

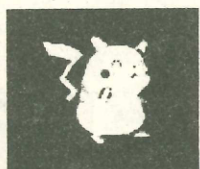


STAMPEDE

Volume XXLII Issue 3

February 22, 2000

EDS/ OPS



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Poke-
what?

PEOPLE/
ENT

Angela's
Ashes
Reviewed



ATTENTION READERS:
AS YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THE BISON STAMPEDE HAS TAKEN ON A NEW LOOK! WE ARE UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT AND WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK. PLEASE CONTACT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF KAIA HEMMING, AN ADVISOR, OR WRITE A "LETTER TO THE EDITOR." WE HOPE YOU LIKE OUR NEW LOOK AND THANK YOU FOR READING OUR PAPER!

~THE EDITORIAL AND ADVISING STAFF

More exchange students enroll

By Zach Wilcox and
Mrs. Rebecca Mavencamp
Staff Writer and Advisor

The three new foreign exchange students who recently joined the four currently attending BHS said they have already learned several life lessons in the few weeks since their arrival.

For Maria Norbrega of Brazil, the hardest thing right now is learning English well enough to hold a lengthy conversation with someone without feeling overly stressed.

"I can usually understand, but can't always say things right-I'm learning though," said Norbrega. "When I arrived I could speak English but not everything I wanted to say, so it's hard. Sometimes I can't explain so I sit and say nothing."

Similarly, Juan Lathrop of Chile chose America over Australia or Germany because he wanted to learn English better, but also so he could discover a new culture, which has surprised him.

"I was nervous about coming since it would be all different from home-I was afraid," said Lathrop. "But the students here are very nice and it's been easy to make friends."

Dina Mauelane came to Buffalo from Blooming Prairie, her first stop off her airplane from her home in Switzerland.

"I wanted to stay in a bigger town nearer to the city and Blooming Prairie was so small and cliquey-I didn't like it," said Mauelane. "Buffalo is better."

The exchange students all come from large cities, so trying to adjust to rural Buffalo has proved a difficult task. Nobody told them their new American neighbors would be cornfields.

"People don't know what America is like--it's not just movie stars and big cities, that's what you have to realize before you go," said Mauelane. "I needed to think differently about the country, rather than relying on what I saw on TV, which is usually California, Florida, and New York, big cities with no farms."

There have been pleasant surprises for the students as well, including less homework, friendly people, and a community atmosphere both in school and out of school.

"The schools are bad in Chile, but the country is poor which makes

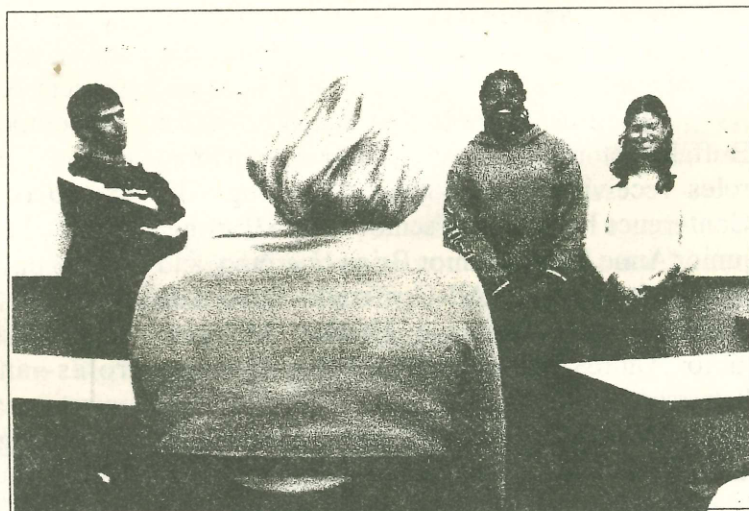


Photo by Mrs. Rebecca Mavencamp

Juan Lathrop, Dina Mauelane, and Maria Norbrega, the newest foreign exchange students at BHS, introduced themselves at the latest International Club meeting.

the education bad, especially in the public schools," said Lathrop, who usually attends a private school. "The schools here surprised me-they're big-but that's because America is a rich country."

With only a couple months left of their stay, the students are glad they came, but eager to go home to family and friends.

"My parents said that it was a good idea [to come] because they couldn't do this [when they were young], so when I decided to go, they said, 'good, it will help you to see a different life,'" said Norbrega. "It's good for me to be on my own-it's always good to have to be independent and have freedom to make choices."

Teen Court organized, volunteer jurors needed

By Nick Ehrenberg and
Kaia Hemming
Staff Writer and EIC

BHS and Wright County are taking part in a new experiment by creating a "Teen Court."

When a minor commits a misdemeanor they usually go to Juvenile Court for sentencing. In a few months they will have the alternative of getting tried in the Teen Court for first time offenses and misdemeanors.

If minors choose Teen Court, they

immediately plead guilty to all charges. A jury of 12 high school aged students from Wright County, under the supervision of lawyers and a judge will decide their sentence.

Junior Andrea Ladda is one of the leaders of the Teen Court Council and is working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award.

"The Teen Court is a new program for Wright County. It can produce sentences anywhere from payable fines to community service hours," said Ladda.

For example, if a

student is caught shoplifting a CD from Wal-Mart, he or she could choose to go to Teen Court and plead guilty. The likely sentence from the jury would be paying for the CD and doing five hours of community service.

"We want to show the teens of Wright County that if they break the law they will be punished by fellow students if they choose to do so," said Ladda.

Because all schools in Wright County are involved in this, a juror

would never be sentencing a peer from his or her own school.

"Overall, the Teen Court will be a good start towards anyone's career even if they're not interested in becoming a lawyer," said Ladda.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the Teen Court can contact Andrea Ladda or Nathan Miller at 682-7712.

Requirements for jurors include having no criminal record and being enrolled in a Wright County highschool. Between 80-100 students will be selected for the Court.

Mock trial argues its way to number one

By Marie LeVoir

Staff Writer

"Objection, your honor!" said junior Anne Wetter. "Badgering the witness." Sustained. Please rephrase your question," replied the judge.

Another point scored for the BHS mock trial team! Many such objections were won in the team's astounding North Suburban Conference championship win over Monticello on January 25.

The final score in that match up was a Buffalo victory with 99 of 110 points, with three roles receiving perfect tens. Earning All-Conference honors were senior Laurie Burling, junior Anne Wetter, junior Brian Voerding, and junior Matt Cooper. All-Conference honorable mentions were freshman Heather Milligan, junior Andrea Ladda, and freshman Christine Patterson.

At regional competitions February 3 and 12, the mock trial team was victorious again. The competitions were held at the Hennepin County courthouse to give the impression of a real court case.

"It's really fun to win," said freshman

Heather Milligan. "Especially when we know we deserve it."

What is mock trial anyway? To make a long explanation short, it's a competitive, replicated court case. Teams must know and argue both sides of the case since they never know which side they will present until they arrive at the competition.

There are 10 members on each team--four lawyers, three prosecution witnesses, and three defense witnesses. Each participant has two roles--answering/asking questions to help their team's side of the case and answering questions that don't support their side (for witnesses) or cross examining the other team's witnesses (attorneys).

This year's mock trial case focuses on a asthmatic child who had an attack while at her day care center, evidently caused by cigarette

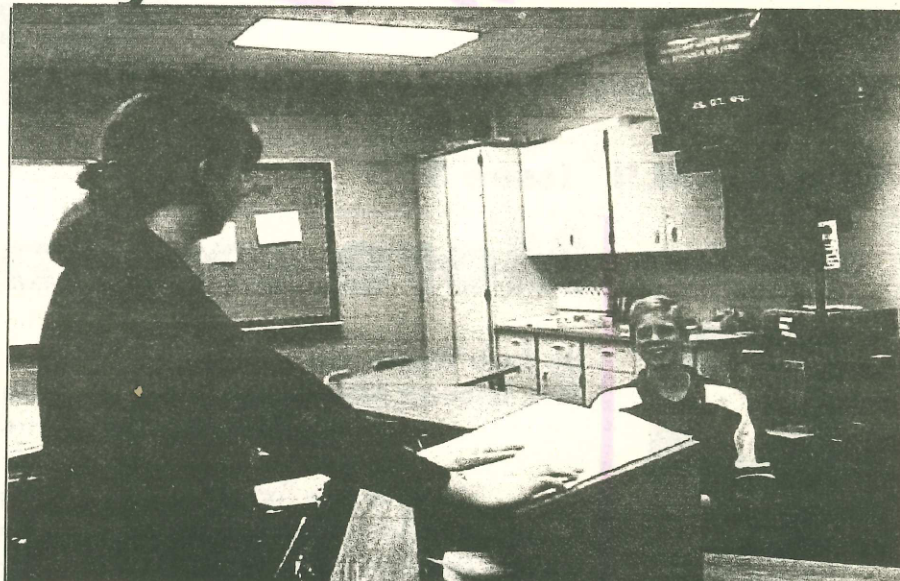


Photo by Shanda Lindell
Junior Anne Wetter is cross examining sophomore Nick Milligan during a recent practice.

smoke. The group must decide who is responsible.

"Mock trial is an opportunity to explore real life," said sophomore Nick Milligan. "I have learned how to think on my feet and respond quickly in difficult situations (not to mention that everything is funnier in court, so it also taught me how to keep a straight face in awkward situations)."

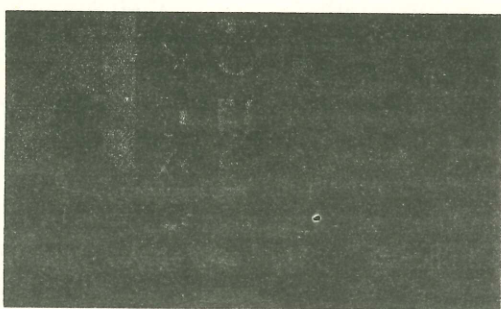
Germany "reunited" in art after 20 years of separation

In 1980 two students completed a summer project that would become an heirloom in the German department at Buffalo High School.

Glen Krause and Dave Nystuen painted wooden models of the coat of arms of each of the

11 West German states. Twenty years later a BHS freshman finally completed the project to include all of Germany.

Freshman John Pavlik painted the remaining five coat of arms from the new East German



Dave Nystuen (left) and Glen Krause posing before the coats-of-arms plaques they designed for the German class.

states this during the month of January.

"I like working on art projects and being creative," said Pavlik.

It took Pavlik two days to draw

the outlines of the plaques and five days to finish painting them.

These coat of arms now hang in the German room in the foreign language pod. They each have a special meaning and add to the culture in the room.

"The completion of this project is symbolic of the struggle that the East German states have to become equal members in an united Germany," said German teacher Frau Michele Strassburg. "It is wonderful that John was willing to share his talent and create such a treasure for this department."

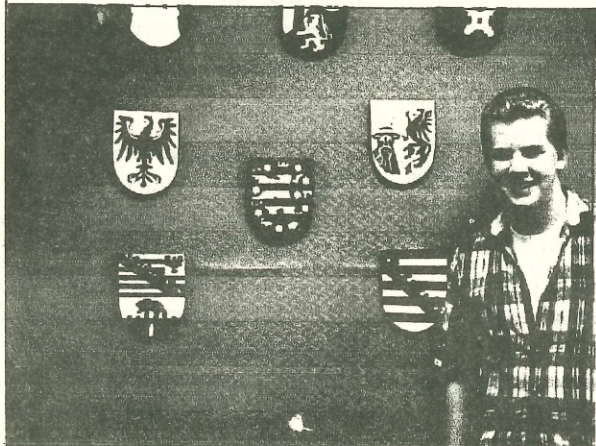


Photo by Jeff Gyllen

Freshman John Pavlik with the coat of arms that he created.

News Briefs VARIETY SHOW

The Tri-M sponsored Variety Show will be held on February 26. Come see students and staff share their talents.

Blood Drive

NHS is sponsoring a blood drive on March 8. If you are at least 17 years old and over 110 pounds you can donate.

BHS Speech Festival

Saturday March 4 at 9 a.m. BHS will be holding a speech festival. Come to see fellow students present their speeches.

COURSE REGISTRATION

Students will be registering for classes for next school year on March 1.

SPRING BREAK

There will be no school Friday March 24 through Friday March 31 due to spring break.

Bison Stampede
877 Bison Blvd.
Buffalo, MN 55313
673-682-8100

www.buffalo.k12.mn.us/stampede

Cameras secure students at BHS

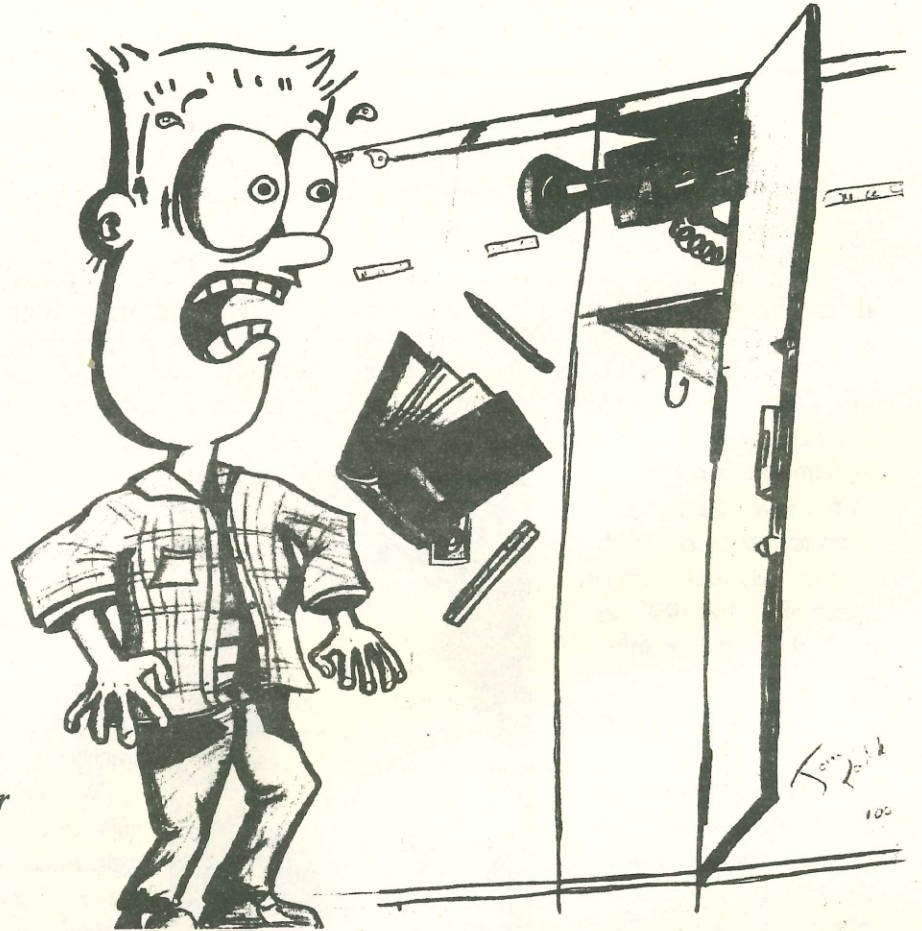
By John Pavlik

Staff Writer

Hey BHS students! How do you feel about the new security cameras in our school? According to our administration, the cameras are for our safety and not for watching us. Although, the camera in the rear parking lot is to watch for student auto vandalism.

According to a recent poll taken of forty students' feelings toward the new cameras, four out of five also students feel that they are being watched. On the other hand, four out of five students want to keep the new camera system we have because it adds a higher level of security.

It shouldn't be a big deal that BHS has security cameras. Everywhere we go there are cameras watching us. When we're in a grocery store or at Wal-Mart, there are cameras watching us. Stop the paranoia! There is no difference between here and the outside world.



Poké-What?

By Amanda Huff

Staff Writer

Pokémon! This phenomenon taking over children's lives is the latest rage with elementary school age children. But, what is it actually teaching them?

Pokémon, a word meaning "pocket monster," is a game/TV show targeted towards kids six to 12 years old. (Although, older kids have indulged as well.) But, what is Pokémon really? What is the underlying message behind adorable, little Pikachú? GREED! Pokémon teaches kids to covet. (Covet: to desire eagerly, especially something belonging to another person.)

In the show, the main character "Ash" is on a quest to become a Pokémon Master. He wants to possess all the Pokémon he can capture. (Sounds a little more like modern day slavery!) But, Ash is never content; he is always after more. The Pokémon logo "Gotta catch 'em all" is very tricky. It is telling kids you can't stop until you have everything. It teaches kids that their possessions need to always be bigger and better than their fellow students. They need to try to surpass their friends constantly and their battling goes back and forth with no end in sight!

Pokémon may teach kids to possess, but frankly it's that kids that are possessed. Pokémon possesses them! The main attraction is the cards! Shinders (a store that sells collectible cards) carries Pokémon cards ranging in price from 12 cents to \$80. Most stores carry the basic card packs for about three bucks and they simply fly off the shelves as soon as they're stocked! For example, my four younger siblings together have collected 1460 cards and they are STILL working on getting more!

But, beyond the cards, it is also a sub-culture. My youngest brother (almost 11) changes practically anything you say into something about Pokémon! At my sister's last birthday party...guess what the theme was? POKÉMON! They played Pokémon cakewalk and even wiped their mouths with Pokémon napkins. Now, it's not just MY family obsessed with Pokémon. I've talked to about a dozen other kids and found that they were just as obsessed with Pokémon. Everything they own is Pokémon: notebooks, Band-Aids, bed sheets, t-shirts, breakfast cereal, and yes even UNDERWEAR!

The message of the Pokemon is now splashed across every single aspect of our lives. Stores, manufacturers, and restaurants are standing ready to feed the Pokemon addiction! They too, have learned the Pokemon creed of greed, "Gotta catch 'em all!"

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THE GIFT OF L

THE LONG WAY HOME

By Kaia Hemming

Editor-in-Chief

Imagine the anticipation of waiting nine months for a baby; and then once nine months rolls around, being told to wait two more months.

English teacher, Mrs. Leanne Turnquist and her husband, Mr. Tim Turnquist are in the process of adopting a baby girl named Lillian "Lilly" Carmen Turnquist from Guatemala. The name Lilly came from Turnquist's grandmother's name.

Carmen was the name given to her by her birth mother. Lilly was born on September 19, 1999 so she is about five months old.

Deciding to adopt came in part from Turnquist's experience in third world countries. Since college, Turnquist has spent time in the Philippines, Tanzania, East African, and Guatemala.

"Going someplace and seeing children with distended stomachs and living with barely a scrap of clothing on their back, and seeing parents trying to do the best they can, but not being able to provide much for the...It changed my life," said Turnquist.

Over the past Thanksgiving the Turnquist's traveled to Guatemala to see Lilly. Being able to travel back to Guatemala with Lilly was a large part of the reason why they chose to adopt from there. Traveling back to Guatemala on mission trips when Lilly is older is also very important to them. While they were there they wanted to see her birth country and learn more about the culture. They also did some sightseeing and hit the tourist attractions.

Seeing Lilly was a surreal experience for the Turnquist's.

"We spent a lot of time sitting in awe...thinking, is she really ours? It didn't really feel like she was ours. At the time, it felt more like we were visiting someone else's baby," said Turnquist.

Turnquist said the best thing they did to prepare for their trip was the letter they wrote to Lilly's foster mother. The Turnquist's also took along some gifts to make the adjustment from Guatemala to the Turnquist's home a little smoother.

They tape-recorded their voices, read some books, sang some songs, and had some conversations on tape so Lilly would get familiar with their voices. They also brought a tape-recorder and some tapes as a gift for the foster family so they'd be able to record themselves so Lilly would be able to hear familiar voices once she came to her new home. There were also two special matching teddy bears. One was brought to

Guatemala for Lilly so she'd get used to the scent of her new parents and then stay with the foster family. Then the other one would be waiting for Lilly at her new home in Minneapolis so she would have another familiar object greeting her.

"It's going to be very traumatic, horribly traumatic," said Turnquist. "She's going to be leaving everything she's ever known. Even though she'll be only eight months, it's still all the sights, sounds, smells, and everything she's familiar with...and they'll be gone for no reason. It'll be traumatic for her, and we'll do everything we can to make it less traumatic."

Keeping Lilly's culture and ethnicity alive is important to the Turnquist's since their family celebrates mostly with German traditions.

"We are trying to learn about different Guatemalan ways of celebrating holidays, and we'll try to incorporate those traditions into ours here and there. We're still learning a lot," said Turnquist.

As with most international adoptions Lilly will be adopted into an interracial family.

"Most of my concerns for her as she grows up revolve around the race issue, especially since she'll be in an all-white family," said Turnquist. "I really worry about the day kids start making fun of her because of her race."

The Turnquist's receive monthly updates with pictures and medical information like head circumference, length, and weight.

"It's hard to watch her change in the pictures. I love to get the pictures of her, but it's also hard to see her growing up," said Turnquist.

Originally they thought they'd be getting Lilly in February or March 2000. But, then it was extended to April, and now it has been moved to May, and it could be extended to June. They don't know for sure and have spent a lot of time waiting since November 1998 when they submitted their first application to Children's Home Society.

"The waiting...the waiting is agonizing," said Turnquist.

Turnquist looks at adopting a child no differently than if she were pregnant and giving birth to a baby.

"People will ask me, 'Well, do you want to have children of your own?' Well, Lilly is going to be our own whether I gave birth to her or not. It's hard for us to hear that, and it's hard for adopted children to hear that too because it's a reminder that they're different," said Turnquist.

From now until May the Turnquist's will be anxiously awaiting the moment when they can go to Guatemala and get their daughter, Lilly.



Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Leanne Turnquist

Lilly Carmen Turnquist is almost five months old and they are expecting her in May from Guatemala.

STUDENTS AND STAFF AT BHS S

By Thomas Smolensky and Jeffrey Gyllen

Staff Writers

There is a season for change and a season for love, many people are seeing the love in adoption. There are quite a few adopted students and faculty at BHS. Local families adopt children through special adoption agencies such as Lutheran Social Services and Children's Home Society. However, adoption is not a quick and easy process. Parents sometimes have to wait over a year to see their adopted child.

Are these children's lives different as they mature, especially if one considers some of these children may be of an ethnic race that is not well, or at all, represented in their community?

Apparently most don't feel any different because they are adopted. Why should they? They go through life the same as any other child. They have mothers; fathers and siblings like the rest of us. However, most know little or nothing about their birth parents. Although some agencies allow letters to be put into adopted children's files, it is unlikely the child will ever find their birth parents.

Guidance counselor Mrs. Mary Lynn Leff was adopted through Lutheran Social Services when she was three months old. She says that she did not feel different than anybody else as she went through high school, but she did dwell on it. Leff said she would like to try to contact her birthmother, and have a friendship with her. French teacher, Madame Jennifer Johnson was also adopted.

through Lutheran Social Services when she was three months old. She thinks that adoption sometimes thinks about what life would be like if she

- Adoptions can cost \$10,000.
- More than three-quarters of all possible children are girls.
- You almost always have to wait a long time in a country where it is illegal to adopt.
- They must go through a long process before they can become an adopted child.

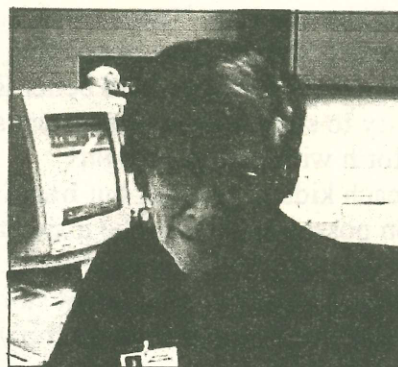
adopted.

Johnson.

Johnson had recently read about a biological mother, who has been seeking her daughter. She says that she has sent a letter to her birthmother.

"I want to ease into this. I want to be someone who shares my DNA with a stranger," said Johnson.

Her family doesn't cons



Mrs. Mary Lynn Leff, Guidance Counselor



Madame Jennifer Johnson, French Teacher

Positive and Negative Terms to avoid:

REAL PARENT
OWN CHILD
ADOPTED CHILD
ILLEGITIMATE
GIVE UP
GIVE AWAY
TO KEEP
ADOPTIVE PARENT
TRACK DOWN PARENTS
REAL, NATURAL CHILDREN,
CHILDREN OF YOUR OWN

FEATURES

LIFE: ADOPTION

SHARE THEIR ADOPTION STORIES

ces when she was three months
sets anyone apart. She
life would be like if she weren't

child. She would also consider adopting a child of her own.

"If I had a biological clock, I would consider adopting a child of my own," said Johnson.

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through a rigorous screening
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adoptive parent.

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en searching for her since 1984.
tter back and is still awaiting a

to this new relationship because
DNA but is nonetheless a

consider her to be an adopted

any luck.

"I feel very strongly about finding them and would like to try finding them again in the future," said Emery.

Emery thinks children should be told whether they are adopted or not, even if they are of the same race. She also said she would definitely consider adopting a child citing population control issues.

"Adoption is a wonderful concept in that there are families with lots of love to share," said Leff. "The needs of the child and the needs of the parent come together in a wonderful union."

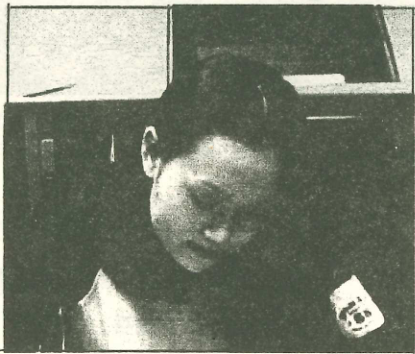
Freshman Emily Squadroni was adopted within one year of birth from Korea. Squadroni never really thinks about her birth mother, but heard that she chose a career over having children. She has two brothers and sisters that were not adopted. She knew right from the start that she was adopted. She thinks it's wrong if parents don't tell their kids they are adopted because they have a right to know.

"It's kind of cool," said Squadroni. "because you always have this mystery."

Junior Kim Emery was adopted from Korea as a child through an adoption agency. She thinks that adoption is a "good deal." She tried to find her birth parents when her adoptive family took a trip to Korea, but they didn't have



Emily Squadroni,
Freshman



Kim Emery, Junior

Adoptive Adoption Terms

Preferred terminology

BIRTH PARENT
BIRTH CHILD
MY CHILD
BORN TO SINGLE PARENTS
TERMINATED PARENTAL RIGHTS
MAKE AN ADOPTION PLAN
TO PARENT
PARENT
SEARCH
BIOLOGICAL CHILDREN

GROWING UP ADOPTED

By Kaia Hemming

Editor-in-Chief

When you look at me, you won't see your stereotypical BHS student. Since I'm Korean and there's not a high population of minorities in Buffalo I sort of stick out. I am going to walk you through my life as a Korean-American adopted child growing up. In my experience many people don't understand adoption or what it's like to be adopted or to be a minority. People usually also aren't sure as to whether asking questions would offend or make you uncomfortable. My story is just one of many, all unique.

I am Korean and I was adopted at age one and a half from Kang-Won-Do, Korea, which is near Seoul. I have minimal information on my birth mother, her name and age when she gave birth to me. Her husband was killed in a train accident at age 32 in 1978. The death of her husband led to severe mental health problems and eventually a nervous breakdown. She became pregnant with me, but was unsure of who the father was. My maternal grandparents helped take care of me, but they were in extremely poor financial conditions. Then my grandfather died and that put the family in even worse financial conditions. My birth mother's mental health never improved because she never received any treatment because they couldn't afford any. My grandmother was also aging rapidly from the strenuous situation, and they couldn't raise me any longer. Therefore, they turned to adoption. I went into foster care and shortly after was adopted to my parents.

As I grew older I knew I was adopted. I don't remember ever asking my parents why I looked different from them. I always knew I was Korean. Growing up I never really thought much about my family being interracial, since both my parents are white and I'm an only child. Although my family has a strong Norwegian background and I'm the only minority in the family, I've never felt out of place being Korean.

I never encountered too many problems once I hit school either. There were a few incidents though. I remember being called racial slurs many times. It never really hurt my feelings at the time; I would laugh it off because I didn't understand how much they were actually hurting me. I was called everything from "flat-face" to "Chinese" and kids would ask, "Did you walk into a pole or something?" One time, in about fifth grade I remember how sick I got of one kid in particular calling me "flat-face" so I "tattled" and told one of my teachers and then I went to the principal. To make things worse, I was going through my ugly stage like most kids do as they grow up. I had glasses, braces, and on top of that I was a "flat-face." I told the principal about it and he told me he'd talk

to the individual. The person didn't get into any serious trouble other than being by other students for being "called down to the office." As my memory serves me, that person didn't get more than a "slap-on-the-wrist-don't-do-it-again" otherwise they'd get the infamous "pink slip." I don't know if that person ever learned from that or not, or if they even still remember it. But, I know I'll never forget it. In junior high I thought things would be different because we were becoming teenagers, becoming more mature but I still got called names. I was told to "Go back to China, go back to your own country."

Sometimes I wonder if growing up in a more diverse community would have lessened the comments from people about my race. Because, growing up in a mostly white, middle-class, suburban area has been interesting for the most part. There is such a lack of ethnic diversity in our schools. Being around mostly Caucasian people had made it easy for me to remember I'm Asian. However, at the same time it has been easy to forget my ethnicity and culture because there is such a low population of minorities in our school. I've also been lucky to have friends that aren't bothered by my race, but whenever I look at pictures of us I'm usually the only one with dark skin and black hair. Even now as a young adult I'm still self-conscious of my ethnicity. It's also an interesting thought for me how as a minority I'm one the most racially diverse person that I know because I've grown up in a community with such a low population of minorities. Sometimes it will enter my mind; "Do people not like me because I'm Asian?" And, I guess it's hard to understand that until you are placed in a situation where you become the minority, and not necessarily always in the case of race.

People always ask me, "Do you ever want to go back to Korea and find your real parents?" I don't usually think about it too much. I have parents; I don't know any other parents. I think of my parents as just that, MY parents. But, it might be interesting to go to Korea sometime when I'm ready and see the country where I was born and spent a short part of my life in. I look at it two ways: I would discover a new meaning to life and how thankful I am for being adopted and having a different opportunity for life. I would also be distraught over the kind of life I might have lived had I not been adopted.

So, for now, I'm content with my life. I don't see a need to search for any unanswered questions in my life as an adopted-child. Adoption is a meaningful thing and it's unique. I have felt different sometimes, but not necessarily in a "bad" way. If life you can't always decide how it goes. You are given gifts and you must use them and understand them. You can't change what has happened, but you can live with it and learn from it.

BHS Athlete chooses future over present

By Sam Pokorney

As the seasons change from winter to spring, most athletes at BHS are simply going to put down the balls, sticks, or skis and begin their spring sports as they would any other year. But this season is different for BHS junior James Martin.

This year, instead of finishing the season with the Bison, Martin will begin the second half of the season in Omaha, Nebraska with a Junior Pro Hockey team named The Lancers.

As of the beginning of third quarter here at BHS, Martin has been living with a host family in Omaha, going to school there, and playing hockey. He even changed legal guardians.

Though it seems like Martin wanted to get out of Buffalo as fast as possible, that is not the case.

"My decision to leave Buffalo did not have anything at all to do with the coaches here, school personnel, or team members," said Martin. "It is just such a great opportunity for me. It has always been a dream of mine to do this. It is simply a great personal opportunity."

Martin is playing Juniors mainly because he thinks that with this organization he has a much better chance to make a Division One college hockey program and maybe someday play professional hockey somewhere.

"The level of play there is simply so much higher that it will improve my game immensely, so that will help my chances of going division one as well," said Martin.

Sports Editor hockey. Last fall, Martin was one of the leading running backs for football in the North

Suburban Conference and last spring, he was rapidly becoming a track star for the school as well.

"I feel horrible about letting down the people on those teams," Martin said. "It's not easy. I know how much they were counting on me. I looked at it from the angle of what sport I wanted to peruse, and it was hockey. I loved football, but it's not something I want to do beyond High School."

Football is one thing, but Martin also left the BHS Varsity hockey team in the middle

of their season. This gave the team the feeling that he owed them the rest of the year, although they managed to quickly overcome their resentful feelings.

"The day we found out, we were all kind of mad at him," said senior Brady Borkoski. "But that night we talked about it and seemed to come together as a team and it has helped."

Even though Martin will be gone for the rest of this school year, he will return to Buffalo this summer. He has the option of staying here next year, although he can only play hockey.

"I will miss the social stuff here a lot," said Martin. "I am looking forward to playing in Omaha, but will miss Buffalo quite a bit, and thank



Photo by Kathy Garvey

The early season exit of Martin (4) shocked the Bison, but they overcame it to have a solid season.

Girls basketball team has strong season of team building, winning

By Shannon Varhol and Jessica Rich

Staff Writers

Imagine it's the season finals with two seconds left on the clock. The ball is passed in and the clock starts. The ball goes to the shooter, and suddenly the entire game is in her hands.

This year there are 14 girls on the Varsity Basketball team, a little more than usually play in every game.

"Fourteen is a pretty good number," said first year head coach Chris Gmach. "We average playing about 11-12 people per game."

The team is made up of sophomores, juniors, and seniors; there is one freshman, Bridget Weber.

"It does get hard sometimes because everyone is older than me," said Weber. The coach pushes me harder than the other girls but that's okay because it pays off."

The team bonds outside of school by

volunteering at the Humane Society walking and bathing dogs, and over the holidays they got together to bake cookies and go caroling.

"They all get along wonderfully," said Gmach. "The older girls on the team kind of act as leaders for the younger girls."

So far the girls this year have improved after every game.

"Having practice everyday after school does get to be a bit strenuous, especially during finals," said junior Jolene Brager.

The practice is improving each player's individual skills as well as their team cooperation and understanding of each other.

"I think we play better as a team since the season began," said Gmach. "We are executing our offense better and we've got a few girls who do contribute a lot. Hopefully we can finish the season off at the top of our conference and do well in sections. It's been a fun first year as coach and I've enjoyed all the cooperation by everyone."

Due to diversity issues, the student athlete spotlight will no longer run. Our apologies.
-Bison Stampede staff


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SPORTS TALK With Sam Pokorney

-SPORTS EDITOR

Yet another view on
the world of sports



To the readers:

Until this point, all of my monthly column pieces have pertained mainly to sports, which is okay, but there's that little thing called life that can sometimes get in the way. More importantly than that, even, is the aspect of losing your life.

We have seen that this year in the sports world on a national level with Wilt Chamberlain and Joe Dimaggio, and on a local level with the sudden passing of Mr. Pat Sonju. After all of that, there is one story that I would like to share with you. A story about both life and death, and how at any given moment, they can be joyous and painful.

A great man died last month. I knew him. I knew him pretty well, but not all that well. He was a friend of my parent's. They played cards together back in the 80's, and now see each other around town or church every once in a while. He was 44 years of age when he passed. He left behind a wife and three boys. His name was Joe Lenczewski, or "Big Joe," as just about everyone seemed to call him.

Joe was always around his kids. He was at their games, contests, concerts, exhibitions, and activities. That's the way I got to know him better. He always coached his boys' baseball teams, so when I would umpire their games, we would talk. It could

range from just saying "Hi" as he walked out to the third base coaches box, or discussing what classes his boys or I were taking and giving the Pro's and Con's of the courses for the better part of an hour.

Another great thing about Joe was that he was from the old school. He always wore Converse Chuck Taylor original All-Stars, and had the biggest smile and handshake waiting for you every time you saw him. Big Joe was one of those guys who you just never wanted to stop talking to. He really was like a big teddy bear.

Joe was a role model. If I could pick a person to be like, I would definitely want to be like Joe. A loving father, husband, and

friend. Always there to greet you with a big smile. he was one of those guys who could turn your day from dark to bright if you shared just a sentence with. I don't understand why Big Joe is gone, but that's okay, because he will never be forgotten by anybody who knew him in the slightest.

Maybe you knew Joe, maybe you didn't, but the bottom line is to act out and live your dreams everyday of your life. Have no fear. Go out and live every day like it is your last. Think about things before you do them. Be nice to people. In life as opposed to sports, you don't get many second chances, so live it to the fullest before it's to late. If you don't, you will regret it.

Young gymnasts propel team purple to victory, build team spirit despite injuries, setbacks, plan summer

Megan Gauthier

Staffwriter

In a flash of sparkles and purple, senior Erika Miller sprinted down the runway past her cheering teammates. Leaping onto the springboard, she launched herself, twisting, through the air toward the horse. Pushing off and twisting again, her feet landed solidly on the blue mat and she saluted the judges with a big smile.

This was the scene on Friday, February 4 at the Bison's last home gymnastics meet of this season. For Miller, the lone senior, it was the last regular home meet of her high school career.

"It's been a great year," said Miller. "Our team has definitely gotten better throughout the season. We've learned the value of teamwork and being there for your team. Competing has given me confidence and been a lot of fun," said Miller.

It was the Bison's biggest win of the season and the JV's highest team score. In fact, the Buffalo JV beat the opposing Spring Lake Park's varsity team by 8.225 points: 103.575 to 111.8. Spring Lake Park's JV tallied a 50.3 with a limited team size, and Buffalo's varsity earned

a 122.875.

The meet started out well and continued to improved from there.

"Bars was a little rough on the edges," said freshman Dani Bauer. "But we picked ourselves back up, beam and floor were good."

Part of the reason this happened was the confidence level.

"We went in with a good attitude, which allowed the scores to keep going up," said junior co-captain Nichol Otten.

Junior Susannha Zitir was a wonderful example of the positive attitude. After a nasty fall on the beam, she got back up and finished her routine confidently and with a smile.

"I knew that I needed to get up and finish my routine, not only for myself, but also to be a team player," said Zitir.

There were several setbacks throughout the season before this point was reached. The season began with a lack of routines and commitment. Some of the younger girls didn't seem to realize the commitment required for high school sports, but that has steadily improved as the season has progressed.

Injuries and illnesses were another problem. It has been tough dealing with freshman Tia Sandusky's and junior co-captain

Darcy Belcourt's ankle problems, junior Kelly Horntvedt's stress fractures in her arm, sophomore Stacy Fitting's torn ACL, and an assortment of colds, the flu, aches, pains, and shin splints. Practices and meets had to be missed or sat out, and that had an effect on the team's morale and skill level.

"All the injuries and illnesses have had a negative impact, said sophomore Haley Stallmo. "When people aren't there, everybody loses."

The sick or hurt gymnasts agree.

"It's very hard to sit and watch," said eighth grader Chelsie Tapio, who recently recovered from a case of mono. "I really wanted to compete in all of the meets, but I was always so tired."

Despite all of the problems, there were a lot of high points. Everybody had a lot of fun and improved throughout the season. Some of the older team members even got a chance to judge at a middle school meet.

Currently, the girls are looking forward to their banquet and next year's season. In addition, they're excited about the plans to practice together this summer, strengthening both their gymnastics skills and their friendships.



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Take off with Doolittle's Air Café

By Melissa Gudvangen and Danielle Erickson
Staff Writers

Travel back in time to the roaring Twenties, where swing dancing was all the rage, and the promotion of the American lifestyle was in full throttle. Traveling by air had just taken off but Doolittle's Air Café wouldn't take off for another 80 years. And now, 80 years later, Doolittle's Air Café has finally landed.

OK, so maybe aviation isn't your type of thing but when you walk into this place you will definitely be amazed. You're greeted by a staggering display of 1920's technology, the progression of aviation. If you call ahead you will only wait 5-10 minutes. They have a wide variety of beverages to choose from, including soft drinks, non-alcoholic drinks, and basic choices of milk, coffee, and juices. After we received our drinks we ordered our appetizer-- mozzarella sticks. They came quickly with an excellent marinara sauce.

We ordered a bacon cheeseburger with waffle fries and seasoned sour cream sauce, and fettuccine alfredo with chicken. They offered a wide variety of foods from steak and seafood to burgers and sandwiches.

Our food arrived a speedy 20 minutes later. As we started to eat, the flavor and quality of the food overwhelmed us. The burger was huge and juicy--the perfect American burger. While the fettuccine was tangy, with a smooth zesty sauce it was also a very large portion. Halfway through the meal we realized we should have asked for a doggy bag ahead of time.

After the immense amount of time it took us to eat half of our enormous meal, we decided to converse with the dining patrons. The comments that we received were generally good, the quality of the food, the service, was excellent. There were many comments on one particular subject: the interesting sounds coming from the bathroom, which isn't anything abnormal, just airplane noises.

Even though we were incredibly full, we went back to our table and ordered dessert. That was the best hot fudge sundae we have ever had.

After finishing our sensational sundae we decided to burn off some calories by swing dancing to "Sing, Sing, Sing." By this time we attracted the attention of everybody in the dining area, which was cool!

Overall we had no complaints. The prices were reasonable, there was a wide variety of foods to choose from, and the service was great. We would definitely recommend Doolittle's to anyone else, especially for prom.

We gave this casual yet formal restaurant a five star rating and will gladly promote this place. Swing dancing optional.

Doolittle's Air Café is located right off of Highway 55 in Plymouth by Mann's Cinema. It is open from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday-Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. on Sunday.

Review of Angela's Ashes

By Nathalie Miller
Staff Writer

"When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I managed to survive at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood; the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood."

From the very beginning, Frank McCourt entices his readers into his memoir, *Angela's Ashes*. Raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland during the 1940's, McCourt experienced poverty, death, disease, and abuse. However, using his sense of humor, McCourt retrieves love and dignity from his childhood of hunger, loss, and pain.

One of the most important themes in the

story is McCourt's love of literature. He attends boys' school where the teachers beat them.

"They hit you if you can't add 19 to 47, they hit

you can't say the Hail Mary in Irish, if you can't ask for the lavatory pass in Irish."

However, one teacher instilled a love of great authors in young McCourt that helps him through life's trials.

Wonderfully written, *Angela's Ashes* is a joy to read. Despite McCourt's depressing life, the book is uplifting and teaches readers to be thankful for what they have. Using description and imagery, McCourt vividly portrays his family, their

home, his school, and the events that changed his life. 'Tis, the sequel to *Angela's Ashes* is also a phenomenal book. It continues the story of Frank's life in America.



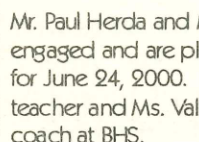
Angela's Ashes
By: Frank McCourt
\$14.00 Paperback
4 stars/5 stars

you if you can't subtract 19 from 47, if you don't know the chief towns and products of the 32 counties of Ireland . . . they hit you if you can't say your name in Irish, if

ENGAGEMENTS



Ms. Marit Johnson and Mr. Justin Gaspar are planning a wedding for May 13, 2000. Ms. Johnson is a math teacher here at BHS.



Mr. Paul Herda and Ms. Paula Valli are engaged and are planning a wedding for June 24, 2000. Mr. Herda is an art teacher and Ms. Valli is the cheerleading coach at BHS.

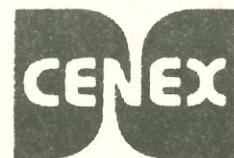


Mr. Nick Guida and Ms. Michelle Leiser are planning a wedding for July 29, 2000. Mr. Guida is a physical education teacher at BHS.

WHO ARE THEY NOW?



Above are high school pictures of present teachers at BHS. If you think you know who they are, write your name, grade and answers on a piece of paper and drop it in the box in the office. We will select a winner on March 1st, 2000 and he/she will win a prize. Act fast, and good luck!



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