



The Hoofprint

Buffalo High School | 877 Bison Blvd | Buffalo Minnesota 55313 | 763.682.8162 | March 8, 2004

Tracking the Bison

Volume 35 Issue 5

Students gear up for MCA tests

Brooke Sandahl
Staff Writer

Staring down at the all-too-familiar green Scantron sheet, the student prepared to take the Math MCA test. As he read through the questions the student threw down his number two pencil in frustration. "Who cares?" he thought to himself, "these tests aren't important." He smiled and began to fill in circles randomly.

While only 47 percent of students admitted to doing their best on the MCA tests last year, it is no wonder BHS had the lowest reading and math test scores within a 100 mile radius, excluding Minneapolis and St. Paul. This could have been prevented if students and staff would have viewed the tests more seriously.

"If we took the tests seriously, teachers would be able to know what areas that need improvement," said Junior Megan Ruter. "If students did their best, then we would be able to see how smart our school is over all."

Since more than half of the students did not take the MCA tests seriously, Buffalo's scores did not quite measure up. Buffalo's average math score of 1527 was below the state average of 1546. On the reading test, Buffalo's average score of 1537 was also below the state average of 1615. Eighty-seven percent of students did not believe the test results were an accurate indication of the school's intelligence.

"I don't think the test results are accurate at all. Nobody cared about the test, it didn't affect them so they didn't care," said Junior Jesse Holm. "Students might take it a little more seriously this year, but it still doesn't affect whether they graduate or not, so some students will still blow it off."

This concept may change due to the fact that Dr. Nick Miller and others in the district office have decided to put test scores on students transcripts.

"It is our expectation that each of our students will take this test seriously," Miller said, "because it gives them an indication of their skill level and it helps the school examine the

• MCA Test

Continued on page 2

Actual tests will be tomorrow.

Students display diverse talents at Variety Show



Photo by Mellisa Miller

Senior Nathan Walker was one of the many students involved in the Tri-M Variety Show on Saturday, February 28. Some of the other acts included an impersonation of Aretha Franklin, a trumpet solo, a tap dance routine, and a rendition of the song "Beautiful." The Variety Show is Tri-M's largest annual event. Proceeds from the show will be used for various music camp and voice lesson scholarships.

Knowledge Bowl wins North Suburban meet

Stefan Robinson
Staff Writer

Buffalo's top varsity Knowledge Bowl team walked away from the North Suburban Conference meet on February 10 in St. Francis with first place honor.

With a new season and the loss of last year's senior state attendees, the KB team coach Peggy Pasche says they are looking strong. This year's Varsity teams are compiled of just seniors and juniors. Joining the upperclassmen is Sophomore Bryant Torkelson.

"Bryant Torkelson is just an amazingly smart student that we are glad to have along this year," said Pasche.

With evenly strong teams, Varsity captured first, third, and fifth at the NSC. Practices are successful because the teams perform at the same level.

"My greatest moment for KB this year was our home meet," said Senior Chris Nelson. "We

• Knowledge Bowl Continued on page 4



After buzzing in on a math question, Knowledge Bowl members work to complete it before their time expires. Photo by Megan Quinlivan

Traffic lights set for spring installation

Kessie Moench
Staff Writer

The room falls silent as the principal confirms the rumors. There has been a fatal accident, one father is dead.

"One person is too many," said Principal Dr. Nick Miller.

This fatal accident in the spring of 2000 is one of the things that started the discussion that has led to the installation of traffic lights at the

intersection of County Road 35 and Bison Boulevard.

The 39 active members on the Safe Schools Committee have been battling for four years to get the stoplights, which are scheduled to be installed this spring.

Wright County and the city of Buffalo finally said yes to stoplights after trying other things.

The speed limit on County Road 35 has been changed from 55 miles per

hour to a 45 during peak traffic hours and Bison Boulevard was changed from a 55 MPH to a 35 MPH speed limit to increase safety.

"In this case I think the lights will slow down traffic," said Sophomore Nathan Altenberg "Because the way it is now, cars can freely pass through."

The project is estimated to cost over \$100,000. Wright County is paying for 25 percent of the cost while the con-

joined powers of the city of Buffalo and the school district are paying for 75 percent of the cost.

Seventy-nine percent of students use this intersection more than twice a day.

The lights will cycle more quickly before and after school due to increased traffic flow. During the rest of the day, the lights will remain green longer for traffic on County Road 35.

New additions bring variety to Buffalo

Ryan Auger
Staff Writer

New businesses in Buffalo are creating a mixed opinion. While finishing touches are being established, students are looking outside of Buffalo to spend their spare time.

"Buffalo has never been good for a fun city, so we are used to going places like Maple Grove or even Ridgedale," said Junior **Drew Hanson**. "It will take a while for Buffalo to attract anyone."

64% of students said they will check out the new shops but will continue to travel to bigger cities to do their shopping.

"It would be great to have something to do here in Buffalo but I don't think it will be as good as Arbor Lakes or a Mall of America," said Junior **Emily Weis**.

Coffee shops are now becoming a hit in the twin cities as well as many larger cities such as Eagan or Edina where coffee shop sales are esti-

mated to be up 23% from 2002.

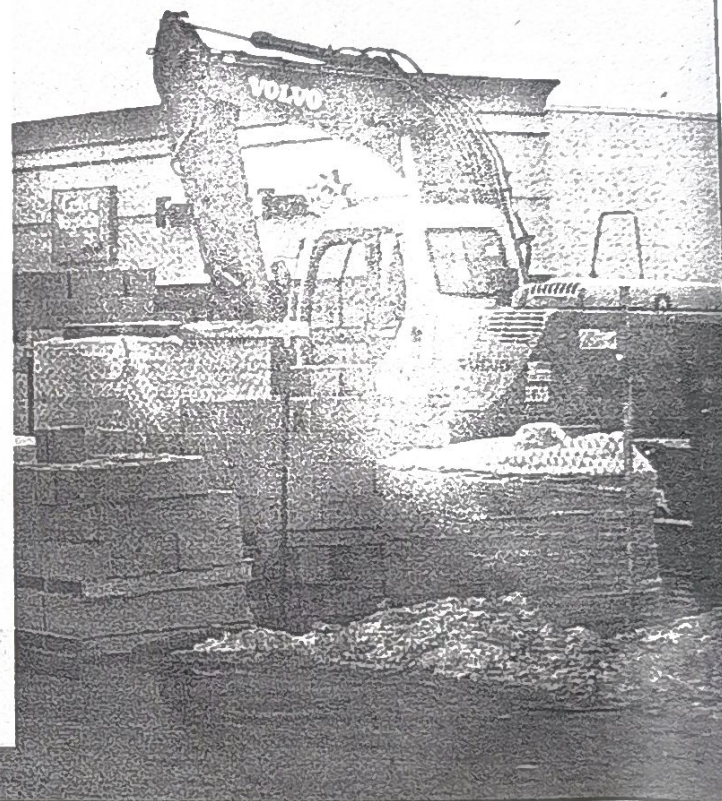
Buffalo is now following this trend. Opening this spring will be Dunn Brothers and possibly a Starbucks which was proposed in the Target addition. The Dunn Brothers is located on highway 25 near Dominos and should be opening this spring.

In the Wal-Mart expansion stores that are already opened or are suspected to open this spring include, Maurice's, Kat's Music, Papa Murphy's, Forever Tan, Travel Agencies, Factory Brand Shoe, Great Clips, Hallmark, Play It Again, and Quizno's.

Last year Wal-Mart began its superstore project after being in Buffalo since it's opening in 1991.

"We thought Buffalo would be a good town to focus on due to its expanding population," said **Mary Evans**, a spokeswoman for Wal-Mart. "Competing is always a number one priority."

Coming this spring Target will look to start its expansion of about 35,000 Sq. ft. It would include the possible Starbucks and a Pizza Hut.



2003 MCA Test Results

Last year, BHS scored lower than any school within a 90-mile radius on the tests.

District	Total Math	Reading
State Average	1546	1615
Buffalo	1527	1537
Cambridge	1566	1644
Delano	1664	1731
Hastings	1553	1653
Osseo	1562	1629
Owatonna	1546	1604
Maple Lake	1571	1660
Monticello	1625	1674

• MCA Test

Continued from page 1

the effectiveness of its programs."

The school board is taking all necessary precautions to motivate students to try their best.

To help students score better on the tests, a practice test was held on February, 24th for all sophomores and juniors. If students scored below 70 percent they were assigned mandatory AAA for four days, where they prepared for the MCA test on Tuesday.

"I think it is stupid to force kids to go to mandatory AAA," said Senior **Jayson Truong**. "That is only to make our school look better. The students will learn the information for one week and forget it the next. It is only to make our school look smarter."

While 72 percent of students viewed MCA tests as unimportant last year, 73 percent of students said they plan to do their best this year. Learning from past mistakes, the school is taking MCA tests seriously and encourages students to do the same.



The mission of *The Hoofprint* is to be authoritative, aggressive, essential, caring, and creative as a leading source of news and information for the students and staff of Buffalo High School.

Editorial Staff

Laura Baxter
Rochelle Clifton
Jonathan Coward
Allie Houffer
Lauren Johnson
Katie Kruck
Elsbeth Krumholz
Sarah Millerbernd
Megan Morris
Angela Salvesson
Corrina Swanson

Staff Writers

Jerry Armstrong
Ryan Auger
Kyle Bakke
Bianca Bieringer
Adara Bonnell
Ryan Brown
Serena Bultenhoff
Samantha Cote
LaTasha Dickerson

Cody Holmberg
Nathan Hopkins
Ryan Liljequist
Kelli McCourt
Kessie Moench
Matthew Muntifering
Robert Newton
Yolona Ngandali
Alexandra Nord
Amanda Olson
Megan Quinlivan
Rachael Robasse
Stefan Robinson
Brooke Sandahl
Matthew Sandahl
Susan Schubert
Steven Vannelli
Allison Walker
Emily Weis

Advisor: Ryan McCallum

The Hoofprint is the official newspaper of Buffalo High School. *The Hoofprint* is published monthly during the school year. Letters to the editors and guest columns are welcome. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, and signed with the author's name, year in school, and contact information for verification. *The Hoofprint* reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. All letters become property of *The Hoofprint* and will not be returned. Opinions expressed in this issue do not represent those of *The Hoofprint* or Buffalo High School.

Our production office is located in Room A-209. The editorial office phone number is (763)682-8162. Our mailing address is Buffalo High School, 877 Bison Blvd, Buffalo, Minn., 55313. Emails should be sent to rmccallu@buffalo.k12.mn.us.



Buffalo High School
Buffalo, Minnesota

Lost Prophets: Start Something

Nathan Hopkins
Staff Writer

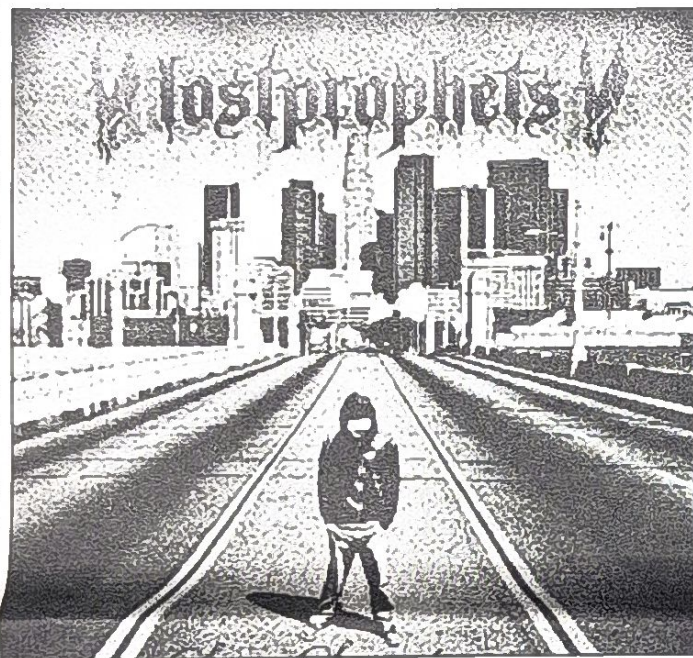
Not often does a band have a second album gain as much success as the first. The Lost Prophets have proven that they don't fall in to that category. These guys just might be the UK's best kept secret. Their first single, "The Last Train Home" is the third song off of their sophomore album, *Start Something*. The band consists of Ian Watkins on vocals, Lee Gaze and Mike Lewis on guitars, Mike Chiplin on drums, Jamie Oliver on turntables, keyboards, and backing vocals, and Stuart Richardson on bass. Being a big name in the UK's music scene for quite sometime has opened a lot of doors for them.

It's quite difficult to compare this band to any other band. In an industry full of corrupt labels focusing on money and not talent, this band stands out. They have created their own unique sound. Ian Watkins and Jamie Oliver are the tireless force that has powered the band's vision since its inception. They spend 24 hours a day, seven days a week creating the majority of the music, often

writing full songs between the two.

Structured by key songs such as the powerful radio hit, "The Last Train Home," the slower, more melodic "Hello Again," and the fast-paced, hard-hitting "Start Something," this album has a little bit of something for everyone.

If you don't have this album yet, it's a must for the true rocker.



If you like this CD, you might want to try:

Deftones
Fingertight
The Used

Troops return home from Iraq



Photo by Allie Houfer

The soldiers from the 353rd Transportation company came home from Iraq on Monday December 22. They were welcomed home by their loved ones and the students and staff of Buffalo High School. Also welcoming them home were Representatives Mark Ourada and Mark Kennedy. The ceremony was held at Buffalo High School's gym.

Buffalo prepares to fight methamphetamines

Rob Newton
Staff Writer

Every generation seems to have its own drug to bring to the limelight, a new guilty pleasure to indulge in. This current one being no exception, our nation has given birth to a hefty sum of crystal meth, a synthetic drug produced from over-the-counter medication and other household items. It is extremely addictive, negating your body's dopamine receptors creating physical dependency, and it is very easy to make. As the years have gone by, Wright County has become a haven for the drug, and now the community and the school district has deemed it a problem needing a solution.

Crystal Meth sometimes goes by the street alias "glass". Almost overnight, this industry has sprung up all over the rural midwest. The spacious environment provides meth cooks a good spot to anchor their chemical campaign. Once production has begun, glass quickly spreads.

An anonymous user spoke of the drug's easy accessibility, "It was everywhere I seemed to go. People would offer it to me and I never had to pay for it." This person is in their late twenties to early thirties with a decent job and family - which solidifies the fact that meth could be used by

anyone.

There are some signs to look for in appearance when spotting a meth user. Those who abuse it often are pale and thin. The person will also act differently. They'll be talkative and overly alert, and will probably exhibit some kind of habitual giveaway that they're high, such as biting their lip or nails, and fidgeting with their hands. After some hard-core abuse, their teeth may be rotten or missing, and they sometimes have sores on their skin because of the chemicals that they put into their bodies.

Along with the usual symptoms comes an array of negative attributes that go hand in hand with the smoking, snorting, or shooting of glass. Some blights for the anonymous user consisted of, "bad credit, because you really don't feel like working and paying bills while you're messed up on drugs."

The high cost of methamphetamines also means that users might not be able to pay those bills. On average, one half a gram of glass costs over \$50, and those who deal it can sometimes prove to be shrewd businessmen, as they are typically frequent users themselves. School Resource Officer Glenda Ridley said that meth users often admit that they became addicted after their first use.

"Your teeth will eventually fall out and your reputation

will be shot as people won't take you seriously. It can help your head when you are drinking, but when you come down you will feel really bad."

As the drug becomes more and more socially acceptable the chances of doing away with it become less and less. The Buffalo Police are aided in the fact that drugs tend to start in on the coasts and work their way into the mid-west. During this "calm before the storm" they are able to prepare their means of dealing with it.

The drug typically starts out being used by adults in a community and finds its way down to the hands of teenagers. Because of this, the Buffalo Police Department and the high school are fighting to reach teens before the dealers do.

"It's one of those types of drugs that is so unlike any other we've ever had," Ridley said. "Treatment doesn't look like much of an option, simply because people who use it usually die."

The police are making it a point to educate the population on meth, including things like what it's typically called, such as glass, speed, twack, tweak, or dope. They want people to be aware of what they can do to recognize the signs of a meth lab, and how to go about informing the local authorities.

FREE SPEECH FOR ALL, A NEW WAR

COLUMNIST



In America, the focus is the war on terrorism, elections, and the economy. Much of the public does not know of the social war going on between the state, church, and faith in general. In a post 9/11 world, we see religion bashers in our schools and our government. Fueled by separation of church and state to the extremes, so called "free speech" groups like the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) are against any exposure of faith to the public-- even the smallest extent. Their goal is to eliminate any faith exposure to the public.

In Georgia, the ACLU sued to get the words *Christmas Holiday* taken off the school calendar. These fanatics demanded it be changed to *Winter Holiday: Thank God (Goodness, for all you ACLU supporters) we passed that because non-believers wouldn't have enjoyed their vacation if they knew it was from a Judaic Christian holiday.*

In New Jersey, they stopped school kids from seeing a performance of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. They also demanded that a town in New Mexico called Las Cruces change its name because it means *the cross*. Because the ACLU has a grip on some of the media, you only hear about reasonable cases: having the ten commandments removed from a courthouse in Alabama. Here's what James Madison, the father of the constitution thought

about the ten commandments: "We have staked the whole future of American Civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the ten commandments."

The ACLU is filled with half-truths, and that's all they will let you hear. The solution to this problem is free speech for all-- even Christians. This is a lesson that all of us must learn: Never judge religious groups by the radicals they show on TV burning the flag, promoting Osama Bin Laden, or priests who molest children. These people are only a small percent. Free speech should have equal ground. For instance, school should expose students to many theories of man's origin, not just the theory of evolution.

Both sides of the spectrum are being abused. Because of this people are not willing to show their true colors in schools or other public places. An example: I was in one of my classes, and I said something that offended a Christian girl. I said to her, "I didn't even know you were a big Christian." She really never let it out in the open. When I asked her why, she said that people aren't always understanding and respectful. This frightened me because it proved not only Atheists get a hard time for their beliefs; Christians do too. Groups like the ACLU need to get straightened up, or leave. Not only are they hurting good Christians who keep to themselves, they are causing abuse to the people they represent.

Mission to Mars

Is it worth the risk?

Space is the future. Some may disagree with this, but it is generally known that the human race will live in outer space in the future. Are we ready now?

President George W. Bush has created an initiative to send a manned mission to Mars by 2030. Sounds innocent enough, except for the cost. The price tag is well over \$100 billion. Since his budget for 2005 has a record-breaking mountain of debt, it really hurts. Our kids may end up paying for this one.

"I believe it is too soon," said Senior Joe Schoder. "We need more reliable technology."

Seventy-nine percent of people said that they would support the Mars Mission, assuming there is no cost. Only 36% support it if they have to pay.

To fund the mission, Bush is going to add about \$750 million a year to the NASA budget, while cutting a whopping \$11 billion a year off other programs. Among other things, the Hubble Space Telescope will be retired earlier than planned, a mission to Pluto will be cancelled, and programs to monitor climate change will be cut back. NASA does a great deal of good things for us here on

Earth; he should not be so quick to cut it down.

"The space telescope should come first, if it more important," said Junior Kris Lane.

Bush is hurting in the polls recently, and may be looking for a way to shift the attention off the war in Iraq. Even though he will not be president when the mission happens, it is his idea, so he gets the credit. Forty-five percent of students felt Bush issuing his initiative as a bid for re-election. Most people don't want to pay for this, so it may actually hurt his chances.

The benefits to us here are not huge. The space race after World War II helped technology advance quickly, but this time around, we have the government already funds any promising technology. The computers needed for the manned mission to the moon were just not advanced enough at the time, so NASA helped develop them. Computers today are fast enough that they will just buy the components, instead of creating them.

Someday we will live in space. Until technology allows us to reliably go and live there, humans are better off on earth.

-Ryan Brown

• KNOWLEDGE BOWL

Continued from page 1

won by 20 points and held the lead from start to end. Just complete domination."

Pasche and her teams miss last year's seniors but feel that they can fill their shoes and go to state. Last year's state participants, Steve Voerding, Charlie Goldberg, Britta Emmel, and Keith Cooper, were all seniors.

"I definitely miss the seniors. They were a great group and really fun to be around, especially at practices," said Nelson.

With the state meet coming around the corner in the middle of April, the teams are getting ready for the big day. Nelson isn't sure exactly on how the meet will look but he's guessing top ten. Their toughest competitors for state are looking to be Hibbing, Chaska, Moorhead, and St. Francis, even though they beat them twice.

Photo Poll

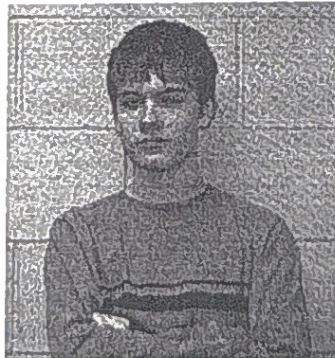
What business do you hope is the next to come to Buffalo?

Poll and photos by Justin Leeper



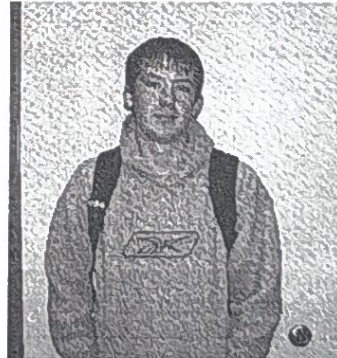
"Best Buy, because I'm too lazy to drive anywhere."

Paul Smude
Junior



"Taco Bell, because I'm afraid of driving to Monticello to get a chalupa."

Andrew Schmidt
Senior



"Cabellas, because the closest one is an hour and a half away."

Ryan Brummer
Sophomore



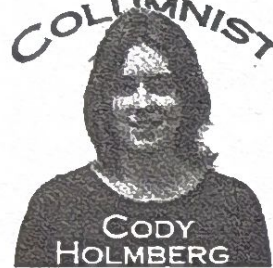
"Taco Bell, because it's delicious."

Alex Nord
Freshman

Starving Children

Countless children die of starvation each year due to conglomerate business who cheat innocent kids out of a future, but America is living too comfortably to complain.

COLUMNIST



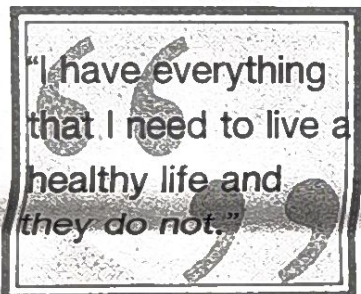
CODY HOLMBERG

Over one million children around the world die each year from starvation. This statistic is completely preventable. There is no reason why these children should have their lives taken away from them over such a simple matter as food.

The reason this is happening is because multinational companies, such as Wal-Mart, are taking over smaller companies, such as Cub Foods and Ace Hardware, leading children and their families to run out of work. These people, such as those in China, are working for these multinational companies for a measly \$0.33 an hour because they have no where else to go. They are controlled by those who

have more power than themselves.

Of course, that is how our world functions, we have powerful leaders and we have their followers, not always by choice. What makes me melt with sympathy for these people and burn with guilt is the fact that I know I have everything that I need to live a healthy life and they do not.



We work for the largest wage we can to feed our family and put a roof over their heads, but so do these poor people. Their children even work to help feed their family and give them the nourishment they need to survive. What we would call child labor is every-

day life in these impoverished places such as India, Africa, and Bangladesh, etc.

When I look at the society in which our children are being raised it makes me sick. With children over seas who are starving to death, have no home to live in, warm, clean clothes to wear, or soft cushioned beds in which to lie we still complain that we do not have enough. So many times we take for granted everything that we have, forgetting about those who have less than us. When we have too much we start to buy accessories such as DVDs, stereos, trampolines, and swimming pools.

So next time that you're eating Christmas dinner with your family or watching a movie down at the theatre, think about these children and what you could do to help make their lives more enjoyable. Making a difference begins with a thought. Make it yours.

Yee-haw, I Got Me Da Death Penalty

COLUMNIST



MITCH BIERMANN

This piece is in direct response to the opinion piece Senior Ryan Hendrickson wrote for the last edition of *The Hoofprint*. This piece, like Ryan's, is in regard to Governor Tim Pawlenty stating he would like to kill repeat sex offenders, even if they have not killed anyone.

Throughout the piece Ryan used emotional ploys to try to get us to think like him instead of using factual statistics.

"Raping young children and women repeatedly is just plain sick and these idiots that commit these crimes are truly the scum of the earth."

Well, duh. There isn't a single person in this building that would argue against that. At least I hope not. By constantly laying insults upon sex offenders (not that they don't deserve it) Ryan makes it seem like anyone who is against him is for sex offenders. That just isn't true.

Case in point: Me. I'm definitely anti-sex offender. Yet I am also decidedly anti death penalty. See? As a matter of fact, I am so anti sex offender that I think women who are the victims of sex offenders, and become pregnant as a result of a rape, should be allowed to kill the baby (pardon my use of anti-choice vocabulary) of the sex offender in order to ease the psychological trauma that could come as a result of delivering the baby of a sex offender. That's pretty anti-sex offender.

Speaking of psychological stuff, in the column Ryan also made a point that I find to be, well, completely false.

"If these criminals were put to death then the cases would occur less frequently. It may even deter sexual offenders from performing these heinous acts all together"

The problem with that is that it assumes sex offenders are in a logical state of mind in which they could weigh that pros and cons of their actions before raping someone. I think we could all agree that sex offenders are not in a logical state of

mind when they commit their crimes.

So here is how I would argue my point coherently, unlike Ryan. In Texas, murderers are put to death. Here they are not. According to Ryan's logic, since Minnesota doesn't use the death penalty its homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants should be higher than Texas's because the threat of the death penalty doesn't hang over the heads of murderers here like it does in Texas. Right? Wrong!

According to the disaster center Minnesota has 3.1 murders per 100,000 people. Texas, on the other hand, has almost twice as many with 5.9 murders per 100,000 people. Evidently, Ryan would want or state to more like Texas, which is usually a bad idea no matter what the issue is.

To be fair, there could be other mitigating factors that play into those statistics other than just the death penalty, but it doesn't change the fact that when you spend state money to avenge human misery rather than to prevent it, human misery goes up. Governor Tim Pawlenty even admitted on January 27 that the legal cost of putting someone to death would probably be greater than that of locking them up for the rest of their life.

And one more thing; towards the end of the article Ryan threw a partisan attack at us liberals that I would like to deflect

"I know you people that are against killing people are feeling all mushy towards these criminals I guess that you will always be feeling sorry for them until a crime hits close to home. Then maybe you'll change your mind."

Ouch! Does anyone have any ice for that burn?

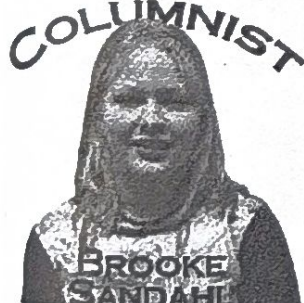
Good thing I'm a radical, and not a liberal, otherwise I could be offended!

But just to prove Ryan wrong, I'll issue this following statement: Should Mr. Pawlenty manage to get the death penalty enacted, and then afterwards I, myself, fall victim to that of a murderer I hereby ask all students in this school to fight to save that person's life!

As you can see, I, unlike Ryan, know that using violence to avenge violence is the world's main problem. I will not be a contributor to that of bloodlust.

Cutting Back on Fats

COLUMNIST



BROOKE SANDAHL

friends sat around guzzling pop and acting lazy.

I was disgusted with myself and America at that moment. How did this happen? America's activities center around food.

At every social event people's minds focus on food. People automatically think, 'well I am having a party, I need to go buy some food.' While this is not altogether bad, America has lost it's sense of logic on proportion sizes. Instead of taking a little bite, we sit around and snack all day.

Every year, TV and Radio commercials send out those sweet reminders of how fat we are, how we need to move our

butts and exercise, and we wonder why we are fat when the exercise isn't working.

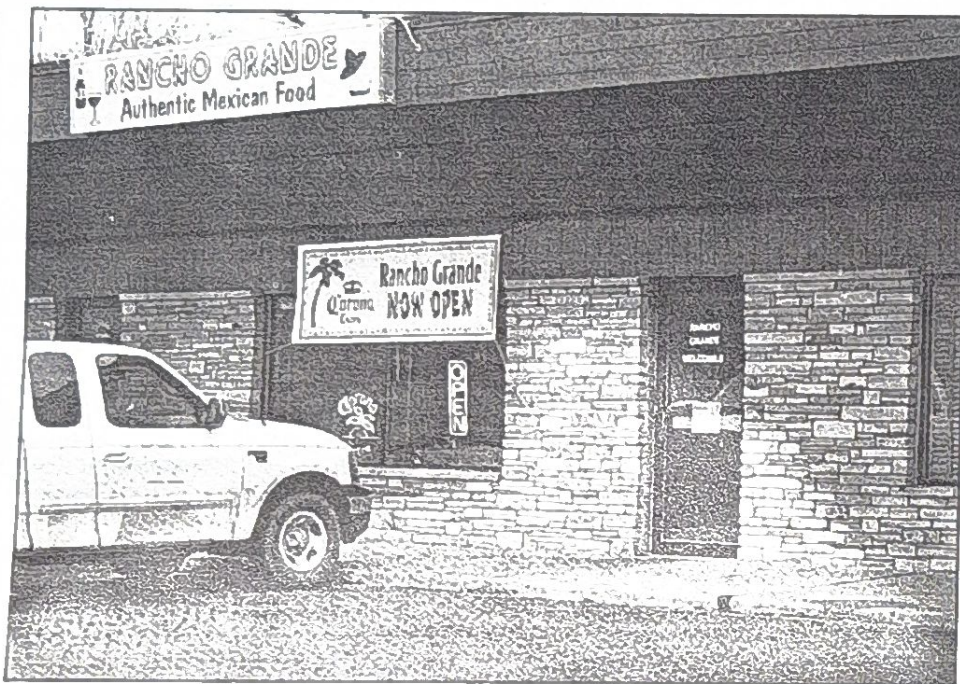
Even though over 60 percent of Americans struggle with obesity, I believe that we can fix the problem.

By changing first our minds, I think we can conquer obesity and overcome weight issues. I don't think we need all of that excess food to survive and be satisfied.

I'm sure many of you are thinking that cutting back on food is dieting. Taking food that you need for one day will carry you through and with proper exercise; America will not suffer the contagious disease of obesity.

As I sat watching the Super Bowl at a friend's house, I realized something awful. I had a handful of licorice in one hand and a coke in the other. I looked down and thought 'I am not hungry, what am I doing?' It startled me to look around and see a group of friends clustered around the snack table stuffing chips and other various fattening snacks in their mouth. Some

Rancho Grande: An authentic taste of Mexico



Rancho Grande, located in the former Subway location on Highway 55, is one of Buffalo's newest restaurants.

Matt Muntifer
Staff Writer

"Hola Amigos," is how all customers of the new Mexican restaurant in Buffalo, Rancho Grande, are greeted. Rancho Grande is located near Arby's, in the old Subway-building off of highway 55.

"The neon signs are a nice touch and it made it kind of fun to eat there," said Senior Gordy Menth.

The authentic food and festive paintings of Mexico's history covering the wall create a very real atmosphere. The oversized sombrero and neon signs bring out the soft Mexican music that flows from the kitchen. Although the Rancho Grande is fairly new, some of the seniors at BHS have already discovered this piece of Mexico here in Buffalo.

"The food was very authentic," said Senior Emily Kumpula. "The atmosphere was very realistic, even though the waiter did-

n't understand the concept of ice."

It is obvious that this restaurant is not Taco Bell or Taco Johns. Rancho Grande is not considered fast food, but the food seems to come quickly. It consists of higher quality food than the Mexican restaurants around, and the prices show it. At any Mexican fast food restaurant the prices for a meal range from about three to six dollars. Here, the average lunch costs about six dollars and dinner meals average around nine to ten dollars. A single portion consists of at least three different kinds of food. The difference in cost versus quality is an issue for the consumer.

"I thought that the prices were fair considering the quality of the food," said Kumpula. "I would definitely go there again."

Rancho Grande is a great place to go for a quick meal or a night out with the family to eat some genuine Mexican food without the annoying Chihuahua.

Saturday Night Fever

Serena Buttenhoff and Emily Weis
Staff Writers

If you're sitting around with your friends on a Saturday night and you don't know what to do here's an idea: all across the state of Minnesota teens are heading to local dance clubs. With the fun energetic atmosphere, loud music and flashing lights, it's a way for teenagers to get out of town, get out their energy, and meet lots of new people.

Fifty percent of students said that they had been to a dance club. Most of the students who had not been to a club said they either didn't like the idea or they couldn't dance. Tropix, Aftershock, and Energy were found to be the most popular clubs around the metro.

Tropix has a clean, fun atmosphere.

Located inside a warehouse in downtown Minneapolis Tropix has couches and tables and there is room to talk to people. Many people would recommend going to Tropix because it's smaller and has a friendly environment.

"I think that going to Tropix is a good way to meet new people," said Junior Julia Carlson.

Unlike Tropix, Energy, located in St. Paul, has a very cramped atmosphere. There are so many people that if one loses their friends they would have a hard time finding them again. However, students who have chosen to go said they had a lot of fun and a good time.

"Hitting the clubs on a Saturday night is fun because that's where all the females are," said Senior Matt Muntifer.

Students head to dance clubs in the Metro Area

Clubs are not only a place to meet people of the opposite sex, but they're also a place to show off your dance moves. Tropix hosts a dancing contest every Saturday night along with a 'Hot Body Contest' where ten guys get on top of the bar and the winner is decided by the crowd.

"My favorite part about going to Tropix is the dancing contest," said Senior Gordy Menth.

Since all these clubs are at least an hour drive from Buffalo every student said they carpoled with an average of four to five friends.

It's easy to make friends at clubs and get to know people. Whether they like clubs or don't like them, students found clubs to be an interesting experience for a weekend.

Dance Clubs

Aftershock

Cost: \$6 with I.D., \$12 without

Age to get in: 16

Music style: Rap

Dates and times open:
9pm-12:30am Saturdays

Energy

Cost: \$9

Age to get in: 16

Music style: Rap/Techno

Dates and times open:
open non school Sundays 9pm-12am

Tropix

Cost: \$12

Age to get in: 18+; the Backdoor is 15-21

Music style: Top 40/ R&B/ House

Contests: Best Bods on the Beach

Dates and times open:
Sun.-Tues. 8pm-1am & Fri.-Sat. 8pm-2am.

Forever Tan & Aqua Massage

"You have to try this!"

30 day monthly **unlimited** for Elite Beds

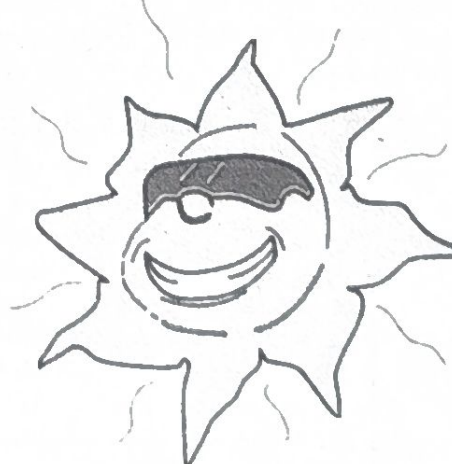
\$40.95

Buy a tanning package and get 15% off lotion!

Opening Special: Try ALL 5 levels of tanning beds (1 session per bed level) for **\$35.00!**

Located next to Wal-Mart in Buffalo

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30am-10pm • Friday 8:30am-7:00pm • Saturday 9:00am-6:00pm • Sunday 10:00am-6:00pm



763.682.6037

Sports

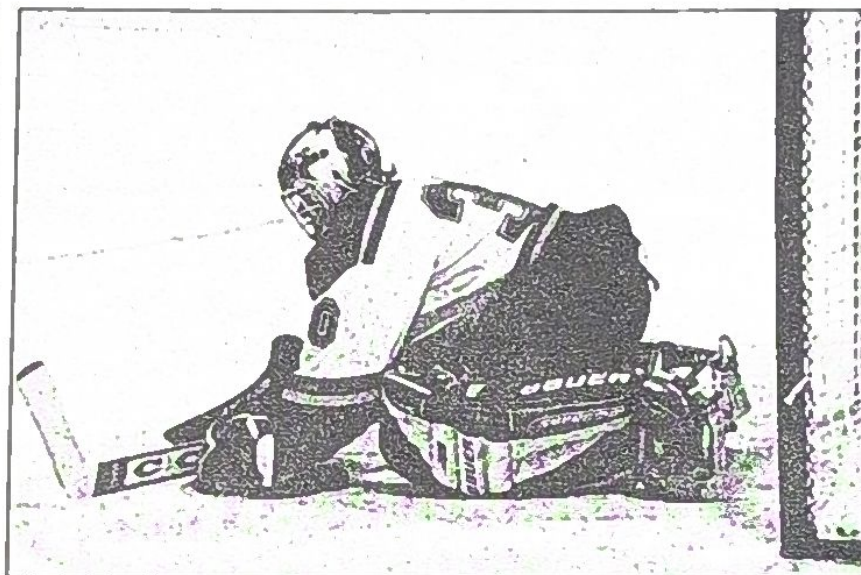
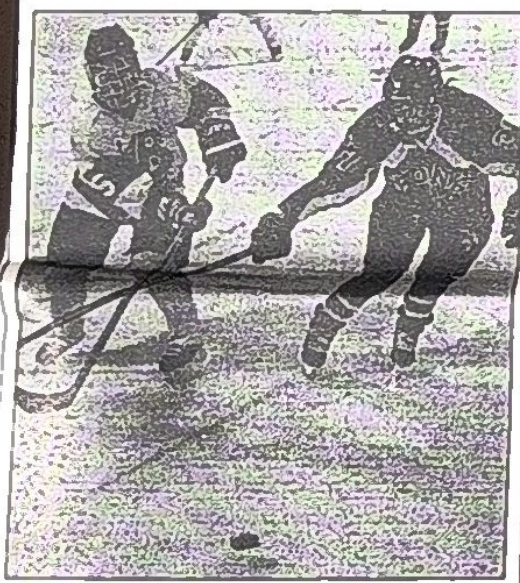
Monday, March 8, 2004

Girls Hockey

This season, the Blades team watched their goal of winning the North Suburban Conference vanquished before them.

"To win conference for the fifth year in a row was one of our main goals," said head coach Bob Driver.

Despite this, the team advanced to the section finals, were in the first round they played St. Cloud Tech. The Blades won 3-2 advancing to the second round to play Elk River. The Blades lost to Elk River 8-0 ending their season.



Boys Hockey

The Boys Hockey team has gone 4-22-1 this season.

"One of our goals that fell through was a winning season," said coach Tom Walker. "We're in a developing period."

Due to graduation, the squad lost eight of its main players. However, they gained seven sophomores and a freshman.

The team has been working on goal production and a winning attitude.

"We need to work on mental toughness to do the things it takes to win," said Walker.

As Junior Mike Mortensen agreed, "We just need to believe that we can win."

The team won their first section game against Hopkins (seated eighth) 5-4 in overtime on Tuesday Feb. 24. On Thursday, Feb. 26 they played Wayzata, bringing their season to a close.

As spring emerges,

Bison winter sports wind down.

Updates by Rachel Robasse

Photos by Melisa Miller. Basketball photo by Tim Kolehmainen

Gymnastics

On January 27, there was a huge upset as the Buffalo gymnasts beat Monticello (ranked 6th in state) by a mere .225 of a point.

"It was a huge win for us," said Junior Chelsea Sjelin. "It was one of our goals as a team to do well against them."

This achievement didn't come easily as the team suffered injuries.

"We were banged up quite a bit," said Junior Ashley Loebermann. "But we came back stronger from our injuries."

Aside from injuries the team finished the season with an 8-2 record.

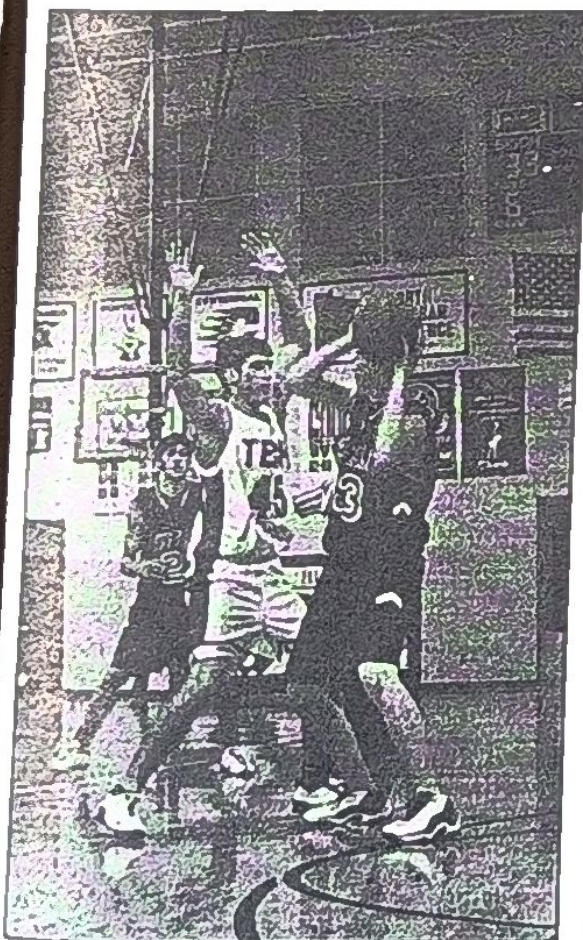
Boys Basketball

The Buffalo boys basketball team (6-14-0 overall) has had it's ups and downs. Learning new concepts of defense and offense, and finding a way to obtain at least one of their goals.

"Our goal is to win conference, although that might not happen now," said Head Coach Nick Guida.

The team has seven games left, six of which are conference games. Those games give them a chance to beat their rival Monticello (13-7-0 overall). The Bison lost by three points the last time the teams played.

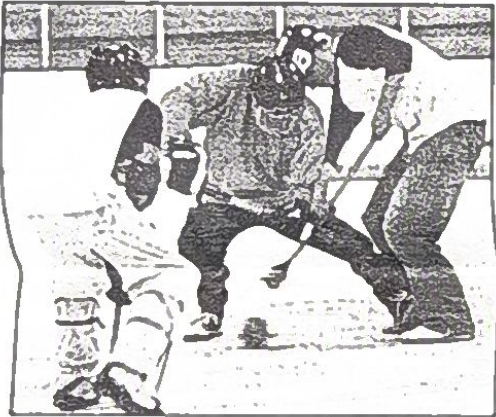
"We're looking forward to it, we'll be on our home turf," said Guida.



Snow Daze brings winter relief



Senior Ryan Strugar serves in the students vs. staff volleyball game. Photo by Laura Baxter



The first annual students vs. staff broomball game took place at the Buffalo Civic Center. The score was 2 to 1 in favor of the teachers. Photo by Megan Morris

Adara Bonnell
Staff Writer

For one week in February, the school sets aside its mundane routine to take a break from the dull winter and has Snow Daze. With lots of work and determination, members of NHS came up with numerous ideas. The week long celebration included dress up days, music in the halls during passing time, and student vs. staff games.

To organize Snow Daze, individual committees were set up to handle certain parts of the event.

"I helped with it this year and it does take a lot of prep time," said Senior **Megan Morris**.

With the goal to make this year better, students put more thought went into Snow Daze. Decorations were created to entice the students along with the dress up days.

"I think that they put in a lot of thought into what they are going to do," said Junior **Meghan Bruggeman**.

The dress up days this year ranged from support your favorite activity to dress up like any teacher or staff.

"Unlike other years, this year I dressed up," said Senior **Becky**

Frendendall.

"I don't even remember last year," said Junior **Gretchen Otness**. "This year had memorable moments."

After school, students were able to continue celebrating with activities such as broomball at the ice rink and ice fishing at Buffalo Lake. This had both positive and negative reaction from the students.

"Having broomball this year was a lot of fun," said Senior **Ryan Strugar**. "You need ice to play, so the gym wouldn't have worked. Having it at the rink made it possible."

Some students felt that participating had nothing to do with the atmosphere, rather, it's what class students were in. Even then thoughts differed.

"It's more for lower classmen and I'm a junior this year so I had more fun last year," said Junior **Julia Carlson**.

Some people felt that the hard work didn't pay off.

"I would help make it more than just balloons and colored paper" said Junior **Anna McCarty**.

The week ended on Friday with a casual dance in the cafeteria. It provided a night time activity that students from all grades could participate in.



Senior Andy Puffer shakes hands with Mr. Matt Lubben while Juniors Wes Christ and Nathan Schmid and Senior Danielle Walker look on. Photo by Laura Baxter



In the student vs. staff arm wrestling AAA event, Brianna Emmel arm wrestles Mrs. Swaggert. The students captured the overall win in the student vs. staff activities. Photo by Megan Warfield

J's Restaurant
downtown buffalo

763.682.2000

- CHECKING & SAVINGS
- CAR LOANS
- ONLINE BANKING & BILL PAY
- 24-HR. PHONE BANKING
- 24-HR. ATM

Visit www.fhfb.com and check out "Money Matters for Students", helping students with financial questions.

Student services



305 10th Avenue S
Buffalo
763-682-3035
www.fhfb.com

BHS recruits boys swim team

Susan Schubert
Staff Writer

He anxiously awaits his race as he stretches behind the starting blocks. The announcer calls his name and he steps up onto his block. The deep voice of the official sternly says, "Take your mark", and with the ring of the starter he dives into the water. He finishes hard and can now say he was one of the first boys to finish a race for the Buffalo High School Boys Swimming team.

With enough interest expressed, BHS will offer Boys Swimming as a winter sports option in the 2004-2005 school year. Over half of the North Suburban Conference schools offer Boys Swimming, so Buffalo is opening up to the possibility. Presently, Monticello, Spring Lake Park, and Centennial schools all have

teams. Other prospective opponents are Fridley and Columbia Heights.

"With the growth we have been experiencing, there is no reason the team would fail," said Activities Director **Tom Baumen**. "And with the excellent facility we have, why not?"

In the fall, the Girls Swimming and Diving team uses the pool for a portion of the afternoon and community education uses it for the rest of the evening, leaving no room for WAVE to practice.

"It annoys me that all the girls get to chance to get ahead in their swimming ability and I'm stuck with nothing in the fall," said Freshman **Collin Tierny**, a WAVE member for seven years.

Past efforts of creating a team did not succeed due to unknown reasons, but future team members have ideas

of how to make the team go places.

"We need to get people to join the team by promoting it verbally," said Sophomore **Casey Radtke**.

The teams will most likely start out as a club sport. In case an interested coach would be hired to simply supervise. When it turns into an actual activity, a qualified coach would be sought out to lead the team.

"We'll look for possible coaches in prospective teachers," said Baumen.

Radtke, who swam for WAVE, the local swim club for three years, listed off multiple reasons he thinks swimming is "a great sport" and reasons why students should join.

"It really gets you in shape, you use every muscle you have, and you learn what you are capable of," said Radtke. "And most of all it teaches discipline."