



GOVERNOR



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RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL, PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501

DECEMBER 1976



True to the festive Christmas spirit Peggy Martin and Mary Weisgram brighten a tree with the help of Santa Clause. [photo by Shelly Wooley]

**Inside: Riggs students evaluate traditional Christmas celebrations
Possibility of a student pop machine slim**

'Stray marks' could cause invalid standardized test scores

Mark Leach

"Blacken the oval that corresponds to the BEST answer below. Do not make any stray marks. If you change your mind erase your answer completely."

Sound familiar? These words are as traditional on standardized tests as the National Anthem before football games.

Millions of students blacken those little ovals hundreds of times during their school years and, unfortunately, they DO make stray marks. It is not that easy to perfectly fill in a circle 1/16th of an inch in diameter when time is against you. As a result the computer which scores your test may interpret your stray mark as a wrong answer. If this happens

just twice in a given test it can alter your score from the 87th percentile to the 64th percentile. On a certain test given to junior high students.

This is one example of the flaws of multiple choice, computer graded, standardized tests.

Every year schools spend millions of dollars on standardized tests affecting the lives of some 40 million students.

However leading experts like Martha King of Ohio State University feel the tests are a waste of time. "We don't need them," she says. "A knowledgeable teacher can learn as much or more in five minutes from listening to a child relate a story or explain one event."

Editorial in Nature

Functional illiterates increases alarmingly

A growing number of people are becoming alarmed at the increase in high school graduates who cannot read a newspaper, fill out an application for a driver's license or even read the label on a medicine bottle.

As national test scores continue to decrease, while an increasing number of 'functional illiterates' are processed and released from the nation's high schools, a reactionary 'back-to-the-basics' movement has been strengthening.

A recent report by the National Assessment of Educational Progress estimated that 11 percent of the nation's 17 year olds are functionally incompetent.

It should be noted that most of the incompetent students are located in large metropolitan areas with a high percentage of minority and otherwise underprivileged pupils, so such a figure may not be valid at Riggs.

While some blame the national trend on the school's deviation from the basics, others attribute the decline in the literacy rate to a TV oriented generation. Students are now watching television to be entertained and informed, where they had previously relied on reading books and newspapers.

Additionally, school curriculums have drifted away from the traditional academic areas of reading, writing and arithmetic to include elective courses in diverse vocational and academic fields.

The alleged result is a decreased proficiency in the fundamentals as students concentrated on those areas of greatest immediate interest.

Correlating with the trend in decreased literacy is the decline in discipline, particularly in the more populous school areas.

It is argued by the more liberal educators that a return to discipline, dress codes and corporal punishment is not a restoration of the basics, however. It is merely an adoption of military school techniques.

It is very probable that the answer lies in the middle of the two extremes. Emphasis should be placed on the basics through required courses, though allowing and encouraging electives (much as is now done at Riggs High). Incentive should be given students to read more through providing interesting material. Teachers, also, should perhaps be given a greater degree of freedom in disciplining insubordinate students.

A committee formed by several Ivy League Colleges called standardized tests results "questionable at best," and "not reliable as a measure of academic achievement."

It is hard to believe that they ever were considered reliable or accurate. A good score on a standardized test may be the result of good memory, high intelligence and reading comprehension;

or it may be just good guessing ability, luck and computer errors. In the same way a poor score may be due to nervousness, poor muscle coordination and computer errors rather than low IQ.

It is generally assumed that a group of intelligent educators attempt to create a fair and objective test. But in fact, as poor as most tests are, some are practically worthless.

Student pop machine considered unlikely

EDITORS NOTE: The following is in response to a letter requesting the "Governor" to pursue the matter of a proposed pop machine and the administrations opposition to it.

The probability that Riggs students will be granted a pop machine in the near future is unlikely.

According to Principal Roger Lonbaken, it is his understanding that if a pop machine is installed, the school will have to abandon some of its nutritional programs.

"From an administrative point of view, a pop-machine would be counter-productive," said Mr. Lonbaken.

He continued, "the amount of time expended in clearing up the empty containers especially for something with such a low nutritional value, would be detrimental to carrying out more important goals."

Mrs. Van Epps, the school nutritionist, expressed her views, "From a nutritional aspect, there is no food value in a bottle of pop - just a lot of carbohydrates. We cooks are hired to feed the students and do a good job, which doesn't include supplying soda pop."

Mrs. Van Epps continued, "A pop machine would be in direct competition with our snack bar, which provides wholesome food and for which we have one full time employee."

As an alternate proposal though, Mrs. Van Epps advocates milk shakes as a more wholesome substitute for soda pop. She suggests serving milk shakes on a trial basis as a flavorful replacement for milk and a compromise on the contested pop issue.

It was pointed out that the nutritional contents of a milk shake are much more satisfactory than those of pop. Three flavors, strawberry, vanilla and chocolate would be made available, though only one flavor a day.

Students would have the option of accepting the milk shake. Those not desiring a shake could take milk. These wanting a shake would have to purchase a ticket for 15c a punch and forfeit their milk.

If the program is successful among students and is accepted by the administration, it is hoped the service can be extended to all students in their free periods.

She said, "We aren't against students freedom. We simply aren't in favor of a pop machine, and we see this as an opportunity to provide something better."

Currently the proposal is before the school board awaiting approval.

The administration seems in favor of granting students certain privileges but not at the expense of additional maintenance and management.

THE RIGGS HIGH GOVERNOR

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Upper classmen plea for music in lounge

Dear editors:

We think that music should be available in the student lounge for juniors and seniors during their free periods.

There is at least one stereo in school already that some students listen to when they are not in class. Many of the class rooms have record players for class use, so why not in the lounge?

One problem that has been mentioned is supervision. It should not be difficult to get student management, as there are always kids in the

lobby who would be willing to be responsible for the operation of a stereo during their free period.

And that bit about disturbing other classes, won't work either. The sophomores in the study hall are the only ones who would hear it, and they would much rather listen to music than nothing.

We think Riggs students are responsible enough to handle something like this.

Please let's consider it. OK?

Larry Hartog
Shelley Jones

Christmas Concert called successful

The annual Riggs High Band and Chorus Christmas Concert was held Dec. 16 in the Riggs High Gym.

The free concert featured Christmas music to entertain the public in what Chorus Director Mrs. Jeanne Dahlin called "a very straight forward concert." The music itself was a combination of the traditional and the unusual in Mrs. Dahlin's own words.

Some of the features were the bands performance of "Tin Soldier" which included dancers. The chorus had its own highlights including the "clarinet quintet."

Mrs. Dahlin was pleased with the performance of the 58 member chorus, and band director Paul Upsahl called the event "an overall success."



Deb Jorgenson, left, Dawn Wixon, Kim Tennyson, and Patsy Olson were the "Tin Soldiers" who introduced the Riggs High Christmas Concert Thursday evening.

Four RHS debaters to compete in finals

RHS debaters placed four people in CFC finals in individual events last week end at Mitchell, thus winning a place in Conference finals in February.

Carol Baker placed first and Bret Sampson second in oratory. Clyde Linn and Pat Looby placed second in extemp. Troy Jones placed second in "B" extemp, but because of the number involved in

"B" forensics, he will not go to the Conference finals.

The two debate teams did well but did not place in the top bracket, according to Coach Paul Harens.

After chalking up the Nov. 19-20 Sioux Falls Lincoln Silver Bowl, to experience, Riggs High debaters bounced back and placed fourth at the Aberdeen Central Ringneck Invitational, Dec. 3-4.

According to Coach Paul Harens, "Sioux Falls was a testing period. The teams were better prepared at Aberdeen. Fourth out of 28 schools was very good."

The championship team, Carol Baker and Shirleen Knudtson, tied for eighth place out of 28 switch-side teams.

With a combined 7-3 record, the varsity squad tied for fourth out of

22 four man teams. Team members are Anne Garry, Jackie Kolbo, Mike Nail, and Trisha Thelen.

Kari Dayo, Troy Jones, Linda Sack and Mark Tiezen were the novice team making the trip. With a combined 3-5 record, they finished in the upper half of novice teams.

Mr. Terry Peterson is assisting Mr. Harens by working with the novice team. The novice team includes 5 juniors, 2 sophomores, and 2 ninth graders.

In all, there are 20 Riggs students debating the topic, "Resolved: That a comprehensive program of penal reform should be adopted throughout the United States."

The next tournament is at Huron, Dec. 18.

'Bumbo, Blinko,' other plays to be presented

Pierre youngsters and Riggs students will get a special treat on Jan. 22 when three one-act children plays will be presented by the Riggs High Drama Department.

"Bumbo and Scumbo and Blinko" a one-act directed by Carleen Corcoran and Julie Jorgenson, is about the rivalry of two boys for the affection of the beautiful heroine.

"The Prince That Wouldn't Grow", a tale about a young Prince who was short and seemed to never grow, is directed by Althea Fouss and Ahlene Stillwell.

The third one-act, entitled "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," with directors Jackie Thompson and Pat Butler, is an adaptation of the well known tale written by Washington Irving.

Mr. Ron Eorstad, drama director, is supervisor over the conglomerate production.

YMCA, Civic Center spark controversy

Included in the city bond issue for the YMCA Civic Center was a land mark controversy that split Riggs High into two factions concerning Student Council policies.

Discordance began when Tom Beernsten, YMCA executive director, requested the Student Council to distribute pamphlets to the citizens of Pierre in an attempt to help pass the bond issue.

The Student Council voted in favor of helping the Y. Immediately following this decision, a group of concerned students led by Junior Barb Fisher circulated a petition around school demanding a referendum which would recind the action of the Student Council.

The petition brought about the referendum vote of which the results were made available on Monday. According to the vote of the students, 274 were in favor of the decision of the Student Council and 217 were opposed. 217 was short of the amount needed to reverse the decision of the Student Council since 60% was required.

Despite the results of the referendum, some important questions have been raised, "Does Student Council really represent the views of students?" and "Should all significant decisions be brought to the student body for a vote?"

Hopefully the Student Council and the rest of the student body can come to some sort of agreement so that future disputes can be avoided.

Fruit sale profits aid environment

The annual FFA fruit sale is underway this month with indications that it will be the most profitable one in recent years.

The fruit sale, the traditional fund raising project of the FFA, is the most successful of school club fund drives at Riggs High.

According to Fruit Sale Chairman Bill Smith, "1600 boxes have been sold thus far, up slightly from last year's sale."

Smith added that the proceeds of the drive go toward a community service project. "Last year, we built an outdoor class room. This year we hope to develop a tree bank to replace elm trees lost to Dutch Elm disease. The effort is in cooperation with the Corp of Engineers who have contributed the land."

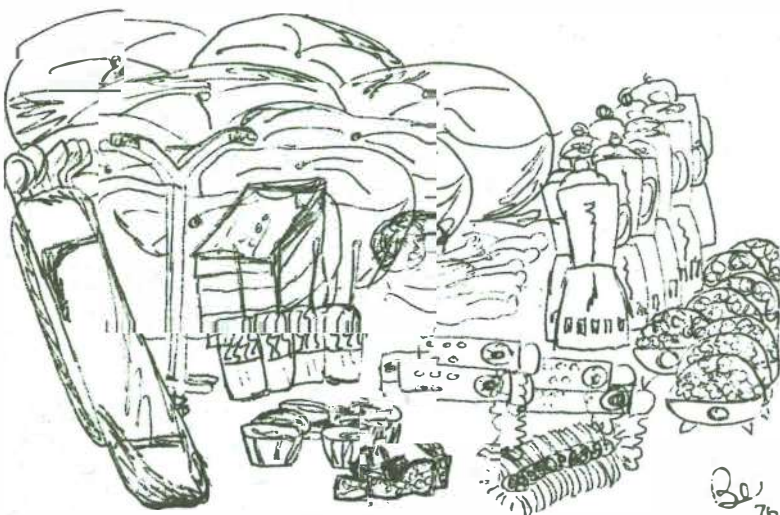
Mr. Francis Murphy, FFA adviser, was pleased with the progress of this year's sale, saying "Things have run pretty smoothly this year."

Detracting from the gross profit is the problem of fruit spoilage. 1000 to 1200 pounds of oranges, apples and grapefruit were lost to overripening this year. Extra boxes of fruit were bought to compensate for the loss, which cut down on the profits.



Tony Schumacher, Greg McCully, Bill Smith, Kristi Hoensheid, Cindy Arch and Leo McGruder sort fruit in preparation for annual FFA fruit sale.

On the twelfth day of Christmas...call up the Complaint Department



Complaint department? What do you mean its too late to exchange Christmas presents?

Modern Age left Christmas behind

Sigrid Werthman

I had a dream last night. It's really kind of hard to believe...

The numbers 2002 radiated golden beams through a dark, endless universe. As they passed from my vision, I found myself in my zoom-machine heading home from a day of zicketing. I felt slightly irritated for not having beat out Cinca - she had been jabbering all afternoon about some long forgotten tradition that didn't make half the sense of a star. It was back when they catalogued days into numbers and names; today was a great celebration of some sort. The reason, Cinca insisted, waving her zicketsphere, was that some great being - whatever that meant - was to have been hatched or born on that day - her phraseology was old world to fit her story and my companions found it a bit amusing as I saw from the rare glitter at their otherwise emotionless eyes.

But Cinca was not to be deterred - "I see you disbelieve - Comrades, I would hesitate to defy the Glorified Rule if I had not come upon written proof in the form of what they, from the old age, call a book. I know they were to be destroyed! Were it not for my father's death, I should not have discovered it."

Because my grandfather was allowed to live 10 years past the maximum life years of 36, which the law allows us, he passed down the book to my father. The facts in it are strange and foreign, yet I feel a strange longing to find such a life again."

Nero spoke, "You realize that by speaking so freely you are placing us all in danger. I have heard of this celebration. It is not our way, and we have no time for such trivial conversation," he turned

and energized his molertian, leaving behind a faint glow.

Unpreturbed, Cinca went on, "I cannot seem to forget the book. It aroused feelings we are not supposed to have. I believe it is excitement and something that may be identified as hope."

The book says this celebration was called Christmas - and that someday that Being was to come in our future and save us. The terms were difficult for me but my grandfather taught me well before they took him. Is there no-one who believes in this?"

She turned to me and the once immobile face was alight with a strange shimmer, "Poi, tell me what you think. Have you no curiosity for the past?"

I looked at the forbidding faces around me and cast away the fast rising questions from my mind, "I don't know, we have no right to question our future..."

As I neared my flourescent dome residence I realized I was beginning to question my future. Was there anything in our past? Christmas? Was it important?

I glanced around at the encased world we call ours. Nonsense, I thought, who would want to be saved from this perfect life? Then I laughed. Nonsense, an old world phrase, and I had used it - I, the lover of modern age.

Yes it was a modern age, I thought as I flipped my transmitter to allow my entry into Zelpha.

I woke with the vague feeling that I'd gone through something that was beyond my comprehension. As my eyes took in the 'Christmas wrapping paper strewn around my room, I remembered.

Like I said, It's really kind of hard to believe, but then, who knows??

Karen Likness

"Complaint Department"

"Hello, I'm wondering if I could return and exchange some items. For some reason I got many presents I can't use this Christmas."

"That all depends, when did you receive these items?"

"On the first day of Christmas, Uncle Jack gave to me a set of left handed golf clubs."

"On the second day of Christmas, Mom and Dad gave to me two pogo sticks."

"On the third day of Christmas, my brother gave to me three bongo drums."

"On the fourth day of Christmas my grandpa gave to me four walkie talkies."

"On the fifth day of Christmas, a 'good buddy' gave to me five CB's."

"On the sixth day of Christmas, Swingin' Aunt Sal gave to me, six pairs of sequinned wedgies."

"On the seventh day of Christmas, my grandma gave to me seven wool Viking nightgowns."

On the eighth day of Christmas, my sister gave to me eight Fonz beanbag chairs, spilling.

On the ninth day of Christmas, Aunt Minnie gave to me nine Mickey Mouse watches, ticking.

On the tenth day of Christmas, my home-ec teacher gave to me ten blenders, blending.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, a movie buff gave to me eleven popcorn poppers, popping.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, Aunt Suzie gave to me twelve Betsy Wetsys, wetting."

"I am terribly sorry I have to tell you, that you're too late and I'm unable to exchange; twelve Betsy Wetsys wetting, eleven popcorn poppers popping, ten blenders blending, nine Mickey Mouse watches ticking, eight Fonz bean bag chairs spilling, seven wool Viking nightgowns, six pairs of sequinned wedgies, five CB's, four walkie talkies, three bongo drums, two pogo sticks, and a set of left handed golf clubs, but I hope you can make use of your 78 Christmas presents. Good Day."



Ballet presented by Forney students

"A Christmas Ballet", directed by Sunny Hannum Caruthers, presented the ballet students of Marjorie Forney on Dec. 5 in the City Auditorium.

Twenty high school girls danced in the group numbers, or performed duets or solos.

Using the music from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite", the dances portrayed the Kindom of Sweets where the Sugar Plum Fairy is Queen.

Barb Rezac danced the part of

the Sugar Plum Fairy. Jill Lundeen and Caroline Porter danced a Spanish duet, and Nan Williams and Anne Burchill did a duet as part of the Waltz of the Flowers. Leesa Sivage, Esther Park and Molly Jahraus interpreted a Russain dance.

Group dancers included Brenda Friman, Jill Lehecka, Caroline Pirnat, Carrie Burke, Heather Engel, Mona McCaughey, Judy Smith, Crystal Hall, Nancy Teske, Cathy Cowan and Nancy Stoeser.



Nan Williams, Wendy Compton, Anne Burchill, Carrie Burke, Heather Engel, Jill Lundeen and Heidi Werthmann gracefully sway in the Waltz of the Flowers in "A Christmas Ballet." [photo by Bob Tinker]

School survey reveals over half of student body employed

The majority of students at Riggs High School hold jobs of some kind according to a job survey conducted by the Journalism class this month.

Of the 489 responses, 298 have jobs that take from less than ten hours to more than 40 hours a week, and most of those students said that work had no or little effect on their school work, school activities or home life.

Only 20% said that their work had any effect on their other activities and only 15 students said it had considerable effect on their school work. Fifty five said that work had considerable effect on their home life.

Love Life Suffers

More than half of those who work are on the job less than 20 hours a week. But nearly 40% of the employed students put in between 20 and 40 hours a week on the job. Five students said they work more than 40 hours a week besides their full school schedule.

Some comments about work and activities, "My job keeps me up late, so I have to do my homework when I get home, as late as 12:30 p.m. My love life suffers when I have to work on Friday and Saturday nights."

Odd Jobs

Of the 20 non-working students, 98 said they are supported by their parents, 90 said they are using money saved from summer jobs, and 28 get money from other means which included such small

jobs as helping around the house, odd jobs, baby sitting and a paper route. Other ways of gaining fast cash were gambling, unemployment checks and money received from selling pop bottles.

Expenditures

Where do students spend their money? The survey revealed that most money is spent on entertainment, with the second priority being upkeep, gas and insurance on cars.

Twice as many boys as girls spend the biggest amount of their income on their vehicles.

Savings took the third largest amount, and clothes the least. Some other expenditures took the form of gifts, books, magazines, school lunches and activities, drugs, girl friends, hobbies, tapes and records.

Students Malcontent

Comments concerning jobs and work generally were positive for those not having jobs and generally negative for those who are employed. Those unemployed said they couldn't find the right job, their parents said they were too young, school activities took up their time, or the pay was too low for them. But most students said they would really like to start work.

A few students begged for teachers to take jobs into consideration in making assignments; their reasoning was that jobs are necessary to further their education.

A few critics of the job market had comments like: "Find me a job that pays \$7.50 an hour and I'll take it, just so I don't have to work."

"It's too hard to get a job in this town. And if you do find one, sometimes it doesn't pay but 50¢ an hour."

Wage Disparities

"I wish they had a minimum wage for people under 16. It isn't fair for businesses to make kids

work (adult jobs) and pay anywhere from 45¢ to \$1 an hour."

One practical minded student admitted that the reason he worked was to keep out of trouble.

State Survey

This survey was sent to the Rapid City Central High School newspaper "The Pine Needle" and will be tabulated with responses from other South Dakota High schools. The result of the state survey will be published later this year.

Scrooge questions tradition of Christmas

Keith McGruder

Humbug!! Bah!!! Humbug!!

What do I care if Christmas is coming? Will it be any different than the usual gathering of gossiping relatives, unwanted gifts (last year I got a Japanese cricket cage with no cricket) and know-it-all friends?

I was limping along the wet, cold trail toward home, when the snow plow covered me head to foot. The season to be jolly? Hardly.

Early the next morning, 3 a.m. to be exact, I discovered the window was open. Ho! Ho!! Ho!!!

Limping to school, cold and wet, with a bad cold, I met a stray Great Dane who rolled me in the snow. Yuletide greetings? I didn't think so.

Ah, but then came the last day of school before Christmas. Six classes, six tests!

I dreaded going to assembly that afternoon. Guess who was presented with the "you're so vain" award last year? It wasn't Saint Nick.

But then my friend greeted me with a warm "HI" and offered me a gift. Could it be? Yes, he gave me a ride home.

I went down town to do some shopping and the bright lights and colorful decorations were not bad for city folks.

As I started home, I heard the tinkle and ring of Christmas bells, a nice sound to hear. Walking faster, I passed a church and stopped to look at their decoration, the barn yard scene, nativity to you townspeople, I guess. It reminded me of home, and I hurried faster.

As it started to snow the whole town became blanketed in white. Very pretty, I must admit.

When I got home, our tree was up. It was a very pretty thing, and under it lay a huge gift for me. My friends were there too, singing and wishing me Merry Christmas. It was more than I could handle.

"Merry Christmas", they yelled. And why not? It's Christmas time.

Merry Christmas from Deutschland

Student abroad compares America to Germany

Merry Christmas from Germany.

Christmas starts as early here as it does in the United States. All decorations were up in the stores before Halloween. From what I have observed so far, this part of Germany is much like America but I am looking forward to a German Christmas.

I live in an industrialized city called Karlsruhe, on the border of the Black Forest.

There is a huge factory that manufactures TV's and other electronic equipment. Because Karlsruhe is located on the Rhine River, lots of people work at the port. There is also a very large university located across from our school.

My family consists of Mr. and Mrs. Dannemann and their three sons ages 20, 17 and 14. The 17 year old lives in the U.S. as an AFS student in Pennsylvania.

There are only 3 girls in my class at school, along with 43 boys. I am in school six days a week from 6:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. I carry eight subjects and take a night course in German. I also sing in the church choir and I have kept up on my organ on the beautiful old organ at church which I am allowed to play.

Soccer is as big a sport as basketball is at Riggs. (Good luck Gobs). The fans are just as loud as the Pierre followers.

My folks keep me pretty well posted on the goings on at Riggs. I miss you, but this is an education of a life time. I hope some of you will take time to send me a line or so.

Greetings to everyone.

Bob Kleinsasser
c/o Fam. Dannemann
Ringstrabe 26
7500 Karlsruhe 41
West Germany



Cathy Cowan, left, holds an Indian buckskin dress, while Larry Hartog, Mr. Jim Aplan, and Craig Oliver display an Indian winter count, with Neil O'Day wielding a tomahawk. Kneeling are Bob Tinker and Ray O'Day. Mr. Miller's Western Expansion class was fortunate to have Mr. Aplan, an Indian artifacts collector from Onida visit the class and exhibit his valuable collection.

RHS Grapplers doing well; working on upcoming Rapid City Invitational

Off to a promising start, the Governor matmen played host to the Miller Rustlers on Saturday Dec. 11 by defeating them 44 to 7.

"Our tougher weight classes matched up very well with theirs," commented Coach Mike Engels. "We expected some very good matches, and we weren't disappointed."

Last weekend, the Govs traveled to Chamberlain for what proved to be a very exciting match, with Pierre coming out on top 29-21, after heavyweight Ron Schnabel decisioned his opponent, and insured the victory.

"We prefer the match to be decided before it comes down to the heavyweight," breathed a relieved Mr. Lundeen, assistant coach.

Class absences worries Board students defend 'big offenders' by Mike Nail

Recently the State Board of Education expressed concern over the amount of class time which students and teachers miss because of extra curricular activities.

It appears that they may be considering limiting the amount of time that students can be excused for non-academic activities: specifically basketball, debate and track.

"As long as the students keep their grades up, I don't think there should be a limit," responds Carol Baker, a Riggs debater.

The State Board argues that these activities can take the best students and teacher out of a class.

What's wrong with that? Debate and track, the "big offenders" according to the Board, are not only exciting but also educational, the students reply.

Debate Coach Paul Harens comments, "They are correct (that track and debate are big offenders), but they misrepresent the educational opportunities and experiences the individuals have."

Perhaps the Board should consider these views before making its decision.

Unlike the Miller contest, the Chamberlain meet was not as well matched. The coaches felt each team would win 4 or 5 matches for sure, and the rest would be won by the team in the best shape or who got the most breaks. The former seemed to be the case as Erik Johnson and Bob Traux both came from behind to win their respective matches. In the Miller contest, good conditioning seemed to be prevalent as several Pierre wrestlers got into trouble early and then came back to win—often by pins.

On Nov. 26 and 27, the Govs attended an 8 team tourney in Rapid City where they place 4th behind the three top-rated teams in the state. After defeating Huron in the first round, the Govs met defeat by Rapid City Central, eventual tournament champions, and by Rapid City Stevens who took 3rd place honors.

This Friday and Saturday the

Large sign-up indicates volleyball favored sport

Intramural volleyball, a favorite sport for girls, with nearly 200 signed up, has been running since Oct. 18.

Out of the 20 teams that have been playing, five are undefeated this season. The captians of these teams are: Carleen Corcoran, Patty Kelly, Pam Hilmer, Pat Clow and Betty Lenner.

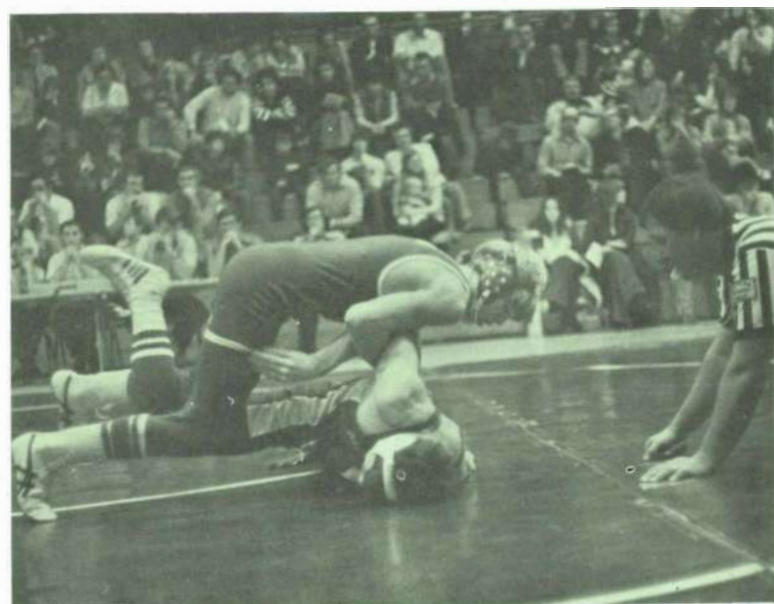
Games are scheduled for Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9:15 and will last for about four more months depending on when the gym is available.

Each team has ten players and they must have six palyers on the floor to play a game, although they may have up to eight girls playing.

A game lasts until one team has the score of 15 or eight minutes. However, the winner must be ahead by two points.

The team that wins two out of three games gets one point. The team with the most points at the end of the season will be declared the season champions.

varsity returns to Rapid City for an invitational tournament including teams from North Dakota and Wyoming.



Redgie Olson at 138 lbs. exerts leverage on his man in the home contest with Miller on Dec. 11. [photo by Mark Schuler]

Student survey shows

Athletes have power to command

Do athletes have prestige in Riggs High School? Should they?

Nearly 80 persons were asked these questions recently in a random poll of students, teachers and parents. 75% said yes they are the most prestigious group in school and 65% said they deserved to be.

Webster defines prestige as the power to command admiration or commanding position in men's minds. Well, that is a pretty wicked charge, so to put it in every day language, the kids who have prestige are the ones who are popular or favored in the school.

Some of the arguments advanced for rating athletes high on the popularity scale include:

"They represent the school, and they do a lot of physical work that would make other kids just plain sick."

On the 'con' side of the question:

"Debaters and kids in Declam work just as hard - only in a different way."

"People shouldn't be judged by their muscular ability."

And the indifferent responses included:

"People should be judged by character not intelligence or their athletic ability."

Coach Mike Engels summed it up by saying, "It is a privilege to be able to participate in a sport. I do feel that athletes deserve student support as well as community support for all the time and effort they put into an activity. Some good athletes are put on a pedestal, so to speak, because of their special abilities, and I think they (athletes) get categorized as getting prestige and special attention because of it. Their peers put them on the pedestal, NOT the teachers."

Diabolical hockey players anticipate coming season of ice warfare

As the Christmas season draws near, certain people in school begin to change. Hair grows on their hands and feet, their teeth become longer, and they begin to growl, foam at the mouth, and utter crude mumblings. These changes indicate that the hockey season is at hand.

This is the time when all puck-slappers sharpen their skates and steel their nerves for another season of mayhem on ice.

The hockey craze began long ago when a bunch of little nippers, bored with skating in circles or

even playing tag, would don figure skates and slap madly at a 35 cent puck from Coast-to-Coast Hardware.

Fond memories of these past seasons always include the concrete wall around the skating rink entailing a three-foot drop to the sidewalk below. Many an unwary player disappeared over that precipice when he ventured too close and was consequently checked by a ruthless opponent or sometimes a nearsighted member of his own team.

The game has degenerated to

the point where it now provides a vent for sado-masochists as they try their best to inflict horrendous punishment upon each other. The puck, now \$1.35 at Red Owl, is a deadly weapon capable of traveling at speeds that are physically deforming to the human body on impact. The increase in velocity would appear to be due to the rapid development of the players' strength as they've grown.

Although the game may look violent from a distance - it may even look violent up close - injuries are seldom serious. However,

minor injuries such as bruises, bumps, and cuts less than an inch deep are unavoidable when this motley crew gathers on the ice. With all the fresh air, exercise, and competition, these casualties are forgotten when a puck avoids all human obstacles and comes to rest in the goal.

By the way, for potential players, we are not responsible or liable for any injuries such as broken limbs, internal injuries, mental collapse, brain hemorrhage, cirrosis of the liver, acne, heart attack...

by Mark Schuler

Governors slither along in ESD basketball season with 1-1 record

With four games under their belt, the Pierre Governors basketball team has a 2 and 2 record so far this season including a one and one ESD record.

In their most recent game, Saturday, Dec. 11, the Govs were defeated by the number two rated Rapid City Stevens Raiders by a score of 68-50.

The Raiders, with the home court advantage, outperformed the Govs especially in the area of rebounding. The leading scorer for Pierre was Bob Dermer with 16 points. Tim Washechek and Joe Ashley were the next best with 8 points each.

This season's opening games have been played on Tuesday due to the overlapping of the boy's and girls seasons.

In their first game of the season on Nov. 26, the Governors defeated Chamberlain 59-49 at Chamberlain. The Governors shot 49% from the field and maintained a sizable lead throughout the game. Mark Flannery was Pierre's leading scorer with 18 points followed by Tom Stalley and Bob Dermer with 13 and 12 points respectively. Stalley and Dermer also pulled down 7 rebounds apiece.

In their first ESD game on Nov. 30 the Govs fell to the Huron Tigers by a score of 63 to 59 at Huron. The Govs shot 52% from the field but the Tigers scored 19 points at the free throw line due to 25 Governor fouls. Tim Washechek led the Govs with 18 points, with Dermer and Stalley scoring 11 apiece.

In an action-packed contest, the Govs narrowly defeated Mitchell

by a score of 51 to 49 for the first home game on Dec. 7. Coach Pries stated that the Governors did not play quite as smoothly as they did in the Huron game but that the extra amount of hustle and hard work brought forth a victory. Leading scorers for Pierre were Washechek with 25 and Dermer with 12. Dermer also pulled down 9 rebounds.

Bleacher Babes cheer Governors to success

by Shelley Jones

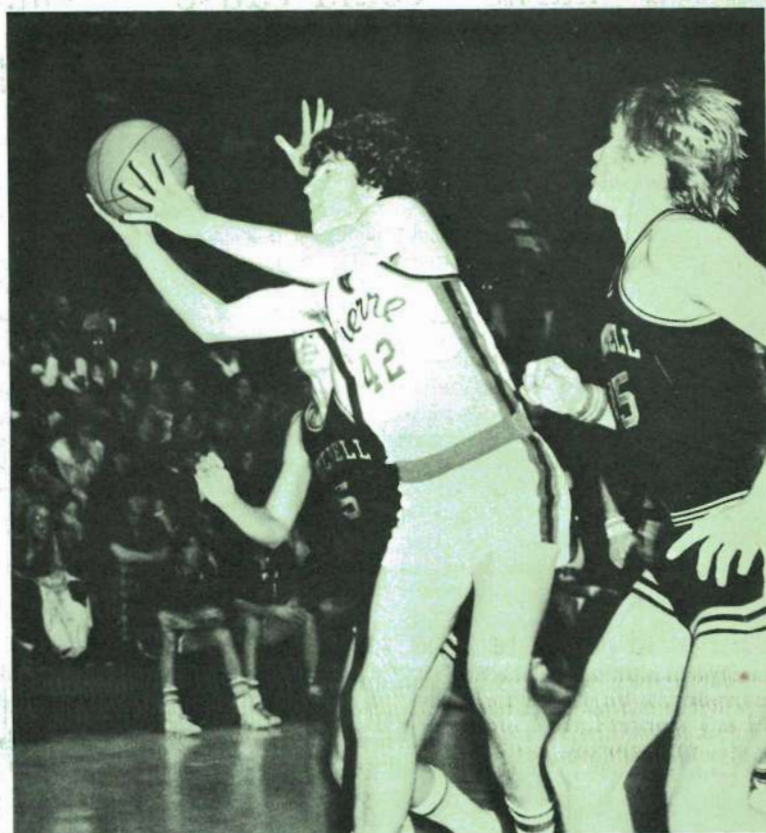
Those cuties in the matching 'tees', cheering for the guys in green are the Bleacher Babes.

The who?

Headed by Jackie Kolbo, Pam Welch, and Cindi Mefford, these 50 sophomore, junior, and senior sweeties plan to cheer, cheer, cheer at all of this year's basketball games and wrestling matches.

The babes are busy dreaming up original cheers which they will share with the spectators.

You can tell a Bleacher Babe by her colorful tee shirt emphasizing cheerleader Daisy Mae in action.



Pat Mitchell, No. 42, pulls in a rebound while surrounded by two Mitchell players in the Dec. 7 home game. [photo by Terry Doran]

Boys Soph., Jr.-Sr. intramural basketball begins play

The 1976-77 Junior-Senior Intramural Basketball League began Dec. 2, with the teams getting together to organize themselves.

There are eight teams this year, traditionally with seniors as the captains. They are, in order of their team number: Greg DuBois, Jack Holden, Steve Howard, Don Shepard, Steve D. Johnson, Randy Hanson, Bob Neilson and Steve Sheppard, Steve D. Johnson, Randy Hanson, Bob Neilson and Steve Bender. The captains drafted their teams on the day before.

The teams will play eight games, two before Christmas and the remaining six after. The games are scheduled on a "round-robin" system. In simple terms, each team will play all of the other teams.

Dec. 2 was a get together for the teams, and a little impromptu basketball was played. As of yet, no favorites have been picked to win the playoffs, which are set for March 3, 7, and 10. The winner of the playoffs goes on to play the Junior Varsity team.

Mr. Trautner, organizer of intramurals, gave a few comments for this year's season, saying "We've got a good crew this year. We have a large turnout, and it should be a lot of fun for everyone involved." Mr. Trautner's main concern is having enough boys show up each week to play, but with nine on each team, he said,

everything looks good.

Sophomore intramurals have also begun, with their games scheduled for one hour before the Jr.-Sr. league's first game. They have four teams organized, with eight players on each team. Captains for the teams are Noel

"Shorty" Solberg, Troy Jones, Brad Sibson and Trent Thompson.

With two different playing times scheduled, the teams get to use a full court for play instead of the half-court they would have to settle for if they all met at the same time.

Lady Govs end '76 season with 10-8 record

The Pierre Lady Govs ended their 1976 season with a 10-8 record with most of the losses only 2 or 3 points.

The team amassed 883 points for the season, averaging 48 points a game.

Paula Keller was the team high scorer with 247 points and an average of 15.3 points per game. Paula earned a rating as the 2nd highest scorer in the ESD.

Tammy Petersen was the best percentage shooter for the team with a 42% scoring record. The team as a whole shot 33%.

The Team Captain Cindy Lenners led the team in rebounds. She averaged 13.9 rebounds per game and was rated 2nd in rebounding in the ESD.

Coach Barb Felderman feels the girls had a good year and will have a great season next year with four of this year's starting players returning. Said Coach Felderman, "The girls never gave up at any time during the games, or during the season. They just never gave up!"



Laurie Benham struggles for a rebound while Cindi Mefford lends a hand during the last game of the Sectionals Tourney in which the Lady Govs were narrowly defeated by Miller, 53-50. [photo by Mike Johnson]



Sure there are a lot of good reasons to drive 55, but there's one thing to remember:

It's not just a good idea. It's the law.

This message courtesy of the Riggs High Safety Council.

Noche Buena, Misa del Gallo, Navidad traditions of Spanish Christmas

Victor Piccione

We are in December; seven days more and we'll be in Christmas; my first Christmas in the United States. But I am not going to tell you about Christmas in the U.S. You all know about that. I am going to tell you about Christmas in my country.

In Spain, Christmas is the most popular of holidays, and the people, especially the kids, really enjoy those days.

In the first days of December, you start to see the colored bulbs in the trees and in the display windows of the stores. You can also see Christmas trees at every corner.

The big event begins on the night of "Noche Buena" (Christmas Eve). That night is observed with a big turkey dinner. At twelve o'clock the bells of all the churches in town call everybody to the "Misa del Gallo" (Christmas Mass).

The 25th, "Navidad" (Christmas), is the most familiar holiday. The entire family enjoys singing Christmas carols around the "Nacimiento" (Creche) and the

evening meal, where the principle dish is roast lamb.

The 28th, "Dia de los Inocentes" (Foolish Day), even your most serious friends will poke fun at you. In the street, you better be

'Christmas meant so much to me..'

Carol Baker

When I was a child...I could sprinkle little sugar stars on cookies and hang them on the tree. I'd help my mother make all the Christmas goodies. Now I either spend hours on complicated baked goods with names too long to pronounce, (and I burn them), or I shy away from the kitchen for fear that I may end up with a permanently domestic life. But when I look back, I miss those days.

I remember how I'd color a picture for my Dad and write "I Love You Mommy" on Mom's package, and give my brother a little toy soldier. Now I save for months to make enough money to buy expensive or practical gifts. Yet I can remember my Mom crying over a letter I wrote when I was about 6 or 7. Maybe I'm just sentimental...

Else Berndt describes Norwegian Christmas

Sandy Kloiber

Christmas is a big celebration in Norway just as it is in America, according to Else Berndt, AFS student from Bergen, Norway.

The holiday lasts for 13 days there, but Else says there are many similarities like the Christmas tree, going to church, visiting relatives and friends, gifts, and lots of good food.

She was very startled to find that Americans have artificial trees, although they are decorated about the same.

The Christmas festivities start on the day before Christmas when the Norwegian families go to church about 5 p.m. After church, they go to their homes for a big meal which usually lasts until about 9 p.m.

Else had never tasted our traditional Christmas turkey. In Norway the main dish is rib of lamb or pork, lutefisk, or reindeer steak, depending on the region.

Unlike our custom of placing presents under the tree before Christmas Day, in Norway, Christmas presents are not seen until Christmas Eve, when each member of the family walks in with an armful of presents and places them under the tree. When the family opens their presents, they also open all of the Christmas mail which they have saved for this night.

alert or you will find a paper doll hanging on your back, and you will never find out who did it.

The 31st is "Noche Vieja" (New Year's Eve) and the time for the tradition of the Twelve Grapes.

The evening starts with supper about 11:30 and finishes a few

minutes before midnight. Then everybody gets ready with the Twelve Grapes that will assure their good health during the new year. When midnight comes,

everyone must eat one grape at each bell stroke. After midnight everyone joins some party, which lasts into the wee hours of the

morning. After the typical breakfast "Chocolate con Churros" (hot thick chocolate with a special kind of donuts), you rest the remainder of the day.

Finally the most awaited day of the year, January 5th. Weeks before, every kid has mailed his letter asking for toys, but if he hasn't been good enough the Three Wise Men will give him only a piece of coal (black sugar candy). The Three Wise Men come at night with lots of toys to deliver to the children. Every town organizes a big welcome cavalcade, where

Three Kings ride their camels in the central streets of the town.

On the morning of January 6, every child will find his gift under the Christmas tree. The rest of the day is spent with the family, enjoying the new gifts, visiting relatives and friends and getting ready to come back to school, because this is the last holiday of the Christmas season.

Like you see, we have some different traditions at Christmas but the most important thing, the spirit of fraternity, is the same all over the world, making those days something very special that nobody forgets.

I look back upon memories of Christmas so often of hanging stockings, waiting for Santa, telling my parents I didn't believe in the Easter Bunny or the Tooth Fairy anymore, but I still believed in good 'ole Saint Nick! I remember how happy I was when I got the doll I wanted, and my brother got a complete "Beetle Bailey" army set. But now I get clothes, and I've even begun to question the theory of Santa Claus. I think of singing Christmas carols and lighting candles, and hot chocolate and sugar cookies, Christmas lights, biting Santa to see if he was real, sitting in front of the fireplace, staying up late (8 or 9) to wait for Santa, and watching parades on T.V.

Now I'm sometimes guilty of going out on Christmas Eve, and not cherishing those moments.

When I look back, I miss those days.

There was the time when we had some kids without any family come to our house. And how they cried when they opened our gifts to them. I remember the little boy eating a "mashed potato" sandwich (try it sometime) and his sister eating a whole jar of olives. They cried when they left, too.

I wish Christmas meant as much to me now as it did when I was a child...



Santa Claus rises out of the mist of Capital Lake and begins his flight over Pierre on Christmas Eve.

[photo by Terry Doran]