



The Hoofprint

Buffalo High School | 877 Bison Blvd | Buffalo Minnesota 55313 | 763.682.8162 | April 19, 2004

Tracking the Bison

Volume 35 Issue 6

Students give blood to help others in need during the annual blood drive hosted by National Honor Society



Photo by Justin Leeper

Senior Ryan Ebeling talks to a worker from the Red Cross as he gives blood during the annual blood drive hosted by National Honor Society. Students who were over 17 and at least 110 pounds were able to donate.

The gift of Life

Alex Nord
Staff Writer

Every year, around 150 students and staff of Buffalo High School give blood to help those in need. Prior to the actual drawing of blood, participants must go through a rigorous checklist of personal questions and a test of their own red blood cell to plasma ratio. This vital fluid of life that was collected on March 12th 2004, will be stacked on the shelves of hospitals and used to help anyone who may need it.

"Kids like the opportunity to do something right and to help in a way that doesn't take that much effort," said Vicky Cary, NHS-advisor and ringleader of the blood drive. "Most kids have known people in accidents or in a situation where donated blood was needed."

The annual NHS-hosted Red Cross Blood Drive gives BHS-attendees that are at least 17 years of age, weigh over 110 pounds, and meet any other requirements that are needed. There are countless other motives that drive participants to give back in the form of blood, and there are even more that drive those who meet the requirements to sit out.

"I didn't donate because I didn't want to give anyone else my blood," said Senior Dan Averbek,

• BLOOD

Continued on page 12

No Child Left Behind rules raise concerns

Reese Mankenberg
Staff Writer

A former Buffalo High School student wakes up and prepares for the first day at his new school. He gets his homework ready, wolfs down breakfast, and leaves an extra 20 minutes early so he can get to St. Michael/Albertville High School on time. This isn't a reality yet, but it is a reality BHS students could be facing if the school doesn't meet the requirements for the newly integrated No Child Left Behind policy. One of these requirements is a statewide test, and this has the Buffalo school system concerned.

"The federal government has mandated that the state put together an accountability package, and for us, that means state tests," said Buffalo High School Principal Dr. Nick Miller. "The government thinks every student should be able to pass, whether they are severely handicapped or just moved here from a different country.

The reality is most of these kids won't be able to."

Special Education Coordinator for the Buffalo School District, Gary Blake, agrees.

"Idealistically, the plan is great. Everybody wants every child to pass," said Blake. "But realistically, it doesn't work."

The test that will determine the quality of Minnesota schools is the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment, or MCA. If a school doesn't meet certain requirements based on these tests, there will be repercussions that will dramatically affect the school.

The two largest requisites are: Adequate Yearly Progress, which means that a consistently increasing percentage of students must pass the test each year; and also 95% attendance on the test day. Failure to adhere to these standards means placement on a "Needs Improvement" list, budget cuts, and ultimately, the government can take control of the school.

The creator of the plan, President George Bush, explained the consequences in a recent speech.

"After a period of time, if schools don't improve, then a parent can send their child to another public school or a charter school, at the failing school's expense," said Bush.

These repercussions have the school worried.

"Our school's results from the tests will be published in the local newspapers, and if our school hasn't met the requirements or is behind other schools, the public is going to see that," said Miller. "That means that new families interested in our schools, colleges, and current members of the district will all be judging our school."

The Special Education department is worried about other factors as well.

"This really sets up a problem for our department," said Blake. "There's always a certain level of accountability that Special Ed. Has to meet, and now there's

added accountability that adds more to the stress and problems."

President Bush believes that the program will help schools center on helping higher needs students in succeeding.

"The whole purpose is to take the federal money and focus it on Title I kids, and on teachers, and on reading curriculum—it's to make sure we meet the objective, make sure we meet the high standards that we believe are necessary," said Bush.

Blake agrees.

"The plan puts our department on the same playing field as all teachers and gives us a way to become unified in our concerns," said Blake.

Principal Miller thinks the same, but still holds his original argument.

"It causes all schools to reevaluate what we do and gives us a good opportunity to see if we're teaching what we need to," Miller said. "But when we look at the bigger picture, the plan just won't work."

Speech season ends; Johnson heads to State

Megan Morris
Editorial Staff

On Saturday April 17th, Junior **Kirsten Johnson** competed at the State Speech Meet. The state competition was held at Centennial High School with the first round beginning at 8:30am.

"I hear there is a lot of talent at the state meet," said Johnson. "Personally, all I am really going to the state competition for is to do my best and to buy a sweatshirt".

Johnson competed in the Creative Expression category. Students that participate in this category write their own speech and act it out by themselves. Johnson's speech is called "Smiling with my Eyes." It is about a burned and disfigured 13-year old girl who gets treated cruelly by other people, especially

those at her school.

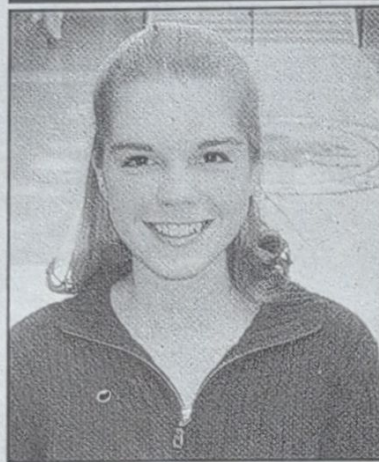
During the sections meet at St. Cloud Tech on April 5, Johnson placed third in both semifinals and finals, qualifying her to move on to State.

Juniors **Corrina Swanson** (Drama), **Marissa Evans** (Original Oratory), and **Mady Ellingson** (Extemporaneous Reading), and Seniors **Elsbeth Krumholz** (Drama), **Jason Olson** (Humorous), and **Andrew Schmidt** (Creative Expression) all advanced to the semi-final round.

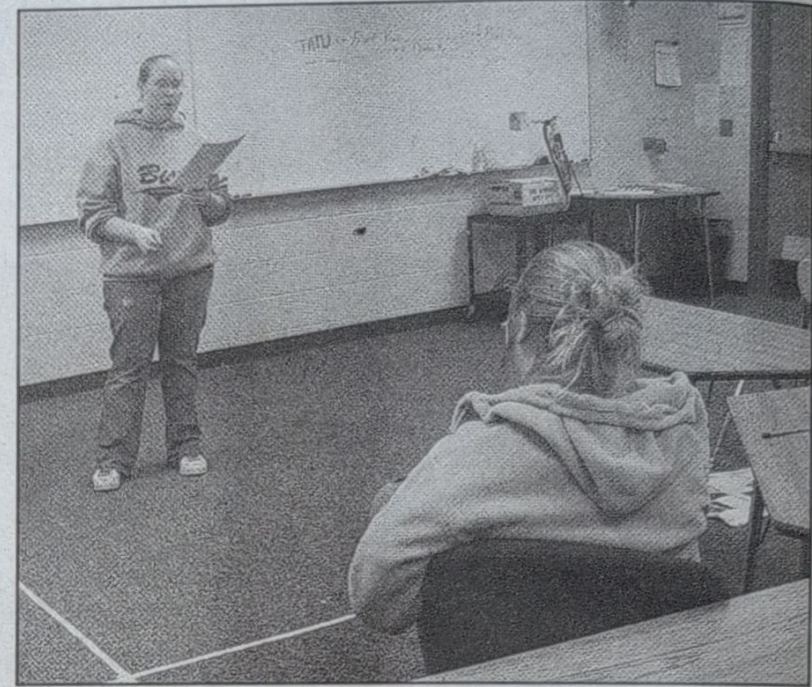
As a team the group made a fairly strong showing despite its relatively small number of competitors at each meet. Twenty-seven students registered this year. Some highlights for the team were placing third out of 20 schools in the limited entry division at Centennial and placing third among the medium entry schools

with fifth place overall out of 27 schools at Sauk Rapids.

• **SPEECH**
Continued on page 3



Junior **Kirsten Johnson** advanced to State which was held on April 17-18. Photo by **Katie Kruck**



Junior **Danny Olinger** practices her speech in front of Junior Captain **Corrina Swanson**. Students had to do one individual and one group practice every week. Photo by **Brooke Sandahl**

Obesity epidemic forces Americans to adapt

Lindsey Kennedy
Staff Writer

McDonalds has been convinced to make their menu healthier. They are going to phase-out the option to super size meals, introduce large salads and provide options to have yogurt and fruits with meals as a part of their 'Eat smart, be active' campaign. McDonalds and other fast food restaurants are being blamed by health activists that they are the cause of over half the obese population, from children to adults.

In the U.S., approximately 127 million adults are overweight, 60 million are obese

and nine million are severely obese. 64.5% of our population is struggling with weight disorders.

Fast food restaurants may be partially responsible for obesity. It is a matter of convenience for busy people. McDonalds, home of the Big Mac (590 calories), is a franchise of over 30,000 different restaurants locations in the world.

"I work at Subway across from McDonalds and their always jam packed with people when Subway will be completely empty. Even going through the drive-through at two in the morning there'll still be a 20 minute wait. I don't see why

more people come to Subway because you can still eat fast food but eat healthy at the same time," said Junior **Krista Samuelson**.

Modern society and rise in technology might also play a role in weight gain. Escalators, cars, jobs with lots of sitting time at computers, and increased crime in urban areas may all be contributing factors to America's inactivity.

"It's not only a physical problem, but they often struggle with psychological problems, also. Like stressful lifestyles and low self-esteem. People often turn to food to make themselves happy," said **Jennie Buttenhoff**, a Sunrider nutritional consult-

ant.

Modern society and rise in technology might also play a role in weight gain. Escalators, cars, jobs with lots of sitting time at computers, and increased crime in urban areas may all be contributing factors to America's inactivity.

Experts recommend a healthy diet and at least 30 minutes of exercise daily at least three days a week. Eat at least five fruits and vegetables a day and eat reasonable servings of meat, bread, and dairy foods. Try to avoid with lots of fats, oils and sugars. Get plenty of sleep and don't go to bed on a full stomach.



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
Allie Houfer
Lauren Johnson
Katie Kruck
Elsbeth Krumholz
Sarah Millerbernd
Megan Morris
Angela Salvesson
Corrina Swanson

Staff

Jerry Armstrong
Kyle Anderson
Kyle Bakke
Adara Bonnell
Ryan Brown
Brianna Brush
Christopher Corfman
Kathleen Dehmer

Whitney Flatla
Benjamin Fouquette
Cody Holmberg
Jamie Johnson
Terrence Kalk
Lindsey Kennedy
Justin Leeper
Andi Leistico
Reese Mankenberg
Anna McCarty
Matt Muntifering
Robert Newton
Alex Nord
Rachael Robasse
Stefan Robinson
Brooke Sandahl
Matt Sandahl
Susan Schubert
Steve Vanelli

Advisor: Ryan McCallum

Printed by the Wright Country Journal Press

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

Camera phones bring controversy

Ryan Brown
Staff Writer

Once your picture is taken by a camera phone, it could be in the inboxes of five people you don't even know.

Schools and businesses all over the country are starting to ban camera phones. That usually means normal cell phones too, because it is so hard to tell the difference. Imagine being in a locker room with a camera phone, and you see why people consider this to be a problem. New phones have an integrated

camera, so no attachments are needed to take a picture of sensitive information.

"Camera phones are getting better as technology advances," said Senior **Jeff Klarstrom**. "The picture quality is getting high enough that you can pick out individual details."

These camera phones are not yet a problem at BHS since Buffalo is a small city. It takes a while for technology to catch on.

"Camera phones are fun, but they are a waste of money,"

said Senior **Danielle Lewis**.

Out of 100 students surveyed, only 20 owned a camera phone.

There is new technology being developed that blocks the camera portion of the phone. While this is a great idea, many businesses and schools would rather ban phones than pay money for the new technology.

Imagine accidentally leaving your phone in your pocket, only to get fired because of it. Camera phones are just starting to be widespread; this dilemma is just getting started.

• SPEECH

Continued from page 2

The team also competed in the National Forensic League at Detroit Lakes during the first few days of spring break. This is a meet which lasts for two days and has an entirely different format than the regular speech meets. Members of this society have the opportunity to compete at a Nationals tournament. They can also earn different ranks according to however many points they receive during the regular meets. On the Buffalo team, however, Kory Bonnell in Original Oratory was the only competitor to make it to semi-finals.

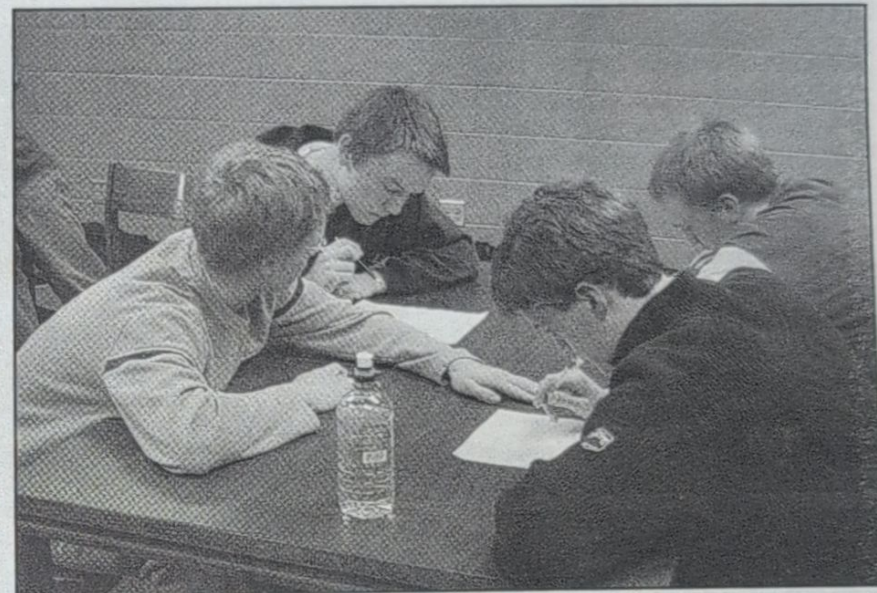
Speech consists of 13 different categories in which students compete against and speak in front of a small group of fellow speech members. All categories except for Dramatic Duo are single person speeches in which each competitor gives a memorized eight minute speech that they interpret according to their category's rules. These categories range from the most common categories such as Drama and Humorous to Creative Expression and Original Oratory (in which participants write their own speeches) to

Extemporaneous Reading, Great Speeches, and Discussion. All categories have their own style and set of rules.

Students had to practice at least once a week with a Coach or Captain. Near the end of the season a decision was made to also have group practices in which students practiced once a week with other team members and a Captain. Captains this year were Seniors **Elsbeth Krumholz**, **Andrew Schmidt**, and **Zach Schmitz** and Junior **Corrina Swanson**. The team also welcomed two new Coaches this year: **Sheri Larson** and **Brenda Lizbach**.

During a normal speech meet competitors had to meet early every Saturday morning and compete for three rounds against many other high school speech teams in classrooms where the meet was being hosted. Typically, rounds lasted for an hour and ten minutes with 5-8 competitors on average in a round. Sometimes meets allowed "double-entries" in which competitors could compete in two different categories instead of one. Most meets also consisted of a final round in which the top seven competitors were put in a round together, each of these finalists were given an award.

Knowledge Bowl Team One advances to State



Senior members of Team One concentrate on a question after buzzing in. Team One will represent BHS at the State Knowledge Bowl Meet tomorrow in Brainerd. Photo by Megan Quinlivan

Sarah Millerbernd
Editorial Staff

After Placing first at both regions and sub-regions the Buffalo High School's top varsity Knowledge Bowl team will be advancing to the state meet.

Members of Varsity Team One include Seniors **Tyler Hendrickson**, **Christopher Nelson**, **Andrew Smude**, **Michael Stammer**, and Junior **Ryan Magee**.

"If I were in Vegas, I would say we have about a one in ten chance of getting first place," said Nelson. "We have gone up against most of these teams and done really well. Our two biggest competitors right now are

Chaska and Moorehead."

The meet will take place at Cragin's Resort in Brainerd tomorrow, the team will travel up to the resort where they will have a French toast breakfast before activities and Wednesday April 21.

"I am really looking forward to going to the resort," said Senior Smude. "It is a really nice place and normally it would be really expensive to go to a place like that."

Buffalo varsity team two also did well, missing the cut to advance to state by one point. Members of team two include Juniors: **Steven Schroeder**, **Jack Lenczewski**, **Leah Brown**, **Stuart Johanson**, and **James Huff**.

Administration learns from lock down practice

Brianna Brush
Staff Writer

Will students know what to do if they hear the piercing noise of a gunshot? Will they duck and cover, run to a classroom and find shelter? Our school is now getting ready for such a situation.

The first practice lockdown involved everyone to turn off cell phones and sit on the floor waiting for a principal to say the drill is over.

Five months have passed and the school is still gathering information to make the lockdown as effective as possible. Meetings have been held with schools around the area and the Rocorri High School principal shared some facts about how a real lockdown works, giving a small information booklet to each of the

schools. Rocorri learned how students react to the chaos and that rules just deteriorate and they forget what to do. Lockdowns are not mandated but are strongly advised by schools that have had this tragic event happen. The lockdown is so complicated that the principals are still gathering information to try and prepare everyone for the worst.

"We want our plan to evolve into the best plan for us in Buffalo High School." Said Assistant Principal, **Mr. Rick Toso**.

Parents, teachers and students are all notified before a practice lockdown is activated to avoid surprises. To create a safer environment, a Safe School Team, including the sheriff, deputy, school administration, and others, was assembled. They say a lockdown is a pro-active activity that helps people know what to

do when or if there is a shooter in the school. The practice lockdown is about as long as a fire drill, however a real lockdown would take hours. After the lockdown the principals are open to any questions and concerns teachers or students may have.

"I think the procedure is bad because now the shooter knows right where we'll be," said Junior **Hannah Berndt**.

These concerns are found in students who are worried that the lockdown is not as effective as some may see. This plan is evolving and problems are bound to be found. To be safe, there have to be precautions because no one knows what may happen in the future. Prevention is also a great priority and everyone must help.

Students await 'A night in Paris'

Anna McCarty
Staff Writer

Decisions, decisions. Black or white, taffeta or satin. Stars up above or sand down below. As students rush to the prom shops, trying on dresses or tuxes, Class Cabinet Members are calling for potential vestibules, picking a theme and ordering the party gifts. Months are spent preparing for a few hours, which is to linger in the minds of many who promenade there.

Every Monday before school, the Junior Class Cabinet meets to discuss and decide the destiny of the prom. Location is a main issue for the students and their parents. Soon after last year's prom Ms. Tracy Hulley, Ms. Nancy Eiyneck, and the administration made a decision on where some potential sites would be. Some factors that went into these choices were the cost, driving time, and whether or not to have dinner served at the dance.

"We try to keep the driving distance down to an hour," said Hulley.

When asked, parents expressed their concern about driving conditions, wanting their

kids to be relatively familiar with the roads, and that they want their teens to be enjoying their prom rather than driving all night.

The class dues and ticket sales easily settle the cost issue. On the other hand a lot of thought is put into whether or not they should serve dinner at the dance. There are two or three places within an hour's drive that do not serve dinner. The Medina Ballroom was the best site for this year. Many hotels also offer their facilities and include dinner, but students want to go to their own choice of restaurants, to create their own memories.

"Not having the dinner at the dance gives people an opportunity to go out on their own," said Junior Maria Camargo.

It has the largest dance floor in the upper mid west, equipped with air cushioned floors for hours of dancing that is easy on the feet and knees. The romantic persona creates a great atmosphere for this year's prom. Students will also be able to use the alleys for cosmic bowl.

"The lanes also will be open for use by the general public," said Jill Schmitt, from the Medina Entertainment Center. "Alcohol



The Medina Ballroom will host the prom this year. It's air-cushioned dance floor is the largest in the area. Photo by Anna McCarty

will be served at the bar that is connected to the bowling alley. If requested, managers and security guards will be available to keep an eye out for students who do not want to be hassled by other bowlers."

May 7, the day before prom is hectic not just for the prom goers,

but also for those who put it together. The eight students that make up the Junior Class Cabinet and the supervisors will trek out to the Medina Ballroom to start their day of decorating.

"The major events you'll remember for a long time," said Camargo, "but the whole night in

general you'll remember for about a few months."

Over five months of planning and lay out are for one night enjoyed by countless students only to be swept up and torn down until next year.

Seniors jump at the opportunity to leave school early

Whitney Flatla
Staff Writer

Finally, its fourth-quarter and senior privileges are here and ready to begin. For all seniors, there was a free "Senior Breakfast" held on March 30. This time was used to explain why seniors get privileges during the last quarter of the year and

exactly what they are. The breakfast also gave Dr. Miller a chance to talk with students. The sponsor's of the "All Night Grad Party" also talked to seniors about the graduation ceremony on June 4, 2004.

April first, two days after the "Senior Breakfast", was the start of "No AAA during fourth-quarter for seniors." This is a

chance for the school to show seniors that they are unique and that they deserve a reward for their hard work throughout the years.

"We feel that they [seniors] are leaders in the school, and that they deserve to be treated differently," said Assistant Principal Julie Swaggert. "They've earned their privileges and this is a way to give some-

thing back to them."

There are, however, ways that seniors can lose their AAA privileges. If anyone is caught misusing their AAA pass, such as lending their pass to an underclassman or

• Senior Privileges
Continued on page 8

Local bands play to raise money for a student's cancer treatment

Jerry Armstrong
Staff Writer

"Excuse me, ladies and gentlemen," said Chris Schraenbroich, mother of former Buffalo High School student Tim Fisher. "Tonight we raised 1839 dollars for Janine Swanson."

Swanson, who's been battling Leukemia, received the money after the charity benefit on Sunday, February 15.

When asked what she would do with the money,

Swanson said "Every time I go to the hospital it's a 500 dollar co-pay, so most of the money will go towards that."

"I think it's like... an awesome thing that they're making a positive difference. And what better way to do it than in music? It's something everyone can relate to," said Senior Angelica Montantes.

"Honestly, we just started doing it for exposure and then people started expecting us to be a... charity band. And it's a great thing if you can play to that many people and make a difference for good," said Junior Ryan Gaskill of

ToasterHead. "All in all I'd say we've raised six to seven grand."

Bands putting on the shows included Shades of Control, Toasterhead, Blood Root Mother, Davern Avenue, Echoed Life, Chaser, Allies in Chaos, and Surreal.

ToasterHead and Davern Avenue are already planning on doing another show next year at the Medina Ballroom, and are considering doing more shows for Swanson.

Students lose interest in Presidential Race

Benjamin Fouquette
Staff Writer

The great spectacle of America choosing its President is underway. Amidst the ongoing situation in Iraq and an ever-growing fear of terrorism, the Democratic Primaries and Caucuses have already wound down. Our new democratic candidate, John Kerry, is now sprinting toward the Presidential nomination. The media coverage during these elections is immense, putting each candidate under extreme scrutiny. But still, an underlying opinion is surfacing. We don't care.

The interest level at Buffalo High School is miniscule at best. Sixty-four percent of students cited low interest. While a barely representational four percent claimed a high interest in the race.

"A lot of people aren't interested because they can't vote," said Freshman Niles Hickman.

This lack of interest has translated into a general loss

of enthusiasm in the student body. Sixty-two percent of students were unable to name three Democratic Presidential candidates. The long selection process has also seemed to bore some. The last primaries do not take place until June 8th in Montana and New Jersey. Other things like Strong Republican ties make students lose interest.

"I wouldn't vote for any of the candidates," said Freshman Ashley Groenke, "I don't like Democrats."

President Bush, who was unable to win Minnesota's electoral votes in the 2000 election, now seems to garner respect at BHS following his first term. Sixty-six percent of students said they would vote for President Bush regardless of the Democratic candidate. This high turnout seems to down-play the importance of the primaries and caucuses while going against national polls.

"I think President Bush will win," said Freshman Jason Hohl, "so there will be no real impact."



Democratic Presidential candidate, Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., right, and former rival Howard Dean, raise their arms during a rally at George Washington University in Washington Thursday, March 25, 2004. Kerry and Dean put aside their disagreements over tax cuts and the war in Iraq and promised their supporters they would combine forces to help the Massachusetts senator drive President Bush out of the White House. (AP Photo/Matthew Cavanaugh)

Many students see a President Bush victory in November as an event which would cause the entire process to lose all purpose.

Both sides continue to campaign relentlessly, attempting to get their points

across. Some, though, have differing opinions of the candidate's motivation.

"Candidates are really just interested in publicity," said Junior Tyler Erickson.

Whether publicity driven or not, politicians have, are,

and will continue to spend millions of dollars in an attempt to garner our interest. Even with this, an overwhelming trend is surfacing. The majority of BHS students just don't care.

Senior Privileges Continued from page 4

making copies of their pass, they will lose their privileges that they long awaited for. This consequence didn't have much affect on past seniors; many had lent their passes to underclassman. Of 60 current seniors polled, 42 percent have either used someone else's pass or used a fake pass as an underclassman to get out of AAA.

Nonetheless, only five people did get caught, but never ended up losing their future privileges.

"I think it's stupid when underclassman try to get out of AAA when it's suppose to be for seniors only," said Senior Naomi Riley. "They should just wait; hence the name 'Senior Privileges,'"

Another favorite privilege of students is "Senior Skip Day," a day where seniors do not have to come to school while the rest of the student

body does. This is held the day before prom, letting seniors relax or plan for their big night.

"I think 'Senior Skip Day' is a good idea, it gives you time to prepare if you're going to the dance the next day," said Senior Danielle Lewis. "I knew of a lot of people that used the extra day to get their nails done or just enjoy the day to do whatever,"

Even though there may be only three senior privileges, they are very well liked by the majority of the students. "The Senior Breakfast" was used as an informative meeting, giving information to seniors about upcoming events, having "No AAA" is a reward for all the years of hard work students put in, and "Senior Skip Day" is a day for seniors to enjoy themselves and get an extra day off from school. All these things are used to enlighten and enrich every seniors' last few weeks in High School.

Students enjoy eventful spring break

Jamie Johnson
Staff Writer

Sunny beaches and tropical islands are popular places to travel, especially over spring break. Spring break is a big deal to a lot of schools and students in most areas. It is a chance for everyone to get out and go on vacation. It is also a chance for a week in warmer weather.

"I chose to go to South Dakota to see my family and to see the beautiful landscape," said Sophomore Jessica Wilkens. "The only downfall will be the ten hour drive there."

Sixty-seven percent of the students said they spent their time with friends during this week of paradise. Spring break also gave the staff and students time to catch up on the missed sleep a regular school week can cause.

"Sleeping is a part of spring break which I enjoy very much," said Freshman Charlie Maas.

"I sleep because I am not going anywhere and have nothing better to do. Sleep is your friend."

Thirty-four percent of students traveled somewhere over spring break. Twenty-six percent of students said they liked to travel to warm places with their families.

"Spring break is a time to go out and get a tan," said Senior Kayla Yager. "It is a lot of fun going to other places and not staying cooped up in Minnesota."

Forty-three percent of students said they enjoyed going to the mall, catching a movie, or listening to CD's during their break. It was a time to relax if students weren't traveling.

"I plan on sitting around and doing nothing for the week," said Junior Jeremy Peterson. "I just want to hang out with my friends and have a lot of fun."

Spring break had a different meaning to everyone, no matter what they planned on doing.

Opinions

The MCA TESTS: WHOSE STANDARD IS IT

COLUMNIST



ROB NEWTON

Now I know what you're all thinking. "Here comes another kid ripping about the MCA test. 'Oh, I don't want to take the test! I'm lazy!'" Well you know what? You're fairly correct because griping is exactly what I'm going to use to waste this chance to let my own voice be heard.

It's not a big secret by now that few people in my junior class were less than pleased with the mathematics test we just took. Of course, you say, there is always going to be a group of people to complain about any test, but this one seemed to chap my hide a little more than the tests in the past did. Right off the bat I was a little irritated by the hype the test was given. It was made very public that this test was "extremely important" and that I should take it seriously. Why you might ask? Well, school pride was a big issue. I guess it has a lot to do with how our school looks compared to other ones. It also makes an impact on our transcripts, so I hear. These are all fine reasons, but I soon after became aware of some "consequences" that would

come into effect should someone oppose the almighty MCAs.

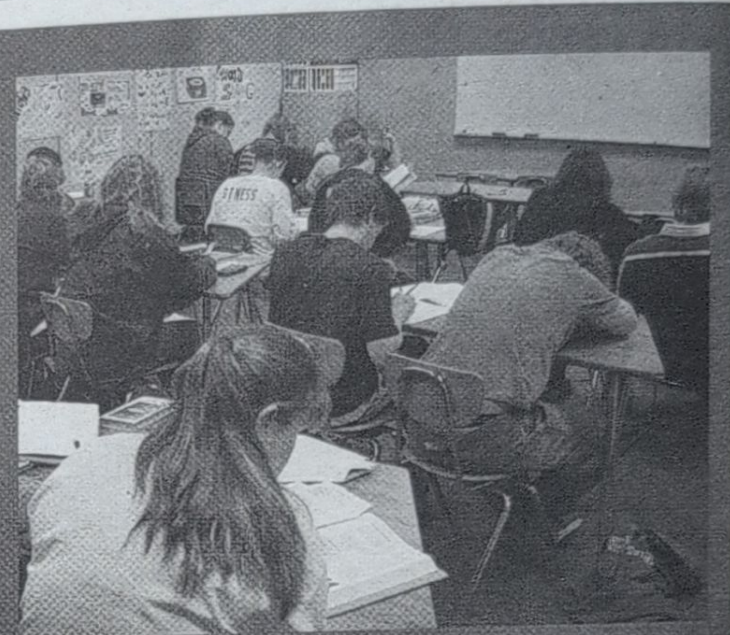
Several teachers informed me that possible consequences, including the loss of our senior privileges next year - as well as being denied access to the senior prom - may be implemented if students blew off the test. Now correct me if I'm wrong, but I don't remember those being addressed on the loud speaker, do you? I'll admit, I could really care less about my senior privileges or prom, but I'm willing to assume that some people just might. That's why I think that the situation could have been handled a little more professionally.

Now these are very petty things, I mean, they don't really affect anyone, but do any of them really provide an incentive to try as hard as you can on the test? I didn't think so, certainly not when I watched my senior peers march out of school early on practice day. Certainly not when the notion crept into my head that some of my friends who may not have given 110% on the test last year were snuggling warmly in their big comfy beds, while we sat through 160 minutes of math problems. I mean, I love math as much as the next guy, but when I am required to decide which time on a regular clock makes a 20 degree angle it has become a tad bit ridiculous. I don't want to sound ignorant, or intolerant, but there were a lot of terms and ideas on that test that I

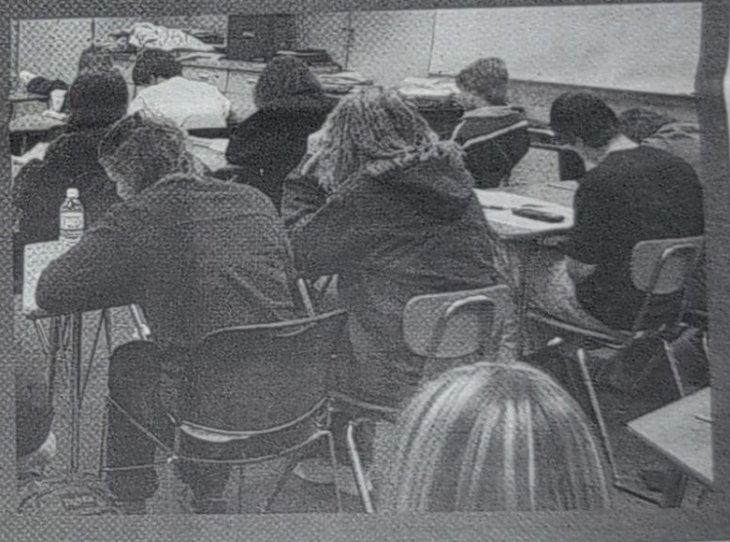
had never seen before, ever. By the end of the two plus hours of sitting I was less concerned with making the school look good, and more concerned with getting the hell out of that chair.

So what can I say, I'm a big whiner. I'm sure most of you probably enjoyed the test, and wanted to go again afterwards. I don't have any grand ideas on reforming the test, but I've always wondered why they don't just document our learning from the hard material we produce in class. The tests we already take, the quizzes, the projects. Do they not represent my mental capacity enough?

I'm told that the results from such an act would not be standard, and that it just wouldn't work. Well you know what? For someone who is anything like me this system does not work. How can my intelligence be rated by a test that does not reflect the information that I've been taught? This census was about as standard for me as a pop quiz in a random issue of Cosmo. Whoever is running the show here needs to realize that all material in school is taught in different ways depending on who is teaching it. They need to understand that standard testing is simply impossible because there is no standard anymore, only multiple perspectives regarding similar subjects. They need to hear this, and know that the only cranium factor that they're influencing for me is the size of the vein in my forehead.



BHS revamped its MCA test preparation techniques this year. Practice test dates were scheduled along with AAA help sessions. Teachers and administration also persuaded juniors to put forth their best efforts on the tests. Photos by Ryan McCallum



Victory Sports Network keeps Twins fans away

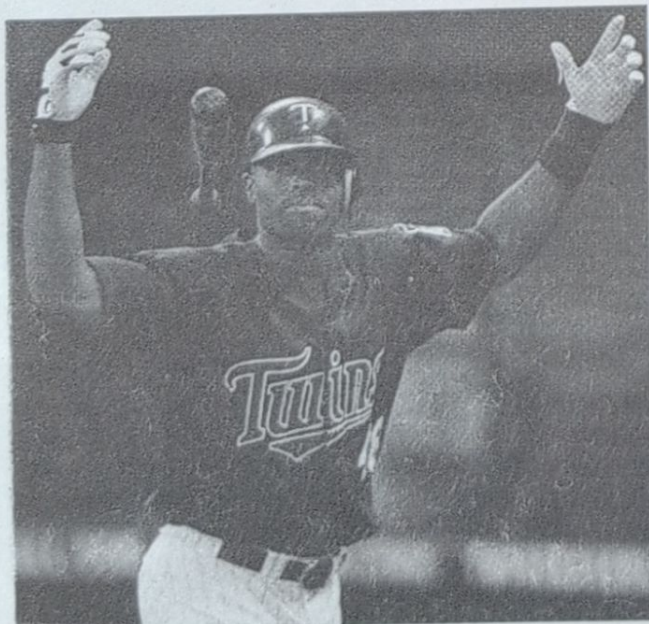
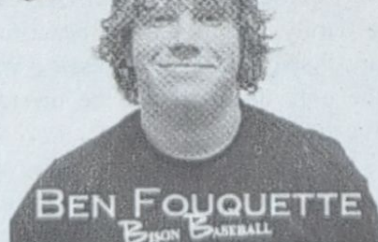


Photo courtesy of The Star Tribune

COLUMNIST



BEN FOUQUETTE
BISON BASEBALL

The 1991 World Series is raging. St. Paul native Jack Morris is keeping millions on the edge of their couches and glued to their televisions. As Gene Larkin lifts a fly ball to left, and Dan Gladden, hair fluttering behind, trots home, the throngs of Twins fans inside the Dome and out revel in a World Championship.

The pictures are engrained in all Twins fans minds. Sadly, radio sound clips may have to replace the vivid images. The Carl Pohlad-led Victory Sports One sports network will broadcast the majority of Twins' games this year. Squabbling between Victory and the area's major cable and satellite providers will effectively deny most Minnesota residents ability to watch the team.

The billionaire Pohlad and broadcasting moguls like Charter, Comcast, and DirecTV are arguing over pennies. This playground fight brings the forefront just how greedy and mindless some people and companies can be.

This summer will be my first without being able to closely follow

the Twins. No matter how many games I attend or how much I can scrape up from local channels, I still feel that I'm losing one of the great and pure things I once held dear.

But how pure is Major League Baseball? With steroid accusations, ever increasing salaries (New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox, etc.), and faltering revenue (Twins, Montreal Expos, Milwaukee Brewers, etc.); maybe baseball's time as America's pastime is waning.

Corporate struggles like the one being waged over Minnesota's TV waves will only quicken the down-

• TWINS

Continued on page 7

Night of the swimming dead

Brooke Sandahl
Staff Writer

As I grew up in, Burnsville Minnesota, the first six years of my life, I was exposed to many fish deaths due to fishing trips and things of the sort. Early in my life I discovered that taking care of fish was not one of my specialties. A series of experiences had taught me this, ranging from killing a fish by feeding it too much, to getting the hook caught in the back of the fish's throat when I went fishing.

The most horrific fish demise that I have ever caused was when I was in about 7th grade. My family had just bought two beautiful goldfish. They were so cute. (They were so gold and fish-like. They were goldfish.) We triumphantly brought them home like one might bring home a gold medal. There they swam in their little plastic bag.

We all took turns holding and admiring those two fish. "Oh look," someone would cry, "the fish just made a bubble!" We were all so excited and amazed that we owned two breathing, living fish. We bought them food—but not just any kind of food—special food. Food made especially for goldfish. Our goldfish deserved the best. We bought them spring water and a clean, shiny bowl. We

poured glittering, decorative stones into the bottom of the bowl and filled it with the clear water. We then placed our sacred fish into the bowl. There they swam, side by side, in the perfect world we had created for them.

After we had gotten done watching them for quite some time, one of us stated that they were starving and they needed food... quickly! We placed a couple flakes of this special food into the water and waited. The fish continued to swim around, purposely ignoring the generous offer of food. "What are you doing?", I thought. "Eat!" So we put a couple more flakes in (because if the fish sees that there is more food, of course they will eat it.)

Soon, the top layer of water had a pretty good amount of food on it. They still ignored it, so we left uninterested in their eating habits. We still said hi to the fish, after a couple of days, and petted them. (Because if you don't pet them, they won't feel loved.)

We also continued to pour in the food every day. After about a week we noticed that one of the goldfish wasn't looking too good. So we petted him a little more, gave him more food, and talked to him.

The next morning he was dead. Our poor, little beloved fish. It just wasn't the

same without him. No longer could I wake up and watch him swim around in his cute fishy way. I could never watch a cute bubble float up from his mouth.

No, there was only one goldfish left. We still loved him, but he was all alone. We had to find some friends for him. So we thought, and we thought, "Where could we find some more fish?" All of a sudden we had a brilliant idea. The lake! We lived near a lake, and we could set him free and he would have friends and be happy.

So that's what we did. We let our little fish go, and commented on how much he had grown in the past week. I still don't know if he survived, but I hope he did. My family continued to buy fish, but could never seem to keep them alive. So when my dad suggested that we buy a fish aquarium and put in exotic fish, I just shook my head sadly and smiled. My heart goes out to all of those poor fish that are sold daily to Americans. I don't think their life span is that great. Maybe it's just my family that can't seem to keep them alive. I'll never know what killed the goldfish. Was it because we petted him too often? Too much food? Too little of a bowl? Not enough friends? I will never know, but I don't think that it would be wise for me to buy any fish in the near future.

• TWINS

Continued from page 6

turn. Casual fans will dissipate and any hope for a new stadium or even the continued existence of major league baseball in Minnesota will fall under serious question.

I doubt Victory or any of television providers realize just how much they will be impacting the future of baseball in Minnesota. I know they don't know how much they are impacting me. When I see the retro logo of the two Twins shaking hands over the Mississippi, I can't help but envision the two trying to rip a dollar bill out of each other's hands.

Hopefully, the argument will be settled and my despair will subside. In the mean time I will sit listening to the radio. Herb Carneal, John Gordon and the "Dazzle Man" will be my eyes and ears. As good of announcers as they are, they still can't describe a Torii Hunter catch or a Matthew Lecroy stolen base. Nor can they describe the disappointment that fills the minds of Minnesotans, who helplessly dangle from the dollar bill being fought after by those two smiling Twins.

GAY MARRIAGE? MORE LIKE CIVIL RIGHTS

COLUMNIST



America is the most religious country in the world. Surveys show that 92% of the country believes in God or a higher power. Many religions believe that homosexuality is sinful. Because of this, the gay community has a tough road ahead of them. As a Wisconsin Synod Lutheran, I also believe homosexuality is sinful, but I in no way believe homosexuals are any more sinful than heterosexuals. In the Bible, we are told that a sin is a sin. Homosexuality is not the ultimate evil in today's society. It will not lead to the downfall of our nation. Unfortunately, there are religious leaders that celebrate the killing and suffering of homosexuals. At a website called god-

hatesfags.com, a man called Fred Phelps preaches hate. But isn't this hate just as sinful as homosexuality?

The issue has always been controversial, but lately it has been brought into the spotlight by legislation in Massachusetts allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry. This is an issue important to gay and lesbian couples because they want to have their union legally recognized like any other couple. There are also legal and financial advantages to a legal marriage, such as insurance benefits and being able to file joint income tax returns. Under current laws, if your partner dies, you are not necessarily entitled to his estate. In another situation if he or she becomes ill you may not be able to participate in medical decisions or even to visit the person if their family objects. To me this is not an issue of marriage, but an issue of civil rights. There should be no controversy as long as the state

does not force churches to perform gay or lesbian marriages. They should be acknowledged by the state, so they can have the same rights as straight couples.

I worry for the gay community right now. In San Francisco, they are marrying gay couples even though it is against the law. By doing this gay and lesbian couples may be scaring away the people who are willing to help. People are less willing to help those who will disregard the law, because they do not want to suffer the repercussions of those actions. The cause is good, but breaking the law is not a good means to an end. The beautiful thing about America, hate or love it, is that the majority of the population can change those laws that they believe are unjust without resorting to civil disobedience.

God loves everyone, even those who disobey him. Homosexuals are not the only ones who disobey God. I disobey God, you disobey God, and even the

president disobeys God. The religious community must remember this. In the Bible, there was a time when the Pharisees were going to stone a woman caught in adultery. Christ said to them, "Anyone of

you without sin can cast the first stone."

And the stones fell to the ground. I will not cast the first stone against the homosexuals' cause.



Michael Heaston, left, and Peter Cleary of Portland leave Multnomah County Offices in Portland, Ore., Friday, March 12, 2004, after registering their marriage with the county clerk. The county continued to issue licenses to same-sex couples after the Attorney General, Hardy Myers issued a non binding opinion against it. (AP Photo/Greg Wahl-Stephens)

Dylan plays to sold-out crowd at the Wilkins

Steve Vannelli
Staff Writer

On yet another leg of his colossal tour, Bob Dylan (and his band) showed up to perform for a packed house on March 10, 2004 at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium.

Dylan played songs from his most recent creative effort "Love and Theft" while sprinkling in classic tunes throughout the set like "Stuck Inside of Mobile with the Memphis Blues Again". He later dusted off "Like a Rolling Stone" and "All Along the Watchtower" for his first encore and "Rainy Day Women #12 & 35" for the second.

The crowd was a very diverse melting pot of generations, and it was on its feet the whole time.

Dylan was backed by a solid and

unique band. Equipped with two drummers (George Recile and Richie Hayward) the band had a very thunderous sound. Guitarists Larry Campbell and Freddy Koella made the music shine with some impressive guitar work.

Aside from the occasional meandering improvisation from Koella, his lead work was very powerful. Tony Garnier filled out the bottom end of the soundscape on bass. Unfortunately, Bob mostly played keyboards and sang but he did spice things up with some soulful harmonica.

This is Dylan's third area performance in seventeen months. He is definitely a regular home state performer.

The sold out crowd of 5,899 just couldn't get enough and they just keep coming back for this living legend.

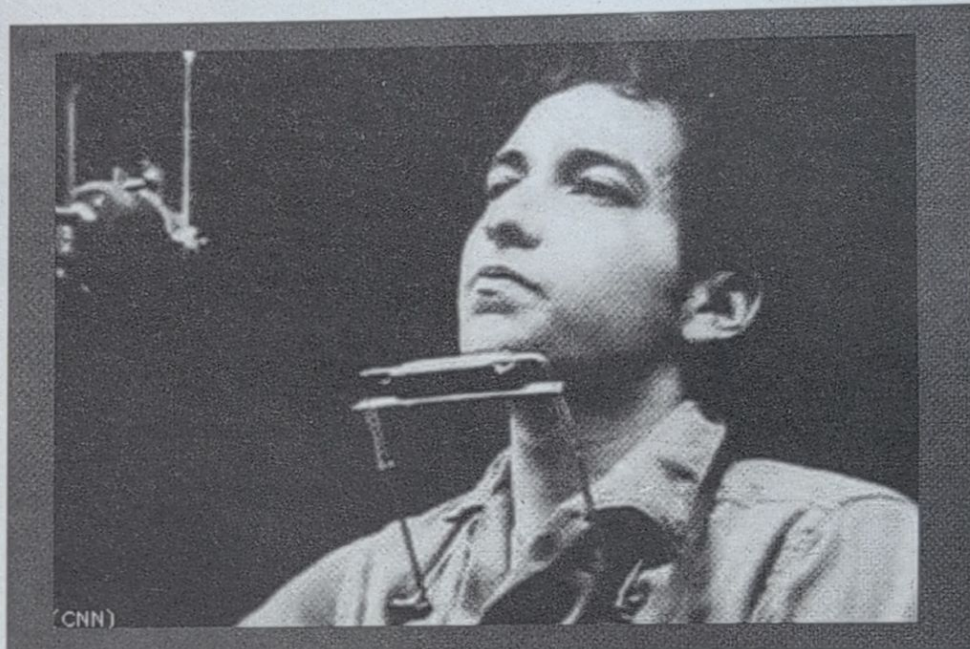


Photo courtesy of CNN

Angel no more: Prime Time shows cancelled

Cody Holmberg
Staff Writer

Executive producers of two popular television stations, the WB and NBC have begun their spring cleaning. Soon The Sharon Osbourne Show and Angel, which air on the WB, and NBC's The Wayne Brady Show will be unplugged from their main outlets.

The WB network has decided to cancel Sharon Osbourne's late-night talk show due to a low 1.1 average rating during the last week in January.

By comparison, Ellen DeGeneres' new talk show averaged a 1.9 rating for the same week.

Angel, the vampire without a soul, was staked on Friday, February 13 when he heard that the currently airing fifth season will be his last. The series finale will leave open the possibility of a sixth season.

Wayne Brady's talk show, which airs on NBC is being cancelled due to low ratings.

Osbourne's in-your-face attitude and foul language did not sit well with daytime viewers, including the thirty-two percent of students who watch the show and wish it would end. The show is still in production

and will be off air some time this summer. This ran fine by Sharon, who has reportedly been trying to twist her way out of her contract with the WB ever since her husband Ozzy's accident. There is no hope of the show ever coming back.

A Tribune spokesperson told the Chicago Tribune: "We haven't renewed the show... we've told them we're not interested."

The cast of Angel was told by its producers that the show would be shooting its finale this season. With seventeen percent

of student viewers, nine percent think the show has been on long enough. Luckily for the producers, Warner Brothers told them in advance so now they can plan on the ending.

"It is wrong to cancel Angel, I like that show. It has vampires, villains, demons, ghosts..." said Sophomore **Tim Bennit**.

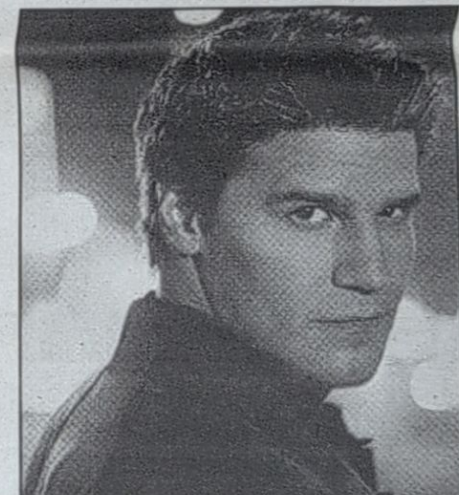
Wayne Brady's daytime talk show has been wandering in dark alleys this season with a 1.0 rating.

Although twenty-five percent of students think the show

is alright, most are not in the slightest bit bothered that the Brady show is being cancelled.

Buena Vista, owned by Disney, made Tony Danza the new talk show host. He will debut in the fall. Until then, and throughout the month of May, Brady will remain host.

Brady and Osbourne plan to air a finale together as a final fare- well party. As for Angel's David Boreanaz, he will most likely have other acting offers after playing the leading role of Angel for the past seven years.



David Boreanaz as Angel. Photo courtesy of ezboard.com

Forever Tan & Aqua Massage

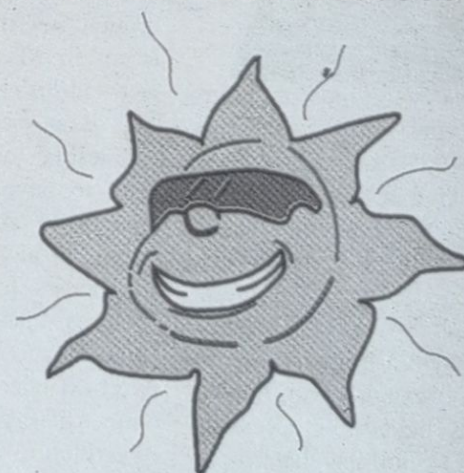
"You've tried the rest, now come and experience the best."

One month unlimited \$43.08 includes tax

Save \$45 when you purchase our 5 for \$35 package and try all our five levels of beds.

Refer your friend at you can tan or enjoy an Aqua Massage for FREE!

One free elite session or Aqua Massage per referral. Referrals must present a referral card (available at Forever Tan). Referrals must be a new client and purchase a package to qualify.



763.682.6037

Located next to Wal-Mart in Buffalo

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

Mel strikes controversy with *The Passion*

Kathleen Dehmer
Staff Writer

Lord of the Rings: The return of the King, Finding Nemo, and Pirates of the Caribbean, these are just some examples of movies in the past year that inspired action figures, toys, and continual chat during and well after, their release. But no movie has created as much controversy as Mel Gibson's new film: *The Passion of the Christ*.

From the western shore of California, to the eastern tip of Maine, it inevitably sparks conversation. It didn't skip by Buffalo. On February 25, the day of its release, our hometown Cinema did not fail to fill with anxious residents preparing to be among the first to view the film.

Using 30 million of his own dollars, Gibson created a film that scarcely compares to any film done before. Unless the viewer speaks fluent Latin, subtitles are the only way to keep up with the context of the film. This aspect did not seem to dampen the affect for viewers.

"It gave more of a picture of what Christ went through for us," said Junior **Randy Vidmar**. "It made me appreciate what Jesus has done for me."

The film focuses on the last twelve hours of Christ's life. Gibson said that this was the pinnacle of Christ's sacrifice.

"It was really touching", said Freshman

Krystal Anderson, "It made me appreciate Christ a lot more because now I've seen what he went through."

The movie created enough controversy to earn Gibson an interview on ABC with Diane Sawyer. The interview focused on his new film, and the accusations of anti-Semitism.

Offended Jews accused Gibson and his film of being anti-Semitic by blaming the Jews for the death of Christ. They fear the affect the film will have on Judeo-Christian harmony.

"Personally I thought it was a really good movie, it had people talking and freaking out for weeks," said Senior **Angelica Montantes**. "Any movie that has that much power is a good one for me! It was gory. But I still enjoyed it."

While 95% of students shared satisfied reviews, the film did not intrigue others. Although religion and beliefs served as the main reason students went to see the film, this same aspect deterred others from seeing it.

"It doesn't look interesting," said Senior **Dan Bebus**, "I'm not into movies that deal with religion and have sub-titles."

Although 23% of students actually attended the film so far, most students claimed they lacked the time or money to go. Of those who had not seen it 35% showed interest or intent to see it in the future.



Photo courtesy of New Market Film Group

Incubus releases original CD

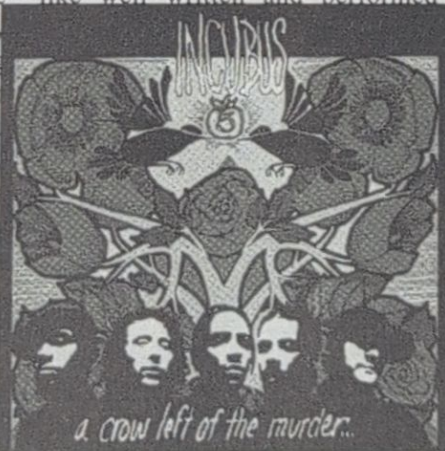
Terry Kalk
Staff Writer

The latest release by the alt-rock band Incubus, *A Crow Left of the Murder*, is a worthy follow-up to their 2001 Platinum album *Morning View* and their 1999 platinum release *Make Yourself*. The sound of Incubus is a unique blend of heavy rock style with some hip-hop beat and rhythm. This album is a nice change from the other CD's out now because Incubus has a sound of its own, and not all the songs sound the same.

A Crow Left of the Murder is the band's fifth major recording. The sound in some of the songs like "Megalomaniac", which has

been number one on the billboard charts for over three weeks, goes back to their heavier musical roots which were more present in their first two albums *Fungus Amongus* and *S.C.I.E.N.C.E.* *A Crow Left of the Murder* draws you in with the smooth, harmonic vocals sung by lead singer Brandon Boyd during the first few minutes of "Megalomaniac" then keeps you listening with the rhythmic grungy sound of the chorus. The album as a whole flows very well, and can be listened to from beginning to end. The best tracks are "Megalomaniac", "A Crow Left of the Murder", "Agoraphobia", "Talk show on mute", "Zee Devel" and "Here in my room" in which Boyd

sings "you enter and close the door behind you, now show me the world seen from the stars, if only the lights would dim a little, I'm weary of eyes upon my scars". If you like good rock music and you like well written and performed



Hidalgo delivers a crowd-pleasing performance

Andi Leistico
Staff Writer

After witnessing the tragic experience of Wounded Knee Massacre, Frank Hopkins (Viggo Mortenson), who was half Indian, was emotionally depressed. He quit his job working for the Army as a dispatch rider and left behind his excit-

ing days of long distance horse racing to work in a road show.

After one of the shows, two men came and told Hopkins that the Arabian Sheik, Riyadh (Omar Sharif), had challenged him to participate in a 3000-mile horse race across the Arabian Desert.

Hopkins had to race against the best Arabian

horse racers and their purebred horses, but he wasn't an amateur either. He not only had to race against the best horse racers; he also had to survive the obstacles of the desert.

This movie never had a boring scene in it. Frank Hopkins was doing everything from dodging sand storms to saving Jazira (Zuleikha Robinson), the

Sheik's daughter. He had to find ways to survive thirst, hunger, and heat.

Hidalgo is an exciting, action packed movie that is a mix of Indiana Jones and The Mummy. This movie is rated PG13 but has a good moral of over-coming obstacles in your way and not letting other people's low expectations limit your dreams.

Band and Choir ready for New York City tour

Matt Sandahl
Staff Writer

Students crowd around the back of the bus, luggage spread across the parking lot in large clumps making it impossible to walk. They hand their belongings to the kid standing in the back of the bus and jump on to get a seat with a friend. That steady low hum of the three 56-passenger buses will become familiar as Concert Choir students get situated for their 20-hour ride to the Big Apple.

On April 28 the Concert Choir along with the Concert Band will leave Buffalo for New York City. 128 students and 12 adults will stay downtown in the Manhattan district during the six-day trip with the intent of taking full advantage of everything New York offers. During the Trip the kids will be doing "... a whole lot" said Music Director **Michael Walsh**.

"It's exciting," he said. "We're hoping to visit Ground Zero, Ellis Island, The Statue of Liberty, the UN Building, and NBC Studios."

But most importantly remains the visit they're taking to St. John the Divine Cathedral. Stretching two football field lengths long, and holding 5,000 people, makes this Church the largest Gothic Cathedral in the world, in which the Choir will sing.

"We're going to sing but I'm excited more to see a Broadway show, shop, and ride on the bus, they're so much fun, bonding with friends," said Junior **Kory Bonnell**.

The choir's purpose in New York may be singing, but their time won't be limited to just that. Students will also have the opportunity to see a Yankees game or a musical, take a ride to China Town or Times Square or the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"I want to have fun. I want to tour and visit everything that I possibly can. My main purpose is to have a good time," said Senior **Kelly Hannah**.

Most students look at the bus trip there and back as half the fun. The time to broaden ones horizons won't only take hold in the culture, entwined within the Big City but in relationships as well.

"I think that our friendships will deepen by having to sit by each other on the bus non stop 24/7," said Junior **Anna Schoess**. "Possibly we'll be driven out of our minds, but at least we'll know each other better, and friendships develop from that."

Track teams set sights on conference titles



Bang!

The gun fires as athletes shoot out of the blocks, marking the beginning to another year of track and field. With the 2004 spring sports underway, the track team is looking to get off to a record start. The team first met on March 15 when they discussed future goals and introduced the captains to the rest of the team. Coaches and captains alike shared their exceptionally high expectations for the team's success in the upcoming season.

"We are really looking forward to this season," said senior captain **Mitch VanBruggen**. "We have a lot of talent returning from last year. We are focused and we know what we want to accomplish."

The team struggled last year compared to the team's previous seasons where the returning talent offered experience and leadership to a much needed group of newcomers. This year's group is focused on winning the North Suburban Conference and getting as many participants to State as possible. This will not be an easy task with the competition within the conference continuing to produce record times.

"Irondale is the team to beat this year," said head track coach **Scott Palmer**. "They won the North Suburban Conference in both boys and girls last season."

Although the competition is looking as good as ever, Buffalo has always relied on its knowledgeable coaches and their expertise to set new athletes off on the right foot. With a balanced staff working with both the Track and Field aspects of the team, Buffalo is confident that they will go far. Palmer and **Jason Karn** navigate the runners while **Mary Bremmer** coaches jumpers and **Doug LaPlant** instructs the throwers.

"Ms. Bremmer has really helped me with my jumping over the years," said Senior **Robert Klatt**, "and off season sports like basketball have kept me in shape."

With new talent providing a fresh start and experienced captains and seniors leading the way, the track team hopes to have a successful season for Buffalo regardless of the sloppy handoff from last season.

-Matt Muntifering



Above: Junior Darby Ursell strides ahead of Senior Chad Anderson during practice.

Left: Kaylee Trogstad hurdles over the obstacles in her path during practice. Photos by Allie Houfer

Boys Golf team swings into a new season

Stefan Robinson
Staff Writer

The Buffalo Boys Golf season is in progress. Players look forward to the sport for its laid back pace and challenge.

Practice began March 15th and will run until early June. The coach and players alike look forward to the upcoming season, eager to return. Since last season the team has only lost one senior.

"Returning this year as the leaders are Senior **Chris Nelson** and Sophomore **Zach Braun**," said Coach **Charlie Keifenheim**. "They divided time between the second and third spots on Varsity last season and have always maintained low aver-

ages."

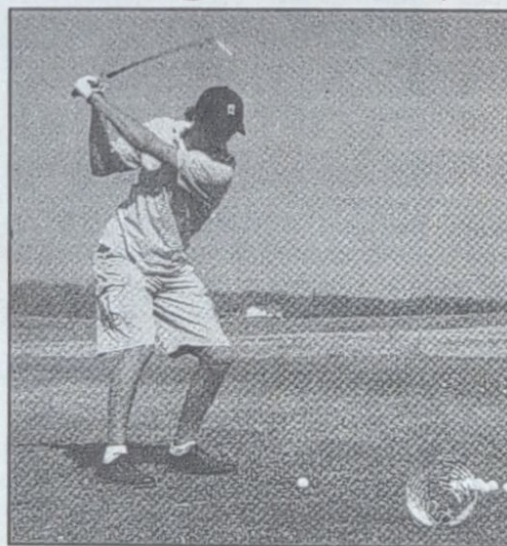
The team is hoping for a great outcome with all of their meets.

"I'm looking forward to the meet at The Ponds," said Junior **Paul Olson**. "Last year Varsity took last at the meet and it really hurt."

After a meet the team has bonding time at Wendys.

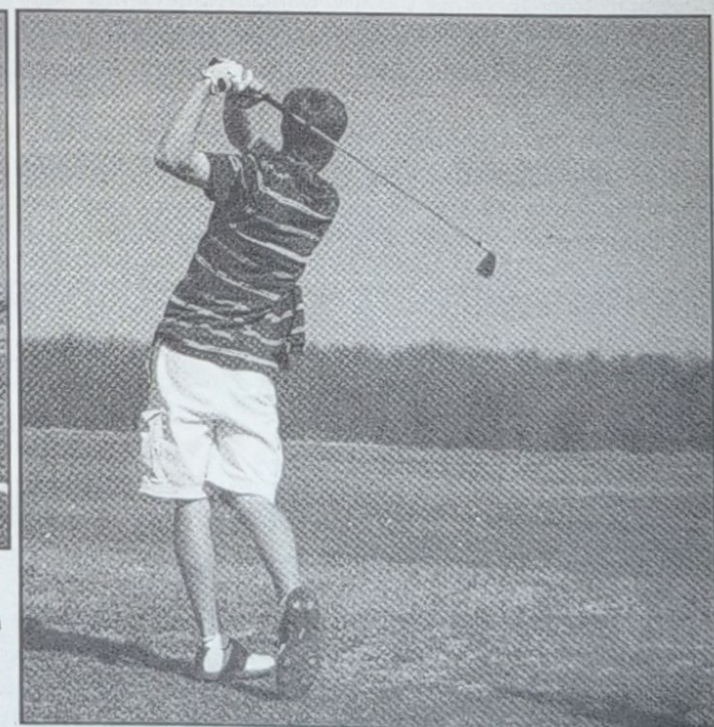
"There is a lack of tradition, besides the eating competitions," said Senior Nelson.

"The one tradition we have is the Wendy's 99 cent Value Menu Challenge," said Olson. "The idea is to try and eat everything on the menu."



Above: Sophomore Zach Braun focuses on the ball as he takes a swing during practice. Right: Junior Quinn Hoffmann follows through as he watches his shot sail. The team practices at a driving range at least once a week.

Photos by Anna McCarty



Spotlight Athletes



Name: Jordan Anderson

Grade: 11

Spring sport: Tennis

"I plan to continue playing in college if I make the team because it's fun and good exercise."

"He is one of 3 returning letter winners and will be counted on as a junior and captain to show leadership," said Coach Jeff Lindstrom.



Name: Heidi Schmidt

Grade: 12

Spring Sport: Adapted Softball

"You wouldn't think of softball as a special Olympic sport. We may have different rules but it's basically the same. It's fun and it is a way to connect and get to know a lot of other people."



Name: Zach Braun

Grade: 10

Spring sport: Boys Golf

"My favorite memory from golf is winning the conference tournament last year at Monticello."

"Zach began playing varsity golf as an eighth grader and last year as a freshman, he contributed to our team score at nearly every match. Zach is very consistent and has a great attitude for the game," said Coach Charlie Keifenhiem.



Name: Olivia Graham

Grade: 9

Spring sport: Softball

"My favorite softball memory is last year when, for sections, they asked me if I would play varsity. The one inning I played I struck two girls out and fielded a grounder to get the third out."

"She worked her way up to varsity as an eighth grader, she is very dedicated, works hard, as a lot of talent and a lot of potential," said Coach Brian Harapat.



Name: Katie Mahlberg

Grade: 12

Spring Sport: Girls Golf

"My favorite memory from golf is of Anne Elsenpeter. She was walking to get her ball, tripped over a yellow hazard rope, and did a face plant into the mud."

"Katie has outstanding leadership skills and we look forward to her ability to guide our team this year. She has shown good skills on the golf course and we look forward to her positive attitude with our golf team," said Coach Riti Sanderson.

By Susie Schubert

Baseball begins season 0-2

Reese Mankenberg

Staff Writer

The Buffalo Bison Varsity Baseball program is in full swing, under the direction of a new head coach and only three returning varsity players.

The team started the season 0-2, but it looks to improve by building up the new players' confidence and establishing connections between teammates during the game.

"It's been what I've expected so far," said senior Eric Mills. "It will take us a while to find our team chemistry, but when we do we'll be doing really well."

New head coach Mike Beilke and a lot of incoming player talent has kept the team optimistic.

"We have good pitching that will carry us a long way," Mills said, "and I like the coaching staff - they know what they're doing, and I think everyone is turning their games around because of it."

Even after a shaky start, the team has high hopes for the rest of the season.

"Our team is still developing because there are a lot of new players, but it looks like we'll be able to improve," said senior pitcher Randy Bethke.



Top: Junior Derek Bauer retreats back to second base by Junior Jason Weber after attempting to take third.

Bottom: Junior Brett Andrews runs from a tag by Junior Wes Christ.



New superintendent welcomed to 877

Kyle Anderson
Staff Writer

The District 877 school board announced on Thursday, February 5 that they have chosen a new superintendent to start in July of 2004. **Jim Bauck** will be starting as the new District 877 superintendent, after this school year. Bauck has been in the field of education for over 25 years and has been a superintendent for 11.

"We felt that after everything was said and done, that Jim was the best fit for our district," said school board chairperson **Rolf Mohlwinkel** in a press release from the district. "He will bring great energy, enthusiasm and experience to the position."

Bauck did not have a great deal of knowledge about our school district except that he liked the environment of our schools, solid district reputation, and great community support. He would like to maintain and improve the school district.

"Until I get there, it is yet to be determined," said Bauck.

Bauck has served in the position of superintendent in Owatonna for nine years.

He also served as superintendent in Lakeville for two years.

"I really enjoyed my time in Owatonna," Bauck said.

Owatonna district has 15,000 students and 700 staff. Buffalo has about 5,000 students and 600 staff.

A secretary in Owatonna said, "We certainly will miss Jim. He's a good guy."

Bauck's wife works in Owatonna as the health services coordinator and they "definitely" plan on moving to Buffalo.

One of the achievements that has been in Owatonna since Bauck started there according to Bauck is that, "We [the district] have been able to maintain and improve the quality of the school district and get community support on bond issues."



Dr. Jim Bauck

Students react as the battle for the White House begins

Adara Bonnell
Staff Writer

On November 2, we the people will be asked to elect a President. We'll be asked to put our lives and future in the hands of someone we think is smart and confident, a leader for the people. The hard part though, is deciding who to choose.

"I want to vote because I want to be a part of my government," said Freshman **Megan Czanstkowski**. "I don't want to not know anything because the choices they make concern everyone, not just themselves."

There are two leading candidates running for our vote. They are Republican President George W. Bush and Democratic Senator from Massachusetts John Kerry. Both are significantly popular across America which brings us back to choosing just one.

"I think every vote counts and I want to vote for who I think should be president," said Sophomore **Amy Frisvold**.

Bush is currently the 43rd President of the United States of America. He was born July 6, 1946. He served in the Air National Guard and graduated from Yale. While in office, he has raised standards in public schools, signed a tax relief to provide rebate checks and lower tax rates, declared the War against Terrorism, and increased pay and benefits for the military. He is still

working to save and strengthen Social Security and Medicare. Previously he was Governor of the state of Texas.

"I am very happy with the job Bush has done," said Junior **Kris Lane**. "Everything important that he has promised he has come through with. I would trust him in any decision he made."

John Kerry, born December 11, 1945, also graduated from Yale. He was in the Navy and served in Vietnam. He then continued his studies and graduated from Boston College Law School and was the top prosecutor in Middlesex County. In 1982, he became Lieutenant Governor, and in 1984, he ran and was elected to serve in the US Senate. He was re-elected in 1990, 1996, and again in 2002. Now serving his fourth term, he believes in reforming public education, protecting the environment, and strengthening the economy.

"He seems to show good leadership quality and his opinions and views are different from President Bush," said Senior **Nicole Kollm**.

After surveying Buffalo High School students, Bush pulled ahead with 51%, followed by Kerry with 30%. While these students have decided, 18% still had no clue as to who they would vote for.

"I would vote because one vote can make a difference," said Sophomore **Michael Bennett**.

College Financial Planning Night

Presented by

John Sundman, CPA

President Financial Aid Consultants, LLC

Workshop topics to include:

- How to send your child to college without spending your life's savings
- How to increase your tax deductions
- What assets are taken into consideration when applying for aid
- How to **maximize** your aid
- How to pick colleges that get the best financial aid package

Thursday, April 22, 2004

7:00 PM

Monticello Community Center
Boom Island Room

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

7:00 PM

Discovery Elementary
Room 205

**Reservations necessary, please call
763-682-3229**

• BLOOD

Continued from page 1

"I don't know where exactly it goes and I need it."

Another factor restraining souls from partaking in this event is that of discom-

fort. After all, it is a needle being injected into a vein, and pumping out a pint of blood.

"I felt cool [after donating] and then I helped myself to some complimentary snaky-snacks, then I thought I was going to spew," said Junior **Allison Mosher**.

She recovered.

April 2004 Activity Calendar

Monday 19	Tuesday 20	Wednesday 21	Thursday 22	Friday 23
4:00 JV Girls Golf vs. Cambridge-Isanti (away)	4:00 V. Boys Tennis vs. Totino(away) 4:15 V. Baseball vs. Spring Lake Park (home) 4:15 V. Softball vs. Cambridge (home) 4:00 Track meet (home)	3:00 V. Girls Golf vs. Monticello (away) 4:00 V. Boys Golf vs. St. Francis (away) TBD Band Festival Section 8AA	4:00 Track Meet (home) 3:15 V. Boys Golf vs. Monticello (away) 7:30 Spring Play in PAC	TBD V. Softball Tournament (Mankato) 4:00 V. Tennis vs. Princeton (home) 7:30 Spring Play in PAC
26	27	28	29	30
4:00 Track Meet away @ Cambridge 7:30 NHS Induction in PAC 1:00 V. Boys Golf away @ Burl Oaks	4:00 V. Tennis vs. Monti (home) 4:15 V. Baseball vs. St. Francis (home) 4:15 V. Softball vs. Spring Lake Park (home)	12:30 V. Boys Golf vs. Monticello (away) 3:00 V. Girls Golf vs. St. Francis (away)	4:00 Track Meet invite away @ Monticello 4:15 V. Baseball vs. Totino(away) 4:30 ADP Co-Ed. Softball vs. Dakota (home)	4:00 V. Boys Tennis vs. Hutchinson (away) 4:15 V. Baseball vs. Benilde (away)