Nicholas Klawes passed away on December 11, 2012, in Grinnell, Iowa. Nick was a graduate of LaFollette High School in Madison, Wis., and was a fourth-year student at Grinnell College...when he died. He was a philosophy major and a former chemistry major who loved learning and loved to think deeply. Nick was also passionate about theater and music. He was a self-avowed Shakespeare geek, had acted in many of Shakespeare's plays, and loved to quote from them. He was a fan of Gilbert and Sullivan, kept their music on his iPod, and loved to sing it. He played guitar and sang in his band, and also wrote song lyrics and poetry.

Nick was a kind, sweet, gentle person who loved and was loved by his family and his many friends, who have many stories to tell about how he encouraged and supported them and tried to make them feel better when they were discouraged or unhappy. He was funny and a great conversationalist. Nick was easy to love and hard to forget, and will be missed by all who knew him.

Nick is survived by his mother Marie Schulte, father Jeff Klawes, sister Hannah Klawes, grandparents Frank and Myrna Schulte and Dixie Klawes, uncles Mike Schulte, Chris Schulte and Greg Klawes, aunt Cathy Schulte, great-aunt Cindy Gorton, and many friends who loved him.

A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 pm., Saturday, December 29, 2012, at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin St. in Madison, Wisconsin.

Cards, letters, and donations can be sent to Nick’s family at P.O. Box 259270, Madison, Wis. 53725. His family members also invite those who knew and miss Nick to communicate with them on Facebook or at www.smithfh.com. Smith Funeral Home of Grinnell was entrusted with his arrangements.

Cause of student death unknown

The Grinnell Police Department is investigating the death of a Grinnell College student who was found in Jaycees Park in southeastern Grinnell last Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 11. No cause of death has been released. Police are asking those with information about the death to contact investigating officers.

Police were summoned to Jaycees Park at a little after 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 11, by a citizen who was walking in the park and noticed a person who appeared unresponsive. Police along with members of the Grinnell Fire Department and Midwest Ambulance went to the park and found a person later identified as Nicholas Klawes. Klawes, 22, of Madison, Wisc., was a fourth-year student at Grinnell College majoring in philosophy.

Klawes was pronounced dead at the scene by Dr. Ronald Collins of the Poweshiek County Medical Examiner’s office and was transported to the State Medical Examiner’s Office in Ankeny. Grinnell Police Chief Dennis Reidy termed the death “an unfortunate tragedy.”

“it is under investigation by our department along with the State Medical Examiner’s office, and I am confident there is no danger to the public,” Reidy said. “The State Medical Examiner’s office will determine the manner and cause of death.”

Anyone with information concerning this investigation is asked to contact Sgt. Christopher Wray or Investigator Dan Johnston of the Grinnell Police Department at 641-236-2670.

Jaycees Park is a city park in southeastern Grinnell. Its boundary is the Iowa Interstate Railroad and its western boundary in Sumner St. The park’s entrance is off Third Ave. east of Summer St. and houses along the south side of Third Ave. and the park’s northern boundary. Private land on which Christmas trees are grown lies to the park’s east.