



Happy Holidays

THE BLAZER

Flushing High's Independent Voice

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Quiz Bowl is a game of quick reflexes

by Mike Williamson

You might have seen them on television or read about them in the newspaper, but you're not sure who these people are or what these often dubbed "brains" do. I'm talking about the Raider Quiz Bowl Team, consisting of students from ninth to twelfth grade who enjoy a trivia challenge. The biggest misconception about Quiz Bowl is that you have to be a genius or a brain surgeon to participate in the "varsity sport of the mind."

A large part of the game, perhaps the most important is instant recall. Many games are won or lost on the basis of "who buzzed in the fastest."

The Quiz Bowlers have already participated in a number of events this season, ranging from TV-28's "High School Challenge," bimonthly Genesee County meets (the team is currently 14-3), and a national computer contest, in which the Raiders racked

up 1240 points, consistent with the national average. The team owes a great deal of thanks for the time and dedication of the sponsors Mr. Kaza, chemistry teacher, and math teacher, Mr. Waltz.

"To see people compete in their special area of expertise and (having) the sense of ecstasy of victory and the agony of defeat (is the best part of being a sponsor)," said Waltz.

What does it take to be a Quiz Bowl member? Junior Jennifer Daig believes a person should have "intelligence, patience, and quick thinking."

Jason Bertschi indicated that you've "got to have good reflexes, a sharp mind, and the ability to work with others."

If you're a trivia buff or the type that know one wants to play "Jeopardy!" or Trivial Pursuit with, maybe Quiz Bowl is for you. The team practices every Wednesday in Mr. Waltz's room. Waltz sums up the game, "It helps to know a little about a lot and a lot about a little."

Pop can collection profitable for clubs

by Joe Blevins

Recently, the Pepsi Corporation has donated a number of blue plastic containers to be used for the collection of pop cans. These containers are found in the halls and the lunchroom. Ideally, the cans are to be collected by the student groups to raise funds. Unfortunately, this hasn't always been the case.

Many pop cans are being stolen instead of being collected by the groups. Mike Carter, who helped organize the pop can collection, is upset.

"These containers were bought for a reason, not (for) the easy theft of cans," Carter said.

Groups interested in collecting cans sign up with Mr. Workman. Despite theft, the fund raiser can make about \$25-\$30 a day.



photo by Pam Hollenbeck

Mr. Hedges helps out by putting his can in the new containers donated by Pepsi.



Photo by Pam Hollenbeck

On Ted Westerlund's 18th birthday his car was "stuffed" by Karl Parker, Sarah Halstead, Jennifer Lintz, and Sara Rice during third hour. "What did you do to my ride, Parker?" was his reaction.

Mr. Chase to assume new position at Junior High

by Christine Sarka

Mr. Chase will leave the high school January 21, 1991 to be the new assistant principal at the Junior High. This was decided Monday night at the Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Chase, who has been here at the High School for 19 years, earned his undergraduate degree at Central Michigan and a masters at Eastern Michigan where he studied Guidance and Counseling. He's continuing at Central to get a second masters in

administration.

Mr. Chase assures us that SLO will still exist. "Yes, there are a couple staff members interested in taking SLO over," he said. Donut sales should continue.

Everyone is curious about who's going to take over Mr. Chase's counseling job. That decision has not yet been made. Several people in the district are capable of doing the job. "Someone will replace me, but I'm not sure who," said Mr. Chase.

Satire

Flushing students flip over school lunches

by Jeff Zagaroli & Miss Moore

According to tradition, or even older brothers and sisters, many newcomers to the high school get the idea that school lunches aren't very appealing. But once they try one of these masterpieces, their minds (and taste buds) are changed forever. They just can't wait until the next day at school to get that tasteful piece of art. Some even buy two or three lunches, just for some to take home. Here's a typical way to get only the best from a school lunch.

First, after the lunch bell rings, it's first come, first serve. This usually means that most people, barring those gym students who seem to live in the lunchroom, sprint as fast as possible to get into line. But once in line, you've pretty much got it made. Everyone lines up single-file, and of course, no cutting. Also, there's actually two lines, one for getting lunches (which seems to be the popular line) and another line for getting milk and cookies, potato chips, even a fresh cheese roll,

straight from the oven. When you get up there, you place your order, which ranges from the best pizza in the Midwest, to tacos, straight from Mexico. There's chicken sandwiches, still steaming from the grill, and the infamous salad bar, which may be one of the best around. Another one of the top choices are chicken nuggets, one of my personal favorites. Included with the meal are french fries (better than McDonald's), especially doused in that awesome ketchup, which comes free with every purchase. There's good, nutritious juice, and sometimes, if you're lucky, you even get a roll. By now you've been in line about seven minutes, but it's time well spent, since you're having fun talking and joking with friends and even teachers, if one is so fortunate.

Finally, you get to the front of the line, pay your well-spent \$1.35, and try to find an open table in the last twenty minutes you have left in this glorious lunch half-hour.

ON THIS DATE

Birthdays

Josh Gibson, 1911, in professional baseball, the "Negro Babe Ruth"

On this date . . .

- In 1620 the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock
- 1st crossword puzzle (with 32 clues), printed in New York.
- First feature-length cartoon with color and sound premieres... "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"

THE BLAZER

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Jenny Keely, Chrissy Marston, Brenda Kidder, Sarah Hazzard, Alexis Sammon, Kirsten Ratza, Jeff Grieve, Tara Dunlop

Adviser - Ms. E. Sharrow

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It is *The Blazer's* responsibility to strive for the highest standards of accuracy, completeness, and careful research in its presentation of material. It is our policy to address all persons fairly. Errors of fact should be called to our attention, and corrections will be printed in the subsequent edition.

The Blazer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters may be delivered to the journalism room (121) or in adviser Ms. Sharrow's office mailbox. Unsigned letters will not be published, although the name may be withheld for an acceptable reason. Letters will be edited for grammar and spelling. *The Blazer* will not print letters judged libelous, obscene or in poor taste.

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Satire

Bathrooms are so pleasant

by Maureen Fauster & Karen Vance

I feel privileged to have use of such sanitary and well-equipped bathrooms as the ones that are here. First of all, I never need to worry about missing the latest gossip. All I have to do is read the inside of the stalls, and I'll know right away who loves who and who hates who.

It's also wonderful to walk in and smell the lovely aroma of cigarette smoke. What's even better is to come out realizing that yes, you too, smell like a cigarette. Guys will definitely want to be around you just so they can smell that attractive scent.

Wait! That's not the best part.

the bathrooms are an excellent social place too! You can meet so many interesting people as you ask them to hand you some toilet paper because your stall doesn't have any.

Perhaps the best part of all are the bathroom sinks. It's so enjoyable to guess which sink has a working faucet. If by chance you do find one and you do wet your hands, then you will be even more surprised to find that there is no soap. That's okay, your hands probably weren't very dirty anyway.

Well, those are the finer points of the school bathrooms.

Our appreciation to DECA and Student Council for funding the spot color in this issue.

Raised to be ladies, girls not fit to fight

To the editor:

A question came up in my journalism class about the draft. The concern was about if women should be drafted. There's a lot of talk about women wanting equal rights and not being looked down upon. But do men really want a woman next to them on the line?

Men are all for women being drafted, but in a battle situation, they really discriminate against women. They call them weak and hysterical.

In our discussion one of the first words that came out of

a kid's mouth was "if a women next to me started going crazy, I'd shoot her." If women were there, would men really trust them? Some women would do really well out there, but most aren't strong enough to carry all the weight or heavy guns.

Most women were brought up with a "lady-like" manner. Not the aggressive attitude to conquer the world.

A main point is, do you really think most men would be supported of the women and treat them as equals in battle?

Kari Parker, 12

CONVERSING WITH KIRK

Before we go into battle let's listen to John Lennon

by Kirk Weber

"Love and Peace" were the dateless values John Lennon desired for the people of the world. If he were alive today he probably would have something important to say of our situation in Saudi Arabia.

One of the greatest peacemakers of the twentieth century was slain ten years ago this month. Though John Lennon died at the premature age of only forty, he left as one of the greatest musicians of our era. The founder and catalyst of the Beatles, he was the leader of the greatest band the world has ever seen. The 1960's and its people followed every step Lennon and the Beatles took, good or bad.

His honesty and style touched millions, and it can touch millions more. Always young at heart, John Lennon has many everlasting messages.

"All I'm saying is peace," Lennon said once.

"We're not pointing a finger at anybody. There are good guys and bad guys. The struggle is in the mind. We must bury our own monsters and stop condemning people. We're all Christ and we're all Hitler."

As a song writer, poet, husband, artist, philosopher and peacemaker Lennon's existence affected many hearts. You can read many books about him, but to totally understand this great man, you must listen to his music. He had a remarkable gift of putting words and thoughts together. His music influenced numerous people. In the early 1970's John obsessed himself in a quest for world peace. Young people, he felt, were the key to peace.

"Youth is the future. If we can get inside their minds and tell them to think in favor of non-violence, we'll be satisfied," remarked Lennon. "We are willing to become the world's clowns if it helps spread peace. Too many people talk about it but not enough do anything."

Lennon's words are significant even today. War is never the answer. Peace is the answer for the world. We should take note of this from him.

"As an artist, he understood the full range of human emotions; as a man he displayed great bravery," said Ray Coleman, author of the national bestseller "Lennon". "As a twentieth-century philosopher, he set an example of imagination and humanitarianism. Although he would hate to be deified, a light went out of December 9, 1980. But his music and his spirit shines on."

Underaged smokers concern Flushing

by Joe Blevins

Recently, something of a furor has been raised in Flushing concerning the banning of cigarette vending machines. Our mayor, Mr. Archie Bailey, has spearheaded this plan, which he deems to be an effective measure in limiting smoking among underage students. In the course of his duties as a counselor at Flushing Junior High School, he has seen many teens turn to smoking.

Smoking, it seems, looks more presentable than drinking, and less threatening than drug use. Thus, it has become the addiction of choice for many seventh and eighth grade students.

"We know there are kids who leave school in the afternoon and go downtown to buy cigarettes from vending machines," stated Bailey.

Is the banning of vending machines really going to make a dent in the number of students forming nicotine habits at this age? Surprisingly, it might for a select group of students.

This ordinance would work best with the type of young person who could be classified as a "class A" or "casual" smoker. A "class A" smoker is well-adjusted and popular, comes from a good home, and can be easily swayed by either slick cigarette ads, or grotesque anti-smoking ads. The ban may make

smoking too much of a chore for these smokers, who were only smoking for the sheer thrill of it.

An eighth grade boy, whom Flushing Junior High Principal Greg Jackson described as "rowdy", fit the description perfectly. He could hardly keep from giggling during a brief interview and looked nervous when the topic of smoking was introduced. "Casual" smokers are quite naive, and are still kids at heart. Not a week after the interview took place, this young smoker was trick-or-treating in an ax murderer costume. Like the immature trick-or-treater, most "casual" smokers aren't really heavy smokers, and would probably never work up the nerve to buy a pack of smokes over the counter.

Unfortunately, there also exists a breed of "class B" or "serious" smokers. It is a spiteful, embittered breed full of contempt for the conservative trappings of established society. A typical "class B" smoker has either home or school problems, and has latched on to smoking as a way of lashing out at the cold, cruel world which has spared the young smoker few hardships.

Another eighth grade boy, who seemed to live in an entirely separate world from the "casual"

smokers, was one of the unhappy members of this class.

He explained that he smoked because he enjoyed the rebellious stigma attached to smoking and breaking the rules. For him, nicotine was a necessity, just as any drug is a necessity for its addict. A "serious" smoker will shrug off the vending machine ban, and continue to buy cigarettes from one of the many gas stations and convenience stores that continue to sell cigarettes to minors.

The new ban might act as a roadblock which keeps occasional smokers from becoming habitual ones. For the "class B" smokers, however, this ban has already come far too late. For this "serious" smoker, the only alternatives are giving up smoking on his or her own or face the possibility of coughing up a living during adulthood.

As much as Mr. Bailey would like to believe differently, many students decide to take this riskier option before they enter high school. Perhaps the new-found pressure put on junior high schoolers is the root of the problem. All the vending machine bans in the world couldn't make those years less agonizing and painful for some previously well-behaved who cave into the temptation of smoking.

Face it people, the King is dead

by Nate Harden

Yes everybody, as hard as some people find it to believe, the so called King of Rock & Roll is no longer living.

Why can't some people believe this to be true? I have heard lines such as, "he's being reincarnated and will sing again someday". (Yea, sure he will.) When I go in stores I see Elvis revival tapes telling how he is still alive. The National Enquirer even had the nerve to give a picture of him, and say he has been

living in the mountains all this time. What do they take us for, idiots? Probably so, sense just

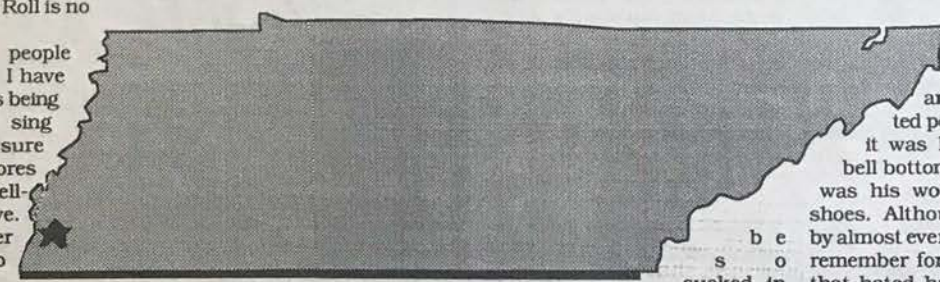
about every body in the south finally realize Elvis Presley is dead. What does it take for some one to

buy the story! music? Could it all be in the Kings

Some people even think it was the way he use to shake his wide pelvis

and overly large blotted pot belly. Others think it was his side burns and bell bottoms. I myself think it was his worn out blue swede shoes. Although Elvis was hated by almost every little girls parents, remember for every other parent that hated him there was about twenty screaming brats that loved him. Some of which probably still believe he is alive today.

Some people worship this rock singer or any musician, to the point that they almost worship them? people stop fooling themselves, and



Elvis Costello, rock'n'roll legend, is back

Rock classic's up/down career never brings "the king of new wave music" down

By Joe Blevins

Elvis, believe it or not is alive and definitely kicking, but it's not the rhinestone-encrusted pop crooner from East Tupelo, Mississippi. The Elvis in question is Elvis Costello, born Declan Mac Manus, a Buddy Holly look-alike from Liverpool whose bizarre love/hate relationship with the rock press is now thirteen years old. When Costello hit the rock scene in 1977, he seemed like something from another planet. With his first single, *Less Than Zero*, and first album, *My Aim is True*, Costello introduced his unique song writing technique of extravagant word play and a sense of irony, undercut with feelings of anxiety and guilt. All this would have been irrelevant, of course without the serious "bar band" sound provided by the backing band, Clover, an otherwise unsuccessful band whose members included Huey Lewis and Sean Hopper of Huey Lewis and the News.

Spurred by Top 20 success of *Aim* in England and critical accolades from U.S. rock critics, Costello formed the Attractions, a three-man backing band consisting of Steve Nason (keyboard), Pete Thomas (drum), and Bruce Thomas (bass). Their first album together, 1978's *This Year's Model*, had a harder edge than its predecessor, no doubt due to Costello's ruder image. As Costello's image was getting tougher, however, his marriage had fallen apart.

By 1979, Costello had developed a serious drinking problem. Ironically, the detached, synth-heavy *Armed Forces* which was released that year, is considered by some to be his finest work. These unfortunately were not good times. In March, Costello, quite drunk, commented to Stephen Stills of Crosby, Stills, and Nash that Ray Charles was a "blind, ignorant nigger." At once, the rock press, which had previously been supportive, launched numerous

attacks on him, even after a public apology. Costello, embarrassed and lacking credibility, laid low for a few months.

As luck would have it, Elvis and the attractions rebounded in march 1980 with *Get Happy!!*, an album often considered his essential work of the 1980's. The 20-song, almost 50-minute album, made up of short, tunes worth dancing to was a celebration of black music of the sixties, but still maintained a biting lyrical edge. Climbing to #11 on the U.S. charts, the album helped restore Costello to his rightful place as the king of "new wave" music.

The eighties were kind to Costello, though he never became a truly established rock legend. His later albums, *Trust* (1981), *Almost Blue* (1981), *Imperial Bedroom* (1982), *Punch the Clock* (1983), and a solo album, *King of America* (1986), charted well constantly and received generally positive reviews.

though some critics were disappointed that he wasn't the trail blazer he once had been. His 1986 reunion with the Attractions, which resulted in the blood-curdling *Blood and Chocolate*, was as well-received as it was short lived. Between 1981 and 1988, Costello only climbed onto the top 40 singles chart once, with *Everyday I Write the Book* in 1983, barely squeaking to #36. He is, however tied to Prince, Pat Benatar, Rush, and Barbra Streisand for having the second most albums reach the top 40 in the eighties. Only Kenny Rogers had more.

The album which helped Costello accomplish this feat, which the singer himself probably doesn't care about, is his 1989 solo album *Spike: The Beloved Entertainer*, named after comedian and bandleader Spike Jones. The album, which went gold and spawned the hit *Verotnia*, was a complete break in for the singer.

Continued on page 5

Big Dave Goes To The Movies

Stephen King's *Misery* an "Ogey Cockadodie Mess"

By Dave Finger

Misery
Rated R
2 1/2 Fingers

I have to admit I think most of the movies based on Stephen King stories are pretty good. With a few exceptions (*Cujo*, *Children of the Corn*, *Firestarter*, and *Carrie*) I think they match up to the books and sometimes they are even better (*The Shining*, *Christine* and *The Dead Zone*). But, although *Misery* was a fairly good movie, it didn't touch the book. It was decent, but the book was a classic.

Misery is about a best selling author named Paul Sheldon who, after just finishing a book, gets into an accident in a small Colorado town. He gets rescued by his self proclaimed "number 1 fan". Who then keeps him as her prisoner and forces him to write his greatest work...just for her.

During his stay with Anne Wilkes, she proceeds to torture him, like not giving him his pain medicine, or taking a sledge hammer to his legs.

Although the acting was good, I didn't like the way Paul Sheldon was characterized, as a quiet, not-a-care in the world kind of guy. When he burned his manuscript, you saw indifference in Caan's eye, even through the pain. The conclusion made up for the boring beginning. If you want to see a really good movie, see *Home Alone* instead. And if it's a Stephen King movie you're after *The Dark Half* and *Thinner* are in production. Starring: James Caan, Kathy Bates, Jerry Potter, Wendy Bowers, Richard Farnsworth as "Buster", and *Misery* the pig as herself

Don't have a cow- it's almost Christmas!



Grafic by Glenallen Skute

Next month:
Big Dave review's
Godfather III

Big Dave's ratings scale
Four Fingers and a thumb- Phenominal
Four Fingers- Great
Three Fingers- Pretty Good
Two Fingers- Fair
The Bird
The Cry-Baby Bird- Lower than low

Visible Changes
Tanning Nails
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Panama Jack Sportswear

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Places To Go

Who says there's nothing to do?

By Brian Gasperosky

Looking for something to do? There are still plenty of athletic events, dances, concerts, and other school events for everyone to attend. To start with, if your looking for a good concert to go to during Christmas break, or a big New Years bash, check out the Ted Nugent concert on December 27th at the Saginaw Civic Center. Ted will also play at the Cobo Hall on December 30 and 31. Tickets are \$25.

In sports varsity volleyball will hold the Flushing Invitational on January 5 of the new year. Hockey fans might want to watch Flushing play East Lansing at the IMA in arena 1 at one p.m. On January 7 the varsity and J.V. ski team will compete against Fenton at Mt. Holly starting at 4 p.m. Freshman Boys basketball will be playing Swartz Creek here at 7 p.m. The hockey team will play Clio at the IMA in arena 1. That game also starts at 7 p.m. The Varsity basketball team plays Mt. Morris at home on January 8 start-

ing at 6 p.m. On January 10 varsity and J.V. ski team faces Grand Blanc at Mt. Holly. Freshman boys basketball plays a home game against Powers at 7 p.m.

Other home games and meets for the month of January include a home game for the Freshman basketball team on January 28, varsity and J.V. volley ball will play on the 14 and the 21, the wrestling team will strangle Swartz Creek and Carman Ainsworth on the 17 of January at 5 p.m., and varsity basketball will be at home on the 11, 22, and 29.

Hockey and Skiing meets for the rest of January includes Ski meets at Mt. Holly on the 11, 14, 18, 19, 22, 24 and the 30. Hockey meets at the IMA will be on the 13, 19, 20, and 28.

Coming up in February is the Sadie Hawkins dance, the school play, a Fiddlers' Fest put on by the string orchestra, the Mock Rock, and much more.

Skullkrusher's Korner



The Third Eye sees 2 skulls, Detonator a big 3

by John Marcum



Redd Kross
The Third Eye



Ratt
Skulls by Steve Cole
Detonator

"I think its one of the hottest up and coming bands" says Brad Martin about Redd Kross, a some what new band with a punk sound. They haven't really been on the charts yet, but expect them to be there in the future. Some of the slower songs are *IDon't know how to be Your Friend* and *Bubble Gum Factory* they are not upbeat and fast but they have a good rhythm yet back beat. The more thrashin songs like *1976* and *Annie's Gone* are the ones with the beat and the ones I suspect to see on the upcoming charts.

If You didn't know, there's no school tomorrow-

A message from your friend, Vic Vasalino

It's just what I suspected from Ratt. They keep up the good work coming off what I thought to be their work *Reach for the Sky* they keep the good beat and rhythm with songs like *Lovin You's A Dirty Job* and *Believe Me*. I think we all know what they are talking about. Jeff Linscott says "it's a kicking tape with a lot of good songs" and I agree with him fully.

SkullKrusher's Skale
Four Skulls- Excellent
Three Skulls- Great
Two Skulls- Good
One Skull- Poor
No Skulls- Danzig

Doog Does Tunes

Grieve sure on Al B. Sure, George Michael also impressive

by Jeff Grieve

Al B. Sure!-Private Times and the Whole 9/George Michael-Listen Without Prejudice Vol. 1.

Since my last dual review was such a runaway hit, I thought I might as well group together my reviews of Al B. Sure! and George Michael. Al B. Sure's last album, *In Effect Mode*, turned out to be a surprisingly big hit. His video for the hit *Nite and Day* received the Sony Innovator Award, and from there his success on the charts took off. With his new album, *Private Times...*, Al B. doesn't break much new ground, but he does come across as one of the smoothest artists around. This album contains plenty of slick sounding tunes, and those of you who like soul music (all four of you) will probably like it. If, on the other hand, you are a true, red-blooded rock'n'roll fan (all 753 of you), you'll probably wonder who opened up the box and let the music out. You guys are probably reading Skullkrusher's Korner, though, so I won't sweat it.

George Michael's *Listen Without*

Prejudice, Vol. 1, is a pretty good album. I thought I'd come right out and say that before anyone had a chance to rip on the guy. Ever since *Wham!* (yes, he did actually quite the fashion designer back then), George Michael has been one of the most made fun of recording artists on the planet. The fact is, not a lot of people can produce their own albums, write their own music, and play most of the instruments that appear on those albums. Well, big George does. On *Listen Without Prejudice*, Michael tries to make a more serious sounding album while attempting to change the image that has him trapped in his own fame. He succeeds for the most part, but, as much as I like his music (hey, everybody's got some skeletons in their closet), I have to admit that George is gonna have to do some serious shaving and take some dancing lessons if he really wants to change his image.

Wyatt Earp Records

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Costello continued from page 4

The genre-bending album included a range of styles: rockabilly, jazz, and lifting Irish ballad. At 35, though, Costello had matured and left the past behind him. As if to thumb his nose at nostalgic fans, Costello let some tracks on *Spike* run six minutes long, compared to the one and two minutes songs on *Get Happy!!* When critics complained that the album was too heavy, he replied, "this is my first comedy record."

With his release of the two C.D. retrospective, *Girls! Girls! Girls*, Elvis Costello seems to have softened his image of the past and come to terms with the fact that

his early fans now have kids of their own. As for the frustration of not reaching the Madonna/Springsteen level of stardom is concerned, it hasn't phased him, as shown in a quote made to Musician magazine about his split with Columbia records.

"I got the impression Columbia thought I was a con man. Like I had a ready-made blueprint to sell millions and just wouldn't make that record," he said.

For thirteen years, though, Elvis Costello's album for the masses has provided sublime entertainment for the few.

Our community is aglow



photo by Jason King

A mime that resembles a toy soldier, looks down at all of the people passing by on Main Street

by Jenny Kesty
 This year's Candle Walk was spectacular. Many volunteers helped decorate the city of Flushing with over 2,000 candles.

The Lions Club collected and cut holes in the milk cartons. Student Council members filled the cartons with sand, and then lit the candles.

The total cost of the Candle Walk was around ten thousand dollars. The total cost of the candles was \$2,200. Five hundred dollars was spent on wreaths. The new sleigh on the corner of Main and McFinley cost \$500, as well.

You may be wondering where the Candle Walk's Steering Committee gets all of this money. The committee sends letters to local businesses asking for donations of \$100. Some gave more, said Mary Turcke of the Book Stall and treasurer of the CandleWalk Committee.

The many volunteers helped to keep the costs down. The city orkers of Flushing donated 3,500 hours of their time.

Michigan Bell donated a truck with a basket to reach the



photo by Wayne Leith

Erin Niver, Julie Weddle, Brandon De La Rosa, and other students enjoy the hayride as they ride past the Peanut Gallery on Main Street



th the Spirit of Christmas



higher heights of decorating. The Boy Scouts, and the Girl Scouts volunteered some of their time as well.

All five elementary schools were decorated by Chaparral Tree Farms, The National Honor Society, and volunteers from several Flushing churches. Flushing Schools donated busses, and the bus drivers volunteered to drive them.

The Desert Shield Tree, which is located on Main Street just before the bridge, was decorated by The Desert Shield Support Group.

"Go for the Glow" was put on by the Riverbend Striders, a local running club. On December 6 at five o'clock the 3.1 mile race began.

The Candle Walk was started in 1984 as a thank you from the businesses in Flushing. Over the past six years, it has become a festive event with entertainment. Businesses are not allowed to sell anything in the street or to have sale signs. A family can come downtown and enjoy this event without feeling pressured.



Geoff Scott gets ready to play with fellow band members, and members of the Salvation Army Band

photo by WayneLeith



photo by Jason King

St. Robert's Fifth and Sixth Grade Choir sing at the little park near Kathy's



photo by Jason King

Christina Guetcher, Courtney Parker, Amanda Arnesen, Erin Niver, and Aimee Hamilton huddle together for warmth at the Candle Walk

Being a twin is a double sided issue

By Kevin Weber

If you walked into your house and suddenly saw your reflection in a big tall mirror in the living room, you would probably be very shocked. Most people are not used to seeing their image unless they are looking in a mirror or at a photograph. But if you were a twin, you would come home many times and see a person standing there that looked just like you. Being a twin is a dream that many people would like to have, however to be a twin is a very double sided issue.

Matt Wothke has a twin sister that he doesn't feel mirrors him very well. "I feel very independent. I very rarely see my sister, we both come and go, we very seldom talk about anything," said Matt.

Matt thinks that being a twin is alright. However, he doesn't think that Mindy and he are any different than any other brother and sister. "We have totally different tastes. She hates a lot of stuff that I like. We're pretty opposite. People say we look alike, but I don't really think so," Matt said. s shows that being a twin doesn't mean that the twins look, act, or do things alike. The Wothke twins

are like any other brother and sister. They have different friends and attitudes toward things.

A question that many people ask twins is, if they had a choice, would you want to be a twin? "No, I wouldn't be a twin. I'd rather not have a brother or sister. It seems it's just a hassle," explained Matt. every set of twins are as opposite as the Wothke twins. My brother and I have a much closer relationship, and we enjoy being twins more than the Wothkes. "I've known for my whole life I have had someone I can count on. I'm so close to Kevin, that if I have a problem I can talk to him about it very comfortably," said Kirk Weber. k says he doesn't really think about being a twin much. He has always been a twin and really doesn't know any different. He really can't imagine life without me. "Many people think about me as Kirk, Kevin's twin. I'm thought of as a pair of people. Many times I just want to be one person, an individual that I stand for," my brother said. "I do feel more independent than I used to. By the time college rolls around, I think we'll be very independent of one another," he added.

People seem to wonder if twins think alike. In my opinion, the

reason it seems that my brother and I think alike is because we have been exposed to the same things all our lives. We have grown up together, and we are like best friends that live in the same house. On the other hand, the Wothke twins don't really think alike at all. They don't hang around each other and therefore don't think the same way. really bugs me to see little twins that are dressed the same. Parents who do this may think it's real cute, but it embarrasses and causes a tremendous problem for the twins. The biggest problem twins face is becoming an individual.

The biggest change in my brother's and my lives will happen next fall when we leave for college. We have decided not to room together, and we will split up all of the things we have shared for all these years. To us, college is where I will make a name for me not us.

It will be strange separating. We won't be able to see exactly how clothes look on the other guy to see if we want to wear them. But, that's no big deal, I guess we'll just have to look in the mirror like normal people.

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Saturn's spinning rings around auto industry

New company concept takes off to a successful start

By Brian Gasperosky

It's not every day you start a new car company from scratch and have all these people waiting to see what you turn out. The world has it's eye on us. And there's not a person in this company who doesn't feel it."

These are the words of Dana Andreas, a Powertrain Engineer at Saturn Corporation. Those very words are also being used to advertise for the company. "A different kind of car, a different kind of company", another one of the statements made to advertise the product. Most people have heard of the new division of General Motors, the first division to be added to the corporation ran dozens through magazines and newspapers but not one of these ads has shown even a glimpse of the new car currently entering the market for the first time.

The entire company is located here in the United States, and unlike most companies, all cars built by Saturn are completely made from scratch at their only plant, in Tennessee. The idea of Saturn was developed by General Motors several years ago, in hopes to put G.M. back in control of the American automobile market. "Our president says that we're a hundred-year company, we're not just here for five years, we're not here for ten years, but a hundred-year company", says Jesse Ortega, an Interior Engineer at Saturn. "The kind of decisions we make, we have to keep that in mind and we're just going to get better and better. I believe that, I think a lot of people at Saturn do." When the employees moved to Saturn, nothing said it was going to work. People came from all over the country to take a chance with Saturn. It took a while before they could work together, because everyone had different ideas. After working together for a while the company began to rapidly

develop. Things began to work smoother.

The way Saturn is operated on all levels is different than the way General Motors or just about any large corporation is operated. All the employees enjoy the same benefits paid on salary. The way employees relate with their boss and the people in charge is more open than anyone would expect. No one sits behind a glass wall, has a secretary to go through, no appointments are to be made when there is a problem. The employee just goes straight to the person who they need to talk to so they can fix the problem quickly without a hassle. If anyone needs privacy they go to a conference room. The workers on the line get to know the engineers personally and there is no fear when anyone has something to say.

The difference between Saturn and any other car company isn't just the way they treat their employees. Another major difference is the plant itself. The factory covers nearly four million square feet of space in Spring Hill, Tennessee. The half-mile wide by mile long complex is almost totally self-sufficient. The Saturn factory looks nothing like the typical complex or even like the one Henry Ford designed years ago. There's no front or back door, but entrances and exits are located where they are most convenient so that the point of receiving and the point of use of any given material is at the shortest possible distance. Automatic and manual transmissions both come down the same line, the two engines that Saturn builds in the plant also share the same engine line. This sharing of line allows great flexibility and cuts down the cost differential.

The factory itself has also been designed to create a safe, clean, enjoyable working environment. First of all, the entire plant

is air-conditioned. That may not seem like much, but in Tennessee, temperatures can reach well into the 90's and even 100 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer. Considering that, and the fact that all the machinery is running, a factory could become a very poor working environment because of high mercury readings alone. So, as a result, the factory is cooled to room temperature year round.

Another noteworthy item that the Saturn plant has is its overall appearance, inside and out. The outside of the building is painted to sort of blend in with the sky and is designed to look more like a college campus rather than the typical disgusting factory appearance. Yet to make things safer and more convenient delivery trucks and employee vehicles arrive on different levels of the parking lot. This way, employees never go through the hassle of trying to get around large trucks when entering or leaving the facility. Inside the complex it is always clean, organized, and well lit. The cafeterias are clean, relaxing, and comfortable and always have good food. There are places to relax, fitness

centers to get a good work out, and many little things that are unexpected of an average plant.

The philosophy at Saturn is of high standard for any organization, especially one of its size. The Saturn philosophy states, "We, the Saturn team, in concert with the UAW and General Motors believe that meeting the needs of: customers, Saturn members, suppliers, dealers, and neighbors is fundamental of fulfilling our mission". Saturn seems to be doing a great job with sticking to its policies.

Saturn is definitely getting off to a good start. But what's in Saturn's future? That all depends on how well sales go over the next few years. If things keep on going the way they are going w, Saturn could eventually become one of the top automakers in the world. Engineers are currently hard at work designing the 1994 and 1995 Saturn line. These may include a convertible and a wagon to accompany the current sedans and the coupe. We can only wait and see, but a Saturn is an excellent choice as a low cost, high quality vehicle.

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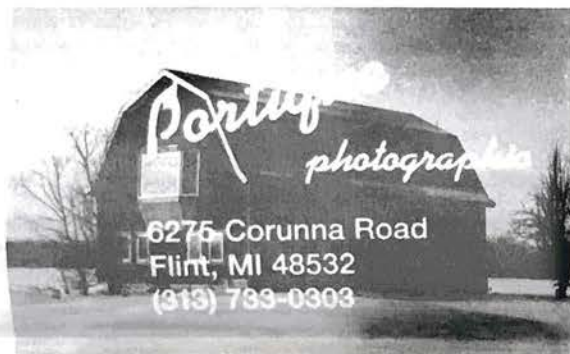
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OUR VIEWS

IT'S ONLY FAIR

Flushing needs full time woman counselor

We would like to congratulate Mr. Bob Chase on his new job as assistant principal at the junior high. We commend him on his hard work and dedication at the high school. We'll miss him. He'll be tough to replace.

When it comes time to fill his position here at the high school, we hope a woman will be considered for the spot. Presently, there is only one female counselor and she is only part time! This causes problems for the students who want to confide in a female, but has to wait until the correct class hour.

Also, in today's world, girls need role models. We look to our school and see the majority are men (in authoritative positions) we see women as classroom teachers, cooks, bus drivers, and secretaries. We don't think secretaries should be the only women in the offices.

The administration has a policy of non-discriminations. They asked us to publish that policy in the November 30, 1990 issue of The Blazer, we did:

"...No discriminatory practices because of sex...be allowed in providing instructional opportunities, job placement assistance, employment practices..."

So we are sure that qualified women will be fully considered for the counseling position as well as any other opening that may come up.



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WE ACCEPT MOST COMPETITORS' PIZZA COUPONS

Wrestlers hope to pin down a better season

by Brad Martin

The Raider wrestlers may not paint their faces or put on an act like the wrestlers that you see on television, but they are just as big and vicious. Leading this band of warriors is senior, captain John "The Ultimate Warrior" Marcum.

"I am expecting a lot of great performances from my seniors," said coach Joe Smith.

Besides John Marcum at 160 pounds, the other seniors are co-captains Todd Conrad at 145 pounds, Kurt Jacques at 135 pounds, and Jason Dodd at 140

pounds.

Coach Smith said, "This is a rebuilding year." He does not know this early in the season if they will finish very high in the Big Nine standings, but he hopes to improve over last year's 1-8 record. Coach Smith says that the boys are working hard at having a good season, and that there will be a big improvement from last year's 8-9 record.

Marcum plans to help the team by improving on his own record. Marcum finished second in

the Big Nine Conference and third in the District Tournament last season. He hopes to grapple his way to the state title this year.

However, he is mostly concerned about wrestling Carman-Ainsworth's Kendrick Ellison.

"I'm going to wrestle my best and try my hardest," said Marcum.

The Raiders traveled to Birch Run on Saturday, December 8 and finished fifth in an eight-team tournament. The top Raiders were second place finishers Marcum and Conrad. Senior, Steve Cole placed

third at 119 pounds.

Four days later the Raiders defeated Lake Fenton 36-31 in their first meet. Flushing won three matches by forfeit. Dodd, Marcum, and Kevin Jones had to wrestle their opponents for a victory.

If you want to see wrestling at its best come to the next Raider meet on January 17 against Swartz Creek and Carman-Ainsworth. They may not be loud and flashy, but they get the job done with great wrestling moves.

Raiders will try to rebound from Dragon burns

by Kari Parker

Last Friday, the boys basketball team had their first home game. Coming off a win over Midland, the Raiders had some trouble with the Swartz Creek Dragons.

The Raiders were down 10-0 to open the game, and they had a tough time as they tried to catch up. The Raiders lost 90-58. High scorers were Larry Bobo with 16 points, Darrin Hartley with 13 points, and Matt Widman with 10 points.

On Tuesday, December 11, the Raiders beat Midland 58-56.

Top scorers were Bobo with 18 points, Widman with 13 points, and Antwan Jamison with 11 points.

Coach Ron Sager says the key was the outside shot. Jamison came off the bench and hit three outside shots to bring Midland's defense out so the Raiders could get the ball inside.

On December 7, the team lost to Davison 71-54. The Raiders led by four going into the fourth quarter, but sent the Cardinals to the free throw line 21 times. The

Cardinals pulled through and made 17 of the shots. High scorers were Widman with 17 points, Hartley with 13 points, and Jamison and Russell Skinner with 7 points apiece.

To start the season off, the Raiders put up a good fight, but came up short to Lapeer West 48-45. High scorers were Widman with 16 points, Hartley with 13 points, and Chad Spangler with 11 points.

On January 8, the Raiders will have their second home game

of the year against the Mt. Morris Panthers. The Panthers were one of the top two teams in the Metro Conference last year, and are a strong contender this season.

"They move the ball quickly and like to shoot the 3-point shot," said coach Sager.

Sager says that the Raiders will have to shoot from the outside to bring the defense out, so the inside will open up.




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Ice melts under Raiders blades

by Jana Engel

Starting out as a strong and more developed team this season, the Raider icers faced to Mt. Morris Panthers in their first Tier Tournament game 7-2. "Goal Getters" of the game were junior, Andy Lynch with his first hat trick (three goals in a game), senior, Todd Lamppa with two goals. Adding a goal apiece were senior Pete Harris and junior Jeff Vreeland.

In net for the Raiders, senior Mike Cesaro turned away 12 of the 14 shots on goal, keeping the Raiders alive while Mt. Morris goalie Kory Browning let in 7 of the 15 shots on his end of the ice.

The second tier tournament game didn't turn out so well for the Raiders against Southwestern Academy. It took the Raiders the first two periods to get aggressive, while SWA came out strong right away, handing the Raiders a 7-5 loss.

Senior Mike Cesaro was in net once again but just couldn't keep the opposition out of the net. He turned away 19 of the 27 shots on goal while the Southwestern goalie Derek Webb let in 5 of his 18 shots.

Beginning regular season play, the Raiders defeated Goodrich nicely 7-2. The goal-getter of the game was Senior Derek LaBonte with 4. Tallying the other three goals were junior Bruce Schluckbier, senior Gary Arnold, and Vreeland. Cesaro turned away 24 of the 26 shots on goal while the Goodrich netminder turned only 16 of 23.

In the Raiders second regular season game, they swept Bridgeport 16-0, boosting the record to 3-1. Participating in the blowout, two Raider icers shared nine goals. Junior Andy Lynch had 5 goals and Schluckbier had 4. Other scorers for the Raiders were junior Brian Valasek with 2 and senior Jason Lord, Harris, and Vreeland with one each. The Raiders will face Bridgeport again in February in Saginaw.

Newcomer sophomore Steve Komorny turned away all nine shots on him while Bridgeport goalies Jason Hurd and Tim Wedding turned away 20 and admitted 16.

The Raiders second loss of the season was a disappointing one to Kearsley, 5-4. All four of the Raider goals were scored by Lynch who skated hard the entire night. Komorny turned away 20 of the 25 shots while Kearsley Goalie Matt Holifield turned away 21 of the 25 shots on him.

Beating the somewhat improved Swartz Creek icers 8-5, the Raiders regained their pride. Schluckbier scored 4, and LaBonte scored 2, while Lynch and Lord added one apiece. Playmaker of the game was Lynch with five assists on 8 of the Raider goals.

Standing with a 4-3 record, the Raiders then faced Lake Fenton, and pounded them for a 14-1 victory. In net for the Raiders, Komorny stood strong.

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THE BACK OF THE PLATE

Fans don't know 'Ware' Lions are going

by Kevin Weber

The Detroit Lions wanted to "restore the roar" this season, but all they have done so far is purr real loud. The Lions have fought their way to a 5-9 record and seem to be up to the same old Lion tricks we have come to know to well. However, this Lion team is a cat with a thicker main. They still lose games, but they lose them in the hardest ways, week after week. What that means is the Lions just may be on the verge of becoming a respectable team once again. They proved that fact Sunday night with their 38-21 victory over the Chicago Bears.

But, don't count your cubs before they're grown. The Lions still have a lot of work ahead. So, if you will, I'd like to play General Manager for a few lines. First, the Lions have three quality quarterbacks, and they need to rid them-

selves of one of the younger ones. They should keep Rodney Peete and Bob Cagliano, and trade Andre Ware for either a defensive lineman, cornerback, or a first round draft choice. Ware will be a good NFL quarterback one of these days, but the Lions already have a talented leader in Rodney Peete.

What the Lions need is defense. The offense is fine. I don't see much of a problem with a team that scores about 24 points a game, but I do have a problem with a ball club that give up 27 points a game. The Lion defense is the worst unit in the NFL in total yards given up. They get run up and down the field every game, because they don't have a pass rusher, corner back, and also can't stop the running game. The Lions are ahead of only the 1-13 Patriots in stopping the rush.

I would trade Jerry Ball for a first round draft choice or a cornerback. Then draft Chris Zorich from Notre Dame to replace him. Ball doesn't know how to honor a contract. So, he can take his over weight body and contract to another town. With one of the other first round picks, I would try to pick a cornerback, such as Todd Light out of Notre Dame. If I couldn't get a quality cornerback I would try to get another good safety, such as Michigan's Tripp Welborne.

It wouldn't be right to say the Lion offense is all set. They are in desperate need of a speed receiver and a few more good offensive lineman. But, one of the biggest change the offense need is a face lift of the Silver Stretch. They have to incorporate Barry Sanders into the offense more, running or passing. When you have the best weapon

in football, you have to use it.

The Lions always seem to wait to long to make moves. They have some people they can use to make their team better, but the Lions management will have to be aggressive. Three teams, Houston, Atlanta, and New England showed interest in Andre Ware before the draft. There is no reason to believe they have lost it. The moves are there, they just need to be made.

Another move that could be made is in the head coaching department. I know of a coach who has one three Super Bowls and has shown interest in getting back into coaching. Bill Walsh. I just wanted to give a little bit of thought for some hungry Lions fans. Who want their stomachs to stop growling.