

COLUMBIA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

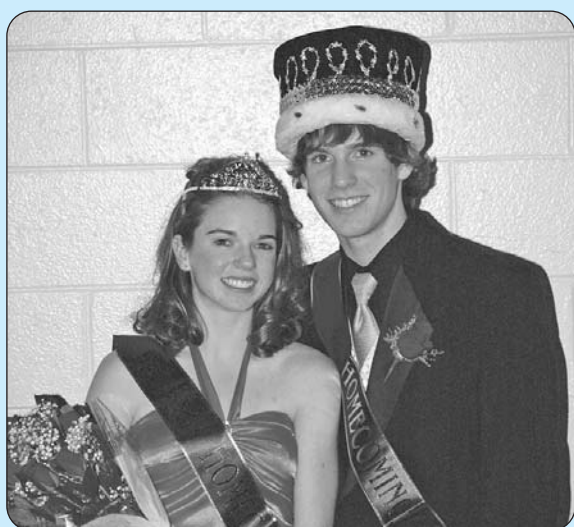


A Cold Lesson

By Jeffrey Bush, Reporter

Mr. Kendon Smith's Chemistry class got a rare opportunity this past winter. They got to see firsthand what Liquid Nitrogen could do. At 77 K (-196 C/-323 F), liquid nitrogen is primarily used as an inexpensive cryogenic refrigerant. Put in the hands of a "somewhat mad scientist" it provides for a fun way to learn some physics and chemistry.

Wanting to show the effects of liquid nitrogen, Mr. Smith got with a colleague at North West High School who had some extra lying around. First Mr. Smith started out by showing the students the effects of cold on certain objects. Rubber balls turn to rock and rubber bands crumble in one's hand after being dipped in liquid nitrogen. "Hot dogs just shatter when banged on the desk," exclaimed Mr. Smith. Next, Mr. Smith wanted to teach a short lesson on heat and heat transfer. First he filled a one-liter bottle with liquid nitrogen and placed the cap on. Then he put a five-gallon bucket over the bottle. The resulting (flame free) explosion sent the bucket up in the air and demonstrated the low boiling point of liquid nitrogen. Since the liter bottle couldn't contain the rapidly expanding nitrogen, it gave way, resulting in the explosion. "It takes time to build up enough heat," explains Mr. Smith, "it's not as dangerous as it might seem." Mr. Smith hoped the students learned a little bit about the change in properties in elements. How solids go to liquids then to gases. "It's about as close to absolute zero most of the kids will ever see," says Mr. Smith.



Winter Homecoming

Homecoming queen and king,
Samantha Brzozowski and Phil Dawson.



Drumline is a Step Ahead

By Jeffrey Bush, Reporter

In case you haven't heard, the Columbia Percussion team is doing great things. The group of 23 middle and high school students has won the state championship four out of the five years they participated. This past year they finished second. As the only competing drumline in Jackson County they must travel around the state simply to compete. "I'm a firm believer that when you give ordinary kids opportunity, they can do extraordinary things," says the group's percussion instructor, Mr. Jim Rebbeck. And the group, made up of male and females, is always ready for the next challenge. "There's nothing like the feeling of being on the floor before a show knowing that you're prepared," exclaims senior Greg Walker.



Leadership Class Does it All

By Jeffrey Bush, Reporter

Hand selected from among their peers, Mr. Kevin Miller's Leadership Class takes on many challenges. Whether it's sending care packages to Iraq, taking care of local families around the holidays, sprucing up the school grounds, or helping elementary children learn how to read, the Leadership Class gets the job done. For the past six years Mr. Miller has been in charge of overseeing this group of "take charge" students and is responsible for selecting members from the junior and senior classes. He states that one of the biggest attributes for being selected is, "how they accept responsibility." If it's collecting canned goods for charity or leading an anti-bullying campaign you can count on the Leadership Class to be in charge. "I'm so proud (to know) that when they accept a project I know it's going to get done," says Mr. Miller. Recently the class went in front of the Jackson County School Board and left in a wake of applause. When asked what they have learned so far in Leadership Class junior Meghan Schneider simply stated, "I've learned more about myself and the impact I can have on other people." That's what it's all about. Discovering yourself and helping a few people along the way. Senior Jennifer Andonian added that, "this is my second year in the Leadership Class. I love it. I have built on my desire to help others and see my role as part of a community."

