

Learning Empathy

by Jessica Krogmann

This past week, the Social and Psychological Issues class has done something new and quite different. It was easy to tell which students are in the class because they of course were the ones with the blindfolds, wheelchairs and earplugs. These items were used to help the students become aware of what it would be like to be blind, physically disabled or hearing-impaired.

Mr. Kriegel, the teacher for the class, said that the reasoning behind this project was to give the students an appreciation for what it's like to be physically challenged or disabled. "I don't want the students to take their strengths and abilities for granted."

Kelli Dabroski, who was blind on her first day, said, "The biggest challenge was other people stopping in front of me so I would run into them." She also said that she learned that she definitely doesn't want to be blind, and her worst moments were when she was talking to someone in class, only to realize they weren't there.

Jeff Nurre, a student in a wheelchair, said his biggest challenge was using the restroom and also the fact that the other students were mean and had no respect for the kid with wheels.

Jessi Preussner, one of the stu-



Jeff Nurre makes some modifications to his desk while he works with Sheila Wenthold.



Members of the Social and Psychological Issues class include, front: Jessi Preussner, Erin Diesburg, Brianne Boies, Crystal Buelow; sitting: Jeff Nurre, Tristan Miles, Racheal Pritchard; standing: Kelli Dabroski, Jill Heims, Jennifer Schooley, Sheila Wenthold, Jodi Hendricks, Nicole Smith, Andy Reitinger and Nate Ingles.

dents playing deaf, said she often felt bad when people were trying to talk to her and she didn't know it so they probably thought she was stuck up. She said however that she did become much more aware of lip movements and facial expressions.

Although the project seemed to go smoothly and the students seemed to

like it, one concern the students had was the lack of seriousness from other students and the mistreatment the students participating received. However, the Social and Psychological Issues class really got a big spoonful of what it's like to live the life of someone less fortunate.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNS ON TO STATE

by Casi Orr

The girls team placed third and scored 83 points. They were behind Monticello in first with 45 points and Bennett-Durant in second with 74 points. The winner of this race came in at 15:16.

Krapfl came in at an exciting seventh place at 15:43, which got her an individual qualifying place. Harris came in right behind her at 16:13 in 14th, then came Conrad at 16:35 in 18th, next to her was Dabroski at 16:41 in 20th, not far behind her was Nurre at 16:49, Tumey came in at 17:20 in 34th, and behind her was Helle with a time of 19:43 in 49th.

Coach Mensen said extremely happily, "First of all, I would like to acknowledge the boys as they deserve recognition for their hard work this season. Tyler had an outstanding race at districts and the boys showed a lot of progress throughout the season. These six guys may often feel overlooked because of the success of the girls team, but they have worked just as hard, if not harder!!"

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