

THE HOOFFPRINT

BUFFALO
HIGH
SCHOOL
BUFFALO, MN

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THE POWER OF CHOICE

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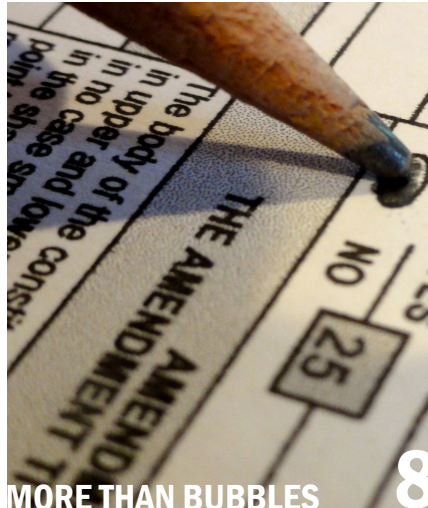
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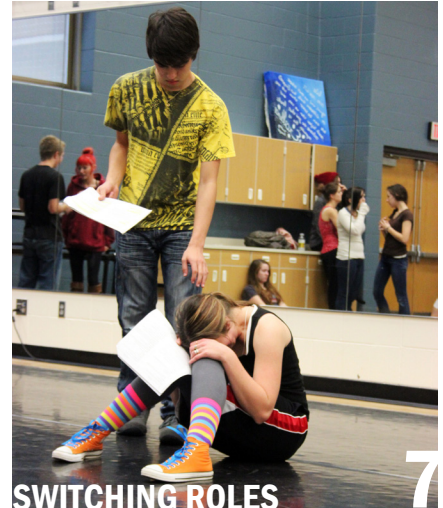


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THE POWER OF CHOICE: BLOCK SCHEDULE



The block schedule is nearing its breaking point with the increase in class sizes. With great amounts of pressure from our state to focus more on test scores in the four core subjects – English, math, science, and social studies – our freedom to choose which classes we would like to take is at risk. On top of that, the block schedule is the most expensive form of scheduling, because it requires more teachers than a six or seven period day. If test scores in the district drop too far, the death of the block will be inevitable.

Walking away from block scheduling would mean considering a system with anywhere from five to seven periods giving repetition-based departments (such as World Languages) the year-round attention that they need. Costs would go down and standardized test scores should go up.

However, the block schedule has kept students feeling alive with the freedom to choose their path of learning. Everyone has a unique type of intelligence that causes them to lose track of time in the midst of doing what they love. According to *The Element* by Sir Ken Robinson, there are up to six billion different kinds of people in the world. In a mainstream system, we can not keep up with society's demands for more intelligent, curious, passionate, and creative people, and we take away opportunities for students to nourish their unique talents.

Dealing with all of these demands can be difficult. Choice is a powerful motivator that we can't afford to lose. When better economic times arrive, we'd regret sacrificing one of the things that's at the core of making BHS great.

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The Hoofprint

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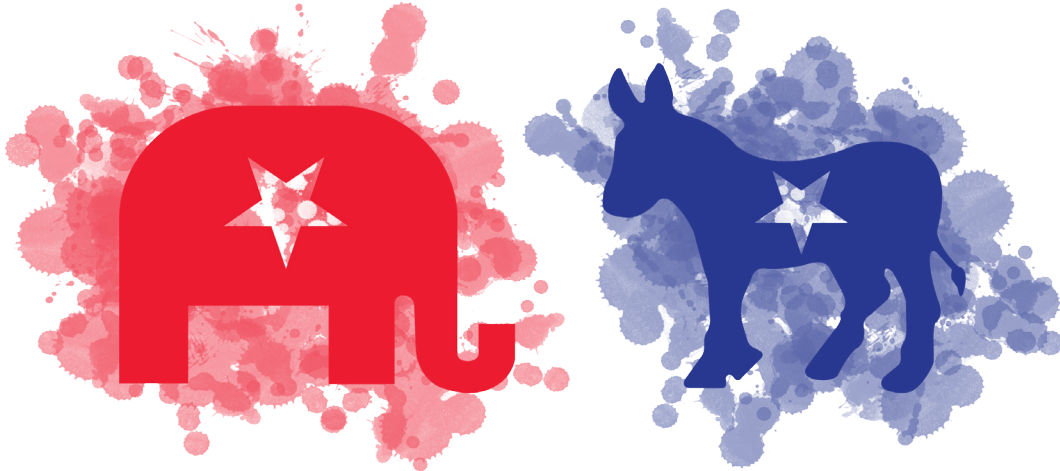
MOLE DAY

10.²³.2012

No matter what else is happening on October 23, chemistry is bound to be the highlight of the day. Happy Mole Day posters hung on every wall of Sarah Rodenwald's classroom. Rodenwald arrived at 6:02 a.m., wearing a "Molar Eclipse" T-shirt along with her student teacher, Mrs. Lamp. We gather in teams "Guacamole, The Moly Grail, Whack-a-Mole" and see which team can write the most words using correct chemical formulas. Rodenwald passes out mole-shaped cookies (yes, they actually sell a mole-shaped cookie cutter) and "molk". "Happy Mole Day" plays from the speaker in the back of the classroom as we put temporary tattoos up and down our arms. Rodenwald wouldn't miss Mole Day for anything, not even a sore throat and a disappearing voice.

The Death of Democracy

The two-party system may not offer voters a real choice



Riley Smithson and Jarrett Pedlar - Journalism 1 Writers

Graphic by Ben Leipholtz

“Both of the established political parties are pretty much the same,” said English Teacher **Joel Squadroni**. “We’re tremendously limited.”

As the election approached, Americans embraced the mentality accompanied with every presidential election. They argued with their peers over the political rhetoric presented to them in the debates on Fox and NBC, and plastered their vehicles and front lawns with the stickers and signs of their respective bearers of hope.

“It’s a fact that Americans are stuck in the two party system,” said Senior **Drake Wolenhau**s. “People are pretty complacent with this, too. This limits our freedom to the freedoms the candidates provide.”

The United States of America is considered a democracy by the majority of its citizens. In reality, America is governed under a republic—a system in which the people elect leaders to represent them in some form of joint legislation. Some would challenge this notion, considering that the political establishment presents two candidates, both funded by the same corporations and banks. (JP Morgan, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, etc.) No third-party candidate has

ever received corporate funding, giving Republicans and Democrats a financial upper-hand. This narrows your political options to the two candidates seen on the news. However, the top contributors of Ron Paul, a previous Republican candidate with Libertarian ideology, were the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Navy. Ron Paul received more military contributions than all other candidates combined, yet he

“Both Obama and Romney have lied too much to be reliable.”
-Sophomore Duncan Stevens

was ignored in debates and chastised by the majority of his political party.

“I fully support the Libertarian candidate, Gary Johnson.” said Sophomore **Duncan Stevens**. “Both Obama and Romney have lied too much to be reliable.”

Libertarianism is the belief of limited government, preservation of civil liberties, and self-responsibility. The Libertarian Party—along with the Independent Party, Green Party, Constitution Party,

Communist Party, and Socialist Party—is what is known as a “third party”, or a party other than the Republican or Democratic Party.

According to a Libertarian, the Federal government should be limited to what’s in the Constitution, and all else should be left to state legislation. For example, a Libertarian would like to de-federalize any drug legislation, marriage laws, and the Department of Education.

In America, some people vote merely to keep one candidate out of office, rather than identifying with a candidate. This is what locks the United States into a two party system and perpetuates political discourse. A viable alternative would be to implement instant-runoff voting. Instant-runoff voting is a system in which the voter ranks the the presented presidential candidates on the ballot according to who they support most to least, eliminating the anxiety involved with the voting process and fear of “wasting a vote” on a third-party candidate. If a voter’s first choice does not have the majority, the vote goes to the next highest choice until a candidate has a measurable majority.

Matt and Kim

Lightning



3/5

Mumford and Sons

Babel

The kings of folk return with a wonderful, yet flawed sequel.

Mumford and Sons return to the scene with their new album *Babel*, and, while great, the album feels a bit rushed. The title track starts out the album on a rather anti-climactic note, with nothing particularly notable. Track two, "Whispers in the Dark," is a much more prominent recording. It begins slowly with a sentimental intro leading into a strong chorus. "I Will Wait" is the second best track on the album, with a catchy chorus, spectacular breakdowns, and song-writing in the style of "Little Lion Man" and "The Cave." The next three songs, "Holland Road," "Ghosts that We Know," and "Lover of the Light" all have a similar balladic nature. "Lovers' Eyes" isn't terrible, but it's also not terribly interesting. "Reminder" is by far the best track on *Ba-*

bel, kept simple by Marcus Mumford taking center stage with just his voice and guitar. The sound is very reminiscent of older folk artists, specifically Bob Dylan. "Hopeless Wanderer" is another great track with a notable piano intro that sets it apart. "Broken Crown" is a bit darker than the rest, but is ultimately forgettable. "Below My Feet" seems like little more than a placeholder, while the final track, "Not With Haste," perfectly caps off the work. Even though many of the songs were great, the album left me wanting. Everything feels slightly inferior to their debut, which in turn leads the album to be nothing more than a stepping stone to their next great. Absolutely worth checking out if you like Mumford, but if you do skip this one, you won't be missing much.



4/5

Reviews by Nathaniel Nelson; Cover Art courtesy of Rolling Stone Magazine



Matt and Kim is a synth pop duo from Brooklyn, NY. Here's "Let's Go", from the album *Lightning*.



Mumford and Sons are a folk band from London, England. Here's their track, "I Will Wait," from *Babel*.



Here's "Teardrop Windows" by Benjamin Gibbard. His solo debut, *Former Lives*, came out on October 16.

Switching Roles

Bestland hops into the director's chair as HD takes a supporting role

Emma Hage - Copy Editor

The theater department is frequently welcoming new members to the stage from show to show. However, this fall, the fresh faces aren't limited to just the actors; the responsibility of directing the first play of the year has been given to someone new.

English teacher Tracy Hagstrom-Durant ("HD") has been the "regular" BHS director of 20 years. Last spring, she found herself overwhelmed with commitments that would take place during the first months of the upcoming school year.

"I knew I couldn't do that well and do the Fall show preparations, so something had to give," said HD.

HD approached dance teacher Debra Bestland, who is experienced in both directing and choreographing theater.

"She asked me if I would take over the play last Spring, and I fainted," said Bestland. "I said I thought we needed to co-direct first because she had a lot of knowledge of the intricacies of how it works. She agreed that would be a good idea, so we directed together last Spring, knowing that this year I would be handed the baton."

While many past BHS theater students have worked with Bestland as a choreographer, the adjustment to a new director has been, for some, a difficult one.

"It's kind of hard because they're both so different, but Mrs. Bestland has some really good ideas and is so creative and fun," said cast member Junior Katie



Tracy Hagstrom Durant (left) consults with Deb Bestland during a rehearsal for *The Snow Queen*. **Photo By Andy Burgdorf**

Miller.

Students aren't the only ones feeling strange about the transition.

"It's been weird to be here and it have it happening and it's not me," said HD. "It's also okay, but it's just like, 'Where do I fit in?' My identity is partially tied to theater

"It's been weird to be here and it have it happening and it's not me."

-English Teacher

Tracy Hagstrom-Durant

so it's been bizarre."

Still, she does not regret her decision to temporarily step back.

"When I came here 20 years ago, the kids didn't want the change, so it was really hard for them - and for me. I did things differently and changed traditions, so it was difficult. That's part of the reason I want this new person, so it's not all just me," said HD. "It's good for kids to work with a variety of people, because that's how the world works. I don't want

the person who comes after me to be like a sacrificial lamb."

While it may be a difficult transition, students recognize that this change isn't a bad one.

"[We're able to] gain new skills and learn different styles," said Miller. "I think the experience of working with different people can benefit anyone as an actor."

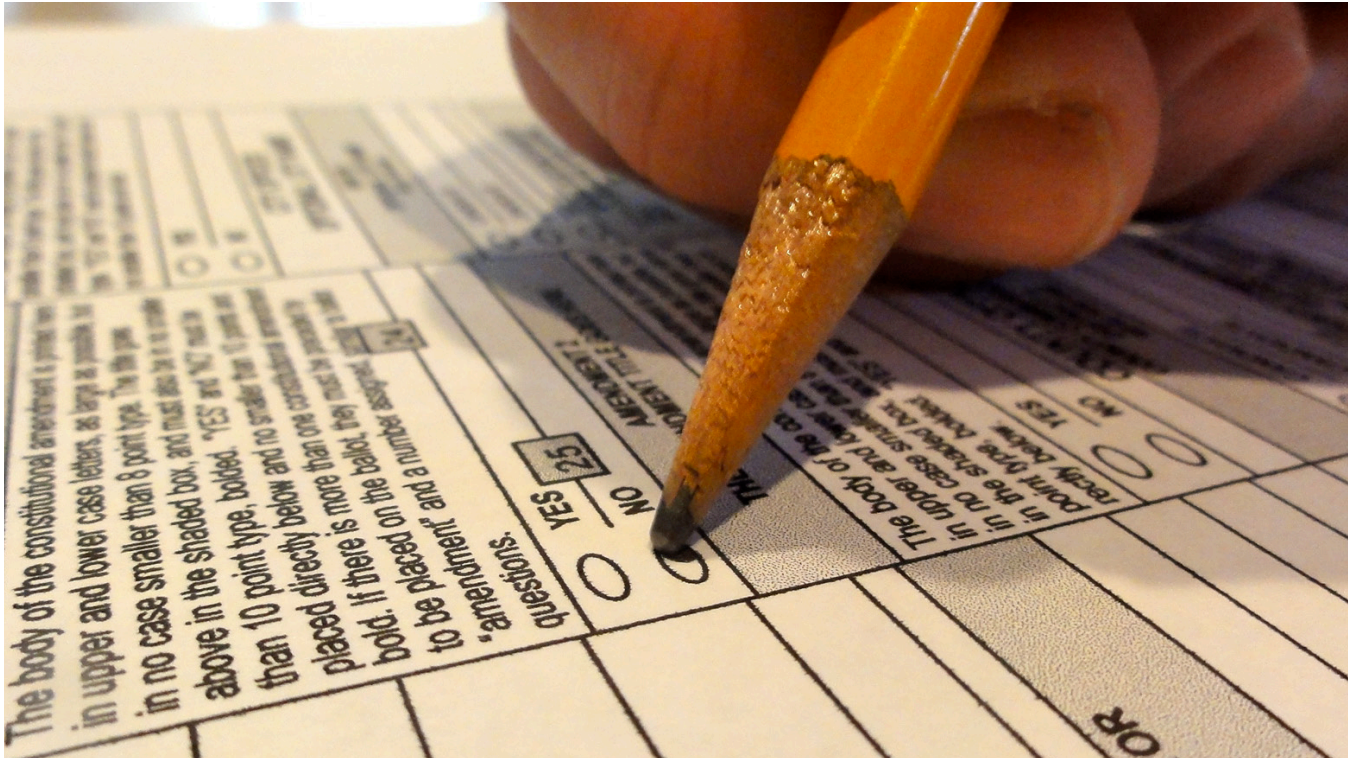
Miller and Bestland, along with the rest of those involved with *The Snow Queen*, are getting excited for the show as the rehearsal process intensifies.

"It's been fun, but it's different than what we're used to around here in the fact that it's fantasy-oriented," said Bestland. "We have puppetry and movement elements that tie into my background in dance, which is part of why I chose the play; to have the challenge of mixing all those things together to create one big picture."

HD will be back to direct the One Act, and she will collaborate with Bestland for the musical. *The Snow Queen* will be in performance from November 15-17 at 7:30pm.

More than Bubbles on a Page

Choosing leaders is a responsibility not to be taken lightly



Shelby Mazino - Staff Writer

Photos by Annie Moore

“I vote for a person that I believe in and what I agree with morally.”

-Senior Jackson Schepp

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.” - John Quincy Adams

With the presidential election just occurring, voters had to come to a decision on who was best fit to serve the United States. Over the course of the campaigning, voters searched for qualities of good leaders, all while the influential advertising drilled their opinions in as much as they could.

How does one choose a leader? What is the importance of voting for a president? Math teacher **Marcia Bauman** thinks it is very important for everyone to vote.

“It’s an opportunity to voice your opinion on what you believe the country’s focus should be on.”

Candidates are able to address issues, and voters are then able to decide who is best qualified. These qualifications can include proving their ability to lead and success in accomplishing past goals.

“Also, their moral and ethical values,” Bauman added.

Making a decision doesn’t come easily.

“I try my best to watch the debates, and seek multiple sources for summaries of stands on different issues.”

When it comes time to make a decision, Bauman and her husband work together.

“My husband and I both have quite lengthy decisions about the elections,” she said.

Coaches also have the task of choosing leaders for their teams: team captains. Math teacher **Emily Greeley** explained the qualities of a player coaches choose for a captain.

“People who are natural-born leaders, have positive attitudes, and are hard working,” she said.

Coaches also look for players who have the ability to motivate, as well as being fair-minded. In this situation, the coaches are not influenced by others.

“The players don’t have a decision, but because who they are, they sort of do.”

Just like having a president to help run the country, so is having team captains.

“It’s good to have people who are your got to role models,” Greeley said. “The ones you know you can count on and lift up the players.”

Two major groups at Buffalo High School that have elected “officials” are Student Council and Class Cabinet. They plan various school activities and work to be leaders in the school. So how do students choose who they want to represent them? Junior Class Cabinet member **Sarah Walters** was elected by her fellow classmates.

Signs appeared in Buffalo yards during the election season.



The Hoofprint

“Cause I’m awesome...just kidding!” she said, laughing. “I honestly don’t know. Maybe they know me more than others, or maybe because I’m awesome!”

While some may just vote for their friends or who someone else told them to vote for, Walters prefers a different method.

“I think they should vote for a person who steps up and says, ‘This is what needs to be done,’ and do it.”

Whoever is elected should also be nice and open-minded. When it comes to influences, Walters agrees that friends play a major part in the decision. “Yeah, especially if they know the person running,” she said.

Senior **Sara Filo** thinks it is important for students to vote for Student Council and Class Cabinet members, and she always votes.

“Yep, I definitely think some people care more than the general student body,” she said. “Some people have better priorities and will make a difference.”

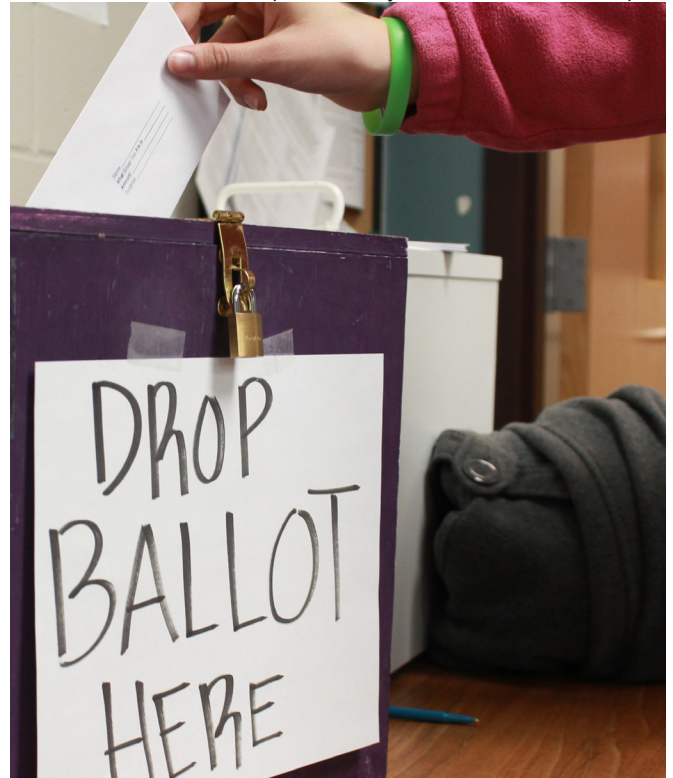
Though friends will encourage each other to vote for the same person, Filo does not let anyone influence her vote.

“It’s my opinion, and I don’t vote based on popularity.”

To Filo, popularity is main factor in the elections.

“People want to be represented by popular people. People vote for popular people because they want to be more like them.”

Polls were open Tuesday from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.



The Power of Choice - 9

HOW TO BUY HAPPINESS

Is it better to receive or give to another?

Erica Hoops - Staff Writer

Material goods are a huge part of everyday life. However, people do not need everything they have. People don't need cell phones and laptops and all of the other technology they have; they own these things purely because they make life easier.

Most American children are exposed to the idea that expensive items will make them happy at a very young age. Many psychologists support the theory that people are taught having "the best" is important and, that if a person doesn't have the best, they need to get it in order to be "better." Early exposure to this classism instills the idea that a person needs the best car, clothes, house, etc; when really people could live on a lot less and still be content. Happiness is not achieved purely by having the newest iPhone. It may seem that way for a short period of time, but eventually the novelty will wear off and it will become just another "thing."

In a study done by Elizabeth Dunn and her colleagues at the University of British Columbia, participants were given an envelope containing either a five or 20 dollar bill. Half of the participants were told to spend the money on themselves, and the other half were told to spend it on another person. While both groups had an immediate and positive change in their in their happiness levels, the group that spent money on others stayed notably happier for a longer period of time – some for over three weeks. Three weeks may seem like a short amount of time to some, but consider that when a person purchases something for themselves, the happiness that the new item brings is

usually apparent for less than a week.

According to Dunn's study and others like it, happiness and materialism do have a connection, just not in the way that most people may think. While many might say that buying that new car they've been wanting would make them the happiest they could ever be, the science says the

"Giving shows that you are willing to go the extra mile for that person,"

- Junior Dalton Bliss

opposite: giving is the way to be happy.

Giving is a common concept that children learn very early on in life, though it may mean different things for other people.

"[Giving] shows that you are willing to go the extra mile for that person," said Junior Dalton Bliss.

Recently, Bliss visited Europe. While there, he decided to buy his girlfriend a special gift.

"[It] was this big case of old, British coins, and she collects coins, so she really loved them," he said. "It was something she really wanted and since she'd only asked for a few coins, she was really surprised. [...] It felt good to give her something she really wanted."

Bliss is not the only Buffalo student for whom recent giving has brought upon happiness. Senior **Emily Hanson** recently gave one of her best friends a sizeable gift.

"I'm actually going to pay to have her new [letterman's jacket] patch to be put

on."

The recipient of the gift, Senior Zoe Syverson said, "It isn't often that you see someone giving that big of a present, so it means more. Also, she's my best friend, so it means more anyway."

Bliss, Hanson, and Syverson all felt that giving was more rewarding than getting or selfishly spending. However, giving doesn't always have to pertain to materials.

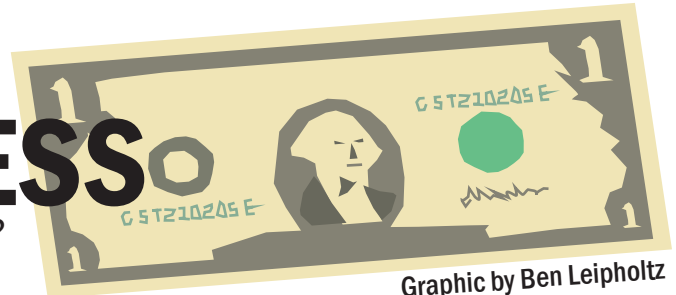
"[The gift] doesn't have to be an actual item. It can be joy and laughter or a hug; [giving] is just sharing a part of yourself, it doesn't have to be a 'thing,'" said Junior **Emma Schneider**.

Schneider has given and received many gifts throughout the years, though receiving material items has never been a big part of her life.

"[My family] never really made getting stuff important; it was always giving and holding your values close to you [that was important]," she said.

Schneider has felt that, even though people seem to think that material things boost happiness, it is actually the opposite. "People who give off the impression that they are happy because they have all this stuff, when really they are some of the saddest people."

Science now supports that giving is better than getting. Instead of buying that cute scarf in Target, buy a friend their favorite candy. Even a small gesture can increase both the gifter and the recipient's happiness levels. Maybe when people have a little extra cash, instead of buying another thing they don't need, they should try buying a friend a gift. That's the real way to buy happiness.



Graphic by Ben Leipholtz

It's Easy Being GREEN

One person's choice to become a vegetarian

Erica Hoops - Staff Writer

Nearly three and a half years ago, I made the decision to become a vegetarian. Since I'd never enjoyed the taste or texture of meat all that much, I chose to cut it out of my diet completely, and after reading some health benefits of a meat-free diet, I was further motivated to become a vegetarian.

An article on vegetariantimes.com entitled "Why Go Veg?" includes some of the facts that convinced me to embrace a meatless diet. Among the health-related information in the article, it is also mentioned that "going veg" spares the lives of countless animals, saves money, and helps to reduce pollution caused by transporting and chemically enhancing the meat product.

Health Benefits of Vegetarianism:

- Helps keep off weight
- Wards off disease
- Longer life expectancy
- Reduces risk of foodborne illnesses
- Increases energy levels
- and many more

(For more, visit vegetariantimes.com.)

My reasons for becoming a vegetarian were not only motivated by personal and environmental health purposes, but were also ethically induced. After hours of research, I found many "horror stories" regarding animal treatment among meat manufacturers. While I know of many manufacturers



Photo by Molly McMullen

who treat their animals with dignity and care, I am also very aware that some companies keep their animals in cramped spaces with poor living conditions. With big grocery chains like Cub Foods it isn't always possible to verify whether or not the animals were treated well and not knowing whether the or not the manufacturers were cruel to the animals affected my decision to become a vegetarian.

Vegetarianism may seem intimidating at first since it can be such a huge change, but it becomes easy very quickly. As long as the person finds an alternative source of protein, a meat-free diet is better for personal, environmental, and financial health. In the long run, vegetarianism is worth whatever "hardships" arise at first. All it takes to stick with a meatless diet is some willpower.

I would, without a doubt, recommend that every person try vegetarianism for some length of time, because even if they decide not to continue with a meat-free diet, it gives them a deeper insight into a lifestyle that not many people are willing to try. I experimented with vegetarianism for about one month before finally deciding that it was something I wanted to permanently adopt. That period of time showed me that being a vegetarian isn't all that difficult, just stop eating meat. It's not as hard as a lot of people seem to think. Not to contradict Kermit the Frog, but it actually is very easy being green.

Photo by Alyssa Baldwin



Senior Drake Wholenhaus cheers on his Bison football team.

Agility vs. Dependability

What coaches look for when choosing starters

Jade Grundy - Staff Writer

With a new sports season comes new teams, and with new teams comes many choices. Coaches need to choose to make cuts and to pick starters. Basketball Coach **Scot Sorenson** makes these choices every winter.

"A couple starters are usually clear, but for the others, there are many things to consider," Sorenson said.

A few qualities coaches look for in starters are: experience, ability, statistics, and attitude.

"In basketball, you use your substitutions a great deal and coaches often consider keeping a strong possible starter out of that line-up to bring a spark off the bench," Sorenson said.

When making their decision, coaches typically start with varsity and work their way to the other teams. They strive to make their team as competitive as it can be. When choosing players,

coaches consider dependability, coachability, athletic ability, and for Sorenson, basketball ability. These decisions are not made on the spot, however. The process of choosing a starting line-up involves lengthy practices and long discussions about each individual player. Team placement is not always final, however cuts are for the season.

While Coach Sorenson and his colleagues are the people who make the decisions, they have not had to make the hard decision to cut anyone from their team in quite a while.

"If someone doesn't make a team the first time they try out, they could work on improving their ability and try out again," Sorenson said.

In the end, coaches make decisions based on what's best for the team, even if that means cutting a few aspiring individuals from the line-up.

#FASTFACTS

Superfan

Drake Wholenhaus spent an average of sixty dollars per game for tailgating food.

Football Coach

John Gunderson was a hockey coach at BHS before he coached football. He has coached 34 seasons total.

Football Player

Jason Senger broke a St. Michael football players fibula in the recent section game.

Football Player

Ian Warpula tore his MCL during his last senior game against STMA.

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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To Quit or Not to Quit

Students weigh the pros and cons of quitting athletics

Megan Metz and Kaiti Mailhot -
Journalism One Writers

"If I could go back, I would throw my Rip-Stik away," said Freshman Emily Linderholm, "because that's how I sprained my ankle. It was a big impact on whether or not I should quit so I decided to."

Linderholm had been in softball for about five years, but quit when she sprained her ankle taking out her new Rip-Stik for a test ride.

In a questionnaire, more than 45 students have quit a sport during this year and their reasons varied from going Post Secondary to having a knee injury. It's a decision that the kids have to make on their own and it's up to them.

Junior Auston Alvarez has been playing football since he was six. He had two main reasons he had to quit football this year. One reason he quit was because he had too many activities and had to focus on the ones that were important to him.

"I'm taking a lot of difficult classes this year and its hard with BHS Singers," said Alvarez. "Football was the least of my priorities. It was hard to quit, coming to games and seeing my friends play under the lights, I kind of miss it. I would play the games with them if practice didn't take up so much time."

Quitting can sometimes have it's

consequences, too.

"I got a lot of harassment from my friends about quitting, but in the end it was a good decision. I plan on coming back my senior year," Alvarez said.

On the other hand Senior Valerie Campa, who had been on the sideline cheer squad for 3 years and had the complete opposite view as Alvarez.

"I don't miss it at all," Campa said. "I went to the game on Friday with my friends and had a blast. I don't regret it at all. I don't miss being in a little skirt in the cold or getting rained on."

The same as Campa, Senior Emily Spier doesn't regret her decision to quit softball at all. She had played for 9 years and had decided it was time for a change. She chose track to keep her busy because the schedule and the coaches weren't as strict as softball was.

"I got the opportunity to play basketball for one of the best teams in Minnesota. I was just worn out with softball. It has a lot of drama with it."

Another reason students had decided to quit was because their feelings towards the sport had changed.

Senior Ethan Freer, who quit baseball his freshmen year, said, "I didn't want to pay for



Photo by Alyssa Baldwin

Juniors Ben Lepinski and Auston Alvarez both chose to quit sports to make more time for activities and academics.

something I just didn't like anymore. It got old and I kind of just got bored of it.

It's up to the players in their choices about next year and some decide that it's just not going to work out the next season.

"People were trying to get me to play soccer again," said Junior Ben Lepinski, "but it's my own decision."

**Seasons
come to an
end but
friendships
carry on**

"I never would've talked to this group of sophomores, but by the end of this season we now have inside jokes like a rap we all made up and call our lane the 'Backstreet Boys' which never would've happened if I didn't meet them through swimming."

-Senior Jenna Muntifering

"The soccer season is over, but it's super awesome that I get to see Leah Mussell and Kailee Steen at Fellowship of Christian Athletes. We met through soccer, but then we all became FCA leaders, and we get to have a lot of bonding time."

-Senior Jordan Skarin

"I met Wyatt Brings through football at a Passing League in Maple Grove this summer. We didn't have any corners when we played, and he stepped up and played. I told him what I knew, and was really good at covering varsity starters."

-Senior Logan Gruber

Voices

Junior Michelle Lee opens up about which voices stand out to her in the BHS hallways.

Michelle Lee - Journalism 1 Writer

The voices of 1800 students in the halls all blend together. Hidden within the student body are voices that stand out. If you listen closely you will hear some of the most interesting, high, low, and beautiful voices.

Not a lot of people focus their attention on the voice of a person, because what they see first is what registers in their mind as the first thing.

"When I talk to someone the first thing I notice is the eyes or smile," said Junior **Cierra Dickhausen**.

To most students, the voice isn't as noticeable as a person's face.

"I hear a voice and I turn to see who it is," said Junior **Spencer Wilson**.

This is something I can't do. I can't turn to see who a person is because I don't have sight, so I listen to who a person is. I can tell a lot from the sound of a person's voice, but the first thing that comes up in my mind when I hear a voice is an image of what the person might look like. One day we had a substitute teacher for journalism class, and my classmates started a game with me. I had to guess what people look like based only on their voices.

After Junior **Alyssa Serrano** spoke a sentence, she paused as

I described her as having brown hair, brown eyes, tannish skin, and being into sports. This is the image that came to me when I heard her voice, and she was awed with my spot-on guess. The class was amazed at how accurate I got everyone in the class.

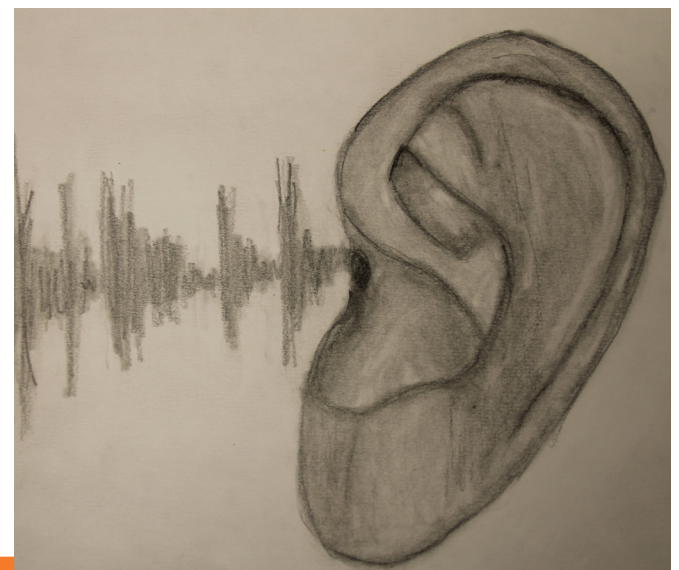
In the pool of 1800, I have voices that stand out to me. Seniors **Brad Norman** and **Julia Bothun**, Juniors **Shania Sinna** and **Jake Michalko**, Sophomores **Gabriel Brovege-Trossen** and **Celeste Goodwin**, and Freshman **Ivy Christianson** and **Zach Wurm** stand out the most.

These voices stand out to me because the boys have the deeper, nice, calm, tone like Norman. The girls have the soft, sweet, higher pitched voice that makes them sound like very nice people. An example being Sinna.

For the staff, I can always pick out **Cindy Khalil**, **Mike Boggess**, and **Emily Greeley**. I just always know that it is them. I would always know Guida's strong booming voice and Khalil's interesting and unique voice whenever she is coming down the hall.

Pitches and tones are an important part to a voice. I rely on them to help me read a person. For example, if they are angry, sad, excited, bored, tired, or uncomfortable talking about something. Listen next time you're in a crowd of people and try to pick out those individual voices you like.

Art by Amber Norman



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Photo submitted by Manjari Ojha

Misjudgment Beliefs^{through}

Students put false stereotypes about their religions to rest

Cierra Dickhausen and Delaney Nord -
Journalism One Writers

“We don’t eat dogs I swear,” said Junior **Michelle Lee**. “We don’t place food on your doorstep either.”

Lee is a Hmong Shaman and hasn’t met a single person outside of her religion who knows what that means.

Of 26 students polled, 70 percent have heard a stereotype against their faith or someone else’s.

“People assume that all Hmong people dance around at rituals and bring food to people’s doorsteps, like in Gran Torino, but that’s not true at all,” Lee said.

Junior **Spencer Wilson** also has some misconceptions associated with his faith because he is Agnostic.

“The biggest stereotype is that we are mistaken for Atheists,” said Wilson. “They think that because we don’t follow any religion, we have no morals.”

The desire to learn about another religion was high, with a fifty-three percent of 26 polled saying they want to learn about another religion.

Ninety-two percent of people polled said they were not intimidated by another religion or uncertain of them, whereas the other eight percent said they were intimidated or uncertain of foreign religions not familiar to them, Agnosticism being one they are uncertain of.

“I don’t like imposing my faith on anyone else. I believe people have the right to believe anything they want,” said Senior **Riley Smithson**.

Religion

Devotion to Faith

Students choose which religious path they want to take

Jerica Braun - Staff Writer

"I consider myself a floater," said Junior Katie Glen. "I float because there are some things in certain churches I don't agree with."

The basic definition of religion is, "a collection of belief systems, cultural systems, and world views that relate humanity to spiritually, and sometimes to moral values."

Many religions have symbols, traditions, and sacred histories that are intended to give meaning to life. According to some estimates, there are roughly 4,200 religions in the world.

Mormons, Jews, Christians, and Muslims, among others, walk through the halls of Buffalo High School everyday. There are many different questions regarding religion but one that is generally avoided is that of how someone chose to practice their religion.

For some people, it's simply what they were raised to believe in. They recall going to Sunday school or attending services with their families. For others, their choice could have been influenced by someone else living out their

beliefs, or lack thereof.

Some students at BHS are open about their religion, while others are more reserved. Some read their Bibles during SSR, or pray during lunch, while some would never dream to do so in the school environment. For many, religion is a very personal experience.

"We do a lot of singing, and we don't do the things that some other churches may do, like communion," said Sophomore Sierra Helmbrecht, who was raised Jewish. "We also don't believe that Jesus was the Messiah."

There are others who haven't grown up in a church environment at all, and others still who jump around from church to church. Many factors make Buffalo High School religiously unique. Everyday, unique people with unique beliefs are blending together in harmony. Religion is one of many things that help define who a person is. There is power in knowing you have the right to choose whichever religion fits your personality best.

Photo by Whitney Nyholm

Faith
Hinduism
Islam
Atheism
Christian
Judaism

