



The Bison

The Buffalo Senior High School Newspaper

Buffalo Senior High • 1300 Highway 25 North • Buffalo, Minnesota 55313 • 682-6800
Volume XXXVII Issue 3 December 22, 1993



Patricia Hibner / Photography
DO, RE, MI: On Tuesday, November 30, four BHS singers, juniors Sarah Anderson, Jason Poirier, Marie Zimmerman, and Travis Pobud sang at Orchestra Hall. All the choirs performed last night in the mall at the Winter Choral Concert.

Students consider NAFTA

By Cassie LePage

Staff Writer

Earlier this fall, NAFTA was voted on in both the House of Representatives and the Senate and passed. NAFTA stands for North American Free Trade Agreement and affects the United States, Canada, and Mexico. It is supposed to open trade between the three countries.

"I think it's a great idea to have free trade. Isn't that what independence means?" said sophomore Melissa Wenzel.

Some believe NAFTA will benefit the U. S. by making it easier to export our goods to these countries.

"The theory is that by lowering the tariffs between the U.S. and Mexico, it will increase the number of exports from the United States to Mexico, creating a trade surplus. The fear is that it will cost American jobs because of the lack of environmental and worker protection in Mexico. "It's cheaper for companies to produce products there because of low salary workers," said sophomore Robyn Gotvaslee. She also thinks that world trade is important but that now is not the right time for it.

People also say it will decrease the number of

corporations moving to Mexico to take advantage of the cheaper labor, because with what NAFTA is promising, they will see no need to go. In the long run there should be an increase in jobs.

Social Studies teacher Laurie Raymond said, "I believe that businesses will continue to employ cheap labor to third world countries. I would rather have the people of Mexico get these jobs than the people in the East Asian countries."

NAFTA will benefit Mexico by improving work conditions and getting them up to a standard minimum wage. Also, Mexicans won't feel the need to illegally come to America because there will be more jobs there.

Computer Aide Michelle Hoefling says, "I guess I'm for it because we can get out of it in six months if need be."

Some believe that NAFTA will take decent paying American jobs and turn them into low paying Mexican jobs, therefore exploiting Mexicans and causing unemployment in America.

"From what I've heard, the jobs we will get from Canada will be beneficial but I'm scared about how many we may lose to Mexico," said junior Erin Buselmeier.

Murder or self-defense?

Mock Trial begins practicing

By Darcy Fischer

Staff Writer

Was the murder of Jordan Davis really in self-defense as Pat Haines claims it was, or does the law interpret self-defense differently?

This is the case that the two Mock Trial teams, coached by Laurie Raymond and Dave Casey will argue in this year's Mock Trial season.

This year's case is on self-defense and gun control. In the case, Pat Haines was charged with the shooting murder of Jordan Davis. Haines admitted to shooting Davis, but claims it was in self-defense because Davis had a knife. The team has to prove whether or not Haines' claim of self-defense was justified in the shooting death of Davis.

While she's never had any personal experience with guns, senior Jessica Lilja still feels the case relates to her. "It [the case] does mean a lot to me," said Lilja. "It's an important issue for society."

There is a lot more work that goes into being involved in Mock Trial than most people think.

"Once you have a case, you have to study the affidavits, learn the case inside and out, and argue the case in a real courtroom at an actual trial," explained Lilja. "In a lot of ways it's more difficult than an athletic sport. It requires more thinking ahead and focusing than many athletic sports do."

Members also have to have an understanding of the laws involved, be effective in stating their testimonies, maintain their composure at the witness stand, and consider all of the many technicalities that exist in the case.

Students had many different reasons for wanting to be in Mock Trial.

Lilja explained that she chose Mock Trial over other activities such as Speech because she gets to act, study law, give speeches and learn about current social issues all at the same time.

Senior Sarah Jatko said some of the reasons she's in Mock

Trial are because she "likes to argue", and because she "wants to meet cute guys on the other teams."

Junior Chris Wessman said he's considering a career in law "but American society has this perception that lawyers are scum and that there are just too many of them."

Everyone in Mock Trial agrees that the main reason for being on the team is because it's fun.

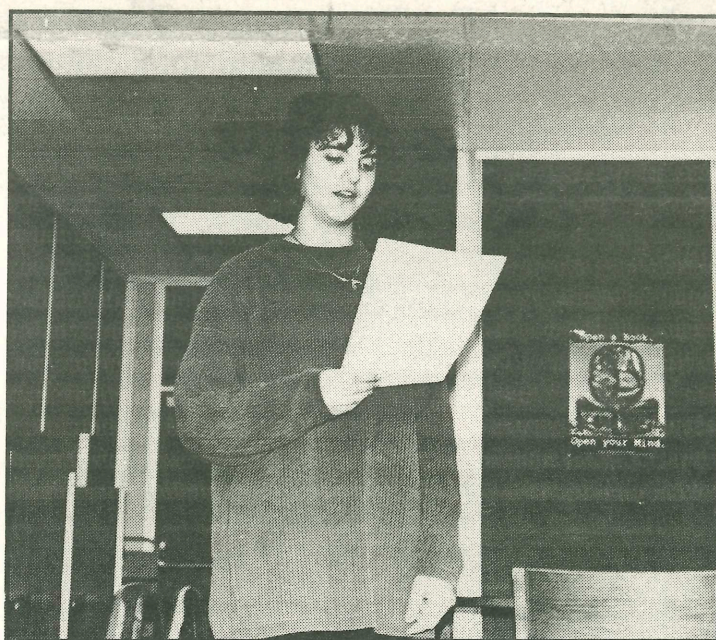
Everyone on the team has many goals for this year's Mock Trial season, including scoring high, making it to state, and having fun.

Many members also have personal goals.

"I always want to be prepared, not flustered," said Jatko. "I want to score at least one ten (a perfect score)."

First year member, junior Erin Buselmeier, said that she's already "met her main goal by being on the team."

Competition will begin in January. When competing, indi-



Patricia Hibner / Photography
SPEAKING HER MIND: Senior Shelly Pelzek practices her closing statement in the library for Mock Trial. The team puts in many hours after school practicing the different parts of the trial.

vidual team members will receive points from one to ten, based on their knowledge of the law, and the way they incorporate it in into the case. The team with the highest number of total points wins the trial.

"I'd like to score at least two ten's," said Lilja, "I'd like to score nothing below a seven."

Most members feel that this

year's team will do very well together.

Jatko explained that this year's team has more depth than some teams in the past. "Everyone will try to do their best at all times," she said.

Overall, members are optimistic about the new season.

"We're going to rock the house, man!" said Wessman.

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Teaching techniques challenged at home

By Rob Spangler

Guest Columnist

Education has us wondering as a nation: Why are our students failing to do as well as the other countries of this world? Don't get me wrong. There are a lot of super schools in America, but as a whole, our American school system is crumbling.

A lot of suggestions have been made about this topic, but one answer rings loud and clear to me.

Our media has tried to block it out, recent political personalities have also trashed this beacon. I feel it is time to shed some light on this ever important solution.

For the most part our teaching methods have veered away from their original purpose. The original purpose of teaching wasn't to cram your brain with information, but to show you how to arrive at an answer.

Teaching has become based on the outcome rather

than the way to get to that outcome. Students cannot get to an outcome efficiently, without studying and being attentive in class.

Recent study techniques have been undermined by ignorant teaching methods. For instance, some teachers allow for retaking tests up to three times. By the third time any student can pass a test. This also does not promote good study habits.

The fact of the matter is teaching techniques really don't need an overhaul. The families of our great nation have deteriorated, and so have our school; coincidence, I think not.

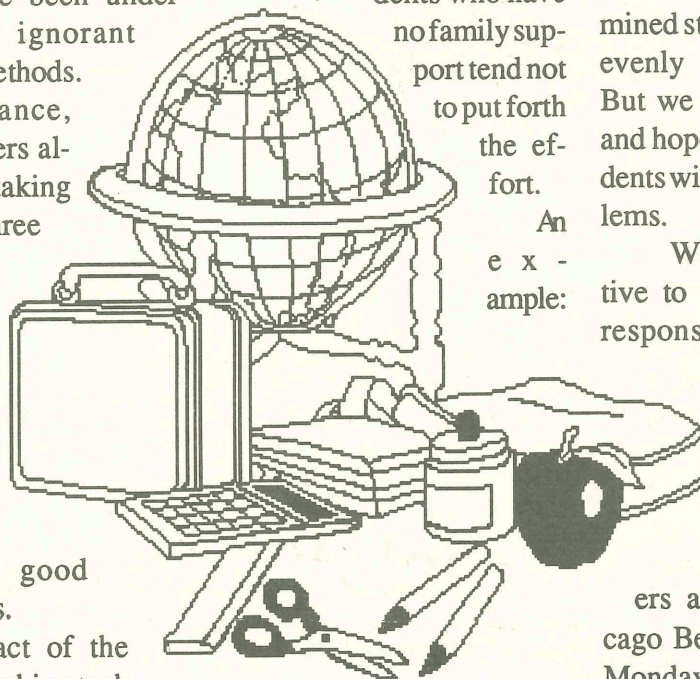
The fact of the matter is families and school are intertwined. Singleparent

homes can succeed and some do, but the usual case is just the opposite.

With strong family support students can achieve academic excellence. Students who have

no family support tend not to put forth the effort.

Example:



Look at the majority of our innercity youth, gang members. For the most part they come from single parent homes; usually mothers, who work while their children are at home.

This allows for chil-

dren getting into gangs, dropping out of school and ending up dead.

That's just one example of how families influence education. Every once in a while along comes a determined student who can strive evenly through adversity. But we can't just sit around and hope more and more students will excel through problems.

We must take an initiative to bring back parental responsibility, as well as healthy parent/teacher relations.

Let's take a look at real life for example. Let's say the Green Bay Packers are playing the Chicago Bears on Sunday. On Monday, the Bears practice and work on their plays.

The Packers on the other hand take the day off, heck the rest of the days off until Sunday. The Bears practice every other day that week, and on Saturday look at film footage of some of the Packers previous games.

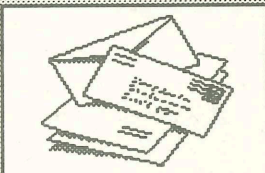
Well, Sunday rolls around and guess what, the Bears crushed the Packers.

Gee, I wonder why? The Packers neglected to study or practice and they got annihilated. Do you think Paul Tagliabue is going to tell the Packers, "Well, I know you didn't win on Sunday so I'll call up the Bears and tell them to play you guys again, and again until you can beat 'em." Of course not.

You're probably thinking; how does this collate with education? Simple, by teachers not letting students take tests over and over again. If students work hard and study, like the Bears, they will succeed.

In real life you don't get chance after chance to do things. This type of education doesn't promote realism in this school.

Anyway, I hope this gets people to think about how deep our problems as a nation are, the only way to reverse this is to strengthen our homes.



Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR:

As a senior at Buffalo Senior High School this year, I feel that the senior class should be able to try open campus this year. After all, the senior class of last year had the opportunity to experience open campus during fourth quarter. I understand that it didn't exactly work out as planned last year, but the senior class of this year is a new batch of young adults. I believe that we can handle the responsibility of open campus and deserve a chance at it.

Most of the senior class holds down responsibilities: going to school, keeping our grades up, and participating in extracurricular activities. In addition, many of us hold down jobs as well. We have to find transportation to get to a job, accomplish all of the responsibilities to maintain the job, and for many of us paying our own car insurance and other necessities.

But then we are back in school and we have to ask for a pass to go to the bathroom. What is wrong with this picture?

Thank you,
Senior Ana Miller

DEAR EDITOR:

Last month I was driving to school on Hwy. 55 early in the morning. I saw a woman walking along the highway, head tilted down to avoid the cold wind. About a quarter mile later I drove past a stalled car on the shoulder and surmised that the woman's car had broken down. Knowing that she had a long way to go, I did a U-turn on the highway, went back to pick her up, and took her to a service station. But I wonder, how many dozens and dozens of people drove by her and never stopped to ask if she needed help? Gee, wonder if that had been me?

On many bulletin boards in school are green signs that state: "Random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty." I think we all can profit by revisiting the "random acts of kindness." I believe that most of us, most of the time, are tempted to be kind. We hold the door open for people with loaded arms, we give a helping hand to someone who slipped and fell on the ice, we ask a crying child at the shopping mall if we can help find mommy and daddy, we compliment our friend who is

wearing a new outfit, and we are there to lend a listening ear to a distraught acquaintance.

Perhaps a couple of times you may not have seized the opportunity to be kind, and I challenge you to think of one act of kindness to try. For example, if the grocery cashier is cranky try saying, "It looks as if you're having a tough day." Or how about to the parent who asked you eight zillion times to clean your room. What could you say this time? How about, "I must drive you crazy when I don't do what you've asked me to do around the house." Those simple responses will get you much farther than the tempting snide remark.

I believe that at heart we all want to be kind, for when we make the decision for kindness, we begin to recreate a world worth living in and a community of shared hope. School becomes a better place to learn, and home becomes a better place to live. If times are tough, it only means that our gifts of kindness are more needed than ever. Give it a try over the holiday -- I think you'll like what happens! By the way, have a wonderful and safe vacation!

-Mary Loberg,
Assistant Principal



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The Bison is printed
by the Wright County
Journal Press

Growing up; growing apart heart to heart

By Rebecca Ebnet

Editor-in-Chief

It's funny how life can play tricks with friendship. When I was little, I used to live in St. Louis Park. My best friend lived next door -- his name was James.

James came over everyday right after breakfast, and stayed until supper. We were inseparable.

I remember dressing up as Indians -- construction paper feathers and last years Halloween paint. We ran around the yard shooting each other with plastic pistols and making war whoops. My Mom's laundry was hanging out to dry on the washline, and we ran through it, leaving green smudges. My Mom still hasn't forgiven me.



In my Opinion..

I remember playing on the swingset, seeing who could swing the highest. We would pretend we were Superman, and "fly" on our stomachs, singing the theme song.

We would climb and do gymnastic stunts on the bars, seeing who could do the most flips. There were a pair of birds that always nested in the hollow tube at the top of the swing set, and we would check on them everyday,

watching them grow, until they flew away in the fall.

I remember raking leaves into a huge pile and jumping into them. When we were tired of that, we would go into the house and get a popsicle to eat under the tree.

I remember driving red pedal cars around the driveway wearing blue baseball helmets.

I remember playing baseball with James' brother Edward,

and never being able to hit the ball. When I did hit it, he would tag me out.

I remember my first day of Kindergarten and how he cried because I was leaving. That whole year, he walked me down to the bus stop, then sat and waited on the doorstep until I got home.

I remember when he started Kindergarten a year later. He clung to my hand the entire way to the bus stop. He sat with me on the bus, his eyes wide with fear. I walked with him to his classroom, and will never forget the sorrowful picture he made, with tears streaming down his cheeks when I had to leave him there.

James and I had our entire futures planned out. We would get married, he would be the daddy, I would be the mommy, and we

would live in the basement of my parents house.

So much for the plans of four year olds.

James moved away when he was in first grade. I only saw him twice after that. I suppose even if he hadn't have moved, we would have grown apart, but that ounce of doubt will always remain in my mind. We moved out to Buffalo a couple years later, and now our parents only exchange letters once a year, at Christmas.

I think often about James, and what he might be doing. It seems sad to think that friendship is that fragile, that a couple rotten words, a few reckless actions, or a few missed letters could tear two people apart forever.

Abortion decisions; legislative or personal issue

Ami Miller

Columnist

Abortion is one of the most heated and talked about issues faced by the United States today. My purpose in choosing this particular topic was not to sway anybody's personal decision on abortion, nor was it to pound on anybody's personal beliefs. It was simply to make people aware that abortion is exactly that: a personal issue.

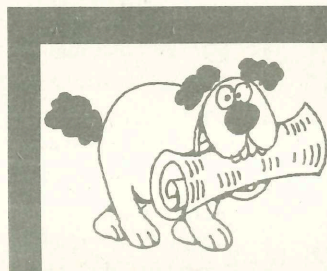
In a recent survey conducted by St. Cloud State University, 89% of Minnesotans favor abortion for at least some reasons (SCSU Survey, 2/92). To some, it is completely shocking to realize such a vast majority believe that stealing that life of an unborn child should

be legal. To others, it's proof that a fetus is not a real person at the moment of conception. To most, however, it's not one extreme or the other. It is simply a matter of choice.

A Catholic priest and a doctor who performs abortions can argue until the end of time, but will either one change their minds? Absolutely not, because the each feel they are right.

Abortion is too controversial and too personal for a government to have the right to choose. Every individual needs to decide for him or herself.

The majority of abortions in the U.S. are due to either failed contraceptives and willingly not using any protection. But the minority are those who are raped.



Ami's Answers

A government is not created solely to protect the rights of the majority, but also those of the minority.

Any woman who is raped should not be forced by the government to either carry the fetus to term or have a dangerous and life-threatening illegal abortion.

Many anti-choice lobbyists believe that an abortion is only justified under special circumstances, such as rape. If a law like

that was passed, the only way a woman could legally have an abortion was if it was proven in a court of law to be rape. Are we, as women, willing to allow an extremely slow, male-dominated court decide what we can do with our bodies?

Many obviously do not realize how humiliating, emotionally scarring, and difficult it is to prove someone guilty of rape. In fact,

merely 1% of reported rapists in the U.S. are actually charged with the crime. By making abortion illegal we are leaving victims who don't want to give birth to the child of a rapist but couldn't prove him guilty in court only one horrible choice: to have an illegal, back-alley abortion.

Before abortion was made legal, that was the leading cause of death for pregnant women in the country.

The consequences of making abortion illegal would be catastrophic, much less unconstitutional.

Perhaps Bella Abzug sums it up best by saying, "Abortion doesn't belong in the political arena. It's a private right, like many concerning the family."

Winter driving; hazards of parking at the school

By Krissy Benkowski

Editorials Editor

The snow has started to fall and the seasons have begun to change as new drivers and already experienced drivers try to get reacquainted with the ice and the snow.

New drivers that have never driven in snow and ice before, may feel that the ice, and constant reminders of going in the ditch, is a very harrowing subject.

I think that one thing can be changed at the school to help people get used to the winter driving once again. The student parking lot and road in the front of the school could be plowed better.

When snow starts to pack



Krissy's Comments

down, it forms ice, which can cause accidents that seem unavoidable at the time, especially for new drivers.

Sometimes just the fact of knowing and preparing for the ice under the snow is enough, but for non-experienced drivers, hitting the ice can cause panic to set it.

Hitting ice that you can't see can be a nightmare, everything runs together. But realizing that you can't stop on the ice can make you slide even further down the road.

That's when the panic sets in, and many people vow never to drive again, which is basically impossible.

I think that with so many people driving through the school parking lot on a daily basis, it would be a lot safer to get the parking lots plowed better.

At the end of the day, when hundreds of students are trying to leave school as fast as they can, built up ice can cause many accidents that could have been prevented from better plowing. Sliding into the back of someone's new car with my car is not one of my greatest dreams.

I think that if the roads and parking lots got better plowed, many first time drivers wouldn't be so fearful about the packed parking lot after school and how

to avoid the after school rush.

I think the main reason there is so many accidents during the winter is because of fear. People, especially new drivers, have a fear that has been beaten into their heads for so many years, a fear of getting in an accident or maybe even going in the ditch.

Everyday the commercials come on the t.v. talking about going in the ditch. A woman calls her husband to tell him that she's totaled the car, but she's okay.

Every time I see one of those commercials I think about what my parents have told me and everyone else a billion times. Don't get into an accident, or your insurance will go up.

Like we don't know that! Do our parents actually think we go out looking to get into a good accident, "Look, Sherri, let's side-swipe this car. It'll be great!"

Slowness, which isn't always that bad, causes many people to take risks on the road to get out from behind someone that may be

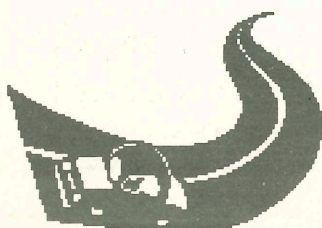
going too slow.

But passing may not be the best resort. With the ice and oncoming cars, accidents may occur faster than usual on a road that usually would be easy to drive on, a road that could become a death trap.

Recklessness is another factor that needs to be addressed. Not everyone on the road can read your mind, and not knowing what you are going to do next can cause many accidents, especially with some people's reckless driving on icy roads.

I think the only thing that I can say is to take your time. If you start out early enough, and not get upset about the little 80 year old women driving in front of you when your supposed to be there in five minutes, you'll make it to wherever your going in one piece.

Your parents won't have to worry, and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that your car stayed in one piece.



"Home for

Resolutions for New year

By Jackie Gustafson

Features Editor

...3, 2, 1 Happy New Year! Right now it is 12:00a.m. January 1st and people everywhere from Charleston to Chattanooga are making New Year's resolutions.

"I think that it [a New Year's resolution] is just a promise that one tries to keep to oneself," said junior Devonne Hermosillo.

There is probably an important reason behind almost every resolution.

"It's probably a fault that they have and they want to correct it," said senior Sharalee Strand.

Some people believe that resolutions are simply a result of peer pressure.

"We make them just because everybody else does," said junior Stacy Schmitz.

If New Years resolutions could talk just imagine the stories that they



could tell.

"Once I said that I would not eat chocolate for a year," said Hermosillo. It isn't always easy sticking to a

resolution after it has been made, for some it may even be an impossible task.

"I said that I was going to not go shopping for one year," said Hermosillo, "but a week later I went shopping."

Those that do manage to follow through with their resolutions often attribute their success to self-discipline and/or self-control.

"I was not going to chew my nails, and I would always have them done ... I stuck to it because I have self-discipline," said Strand.

Some have given up the idea of New Year's resolutions altogether for one reason or another.

"I don't make them [New Year's resolutions] because I never live up to them," said junior Lissa Erotas.

In the midst of the noise makers and confetti as the count down begins, decide to start off the new year on a new foot and make a resolution.



AWAY IN A MANGER: This front yard

True Christmas trying to find

By Beth Pratt

Staff Writer

When someone says the word Christmas, what do comes to mind? Maybe it's relatives, friends, or one of a thousand other things.

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"It's not the giving, it's not the the loving."

mercials," said sophomore K.C. Kolstad.

It seems that most people begin decorating right after Thanksgiving and take decorations down right around New Year's Day.

Each and every family tradition is certainly an important part of Christmas.

"My family always bakes sugar cookies together," said senior Sarah Jatko.

Family outings also help to lift spirits over the holidays.

"We always buy our Christmas tree as a family," said freshman Tiffany Berndt.

Of course, traditions nearly every family has are opening presents and stuffing themselves with food.

"My family opens presents on Christmas morning and has dinner at about 2:00 p.m.," said junior Kevin

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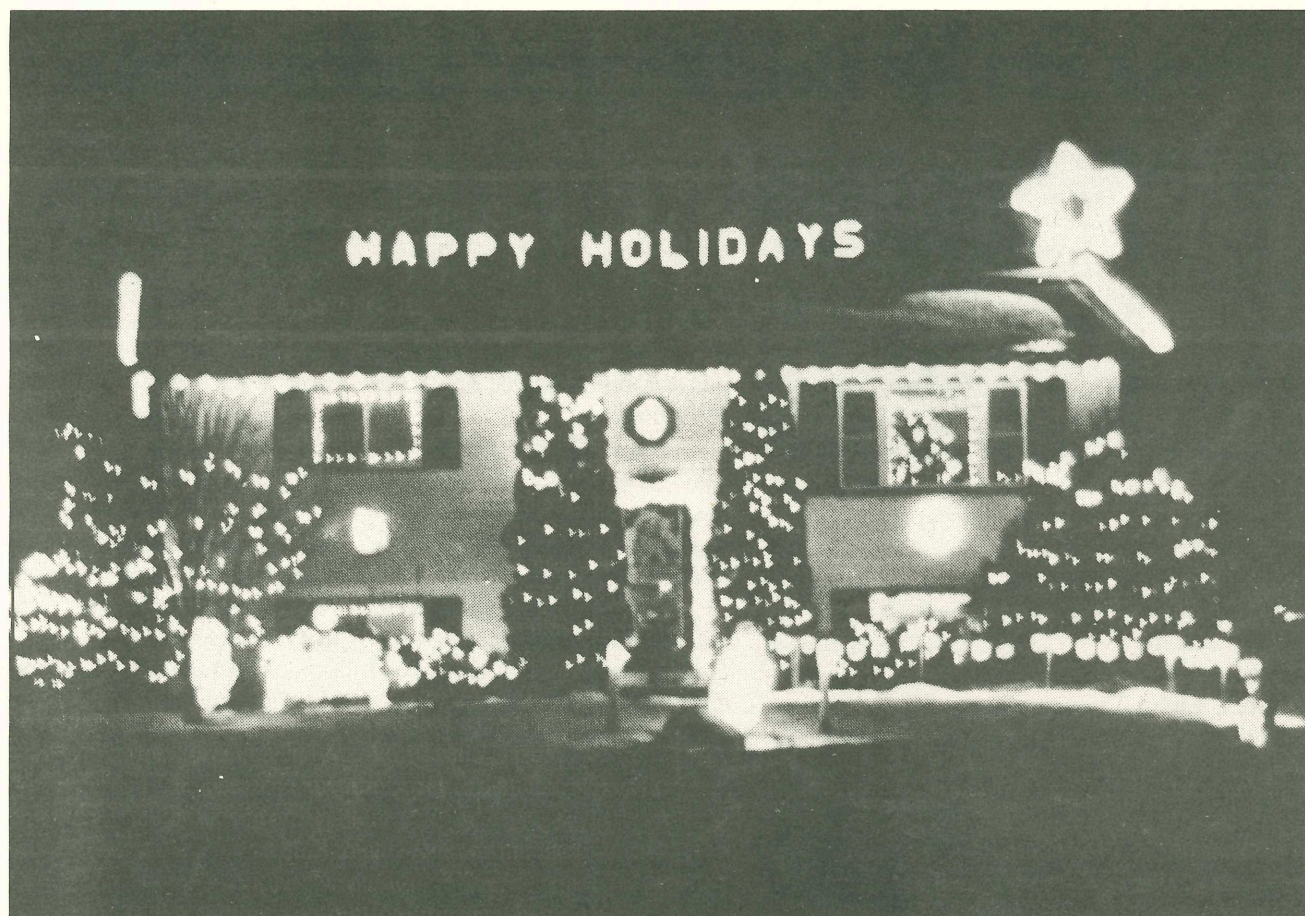


Photo by Tricia Hibner

LIGHTING UP THE TOWN: The holiday lights around Buffalo put a twinkle in the eye of everyone that beholds them. Some believe that by plugging in thousands of sparkling lights they are the creating the perfect symbol of holiday spirit.

The holidays



Photo by Tricia Hibner

like so many others is decked out in holiday style with decorations and twinkling lights.

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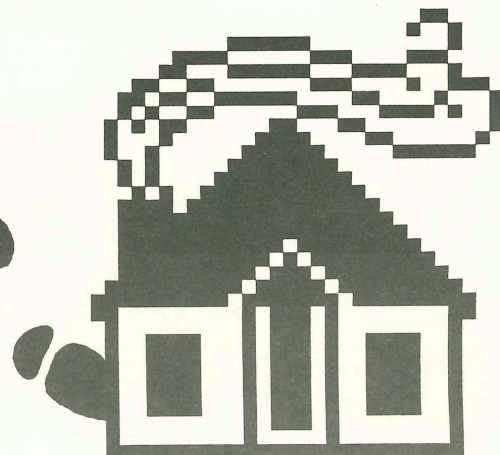
Christmas Eve, we go to my
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Christmas means] department
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oon fat cat Garfield, "It's not
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Jewish celebration of faith, tradition: Hanukkah

BY Jaime Loebertmann

Staff writer

Rejoicing, eating, giving and receiving presents; does anybody recall which holiday was just described? If the answer was either Hanukkah or Christmas your right on, but Hanukkah has a few traditions of it's own.

When describing Hanukkah senior Jacob Schloner said, "going to a relatives house to eat a big meal, open presents and also going to a temple to say a prayer."

The Hanukkah celebration is based on a festival held in the year 165 B.C. to celebrate the victory of the Jews over Antiochus IV with whom they had been fighting for three years. At this festival there was only one cruse, or container of oil to light all the lamps and yet somehow

the oil managed to last eight days.

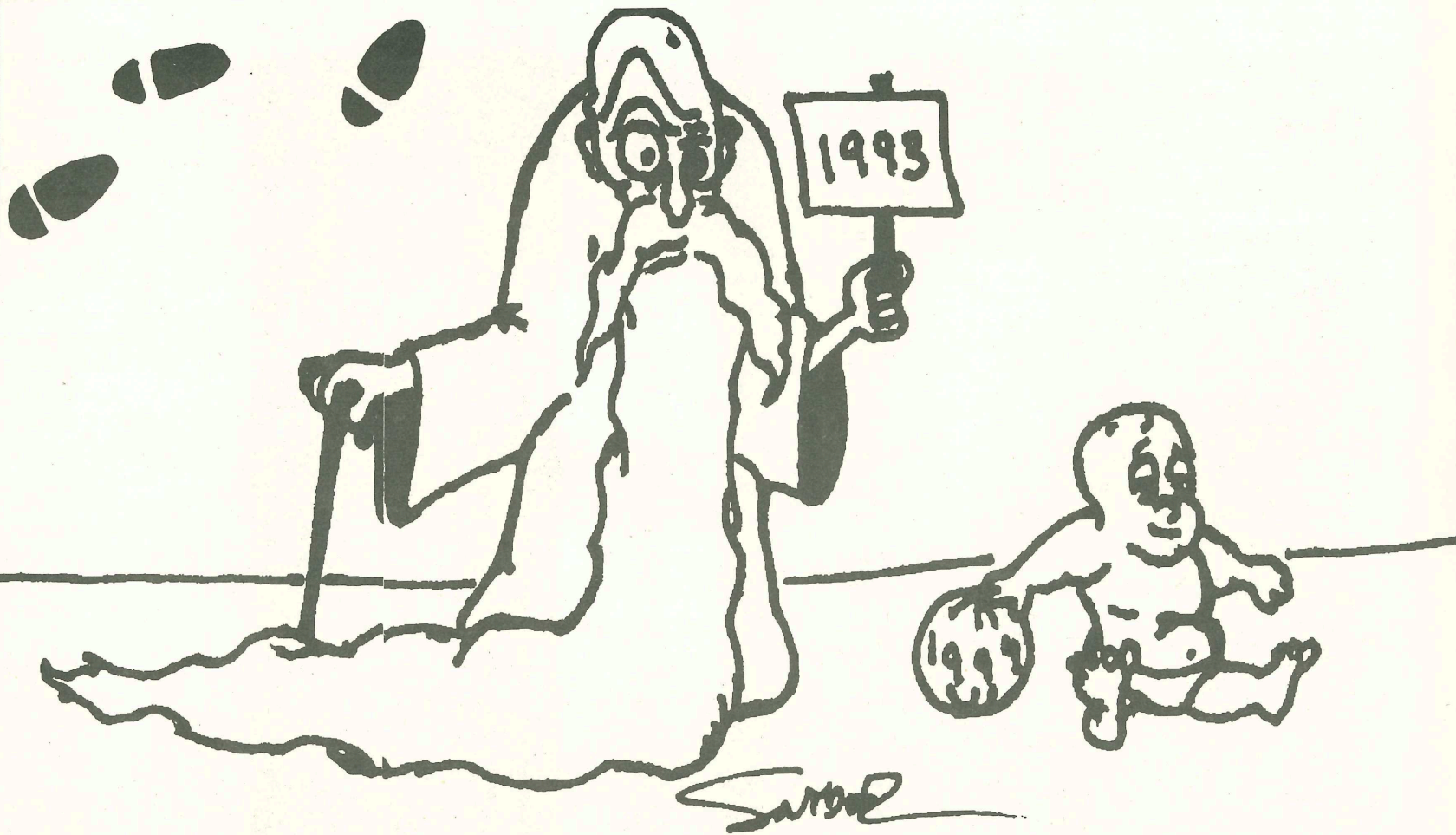
"I think Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday like Christmas is to us," said a student.

Many people said that when they think of Hanukkah or Christmas they think of having a good time with people that they don't get to see often, eating a big meal and most of all presents.

"I think Hanukkah is an 8 day celebration that begins in December and every day you get to open a present, similar to Christmas except different beliefs," said freshman Kristina Schumacher.

All holidays are a celebration and Hanukkah is just a celebration of Jewish faith.

"Hanukkah is a time for Jewish people to rejoice," said Freshman Anna Harvala.



Gymnastic season full of hope

By Nicole Zwieg

Staff Writer

The varsity gymnastics team has started practice and is "OFF THE WALL!"

The team has high goals for this season and is trying their best to meet them.

"We hope to get everyone organized and working up to their full potential," said coach Martha Driscoll.

With 7 teams in the North Suburban Conference, the competition demands total dedication from the gymnasts and coaches to reach their goals.

"We hope to be the best in our conference like Mounds View," said junior Kelly Grossinger.

With all the work and effort they put into it, the gymnasts still manage to work well together, enjoying the competitions and

building companionship.

"We hope to have fun, break records, enjoy the competitions, and just have a great season," said junior Cassie Loberg.

The team is not only they practicing for their meets, but also helping each other train and giving support when under pressure and when trying to create perfection.

"What I think is the best part of this sport is that it's fun and

I like the camaraderie with the team members. We're all close and get along well," said Grossinger.

Each year the amount of participation fluctuates, but the level of talent continues, making the sport a worthwhile activity that will continue for many years to come.

"There are many more people with loads of talent," said Driscoll.

To participate on a team is to put yourself behind others. In order to participate you must allow for imperfection and struggle. The levels of quality may differ, but the challenge lies in realizing that with the help of your team members you can do your best.

"Gymnastics is a great sport, not too competitive, and is good for individual competition, yet you're striving to help your team," said Monica Hill.

Bison Hockey team starts out with win

By Jessica Hrdlicka

Staff Writer

The hockey season has "shot and scored" with a team of

great talent and determination. The varsity team has started out the season with a 1-1 record and junior varsity has a record of 2-0. Both teams are looking ahead to a great season.

"The biggest challenge this year is to stay mentally focused," said Junior Kevin Bormes.

Other challenges and changes includes several teams that are no longer in the conference, being in Section 8, and practicing the basics.

"The team needs to improve most on shooting and scoring," said Bormes.

The team goals vary from finishing in the top two in the

conference to finishing above 500 in non-conference games.

Others, who have set individual goals, feel that the goals they set for themselves are not different from the team goals.

"I'm injured, so my goal is to get playing again," said sophomore Lincoln Zahler.

There are many positive aspects about hockey.

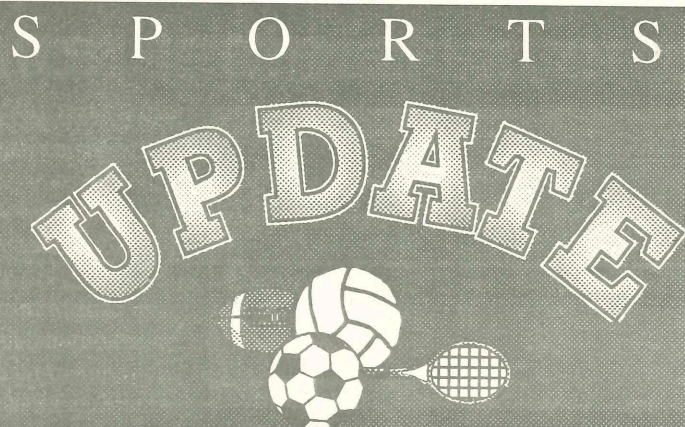
"Hockey is fun, fast, physical and it really gets the adrena-

line running," said junior Brent Johnson.

Different people think differently about hockey and it's violence. Some think a lot alike.

"Hockey or skating is actually a graceful sport," said Junior Varsity Coach Ed Saxton.

No matter how you feel about hockey, the team is waiting to see you at their games. The next one is on January 8, against Monticello.



Season off to roaring start for Bison hockey teams

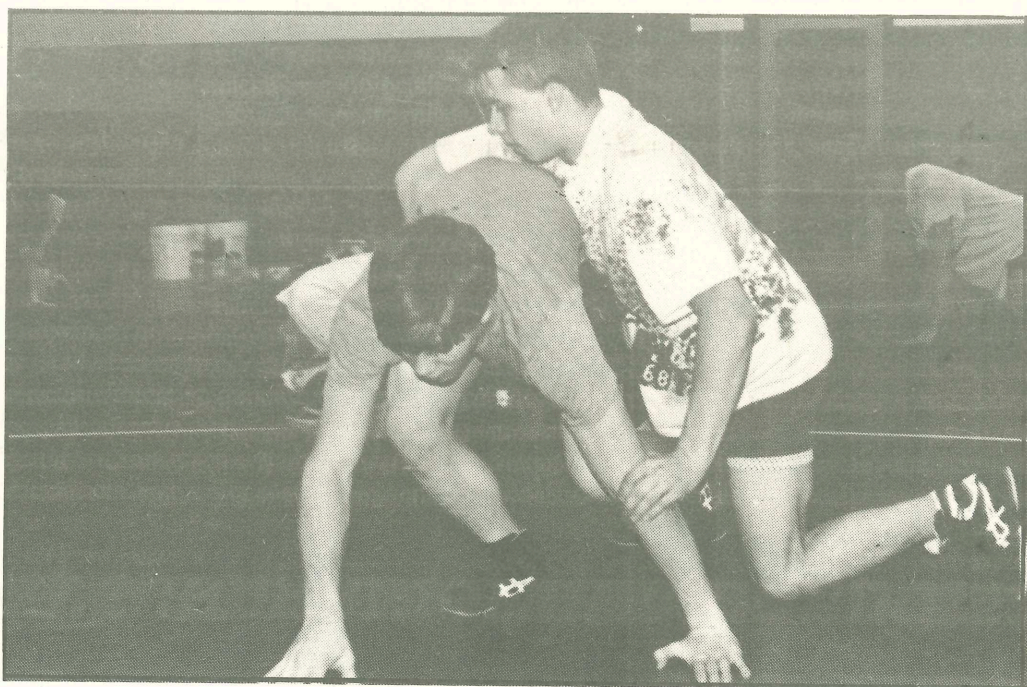
To begin the season, the hockey team played two jamborees, a two-period, eleven minute scrimmage. The first game was an 8AA Sectional Preview on November 27 against Willmar which the Bison won 1-0. The second was a North Suburban Conference Jamboree on Saturday, December 4, where they played Centennial and won 1-0. On December 2, the varsity played Mound and beat them 3-2 in overtime. The junior varsity team tied Mound 2-2. The varsity team played Orono on December 10 and lost 1-4, but the JV beat Orono 5-1.

High scoring players are assets for boys' basketball

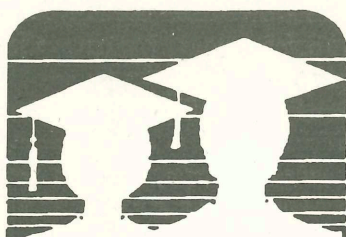
The boys' basketball team has had a great early season. They played their first game on Tuesday, December 7 against Holy Angel. They won 51-47 in overtime. One player who shone was senior Justin Kassulke. Kassulke scored 24 points against the Holy Angels. On Friday, December 10, they played Minneapolis Southwest and won with a score of 76-48. There were many players with scores in the double digits. Kassulke had 16 points, Robbie Holmquist 14, Aaron DeMarais with 11 and Phil Miller scored ten points.

Start of ski team season: Just a stroke of bad luck?

The ski team has tried to begin their season but every meet scheduled thus far has been cancelled or postponed. The first meet, which was to be held on Friday, December 10, was cancelled because of warm weather. They need at least twelve inches of snow throughout the slopes in order to ski. The next ski meet, scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, was postponed. On January 6, the team will try again with a meet at Buck Hill.



PINNED TO THE MAT: Wrestlers Brent Heinz and Aaron Buckley pictured practicing at a recent practice. The team earned much praise from critics when they won the Osseo tournament on December 11. Their next home match is on January 7, against Monticello.



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Cheerleaders to compete

By Beth A. Miller

Co-News Editor

While most students sleep in at 7:00 am on December 26, six BHS cheerleaders will be getting up to fly to Dallas for the National Cheerleading Competition.

Seniors Beth Pramann, Tracy Lemire, JoNelle Olson, Charity Donovan, Kara Brower, and Nicole Carlen were chosen during a cheerleading clinic at Bemidji State University this summer. They are very excited to go down and compete against approximately 300 schools from all over the US.

"I think we're going to have fun. I feel we'll click and do well in front of a large crowd in Dallas," said Lemire.

Even though they expect to have fun, they also expect the competition to be very intense.

"We'll be competing against some squads who were brought up since kindergarten to be cheerleaders and are very competitive. I think we'll represent Buffalo well, but won't make it against the larger schools," said Pramann.

The rules state the team cannot be school related, so the squad cannot have an adviser. The group had to choreograph their own show, and set up practice times for themselves through Community Education.

"I've gained a lot of communication skills. We had six different schedules and

personalities to work around without a coach or an adviser," said Pramann, "It's hard practicing six hours in the evening two times a week and one hour in the morning three times a week and still treat each other civilly."

Most of the members felt they had gained many things as a result of being in cheerleading.

"Cheerleading makes me feel better about myself, it gives me something to look forward to," said Olson, "It's also helped improve my cooperation skills."

Almost all the members expressed that cheerleading has helped them stay physically in shape.

"I like cheerleading because it keeps me in shape and it's always challenging, like with our stunts," said Lemire.

The stunts seem to be the favorite of many squad members.

"I like doing stunts because they're the most impressive and people like to watch them," said Pramann.

But even if they like to do almost everything, the team expressed some things that they didn't like.

"Cheerleading should be considered a sport. We do a lot more than people think we do, and we don't get enough recognition," said Olson.

The cheerleaders are looking forward to the competition and hope to do the best they can, but their ultimate goal is to just have fun and enjoy the experience.

Skiers race down slopes to victory

By Kaje Dubbeldee

Staff Writer

The Buffalo Ski Team is unfortunately off to a slow start. Due to poor conditions, their first two meets have been postponed. Even with the lack of snow and warm weather, the team is coming together and working hard.

The team has been practicing at Powder Ridge, in Kimball, while waiting for conditions at Buck Hill, where their meets will be held, to improve.

The varsity team is made up of skiers from ninth to twelfth grade. Because of this younger members look to veterans for leadership and guidance. There are five senior girls and 4 senior boys returning to the team this year.

"We have very good team unity

because many of us have skied together for so long," said senior Kim Kealy.

The rookie racers can learn a lot from the veteran members of the team. During practices, teammates partner up to help each other develop their racing skills. There are twelve ninth graders joining the team this year.

"It's good to see so many new racers. They will have a much better chance to be successful if they start early," said senior captain Erica Lundsten.

The top ten boys and top ten girls represent the varsity squad when they race against another team.

"The entire team needs to work together if we are going to have a successful season," said senior captain Angie Toso.

The Bison Ski Team is anxious to compete and hope for better conditions.

Bison Girls' hoops slam their way to two wins

By Katie MacDonald

Guest Writer

The Girls' Basketball team has started the year on a good note. The varsity team won their first game against Minneapolis South by a 54-32 margin.

"We played alright," said new head coach Kris Thompson, "We need to cut down on turnovers."

The girls' team started this year with a totally new coaching staff. The coaches are Cory Klabunde (C-squad), Greg Heinecke (B-squad), Jen Klabunde (junior varsity), and Thompson (varsity).

"I was worried about having a new coach and learning a new system, but the new coach made an incredible difference," said junior Brooke Theisen, "Last year we just showed up, this year we show up to win."

Thompson replaced Ray Vanderwolde as head coach of the team.

This is her first year of teaching. She teaches health and physical education at the high school. She also coached junior varsity volleyball this fall. Being new, she has made many plans and goals for the year and the season.

"We have to look at this year as a rebuilding year," Thompson said, "We need to work on the basics: defense, offense, press and press break. To do well this season we need to have self-discipline. We want to play our style of game. We can't get caught in a running game."

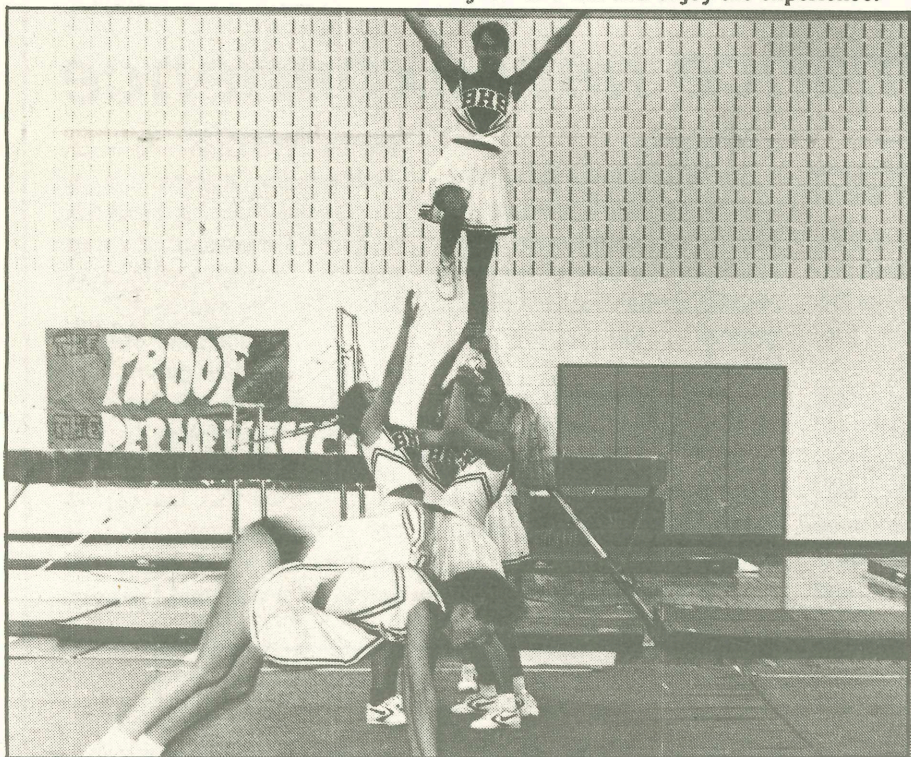
The athlete's also have expectations for the year.

"The main thing is to have fun and work as a team," said Theisen.

The other coaches were in agreement.

"We want to have fun and see improvement," said Thompson.

The next home game is January 6, against Fridley.



Trish Hibner / Photography

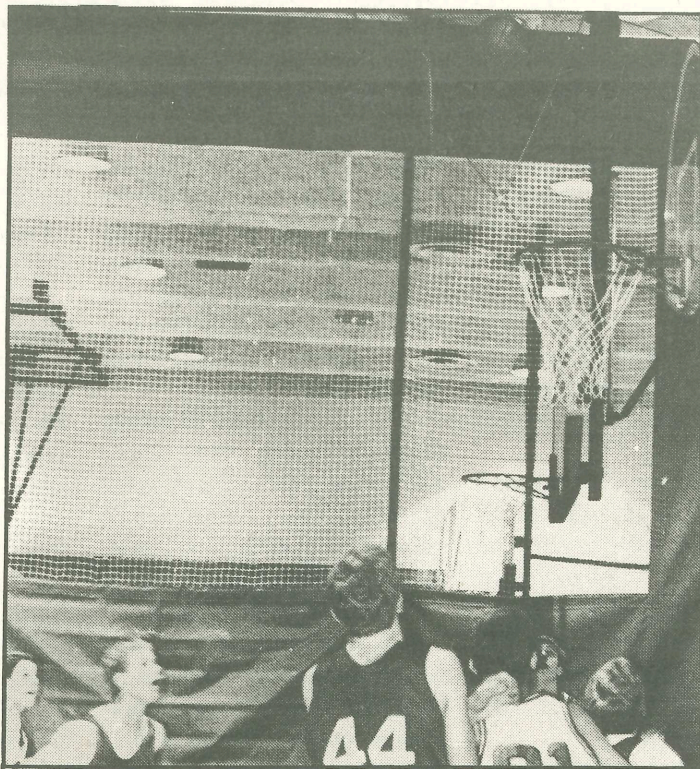
YEAH, RAH, RAH!: Six Bison cheerleaders will be off to Dallas on December 26. They are pictured here practicing for the competition. Here they practice wearing their competing uniforms in Gym II.

Ken and Kathy's

Lundaby

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477-5388



Tricia Hibner / Photography

THE SHOT IS UP AND...: The freshman Boys Basketball team is pictured here at a recent home game against Orono. The varsity next home game is on January 13 against Monticello at 7:30.

Brains at work for Knowledge Bowl Team

By Beth A. Miller

Co-News Editor

Braving useless trivia questions the BHS Knowledge Bowl team has begun practice for the season, and look forward to holding their Conference Champion title.

Knowledge Bowl is an academic team activity for students who like and know trivia. All members meet after school in practices set up like tournaments. Three teams compete against each other.

"I like practice the best, because we get more questions, because tournament rounds are shorter so we get less questions," said junior Brian Kass.

Tournaments generally consist of a written round and three oral rounds. In the written round, all five team members answer multiple choice questions. Those scores are usually used to rank the teams and decide which teams are in each room. In the oral rounds, four members from

three teams compete in a race to answer the questions.

"I like the meets best, because you meet a lot of different kinds of people," said senior Shivaun Robinson.

Reasons for joining varied as much as the types of questions asked.

"I joined Knowledge Bowl because I get to talk to people and have fun. It's not really strict, it's more fun," said junior Heather Oberdeck.

Others simply joined because they wanted to join an after school activity and liked the fun and academics of Knowledge Bowl.

"I joined because I needed something to do after school, something to accomplish," said senior Ryan Foss.

Newer members expressed surprise after attending their first practice.

"You have to be quick at buzzing in to answer and know a lot of trivia. It's amazing what you know when you're asked,"

said freshman Beth Pratt.

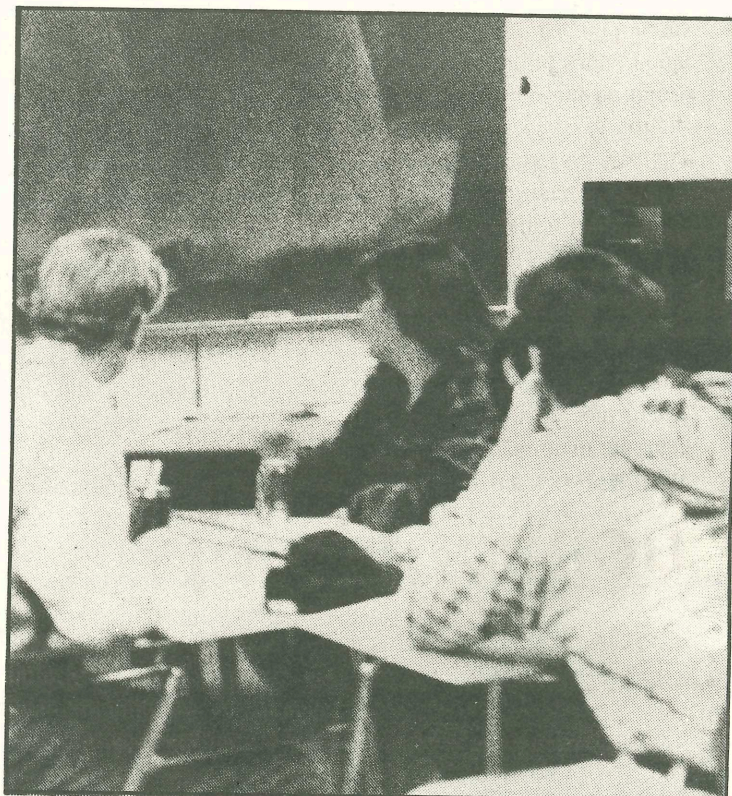
While all students are welcome to join the team, only fifteen members can participate in a competition. Members of the team expressed their opinions on what would make a member easy to work with.

"I think a good member is someone who wants to be in it. Someone who takes pride in trivia, the kind who like to read encyclopedias and dictionaries," said Kass.

Most of the team members expressed the idea that the team has a lot fun while practicing and competing.

"I like the humor on the team. I like to sit there and make up funny answers to the questions. Although I know a lot of answers, I still like to have fun. Knowledge Bowl for me is a competition with humor," said Foss.

Whatever types of questions will be placed before the team, they don't know, but they are looking forward to another champion season.



Patricia Hibner / Photographer
CAUTION: BRAINS AT WORK: Senior Ryan Foss, and juniors Heather Oberdeck and Shawn Bakke listen as coach Peggy Pasche reads the question. The Knowledge Bowl teams work on solving questions first at practices after school.



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: Junior Amy Bokusky, senior Sharalee Strand, and junior Jason Seargent warm up before the Saturday, December 4, afternoon performance.

Sixteenth Century Christmas performance new experience

By Theresa Button

Staff Writer

Students in the Buffalo Senior High School performed Sixteenth Century Christmas on December 3 and December 4, 1993 in the Senior High mall.

The concert consisted of the BHS singers, making up the royal court, the Treble singers, making up the ladies in waiting, and other students who put on a skit or served tables. Also performing was a brass ensemble, a flute choir, and

a clarinet choir.

"It's a way for the community to see what Christmas was like in the sixteenth century, and also a way for the community to see that we have special singing groups," said junior Amy Bokusky.

The performance was very 16th century oriented, with plum pudding, and wassail (a type of cider), candlelight, and costumes that were rented from the Renaissance Festival.

Sophomore Russ Pruitt said

that the production was worthwhile because "it gives the choral program the chance to break free, without the constraint of the arts program, leaving them to do exactly what they want to do."

Even though the program was set in the 16th century, it did have its modern and humorous moments. Many found the combination entertaining.

"I'd say that the funniest part of the program for me was when the court jester kissed my dad on the head," said Bokusky.

Grants, scholarships, loans, workstudy:

Many sources provide financial aid for education

By Angela Vyverberg

Buena Vista College

Understanding the concept of financial aid does not have to be as difficult as it seems. For most people, financial aid provides a way to afford a college that may initially seem beyond reach.

When comparing colleges, the most important thing to remember is to look beyond the sticker price. It's easy to see the price of a college and to panic. However, by understanding the financial aid process, the personal cost of college could be less than what was expected.

Many students ask what financial aid is. It is monetary assistance that is awarded to help

make college affordable for everyone. There are three sources of financial aid: federal funds, institutional funds, and private funds. From these three sources there are four types of financial aid: grants, scholarships, workstudy, and loans.

Grants are financial aid that are not paid back. They can be awarded on a federal level, such as the Pell Grant, or they can be awarded on an institutional level, such as college academic grants.

Scholarships are another type of financial aid that doesn't need to be repaid. They can be local, such as local business scholarships, or they can be institutional, such as a college leadership scholarship.

Workstudy programs allow

the student to work on campus at the college they attend. This money is awarded to help pay for the costs of college.

Loans are borrowed money that must be repaid with interest when the loan becomes due. These may be low-interest student loans that are repaid when full-time employment is found after college.

Often, students inquire about how they can receive financial aid. First of all, before working on the financial aid process, students should apply to their top college choices. After acceptance, the college admissions counselor or financial aid office can provide information on the institutional financial aid they offer. They will explain procedures and deadlines

for that college's forms of financial aid.

To apply for federal financial aid, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be filled out. These forms are available from guidance counselors or the college that is being considered. The FAFSA must be sent into the processor after January 1, 1994. It includes a section where up to six colleges can be listed to receive student financial aid information.

Once the processing company receives the FAFSA, it will take six to eight weeks to process. The information is then passed along to the colleges listed on the application form. Each college takes the financial information and makes up a financial award

based upon the information received. Notification of the financial aid award will be sent directly to the student from the colleges.

There are several places that offer help and answer questions about the financial aid process. Guidance counselors may provide general information to help students apply for financial aid and understand the process. A college admissions counselor or college financial aid office may be able to answer specific questions about grants, scholarships, and loans available at their college.

For further information, contact the counselors in the guidance office. Understanding the financial aid process and utilizing the available resources can make college an affordable investment.