

Our Mission:
To entertain, to
enlighten, to inform

Stampede

877 Bison Boulevard
Buffalo, MN 55313

In memory of Mr. Pat Sonju

By Ms. Laura Barta
*Community Partnerships
and Communications
Coordinator for District
#877/Guest Writer*

Pat Sonju was born on October 8, to Lyndon and Marrilee Sonju. Pat grew up in Monticello, graduated from high school and went onto college at Concordia University in Moorhead, MN. In his senior year at Concordia, he was Captain of the men's varsity basketball team.

Upon graduation, Sonju landed a teaching job in Norwood-Young America, MN where he gained his first four years of experience as an educator. In August of 1995, he joined the Buffalo High School (BHS) staff, teaching Anatomy and Biology. He was in his fifth year at BHS and

was ready to start his third year as head coach of the boy's basketball team. Pat loved the game of basketball—coaching, playing, watching, or just talking about it. His teams played the way that Pat coached, with all-out effort and enthusiasm.

The number of students' whose lives he touched astounded Nick Miller, Principal at BHS. "I knew he was close with his basketball players, but after this happened, I realized he touched the lives of so many other kids in the school as well. One of the things I found most interesting about Pat was how he volunteered to teach our Horizon courses (Freshman Orientation). He wanted to help young people and was very giving of his time."

Sonju is survived by his

wife Kim and their two children, son Cameron, 3 years old and a daughter, Avery, 4 months old. Sonju came from a long line of educators. His father Lyndon was a principal with the Monticello Schools for 25 years and retired in the spring of 1999. Pat's wife, uncle, brother and other family members are also public school educators. His mother, Merrilee Sonju, who was also a teacher, preceded Pat in death in 1996.

Sonju died on Wednesday morning October 27 at Fairview University Hospital. The cause of death was a tumor on his adrenal gland that ruptured and caused his heart to speed up and it finally gave out. Miller reflected, "He was the picture of health and this is just so tragic. He will be greatly missed."

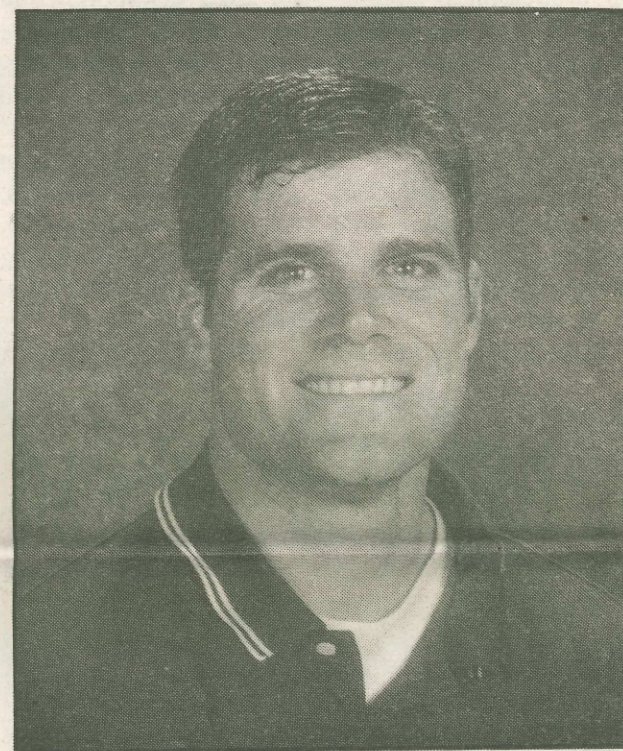


Photo courtesy of Mr. Nick Miller

October 8, 1967-October 27, 1999

Editorials/ Opinions



The "Potty Police"
strike back
page 3

Features



Tribute to Mr. Pat
Sonju
pages 4-5

Sports



Fall sports wrap up
page 6



Photo courtesy of Mr. Matt L. Lubben



Photo by Shanda Lindell

To a teacher

He was a man,
He was a friend,
He was a teacher.

He taught,
And he listened,
Because he was a teacher.

He laughed,
And he cried,
Because he was a teacher.

And as he leaves,
We say "good bye,"
Not because he was a teacher.

But, because he was,
A friend, a father,
A human being...

AND A TEACHER.

From all of the students and staff at
Buffalo High School, because you will always
Hold a special place in our heart Mr. Sonju.

By Ryan Scholenle Grade 11

News

The Bison Stampede

SSU reaches out to younger students

By Raina Wirta

Staff Writer

Students Stepping Up (SSU) is a program designed to identify, train, and support student leaders. "Stepping Up" to be chemically free.

Their mission is to reach out to younger students, their peers, and set an example of how to be positive role models.

"SSU is about giving kids a safe place to hang and avoid the pressures of being a teenager," said SSU advisor Mr. Scott Palmer.

Since last year is (the first

year of SSU) the activities were such a success according to the advisors, they decided to continue again this year. Some of the activities they want to continue are the leadership training in Mankato, (retreats for SSU members), and sponsoring the eighth grade tours of BHS in the spring. They would also like to add new activities.

"We had talked about open gym, volleyball tournaments, helping with the school store, and tailgating at a sporting event," said SSU advisor Mrs. Tracy Hulley.

SSU wants to start a

mentorship program with the middle school and elementary school students. They also want to read to younger students in the district. Many students involved in SSU are interested in mentorship training.

"We really want to pursue the idea of having a mentorship program with younger students because we think it would be a beneficial activity for all students," said senior Mariel Gartner, a board member for SSU.

As a growing organization, SSU is always welcoming new members to be positive role models for their peers.

SSU Executive Council

President: Brady Borkoski

Vice-President: Lindsey Wanbaugh

Secretary: Steve Novacek

Treasury: Melanie Kjesbo

Board Members:

Kaia Hemming

Mariel Gartner

Aaron Squadroni

****SSU meets every other Thursday, if you are interested talk to a member or just come to a meeting.**

Student Spotlight



Photo By Courtney G. Markuson

The seven National Merit Scholars, back row, Aaron Squadroni, Alyssa Bakke, Anna Quady, Pat Mahlberg, front row, Annalee Agresta. Not Pictured, Tim Heisel

National Merit Scholars:

*Annalee Agresta

*Alyssa Bakke

*Beth Betker

*Tim Heisel

*Pat Mahlberg

*Anna Quady

*Aaron Squadroni

Governor's Scholars:

*Jon Voth

*Alyssa Bakke

*Mitch Mattson

T.R.U.T.H. Bible study unifies Christians at BHS

By Jennifer Olson

Staff Writer

Passing by C-108 on Monday morning, there is not the usual group of students with their math books. Instead, a group of students with their Bibles. Their desks are pulled into a circle and most likely heads are bowed in prayer. For forty minutes, these students take time to clear their heads and focus completely on God.

The T.R.U.T.H Bible Study first began three years ago, and since it has doubled in size.

"Students are finding out that there is nothing wrong with what they are doing," said math teacher, Mr. Kevin Schmeling. "The Bible studies are just another avenue outside the church building."

Students attend this study to learn more about the Bible. This group takes time in the morning to pray. The students come to continue to build their relationship with God.

"It's a group of students that want to get together and study the word of God," said senior Miranda Benz.

Each week a student volunteers to organize the next week's Bible study. They choose a topic to be discussed and then construct a lesson around the topic. It can be based upon anything that they feel suitable in helping others to become stronger Christians.

Along with the classroom prayer and Bible study, the group is involved in other activities. "See You at the Pole", a nation

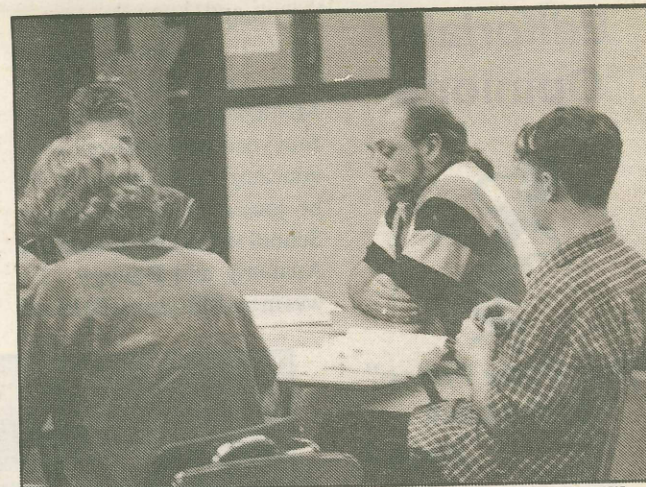


Photo by Zach Wilcox

TRUTH Bible Study participants circle around, John Bogle, youth minister. They listen as he talks about the topic of choice for the weekly Bible study.

wide prayer assembly. "See you at the Pole" is held annually and this year it took place on September 15, 1999.

"Being involved in the bible study and "See You at the Pole" was a good way to meet other Christians in the school," said junior Rachel Starr. "It was great to see the school unified in what they believe."

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The Bison Stampede

Going to the restroom is a basic human right

By Kaia Hemming
Editor-in-Chief

Editor's note: Columbia Heights High School senior Heidi Solarz contributed to this commentary. It will be appearing on the Minnesota Youth News Page of the Star Tribune on November 15, 1999.

Dear Potty Police:

As if school isn't hard enough, for the past 13 years we students have been under your strict guard. Finally, we have decided to take a stand for our rights. Webster defines a right as that to which one has a just and proper claim.

Based on that definition, we ask you: Is going to the restroom a right or a privilege? We believe that the issue of using the restroom falls neatly into Webster's definition of a "right."

Imagine you have resolved to pursue a healthier lifestyle. You're finally going to do what all the health and nutrition books say you ought to do — drink at

least eight glasses of water a day to help flush out the toxins in your body.

You've made your resolution and are living up to it, but there's complication: By increasing the amount of water you drink, you also have increased your need to use the restroom and that was a problem before and has been for years.

I, Kaia Hemming, remember a day back in first grade. It was a regular school day and we were in the computer lab playing Oregon Trail. I needed to go to the restroom. I looked around for my teacher, but she had mysteriously disappeared. The only adult there was the scary computer lab lady, and I knew there was no way she would allow me to go to the restroom. As a result, I wet my pants. What a miserable situation for an innocent little first grader? This example points out one of the injustices in our school society — not being allowed to go to the restroom when you need to and being forced to pee your pants.

Even now as a high school senior Kaia and I, Heidi Solarz,

are intimidated by you, the Potty Police, who force us to wait to go to the restroom until you say it's OK.

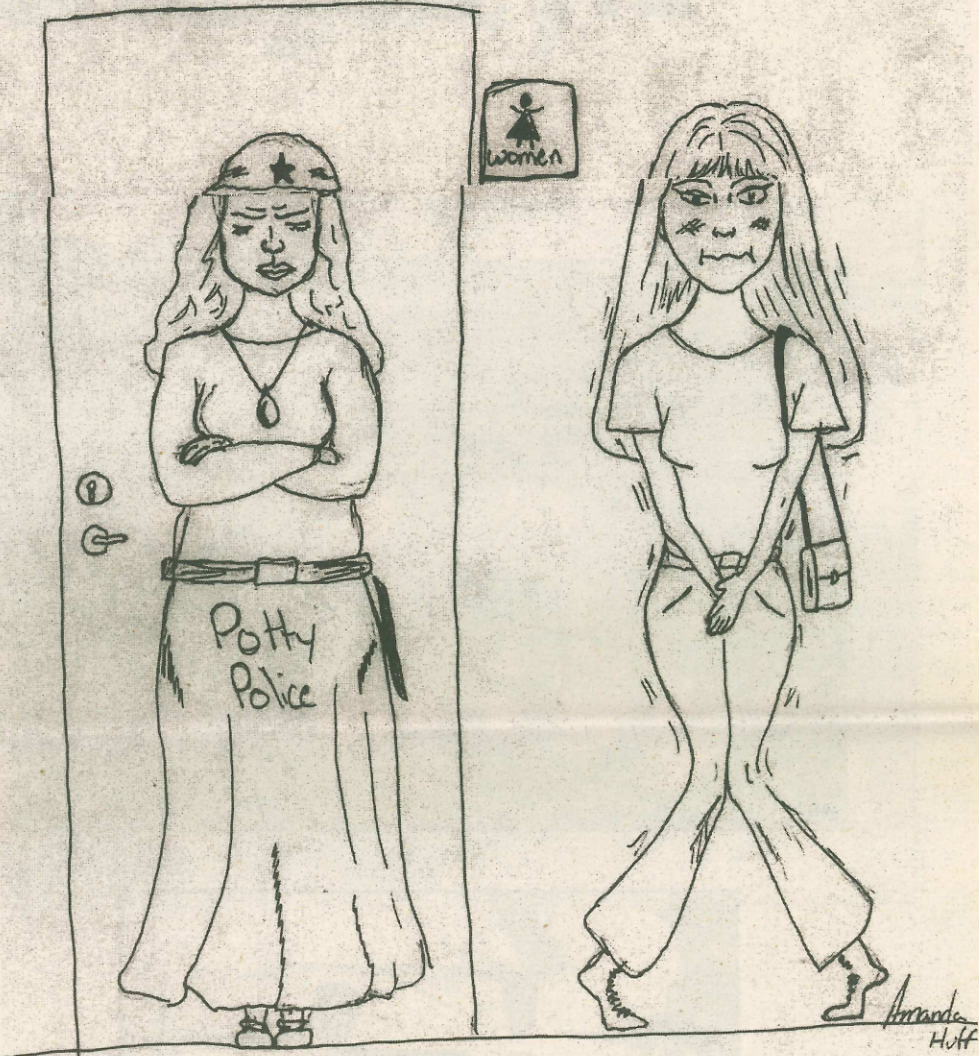
When, according to you, is it OK to go to the restroom? Lunch period and passing time? Yeah, right.

With 30 minutes for lunch, 10 minutes can be spent waiting in line. Then we have 20 minutes to eat, go to the restroom and get back to classes. At BHS, there are 10 minutes between classes — time when you have to go to your locker in another wing, go to the restroom where there's most likely a line and get to class on time. Impossible!

Just try making that work at Columbia Heights High School where the passing time is five minutes.

We find the situation absurd. We high school seniors are almost 18 years of age — nearly legal adults — soon able to vote, to gamble, and to be drafted into the military. Yet we are not allowed to use the restroom as we please.

Signed,
Kaia Hemming
and Heidi Solarz



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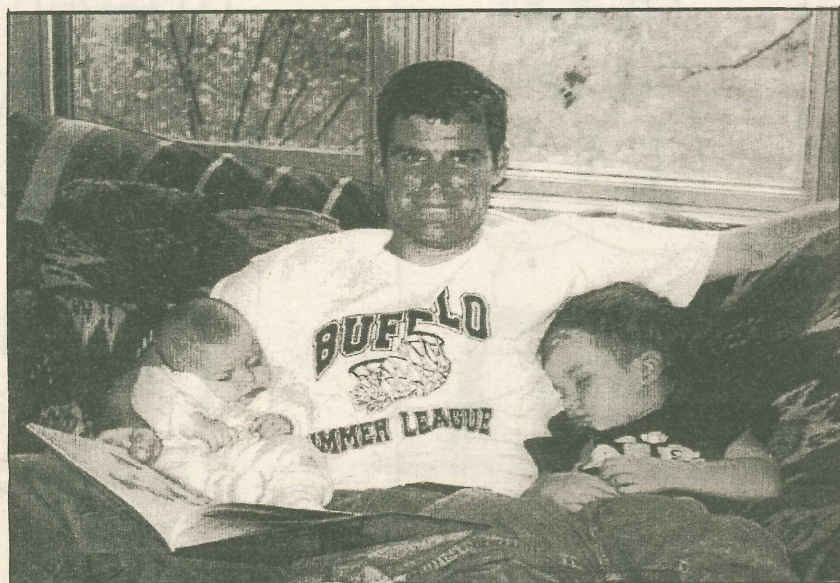
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In celebration of M

Sonju's legacy

By Sam Pokorney



Pride. We all need it to be successful. So and your team to other people. At BHS we attitudes were the 1997-98 and 1998-99 bo

Mr. Sonju was always in a good mood, over the years that he was here. He would at least three times a week, and was a comm to win, but also to be better players and pe

Ever since I met Mr. Sonju five years ago were soaring over me to throw down o of 32.

As I heard the announcement on Wedn my lunch table in tears, I turned to the perso or reversed. All I thought of was that it had h We now need to focus on how Mr. Sonju to and the what.

Who Mr. Sonju was, is simple. He was then came to teach and coach at Central Hi

What Mr. Sonju was is not so simple. I was more than that. He was a friend to all v father who found a medium between family impact he had on me. As it read on the boar will be missed.

Once upon a time the School that everyone to janitors. The teach 32 years old. He loved loved him; the guys r years of teaching he wa death everyone bonde Even the next day was h of hearing about the c painted the rock in m community works. The you don't know, is Mr,

Anthony Schuft
Grade 10

Sonju's life and legacy

memory will not be forgotten

Sports Editor

have a great sense of it. In sports, pride is a huge part of how you represent both yourself and beyond reproach. Two of the Bison teams that had the best sense of pride and the best The main reason for that was head coach Mr. Pat Sonju.

and him that he seemed to pass directly to both his science students and basketball players and camps during the off-season. This was easy for him to do because he played ball with great work ethic, his players soon developed the same drive and determination not only

as a person, teacher, coach, and friend. I cannot believe that the man who just a few weeks ago was one. This man who seemed to almost be physically perfect is now dead at the young age

of 30. I could not move a muscle in my body. I was in complete shock. With the people around me, "What happened?" After a few hours, I realized that it didn't matter why. It cannot be changed. It has been October 27, 1999. That's it. Nobody knows why other than the medical reasoning. It was a heart attack, but with his life. We need not concentrate on the where, how, and why, but the who

who went to school and played basketball for the University of Concordia at Moorhead and Moorhead High School where he lived with his wife and kids.

He could say he was a husband, father, coach, and teacher. But another person could say he was a great husband and father. He was more than just a husband and father he was a great husband and father and an extraordinary teacher. I will miss him immensely, and I will never forget the great man, "Pat Sonju: A good man. A great teacher. A best friend." Goodbye Mr. Sonju. You



also High
students
was only
the girls
ly three
ay of his
station.
fternoon
students
ow a real
bout, if

Someone we loved and lost

He wasn't just a teacher
Or my neighbor
He was my friend

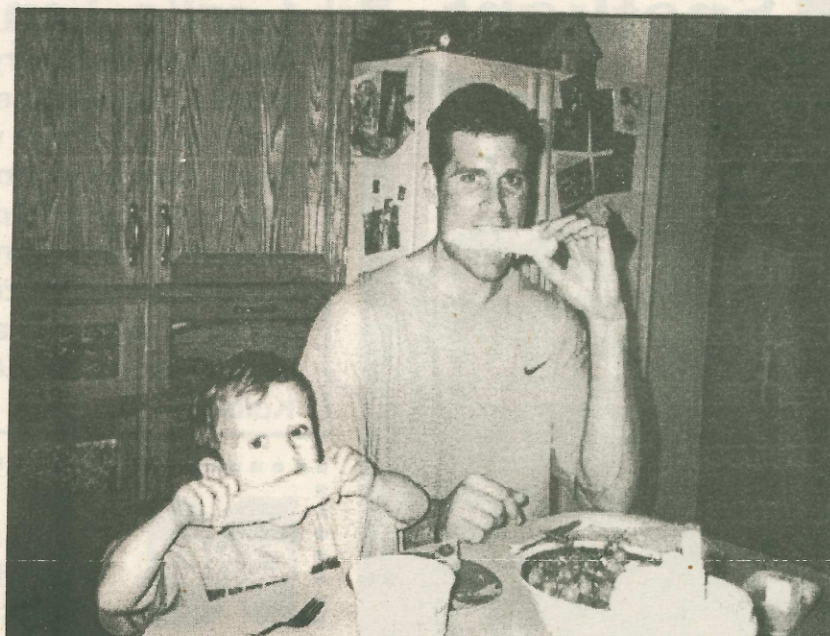
He loved students
And everything that we
stood for

He laughed, he joked
He was Pat Sonju

Even though he's gone
We need to know
He's still here

But now only in our
Memories and heart

Keep him in your hearts
Know he loved you!



November 6, 1999

The Bison Stampede

SPORTS TALK

By Sam Pokorney
-Sports Editor

Hello sports fans, and welcome once again to the rhelm of which I call Sports Talk. My name is Sam and I will be guiding you through another year in sporting with my monthly reports. After my summer break, I am glad to be back and writing my column. What a summer it was too. We had another homer race, the girls played a little soccer, and of course the golf. Let's re-cap shall we?

We will start with the U.S. women's World Cup soccer team's domination over not only opposing teams, but the hearts and souls of people all over the country. Now, I think that their performance can be summed up in a short phrase, "They got game." I will be brutally honest with you all, I do not watch many women's sports regularly, but this one was hard not to. All the emotion and heart that was left on the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, CA after the championship game is something to be in awe of. To the women of that extraordinary team, I tip my cap.

There was yet another largely anticipated and viewed international competition this summer. It was, of course, the Ryder Cup golf tournament. The Ryder Cup (held every two years between the U.S. top twelve golfers and Europe's top twelve) took place this year on

American soil in Brookline, Mass. The three day match play event was well in the hands of the Europeans going into the final day when the United States dominated the matches, clinching the victory with Justin Leonard's 50-foot putt on hole 17 to gain enough points over Jose Maria Olazabal for the U.S. to win. After Leonard made the putt, some members of the team ran out onto the green to celebrate, even though Olazabal had not yet putted his ball. After that display of Patriotism and team unity, the U.S. were deemed to have had bad sportsmanship, thus taking some of the glory out of the biggest comeback in Ryder Cup history. Sorry Europe, you would've done the same thing if you came back like that and did it on a putt like that, so to the U.S. Ryder cup team I congratulate them on a great exhibition of team spirit.

The last of summer's great sports is baseball, and in my mind, it rules all others. I guess after last year, what season would be complete without a homer chase? Though neither McGwire or Sosa topped 70, they were both in the 60's again, and it captured the Nation's attention for the second straight year. But this was not the biggest story of the baseball season, it was the Boston Red Sox flame thrower Pedro Martinez. Martinez, an almost certain AL Cy Young award winner, went 23-4 with a 2.07 ERA and 313 strikeouts with only 37 walks in 213.1 innings pitched. That would get my vote as league MVP if they considered me a "Distinguished member of the

Media". So, to all the boys of summer, I say GOTWINS!

What a magnificent summer of sports, and what a magnificent year of them we have ahead of us. Football, Basketball, Hockey and many many more. And with sports goes Sports Talk, and so I look forward to another great year of comments and opinions, and if you have any suggestions, please feel free to tell me and I will keep them under consideration. I hope you have enjoyed the first installment of my column for 1999-2000, and I hope you will enjoy the rest of them. So, to the readers, I give thanks.

Fall teams wrap-up strong seasons



Photo by Beth Henley

Coaches Chris Gmach and LeRoy Erickson address their players in Cambridge-Isanti.

Girl's Tennis:

The Bison were very tough this season, winning the conference title, and taking it all the way to the section finals, where they lost to eventual state contender Litchfield. Most all of the team was very impressive to watch including Katie Kuzma, Michelle Mills, Alyssa Bakke, Megan Huston, Molly Stubstad, Rachel Kaster, and Carrie Kolles.

Football:

The Bison were the outright North Suburban Conference champions for the second straight season. They went 7-1 in conference and 7-2 overall. The Bison went into the first round of the section tournament coming off an overtime loss to Monticello, and never really regained their true form, and lost 21-12 to Osseo. The Bison had great performers all year most notably were running backs James Martin and Isaac Olson, quarterback Steve Novacek, receivers Evan Anderson and B.J. Hermerding, linemen Dave Macalena, Zak Pettit, Ray Schmitz, Dusty Haskins, and Jesse Clifton, defensive backs Brian Minkler, Luke Conzet, Luke Rasset, and Brady Borkoski, and linebackers Aric Bethke and Pat Mahlberg.

The Bison Stampede
Student Athlete

Spotlight



Name: Ben Hanson
Grade: 11
Sport(s): Cross country, Basketball, Track and Field

College plans: Hopefully go to a Division I school with a good running program.

Hobbies: Sports, Playing piano, Water sports, downhill skiing.



Name: Bekah Birkland
Grade: 12
Sport(s): Volleyball, Track and Field

College plans: To go to the University of Wisconsin at Madison and study to be a chiropractor.

Greatest obstacle and how you overcame it: "Knee surgery last year in mid-season. I had a record recovery and started again."



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People & Entertainment

The Bison Stampede

Vandals strike at Halloween

By Melissa Gudvagen

Staff Writer

It's happened to everyone at some point in time. They wake up on November 1st only to find their house egged and toilet paper hanging from the trees. Then they remember that yesterday was Halloween, and of course teenagers were out "having fun." But when does this fun go too far? "When I was younger our pumpkins would get smashed, after that we put them in the garage every night," said junior Jesse Donovan.

Although smashing pumpkins, egging houses, and hanging toilet paper from trees seems to be the most popular, some of the things people have done go beyond the usual. "Once I pooped in a bag and lit it on fire and put it on Mike Duschane's doorstep. Mike came to the door and stomped it out. His socks were full of poop," said senior Brady Borkoski.

Though these cruel intentions are brought upon innocent victims, the people that commit them bring it upon themselves also. "We egged all of the neighbors mailboxes, and we didn't want it to be obvious so we did our own," said Senior Toniah Juday.



Photo by Melissa Gudvagen

Luckily this year's Halloween only left smashed pumpkins on the road.

While teenagers think they are out having fun it causes hurt feelings. Adults don't enjoy cleaning up smashed pumpkins and washing eggs off their houses, but then again, what's Halloween if you can't have a little fun?

Top 5 songs of the month

1. "Cowboy"
Kid Rock
2. "Nookie"
Limp Bizkit
3. "What's My Age Again"
Blink182
4. "Baby, Don't you Break My Heart"
Vonda Shepard and Emily Saliers of the Indigo Girls
5. "I Will Remember You"
Sarah McLachlan

This was compiled from a survey of 60 students at BHS.

Musician Spotlight



Nathalie Miller
Grade: 12

Nathalie plays the flute in concert band and is a drum major for "The Herd", the BHS marching band. She has also been chosen for the Gustavus Honor Band. Congratulations!



Cassie Henrichs
Grade: 11

Cassie sings in the Concert Choir. This summer she sang at the Wright and Hennepin County Fairs as well as the State Fair. She also won the karaoke contest during the 1999 Homecoming Week.

Buffalo High School
Presents

The Crucible

By

Arthur Miller

November 4th, 5th, 6th

at 7:30 PM

November 7th at 2:00

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Buffalo High School

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Concert

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performing
including
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November
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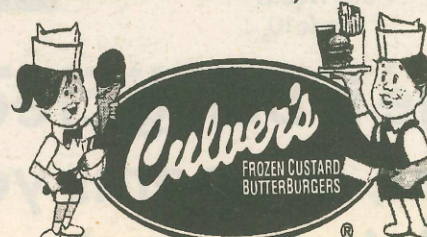
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Quote of
the Month

'No day but
today'
-RENT

"BUTTERBURGER, PLEASE!"



Mr. Sonju

The Bison Stampede

In celebration of Mr. Sonju

With a
passing
word
Or a
smile
our way
In the
briefest
of
moments
You
brightened
our day

You were
more
than a
teacher
Closer
than a
friend
You
coached
us and
coaxed
us
Your
kindness
knew no
end.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Matt L. Lubben

"Missing Out"

For those of us who
didn't know him
What a loss we've had
For we are all missing
out
On a genuine kind of
man.
A coach, a father,
a child at heart
Who touched everyone
he knew
For we are all missing
out
On what he had left to
do. Those of you who
were fortunate to see
The life he lived with
grace
You are all missing out
For no one else can take
his place
The joy he brought lives
on each day
These hearts cannot let
go
For all the world is
missing out
On what else about Mr.
Sonju we didn't get to
know

Jill Weeks
Grade 10



Photo courtesy of Mr. Nick Miller



Photo courtesy of Mr. Nick Miller

"It'll let me run faster and jump higher," he had said about his knee surgery. As he packed up his things in the middle of 4th block on Monday to go to the hospital, he said, "Goodbye" and that he would see us on Thursday. And don't forget your field studies were his words as he hurried out the door. Little did we know, that was the last time we would see Mr. Sonju. It's Wednesday, and the Principal calls an all-staff meeting after 2nd block. Some of us suspected something was wrong. In 3rd block, we questioned a teacher about what the meeting was about, and he quickly and tactlessly changed the subject. Within the next five minutes, the Principal came on the PA, and confirmed what most of us already believed: Pat Sonju had passed away.

Tears erupted in every classroom. Some students just got up and walked out. In every hallway, the same scene appeared over and over. People hugging, people crying, people comforting each other, and people just staring blankly into space. Teachers could not teach the lessons, and students couldn't learn. The classrooms looked like a congregation of frozen zombies.

Sometimes, I still think I see him when I come into school. He leans carelessly on the locker bay and jokes to his fellow teachers about his football-loving ingrate of a son. It's a shame that he will never get to see his children grow up. Never again see them get their first "A", never see them start to date, and never see his oldest catch the winning touchdown in SuperBowl Fifty.

Some people see this as a horrible tragedy. But, I think, Mr. Sonju ultimately got what he wanted. Now, he's up in heaven, running faster and jumping higher than he ever could down here and he can play one-on-one with Wilt Chamberlain.

Wyatt Grunerud
10th Grade

A web page is being created in memory of Mr. Sonju. Any pictures, stories, or poems you would like to put on the page turn into Lucas Anderson or Room C-110.