

# simply better.

the winning entries  
from the kspa state contest  
lawrence, kansas  
may 2014

## **2014 SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS**

- 6A champion: Lawrence High School
- 5A champion: Mill Valley High School
- 4A champion: Bonner Springs High School
- 3A champion: Humboldt High School
- 2A champion: Canton-Galva High School
- 1A champion: Doniphan West High School

**Please note** that judges' comments are provided when possible. The comments apply to the category overall, and not necessarily the winning entry that is showcased on the page.

Please excuse any mistakes in spelling or accuracy of winners.



# 1A/2A Copy Editing

## the winning entry

Jessica Lewis of  
Burlingame High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Caught almost all the picky stuff
- Asked good questions about missing info
- Took out opinion and redundancies

### WEAKNESSES

- Mishandled quotes
- Poor punctuation
- Left in extra words and opinionated statements

22602

Editing, page 2

9 Call it the day the sugar <sup>died</sup> died.

At last night's meeting, it was <sup>proposed</sup> proposed by the <sup>10</sup> ten-member Clinton Board of Education that nearly all foods high in sugar, <sup>calories</sup> calories, or <sup>caffeine</sup> caffeine be eliminated from the Halls of Sunflower High.

Under the policy, french fries and <sup>Canadian</sup> Canadian bacon would only be sold with grilled <sup>sandwiches</sup> sandwiches, and pop, and <sup>donuts</sup> donuts, <sup>could</sup> could not be sold at all under the policy, bagels <sup>could</sup> could still be sold, so would low-fat yogurt.

Board president Allan Siegel <sup>chapters</sup> said the change were necessary <sup>want ensure</sup> because they wanted to <sup>ensure</sup> ensure that all students eat <sup>well</sup> poorly.

"It's really a matter of health," Siegel said. "We want <sup>see</sup> see students succeed, and they can't succeed if they eat too much junk." Teachers and students have their own views and thoughts and ideas on how to deal with these extremely harsh guidelines. They <sup>say</sup> allege that if the nutrition policy was <sup>past</sup> past, it would take money from different <sup>activities</sup> depts. and activities around the school, and it would also also just force students to go somewhere else to get their snacks, or to bring such <sup>forementioned</sup> snacks to school when they come to school with them.

"The new policy is really going to hurt the other school departments and they are going to need to find new ways to make money," said Arlene Schneider, teacher and student council sponsor <sup>said</sup>.

"What's the point?" said senior Billy Wellman. "We'll just bring whatever we want from home any way." <sup>Wellman</sup> Billy thinks the district should help maintain student's physical <sup>activity</sup> activity by making more physical education classes more available. "How hard is that to figure out?"

Merrill Perlman, director of food services, said that both <sup>her</sup> her and the <sup>assist</sup> assist director were looking for <sup>find</sup> new foods that would satisfy both student wants and <sup>also</sup> the proposed nutrition policy. Perlman said that the cafeteria already had baked chips that have less calories, but they don't sell <sup>to</sup> good. She also said they were thinking about <sup>raising</sup> raising the price of french fries.

Barb Mathews-Bowen thinks that is not the right way to address the obesity problem for for students. "Students will just buy things from the close-by stores that sell things they <sup>want</sup> want to eat," Mathews-Bowen said. Mathews-Bowen thinks parents needs to force students to engage in more physical activity outside-of-school.

The board will make a final decision on the <sup>proposed</sup> plan at their next meeting March 14, 2014.

49104

Editing, page 2

French in french fries, does not have to be capitalized

Call it the day the sugar died.

A new nutrition policy

At last night's meeting, it was proposed by the ten member Clinton Board of Education that nearly all foods high in sugar, calories, or caffeine be eliminated from the Halls of Sunflower High.

on [date of meeting] would eliminate

School

Under the policy, french fries and canadian bacon would only be sold with grilled sandwiches, and pop, and donuts, can not be sold at all under the policy, bagels could still be sold, so would low fat yogurt.

could be removed was

The Board of Education

Board president, Allan Siegel, said the change were necessary because they wanted to insure that all students eat properly.

ensure

It's really a matter of health, Siegel said. "We want to see students succeed, and they can't succeed if they eat too much junk." Teachers and students have their own views and thoughts and ideas on how to deal with these extremely harsh guidelines. They allege that if the nutrition policy was passed, it would take money from different departments and activities around the school, and it would also just force students to go somewhere else to get their snacks or to bring such aforementioned snacks to school when they come to school with them.

They also believe it would

their

The new policy is really going to hurt the other school department's and they are going to need to find new ways to make money," said Arlene Schneider, teacher and student council sponsor, said.

What's the point? said senior Billy Wellman. "We'll just bring whatever we want from home any way."

Wellman

Billy thinks the district should help maintain

student's physical activity by making more physical education

classes more available. "How hard is that to figure out?"

Merrill Perlman, director of food services, said that both her and the assist. director were looking for find new foods that would satisfy both student wants and also the proposed nutrition policy. Perlman said that the cafeteria already had baked chips that have less calories but they don't sell to good. She also said they were thinking about hiking the price of french fries.

she

assistant of food services

Barb Mathews-Bowen thinks that is not the right way to address the obesity problem for students. "Students will just buy things from the close by stores that sells things they want to eat," Mathews-Bowen said. Mathews-Bowen thinks parents needs to force students to engage in more physical activity outside-of-school.

who is this?

said she

the proposed policy

The board will make a final decision on the proposed plan at their next meeting March 14, 2014.

its on

good catch

Kelsea Burns of DeSoto  
High School

## STRENGTHS

- Opinions removed - example: “extremely harsh” guidelines
- Punctuation and grammar errors were consistently and accurately addressed - especially minor errors - example: “she” vs. “her” in 3rd paragraph from end
- More “active voice” - example: reworded 1st full paragraph
- Concise-removed extraneous words-revised with more impacting choices

- Didn't catch basic grammar/spelling errors
- Did not use editing symbols consistently
- Was not thorough
- Didn't take advantage of opportunities to edit for greater readability and impact

# 5A/6A Copy Editing

## the winning entry

Andie Beene of Olathe  
South High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Good grasp of sentence construction and punctuation
- Ability to spot holes or problems
- Ability to think critically about content and meaning

### WEAKNESSES

- Inadequate understanding of grammar, style and punctuation
- Need to question content more thoroughly
- A tendency to insert material into quotes
- Failure to tighten writing

Editing, page 2

Nice work!

62703

Call it the day the sugar <sup>died</sup> ~~died~~:

At last night's meeting, it was <sup>proposed</sup> ~~proposed~~ by the ten-member Clinton Board of Education that nearly all foods high in sugar, calories, or caffeine be eliminated from the Halls of Sunflower High.

Under the policy, french fries and canadian <sup>dough</sup> ~~bacon~~ would only be sold with grilled sandwiches, and pop, and <sup>could</sup> ~~and~~ low-fat yogurt <sup>and low-fat yogurt</sup> ~~and~~ nuts, <sup>can</sup> ~~can~~ not be sold at all under the policy; bagels could still be sold, so would low-fat yogurt.

Board president, Allan Siegel, <sup>properly</sup> ~~said~~ the change were necessary because they wanted to insure that all students eat poorly.

"It's really a matter of health," Siegel said. "We want to see students succeed, and they can't succeed if they eat too much junk!" Teachers and students have their own views and thoughts and ideas on how to deal with these extremely harsh guidelines. They <sup>say</sup> ~~allege~~ that if the nutrition policy was <sup>passed</sup> ~~past~~, it would take money from different departments and activities around the school, and it would also just force students to go somewhere else to get their snacks or to bring such aforementioned snacks to school when they come to school with them.

"The new policy is really going to hurt the other school departments, and they are going to need to find new ways to make money," said Arlene Schneider, teacher and student council sponsor, said.

What's the point? <sup>he</sup> ~~said~~ senior Billy Wellman. "We'll just bring whatever we want from home any way."

Billy <sup>thinks</sup> ~~thinks~~ the district should help maintain student's physical activity by making more physical education classes more available. "How hard is that to figure out?" <sup>he</sup> ~~he~~ asked.

Merrill Perlman, director of food services, said that both her and the <sup>assistant</sup> ~~assist~~ director were looking for <sup>find</sup> ~~find~~ new foods that would <sup>satisfy</sup> ~~satisfy~~ both student wants and ~~the~~ the proposed nutrition policy. Perlman said that the cafeteria already had <sup>very</sup> ~~very~~ calorie <sup>did not sell well</sup> ~~that~~ baked chips, that have less calories but they don't sell to good. She also said they were thinking about <sup>raising</sup> ~~hiking~~ the price of french fries.

Barb Mathews-Bowen <sup>needs appropriate identification offset by commas</sup> ~~thinks~~ that is not the right way to address the obesity problem for for students. "Students will just buy things from the <sup>close</sup> ~~close~~ by stores that <sup>she</sup> ~~sells~~ things they want to eat," Mathews-Bowen said. Mathews-Bowen <sup>thinks</sup> ~~thinks~~ parents <sup>needs</sup> ~~needs~~ to force students to engage in more physical activity outside of school.

The board will make a final decision on the <sup>proposal</sup> ~~proposed~~ plan at their next meeting <sup>on</sup> ~~on~~ March 14, 2014.

# 1A/2A Newspaper Sports Writing

On Monday night, the school board will hold a vote that could bring forth a new change to Sunflower High School. Upon the approval, SHS will change athletic conferences for the 2014-15 school year.

"This change in conference is just what we need," Athletic Director Hal Davis said. "We have typically played the schools in our division as non-conference opponents."

For 17 years, SHS has dominated the Meadowlark League, accumulating 22 state trophies in that span.

"Sunflower has fielded teams superior to the other Meadowlark League members," Faculty Rep. Cal Jonas said. "We just have faster and stronger athletes than the other conference members."

Assuming the vote passes, SHS will then join the Mockingbird Conference, which will consist of 12 teams divided into two divisions based on enrollment.

"It will be fun to face new competition," Davis said. The Mockingbird League will no doubt become one of the most superior conferences in the state.

With the current enrollment at 800, SHS will be a part of the small school classification, joining schools such as West Park, St. Charles, St. Aloysius, Carlton, and Smithville High.

"It's time for a conference change," Superintendent Hollis Limprecht said. "The

new Mockingbird Conference will provide much stiffer competition and will help our athletes in the long run."

## the winning entry

Caleb Hendricks of Sterling High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Stronger, more meaningful leads
- More interesting word choice
- Greater creativity in writing

### WEAKNESSES

- They showed almost no knowledge of quote style the weakest seemed opinionated/editorialized

# 3A/4A Newspaper Sports Writing

## the winning entry

Lexie Wasinger of Thomas  
More Prep Marian High  
School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Got right to the point about the proposed conference changes

Sunflower High School is moving up. After 35<sup>th</sup> 17 years as a dominant member of the Meadowlark League, a move to the Mockingbird Conference ~~was~~ is proposed for the 2014-2015 academic year.

"It's time for a conference change," Superintendent Hollis Ximprecht said. "The new Mockingbird Conference will provide much stiffer competition and will help our athletes in the long run."

Ximprecht has already given SHS permission to switch conferences. The decision now sits with the School Board, who will vote on the issue at their monthly meeting. Cal Roberson, Board president, said he thought the board would approve the change.

The Conference move is much needed, as SHS has outgrown the Meadowlark League. In a league full of schools with 2A and 3A classifications, Sunflower is the only 4A school. SHS has dominated the league, winning 22 state trophies in athletic competition.

"Sunflower has fielded teams superior to the other Meadowlark League members," Faculty Representative for the Range Conference, Cal Jonas said. "We just have faster and stronger athletes than the other conference members."

~~the~~ the new Mockingbird Conference. ~~There~~ will ~~be~~ now 12 schools in two divisions based on school enrollments, which range from 658 to 1,100. Sunflower, which has an enrollment of 800, will be in the Small School Classification, along with West Bank High, St. Charles High, St. Albans High, Centron High, and Smithville High.

# 3A/4A Sports Writing, cont.

"It will be fun to face new competition," athletic director Hal Davis said. "The Mockingbird League will no doubt become one of the most superior conferences in the state."

"Reduction of travel time is also a benefit of the Mockingbird Conference. "In the Meadowlark Conference we averaged a distance of 67 miles per contest," principal Carolyn Forsberg said. "In the Mockingbird League we will reduce that to 50 miles per contest. This will work well for all of us and cut down our travel expenses."

Many are expecting approval on Monday night at the school board meeting, and looking forward to the positive effects of a new conference. "This change in conference is just what we need," Davis said.

3. The superintendent is

# 5A/6A Newspaper Sports Writing

## the winning entry

Marieah Campbell of  
Shawnee Mission West  
High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Strong lead
- Reason for the change
- Proper use of quotes
- Short paragraphs
- Outcome is clear

### WEAKNESSES

- Weak lead
- Put everything (quotes, every aspect of story) in the article
- Spelling
- Incorrect grammar
- Incorrect information

For the first time in 17 years, Sunflower High School is looking to change athletic conferences.

*OK* The SHS Mighty Buffalos ~~currently compete in the Meadowlark League~~ <sup>in the Meadowlark League</sup>. Despite a dominating history including 22 state trophies in athletic competition, SHS <sup>hopes</sup> ~~plans~~ to join the new Mockingbird Conference at the start of the 2014-15 academic year.

"It's time for a conference change," Superintendent Hollis Limprecht said. "The new Mockingbird Conference will provide much stiffer competition and will help our athletes in the long run."

Limprecht has given his approval for the change in conferences; the decision will be voted on by the School Board at its monthly meeting on Monday night. Board President Cal Robeson said he expected the board to approve the switch. *me ae voi*

*2007* SHS has moved into the 4A enrollment classification, while all other members of the Meadowlark League are either 2A or 3A. The new Mockingbird Conference will be composed of 12 schools split into two divisions based on enrollment. With an enrollment of 800, SHS would be placed in the division of smaller schools.

Athletic Director Hal Davis is encouraged by the plan to become a member of the Mockingbird Conference.

"This change in conference is just what we need," Davis said. "It will be fun to face new competition."

While the conference switch is aimed to benefit athletes, Principal Carolyn Forseberg believes it will help in

# 5A/6A News Sports Writing, cont.

more ways than one. According to Forsberg, athletic teams at SHS currently travel an average distance of 67 miles per contest in the Midwestern League. With the move to the Mockingbird Conference, this would be reduced to 52 miles per contest.

"This will work well for all of us and cut down on our travel expenses," Forsberg said.

Limbrecht believes that there is an opportunity of growth for SHS with its future as a member of the conference.

Great!  
"Although the Mockingbird is solely an athletic conference, we hope to expand it into drama, music and debate," Limbrecht said.

All in all, Davis has high expectations in anticipation of the athletic competitive potential of the new conference.

"The Mockingbird League will no doubt become one of the most superior conferences in the state," Davis said.

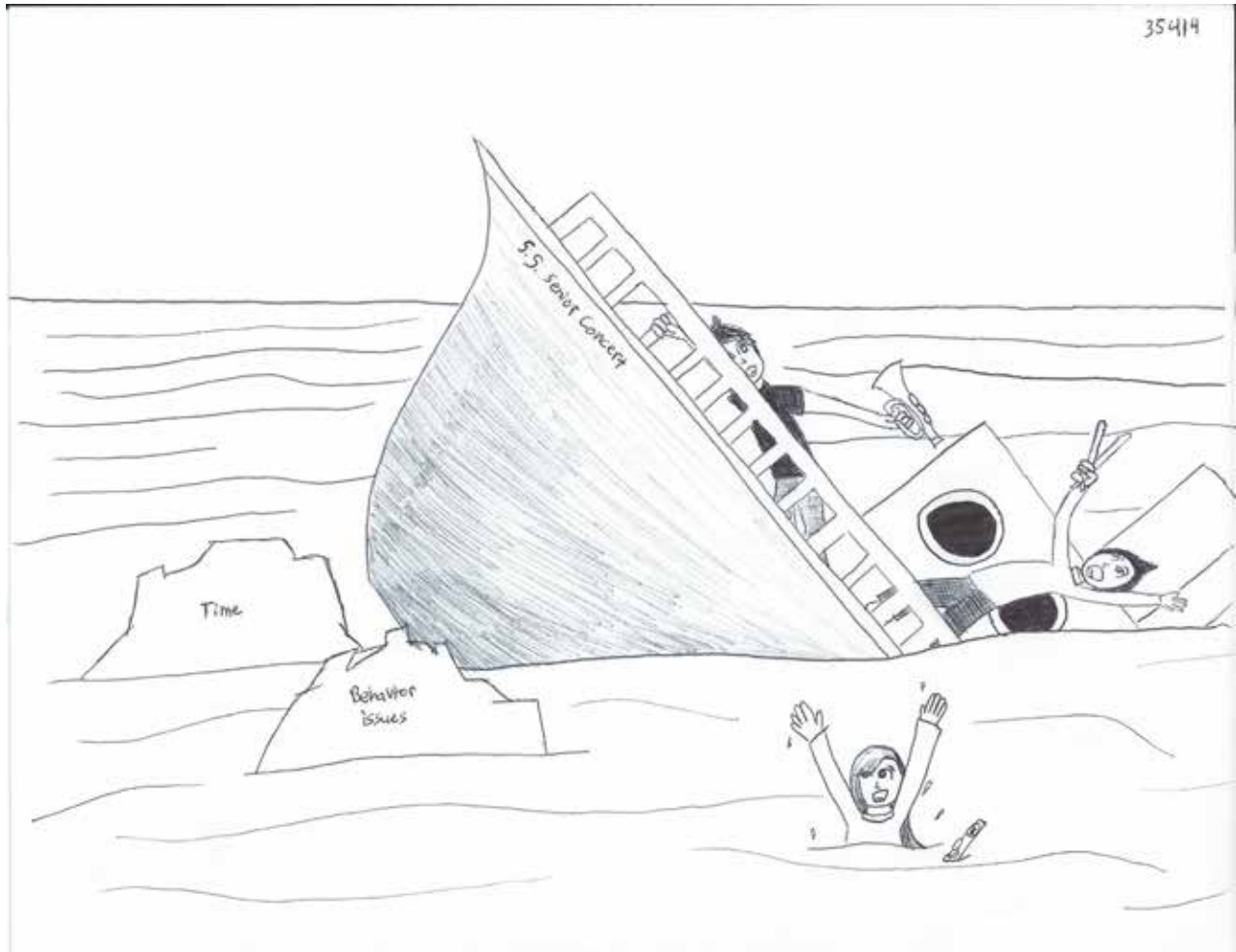
# 1A/2A Editorial Cartoon



**the winning entry**

Braden Grossman of Troy High School

# 3A/4A Editorial Cartoon



## the winning entry

Isabella Footh of Phillipsburg High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Followed the assignment's instructions
- Went beyond simply re-stating the story, had a message or commentary
- Better composition
- Better illustration quality

### WEAKNESSES

- Didn't follow instructions
- Tried to illustrate the story literally without any creative angle or message
- Some were to sketch-like, as if not worked on beyond draft stage

# 5A/6A Editorial Cartoon



## the winning entry

Alex Delker of Olathe South High School

# 1A/2A Yearbook Copy Writing

## the winning entry

Sarah Mick of Ellis High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Interesting leads that really drew me into the story
- Endings that displayed proud feelings towards DECA
- Great use of sources, quotes and information
- Good knowledge of AP style

### WEAKNESSES

- Lack of sources and quotes
- Hard to read/follow paragraphs
- Generic, repetitive leads, not following AP style

20407

Outstanding. That's the word used to describe Sunflower High School's DECA chapter. The spring national DECA convention held in Atlanta recognized this group for all the effort and hard work put in to their organization. They were honored with the name of the Outstanding DECA chapter in the nation. **new graph**

"I am so proud of all the DECA kids. They have all worked so hard to bring national honors to SHS," Carolyn Stanner, DECA vice president said.

DECA, or Distributive Education Club of America, is an international organization. Students run this time-consuming organization, **and** study marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality, and marketing sales services. No doubt, it is hard-work with many responsibilities, but also very rewarding. One of this organization's proudest moments was when they took over the bookstore. The DECA has been running it for the student body. **new graph**

"Taking over the bookstore has been such a learning experience for our students," ~~sponsor of DECA~~ Don Gilpin said.

The students involved in DECA are responsible for operating the bookstore. The students have their work cut out for them **by** being in charge of budget, bookkeeping, hiring employees, ordering materials and advertising. This work has its advantages though. All the proceeds from the bookstore help send DECA members to state and national conventions. The bookstore is a huge part of DECA's accomplishment at the national DECA convention. **hangraph**

"There's no doubt we were named outstanding chapter because of the bookstore," Gilpin said.

The bookstore wouldn't be the success it is today without the drive of the students to make it great. Employees have worked hard to add a number of services this year, including healthier snacks, iPhone power cards, an Internet station/cafe and downloadable audio books.

"Part of what's exceptional about this group is that they're never satisfied with the way things have been done before, especially with the bookstore," Gilpin said.

Through everything DECA has done, this organization truly deserves every award that will come their way. DECA doesn't stop at average; they rise above to make their chapter the very best it can be.

"It is this type of spirit and dedication we attempt to foster in all our clubs at Sunflower High. My congratulations to Mr. Gilpin and his kids," superintendent Dr. Kevin Mallot said.

# 3A/4A Yearbook Copy Writing

## the winning entry

Katie Lair of Chanute High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- They led with the national award
- They interspersed quotations and descriptions

### WEAKNESSES

- They were good - but they seemed like encyclopedia entries on DECA. They listed facts rather than creating a story

Talk about a mighty group of buffalos, the Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) organization was named the Outstanding DECA Chapter in the nation.

"I'm just so proud of all the students. They represent Sunflower High in such an amazing manner," principal Doris Gray said.

~~This is the third time in school history the DECA Club has been honored. 1977 and 1990 were also named Outstanding Chapter by Sunflower High School DECA groups.~~

DECA is an international organization in which students study marketing, management, and ~~entrepreneurship~~ entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality and marketing sales services.

This year DECA took the reign of the school bookstore, running it for the student body.

"There's no doubt we were named Outstanding Chapter because of the bookstore," DECA Sponsor Don Gilpin said.

Gilpin has been DECA Sponsor at SHS for the past 23 years.

"Part of what's been exceptional about this group is that they're never satisfied

# 3A/4A Yearbook Copy, cont.

with the way things have been done before, especially with the bookstore," Gilpin said.

Managing the budget, bookkeeping, hiring employees, ordering materials and advertising are all responsibilities DECA students take on in operating the SHS bookstore.

"Taking over the bookstore has been such a learning experience for our students," Gilpin said.

DECA student employees have added a multitude of bookstore services this year, including healthier snack options, iPhone power cords, downloadable audio books and an Internet station/cafe.

The proceeds from the bookstore help send DECA members to state and national conventions such as the national DECA convention in Atlanta where they ~~also~~ received the National honor.

"The ~~DECA~~ DECA Dudes and DECA Dolls are just awesome. We're national champs, baby," DECA president Josh Hartnett said.

"I am so proud of all the DECA kids. They have all worked so hard to bring national honors to SHS," DECA vice president Carolyn Stanner said.

# 5A/6A Yearbook Copy Writing

## the winning entry

Sarah Neel of Blue Valley  
Northwest High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Good organization, use of detail and strong leads

### WEAKNESSES

- Taking a long time to get to important details (or omitting them) to sloppy story progression

→ "And the winner of outstanding DECA Chapter in the nation is..."

With this awarded title to bring home, the Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) group represented the school during the spring national DECA convention in Atlanta. However, in order to help pay for the trip, the DECA members took on a new project.

This year DECA ~~controlled~~ <sup>ran</sup> the school bookstore and ~~had been running~~ it for the student body. The students upheld responsibilities such as budget, book-keeping, hiring employees, ordering materials and advertising. The proceeds from the store helped send the DECA members to the state and national conventions.

According to DECA sponsor Don Gilpin, the bookstore proved to be beneficial for the students  
let the quote do the talking

# 5A/6A Yearbook Copy, cont.

and their accomplishments.

"There's no doubt we were named Outstanding chapter because of the bookstore," Gilpin said.

Gilpin also remarked that the dedication of the members played a heavy role in the success of the bookstore.

see previous comment  
"This has been a phenomenal group to work with this year," Gilpin said. "Part of what's been exceptional about this group is that they're never satisfied with the way things ~~are~~ have been done before, especially with the bookstore."

Having been honored not once, but three times in the school's history, principal Dorcia Gray expressed her admiration for the DECA club.

"I'm just so proud of all the students," Gray said. "They represent Sunflower High in such an amazing manner."

With this achievement on his shoulders, DECA president Josh Hartnett exclaimed his excitement for the group.

"The DECA Dudes and DECA Dolls are just awesome," Hartnett said. "We're national champs, baby."

# 1A/2A Feature Writing

## the winning entry

Heidee Prosser of Kiowa  
High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- They consistently brought the focus to SHS (Sunflower High) in the story
- They creatively used the lead to grab the reader's attention, and don't cut and paste information word-for-word from the "background" section

### WEAKNESSES

- Little style, grammar, spelling, etc., mistakes
- Lack of a focus on SHS
- Organizational issues
- Incorrect facts, editorializing

Over the past 25 years, the danger factor of stunts in cheerleading has increased, and while it may be a crowd pleaser to have a cheerleader be thrown 20 feet into the air, the risk may outweigh the reward. Cheerleading now accounts for two-thirds of sports related deaths or serious injuries to high school girls and Sunflower High School has experienced this up close and personal.

Between 1982 and 2012, a total of 103 female high school students suffered sports-related catastrophic injuries, 67 of whom were cheerleaders and two of whom were SHS students. In 1983 a SHS senior cheerleader cracked her skull when falling from a three-person high pyramid and in 2007 another SHS girl suffered from a broken leg. Since these accidents, SHS has made a few changes to help keep the cheerleaders safe. SHS cheer and dance team sponsor Jan McElwain stated, "We have initiated strict regulations for our spirit squads. They are expected to take their practices as seriously as any other athletic teams."

Due to the high risk factor of cheerleading now, it has caused some people to question if it needs to be so intense. According to Mr. David Sanborn, SHS Principal, a few years ago the Meadowlark Conference athletic directors were considering the abolition of stunts by dance team members. The ultimate decision, though, was to allow the stunts. "We felt that cheerleading was more of a sport than a performance group," Sanborn stated. He went on to express his priority for the team's safety and stated, "I have a great deal of concern for our spirit squads. Safety is a primary concern."

more>

# 1A/2A Feature Writing, cont.

As cheerleading has evolved from mere chant-leading and pom poms to 180-degree turns while flying in the air, the rules and safety measures for the sport have also evolved. Cheerleading is recognized as a serious sport and must follow the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations. Although some people may believe that the sport is pushing the limits, McElwain assures the concerned by stating, "Safety is our greatest consideration. We want our squads to be in the best shape possible and to avoid injury at all costs."

# 3A/4A Feature Writing

## the winning entry

Meredith Bartley of Rose Hill

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Strong lead: establishing Who, What, When, Where, and Why
- Some creativity in presenting info
- Strong informational paragraphs
- Logical flow of information
- Good grammar-punctuation-spelling

### WEAKNESSES

- Weak leads - not presenting the facts correctly
- Poor grammar-punctuation-spelling
- Disorganized/illogical flow
- Editorialize

Excellent story. 43601  
You used excellent facts  
and organized them well -  
w/out editorializing.  
Confident writing

After a shift from spirit to stunts, schools are bringing more attention to safety in cheerleading to keep the athletes flying high.

Over the last 25 years, the focus of cheerleading has changed. Once, where girls were simply expected to cheer on teams and wave pom-poms, they're now performing huge, eye-catching, and dangerous stunts.

With this, the number of athletes facing injuries has also changed - and not for the better.

Of the 103 serious high school sports-related injuries recorded from 1982 to 2012 involving female students - leading to death, permanent disabilities, or other serious repercussions - a shocking 67 were cheerleaders. Two such injuries occurred right here at Sunflower High.

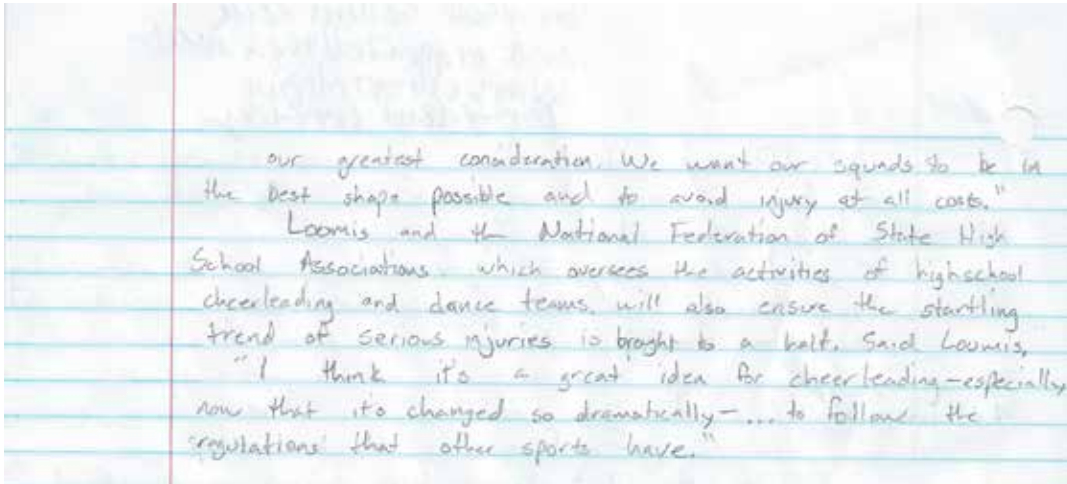
With the growing number of accidents, however, has come growing concern. Said Susan Loomis, cheer and dance instructor for the National Federation of State High School Associations, "High schools now take cheerleading as a serious sport these days and ensure that coaches are properly trained."

Jan McElwain, SHS cheer and dance team sponsor, has seen the changes coming to cheerleading, and their effects, firsthand, and has responded in turn. "We have initiated strict regulations for our spirit squads. They are expected to take their practices as seriously as any other athletic team."

These strict regulations start at the top, with varsity captain Carolyn Hall. "We work hard... to perfect our stunts. We have a national ranking, and it's only because of the effort put forth as a squad," said Hall.

McElwain and Hall strive to keep the team performing the high-level stunts and tosses, but not at the expense of their safety. Said McElwain, "Safety is

# 3A/4A Feature Writing

A photograph of a piece of lined paper with handwritten text in blue ink. The text is written in a cursive, slightly slanted script. The paper has a vertical red margin line on the left side. The handwriting is clear and legible, though there are some minor corrections and erasures visible.

our greatest consideration. We want our squads to be in the best shape possible and to avoid injury at all costs."

Loomis and the National Federation of State High School Associations, which oversees the activities of highschool cheerleading and dance teams, will also ensure the startling trend of serious injuries is brought to a halt. Said Loomis,

"I think it's a great idea for cheerleading-especially now that it's changed so dramatically-... to follow the regulations that other sports have."

# 5A/6A Feature Writing

## the winning entry

Zia Kelly of Lawrence High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- True feature leads with vivid images compelled the reader to be interested in the story
- Very strong use of good spelling, grammar and punctuation in all entries

### WEAKNESSES

- Leads were stilted, academic, or took too long to get into the story
- Too many "to be" verbs or sentences starting "There is" or "There are."

6/14/08

Don't let the pom-poms, hair bows and short skirts fool you—high school cheerleaders are on the line every time they step on the football field of school gymnasium.

In recent years, high school cheerleading has been deemed the dangerous high school sport for females, accounting for two-thirds of sports-related injuries and deaths over the past 25 years.

The sport has transformed over the past few decades from simple chants and pom-pom shaking to complex stunts and tumbling that have gone as far as taking girls' lives.

Veteran SHS cheerleading coach Jan McElwain has noted the drastic changes in the nature of the sport. "I have been sponsor here for more than 25 years," she said. "Cheerleading has changed a great deal."

Part of the shocking changes came with the extremity of the stunts performed. Among them are feats such as the basket throw, which entails athletes being hurled 20 feet in the air and caught by their teammates.

"You didn't see a basket toss 15 to 20 years ago," said cheer and dance director for the National Federation of High School Associations. "Now every team from tiny northern Montana to the bayous of Louisiana does a basket toss."

The widespread popularity of these stunts may lay hint to the growing concern over safety regulation.

In the past 25 years, 67 cheerleaders suffered catastrophic injuries from performing these stunts, severity ranging from broken bones to death.

Injury concentration in cheerleading is nearing

# 5A/6A Feature Writing

Injury concentration in cheerleading is nearing that of high school football, with 2 out of every 100,000 girls being catastrophically injured last year.

Among the 67 unfortunate athletes were two SHS cheerleaders. One in 1985 with a fractured skull, and the other just seven years ago with a broken leg.

In light of the calamities that took place, the Meadowlark Conference athletic directors nearly banned stunts from dance and cheer choreography.

"I have a great <sup>deal</sup> of concern for our Spirit Squads," principal David Sandborn said. "Safety is a primary concern."

While the conference worried about the safety of stunts, they ~~ultimately upheld their decision to restrict them~~ <sup>ultimately upheld their performance</sup>. "Because we felt that cheerleading was more of a sport than a performance group, we allowed their stunts," Sandborn said.

With the intensifying of activity, cheerleading has made a name for itself in the athletic community.

"I think it's a great idea for cheerleading, especially now that it's changed so dramatically for cheerleading to be considered a sport and to follow the regulations that other sports have," Loomis said.

At SHS, cheerleading is treated as every sport is—they attend practice five times a week and are closely regulated for safety.

"They are expected to take their practices as seriously as any other athletic team," McElwain said.

# 1A/2A News Writing

## the winning entry

Kori Meyer of Onaga High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Strong leads that immediately told the cancellation news (of a 25-year tradition)
- Good Organization that grouped: 1-the multiple reasons for the cancellation and 2-the various reactions to it, supported by appropriate quotes.

### WEAKNESSES

- Buried the cancellation news deeper in the story
- Misspellings and weak grammar and punctuation
- Long paragraphs
- Some school boosterism (editorializing)

A tradition that has been celebrated for more than 25 years is about to come to an end at Sunflower High School.

This week Sunflower High School administration announced that they were canceling the annual senior concert. The scheduling of the concert was for Friday, May 15, in the Sunflower High School Auditorium. Composed of band, orchestra and choirs, the concert was estimated to last one hour.

The concert was to precede graduation exercises in the auditorium on Saturday, May 16, at 2:00 p.m. This event has been apart of graduation over 25 years, and the administration claims they do not wish to put a damper on this tradition.

"Honestly, I'm fine with cancelling the concert, especially since it's the day before graduation.... Seniors already have so much going on that last week of school," said orchestra member Sheryl Hall.

The administration claims that the reasoning behind canceling the concert was due to student behavior concerns.

School secretary Mrs. Gillogly said, "I just thought it was embarrassing last year to watch so many students walk out of the concert during the final song. That shows no class at all. I know it was meant to be a prank, but it offended many people. And the sink bomb two years before. It just got to be too much."

Another concern the administrators had besides the behavior issue was the time commitment of the students and faculty performing. Some administrators were worried that the planning for this concert was not done far enough in advance. The faculty

from the band, orchestra and choirs met in March for the first time to begin planning of the concert.

"People just don't realize how much practice and planning go into the senior concert. We should have started planning in September and not March," said orchestra instructor Mr. Katz.

Another reasoning behind the cancellation behind the concert was the logistics of setting up the concert and tearing it down between it and graduation.

"The concert is officially canceled for this year but next year if the matters are held differently the show might go on."

# 3A/4A News Writing

After concerns with student behavior and lack of time to plan, SHS administration has announced that the Senior Concert, scheduled for May 15, has been cancelled.

The Senior Concert, which has been a tradition at SHS for over 25 years, has had problems with student pranks in the past couple of years.

"It feels like it's become almost a rite of passage for some students, particularly juniors and seniors, to see how far they can push behavior at this concert," Principal David Sanborn said.

good context  
The past problems include students walking out during the final song and a stink bomb being detonated two years before according to Secretary Alice Enligly.

Another reason for the cancellation is the lack of time the faculty members of band, choir and orchestra had to plan this event. Their first meeting wasn't until March.

Orchestra instructor, William Katz, stated that planning should have started earlier.

"People just don't realize how much practice and planning go into the senior concert," Katz said. "We should have started the planning in September and not March."

Many performers of this concert have mixed feelings about the cancellation.

## the winning entry

Shelby Mata of Bonner Springs High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Led with cancelling "25-year tradition" in first paragraph
- Followed soon with official statement from administration
- Did not confuse sources' positions; For example, staff quotes were not attributed as administration comments
- Placed context (what was provided) around and after quotes

### WEAKNESSES

- Met few or any of above standards
- Attributed opinions to sources that might not be theirs and were not documented
- Were either too PR-esque in explaining administration decision, or too critical
- Wrong information or assumptions reported as facts

# 3A/4A News Writing

Good to see Jackson included. A paragraph might be best for a student page.

Band president, Jerred Johnston disagrees with the decision and believes that the administration didn't want to deal with the concert so they cancelled the entire event.

Other performers like Orchestra member, Sheriyl Hall believe this is a smart choice.

"Honestly I'm fine with cancelling the concert, especially since it's the day before graduation. Seniors already have so much going on the last week of school," Hall said.

→ a bit colored... maybe "say" would be more neutral  
49708

Administrators claim they don't want to stop this tradition but they do believe something must be done.

"The faculty has been most disappointed at the behavior by a number of our students," Sanborn said. "We just need to rethink the senior concert and perhaps next year come up with a better plan."

# 5A/6A News Writing

The Senior concert, a celebrated tradition at Sunflower High School, has been canceled this year because of "student behavior issues and because of the time concerns between the concert and graduation," said Principal David Sanborn.

As a precedent for Sunflower's graduation ceremony for over twenty-five years, the senior concert was a popular event among students. Sunflower student Tyler Morganstern said, "This concert was the most fun of the whole concert season, and now it won't be happening. I'm sad to see another music tradition potentially go down the drain."

The concert is usually composed of performances from the band, orchestra, and choirs and has required extensive planning in the past. This

## the winning entry

Hannah Schroeder of  
Salina Central High  
School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Strong organization and structure
- Easy to read and follow

### WEAKNESSES

- Poor grammar and punctuation, organization and generally lacked understanding of News Writing

# 5A/6A News Writing, cont.

year, the music department began planning in March, but the short two months was not enough time. Orchestra instructor William Katz said, "People just don't realize how much practice and planning go into the senior concert. We should have started the planning in September and not March."

Not only has time management become a problem, but issues with student behavior have also come about. "It feels like it has become almost a rite of passage for some students, particularly juniors and seniors, to see how far they can push misbehavior at this concert," said Principal Sanborn.

Despite the significance of this concert to the students, Sunflower administration was inclined to cancel the event this year after enduring behavioral problems during this event in previous years. "I

## 5A/6A News Writing, cont.

just thought it was embarrassing last year to watch so many students walk out of the gym during the final song... I know it was meant to be a prank, but it offended many people," said school secretary Alice Gillogly.

The administration claims that they don't want to put a damper on this tradition, and, despite the frustration and disappointment in Sunflower County's vocal music department, vocal music director Carolyn Williams remains optimistic that the tradition will continue. "Perhaps after a one-year furlough, we can try it again next year."

# 1A/2A Cutline Writing

## the winning entry

Breanna Meier of Lincoln  
High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Present tense
- Stuck to the facts

### WEAKNESSES

- Made assumptions
- Spelling errors of names
- Didn't use quotes or weren't appropriately selective of quotes

## Lecture

Sophomore Mike Holstead listens to a lecture in his Biology I class. Biology I is taught by Mrs. Beth Watkins, who is new to SHS this semester. "I just love teaching at Sunflower High. The kids are so receptive," said Watkins.

## Testing

In her chemistry class, junior Tyra Meyers checks the pH levels of substances in the test tubes. "I love Chemistry class-there's just nothing like it," said Meyers. Meyers plans to major in Chemistry in college.

## Preparation

Juniors Carolyn Day, Tyra Meyers and Jamie Wallace prepare the lab area before beginning the midterm experiment. "My favorite part of the experiments is the recording of results," said Day. Meyers' favorite part is checking pH levels. Group work is a viable part of all science classes.

## Note Taking

Leslie MacKenzie, senior, takes notes during her Physics class. "Science is my favorite class," said MacKenzie. Last year she won the SHS science award. MacKenzie plans to major in Astrophysics. "I like the challenge that science classes present," she said.

when?

## Analysis

Freshmen Bobbie Joseph, Marilyn Davis and Frankie Thompson participate in a lab experiment during their General Science class. "The experiments are my favorite part of any science class," Thompson said. This is the first year that General Science had a lab requirement.

# 3A/4A Cutline Writing

## Lecture

Focusing on his Biology I teacher, Mrs. Beth Watkins, sophomore Mike Holstead listens to a lecture. Holstead may pay attention in class but says "Biology is tough. I really don't care for science classes."

## Testing

Making sure everything is going well, junior Tyra Meyers checks the pH levels in her chemistry class. Meyers expresses her enthusiasm for the class by saying "I love chemistry class - there's just nothing like it."

## Preparation

Getting ready to combine their talents together, juniors Carolyn Day, Tyra Meyers, and Jamie Wallace prepare their area for the midterm. Group work allows students to be assigned individual tasks and work towards one goal.

## Note Taking

Hard at work in Physics class, senior Leslie Mackenzie takes notes. Mackenzie plans on majoring in Astrophysics next year. ~~she says~~ "I like the challenge that science classes present," Mackenzie said.

## Analysis

Diligently working on their lab experiment, freshmen Bobbie Joseph, Marilyn Davis, and Frankie Thompson compile their findings. This is the first year that General Science has had a lab requirement and the feedback is positive. Joseph says, "Having a lab for General Science makes the class just that more enjoyable."

### the winning entry

Abby Liudahl of Chanute High School

### Comments from the Judges:

#### STRENGTHS

- Fluidity, proper punctuation, creativity
- Active voice was great in Strongest. Also, quotes had nice introductions

#### WEAKNESSES

- Passive voice
- Lack of fluidity
- Spelling errors
- Incorrect use of words. Made up words.
- Improper punctuation
- Dialogue tags

# 5A/6A Cutline Writing

## the winning entry

Megan Curry of Andover  
High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Simple, complete writing
- Varying sentence structure

### WEAKNESSES

- Misspelled "Jaimie"
- Just repeated info presented
- Didn't include details

## Lecture

Sophomore Mike Holstead listens intently to the lecture presented by Biology I teacher Beth Watkins. Sunflower High School welcomes Watkins to her first year on staff. "I just love teaching at Sunflower High. The kids are so receptive," Watkins said.

## Testing

Junior Tyra Meyers carefully dips a pH probe into test tubes, monitoring the pH levels of her Chemistry experiment. Meyers plans to attend college as a Chemistry major. "I love Chemistry class—there's just nothing like it," Meyers said.

## Preparation

Preparing for their midterm experiment, Juniors Carolyn Day, Tyra Meyers and Jaimie Wallace cluster together around their shared lab table. The girls are all aware group ~~work~~ is a viable part of all science classes; each has a job to fulfill during the experiment. "My favorite part of the experiments is the recording of results," Day said.

## Note Taking

Scribbling furiously, Senior Leslie Mackenzie takes notes during a Physics lesson. ~~Winner~~ Winner of last year's Sunflower High School science award, Mackenzie plans to major in Astrophysics as a college freshman. "I like the challenge that science classes present," Mackenzie said.

## Analysis

General Science students, freshmen Bobbie Joseph, Marilyn Davis, and Frankie Thompson work together on a lab experiment, compiling ~~findings~~ findings. This is the first year Sunflower High's General Science classes have had a lab requirement. "Having a lab for General

# 1A/2A Editorial Writing

## the winning entry

Ashley Tubach of Chase  
County Junior/Senior  
High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Lead with use of advocacy "voice"
- Well written with alternative solutions presented

### WEAKNESSES

- Lack of clarity
- Overly passionate/personal

It has been a tradition at Sunflower High School for more than 25 years to hold a senior concert the night before graduation. But this year, administration has canceled the concert. Many of the students are asking why, but they only need to look to themselves. — *hook*

Mrs. Alice Gilligy, the school secretary, commented on how embarrassing it was to watch a number of students last year walk out during the final song. And just two years before, a stink bomb was released during the concert. Students are upset about the decision made by the administration; however, they are the ones to blame.

Another reason for the canceled concert was the lack of planning. Faculty who put together the concert first met in March.

"People just don't realize how much practice and planning go into the senior concert," Mr. William Kofz, orchestra instructor said. "We should have started planning in September and not March." — *hook*

The third strike for the concert was the day it was scheduled. Administration was concerned about the logistics of setting up and tearing down between the concert and graduation. Some of the seniors are relieved because they are busy enough as it is.

"Honestly, I'm fine with cancelling the concert, especially since it's the day before graduation," orchestra member Sheryl Hall said. "Seniors already have so much going on that last week of school."

The administration has claimed that they do not want to put a damper on this tradition. Both Principal David Sanborn and vocal music director Dr. Carolyn Jones have talked about their hopes for the concert next year. By then, maybe students will take better responsibility for their actions and behave at the concert. The faculty can start planning in September so they are better prepared. And maybe the concert can be scheduled for a different night so seniors won't feel like butter over too much bread. Then, the long, treasured tradition at Sunflower High can be continued.

# 3A/4A Editorial

## the winning entry

Owen Toepfer of Thomas  
More Prep Marian High  
School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Used good "advocacy voice" and a professional tone
- Presented alternative views for a solution

### WEAKNESSES

- Poor or simplistic organization
- Inability to present all sides completely

Over the past 25 years Sunflower High School (SHS) has enjoyed its prerogative of putting on a spring music concert at graduation; however, due to some students' delinquency and lack of respectful behavior at this concert, as it has become a recurring event each year, the administration has <sup>planned to cancel</sup> ~~cancelled~~ the concert this year.

Although <sup>the</sup> administration gives their reasoning for cancelling ~~the~~ the concert as concerns for student behavior, other opinions are circulating. Mrs. William Katy, orchestra instructor, states, "People don't realize how much... planning [goes] into the senior concert. We should have started planning in September and not March." Janet ~~Johnson~~ Johnson, band president, however,

## 3A/4A Editorial, cont.

is convinced of another reason. He suggests, "The administration just didn't want to deal with the concert." Principal Daniel Laubman, possessing the most credible authority, pulls together the real reasons for the impending cancellation when he states, "Time became the big issue along with student behavior. It feels like it's almost become a rite of passage for some students, particularly juniors and seniors, to see how far they can push misbehavior at concerts."

The afore-mentioned quote from Principal Laubman exemplifies the reasons for the cancellation as <sup>poor</sup> time management and <sup>SHS</sup> poor student behavior. ~~These~~ These are valid reasons to cancel the concert because if the planning for the concert just started in March, and if the students do not

# 3A/4A Editorial Writing, cont.

take the concert seriously, then the concert would have been a train wreck anyway.

The concert, however, should not be cancelled forever. Cancelling the concert this year will show students, faculty, and all who are ~~even~~ involved that the concert is not a joke to be taken lightly. The concert should be tried again next year since it is tradition, but ~~because~~ it should be handled with ~~more~~ more respect and time-allowance. Good!

Concerts embody the artistic abilities of the students in a way that not many other things can. <sup>It?</sup> The spring concert needs preservation, even if it means a one-year ~~long~~ break.

# 5A/6A Editorial Writing

*logical* This week, school administrators ~~made the~~ announced their decision to cancel the senior concert, which was originally scheduled for Friday, May 15, citing behavioral and logistic issues. Although the administration holds the ultimate authority, the concert - which has been a mainstay in graduation events for more than 25 years - should have gone on as planned with the cooperation of the student body. *yes.*

While disappointing, the validity of the administrators' reasons cannot be overlooked. According to principal David Sanborn, "it feels like it's become almost a rite of passage for some students... to see how far they can push misbehavior at this concert." Additionally, planning for the event that orchestra instructor William Katz says should have began in September didn't begin until March. Even some students, such as orchestra member Sheryl Hall, agree that the concert's proximity to the graduation ceremony poses a problem.

Despite these concerns, the concert, which has become the pinnacle of the concert season for some, should have continued and its problems assessed after the event. That being said, administration is taking the correct steps in acknowledging student behavior at the concert and the planning problems that led to the cancellation. With student cooperation, the senior concert can remain a tradition in the years to come. *yes.*

## the winning entry

Jack Lopez of Mill Valley High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Tightly organized
- Offered alternatives
- Appropriate language
- Concise opening
- Good Resolution/closing
- "Above the Fray"
- Avoided emotion
- Balance and Fair to all
- Maturity

### WEAKNESSES

- Read more like a news story than an editorial
- Too long and poorly argues logic
- One-sided view
- Used all the quotes
- Didn't get all their facts straight

# 1A/2A Yearbook Sports Writing

## the winning entry

Holly Stegall of Troy High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Strong organization
- Presented the story informatively and impartially

### WEAKNESSES

- Editorialized
- Generalized
- Unsubstantiated implications
- Weak and rushed endings

The rivalry continues. Middleton High students were found guilty of \$8,000 worth of damage done to Sunflower High School. Four MHS students were caught spray painting the gymnasium walls with obscene language. However, that's not where the damage stops. MHS students also burned an "MHS Rules" in the SHS football field. The principal of Sunflower High, Mark Blaine, commented, "I don't mind a rivalry, but when the damage reaches \$8,000 - that's just too much."

The traditional victory bell may be a reason for this act of vandalism. Sunflower High has had the bell for six consecutive years now. Since 1951, it is tradition that the bell went to the school with the most victories over the other in football, basketball, and baseball. After losing a football game to Sunflower High 42-70, Middleton students attacked the school.

The amount of students enrolling at Middleton is decreasing. Only 554 students enrolled the past year. However, Sunflower High has seen an increase to 800 students. SHS is now a 4A school while Middleton

# 1A/2A Yearbook Sports, cont.

is only 3A. This could mean that there is more competition for Middleton when they face Sunflower High on the field or court. "I think we have won seven of the last nine games against Middleton. The enrollment difference is starting to take effect," said Tom Harper, Sunflower High's basketball coach.

There could be many factors as to why Middleton students acted out. Carol Collins, a sophomore at StHS, said, "I think we're a lot alike and that's what makes us rivals."

# 3A/4A Yearbook Sports Writing

## the winning entry

Mikaela Bennett of Bonner Springs High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Mention this year's rivalry developments very early
- Use active verbs and are creative with telling a dull story
- Concise; to the point
- Smooth, natural, un-re-gurgitated writing

### WEAKNESSES

- Use quotes from Crutchfield, Collins, Harper
- Talk about what Sports are considered for the victory bell
- Have more than 3 quoted sources

Dating back to 1946, the sixty-eight-year-old rivalry between Sunflower High and cross-town school Middleton High could be coming to an end. no...

Recent vandalism to SHS, which was done by Middleton students after a football game, is now costing the school thousands in repair for the gymnasium and field.

"I don't mind a rivalry," said Principal Mark Blaine. "But when the damage reaches \$8,000 - that's just too much."

The increasingly heated competition between the schools is not just for pride, its for the victory bell.

The bell, which has been in the Buffalo's possession for the last six years, was initiated in 1951. It's given to the school with the most victories over the other in four sports: football, basketball, baseball and volleyball.

"Whenever SHS and MHS compete, there's bound to be tough competition," said Football Coach Mark Maralis. "Middleton always fields a tough squad."

But the competitiveness could be changing to enrollment.

Sunflower High School has a rising student body number of 800, while Middleton's numbers have fallen below 600.

Despite

In spite of recent events, the sixty-eight year old rivalry will always be apart of the community.

"Middleton is the school we love to hate," said Freshman Mark Mangelson.

# 5A/6A Yearbook Sports Writing

Spray paint littered the Sunflower gymnasium. Raging obsessions surrounded the yellow-brown walls, and an ominous "MHS Rules" burned into the football field. *very well organized*

The intense competition between Sunflower and Middleton High has been ongoing since 1946, but it wasn't until the Sunflower victory at the highly anticipated football game that rivalry finally boiled over. After losing 7 to 42, four Middleton students burned and spray painted the Sunflower campus, causing over \$8,000 in damage.

"I don't mind a rivalry, but when the damage reaches \$8,000, that's just too much," principal Mark Blaine said. "We need to make sure our students work to create and to sustain a healthy rivalry."

This healthy rivalry had existed in previous years, and the two schools weren't always so bitter. Located just 18 miles apart and consisting of a similar student make-up, Sunflower and Middleton frequently met at games.

"I think we're a lot alike, and that's what makes us rivals," sophomore Carol Collins said.

The similarities between the schools, however, have dramatically diminished. With Sunflower enrollment reaching 800, the school was given a 4A classification over Middleton's 3A.

"The enrollment difference is starting to take effect," basketball coach Tom Harper said. "I think we have

## the winning entry

Regina Yan of Shawnee  
Mission South High  
School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- "Vandalism" in lead paragraph
- Interesting language
- Relatively short paragraphs
- Good transitions

### WEAKNESSES

- Simply re-stated facts from the background info
- Used every quote from background
- Inaccurate information
- Poor organization
- Mis-use of words

# 5A/6A Yearbook Sports, cont.

won seven of the last nine games against Middleton."

Apart from their nearly 250 advantage in enrollment numbers, Sunflower students saw personalities as another key difference. Middleton students viewed their rivals as "hicks," while Sunflower students saw their competitors

"They're definitely snobs," student council president Eddie Johnette said of the Middleton Marauders. "I hope we stomp them every chance we get."

Junior Mary Michaels shared Johnette's view of Middleton students.

"Their girls' basketball team came into our gym last winter wearing their North Face jackets and carrying their Kate Spade backpacks," Michaels said. "That tells a lot about a team."

With the introduction of a "victory bell" in 1961, the evolution from a friendly competition to a bitter clash between schools seemed inevitable. The school with the most sports victories at football, baseball, basketball and volleyball games possessed the victory bell, and Sunflower has maintained a winning streak for the past six years.

Coaches saw similar levels of sports caliber as the key aspect in creating a competitive atmosphere for the victory bell.

"Whenever (Sunflower and Middleton) compete, there's bound to be competition," football coach Mark Maralis said. "Middleton always fields a tough squad."

Students shared Maralis' view of Middleton competition but found crowd support to be fundamentally different.

# 5A/6A Yearbook Sports, cont.

"Middleton never brings much of a crowd," Senior Taylor Crutchfield said. "At least [Sunflower] supports its teams."

However, at the night of the fateful football game, the schools managed to gather a collective crowd of 2,700, more than Sunflower and Middleton's enrollment combined.

The rivalry between the Sunflower Mighty Buffalos and the Middleton Marauders would continue as long as the two schools met in competition, but students agreed to refrain from property destruction in the future. As the smoke was cleared from the football stadium and the graffiti was erased from the walls, the Buffalos recovered from the incident, donned their yellow and brown jerseys and enthusiastically prepared for the next big game.

# 1A/2A Academics Photo

## the winning entry

Katelynn Hiebert of  
Canton-Galva High  
School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Interesting subjects
- Good story ideas
- Good composition

### WEAKNESSES

- Not respecting composition rules
- Not using DOF to address busy backgrounds



# 3A/4A Academics Photo



## **the winning entry**

Jaci Ross of Humboldt High School

## **Comments from the Judges:**

### **STRENGTHS**

- Good composition
- Interesting use of elements/crop/angle, color
- Captures mood/interaction

### **WEAKNESSES**

- Nothing excels image-wise
- Too documentary

# 5A/6A Academics Photo

## the winning entry

Elizabeth Kane of Wichita  
East High School

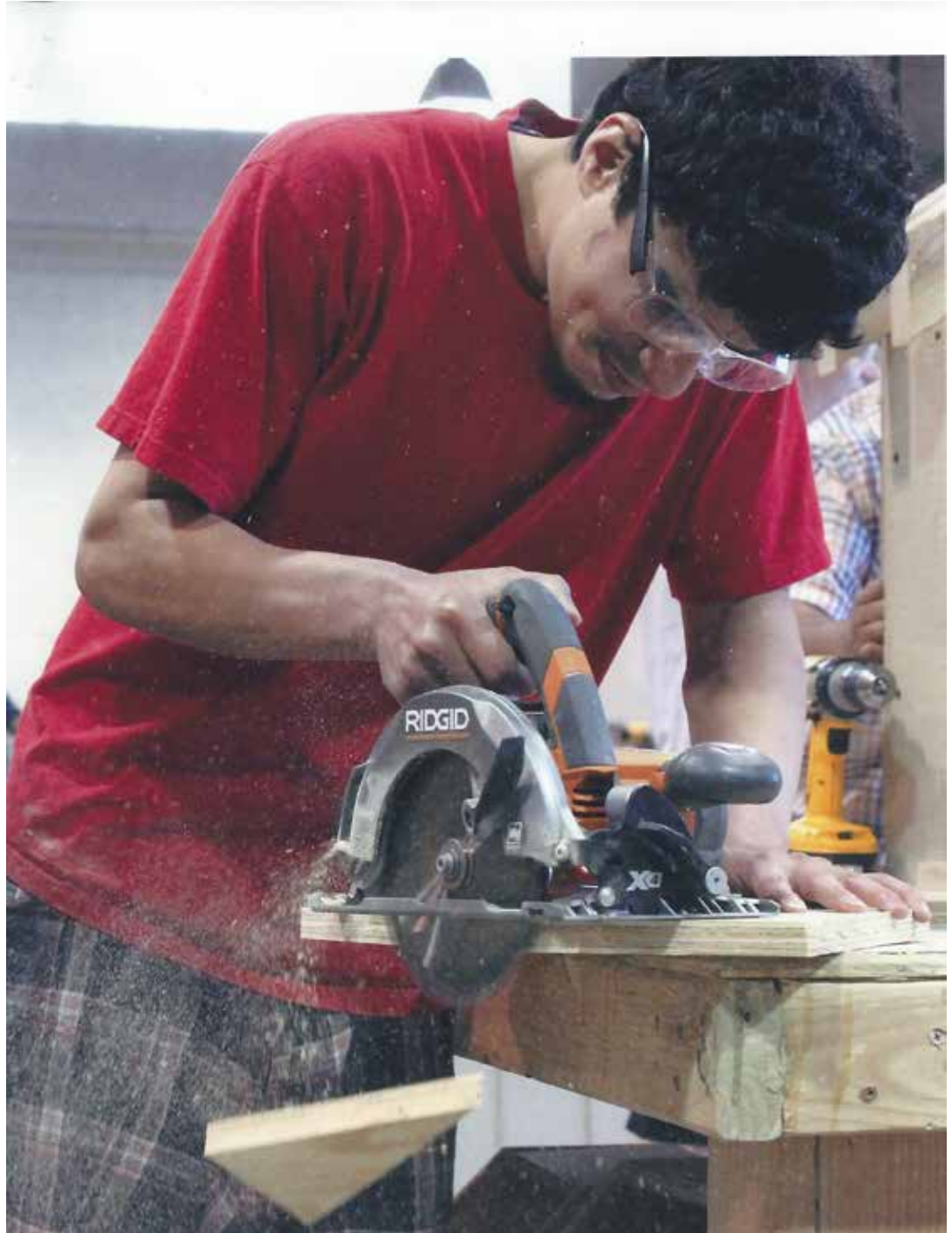
## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Action, good exposure, strong composition

### WEAKNESSES

- Boring subject, noise, distracting elements, too dark



# 1A/2A Advertising



**LOGO CK**

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**15%**  
off any order for SHS  
students/group or staff member

**48-hour turnaround on all orders**

**Banners**  
**Embroidery**  
**Screenprinting**

**Uniforms**  
**Trophies/Plaques**  
**Promotional Items**

**Open 6 days/week**  
**8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**512 Self Drive**  
**Clinton, KS**

## the winning entry

Jennifer Switzer of Chase  
County Junior/Senior  
High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Focused content and smart design choices
- Ambition and effort - this was most important
- A sense of what would grab one's attention

### WEAKNESSES

- A lack of ambition and effort
- Apathy toward the project which made the ads feel ashamed to exist
- Competing elements, incorrect or missing info

# 3A/4A Advertising

## the winning entry

Kelsey Wheeler of Bonner  
Springs High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Good spatial layout skills
- Good Focal points

### WEAKNESSES

- Poor color choices
- Poor font choices
- No Focus or confused  
Focus



*Logo CK* *Mighty Buffaloes*

*Our Services*

- ~ Screen Printing
- ~ Embroidery
- ~ Banners
- ~ Uniforms
- ~ Trophies/Plaques

**48-hour**  
turnaround  
on all orders.

*Logo CK*  
**Celebrating  
20 Years of  
Service!**

Located at 512 Self Drive, Clinton | Open six days per week, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. | 685-213-2567

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🌀 **15%** off on any order! 🌀

For all Sunflower High School students and staff members.

# 5A/6A Advertising

**EST. 1994**

**LOGO CK**

**SCREENPRINTING**

**CELEBRATING 20** years of service in the Clinton community

**48-HOUR TURNAROUND ON ALL ORDERS**

**ADDITIONAL 15% OFF TO ALL SUNFLOWER HIGH STUDENTS**

**8AM to 5PM**  
Mon. - Sat.  
512 Self Drive,  
Clinton, KS  
(685) 213-2567

**OUR SERVICES**  
*including, but not limited to*  
Screenprinting  
Promotional Items  
Embroidery  
Banners  
Uniforms  
Trophies  
Plaques

Group photo of eight students wearing custom t-shirts with various designs, including a sunflower, a large 'P', 'OHILLY', 'THE SUNFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL', '12', 'KANSAS', and 'HITTA'.

## the winning entry

Kailey Curtis of Pittsburg High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Good use of graphics and color
- Some had good use of simplicity

### WEAKNESSES

- Some unbalanced
- No headline or statement of benefit
- Some were busy

# 1A/2A Headline Writing

## the winning entry

Alissa Satterfield of  
Burrton High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Descriptive headlines with strong verbs
- Understanding of grammar
- Described the stories well

### WEAKNESSES

- Didn't follow instructions
- Didn't fill headline space correctly
- Had factual error, misspellings in headlines

### Headline #1

School develops first-time nurse position

Angela Sweeny not only takes on physical health-related needs but also mental

### Headline #2

Tougher parking policy is being enforced

Students will be fined hundreds of dollars for having their vehicles in the visitor lot

### Headline #3

Internal investigation reveals families using false addresses to enroll at SHS

### Headline #4

ACT science part is most challenging for pupils



# 3A/4A Headline Writing

## the winning entry

Rebecca Wendt of Chanute  
High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Good news judgement of what the important part of story was to use in headline

### WEAKNESSES

- Not following contest directions - no subhead in graphic headline, using school name in headline

## Nurse provides healthy addition to staff

Sweeny hired in accordance with the fulfillment of district's 2012-16 Strategic Plan

## Stricter parking policies in tow for students

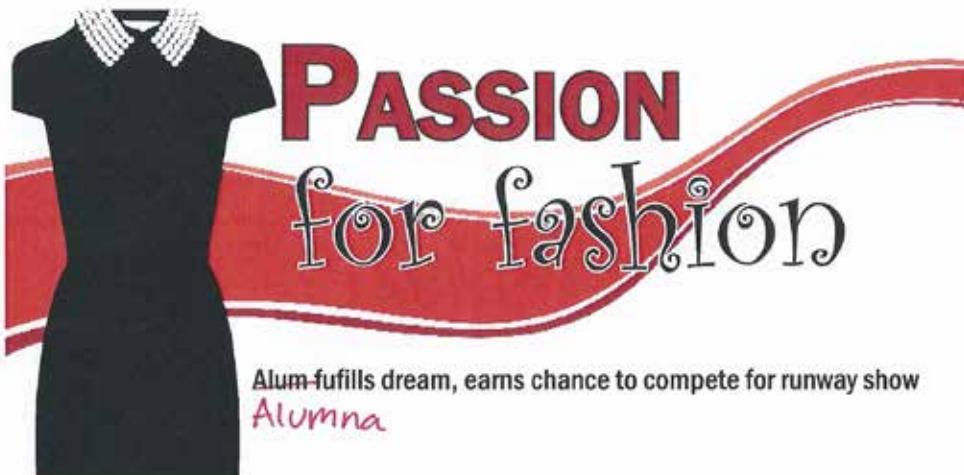
Violators face fines of up to \$200 for parking in visitors' and teachers' parking lots

*Superintendent would be better*

Davis: 14 players used false addresses,  
13 team members still under investigation

## Hands-on learning would boost science scores

*Parking repeated*



Alum-fufills dream, earns chance to compete for runway show  
*Alumna*

# 5A/6A Headline Writing

## the winning entry

Andie Beene of Olathe  
South High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Strong wording and good grammar

### WEAKNESSES

- Poor grammar, not following directions

New nurse assigned for upcoming year

Appointed physician replacing administrator to handle physical and mental health

Improper parking gets new punishment

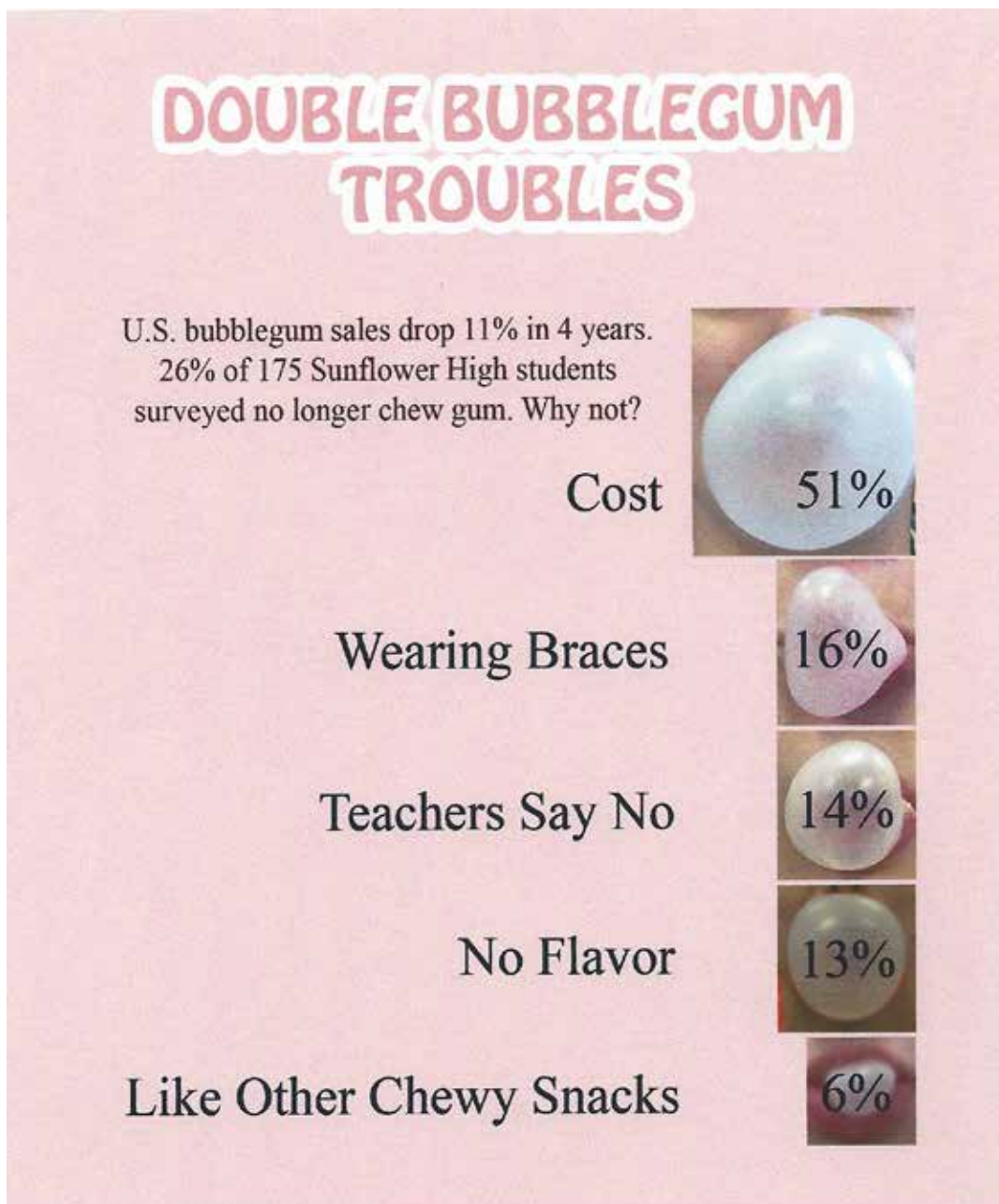
Cars violating policy to be towed; students take sides about new disciplinary action

Investigation of football players  
leads to discovery of address fraud

ACT science scores display need for reform



# 1A/2A Infographics



## the winning entry

Faith Kenyon of Hill City  
High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Focused on telling one key aspect of story graphically
- Accurate
- Visually cohesive

### WEAKNESSES

- Too busy visually
- Too many different fonts
- Poor spelling/style usage

# 3A/4A Infographics

## the winning entry

Daniel Meija of Bonner  
Springs High School

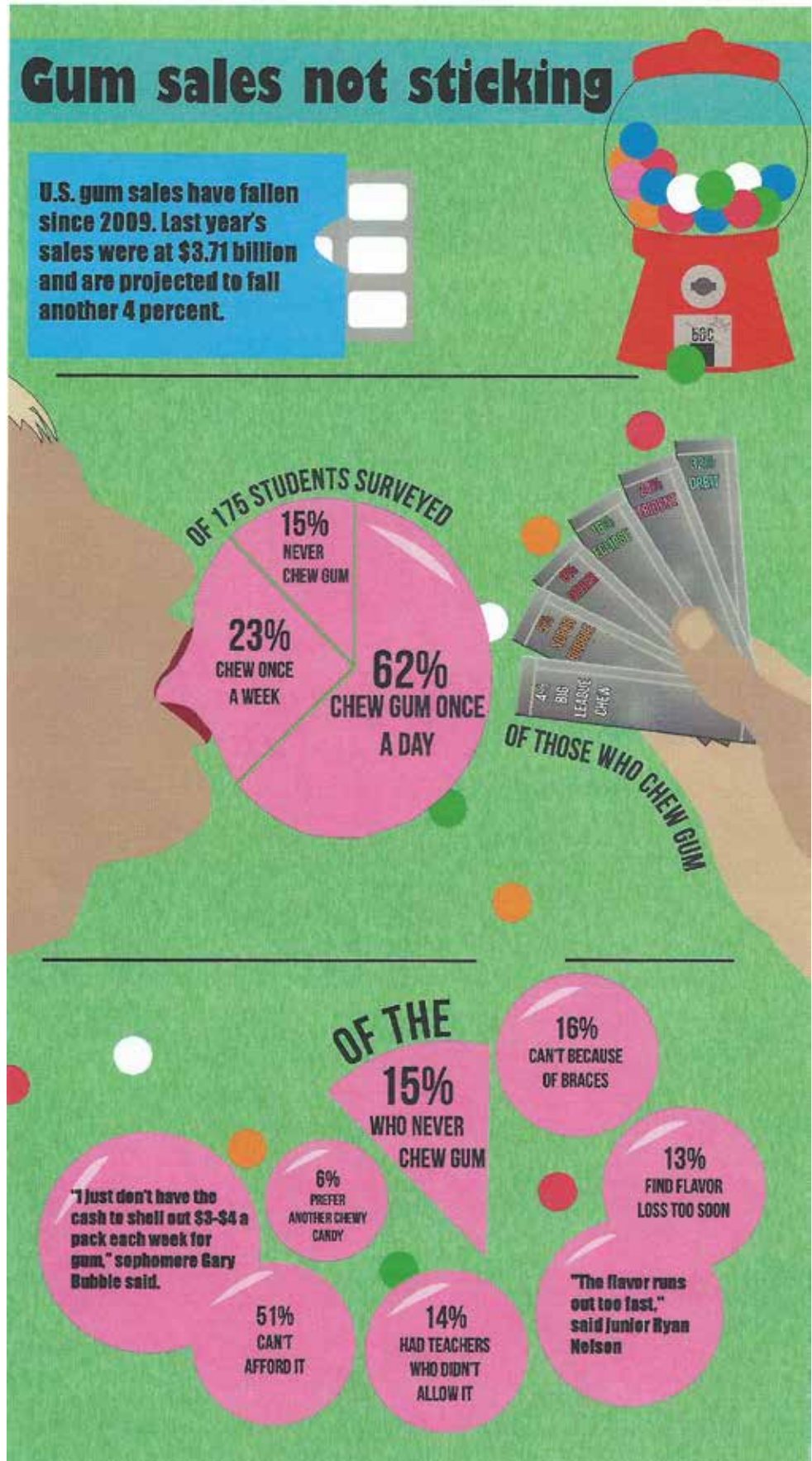
## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Attention to detail - including all numbers to add up to 100%
- Creative layout
- Uncluttered design that's easy to follow

### WEAKNESSES

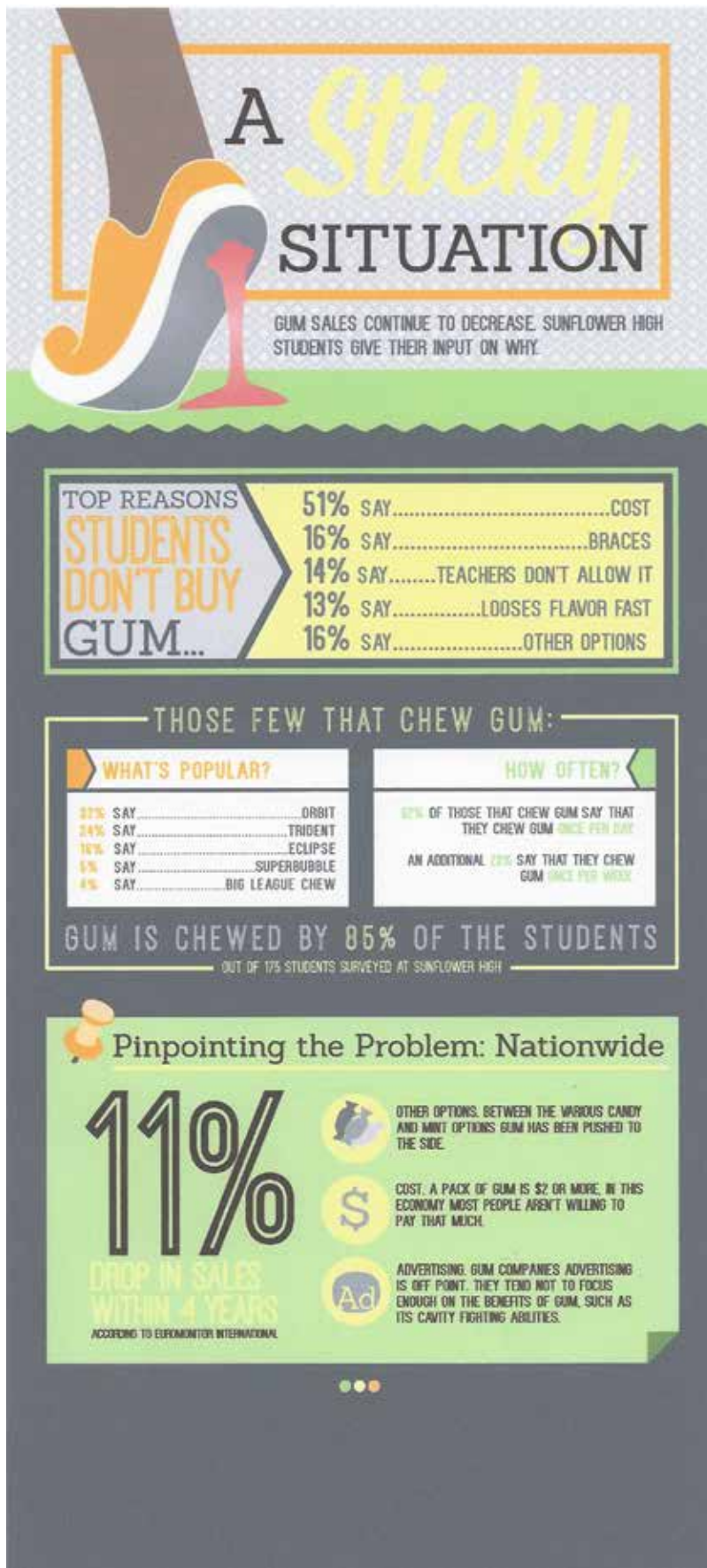
- Spelling errors
- Missing details
- Inaccurate headlines and summaries
- Less creative design



# 5A/6A Infographics

the winning entry

Ali Lohr of Olathe North-  
west High School



# 1A/2A Newspaper Design

## the winning entry

Alissa Wells of Chase County Junior/Senior High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Didn't try and fit all elements on page- chose most important
- Good use of typeface and space on the page

### WEAKNESSES

- Elements touching each other (not adequate spacing)
- Use of clip art

March 12, 2014

Sunflower News

5



**SING TO ME.** Kim MacAlister, played sophomore Olivia Payne, rejoices at having a boyfriend as singer, "One Boy." Photo by Ruth Hill



**Star.** Bringing the first act to a close, Connor, played by senior Adam Jones, leads the chorus in "One Last Kiss." The first cast is all out on stage ending the act with a bang. Photo by Ruth Hill



**Hello?** Members of the ensemble perform "Telephone Home" during dress rehearsal. The cast was taking the rehearsal as serious as the actual performance. Photo by Ruth Hill



Photo by Ruth Hill

"Had [Smith] decided to just have one cast of 50 people, a lot of us probably would not have had the chance to be in the show," sophomore Sarah Myers, a member of the ensemble, said. "Although it was crazy at times, it is great to have the chance to be on stage and hear that applause at the end."

Sarah Myers, so.

## It's all in the performers

Design by Ashley Tisdale • Copy by Cassi Smith

When casting the upcoming musical "Bye Bye Birdie," director John Smith had a unique problem: how to include all of the 103 students who auditioned for the show.

"I had every director's dream: too much talent and too few roles. I had to get creative if I wanted to put the very best actors on the stage," Smith said.

So Smith decided to create two separate casts and split the roles, including the four main leads, giving each cast three nights to perform. Smith also gave each cast a '60s-inspired name. The Buddy Holly cast will perform

May 5, 7 and 9.

The leads were encouraged to bring their own unique personalities into the role, which helped them personalize the characters.

"I created little dance moves every night during 'Spanish Rose,'" Taylor said. "Each night I did something different with audience members. I played with a little girl's hair, sat on [senior] Connor Mills' lap, and one night I almost kissed the cheek of somebody."

Directing two different casts isn't without its challenges, according to Smith.

The leads were encouraged to bring their own unique

personalities into the role, which helped them personalize the characters.

"I sometimes confuse which students are in which cast," Smith said. "And sometimes one cast will really master a song while the other has not. I'm constantly trying to remember what to work at each rehearsal."

Despite any confusion, Decard said she really appreciates Smith's willingness to give everyone a chance.

"I love each one of my cast members and I am glad each person had their time to shine," Decard said.

Tickets are on sale.

## Faces you know

1. **Superstar.** Greenacting her adoring fans, Conrad Birdie, played by senior Austin Morley, performs "One Last Kiss." Photo by Ruth Hill

2. **I didn't do it.** Kim's doting younger brother Randall MacAlister, played by freshman Nathan Anderson, reacts to a question from his family during Act 1. Photo by Ruth Hill

3. **Telephone.** Junior Mikaela Yane performs "Telephone Home" atop a giant Styrofoam phone created and built by assistant musical director Jerry Copeland. Photo by Ruth Hill



# 3A/4A Newspaper Design



## the winning entry

Hannah Johnson of  
Andover Central High  
School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Great use of color, often an extra graphic (sidebar, enlarged quote, etc.)
- Eye-catching layout

### WEAKNESSES

- Often inconsistent (too many colors, different fonts, etc.)
- Not many extra graphics: just story and photos

# 5A/6A Newspaper Design

## the winning entry

Meredith Johnson of Blue Valley Northwest

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Added something extra
- Balance
- Easy to read

### WEAKNESSES

- Too many photos
- Didn't showcase the article (the point of a newspaper!)
- Too much/too little white space

FEATURE

# Say HELLO HELLO to BYE BYE BIRDIE

Sunflower made an important decision this year to have two separate casts performing a single musical: "Bye Bye Birdie."

BY CASSI SMITH

Kim MacAfee, played sophomore Olivia Payne, rejoices at having a boyfriend in singing "One Day" while Mattie in hand, Kim MacAfee, played by senior Rebecca Decard, considers how to be a lovely woman in the song at the same time in Act I during dress rehearsal.

Members of the ensemble perform "Telephone Hour" during dress rehearsal.

Bringing the first act to a close, Decard, played by senior Adam Jones, leads the chorus in "One Last Kiss."

**W**hen casting the upcoming musical "Bye Bye Birdie," director John Smith had a unique problem: how to include all of the 103 students who auditioned for the show.

"I had every director's dream: too much talent and too few roles. I had to get creative if I wanted to put the very best actors on the stage," Smith said.

So Smith decided to create two separate casts and split the roles, giving each cast three nights to perform. Smith also gave each cast a '60s-inspired name. The Buddy Holly cast will perform May 4, 6, 8 while the Elvis Presley cast will perform May 5, 7 and 9.

Seniors Adam Jones and Austin Manley will share the lead role of Conrad, while senior Tori Taylor and junior Madison Roman share the role of Rosie. Sophomore Olivia Payne and senior Rebecca Decard share the role of Kim MacAfee, and juniors Brady Franklin and Seth Wagner share the role of Albert.

Smith said the idea was embraced by each of the actors from the start.

"They were just excited to all get the chance to perform," Smith said.

The leads were encouraged to bring their own unique personalities into the role, which helped them personalize the characters.

"I created little dance moves every night during "Spanish Rose," Taylor said. "Each night I did something different with audience members. I played with a little girl's hair, sat on [senior] Connor Miller's lap, and one night I almost kissed the cheek of somebody."

**"Although it can be crazy at times, it is great to have the chance to be on stage..."**

-sophomore Sarah Myers

Even with the chance to personalize their characters, Payne still feels the inevitable desire to compare themselves to their counterpart.

"Sometimes having dual casts is tough because you compare yourself to the other person," Payne said.

"Smith pulled us aside and told us we are taking two different approaches [to playing Kim] and should not compare ourselves. You look to each other for guidance."

Wagner enjoys the flexibility sharing the roles gives him.

"It was nice not having to worry about my part on the night off," Wagner said. "It was also nice seeing what [Franklin] did. I got inspired from it."

Even those in non-lead roles appreciate the chance to perform.

"Had [Smith] decided to just have one cast of 50 people, a lot of us probably would not have had the chance to be in the show," sophomore Sarah Myers, a member of the ensemble, said.

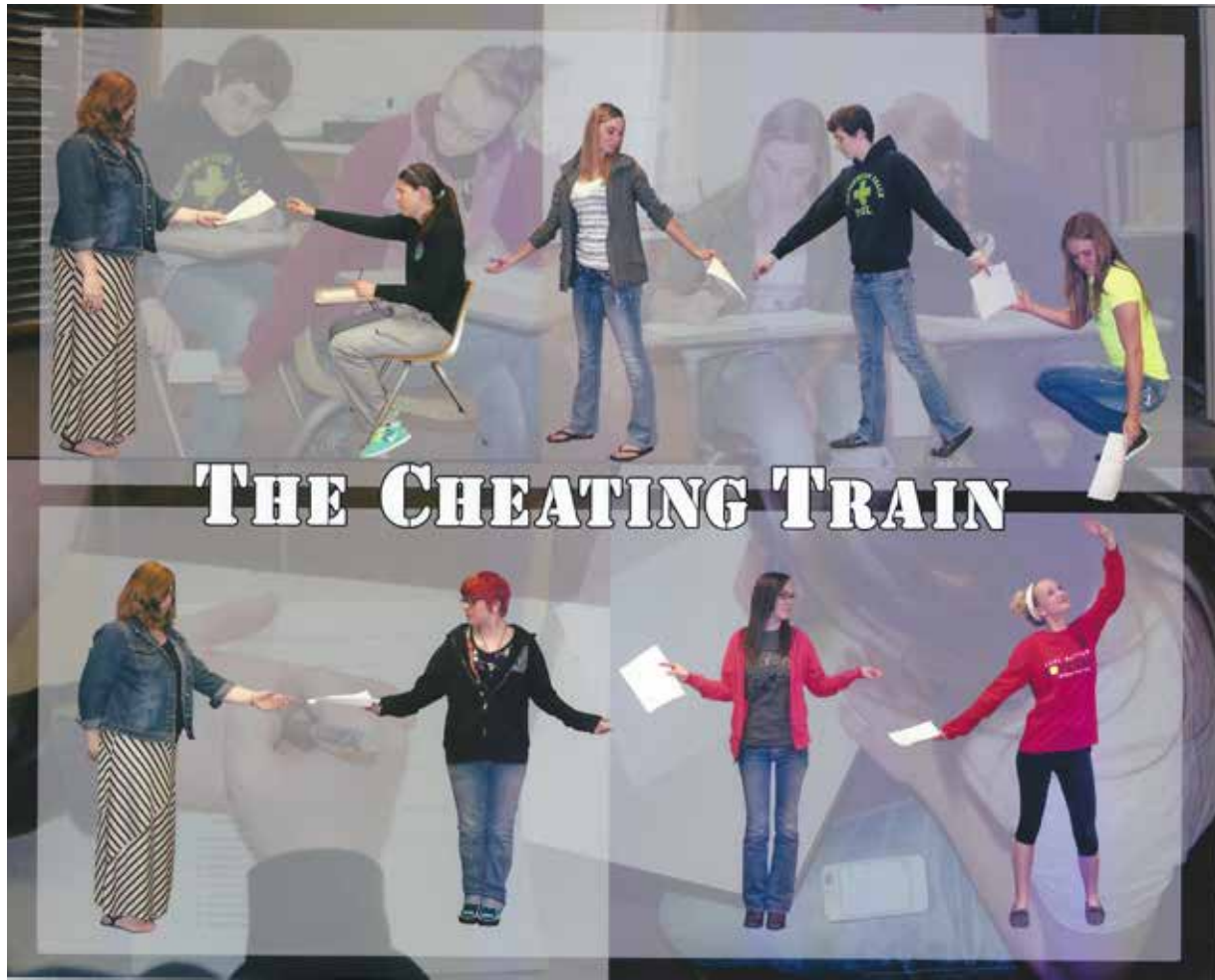
"Although it was crazy at times, it is great to have the chance to be on stage and hear that applause at the end."

Despite any confusion, Decard said she really appreciates Smith's willingness to give everyone a chance.

"I love each one of my cast members and I am glad each person had their time to shine," Decard said.

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# 1A/2A Photo Illustration



## the winning entry

Kandace Griffin of Chase County Junior/Senior High School

## Comments from the Judges:

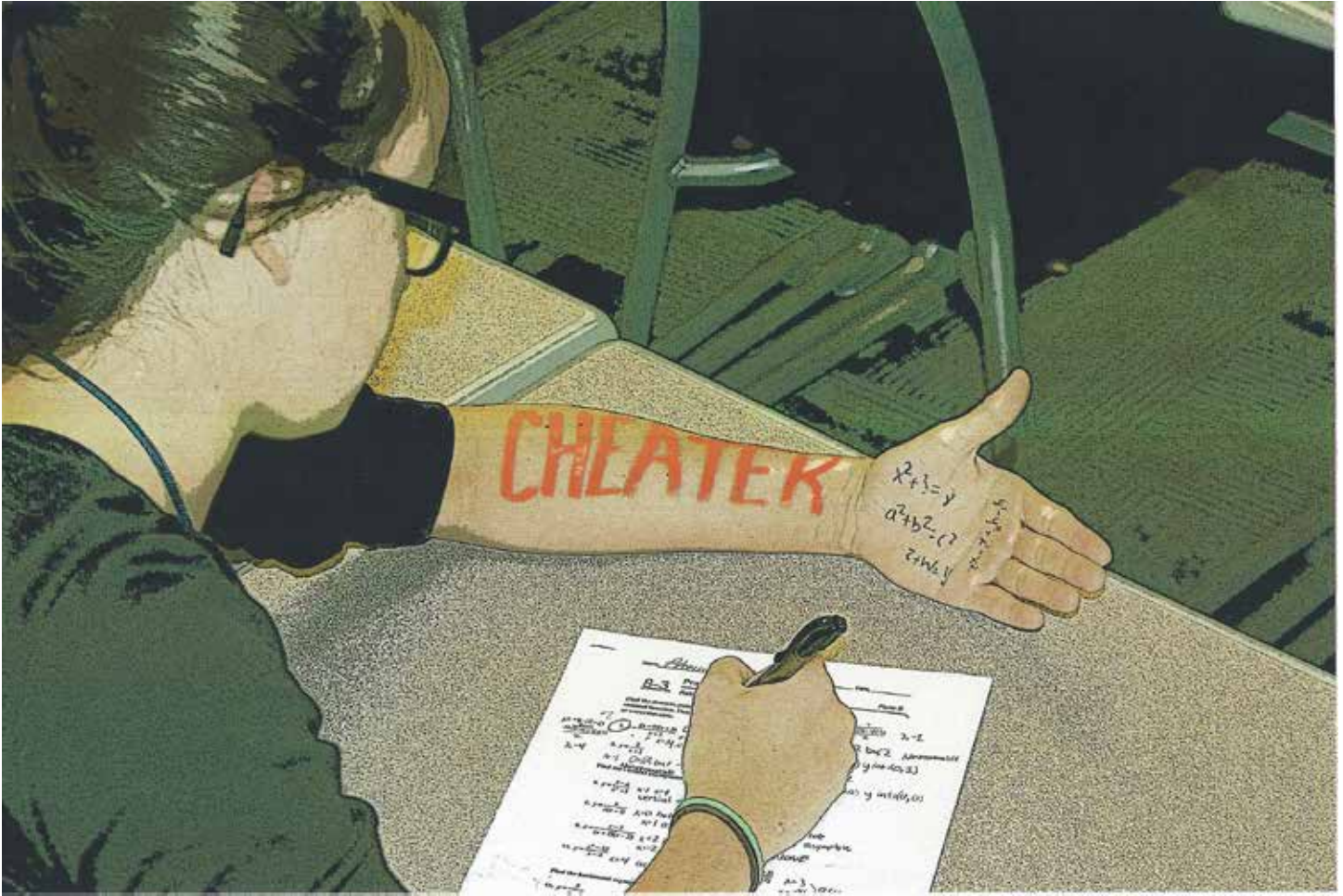
### STRENGTHS

- Great composition to convey storyline
- Good layout and font choices
- Great photo quality and subject matter

### WEAKNESSES

- No text
- No focus to subject matter or storyline
- Poor layout

# 3A/4A Photo Illustration



## the winning entry

Madison Dispensa of Chanute High School

## Comments from the Judges:

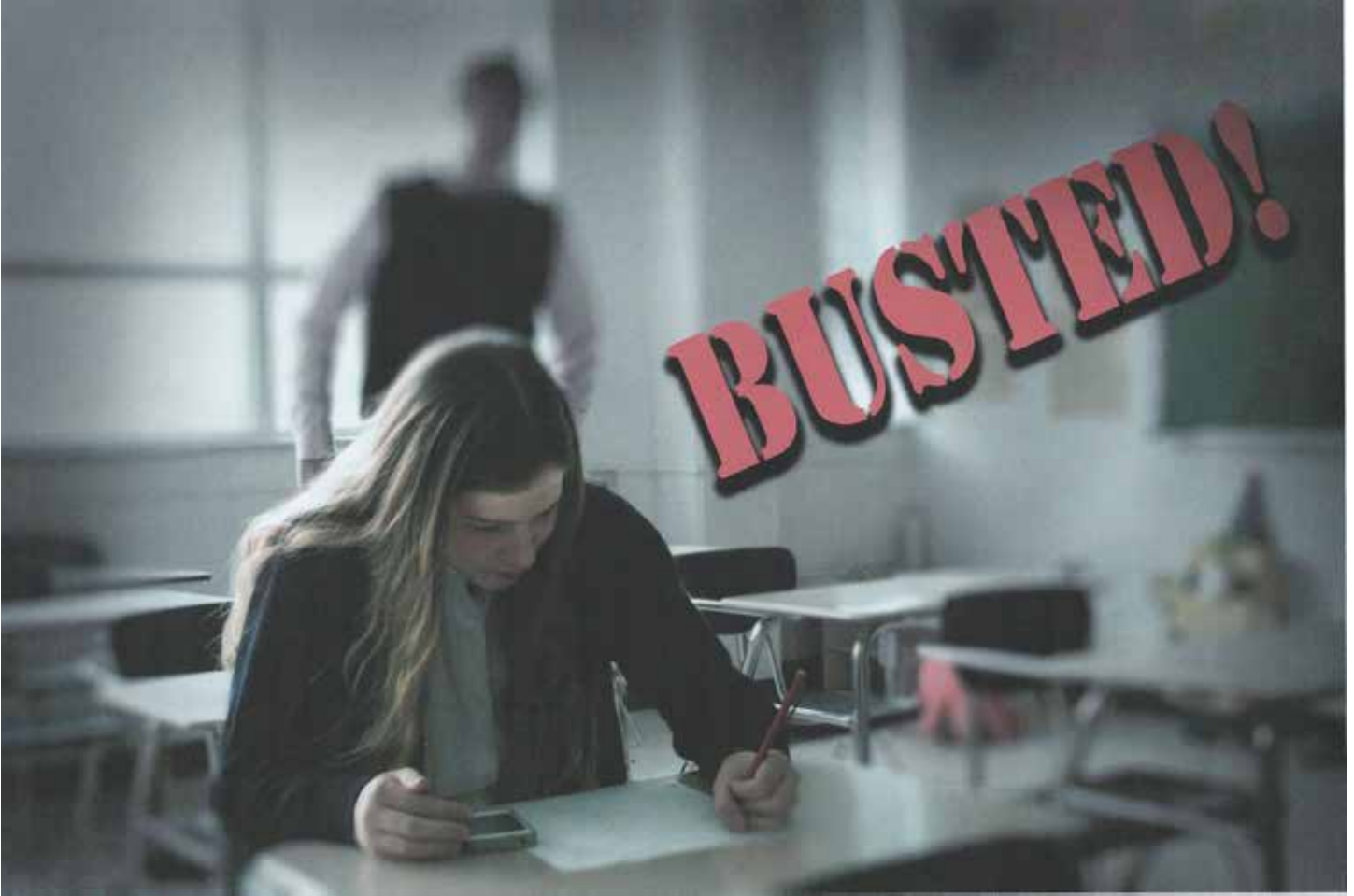
### STRENGTHS

- The best entries used well-framed, cleanly composed photos
- They balanced relevant text with clean design and didn't use text when it wasn't needed
- They clearly addressed the topic and involved multiple creative elements

### WEAKNESSES

- The weaker entries were overly heavy on text and did not balance the use of text against the photo
- Some entries lacked visual contrast, while others had too many elements
- Some entries lacked creativity
- Others would not pair well with an objective news story on the topic given

# 5A/6A Photo Illustration



**the winning entry**

Brittney Korte of Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School

# 1A/2A Sports Photography



## **the winning entry**

Brittany Dinkel of Ellis High School

## **Comments from the Judges:**

### **STRENGTHS**

- Tack sharp focus
- Solid compositing and cropping

### **WEAKNESSES**

- Cropping was the biggest issue, usually shots could have been cropped tighter to focus more on the action

# 3A/4A Sports Photography



## **the winning entry**

Jacob Milham of Rock Creek High School

## **Comments from the Judges:**

### **STRENGTHS**

- Excellent exposure control, perfect focus and awareness of depth of field
- Perfect decisive moment timing

### **WEAKNESSES**

- Cliche'd moments, missed timing, weaker cropping or exposure control

# 5A/6A Sports Photography



## **the winning entry**

Goldia Kitech of Shawnee Mission North High School

## **Comments from the Judges:**

### **STRENGTHS**

- Clear, engaging action shots, paired with well written cutlines

### **WEAKNESSES**

- Grainy, boring and lacking context

# 1A/2A Student Life Photo



## **the winning entry**

Kasady Smith of Sterling High School

## **Comments from the Judges:**

### **STRENGTHS**

- Unique angles
- Sharp focus
- Really captured the moment of the event

### **WEAKNESSES**

- Lack of focus
- Interesting pictures but didn't depict student life
- Weak contrast/cropping

# 3A/4A Student Life Photo

## the winning entry

Sydney Breault of Circle  
High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Good use of depth-of-field
- Interesting angles

### WEAKNESSES

- Dark exposures
- Uninteresting moments



# 5A/6A Student Life Photo



## the winning entry

Alexis Banzet of Wichita East High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Showing groups rather than individuals in clear school-oriented settings
- Sharp focus, clean background, good lighting

### WEAKNESSES

- Single, individual activities
- Low or dark exposure

# 1A/2A Yearbook Layout



## the winning entry

Erika Kufahl of Onaga High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Clear dominant, use of the grid, some attempt at whitespace

### WEAKNESSES

- Nothing dominant, poor caption placement, no grid use
- Too much on one spread

# 3A/4A Yearbook Layout



## the winning entry

Taylor Shelbey of Bonner Springs High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Nicely organized, design elements added to the story being told in the photos
- I do wish more people experimented with creative use of white space

### WEAKNESSES

- Design elements did not relate to story in any way...just added something else to look at
- Type in headers was not used creatively
- No flow to the design...too blocky
- Didn't follow directions

# 5A/6A Yearbook Layout

## the need FOR SPEED

Students built non-motorized cars for a physics lab  
Shrey Top T. Bailey

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torem. Ut expediat necessitate con-  
sequatur. Te voluptatibus autem flecti  
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appellat motus eruditionem  
referentiam quoniam  
voluptate ex-  
magnitudo, et et  
quas molestias  
accum qui quam  
extremum plene  
ritatium, ipis  
ponit nos dolere  
core, verum quid te san-  
tibus etiam molestias que  
dolere excedende nos nullo  
qui albus et referentiam  
adrem aborere, ton magnis  
delictis revere sereviti arduis  
bellat exos an alit audiam  
as nullam, quatuor, stren-  
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qui car a ventis faga. Nam  
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cognos conet veram quis  
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aliqua volupta tempasim  
illobor porfendae cum alio,



Students were required to sketch their cars before building it.  
Shrey Top T. Bailey

### off to THE PACES

Students recorded the quickest cars throughout the class



Adam Jones, 11 19 seconds	Jesse Hicks, 10 28 seconds	Jon Brown, 11 14 seconds	Kyle Hodges, 11 12 seconds
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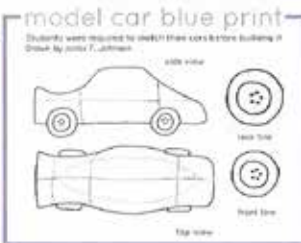
James Brink, 11 17 seconds	Zoe Counts, 10 6.4 seconds	Aaron Hines, 11 5.2 seconds
-------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------



100%, que non plab quoniam quoyper



Students were required to sketch their cars before building it.  
Shrey Top T. Bailey



### the winning entry

Riley Miller of Salina Central High School

# 1A/2A Yearbook Theme



## the winning entry

Julia Gormley of Canton-Galva High School

## Comments from the Judges:

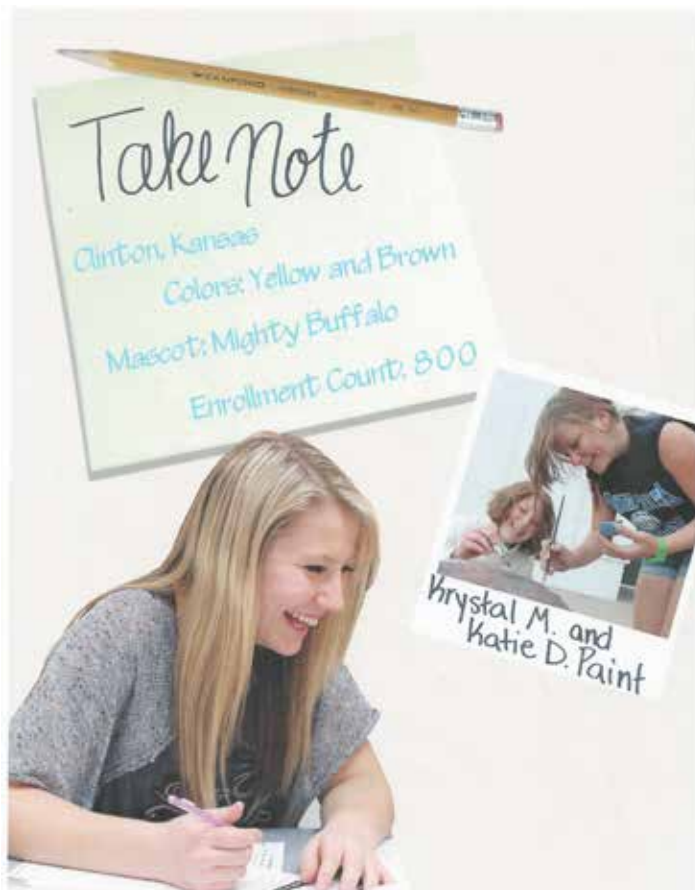
### STRENGTHS

- Very clean, modern layouts
- No distracting fonts and effective use of whitespace
- Graphics were clear and were easily grouped without needing to read anything

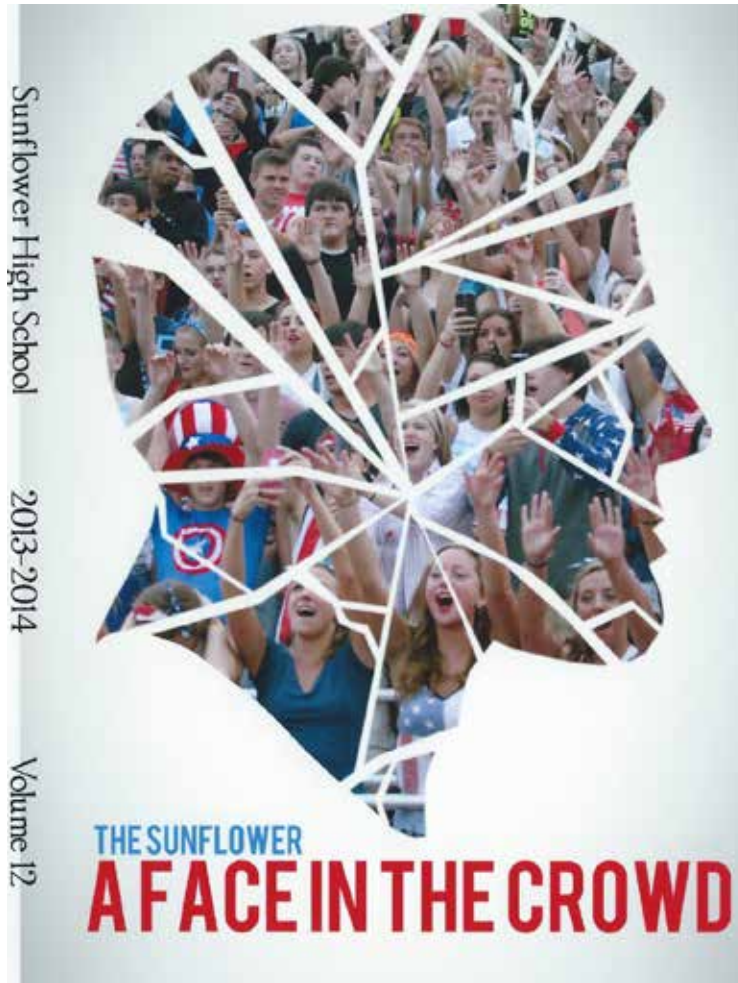
### WEAKNESSES

- Looked like they were from 1997
- Lots of weird, distracting fonts.
- Abstract use of color
- Great blurb of text

# 1A/2A yearbook theme, cont.



# 3A/4A Yearbook Theme



## **the winning entry**

Delaney Owen & Maddi Zimmer of Andover Central High School

## **Comments from the Judges:**

### **STRENGTHS**

- Professional look
- Clean graphics and excellent theme incorporation for design

### **WEAKNESSES**

- Images were unclear, busy look, theme development was very obvious or even seemed lazy

# 3A/4A yearbook theme, cont.



## A FACE IN THE CROWD

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Morpore mormon dnuis del  
penti pauper secorum  
Fupia legat que perque  
sco nat deuce dnu csa  
mormonem aut dextei dnu

CAECESERFEREPATIDISTEES  
DOLESCIANDITAE CUPTANIENE  
EXCEAQUE QUIBUS. EMO ET ALIBUS  
-ASHLEY COOPER (12)

opening 3



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## A FACE IN THE CROWD

Principal: Derek Smith  
Students: 800  
Faculty: 125

Sunflower High School  
1519 E. Main Street  
Clinton, KS 67829  
Phone: (316) 733 8522

# 5A/6A yearbook theme



## the winning entry

Afton Apodaca of Shawnee Mission East High School



## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Demonstration of theme
- Explanation of concept/theme and why it matters
- Graphics well-executed, often bold and sometimes taking calculated risks

### WEAKNESSES

- Weaker photographic examples
- Did not hold together for all pages
- Were more concerned with graphic detail (decor) than the concept

# 5A/6A yearbook theme, cont.



# All Classes: Video News

## the winning entries

1A/2A :: Alex Snovelle of Chase County Junior/Senior High School

3A/4A :: Cameron McGough of Silver Lake High School

5A/6A :: Maridee Weber of Mill Valley High School

## Comments from the Judges:

### STRENGTHS

- Creativity
- Thinking about how the story will work with creative elements
- Nice use of natural sound
- Good open that pulls viewer in with natural sound and good video
- Using sequences
- A creative stand up that made sense
- Concentrating on one character

### WEAKNESSES

- Poor audio
- Poor framing
- Poor knowledge of what they are covering
- Hide the mic cable
- Audio hard to hear
- I saw a lot of reports, but not stories
- Video not white balanced
- Hide the mic cables



**Design:** Eric Thomas, KSPA executive director

**Compilation:** Barbara Sutterfield, KSPA administrative assistant