

Math whiz calculates academic, career priorities

By Melissa Akin
Lincoln High Advocate

The president of the Lincoln High Math Club says he has more on his mind than the quadratic formula. "Math is just something that comes naturally to me," senior Jeremy Bettis says. "I've never thought of myself as a big math type because I'm not spending a whole lot of time at it."

Last semester, the National Merit finalist ventured to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for a calculus class, because he had completed the math curriculum at Lincoln High.

But this semester, he is choosing music over mathematics. "I decided to sit out math this semester," Bettis says. "I knew the musical was coming up, and with all the other things in the spring, it was just too much work."

Preparation for the school musical, "Guys and Dolls," consumes three hours each weekday evening.

In addition to nightly rehearsals, Bettis devotes three class periods each day to music, serving as treasurer and playing the French horn in Marching Band. He sings bass in Concert Choir and the Madrigal



David Badders/DN

Singers, a small choir that studies and performs Renaissance music. He spent the past summer touring with the Continental Singers, a contemporary Christian choir. "I'm taking the classes they make you take in high school, and as much music as I can fit in around them," he says.

Although his academic pursuits are limited to graduation requirements now, Bettis maintains his interest in math and science through involvement in the math club and other projects.

A classroom foray into the PASCAL programming language sparked

his interest in computer science. He now plans to make programming his career. "It was fun," he says. "We didn't just say, 'OK, here's the assignment and all the things you have to learn.' We'd go on and do other things like make video games."

But Bettis says he's not headed for the corporate ranks of Nintendo. "I made a video game on the Macintosh, and I can't even beat it," Bettis says. "Other people can. I'm not creative enough for video

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Council leader rejects labels

By Adeana Leftin
Senior Editor

When it comes to Lincoln High's Student Council President Kelita Svoboda, what you see is what you get.

Despite the image that goes along with being president of the student council, Svoboda says she is very much her own person. "I like to think I do what I want because I want to, not to fit any stereotype," she says.

Svoboda, 17, says others look up to her because of the responsibilities she has. She said sophomores and juniors watch her if they want to fill her position. "I've become more aware of how my actions affect other people. ...

The better example I set... they'll be a better leader," she says. Often times when she does something "off the wall," she says, friends say, "Oh, student council president." But Svoboda doesn't feel stifled. "People just give you crap," she says. "It's different if it were someone else. You can tell if they're teasing or actually trying to put you in that role."

Svoboda says most stereotypical ideas directed at her are about student government in general and are not personal. She says many people have the idea that the council doesn't do anything. "People who are not informed don't care if we do or don't do anything," Svoboda says.

The student council is using publicity to clear up students' misconceptions.

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