

The Bison Stampede

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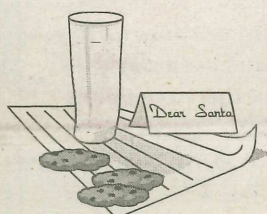
Insights



What are we doing to today's children?

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Snow Daze on page 3 of this issue!

Teachers honored, rewarded Hulley named first Feature Teacher

By Jenny Summers

Photography Editor

People often view the job of a teacher as being easy. Teachers receive three months off in the summer, in addition to winter and spring break. They only work from about 7:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. However, the reality is that teachers spend hours outside of school correcting papers and preparing daily lesson plans. They have to deal with smart-mouthed students and their overprotective parents, not to mention short tempered co-workers and sometimes demanding bosses.

This year, Student Council is recognizing teachers' hard work by starting a Feature Teacher program. This program acknowledges a different teacher each month, and rewards the teacher for his/her efforts.

"We thought it was time to recognize good teachers," said junior Jamison Zwieg.

The process for selection is based on student nominations. Forms for nominations were available in the office at the end of

November. The forms will be placed out again the months of December and March.

Student Council suggests the nomination of a teacher should be based upon how well they work with students, communication skills and how helpful they are. It's up to the students how many nominations they would like to turn in. The teachers with the most nominations and that fit the above criteria will be selected. There will be one Feature Teacher every month for the remainder of the school year.

For the month of November, Tracy Hulley was chosen as the Feature Teacher. After teaching American history and world studies at BHS for four years, she was nominated by her 10th and 11th grade classes.

"It's an honor! I was thrilled," said Hulley.

Each Feature Teacher will receive a reserved parking spot for the month they're nominated and two plaques donated by Buffalo National Bank. In addition, the teacher will receive a gift certificate for

Tracy Hulley, a world studies and American history teacher was

recently selected as the November Feature Teacher.

Hulley is the first teacher chosen for the program which is sponsored by Student Council.

Hulley has been teaching for seven years; four at BHS.



Photo by Chrissy Smith

lunch, a floral arrangement from Country Floral and a display in the case by the front office.

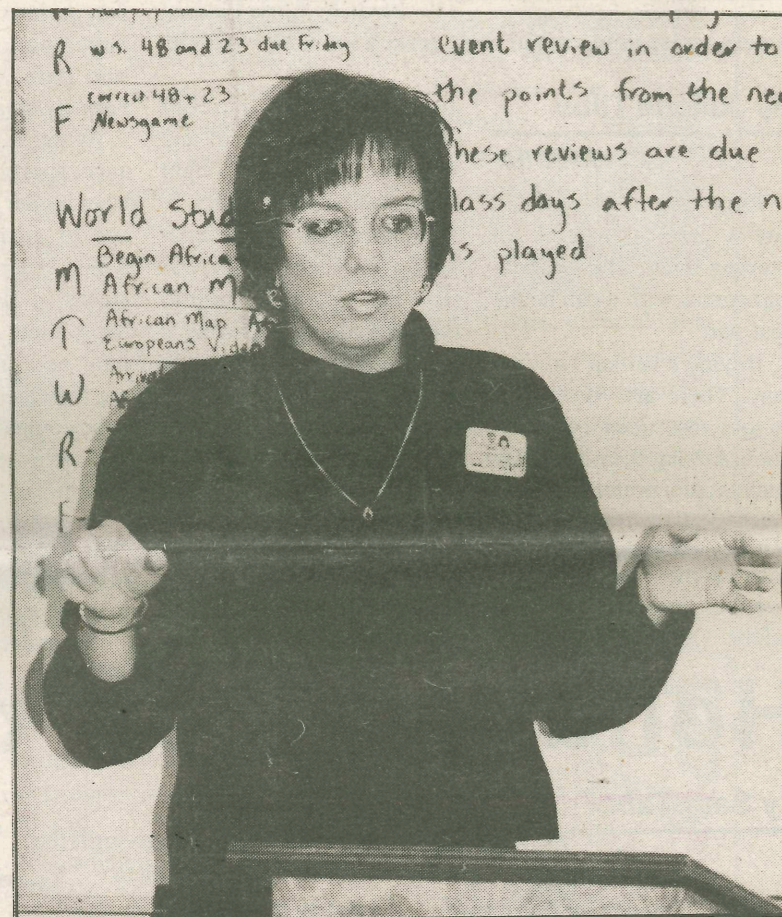
"It's like an affirmation that what you're doing does

matter," said Hulley. "Every teacher needs that."

Hulley will receive her extra bonuses during the month of December. All of the Feature Teachers will enjoy their gifts

the month after they are selected.

"I think that 99 percent of the staff's goal is to have what they're doing appreciated like this," said Hulley.



VANDALISM

By Joe Svobodny

Staff Writer

Several hundred paintballs were shot at BHS Sunday night, Nov. 23. The investigation by the principals and local law enforcement has turned up two suspects who are former students of BHS. The estimated amount of damage to the school is over \$500. Several Buffalo businesses were also struck with paintballs the same night.

The vandalism at BHS was first noticed on Monday morning Nov.

24. The brick and windows around the entrances on the north and south sides of the school, as well as two school vans were damaged. The paintballs were cleaned up by BHS custodians early Monday morning.

"When we [Miller, Loberg, Swaggert] arrived at school on Monday morning the janitors were already cleaning the paintballs off the school," said assistant principal Julie Swaggert.

With confessions and good evidence, authorities have found

splats BHS community

both suspects. At this time formal charges have not been filed.

"If they catch the kids that did this it would be nice to see them clean the school," said custodian Jana Russell as she was cleaning the wet paintballs off the south side of the school.

When charged, the suspects will most likely face misdemeanor charges. The maximum penalty for a misdemeanor crimes is 30 days in jail and up to \$700 in fines.

This is the first incident of vandalism at the new BHS.

Car ownership eased by careful shopping



Photo by Chris Lindahl

Buyers assess used cars in their search for a new vehicle.

By Juliene Tilus

Staff Writer

For teenagers going out to buy a first car can be an exciting thing. The freedom that comes with it can be the best part.

Buying a car isn't always easy. There are dozens of factors that need consideration. Among them are things such as color preference, how much it will cost, and the style. With so many things to consider, some car shoppers overlook insurance rates and safety. Out of 32 students

questioned, 53 percent thought about color, cost, and style, while no one thought about insurance or safety.

Buying a car can be frustrating, but there is some basic criteria that may help to relieve the stress. Buying a car at least ten years old saves money. There is only a \$10 sales tax on them, whereas cars less than ten years old have the regular state tax of 6.5 percent.

The size of the car is also important. Most of the time larger cars use more gas, but are often safer in crashes be-

cause of size. Medium sized cars are usually the best way to go when looking for good mileage and safety. No car follows every rule, so some larger cars may get good gas mileage, and some smaller cars may be more crash resistant. It really depends on the kind of car.

"In most cases, larger cars are definitely safer, because they are heavier and they have more room to be crashed into," said Barb Aurentz of State Farm Insurance.

When it comes to insurance, sporty and newer cars have higher rates since damage to them costs more to repair. Determining the overall cost of insurance for a car, many things must be taken into account. Some factors are the car itself, the insurance company and coverage the car owner has, and the condition the car is in.

Included are things like, "the driver's age, and grades in school," said Aurentz, just to name a couple.

Several resources are avail-

able for finding a used car, such as the newspaper, which prints ads on different cars. Used car dealerships can be good, because if problems arise, they may help. However, if there is no warranty on the car, the dealership is not responsible for any problems with the car. Searching the Internet can also be very helpful in finding used cars. Trader Online (www.traderonline.com) is an online company that helps people find the cars they want for the price they want and even in the area code where they are looking for them.

"I bought my [1990 Ford Tempo GL] in the *Star Tribune* for \$1,500 and it's in really good condition," said senior Megan Snyder.

When looking at a car, buyers should make sure a car will be a good runner by checking the basics. They should first start by checking the lights, blinkers, and horn. Then ask to test drive the car, making sure there are no strange or rattling noises. They

should also check if the brakes work well, and if the car shifts smoothly, including reverse. Asking a mechanic to check out a car is a good idea if the car buyer is willing to pay for the mechanic.

When car buyers are unsure about prices, and how to know if a car is worth the asking price, it is sometimes necessary to check around. Looking in a Consumer's Digest or a Blue Book (a book of cars and their values, found in any bank), helps in finding out about prices. Making an

offer on a car that is not worth the asking price never hurts.

The bottom line is to think before buying. It is important for a buyer to think things over carefully and to remember that no car is perfect. Even a new car can breakdown, so one must also be prepared for added expenses. A car is an expensive thing to maintain, but can be well worth it.

"Even though my car costs a lot, I love the freedom that comes with it, and freedom is priceless," said junior Cherish Ahlgren.

Things to remember when buying a used car:

- Cars more than ten years old only have a \$10 sales tax on them
- Larger cars usually use more gas
- New and sporty cars have higher insurance rates
- Make sure the lights, blinkers, and horn work
- Ask to test drive the car. Be sure there aren't any strange noises
- Be prepared for added expenses
- **THINK BEFORE YOU BUY**

Holiday blues cheered

By Sara Tabor

Staff Writer

The holiday season is upon us, and with it comes 'the blues' for many. Too many expectations for the holiday season, the recent loss of a loved one, or not being around family and friends around the days are situations that may dampen spirits.

Stress is also a cause, ranging from stress about last minute shopping at the last minute in crowded malls to seeing cousins that are very annoying and whine too much. This can be solved many ways. First, taking a time out is a definite must for people feeling sad. Getting away from crowds and cousins can be the first step to an easier holiday season. The December 1992 issue of *USA Today* magazine suggests that doing something nice, like buying a shirt that has been admired for a few weeks or making cookies, is a quick stress reliever.

"A quick way to relieve stress for me is to punch a punching bag or squeeze stress balls," said freshman

John Wallace.

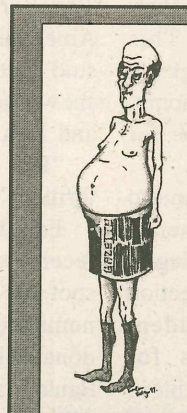
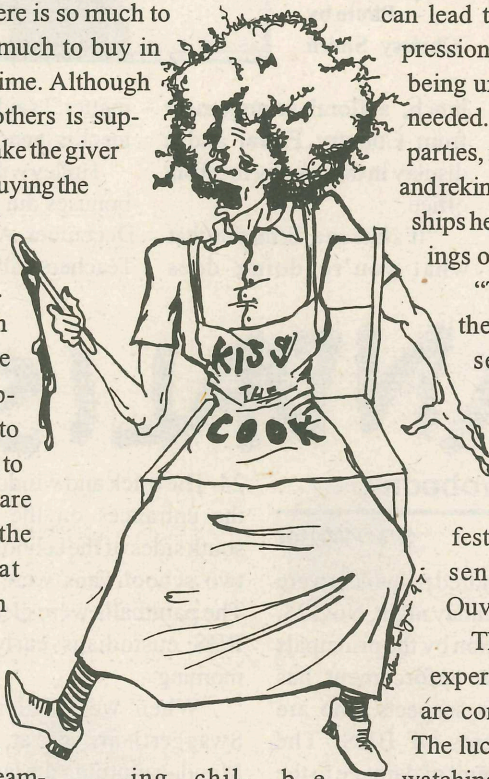
A problem with gift-giving is the fact that there is so much to do and so much to buy in only little time. Although giving to others is supposed to make the giver feel good, buying the perfect gift is often impossible. It's enough to make some shoppers want to cry. Adding to the tension are the mall, the music that has been playing in everyone's ears repeatedly, and the screaming children.

"To be prepared, I plan ahead as far as possible and prioritize what I have to do," said head secretary Joan Harnett.

Some people have the opposite problem: too little to do. Loneliness can lead to complete depression and feelings of being unwanted or not needed. Going to crowd parties, making friends, and rekindling old friendships helps relieve feelings of isolation.

"Try to get out for the holidays and see the lights, hear the music and be with friends is a way to get in a festive mood," said senior Alyssa Ouverson.

Those that don't experience any of this are considered lucky. The lucky ones should watch out for their friends. Inviting friends to go places, surprising them with a small gift, or telling them a joke can help everyone get through and enjoy the holiday season.



News Briefs

Shakespeare Festival being held at BHS

On Monday, Dec. 22, ninth graders currently enrolled in English class will be putting on a Shakespeare Festival. The festival, which will last all day, will include costume, music, scenes from Shakespeare, food (bring some money) and much more. Anyone interested who is unable to attend during the day can stop by after school from 3:30 - 5:00 P.M.

February ACT registration approaching

The registration deadline for the ACT testing in February is Jan. 5, 1998. The test will be held on Feb. 7.

One Act conferences drawing near

The One Act Play North Suburban Conference will be held on January 17 in the Performing Arts Center at BHS. This year's play is *All's Well That Ends As You Like It*, which was written by Michael Green.

Smoking closes restrooms

By Stephanie Tidblom

Staff Writer

For several days in November, girls wanting to use the women's rest room in the ninth grade area were shut out due to students smoking inside.

In a survey of 84 BHS students, most smokers do not come from families of smokers. In this survey the percentage of parents or guardians that smoke was about the same for smokers as non-smokers.

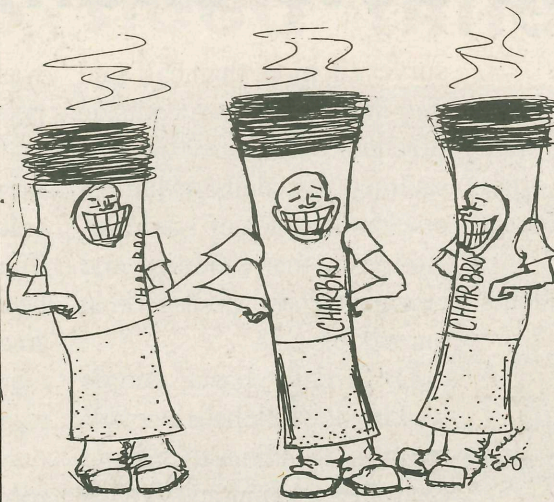
"It surprises me that students already knowing the negative effects of smoking due to various classes in school still chose to partake in the act of smoking," said senior Jason Maurer.

Only 40% of the teens have noticed any effects of smoking, some of the most common effects noticed were coughing, and shortness of breath.

60% of the students either have not noticed any effects or do not know that they are being effected. Most non-smokers said they do not smoke because they truly cannot stand the idea of it. For most the smell of the smoke and the way it tends to stain teeth makes them sick.

Many students that smoke are underage there for they have to find other plans to get cigarettes. Most get them from friends that are of age or take them from their parents.

"You just walk in and buy them," said one female sophomore. "Usually my friends who are of age buy them for me, sometimes you just know the people that work somewhere that sells them," said an anonymous female sophomore.



Some students underage have had no problems buying their own cigarettes though.

"Usually my friends who are of age buy them for me, sometimes you just know the people that work somewhere that sells them," said an anonymous female sophomore.

more.

Many things are being tried to cut down on teenage smoking. Most students went through D.A.R.E. in fifth grade and many sellers of cigarettes are trying to crack down on selling cigarettes to minors.

The National Honor Society cordially invites all students to frolic in the cold during Snow Days! We'll be kicking off the second semester with AAA and after-school activities, along with special games and contests during sporting events. Plus, there will be a dance on Friday night with live music. Let's celebrate January 26-30!

Students enjoying votech

By Angie Scott

Staff Writer

"Where do those people go everyday? asked one ninth grader unfamiliar with the out-of-school programs available at BHS.

Daily, 160 BHS students leave school. A majority of them are attending classes elsewhere in the area. The Wright Technical Center (WTC), draws a majority of these students for career oriented classes that are not offered at BHS.

"I have learned how to grow plants and what it takes to run a business," said senior Mandy Robson. Robson has taken business simulations and is taking a landscape/greenhouse class.

WTC offers knowledge of a specific career before entering college. Classes are offered as a learning device, which helps students decide if they

want to pursue a particular career in the future.

"WTC is a school experience that is supposed to help you get ready for the job you want to go into. It is kind of an introduction to college," said senior Carisa Abbas, who enrolled in on the job.

Many students and staff seem to think WTC is an escape from BHS, but in reality, the majority of students who attend WTC find it very rewarding. Programs are geared toward students experiencing a career hands-on experience, and learning exactly what the career would involve if pursuing it as a profession.

Classes offered are listed in the student registration handbook. Juniors and seniors may sign up for WTC classes during registration in the spring. BHS counselors are also available to answer any questions.

District #877 battles illiteracy in schools

By Chase Potter

News Editor

The United States continues to lead the world in everything, including illiteracy. In Minnesota the problem isn't quite as bad as other parts of the nation. Unfortunately that's not saying much. According to the National Institute for Literacy, approximately thirty percent of those living in Minnesota are illiterate, compared to forty percent of Missouri's residents.

What is literacy, though? Literacy is the ability to read, write, and comprehend—the ability to look at words and know what they mean, and know how to interpret them. According to reading teacher Kate Brandes, "It's all of the above, plus knowing how to use those tools to become active citizens."

Within the United Nations, the U.S. ranks 49th in literacy, surpassed by Japan, Germany, and Russia.

"I think that's unacceptable," said freshman Matt Cooper. "The US should be more for education...we are the single greatest influence on

the world."

Out of 134 students surveyed, 53% were confident in their reading skills, while 45% saw their skills as lacking and the remaining 2% percent felt that their reading skills were a poor. A lot of students commented that they just "don't care" about reading skills.

"I think literacy is a challenge for a lot of students," Brandes said.

This year District #877 has set out to eliminate illiteracy in its schools. Here at BHS, the staff have set out to accomplish three goals.

The first goal is to better prepare students for the state reading test by offering a reading class, an after

school clinic before the test, and extra help during AAA. This will allow students to find their weaknesses and faults and correct them before they take the actual test.

The second goal is for staff to teach how to read in their certain areas. This means that the teachers are responsible for teaching students how to read and comprehend the various books and literature that they'll be using in their classes.

"You can't read a math book the same as a science book," Brandes explained.

The third and final goal is to foster appreciation for reading through displays. One such display is the

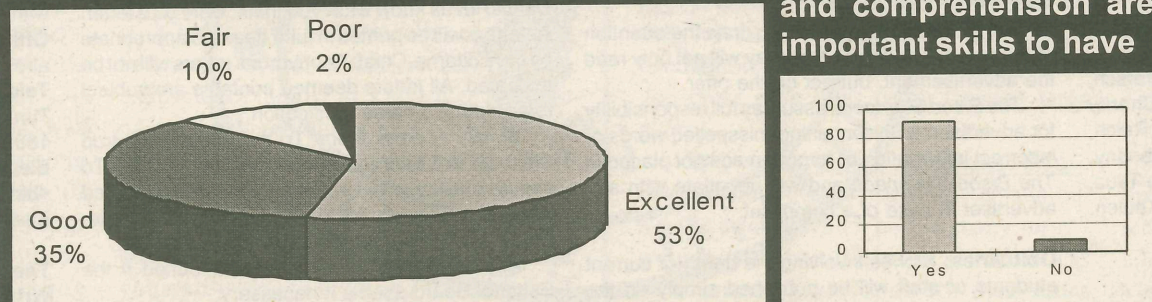
board outside the office, which contains various news clippings on current events.

"It's a whole school effort to deal with literacy," Brandes said.

Glancing around most classrooms students may have noticed that teachers have cluttered their walls with posters and news clippings. To attain the third goal, the school will work to attain more parent and community involvement, work to bring in more speakers, and work to encourage literature discussion groups.

"I think we're on target," Brandes said. "I think the goals are well laid out and very achievable."

How do your reading skills rate? Do you feel reading and comprehension are important skills to have



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Santa's goodwill sets example for daily life

The film, *Miracle on 34th Street* carries an important message: the spirit of giving and goodness that Santa represents is more important than whether he exists or not; kindness and generosity should be displayed

by everyone.

The entire BHS community needs to work harder to be more Santa-like toward each other and organizations who ask for our help.

Granted, of 118 students

surveyed, more than half said they do volunteer work outside of school. More than 90 percent said they have committed at least one random act of kindness. However, that kindness and giving spirit has dwindled within our school walls.

On a daily basis, people walking down the halls hear kids saying mean things to or about each other. Pushing and shoving persists despite wider hallways. People cut each other off while rushing out of the parking lot.

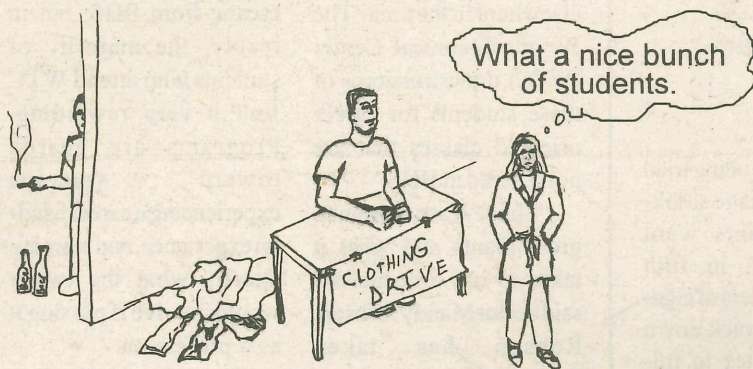
There are organizations that encourage charity. National Honor Society is one of them. This year when it came to the Food Drive, we didn't pull through. A goal of 11,000 items

was set; a mere seven items per person including students and staff. Donations reached a meager 5,500, a significant reduction from the past two years. There seems to be a discrepancy here. A kind, giving spirit prevails among so many individuals outside our school walls, but what about right here at school?

Several organizations represent the kindness we should all demonstrate daily. Student Care Committee (SCC) sends birthday greetings as well as helping students with expenses for things like school pictures, field trips, and school supplies. The FFA has an annual corn drive. These groups and more are Santa.

It's time both students and staff join together and make an army of "do-gooders" 1,607 strong that fights for Santa all year. Students – surprise a teacher by doing homework if you normally don't or say "thanks" to SCC by attending the Sadie Hawkins dance tonight. Teachers – skip a test, quiz or homework assignment. Principals – dismiss school at 2:20 p.m. on the last day before break. Ninth graders – be quiet and don't block the halls for a day.

Committing Santa-like acts is more than a gift to others; it's a small gift to yourself. Besides, acting like Santa sure beats dressing like him!



Artwork by Joe Bidne

Septuplets cover-up struggling multi-child families

By Jill Motzko

Staff Writer

What does it take to become well known in this world? Do you have to: A.) Die a tragic death. B.) Star in a movie. Or C.) Give birth to seven babies at one time. Hopefully you guessed C. The McCaughey couple from Iowa went from an unknown family to the most well-known family in this country overnight.

The McCaughey family is getting too much publicity after the birth of the septuplets.

Okay, so maybe they gave birth to the only living septuplets in the world. That still should not make them deserve so much.

Donations for the McCaugheys included a 12 seat van, a life supply of diapers, a year's supply of groceries and baby products and free advertising in

newspapers for donations. Rumor has it that the septuplets have already been honored college scholarships and the government is offering to build them a new large house to live in. What else could they ask for?

The attention they are getting and the help that is pouring in was not what the family asked for. Mr. McCaughey told *Time* magazine that they were planning to raise the family on

what they earned.

In May of this year, a family from Washington D.C. gave birth to the only African-American sextuplets ever recorded. I don't recall hearing anything about those babies until the family became offended by the attention the septuplets were receiving.

Their babies only received some clothes and a few donations. The sextuplet family was largely ignored.

Another family from Indiana also consists of a set of sextuplets who have recently turned four. This Indiana family however, cannot even afford to send their six children to

preschool. They also had to sell their house and move to a smaller, less expensive home.

Something is wrong with this picture. In this world, there is a baby born every minute. Every baby brought into this world is a miracle. We are all going to suffer some financial difficulties no matter how many are born at one time. The McCaughey family say they can raise their family on what they have. They didn't ask for help.

"We were planning to raise our kids on what we earn."
Kenny McCaughey,
father of the septuplets

The Bison Stampede

Our mission:

To enlighten, to entertain, to inform

International Quill and Scroll – MHSPA Runner Up 1989 – NSPA 1st class 1990 – NSPA 1st class 1992 – Quill and Scroll 1st place 1992 – NSPA 4-Star All-American – MHSPA Honorable Mention – MHSPA All-State Gold 1994 – MHSPA All-State Silver 1995 – MHSPA All-State Gold 1996 – NSPA 1st class 1997

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Advertising: The Buffalo High School newspaper, *The Bison Stampede*, offers advertising to businesses and organizations on the basis that it can refuse any ad.

The Bison Stampede makes it a general practice of not accepting ads from mortuaries, liquor stores, bars, etc.

The Bison Stampede tries to draw the attention of the potential buyer so that they will not only read the advertisement, but act on the offer.

The Bison Stampede assumes full responsibility for advertisements containing misspelled words or incorrect information or forgotten ads not placed in *The Bison Stampede* and will negotiate with any advertiser in case of a complaint.

Obituaries: Stories involving the death of current students or staff will be published simply on the

news pages avoiding all editorial comment. They will include facts concerning the death, biographical details, family members, and time and place of funeral. A photo may or may not be included.

Letters to the Editor: We want to hear your comments, questions and concerns about the school or anything in *The Bison Stampede*. If you want to let us know what you think, write us a letter. All letters will be printed in full if deemed appropriate by the Editor-in-Chief. Anonymous letters will not be accepted. All letters deemed printable are subject to an author's name verification.

Simply address them "To the Editor" and drop them off in Leanne Turnquist's room, A-102. To assure publication of a letter, it must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the next distribution date. Dates will be posted in the window of A-101.

Any letter may be shortened or edited if the Editorial Board deems it necessary.

Suggestions Welcome:

Everyone is encouraged to express their opinions. Everything will be read, and all suggestions will be considered.

Personal Mail: Leave suggestions, comments, questions, story ideas, letters to the editor, etc. with Leanne Turnquist in room A-102.

Office Mail: Please address all items (see list above) to Leanne Turnquist, room A-102.

Telephone: Messages can be left on Leanne Turnquist's voice mail – 682-8089 or extension 1889

Electronic Mail: Please send messages to <bttripl98@buffalo.k12.mn.us> and put "RE: The Bison Stampede" in the subject line.

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Grief sufferers need time, understanding

By Angela Scott

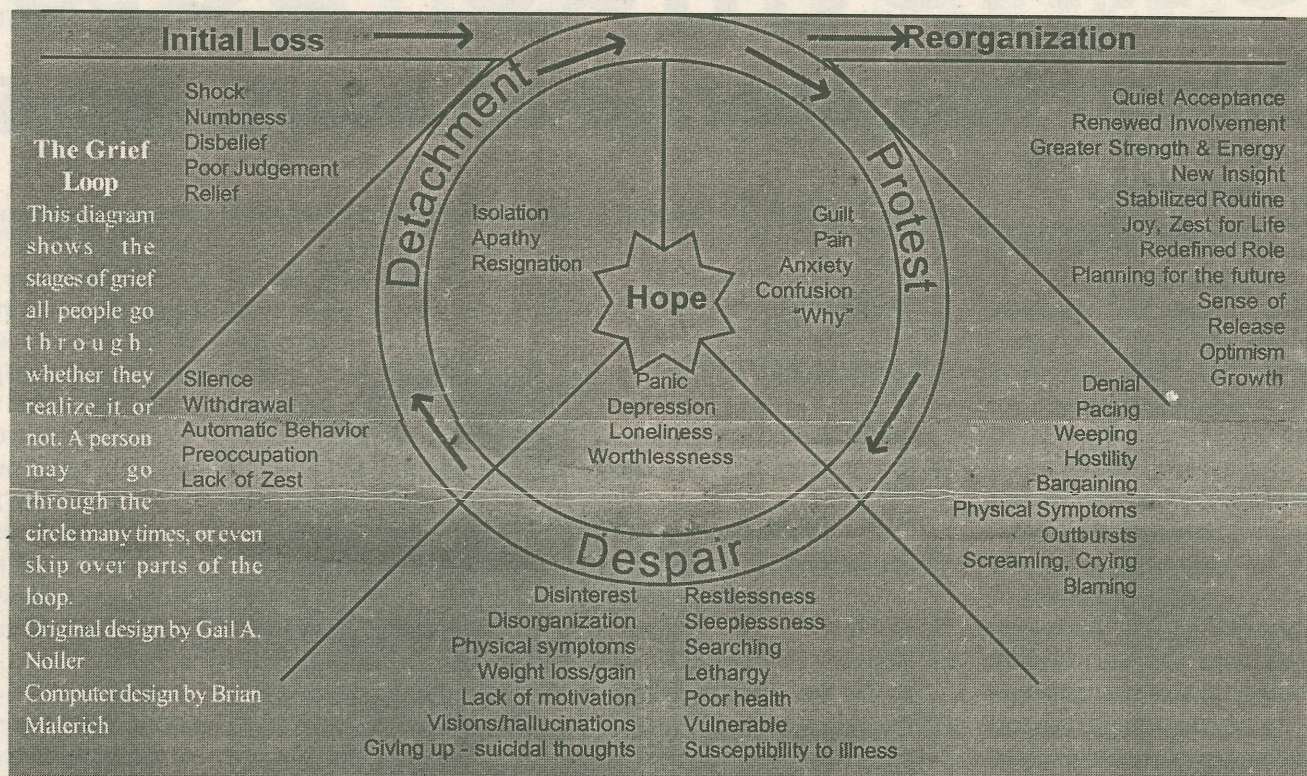
Staff Writer

According to one 1995 study, an estimated five percent of children—1.5 million—experience the death of one or both parents by the time they are 15. Every day someone is going through the loss of a loved one. It may be a parent, relative or friend. Going through this loss is hard, and survivors need help from friends and family to get through the stages of grief.

The hardest part about surviving the loss of a loved one is going back to school. Everyone asks, "What happened?", "Was that your _____ that died?" and most common of all, "Are you O.K.?" Grades, the honor roll, you might as well forget all of that. It's hard enough to get out of bed in the morning, and you're lucky if you actually make it to school. But you are extremely lucky if you make it through the day without breaking down.

All survivors go through what's called the "Grief Loop." It covers the different stages that can be expected from someone that has just lost a loved one. The grieving person begins with experiencing the initial loss. Then they may feel protest, despair, and/or detachment, before the final reorganization. These symptoms may not go in exact order or may be repeated over and over again.

It's a cold, hard fact. Everyone will lose someone close to them sometime or another, but I don't think that you can ever just up and forget that person. Time may help, but it's no cure. Survivors may go through the Grief Loop several times before



they reach reorganization or some sense of times passed.

If you know someone who has lost a loved one, then give them a little slack, they need it. Don't shy away from them or ignore them, because right now is when they need you the

most. Although they may not want to be around people all the time or talk immediately after it happens, the truth is that they need their family and friends now more than any other time in their life.

Who's to blame when children misbehave?

Teenagers often teach children bad values, attitudes

By Lori Omann

Columnist

A friend of mine was riding the bus, and said that the first and second graders were "swearing up a storm." When I was that age, we barely swore, and if we did, it was followed by a severe punishment, sometimes even getting your mouth washed out with soap!

Children's attitudes have changed tremendously in recent years and many have become rude and disrespectful. They are doing more drinking, smoking, swearing, and becoming sexually active at a much younger age than in the past. They are simply growing up too fast!

The number of sexually active adolescents has nearly doubled in the last 15 years. Slightly more than half of females, and nearly two-thirds of males have had sex before their 18th birthday. Ten years ago, seeing a young girl pregnant was uncommon, but now almost one million adolescent girls in the US become pregnant each year.

Although overall drug abuse has decreased in the US, it is increasing among younger teens. About 50 percent of American adolescents will try illegal drugs at least once before completing tenth grade.

You may wonder why kids are acting this way, but it's obvious: "monkey see,



monkey do." They are trying to be like us, their role models; but are we being good role models for them? Apparently not.

Children are also influenced by TV and media, but the stronger influence is other people in their lives.

We need to understand that children look up to us, and want to be like us. When we were younger, most of us tried to imitate our 'cool' older siblings who were in high school. It is still like that today. Younger kids still look up to the older kids, and follow the example that is set for them; no matter what that example might be.

When a child is near, we need to think before we speak or act, and be a good example for them. Let's also take time out of our busy schedules and spend it with our younger brothers and/or sisters. They look up to us, and closely imitate what they see. The next time you do something shameful in front of younger kids, ask yourself *is this something I'd like them to do?*, because they probably will.

Quick Fixes

Computer Tips

from Vern Techner
District 877's behind-the-scenes tech helper

SurfStop Special: If you are headed somewhere besides the land of the frozen buttocks for Winter Break, here's two things I bet you need...

How do I get there?

I tried out three route-picking map utilities: *Yahoo! Maps*, *MapsOnUs*, and *MapQuest*. Being partial to the marching band, I decided to compare the results from the sites to the actual route they took to Boston, Massachusetts last summer. (Specifically the Ramada Inn, Norwood, MA)

Yahoo! Maps (<http://maps.yahoo.com/>): Good for maps, but slow. If you don't have a specific address, you cannot get directions. There is a 300-mile range limit.

MapsOnUs (<http://www.MapsOnUs.com/>): Gave a pretty decent route, close to the real thing. Even got me close to the band's hotel. However, it doesn't say when you cross state lines or go through large cities.

MapQuest (<http://www.mapquest.com/>): Got me directly to the Norwood Ramada, but it gave a route which had so many turns I wouldn't know north from south! It was better at making sure I knew how many miles from junction to junction.

What's the weather like there?

This time I just tried Minneapolis/St. Paul. These are based on site appearance only.

The Weather Channel (<http://www.weather.com/>): Easy to read and understand. Maps have links on the main five-day forecast page. Chuck full of advertisements.

USA Today Weather (<http://www.usatoday.com/weather/wfront.htm>): Awfully plain. No maps, radar, satellite pictures. Five-day forecast layout similar to everyone else's.

INTELLiCast (<http://www.intellicast.com/>): Like *The Weather Channel's* site with even more ads and less images, but still has links to radar, etc. Has a UV index with the main four-day outlook. The official weather provider for MSNBC.

Some other sites: CNN Weather, Yahoo! Weather, and the locals (*Star Tribune*, KMSP-9, WCCO-4) Just search for them, but please try the ones above first and find one you like. Big national corporations are more likely to have better equipment and be more accurate in the long run.

Got a problem? Send questions and tips to "QuickFixes, c/o The Bison Stampede" and send to one of the addresses in the box on page four. You can also e-mail Vern directly at <vern@buffalo.k12.mn.us>

(*The Bison Stampede* would like to remind all students that visiting non-schoolwork related sites during school hours or from home through the District's dial-in server are against official I.S.D. 877 policy.) Vern Techner plans on spending the holidays with editor Brian Malerich.

Christmas celebrations

Grinch has change of heart, inspired by Who Ville

By Karlee Felger

Entertainment Editor

North Who Ville, dripping with the lavish surroundings of blowing Who bells, fute tinkers, trum tuckers, slum stookers and blub blookers is a place where Whos, young and old, living in a city of their own, sit down to feast upon Who pudding and candied yam treats, cracked snow peas and even a roasted Who beast. In the center of town around the festive pine, tinkling with Who sprinkles and lights did shine their voices raised to the sky above, to give thanks to God who provided their love.

But low in the depths of the shadows did lurk, a thing so gastardly ugly that smirked. The Grinch the thing that grew up too fast, which caused his heart not to last. His skin so green his eyes so piercing, when even at a glance, you could see him lurking. His home, a cave with no light like an awaiting grave which caused much fright. His heart too small, his shoes too tight, his head wasn't even screwed on too tight. For 53

years, the Grinch's heart pledged cold, until this very time his story be told.

Q.) Stopping Christmas is first on your list, why then did you take that risky risk?

A.) All I could think about was stopping Christmas from coming! I simply had to stop all that r e a k l a c e clinking and clanging!

Q.) Your teeth are so yellow, your skin so green, is it really a l l t h a t h a r d t o stay oh so clean?

A.) My skin may be green, my teeth may be falling out, but my spite for that little Who town just kept on growing!

Q.) Where are your pants, your boxers or briefs? Doesn't

the windy wind just send chills to your knees?

A.) The cold did not stop my greedy greed greed. In fact, it prompted my hasty need need. I snuck to the town picking Who bells and tinsel, by the time I cleared that little town out, I was caught by a

seeking Minster!

Q.) How did you scheme your way past the girl? How could you

p a s s through her bright eyes, her soft little voice and her shiny blonde curls?

A.) Little Cindy Lou asked me, "Why oh why am I taking her Christmas tree?" when I answered, "I was taking it back

to my work shop to improve it, my sweet cherie."

Q.) Then the sun began to rise, the town was still asleep. What did you do upon your newly stolen heap?

A.) With my peewee little reindeer dog, we rode up on a cliff to look down on Who Town, when, our sleigh began to shift! Down to the bottom it began to slide, as I raced to stop it from falling. But oh how strange it was to me, inside my heart was growing!

Q.) What did you do next? Since your heart had grown three times, did you ignore that warm beating in your chest, although it was a crime?

A.) My compassion was new that I now know, that Christmas would come anyway, any how. I gave back all the Who bells, flute tinkers, trum tuckers, slum stookers, and blub bookers. We even sat down to that g r e a t Christmas

feast, and I, the Grinch was even welcomed to serve the mouth watering Who Beast!

The stars shined once again upon the singing Who Town, from the garland on the roofs to the snow on the ground. This goes to show all the Grinches out there, that Christmas will come and hand before a season of care. While one lay sleeping in their bed on that special night, remember that the real meaning is, to share Christ's delight.

"When I discovered same as the wra dissapointed, but believe in magic,"

"My grandma used to would take pictures of t When we got the picture my grandma under the said Sophomore Steph

Jesus hides in shadow of Santa

By Lori Omann

Staff Writer

With all of the hustle and bustle of shopping for loved ones, the reason Christmas is celebrated is often forgotten. Christmas didn't start with a fat man in a red suit, it started with a tiny baby who was born in a manger.

Christians everywhere celebrate Christmas because of what happened one night 2,000 years ago. Within the last century Jesus has been somewhat hidden in the shadows of Santa, and Christmas has become very commercialized. Many have forgotten the reason why they celebrate Christmas and instead stress themselves over buying gifts.

There are some who try not to get caught up in the commercial holiday, like sophomore Nic Schaefer. His family takes their focus off Santa Claus and spends their time thinking of 'Christ's Birthday.'

"Santa was a real good guy," said Schaefer, "but it gets to be where people nowadays put him in the place of the real reason [of Christmas], and it's distracting. It gets to be a razzle dazzle Christmas instead of a real meaningful Christmas."

Schaefer didn't always feel that Santa was a distraction. When he was younger, he believed in Santa as most people do, but now he sees Santa in a different light.

"When we were little we did the 'Jesus thing' [at Christmas],

but more of Santa Claus. [Santa] was more emphasized then, than he is now," said Schaefer.

As the Christmas holiday approaches, many houses are filled with images of jolly old St. Nick; from pictures and statues to dish towels and cookies; but at the Schaefer's there is only a few pictures of this jolly man in a red suit.

"There isn't all that many pictures of Santa [at our house.] We do have this statue of St. Nick where he's all plump, but me and my brother always hide it because we hate it," said Schaefer laughing.

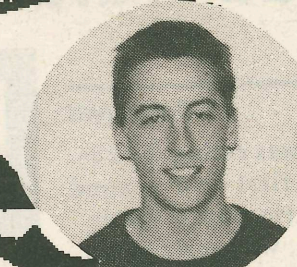
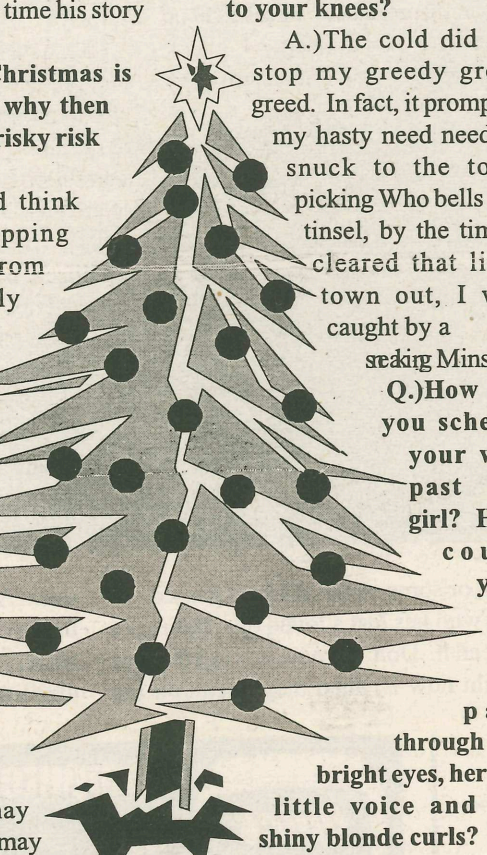
Although the Schaefer's do not focus on Santa, they still follow the tradition of exchanging presents. Schaefer feels that giving is a good thing, but it can also be 'overemphasized.'

"Giving is important," said Schaefer. "It was at the first Christmas with the three Kings."

Christians, like the Schaefer's, who choose to de-emphasize Santa do not dispute those who acknowledge him.

"I never really think Santa is bad," said Schaefer. "It's just that he can be a distraction. He has a giving heart. We should portray that."

The Schaefer family is one example of a family who cherishes the true meaning of Christmas. To them, Christmas began long before the legend of St. Nick.



"Some kids hinted that there was no Santa Claus, but my parents were the ones that confirmed the assumption," said Junior Jamison Zwieg.



Christmas vary in US and abroad

Children warm hearts this holiday season

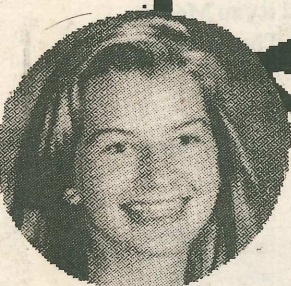
By Heather Correll

Features Editor

**Editors note: The children interviewed are from KidKare, and remain anonymous in order to protect their privacy.*

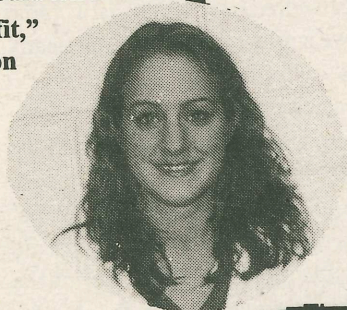
The excitement that fills the eyes of children as they meet Santa for their very first time puts a smile on the face of watching adults. A child's

[Santa] still comes to see me," said teacher Hygrell.



discovered that the wrapping paper was the wrapping paper that we had, I felt but not shocked, because it was fun to see," said Senior Betsy Whittle.

and to dress up and everyone of the grandkids with Santa. Pictures back I could tell it was for the santa outfit," Stephanie Hanson



"I always was kind of confused on how Santa got in, because we didn't have a fire place or a chimney. I was still kind of upset [that there wasn't a Santa Claus]," said Freshman Jack Hayes.

innocence shines through at Christmas

Placing homemade Christmas cookies with red and green sprinkles out for jolly old St. Nick on Christmas Eve, is a ritual most children look forward to all year round. Kids bug their parents to stay up just a little bit longer in hopes to see a glimpse of Santa to prove that he is real.

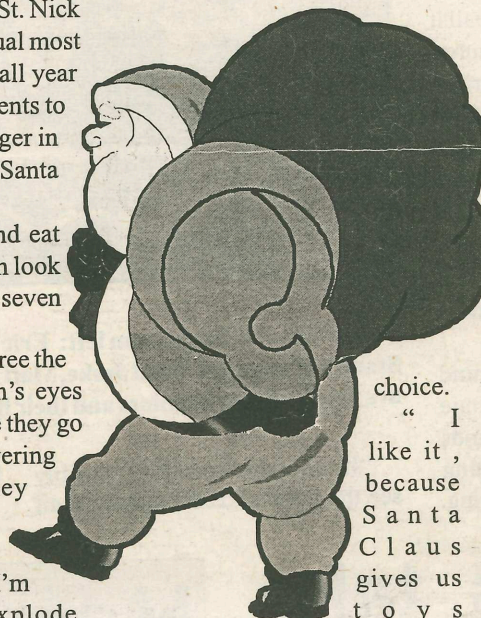
"I wake up at five, and eat his [Santa's] cookies, then look under 'da' tree," said one seven year old boy.

Then at quarter past three the next morning the children's eyes bolt open, seconds before they go fleeing towards the towering Christmas tree that they helped decorate.

"[On Christmas morning] I feel like I'm going to explode, because I'm so excited," said one bright eyed eight year old boy.

Then eager with squeaks and laughter escaping their lips, they leap up onto Mom and Dad's bed

and ask, "When can we start opening presents?" Faces light up as each gift is opened, whether it be a sweater or the toy of their



choice.

"I like it, because Santa Claus gives us toys

because 'we've been berry' good for Santa," said one innocent five year old boy.

Christmas is a time of year when family and friends get together. Cousins entertain each other with new games and toys, while adults fill one another in on the latest gossip.

"I get to go to my Grandma's [on Christmas], to see all my

relatives," said one seven year old girl.

By hearing the teachings of their parents and religion, most children know the "true meaning of Christmas." Seeing the nativity sets shining in front of an altar in church, or listening to the age-old story reminds not only the children but everyone of the Christ baby's birth.

"I like Christmas because it's Jesus' Birthday," said one five year old girl.

Santa Claus is often the "big man on campus" and Jesus is the forgotten one in the eyes of children. They see Santa as factual and real, and Jesus is a man in a story who has no substance.

"[I believe in Santa] because I saw him at the bank," said one five year old girl.

The Christmas season not only creates awe in kids now, but brings to life every inner child. Even if one is not a child in size, their heart may be filled with the same love and joy, during this time of giving.

"[Christmas] would be boring without little kids, because it's mainly for them. We get our fun out of seeing them have fun," said art teacher Jon Holtz.

Top five Christmas movies, according to 150 BHS students surveyed:

5. The Muppet Christmas Carol

4. Miracle on 34th st.

3. The Grinch Who Stole Christmas

2. The Santa Clause

1. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

Exchange students talk Christmas

By Chris Lindahl

Advertising Editor

All over America, people stop on December 25 to celebrate Christmas. But is it the same all over the world? In the country's of BHS foreign exchange students, one will find many similarities, and a few differences.

Three of the five foreign exchange students at Buffalo are Christian, but they all celebrate Christmas in one way or another.

Christmas is very similar around the world. It is highly practiced, very commercialized, and all have some form of a "Santa Claus" type icon.

"[In England it] has become more of a commercial emphasis and starts really early and so when Christmas comes, you're bored and nobody gets the real meaning of Christmas anymore," said Tim Kearns, from England.

Much like the US, spending time with family is a big part of Christmas overseas.

"Since a few years [my family] went to our cabin high up in the mountains," said Adele Holzmann, from Italy. "Usually we ski downhill in the daylight, and in the evening, play games. We usually stay there until New Year's day."

Santa is a huge economic and motivational character

representing Christmas in the US. However, one will find a very similar character in all of the other exchange student's countries.

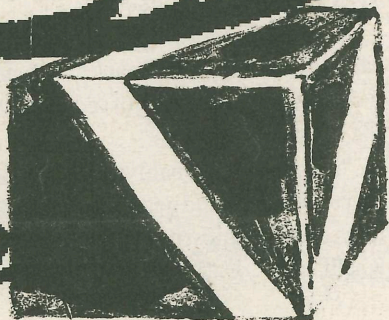
"Our St. Niklas could be regarded as your Santa. He comes the sixth of December to all kids around the world to ask for their behavior so that the Christ-child knows who was nice and smart and who wasn't," said Holzmann.

Meredite Cousin from New Caledonia, celebrates Christmas but also celebrates "The King's Cake," a holiday that takes place on the first Sunday of every January. The King's Cake is to honor the three wise men who were present at Christ's birth. According to tradition, a family gets together, makes a cake and in it hides some sort of important artifact, a coin or picture. Then the youngest person present goes under the table and tells everyone which piece of the cake to take. The person who gets the artifact, wins, and is king or queen for the day.

A big change comes to the exchange students from "Down Under" and New Caledonia. Annette Hope and Meredith Cousin from Australia and New Caledonia, respectively, are going to be experiencing a Christmas with snow. A change from home where the only type of white Christmas is found on the beach.

"We celebrate Christmas, but it's in our summer," said Hope.

This Christmas promises to be an interesting one for the exchange students. However, without the presence of their families, "interesting" is hardly the word.



Padless football finds it's way to BHS

By Tony Dickhausen

Staff Writer

The crack of helmets, the smashing of pads, the loud roar of the crowd. These are all things that you will not see or hear at a "BYFL" game.

Back Yard Football League (BYFL) is a non-school activity. It is the same as regular football except there are only seven players on the field at a time, all without pads. BYFL was founded last year by seniors John Goodale and Jason Maurer.

The senior team is known as the BYFL All-Stars, seven of which played varsity football and five that were named all-conference or all-conference honorable mention.

"A bunch of guys just got together and started playing," said Goodale.

The sophomores have their own team now who are the All-Stars only competitor in this school. The only

other team the BYFL All-Stars will play this year is last years Seniors, the college freshmen. This year the All-stars will have at least one game this year against the College Freshmen, that game will be on Dec. 20.

"With a team of their caliber, mistakes, miscues, and breakdowns could cost us the game, but if we can play solid on both sides of the ball it should be a great game," said Maurer.

The sophomore team is 0-3 right now, but they are confident on beating the seniors at least once. They will have at least two more games this year. One before school is out and one after.

"We will win, and you can take that to the bank," said sophomore Dave Macalena.

One question that comes to mind is how will the program continue throughout future years. It sounds as if most of the seniors are counting on the sophomores to keep it going.

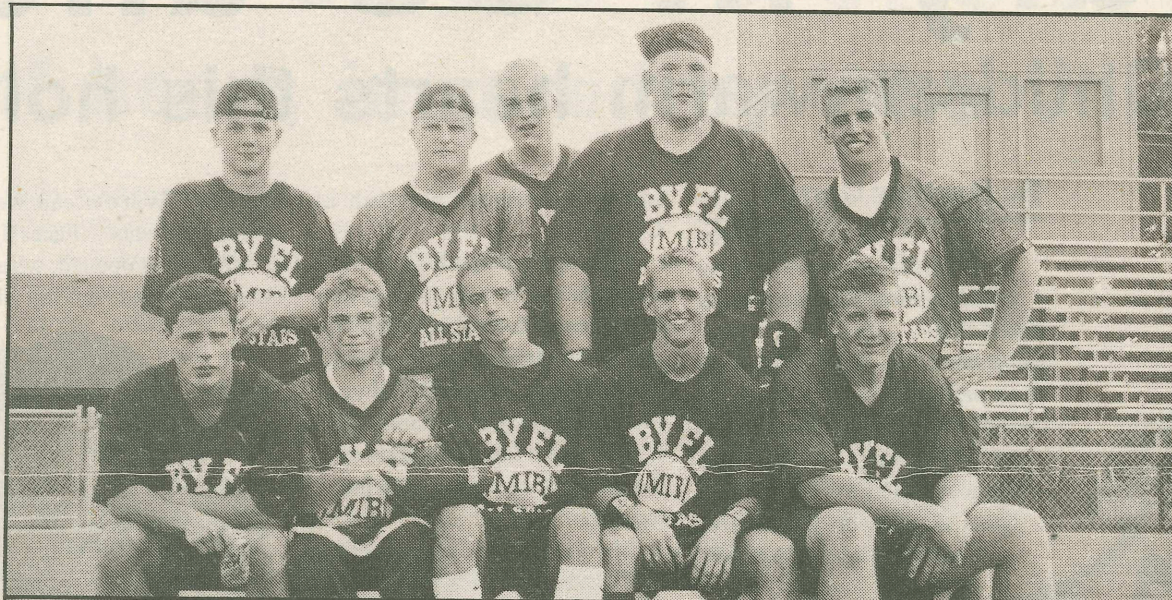


Photo courtesy of Mick Goodale

The BYFL All-Stars from left: Eric Graff, Beau Hickman, Jason Brager, John Goodale, and Ryan Meehl. Standing from left: Matt Jeske, Matt Hanson, Eric Tessmer, Jason Maurer, and Mark Hannon. The All-Stars are made up of ten seniors and their head coach junior Rusty Kath.

"In my eyes, I couldn't possibly see the class of 2000 turning their backs on what they, as well as my senior boys, have created in the BYFL," said All-Stars Head Coach Rusty Kath.

December athletes take flight on snow and ice



By Josh Behling

Staff Writer

It is a big accomplishment for an athlete to score a goal in a hockey game, but to score the first one in hockey history, it is an even bigger accomplishment.

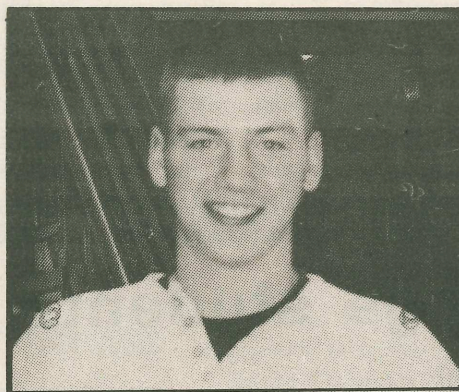
The female athlete for this month is Sue Lyn Myhre.

Born on Aug. 11, 1979, Sue started playing sports when she was young.

In school Sue is on the girl's hockey team where she is a captain. Outside of school she works out at the health club, and participates in just about any sport you can name.

"My favorite sports are hockey and basketball," said Myhre. "I like to skate, and I love the ice, and I love the sound of the (basketball) net swishing."

Sue plans on attending college in California, Colorado or maybe an in-state college with a major in physical education, health or exercise.



By Josh Behling

Staff Writer

The captain of the ski team is the student of the month on the boy's side. Brian Moon was born on July 28, 1979, in the old Buffalo Memorial Hospital, Moon or Mooner as many people call him was born with a talent for skiing.

Brian participates in Track and field and the Alpine ski team. He is the senior co-captain of both teams, and is being recruited to run track in college.

Out side of school Brian participates in church, skiing, rollerblading, and summer dry land practice. Brian also works at Lee's Farm and Garden, and runs a small ski tuning business.

"My favorite sport is skiing, I can do this for the rest of my life. Whenever I go skiing there is always something new to try," said Moon.

Happening again?

All too familiar to Minnesota sports fans, the Twins and Vikings are for sale

By Peter Reich

Staff Writer

Minnesota is tired. They are tired of seeing their sports teams leave and become someone else's thrill. They are tired of watching a team lose, and be sold to some other state only to have the best record ever. Minnesota has had five teams be subject to sale, or termination.

First Minnesota had the Minneapolis Lakers, a basketball team that during their 12 year stay (1948-1960) had five championships. This is due to George Mikan. He later was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame and is a current member of the NBA's 50 greatest players of all time.

Other teams that left were the Minnesota Strikers and the Minnesota North Stars. The Strikers were terminated in 1989. The North Stars were sold to Dallas in July of 1993, stunning many people. The real killer is the Vikings. The Vikings have been secretly for sale since August. They have had four out of state prospective buyers, receiving and rejecting a bid of \$150 million to purchase the team.

"The owners should be ashamed of themselves because their job is to fill the stadium to capacity every Sunday

afternoon. Because they can't do their job they have to bribe us, the fans to get up and buy overpriced tickets to go to a game otherwise we will lose our professional team," said Senior John Goodale.

What can one say about the Minnesota Twins? It seems that the Twins only hope to stay in Minnesota is Gov. Arne Carlson. Another vague possibility is that the Twins' self-declared deadline could be waived and the issue tackled again next year, during the regular legislative session in the spring. The Twins will probably go to the East Coast. Most likely they would move to North Carolina. A lot of Minnesotans are happy about the decision to let them leave.

"The citizens of Minnesota saw baseball die, professional baseball die, on Nov. 13, 1997. The question is, Eric, will you live long enough to see it when it comes back?" Rep. Loren Jennings said in an interview with WCCO-Radio's Eric Eskola.

Unless a miracle happens, it looks as the Minnesota Twins are packing their bags next October, and they just could be taking the Vikings with them.

"Minnesota probably won't get another expansion team and getting another football team sounds almost impossible," said Pierre Khalil.

Wright County trails have convenient locations

By Joe Vail

Staff Writer

What happens when:

You are caught drinking while driving a sled?

A DWI will result in a scheduled court appearance and from there a judge will decide the fine.

You are caught speeding?

1-10 mph over the limit will result in a \$62 fine
 11-14 mph \$73
 15-20 mph \$85
 21-25 mph \$96.50
 26-30+ mph \$131 unless a Sheriff's deputy says otherwise for life-threatening speeds.

Looking for a new place to sled? How about a day-long ride on one of the Wright County snowmobile trails?

Around the Wright County area there are eight trails groomed to ride on. The trails vary in length ranging from one to 84 miles long and over 225 miles of trails are maintained. Over 180 miles of these trails are usable only because landowners have given permission to cross their private land. The normal width the trails are 12 feet.

"[Trails are better to ride on there is] no stuff to hit and it's more fun," said sophomore Jessica Davis

Out of the eight trails in the Wright County area there are three of the longest trails in this part of Minnesota. Trail #1 is 84 miles long and extends from Howard Lake to Maple Lake, East to Washington Lake, to Rockford, South to Fountain Lake and returning to Howard Lake. Trail #2 is 35 miles long extending from Maple Lake, North to Hasty, to Monticello then South, meeting with Trail #1 and back into Maple Lake. Trail #3 is 35 miles long from Maple Lake to Annandale, South to Cokato, then heading East meeting with

Trail #1 and back to Maple Lake.

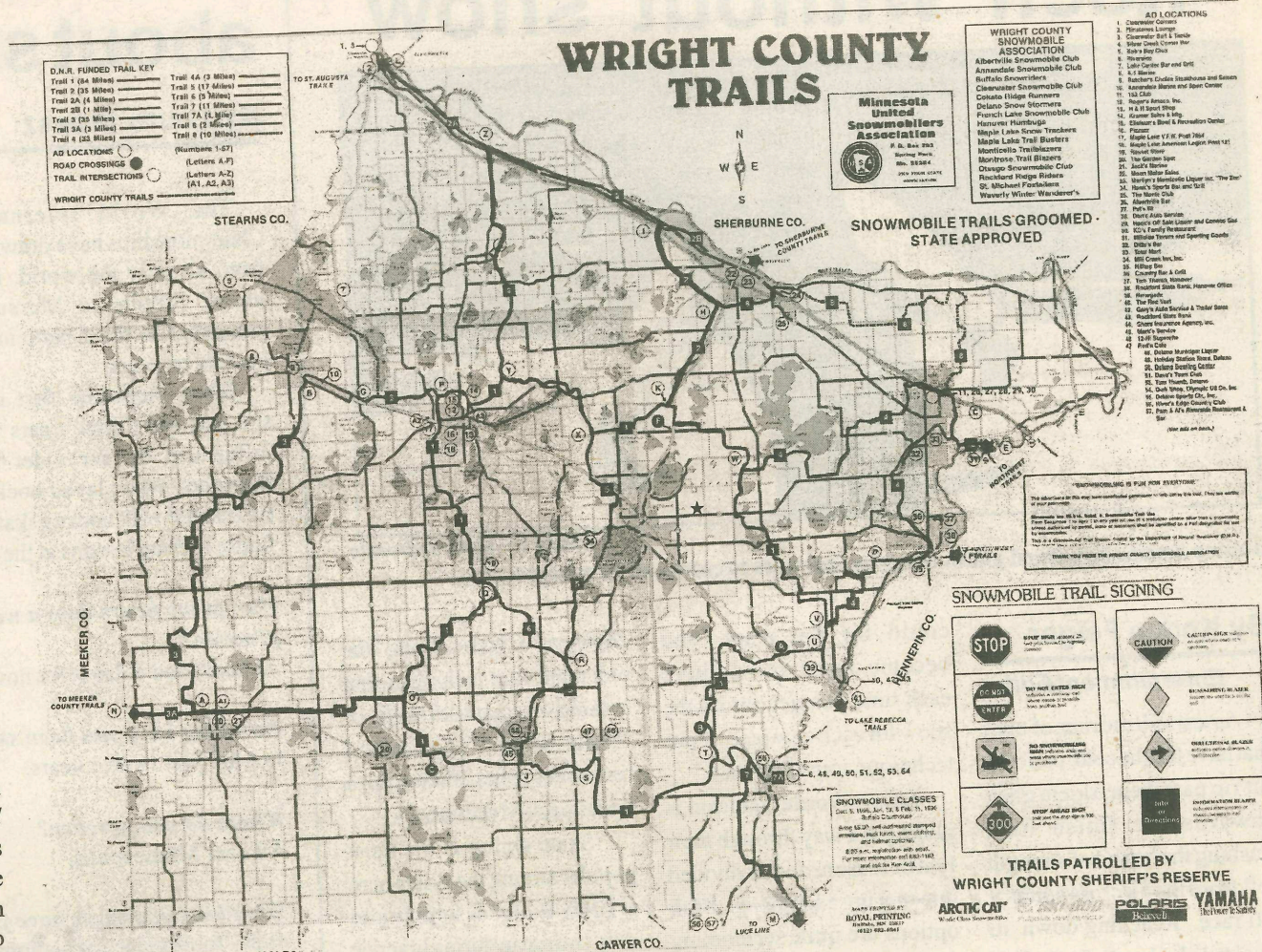
"It's fun to go more places," said sophomore Rachel Anderson.

Around Buffalo the easiest trail to pick-up is Trail #5 that cuts across Buffalo Lake and

meets with County Road 35 west of Buffalo. Trails are easy to recognize because of the small signs that resemble larger road signs. These signs are always yellow or orange. The yellow signs signal a stop sign ahead, an area where

caution should be taken nearby or a no snowmobiling area. The orange ones reassure riders where the trail is and lets them know that they are still on it. Many riders feel it is important to follow the rules of the trail.

"[You should not litter on the trails] because you would wreck the fun that is free to us," said senior John Goodale.



Wrestlers claim to healthy weight loss

By Christina Torgerson

Staff Writer

Every November the stories start to fly about wrestlers and how much weight that they "cut." This is a word that you will hear often when the school talks about wrestlers. There are many rumors associated with the BHS team. Some of concerns that people have about wrestlers are not having enough body fat, having to spit in a cup to lose weight, and having to lose five to ten pounds in a day.

"I love wrestling! It's my favorite high school sport to watch" said senior Megan Snyder "But I think it's pathetic that some of the guys are expected to lose between five and ten pounds in two days! That is so unhealthy! I think it's so sad, when you're eating lunch to eat and they

can't," said Snyder.

In the beginning of each season the coaches talk about nutrition and how to diet safely. There is a big difference between "cutting weight" and dieting. Cutting weight consists of losing a lot of weight rapidly. Dieting is changing eating habits in order to lower body weight in a healthy way.

"If you have to lose weight the

coaches tell you soon enough so you have a long time to do it. So you can diet and do it healthy," Sophomore Dave Macalena

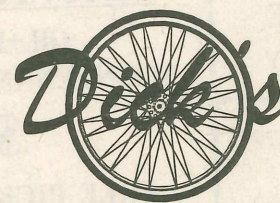
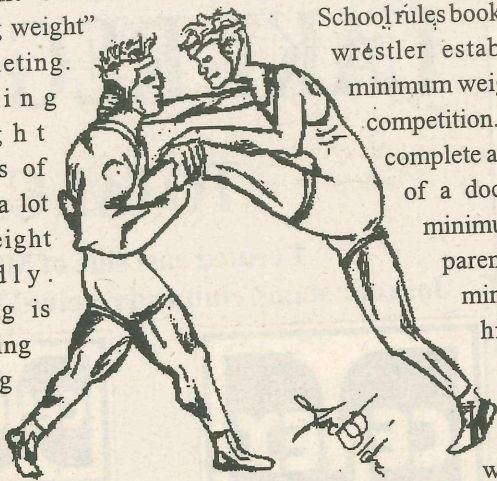
The National Federation High School rules book requires that each wrestler establish a certified minimum weight before the first competition. Each athlete must complete a sheet that consists of a doctor's recommended minimum weight and the parent's recommended minimum weight. The higher of the two weights is the certified minimum weight for that wrestler. The wrestler can't go below that weight.

"Losing weight for wrestling is a personal decision. We lose weight but we don't over do it. We have to

get a doctors to certify how low we can go" senior Nathan Holmberg.

Friends and family members of wrestlers may be concerned about their health and weight loss. The public seems to have much greater concern than wrestlers and coaches about this issue.

"If you diet properly then you won't have to 'cut' weight. A healthy diet will allow you to lose weight and feel better; not worse. Lack of discipline by the wrestlers leads to these impressions that people have of us" said coach Benitz.



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Nordic Ski team finds itself without snow



Photo by Ryan Schoenle

Junior Jessica Sanford glides along as she races to come out first in practice.

By Karlee Felger

Entertainment Editor

As tears fill the rims of eyes that have felt the cold, piercing air rip past them; skiers glide towards the finish line, pushing the last bit of strength left from the 5k cross country ski race. Reaching down to unclasp the boots from their skis, the arms that have propelled their bodies in a continuous motion feel exhausted. Satisfaction. The excitement and rush gained from the race shines upon a sweat-trickled face, which now creates a smile.

"I feel tired, but satisfied about how I raced," said senior Jenny Lanin, co-captain of the girls nordic ski team. "After trying your best, you know that you've done all you

could for the team, you become more competitive each time you get out on the snow for each new race. Your technique improves also."

BHS's Nordic ski team is gliding its way through their fourth season, and is divided into touring and racing. Both options are quite welcoming to the skiers, each providing an excellent workout and the enjoyable ride through the open trails on beautiful winter days.

Not all of the days the girls train are bright and sunny. They endure sub zero weather in the midst of January and February. With snow on their backs, and wind chills in their faces, their form, stamina, endurance and capability are truly tested.

Participants have the

choice of "Classic skiing" the older and first technique that is skied on a parallel track, or "Skate skiing." This method resembles roller-blading on a wider packed down trail.

"Skate skiing is the most popular among the skiers here at BHS. Every extra care and mile you put in during practice helps the outcome of the season," said Lanin.

Despite the lack of snow, the girls are keeping quite busy running, biking or roller-blading. There is not an easy way out when it comes to the depleting snowfalls. Waiting with eager anticipation is the only thing they can do, or attempting to ski on whatever of the white stuff is left. Besides, who doesn't enjoy a good hard run anyway?

Stephanie Marschel talks about skating experience

By Laura Stoesz

Staff Writer

last spring, for the Winter Classic.

The World International Team Championships have drawn figure skaters from all over the world, including BHS junior Stephanie Marschel who has competed in the Championships for the past three years.

When Stephanie first started skating she was only three years old. She was influenced by her older brother, Troy Marschel, who played hockey. Stephanie first skated with hockey skates, then began figure skating lessons at the age of twelve.



Artwork by Karlee Felger

How many hours/days a week do you practice?

12 hours and 4 days (for now).

How long have you been skating?

For the past twelve years.

Where do you practice?

All over Minneapolis.

What kind of awards have you won?

First - fourth place at Nationals, and many local competitions. I have been to Nationals three times.

What is Nationals?

Nationals are skaters from all over the world who come to compete against one another. Nationals is one week long. I have been to Chicago, Houston, Seattle. And loved meeting people from all over.

What are your future plans in skating?

I want to become a coach.

What was your most exciting moment in skating?

When I got 1st place in Colorado Springs,

Who are some of your role models?

Kristi Yamaguchi, because she has always had a big influence on me. Her pose and attitude towards skating is awesome.

What is your biggest fear in skating?

Getting older and being unable to skate and not have as much flexibility.

What do you do to stay in shape?

Track, Nordic skiing, and I also train on my own.

What are your future plans for this season?

To do well in all competitions, and do well at Nationals. This year's Nationals is in St. Louis.

Are there any other people in BHS that you know of that skate as well?

Yes, Jenell Green, Rachel Diethelm, Elyse Cossais, and Amy Eisler.



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New Union unites all with heavenly Maker

By Christina Torgerson

Staff Writer

The New Union is the oldest and largest Christian night club in the nation. It is the only full-time Christian night club in the U.S and is located in Brooklyn Park.

Students of all ages have enjoyed the club for its music and atmosphere.

"It was a great experience. The music was awesome and there are a lot of cool games too" said sophomore Amber Smith.

The neon lights sends the club into a riveting pulse in sync with the blaring music all around them similar to any other night club. But there are a few points that make the New Union special.

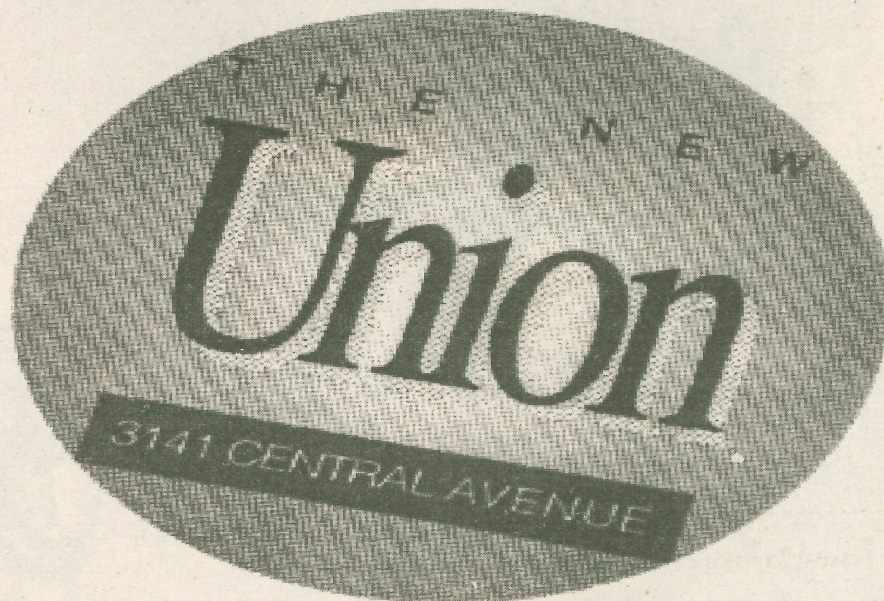
"At first I wasn't sure if it was a Christian club because of the low lights and bar-like eating area. Along with the pool tables, air hockey and video games. I wasn't too sure," said sophomore Joy Burda. "Once I had been there a few times, I realized that Christians can have fun with each other without the language and rudeness of others."

Many people attend concerts at the New Union. There are an average of 250 people that go on a regular Friday night. Including Thursdays and Saturdays, over 25,000 people attend the New Union each year on the average.

"I think we need more places that people from other churches could meet regularly and we could all worship together," said sophomore Leanne Rumsey. Many bands have come through the New Union, but only some of the bands go all the way with record deals. Some of the more popular bands that have received record

deals are Super Tones and Third Day. PFR (Pray For Rain) also received a record deal through the battle of the bands in 1990. Most bands can be heard on Praise TV on channel 41 at 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. every night of the week.

"It's the nightclub that has caught the nation's attention. It has loud music and premier bands. There's no drinking or dancing, but you can rock the night away, in the name of Jesus," stated the Star Tribune.



New Union Dates

Friday Nights through May: **Battle of the Bands**

3-4 bands, night cost \$5

December 31: **9th Annual New Years Eve Bash**

2:30 close, all you can eat pizza, cost \$10 adv./\$12 door

Address: 3141 Central Ave. N.E., Minneapolis tel. (612) 781-8488

Promiscuous, permanent: tattooing and body piercing

By Missi Bratsch

Staff Writer

A tattoo or body piercing is a costly decision to permanently affect one for the rest of their life. It may be a fashion statement or simply a way to express one's state of mind.

Some say piercing is just a fad but it is proven that this is a myth. Piercing has been around for centuries. So is it that much out of the norm to get one?

One may say that people make the routine of getting body piercing to rebel against authority or to find one's self. (In other words, their parents.)

Tattoos and body piercing are rumored to be *the cool thing to do*. Getting a tattoo may be a way to fit in with the crowd they are associated with. Others may do it to be different from everybody else or make a statement.

"Not many people had their belly buttons pierced at the time, so I wanted to beat them to the chase," said junior Lisa Salonek.

Suffering from excruciating pain of a tattooing needle pump ink into one's body or suffering from the massive loss of blood due to a hole pierced into their tongue is questioned whether it's considered bodily decoration or *distortion*. A person may say it doesn't hurt. Not only does the actual procedure cause unbearable pain at the moment, one also runs the risk of infection caused by unsanitary utensils. The healing process can last up to a year for both tattoos and piercing, but this process comes to a screeching halt when infection stands in the way.

"It [getting a body modification] makes you totally different from the next person," said Buzz Nygaard, a tattoo artist at Mainline Tattoos in Anoka who has been perfecting his unique talent for 28 years, "Once you take this step, you are crossing a line, you can't turn back. Body modifications are only for certain people; not everybody can handle them."

The care of these acts takes time and responsibility. One must think upon their future and if it is the right choice to make. Most employers look upon these acts as childish or refer to them as a reflection of who someone may be and exclude them from a possible job. One's choice today will send a message to their peers, parents, and possibly one day, their children.

"We went to Lake Mariah and went on the trails; it's gorgeous there"

Cheap escapes for low cost teen budgets

By Christina Torgerson

Staff Writer

Are you looking for some fun, exciting and inexpensive activities to cure your winter blues? There are many things to do around the metro area but most are out of a teenager's budget. But putting in some extra effort finding places to go can really add some dazzle to your spirit. Actually, it pays off considering some are inexpensive and doesn't cost a cent!

Ready for a nature excursion? County and state parks are open to the daily public ready to ride the winter winds. Romping around the trails in snow shoes offers beautiful nature scenery, whispering through the branches of the frost coated trees. Gliding through their groomed trails on cross country skis can send anyone to new heights with a great cardiovascular workout.

"I went to Lake Mariah with my church. We played games and went on nature walks in the trails. It's gorgeous out there," said sophomore Megan Huston.

The St. Paul Winter Carnival is the oldest and largest event of its kind. This is an interesting and romantic evening to attend with a special, significant other. The Royal Courtyard is one of

the most popular features, showing spectacular carvings of ice. The sculptures grab one by the inner soul through their eyes, and keep them there captivated. The St. Paul Winter Carnival serves as the Midwest's largest ice sculpture competition. The Grande Day Parade begins on Saturday, January 31st from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. A celebration for all ages brings together families and friends.

"I attended the Grande Day Parade and thought it was an interesting winter activity," said LD teacher Lori Sandin.

For a quiet, relaxing way to escape, indulge yourself in a book at the local Buffalo library, which is part of the Great River Regional libraries, or try the Hennepin County System. Reading newspapers, magazines or books can send you into an endless sea of people, places and adventures. An added plus are the free movies, CD's and tape rentals they offer to anyone with a library card.

"I like to go to the library and read magazines and look at articles in the newspaper," said sophomore Claudia Rosales.

Even faithful bowling alleys provide another cheap way to fill an evening to fill an afternoon of vegging on the couch in front of the television. Huikko's in Buffalo and Joyner's in Monticello are a couple of nearby places.

BHS students show volunteering spirit



Photo by Sara Tabor

Junior Justin Schroeder participated in the NHS-sponsored November food drive. So far this year, the NHS held a clothing drive in October for needy families.

Senior Abbey Klaassen and English teacher Tracy Hagstrom-Dahl give their own time in school by decorating the new Christmas tree by the office.

Photo by Leanne Turnquist

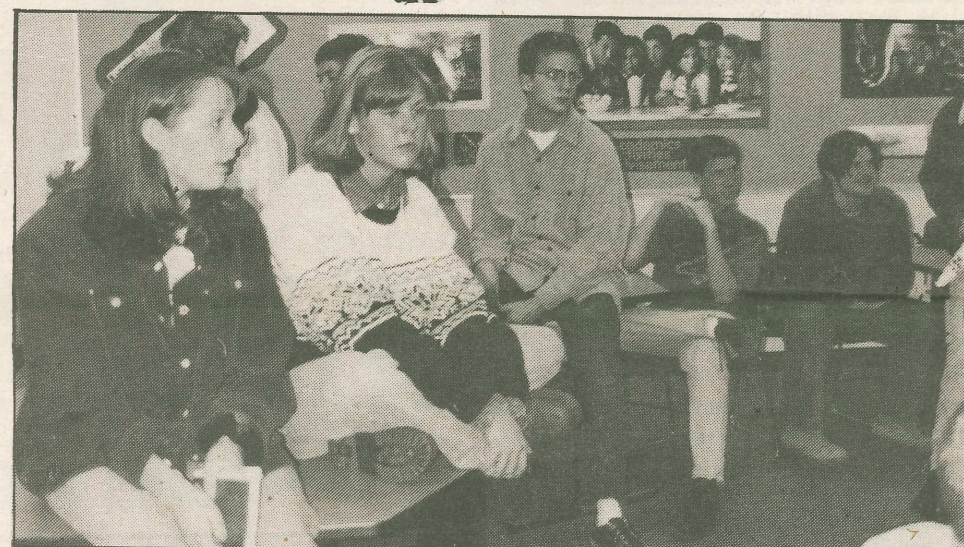


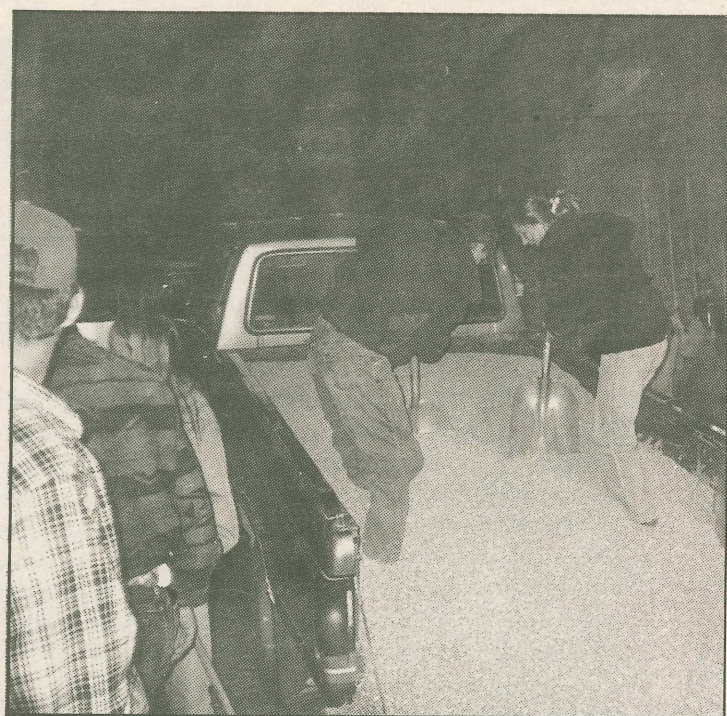
Photo by Sara Tabor

Students gathered in Tracy Schuster's room for AAA and discussed creating a student-run radio program on the Buffalo-based radio station KRWC. The station is willing to let students read school-related news on the air.



Sponsoring a Corn Drive on Oct. 7, the BHS FFA chapter earned money for Camp Courage. The FFA has also raised funds for cystic fibrosis. Pictured left are junior Hollis Larson and senior Amy Drahota.

Photo by Laura Stoesz



Many groups in and around BHS volunteer time and effort for the well-being of the school and the community. Here are some examples of students and staff who care enough to give of themselves for others.



A road clean-up was held Nov. 4 by the 9th grade Class Cabinet. Approximately 55 students helped clean Cty. Rd. 35 and Bison Blvd. including freshman Carrie Niemela, Molly Erickson, and Lauren Robinson. After the three-hour project, volunteers were rewarded for their efforts with free pizza.

Photo by Katie Kothrade

