

The Bison Stampede

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Editorial/Opinion



Should teen fathers share the responsibility of a pregnancy?

page 3

Features



It's not just the baby... Financing problems often face teen parents.

pages 5-6

Sports



Girls hockey underway in Wright County.

page 7

A 16th
Century
Christmas
Dec. 5-6
7p.m.

Dessert will be served.

Featuring BHS
choirs.

Students fight poverty

Action inspired by mission work

By Sara Tabor

Staff Writer

Students Acting Against Poverty is a group formed to kill something that threatens everyone—poverty. Although to some, it may be closer to home than one may think. There are over 13,000 poverty-stricken people in Minnesota, and hundreds of those people affected are within District #877. Two people, junior Amber Schmitz, and sophomore Miranda Benz, decided to tackle this looming problem right here at BHS.

After a church mission trip to Chicago, they learned what it meant to be truly poor, and live off the streets completely. They came back, feeling depressed that they could not do more, and guilty because they had so much, and others didn't. Their youth minister at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church of Buffalo, Paul

Ruhland, had an idea that turned into a school project.

"Our goals are to get out into the community, to help get rid of poverty not only around Christmas [and other holidays] through [existing] services, and to try to get people to realize what poverty really is, and that it's everyone's responsibility," Benz said. "So it isn't something that's out there, but that it's closer to home," added Schmitz.

Students Acting Against Poverty is committed to serving others and helping others. They want to get across the point to the student body that much of poverty is overlooked, and they want to open the student's eyes to the real world. One group is Loaves and Fishes Too, whose mission is to feed the hungry, enlighten the public, empower guests and volunteers, and develop change.

Through small committees

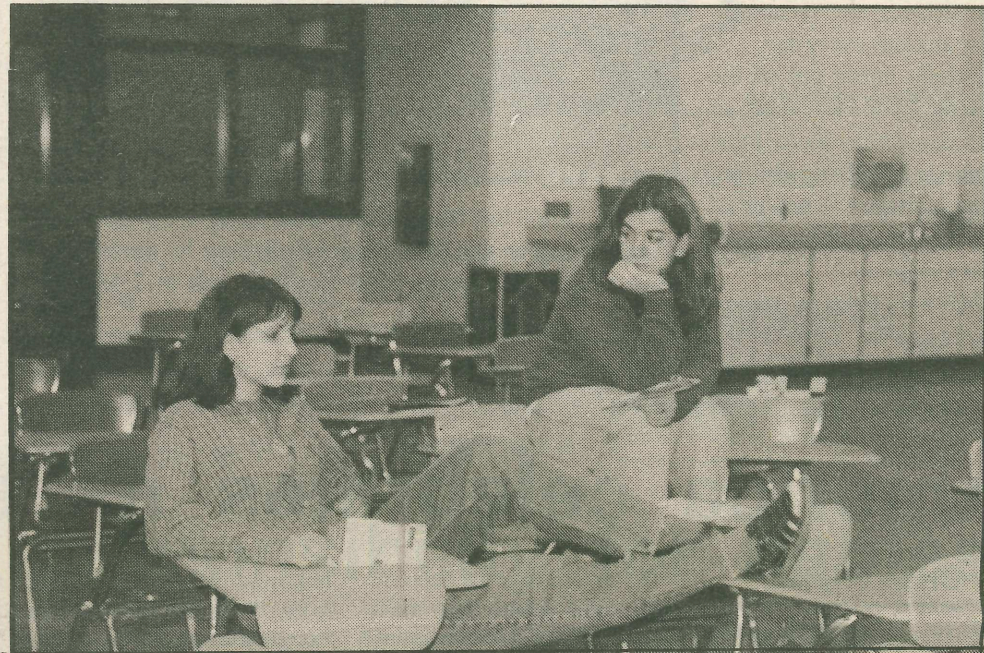


Photo by Angie Scott

Students Acting Against Poverty members junior Lori Oman (left) and freshman Tanya Ringquist (right) ponder what they can do to combat poverty.

that meet outside of AAA and the help of adviser and science teacher Dan Schnieder, they want to end poverty locally, and have a good time while doing it.

"Poverty is a serious issue, but we can have fun [serving]. Although, it's a different kind of fun," said Schmitz.

The group also focuses on

political issues. Change within the government includes small things like writing letters to local government, to sitting in on the state Congress, to possibly as large as sharing their views in Washington. They want more laws and things done to help those who are in need.

"Things [groups] that are

into poverty right now don't always scratch the surface of the causes," said Schmitz. Benz agreed: "To get out of this, it's everyone's responsibility. They should be grateful for what they have, change bad habits, and to like people for who they are."

Students Acting Against Poverty meets on Fri. AAA.

Buttons strike curiosity

By Brian Triplett

Editor-in-Chief

Buttons saying "District #877 Teachers — We Are One" are being worn by teachers all over the District.

The buttons were distributed by a group of District #877 teachers and Buffalo Federation of Teachers who were trying to work out contract negotiations with the district and wanted to get a point across to the community.

"The buttons are a way to send a message in an appropriate way that we are a united group," said Negotiations Co-Chair Kip Wold. "It's a good way to say something without saying something."

The group of 285 District teachers are still in negotiations with the school board and superintendent. Many teachers are showing

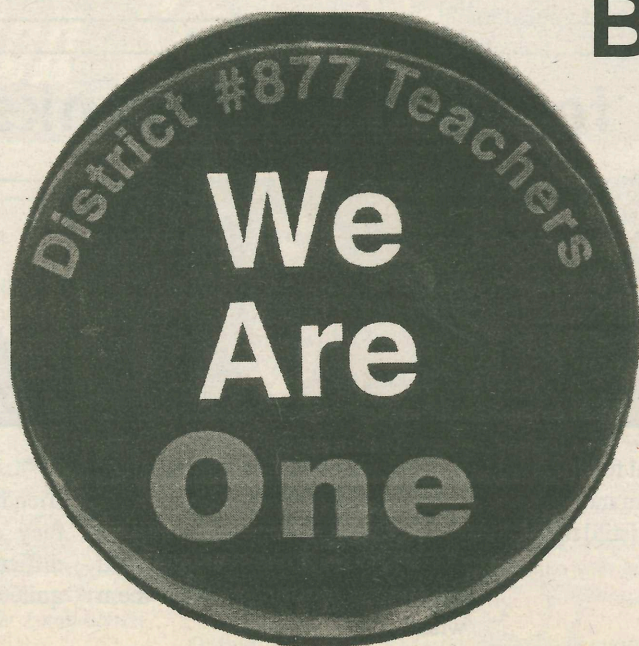
the BFT negotiators support by wearing the buttons.

"It is the strongest show of support ever in my 20 years of negotiations," said Wold.

After displaying the buttons, rumors started flying around the District that teachers may strike. Wold says teachers are not planning a strike yet, and hopefully they never will.

The negotiations committee and school board met last Fri., Nov. 14 with a mediator who served as an objective member in negotiations. After a full day of talks, they are one step closer to reaching a final settlement.

A proposed contract has been presented to teachers. The next step is ratification. Both the teachers and school board must formally agree to the changes in the teachers' contract. Within the next two weeks, ratification meetings will be held to vote on the proposal.



Race off campus slows cars

By Joe Bidne

Staff Writer

Approximately four hundred vehicles race to be the first to reach the finish line—off school grounds—after the bell at 2:45 p.m. Some say it has been tight trying to get out the one exit safely. The drivers are seemingly more anxious every day.

People hustle out of the parking lot for a number of reasons—some have jobs, some need to pick up siblings, many just want to get out of the school, and others want to have a cigarette.

"I've noticed a steady increase of impatience amongst drivers in the past few months and in my mind it



Photo by Joe Bidne and Glen Bruchmann
Cars line up in the BHS student parking lot during the rush to get off campus after the final bell at 2:45 p.m.

will only get worse until something is done," said junior Jason Nash.

Currently, nothing is being done to relieve congestion. Many people

are disturbed that other exits are off limits.

"The buses need the exit that goes to [Cty. Rd.] 35," said Principal Mary Loberg.

Even if the students could use that exit, the speed limit on Cty. Rd. 35 would need to be lowered because cars come tearing down the road doing a legal 55 mph—some an illegal 65 mph.

Loberg went on to say that this is a safe parking lot. Here students do not have cars parked half of a mile down the road each way. This way there aren't vehicles always driving a foot away from the cars that were parked along the road.

Many students would prefer parking along the road if it meant leaving school faster.

America celebrates its schools

By Brian Triplett

Editor-In-Chief

"Teaching Children to Think and Dream" is the theme for American Education Week Nov. 16-22. AEW was established by the National Education Association and the American Legion as an annual event in 1921. It has been celebrated every year since, making it one of the longest-running observances in the nation.

AEW gives communities the opportunity to celebrate its schools — teachers, education support personnel, parents, administrators and community volunteers.

"For children to become successful adults they need to have lots of adults interested in them and concerned about their well-being. The schools are a critical place where much of that happens," said Buffalo Federation of Teachers President Jim Davnie.

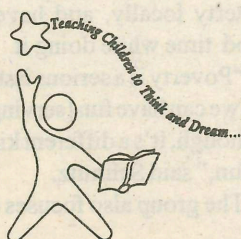
The future depends on today's students. Educators work hard every day, making an investment in the future by giving students the skills they need to succeed.

"The future walks through our classroom door every morning. The job of teachers and others in education is getting harder, as well as more

important. We are lucky here in this District to have such an excellent and dedicated teaching staff," said Davnie.

America's public schools equip youngsters with the ability to think—and dream. As Dan Rather once said, "The

American Education Week



November 16-22, 1997

dream begins, most of the time, with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you on to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called truth."

"Teachers in District 877 invest in the schools, students and families every day. They do it in their classrooms, on the playing fields, and in extra-curricular activities," said Davnie. "We were glad when the voters of the District invested in the schools by supporting the recent referendum renewal. It sends a positive message that the voters recognize and support education and educators."

Teacher opens door for women



Photo by Angie Scott

Tech Ed teacher Jenna Pagel assists a student.

By Glen

Bruchmann

Staff Writer

The typical technology education classroom is filled with loud sounds of power tools, a teacher yelling across the room, and students constantly moving around and working.

It's a predominately male world, except for one particular teacher new to BHS. Her name is Jenna Pagel.

"It's hard; I feel a little out of place," said Pagel. However, she added that she has not been treated any differently.

Pagel took classes in high school to learn more about technology education. After high school she went to Bemiji State to learn graphic design. There,

Pagel learned that technology education teachers were being recruited across the state. That's when she decided to go into teaching.

"I enjoy doing this and my graphic arts teacher encouraged me to do it," said Pagel.

Other technology education teachers are happy for the measures BHS has taken to integrate women into a field previously dominated by men.

Her colleagues are happy to have a woman's input in the department.

"I think it's great and I hope she brings more female teachers to technology education," said teacher Kurt Konsela.

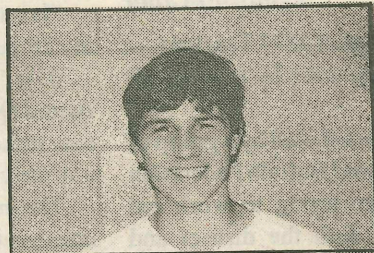
Pagel has opened a door for future women and reached the student body as a role model.

What are you most thankful for during Thanksgiving?



"My family and home, because I have somewhere to celebrate [Thanksgiving] and someone to celebrate it with."

--Freshman Matt Anderson



"Democracy—the freedoms that comes with it, religion, speech, and a say in what I can do with my life. Along with these things also comes many responsibilities that I am also thankful for."

--Sophomore Mitch Mattson



"I am most thankful for living in America! I have freedom and security that many countries are [still] fighting for."

--Junior Lyda Rose Graybill



"I'm thankful for too much to single out one particular thing. I've got a roof over my head, clothes to wear, food to eat, and wonderful friends and family to share them with."

--Senior Heidi Balk



"...I would have to say my friends and family... The strength they display throughout life's difficulties is contagious. They're quite important to me."

--Art Teacher John Holtz

Parking lot traffic raises safety concerns

Engines revving, brake lights flashing, people battling to be the first ones out of the BHS parking lot. These are all familiar sights and sounds to anyone trying to maneuver through the 3:00 p.m. traffic jam.

The parking lot is totally chaotic after school. Some may feel that this is overstated, but there are many reasons to fear for student safety. Students often cut in front of each other and do not wait in line for their turn to get out. When this happens, the entire exiting process is slowed, and the jams get worse.

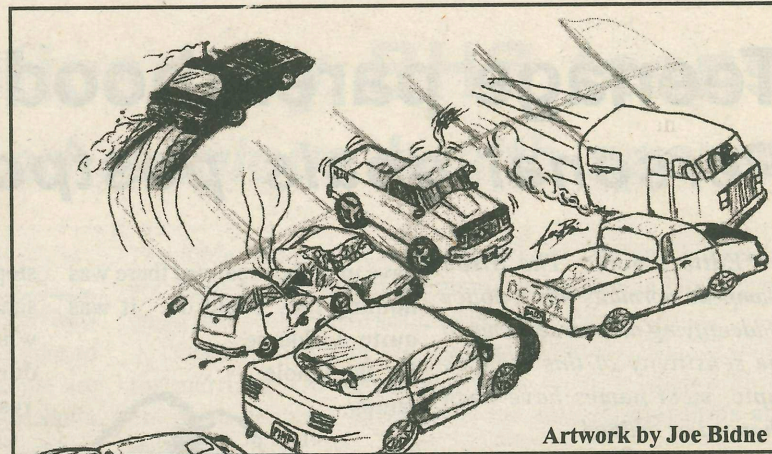
When you look at the big picture, aside from the honking and swerving, you have 400 to 500 vehicles, and only one exit.

Humans by nature are aggressive. One exit for so many cars is asking for trouble. In spite of this major architectural flaw, students should not have to wait 5-10 minutes of their own time to leave. This does not take into account those students who have to be at a certain place in only so many minutes after school ends. Those who are on a set schedule are cheated when a careless driver cuts in front of them to leave the lot.

If the school charges the students a fee for parking in the lot, it would take care of many of the problems. There would naturally be fewer students willing to pay for the privilege to park, so traffic would lessen.

Another solution would be to keep the same student exit, but instead of having it so small, we could make it wider and change it into two lanes. Instead of having a bottleneck, cars would flow out easily. Another option is to open the southeast exit for student use.

There are changes needed beyond the parking lot to ensure students' safety. The speed limit on Cty. Rd. 35 in front of the school needs to be lowered to 45 mph or less. If students are trying to get out onto Cty. Rd. 35 and other cars are going 55 mph, it can get pretty dangerous. This will also solve partially the problem of the school buses having trouble getting on Cty.



Artwork by Joe Bidne

Rd. 35. Other solutions for these problems would be to put some stoplights at the intersection of Cty. Rd. 35 and Bison Boulevard, or a set of four-way stop signs.

No one likes to have to wait forever, or what seems like it.

The easiest solution? Be patient and drive carefully—it will make driving safer for everybody.

CORRECTION:

On page five of the previous issue, item number eight was missing from the *Students' Bill of Rights*. The missing item is "The right to be exempt."

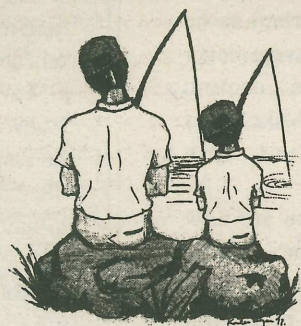
Teen fathers must show responsibility for babies

By Chris Lindahl

Staff Writer

"There comes a time in every man's life..." Most guys have heard this phrase numerous times, but what they don't hear much is the follow up to that phrase. The true fact is, there comes a time in every man's life when he has to grow up. And believe it or not, part of growing up is taking responsibility for your actions.

One thing many guys are forgetting lately is that last sentence. By this, I am



Artwork by Karlee Felger

referring to teenage pregnancy. Far too many times students have heard of yet another guy who has run away once they got their partner pregnant. I use the term "run away" because that's what it is. It doesn't matter if he's a major pillar of the community, or if no one within a 200 mile radius has any knowledge of his existence. The responsibility is still his. If you are ready to have sex, then you are ready to support

a child, plain and simple; no method of birth control is 100 percent effective. Hence, you must be prepared.

Sadly, there are many guys out there who are living in a complete fantasy by thinking they can have sex and not worry about what happens next. Then, when they find out their partner is pregnant, they run. Not only do they leave the girl to care for the baby, but they leave her alone with their baby.

Alone, not for just a short time—alone meaning outcast. Looked down upon by everyone that she knows. Alone to decide whether to abort the baby, keep the baby, or put it up for adoption. Alone to find out who her real friends are, and to find out who she can trust. Most importantly, alone to find out, first hand, how cruel other high school students really can be.

Although, that is not to

say that all teenage guys with children out there are scum. There are many who have stood by their partners, and either took the relationship further, stayed where they are, or broke up and helped the mother financially. But they are still there for their kids, and are still there for the woman who carried their child inside her body for nine months. For those men, I have the utmost respect; for those who flee, I have none.

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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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 <btrip198@buffalo.k12.mn.us> and put "RE: The Bison Stampede" in the subject line.

The Bison Stampede is printed by the Wright County Journal-Press.

Buffalo community speaks

Teenage parenthood forces sacrifices Personal goals postponed for child care

**Editors note: The Bison Stampede normally has a policy of identifying all sources. Due to the sensitivity of this month's topic, most names have been changed or omitted.*

By Jenny Summers

Photography Editor

The life of a teenager can be, at times, a huge hassle. On any given day a teen may be faced with problems involving family, friends, a boyfriend or girlfriend. There are tests to study for, fights to solve, and new responsibilities to get used to. The stress can be overwhelming, and sometimes it's a struggle just to wake up to the alarm clock every morning.

What if it's not an alarm clock that breaks your peaceful sleep? What if it's the cries of an angry baby who needs to be changed and fed? What if it's 3:00 a.m. instead of at 6:30 a.m. What if that screaming baby belongs to you?

This is the routine that belongs to every teenage mom. This is the life that Carrie*, 17, must lead.

Carrie and her boyfriend, Mike*, were both 15, and sexually active. Carrie always assumed she would attend college after finishing high school at BHS. But life took a sudden change when Carrie found out she was pregnant.

"Mike stayed with me while I took a home test. [When it came out positive] I didn't know what the first step was, or what to do," said Carrie.

Carrie made an early decision on what to do with her child, and that was to keep it. Her parents were angry at first, but eventually

gave in as they realized there was nothing they could do. It was quite a change for the whole family.

"I wasn't even allowed

stopped attending BHS. In high school, there are a lot of times when the boyfriend / father, doesn't stick around for the responsibilities. In that area, Carrie has been fortunate. Mike decided to quit school to work full time, so he could earn enough money to help with the financial problems of having a baby.

"We were really lucky. (Mike) has a really good paying job, and I work full time too, so money wasn't ever a really big

problem," said Carrie.

After 10 weeks, Carrie began school again at ALC. She finished up her school year there, and then in August her son Brian* was born.

"[When they gave the baby to me] I

to have boys in my room before I got pregnant," said Carrie.

Staying in school at first, Carrie contracted a kidney infection after 6 weeks, and

didn't know what to do with him. I gave him right to Mike," said Carrie.

For the first six months, Mike

lived with Carrie at her parents' house. Carrie says it wasn't that expensive because they didn't have any real bills to pay besides the ones for the baby. Finally, Mike and Carrie rented an apartment for just the three of them. While Carrie and Mike worked, Brian stayed at daycare, and when he got older, Carrie's Grandmother watched him.

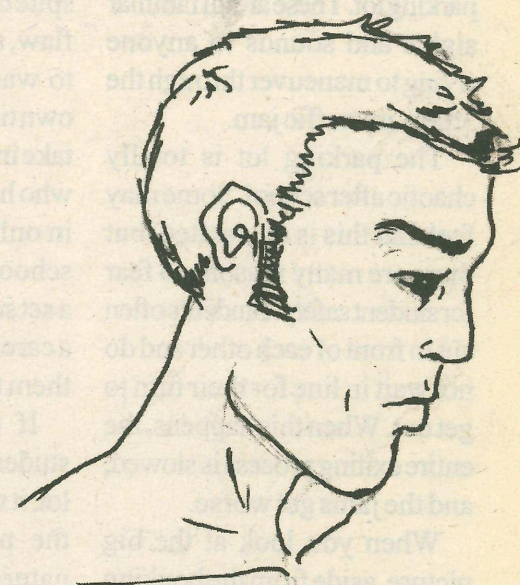
Being teenage parents is a huge adjustment that society isn't always ready to accept. Carrie said, "At first you got funny looks by people who were older than you. They knew you were too young to be married and they figured you should be."

When it comes to a social life, Carrie claims to still have one. "I work all day, so when I get home at night I stay with him [Brian] so he doesn't feel like were never around. Then around 11:00p.m. or so, Mike and I sometimes go out with friends."

Carrie and Mike are now both 17, and Brian's a little over a year. Neither of them go to school any more, but Carrie plans on going to college someday. For now, her life revolves around her son. Besides the late night hang-outs with her friends, she works all day to come straight home at night. A life she never thought she'd lead so soon.

"[When you have a baby]

there's a lot you have to give up and prove about yourself," said Carrie. "After you have a kid, you have to grow up."



Birth Control/ Pregnancy testi
Minnesota Family Pla
Wright County Huma
Wright County Comm
STD Hotline: 1-800-78-FACTS

A Concerned parent speaks out:

As the parent of three teenagers, I am not here to lecture anyone. Everyone has had "the talk" and everyone has been told about STD's.

I am here, however, to say that if teens find it absolutely necessary to have sex, then please be responsible. I hear all too often of kids at the school getting pregnant because the wanted to have a baby. Well baby, your baby is a 24 hour job! That child comes into this world totally dependent on you for everything. I am not sure I was really ready at the age of 24 for

Birth control info

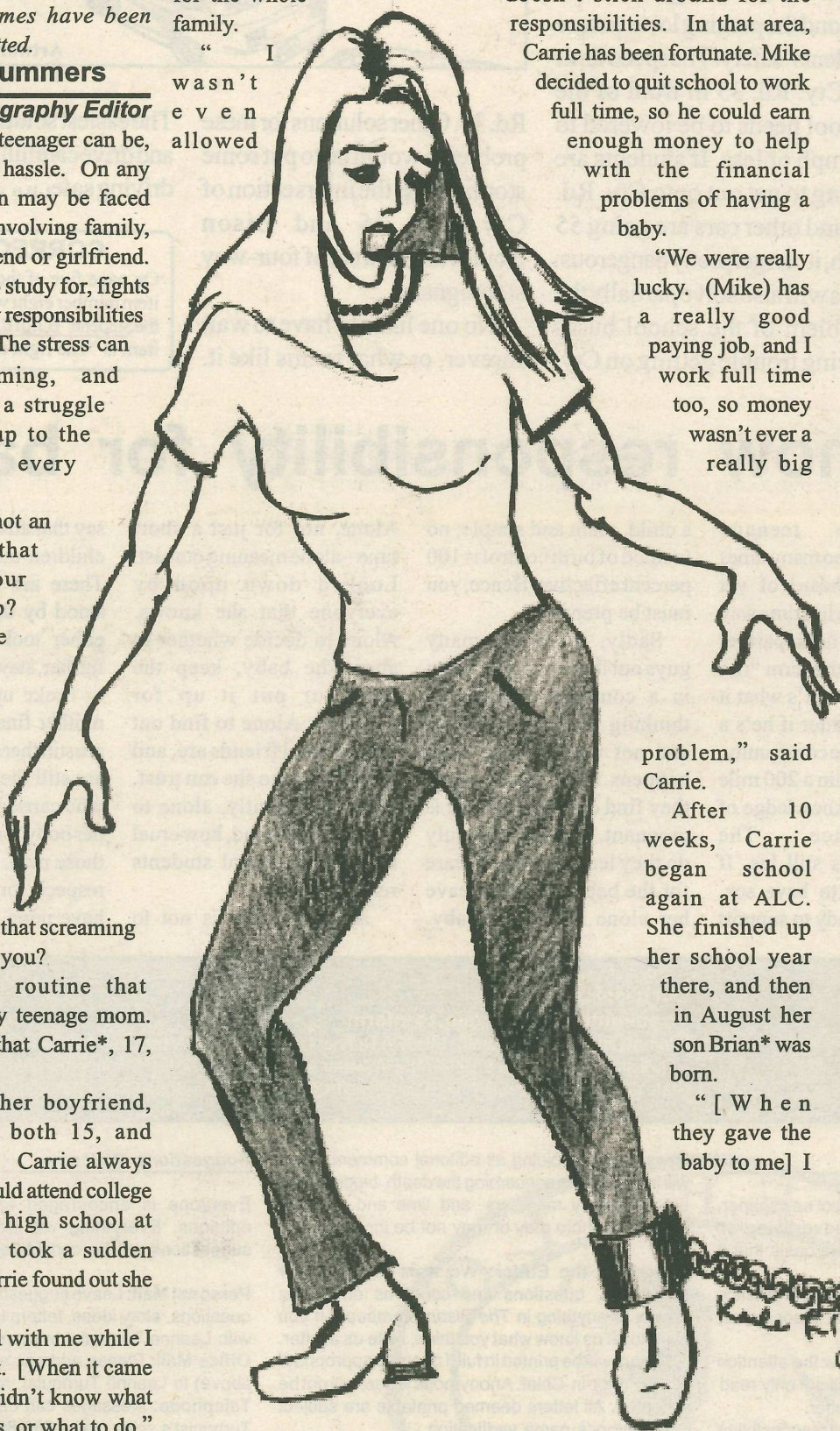
By Heather Zumbrunnen

Staff Writer

Birth control. A must for all sexually active teens. Birth control is needed by any sexually active teen, in order to help prevent pregnancy and STD's. At BHS, 75 percent of the students surveyed are sexually active. This poses a need for birth control. There are many different types of birth control, from condoms available almost anywhere, to Norplant, 6 match-sized capsules inserted into the upper arm by a doctor. According to public health officials forms of birth control may vary from person to person.

"I think more people are using condoms," said Ma Torgersen, a Public Health Nurse for Wright County.

Condoms are the first choice of many sexually active teens for a variety of reasons. They are readily available at almost any store and not very expensive. That, along with the fact that parents don't always go to Target with their teens, greatly boost condom sales. Condoms are



s out about teen sexuality



Abstinence practiced by BHS teens Emotional, physical and religious health spared

By Missi Bratsch and Juliene Tilus

Staff Writers

"Abstinence isn't in this high school's vocabulary," according to one BHS junior. This perception is only natural. When people are abstinent, or not having sexual intercourse, there's nothing to talk about. On the other hand, some of the sexually active crowd may come to school on Monday bragging about their sexual encounters over the weekend. However, of 140 students surveyed, 65 said they practice abstinence. Many simply don't feel "ready" for sex.

Health professionals warn that having sex before one is ready damages a person emotionally and lowers one's self-esteem.

"Although teens might be physically ready to have sex, there's maybe one in a hundred kids that can handle it emotionally," said Dr. Glen Deutsch, of the Buffalo Clinic.

As a result, many teens decide to avoid the physical and emotional turmoil by abstaining from sex. Stories of "love" gone bad have convinced some that a sexual relationship just isn't worth it.

"When you share your body with someone, you're giving a part of yourself," said one junior. "When that someone leaves your life, something goes with him or her. You'll never get it back."

Some people choose abstinence because of moral or religious reasons.

The Bible states in I Corinthians 6:13,16, that our bodies are not made for sex outside of marriage, because in God's eyes, when two people have sex they become one.

"God called us to be holy and part of that is saving ourselves for marriage. Outside of marriage, sex unleashes a lot of emotions that are destructive for both relationships and individuals," said one junior.

Abstinence is practiced by some because it is the only method of birth control that is 100 percent effective. Not only does abstinence guard against emotional pain, it also protects against sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) and pregnancy. Not many teens realize that one out five girls become pregnant their first time being sexually active.

"With all the STD's and pregnancy risks, [having sex is] just stupid. Even if you use protection, you're not always protected," said one junior.

The message teens get about abstinence is that it just isn't happening. The media, especially TV, isn't much help. In one USA News and World Report study, 92 percent of Hollywood leaders admit that "TV does a fair to poor job of encouraging sexual abstinence." The reality at BHS is that people are abstaining from sex. Forty six percent of BHS students surveyed, to be exact. Abstinence is in this high school's vocabulary.

Planning Hotline 1-800-783-2287
Counseling Services 1-800-362-3667 ext. 7468
Community action 612-963-6500
BHS

my first child.

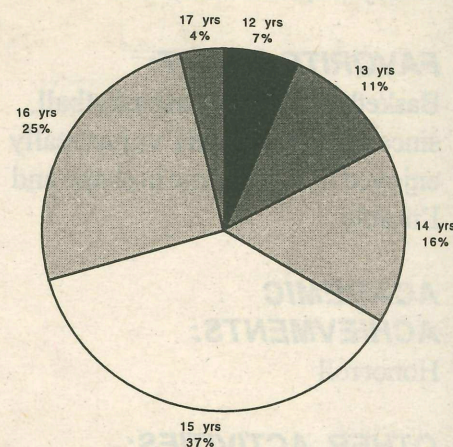
You kids, yes kids, you are just that KIDS! Take this short precious time of your teens and early twenties to get your sea-legs and learn about what the "real world" has to show you. Find out who you are, what you want to be when you grow up and then, bring that precious little child into your life. Bring that beautiful gift from God into a loving home where there is some stability, where the parents have had the opportunity to complete their

childhood and are emotionally able to handle the responsibility of raising this child.

I am really saddened by the thought that kids today have so little to do or look forward to, that having sex is the highlight of their high school years. Our society had done a great injustice to our children, we are robbing you all of the chance to be kids. You will be an adult for a very long time. Please do not cheat yourself of the precious few years you have to be a kid.

Enjoy these last few remaining years you have left to live and dream, hangout, have fun, and most of all be yourself. You owe it to yourself and society owes it to you as well, do not be in a hurry to grow p. Those teen years never come back. Make memories that will last a lifetime, not babies, they ARE your lifetime.

The various ages at which seventy five surveyed BHS students became sexually active:



formation readily available to teens

one of the only birth control methods that can help prevent STD's.

"Condoms are 90 percent effective, If they are used 100 percent correctly," said Christine Austin-Roehler a Health Educator for Wright County.

Another popular contraceptive is the pill, which has an effectiveness of 98 percent. The little pills taken once daily, on a schedule, are only a good idea if one remembers to take them. The pill is only available through a doctor or health professional. While this may scare off teens hiding sexual activity from their parents, it doesn't have to. There are places that offer less expensive services than a regular doctor, in addition to being confidential.

"It's a law...people of any age can seek reproductive health issues[such as pregnancy and STD testing along with birth control] and that can be kept confidential," said Torgersen.

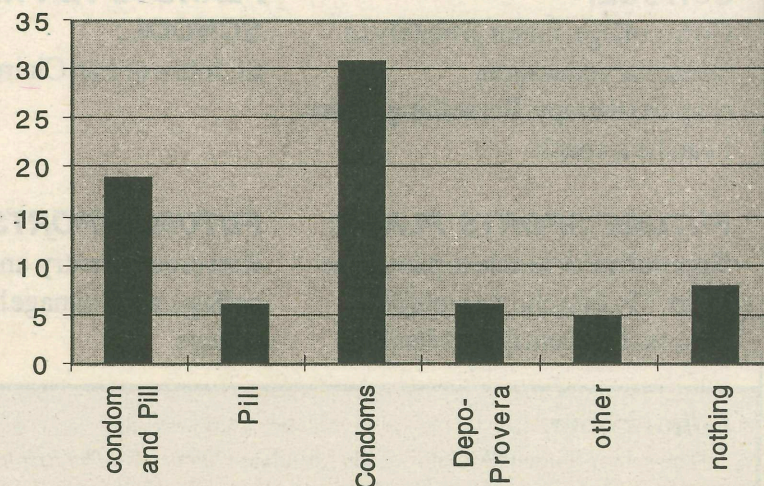
There are other types of birth control, many in fact. Some of the most common ones include Depo-Provera,

or more commonly called Depo, which is a shot given every 3 months. When correctly used Depo is 99 percent effective. Another method is Norplant. After insertion of small rubber-like capsules in the arm, it will release hormones to prevent pregnancy. Norplant will stay effective for 5 years. After five years it needs to be removed. Norplant is 99 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, not STD's.

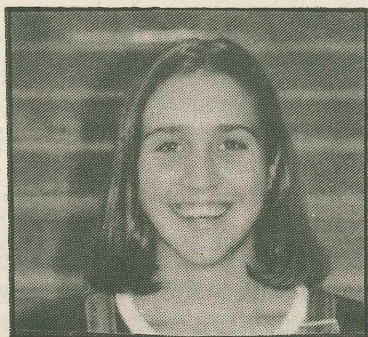
"My parent's are really cool about sex," said senior Tony Gewedik, "They just tell me to make sure I use protection."

Birth control is very important for those who choose to be sexually active. There are people who can discuss birth control and help make decisions on what would be best for each individual teen. Mary Torgersen and Christine Austin-Roehler are just two people who are available and would be more than happy to help. Also, talk to a doctor, a school nurse, or parents. Remember, there are people here to help.

Birth control used by seventy five sexually active teens at BHS:



Athletes of the month November athletes show desire, determination



NAME:
Emily Holmquist

WHEN BORN:
January 14, 1980

NICKNAMES:
Em, Emmy

SPORTS INVOLVED IN:
Volleyball, basketball, track

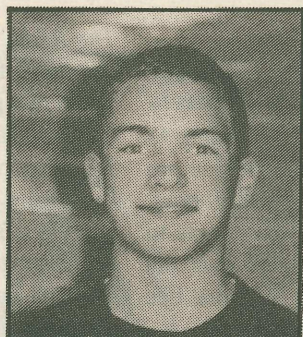
FAVORITE SPORT:
Basketball, I've played basketball since third grade, and I've just really enjoyed it. It keeps me in shape and I'm able.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS:
Honorroll

OTHER ACTIVITIES:
Sand volleyball in the summer
Babysitting

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL:
Go to college, major probably in elementary education, or sports therapy. Something where I can be a coach.

FUTURE SPORTS PLANS:
Hopefully I'll be able to play some sport. My first choice would be basketball and then volleyball.



NAME:
Cade Eisenzimmer

WHEN BORN:
April 2, 1980

NICKNAMES:
Killer, Caker, Eisenbagel

SPORTS INVOLVED IN:
Cross Country, Hockey, Baseball

FAVORITE SPORT:
Cross country; that's what I am talented at.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS:
NHS, Honorroll

OTHER ACTIVITIES:
Baseball
Volleyball

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL:
St. Johns or Eau Claire College

FUTURE SPORTS PLANS:
Run cross country and track in college, also manage hockey in college.

Season challenges for '97 winter sports underway

Boys basketball looks for commitment

By Sara Tabor

Staff Writer

From day one, Pat Sonju, science teacher and head coach of the boys' basketball team told his future players what he expected from them.

"A question you'll need to ask yourself is am I committed? Some of you need to decide if you are going to commit; we

need discipline."

Goals and strategies this year are simple: fundamental basics.

Another literal wake-up call to the players is the free-throw practices daily at 7:45 a.m. for fifteen minutes, until the second bell rings at 8:00 a.m.

Some major changes from last year's program are the

new additions to the coaching staff—Jason Sorenson, a teacher at the middle school, and Nick Guida, a teacher at Montrose Elementary. Also, returning coach Matt Lubben, science teacher, is returning for another season.

They will have their first game at home against St. Cloud Apollo on Saturday, Nov. 29, starting at 7:45 p.m.

Girls basketball: ready to rumble

By Chris Lindahl

Staff Writer

As the snow flies, the Buffalo Bison girls basketball team is preparing for yet another season. Facing a tough season, the girls currently have senior Holly

Bonk as their only captain, with the other to be determined later. With the absence of last year's senior Tammy Wermager, the team is forced to fill the void left by their former leading scorer. However, this year, the girls are looking forward to proving

themselves once again. Returning are seniors Holly Bonk, Emily Holmquist, Jill Dixon, and Jamie Geer. Leading the junior class is Sara Thompson and Erin Bruhn.

"I'm looking forward to picking up from where we left off last year," said Holmquist.

Wrestling team makes championship goals

By Scott DCamp

Sports Editor

Change is defined as a difference from the norm. Since 1982 the Bison Wrestling team has been a constant winner. Appearing in the State tournament seven times and placing as high as third. The program always rebounded from losses of state place winners and looked to the next season as "The Year."

1995-96 and 1996-97 were seasons of disappointments as injury and inexperience plagued the team to 8-9-1 and 5-13-1 records respectively.

"Injuries are what killed us, but we also wrestled good teams; we beat Spring Lake Park who were 17-5," said head coach Gerry Bakke.

With a healthy mix of youth and experience, the team looks to make run at the top teams in

the state. Eight seniors and nine other letter winners return that were regular starters, some because of injuries last season.

"This is as good of a team as I've seen since I started coaching here in '95," said assistant coach Shane Benitz.

The wrestling season lasts from Nov. 17-Feb. 28. During the three month period injuries ranging from sore arms to major muscle tears.

"The team never really got healthy and the injuries just kept getting worse," said Benitz.

In the 97-98 season for the Bison to be able to compete at the state level injuries will have to be eliminated. This will be accomplished by longer warm up time during practices and meets as well as a weight training program. The team's goals are high, as they attempt to surprise everyone who closed the book on Bison wrestling.

Congratulations fall athletes A great year for the Bison

The Bison Stampede would like to congratulate the following sports and athletes for exceptional work this fall:

State cross country participants Cade Eisenzimmer, Ben Hanson, Beth Jackson and Nancy Buselmier.

State swimming & diving participants Muriel Gartner, and Tara Schroeder.

The volleyball team on a second place finish in section play.

The football team on a third place tie with Prior Lake in in section play.

Editors note:

The senior Student Athletes of the Month are chosen by *The Bison Stampede* staff. Students chosen excel academically as well as athletically. If you would like to nominate someone for Student Athlete of the Month contact Scott DCamp or send a written nomination to the *Bison Stampede*. (See page 3 for addresses.)

Experienced hockey team shoots for the top

Coaches, players build on summer camp experiences

By Charity Molzahn
Staff Writer

Every sport has their dominating schools. Schools that consistently dominate opponents, a lock for the State tournament. This season the boys hockey team will attempt to break the mold and become a force in hockey.

In the North Suburban conference last year the Bison hockey team took third place with a record of 8-5. Overall they won 10 games, lost 12, and tied 1.

The team has 10 returning varsity players from last year. Two of which happen to be this year's captains, seniors Jarred Nordberg and Matt Olson. Olson, along with

Travis Meyer, are returning all conference players, and Tony Ross is a returning all conference honorable mention player.

The team is working to challenge all of their opponents. Coach Mike MacMillan has a good idea about the teams that will be tough to beat.

"Centennial [will be the hardest team to beat] in the conference and all year long would be Lakeville," said MacMillan.

The team recently competed in a scrimmage against perennial power Apple Valley and defeated them 4-1.

"We are going to be tough

this year," said junior Jake Comee.

The Bison boys hockey team is now in class A, (as opposed to AA) and is a lot larger school than most opponents. (In AA they were smaller than most opponents.)

To help make a better season, many players and coaches attended hockey camps this summer.

"I was involved with hockey camps all summer long," said coach David Prokop.

The team's first home game is at 7:30 p.m., Thursday on Dec. 4 against Monticello at the Buffalo Civic Center.

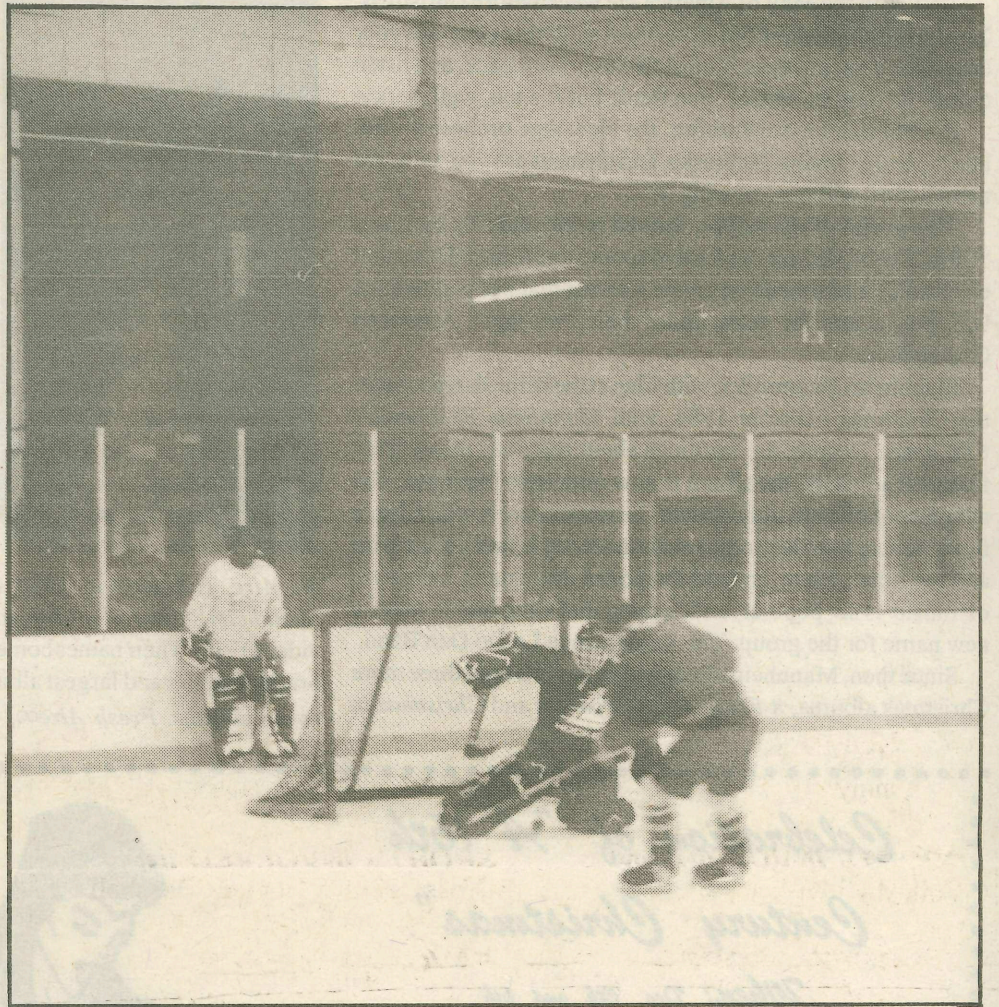


Photo by Ryan Schoenle

Senior Jackie MacMillan deflects the shot made by a Bison teammate during a tryout practice. The Bison host Monticello on Dec. 4.

Girls hockey hyped for historic innagural season

By Josh Behling

Staff Writer

After a four year wait, it's finally happening. girls hockey. Stepping onto the ice for their first game ever, the Wright County Blades hosted Centennial on Nov. 20.

A title nine complaint from a parent came a couple of years ago that said that there wasn't enough girls sports in the high school. Along with additional parent interest, it told Activities Director Nancy Bergert that there needed to be a girls hockey team.

After the idea was cleared, the school had to decide if there was enough interest in the school for there to be a hockey team. Buy adding girls from Delano, Monticello, Watertown, Rockford and St. Michael/Albertville, to the Buffalo girls, a team was created. The end result was the Wright County Blades.

The Blades are made up of girls from Buffalo, Delano, Monticello, Watertown, Rockford, and St. Michael/Albertville.

"It's kind of hard to adjust to playing with girls from all of the schools, because there are

so many different skill levels," said senior Gina Zimney.

Finding a coach was not a problem for Bergert. The answer was Tom Paert. His hockey experience with the Buffalo boys hockey team as a goalie coach in the 1996-97 season, and the fact that he brought a girls team to a national tournament showed Bergert that he was what they had been looking for.

With all of the hockey going on in Buffalo already, there is no way that they could fit the girls team into the schedule for all the games and practices. The next closest arena was the Delano Ice Rink. They were to share ice between Buffalo and Delano.

With all of the girls in different locations, they knew that they could not practice right after school. Practice time would have to be at 4:30 p.m., with a few at 6:00 p.m. This way all the girls would be able to get to the arena on time.

"It's different than any other sport I've been in because you have to wait around before practice starts, and you don't get to go home right at 5:00 p.m.," said senior co-captain Sue Myhre.

This isn't a problem for the Buffalo girls because they can just board on a bus and go to the arena, due to the fact that there was enough funding for the program. The girls from the other schools had to pay up to \$1000 to play, and they have to ride in their own vehicles to get to the arena.

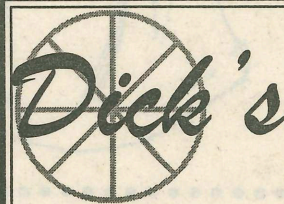
The girl's hockey team's State tournament is on Feb. 19th.

Where are girls hockey games?

Buffalo and Delano

Cost of games:

\$2.00 for students; \$3.00 for adults



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Give the gift of "MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER"

By Brian Malerich

Editorials/Opinions Editor

You're in the Mall of America the week before Christmas. You pass by a nondescript store when something catches your ears. Yes, ears, not eyes. You slow down your pace, and listen closer. It could be Muzak, you think, but it's too, well, perky.

It's Mannheim Steamroller, the New Age orchestra—not band—from Omaha, Nebraska, and chances are you've heard them before without knowing it.

This group of musicians, formed in the mid-70s by Louis "Chip" Davis, Jr., uses a blend of acoustic and digital (real and electronic) instruments to create a sound that has plagued the U.S. pop charts for years under their own label, American Gramophone.

Mannheim Steamroller, with Chip at the helm, dared to enter the Christmas realm in 1984, with *Mannheim Steamroller Christmas*. Despite the warnings about religious music from financial advisers, the album is now quintuple platinum. The album contains not only classic Christmas carols with Chip's funky touch, but also some renaissance-style tunes done with antique flutes, a lute, and old-fashioned drum parts. This style of music is so popular on its own, that Chip had to make a new name for the group: The Renaissance Le Do Dah Band.

Since then, Mannheim Steamroller has released three more Christmas albums, *A Fresh Aire Christmas* and *Christmas in*



the Aire, (released in 1988 and 1995, respectively) and *Mannheim Steamroller Live* (an album available on CD and full video DVD). Their names come from Mannheim Steamroller's original album and largest album series, *Fresh Aire*, spanning seven albums. *Fresh Aire*∞, is already on the way. After

listening to all three Christmas albums in two days, I formed four main opinions:

1. Even if you don't believe in Christmas, the music is geared down from totally religious. Rarely do you hear lyrics, and a lot of the songs don't even have to do with religion, just snow and celebration and fun and the Christmas spirit of sharing.

2. This music is best for background, but don't play it when it'll be ignored. This music can provoke many moods if the setting is right. Use one of the lullabies if you're snuggling with that significant other, or the rocked-up "Joy to the World" and "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" for a small party. Whatever you play it for, be sure you can hear it, because it's worth it.

3. This is not for people with extreme tastes. Besides "New Age", the best description could be "Soft Rock" or "Easy Listening" — not something for the rap enthusiast.

4. If you ever happen to hear that Christmas piece in the mall that makes you think, "Oh, that's cool," then for the love of music, buy it! Music is the language of moods. If a song moves you, wouldn't you want to hear it more often? Wouldn't your friends or family like it too?

If you already own some Mannheim Steamroller, be sure to put it on this holiday break. Listen to it. Share it. And love it. If you don't, well, maybe Santa will bring you some enchanting Mannheim Steamroller, but you have to ask nicely.

Celebration of "A 16th Century Christmas"

When: Dec. 5th and 6th

Time: 7:00p.m. on the PAC steps

Served: Cheesecake embellished with ripened cherries, coffee, and wassail.

What: "A 16th Century Christmas"

is a night of enchantment featuring the BHS Singers, Treble Singers, and members of BHS's Concert Choir. Dating back to the Renaissance Era, the night will lift you away gently pulling you into the excitement of music, and a pun filled skit of "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your Hair"



Boogin' with Boogie Nights

By Joe Svobodny

Advertising Editor

Boogie Nights, a hilarious film about the early days of the adult entertainment industry, is a cross between *Saturday Night Fever* and *Show Girls*. This controversial film is full of off-beat characters who live in their own world of adult pornography in the late 1970's.

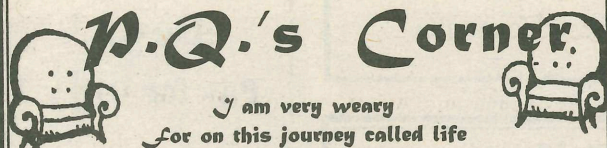
Boogie Nights is not just an exposé on the pornography industry, it has an interesting character plot as well. Mark Wahlberg is a great actor for the part of Dirk Diggler, the main character. In the best performance of his acting career, he plays a young misguided kid who eventually becomes a well known pornography star.

As a struggling director trying to revolutionize the adult entertainment industry, Burt Reynolds works on one of his best performances in years. His role is Jack Horner, a man whose dream is to make a film that is both dramatic and sexy. He takes the young and troubled Dirk Diggler under his wing.

Walking you through the late 70's in the first half of the film, it awakens you with outrageous parties and the glory days of adult pornography and what it had to offer. When the 80's hit, the industry goes on a downward spiral, taking with it most of the main characters. Death and drugs run rampant in the final hour and to top it off, a distressing body count.

With so many subplots and themes it is hard to recount just one. Some of the most obvious is the allure of stardom, the price some individuals are willing to pay for it, and the rehabilitating of their names after being associated with something as damaging as the adult film industry.

Boogie Nights is rated a strong R for language and sexual content but in my opinion, never mean spirited or degrading.



I am very weary
For on this journey called life
I walk alone
No one to guide me
but my unconscious soul
Making tracks to guide me
that aren't meant to be taken
Building paths... that should've been there
Something's pulling me down!
Burdens stacked upon my shoulders
Thoughts are gathered together in my mind
Dreaming for someone to hold
Hoping to go back and Change
Praying I'll find my way
By Missi Bratsch

'However things may seem, no evil is success,
and no good thing is failure' Samuel Longfellow

If you'd like to submit your own original poetry, or quotes to the new P.Q.'s Corner (Poems and Quotes Corner) find your way to room A-102, and drop off inside of Larlee Selger's message box. Or, just find her in the halls. YOU could be printed in the paper!