

# THE WARRIOR ECHO

VOL. 1 ISSUE 3

WAHOO HIGH SCHOOL

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## Distractions Dangerous for Drivers



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Photo illustration by Skye Sabatka and Ian Hoppe.

# Another Foreign Friend for WHS

By: Skye Sabatka

Lately there has been a new smile to which Wahoo High students have begun to grow accustomed. That is the smile of Laura Rohmann, a foreign exchange student from Germany that we have been privileged to have at WHS this semester.

Rohmann is a seventeen-year-old from the small town of Maschen, which is about the size of Wahoo, outside of Hamburg, Germany. She came to America at beginning of the second semester and was quickly acquainted with the lifestyle of the students here.

"At first, I wanted to do the Foreign Exchange Program so that I could improve my English," said Rohmann. "I also wanted to make it a new experience by getting to know different cultures."

While in America, she has been "living it up" and getting to know American culture by seeing movies and going shopping with newly-made friends. Making new friends here in a new country seems to come natural for Rohmann.

"I really like the shopping here," she said, "I was definitely looking forward to [shopping] here."

Unlike back home, here she sees the towns are much farther apart from each other and because of that everything seems bigger to her.

Like Pia, Laura's first choice of a home away from home was closer to the "pretty beaches", like California. But, it has been indeed everything that she has expected it to be.

Her friends back in Germany are definitely the one thing that she misses the most. While in Germany she loves to hang out and play tennis and volleyball with her friends. She also plays the bass guitar and piano.

Her host family, the Ficks, are enjoying hosting her.

"We thought that it would be a good experience," said Hillary Fick.

Hillary is a junior at Wahoo, which makes Laura's stay with the family a good fit.

"I am learning about a lot of different culture from Laura," said Fick. "Especially about clothing. I've gone into stores with her that I never would have before."

Hillary's household consists of her mom, dad and herself. Laura's family is nearly the same size, consisting of her mom, dad, younger sister Nathalie, thirteen, and herself; so living with the Fick's is not too much of a change for Laura. Laura also has two pet birds; Budgies, a type of parakeet, whose names are Charlie and Billy.

One of the major differences in America Laura has noticed is that "People are more 'rude'," she said. "We would never talk back to a teacher or [pas gas] in front of others and laugh about it."

Another difference Laura has had to get used to is the type of music that she listens to. In Germany, she loves listening to hip/hop, pop and electric/dance music. Nebraska radio stations play more pop and country music.

"I like to listen to upbeat music and dance to it," she said.

Despite some of the differences between home and Wahoo, Laura is finding ways to enjoy her visit to America until she has to leave on May 30.

One of the things that Laura intends to do is visit Chicago, Illinois, for a week with the Ficks while other junior students are away on their trip to Washington, D.C., for the Close-Up Program. She is really looking forward to it and the rest of her stay in America.



Above: Laura, (right), and her sister Nathalie pose for a picture.

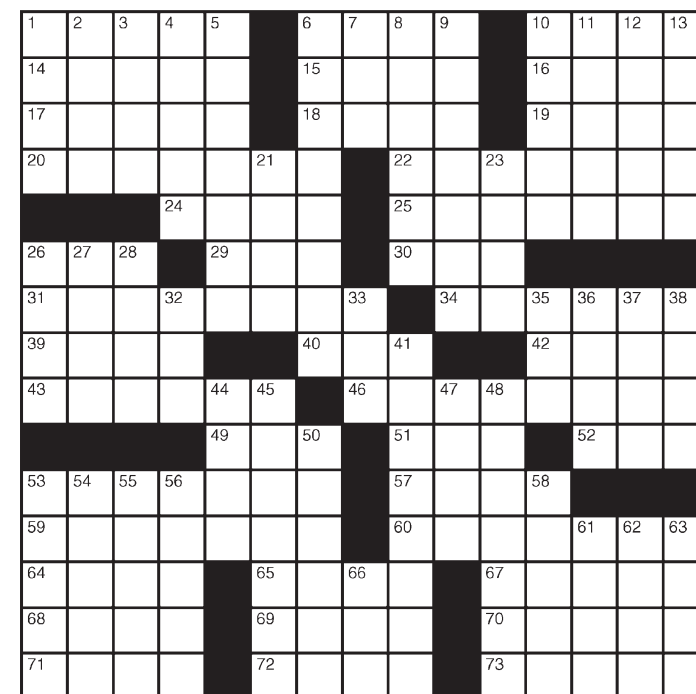


To the right: Laura, (middle), and friends Katrin and Melissa love to have fun in Germany mugging for the camera.

## Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Intersect  
6 Relatives of raspberries  
10 Lead player  
14 Major artery  
15 Frolic  
16 Valuable find  
17 "The \_\_\_ Witch Project"  
18 Sicilian volcano  
19 Raw minerals  
20 Picks  
22 Try  
24 Comments  
25 Silver services  
26 German article  
29 Schuss  
30 Make a blunder  
31 Impassioned  
34 Stable units  
39 Fasten, as buttons  
40 Freon or neon  
42 Schon of Journey  
43 J.C. and Sammy of golf  
46 Space between  
49 Unit of resistance  
51 Morgue letters  
52 Stitch  
53 Conductor's title  
57 Jug handles  
59 Russia's first president  
60 Ninepins' pin  
64 50/50 test choice  
65 College clique, briefly  
67 Physically fragile  
68 Sweep under the rug  
69 Shredded  
70 Forgeries  
71 Crystal gazer  
72 Ooze  
73 Edberg or Borg, e.g.



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### DOWN

- 1 Taxis  
2 Actor's part  
3 Type of exam  
4 Porkers' quarters  
5 Bitter irony  
6 Good wishes  
7 Stallion's tidbit  
8 Overly decorated  
9 Boitano and Button  
10 Gin fruit  
11 Crooner Mel  
12 Expert  
13 Musical pauses  
21 Kiddie  
23 Lemony  
26 Alternatives to VCRs  
27 Very long time  
28 "Leaving Las Vegas" actress  
32 Clean air grp.  
33 Wee bit  
35 Gasteyer of "SNL"  
36 Camera's eye  
37 Boot binding  
38 Murdered  
41 Evade  
44 Periods  
45 Confessions to a priest  
47 Water too well  
48 Customs duties  
50 Fifth U.S. president  
53 Widely held fictions  
54 Condor's digs  
55 Duck past  
56 Control the wheel  
58 Kind of poll or hat  
61 Make off with  
62 Made stuff up  
63 Different  
66 Exist

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SOME GRAPHICS AND INFORMATION COURTESY OF MCTWIRE

## Oh, Sweet Caroline

by Kali Kramer

You may know this junior by her nickname "Care Bear." Or, just Carrie. Or, you may still call her Caroline. It doesn't really matter what you call her, but she is definitely a "Sweet Caroline"!

Carrie Nabity and her twin brother Joe were born into the hearts of their parents, Greg and Cindy Nabity on Sept. 12, 1992, in Omaha. The Nabitys spent several years in Omaha where Carrie and Joe attended Bess Streater Aldrich Elementary School by Village Pointe Shopping Center through fifth grade. The Nabitys made the transition to Wahoo at the beginning of Carrie and Joe's sixth-grade year.

The transition from Omaha to Wahoo wasn't difficult for Carrie, but kind of heartbreaking. She lost touch with a lot of her close friends when she moved. She also misses many big-city conveniences.

"I miss being able to get in the car and drive five or so minutes to the movie theater," Carrie said.

But, one advantage that Wahoo has over Omaha is that all of her new friends live close by. She likes to hang out with friends at their houses and likes having her friends to her house. They love going to movies, out to eat, and having a good time. Carrie's many friends have accepted her with open arms.

"Carrie is a really sweet girl. She doesn't judge you on how you look and she has a very big heart," said Skye Sabatka. "She also gives everyone a chance, meaning that she'll hang out with anybody."

At WHS Carrie is involved in a lot of extra curricular activities and takes some challenging classes like pre-calculus and human anatomy and physiology. Carrie maintains a 3.9 GPA which ranks her ninth in her class. She is also very

involved with dance, choir, and band.

Her music keeps her very busy. She's taking a band trip with WHS band this summer to Europe. And, one thing that not many people know is that she actually used to play the viola. She now plays the trumpet and piano. Carrie also made the UNO and Doane Honor Choirs.

"Carrie is a great leader. She works hard, sets her priorities, never gives up, and she always has a positive attitude," said Julie Baker-Anderson, WHS choral director.

In addition to her music, Carrie stays very involved with dance and has been taking dance classes for twelve years at Mildred Collins School of Dance in Omaha. She takes jazz, ballet, tap, and hip-hop. Her teacher is the owner of the dance studio Mrs. Mildred Collins. Although she loves dance, Carrie does not plan on being involved with dance after high school.

"Carrie is always a hard worker," said Miss Mary Chytil, one of Carrie's dance teachers. She comes in when she doesn't have to help others and she always has a smile on her face."

Like many juniors, Carrie is very anxious to go on the annual Close-Up trip to Washington, D.C., with her Honors American Government class. Government is her favorite class and one of her passions.

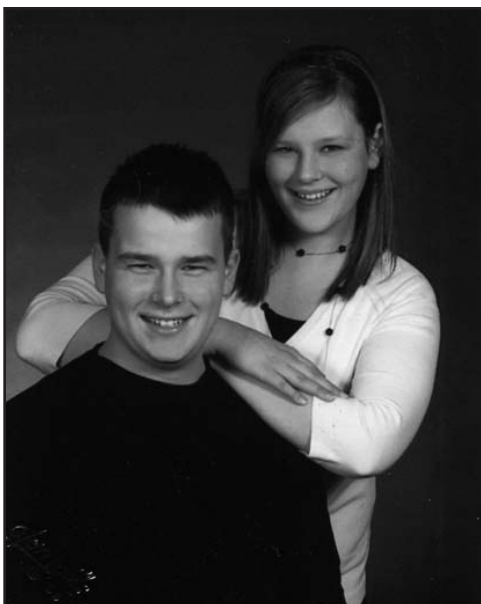
"We get into heated discussions and usually I'm the only one for John McCain," said Carrie.

"Carrie is very convicted in her beliefs and she intelligently explains her points of view," said Ryan Mueller, WHS history teacher.

Carrie is very busy and looks forward to her senior year in high school and then going to college at either UNO or Nebraska Wesleyan where she hopes to major in medicine or political science.

*"Carrie is a really sweet girl. She doesn't judge you on how you look and she has a very big heart."*

*-Skye Sabatka*



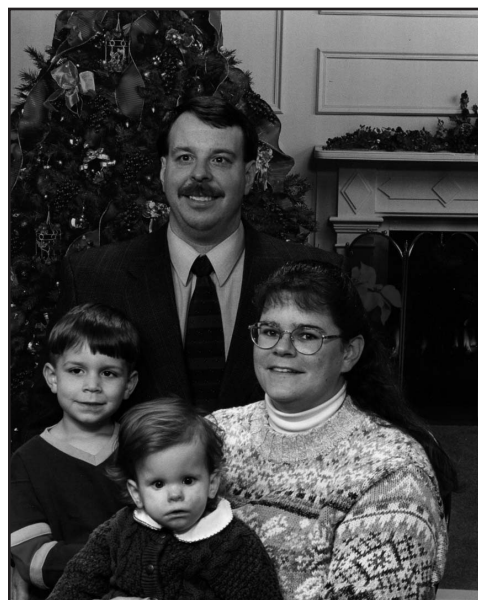
Twins Carrie and Joe Nabity have been close all of their lives. Here, they are photographed for the church directory.



Carrie unveils just some of her many dance costumes. Dance has been a huge part of Carrie's life for 12 years and counting.

## Hola Señora DT

by Kali Kramer



Spanish teacher Susan Dinsmore-Talbot is pictured here with husband Kevin, son Alex, and daughter Rachel.



DT shows off her newly found fame as homecoming decorating champion.



Carrie enjoys a nice game of putt-putt golf with her friends. From left: Skye Sabatka, Kali Kramer, and Carrie Nabity.

¡Escuchen! Many of Spanish teacher Susan Dinsmore-Talbot's (DT) students know the meaning of ¡Escuchen! when they hear it.

DT said that she enjoys teaching Spanish because she likes the language and the culture.

Her favorite memory about teaching here at Wahoo High is being able to travel to different countries with her students and that they are so excited for it. The reason she takes students to Costa Rica is because it's a "different" country.

"It's beautiful and there are different things to see than in Mexico," said DT. "The people there are also very friendly."

Her favorite memory of taking students to Costa Rica is when Abbey Grandgenett put a hole in a hotel wall with her butt, creating the infamous "butt-hole"!

One of DT's disciplinary methods is to squirt kids with a spray bottle. If someone is misbehaving or simply not paying attention she'll get out her spray bottle. She doesn't care if it hits a student in the face or on the shirt; if you deserve it, that's your punishment.

"I enjoy being in DT's class because she makes learning fun. I also like my classmates and I get squirted a lot," said Matt Myers, senior.

Spanish 3B and 4 students get the opportunity to go down to the elementary school and teach Spanish to the students. They go down once a week and have fun games and activities planned.

"My favorite part of Spanish class is being able to interact with the elementary students," said Matt Hornung, junior.

During Homecoming week competitions include a decorating contest between groups of homerooms. For the last two years DT's pod team with social studies teachers Ryan Mueller and Eric Miller have won this competition. DT is planning on keeping her title of the "Queen of Homecoming Decorations" for many years to come.

While in college she majored in elementary education and middle school education, and she's now in the process of getting her master's degree in Spanish.

While in college, DT decided that she loved to travel. She's traveled to many different places in her lifetime. She's been to Spain, Mexico, and Costa Rica. Her favorite place is Mexico City.

"Mexico City is very vibrant," said DT.

After college DT married her husband Kevin and has been married for 14 years. She also has two children. Alex is an eighth grader at Wahoo Middle School. Her daughter Rachel passed away in 2001 at the age of two and a half. Rachel would have turned 10 Feb. 23.

DT has lived in Omaha for fifteen years and it takes her about a half hour to get from her house to Wahoo every day. They also have a pet tortuga (turtle) named Penex.

DT grew up in Ames, Iowa, with her parents, two brothers, and a sister. Her sisters name is Beth (35), and her two brothers names are Steve (41), and Mark, who passed away in 1984. DT attended Ames High School and the University of Northern Iowa.

## WHS Boys Basketball

# Warriors Benefit from Myers' Leadership

by Shanly Steffes

Academic. Athletic. Affable. These are just a few of the characteristic that make Matt Myers a great student here at WHS.

Myers is not only awesome at sports he excels in academics too. Matt maintains a 3.93 GPA and is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the Class of 2009.

His favorite subject in school is U.S History because he loves to know how things came to be in this country.

Matt plans to earn a degree the University of Nebraska-Omaha where he plans to major in education and he may be a walk-on for the Mavericks.

No surprise that Matt is a student assistant for physical education teacher Randy Shada.



Senior Matt Myers is a leader on and off the court.

"He is the best teacher and the coolest guy ever," said Myers.

Many have seen Matt in the hallways and on the basketball court where he has helped the Warriors to a 12-10 record. When you think of basketball you think of conditioning, Myers says that is the worst part of basketball practice. He also mentioned that this season is not going exactly the way he would expect it to. "Ten losses is not what we would like," said Myers. Matt always seems to have a great game when the team plays Raymond Central and that showed when the Warriors won 77-50.

"He is always encouraging others and picking each other up no matter the situation is," said head basketball coach Kevin Scheef.

"Matt is an extremely dedicated and hard working athlete who always gives his best." Scheef added.

Anyone who knows Myers would agree that he loves to help his friends out with their homework. Matt loves helping others and teaching things his friends may not understand.

"I am kind of like a teacher already; I just don't get the paycheck," said Myers

"Matthew gets along with everyone," said Myers mom, Kathy who is very proud of him.

On top of school and sports, Myers is way more complex. Myers friend's say he loves to win, spend time with his girlfriend, helping others and learning everything about everything.

"He is caring, trustworthy and accountable," said Jacob Barry junior and friend of Myers.

One of Barry's favorite things to do with Matt is ride with him to volleyball games or girl's basketball games in Myers's family mini-van.

Matt Myers can't be summed up in one word. Academics, caring, trustworthily, sports are all words that can describe him. Myers has achieved a lot in his high school years and is ready to take on bigger and better things in just a few shorts months.

# WHS falls to BN in Sub-District Finals Ending 2008-09 Season



2008-09 game photos from left: One of the starting line-ups Layne Moore, Josh Discher, Tyler Brunsting, Taylor Murren and Matt Myers gather to talk about a game plan. Sophomore Gregg Milliken goes in for a hard lay-up against Neumann in the last game of the season. Matt Myers scrambles for a loose ball against Neumann. The Warriors huddle in close before a game. Seniors from left: Layne Moore, Taylor Murren, Jared Moline, Tyler Brunsting, Matt Myers and Alex Callan know that the end of the season is bitter-sweet.



## 2008-09 Boys Basketball 12-10

Opp.	WHS
71 Bennington	55
70 Seward	56
52 Logan View	91
69 For Calhoun	59
79 Centennial	76
49 Syracuse	50
37 Crete	63
48 D.C. West	65
47 R.C.	81
52 Norfolk Cath.	46
34 Arlington	70
67 GICC	53
45 A-G	57
59 N. Bend	57
52 Schuyler	68
45 R.C.	69
48 Bishop Neumann	44

# Lady Warriors Celebrate Hi's and Low's of Season on the hardwoods

by Shanly Steffes



2008-2009 Lady Warriors

## Three Wahoo-Cedar Bluffs Grapplers Head to the Qwest Center in Omaha



From above: Cory Davis, Matt Hornung and Kyle Kern all earned a trip to Omaha to compete in the State wrestling tournament. Hornung came away with a pin and a win by decision, but lost two matches eliminating him from the competition. Davis and Kern were eliminated after the first two rounds.



“Working together to achieve” is the definition of teamwork. The WHS Girls Basketball team knew and understood this term well. From hard practices, to long games, to even longer bus rides home, the girls of WHS never gave up. Their tremendous work on the court showed when they ended their season with a 13-7 record.

“Overall it was a good season. Our record was 13-7,” said freshman Sadie Murren. “We didn’t get where we wanted to get, but we WILL work to get there next year.”

The girls’ first tough loss of the season was against Seward. The girls played a hard game but fell short with just a few points ending in a 44 -55 loss. The loss was not going to stop them from keeping their dream of going to State alive.

The season started out perfect as the Lady Warriors defeated Bennington 47 to 57, and the team had high hopes for the season. The Lady Warriors had played the Monarchs before, but with strong starters and many fresh faces sitting on the bench, the Warriors had high hopes and even more confidence after they beat Mercy by 20 points. The Lady Warriors then held a 8-2 record.

The Warriors might not have gone to State, but the team of 2008-2009 now holds two WHS records, most points scored in a game and margin

of victory, which came against D.C West, 108-18.

When girls played the Falcons, they had confidence right at the start of the game and that confidence didn’t go away. Ten Lady Warriors scored in the game to help dominate over the Falcons. Mattie Murren helped lead the Warriors with 23 points. Erin Walker followed with 18 points in the game. Jordan Hinrichs also helped the team with 7 assists and steals. On top of this the success Mallory Shanahan took charge with 9 rebounds.

“My favorite game was playing D.C West, we broke the school scoring record,” said sophomore Erin Walker.

The girls ended their season with a tough loss to Ashland-Greenwood in the first round of Districts. The girls played tremendous, but fell short by just a little.

The girls couldn’t be anything but proud of what they have accomplished this year. Three seniors will walk off the court with two records and a tremendous year. The young faces on the team won’t forget the help and accomplishment of the three leaders.

“Our season went very well, from practice to the games we always had fun and played like a team. Although, sometimes we didn’t get the win,” said Walker.



Huddle up! The Lady Warriors get instruction from Coach Walker.



Morgan Hancock and Mallory Shanahan get set between plays.



Senior Taylor Kavan tries to save the ball from going out of bounds during a game against Bishop Neumann.



Warriors wait patiently for their turn on the court.

# Tips for Teens: Driving requires more than just a set of car keys and a license

by Alison Thomsen



Photo illustration by Alison Thomsen

With spring on our doorsteps, and warm weather right around the corner, Wahoo High School students are ready to slide behind the wheel, roll down their windows, and cruise the square. Whether you're driving by yourself, or with a couple of friends, you need to constantly be aware of other drivers, exhibit caution, and limit your distractions.

Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death among teenagers, ranking above homicide and suicide at 38 percent. Just this last year, Allstate reported over 5,000 deaths among teenagers, all attributed to motor vehicle accidents. Of that 5,000, 51 came from Nebraska alone, ranking it 34 out of the 50 states.

Sheriff Kevin Stukenholtz believes the main reason for Nebraska's ranking is the result of student drivers' lack of experience combined with overconfidence.

"They drive too fast, not taking [driving] seriously, and are overconfident in their driving ability," said Stukenholtz

There are some things students can do to lower the number of motor vehicle related deaths.

"More students driving with their parents is the most effective way, because you are logging more hours behind the wheel," said Stukenholtz

With so many motor vehicle accidents among teenagers, organizations have made it their mission to decrease the estimated 5,000 yearly motor vehicle deaths. Awareness groups are spreading knowledge about safe driving through community meetings, teen involvement, and Internet training.

The Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles is also ensuring a safer driving environment for teens by revising driving laws. There are steps that you, as a driver, can also take.

Buckling your seatbelt, and making sure all your passengers are also buckled up, increases your safety in a crash by 45 percent. When you are driving, check your speedometer, because speeding triples your chances of being in a car crash.

Another step towards being a safer driver is keeping your cool. Bad drivers can easily become an annoyance, but don't succumb to road rage because aggressive driving doubles your odds of causing an accident.

A big part in keeping safe on the road is getting rid of distractions. When you are distracted, your eyes are taken away from the road. Glancing away from the road for just two seconds doubles your

chances of causing a car accident.

There are many distractions that you can do away with. You can leave your radio station, or CD, alone, and not eat or drink while you drive.

Randy Shada, instructor for Saunders County Driving School, views cell phones as being students' biggest distraction because texting, calling friends, and surfing the web are constant temptations. Shada agrees with Stukenholtz that overconfidence is students' biggest downfall when it comes to driving.

"They are too overconfident. They think they can handle any type of weather," said Shada. "They don't slowdown. They think they can handle the regular speed limit, but they don't know how to drive in this snow."

With prom on the horizon, Wahoo High School students need to be aware of the biggest distraction: passengers. For each passenger in your car, your chances of crashing increase by three to five times. Last year alone, Allstate reported nearly half of all fatal crashes involved one or more teen passengers. This is an important fact to remember when plans are being made to car pool to dinner before the dance.

So what can students do to ensure a safe passage before and after the dance?

"The biggest thing is not to be distracted," said Wahoo High School principal Chris Arent. "You have to pay attention to your driving. That is the [driver's] responsibility. The driver's primary focus is to get everyone there safely."

Students' golden ticket for entrance into prom and post prom, is the breathalyzer test that will be waiting at the door. One of the most important factors in safe driving is leaving alcohol behind. Alcohol is a factor in nearly 25 percent of deadly teenage crashes. That is 1,250 out of the 5,000 fatal teen car crashes this last year.

After consuming just one alcoholic beverage, your reaction time is slower, and your ability to judge is no longer clear with the consumption of alcohol. Driving under the influence endangers not only your life, but also the lives of your passengers and the other drivers on the road.

So with longer days and warmer weather approaching, keep yourself and others safe by exercising safe driving. Ryan Buckholtz, creator of TeenDriving.com, offers these words of wisdom, "Don't drive like you own the road, drive like you own the car."

Information received from Allstate, AAA, CDC, DMV and AAA Living magazine.

## Driving Experts Give their Top 5 Driving Tips

### Sheriff Kevin Stukenholtz

1. Buckle up
2. Don't have other kids in the car when you are first driving, it is a distraction
3. Experience driving on gravel
4. Pay attention: obey laws, speed limit, turn signal, don't text, pay attention
5. Try to plan ahead.

### State Farm Agent Di Pfeiffer

1. Limit your distractions by driving without friends in the car.
2. Don't follow too close
3. Messing with stereo and cell phones
4. Obey the speed limit
5. Slowing down for bad driving conditions

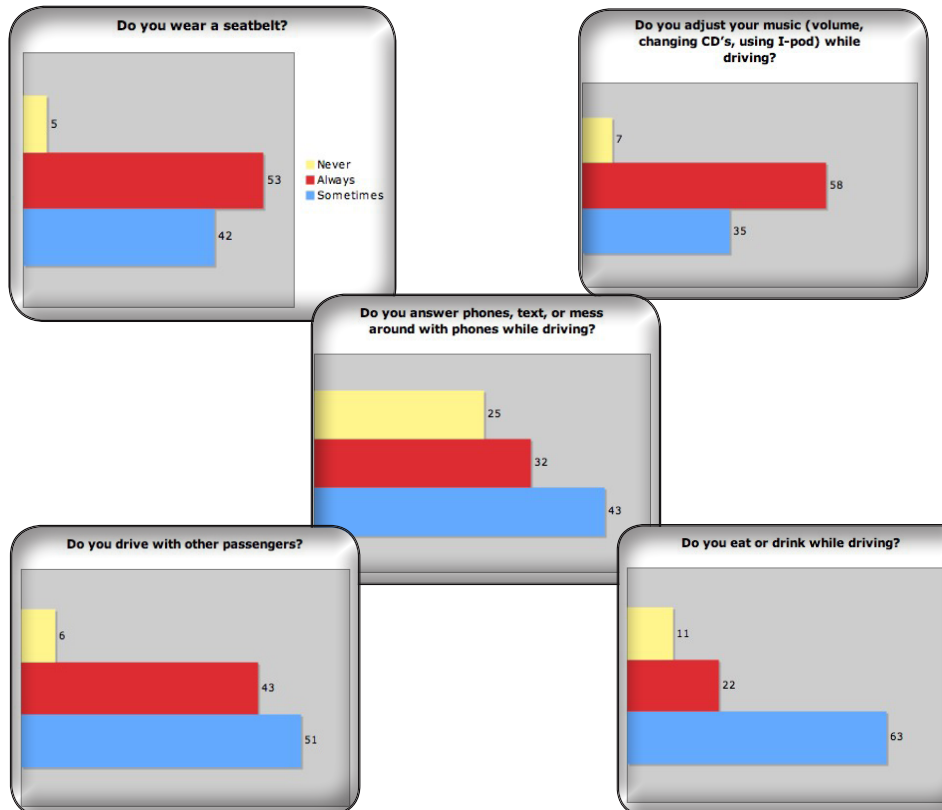
### Drivers Ed Teacher Randy Shada

1. Leave plenty of following distance
2. Learn to drive in city traffic (how to handle rush hour traffic, don't go over speed limit, don't try to keep up with other drivers)
3. Learn to drive at nighttime
4. Don't give in to road rage
5. Parents spend more time with teens behind the wheel

### Principal Chris Arent

1. Limit the distractions
2. Wear seatbelts
3. Don't speed
4. Pay attention to driving conditions (do what you need to do for those conditions)
5. Remember you are responsible for the safety of other people

## Students confess their driving habits (good and bad)



## Driving Dangers: WHS has experienced its fair share of loss due to car accidents.

by Cassie Nicholls  
The car doors slammed at about 11:30 p.m. on Oct. 18, 2006. Chris Clark thought it was her son Kyle and his friend Nathan Worley coming home from a night out. But then the doorbell rang.

Silence.

Ally, Kyle's then thirteen-year old sister, answered the door and came back to where the family was. The police needed to talk to them about their son.

"Which one?" Chris asked. Chuck Lacey and Bob Thorson handed them Kyle's wallet, cell phone and keys.

"NO!" Chris fell to the floor sobbing.

Suddenly Kyle's phone started to ring, playing How to Save A Life by the Fray. Donita Worley was calling. Chris knew she needed to talk to Donita but couldn't.

The Clarks' world ended that night at 11:30 p.m. when the doorbell rang.

THIS is every parent's worst nightmare.

Over the past couple of years Wahoo High School has tragically lost some of its best, brightest students, past and present, to fatal car accidents.

On April 8, 2006, Nick Peters was fatally injured in a one-car rollover accident. Nick was the son of Kelly and James MacMillan of Wahoo, and Howard Peters of Bradshaw, Neb. He was on the WHS track team and a member of Fellowship Christian Athletes (FCA). Nick would have graduated with the Class of 2009.

Then on Oct. 18, 2006, Wahoo High School was once again forced to deal with the tragic loss of students Kyle Clark and Nathan Worley. They were both honor roll students of the sophomore class. Kyle was the son of Chris and Larry Clark. He dreamed of becoming a baseball player and a jet pilot. He played high school baseball and was a member of the quiz bowl team and student council.

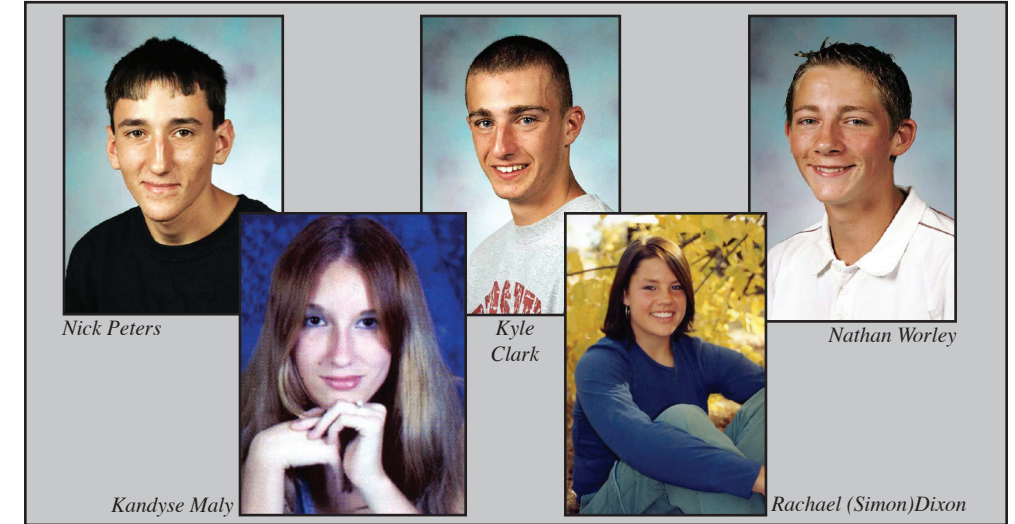
"Losing Kyle has affected us more than anyone knows. My family is missing a piece and holidays are no longer looked forward to," said Kyle's mother, Chris Clark.

"I keep thinking he's away at training or helping victims of disasters... but he will never come home again.

"So, kids, think about the friends you've lost before you make a bad decision behind the wheel, so your family won't ever have to go through what my family has," added Clark.

"My wish is to have all four of my kids little again because then we were complete. Now every day a piece of my heart and soul dies."

Nathan, who was a passenger that fateful night, was the son of Doug and Donita Worley. He enjoyed fishing, football, and track. He had many different jobs from selling worms to detasseling for money. His goal after graduation was to attend college to study computer science, electronic, and



information technology. Nathan and Kyle both would have graduated with the Class of 2009.

"I am more cautious with my driving now that we have faced these," said senior Jaclyn Vermeline. "I never want to see my family and friends suffer through the loss that so many of us have had to endure. This heartache has opened our eyes to see just how fast everything can be gone."

Sheriff's deputy Chuck Lacey has responded to many accidents over the course of his career. The night of Kyle and Nathan's accident left him in a state of depression.

"Oh my God, I'm still suffering from that night," said Lacey. "It was one of the worst nights of my life. It will be with me until I die."

"Losing the boys has made me realize that none of us are invincible," said senior Layne Moore. "At any moment something can go wrong and you won't come back."

On Dec. 12, 2006, Kandyse Maly, Wahoo High School graduate of the class of 2004, lost her life in a single-car accident in Western Douglas County as she drove to work.

More recently, Wahoo High School joined many others in mourning of the loss of a member of the Class of 2004, Rachael (Simon) Dixon who was in an accident on March 17, 2008.

The Simon family is remembering Rachael's spirit and dedication with a \$250 memorial scholarship in her name. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior who participated in an athletic program at WHS and has a GPA of 3.0 or better.

Wahoo High School promotes prevention initiatives by endorsing or sponsoring groups such as Survivor Safety, the Protect Our Future Committee, and Students Against Destructive Decisions. Many family members and students who have been affected by these tragedies have done things to make other young drivers rethink putting their lives in danger while driving.

One group in particular, Survivor Safety, has done a lot in the community to open people's eyes to these tragedies. Family members of lost loved

ones are committed to the memories of those who have tragically passed-away. They are doing all that it can to get its word out there.

"Our goals are to keep kids and others safe while driving and to be able to purchase a driving simulator, so young drivers are able to see what happens if they drive recklessly without having to experience it first hand," said Chris Clark, who is Survivor Safety member. "We also put money towards scholarships for young drivers for Driver's Education and stop classes. My goal over this is to reach as many young drivers as possible."

The WHS chapter of Protect Our Future is filled with many WHS staff members and students who examine situations that affect the safety and morality of students.

For the past two years, English instructor, Brian Ross sponsored Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), whose mission is to help want to rethink the destructive decisions they are pressured with. This group of high school students meets every Thursday or Friday to discuss new ideas for gathering outings designed to keep students safe. So far this year they have made a trip to Vala's Pumpkin Patch and sponsored two movie nights where students can take a break from the books and enjoy popcorn and a movie here at school. The SADD group is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Many WHS students have been tragically affected by the car accidents over the past years. These incidences have opened their eyes to situations they may not have thought twice about.

New driving laws have helped with this situation. Also, keeping students off their cell phones while driving and not having friends in their vehicles unless they have their license.

"The accidents have made myself and others more cautious when I'm driving by myself or with others," said senior Hilary Plybon. "If I realize I'm speeding I will slow down."

Hopefully, students will remember all of those we've lost over the past few years and think about the way they drive or their behavior when riding with someone else.

# Policy Politics

*WHS students endure a new round of school policy changes.*

by Chloe Davidson

**New Policy:** “All personal electronic devices shall be placed in the student’s locker upon their arrival at the beginning of the school day and shall remain in the student’s locker until the student leaves the school building for the day. This includes all devices commonly known as digital cameras, cell phones, MP3 players, iPods, and iTouches.”

**Consequence:** The first offense results in a detention and the student gets the item back at the end of the detention. The second offense results in Thursday academy with parents picking the device up. The third offense is two Thursday academies with the parent picking the item up. The fourth offense is a two-day suspension.”

This policy in particular has offended many of the students in Wahoo High School.

“I think it’s stupid because they [iPods] keep the students quiet and out of trouble and they help some students study better, like me,” said junior Skye Sabatka.

“Now it’s more of a distraction because people are complaining about not having their iPods instead of like it was before,” said junior Stephanie Brown. “We should burn the school down! Grab your torches!”

Of course Brown is kidding about burning the school down, but her passion is understandable considering all of the new changes being made this year.

Many students listened to music with teacher’s permission while studying or reading in class or during study hall. Those students don’t understand the need for the new policies because they never thought they were abusing their privileges.

“I like having my iPod because it keeps other people from distracting me while I’m working,” said Megan Brown.

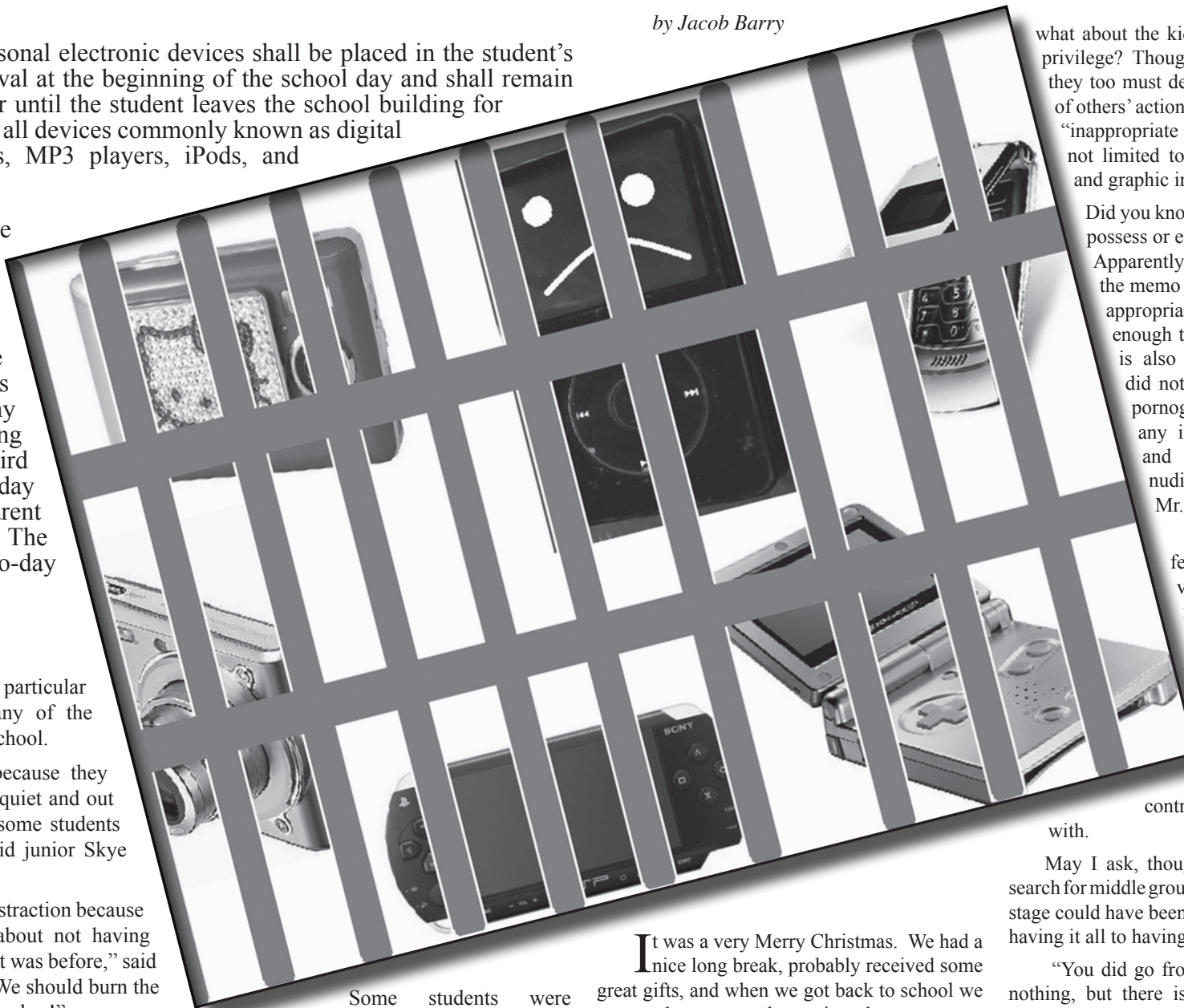
It seemed that one day students were allowed to have what many consider an actual aid to the learning process and the next day the iPods were gone.

However, there are many valid and common reasons for taking away electronics.

Opinion

# Entangled in Electronics

by Jacob Barry



what about the kids who do not abuse this privilege? Though they did nothing wrong, they too must deal with the consequences of others’ actions, which includes viewing “inappropriate material” including, but not limited to, images that are violent and graphic in nature and pornography.

Did you know it is illegal to distribute, possess or even receive pornography? Apparently some students didn’t get the memo that pornography was not appropriate or they felt they were sly enough to get away with it. There is also the possibility that they did not really comprehend what pornography is. “Pornography is any image, including pictures and videos, containing any nudity or sexual acts,” said Mr. Arent.

Either way, only a few students were caught viewing inappropriate material (including pornography) and this helped to solidify the decision to amend the handbook pertaining to electronics. This is all understandable. It was obviously out of control and needed to be dealt

with.

May I ask, though, why was there not a search for middle ground? Maybe a probationary stage could have been set instead of going from having it all to having it all taken away.

“You did go from having it all to having nothing, but there is room for change,” Mr. Arent said. “These new rules are under continual review.”

He knew something had to be done immediately and this is why we currently are banned of our electronics.

It is our responsibility to find a middle ground if we truly want electronics back. Once we have found this middle ground, it is our duty to first introduce it and receive their approval of our proposed middle ground.

It is for this reason that Mr. Arent has created the Wednesday meetings in which students may participate and share their thoughts and ideas.

The next item on our list would be to prove to the administration that we are capable of using this privilege without abusing it. Tough for some though it may be, it is not out of the question. The administration obviously lost faith in us to distinguish right over wrong.

The question is do we have faith enough in ourselves?

Some students were surfing the web, playing games during class, and worse.

“Students are accessing inappropriate material on video devices and viewing it during class,” said principal Chris Arent. This unfortunately included the viewing of pornography.

There is hope for a “middle ground” and students might be able to earn some of their privileges back. One way students can be heard is to attend one of the open forum meetings Arent holds in the media center every other Wednesday at 7:30.

Since the new electronic policy took effect in early January, there has been an improvement in students using iPods and other electronic devices, and less of these devices have been confiscated. However, the number one device being taken away was not iPods or cameras, but in fact, cell phones!

It was a very Merry Christmas. We had a nice long break, probably received some great gifts, and when we got back to school we managed to get our electronics taken away.

I think most of us understand why we cannot have phones. It’s a fact we have come to accept and live with, but seemingly harmless iPods? Really? Is it completely necessary to take our beloved music away?

The new iPods have capabilities beyond simply playing and listening to music. As most of us know, they have the ability to play games, record voices, watch movies and even access the Internet. It is truly amazing, but these capabilities are a few of the reasons we no longer have access to them.

From the administration’s point of view, it had to be done.

“Electronics were becoming more of a distraction to the educational process with all the games, videos and even Internet access on some,” said WHS principal Chris Arent.

It seems clear Mr. Arent is trying to improve the learning environment by the ban, but

Opinion

# Tardies = Absences = Tardy Tension

by Emily Brodahl

# Tardies Spiral Out of Control Prompting New Policy

by Chloe Davidson

Three-minute passing periods. Two passes per day. A million things to do. Are students ever going to get a break? The outlook doesn't look good for tardy-troubled kids.

With the new tardy policy in place, life could get rough for those who can't seem to make it to class on time. It seems the faculty and administration have had enough with our lateness and aren't going to let it slide any longer.

So the question is, do we deserve this new rule, or is the administration being a little bit harsh?

I admire the effort put forth by Mr. Arent and the administration to fix the problems that our school seems to suffer, be it tardies, inappropriate iPod use, or sagging school spirit. But, from the students' perspective, it seems like these changes came without warning. None of us were told to change our bad habits, and now we are being punished for something we didn't even know was wrong.

It doesn't really seem fair that rules are made or changed just because there's a small group of people who won't follow the existing ones. Mr. Arent explained during the assembly on January 7<sup>th</sup> that one student racked up over thirty tardies in one class during one semester; if that had happened under the new policy they would have been eligible to go to the attendance board for the amount of absences they accumulated.

Some students go through their day in complete disregard for school rules and policies, but then for kids who try very hard to make it to class on time, it doesn't seem fair that the problems they're plagued with, (locker problems, long distances, surprise bathroom urgencies, etc.), may now result in even more problems including being marked tardy with the chance of it becoming an unexcused absence.

With every rule, there are rule breakers, so if you alter or create a new rule it doesn't really seem like it would stop anyone. Obviously people who don't want to follow the rules will find a



Late! Students caught in the act. Getting to class on time doesn't seem to be a concern for many students this year and has led to a new tardy/attendance policy.

way around them. And with that assumption, it would seem that the good kids are the ones being punished.

With this new rule, kids will also have additional stress put on them. Imagine the stress of a kid who has to go in front of the attendance board because of absences, the worry over whether or not the board will understand if the tardies they accumulated were truly unavoidable, the stress of telling your parents you have to go to a meeting with the board, not because you were sick a few days this semester, but because you weren't on time to class. That stress alone could eat away at

a person, especially when those people are in high school and have other everyday stresses they have to deal with.

Basically the choice is yours, Wahoo High. Either get to class on time, or suffer the consequences, because it looks like freedom is being zapped away little by little. My advice to you is, just don't be late.

I would, though, like to end with one final question to the administration. Seeing as we are given an unexcused absence for so many tardies, is being late three times to one class really the same as skipping school?

“What did we do to deserve this?!?” some students are asking after recent changes in the school handbook were announced and enforced. These changes have caused somewhat of an uproar among the students of Wahoo High School. Three new policies concerning electronic devices, tardies, and school spirit were addressed during an assembly on Jan. 7, going into effect immediately. WHS principal Chris Arent clarified these new policies in an interview on Jan. 9.

**New Policy:** “Entering class late is disruptive to students and staff. Students are expected to be in their assigned classroom ready to begin academic activities by the time the class period bell has sounded. Arrival to class after the start of the period will be recorded as tardy unless the student has received a pass. At 10 minutes after the start of class (15 minutes for 1<sup>st</sup> period) a student will be counted absent. For every third tardy in any one class period, an unexcused absence will be entered. These unexcused absences WILL count towards a student's 10-absence limit per class and school days. (approved by board on 1<sup>st</sup> reading at November meeting)”

**Consequence:** “In order to gain the maximum benefit of the educational program it is important for any student to be in attendance at least ninety percent of the semester, which would allow for a maximum of nine days absent. Any student who is absent from an individual class ten or more times during the course of a semester may lose credit for that class.”

Arent, along with many teachers, believes that if students “plan their day effectively and schedule bathroom breaks,” getting to class on time shouldn't be a problem. Students also need to communicate with their teachers to help alleviate these problems.

Arent trusts teachers with the responsibility of rightly judging tardies. On the other hand, if students are held after class, it is the teacher's responsibility to sign the student's agenda admitting them to their next class without incurring a tardy. This pass should not be written in the space at the bottom of the agenda where students are to receive passes for bathroom breaks or trips to their locker.

WHS isn't the first to establish a tardy policy like this. When making this new rule, Arent actually looked at other schools whose tardies-per-class policies allowed anywhere from three to five per semester and decided that three was an appropriate number for our school size.

After the implementation of the new tardy policy, there really has been no improvement. Arent explained that the number of student tardies is equal to when students carried backpacks, but he wasn't sure if the new restriction of only two passes a day had anything to do with it.

There are currently 90 students who have accumulated more than three tardies in at least one class. The top five “tardy” students have racked up 169 tardies so far.

## Solutions

E	D	E	M	S		P	E	E	S		R	E	E	S
S	E	K	A	F		R	O	T		D	E	H	I	D
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S	L	L	A	L	S		T	N	E	M	E	H	E	V
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S	T	E	S	A	T	E		S	A	V	S			
T	P	T	E	M	T	A	T	S	T	C	E	T	E	S
S	R	O		A	N	T	E		H	I	A	T	L	B
E	O	D	E	L	A	R	K	L		A	T	A	O	V
S	T	A	R	S		S	O	O	B	S	S	O	S	C

## Be part of the solution!

Join Mr. Arent each month to discuss policy issues and help come up with solutions to problems facing WHS students.

Contact Mr. Arent for more information regarding the “Principal's Council.”

## District-wide Assembly Honors Black History Month

by Ali Anderson

Vocal music director Julie Baker-Anderson started her first year at Wahoo High School on a high note. Her determination to enrich the lives of her students with different cultures helped the school prepare for its first assembly on Jan. 16 celebrating the contributions of African Americans.

"Students don't realize it, but African American culture is a part of their everyday life and is all around them," said Anderson.

"I felt it [the assembly] changed the school," said junior Chris Colon. "I enjoyed the assembly and thought it made people realize the importance of our history."

Anderson along with two of her former students, Andrenika Hardnett and Jazmyn Burbine sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Black Anthem. The song tells the story of hope that marching for freedom and liberty will bring a new rising sun.

Senior Benishia Siemer was truly impressed by Hardnett and Burbine.

"They inspired a lot of students," said Siemer, who took time to express her gratitude to them in a letter thanking them for being a part of the assembly and sharing their talented voices.

WHS history teacher Ryan Mueller described the United States before and after rights were granted to black people in a short essay.

After the WHS Concert and Mixed Choirs sang "I Had a Dream." Khrystal Meyers and Melissa Campbell read a short poem called "Standing Tall," a poem that describes Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, strength as he faced the adversity of the 1950's and 60's.

"Martin Luther King fought for a just cause and he did that without using violence," said sophomore Sean Lindgren.

The elementary show choir, lead by Kristin Laughlin, energized the audience with "Come Together." Anderson, who wrote the song, contributed by singing the solo parts as the choir sang the chorus.

"It shows the importance of black history and how we grew together," said freshman Dayna Gulliksen of the songs performed in the assembly.

"I think the assembly made the students more aware," said Anderson. "The dream was more than just for African Americans."

WHS Drama II class presented a reading, "What If There Were No Black People" that

highlighted the contributions of blacks to our everyday world.

The high school Show Choir then proved they could get their groove on with the Earth, Wind and Fire hit "September," and the middle school choir boogied to another former hit, "ABC," by the Jackson Five.

After the WHS dance team performed to the number one hit "Disturbia" by Rihanna, the Wahoo Jazz Band played "Green Onions," a hit made popular by Booker T. & the MG's, one of the first racially mixed bands.

Omaha Burke student Zach Burbine challenged John Myre, an instrumental teacher from Monroe Middle School, and WHS band director Eric Snyder to a drum battle that drew cheers from the crowd.

"It shows the variety of our culture," Colon said, motivated by the drummers.

Vocal music instructor Grace Tyree and her sister Arvela Robbins sang the gospel song "Can't Give Up Now" that moved many students and teachers with its message.

Reverend Darryl Eure of Free Stone Baptist Church in Omaha presented a dramatic interpretation of Martin Luther King's speeches with a voice that matched Dr. King's very own. The crowd was mesmerized throughout his presentation and gave him a standing ovation.

WMS social studies teacher John Harris followed Eure with a vocal performance, a medley of spirituals.

Gwen Foster Steen, mistress of ceremonies and Monroe MS teacher brought the performance to a close and WPS Superintendent Edward Rastovski thanked all of the performers for participating in our very first assembly honoring African Americans.

"I was thrilled with the response from the students," said Anderson. "I am appreciative of the staff and student body for their help and with the gracious efforts of Mr. Snyder."

"It [the assembly] gave us an opportunity to recognize the important contributions of African Americans in the United States," said Mueller.

Students and teachers were so impressed with the performances while learning about these important contributions.

"It was a day to reflect on the past and to realize how we have grown," said Siemer. "I think our school realized at the end how great of an impact Martin Luther King, Jr., has made."

## President Pushes Stimulus Package

WHS may benefit from money allocated to the state of Nebraska.

by Ian Hoppe

purpose is to expand our infrastructure, create new green jobs, and prevent the layoffs of state employees," Mueller said, "I think the stimulus plan is just the first step in this process."

Obama did also promise the creation of some eight to nine million jobs, partly through the development of the so-called "green collar" industry, which is hoped to produce five million positions.

Some of the money from the package may find its way to the Wahoo area.

Possible beneficiaries of the package include the Natural Resource Department for its Lake Wanhoo/Sand Creek project, the Nebraska Department of Roads for scheduled improvements to the Highway 77 Expressway, and Wahoo Public Schools.

However, some funding is slated to go to projects which critics of the plan deem frivolous or wasteful, such as the creation of an ATV trail and measures to promote the prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases. While few could dispute that these initiatives, taken alone, might benefit the public, many people argue that they have no place in a package whose purpose is economic stimulation.

Obama has also pledged to practice a bipartisan approach to politics, and has encouraged Congress to work across the aisle in order to accomplish the goals of a nation that belongs to Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike.



Obama addresses the crowd following the swearing-in ceremony.



Record crowds amassed on the National Mall to witness Obama's inauguration.

On Jan. 20, nearly 2 million men, women, and children amassed on the National Mall to witness that most anticipated event that occurs every four years on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Frigid temperatures did not prevent the attendance of record crowds that pressed into the Mall in the early hours of the morning. At 12:30 p.m. EST, President-elect Barack Obama took the Oath of Office to become the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America, and the first black to hold this position.

"I think Jan. 20, 2009, marked a new chapter in American history, and was historic and monumental in overcoming the history of discrimination in our country," said government and U.S. history instructor Ryan Mueller of the event.

After all the pomp and circumstance of the swearing-in ceremony, after all the balls, inaugural dinners, and presidential galas had ended, President Obama set to work on his ambitious agenda without delay. During his campaign, Obama made several promises regarding a number of issues, both domestic and global, which face the nation.

Among the most pressing matters currently confronting the American people is the state of the economy.

Accordingly, Obama signed an economic stimulus bill into law on Feb. 17 in Denver. The 787 billion dollar bill includes billions of dollars in tax cuts.

"The primary purpose [of the stimulus bill] is to put people back to work. And I think the broader

If WHS gets some of Obama's stimulus money, what do you think we should do with it?



"First, we should get laptops for all the students. Then we should improve the Wahoo School Building." -Anmerie Schirmer, Freshman



"First we should use it to buy better school lunches. Then we should use it to build more buildings for the school. Like add a theater or add a building for the wrestlers." -Mahala Egr, Sophomore



"It should be spent improving the school building, such as adding the new theater. It would also be good if we expanded the library and got more computers." -Melissa Campbell, Junior

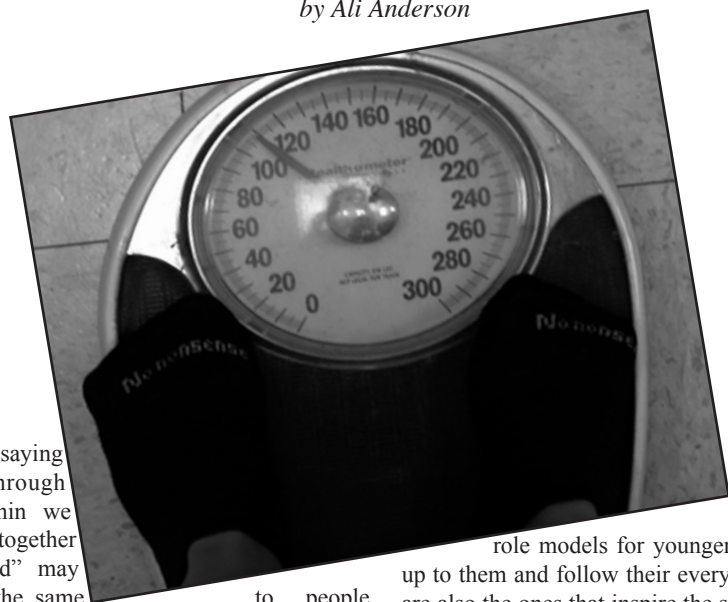


"A new weight room, definitely—or a new basketball gym." -Taylor Murren, Senior

## How Thin is too Thin?

*Students ponder the ability to stay skinny or live strong.*

*by Ali Anderson*



The saying “through thick or thin we will be together till the end” may not mean the same

to people today that it did when the phrase was coined years ago. From Paris Hilton to the Olsen twins, being skin and bones skinny is one fashion trend reaching beyond the red carpet onto Main Street, USA.

The pressure to be thin, especially for young women, can be overwhelming and can lead to eating disorders. Learning to treat your body with respect and having a healthy body image can help girls overcome these pressures.

Pressures consume and drastically change the way people live their lives. Maybe it's because women pay more attention to detail or maybe it is because they are more sensitive, but the anxiety that comes with being a woman can be overwhelming.

WHS toning and fitness teacher Kathy Anderson sees these problems and the pressure weight loss can have on girls.

“Women have to overcome a tremendous amount of pressure in everyday life,” said Anderson. “Many of the students throughout the school show weight problems with signs like losing a huge chunk of weight in a short period of time and dramatic and constant mood swings.”

Peer pressure is tough on teens. Following a group of friends is somewhat of an obligation to experience the same things as they do. There are the pressures of drugs, sex, drinking, alcohol, smoking, and even listening to the same music, dressing the same, or being thin to fit in.

WPS nurse Mary Specht says it's some times easy to spot a teenage girl with an eating disorder.

“They are very conscience about calorie count and what they are eating,” said Nurse Mary. “They constantly exercise, over and above the normal amount, and they always check their weight. It is an obsession with weight.”

Junior Hailey Zetocka tells of her troubles, “Weight problems are more of a personal pressure and I don't listen to other people because it is their preference, not mine.”

One group at WHS affected by the pressure to be thin is the cheerleaders. They are not only

role models for younger girls who look up to them and follow their every move, but they are also the ones that inspire the student body and the community to do the right things.

“When I was a cheerleader I felt more of a pressure to be thin and stay a certain weight,” said former cheerleader Shanly Steffes. “Everyone noticed if you gained or lost weight in your outfits.”

Most people start out with weight issues if they were teased as a child. Those children build up a tough exterior when being picked on and made fun of about their weight.

“I won't eat fast food everyday,” confessed Katie Foust.

One way to change your body is to change your eating habits. Controlling your food intake is an easy and healthy way to maintain a stable body.

Only one in five women are satisfied with their body weight. The “normal” girls in society today are always thinking they could shed a couple of pounds here or there.

“Girls are critical,” said Steffes. “If you gain weight, they will talk about it.”

There are steps to take in order to feel better about your own body and find a road to recovery.

“Girls can talk to a counselor or doctor, eat right, exercise daily and they can also keep activity and food logs,” explained Anderson.

Another way to stop obsessing over your weight is to stop weighing yourself and to change your goal from losing weight to improving your health. Friends and family members can and will be willing to help you deal with a problem as big as an eating disorder. A negative body image builds up over time, so changing the problem will take time and a lot of effort.

There are vast amounts of ways people can find help to treat a body with the respect it deserves.

Being healthy enough to donate blood is one goal that will help society and save lives. Having a good healthy lifestyle is so much better than being skin and bones skinny.

## NHS Blood Drive Sets New Record

*by Eric Curran*

On Jan. 29, the Little Theatre transformed to what looked like a free clinic.

Groups of large reclining chairs, coolers, medical equipment, tables, and booths decorated the usually empty floor of the Theatre.

Here, the National Honor Society held its third annual blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross. By the end of the school day, 62 donors had contributed to the cause.

“I'm always so pleased about how many kids are willing to give to help others,” said NHS sponsor Kim Brigham.

Students donate not only blood, but time as well.

“It's fun because people are doing a good thing for a good cause,” said Carrie Nabity, who had been working the blood drive since 7:30 in the morning.

Brigham went on to say that the blood drive helps the school as well.

“It gives scholarship money to our school if we meet our quota, which we have in the past,” she explained.

Not only was the quota met, a record was set for the amount of blood donated. Students, faculty, and community members donated 58 total units by the end of the day, which exceeded the goal of 55 and beat the previous record of 53.

“It feels good to know that I'm saving lives,” said senior Jen Proctor.

“I'm scared and petrified,” said first-time donor Jordan Triplett, before giving blood.

In order to be a blood donor, one must meet certain requirements. A person must weigh at least 110 pounds, be at least 16 years old, and be healthy. The person also cannot have donated blood within 8 weeks prior to the current donation. The tattoo rule was changed, allowing anyone who received a tattoo from a Nebraska or Iowa professional tattoo parlor to give blood.

“They want to make sure that the blood is clean, and the patients receiving the blood are safe,” said Brigham.

A second blood drive will be held in March, giving people another chance to donate.



*Right: The American Red Cross is set up to take your blood.*

*Below: Junior Jake Barry rehydrates while giving blood.*



*Above: Faculty member Mike Bomar smiles as he gives his blood.*

*Left: Students refresh themselves after donating.*



## WHS Cheer and Dance Squads Go for Gold at the Nebraska State Cheer and Dance Competition February 21

Photos courtesy of the Gulliksen family.



*“Here we go Warriors! Here we go!” “Go Big Blue!” “Let’s go Warriors! Let’s go!” Sound familiar? They should!*

### New Spirit Policy in Effect

by Lindsay Luers

Seating arrangement? Punishment? Bribing!? Those are some of the thoughts that popped into students’ heads after the subject of school spirit came up at a school-wide assembly on Jan. 7.

The attendants at the games are to cheer for the Warriors as loud and as appropriate as possible. To earn points at games students must “out do” the other classes at cheering.

The class that cheers the loudest earns the points to reach the grand prize. The grand prize for the class that earns the most points will include an afternoon at Thunder Alley in Elkhorn.

Prizes that have been earned in the games so far are when the cheerleaders handed out popcorn to adults that were cheering the most.

Because of the awards students can “win,” many students feel like they are being bribed to show up and cheer for the Warriors.

“Yes I agree [we are bribing them],” said WHS principal Chris Arent.

There are a lot of winter sports going on at once and Arent recognizes that this is a factor in the lack of people showing up at games. Also contributing to the absence of students is parents not allowing their kids to drive to games in bad weather.

Mr. Arent has no expectations for students to stand throughout the whole game, but he does expect students and teachers to stand when it is appropriate.

The seating arrangement is a big issue with many students. Seniority does rule according to most, but the fact that it’s not always possible to sit with your friends in other grades and not being able to see is a problem with students. Seniors are suppose to sit in the first row with the juniors behind them. Sophomores sit directly behind the juniors, and the freshmen sit in the back.

“I don’t expect students to sit with the middle schoolers when they want to sit down instead of stand and can’t see over upper classmen in front of them,” said Arent. “We will find them a place to sit.”

Since the new policy has been in effect, many changes have occurred.

“I’ve seen positive things like creative cheers. Like the cannonballs cheer and the falling back when a 3-point shot is made,” said Arent. “Students are really taking charge and taking ownership and I think they are getting more enjoyment from going to the games.”

The students seem to agree with Arent concerning the new attitude at games.

“It’s better [now] because more people come and cheer. Better! Better! Better!” said freshmen Kendra Pearson and Cheyenne June.

“People stand up and do cheers and get into it. They seem happier to be there,” said cheerleaders Laura Calfee and Molli Miller.

One thing is for sure, the new spirit policy is a success!

Opinion

### Come Cheer With Me

by Hailey Zetocka

It’s a close game as the Wahoo Warrior Boy’s varsity basketball team takes on the East Butler Tigers in the 2008 Wahoo Holiday Tournament. Taylor Murren drives into the lane. He shoots! He scores! And the crowd... Does nothing?

What’s wrong with this picture? It’s plain to see that there is a definite lack of support in the Wahoo Warrior student section. Basketball games, wrestling meets, along with other competitive sports have become nothing more than social events for a vast majority of the WHS student body. Although games and meets are great for bonding time with friends, the main purpose of attending a game is to watch it and support our teams. At WHS this year, it seems that we have become a support system without the support.

As a cheerleader, I see almost everything that happens during the game. I could list the dedicated fans who clap and cheer after every play. And, I could list the people who show up to every game, but barely watch a play. It’s very frustrating to see our teams work so hard, and not get the fan support that they truly deserve. So what can we do to unify to change the lack of support?

“It’s extremely important to support your peers who are competing,” said W Club sponsor Steve Shannon. “The only way to do that is by cheering them on.”

“Believe it or not, cheering does have an effect on the people competing. By cheering, you give them the extra boost of adrenaline that helps carry them through the game,” Shannon added.

I agree. The lack of student support was addressed during a school-wide assembly on Jan. 7, at which time Mr. Arent announced new spirit guidelines for students and staff. Basically, students will stand in a designated area and cheer appropriately.

Since then, our student section has more than improved their spirit and come together to support our peers. With some incentive to cheer louder, students have made a complete turnaround.

This turnaround was obvious just two days after Mr. Arent’s announcement at the Jan. 9 boys basketball game against Syracuse.

“The boys basketball team would like to thank the student body for providing such tremendous support on Friday night in our big win over Syracuse,” said boys basketball head coach Kevin Scheef. “Your enthusiasm was terrific and you truly became our ‘Sixth Man.’”

Instead of going to games with fear of what the fans are going to do, or rather not do, I go to games with excitement, waiting to see what fun, new things our fans have come up with.

Junior Annie Divis has noticed the changes since our support system has grown.

“The atmosphere is so much fun now since everyone participates,” Divis said. “It’s fun to watch the games. Everyone is cheering and laughing. Yelling and cheering definitely makes a difference in the outcome of the game.”

These changes have not only affected the students at games, but also the parents and faculty. Spirit has carried over into the school atmosphere as well. It’s a great thing to see everyone coming together to support each other both inside and outside of the gym.