

THE TROJOURNAL

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Senior Ian Hughes races ahead of his opponent at the Hesston Cross Country meet on Sept. 9. Hughes medaled, placing fifth among the senior runners. Sophomore Clinton MacDonald was first among his grade level. To read more about the cross country team, see page 13. (Photo by Klint Spiller)

Around The Halls

Have you ever cheated, and if so, what prompted you to stop?



Sr. David Gray
 "Yes. I stopped cheating after I was caught my sophomore year."



Sr. Jessica Swanson
 "Yes, everyone in high school does it. Last year, when I got caught in Humanities, I decided to stop."



Sr. Matt Myers
 "Of course I have. What prompted me to stop? I don't know--have I actually stopped?"



Sr. Amanda Repp
 "Yeah, almost everyone does it. I stopped cheating last year after a bunch of people got caught cheating in Humanities."



Southeast of Saline THE TROJOURNAL

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Attraction taken too far in SES hallways?

By Colby Stephenson

It all starts with the attraction, and then it slowly moves in to innocent flirtation, and before you know it, you are planning your entire life around one person of the opposite sex. Yes, you've guessed it; I am speaking of the age-old attraction between men and women known as dating. You see, it's everywhere you go, and there is no way to avoid it. I'm sorry to be the one to tell you, but eventually Cupid will strike you with one of his arrows and you will then become one of us. And you will actually want to kiss someone.



In our younger, immature years we looked at this as a silly, and repulsive act. When we saw our parents kiss, we were the ones who would scream at the top of our lungs "EWWW." Now, oddly

enough, we are the ones who are engaging in this behavior. But when is this act, other wise known as public display of affection (PDA) appropriate and when should it be out of public's view?

As I walk down the halls of SES, it is not uncommon for me to view a couple holding hands or walking arm in arm as they pass to their next class. This is something that I am completely fine with. It is the point at which I see you sticking your tongue down each others' throats that makes me grossed out and at the same time extremely uncomfortable. There comes a point in your adolescence when you must learn that it just is not appropriate to make out with someone in public...especially in your school hallways.

It's not that I am against your being in love. In fact, I am all for it. I also have a boyfriend whom I am head over heels in love with, so I completely understand you wanting to be with this person your every waking minute. But lets' be honest guys: No one wants to see you "all up on" your boyfriend/girlfriend during school hours. It is distracting, and disrespectful. I don't mean to come at you as a prude. I am just asking you to give each other a little breathing room.

Cheating is not a required course:senior offers tips to avoid cheating

By Jessica Conway

A zero percent on your test, a free ride to the principal's office, possibly even suspension. These are all consequences for cheating, and yet, it happens all the time...or so the teachers say. This was discussed as a big problem last year between some students and teachers here at SES, but the views differed on the definition of cheating. We all know that cheating is wrong and we shouldn't do it. The question is, where do we draw the line? How do we determine what is and isn't cheating? Following are some possible situations and my answer to these questions.

Peer-editing: "Hey, will you proof-read my essay before I turn it in?"

This is a common tool actually used by teachers. It is not cheating if you ask someone else to help you improve your paper. Indeed, it is smart to have others read your papers. A second opinion always helps. The line here is when you ask someone else to write the paper for you, or simply download a paper from the internet. In this case, it is not your own work and you would indeed be cheating and, if you are caught, you are facing very dire consequences.

Working together on an assignment:

"O.k., so you do number two and I'll do number three."

This is a very controversial issue. It isn't cheating to ask for help from another student if you don't understand, but it is cheating to just trade answers even when you're working together. Some teachers would even prefer that you didn't work together at all. If you're not sure, ask the teacher what his/her rule is. Teachers all have different rules.

Copying off another person's test:

"Psst...what's the answer to number six?"

This is definitely cheating. It is never okay to ask a student for help on a test, or to look off of another student's paper without their knowing. If you don't understand the questions, ask the teacher and perhaps he/she can re-word it so that you do. They can't just give you the answer though. If you still can't get it, don't stress. Just take it as a learning experience and study harder for the next test.

Cheating is wrong. Not only is it against the rules, but it won't help you in the long run. It may improve your grade right now, but you won't learn anything and when you need that information later in life, you won't know it. It also effects your reputa-

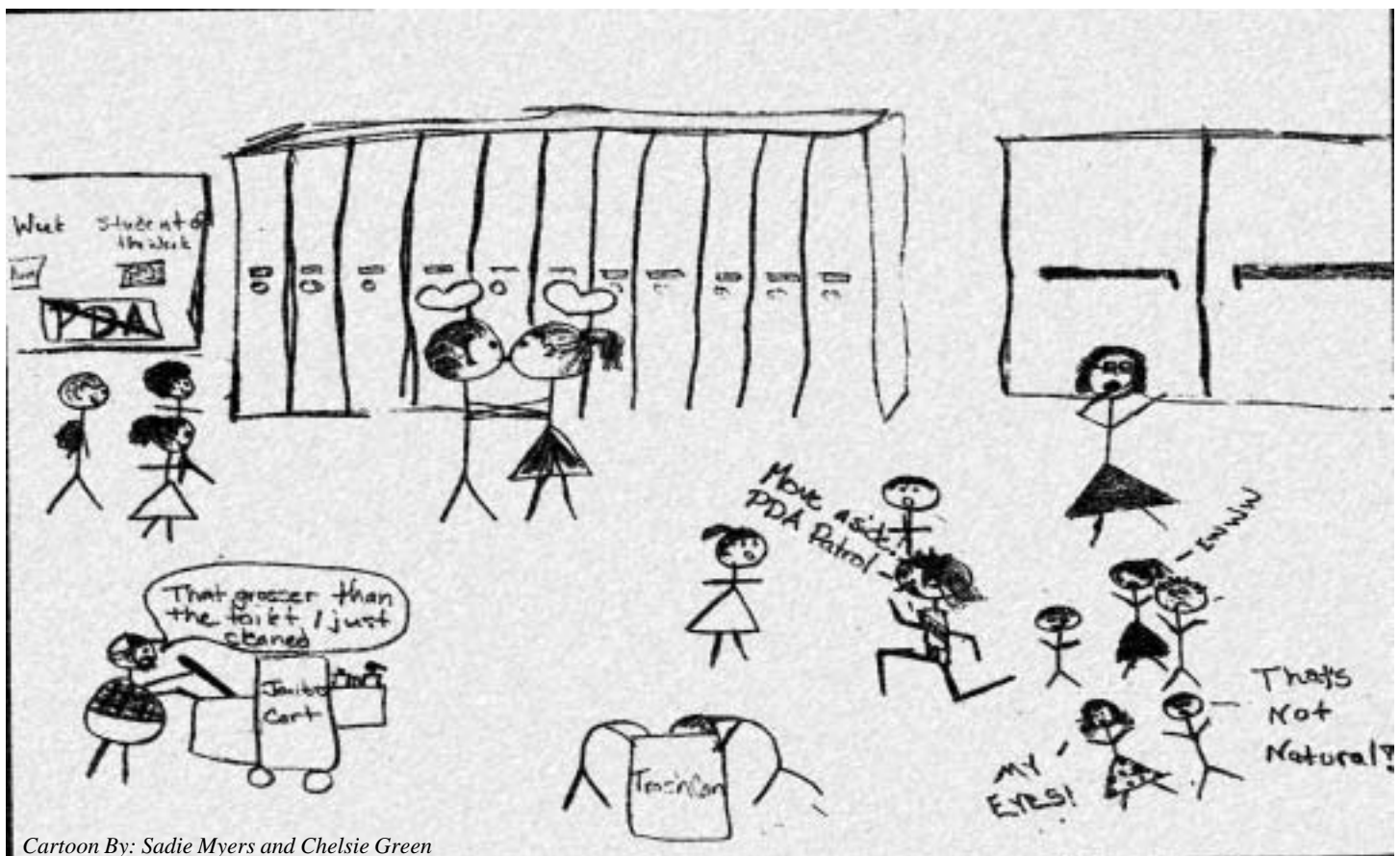
tion. It only takes getting caught at cheating one time for teachers and other students to be wary of you. From then on, they will distrust you and wonder if the work you turn in is truly yours.

Unless you constantly want someone looking over your shoulder to be sure you're being honest, cheating is not the way to go.

Some would argue that cheating is the only way to get by in high school. While it is admittedly true, high school, with other activities, can be hard, but cheating is not the answer. My advice is to do your homework in advance on a night that you don't have other activities. Even if it isn't due the next day, you'll have it done, and you won't have to worry about trying to finish it on a night when you're getting home late.

If you know you're going to be gone for an activity during class, get the assignment before you leave and you can do it on the bus. If the reason you cheat is simply because you don't understand, ask the teacher for help or a friend that does understand. Teachers are almost always available for student questions. You could also try finding a tutor.

High school is hard, but cheating is not a required course.



Cartoon By: Sadie Myers and Chelsie Green

Previous big city boy becomes country cop

By Kelsey Colby

He's been arrested, gotten ticketed six times, been shot at twice, and went to a school with drive-by shootings. His name is Officer Jon Strowig, and his childhood reflects the person he is today, and why he's who he is today.



Strowig grew up in the city of Rialto, California. It wasn't exactly a five-star hotel. It was a place where scenes of drive-by shootings didn't even make it on the news. Now think about it, the news here goes nuts if they have a crack bust.

"On the first day at our school, you either show up very early or very late," he said.

Every year on the first day of school, absent-minded, cold-hearted people would play the role of drive-by shooters. Strowig said that this kept occurring until finally a stoplight was put up at the intersection and the "drive-bys" got caught up in traffic. Not

only was Rialto not exactly a five star hotel, but Strowig wasn't the perfect guest either. He once was arrested for bringing a knife to school! It sounds more traumatizing than it really is. He actually had just left in his bag from a weekend camping trip with the Boy Scouts, but like he said, "Not every officer wears a halo."

So what brought Strowig all the way to the beautiful flatlands of Kansas? Strowig said that it was his grandmother. She influenced him to come here for the better opportunities. The opportunity to go to college where he's from is very slim. Moving in with his grandmother, who lives in Salina, gave him a chance to get an education and he could follow his dreams.

"My childhood experiences drove me to want to help others. It seemed like the police where I was from didn't care and didn't want to help with our problems. I just want to be able to help people. I don't care about their race, their income, or if they're big or small," Strowig said.

After graduating from Brown Mackie College, Strowig decided to stay in Kansas. He said that it's a much safer place to live, and if in the future he has kids, he would much rather raise them in Kansas.

Right now he has no kids but has been

married for about one and a half years to Amy. They also have a Golden Retriever named Amber. Strowig said his family means a lot to him, and they've pulled him through many struggles.

One of those struggles occurred not too long ago.

"I'm not exaggerating by saying there were bodies everywhere," he said.

Strowig is referring to an accident in Salina where a 15-passenger van wrecked. It was from Missouri and wrecked out on I-70 near Ellsworth. Officer Strowig was one of the first ones at the scene.

"It's the most chaotic scene I've ever been in," he said.

Because of his love for helping people, Strowig said that he feels that he was put in that place, at that time for a certain reason. He knew that he was an officer that was supposed to be at the scene. Strowig said that it was hard for him to get through it.

"It messed me up for about six months, and without my wife, my pastor, and my dog, I would still be a nut case," he said.

Even through all of that, Strowig says he would never give up what he loves to do.

"I just want to help people, due to my past experiences. I'm glad to be out here at Southeast," he said.

Foreign exchange experiences opposite climate

By Sadie Myers

He came from a place with mountains, an ocean, and lots of rain — almost the exact opposite of Kansas, but 17-year-old Remi Nicolai Robertsen doesn't mind the switch from Norway to flat and dry Kansas.



"The biggest difference is that Kansas is flat and Norway is nothing but mountains and ocean," Robertsen said. Norway is in Northern Europe. It rains often and is much colder than Kansas.

Robertson's home in Norway is a lot different than his house in Kansas.

"My front yard has an ocean view and my backyard has a mountain view," Robertson said.

His view from his window in Kansas is almost the complete opposite.

Robertson says the food in Norway is different but becoming more Americanized.

"We eat more bread and not as much fast food," he said. "But don't worry; Norway is becoming more like America so you can find McDonalds and Burger King there."

Besides the geography and food, Robertson says the schools aren't very similar either.

"Most schools in Norway don't sell food in the school so we have to bring it from home. A big difference is that here (Southeast), you go from class to class and have different people in each class. In Norway you usually have the same people in your class almost all day, because we have more core classes, and they let us stay in one class the whole year," Robertson said.

Through all these differences, he isn't having very much trouble adapting.

"I had never even been outside of Europe, but I went to a camp in Vermont for exchange students for two weeks, and I really think that helped," he said.

Other than the camp, English helped ease the culture shock.

"I'm not 100 percent sure, but I think I have been studying English for six or seven years," Robertsen said.

Besides all the differences, there is one thing that is pretty similar.

"I don't think the people are much different," Robertsen said about kids his age compared to American teenagers. "What I usually do with my friends is watch movies, play computer in LAN, go camping, drive around from place to place and just hang out."

From Norway to Kansas, he is fitting in pretty well.

"I didn't really know what to expect, but so far, I'm not disappointed!" he said.

Resource officer proves useful in safety concerns

Opinion

By Chelsea Thorne

It is likely that everyone has noticed that SES has a new school resource officer. If you didn't, you need to get your eyes checked because it is pretty hard to miss a 6'4" fully uniformed officer wandering the halls.

Some people, however, have questioned why we need a cop in the school. They assert that the School Resource Officer (SRO) program is just a waste of tax dollars. It's not.

There are three really good reasons why we need a fully uniformed, mace-gun-handcuff-and nightstick carrying officer at school..

First is the issue of safety. The Columbine High School shootings and other massacres across the nation leave students terrified that the same thing could happen in their schools. The fact that we have a police officer gives students a sense of calm, knowing that if someone were to come in waving a gun, we would have protection.

Another reason SES students can feel safe is that Officer Strowig is at the school from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. every day. At South High in Salina, there were two SRO's, but they were only part-time, so kids had a tendency to cause trouble when they weren't there. Admittedly, Southeast doesn't have a lot of trouble, but perhaps one of the reasons for that is that

everybody knows that there is a cop here all day, every day.

Secondly, the resource officer can serve as a confidante. As Superintendent Dr. Bob Goodwin said, "Having an SRO when you are in grade school takes away the shock if you go to a secondary school that has an SRO because you are used to it."

It is also nice having someone you can talk to if you get mad at your best friend and you don't want to talk to your parents or someone else about it. Officer Strowig is not only an SRO but also a friend that students can talk to about the difficulties of their week or when they back into their garage with their moms' new car.

Last but not least, response time is very important for us. Basically, we are a school that was dropped down in the middle of a cow pasture, so if there were no SRO, it would take at least 20 minutes for an officer to arrive at SES.

Imagine that one of our students here at Southeast named John Doe decided to come to school and start shooting Jane Deer and Billy Bob Cowpoke because Jane broke up with John to go out with Billy Bob. It would take 15 to 30 minutes depending on traffic to get from Salina to SES plus the time a dispatcher gets a unit headed out here. Therefore, it would likely take 30 to 45 minutes for the police to arrive.

Now imagine a worst-case scenario. John

Doe starts shooting at 9:00, the dispatcher gets a unit headed out to the school at 9:03. Then at 9:07, three football players try to restrain the shooter and two of the players get shot, and another is fatally wounded.

The police and ambulances arrive at 9:19 and 9:22. They finally restrain the student and take him to custody after an officer is wounded. John Doe had shot Jane and Billy Bob at 9:00, and Billy Bob died instantly, but Jane passed on at 9:45 at the hospital. In the 45 minutes that John was assaulting everybody, one staff member is killed along with two students, and a police officer and two students were injured.

Now let's do a best case scenario. John Doe plans on shooting Jane and Billy Bob because they are now dating. It is 8:57, and Officer Strowig sees John with the gun and orders him to put it down.

At 8:59, a squad car and ambulance start heading out to the school. They arrive at 9:20 and 9:21. By then, Officer Strowig had used mace on John Doe, handcuffed him, and had him ready to go downtown by the time the police and EMT's got to the school. Nobody was killed or injured.

Sure, having an SRO may cost a few extra dollars, but it is much cheaper than running the chance that something like Columbine could happen at SES.

New teacher overcomes Major changes

By Chelsie Green

From 6A Junction City to 2A Sacred Heart, from places like Guam and Honduras to the Kansas countryside, from teaching band to teaching math, new teacher Mr. Bruce Major had become so good at adapting that he could teach Charles Darwin a few lessons.



Some people say that change is bad, but to Mr. Major this is not always true. In his 18 years of teaching, Major has seen plenty of changes, and he's found adapting is the key to appreciating change.

Adaptation is not always easy, but it can help you in the long run Major has not only adapted to different levels of teaching from pre-algebra to college math but also to the different people he teaches.

For example, three years ago he was teaching math in a private school to the future leaders of Honduras, and two years later he was teaching Sacred Heart students how

to tune a tuba and play a piccolo.

He has observed that teaching methods are different from subject to subject and from school to school, but on a larger scale, he's also learned that teaching is different from one country to another.

Major has taught in several Kansas high schools, Clifton Clyde, Junction City, and Salina Sacred Heart, and in two universities, Upper Iowa University and Kansas State University. Beyond the continental United States, he's also taught in Inarajan, Guam, and El Hatillo, Honduras.

"In all these different places there are different view points about teaching," he said.

For example, he said that in Guam, education was not as important as family. Some days students even missed school for family-related activities. On the other hand, in Honduras school was a big priority. Sports weren't focused on as much as they are here in Kansas, and some students even had private tutors.

Now that Major, a Mentor native, has returned from his teaching adventures in other areas, he said that his travels have

opened him up to a new world.

"I try to bring my experiences from other schools and what I've learned and apply them to my teaching," Major said.

Still, he said that the students have to do part of the adapting.

"Each group of students has their own way they have been taught. Some students adapt easily (to a new style) and some don't," he said.

Even though Major said that teaching is a big priority in his life, it's not his only or even his first priority. He said he always puts his family-his wife Sarah, and his two kids, Grace, three, and Charlie, one, before his job. He believes so strongly in spending time with family that he has even resigned from a Sacred Heart job to spend more time at home.

Major, who graduated from Southeast of Salina, said he is pleased to return as a teacher. He hopes that his style of individual learning will help the students. He said he plans to help continue the tradition of excellence in math.

"Excellence in all things is something to strive for," he said.

Diabetic describes marriage, honeymoon with sick husband

Opinion

By Chelsea Thorne

It's a daily ritual. I hear the same questions and give the same answers to people when they ask questions about my diabetes. I have to realize that what is a constant in *my* life isn't the same constant in everybody else's lives, and therefore I continue to politely answer the questions. After all, I do want people to know, but sometimes I spend almost as much time answering questions as I spend doing homework. That isn't all bad, but hopefully this article will help clear up *most* people's questions.

What is diabetes?

Diabetes mellitus is a hormonal dysfunction of the pancreas. As you may know if you pay attention in your science or anatomy classes, the pancreas secretes insulin which controls your sugar. Mine doesn't do that. Here is a simple way to understand carbohydrates/sugar/insulin: Hold up your ten fingers in front of you; one hand represents your pancreas and the other how much you eat.



Thorne demonstrates her insulin pump. (Photo by Mr. Gary McClure)

Now knowing that I am the only diabetic student in this school, we are looking at *your* pancreas right now. Say you eat five carbohydrates (15 grams of carbohydrate = one carbohydrate point for most diabetics. I personally don't use the points system, but using 15 is the easiest to explain to people), so take one of your hands and put it over your other hand. Your pancreas has just secreted the perfect amount of insulin for the amount of food you eat. Your pancreas is basically a math wizard; you could eat 122.9857 carbohydrates and it would know how much to secrete.

Now, let's look at *my* pancreas. Once again hold up your ten fingers and have your hands represent the amount of food I eat, and how much insulin I have to take. Let's say I ate two carbohydrates, but I took four units of insulin, the hand that represents my insulin dose does cover the food I ate, but since I took more than I needed to, my body starts attacking my fat and sugar storage and eats that to cover the insulin I took. Therefore, I go low.

Now, let's say I ate four carbohydrates but I miscalculated and only took two units of insulin. The insulin would cover only two of the carbohydrates because there isn't enough, so the excess carbohydrates turn to sugar and makes me go high.

How does and what happens if your blood sugar goes low/high?

If I eat too much sugar, I go high, if I don't eat enough sugar I go low. When my blood sugar goes low, I get clammy, shaky, pale and irritated. I get annoyed for no reason, It has gotten so low to where I have become delirious and violent, but after that I learned to eat if I take insulin.

When my blood sugar is high, I cannot think clearly, and I get very thirsty. If my blood sugar is high enough, I can go in to diabetic ketoacidosis or DKA. Then I go in the hospital, and from there if I don't get treated fast enough, I will go into a diabetic coma and possibly die. That is why sugar control is very important. If my blood sugars are too high, I get complications that can kill me, and if I go low too often, it can cause complications that can also kill me.

Is diabetes contagious?

Nope. Diabetes isn't contagious. It is a common misconception that if you were to drink out of the same cup or eat after me, you would get diabetes. The only way you can get diabetes is if it is in your family or you are significantly overweight. So don't worry about 'catching' diabetes because it is impossible.

Since you give shots, you're not afraid of needles right?

WRONG!!!! Even though I used to give myself injections four times a day, I still hate needles. If you have ever seen me give an injection, you can tell right off the bat; instead of just stabbing it in like they do at the Doctor's office so you can get it over with faster, I do it very slowly. The thought of taking a needle and stabbing it in is just about as comforting to me as taking a knife and stabbing myself in the stomach with it. Lots of people who have seen me give a shot can't understand why I don't just do it really fast. Well, now you know.

Won't you bleed to death eventually?

No, I won't bleed to death by checking my blood sugars so many times a day. The test only requires a drop of blood about the size of this: o. However, since I favor my left hand (My right hand has calluses on it.), when I prick my finger, sometimes I will get blood out of that hole, along with two or three other drops that come out on a different part of my finger. It is really cool, but freaky.

Is that a cell phone/pager/radio?

The purple box I wear on my hip is my insulin pump. Instead of my taking out a syringe, loading it up, and injecting it, I just press a couple buttons and it delivers the insulin for me. If you have asked me what it is and I told you that it was a beeper that I always wear because I need a transplant of some kind and that the doctors will page me when they find a match, I was lying. Or if I told you I was on probation, that isn't true either. All of my organs are healthy and function correctly with the exception of my pancreas, and I do not have a criminal record. My other "pumper" (another diabetic who is on an insulin pump) friends and I come up with things to say if someone asks what our pump is. It is just a fun way for us to lighten the fact that we have a chronic disease that isn't going away. Besides, it is really funny to see your reactions when we tell you our "pump lies."

Since you have diabetes, you can't have kids, right?

It all depends on how well my sugar control is when I get older. I am already at a very high risk of having a troublesome pregnancy and delivery, so if my blood sugars aren't controlled, having a baby could kill the baby and me.

If I do have children, I want to give them the best start on life as possible. Since I am a dia-

betic, all of my children have a high chance of inheriting diabetes mellitus from me. I don't want my children to have to go through life with diabetes; and the only way to prevent or stall the onset of diabetes is to breast feed.

I hadn't really given much thought about whether or not I was going to breast feed my children before I got diagnosed, but now I am stuck with it for two to three years per child, and I want ten children! I could bottle feed, but a mothers' milk is better for a baby; so unless I want my kids to have diabetes also; I'm sort of stuck with it.

What is a D?

A 'D' is the grade you got on your math test. Just kidding, D is a short way to say diabetic. Other diabetic lingo that diabetics use to communicate with each other includes dx'd, pumper, and shooter. If I were to say, "D. dx'd 12, used to be shooter, now pumper," it would translate to "I am a diabetic, diagnosed at age 12. I used to give myself manual insulin injections, but now I use an insulin pump." The 'diabetic' way of speaking is much easier to say and write.

I heard you were married; is it true?

In a sense, yes, I am married. Let me explain. You see, after you find out you are diabetic and you start giving insulin, your body goes through a honeymoon phase. A honeymoon phase is when your pancreas decides "Hey! I remember this! I don't need your help; I can make my *own* insulin." So then, your pancreas starts producing insulin for a period of time. For every person, this phase is different. For some people the honeymoon phase is only a couple of months; for others, it is a couple of years.

My mom, her boyfriend, my little sister and I all decided that I got married on April 16, 2002 at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita. You might hear me talking about my husband Panc and how he never does anything for me and all the responsibility falls on me; shoot, I even had to buy my own "wedding ring." Sure, it only cost me 25 cents at a store with a gumball machine, but come on! So in my little diabetic world, I am married, but in the world beyond diabetes, I pray to God I'm not married yet.

Have people ever not wanted to be friends with you because you are diabetic?

As much as it sucks to say this, yes, I have lost friends because of my disease. In fact, I was dating a guy for about two and a half years, and he dumped me because he didn't think it was fair to him that I had diabetes.

On the other hand, right after I got diagnosed, people who I wasn't friends with suddenly wanted to become my best friend because I was "special."

Also, I have gained a lot of true friends since I am a diabetic: If I wasn't a diabetic, I wouldn't be able to go to diabetes camp every summer in South Dakota and meet other diabetics there.

My theory is that if you don't want to be friends with me because I have diabetes mellitus that is your problem, not mine. It is like saying "I don't want to be friends with you because you are black/Mexican/Asian/white." That is stupid and prejudiced. Just as people can't choose their skin color, I can't help I got a sick pancreas; that was the card I was dealt; and I had to learn to just accept it.

Prohibited Parking



Who's parked in the "No Parking" spot? That's what the Trojournal staff was curious about when they saw a large red truck parked there. They discovered it was custodian John Kuhn's truck, but since he is a custodian, he has the privilege to park there. (Photo by Klint Spiller)



Allenay Simpson yells out, during Drama, "I'll pillage your women and rape your village." She was displaying her ability to use props during Drama Olympics while pretending to be a pirate. (Photo by Jessica Conway.)

Life lesson learned from life-threatening accident

By Amanda Harding

In life, we all learn several lessons. Some are more important than others, and some are learned the hard way. This was the case for junior Rachel Nicholson when she survived a life-threatening head injury after falling from the door of a convertible.

Nicholson is back in school now, and even though she often wears hats to cover a shaved area on her head, she said she is back to normal.

She and her family weren't always so sure everything would turn out so well, but because she was quickly airlifted to Wichita, Dr. Earl Mills was confident she would be fine.

"Don't worry, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson. I am 99.9% sure your daughter will come out of her coma and be back to her normal self in no time," Mills said after Nicholson's surgery. Shortly after she woke up, she was back to her normal self.

Rick Nicholson, her dad, was one of the firefighters that took the call thinking the emergency call was for a jogger that had had a heart attack, but when he arrived at the scene, he learned otherwise. He thought the victim looked like his daughter. It wasn't until he was within a few feet of her that he realized it was. He said that he was used to the usual routine, but when he got there instead of his usual routine he felt by his daughter to help her. At that moment he went from being a firefighter to being dad.

After Nicholson got her stitches out,



her doctor described her injuries to her. She said she was disgusted by the details but wasn't reluctant to share them with the Trojournal.

Nicholson said her brain was pushed in, in the spot she fell on and she had a blood clot the size of a baseball from all the bleeding. After the doctor removed the blood clot, he pinned her brain back up and stitched her head closed.

Nicholson said she has learned a lot from the accident, not just about the dangers of riding on the door of a car but also about how much her friends and family care about her.

"It was really hard for me to see my sister lying in the hospital bed helpless. I didn't know what to do, and I didn't know how to help my parents. All I could do was pray for her," her brother Tim Nicholson said.

His sister agreed and said she really felt loved since her accident, but was hoping they would go back to normal soon.

"I have learned from my accident how many people really care about me. I appreciate all the people that prayed for me and all the gifts they sent to help my family and me to feel better," Nicholson explained. "I kind of miss them treating me like normal though."

Nicholson said she wishes she could help people to learn more about the dangers of riding on the door of a car and not wearing a seatbelt while they are in the car.

"I always had a tendency to learn things the hard way and this was more of a common sense mistake. I hope other people can learn from my mistakes, so that they don't have to go through what I have been through," Nicholson said.

SES plays host for state representative debate

By Brent Sweany

On Thursday, September 16, 2004 Southeast of Saline played host to an election debate. Incumbent Democrat Josh Svaty and his opponent Republican Tim Null debated over many different subjects including the money for public schools; the 35 percent of teachers and school administration that will retire this year, making college tuition easier to pay; and the same sex marriage ban.

Null and Svaty have very different views on many subjects.

For example, Null's idea of fixing the many problems in the legislature is not to raise taxes but to redistribute the tax money that is already coming in.

"We need to fix problems, not throw money at them!" said Null.

On the other side of the spectrum, Svaty says that there is not enough money coming in to

redistribute, and therefore, he must support raising taxes to accommodate the state's needs.

SES superintendent Dr. Bob Goodwin moderated for this event. He asked all the questions and told the debaters who would speak first.

During the discussion on the Gay Marriage Ban, things got a little heated. Svaty and Null both have the same views in that both think it's morally wrong for gay people to marry. However, Null wants to put a law against gay marriage in the state constitution.

"We are trying to defend our way of life..." Null said. "Homosexuals are attacking with the court system; we must attack back."

Svaty also believes it is wrong for two people of the same sex to be married, but he does not want it in the constitution. Svaty said he believes that putting this law in the constitution is taking away freedom that has already been given. Svaty says we

already have two laws that prohibit same-sex marriages, but they are not being enforced.

In their closing statements, the candidates made the following points:

Null said, "We have a government that is wasting money; I will reduce the amount of money wasted and give it back where it is needed." He added that being a legislator would be a learning experience for him.

In Svaty's closing statement, he pointed out that this election would not be a learning experience for him because he has done this for the last two years and he understands what is going on. He said that he understands school finance, a major part of this year's election.

"I am caring, hard-working, and compassionate about the people of Kansas," he said.

Null ended with a repeated mantra.

"Let's take the state back!" he said.

Meetings, concessions and conferences, FFA stays busy

By Brent Sweany

"I believe in the future of agriculture with a faith born not of words, but of deeds." The beginning of the FFA creed sums up much of what FFA is about, action. The new FFA council, new members, and former members have already started working.

New member John Henry has already observed how active the group is.

"FFA has already had two meetings, one council and one chapter, three concession stand works, a trip to the state fair, a land and homesite judging in Clyde, and a Greenhand/Entomology Conference is coming up on the 29th," he said.

Freshman Todd Brown, a participant in the trip to the State Fair agreed that there would be plenty of activities.

"We are going to have lots of fun and work hard this year," he said.

At the fair, eight FFA members and Mrs. Disberger worked for two hours in Agriland, an exploratory exhibit for preschool aged children. The kids weighed themselves against miscellaneous farm supplies like bags of feed or a small pig. They also got to sit inside the cab of a John Deere combine and go through a

tunnel with all the layers of soil shown inside. There were even roots overhead.

FFA members talked to the kids and told them many different agriculture facts, such as, twelve leather basketballs can be made from the hide of one steer and pig skin is used to treat severe burns.

FFA advisor Mrs. Brandi Disberger said she is very excited about the new year.

"It is awesome to have so many new members," she said.

Twenty-three new students have signed up and paid their dues for this 2004-2005 year.



Senior Matt Short drives a John Deere combine at the State Fair. (Photo by Brent Sweany)

SES FCCLA meets big Chicago

By Shannon Wilson

Three Southeast of Saline students – Taylor Garretson, Alex Earles, and Chelsey Mueller along with Juanelle Garretson as their sponsor— traveled to Chicago this summer for the National Meeting of FCCLA where they joined nearly 6,000 students from all across the country to compete in national programs and get recognized for their year's work.

Taylor Garretson, District G President, went to Chicago to participate in District G President training, while Alex Earles and Chelsey Mueller went because they are two of the 16 students from all over the country who participate in the Peer Education program. One of their duties in Chicago was to help lead a Peer education workshop.

While there, all three students participated in several other FCCLA events. The theme of the National program was XXL (eXperience eXtreme Leadership) so the opening ceremony included extreme tumbling and an ex-extreme athlete for a speaker. They also participated in judging of STAR

events such as parliamentary procedure, hospitality services, and illustrated talks.

Along with fulfilling their FCCLA duties, the students experienced many of the sights and sounds of Chicago. They took a bus tour of the city where they got to see many of the historical sights including the Sears Tower and Lake Michigan. They also attended an improv sports theater and ate at a medieval restaurant. On their last night, they danced at a "gala" on the Navy pier.

Juanelle Garretson thought that the group's trip went very well, "SES represented our chapter and state well. Chicago was a fun location for the national meeting and we're looking forward to even more SES students joining us in San Diego in July of '05"

Upcoming events for the chapter include a trip to Omaha for National cluster meeting and traveling to Smokey Valley high school for Fall Leadership Academy. They will also be selling corsages for homecoming and bracelets to raise money for the chapter.



District G FCCLA President Taylor Garretson and Advisor Mrs. Juanelle Garretson model crowns at the FCCLA National Meeting in Chicago. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Juanelle Garretson)

FCA enjoys early mornings as they kick off the new year

By John Henry

Who was that out standing at the flag pole last week, and what were they doing out there that early?

That was the FCA group kicking off the year with "Meet Me at the Pole," where they meet with fellow Christian believers, hang out, and pray for their schools and classmates.

"But that is not all we do," said SES FCA president Kyle Maine.

FCA meets in Mr. Kreihbel's room every other Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. They are also try to fellowship at each other's houses occasionally.

Maine explained further.

"At each of these events we will have a Bible study, hang out, have fun, and love Jesus!" he said.

Maine was elected president of the FCA group at the end of last year after the former president, his sister Sarah Maine, graduated.

Kyle said he would love for more people to come to FCA. He wants the group to grow larger and closer together this year.

"And even though FCA is Fellowship of Christian Athletes, you don't have

to be an athlete to join," he said, "We still want you to come!"

The FCA group recently went to an Audio Adrenaline concert on Sunday Sept. 19, and they plan to do many other fun

things throughout the year. They also plan to have an end-of-school get-together.

"My goal this year," explained Maine "is to bring the students closer to each other and to Jesus!"



Senior Amanda Repp, Junior Sam Hargadine, and Senior Erica Stein drink juice and eat donuts at the FCA "meet me at the pole" event. (photo by Mr. Gary McClure)

National Honor Society honors more students this year

By Brian Dow

Recently, thirty new members were selected to be a part of Southeast's academic elite.

The new members of National Honor Society (NHS) consist of 26 sophomores and four juniors.

The four new junior NHS members are Rebecca Breer, Joni Heimer, Kristina Lenz, and Kyle Maine.

The new sophomore NHS members are Emily Alexander, Linsey Bolte, Brittani Butler, John Christie, Daniel Clifford, Kelsey Colby, Brittney Copeland, Katelyn Cyphers, Brian Dow, Alexander Earles, Miranda Everhart, Nicholas Hardesty, Gary Hemmy, Gracia Johnson, Chelsey Kincaid, Ethan Komp, Clinton MacDonald, Cody Melander, Joel Pengra, RanDee Platt, Christina Platter, Aaron Plymell, Klint Spiller, Ross Terry, James Viar, and Kent Windholz.

NHS is comprised of a group of students chosen each year by the SES faculty.

Members are required to help with various projects in their local community. March of Dimes Day is on Oct. 13. The event NHS will be helping with is Barbeque, Blues, and Babies, where they will have a barbeque and jazz bands at March of Dimes.

Make A Difference Day on Oct. 23 is a project coordinated with Volunteer Connection. During October, NHS members will be collecting Care Kits composed of mainly toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant.

Required projects include, helping at Awards Night, working in the Salvation Army Christmas project, and Scavenger Hunt for the Homeless.

One benefit of National Honor Society is that members can receive schol-

arships. In the last six years, SES had three NHS members that received a National Honor Society scholarship. The scholarships are a nation-wide scholarship, and are open to all NHS members across the country.

The members of National Honor Society are chosen based on four areas — grade point average, character level, community service, and leadership.

Sophomores are considered for NHS if they have a grade point average of 3.6 or above. Juniors and seniors only need to have a grade point average of 3.3 or above.

The teachers evaluate the candidates and award points to the candidates based on the character level of the candidate, the amount of leadership the student demonstrates, and the amount of service the students do throughout our community.

Top 10 reasons why the NFL is the most entertaining sports organization ever

Opinion

By Skylar Nosker

The NFL has shown to the public that it is the number one sports league ever. When the sport loses two of the best running backs last year, Ricky Williams (retired) and Jamal Lewis (possible jail time for marijuana use), you would think it would cause controversy that would lead to a fall in attendance, especially in baseball, but somehow NFL football has the biggest attendance ever in its 39 year existence.



There are reasons why this happened.

1) The New England Patriots

They have become a dynasty, winning two Super Bowls in the last three years. From my perspective, this usually doesn't always bring in new fans, which is the case for the New York Yankees and the Los Angeles Lakers. But this one has a lot more meaning to it because New England plays in Boston where they haven't had a championship in any sport since 1986. Let's not forget the "Curse of the Bambino" that has been terrorizing the Boston Red Sox fans for 85-plus years.

2) Priest Holmes

Holmes, ever since coming to the Chiefs, has arguably been the best running back since he took the starting position. The Chiefs running back, still in his prime, powered his way to 1400-plus yards on 320 carries with a record-breaking 27 touchdowns in 2003. Priest, already with a Super Bowl ring with the Baltimore Ravens in 2000, looks to run the Chiefs into Super Bowl XXXIX. I doubt it, but he'll bring in plenty of fans during the regular season.

3) "Prime Time"

Deion Sanders is now back in the

NFL after signing with the Baltimore Ravens at the age of 37. The best cornerback ever ended his career a few years ago after he played years as a football and baseball player. He is the only one that has ever been in both a Super Bowl (Dallas Cowboys,) and a World Series (Atlanta Braves,). Sander's come-back be a ready-to-go anytime corner for the best defensive club in the league to try to win his fourth Super Bowl. This gives the chance for the new fans that haven't seen a hall of famer — like Michael Jordan in the NBA a couple of years ago — play.

4) Eli

Eli Manning now has something to prove after the draft earlier this year and losing the battle for the starting quarterback position of the Giants to Kurt Warner. A lot of people have been focusing on this young rookie to show why he's making \$45 million over the next six years. What makes his case important is that it's the biggest publicity ever (besides LeBron James) of a rookie who hasn't played one game in his professional career.

5) Carolina

The Panthers had the best comeback within a two year span, from being 1-15 in 2001-02 season to NFC Champions last year; they have now become one of the premier teams in football. This helps because it is the biggest turnaround in any sport ever. Also, they have become such a good team. I predict they will appear back in the NFC Championship game.

6) No doubtful teams

With a salary cap, a team in the NFL can go 4-12 and wind up a playoff team the next year. It keeps a wide base of fans because there won't be any jumping on the bandwagon every two years. The doubtful teams of the past five years, at least the ones who have a good shot of making the playoffs, are the Detroit Lions, the Cincinnati Bengals, and the New Orleans Saints.

7) No dominating player or teams

Unlike baseball and basketball, football doesn't have a dominating player like Shaquille O'Neal or Barry Bonds, even though Ray Lewis is coming pretty close. Still, even he is not a dominating player because of linebackers such as Lavar Arrington and Brian Urlacher. Football also doesn't have a dominating team like the New York Yankees or what was the Los Angeles Lakers.

8) Fans

The NFL has taken advantage of the falling of baseball and the mediocre fan base of basketball ever since Michael Jordan left his second time.

9) Contact sport

The hard-hitting, battle-to-the-death play gains interest from the alcoholic, beer-belly, no-shirt-on-while-it's-five-degrees-outside rednecks who love the sport of football. Most of these people, I bet, only love football, and if they don't the only other sport they probably love is hockey.

10) Pure athleticism

What I mean is that football players aren't showoffs, and there are no conspiracies against their talent. In football, you have to be a team player to be a dominant force, unlike the NBA, and there is no football player who's under investigation for using performance enhancement drugs like a certain baseball player is now.

You don't have to agree with me on all these things, but in my mind there's no doubt about it: The NFL is the new American pastime.



Trojans start season 3-0

By Skylar Nosker

Southeast has started 3-0 for the second time in the last three years after a 37-19 win against Russell last week and now stands alone in the driver's seat for the NCAA league title.

The Trojans, over the last three weeks, have impressively overpowered their opponents by developing a great passing game with their already-great rushing and defense.

Last week, they took on the Broncos on a hot evening at Russell. The offense was highlighted on junior quarterback Justin Schropp. Schropp went 11 of 18 for 230 yards and one touchdown. He also ran the ball 16 times for 74 yards and two touchdowns.

Schropp's lone touchdown pass was a 19-yard pass to senior wide receiver Joe Rollins.

Rollins was Schropp's go-to guy as he caught seven passes for 111 yards, but the biggest play of the night was a 72-yard reception by Austin Barnes which set the Trojans up for another touchdown.

Junior Jimmy McDowell rushed 10

times for 68 yards and two touchdowns, including what would be known as the winning touchdown.

Running back Justin Dupes also scored a touchdown.

The defense, after trailing 19-18 at half-time, stepped it up and shut down anything the Broncos tried to do. In the whole second half, the Broncos had a total of 5 yards and where shut out.

Senior defensive end Garrett Mugler characterized the Trojans defensive by sacking Broncos' quarterback Matt Cook twice in the second half.

Michael Lacy also had two sacks.

Southeast will take on a struggling Sacred Heart team tonight, who are 1-2 in their first year in NCAA League competition. Both of the Knights' losses this season have been against the Minneapolis Lions, 42-20, and the Beloit Trojans, 27-6, causing turnovers left and right. This should make the light shine brighter for Southeast to push their winning streak to four tonight.



SES quarterback Justin Schropp tries to break a tackle against Minneapolis Friday, Sept. 10. The Trojans went on to win 28-22. (Photo by John Christie)

Sports Box

By: John Christie

Football

Sept. 3 Beloit	34-7	W
Sept. 10 Minneapolis	28-22	W
Sept. 17 Russel	37-19	W

Upcoming Games:

Sept. 24	Sacred Heart
Oct. 3	@ Belleville
Oct. 10	Ells. (Homecoming)

Record 3-0

Volleyball

Aug. 31-Minneapolis Quad	
Clay Center	25-22, 25-16 W
Minneapolis	26-24, 16-25, 25-16 W
Junction City	23-25, 25-19, 25-16 L
Sept. 7-@ Russell	

25-14, 25-17 W

25-16, 25-12 W

Sept. 11-SES Inv. Trny.

Salina South 15-25, 17-25 L

Wichita 25-9, 25-18 W

Concordia 23-25, 17-25, L

Moundridge 25-20, 21-25, 17-25 L

Sept. 14-Belleville

25-21, 25-21 W

25-21, 25-23 W

Sept. 21-@ Minneapolis

25-19, 20-25, 25-23 W

25-17, 25-23 W

Upcoming Games:

Sept. 28	@ Beloit
Oct. 2	@ Concordia Inv. Trny.
Oct. 9	@ Council Grove Inv. Trny.

Record 11-3

Cross Country

Boys:

Sept. 3	Abilene	4 th
Sept. 9	Hesston	4 th
Sept. 18	Clay Center	5 th
Sept. 23	SES Inv.	5 th

Girls:

Sept. 4	Abilene	3 rd
Sept. 11	Hesston	11 th
Sept. 18	Clay Center	8 th
Sept. 23	SES Inv.	5 th

Upcoming events:

Sept. 28	@ Lyons
Oct. 9	@ Riley County Inv.
Oct. 14	League @ Downs

SES lady Trojans start off season with a fight

By Amanda Harding

As the Southeast of Saline varsity volleyball team fought to hold their 6-0 league record Tuesday, Sept. 21,

they found no disappointments. They defeated the Minneapolis Lions in both matches.

The final scores in the first match

were 25-19, 20-25 and 25-23, and the final scores in the second games were 25-17 and 25-23.

This makes their record 6-0 in the NCAA league, and 11-3 is the school record.

Although their serves were slightly off, they found other ways of scoring points, spiker Jessica Swanson said.

"I think we played extraordinarily well but we had some slumps," she said.

Fellow team member Chantay Seim agreed.

"We moved our feet more and this was one of the most exciting games we've played so far," Seim said.

"It's a great accomplishment and I hope we can keep it up," said varsity player April Ptacek.

Chantay Seim ended the game with 17 kills, Shelly Hillyard with five ace serves and 40 assists, April Ptacek had 14 digs. Holly Henry had 11 dig blocks, Jessica Swanson had five stuff blocks and Erica Stein had six dig blocks and three stuffs.

The team's only worry with going into the game was that they would be distracted by the crowd.

"We have been practicing with a radio on the last few days so that when we get in the game we are not distracted by the crowd's noise," April Ptacek said.

Head Coach Pasha Ptacek said that she was pleased with the girls' start to the season.

"It's a great start. We still have some good teams to play, but if we keep working hard in practice I think we will continue to dominate in our league," Ptacek said. "I think we finally played with the confidence that we should have been playing with for a long time."



Erica Stein prepares to serve at the SES Invitational Tournament. The girls have a 6-0 league record. (Photo by Amanda Harding)

SES runners 'run through' cold, damp, wind

MacDonald finishes first in three straight races

By Klint Spiller

Cold, damp, and windy. These three words best described the environment during Southeast of Saline's cross country invitational held on Tuesday, Sept. 21. The SES runners ran through it and were able to come on top with a first place finish in the boys' division and two medalists in the girls' division.

The Trojan boys finished fifth out of the eleven full teams competing there. The boys were left with a handicap, though, after having their second runner senior Ian Hughes sick the previous week and unable to compete on varsity at Southeast.

The boys' performance was highlighted by sophomore Clinton MacDonald's first place finish in a time of 17:26. This win marked his third straight race that he has won.

"Clinton's gotten a lot stronger. He has matured as a runner and is doing a good job pushing himself in practice and does a lot of extra running in practice," Head Coach Wade Caselman said.

With Hughes running junior varsity this week, senior Matt Short finished as Southeast's second runner in 19:21 in 31st place. Sophomore Klint Spiller came in behind Short at 37th place and in a time of 19:39.

Juniors Mark McClure and Brady Srna came in at 42nd and 50th with times of 19:52 and 20:24 respectively.

The guys' time gap between first and fifth runners was two minutes and 58 seconds.

"We could have run better. It would have been nice to have Ian to help the team placing," MacDonald said.

Every one of the guys who competed at Southeast last year improved their times. Caselman believes there are many reasons for this, but the main reason is the effort that all the runners have been putting out this year.

"A lot of people ran over the summer, so it helped people when they came in the fall already having an endurance base," Caselman said.

The lady Trojans finished fifth out

of the ten full teams competing there.

Medalists junior Joni Heimer and senior Jessica MacDonald led the girls, finishing eighth and 24th with times of 13:25 and 14:13 respectively.

Sophomores Kelsey Colby and RanDee Platt finished 35th and 48th in times of 14:39 and 15:12. Senior Hannah Zerbe rounded out the girls performance finishing 54th in a time of 15:25.

The girls' time gap between first and fifth runners was two minutes.

"Tuesday, I felt the girls all ran their best considering the conditions of the course. I know we can still improve, though," Heimer said.

The Southeast cross country teams will be going to Lyons next Tuesday where they will race at 4:30.



Joni Heimer charges past her opponent at the Hesston cross country meet. She earned a medal, placing ninth in the junior girls' race. (Photo by Klint Spiller)

“Once Upon a Mattress” to be staged at SES

By Shannon Wilson

Southeast of Saline vocal teacher Mr. Bill Tuzicka hopes for a couple of fairy-tale performances on Nov. 12 and 13 when the SES music department presents “Once Upon a Mattress,” the musical version of the classic fairy tale “The Princess and the Pea.”

The cast of lead characters includes four female leads and five male leads.

The female leads are Christina Sparacino, April Ptacek, Ashley Houchin, and Erica Stein.

The male leads are Andrew Geis, Calvin Roesner, Mark McClure, Kyle Maine, and Chris Weller.

This classic comedy originally started out as one-act skit but was so well-loved that it was expanded into a full-length musical that has been performed on Broadway in the 1950’s.

The musical, which is based on the classic fairy tale of the Princess and the Pea, includes many dramatic twists. Due to an evil curse, the good King Seximus (Maine) is unable to speak, leaving the overpowering Queen Aggriva (Stein) to control the kingdom. In order to keep her precious son,

Prince Duatless (McClure) all to herself, she has declared that no princess can marry her without passing her nearly impossible test.

In addition, she has also ruled that no one else can be married until the prince is married. This sends Lady Larken (Houchin) and Sir Harry (Weller) into an uproar since due to some unfortunate circumstances, they need to be married right away.

When the unexpected Princess Winnifred (Sparicino) shows up at the castle and wins the heart of Prince Dauntless, everyone prays that she will be able to pass the challenging test.

Director Bill Tuzicka is predicting a good out come for this musical which was previously performed in 1992.

“It’s a fun show,” said Tuzika. “It’s pure slapstick comedy.

This classic musical/comedy is set to debut November 12 if the football team isn’t playing in a state playoff game that night. If their winning streak continues and they are still playing on the 12th, the opening night will move to the 11th. Look for tickets to go on sale soon.



School funding lawsuit concerns small Kansas districts

By Jessica Conway

Southeast of Saline and other small schools could lose a portion of their state funding dollars if the Kansas Supreme Court rules in favor of mid-sized districts that have filed a lawsuit against the state claiming that the current school funding formula is unfair.

According to the Office of Judicial Administration, a final decision could come as early as mid-October, although attorneys in the case expect a decision by the end of the calendar year.

More information on the case can be found at the Kansas State Board of Education website at <http://www.ksbe.state.ks.us>.

Following is a time-line of what has happened thus far and SES Superintendent Dr. Bob Goodwin’s views on this issue and

how it will affect SES.

Trojournal: What is the best/worst-case scenario for SES?

Dr. Goodwin: (The worst case scenario is) for the judges to find the formula needed to be changed and the amount of money that small schools get would be less. (The best case scenario is) if the judges find the existing formula to be fair and equitable.

Trojournal: What does the state constitution actually say about school funding?

Dr. Goodwin: I can’t quote it for you exactly, but it talks about fair funding. The problem is how do you define fair and equal funding?

Trojournal: In your view, is the current funding formula fair?

Dr. Goodwin: I think the current formula is fair, yes. I think there are safeguards that help equalize fair funding for both rich and poor schools, and I think those safeguards are fair.

Trojournal: How have you have been active in presenting your views in this case and what are your views?

Dr. Goodwin: I have been on a committee that has put together an amicus brief that presents the position of small schools. It has been presented to the Supreme Court.

Trojournal: Do you think the courts will rule by mid-October as they had hoped?

Dr. Goodwin: I have heard either October or November. Your guess is as good as mine.

1999	Dec. 30, 2003	May 11, 2004	May 12, 2004	May 19, 2004
The Dodge City and Salina school officials, among others, filed a law-suit against the state of Kansas claiming that there was not enough money being put into the education funds and the money that was put there was being unfairly distributed.	Judge Terry Bullock made an order stating that the current school funding formula was unconstitutional with accordance to the Kansas Constitution.	Judge Bullock gave his final order in the case, which would in effect shut down all Kansas public schools as of June 30, 2004.	The school officials filed a stay on Judge Bullock’s final order until the Supreme Court could rule on the appeal of the preliminary order.	The stay was granted.