

**2019**  
**Class C**  
**State**  
**Journalism**  
**Champions**



**Editorial Writing Champion:  
Bianca Diaz, Doniphan-Trumbull**

Cupcake High School has decided to implement a no tolerance, drug-testing policy. There are pros and cons to this, but overall, I support the school's decision and believe that all schools should follow suit. Drugs and alcohol lead to lifelong addictions, emotional turmoil, physical or internal diseases, and even death. The policy that Cupcake High School has enacted is a great start that could help get rid of these terrible habits.

"Administration has approved the use of randomized drug testing as a deterrent to the use of drugs and alcohol. This policy is designed to be preventative in nature and is intended to help any student having problems with alcohol or drugs," the policy reads.

This no tolerance policy is being established not to punish the students for doing drugs or alcohol, but to instead aid them in recognizing the problem that they have and how to combat it healthily. The randomization of the drug test also helps to ensure that no students are being selected based on rumors or a teacher's input. The school does not want to call out the teenagers who may or may not be using illegal substances.

"The overall goal of this policy is to promote a safe, drug-free environment, not to serve as a witch hunt or a way to legally profile our students," states Cupcake High School Principal John Kim.

As with any new policy, there is backlash. The school can never please every single person in the community, but they try. Some students and parents claim that this takes away the freedom of choice outside of school, while others are concerned about how this will affect athletic or academic events.

"I don't think the school realizes the impact this can have on certain sporting programs. What is going to happen to the teams if too many students can't play because of the so-called randomized drug testing?" questions senior parent Damon Baumert.

I do agree that the policy should highlight the consequences if an individual fails the drug test, such as required community service or drug and alcohol classes. Ultimately it is on the student if he or she does not test positive, and most, if not all, NSAA programs require that students be drug and alcohol free in order to compete. Teachers, coaches, and other staff of Cupcake High School seem to be on board for the new policy because they want to ensure that their students are going to receive the best education possible.

“Anything that the school can do to discourage drug and alcohol use and promote a healthy environment is a good idea,” says freshman English teacher Will Williams.

Despite all of the commotion surrounding this new development at Cupcake High School, the action will still take place. Principal Kim believes that this will encourage students to learn and grow, while also helping to shed a light on the problems that come with consistent drug and alcohol usage. I support this decision wholeheartedly and hope that my fellow classmates can see the good in this policy as well.

Editorial by: Bianca Diaz

## **Yearbook Sports Feature Writing Champion: Breanna Muff, Dorchester**

The bright lights shine overhead and sweat drips down your face. The smell of freshly cut grass and leather from the gloves mended to the shape of your hand is unmistakable. One strong follow-through swing with the aluminum bat is all it will take to win the game.

The Cornhusker High School softball team had a very eventful season. The team of 14 broke the state record for consecutive wins by winning 51 straight games, beating the previously set record of 50 games set by Class D Prairie High School from 2003-2005. "I can't believe we won 51 games in a row," said senior pitcher Holly Rowe. The Cornhusker softball team won the 2017 and 2018 NSAA Class J State Championships, and appeared in the last 27 state championship game. "I'm so proud of the girls. Their commitment to each other and their competitive drive made this season so very special," said Head Coach of 15 years Susie Baker.

Coach Susie Baker encouraged the girls to do their best on the field. "Our main goal all season was to win back-to-back state championships and we were not focused on the streak," said senior center fielder Graci Kolber. "Coach told us all season to trust our teammates and to remember to smile, have fun, and enjoy it."

Many of the girls did not know about being so close to breaking a state record until they broke it. "I didn't tell the girls we were closing in on the state record, we were so focused on this season and winning the state tournament," said coach Susie Baker. The girls worked hard by winning every game they could, but had fun too. "I've been having so much fun playing and being with my teammates, I didn't even realize we had won that many games in a row," said sophomore catcher Rya Rascall.

After the state record was set, the girls got recognition for their outstanding performances and leadership skills on the field. "They worked really hard to represent the core values of the Cornhusker High School community, and they finished the season as true winners," said Athletic Director Jerry Ryan.

Although many of the core players for the team are leaving, as it is their last year attending Cornhusker High School, their spirits, hopes, and beliefs for next season are held high. "I'm sad that I will not be part of the team next year, but my hope is that they will keep going," said center fielder Graci Kolber.

As the lights are turned down and the parking lot empties after a hard day of play, one thing is for sure; the girls are ready to capture another state championship. "I can't wait for next season," said catcher Rya Rascall.

### Headline Writing – Cade Sterner, Doniphan-Trumbull, Class C

Article #1:

Headline –

Washing away Bad Attendance

Sub headline- Schools Offer Free Laundry Services to Low Income Students

Article #6:

Headline –

Musicians Tuning In for Online Lessons

People Use Online Resources To Learn How To Play Instruments

People With No Time For Personal Teachers Can Now Use Apps

Article #5:

Headline –

Twitter Users Go Nuts For Donut Shop

New Donut Shop Overwhelmed With Support After A Tweet

**Entertainment Review Writing Champion:  
Christian Dames, Scribner-Snyder**

An escape through comedy

Beginning in 1967 on CBS, *The Carol Burnett Show* has been a staple of American television. Winning 25 primetime Emmy Awards and listed in various magazines as one of the best shows on television, *The Carol Burnett Show* offers an escape from the burdens of everyday life through the witty and oftentimes whimsical nature of the sketches.

In the sketch “A New Leash on Life”, three characters bring their dogs of varying sizes to the “K-9 Obedience School”. Only narrated by the unseen instructor, the actors are forced to remain silent for this sketch as they interact with each other and their invisible canines.

“A New Leash on Life” completely adheres to the actions of its actors, which may just be the reason it works. The actors completely embody their roles, proving that physical comedy can be just as entertaining as spoken comedy. The actions the actors make to showcase each of their dog’s unique personalities and sizes is phenomenal and well-acted. Equally as phenomenal is the actors’ interactions with each other. Their reactions and facial expressions sell the humor and allows it to make its mark.

Although it is a mute sketch that does not mean “A New Leash on Life” has nothing important to say. The symbolisms are present and are used to great effect, allowing the sketch to truly represent a deeper meaning of thought and enhances the comedy further by proving a point.

There is a notion to be made that the rich woman with a palm-sized dog can represent the seemingly comfortable, privileged life often associated with the rich as the small dog literally represents a life that can be handed off. On the opposite end of the spectrum, the seemingly dim-witted man with the giant dog may represent the larger than life aspirations people struggle to properly control. However, with the giant dog and the man quite literally breaking down walls in

the face of naysayers, the sketch provides the message that anyone can accomplish their dreams. The average-joe character with the regular sized dog represents the happy medium, providing the perspective that it is alright to be cautious, but it is important to remember not to grow too comfortable with our lives. Through each of these characters, the sketch works to break down societal stigmas, which only helps flesh out the comedy in an effort to make a point.

While “A New Leash on Life” showcases what well written, physical humor looks like, “Riddles” displays what spoken comedy is capable of. The sketch presents a simple concept of two women sharing a riddle they do not know the answer to and then they are joined by a gentleman who is proficient in riddles.

What “Riddles” does exceptionally is its use of witty dialogue and developed character interactions that showcases a situation everyone has found themselves in at one point. The slapstick humor takes off from the moment the first riddle is recited and it does not skip a beat throughout the sketch. The pacing in this sketch is superb as the comedy fails to drag once it begins.

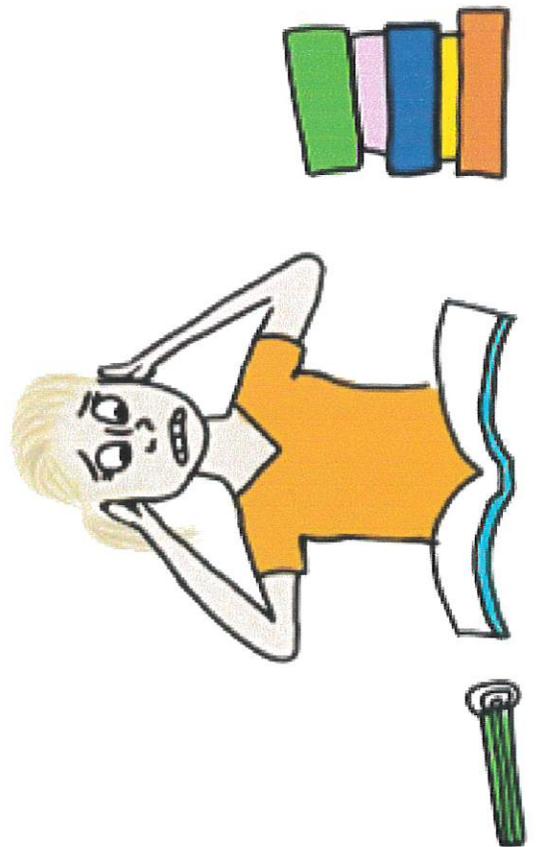
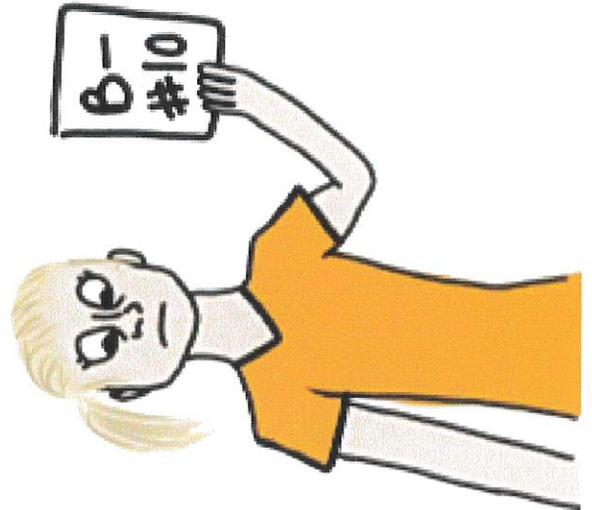
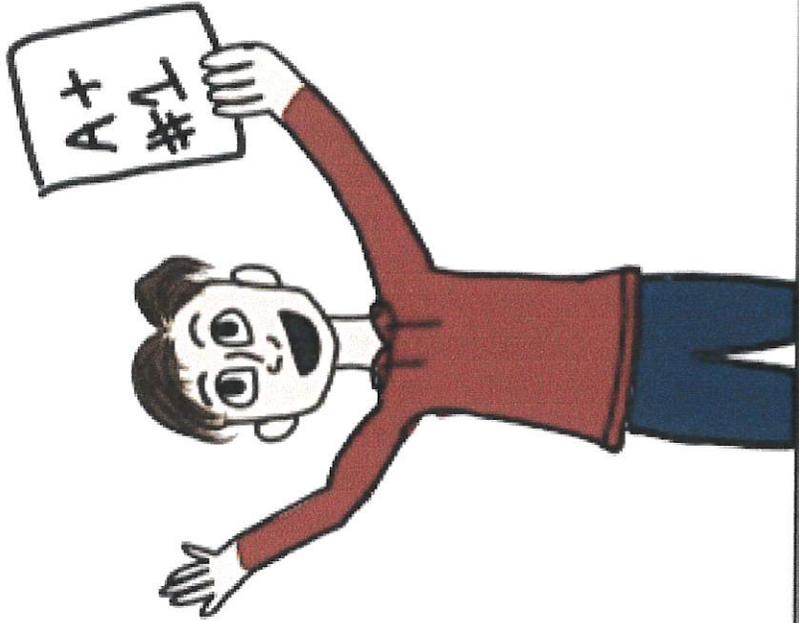
While the witty dialogue is entertaining, it is only solidified by the actors’ performance. Each character is fully realized in the six minute scene and audiences can truly feel the frustrations Marge has when her two companions figure out the answer. It is a situation that is relatable to viewers and “Riddles” capitalizes on that.

Even though “Riddles” may not have a truly deep and underlying meaning beneath it in the same way “A New Leash on Life”, that does not make the humor any less effective. While “A New Leash on Life” presents an instance where comedy can address societal issues to mass effect, “Riddles” presents an instance where comedy is simply there to alleviate the struggles of

life. It is a balance that both sitcoms and variety shows work tirelessly to achieve and these two sketches prove that *The Carol Burnett Show* has perfected it.

Together, these two sketches work strongly together. With the physically oriented comedy in “A New Leash on Life” offering subtle representations of society and “Riddles” simply leaving viewers with a good time and slapstick dialogue, both sketches showcase two distinct sides of comedy and concurrently prove why *The Carol Burnett Show* is a beloved chapter of television that it will stand the test of time.

Editorial Cartooning Champion:  
Kinzee Derr, Harvard



Kinzee Derr

Advertising Champion:  
Elissa Dames, Scribner-Snyder

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## Newspaper Column Writing Champion: Emily Fisher, Yutan

We all knew of the bully on the playground while growing up. Maybe you were the one being bullied, or maybe you actually were the bully. But what's worse than being either of these is identifying as the bystander.

A bystander is typically known for being a witness to trouble. They are capable of doing two things: standing by and watching or doing something to help. However, a decent human being would definitely try to intervene.

Proven in many studies, it's only human instinct to help one another. That's why a mother can lift a car in order to save a child. We are full of emotion, sympathy and empathy for a reason. So when a child sees a classmate pushed down by the monkey bars, their first instinct will be to go help them.

And maybe the kid who pushed their friend down is a big, scary fourth grader. "He'll push me next." But having an "I can't do it" attitude is just selfish.

Though it seems scary to stand up to someone bigger and stronger than you, you can't deny the fact that you wanted to do something. You wanted to help, but you were just too scared. And we've all been there; we're all afraid. But eventually, the cycle has to stop.

It just takes someone brave to step up. And it's our responsibility as human beings with human instincts to be brave for the ones weaker than us, to help the ones who need it most.

Being brave can be tough, possibly one of the toughest things for humans to do. It's easy to just put your head down and pretend that you didn't see anything, but think about your mother. Would she be proud of you? And your father. Didn't he teach you to be the good in this messy world we call our community?

Sometimes, you just have to hold your breath and dive in. Call them out. Intervene. Stand up for the kid at the monkey bars. Facing your fears and being brave would start an avalanche as others start to dive in after you. You can't be afraid of getting hurt when there are others already hurting. And let's face it, nothing would feel better than knowing that it all started with you.

Humans learn by example. You can't expect a kid to learn how to tie their shoes just by telling them to. You have to show them over and over again. Standing up to the bully goes the same way. It will open the door for all other bystanders who witnessed you doing the right thing.

Witnessing trouble is inevitable. Trouble crawls through our society every single day and right under our own noses. But starting with the bystanders, we can draw out this trouble and put an end to it for good.

Column by Emily Fisher

## **Newspaper News Writing Champion: Heidi Krajicek, Yutan**

Going from the U.S. Army to Public Safety Director of the City of Norfolk, Nebraska, can be a bit of a change from how you look at it. However, from Shane Weidner perspective it was an easy change to go through. Weidner was appointed as Norfolk's first public safety director.

Weidner is a 51 years old with a wife, two kids and four grandchildren. He served more than six years as the Norfolk city administrator after being in the U.S. Army for four years.

According to Weidner, the transition from the Army to the Public Safety Director was a long transition, but it was not a very hard one for him to make.

"It wasn't very different because both jobs were similar in aspects," Weidner said. "I wanted something similar moving forward in a new job."

Weidner says he has always been into public safety.

"It has always been a perfect fit for who I am and it has been a natural progression for me," Weidner stated.

Weidner said that his favorite part about his job is the problem solving and being able to make a connection with the community.

"We get to interact with people and help solve their problems," Weidner said.

The fire and police department always had a connection, but Weidner wanted to make that connection larger.

“Since I was in the fire department, I already had a connection with them,” Weidner stated. “It took time to fully understand the police department and achieve a greater connection.”

Weidner is still trying to connect the two departments even more so when trouble comes they have an easier chance of working together to solve the problem.

The floods caused a great amount of stress on Weidner and the community. It was a situation that the community wasn't used to dealing with. Weidner stated that it was the most difficult and largest event he has dealt with while he has been Public Safety Director.

There was a lot of concern throughout the entire town about if the levee would hold up. The water reached farther than it had in the 1960's, when the last major flood happened.

According to Weidner, the fire department had rescued 32 civilians by boat, truck and helicopter. However, one man did drown because the fire department could not reach him because of the intense water current speeds.

“With the floods, you take all of that to heart when you can't help someone,” Weidner said.

Weidner stated that about a third of the town had to evacuate the day the water levels were rising.

“This job may seem like the situations sound like simple things, but they are not simple things.”

## **Coach Shultze Continues to Push the Boundaries of Excellence**

**By Jenna Ebbers**

Amanda Schultze has never known a life away from the volleyball court. Starting at a very young age, her passion for the sport has never faltered. Years after picking up her first volleyball, she is looking forward her seventh season as head coach at Northeast Community College.

Schultze is originally from Wakefield, Nebraska and has remained somewhat close to the area her whole life. After a notable high school career, she continued on to play for Central Community College in Columbus. There, she conquered the school record for both the most season and career assists along with earning Academic and Athletic All-American Honors. Once she graduated from CCC with her Associates degree, she moved to Sioux City, Iowa and played for Morningside College. As a Mustang, she switched positions from setter to libero and helped lead her team to NAIA National Tournament twice. After the completion of her Masters from Wayne State, Schultze became an assistant coach for WSC and helped coach the team to three straight NCAA Regional tournaments and maintain a winning record.

Last year, Schultze was named the District 'C' Coach of the year for her outstanding season as a coach and for having a vast amount of honorable players, athletically and academically. The Hawks also completed the 2018 season with a ninth place finish at the national tournament, Region XI-B Champions, and holding a winning record of 21-15. Heading into the upcoming season, expectations remain high for the Lady Hawks.

As a role model and mentor for young women, Schultze strives to set good examples and influence her players to be the best versions of themselves. Good core values are just one of the

aspects to team members that she looks for. To her, the most important character traits are determination and drive. The key to success on the volleyball court is working harder than the competition and simply having more heart. She constantly reminds her players that being part of the team will be tough and that success won't come easy, it's going to take a lot of time and effort.

Not only does Schultze preach hard work, but she has to show her players the importance of team work, playing selflessly, and lifting each other up. She believes that each girl on the court is as important as the next one.

"I teach the girls to be each others biggest fans," she said.

However, volleyball isn't the only thing that's on her players' minds. The most important piece of coaching student-athletes to Schultze is ensuring that grades and academics are a top priority. Even with Regional titles and National appearances under her belt, Schultze still says that her greatest accomplishment as head coach was when her team was honored for excellence in academics.

"Academics are huge for my team. There are a lot of life lessons that come from being on a volleyball team, but academics come first," Schultze said.

As she continues through life, she holds two things closest to her heart: her family and God. Faith has pushed her over obstacles and continues to guide her life. Outside of the gym, Schultze is a proud mother of two young girls. It's easy to say that she is raising her daughters with the same mentality that she preaches to her players.

Every season brings new possibilities for her and her team. As a new year begins, nerves from the pressure to be as good as the previous year arises. Thus far, under the direction of

Schultze, the Hawks have proceeded to get better year after year and finish at Nationals with a higher rank.

Looking to her future, volleyball will continue to remain an important aspect of her life.

“I just really love the sport and it doesn’t feel like work ever. It’s always fun and I love doing it,” Schultze said.

## **Victoria High girls overcame adversity**

Wins their seventh straight ENWSC meet

On Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, the Victoria High School girls' track team competed in the East-North-West-South (ENWSC) Conference track meet. The weather was not pleasant but the girls didn't let that affect them. It was 54 degrees outside and wet with some drizzle and light winds making it not the best conditions for a track meet.

Unfortunately, the weather caused some injuries for the two primary scorers for Victoria High. Seniors, Shelby Schister and Betty Bonker both suffered injuries that took them out of competition for the rest of meet.

Senior, Shelby Schister sadly uttered, "When I got hurt, and then Betty got hurt, I started crying because I thought there was no way we could win the championship and that's one of our major goals."

Not only did Victoria lose their two primary scorers, but also lost two runners on both the 400 and 1600 meter relay. This left Victoria's head coach in a stump. He knew that the team scoring was a very close race and that the deciding factor would most likely come down to the final two races: the 400-meter relay and the 1600-meter relay.

"Those two freshman [Ally Williams and Bonnie Blue] had not run in a varsity meet before and I didn't know how they would respond. I am so proud of how they didn't seem to let the pressure bother them and they simply performed," head track coach, Doug Moeckel stated.

Before entering the final two races of the meet, the Plainville Pirates were in the lead with a total of 104 points, second place was the Stockton Shamrocks with 100 points, and in third was Victoria with 98.5 points.

Steve Lampley, Plainville's head coach said, "After the two Victoria girls went down, I was optimistic about my team's chances of winning."

The two freshmen embraced their role in the 400-meter relay and stepped up big time for the Lady Knights. They crossed the finish line first with a time of 50.8 seconds and scoring 10 points for the team. Stockton came in second and Plainville received third place.

Victoria sprinter coach, Chris Fontaine thrilled, stated, "Since the two freshman hadn't worked handoffs very often with the other girls, we practiced quite a few during the 800 and 1600 meter runs. It's nice to have a couple of substitutes like Ally and Bonnie. They're pretty fast."

Now the team scores were Stockton in third, 108 points even; Victoria in second, 108.5 points; and Plainville still leading the way with 110 points. The final team standings came down to the final race of the day, the brutal 1600-meter relay.

Again, Williams and Blue had to replace Schister and Bonker in this relay. When the baton was handed off to the fourth and final runner, the order was Stockton, Plainville, and then Victoria. But, Ally Williams really stepped up for the Lady Knights and led her team to a victory in the 1600-meter relay.

"In that 1600 relay, I just ran as hard as I could and tried to catch the Plainville girl. My legs got tired, especially since I had just run the 400 relay, but I

didn't want to let my teammates down, especially the seniors," Williams said still trying to catch her breath.

The victory of the 1600 meter relay bumped Victoria up to first place winning the meet for the seventh year in a row. The final results of the team scores were very close. In fact, the final team scores were Victoria with 118.5, Plainville in second with 118 points, and Stockton, in third, with 114 points.

Lampley said, "Victoria proved again why they have been so dominant in our conference for so many years. Their program is so deep with talent."

The Lady Knights reached their desired goal of becoming conference champions once again. A perfect memory for head track coach, Doug Moeckel, to remember for years and years to come. He has decided that this will be his final season of coaching. Moeckel plans to retire after this season. He's been the Knight's coach for 25 years and has won 17 conference titles.

"This title is definitely a team title. The rain and cool temperatures made for a difficult day and the girls struggled to stay dry and warm. I'll always remember my last EWNCS championship for the way we won it. Aren't these girls amazing?" Moeckel stated with excitement.

## Newspaper Feature Writing Champion: Taylor Arensberg, Yutan

Someone without a drivers license is probably the last person you would think is pursuing their dream of becoming a NASCAR driver, but Julie Jorgensen is defying the odds and following her dreams despite what others have to say.

Jorgensen was recently notified that she won a spot at NASCAR's legendary training camp. The camp lasts for three days in Daytona Beach, Fla., and focuses on preparing drivers to make the jump from amateur to professional racing.

The camp directors tend to lean more toward male drivers who have some type of professional experience. So Jorgensen was thrilled when she received her acceptance letter into the camp. "I had to read it twice to make sure it was true," Jorgensen said. "This camp is the opportunity of a lifetime for me."

Since she was 6, Julie has dreamed of becoming a NASCAR driver.

"When I was just 4 years old, my dad and I watched old Speed Racer cartoons," Jorgensen said. "Soon, I was asking for cars instead of Barbies, and my love for racing developed."

She began competitive races when she only was 10.

"Lucky for me, my family was supportive," Jorgensen said. "My mom found me a great car and began searching for races where I could compete, and the rest is history."

And even though Jorgensen might excel on the racetrack, her mother Missy admits that she lacks talent in the streets. "Julie really isn't a very good street driver," said Missy. "It wouldn't surprise me if she doesn't pass her test."

However, even without a legal license, Jorgensen has still managed to accumulate quite the impressive resume in her short time of racing.

In the past year, Julie has won three amateur races in Missouri. Julie was featured in the February issue of *Race*, a national magazine focusing on auto racing. The magazine named her the "Best Up and Coming Young Driver in the Nation." And she will be the first female and youngest participant the NASCAR training camp has ever had, the average age of drivers being 23.

Jorgensen's mother also explained how some friends and family members were unsupportive of her dream. "I catch flack from people sometimes because they think I am allowing her to participate in some dangerous sport," said Missy. "But it's no more dangerous than dangerous than playing football."

Jorgensen also explained how she wants to continue opening the field to women and show people that you can do whatever you set your mind to. "People as me all the time why a girl would want to race cars," Jorgensen said. "I say, why not?"

Jorgensen's small but mighty attitude is what's helped her stand out against her competitors and her doubters.

"Luckily, Julie doesn't listen to others," Missy said. "She listens to her heart."

**Yearbook Theme Copy Writing Champion:  
Taylor Arensberg, Yutan**

**OPENING**

Walking into your first day of high school, there are many nerves and so many scary thoughts running through your head. *Will my classes be hard? Will I make friends? Will I find a date to the dance?* High school is 4 years full of happiness, stress, hopes and dreams. It's the start of a very exciting yet stressful chapter of your life. But it's not a story that is controlled by others; it's a story that you get to write. You get to decide what you will accomplish. You get to decide what you want to participate in. You get to decide what will make you a proud student at Far Away High. You get to decide what will make you GLAD YOU WERE HERE. Most outsiders won't even take a second glance at the rusty old sign that has "Far Away High" painted on the front. But to you, that's your home. It's a part of your story whether you like it or not. Your story will be great one to tell. It will make you GLAD YOU WERE HERE.

**ATHLETICS**

If our school is sure of anything about this year, the Tomorrow ton Rebels made a mark on the field, court, and in our hearts. There were so many moments that made this year stand out as one of the bests. Stealing the Football State Championship away from Emporia High Destroyers, and rushing onto the field after the victory was a moment that our school will never forget. Bobby Branson becoming the first male cheerleader on our squad was a historic moment for the red, white, and yellow. Maddie Burke beating the schools record for long jump was another proud moment for Tomorrowton. Scott Frost speaking on perseverance to our student body after the end of the baseball teams win streak brought us closer together than ever. Win or Lose, the Rebels were a team. All the victories our teams experienced made them proud to be a part of Far Away High. It makes you GLAD YOU WERE HERE.

**CLOSING**

High School is coming to a close faster than you would like and there's nothing you can do to stop it. The mental list of lasts in your head is almost all filled with checkmarks by now. The last Back to School Car Bash. Check. The last Homecoming. Check. The last Class competitions. Check. The last Prom Royalty. Check. The last Marching Band Competitions. Check. All the things you took for granted will soon be nothing but a ghostly memory come May 17. No more making fun of Mr. Solo's ties everyday. No more skipping lunch to drive to Shelly's Diner down the road. Far Away High has given us friends and memories that we will keep for the rest of our lives. So when you walk down the halls full of red, white, and yellow for the last time, and out the heavy brown doors, you'll look back at what was your home for four years and be GLAD YOU WERE HERE.

**Yearbook Feature Writing Champion:  
Teagan Jacobs, Yutan**

Change can be hard. It can come in all shapes and sizes and can affect all people differently. But during change, it is good to hang on to the people around you to help you through it.

Seniors at Far Away High have witnessed a lot of change. All of the change started to erupt ten years ago when five smaller schools came together and formed one bigger school, Far Away High. During all this change the students have grasped to familiar faces for comfort.

“My favorite part of Far Away High is the people here,” senior Laya Orgona said. “Most of us have been here since day one so we all know each other pretty well.”

Although not all students have attended Far Away since day one, they still fit in like every other student.

“Even the students that came later and have been here for nine years, four years, or even one year, feel like they have been a part of our class since day one,” Orgona said. “We aren’t a tiny school, but we aren’t huge either, so we all get along well and can respect each other without a problem.”

Since the students all get along well, they say it has been easier for them to adapt to change. There are three major changes at Far Away High. The first change is having the elementary, middle, and high school all in the same town, Tomorrowton. The second change is in enrollment, which has grown to a total of 1,000 students 9-12. Along with all those students the school has added, there have been 13 new teachers added to help lower the number of students in each class.

“The biggest change I noticed in my time here would have to be the number of students here,” Orgona said. “The class sizes have slowly started to get larger and the ratio for teachers to students has started to change, and one-on-one interaction with students has begun to down a little, but not a ton.”

Through all this change, some things have stayed the same.

“Three things I have noticed to stay consistent in the ten years of Far Away High’s existence would have to be the Back to School Car Bash, that’s always exciting. Second, the colors, even though the mascot changed, that’s an obvious one,” Orgona said. “And third, Mystery Meat Monday.”

Although change can be hard, Orgona didn’t let this affect her high school experience.

“I would say I loved being here for all ten years and seeing where we have come with everything in these ten years,” Orgona said.