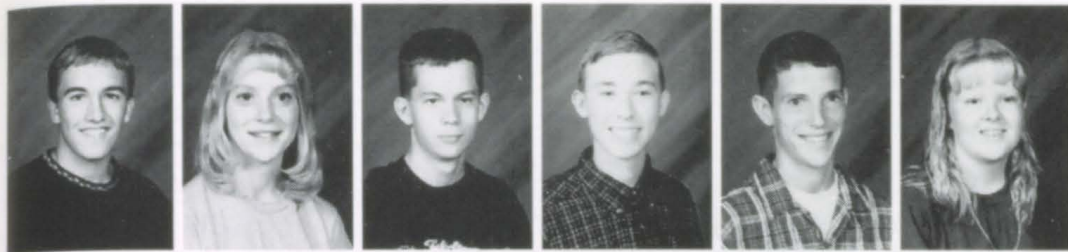
The three amigos. Laura Sherman takes time off from her chores to greet her Arabian, Dolly, and her St. Bernard, Babe.



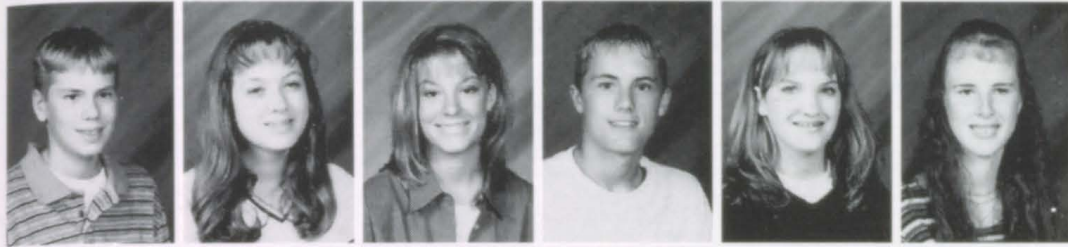
Let's go team. Jaya DeVries, Stephanie Wahle, and Kristin Kolbeck show their team spirit at the football playoffs.

Playing around. Matt Barnett and Brandy Stiefvater stretch their legs before a band competition.

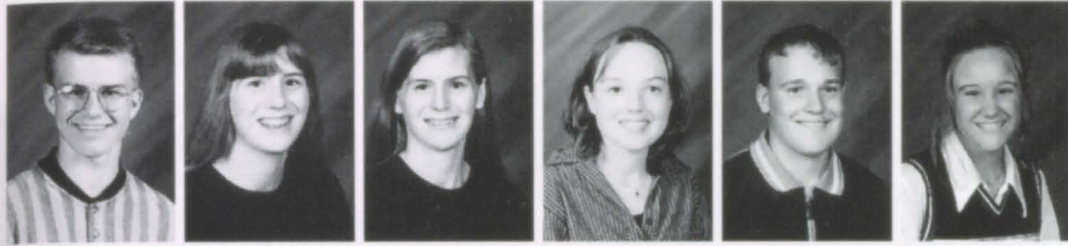




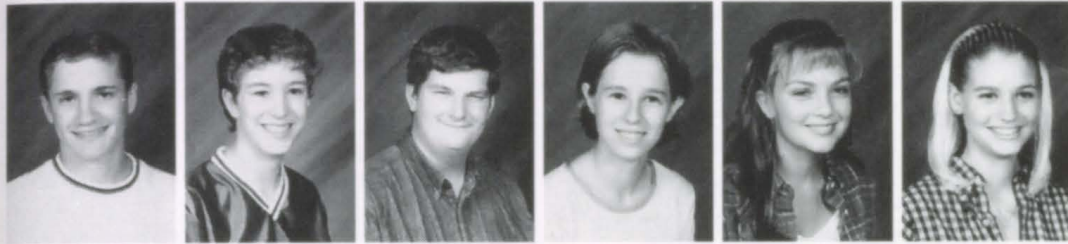
Matt Barnett
Cassie Benson
Corey Brasel
Jesse Bruns
Tom Chase
Katie Cone



Matt Demaray
Jaya DeVries
Kim Ecklein
Derek Eichacker
Melissa Eichacker
Elizabeth Engum



Dusty Even
Meganne Gourley
Meredith Gourley
Megan Gregg
Cam Howard
Shelly Karel



Wade Klinkhammer
Kristen Kolbeck
Brian Kuhl
Tanya Massie
Amber McGregor
Jessica Mehlbrech



Rick Meyer
Tony Morehead
Kristi Myren
Kristen Norris
Sarah North
Tracy O'Daniels



Jeremy Pulse
Scott Rotert
Sammie Selland
Laura Sherman
Beth Simmons
Nick Snyders



Bo Stevens
Brandy Stiefvater
Amanda Streff
Jenny Twedt
Wyatt Urlacher
Sean Vandewalle



Ryan VanEmmerik
Chris VanOrmer
Keri VanOvershelde
Stephanie Wahle
Lacey Weber

EXCUSES

Excuses

Excuses

"Slept in," is an excuse Luke Blindert uses when he is late for his first hour class.

Do you ever wonder where the other sophomores are at in the beginning of class? Well, here are some of the excuses they use when they are late for class:

"I forgot something and had to go back and get it."

"I dropped my stuff in the hall on the way to class."

"Mr./Mrs. — kept me late."

"I had to talk to someone."

Next time you need an excuse you could probably borrow this

next one.

Brad Gessner says, "I went up town to eat," when he's late for sixth period.

This one may be hard to believe for some teachers and even some students, but Jon Harms uses it anyway. "I got stuck in the shower."

Sarah Rotert may tell you, "I had a doctor's appointment."

In a bad week the sophomores can accumulate up to seven tardies in all, so they are always in need of another excuse. — *Laura Sherman*

Top 5 tardy excuses

1. I was already here and you said I could go to the bathroom/get a drink/go to my locker.
2. I was in the bathroom.
3. I got out of the last class late.
4. I had to stop in the office.
5. I was getting a drink.

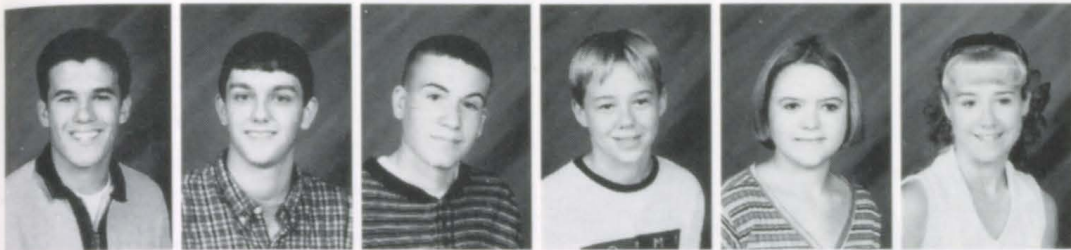
Laughing it up. Pat Barnett laughs it up while playing chess in study hall.



Smile pretty. Bobby Jo Cherry and Sarah Rotert take time from doing their homework to smile for the camera.

Yes, sir! Megan Warns gives a few pointers to her team member, junior Stephanie Wahle, while bowling in Sioux Falls.

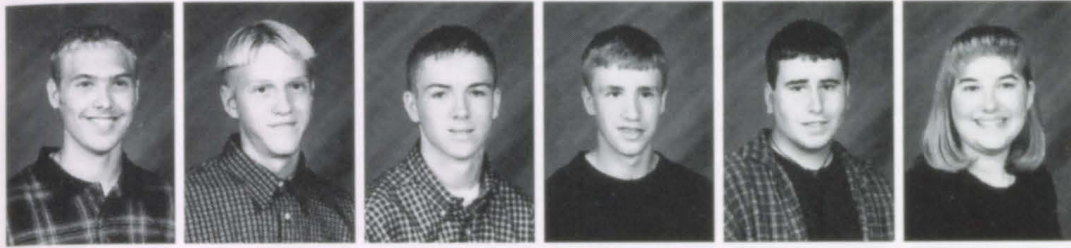




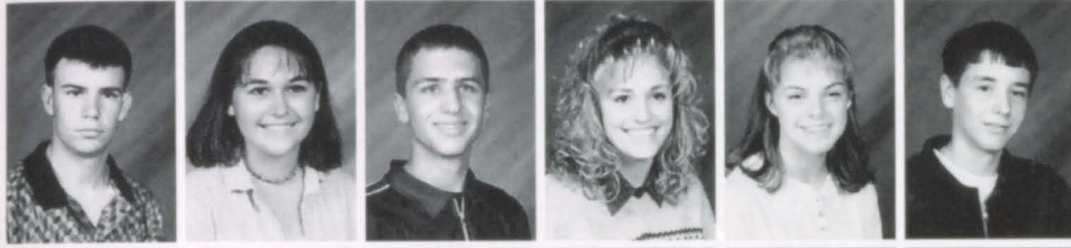
Pat Barnett
 Brad Bies
 Luke Blindert
 Matt Braden
 Toni Castrogiovanni
 Bobbi Jo Cherry



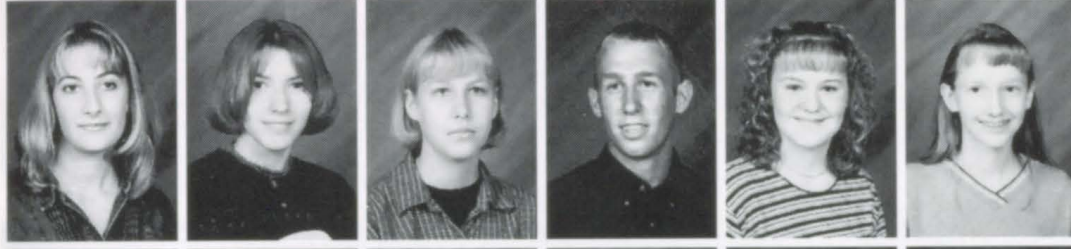
Jamie DeMent
 Jared Deters
 Angie Duxbury
 Tammy Eichacker
 Brad Gessner
 Marshall Hansen



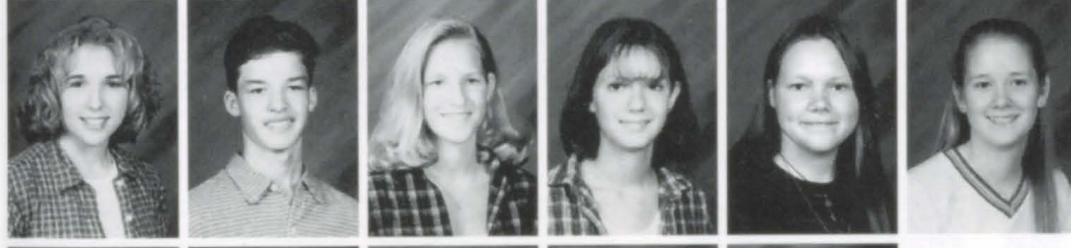
Jon Harms
 Neil Kimmel
 Doug Koch
 Justin Koch
 Terry Kremppes
 Kristen Kuhl



Dan Lobien
 Marcia McCorkell
 Greg McCormick
 Katie McCormick
 Sherri McGregor
 Nathan Nowak



Marie Petree
 Jenny Phillips
 Amy Pulse
 Mitch Rayman
 Kristy Roling
 Sarah Rotert



Diana Schierholz
 Gordon Schmidt
 Sandi Shape
 Robin Stanga
 Catlin Stevens
 Miranda Tjaden



Missy Tuschen
 Melissa Wallace
 Megan Warns
 Kim Westhoff
 Jeremy White

BEGINNINGS

Beginnings

Beginnings

The class of 2002 began the school year with a first place in the homecoming parade. The excitement of winning hyped up the freshmen's spirits.

"It really helped to have homecoming to build wonderful memories right away," said Andrea Mayrose.

Some of the freshmen had a little help and guidance getting started on their high school careers from older siblings. Nineteen of the freshmen had at least one sibling already in high school.

"It was nice to have someone to help me through the transition and

keep me out of trouble," said freshman Amber Fischer.

As the year progressed the most heated discussion in the media was "Should President Clinton be impeached?"

The almost unanimous response from the class of 2002 was "Who cares, it's his personal business."

Zach Binfet just felt sorry for him.

Many excuses have been made for President Clinton's mistakes, but the most logical one may be the one given by Justin Wubben.

"He is only human," said Wubben. — *Heather Fischer*

Polls

Do you own a pair of Doc Marten Shoes?

Yes	32%
No	68%

What is your favorite brand of jeans?

Tommy	13%
Lucky	24%
Silver	24%
Levi	21%
Other	18%

Do you have your own car?

Yes	42%
No	58%

What is your weekend curfew?

10-11	16%
11-12	42%
12-1	18%
No curfew	24%

Do you live in or out of Salem?

In	65%
Out	35%



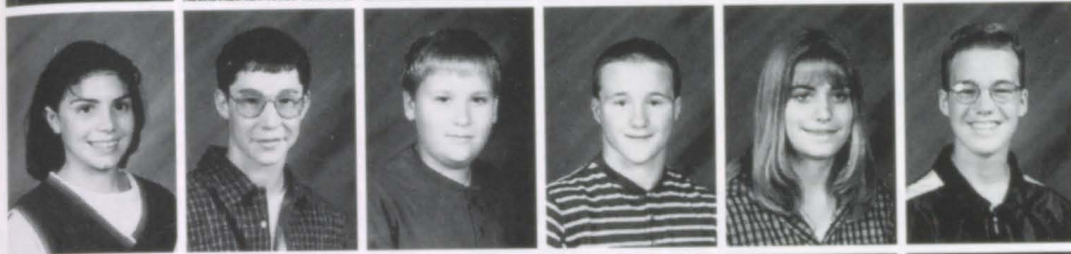
Pretty women. Jolene Krempges, Callie Hey, Lisa Bellack, and April McGregor strike a pose for the camera on prom night.



First place. The freshmen float wiped out the sophomores and juniors in homecoming parade competition. Their theme was "The 'Charmin' Cougars will wipe out the Raiders."



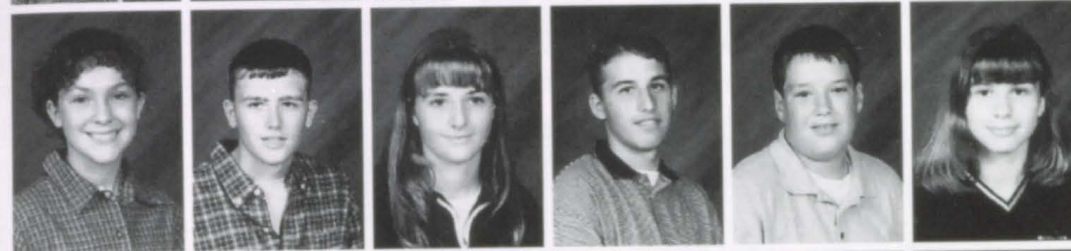
Grant Bartscher
 Lisa Bellack
 Tara Benson
 Kristen Bruns
 Matt Bunger
 Ashley Deters



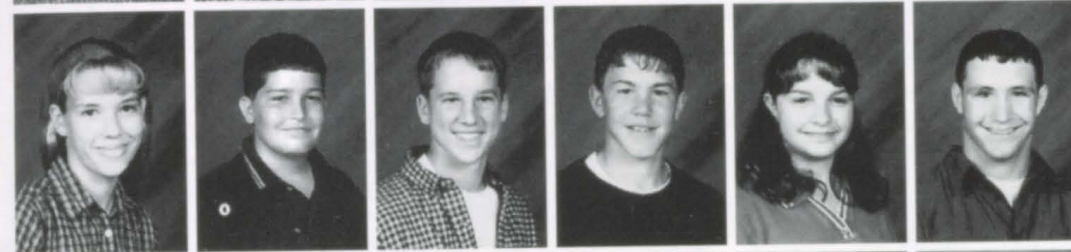
Amber Fischer
 Michael Gottlob
 Jeremy Gross
 Jeff Heumiller
 Callie Hey
 Danny James



Maria Jordan
 Alison Klinkhammer
 Jolene Kremppes
 Nathan Madigan
 Andrea Mayrose
 Eric McGill



April McGregor
 Kyle Myren
 Laura Nelson
 Andy Olinger
 Mike Oyen
 Andrea Peterson



Lisa Peterson
 Josh Pulse
 Joey Rotert
 Brent Roth
 Jenni Schock
 Craig Selland



Richard Stone
 Alan Tuschen
 Josh Tuschen
 Angie Van Den Hemel
 Jessie Weber
 Jasten White



Justin Wubben

CONNECTIONS

Connections

Connections

“What?” is what some of you might say when I tell you that teachers actually did the kinds of things that we high schoolers do. But that was when they were all in high school.

So, even though teachers seem like they never had any excitement in their lives, they actually have. When they were in high school they did the same things as any high schooler these days would do. For example some have been homecoming royalty, believe it or not. Also many were in track, football, basketball, band, and any other activity you can come up with, that school will allow.

Outside of school you could find some cruising main with a car full

of kids. Or some were at home just reading a book and chilling out.

Mr. Mark Kimmel, on the other hand, could be found playing his guitar.

Mr. Gene Danielsen could be found going out for sports such as track and football, working on his farm, or taking a break from work and going to the movies on Saturday nights.

“On Saturdays the students were at the movie theater or at the parties that were held every weekend,” said Mr. Danielsen.

So actually when some teachers tell you that they have been through the same thing in their lives, they could be telling the truth.—*Catlin Stevens*



Happy Birthday. Mary Lou Schmeichel celebrates her 40th birthday with her fellow cooking pals.

Deja Vu

“I never thought I would be working for the same school I went to in high school.” — Christi Matthies



Where's Cher? Dennis VanOverschelde is stylin' at a Halloween party in his groovy outfit!



Scott Andral, PE
Sarah Anderson, Librarian
Ronald Bennett, Superintendent
Sandy Bies, Cook
Wes Bjerke, Business
Gene Danielsen, Math



Karen Danielsen, Grade 1
Monica Demaray, TA Grade 4
Dee Dickson, TA Grade 3
Aldena Ecklein, Grade 3
Jan Ecklein, Head Secretary
Deb Eichacker, Title I



Wendy Erickson, Special Education
Mary Ann Flanagan, Pre-school
Priscilla Hansen, Kindergarten
Gary Harms, HS Principal
Juel Harms, TA Computers
Tara Hofer, Spanish



Mary Huiten, Cook
Jason Huska, Science
Kay Johnson, Math
Janet Karel, Business Manager
Teresa Keehn, Vocal Music
Terry Keehn, Band



Linda Kimmel, Grade 5
Mark Kimmel, English
Shirley Koepsell, Social Studies
Jayne Marso, MS TA
Christi Matthies, Secretary
Sue Morehead, Cook



Jim Muller, Custodian
LaVonne Norberg, Grade 1
Deanna Olinger, TA Resource Room
Robyn Olson, Speech
Melissa Palmquist, TA Grade 1
Terry Pfann, Science



Jack Rasmussen, Social Studies
Kathleen Reif, TA Title I
Terry Rieckman, Agriculture
April Robinson, TA Grade 2
Becky Rolfes, Special Education
Carmen Rotert, Grade 2



JoAnn Schierholz, Grade 2
Mary Lou Schmeichel, Cook
Carolyn Shearer, Grade 4
Dennis VanOvershelde, MS Principal,
Guidance
Anna Kay Vinz, Language Arts
Brad Wilkins, Industrial Technology



Veronica Williams, English
Pete Wilson, Math
LaVern Yost, Cook

AWARDS

Awards

From athletics to academics the students at McCook Central have done it all! McCook Central has added new state champions in the sports field and new college credit classes in the academic field to ensure that students are ready for college. At the end of each year the awards banquets are held for academics, music, and sports; however, this year became a special year for McCook Central. The awards tables were stacked full of awards that the students had worked hard for throughout the year.

There were twenty 4.0 awards given out this year. The students earning 4.0 awards include: Andrea Mayrose, Andrea Peterson, Lisa Peterson, Jessie Weber, Katie McCormick, Sherri McGregor, David Klingberg, Brad Bies, Jesse Bruns, Melissa Newbrough, Kim Ecklein, Kent Peterson, Dawn Stoffel, and Sue Pulse. Students receiving Gold 4.0 awards include: Amber Fischer, Megan Warns, Shelly Karel, Amber McGregor, Stephanie Wahle, and Minda Ecklein.
—Shelly Karel



Inspiring to all. Katie Huls and Aaron Gough were the recipients of the 1999 Ray Sandine Awards. Katie was chosen as the Most Inspirational Female Athlete and Aaron Gough was chosen as the Most Inspirational Male Athlete.

Athletics

- Girl's Basketball**
Senior...Heather Peterson, Minda Ecklein, Becky Mokros, Katie Huls, Andrea Roth, Dawn Stoffel
Most Improved...Lacey Weber
Outstanding Defense...Andrea Roth
Hustler...Becky Mokros
Most Inspirational Player...Heather Peterson
Assist Award...Minda Ecklein
Rebound Award...Becky Mokros
Free Throw...Minda Ecklein
- Cross Country**
Senior...Heather Fischer
Boys' MVP...Tom Chase, Derek Eichacker
Girls' MVP...Heather Fischer, Amber Fischer
- Football**
Senior...Kent Peterson, Brian Sabers, Brian Snyders, Casey Nelson, Brent Deters, Aaron Gough, Austin Gregg, Tyler McGregor, Josh Harvey, Matt Tjaden, Craig Heumiller, Scott Peterson
Most Improved...Bo Stevens
MVP Defense...Tyler McGregor
MVP Offense...Kent Peterson
Hustler...Tyler McGregor
Most Inspirational...Brian Snyders
Best Defensive Lineman...Brian Sabers
Best Offensive Lineman...Tyler McGregor
MVP Special Team...Chris VanOrmer
- Wrestling**
Senior...Tyler McGregor, Matt Tjaden, Austin Gregg, Sue Pulse
Quick Pin...Tyler McGregor
Most Pins...Tyler McGregor
Most Improved...Matt Braden
Most Inspirational...Tyler McGregor
MVP...Jeff Heumiller
Hustler...Tyler McGregor
- Boy's Basketball**
Senior...Kent Peterson, Scott Peterson, Brian Sabers, Casey Nelson, Craig Heumiller
Hustler Award...Casey Nelson
Outstanding Defensive Player...Casey Nelson
Most Improved...Craig Heumiller
Assist Award...Chris VanOrmer
Free Throw...Kent Peterson
- Volleyball**
Senior...Kristina Ecklein, Ali Gottlob
MVP...Marcia McCorkell
Most Inspirational...Ali Gottlob
Most Improved...Marcia McCorkell
Top Percentage Server...Marcia McCorkell
Most Service Points...Megan Gourley
Most Set Assists...Kristina Ecklein
Most Kills...Meredith Gourley
Lead Blocker...Sarah North
Most Digs...Shelly Karel
- Track**
Senior...Kent Peterson, Casey Nelson, Aaron Gough, Scott Peterson, Matt Tjaden, Minda Ecklein, Heather Fischer, Becky Mokros, Sue Pulse, Andrea Roth, Katie Huls, Kristina Ecklein, Dawn Stoffel
- Golf**
Senior...Brian Sabers, Kent Peterson, Brian Snyders, Heather Peterson
Girls' State B Champion Team...Katie McCormick, Heather Peterson, Lacey Weber, Andrea Roth
Edgar and Tillie Sabers Award...Kent Peterson, Minda Ecklein
National Scholar Athlete Award...Chris VanOrmer, Minda Ecklein
Sandy Gregg Award...Austin Gregg, Tyler McGregor
Ray Sandine Most Inspirational Award...Katie Huls, Aaron Gough

Academics

Business

Accounting I...Shelly Karel

Accounting II...Melissa Newbrough, Kent Peterson

Consumer Law...Melissa Newbrough

Multimedia...Megan Warns

English

American Literature...Stephanie Wahle

English I...Jessie Weber

English II...Megan Warns

English III (Novels)...Kim Ecklein

English IV...Dawn Stoffel

Vocational English...Craig Heumiller

Speech...Sandi Shape

Home Economics

Foods...Diana Schierholz

Mathematics

Consumer Math...Jessica Mehlbrech

Calculus...Kent Peterson, Kristina Ecklein, David Klingberg, Aaron Gough, James Petree, Matt Kimmel, Melissa Newbrough

Science

Physical Science...Amber Fischer

Chemistry...Amber McGregor

Physics...Matt Barnett

Advanced Chemistry...Mindi Ecklein, James Petree, Bo Stevens, Andrea Roth

Biology...Andrea Peterson, Lisa Peterson

Anatomy/Physiology...Megan Warns

Social Studies

American History...Stephanie Wahle

Economics...Sue Pulse

Global History...Brad Bies

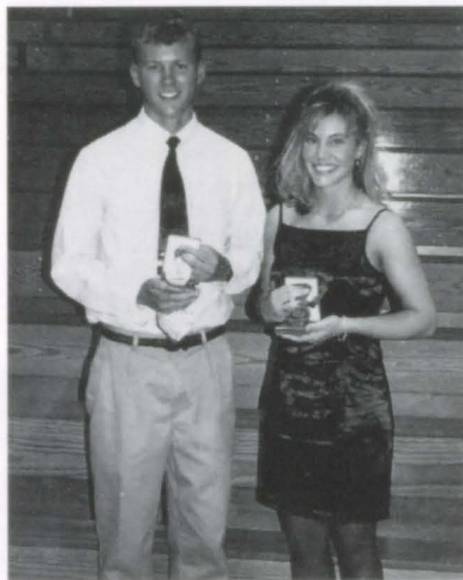
Psychology...Elizabeth Engum

World Geography...Megan Warns

Sociology...Amber McGregor

Government...Dawn Stoffel

It's all worth it. Kent Peterson and Mindi Ecklein earned the Edgar and Tillie Sabers Award for all their hard work as McCook Central athletes.



Eight straight superiors. Jennifer Streff and Andrea Roth received awards for earning superior ratings on their duets from fifth grade until their senior year.



Music

Arion...Aaron Gough
National School Choral Award...Aaron Gough
John Phillip Sousa Award...Beth Palmquist
All-State Chorus...Aaron Gough, David Klingberg, Jennifer Streff, Kristina Ecklein
Four Year Band Award...Matt Kimmel, Scott Peterson, Brent Deters, Jill Nowak, Tracy Nowak, Heather Peterson
Four Year Choral Award...Julie Bauer, Heather Fischer, David Klingberg, Brian Sabers, Brian Snyders
Four Year Band And Choral Award...Mary Beth Feterl, Kristina Ecklein, Mindi Ecklein, Alison Gottlob, Aaron Gough, Katie Huls, Beth Palmquist, Sue Pulse, Meredith Lampe, Andrea Roth, Kent Peterson, Dawn Stoffel, Jennifer Streff
Four Year Flag Award...Julie Bauer, Jennifer Streff
Woody Herman Jazz Award...Aaron Gough
Louis Armstrong Jazz Award...Sue Pulse
Senior Honor Award...Kristina Ecklein
Outstanding Accompanist Award...Kristina Ecklein, Jennifer Streff
Coyote Jazz Festival Outstanding Soloists Awards...Sue Pulse, Kim Ecklein, Aaron Gough, Greg McCormick



Musicianship award. Rebecca Aden received the musicianship award at the music awards banquet.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships

At the beginning of most years a student at McCook Central may hear Dr. Harms saying that the senior class determines how the year proceeds. The seniors have always been told what a great class they are. The seniors certainly did cash in with their special talents and abilities this year. Not only did the senior class receive scholarships from around the community, but most seniors went out of their way to find new scholarships that would aid them through college.

Some of the more prestigious scholarships and awards went to Mindi Ecklein, Kristina Ecklein, Aaron Gough, and Kent Peterson. Mindi received numerous new scholarships that have not been presented to a McCook Central student in the past years and Kristina received the Augustana Regents Scholarship. Aaron Gough received the 1st Dakota National Bank Scholarship and Kent Peterson received the Boyd and Maxine Knox Scholarship. These are just a few of the many scholarships awarded to the McCook Central senior class.

—Shelly Karel



On her way. Kristina Ecklein, a senior at MCHS, received many scholarships that will aid her in her future college career. Kristina hopes to attend Augustana College in Sioux Falls next year in the area of elementary education. She received the Augustana Regents Scholarship, Davenport Scholarship, and Norwest Bank Scholarship.

Scholarships

- Pat McCormick Scholarship (\$500)**...Katie Huls
- MCTA Scholarships (\$300)**...Dawn Stoffel, Mindi Ecklein, Kim Rieckman
- MCEA Scholarships (\$200)**...Kristina Ecklein, Matt Kimmel
- Student Council Scholarships (\$250)**...Aaron Gough, Kristina Ecklein
- PEO Scholarship (\$250)**...Katie Huls
- Senior Community Women Scholarship (\$250)**...Mindi Ecklein
- American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship (\$100)**...Dawn Stoffel, Heather Peterson, Katie Huls
- Chandler L. Beach Memorial Scholarship (\$200)**...Kent Peterson
- Jean Peterson Memorial Scholarship (\$250)**...Kristina Ecklein
- Harold and Monica Heitgen Scholarship (\$1000)**...Mindi Ecklein
- 1st Dakota National Bank Scholarship (\$1000)**...Aaron Gough
- Boyd and Maxine Knox Scholarship (\$1000)**...Kent Peterson
- Other Scholarships:**
 - Heather Fischer**...Mt. Marty Leadership Scholarship (\$1500 Renewable), Mt. Marty Athletic Scholarship (\$4000 Renewable)
 - Mindi Ecklein**...National Honor Society Scholarship (\$150), Satellite Cable Scholarship (\$1000), USF Scholarship (\$7700 Renewable), SAMMY Award (\$7500), South Dakota Jr. Miss Scholarship (\$4600), Davenport Scholarship (\$1000)
 - Matt Kimmel**...Montgomery Presidential Achievement Scholarship (\$750 Renewable), DSU Foundation Math and Science Scholarship (\$750), Prostrollo Annual Scholarship (\$1000)
 - Melissa Newbrough**...DWU Trustee Scholarship (\$4900 Renewable), DWU Tumbleweed Award (\$250), DWU Hattercheidt Foundation Educational Scholarship (\$1000)
 - Doug McCorkell**...Iron Wheel Scholarship (\$200)
 - Beth Palmquist**...Baptist Student Award (\$700), USF Academic Scholarship (\$1000), USF Music Participation Scholarship (\$700)
 - Kent Peterson**...USD Foundation/Leadership Scholarship (\$500)
 - Kristina Ecklein**...Norwest Bank Scholarship (\$1000), Davenport Scholarship (\$1000), Augustana Regents Scholarship (\$7500 Renewable)
 - Aaron Gough**...U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship (\$500), Ericsson Scholarship (\$1500)
 - Scott Peterson**...National FFA Scholarship (\$1000), Cenex Land-O-Lakes Scholarship (\$500)
 - Brad Schock**...Cenex Land-O-Lakes Scholarship (\$500)
 - Dawn Stoffel**...NSU Dean's Scholarship (\$950)
 - Sue Pulse**...SDSU Campanile Scholarship (\$600)

Strutting their stuff. The show choir continues to dazzle the audiences with their singing abilities and new outfits. The show choir meets every Thursday morning at 7:15 A.M. "Working hard every morning has enabled the show choir to receive numerous awards this year," said Kristina Ecklein.

Special Awards

Presidential Academic Fitness Awards...Kristina Ecklein, Mindi Ecklein, Aaron Gough, Matt Kimmel, James Petree

American Citizenship Awards...Brad Schock, Sue Pulse, Scott Peterson, David Klingberg, Ryan VanEmmerik, Meganne Gourley, Meredith Gourley, Laura Sherman, Kristin Norris

Principal's Leadership Awards...Aaron Gough, Craig Heumiller, Kristina Ecklein, Kim Ecklein, Kent Peterson

4.0 Awards...Andrea Mayrose, Andrea Peterson, Lisa Peterson, Jessie Weber, Katie McCormick, Sherri McGregor, David Klingberg, Brad Bies, Jesse Bruns, Melissa Newbrough, Kim Ecklein, Kent Peterson, Dawn Stoffel, Sue Pulse

Gold 4.0 Awards...Amber Fischer, Megan Warns, Shelly Karel, Amber McGregor, Stephanie Wahle, Mindi Ecklein

DWU Faculty Award for Academic Excellence...Amber McGregor

Bill O'Keefe Memorial Academic All-State Honorable Mention...Kristina Ecklein

Class Presidents Award...Sue Pulse, Matt Demaray, Brad Bies

Student Council Appreciation Awards...Cenex, McCook Telecom

Girls State...Brandy Stiefvater, Shelly Karel

Boys State...Tom Chase, Matt Barnett

American Legion Citizenship Award...Aaron Gough

1st Place Academic Bowl Team...Brian Snyders, Aaron Gough, James Petree, Matt Kimmel

2nd Place Academic Bowl Team...Brad Bies, Luke Blindert, Neil Kimmel, Brad Gessner

3rd Place Academic Bowl Team...Ricky Meyer, Brian Kuhl, Wendy McDonald, Shelly Karel

Academic All-Stars...Aaron Gough, Andrea Peterson, Brad Bies, Brian Kuhl, Matt Barnett, Matt Kimmel



Activities

All-School Play

Best Actor...Brad Schock
Best Actress...Andrea Roth
Featured Actor...Kent Peterson
Featured Actress...Shelly Karel
Director's Award...Sue Pulse

One-Act Play

Best Actress...Beth Palmquist
Featured Actress...Angie Duxbury
Stand-In...Andrea Mayrose
Crew...Kristy Roling, Ruth Schlenker
Student Managers...Laura Sherman, Meganne Gourley, Meredith Gourley

Oral Interpretation

Members...Andrea Mayrose, Angie Van Den Hemel, Justin Koch, Megan Warns, Kim Ecklein, Elizabeth Engum, Shelly Karel, Brandy Stiefvater, Aaron Gough, Matt Kimmel

Newspaper

Tri-editors...Aaron Gough, Sue Pulse, Dawn Stoffel
Reporters...Melissa Newbrough, Ruth Schlenker, Stephanie Wahle, Brad Bies, Megan Warns, Andrea Mayrose
Photographer...Miranda Tjaden
Cartoonist...Terry Krempeges



Representing McCook Central. Alison Gottlob received a state champion plaque for FFA. Alison is very active in FFA and enjoys being competitive in everything she does. She won her first place rating for Entrepreneurship.

WELLNESS

Wellness

Wellness

“Wellness for Life”, an interdisciplinary program for middle schoolers, started in January with a week of large and small group presentations on the six main areas of wellness: general health and nutrition, fitness, safety, environment, spiritual, and mental/emotional.

The keynote speaker was John Reger, KDLT anchorman. Other large group presenters were Luann McKillop, aerobics; Brad Stiefvater, winter survival; Jim Jackson, SD wildlife; and Pastor Mark Dickson, stress.

After each day’s speaker, mixed groups of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders then broke into four groups for sessions on topics such

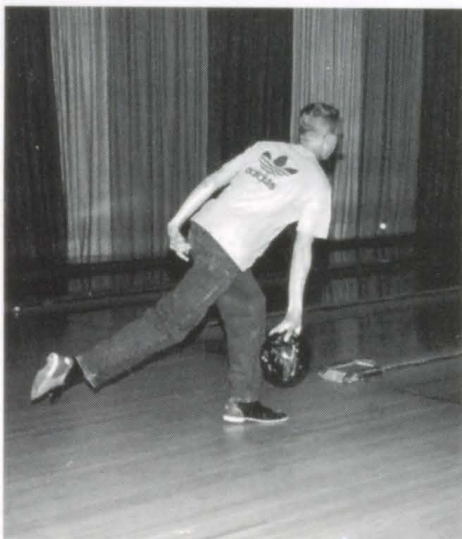
as vitamins, massage, blood pressure, line dancing, taekwando, conflict resolution, fishing, backpacking, scrapbooking, volunteerism, and relaxation.

Volunteers from the area conducted the sessions. For example, Floyd Demaray showed his groups how to set up a tent, read a map, make pudding in a bag, and other backpacking skills. Shirley Puthoff had no problem getting volunteers for her massage demonstrations. Brad Wilkins, teacher and fishing guide, brought in a room full of fishing gear for his sessions.

For the next seven weeks, the students practiced what they learned.

Fishing tips. Fishing guide and teacher, Brad Wilkins, demonstrates various kinds of fishing equipment for wellness week.

How are we doing? Allison Demaray helps her dad, Floyd Demaray set up a tent in one of his backpacking sessions during wellness week.



Set for a strike. Seventh grader Brandon Lampe approaches the lane.



Wellness winners. Thirty-six middle schoolers completed at least 36 days of wellness activities to earn a bowling party.



Zach Anderson 8
Kim Braden 8
Megan Corcoran 8
Stephanie Dickson 8
Reese Ecklein 8
Darrin Eichacker 8
Cassie Even 8



Angela Gough 8
Amanda Heumiller 8
Emily Kerkhove 8
Heidi Kolbeck 8
Stacey Larsen 8
Bryce Mayrose 8
Beth Mehlbrech 8



John Mentele 8
Harry Meyer 8
Jessica Meyer 8
Jeremy Paulson 8
Eric Schierholz 8
Nick Schmeichel 8
Chad Schulte 8



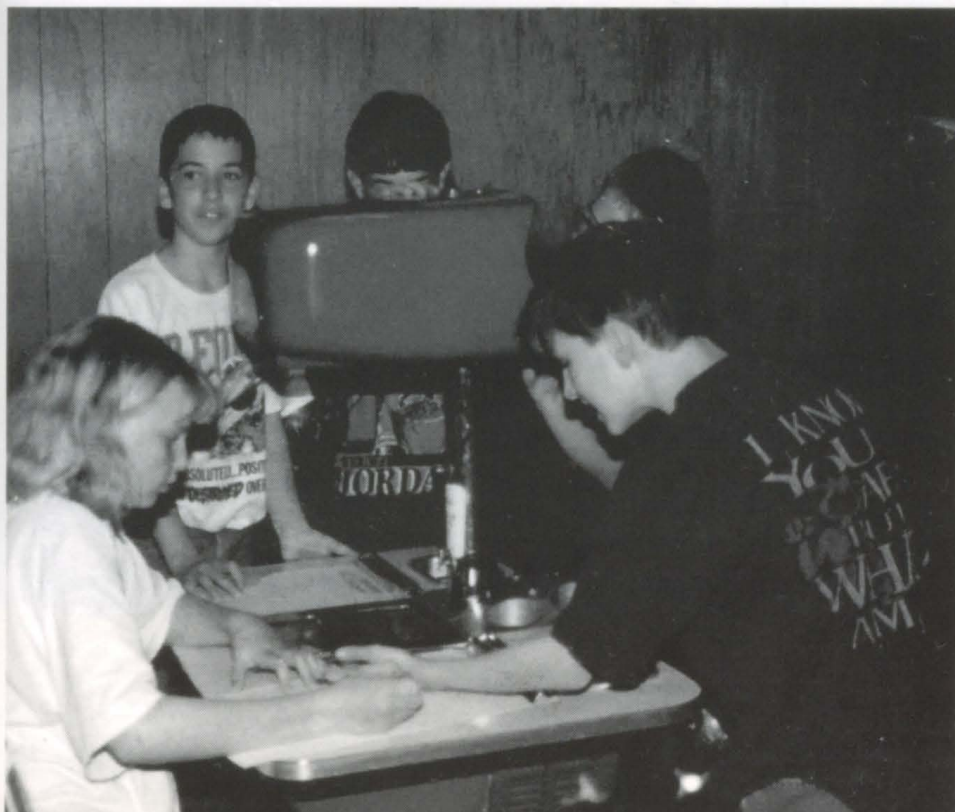
Ray Shape 8
Tami Sherman 8
Chris Simmons 8
Sarah Stubbe 8
Kyle VanEmmerik 8
Becky Wahle 8
Ross Wickman 8



Marrissa Bunger 7
Brad Carmichel 7
Cherri
Castrogiovanni 7
Allison Demaray 7
Jamie Feterl 7
Colby Gregg 7
Grant Hoefert 7



Amanda James 7
Tishal Kirby 7
Melinda Koch 7
Brandon Lampe 7



Hungry bowlers. Eighth graders Becky Wahle and Sarah Stubbe purchase snacks at the bowling party.

Learning to keep score. Sixth graders Jennifer Wubben, Justin McCorkell, and Rory Long discuss scorekeeping.

REPORTING

Reporting

In the Middle, a middle school newspaper, was launched this year by Mrs. Anna Kay Vinz in her eighth grade language arts class.

The weekly paper is designed in three-column format on Microsoft Word. Each edition is four pages long. Copies are distributed to all of the middle school.

Students have been able to sharpen their interviewing skills as they sought out the facts for stories. Writing skills improved when the students were writing for publication.

They took turns writing editorials and were each featured in the eighth grade spotlight interview. Those items plus the "Thought of the Week" appeared

Reporting

weekly along with articles on sports, music, and other activities.

A popular item was the "Top 10" list that appeared frequently. These included the top ten things to do on vacation and the top ten excuses for not having homework done.

Each edition contained pictures taken with the digital camera and cropped for use in the paper.

Mrs. Vinz attended the TIE (Technology in Education) Conference in Rapid City in the spring and presented sessions on this project. Copies of *In the Middle* now are in the hands of teachers across the state who will use them as a model for their own student newspapers.

MCMS pumpkin. Becky Wahle displays an ornately carved pumpkin which has the MCMS initials as part of the design. The pumpkin was one of several carved in art class by Miss Moerke, the art teacher.



Treats. Mr. Jason Huska dishes ice cream for middle schoolers on Halloween.



Stretching exercises. Don and Chris Garry lead the seventh graders in stretching exercises that are part of the Garry's daily routine. This was a follow-up Wellness for Life activity.



Dani Oyen 7
 Drew Peterson 7
 Becky Pulse 7
 Duane Pulse 7
 Jena Rabenhorst 7
 Amber Richards 7
 Holly Rotert 7



Derek Schmidt 7
 Tim Sexton 7
 Tyler Van Emmerik 7
 Amber Wilkins 7
 Kelly Wubben 7
 Laura Anderson 6
 Travis Benter 6



Tera Coffey 6
 Eric Dykes 6
 Kevin Gross 6
 Kayla Gruenstein 6
 Jennifer Harvey 6
 Johnathan Harvey 6
 Lisa Jacobson 6



Kelly Keehn 6
 Michelle Kirk 6
 Sasha Kolbeck 6
 David Kuhl 6
 Katey Larson 6
 Jenni Lauck 6
 Rory Long 6



Justin McCorkell 6
 Brandon Mehlbrech 6
 Mariah Mickelson 6
 Eliot Myren 6
 Suzanne North 6
 Daniel Palmquist 6
 Kelli Peterson 6



Kerry Roling 6
 Arianna Sewright 6
 Jason Sieverding 6
 Janna Urlacher 6
 Suzy Webb 6
 Joe Weber 6
 Jennifer Wubben 6



Jessica Zelmer 6
 Anna Anderson 5
 David Carmichael 5
 Kim Carmichael 5
 Tacia Cobler 5
 Molly Dickson 5
 Terry Heumiller 5



Garrett Hoefert 5
 Kristin Huggins 5
 Alex Keehn 5
 Kelli Matthies 5
 Devin Myren 5
 Marty Olinger 5
 Jenna Paulsen 5



Jeanna Schierholz 5
 Jim Schmeichel 5
 Audrey Schroeder 5
 Joel Waggoner 5
 Amber Weber 5
 Kyrsten Anderson 4
 Erin Coffey 4

GOOD TIMES

Good Times

"I must say that the study of the plains states is the most fun," said Mrs. Aldena Ecklein, the third grade teacher. Her class made pomanders and small quilts that they sewed themselves.

They did their social studies through the reading and studying of the *Little House* series. As a finale to the study, they took a field trip to the Ingalls Wilder sites in DeSmet.

Along with making different things, the third grade class also learned how to write in cursive, memorized multiplication and division problems, and improved their reading.

"Twenty-five students walked into the fourth grade room last

August and were they ever surprised for what awaited them!" exclaimed Miss Carolyn Shearer, the fourth grade teacher.

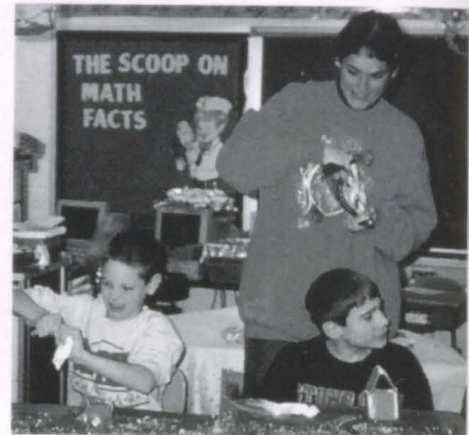
The fourth grade class had fun all year long. After reading the book *Stone Fox*, about a young boy in a dog sled race, Miss Shearer's students built sleds and held their own races.

They also celebrated Dr. Seuss Day. Student readers came in and read Dr. Seuss books. The children even showed up dressed like some of the characters in Dr. Seuss's books.

At the end of the year they held a Pizza Hut Book It sleep-in, where the kids spent the night at school. — *Catlin Stevens*

Sneaking a snack. Amy Giesler, Kristen Rotert, and Jordan Krueger all work on their gingerbread houses, while Travis Hey eats the decorations.

Construction project. Marcia Krueger assists fourth graders Jordan Krueger, and Travis Hey with their houses.



An old fashioned gift. Third graders hold up their pomanders that they made for their mothers.



Comfortable enough? Mrs. Aldena Ecklein and her third grade class pose for a picture during their reading time.



Kari Eichacker 4
Justin Feterl 4
Brittany Fischer 4
Amy Giesler 4
Travis Hey 4
Marc Hughley 4
Jacob Johnson 4



Ashton Jones 4
Aaron Kirk 4
Clayton Knudsen 4
Andy Koch 4
Rory Kolbeck 4
Zach Kreeger 4
Jordan Krueger 4



Amanda Mead 4
Krystal Mickelson 4
Kristin Rotert 4
Rachelle Schulte 4
Josh Sieverding 4
Tyler Streff 4
Dustin Weber 4



Ryan Zelmer 4
Kyle Zulk 4
Bryanna Colber 3
Katie Jo Gross 3
Nick Hardcastle 3
Marty Heumiller 3
Kelly Hiemstra 3



Garrett Hofer 3
Scott Huiten 3
Rebecca Knox 3
Katie Marso 3
Jeremi Matthies 3
Natasha Melton 3
Nichole Melton 3



Taci Osterberg 3
Kim Oyen 3
Kally Paulsen 3
Landon Peterson 3
Alicia Reif 3
Matthew Rieckman 3
Logan Roth 3



Lisa Schmeichel 3
Megan Sexton 3
Tandi Shape 3
Clair Weber 3
Carl Wobig 3
Ashley Brown 2
Dan Carmichael 2



Megan Carmichael 2
Brian Duxbury 2
Jessica Dykes 2
Amber Even 2
Brooke Fischer 2
Nathan Ihnen 2
Danielle Johnson 2



Logan Keehn 2
Darin Koch 2
Kassy Manning 2
Trevor Mead 2
Dustin Palmquist 2
Brandon Schmidt 2
Eriana Schoenberner 2

THE BASICS

The Basics

The Basics

The agenda for the kindergarten class was for every kid to have a fun and successful first year in school.

To do this, kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Priscilla Hansen made a program that provided opportunities for social and environmental development. This also helped to inspire language development, and expand physical and mental growth. Now that sounds like a good idea!

The first graders were just full of things to do this year. They went many places, such as the zoo, the National Air Guard, and on nature walks, just to name a few. They have read plenty of books along with writing their own

creative stories and poetry.

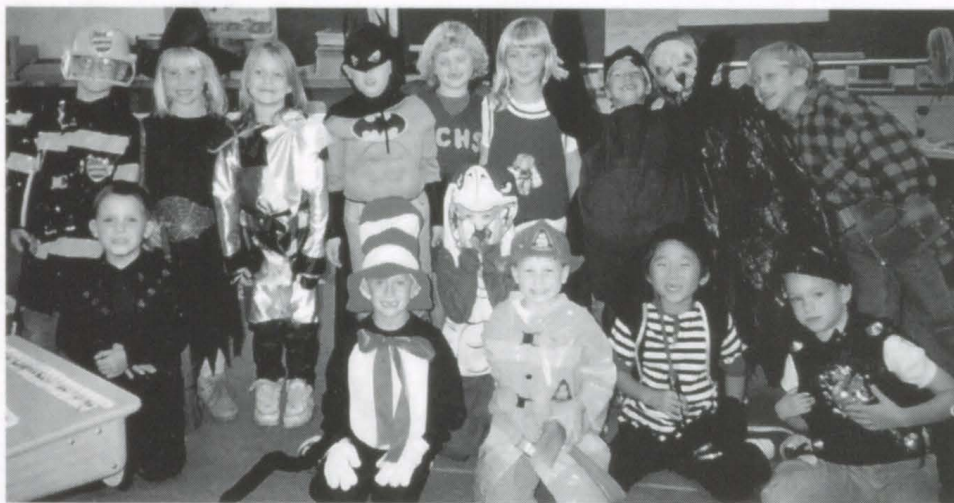
"They have learned so much in math," said their proud teacher, Mrs. LaVonne Norberg. They also have worked on different science projects and had homework parties.

The second graders worked hard on their reading skills this year, by practicing reading daily at home as well as at school.

"Our reading skills have greatly improved," said the second grade teacher, Mrs. Carmen Rotert.

They also learned how to trade both addition and subtraction signs and studied about animal groups, health and the human body, dinosaurs, and their country. —*Catlin Stevens*

Caught reading. Jody Hoiten and Stacy Wubben, second graders, practice reading with in partners.



Happy Halloween! First graders stop for a picture while in their Halloween costumes.

Celery and dye. First graders Caitlin Carter, Brianna Hoiten, Darin Schroeder, and Jonathan Wagner show off a science experiment with celery and dye.



Courtnee Spaans 2
 Jefferey Wallace 2
 Dustin Ward 2
 Chelsey Weber 2
 Brandon Wolff 2
 Stacey Wubben 2
 Brock Anderson 1

Erik Anderson 1
 Ray Anderson 1
 Beau Bartscher 1
 Zach Benson 1
 John Castrogiovanni 1
 Brittany Eichmann 1
 Jennifer Gullickson 1

Cody Heumiller 1
 Brianna Hoiten 1
 Jody Hoiten 1
 Brady Holter 1
 Keith Knudsen 1
 Joey Larsen 1
 Michael Mayrose 1

Quinton Nelson 1
 Taylor Osterberg 1
 Markus Pearson 1
 Bryce Rabenhorst 1
 Trevor Reif 1
 Brad Rotert 1
 Amanda Sabers 1

Deven Schoenberner 1
 Darin Schroeder 1
 Braxton Smith 1
 Katie Snyders 1
 Justin Streff 1
 David Waggoner 1
 Jonathan Wagner 1

Lydia Wickman 1
 Jonathan Alder K
 Tyler Arends K
 John Cain K
 Kaitlyn Galbraith K
 Alexandria Grabill K
 Jordan Gullickson K

Brad Heumiller K
 Chelsea Hiemstra K
 Tyler Hiemstra K
 McKenzie Huska K
 Audra Keehn K
 Jesse Knox K
 Karen Knudsen K

Hannah Kolbeck K
 Brodie Long K
 Nicolas Mentele K
 Vanessa Mickelson K
 Trenton Miller K
 Brady Nowak K
 Christopher Pearson K

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Board of Education

Cliff Tjaden, President
 Dwayne VanEmmerik
 Mary Bruns
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 Norman Peterson



Madrigal. Front row: Andrea Mayrose. Row 2: Aaron Gough, Shelly Karel, Jennifer Streff, Brent Roth. Row 3: Justin Wubben, Andrea Roth, Katie Huls, Brian Sabers, Mary Beth Feterl, Kent Peterson, Jaya DeVries, Kristina Ecklein, Danny James, Beth Palmquist.

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Goodby. Brad Schock says farewell.

The year's portrait is complete

All of the people who are a part of McCook Central added their piece to complete the picture of MCHS for 1999.

Now the tests have been taken, the papers written, and the projects completed.

The game, contest, and competition results have made their way into the record books.

The locker tags have been removed and the walls are stripped of their decorations.

All is ready for a new picture to be completed.

School spirit. Two enthusiastic fans, Heather Peterson and Lacey Weber, showed up at the district boys' basketball tourney with fun hair-dos.

