



The Trojournal

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Stuco welcomes holiday season with Hanging of Greens and party

By Andrea Keeler

Homework can wait; it's time to celebrate. On this last day of school before the two-week Christmas holiday, Stuco will be sponsoring a Christmas gathering in the commons during seminar.

Student Council will provide cookies and other beverages and refreshments. There will also be time for a gift exchange and socializing.

On Dec. 9, the schedule was switched due to Student Council's annual Hanging of the Greens. Students, faculty and others were among the performers. Mrs. Kaye Dudley, a patron of the Southeast of Saline school district, performed 'The Littlest Angel,' along with Audrey Wagner (Daughter of Don and Debbie Wagner.).

"I'm happy with the way it (Hanging of the Greens) turned out. I think everyone enjoyed it," Darcy Reese, Stuco President, said.

Student performers included Carl Ade reading his cowboy poetry; Angelina Regan singing acapella; and Nick Sparacino, Jim Scheibmeir, Jonathon Parnell and Zach

Vernon performing with their rock band.

Faculty performers included Mr. Mike Garretson with his "Truly Spirited Trojan" game; Mr. Bill Gies playing the piano; and Mr. Bill Tuzicka, Gies, Mr. Don Wagner, Mr. Bill Olson and Mr. Scott Peterson (elementary teacher and previous student of Tuzicka's) singing a revised version of the Christmas carol, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen."

The hosts of the show were teachers playing the part of the characters of "Gilligan's Island." Mrs. Juanelle Garretson (Ginger, Mr. Terry Anderson (the skipper), Baird (Gilligan), Mr. Bob Sauber (the professor), Mr. Kendall Lynn (Mr. Howell), Mrs. Cathy Cordill (Mrs. Howell) and Mrs. Melinda Smith (Mary Ann) were the characters.

There was also a student/teacher performance. Wagner, along with Sparacino, Scheibmeir, his son Grant, and back up singers Melissa Wagner, Jami Torske, Shannon Davis and Angela Wilson performed "Knocking on Heaven's Door."

The Madrigals and Jazz Band performed as well.

Stuco also recently sent the Arthritis Foundation \$50. Mr. Bob Sauber's seminar won the contribution contest, collecting more money than any other seminar.

There is a dance being planned for early in January.

Also being explored is the idea of a service project in the spring. "Feed and Clothe the World Week" was supposed to take place in November but was postponed. There is a possibility that it may take place later in the year.

Smith's COLA students receive grant for new computer hardware and software

By Shawna Macy

A grant of \$7,150 has been rewarded to Mrs. Melinda Smith for use with her COLA class.

The grant is from The Juvenile Justice Authorities. Smith filled out an application and was awarded the money.

Computer On-Line Approaches, or COLA, is a class in which students can make up their missed credits or help them receive a credit for a class they have failed. This class is instructed by Smith, who is very pleased with the program.

"I think it is a successful alternative learning setting for the students," she said.

The computer program covers English 9, 10 and 11, a physical science class and math.

Fifty percent of the time is spent on line while the other 50 percent is off line.

This year there are eighteen students enrolled in COLA. One student is taking two subjects and the other seventeen are all enrolled in one. In order for the students to move on to another "chapter," they must have an 80 percent or better. If they do not pass, the computer comes up with different questions, still relating to the chapter. This helps to reduce the risk of the students memorizing the answers.

One senior who is taking the class to get a math credit said he wouldn't have been able to graduate without COLA. His schedule was full, he said.

Smaller class sizes and working at one's own pace are two of the benefits to having this class.

"COLA is one of the schools strategies for helping the Southeast of Saline students excel," Smith said.



Junior Carl Ade recites one of his original cowboy Christmas poems at Hanging of the Greens. This was the second time for Ade to perform. (Photo by Amber Byarlay)

What is the best symbol for Christmas?



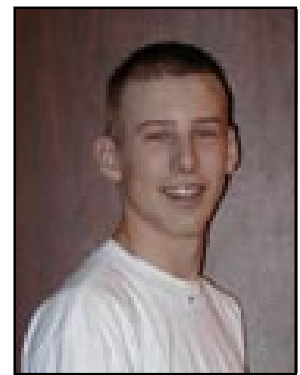
*Cole Eilders:
Nativity scenes. That's what
Christmas is really about.*



*Mike Pope:
Christmas trees. Trees are
green and green is a
Christmas color.*



*Rianna Crable:
Christmas trees. Because
the whole family decorates
the tree together.*



*Jay Knopf:
The cross. Because it
represents Christianity
throughout the world.*



Southeast of Saline

THE TROJOURNAL

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Couchman rightly removes benches

Confiscated benches to be returned after re-carpeting

By Tammi Verhoeff

First the stereo, then the chairs, and now the benches. What's next? The lockers, the beloved pole, the pop and candy machines?!

Two weeks ago, Principal Monte Couchman directed custodians to remove the lounge benches that someone had vandalized by writing obscenities on them. He made the decision for two different reasons.

Last year, students pounded holes in the wallboard in the lounge and played the stereo loud enough that the previous principal removed the stereo. This year it was the lounge benches. It seems that somebody is always there to make a good situation bad. They try to be "cool" by writing obscenities or otherwise trying to get away with breaking the rules.

It may sound rather harsh, but it seems that a small portion of our students frequently "screw things up" for the rest of us.

However, there is another problem that many of the rest of us share. Some witness the crime and say nothing to the teachers and administrators who could help correct the problem. Others hear who committed the act but don't tell. Some even act as though vandalism is funny and then turn around and complain about the lounge furniture being taken away.

It may be a part of our ethic not to be a tattletale, but it's an ethic we must re-examine if we want to maintain privileges in the lounge and elsewhere.

Here at Southeast of Saline, we are lucky. We have pop and candy machines, no uniforms, decent lockers, and (whether we want to admit it or not) pretty decent cafeteria food, and we USED to have a lounge that visiting students were envious of.

We are also lucky because we are getting the furniture back.

Mr. Couchman said that he removed the couches because of the vandalism, but he also saw a need to re-carpet the benches. The benches will be re-carpeted and returned after Christmas.

Couchman has acted wisely in removing the benches, and he is being more than generous in his plans to return them. However, we must wonder what kind of impression we are making on our new principal.

We are getting a second chance, but how long will it be before the administration stops giving us things if we continue to disrespect and take advantage of what we have and remain silent when others abuse privileges?

We may be getting the furniture back, and if we are able to prove ourselves, maybe we'll get more privileges in the future, but that does not mean that we have to ruin it for future generations.

Father takes on personality of Grinch

By Shawna Macy

I'm sure that Dr. Seuss knew what he was doing when he wrote "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," but I'm not sure he was aware of the fact he was writing about my father.

When I was younger, my dad could always force himself to be excited at the newest Barbie I received, but as I got older, I noticed a change in my dad's attitude. His skin almost took on a greenish tint and his smile into a scowl. I watched in amazement as he slithered around the Christmas tree and how he whined as we went to my grandma's for Christmas. Then, like a bolt of lightning, it hit me; my dad was turning into the Grinch! (SCREAM)

I think it all started when my aunt would talk about Christmas at Thanksgiving. My dad would quickly and sharply say that we were not partaking in the gift exchange this year. We would laugh it off, but now I realize how blind I must have been. He was always commenting on how stupid people looked running in and out of the stores. How you would *never* find him out in the Wal-Mart parking lot at 6 a.m. fighting with women to

get this season's gifts. (No offense, shoppers.)

Whenever asked what I wanted, I would write it down. If my father the Grinch had heard me, I knew we would have heard this: "She already has ten of those!" or "She'll never use it."



Even thinking of going into a store in December is out of the question for the Grinch. I've never met a person who I have had to

bribe to go shopping. The other day while eating a Mexican dinner, I asked when we were going to exchange gifts; the answer he gave me was a simple one. I'd just been the "lucky one" to receive "the look." Now, I'm sure you've all received "the look." It's the "I-can't-believe-you-said-that and you-know-what-you-did" look all rolled into one.

I do give the Grinch credit, though; he does like to look at the Christmas lights as

long as it's not that cold, but speaking of cold, that's another thing that the Grinch can't stand. It's like Kryptonite to Superman; it could make the Grinch melt. (I'm melting; I'm melting what a sad...Oh sorry wrong story.)

If you ever want to see a grown man cry, make the Grinch spend more than \$20 on a present. The Grinch thinks that if you can't find a shirt for under \$5, then it wasn't meant to be yours. Yep, you guessed it. Not only does the Grinch hate to shop, but he also hates to spend money. I'm sure that if Dollar General had a half-off sale, he could manage to spare a few quarters, just for the occasion.

So, now I sit and wait for Christmas and the Grinch to go and my dad to return. Hopefully nobody reports any missing trees or presents. I'm telling you, it's hard to explain to the police that your father is the Grinch. They never seem to believe me. I wonder why.

But having the Grinch as a father isn't all that bad. He's funny, caring and he's actually a really good father. (When it's not Christmas!) So, until next year, have a Merry Christmas and I'll deal with a bah humbug from the Grinch!

Wal-Mart treacherous this shopping season

By Sylvia Sawyer

For your safety, do not attempt shopping at Wal-Mart. The other day, I attempted this feat. I had to be at a 4H Christmas party in fifteen minutes, and I was giftless for the gift exchange.



Perhaps the most hazardous obstacle would be the parking lot. The same people circle the lot searching for the perfect spot for hours. People with tiny cars zip in and out while people with beasts like mine are stuck in a slow procession. I finally gave up the illusion of parking anywhere close, and settled for a nice spot in Row 3.

Once I was out of my vehicle, I then attempted getting into the building in one piece. Although there is a ped xing zone, the vultures scavenging for a place to park pay no heed to this. I waited five

minutes to cross where I should have had the right of way, and finally got fed up and stepped out. I then proceeded to cross the street inches in front of a Suburban and received the "death" look from the woman driving.

I got inside and breathed a sigh of relief. I thought the hard part was over—but I thought wrong. Not only were everyone and their brother shopping, but also everyone seemed to have their screaming children in tow. After I wasted precious time in the parking lot, I wanted to scream out of frustration myself.

Carefully, I wove my way in and out until I ran into Grandma and Grandpa. Not my grandparents, but they were defiantly someone's. They were going about a half-mile an hour while I was in my own third gear—not a good combination. I attempted to go around them, but Grandma seemed to have a psychic ability to know which direction I was going.

Finally, reached the isle I was looking for, grabbed the first thing I saw, then looked at my watch. I had five minutes to be in Assaria and I hadn't even paid yet. I practically hurdled everyone going

up to the registers.

Obviously, the cashiers have no concept of time. The lady in front of me only had a few items, so I assumed I would be out of there soon. Once again—I thought wrong. The clerk and the woman carried on as though they had known each other all their lives and had the rest of their lives to discuss it. I patiently waited, watching the minutes pass by. Finally, the ladies had enough, and I paid for my one item.

Vaguely, I remember dashing across the parking lot, jumping in my truck, and flying down the interstate. I left Wal-Mart at 4 p.m., and got to the bank in Assaria in five minutes. Yes, I did exceed the speed limit a bit, but needed to be in Assaria at 4 p.m. Being the secretary of our club, the meeting could not start without me. I couldn't come into the party without a gift, so I sacrificed precious time.

Most definitely a trip to Wal-Mart during the holidays is a hazard to your health. Now I understand why people shop on the Internet in the safety of their own homes.

SOUTHEAST MEMBERS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT END OF MILLENIUM

By Amber Byarlay

The Y2K doomsday is now upon us; in fewer than 16 days we will know if all of the preparations were direly necessary or just plain overzealous nonsense.

The *Trojournal* has asked members of the SES family what they expect on January 1 and what, if any, preparations they have made for the occasion. Following are their comments:

Chris Buchenau: I think we'll have some major computer problems and quite a bit of stuff will happen. Wal-Mart got a whole bunch of food that's Y2K ready and I bought a TV that is Y2K ready.

Mr. Wayne Sager: I think that there will be some complications, but no tremendously major problems. No, I haven't had to deal with any Y2K complications yet so I haven't made any preparations.

Kody Losey: I don't think anything will happen on January 1. I haven't done anything to prepare for Y2K.

Casey Bowman: No, I don't anything's going to happen and I haven't made any preparations.

Kelsey Short: I don't know, probably not. No, I haven't made any preparations.

Mrs. Rita Johnson: No, I trust that enough people have been worried about it that it will be okay. The international date-line should be hit first, so they'll have time to

figure it out before it gets here. I think third-world countries will be hit the hardest. I haven't really made any preparations personally but at work Neal updated all of the computers.

Laura Reed: No, I don't think anything will happen and no, I haven't preparations.

"I think a bunch of loons will run around afraid that something will happen but nothing serious is going to happen."

-- Cole Eilders,

Missy Smith: I bet that a lot of people will have hangovers; maybe some things will happen with computers, but I really don't care. No, I haven't made preparations.

Mr. Todd Baird: I think that there will be some minor difficulties with financial matters and maybe some problems with utilities, but nothing major. No, I haven't done anything except make sure that I have copies of the most recent financial documents.

Anne Johnson: I don't think anything will happen on January, 1 and I haven't made any preparations.

Heather McDowell: No, I don't think anything will happen. We checked to see if our computer was compliant.

Cole Eilders: I think a bunch of loons will run around afraid that something will happen but nothing serious is going to happen. Nope, I haven't made any preparations.

Mrs. Judy White: I don't think anything will happen except that it will be the year 2000. No, I may have my head in the sand but I think that we'll be okay.

Mrs. Judy Hammon: I think there may be a chance of the electricity going out for a little bit, but I don't think it'll be anything major. No, I've just checked my computers.

Michelle Wilson: No, I think everybody is just making a big deal out of nothing. We checked to see if our computer was compatible, but other than that I haven't made preparations because I don't think anything is going to happen.

Mandy Preston: No, I don't think anything will happen and I haven't made any preparations.

Mr. Kendall Lynn: There may be some trouble with the phone system, but other than that no. No, I haven't made any preparations.

Scott Echer: No, not really. I think that they will have everything worked out. I haven't made any preparations.

Partners in Education students earn money while taking a class

By Tammi Verhoeff

What if your last class was something that you got paid for? Believe it or not, there is a class like that offered at Southeast of Saline that does just that. Partners in Education is a class where students go on the work force.

"This is a work released program that allows students to leave campus last hour and substitute their work for class credit," facilitator Wayne Sager said.

There are many students involved in this program. They all work at many types of jobs.

There are six people and eight jobs currently. Steven Tinkler works at Sutherlands, Chris Peck works at Straubb International and Sippel Farms, Glenn Jacobs is currently employed at Sterling House, Matt Hayes is employed at Pet Life, David Trow

works at Shoeless Joe's and Jared Johnson works at Quality Power Products and Little Ceasers.

This class isn't as hard to get into as one might think. The requirements are as follows:

Participants must be seniors and must get approval from Counselor Judy White to enter this program. White will then evaluate them and make a decision along with Principal Monte Couchman.

But this class isn't all fun and games. Participants have to work a certain number of hours per week and talk to Sager who will make sure that they are staying on task.

"The number of hours varies for each person, they all are required to work fifteen hours a week," Sager said.

If a student is failing the Partners in Education class,

he or she will have to find another class at SES to attend.

"If circumstances arise which cause you to find another job, you find one immediately, or until you start failing; then you will find another class," Sager said.

Partners in Education falls in the hours of sixth and seventh block.

This class isn't just following around somebody, like you would in job shadowing. In this class, you really have to go out and work, but the best part is, you get paid!

"I needed to fill this hour, so I took this class. The pay is fair, but it's never enough," Matt Hayes, an employee at Pet Life, said.

Students take the class for a variety of reasons.

"My favorite part about this class is that I get out of school," Glenn Jacobs, an

employee at the Sterling House, said.

Chris Peck said he took the class as a means to improving his future employment picture.

"Straubb International is a job I would like to pursue in the future. I don't plan on going to college, though," Peck said.

Grading requires getting together with Sager and proving that you worked the required number of hours. He keeps track of hours but not of pay.

"The school does not keep track of the pay; that all depends on the job," Sager said.

Sager said that the class seems to be helping most of the students learn what it's like to be out in the work force.

"This class is beneficial to some students," Sager said.

CARE GROUP UNITES STUDENTS, TEACHERS

By Erica Flores

For an hour each week Don, Cathy, and Judy become real people with first names as they join ten girls around a table and share losses, problems and joys. When the meeting is over, Don will be known as Mr. Wagner, Cathy as Mrs. Cordill, and Judy as Mrs. White.

For the time that participants are in the group, though, they are all considered equals.

The SES CARE group consists of ten high school students and three teachers from SES. All discussion is confidential, but subjects include relationships with parents, relationships with boyfriends, and losses of friends, family or pets.

The group meets every Thursday afternoon to discuss issues and concerns from 3:30-4:30 in Mrs. Cordill's room.

This group started five years ago with the purpose of creating a group for young women to spend time together in a structured setting that deals with teen issues and problems. Faculty or self-referral selects members by student. The CARE group also participates in community service and special events.

Some of the activities include going to the musical "Grease," making pumpkins for the underprivileged children, helping others with the loss of friends and family, going to the SES musical to show support for school activities and celebrating birthdays.

This year's members attended the Peer helper training conference at Fort Hays in October.

"Working with students and teachers in this group has been one of the most rewarding experiences that I have had as a counselor. It is a very special time to get to know very talented people!" said Mrs. Judy White.

This year's members are Emily Stein, Angels Myers, Jasmin Korollo, Erica Flores, Jennifer Kempton, Heather Mincey, Nina Roos, Elisha Carter, and Meladee Garst. Besides White, the facilitators are Cathy Cordill and Don Wagner.



Senior Candice Broshar waits for a member of the Salina Red Cross to take her blood. The group was at Southeast on Nov. 23 as part of an area blood drive. (Photo by Andrea Keeler)

Scholars' Bowl brings home first place finishes

Team twice places first after five consecutive second place finishes

By Amber Byarlay

With the state competition only two months away, the Southeast of Saline Scholars' Bowl team has earned their first two top place finishes.

"After taking second five consecutive times it was a relief to break out of the rut and earn our first championship plaque," Scholars' Bowl coach Mr. Bob Sauber said.

The varsity team's second first place finish came on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at the Russell tournament. Team members who competed were Nick Sparacino, Jacob Wrench, Jayme Sauber and Joe Sparacino. Their record was 5-1.

On Saturday, Nov. 20, the freshman/sophomore earned a second place finish at the Peabody meet. The team was 7-2 overall.

Members who competed were Joe Sparacino, Ben Ryan, Lindsey Shirack, Jayme Sauber and Jordan Komp.

The varsity team returned to action on Monday, Nov. 22 at Solomon. Competing team members were Wrench, Nick Sparacino, Amber Byarlay, Adam Smith and Stacie Justice. Their record was 5-2 and they placed second.

The team's first top place finish of the season came on Monday, Nov. 29 at Beloit. Team members Angelina Regan, Smith,

Wrench and Nick Sparacino earned a record of 8-0.

"I was very pleased with their effort and excited for them. I've seen a lot of improvement this year," Sauber said.

The team's next meet was a freshman/sophomore contest at Salina South. Joe Sparacino, Jayme Sauber, Shirack, Roy Riffel and Melissa Hillyard competed at the meet and finished with a record of 8-1 and place of first.

On Thursday, Dec. 2, varsity team members competed at Sterling. Team members who participated were Martha Bethe, Smith, Shirack and Jayme Sauber. They failed to advance to finals and had a record of 3-2.

The varsity team traveled to Junction City on Thursday, Dec. 9. The team failed to qualify for finals and had a record of 2-3. Team members who competed were Wrench, Regan, Smith, Candice Broshar and Byarlay.

The team had a meet at Bennington yesterday, Thursday, Dec. 16. The meet featured math and science questions only and was open to students that are not members of Scholars' Bowl. Team members and students who competed were Nick Sparacino, Regan, Mike Pope, Shala Bloomberg and Cliff Fowles. The results of the meet were not available at press time.

The team will return to action on Monday, Jan. 3 with a varsity meet at Lincoln.

"I am expecting that we will continue to win and I look forward to the rest of the season," Sauber said.



Members of the SES family share their Christmas traditions

By Amanda Penn

Last Thursday morning students filed solemnly into the auditorium to exercise a long-time Southeast Christmas tradition, The Hanging of the Greens. The tradition for Hanging of the Greens includes Christmas lights, a Christmas tree, the multimedia presentation, and Mrs. Kaye Dudley speaking.

Just as the school has its Christmas traditions, families also have theirs. Following are some faculty members' summaries of their Christmas traditions:

Mr. Todd Baird, secondary teacher:

We are going to have a tree, but the outside will not be decorated very elaborately. The Grinch lives next door and it's trying to boot us out.

Susan Baird, Jr. High teacher:

Well, normally we decorate quite a lot. We have greenery with lights all over the house, we have a large tree, we decorate outside with lights on the house and greenery and lights on all the railings outdoors.

BUT, this year we have put some lights on the house and that is about it. We have not decorated a tree, but plan to have a FAKE one! We usually go out to Bell Tree farm and ride the wagon and roam around for a long time picking out what we thought was a perfect tree.....we spend a lot of time looking for a straight trunk! But, we will not be doing that this year.

We usually hang our stockings from the fireplace...but we have no fire place...and to be honest I cannot even find the box with the Christmas stockings! I will have to do some serious looking in our storage shed!

Christmas Eve will be spent with Mr. Baird's family. We will go to church on Christmas Eve to a candlelight service. Christmas Day will be spent with my family. We continue to exchange gifts with all family members.

My family is of a Swedish background so some of the foods we have for Christmas are a little different. If I could remember how to spell them I would include them!

We usually drive around and look at Christmas lights...which I am sure we will do again this year.

My younger brother teaches school in Kuwait and has not been home for the Christmas holidays for three years. He will not be here for Christmas but will be here by Dec. 30. He is looking forward to getting to see the Christmas lights...since they do not celebrate Christmas in Kuwait.

Monette Johnson, fourth grade teacher:

Since my family is Swedish, we observe the custom of "Doop I grytan" (dip-

ping in the pot) at noon on Dec. 24. This is in commemoration of the famines, when the only available food was dark bread and broth.

In Sweden, this kettle of rich broth was kept on the back of the stove and members of the family would help themselves to bread and tip it into the hot broth whenever they became hungry. This relieved the busy mother of preparing a noon meal as she busied herself with the final preparations of the Christmas Eve dinner.

My mother let my sisters and I "cheat" a little and allowed us to have some soda



crackers to dip instead of just Swedish rye bread (when my daddy wasn't looking).

Rita Johnson, secretary:

The Rick Johnson (Anne) family celebrates Christmas Eve with the extended Johnson family by participating in a Swedish dinner. Traditionally the following food is served: Lutefisk, potato sausage; Swedish meatballs; boiled white potatoes; white sauce; relishes; Bond Ost cheese, pickled herring; Ostakka topped with lingonberry sauce and whipped cream along with a cranberry salad; sweet potato casserole. They usually sing Christmas carols as a group following their meal, before opening presents.

Kim Clements, Jr. High teacher:

When I was a kid, Christmas Eve was always very exciting. Mom made chicken cordon bleu and we ate by candlelight. Christmas Eve was the only time I remember eating in the dining room.

Mrs. Garretson, secondary teacher:

When I was a young girl growing up, our family always went to church on Christmas Eve and then we would go to my dad's parents for a Norwegian Christmas meal, followed by opening our presents from those grandparents. Then many times, we drove

through the night to arrive at my mom's parents in Cole Camp, Missouri for Christmas Day. Santa Claus would always find us whether we were at my maternal grandparent's house or at home.

Our stockings always had an orange, an apple, peanuts, and some chocolate candy. Because we didn't have a fireplace...(there were five children in my family), we'd each put out our stockings on a chair or pin it to one corner of the sofa...and that is where Santa Claus would leave us his presents. The present from Santa was never wrapped.

Ironically, this is how Mr. Garretson and I leave out our stockings for our children even though we do have a fireplace. There is still an apple put in every stocking...and ever since Camden has been 17 months old...he took out the apple and takes a bite out of and likes to sneak a bite out of everyone's apple...every year. "Oh look an apple!" Like that's the only gift he expects from Santa and he is pleased with it!

The Santa gifts are still not wrapped.

Our other tradition is that whenever the whole family is together, we start unwrapping with the youngest child to the oldest person in the room, and then the whole cycle repeats again. There is no mass "unwrapping" on either Mike or my side...so it takes a long time to open presents from grandparents, each other, aunts and uncles, etc.

LeAnn Everhart, elementary secretary:

After celebrating Christmas Eve with Swedish Food: Lutefisk, potato sausage, meatballs, pickled herring and Ostakka, Santa visits. We then go to bed and get up for 6:00 a.m. Julotta Service at the church. This is a regular church service with Swedish music. It is held before dawn to remind us of going from darkness to light, or Jesus coming into the world. As we leave the church, the sun is coming up and the day is new. It is very hard to get up that early and go out where it is cold, but once the service is over the Christmas Spirit is really felt. (This is the tradition for the Sjogren family, my family in Marquette, Kansas).

Mr. Olson, band teacher:

My wife's family has the tradition of opening gifts on Christmas Eve. Before the gift opening, one of the young children is in charge of the Christmas program. This may include music, reading or a skit. She has a big family (24 counting all the grandkids, etc.), and the entertainment can get pretty elaborate. Then we one by one go around the room and open our gifts. This whole thing usually takes about two hours or so to complete.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters spreads holiday cheer

By Amber Byarlay

During this season of caring and sharing, one Southeast organization is making a difference in the lives of its members as well as the lives of the needy — Big Brothers and Big Sisters. The group spread the holiday spirit yesterday, when they delivered the collection of food to the Salina Rescue Mission.

"Watching students of all ages work together to help underprivileged people was a memorable experience," Big Brothers and Big Sisters high school coordinator Mrs. Judy White said.

"Yesterday was a very special day for elementary students to work with high school students to help others. As Jeffrey Platter says, 'This is great for me as I never get to do anything like this,'" said Big Brothers and Big Sisters elementary school coordinator, Mr. Ray Everhart.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters began two and a half years ago with 14 members — seven bigs and seven littles. Today the SES Big Brothers and Big Sisters program has 50 members and is continuing to grow.

"I feel that the high school students have done an impressive job with the program. It has grown and the students have made it successful," White said.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters has been involved with many group projects. One of the larger projects that the group is involved in is Bowl for Kid's Sake, which is a nationwide event that raises money for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program. In addition to that, Southeast of Saline Big Brothers and Big Sisters has smaller projects once a month.

"We went to the spook house at Kansas Wesleyan University, did a community service project together and had a Christmas party. The purpose of these projects is to encourage interaction between the bigs and littles and make a positive difference in a child's life," White said.

"I think that the fishing trip to Pioneer Lake was the most memorable project we've done so far because everyone was involved and had fun," Big Brother Justin Verhoeff said.

There are certain requirements for high school students that are hoping to be a big brother or big sister. One requirement is that the student must be at least 16 years of age. Another requirement is that the student must be in good standing (have no criminal record). A student is interested in being a big brother or big sister needs to take the first step of talking to White or Everhart (who handles the elementary portion of the program) about getting an application. If a student's application is accepted, an interview will be granted and the high school student will then be paired with a little.

"Almost everyone who has applied for the program has been approved. After the student has been matched with a little, they will be required to spend time with their little at least once a week. Students can eat lunch or go to recess during Seminar with their littles," White said.

Though anyone can become involved with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program, White suggests that those choosing to join be able to handle the pressures of school and other organizations as well as those of Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

"It helps if Bigs are organized, are willing to give up time in their busy schedules, are very caring and open and have a lot of patience and dedication," White said.

"I think that it's important that a big makes Big Brothers and Big Sisters a priority because it can really make a difference in the littles' lives. I always make sure that Big Brothers and Big Sisters is a priority, no matter how busy I get, because I know that it is important to my little," said Big Sister Emily Stein.

Current members of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program include the following: seniors — Laurie Asche (her little is Christina Platter), Jami Torske (Kelsey Colby), Anne Johnson (Katelyn Cyphers), Heidi Ptacek (Kayla Hemphill), Matt Davis (Thomas Patry), Justin Verhoeff (Rick Parnell), Karen Leiker (Christine Pauley), Darcy

Reese (Ali Petersen), Missy Smith (Chelsey Kincaid), Thomas Stein (Dalton Johnson), Cole Eilders (Spencer Baird) and Brooke Swisher (Chelsi Hemphill); juniors — Mark Troufetter (Klint Spiller), Dustin Kruse (Kyle Schmid), Casey Noonan (Andrew Burt Robbins), Angela Myers (Kaley Rodriguez), Carl Ade (Sean Martinez), Mike Pope (Jeff Platter), Christina LeDuc (Linsey Bolte), Emily Stein (Melanie Emery) Adam Smith (Joel Platter), Andy Pavkov (Chris Burton) and Stephanie Swanson (unavailable); sophomores — Ashley Mueller (Andrea Everhart) and Jordan Dupes (David Forsberg).

"I think that I'm making a difference in my little's life because I'm giving her someone to look up to, someone to confide in and someone to call her big sister," Big Sister Laurie Asche said.

Though the difference that bigs make in their little's lives may not be evident right away, White has no doubt that everyone is benefiting from the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program.

"I think that 10 to 20 years from now when the students look back on high school, they won't remember many of the trivial things, but they will remember that were a friend to a child and they made a difference. It's very gratifying to know that you did that; it's really important that they are making a positive difference in someone's life," White said.



Members of SES Big Brothers and Big Sisters pose outside of the KWU spook house during October. (Photo courtesy of Judy White)

Cooper and Krehbiel seminars tie for first in contest

By Ashley Mueller

Mr. Rex Cooper's and Mr. Kurt Krehbeil's seminars will enjoy a cookie from the Cookie Co. and have their names engraved on a plaque as the winners of FCCLA's Deck the Seminar.

All other seminars were given candy canes in return for their participation.

The contest was judged yes-

terday at 3 p.m., and the cookie will be awarded during seminar today.

"We should have won," Krehbeil seminar member Heidi Ptacek said.

Officers chose to go with Deck the Seminar, rather than Deck the Halls or Deck the Door because it was new, something different.

"It was new. We wanted as many rooms decked out for the holi-

day as we could get," President Rachel Smith said.

FCCLA members went beyond decorating their seminar; they decorated the elementary cafeteria for the annual Christmas Dance, too.

Shepherd's Gate Boy's Home received approximately \$200, the total sum FCCLA raised at the Dec. 10 dance.

Most of the money raised

came from the senior class, who had the highest attendance. Each class competed against each other to raise the most money. The seniors will receive a prize after break for their efforts.

Sponsor Mrs. Juanelle Garretson was pleased with the dance attendance.

"I was pleased with the turnout," Garretson said.

Varsity Score Box

Volleyball

Volleyball Record 17-13

Football

Football Record 0-7

Basketball

Girls:

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Chapman | 48-53 |
| Concordia | 30-49 |
| Minneapolis | 38-42 |

Girls' record 0-3

Boys:

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Chapman | 50-70 |
| Concordia | 48-65 |
| Minneapolis | 48-64 |

Boys' Record 0-3

Wrestling

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Ellsworth | 9-69 |
| Lincoln Tournament | 2nd |
| Beliot | 25-51 |
| Minneapolis | 7th |

All county football team members:

*Brett Brack

(Honorable Mention)

*Jordan Dupes

(Honorable Mention)

All county volleyball team members:

*Heidi Ptacek

Girls turn over first three games

By Amanda Penn

The Southeast of Saline Lady Trojans lost a close one Tuesday to the Minneapolis Lady Lions, 38-42. Turnovers once again sealed the Lady Trojans' fate as they dropped to 0-3.

Poor shooting was also a factor in the Lady Trojans' loss. The team shot 32 percent (12 of 38) on the night.

But even with poor shooting and 31 turnovers, the Lady Trojans were in the game the whole night and even had a chance to win in the final minutes.

With only two minutes and three seconds left, Ann Johnson missed a three-pointer, while the ladies were down 40-38. After a turnover from Minneapolis, Messersmith was fouled, but she was unable to make either free throw.

"I thought they played pretty good against a quality team. I'm very happy with their rebounding and their continued effort and hustle they put into the game," Sager said.

Ptacek was the leading scorer for the Lady Trojans. Other scorers include Justice with 8, Schwarz 7, Eilders with 7, Johnson with 3 and Messersmith with 3.

"We had good team defense and Heidi did a good job on the boards," Sager said.

The girls have been doing well keeping up with the other teams, losing two of their first three contests by five points or less.

Chapman

On Tuesday, Dec. 7, after a 10-point deficit early in the second half, the Southeast of Saline girls' basketball team rebounded to a 29-29 tie but eventually lost the game 53-48 to the Chapman Fighting Irish.

"The girls played pretty well, but we need

to improve the confidence to win games like that," head coach Wayne Sager said.

In losing their opener, Southeast fell to 0-1 and Chapman improved to 2-0, but their turnovers got them.

"The game was close all the way," Johnson said. "Our press helped us."

Turnovers, though, hurt the Lady Trojans. "We need to reduce the turnovers," Sager said.

Southeast was behind 28-18 early in the second half but Anne Johnson, senior, scored nine of the girl's next 11 points to come to the 29-29 tie.

Southeast had some chances to come back but Heidi Ptacek and Emily Eilders missed three of four free throws near the end, leaving Chapman with the advantage at the end of the game.

"Anne and Chelsie both played really good games. Anne led the team with 21 points and Chelsie had 11 points," Sager said.

Concordia

Turnovers caused a loss against Concordia for the girls 49-30 on Friday, Dec. 10. The turnovers were great on Friday they had 25. They shot 35 percent when they did take care of the ball.

"We couldn't get our shots to fall and turnovers were another plague."

Heidi Ptacek and Chelsie Schwarz were in the lead with rebounds, Schwarz with 6 and Ptacek with 8.

"I thought a positive side was rebounding effort. We matched them, we both had 21 and they were a much bigger squad," Sager said.

Top Ten Ways To Make Money At Christmas

Opinion

By Amanda Penn and Charly Bloom and Nick Sparacino

We were thinking about the big games coming up which led us to thoughts about big game hunting which for some reason led us to thoughts about how to make money for Christmas. Oh, it's amazing how our minds work sometimes. Following are our top ten ways to make money for Christmas. Maybe they will reduce a little stress as you get ready for tonight's big games.

1. Big Game Hunting.

Have you heard that reindeer pellets sell for \$50 a piece?

2. Set a bear trap for Santa, sell the toys, pocket the money and give kids cheap generic charcoal.

3. Make your own Furbies. All that you need is a tape recorder, marbles, and a little reindeer fur.

4. Make a video of your brother or sister taking a shower, blackmail them for money, then sell it to their friends and enemies anyway.

We know it's evil, but hey sometimes you just have to do it.

5. Set up a "Next Arrest" betting ring.

All of you know about the massive arrests at our school lately...set up a betting ring to see who can guess when the next arrest will be.

6. Spill scalding hot chocolate on your lap and then sue the company.

This could be a very painful experience but, hey- it's money!

7. Sell a sibling's kidney.

You might want to sedate them first, but this is always a good moneymaker.

8. Sell your brother or sister at EBAY.COM

Who needs a brother or sister anyway?

9. Shave your cat.

Shave your cat and then sell it as a high dollar Mexican Hairless Cat.

10. Recycle discarded copies of this paper.

After reading this paper, collect each one you can find and then recycle them for money.

Trojans get slow start on new season

By Charly Bloom

Tonight the Southeast of Saline Trojans boy's basketball team will go to Belleville to try to win their first game this season against the defending state 3A champion Buffaloes.

Tuesday night the Trojans played the Minneapolis Lions but were beaten 64-48.

"We played well for the first three quarters and then in the fourth quarter shots stopped falling and we made some turnovers," Southeast's basketball coach Mr. Dee Kolzow said.

Southeast out rebounded Minneapolis 27-19 (12 of which were courtesy of Thomas Stein) and shot 55 percent from the floor, but that wasn't enough.

"We did some positive things, but I wasn't as pleased as I was in the previous games. We need to play all four quarters; right now we have about three-minute lapses," Kolzow said.

The starters on Tuesday include Cole Eilders, Mark Troutfetter, Casey Noonan, Terry Kinsler and Thomas Stein.

Stein led the Southeast scoring with 20 points. Other scorers include Eilders with 12, Troutfetter with 6, Kinsler with 5, Tom Komp with 2, Ptacek with 2 and Noonan with 1.

On Friday, Dec. 9, the Southeast boys played the Concordia Panthers and came up short 65-48.

"I thought that we played very well on Friday, but there are still a few things that we have to work on. We did better on Friday than on Tuesday," Kolzow said.

Eilders led the Trojans in scoring with 15 points. Other scorers included Troutfetter with 14, Ptacek with 9, Stein with 8 and Chad Leister with 2.

"Everyone who played did very well. We just need to keep improving," Kolzow said.

Spirited Group Carols to Patrons

By Ashley Mueller

FCA members caroled to the Assaria and Sunny Slope area on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

After practice, they ate pizza, then car-pooled to Sunny Slope and Assaria.

Following caroling, everyone was invited to the Mueller home for cookies, hot chocolate and apple cider.

"The best part was the cookies afterward," senior Cliff Fowles said.

This is fourth year FCA has gone caroling and hence caroling has become a tradition.

"I think the students enjoy getting together, especially at this time of year. It's also a chance for some other students to have the opportunity to go with us, and hopefully want to be part of FC in the future. Most of all, it's a chance for the adults in the area to see what the majority of our young people are like and stand for," sponsor Dee Kolzow said.

FCA also ordered t-shirts and received them at their bi-weekly meeting on Dec. 14.



Chaid Schwarz takes the ball up the court against Minneapolis. The Trojans lost the game 48-64. (Photo by Sylvia Sawyer)

Wrestlers prepare for match with Belleville

By Tammi Verhoeff

Half! Crossface! Sit on him! Cradle!

Do these phrases sound familiar?

If so, then you know these phrases relate to wrestling. Yes, wrestling. It's that time of year again.

So far Southeast has wrestled at four meets.

On Dec. 3, they wrestled against Ellsworth at SES. Colt Balthazor, 140 and Bobby Moran, 275 claimed the two victories of the ten varsity matches.

Then it was off to Lincoln for the Lincoln Invitational where the Trojans placed second over all out of the five teams that wrestled.

Lincoln proved to be a tough team, placing first in the tournament.

There were a lot of injuries that occurred at the Lincoln Invitational. AJ Teal was out for the day, after a match against Mike Brown from St. John's Military (SJM).

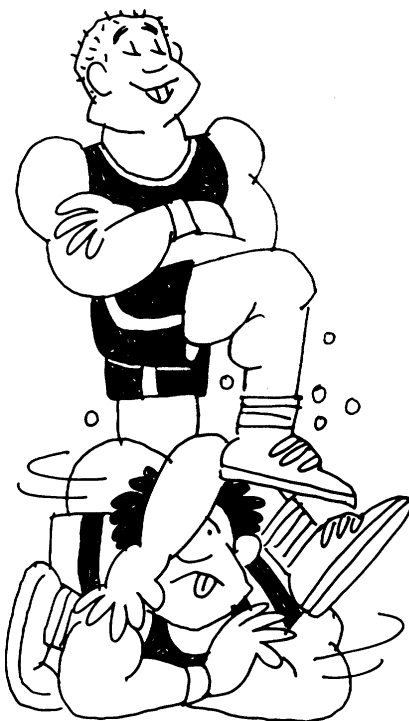
After his bout against Craig Bolleck (SJM), Justin Verhoeff was also out for the rest of the day with an ankle sprain and isn't expected to wrestle until after Christmas break.

On Friday the, Dec. 10, the boys wrestled in Beloit. Though they worked hard, it was to no avail.

"They had a really good team," Adam Stephenson, 130, said.

The following day they were off to a Minneapolis Invitational. The boys did not place.

This Saturday, Dec. 18, the team will compete at Belleville.



Toilet paper high on the list among NHS members

By Ashley Mueller

The day was cold, but the spirits were warm when National Honor Society members trudged out for the needy on Saturday, Dec. 11 for their annual scavenger hunt.

"It was really fun. We collected a lot of items to donate," junior participant Emily Stein said.

Because toilet paper was extra credit on the point list, some teams focused mainly on getting that. For instance, team 4 collected 96 rolls of toilet paper. They weren't the only ones, though. Between three groups, there were a total of 374 rolls of toilet paper. Team 6, on the other hand, collected four cases of Ramen Noodles, two cases of tomato sauce and eleven packs of toilet paper.

But, the toilet paper wasn't enough for any of the teams to win. Team 2—Charly

Bloom, Cliff Fowles, Angela Myers, Mike Pope and Chelsie Schwarz — came in first with over 3,000 points. Anne Johnson and Missy Smith also won the most unique item award, bringing in recliners.

A main focus for NHS members is charitable functions. Not only did they do the Scavenger Hunt benefiting the Salvation Army, but also they took part in the annual March of Dime's Breakfast with Santa.

First shift members met at Applebee's on Saturday Dec. 4 at 6:30 a.m. and served and seated patrons and painted children's faces for two hours when the next shift came in at 8:30.

The restaurant was open from 7-10 a.m. for children and their parents to enjoy breakfast and visit Santa. This is the second year NHS has helped with this event.

Sauber to attend HOBY conference

By Charly Bloom

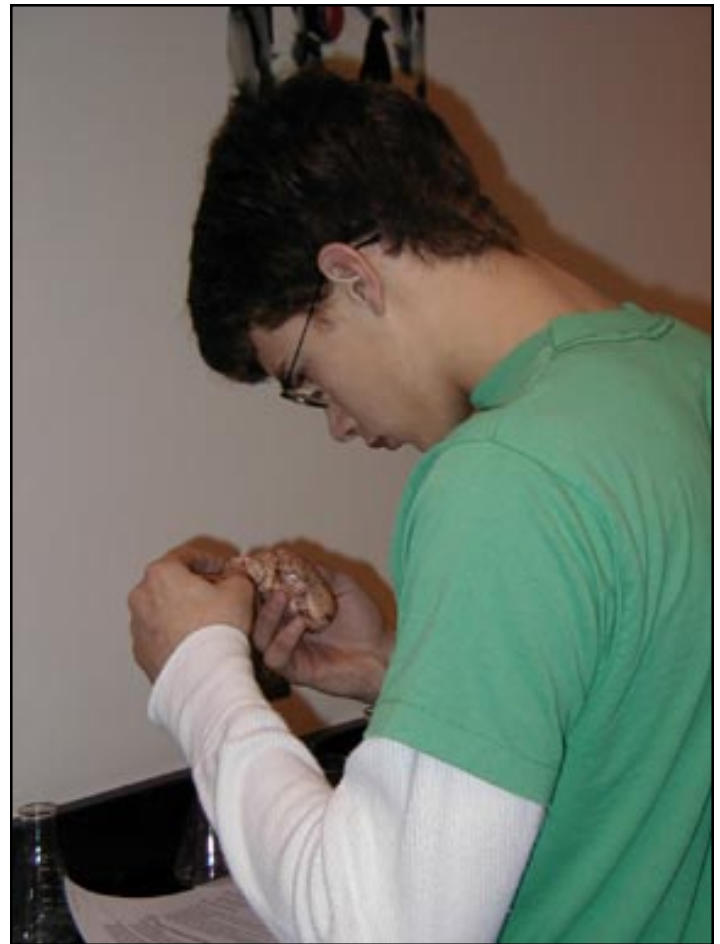
As winner of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award (HOBY), sophomore Jayme Sauber will attend a four-day leadership expense-paid camp this summer. The camp is scheduled for the last part of May after school gets out and will run into the first part of June.

"I was really excited when Mrs. (Judy) White told me that I had won. I'm really looking forward to going," Sauber said.

"Being selected for this award is a great honor because only one sophomore is selected from each school and the school pays all expenses," White said.

"I'm a little nervous and yet excited about being around complete strangers but I think it's going to be a lot of fun," Sauber said.

Previous winners of the HOBY award include Polly Hazelwood, Rachel Smith and Angela Myers.



Advanced Biology student Jacob Wrench examines part of his sheep brain. The class was dissecting the brains on Dec. 13 as part of a lab for Mr. Bill Nelson's class. (Photo by Andrea Keeler)

Washburn offers renewable scholarships to three seniors

Sparacino earns \$8,000 for efforts on Garvey test

By Ashley Mueller

Daily test taking doesn't usually land you \$2,000 a year for four years, but it landed Nick Sparacino that figure recently when his score on the Garvey test proved to be the best in the state.

Sparacino, Amy Giersch and Jami Torske took the test. The test was a three-hour test consisting of math without a calculator, humanities, verbal skills and history.

"The history and the humanities were really tough," Sparacino said.

However, Sparacino said he

finished the three-hour test in about 50 minutes. That 50 minutes of his time landed him \$2,000 per year renewable for four years, a total of \$8,000.

Torske received third in the region and earned a total of \$2,000 (\$500 yearly renewable).

The Washburn business department also offered Amy Giersch \$2,000 a year, renewable for four years. Her

GPA, ACT scores and contributed towards her receiving the scholarship.

All three scholarships are available only if students attend Washburn.



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