

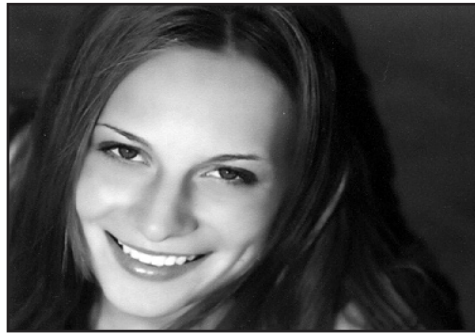
Stepping out of my box

BY KAYLA JELEN

I've always dreamed about the day when I would graduate from high school. I pictured every senior as someone who knew all the answers, who had just gained a lifetime of insights and had their future all planned out. Although it is true that I have gained more knowledge than I could've ever imagined in these four years, I'm nowhere close to knowing all of the answers. Reflecting back on my time spent at LHS though, one of the most important lessons I've lived through is that there is tremendous value that comes from truly living, of being you and opening yourselves up to others.

Since I was a freshman, many people have known me as this shy, reserved runner girl. For the first few years of high school, I was completely comfortable with this identity. It wasn't until my junior and senior year that I decided that I would make a conscious effort to open up and find my distinctiveness as a person rather than just as an athlete.

Throughout high school, running has always



been a comfort zone for me. Although the successes that came with pursuing my passion for cross-country and track are numerous, they won't be what I remember 20 years down the road. This is when my character, what has been developing since day one of high school, will stick out.

Recently, I heard a quote that is both inspiring and challenging. Nelson Mandela once wrote, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and

fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you."

As you graduate from high school, I want to leave you with a challenge. My challenge to you is to always take that chance. Step out of your comfort zone, meet new people and truly experience life. Take advantage of the days we've been given here and don't waste them because you are scared of failing. Everyone has potential and everyone has a purpose for this life.

It took me a lot of wasted time to grow out of my comfort zone and find my niche in high school. I cannot even begin to name all of the truly life-changing moments that have happened while I've been at Lincoln, from being pushed to join the *Statesman* staff to branching out to people in ways I never thought I could. I'm so thankful for the memories that I have gained and the perseverance I have learned because this is what will truly stick with me.

Learning to love me, myself and I

BY ALLY BILLION

High school is the time in our lives when we begin shaping who we want to turn into. We pick our groups of friends, our activities and discover our talents and dreams. Before high school we didn't have any idea where we were going in life. Now most of us have a college picked out, and many know what kind of career they will have, and what kind of life they will be living in ten years. Throughout high school we have learned lessons that we will need for the rest of our lives. Not only have we been educated in class, but in the hallways, at parties, at games and in competitions. But the most valuable lesson I learned wasn't about competition, classes or even relationships. The most important thing I learned was that I am myself, even if others see something else. When we walk through the doors of LHS for the last time, I hope everyone can remember that very important lesson. We will all have struggles in our lives, people will gossip, we will all make mistakes, but as long as we know who we are we will be alright in the end.

When I look back at our class freshman year I remember a group of timid, shy kids who didn't know who they were or where they belonged. Now as I watch our senior class interact I see a group of friends who all accept each other and have found their individual niches. Some are thought of as the smart kids, some the partiers, some the athletes, and others are your best friends. No matter what we have become during our years at LHS, we have all grown up and matured into the people we will be for the rest of our lives. So if there is one lesson that you take with you for the rest of your life, remember that you are you, and no one can change that.



Former Governor William Janklow hits and kills Randy Scott in a motorcycle accident	School Store is robbed, and the culprit is never found.		Girls soccer team wins the state championship for the second time in three years.	Rapid City native Adam Vinatieri hammers home the Super Bowl winning field goal for the second time in three years.		After 10 years on the air, "Friends" comes to an end.
2003 August	September	October	2004 January	May		5