

THE HOOFFPRINT

BUFFALO
HIGH
SCHOOL
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ART IN A CAN



MEET THE TEAM



DRESSED TO IMPRESS



CHESS CLUB



BUSINESS BLOOMING



CHANGING LIVES

RIGHTS WORTH DISCUSSING



The Hoofprint

Volume 42 Issue 7

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Internet rights is a hot-button topic that has attracted much criticism from students and staff alike, leaving other rights in the dark. The right to leave during class and the use electronics in the classroom are worth discussing.

Every member of Buffalo High School should be aware of what the rules are and, more importantly, the reason behind their existence. It is important to understand that the rules and restrictions are set with our best interests in mind and to provide the best learning environment for everyone. We may have the privilege to take out our cell phone and text a friend or a parent during the school day—do we also have the right to learn? Sometimes it's easier to focus on the rights and privileges we don't have. What many don't consider is the fact that the many privileges we have are because our district trusts us. Although our rights may seem small, they are also easy to abuse, which begs the question: what rights do we deserve and how does the district decide what we get?

As students of BHS, we should ask questions daily and continue to explore the rights we are given at school. In this issue we hope to explore many questions about the rights and privileges we, the community of Buffalo High School, have been given.

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DIFFERENCES IN

Policies and Administration Making the Difference

Erica Hoops - Staff Writer

“That just doesn’t sound reasonable to me,” Band Director **Scott Rabehl** said, “Saying, ‘No you can’t keep this kid from harassing that person because you can’t infringe upon the rights of the harasser..’ It sounds so wrong that I can’t quite believe that was the policy of a building.”

In the BHM school district, it seems that most issues regarding the administration are small and easily solved. Unfortunately in other districts, most notably perhaps, in the Anoka-Hennepin (AH) school district, it can take a lawsuit to solve an issue.

This past year the AH district has had plenty of media attention, including an article in the Rolling Stone magazine and a program broadcast nationally on CNN that included several interviews of BHS students who formerly attended schools in the AH district.

The heat put on this district has been, mainly, over two policies, one nicknamed the ‘Neutrality Policy’, and the other the Sexual Orientation Curriculum (SOC) policy.

SOC was put in place to prevent the curriculum of classes in this district to include anything about gay rights and its history. While this was controversial, it was easily voted down 5-1 in a school board vote last year. The Neutrality Policy, however, was not so peacefully debated.

“[The policy] requires that teachers stay neutral when incidents of harassment specifically regarding sexual orientation and gender identity,” said Anoka Middle School (AMSA) Theatre Arts Teacher **Jefferson Fietek**.

Fietek had been heavily involved in the debate regarding these policies being that he is not only a staff

member in the AH district, but also AMSA’s Gay Straight Alliance advisor.

“That just doesn’t sound reasonable to me,” said Band Director **Scott Rabehl**, “Saying, ‘No you can’t keep this kid from harassing that person because you can’t infringe upon the rights of the harasser..’ It sounds so wrong that I can’t quite believe that was the policy of a building.”

The lawsuit surrounding the policy included five students, most from AMSA, and was led by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). The case was settled last March in favor of the students who’d been negatively affected by the policy. The students were compensated and the rule abolished.

While some rejoiced after hearing the verdict of the case, other parents argued that more conservative students might feel “unsupported”, as said by a member of the Anoka community in a Star Tribune article last March.

No matter the side of the argument you agree with, at least one BHS student knows where she stands.

“[The policy] is ridiculous; teachers are people we look to help in bullying situations, and not allowing teachers to diffuse a situation when they see it is stupid,” said Junior **Megan Shipley**. “I’m just glad we don’t have anything like that [at BHS].”
Continued on page 5.

“[The policy] is ridiculous; teachers are people we look to help in bullying situations, and not allowing teachers to diffuse a situation when they see it is stupid,” said **Junior Megan Shipley**, “I’m just glad we don’t have anything like that [at BHS].”

THE DISTRICT

Continued from page 4.

Walking down any given hallway in a high school, one is sure to hear others' opinions of that school; be it praise or complaint. Either way, the credit, or in some cases blame, is generally given to the principal(s) and administration within the building, but one mustn't forget that in many cases district administration is what actually sets the standards and policies in schools.

Whether on a district level or in a single building, open communication with administration seems to be a necessity.

Junior **Megan Shipley** has heard of multiple people emailing administration about issues regarding money, "Maybe instead of all the building upgrades and renovations, they could get some new technology, but I know they have to deal with a lot, so I understand why they haven't been able to respond."

With thousands of students in the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose (BHM) School District sifting through all the messages can be no small task, so communication within schools is equally important.

"I think the administration [at BHS] is fair; they do a good job at listening to the concerns of teachers and students," Shipley said, "but I'm not sure if I always agree with how they react to it."

While Shipley seems to believe there is a lack of follow-up, **Rabehl** isn't so sure.

"I'm not aware of lack of follow-up, but it could happen I suppose," said Rabehl, "I guess it's just important that there is follow through and support of fairness and fair play by and for everybody."

Rabehl has had the experience of working in multiple school districts including the Osseo and Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted districts.

"I feel that I have been very fortunate that in the places I've worked I have felt personally well-supported by administrators, and I have felt that students have been dealt with fairly by administrators," said Rabehl.

Despite the problems present in school districts, members of the community can be sure that the administration is always looking for ways to improve the students' experiences during their school years. Please feel free to contact administrators (either on the school or district level) if you ever have any concerns.

"[The policy] requires that teachers stay neutral when incidents of harassment specifically regarding sexual orientation and gender identity," said **Anoka Middle School (AMSA) Theatre Arts Teacher Jefferson Fietek**.

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ACCESS DENIED

The Internet filter is designed to protect students, but is it limiting access to knowledge?

Emily Vogt - Staff Writer

You know we're technology oriented when you see people walking down the hallways with their heads down to their phone screens and their thumbs flying across their phone's screen texting their friends, tweeting, or scrolling through their Facebook newsfeed. No matter how hard teachers and staff try, students always seem to find a way to sneak their devices into the classroom and distract themselves from what's happening in class.

At Buffalo High School staff members have access to more sites on the internet than students. There is a policy that sets the guidelines to access the school's internet through the computer system.

"We should have equal rights. Having less access prevents us from bad websites, but we have to remember that many students have smartphones that don't connect to the school's Wi-Fi," said Freshman **Maria Zimmermen**.

The internet at school is all controlled by the Lightspeed filter—one filter for students and one for staff; theirs is less limited than the student's filter.

"I see the purpose in that teachers and staff don't have an unlimited filter," said

"If teachers have increased access, why can't we?"

Sophomore Alisha Hackworth

Assistant Principal **Brandon Prell**. "There are still unknown sources of information that still can't get into teachers' hands."

The students' filter keeps track of students' access on a daily basis; it makes sure students don't access anything obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors.

The school has already outlined the 2013-

15 district technology plan. It states that it will increase technology for students to enhance learning in the classroom; to provide staff with professional development so they can engage in the improved technology of today; to improve the routing, switching, and wireless access with storage so the district can meet the demands of students with their own devices in accessing the school's internet; and finally maintain replacement cycle and support levels with increasing demands.

"If teachers have increased access, why can't we?" asked Sophomore **Alisha Hackworth**.

The four pillars of the technology plan will allow greater access to both students and staff, and the district will continue to balance the right to access information with an obligation to protect students, staff, and technology tools from harmful material.

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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Luigi's Mansion: Dark Moon

Nintendo 3DS



2spooky4me...But that's not really a bad thing

10/10*****

Luigi's Mansion: Dark Moon not only lives up to the original Gamecube game, but surpasses it in practically every way.

Back in November 2001, Nintendo released the Nintendo Gamecube in America. While it didn't fly off the shelves like people were expecting, there was a launch title that stood out – *Luigi's Mansion*. As the first game starring Mario's younger brother, it struck consumers as a unique, if a bit shallow, gaming experience. The press was a little quiet over it, but it gained enough popularity through word of mouth to propel it to the fifth best-selling Gamecube game of all time. 12 years later, they release a sequel, *Luigi's Mansion: Dark Moon*, on their thriving Nintendo 3DS. Turns out the game took everything from the first game, and improved it tenfold.

The story is simple. The Dark Moon has been knocked out of the sky, and the ghosts of Evershade Valley have become unruly in its absence. To help this, Professor E. Gadd calls upon Luigi to come and recover the pieces of the Dark Moon. To do this, Luigi must suck up the ghosts in the mansions of the valley using the specialized vacuum cleaner known as the Poltergust 5000. It ends up being a hilarious romp with a lot to owe to the original *Ghostbusters*. The dialogue between E. Gadd and Luigi is priceless, and many of the visual jokes are downright hysterical. However, the game doesn't

forget to be a tad spooky from time to time.

The first *Luigi's Mansion* was a fleeting experience, clocking in at under 4 hours for most players. With a single haunted mansion to explore, the game, while fun, was over far too quickly. Luckily, Nintendo noticed this. In *Luigi's Mansion: Dark Moon*, there's not one mansion – There's five. Each mansion has a particular theme, much like words in other Mario titles. There's a classic haunted mansion, a mansion overrun by plants, a clockwork mansion, and two others. The mansions are separated into 5-7 smaller stages, lasting around 20 minutes each. I clocked in at around 15 hours when it was all said and done, but with the added Boos, gems, and secret levels to find, a person could easily put in a solid 30 hours or so.

As far as gameplay goes, Next Level Games took what was good from the first game, removed what was bad, and then added in brand new features. As stated earlier, the point of the game is to capture ghost by using your trusty Poltergust 5000. To do this, you must first stun the ghost with your stroboscope, then proceed to suck them in. This becomes a strategic game of tug-of-war with the ghosts, where you may have to avoid other ghosts, obstacles, and flying objects. As the game progresses, you get

introduced to various types of ghosts, all with unique strengths and tactics. Luckily, the game doesn't take long to master. There are also six bosses in game, each more complicated and tricky than the last. This keeps the game challenging, and keeps it from becoming stale.

The 3D is utilized to its fullest extent in *Luigi's Mansion: Dark Moon*. When the 3D is turned to max, the cartoon characters look like plastic toys running around a set of spooky toy houses. I assure you, this is the best compliment I can give. Yet again, Nintendo has proved that they have a mastery over their hardware. The music is as spooky as the atmosphere, with a classic motif appearing in every track. The vibe of each piece changes from mansion to mansion, giving each mansion its own unique sense of identity.

As it stands, *Luigi's Mansion: Dark Moon* is a stylish, spooky experience that absolutely must be experienced. Next Level Games poured their love into every facet of the development, producing a game that is not only faithful to the original, but surpasses it in practically every way. Nintendo gained yet another must-have for its new handheld. If you own a 3DS, you owe it to yourself to play this game. If you don't own one, you're missing out on one of the best games of the year.

Review by Nathaniel Nelson, Photo Courtesy of one-quest.com

*Dressed to Impress

Fashion is just one of many ways Sarah Jacobson expresses herself



Photos by Mackenzie Malewicki

Lexi Bollant - Journalism One Writer

As the alarm goes off, most students are rolling out of bed shut eyed, throwing on whatever clothes are sitting on the floor. For Junior **Sarah Jacobson**, it's a different story. Each morning she meticulously is picking out her outfits as if the empty hallways at school are fashion runways. Most people know her as "that girl in the pinstriped pants and heels." Always taking fashion risks and not thinking twice about it.

"I think, people describe me as classy. I just wear what I want to wear, whatever clicks," said Jacobson.

Her love for fashion and style all started in middle school.

"I was bullied all through middle school. Fashion was my way of coping to all the bullies," Jacobson said. "I would try to 'fit-in' with them and dress cute. And after a while people would tell me I try to hard. Then I realized, fashion is who I am. Fashion is a discovery of yourself, not the discovery of the society you should live up to."

But being an individual in adolescence is no easy task.

"It was really difficult to be so different than everyone else. At that age you just want to "fit-in" and be like everyone else. Never drawing too much attention to yourself. But fashion changed my life for the better. It gave me self-expression" said Jacobson.

But Jacobson doesn't spend all of her time browsing her closet. She is active in Business Professionals of America (BPA), Women's Soccer, Tri-M, NHS and a summer orchestra program in Monticello.

"I've been playing the cello since fifth grade," Jacobson said. "I enjoy it so much. I am going to be auditioning for All-State Orchestra this upcoming March."

With her busy schedule, finding time to go shopping can be hard. But Jacobson always manages to find the time. However, she has learned quick that all cute things have a price. To limit herself from spending too much she started designing and making her own clothes.

"I still go shopping every once in awhile," Jacobson said, "like I walked into Ann Taylor the other day and found some hot pink pants that I just had to have."

It isn't the stores she shops at that necessarily makes her style so different. It's her design and eye for fashion when shopping and putting the outfits together.

"Some of my favorite stores are Forever 21, Urban Outfitters, Zara, TopShop, and ASOS. I work at Banana Republic now so clothes there as well."

The student body isn't the only one noticing Jacobson's style. Math teacher **Stacy Eggers** saw something in her from the first day she stepped into her classroom.

"I like her style. She expresses who she is, confident," Eggers said. "I see her doing whatever she puts her mind to someday. She is a very driven student. It's important to know who you are."

Eggers isn't the only one thinking about the future. Jacobson has many ideas to where she sees herself going after her time at BHS. She would like to continue her love for fashion, but in a different outlet. Jacobson is also very interested in digital arts and blogging. She writes her own cooking and fashion blogs but wants to wait until she's older to publish them.

"Karla's Closet, Garance Dore, and Hanneli Munstaparta are some of the blogs I follow the most. Someday I would really like to go to the New York fashion show during fashion week and meet some of those designers. However, I don't think I want to design my own clothes for forever. I would really like to be a fashion merchandiser and major in Digital Arts," Jacobson said.

It's no doubt that Jacobson has caught the eyes of many students and faculty alike. She paves the way for anyone pursuing fashion, or wanting to be an individual.

"I saw a quote recently that said, 'It can be very lonely in a crowd.' That quote is so true. I realized I want to make a difference in any way possible," Jacobson said.

Art in a can



Chris Peterson was hired to create graffiti for Herbalife, located in uptown Buffalo.

Photo by Molly Kwakenat

Chris Peterson expresses himself through a unique and talented form of art

Taylor Schnabel - Journalism One Writer

As students open up a notebook at school, it's usually for the notes that they are about to be taking, right? Well, not for everyone. During class, bored and distracted, Senior **Chris Peterson** has notebooks that are completely, cover to cover, filled with what is cycling through his brain.

Graffiti is, to some, scribbling and to others it's a piece of art that has taken someone a decent amount of time to accomplish to get it to where they would like it.

"I don't think I can go a single day without drawing something new," Peterson said.

Peterson first started his creative campaign around the start of his freshman year. One of his old friends had starting doing it before him and that is what had started the drive. Mainly competition at first, all about whose is better than whose, until Peterson had "moved on" to a different type of art form.

"I started to lay paint. I did the first painting in my room. It was basically my small tag at the base of my notebook drawings just ten times bigger," Peterson said. "My parents don't mind the smell of

the paint so it's always okay to repaint my wall whenever I want. "

His walls were the least of his worries. Soon after he had posted pictures of his art on Facebook, some of his friends soon asked for something similar on their own walls.

"I started to do graffiti's for some of my friends, but then companies started to come forward and ask me if I could do something for them. I sprayed out at Big Woods Bar and Grill first. Then a couple of months later, Herbalife here in Buffalo called me to do some spraying in their building," said Peterson.

There is a definite outline for Peterson doing a graffiti job. He first has to figure out what the "customer" would like sprayed, then he has to come up with a creative way to make it look pleasing to whoever it is for.

"Most of my best pieces of work have just come from me going at it head on and free handing it," Peterson said.

While Peterson has had great success as a graffiti artist, he has also encountered a low point - getting caught. "Getting caught tends to not be a very fun thing to deal with, especially when what

you're doing is fun and does no one else harm.

Last summer Chris and a couple buddies got into a little bit of a "sketchy situation", as Senior **Devin Hopkins** described. "We went there a couple times (we had nicknamed it the station) before and it was fun, so we just decided to go back. But this time Chris had brought paint and decided to paint inside the building," Hopkins said.

"It was probably the worst experience I have ever had, with my graffiti or not with it. But at the same time, it was also the best experience for me because he learned a few things from it," Peterson said. "But I still got stuck with a felony, so that day kind of sucked. A lot."

Even though the good and bad come out of all situations, it will never stop anyone with the strive to continue to do what they love. Peterson still continues to do what he does and has full intentions on broadening his graffiti capabilities. Peterson exclaims, "Simply just keep doing what makes you happy, and makes you, you. Because no one else is going to be doing exactly what you are doing."

PROM SEASON BUSINESS IS BLOOMING

The owners of Buffalo Floral prepare for another hectic and exciting prom season

Bailey Braatz - Journalism Two Writer

It's a custom for the boys to bring their prom date flowers, and supporting this tradition since 1953 is Buffalo Floral. Current owner, **Patti Speckel**, has been running the show for 34 years. She and her husband bought the flower shop in 1984. When she first started working, the spendy corsages were only five dollars, now they can cost as much as \$50. Seeing prom change over the years has been a trip for the flower shop.

"I started off working here (at the floral) as a student in 1979, and I've always loved prom season. Seeing everyone so happy, and knowing it's such a big event makes it an exciting time in the shop," said Speckel. "I've been a florist over half my life, and I believe if you love what you do, keep doing it."

Speckel has attended every Grand March at Buffalo High School since she started working at Buffalo Floral. She says it's like a fashion show, seeing all the flowers and tuxes that the shop supplies to the students.

"I don't even go home some nights," said

Speckel. "Other nights I go home, watch a movie, and start to prep corsages with the bows and accessories. You can't wait until the last minute, or you'll never get them all done! And you don't want to let down your customers either."

It's hectic behind the scenes during prom time. The floral needs to hire extra help and extend hours to make sure their customers can make it into the shop. Speckel says, it's worth every minute when the couples come in and pick up their flowers; they bring a positive energy to the shop.

"Prom season is something you look forward to, and you hate when it's gone," said flower shop employee, **Sue Yates**, "It's like the morning after christmas. You hate not seeing the kids anymore. When you go from seeing 40 kids a day to none, it's bittersweet."

Buffalo Floral is known around Buffalo for its fun environment, and happy helpful staff. Most students love the experience of going into the flower shop for the first time.

"I'm very willing to support a local business," said Senior **Trevor Dahlof**.

"Buffalo Floral has great service, and since they're in Buffalo they're close. They made the dude's job easy."

The students at Buffalo High School are a vital income source for this local business. Forty percent of their yearly profits come from the purchases of corsages, boutonnieres, and tuxes. They always hope the students choose Buffalo Floral for their prom attire. Guys might not always have a huge interest in flowers, but most boys seem to understand how flowers are a classic prom accessory, and Buffalo Floral does their best to make it easy on the student's wallets as well.

"I think you need the flowers because it's been a tradition for years," said Senior **Connor Mann**. "Plus, Buffalo Floral is very affordable. \$30 for both of our flowers is not a bad deal."

"Prom season always comes to an end," said Speckel, "But I hope the legacy of prom flowers never ends." The students at Buffalo High School support the tradition and hope to keep it going.



The corsage board makes decisions easy.



Speckel easily puts together a corsage.



The start of a beautiful wedding corsage.

Photos by Emily DeVore

ANYTHING FOR A BREAK

Should students be entitled to a personal day?

Jessica McMullen - Copy Editor

At Buffalo High School, students have the opportunity to participate in numerous after school activities including sports, musical ensembles, and volunteer programs. These extracurricular activities, along with hours upon hours of homework a night, a part time job consuming their weekends, and trying to maintain strong relationships with family and friends can take up the majority of a student's free time. With so much that needs to be accomplished week by week, it is easy for students to become overwhelmed. When a student reaches a point where they need a break, they might take a day to stay home from school.

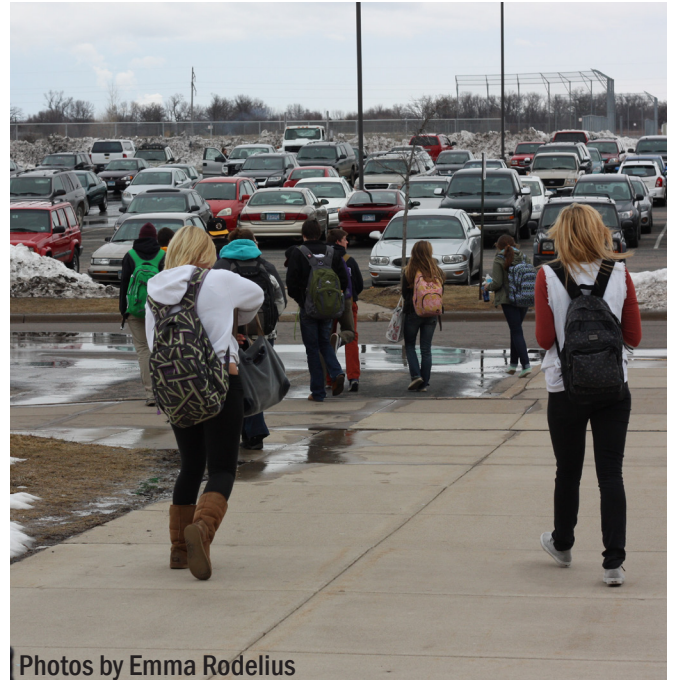
In a recent survey, 80 percent of Buffalo High School students said that they thought that taking a personal day is acceptable when a student is under a lot of stress or is having issues at home. However, they should only miss school if they are doing well in their classes and would be able to make up the work that they miss in class. In many cases, the benefits of staying home greatly outweigh the consequences of missing class simply because a student is able to get a good night sleep and finish the homework that had been piling up.

While almost everyone

has stayed home because they were sick, 57 percent of students said that they have stayed home from school for reasons including stress, needing more sleep, catching up on homework, spending extra time with friends and family members, or because they felt intimidated by another student. Of the students who said that they have never stayed home for such reasons, 10 percent said that they would like to take a day off, but their parents would not let them.

Whether it's parental or government laws that are being a hinderance, the right to take a personal day is often not up to you. There are laws that vary from state to state, county to county, and school district to school district that act against truancy within the public school districts. According to Minnesota Statute 260, a student who has multiple unexcused absences will be referred to a school attendance review board that gives them community service.

If you decide that you need a day to yourself and staying home from school is your best option, make sure that you don't become dependent on school absences. Manage your time wisely to get your homework done and yourself into bed at a reasonable time every night.



Photos by Emma Rodelius



According to Minnesota Statute 260, a student who has multiple unexcused absences will be referred to a school attendance review board.

WHAT TO KNOW...

80%

of BHS students admitted to taking at least one personal day

10%

of BHS students want a personal day but their parents won't allow it

*100 Students Surveyed



Students hide try to hide their cell phones while texting friends and family members in class.

“ I had a teacher who was so strict on making sure you get your things turned in on time in great quality, yet she would procrastinate to correct the assignments and would make a lot of mistakes on correcting them.”
-Junior Kailee Steen



Photos by Mackenzie Malewicki
The Hoofprint

Do as I say, not as I do.

Students and staff reflect on people breaking their own rules

Stephanie Berg - Staff Writer

Imagine sitting in a classroom where cell phones are banned, yet the teacher is constantly checking their iPhone. It can drive a person crazy. How is a student expected to follow a teacher's rules when the teacher can't even do the same? Other times, students have higher expectations of their teachers than they have for themselves.

It's hard following a teacher's rules. No texting, no eating, no talking—it sometimes feels like students aren't allowed to do anything. But what really gets to students is when a teacher is being a hypocrite and can't follow their own rules.

When a person is being a hypocrite, it means that they can't follow their own rules or morals. This can cause a lot of confusion as to what the person is really like and, often times, the hypocritical person comes off as fake.

"I hate hypocrisy," said Sophomore Jana Jacobson, "It makes that person seem controlling and power hungry."

Not only is hypocrisy a turn-off, but it can also ruin a class.

"I had a teacher who was so strict on

making sure you get your things turned in on time in great quality, yet she would procrastinate to correct the assignments and would make a lot of mistakes on correcting them," said **Junior Kailee Steen**. "It frustrated me because her hypocrisy is so evident. It didn't encourage me to push

“High school students are young. These are the years they start seeing hypocrisy in others and, in turn, learn to be more genuine.”

-Spanish Teacher Daryl Boeckers

myself to excel.”

How can teachers expect students to follow their rules when they can't even follow them themselves? They're acting as bad role models and it's fair to students. In

fact, it could be considered lazy. Life may not always be fair, but hypocrisy has never been an excuse for laziness.

Hypocrisy isn't just something that adults do. It also happens a lot in younger people. They may not even realize it at first, but the longer they act against their own morals, the better chance they have of falling into hypocrisy when they're older.

"Some students boasted how religious they were and their actions didn't mirror what they portrayed about accepting others," said Spanish Teacher Daryl Boeckers. "High school students are young. These are the years they start seeing hypocrisy in others and, in turn, learn to be more genuine."

What hypocritical people may not realize is that other people want to know the real version of others—not the glossy magazine version. Nobody is perfect and trying to make oneself look that way never works.

In the end, rules need to be followed by everyone—not just classroom rules, but morals as well. Real relationships are based off of truth.

KNOWLEDGE BOWL: Meet The Team

Olivia Wyatt, Tyler Maxson, and Kevin Danielson -
Editor-in-Chief and Journalism Two Writers

For the fifth consecutive year, Buffalo's Knowledge Bowl team headed to State in Brainerd, April 11-12. Coming off a seventh place finish last year, the returning team of now seniors **Cassidy Brown**, **Michael Hank**, **Mark Lee**, and **Levi Walls** were ready to compete. With their unique talents, the four took third place—tied for the highest finish for BHS.

Cassidy Brown

Nickname: Cassitron 3000

Specialties: Geography and Math

Description: "I'm the spokesperson, so I'm the one who actually has to give the answers to the reader and make sense out of everything that they're all telling me."

Fun Fact: Owns 41 chickens

Teammates' Description: "She's a ginger," Hank said. "She's also the unofficial leader and makes all the decisions because she has to. If she really doesn't like the reader in the room then she gets snarky."

Michael Hank

Nickname: Courtaud P. Tinkleddeath

Specialties: Math and Science

Description: "I am the runner. Once the scores are posted or a little before if we get information from the other schools' coaches, I basically run to whatever room we're in and reserve table A. Normally I don't have to run too fast unless Buffalo 2 is there and then I have to beat Robbie [DuBois] because he'll do the same thing. I can sprint pretty fast, but I just can't run really long because I get really, really tired. If people are closer, I run faster. Sometimes if we're pretty sure that we'll stay in the same room, I'll leave my stuff there, but sometimes other teams move it. Then we get vengeful, and when we get vengeful, we fight."

Fun Fact: Uses a GPS to drive to school.

Teammates' Description: "How do you describe Michael? He's eccentric," Brown said. "He's very in to knowledge bowl; he takes it very seriously."

Mark Lee

Nickname: Marcus Aurelius

Specialties: Ancient History, Biblical and Middle Eastern History

Description: "I try to keep Michael and Levi apart as much as I can. I usually sit between them in the table scenario. I don't always come up with an answer, but I can usually lend a second opinion in support or against an answer. I usually have inklings, and these inklings are sometimes right, so I stay on." Lee also uses "Mark Points" to determine how he personally would do in competitions.

"When I have the right answer, and I know I have the right answer and I say it, and then they're all like 'uh no, Mark, that's probably not the right answer,' and then they say their stupid answer and then they get it wrong. Then I get a "Mark Point."

Fun Fact: Has had the same hairstyle since December 27th 2010.

Teammates' Description: "He doesn't have quirks. He's so normal! But that's a good thing; he holds us down," Walls said.

"He's the sane one on the team," Brown said. "He's the calming influence and when the rest of us are all going off on tangents."



Photo by Brianna Christian

Seniors Cassidy Brown, Michael Hank, and Levi Walls work on a written round during practice.

Levi Walls

Nickname: Gimli Snorlax

Specialties: Science Fiction literature, and "Science stuff"

Description: "I would consider myself to be the buzzer. I have to anticipate what the question is going to be and make sure that everybody keeps thinking about the question [and that] they don't tangent."

Fun Fact: He can recite verbatim the dialogue from all the Star Wars movies.

Teammates' Description: "He's very slow to respond. Dude, we have 15 seconds," Brown said.

"He knows wars and biology," Hank said.

"Levi, like Michael, is incredibly smart," said Lee. "He'll pull out answers that I'll have no idea where he got them from in terms of history, or science. He knows all the terms and dates. He can be a little impatient with Michael, understandably so. Levi's a great guy, love sitting with him on the bus."



Getting Back to Business

BPA to return to Orlando, Florida in May

Olivia Wyatt, Tyler Maxson, and Kevin Danielson - Editor-in-Chief and Journalism Two Writers

Once again, BHS's BPA (Business Professionals of America) chapter is sending students to Nationals. Four juniors will be heading off to Orlando, Florida May 8-12 where they will be amongst 5,000 other BPA members and advisers from around the country.

"We send a handful of kids each year," Chapter President **Marah Moy** said. "At least we're consistent. [Last year Junior] **Aaron [Hamann]** and I had a lot of fun in Chicago [at Nationals]. We visited a couple museums and his roommates were fun to hang out with. One of my favorite adventures was the field museum where we learned about animals and Africa."

Moy and Hamann will be competing at Nationals along with fellow juniors **Emma Schneider** and **Rachel Koch**.

"Emma, Rach, and I are advancing for Torch which is very similar to NHS," Moy said. "Rather than work[ing] towards

hours, you work towards points."

The Torch Awards Program gives points to members who complete certain activities. Once a certain number of points are attained, the member's resumé is submitted for review. All three girls completed the minimum of 70 points in each of seven categories—enabling them to attend Nationals. Unlike the girls, Hamann is competing in Financial Math and Analysis.

"I like it [Financial Math and Analysis] because it's the one that has the most to do with what I like and what I'm good at," Hamann said. "There are so many different events that everyone can find ones that are appealing."

According to their website, BPA is an organization designed to help students prepare for careers in "business management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields." However, not all students join to

BPA members work on their skills at practice and wait to hear results. *Photos by Brianna Christian*

help further themselves in such fields.

"I joined my freshman year because my friend's sister thought I would like it, and I really have," Moy said. "I don't have an interest in the business field that much—I just like the experience BPA has to offer. I think it's a good foundation for professionalism and I've met some cool people at Regions, State, and Nationals. I love making connections with other students from across the state and country."

"I joined last year because I was looking for something to do," Hamann said. "It turned out to be something fun that doesn't require a huge time commitment."

While Hamann is eager for the upcoming competition in Orlando, it's not the only reason he's excited for the trip.

"It'll be a lot of fun getting to go hang out with friends in Florida for five days," Hamann said. "Who wouldn't like that?"

Snow vs. Athletes

Excessive snow in April causes trouble for Spring Sports

Molly Kwakenat, Taylor Susa, and Kylee Zumach - A&E Editor, Features Editor, and Journalism Two Writer

"All season this has been the worst for spring sports. Other years we have had periods in the spring where the weather has been unbearable but never this bad. We haven't been able to even go outside yet. This is definitely frustrating when kids think all we do is sit inside and run, that is not what track is about," frustrated Varsity Track and Field Coach **Scott Palmer** said. "If we could be outside and do all the fun stuff that would be great. We want kids to have the real taste of Buffalo Track and Field."

All this week athletes and coaches have

been up in arms because the athletes sporting events have been getting canceled. "Next week isn't too promising. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday are options, but it's supposed to snow again next week," Palmer said.

Other sports like boys' lacrosse have had slightly more luck. "We've only been inside, but the places we have had to play own turf so they just blew all of the snow off the turf field. But today we had a home game and it got canceled," Junior **Wyatt Wentland** said.

Through thick and thin athletes are

dedicated to the sports they love—the boys' tennis team has had practice at 6:00 am before school.

Senior **Ethan Fabel** was one of these players: "Yeah, we had 6:00 am practice yesterday and today and we had to shovel off the tennis courts."

Although Minnesota weather may be unpredictable, the athletes of Buffalo High School know how to get down to business when times are tough.



The Bison Softball team keeps their rakes in the shed and brought out the shovels to try to find their snow covered dirt this year.

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Keeping a stride ahead of his competition sophomore Nick Swearingen keeps his cool over the opposing athlete.

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How is the snow affecting your sports season?

Senior Emily Spier TRACK AND FIELD

"I think all this snow is stupid because were not ready for the real outdoor competition. The snow is hurting us."

Senior Daniel Pettit TRACK AND FIELD

"I think in the long run it is a good thing because I am now more hungry than ever to race and I will not be burnt out at the end of the season."

Senior Brennan Gilyard BASEBALL

"I think it's hurting us because we have not been able to see the ball off the real dirt it's been all gym floor."

Senior Adam Hartung BOYS TENNIS

"I think it's hurting us because tge courts inside suck to play on in comparison to playing outside."



These Bison track athletes are going to college and will continue to participate in track in their new environment.

#FASTFACTS

Baseball Player

Senior **Brennan Gilyard** is attending Mankato state with a scholarship to play **Baseball**.

Lacrosse Player

Junior **Donnie Lind** lost **40 pounds** in the fall of the school year.

Track and Field

Senior **Joey Merz** has been a part of the boys track team that has **nine conference title wins** in a row.

Softball player

Senior **Haley Prim** drinks a **Dr. Pepper** before every game.

Track and Field

Senior **Kailey Johnson** ran the 4x8 relay at the **Hamline elite meet** in eighth grade.

Tennis player

Senior **Kevin Zheng** has been playing tennis for the last four years.



HISTORY DIDN'T END IN 1969

Erika Voeller - Managing Editor

Our school focuses so much attention on history; ranging from ancient Egypt to the Civil Rights Movement, but unfortunately fails to inform students, for the most part, about what is going on in the world today. While history is an important subject, it's concerning that as a senior, I can't recall what country Saddam Hussein came from, why Iranian women wear a veil, and why in the world I don't already know the answers to these questions.

I've taken American Experience, American History, and World Studies—all the required history courses at BHS—yet I don't seem to know a thing about the Middle East. Or Egypt. Or Greece. Why is it that in these courses, we learn all about how the Egyptian pyramids were built, but we don't learn about the riots and political uprising taking place in Egypt today? We can name all of the most talked-about Greek gods and goddesses, but can't tell you what currency they use or how they're sitting economically. We study the Holocaust every year, but can't name Germany's current chancellor, who happens to be the most powerful woman in the world.

My entire school career has taken place in a post-9/11 world, yet it doesn't seem like I've been taught any history

that's taken place past the Civil Rights Movement. This isn't to say the Civil Rights Movement, the Holocaust, and the Egyptian pyramids aren't important, rather to bring attention to what is emphasized in our curriculum and whether we're learning what we should be. This is not a reflection of Buffalo High School, but rather curriculum standards as a whole. We have an incredible social studies staff who provides information in a fun and exciting way, but is limited by the curriculum standards they are beholden to. To some teachers, what feel like current events to them is history to us. History is made everyday; it does not cap at 1969, when the first man walked the moon and Martin Luther King, Jr. led the Civil Rights Movement.

The America I am stepping into this Fall is one that has had soldiers stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan for close to thirteen years, but I can't point to those countries on a world map. Don't I have a right to know where my neighbors and family members have been fighting for the majority of my lifetime? Don't I have a right to learn about what's going on in the world today? Why is the past more important than the future, and the future so rarely touched on in a school setting? It's time to redefine history.

Photo Poll: Should upperclassmen be the only people allowed to go to Prom?



Senior Amanda Letsinger
Yes. I don't have much of an opinion, but I think upperclassmen appreciate Prom more than underclassmen do.



Freshman Matthew Grave
Yes. I think there should be a separate Prom for underclassmen altogether.



Freshman Megan Stuhr
Yes. I don't think ninth and tenth graders should be able to go.



Junior Tiah Marr
No. We were all Bison at one point and Prom should be a shared experience for everyone.



Senior Kyle Cole
No. Students should be able to go if they want to.



Senior Mackenzie Rixe
No. Prom shouldn't be confined to just the juniors and seniors.



Senior Cedric Jimenez
No. If an upperclassman needs someone to go with, they should be able to ask who they want.



Junior Marissa Mack
No. If they get asked, I think freshmen and sophomores should be able to go.

Photos by Bailey Braatz, Interviews by Jay Mason
Rights - 19

THE RIGHT TO KNOW

Does a generation that ignores history have a past and a future?

Drake Wolenhaus - Guest Columnist

So, we think we know something, ay?

Let me tell you a little something about what it means to have the "right to know." First off, most of us truly do not "know" a dang thing. We have learned about the Holocaust and genocides in classes we are "unfortunately" required to take. I say unfortunately because everyone should want to take these classes.

As Robert Heinlein would say, **"A generation which ignores history has no past and no future."** The horrors that we learn about don't truly affect us. Many of us hold the belief that as long as our routine continues, the next 70 years of our lives will be a rose garden. What's going on around the world is not a big deal to us. If only I had a dime for every time I heard "thankfully it won't affect my generation." Think twice.

While ET is providing you "news" about Kim Kardashian and her fashion designer, President Barack Obama is using "terrorism" to justify the murder of civilians deemed "terrorists" in Pakistan from unarmed aerial vehicles—otherwise known as drones. Think about that for a minute. What if you and your family were victims of circumstance, caught up in the mess the Middle East has become on account of America's ignorance and complacency using "terrorism" as the reason we need to be there? **This is just a means of invading, and ultimately conquering and dividing the Middle East under the illusion that it's for our "protection."** In reality, it's a way to better manifest the special interests those countries provide that benefit the American way of life, which is rarely questioned. We don't seem to want to understand the reality of the world.

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In other news, America is putting new legislation into action that breaks "the Constitution's fundamental guarantee against the deprivation of life without due process of law." Since 2002, our government has been executing supposed terrorists. Humans have been murdered by our government without a trial or due process. Don't begin to believe these atrocities could never apply to American citizens. In a recent case, *Al-Aulaqi v. Panetta*, the United States government was charged

“Humans have been murdered by our government without a trial or due process.”
Senior Drake Wolenhaus

with the murder of Anwar Al-Aulaqi and Samir Khan. Both constitution and international law prohibit the death of an individual without a trial and due process, except for concrete and immediate danger of death or serious physical injury. Al-Aulaqi and Khan were murdered on September 30, 2011 in Yemen while eating dinner. The murders violated the right of due process under the 5th amendment and The Declaration of Human Rights.

The case ultimately put the U.S. government on trial for the "kill list" Anwar Al-Aulaqi was placed on from a systematic placement of events that made him fit the criteria of a "terrorist." This is unbelievable

and I'm trying to spread awareness in the hope that American citizens will care, because this could happen in America. As individuals, we must remember that anything is possible and we must not act in a way we feel will solve our problems immediately when it comes to "terrorism" or legislation trying to pass "stricter gun laws."

It truly upsets me when people tell me what we need is stricter gun laws that will, in reality, only affect law abiding citizens. I don't think there is anyone who wouldn't agree that the 26 victims of the Newtown shooting was horrific. So, Mr. Obama, don't tell me, "shame on us if we've forgotten." While Mr. Obama is preaching to us how we need stricter gun laws, the Department of Homeland Security is buying 1.6 billion rounds of ammunition, 360,000 of which are banned in warfare. That is enough ammunition to last 20 years. They tell the public it is for drills, practice shooting, and our "protection."

It's upsetting when I hear: "I was like, then she was like." I'd be lying if I said I don't appreciate a conversation about miscellaneous things sometimes, but not all the time. I should be hearing, "Hey, why are the politicians toying around with the rights our Founding Fathers put in place, and what can I do as an individual to help the situation?" Open your eyes to the bigger spectrum of things, like the United States government.

As Benjamin Franklin once said, **"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither safety nor liberty."** This is not a joke; this is our reality and it is our responsibility to keep the awareness of what it truly means to have the "right to know."

The Hoofprint

What would Maslow say about passports?

Restricted freedoms can prevent self-actualization

Olivia Wyatt - Editor-in-Chief

A loud beep comes over the intercom signaling the beginning of first block. In many classrooms, students set their backpacks down, and pull out a snack because they happened to miss breakfast that day. In other classrooms, students don't have the right to do this.

"This year, I changed 180 degrees," F.A.C.S. teacher **Julie Mundahl** said. "My policy used to be just water and no food, but they talk about eating several small meals being better for you than a couple large meals, so grazing is probably a good thing. I too like to graze and I get hungry too, so I thought, 'What's the big deal?'"

Similar to Mundahl, Spanish teacher **Daryl Boeckers** doesn't seem to have a problem with food in class; however, he has no set policy.

"Unless it's really a distraction, I don't even acknowledge it," Boeckers said. "If a student has trail mix in their bag and they want to eat it, I don't care. If they want a bottle of water, that's fine. I really don't have a policy — I've never had an issue in 13 years of teaching."

Halfway through class, a student realizes that they have to go to the bathroom. While some can just get up and leave, others stare down at their bathroom passes, sometimes called passports, debating whether to leave the room or risk losing extra credit points.

"I do use passports, and those are to try to curb [excess absences] happening in my class," Boeckers said. "The reason

I do that is because I really want kids in my classroom, and the more that they can plan accordingly, the better. The passport they would turn in the first three times they use it and then they're still welcome to use the restroom, they just don't have any passports which ends up being a whopping nine points of homework."

English Teacher **Denise Wahlin-Fiskum** also uses passports for her tenth graders, and agrees with Boeckers that the points don't make a huge difference in students' grades.

"I usually say it doesn't make a difference," Wahlin-Fiskum said. "'Here! Let's put in five points right here in the gradebook and you'll see what difference it makes.' None. Just go the bathroom and use it. Or else I just say, 'Go. Just go. Don't worry about it—get out of here!'"

So, if they don't make a huge difference, why bother?

"It's offered as an extra credit to keep them participating in the class, and the more they're in the class, the more they get out of the class," Boeckers said.

Nine points can make a difference in a student's grade, causing some to refrain from leaving the room.

"I've had a student when asked to give me a passport chose not to use the restroom, and that was the student's choice," Boeckers said.

Now the student is sitting in class, having already decided they need those nine points. They're sitting in their chair,

fidgeting, counting down the minutes and seconds until class ends. Psychologist Abraham Maslow is most famed for his "hierarchy of needs," a motivation theory with five levels which must be satisfied in a specific order. He believed that people must have basic physiological needs such as food, water, and the ability to use the restroom in order to move up the pyramid toward self-actualization—the level of creativity and problem solving. The constant focus on the clock waiting for class to end can hinder students' ability to learn, which Boeckers agrees can happen.

"It's up to the student," Boeckers said. "They still have the right to do it (go to the bathroom), they just chose not to."

The student sitting in class waiting to go to the bathroom or waiting to eat or drink something represents many students at BHS. In many cases, students just need a mental break. Focusing for 80 minutes on anything is difficult. These students have chosen not to leave their classroom in order to receive a higher letter grade. Society has placed such a strong emphasis on letter grades that students forgo learning in order to better their GPA.

Grades should represent performance in a subject, not non-academic factors such as bathroom use, participation, or a student's ability to sit for 80 minutes. Increased trust between teachers and students would prevent students from abusing their rights which will lead to more positive experiences for both students and teachers.



The right for students to eat, drink, and leave the room freely in class varies from teacher to teacher.

Photo by Bailey Braatz

Changing Lives

Helping students reach their full potential is a way of life for
Wright Choice teacher Leesa Sherman

Kaitlyn Balfanz and Dalina Murray - Journalism Writers

wRight Choice Alternative Suspension teacher **Leesa Sherman** starts her day at work with suspended students due to drugs and behavioral problems. Sherman works in the basement of the courthouse with up to ten students a day in order to understand their thinking barriers and change their perspective on life. Sherman's students look up to her and feel that they can trust her with anything.

"It makes me feel good that students trust me, but it puts a lot of pressure on myself and makes me concerned about them," said Sherman. "But anything they say stays confidential and if I could change anything about wRight Choice I would address how having faith can get us through anything."

Sherman deals with students mouthing off to her, drugs, and weapons. She works with seven school districts and has been working with Special Education students for 16 years. Therefore she knows how students behave and why they react in a negative way. Behavioral problems are tough for Sherman, but she believes in her students and keeps trying to help them.

"I felt like I could tell her anything about my drug use."

"I went to wRight Choice for about a week and Mrs. Sherman has made me more aware of my thinking barriers and how to use them," said an anonymous student. "When I was there I felt like I could tell her anything about my drug use."

Sherman was given a \$9,000 grant for a program that gives students food on the weekends that are otherwise unfortunate.

Sherman is the head of the "Backpack Buddies Program". Food is put in backpacks and taken home with the students and returned the following Monday where it is refilled over the week. When Buffalo High School donated food for the food drive last November, all food was donated for the backpack program.

"My intentions for this program is simply an act of kindness to which the students feel secure over the weekend without having to worry about

holding their hunger for two days," said Sherman.

Sherman hopes to help many students from using drugs and alcohol to physical abuse. She also believes that anyone could change their life and be a better person and believes all kids can be good if they try hard enough.



Photos By Kaitlyn Balfanz



The growing food shelf at the Wright County courthouse supplies food for the "Backpack Buddies" program.

The Journey is its own Reward

Keifenheim reveals his secret chess moves to BHS students

JB Miller - Journalism One Writer

With his greying hair and lean frame, Chemistry teacher **Charley Keifenheim** hunches over the end of one of the long sets of black tables that make up his classroom, as he answers a student's question. Keifenheim stands in front of a backdrop of light wavelength charts, molecular formulas, and equations scrawled haphazardly on a whiteboard. Keifenheim's light-hearted personality and patient explanations belie the intense interest he has in what he is saying. However, it is not chemistry that he is explaining, and he is not coaching tennis or golf. Keifenheim is coaching chess.

Keifenheim has been teaching chemistry at BHS for many years, and this year he has decided to start a chess club. Every day, during AAA and Bison Time, students crowd into this room, pull the chess boards out of the cabinets, and start playing. The purpose of this club is quite simple:

"Find people who know how to play," said Keifenheim. "That's why I started this club, so that everyone here can know how to play, and have a variety of people to play against."

According to Keifenheim, chess is at its most entertaining when you can play against many different opponents. Keifenheim certainly has experience with a variety of opponents, as chess has been a lifelong interest of his.

"I played my first game when I was 10," said Keifenheim. "My brothers taught me to play, it was a way to pass the time."

Keifenheim decided to share his love of chess with the students of BHS, since he considers it a very thought-provoking game. In chess, a player often has to predict his opponent's plans up to 4 or 5 moves in advance to be successful.

"You'll never top out in the game," noted Keifenheim. "It's not for everybody, but it's a really good form of concentration."

Keifenheim is not the only person in BHS who enjoys the game. Keifenheim's room is always full of people who show up to play, even on days when there isn't an actual meeting. Senior **Levi Walls**, who is heavily involved in chess club, explained why it sparked his interest.

"I love the strategy in the game," said Walls. "I like being in cohorts with my fellow nerds."

Continued on page 24.



Chemistry Teacher Charley Keifenheim hosts chess club every Friday AAA.



Photo By Whitney Nyholm

At the end of each day, students file into C111 to play chess.

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“What really makes them all fun is the quest, the passion to improve.”

Continued from page 23.

This atmosphere of friendly competition and camaraderie is largely due to the influence of Keifenheim’s attitude towards the game.

“He (Keifenheim) has a very kind demeanor, he makes jokes, very constructive, good advice,” said Walls.

Many would agree that giving good advice is a helpful quality for a coach to possess, but during an intellectual game such as chess, it can have a significant influence on the outcome.

“I have a hard time stifling myself from interjecting into the game,” explains Keifenheim, who has tipped the balance of more than one game with some timely advice. He says “If a game is clearly unbalanced, I like to give a little help to the less experienced player.”

This advice, while occasionally unwelcome, isn’t upsetting for the majority of chess club members. The group’s purpose is a fun, casual chess-playing environment.

“It’s not always [about] winning, it’s just being able to play competitively against someone who is experienced at the game,” says Keifenheim

Keifenheim, who also coaches tennis and golf, had this to say about the various sports and activities he coaches:

“What really makes them all fun is the quest, the passion to improve.” Continuing in his discussion of chess, Keifenheim said “It changes how you think about yourself, how you think about a lot of things...”