

SEEINGSEEING DOUBLEDDOUBLE

By Jan Dehner

If you visit campus and think you're seeing double on Morningside's campus this year, it won't be an illusion. That's because this year's freshman class includes not one, not two, but four sets of twins.

The students include **Aaron and Chris Beeler** from Tabor, Iowa; **Tarah and Torey Devlin** from Anthon, Iowa; **Brad and William "Billy" Mallett** from Salix, Iowa; and **Jared and Jason Pickett** from David City, Neb.

Jared and Jason Pickett, identical twin sons of Kenneth and Tracey Pickett, are used to people referring to them as one in the same — "the Pickett twins." Both were wrestlers at David City High School, and both admit that they were each other's best competitors. Jason was a four-time conference champion, three-time state place winner, and two-time district champion. Jared was a state champion as a senior, three-time district champion, and two-time conference champion. Both wrestle at Morningside.

While the Picketts admit to having had a fiery relationship while in high school, they appear to be reveling in their unique personalities since arriving at Morningside. Jason, who gets bragging rights by being four minutes older and three inches taller, is an education major with interests in coaching. He is considering joining a fraternity. Jared has not yet decided on a major, but plans to get involved in service projects and theater in addition to his studies at Morningside. The two live in Roadman Hall with different roommates.

"We feed off each other in a lot of ways, but we've learned to give each other space," said Jared Pickett.

Jason agrees. "We've always gone our own separate ways. Our parents encouraged us to develop our own identities."

Tarah and Torey Devlin, fraternal twin daughters of Ernie and Roxann Devlin, clearly possess different physical characteristics — Tarah has straight blonde hair, and Torey sports curly,



Front to back: First-year students Billy and Brad Mallett, Jared and Jason Pickett, Chris and Aaron Beeler, and Tarah and Torey Devlin.

brown hair. They also have not so obvious personality differences. Torey claims to be more outgoing, while Tarah acknowledges she is more reserved and serious. But both admit they are each other's best friend and claim they've only had a major quarrel once their entire lives. For the Devlins, the decision to attend the same college was an easy one.

"I knew I wouldn't be able to live very far away from Tarah," said Torey.

The two are now roommates in Dimmitt Hall.

"We already knew how to live together, so that was easy," said Tarah.

Torey is majoring in elementary and special education and plays for the Mustang women's basketball team. Tarah is a manager for the Mustang's wrestling team, something that will give her valuable experience in her desired field of sports medicine. Both Devlins want to get their coaching endorsements.

Aaron and Chris Beeler, identical twin sons of Paul Beeler of Tabor and Gayle Beeler of Omaha, Neb., may look alike

but they are quick to indicate they are carving out their own niche in the Morningside community. Chris is majoring in biology while Aaron's major is business, with plans to become a chef. Chris is interested in theater, whereas Aaron shuns the spotlight. Despite forging their own unique identities, similar tastes still overrule in a few areas. Both were distance runners and state qualifiers in cross country at Fremont-Mills High School in Tabor and both will run track and cross-country while at Morningside. The two also have plans to join the same fraternity. Their competitiveness in sports is healthy, they say. But when it comes to living together in the same dorm room, they draw the line.

"We'd kill each other if we were in the same room," said Aaron.

The Malletts, identical twin sons of Mary and William Mallett, come from a long line of Morningside alumni, including mother, **Mary Margaret Mallett 1980**, uncle **J. R. Burkhart 1970**, and cousin **Sarah C. Burkhart Hotchkiss 1998**. Their grandmother **Mary Lilly Burkhart**, also attended Morningside in the early 1950s.

The Malletts embrace their similarities. Besides their looks, Billy and Brad also share the same interest in baseball and earned honors for their skills on the field while in high school, Billy as an outfielder and pitcher, and Brad as a shortstop. Both play for the Mustangs.

The Malletts are majoring in art with interests in graphic design and have nearly identical class schedules. They live in Roadman Hall, although not as roommates. And they share a love of the ocean. The most noticeable difference between the two siblings is that Brad is right-handed, while Billy favors his left.

"So many times we're thinking the same thing. We're so much alike, it's scary," said Brad.

Billy echoes that sentiment. "We're best friends. It seems like we really do share a brain."