

The

Blazer

FLUSHING HIGH SCHOOL'S INDEPENDENT VOICE

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 2

SENIORS MUSCLE TO
A POWDER PUFF WIN



NOVEMBER 1996

FLUSHING, MI 48433

The Blazer

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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 goal to inform, persuade, and entertain our readers, and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas. We will provide balanced and fair reporting of topics of interests to our readers. Libel, invasion of privacy, and disruption of the educational process will be avoided. It is our policy to address all persons or groups fairly.

The *Blazer* is a recipient of the 1995 and 1996 Michigan Interscholastic Press Association Spartan Awards. The *Blazer* has also been awarded the 1992, 1993, 1995, and 1996 Quill and Scroll International First Place. The *Blazer* is affiliated with MIPA and Quill and Scroll Society.

Corrections

We here at the *Blazer* are not perfect and because we aren't. That's why we have this here corrections box. We will correct items of fact that are brought to our attention. We would like to correct the misspelling of Sada McNeil on page 5, and the misspelling of Erik Sisco on page 26.

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Letter from the Editor



PAM ZERBINOS

Hello again. Welcome to the second installment of the *Blazer*. As anyone near room 121 knows, we worked very hard on this issue and we like to think that it's full of more exciting stuff. This month seems to have an Oriental theme; we've got spreads on the Martial Arts and Japanimation. On a not-so-Oriental vein, there's a page on Marilyn Manson in case you missed the concert or forgot to pick up the new album.

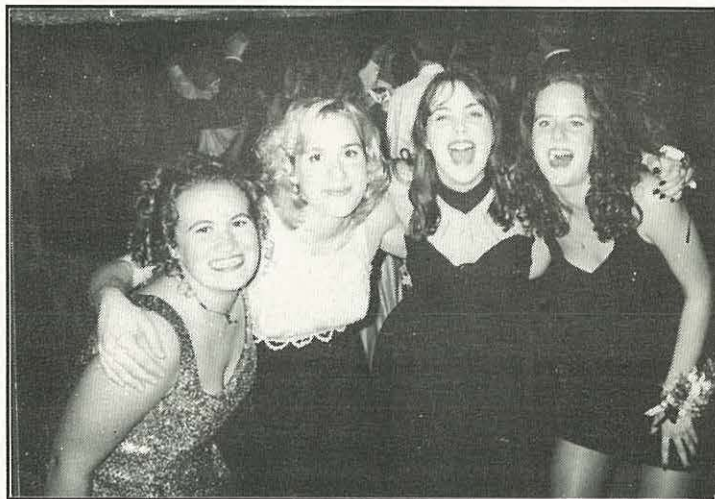
Now, everyone turn to page 5. It's called the *Bulletin Board*, and it's missing something: letters from you. PLEASE PLEASE send us mail or we will fill the *Blazer* with story problems and that will bite. Oh, and while you're there, see if you can figure out what we've hidden this month- it's worth a prize. We'd like to congratulate Ms. Jenks down at the Jr. High for setting up a student newspaper. Feeder programs are a wonderful thing and it's nice to see more of them.

We'd also like to congratulate the guy's Varsity Soccer team on a successful season and wish good luck to all the winter sports teams that'll be getting started pretty soon.

On a more solemn note, we'd like to extend our condolences to the students of Kearsley High School. We all know what they're going through, and it's not pleasant.

With that, I'll let you move on to the excitement of the next 30 pages. There's good stuff in here- good stuff...

Pam



Seniors Jenny Richardson, Kim Wolfgang, Leigh Penoyer, and Erin Yockey say cheese to the camera at the Homecoming Dance. This year's theme, "Around the World," seemed to be a hit. The courtyard was opened up this year for those at the dance who wanted to take a break and cool off. Photo courtesy Kim Wolfgang

In This Issue

On the Cover



Senior Celeste Boudreau, our Homecoming Queen, buddies up to Alyssa Ausiello. The class of '97 remained undefeated in play winning last year 29-0, and this year 28-6. Photo by April Jacques

Senior Andrea Bernardini, along with other Varsity Club, S.L.O. members and Special Olympics Contestants. S.L.O and Varsity Club helped out Colonial Lanes for Special Olympics Bowling. Photo by Celeste Boudreau.



- 8 Daydream, Milk and Genocide
- 9 Science update
- 11 Truants Beware
- 16-17 Homecoming Scrapbook
- 18-19 Anime Affinity
- 20 What to do with a No. 2
- 22 Marilyn Manson
- 23 Suicide Machines
- 26 Just for Kicks
- 27 Crazy Isn't Always Fun

Departments

- Opinions 4-9
 - Our Humble Opinion
 - Bulletin Board
 - One Minute Survey
- News 10-13
 - In Your Face
 - News Briefs
- People 15-17
 - Teacher Feature
 - New Faces
 - Girl Next Door
- Features 18-22
- A & E 25-29
 - Listening Room
- Sports 32-35
 - Jox Rap
 - Raider Scoreboard



Both Varsity and JV girls' cross country teams won their Big Nine tournament races. The Varsity wraps up their season this weekend at State Finals in Jackson. Photo by Teresa Broom

Demand the best of education

Everyone in this school will someday be a senior. We will have a pretty good idea of what goes on in Flushing High School. We will know which classes to sign up for if we want to sleep all day, and we will know which teachers will push us to the limit. And we will choose our classes accordingly.

This school has a policy that states "a student's grade will be lowered one full letter grade for each absence in excess of 12." This school has no policy that states "no class will be a waste of time." Perhaps this should change.

Everyone in this school is quite aware of the fact that there are some classes offered here that are useless. Students don't learn a single thing all semester, sometimes all year. It makes no difference if we go to class once a week or once a month- the class will be in the exact same place when we return. And that place will be nowhere. There is no point in having an attendance policy if there is no point in going to class.

As students, we have a right to the best education possible. However, this burden does not rest solely on the shoulders of the teachers. Students continue to sign up for useless classes; they wouldn't be offered otherwise. True, sometimes we have no choice. There are entire departments in this school that have required classes and teachers that leave something to be desired. Whether these teachers are bored or simply incompetent doesn't matter; the end result is the same, and nothing is accomplished.

Unfortunately, the departments (and there several) that are full of excellent teachers seem to be underappreciated. Stu-

dents are only required to take four credits out of some of our best departments, some students never even get a chance to meet our best teachers.

These teachers are the ones who respect the students and their opinions; they don't get upset when a student doesn't agree with them. They can relate to their students and aren't teaching the same thing that they were teaching 20 years ago. They know what they're talking about, and they know how to teach it. They are patient, know lots of different ways to explain what's going on, and they have knowledge that goes beyond their subject area. They also know how to use their 55 minutes. They don't necessarily lecture the whole time; there are class discussions, related activities and homework time. There is no "busy work."

Students should start demanding classes like these in which they will learn. And they should expect *all* their teachers to teach, not just one or two of them. Part of the problem is that classes are geared for only one type of student. The exceptionally bright students are bored out of their minds without accelerated curriculums and AP classes, and struggling students are quickly overwhelmed. What would challenge one student might be totally out of reach for another one, and the classes in this school need to be set up accordingly.

Perhaps it's time that both teachers and students begin expecting more from each other, and the administration needs to help us all out. This school has a lot assets; we should all do what we can to maximize them.

Outbound



Scavenger Hunt

Only two people found the club that was hidden last month. What's hidden this time? Find it, show us, and win a prize.

This month's clue is very exciting.

* frequently asked question

FAQ*

Do you have to shower in gym class?

No. In fact, there are hockey goals in the guys' shower. Only 7th and 8th grade males are required to take showers in gym.

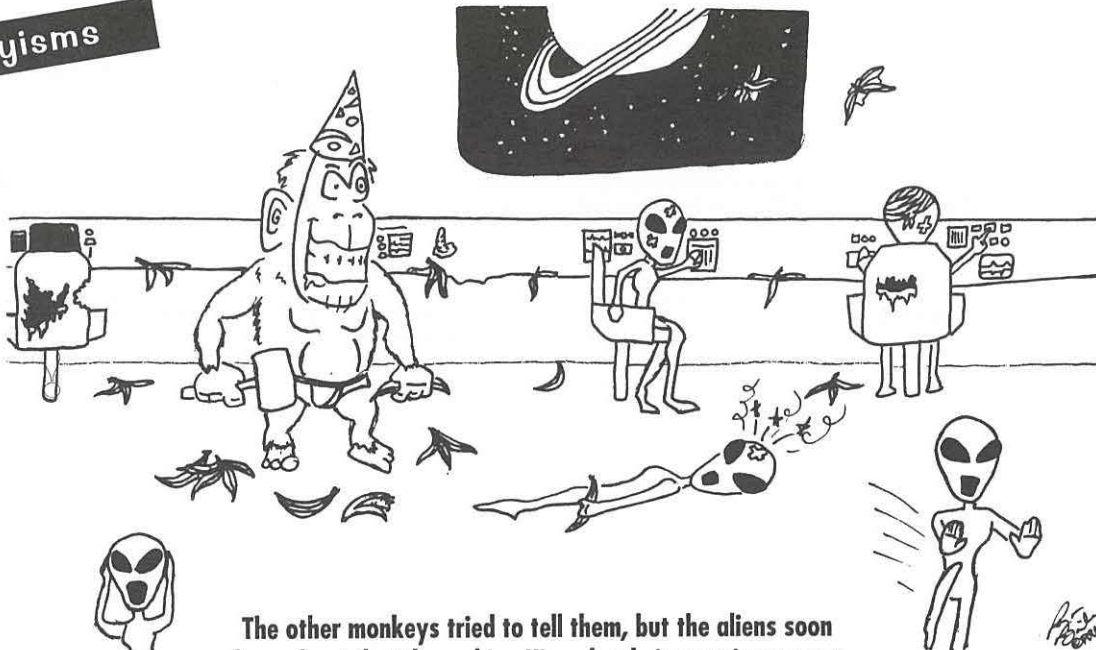
Did you know...

The University of Michigan - Flint recently released the 1995 Fall Freshman GPA Report. Here's how Flushing Students rank:

Average High School GPA	3.11
Flushing	3.28
 Average ACT Score	 22
Flushing	23
 Average Freshman GPA	 2.76
Flushing	3.33

Averages are based on grades of entering freshman from 18 Genesee County schools 67.2% of the freshman class at U of M Flint come from these schools.

Baileysisms



The other monkeys tried to tell them, but the aliens soon figured out that the making Kimooky their captain was not such a great idea.

-Ron Bailey

Opinions Policy

Our Humble Opinion reflects the view of the Blazer staff. The Editorial Board chooses and discusses the topic to be covered in the staff editorial. Standing columns are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editorial Board or the faculty and administration of Flushing High School. Editorial cartoons are the opinions of the cartoonist.

We encourage suggestions, comments and letters. If you have something that you would like published in the *Bulletin Board*, write it down and drop it off in room 121. Unsigned letters will not be printed, although names may be withheld with reason. The Editorial Board reserves the right to change letters for grammatical and spelling errors and for length. No personal attacks or insults will be printed.

The bliss of ignorance

by Karin Pierson

Most of us are unaware of how the rest of the world lives. Half of the world is starving, and Americans look around and think that everyone is just like them. Upper class families live in upper class parts of upper class towns. Their children go to upper class schools and go on to become another generation of upper class citizens. But these children don't think about the people who don't have homes, and why would they? Everyone they know owns three cars, ten phones and a computer.

A couple of statistical mathematicians analyzed the world's population and came up with a theoretical village of 100 people. This is what it would look like:

Region, Race and Religion

57 Asians

21 Europeans

14 North and South Americans

8 Africans

30 of these people would be white, and 30 of them would be Christian.

Distribution of Wealth

50% of all the wealth in the village would be in the hands of six people. Those six people would be Americans.

Standard of Living

80 people would live in sub-standard housing

70 people would be illiterate

50 people would be malnourished

We all need to look around and open our eyes to the world around us. Think about it.

Opinions
November

6

Blazer

Sex

51 females

49 males

Economics

1 person would have a college education

0 people would own a computer

Illustration by
Karin Pierson.

Congratulations!

You have just been elected
President of the United States.

What are you going to do first?



“Redecorate the
White House.”

-Kim Vaughn
junior

“Take down those
nasty pictures of
Chelsea.”

-Matt Popovits
junior



“Feed the poor.”

-Mrs. Common



“I'd totally
have a slumber
party.”

-Traci Faulkner
sophomore

“Buy off Perot's
budget plan.”

-Caitlin Coyne
freshman



“Hang Socks
the cat by his
whiskers and
laugh.”

-Ryan Shaw
senior



“Appoint someone
to do my job.”

-John Dyer
junior



“Cram the whole army
into a limo, drive to the
circus, and unload in the
center ring.”

-Noel Snyder
sophomore





So you think you're normal

Webster's dictionary defines "normal" as "conforming to a norm, standard, regular." Just whose standard are we talking about? Should people be afraid to be themselves, without the critique of their peers? The answer, of course, is no. Yet too many people are. Let's start with something as superficial as appearance. Is "normal" a pair of khaki pants, a button-down shirt, and a baseball hat? Or is it leather pants, 14-inch combat boots, body piercings and black nail polish? Whichever of the two you chose, ask yourself for just a moment, why did you answer that way? Is it because that's how YOU dress? Your friends? Ask yourself, who are you to decide that your way should work for everyone else? Your opinions, your thoughts or your dress don't make you better than anyone else. They only make you different. No matter which of the two you chose, you were probably wrong. There is no such thing as "normal;" normalcy depends on who you ask.

Now, taking the above, apply the same idea to a less superficial topic, such as mode of thought. For our purposes, let's divide the population into two groups: those who superficially judge others and those who don't. How many times have you walked down the hall and heard mutterings of "jerk," "poser," or "fag" directed at someone else? How many times have they been directed at you? How many times have you done the directing?

To make a sweeping generalization, there are many people who would like to think of themselves as "normal,"

who will be quick to judge others, based solely on the fact that the person is not identical to him or her in their way of thinking. Evaluate for a second why you think something is not "normal," and you'll probably discover that your idea of normal could be very different from someone else's. Remember that a serial killer might think that he is normal. Who are you to say that he's not? How do you know?

Before you judge someone, take a good look at yourself. It's stupidity, pure and simple, that causes someone to write the word "fag" across someone else's locker. It's stupidity that causes one human being to physically harm another human being because of a T-shirt. It's stupidity for you to even consider that your opinions (note the word "opinions") might somehow be more relevant than anyone else's. After all, all opinions are equally unreasonable.

"But you contradict yourself," you say. "You say not to judge, yet you judge those people who judge." True. It's like hating a Nazi. We're all hypocrites. But keep in mind that I don't try to tell you that my opinion is fact. After all, it would be stupid for me to do so. My views are as flawed as anyone else's, and you can't deny that everyone's views have flaws.

If the world refrained from any sort of prejudice, you can't deny that it would be a better world. So next time, think for a minute before you decide to label someone. You don't have to like whatever it is about yhis person, but the reality is that you are going to have to tolerate it.

And please keep in mind that everyone is "weird." Some people just get caught.

One Minute Survey

Curfews reasonable after all

by Stephanie Wilson

What's your curfew?

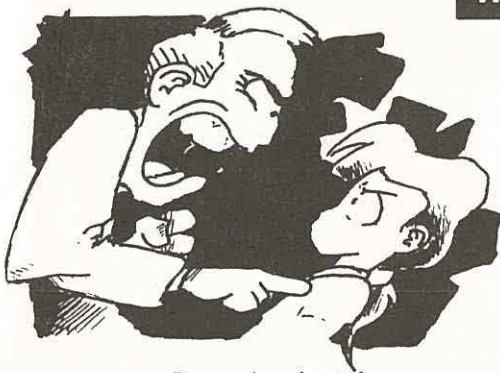


Illustration by Andrew Helms.

Weeknights



All ages

Weekends



13-15 year olds



16+ years old

Survey says...

Males and females of all ages have to be home between 10 and 11 p.m. on school nights. On weekends, they have a little longer. The majority of students aged 13 - 15 report curfews or somewhere between 11 p.m. and 12 a.m., and most students aged 16 and up have to be home between 12 and 1 a.m. 76% of students felt that their curfews were reasonable. However, 89% of students are allowed a special curfew for special occasions. 63.5% of these students were also unaware of the Flushing city curfew. For people aged 16 and under, it's 11:00 on weeknights and 1:00 on the weekends. People over the age of 16 have no legal curfew. A total of 211 students responded to the One Minute Survey, which was conducted during A, B, and C lunches on October 10, 1996. 125 respondents were male and 86 of them were female.

On Sullivan Lake

By **KARIN PIERSON**

Research Methods students discovered that Sullivan Lake was high in oxygen, virtually free of pollutants, and was an excellent habitat for freshwater fish. On Sept. 17 and Sept. 24, 14 students from the sixth hour research methods class gathered at Donn Hinds' dock to collect information about Sullivan Lake.

In their class, the students were divided into groups to collect information about different things, like fish, insects and plants. On a misty Tuesday morning the group collected samples from Sullivan Lake to study in class. The first week, Mr. Hinds got the students oriented on different landmarks of the lake, so that they could record where the samples were taken. Some of the landmarks included beaches, docks and the inlet and outlet.

All day the students worked taking samples. They went around the lake finding depths with the depth finder. They measured distance using the range finder, a high-tech instrument that looks like binoculars. The range finder, when used with the depth finder, allowed students to find depths of the lake while standing on the shore.

A plankton tow was also done. Students went around the lake in a boat dragging a netlike contraption with a jar on the end. This collected plankton from all over the lake. The transparency of the water was also tested, using a seshi disk, which is a circular instrument that sinks to the bottom of the lake with a rope.

The students took the information back with them to study in class. They did such activities as tag the fish for further research, identify the frog and insect species, and study the plankton under a microscope.

Teacher Donn Hinds was happy with the outcome of the research project.

"The lake project done by our class taught us more about how the lake works and the type of wildlife residing in it. This study is something that could be built on in the future," he said.

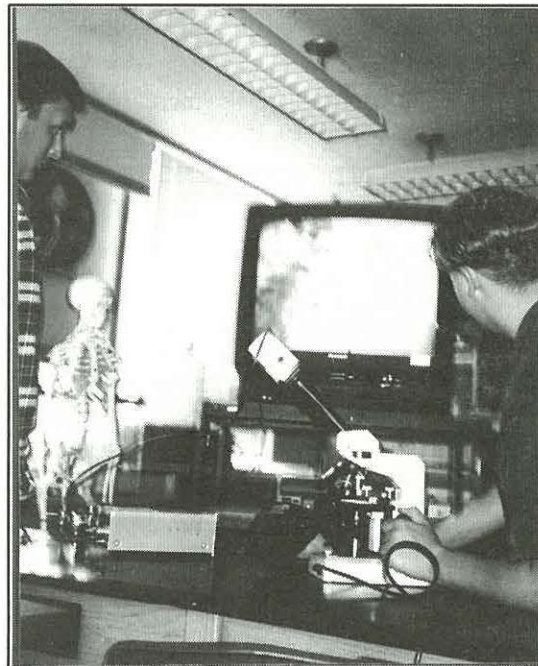
Many of the students found the trip to Sullivan Lake to be interesting.

"The trip gave us a chance to finally see for ourselves what we had researched for two weeks," said senior Kari Winters.

The tentative plan to further the lake study is to have a presentation for the property owners on Sullivan Lake, presented by the students.



Andalynn Burgess and Eddie Marshall test the dissolved oxygen level of a water sample. Photos by Karin Pierson.



Marc Miller and Nathan Smeja study plankton samples transferred from a microscope to a television screen with the use of a special projector.



Eddie Marshall gathers plankton from Sullivan Lake for the plankton tow.



Karin Pierson and Eddie Marshall gather plankton from Sullivan Lake.

Freshmen celebrate fourth place victory

By LISA FOTENAKES

Ben Lutz sunk this shot. Kelly Lynch, Trina Brunette, David Luna, Scott Peterson, and Andy Kryza play pool at the Freshman class float party. Photo by LISA FOTENAKES.



Approximately 30 freshmen who helped build their first float gathered at Amy Keith's house Saturday, Oct. 19 for a pizza party celebrating their "fourth place victory." Their float depicted the World Wide Web. It was designed by Katrina Cox.

Clubhouse Info.

HERO

HERO members are currently working on a quilt to send to the Simon House (a shelter for children with AIDS). A sock collection will be getting underway shortly for the homeless children in the area. Any student of a life management class is considered a member of HERO.

BPA

Business Professionals of America will start preparing for a regional competition at Baker College on Jan. 10. BPA has 41 members who will be competing in Regionals. Members are required to be currently enrolled in a B.E.S.T. class to participate in the organization.

Spanish Club

The Spanish Club is planning to attend the play *Don Quixote* in mid-November. Candy sales will be used as a fund-raising effort to defray costs. Anyone interested in joining, should contact Mrs. Gill in room 507 or keep your eyes out for posters in the hall.

Marching Band

Grand National Championships will be held in the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, Indiana on Oct. 8 and 9. This will be the bands first trip to Nationals since the 1994 marching band season. Dante's Divine Comedy uses props, special effects, and continuous music to take the crowd from hell to heaven in only seven minutes. FHS Marching Band is ranked number 3 in the state by a one point spread separating the top three bands.

Update

Retired Flushing music instructor Paul D. Minert will be recognized as the 1996 "Educator of the Year" at Walli's Supper Club, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1996. Tickets are \$20, and can be purchased by calling the Flushing Chamber of Commerce at 659-4141.

By KIM WOLFGANG

All in a day's work

EAG changes nature's course

By REBECCA WILLIAMS

Forty-five tons of rock proved to be an even match for 14 Environmental Action Group members in a six hour river reconstruction project on Saturday, Oct. 19. The group and advisor Mr. Larry Tippet volunteered to help Trout Unlimited reinforce the bank of Fish Creek in Montcalm County, MI, by moving rocks from a six foot high, forty cubic yard pile into the river behind wooden structures called stream deflectors. The objective of the project is to stop the swift current from eroding the outer bank and depositing sediment into the river. Sediment is dangerous to trout populations because it covers gravel beds used for spawning. Building stream deflectors redirects the river into a straighter path. It was necessary to reinforce the stream deflectors with rock because the wood would otherwise be swept downstream when the water level rises.

Randy Atkinson, president of Trout Unlimited, predicted that the work accomplished on Saturday will last at least 40 years. He was thrilled to see young people doing something so positive for the environment.

"Without you guys, this would never have happened," Mr. Atkinson congratulated the EAG members.

Mr. Tippet was similarly pleased with the project.

"It was great seeing the immediate effect of reduction in erosion, and if we went back in 40 years, we could still see the lasting effect of what we have done. The enthusiasm and teamwork of the group was great to see."

The EAG members found the work overall to be satisfying, but strenuous.

"I worked so hard I couldn't move my wrists on Sunday," recalled president Heather McLeod.

Off to the Windy City: DECA attends marketing show

By **KIM WOLFGANG**

"It was a lot of fun and it was something I would like to do again," said junior Shannon Adams.

Adams and 40 other DECA members took a trip to Chicago Thursday, Oct. 17, 1996. The students boarded a Blue Lakes Charters and Tours Bus at 4:30 a.m. to attend a marketing conference entitled "The Motivational Show" at McCormick Place North, in downtown Chicago. "The Motivational Show" is a premium incentive and travel destination incentive show, which gives companies the chance to show their new products and try to sell them to retailers. While companies advertised their products, sales people competed for trips and awards. Awards were given for the most creative advertising, highest sales, and many other things that deal with the marketing aspect of selling items. Of all the trade shows of its kind, "The Motivational Show" is the largest and lasted three days.

This year's conference was the first time high school students were allowed to attend. However, the students had to abide by the same rules as the conference attendees, which included a dress code. Students had to wear proper business attire. They were given merchandise from vendors who had a surplus of products. The trip was an overall success and the marketing classes hope to return next year.

Junior high raves about newest publication

By **WES JOHNSON**

The Rave, the new monthly newspaper published by junior high students, is the newest form of communication available to junior high students. Principals Greg Jackson and Bob Chase had been wanting to start a newspaper for a long time, but lacked an advisor. Enter Jill Jenks, a 1992 Central Michigan graduate with a B.A. in English. Jenks is the newest English teacher at the junior high.

Approximately 40 students and advisor Jenks started the four page newspaper two weeks after school began. Jenks enjoys her job advising the newspaper staff.

"I think it's beneficial to the kids. It's a lot of hard work," she said.

The Rave has two student editors, Heather Keane and Alison Borowiak, both eighth graders. The students and advisor meet once a week and cover everything from happenings around the school, to teachers and horoscopes. The paper is four pages long and is split into four groups. Editor Alison Borowiak is responsible for assigning sports stories for the sports department. Editor Heather Keane's job is to assign feature stories for the features department. Everyone at the junior high receives a free monthly copy of The Rave.

The new newspaper has gone over well with the students.

"It's cool! I like the horoscopes and teacher features," said seventh-grader Sean Gibbons.

Auditorium top priority for school board

By **MARC MILLER**

"It's a shame that we didn't have an auditorium a long time ago. Our school has state recognized drama programs and an outstanding band," stated Principal David Bickel.

The Board of Education will consider a proposal to build a new auditorium at its Nov. 19 meeting. If approved, the auditorium is expected to be completed by the 1998-99 school year. It is to be built at the far end of the south parking lot, but it will not encroach on the softball field.

The cost of the new auditorium will be 1.7 million dollars, to come from the building and site fund. It does not require a vote because the school district will not have to borrow money. The auditorium will seat about 650 people, however a design has not been decided on. School officials are looking at Kearsley's auditorium, for ideas. At the next board meeting, members will vote to hire an architect and start accepting bids, according to Supt. Tunnickliff.

Truants beware

Rulebreakers

to serve time after school

By **Darcy Leonard**

Students at the high school will no longer have to endure the long days of In School Suspension and Saturday school. Administrators are incorporating a new kind of discipline called After School Detention, or ASD. Instead of staying in school all day catching up on their homework, isolated from other students, the students will stay after school from 2:45 to 4:45. No excuses will be accepted, like sports practice, etc. Students must be present for ASD. The reason this drastic change has taken place is because the faculty feels that ISS is not an effective enough punishment for students.

"The students are just not learning their lesson," said Assistant Principal Gary Whitmire.

Faculty members like the idea of After School Detention.

"I think it's great, it teaches behavior modification," said Mr. King.

"Going to an afterschool detention doesn't hurt the kids, and it saves me from having to chase them around," said Mrs. Common, hall monitor.

However, students have mixed feelings about ASD. Some think it's a good punishment, like senior Jeff Lampley, who said he thought the punishment was fair.

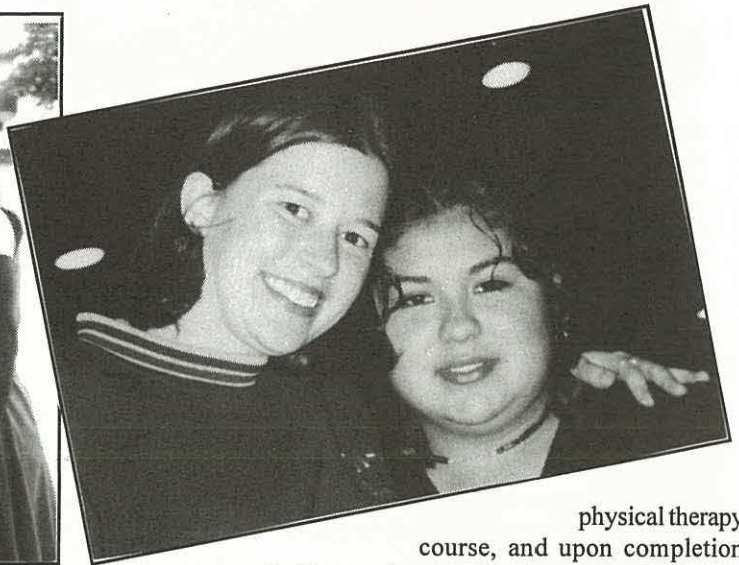
"ISS seems like a day of 'vacation'. ASD may make students think twice before they do something wrong," he said.

Other students are strongly opposed to the idea of ASD.

"I think it's inconsiderate and out of line," said junior Pat Volz.



Above: Kristin Rench hugs her adoptive family from New Guinea. Right: Kristin and her friend from Australia. Photos courtesy of Kristin Rench.



Kristin Rench fixes everything

by David Campbell

"To be successful and just happy in general," is what Kristin Rench wants out of life. Happiness is mostly up to the individual, and Kristin has it mastered. You find her mostly wearing a smile.

As for success, well that may take a little more work, but in her own words, "When I set my mind to do some thing, I'm going to do it and I'm going to do it right... if I don't do it right, then I beat up on myself-- I'm a perfectionist."

So what does Kristin set her mind to do? Well, for the past four years she has been an organizer for Alice's Restaurant (a student talent show), a member of Student Leadership Organization, a competitor in the National Music Festival (she has been awarded for piano nine consecutive years), a singer for Madrigals and a representative for Student Council all four years of high school (she is vice-president this year). This is only the beginning of her impressive two page list of events and organizations that she has participated in over the last several years. With all of these activities, one would think that she wouldn't have enough time to study her schoolwork. However, Kristin has managed to earn a spot in the National Honor Society.

Kristin obviously has no spare time, but if she did she jokingly comments, "I'd sleep." Kristin says the reason that she has to stay so involved and keep herself busy is, "I just enjoy it... if I didn't have anything to do I would be so bored." She adds, "I have to have things going, otherwise I feel like I'm not doing anything and nothing is getting accomplished."

Kristin has her sights set on Grand Valley State University as her college preference. She thinks they have a good

physical therapy course, and upon completion she'll soon be pursuing her master's degree.

Kristin says she finds the medical field rewarding because she gets to work with people and help them in the recovery process. She has some direct experience in the field ,too. Some of her encounters have been volunteering for Red Cross at Fostorian Manor Nursing Home, Special Olympics, and McLaren Hospital for a semester. Working hard is not a new concept for Kristin either. Some of her job experience has been office cleaning and babysitting. As of April, she has been a sales person at Northern Reflections in the mall.

This summer Kristin had the opportunity to go to Australia and Papua New Guinea for a one month missions trip. She found support for this trip through her church and her parents Darlene and Tom and her younger brother David. While she was there her group did drama skits, and sang to the natives.

She said, "I had a great time! People there were so generous and nice." She has also become a student representative of the Missions Committee at Mayfair Bible Church and a member of her Chapel choir this year.

Besides her church choir, Kristin receives voice lessons and has performed in "The Sound of Music" and "Brigadoon". Other plays she has acted in range from "Dracula" to "Electric Folderl", "Cinderella" to "Secret Garden". In fact, in three years, she has managed to be a cast member of eight different plays, earning her membership in the International Thespian Society. She is also the treasurer of Beta and Madrigal Choirs this year and last year was a member of the Shakespeare Club.

Kristin thinks that she would like to see the amount of student involvement improved before she leaves FHS.

She thinks, "Students don't get involved, they just expect things to happen, and they don't want to work for things to happen." As for the world, Kristin wishes she could get rid of drugs and alcohol and all the deaths caused by them. "Think of all the people that are killed by drunk driving, or someone is high and they feel like going out and killing someone." Kristin has had the chance to see first-hand some of the problems drug abuse causes this year while working as a youth counselor's aid at Youth Haven Ranch, a camp for troubled children.

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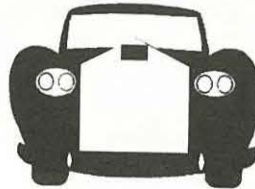
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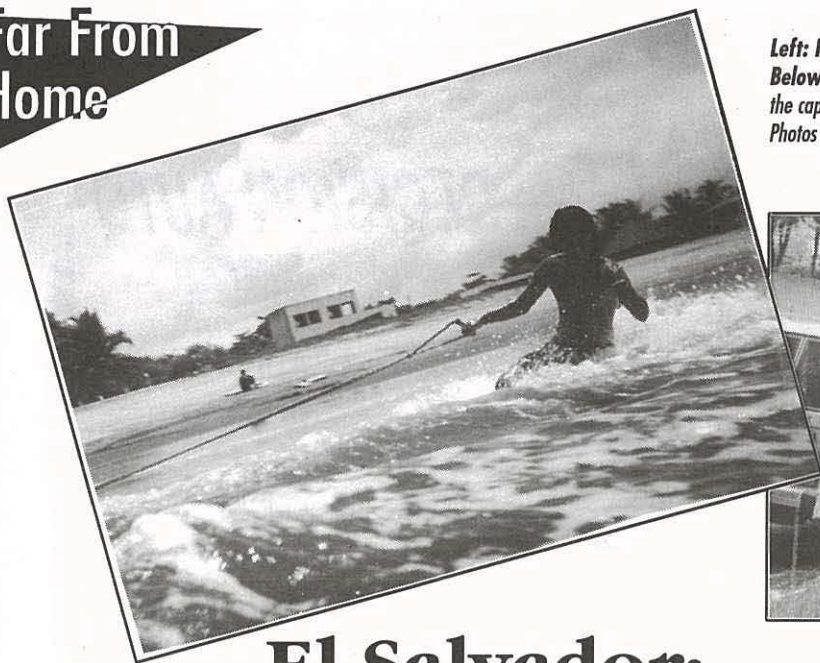
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Left: Nelson Sosa enjoying water sports at the beach in La Libertad, El Salvador.
Below: Nelson (fifth from right) and friends, the "C.L. de Angel" soccer team in San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador.
Photos courtesy of Nelson Sosa.



El Salvador: Land blessed by peace, ocean & nightlife

“It’s only you, the sun, the moon, the stars... and suddenly, the sun appears slowly, with a lot of colors. It’s almost spiritual and makes you feel lucky to be alive.”

-Nelson Sosa

by Nelson Sosa

It was 7:15 a.m. I was in El Salvador’s airport. A tornado had delayed my flight and made me lose all my connections. But after a long day of waiting and flying, my American brother, Jim, was waiting for me in Detroit.

It was midnight when I arrived in Flushing. I thought it was beautiful and I was not wrong. My American family was expecting me, and although it was late, they were waiting for me in the entrance of the house.

Everyone has been nice to me and they really make me feel at home. My dad and mom make me laugh all the time, and even though I have just known them for three months, I know

they are very special. But, even with all their love, I feel the absence of my family and friends. I miss everyone and everything we used to do. I knew that leaving my country was not going to be easy for me. It was not!

Some people don’t even know where El Salvador is, but it doesn’t bother me. I know that my country is

one of the smallest in the world, and has many political, social, cultural and economic problems. Most of our problems are because of the war we had. It lasted 12 years, and although I was a little kid, I can remember a lot of awful things. Every day was the same: bombs all over the place, helicopters, screams in the streets. The guerillas were fighting the army, and many people died; not only from these two groups, but innocent ones. At night, I slept under my bed, hoping a bullet would not break a window and kill me. Those days were very scary, but when the situation grew worse, my family and I left the country and went to live in Germany.

Now, the war is over and we are a nation in peace. We are starting to rebuild the country, not only structurally, but also socially, and it is still difficult. I guess the entire nation has changed.

But with all the problems, El Salvador is a beautiful, tropical country and has much to offer. It’s summer the whole year long. We have around 300 sunny days, and the temperature is always the same: warm. (That’s one of the reasons I’m freezing here.)

Because the beach is only 40 minutes from San Salvador (the capital), I used to go three to four times a week. Sometimes, we have parties there, ride motorcycles, play volley-

ball; but I really like to go there to surf. I have been surfing for two years now, and that is something I really miss. For me, it is the only place where I can think about everything; my problems disappear for a while and I can relax and have a good time.

I like to see the sunrise when I’m inside the water. It is so beautiful! It’s only you, the night, the moon, the stars... and suddenly, the sun appears slowly, with a lot of colors. It’s almost spiritual and makes you feel lucky to be alive. But for now, I guess it’s going to take a little time to see that again.

Sometimes, maybe once a week, when I get home (in Flushing), I get jealous. My friends always tell me about the parties, new clubs and new places there are back home in San Salvador. Every night looks like a weekend night. A typical weekend night starts at 10 p.m. and lasts until four or five in the morning, maybe at a lake or the beach. Every single weekend there is a party, and my friends also go to different clubs. They dance, talk with people and meet some; well, they have a great time. It’s totally different from here.

Even music... because our music has a Latino’s taste. (If you think the Macarena is awesome, you have not heard anything yet!) But we hear American bands there also, from rap to alternative.

I think it’s going to take a little time to get used to America, but I have enough time. I’m planning to go to college here in the States, and on my way there, I hope everything keeps getting better.

Mr. Hedges bridges generation gap

by Eric Decker

A tall man with white hair and a nice suit stood in front of the classroom, sifting through countless notes and books that cluttered his desk and making small, smiling motions to those students whom he knew. They answered with taunting remarks and he quickly shot back with biting rhetoric. Everyone seemed to know him, and he seemed to know everyone. Mr. Hedges had a persona that filled the room.

Dave Hedges was born in Detroit and then, in the first grade, his family moved to Flushing so his father could start a fishing business. Mr. Hedges describes himself as a troublemaker in his childhood, like many of the young rogues who keep his classes interesting now. In junior high, for instance, he found himself with three stern lashes for getting in a fight with a teacher. His grade point in high school, as he recalls, was low, but he somehow found a way to graduate (FHS '66).



Then, something changed him.

"The worst job I ever had (working as a lumber yard clerk) was also the best job I ever had, because it made me realize that this was not what I wanted to do with my life, and I needed to get an education," Mr. Hedges recalls.

He started toward being a teacher at Mott Community College. From there, he was drafted into the military and sent to Germany. Mr. Hedges continued his education in Bayern (the German state known to most Americans as Bavaria), and soon was youth director in Europe in 1969 and 1970, and later spent six months in Europe as a civilian.

After the time in Europe, he returned to Mott, finishing up with an associate's degree. From there, he continued his tour of Michigan schools at Western, where he received his undergraduate degree in marketing. After achieving his masters degree, he was nominated for a doctorate at U of M. He completed an internship and a residency, but never finished his doctorate.

"The only reason I took the classes was because I was nominated. If I had finished, that would have put me in an administrative position, and that's not where I wanted to be. I wanted to be in the classroom... so I took other classes, to hopefully become a better teacher," he says.

Mr. Hedges launched his career at Flint Northwestern and then also began teaching at Southwestern. While at Southwestern, he opened up the first school store at Flint schools, and started a magnet program at Southwestern High. After a long career in the Flint schools, Mr. Hedges was laid off.

"The marketing programs at Northern and Central closed down all together, and the magnet schools at Southwestern went way down, to the point where there were two people teaching in the marketing program. The ironic thing is, I had one of the biggest programs in the state in marketing, and halfway through the year, while I was at Flushing, the program did so badly that they closed that one up, too," he remembers.

After he was laid off, Flushing High School called and offered him a job.

"Because I had always lived in Flushing and graduated from Flushing, I thought it would be a good idea," Mr. Hedges states. In 1988, Mr. Hedges began his career in Flushing. Clubs, classes and civic groups quickly found him to be a source of original ideas for all sorts of special projects.

"I think a lot of good things are happening," Mr. Hedges says of the new principal, Mr. Bickel, "and I don't think we have given him a chance. I am very grateful that he went to bat for us to get the trip to Chicago (the marketing trip to the annual Chicago trade show). Given the chance, I think that a lot of good changes could happen around the school. Change is good, or else you get stagnant."

Mr. Hedges sees the current generation as afraid of failure.

"A lot of kids choose avoidance, so they say 'I didn't fail; I didn't attend class' but in essence they didn't fail the class. They failed themselves." He has watched the number of students who receive lower grades rise, and seems to blame himself when he sees someone fail.

"I get frustrated. I think, why am I banging my head against a wall, trying to get them to do these things? I grew up in Flushing. And it was a totally different atmosphere than what it is now.

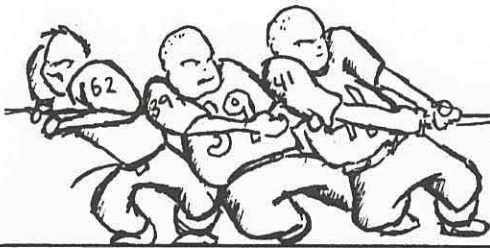
Everything's changed. Change is good, but not when it is used as an excuse. Like the kids who drop out, I'm not upset at them, but I feel that I let them down. I as a teacher should have done something else."

Maybe because of his compassion Mr. Hedges has become the successful teacher he is today.

"I guess that the most important thing teachers can do is help our students deal with the conflicts that they may go through, so that when the storm is over, they are stronger for it."



Top left: Mr. David Hedges as a student was quite busy; band, football, basketball, cross country and Blazer consumed his time. He graduated from FHS in 1966. **Left:** Mr. Hedges demonstrates the proper use of the recycling bins he and DECA bought for FHS for club fundraising.



HOME SCRAP

by Ron Bailey

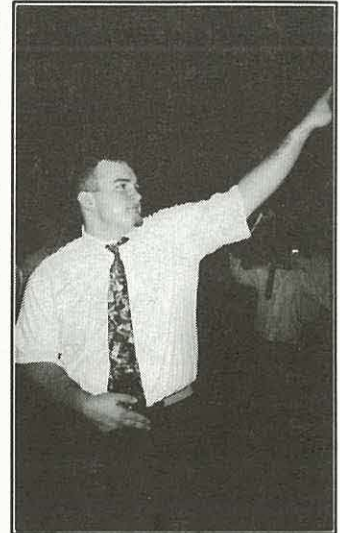


Clockwise starting from the Bottom: Sara Lecki, Carmen Adamo, Leann Epke, Bryan Matheson, Nick Zambito, Steve Philips, Derek Kroc and Megan Barnett stand around the class of 1996's winning parade float. Photo By Floyd Schmitzer.



Above: Junior Football players fall to the floor after the rope breaks in the tug of war with the Senior Football players. Photo by Kari Taylor.

Right: Senior Erik Potzmann gets down with his bad self at the Homecoming Dance. Photo by Kim Wolfgang.



The Varsity Raider Football team stretches out before stepping up to smash Owosso in a 55-14 victory. Photo by Dave Campbell.



OMING BOOK



Illustration by
Nate Smeja



Above: Senior **Michelle Zvonek** prepares for Powder Puff by painting the face of fellow senior and teammate **Tamra Bengelink**. Photo by **Karin Pierson**. **Left:** **Wes Johnson** begins his reign as Homecoming King after being crowned during halftime of the Powder Puff game. Photo by **Angie Alexander**. **Below:** Foreign exchange student **Francisca Pille** pushes King **Wes Johnson** at warp speed across the gym during the pep assembly relay race. Photo by **Kari Taylor**.



With parents **Brian** and **Mary** on either side, **Queen Celeste Boudreau** throws her head back in a spontaneous burst of joy as she receives her title. Photo by **Mystery Photographer**.



Senior **Michelle Lintz** burns the junior defense during the Powder Puff game to make the Senior victory even more glorious. Photo by **Angie Alexander**.



OVERLOOKED BY MOST OF THE WORLD, A CREATIVE FORCE WAS LEFT UNCHECKED TO GAIN MOMENTUM. THE FORCE HAS RECENTLY BEEN UNLEASHED FROM THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN AND HAS GIVEN AMERICAN CARTOON LOVERS AN

ANIME AFFINITY

by Ron Bailey

Anime (pronounced like "animay") has recently experienced a surge in popularity here in the States. For many years, the Japanese-made animation called Anime or Japanimation has been overlooked by most of the US population. This came to an end when various cable network stations began to show movies like *Akira* and *Vampire Hunter D* which hooked viewers on the superior animation style of Japanimation.

In Japan, cartoons are not just for children. Animation is used for any kind of subject matter, be it light hearted children's entertainment, science fiction or dark and gruesome horror flicks. Basically, the Japanese treat animation just like any motion picture production. Violence ranges from slapstick to graphic and nudity is also portrayed but that is mostly due to a cultural difference. Nudity, though not gratuitous, can be shown on network TV in Japan without everyone getting all worked up into a tizzy. Japanimation strives to tell its stories without a brick wall of censorship.

The detail of the art in an Anime is astounding. The way things look and how they behave are given special attention. Objects are incredibly detailed, for instance, if a car is shown, even the treads of the tires are drawn correctly. Clothes have wrinkles, shadows are drawn accurately and, in general, everything obeys the laws of physics. This differs from the somewhat

haphazard detail work given to a lot of American made cartoons. Here in the US, the emphasis is usually on quantity and speed, not quality.

The role of women in Anime stories sets quite a few Japanimations apart from American stories. It's not uncommon to have a woman or a team of women be the ones who save the day. The damsel in distress story line is used nowhere near as much as it is here in the States, where it's pretty much the norm. Women are also given somewhat equal treatment when its time to cast villains.

Women are not usually the evil leaders but they commonly show up as the person in the background

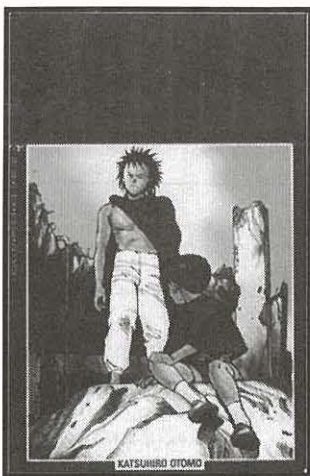
helping all of the evil plans run smoothly.

Heroes are also treated differently in Anime. In practically every cartoon that originates in America, the hero is the picture of valor. This is not the always the case in Japanimation. Anime heroes tend to behave like normal people. They have ulterior motives and character flaws just like regular folks. The reluctant hero and the bad guy turned hero are common throughout Japanimation films. In fact the word "hero" is a bit misleading in most cases. Just because the movie follows a char-



acter doesn't mean that they are the model citizen of the story. The only reason most are called "the Hero" is because that's what we are used to doing with a main character. Don't despair though, there are a few true heroes in Anime if you happen to be a person that just yearns for righteousness.

Hopefully, the popularity of Japanese Anime will continue to grow at its rapid pace. If this happens, more and more of this beautiful art will find its way into US video stores and theaters. After these events come to pass then maybe, just maybe, the dreams of Anime enthusiasts from sea to shining sea will come true and a Japanimation cable network channel will be created. Think of it, 24 hours a day of kickbutt Anime! People will forget their petty arguments and start loving each other! All of the world's problems will be solved! The planet Earth will be the happiest place in the universe! Well, maybe not all that, but it'd still be pretty cool.



Japanimation live

Akira- First major Anime to appear in the States. *Akira* may be the one that started the interest in Anime. Story involves a futuristic biker gang in post-apocalyptic neo-Tokyo. An extremely dark story concerning the next stage of human evolution. *Akira* begins by following the main character Kanada's biker gang of delinquents. The smallest member and constant subject of ridicule, Tetsuo, becomes wrapped up in the mysterious "Akira Project", which awakens strange powers within him. With his new found power, Tetsuo goes on a rampage. In an extremely bizarre showdown with Kanada, Tetsuo begins to mutate when he starts to lose control of his powers. With a fantastic soundtrack of wooden percussion instruments mixed with vocals and animation that is light years beyond American cartoons, *Akira* is definitely worth watching.

Record of Lodoss War- 14 episode television adaptation of a popular Japanese fantasy novel. Story set in the fictional island continent of Lodoss during an medieval era. The lead character, Parn, is a young, inexperienced warrior who is on the same quest as 5 other prophesized heroes to free Lodoss from the evil Grey witch Carla. Very well drawn with excellent animation, *Record of Lodoss War* is interesting because it starts out as 6 different stories that eventually meet up.

Fatal Fury: The Motion Picture- Based on the video game of the same title. This is a fast moving action movie with a good plot and fantastic animation. Terry Bogard, his brother Andy, ninja girl Mai Shiranui, and kickboxer Joe Higashi are out to stop Laocorn and his henchmen from attaining all of the pieces of the legendary Armor of Mars, which turns its wearer into a god. The plot doesn't get much deeper than that, but that's typical with action movies.

Ghost in the Shell- Mostly for people who like movies that are incredibly weird. From the producers of *Akira*, G.I.T.S is set in a futuristic Tokyo, where cybernetics are used to replace human body parts. In some cases the "ghost" or "soul" is the only part of a person that remains human. Questions of artificial ghosts, not just artificial intelligence but artificial soul, begins to rise. *Ghost in the Shell* tries very hard to make its point but it's pretty vague and leaves you saying, "Huh?" The animation is, of course, superb but the main character, who is female, ends up nude an awful lot. Not for the kiddies.

Ranma 1/2- Comedy show from Japanese Television by Japan's leading female cartoonist, Rumiko Takahashi. Ranma Saotome, the main character, has a unique situation while training in China with his father, Genma. While at the "Grounds of the Cursed Springs", Ranma accidentally fell into a spring that was haunted by the spirit of a drowned red-headed girl. Now, when splashed with cold water, Renma becomes a red-headed girl, and his father becomes a giant Panda. When splashed with hot water, they revert into their normal form.

by Andrew Helms



Features
November
19
Blazer



Illustration by Andrew Helms

What to do with a No. 2

By Brian Goodwill

Imagine yourself getting up early on a Saturday morning during spring break, going through your usual routine to get ready, walking out the door with a pair of nicely sharpened number two pencils in hand, driving to a school you don't even go to, and taking an extremely long and mentally straining test. Though it sounds insane, 1.2 million students from all over the nation do it every year. The reason they do this is simple: they have to.

Every spring all of the juniors that plan on going to a four year college are required to take the ACT (American College Test). It is suggested that the juniors taking the ACT should do so in April. This is so they can retake the test in June, October, December, or February if they don't do as well as they had hoped.

The ACT is scored on each of its four individual subjects, math, science reasoning, grammar, and reading. Students are given a cumulative score based on a scale of one to 36. Flushing's students have an average score of 21.6, which is slightly better than both state and national average scores. The scores are used by colleges and universities in their admissions and placement programs. Students

planning to attend college in Michigan use the scores to qualify for financial aid.

The ACT isn't the only college entrance exam out there either. There is also the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test), which is taken by seniors that plan on going to an out-of-state college. Students in the top half percent of their class can also take the SAT to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship. The scoring for the SAT is done differently than the ACT. The SAT overall score isn't a cumulative score, but rather the sum of their math and verbal scores. The results are based on a scale with a 400 point minimum and a 1500 point maximum.

For the juniors that plan to take the SAT and want a little practice before the actual test, there is also the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test). The PSAT covers the same subjects as the SAT and is scored the same way. The PSAT can be taken in the fall of students'

junior year. The PSAT is a very good indicator of how well a student will do on the SAT, and helps get students read for the test taking conditions of the ACT. It can also be used by students in the top half percent of their class qualify for the National Merit Scholarship.

Besides these entrance exams, there are the various AP (Advanced Placement) tests. These tests can be taken by seniors that want to test out of certain college courses, which can save them a lot of time and money. The AP tests are offered in the five academic areas: math, science, English, social studies, and the foreign languages. Most Flushing students that take the AP tests for English and the foreign languages do very well.

College Open Houses

Aquinas College :

Nov. 16, Nov. 22, Feb. 21, Mar. 22, Apr. 18

University of Michigan - Flint :

Nov. 10

Butler University :

Nov. 11, Jan. 13, Feb. 15, Mar. 3

Grand Valley State University :

Nov. 16

Bowling Green State University :

Dec. 7

For more information on how to register, see the bulletin board outside the guidance office.

Colleges Coming

GMI :

Nov. 12, 10:00

Lawrence Technology University:

Nov. 4, 10:00

Sign up to attend these college meetings in the College Career Center.

Funding The Future

- **Eastern Michigan University Presidential Scholarship Competition** deadline is Nov. 8
- **Defiance College Presidential Service Fellowship Award** deadline is Dec. 1
- **Society of Automotive Engineers' Scholarship** deadline is Dec. 2
- **Devry Institutes Award Scholarships** deadline is Dec. 31
- **Discover Card Scholarships** deadline is Jan. 10
- **Western Michigan University Medallion Scholarship Program** deadline is Jan. 10
- **Michigan Society of Professional Engineers' Scholarships** deadline is Jan. 15
- **Meemic Scholarships** deadline is Feb. 1
- **National Academy of American Scholars** deadline is Feb. 1
- **Hope Merit Based Academic Scholarship** deadline is Feb. 15



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Marilyn Manson

New album sure to spark controversy

by Jason Edwards



Change is an essential part of existence. Without adaptation, without evolution, we die. Marilyn Manson has evolved.

Antichrist Superstar is the story of that evolution, an apocalyptic masterpiece of a social manifesto, birthed due to a complex process of sleep-deprivation and pain-threshold rituals. It's an experience that has been described as being "like having someone you love scream in your face for over an hour." It's a grinding inferno of self-examination and selective finger pointing, a musical

soundscape charged with emotions ranging from outright hatred to sorrow and disillusionment. Anything you may have thought you knew about Marilyn Manson has been shattered. When you rake aside the cartoon samples, the pop-culture/ serial killer fixation, the novelty of cover songs, *Antichrist Superstar* is what you have left.

An album, three singles, an EP and four demo tapes ago, Marilyn Manson began in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida as Marilyn Manson and the Spooky Kids. In the six years since, the band has gone through a complete rotation; Marilyn himself is the only original member.

Without a doubt, *Antichrist Superstar* is the most diverse offering from the band (not to mention the noisiest in a few cases), featuring styles ranging from the sonic chaos of "Mr. Superstar" and "Little Horn" to the ambient beauty of "Cryptorchid" to the straightforward regime of beat-driven noise with "The Beautiful People" and "Antichrist Superstar." Two tracks even

feature acoustic guitar which is unheard of for a Marilyn Manson track. Manson wrote and assembled "Minute of Decay" entirely on his own, another first.

Plenty of help was offered up by the prodigal himself, producer Trent Reznor, but in no way is this album a Nine Inch Nail spin-off. The influence is there as usual, but the razor-edge of the music is Manson's Reznor's presence is evident, though, especially considering that he co-wrote three songs, and plays lead guitar on "Mr. Superstar." Dave "Rave" Ogilvie of Skinny Puppy lent his talents to album production as well.

There is nothing negative to be said about this album. Everything from Mr. Manson's distorted pan flute to Dean Karr' disturbing photography to Bau-Da Design' amazing packaging adds to the perfection of the finished product.

At the very least, this record might make you think about a few things. At most, it will blow you away.

Dead to the World Tour thrashes State Theatre

by Jason Edwards

Depending on who you ask, Marilyn Manson is a devil, an angel, a very disturbed individual, or perhaps just a performer. At the State Theatre, he showed that in many ways, he exemplifies all of the above.

The show opened with the less-than-spectacular NY Loose, who provided pre-show fortune cookies to the crowd, which essentially read "We gave you a cookie, now go buy our album." While the band was not entirely untalented, it was not wholly original, and it borrowed many elements from pop-punk. Reportedly, their set was meant to include a punk cover of The Cure's "Just Like Heaven." Fortunately, the set was shortened and we didn't have to hear them butcher Robert Smith's classic.

During the intermission, the crowd erupted briefly into chants of "We hate love! We love hate!" (which is a quote from the new album, and more of a novelty on the crowd's behalf than anything sinister). Finally, the room blackened. The curtain lifted, exposing an immense stained-glass backdrop. Twiggy Ramirez, the gender-confused bassist, was the first man onstage, taking his place loyally to the left. drummer Ginger Fish, keyboardist Madonna Wayne Gacy and new guitarist Zim Zum soon followed. Our resident Reverend, Marilyn Manson himself, then emerged

from the darkness and made his way to front-center stage, his arms extended in cruciform.

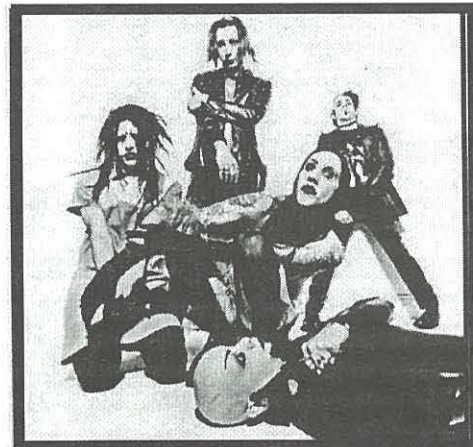
The band immediately launched into "Angel With the Scabbed Wings" from the new album, followed by "Get Your Gunn" and "Lunchbox" from their first record. They played for over two hours, belting out much of the new album, and a few older songs as well. "Sweet Dreams" got a huge response as expected, but the largest crowd response went to the new single, "The Beautiful People."

The first highlight of the evening came during "Cryptorchid," in which Madonna (affectionately known by fans as Pogo) abandoned his keyboard in favor of a huge eighteenth century pipe organ. Then, as the vocals began, artificial snow began drifting down onto the crowd from above, creating a mood that was all at once dark, eerie and beautiful.

Later, the lights suddenly went down. After less than 30 seconds, they came back on to reveal a giant podium set up where Mr. Manson had been standing, with their new lightning bolt logo emblazoned on it. The backdrop was covered by banners featuring the same logo. Marilyn had somehow managed to change from his usual attire of PVC leather and ripped panty hose

to a suit and tie in the short period of time. They launched into the album's title track, "Antichrist Superstar," in one of the most powerful performances of the evening.

If you have any interest at all in the band this show is the one to see. However, the floor at a Marilyn Manson concert is definitely not for those afraid o



Promotion picture from Marilyn Manson's previous album

getting hurt. If you're lucky, you may even get to meet a member or two of the band. (Zim Zum and Ginger usually mingle with the crowd). If you missed the show, try to catch them when they come through again; they'll almost certainly be back sometime this tour.

Suicide Machines are reviving the Local

by Josh Dunn

Hundreds of kids flocked to downtown Flint to attend the biggest concert ever put on by the Flint Local 432, an all-ages concert venue in Flint. Two hundred were turned away at the door and for good reason. The Suicide Machines had made their return to Flint with a great line-up of bands. Despite what other people think, this is not the Suicide Machines' first visit to Flint; they have made numerous visits to the Local. They think it's really cool that the youth have a safe, fun place to go, hang out, and watch live music. In fact, the Suicide Machines thank the owner, Joel Rash, in their new album *Destruction By Definition*.

The night started off with Slo-Poke. Slo-Poke is a five piece pop-punk band from Detroit. Their songs were fast, catchy, and melodic. They were really cool. Next up was Absence, a local favorite from Saginaw. Absence blends punk, ska, hardcore and rap, giving them an incomparable sound.

Following absence was Spit, straight-edge hardcore from Flint. Spit is one of Flint's more prominent hardcore bands, and they put on a very energetic show. After Spit it was time for the main event, the Suicide Machines.

For those of you who don't know who the Suicide Machines (previously known as Jack Kevorkian and the Suicide Machines) are, they are an excellent punk/ska band from Detroit. The Suicide Machines are known for their good live performances, and they lived up to their expectations.

They played a really good set including songs from their new album *Destruction by Definition*, their old release *Green World*, and even a Gorilla Biscuits cover. The Gorilla Biscuits are a hardcore band from the late eighties from which the Suicide Machines take a lot of influence. The Suicide Machines were really cool, despite the fact that Dan, the guitarist, kept having trouble with his guitar. The singer, Jason, passed the time by singing Public Enemy and Ice Cube songs. The show was great; not only was the music good, but the environment was also good. There were no fights, no one was hurt, and you didn't have to worry about anyone smoking or drinking. Everyone just seemed to have a good time.

If the Suicide Machines sound like they might catch your interest, you can pick up *Destruction By Definition* at your local record store. If you already have *De-*

struction By Definition and would like to hear some earlier stuff, you can order *Skank for Brains*, the split album with The Rudiments (who are another punk/ska band from California), or you can get the first release, *Green World*. *Skank for Brains* can be ordered through Beach Records on tape for seven dollars, or, for a dollar more, you can have the convenience of a compact disc. Beach Records can be reached by telephone at (415)533-8725. *Green World* might not still be available, but if you want to you can send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Old Skool Records, P.O. Box 401286, Redford, MI 48240 for a catalog, or call (313) 728-5312 and ask nicely. If you get a chance to see the Suicide Machines live, do so, you'll have a great time. So keep your eyes and ears open for the Suicide Machines.



What is alternative these days?

by Dustin Bowden

When did alternative music die? Did it die when Kurt Cobain killed himself? When Metallica headlined Lollapalooza? Or when Shannon Hoon overdosed? People will always try and pinpoint it, but no one will ever truly figure it out.

Where are all of the new alternative bands? Since alternative music has been introduced, we've been bombarded with many one-hit wonders who sounded like they might make it with their distorted guitar, self pity and screaming lyrics, but they didn't. Remember all those bands who had that hit song but couldn't produce a second one no matter how they tried? Remember Candlebox and Silverchair, those wacky kids from the land down under?

Suddenly every band was alternative no matter what... they didn't even have to sound like it. If they had

just come out of Seattle, or if it appealed to a younger audience, record personnel were ready to slap on that good old label. Old favorites who had started the trend (like Nine Inch Nails for example), went mainstream with a larger and bigger audience. You really can't call them alternative now can you?

What about other bands such as Stone Temple Pilots, Smashing Pumpkins and Pearl Jam? If anyone has paid attention to all their albums, their music seems to change with every album. They give it a different style every time. You really can't hold them down with a label such as alternative.

Some might say that alternative is far from being dead. With the likes of Perry Farrell's band, Porno For Pyros, and other bands that haven't gone mainstream yet. The Butthole Surfers

were alternative for a long time but with one hit single, "Pepper," they go from nightclub to arena. If you're a die-hard alternative fan then you're constantly searching for a band that will satisfy, and lord knows it's hard to find. If you're looking for some oldie but goodie alternative bands to turn to, look at such bands as Sonic Youth, The Pixies and a newer band, The Frogs, who are incidentally on the independent label formed by The Smashing Pumpkins.

Maybe it's not that alternative music is dead, maybe it's that people just don't know where to look for it. If you just want to stay mainstream, or if you'd rather check out some of these alternative bands then do so. If you're sick of all of it like many of you are, then there is always an alternative to alternative. It's called rock-n-roll.



Tool
Ænima
★★★★

Tool's latest effort, *Ænima*, in no way lets you down at all. When you go to buy the CD (not the tape) you will see eyes, lots of them, flying towards a huge space of white in the middle of the cover. There are also three more moving pictures when you get to the sleeve, including one of the band (you just have to see it). All these moving pictures are done care of those grooved plastic things you used to play with as a kid.

After all that excitement you finally get to listen to the CD. There are fifteen total tracks, but only ten of them are actually music. One of the tracks, "A Message to Harry Woodbeck," is a Cuban guy sending his message of hate to some guy, probably Harry Woodbeck. But let's get to the actual music. All of the songs contain awesome guitar riffs and powerful lyrics. The first song

on the CD, "Stink Fist," which is their first single, is just simply awesome. You then come to the second song, "Eulogy," which starts out slow, and it goes for about two minutes and then 'BAM!' they start pounding out the heavy guitars and dark lyrics again. Another great song is the title track "Ænima." The song is awesome and it is too bad that you won't hear it on the radio due to the many obscenities - there are a few other songs like that, and I guess that is to be expected from Tool. Other great songs include "H," "Useful Idiot," "Jimmy," and "Pushit." The only downside to the CD is short tracks with sounds, like the "Intermission" song, which conveniently fills in the middle of the CD. It is 45 seconds of a circus organ. It sounds like something that a monkey would dance to. Once you get around these tracks, this CD is every bit as great as *Undertow*, their previous and hugely successful album. So get your butt out to the record store and buy a cool copy of *Ænima* to play tricks with your eyes and ears.

by Jeff Richards

Stuff to save up for

New Releases

Nov. 5

Beavis and Butthead
Bodeans
Cult
Presidents of USA
Tribute to Queen
2Pac

Nov. 12

Blind Melon
Cow Boy Junkies
Party of Five Sndtrk
Snoop Doggy Dog

Concerts

Nov. 1

Rusted Root
7:30 Hill Auditorium

Nov. 9

Phish
Palace of Auburn Hills
\$22.50

Nov. 12

Soundgarden
Palace of Auburn Hills

Nov. 3

The Who
Palace of Auburn Hills
\$45 and up

Tool (sold out)
State Theatre

Better then Ezra
Sanctum, Pontiac

Nov. 21

Bob Dylan
Hill Auditorium
\$25-\$32

The Long Kiss Goodnight leaves bad aftertaste

by Eric Decker

Hollywood is scrambling to catch up. When *Pulp Fiction* finally gained enough steam to create thousands of drooling Tarantino fans, the major studios began buying the edgier scripts and casting major stars. This has birthed great movies like *12 Monkeys*, *Leaving Las Vegas*, and *Trainspotting* to name a few. Unfortunately, this revolution also spawned such duds as *Strange Days* and *Two Days In The Valley*. *The Long Kiss Goodnight* falls in the dud category.

The film features Geena Davis, in a role that could be called 'La Femme de La Bond' who is cursed with total amnesia and can't remember anything up to eight years ago. She often stares at her body in the mirror, which offers numerous scars that might indicate the life she lived before. Davis, whose career hit the skids after the disastrous *Angie* and *Hero*, is apparently trying to rekindle the popularity she once had, but turns into a performance so bad that her Oscar (that she won in *Accidental Tourist*) should be taken away from her. She mugs the camera, with enough "aim the gun for a long time and say something cool before you blow the guy's head clean off" shots to make the average person have their eyes rolling like a bowling ball.

The film also features Samuel L. Jackson, who turns in a great performance as Davis' ex-con friend, doing the job as the comic relief of the film. Jackson has the best comic delivery of anyone in Hollywood and his straight faced sarcasm will have you in stitches the entire movie. He carries the movie and has such a redeeming quality, the movie is worth seeing just for his performance. Jackson, (also in *Pulp Fiction*) who coincidentally probably has his agent at gunpoint for convincing him to do this movie, can do nothing to stop the unending pointlessness of this movie.

To say that *Long Kiss* is boring wouldn't be true. It is a great action movie and has enough really great action sequences to keep you entertained, but it is only an action movie. We never see the workings of the characters and it is way too long. By the time the real climax does finally come, you're throwing popcorn at the screen and bellowing "Okay! I get the point!" The final minutes of the movie where they tie up all of the loose ends will have you vomiting in your empty popcorn box. *Long Kiss* would be a great movie if they ended it 45 minutes before it actually did. If you're looking for an action movie with good comedy, then give *Long Kiss* a try. If you're looking for the next *Pulp Fiction*, you're going to have to keep waiting.

Just for kicks



Jeff Banner performs his high side kick on the heavy bag.

by Jeff Lampley

When we think of martial arts we normally think of little short oriental men jumping around in pajamas or a movie superstar like Jean Claude Van Damme. Bruce Lee was the man that popularized martial arts in America. He broke into the martial arts movie industry in the early 1970s. From there martial arts have taken off into the 1990s.

Martial arts started in the orient. The Asians developed as a defence in wartime. The different styles were developed by families and that style would be passed

down from generation to generation. Modern martial arts are passed on by commercial teachers and contemporary schools.

There are many types of martial arts. There are also two categories for the hundreds of different arts. The first would be called, "hard style" which includes Karate, Tae Kwon Do, and Maury Tai kickboxing. Those arts have all the flashy kicks and lightning fast punches that Bruce Lee and Jean Claude Van Dame are so famous for. The second category would be "soft style." The martial arts included would be Aikido, Ju-Jitsu, and Judo. Those are the styles that do the throwing, joint-locking, and grappling arts that you see Steven Seagal do in the movies.

People do martial arts for a number of different reasons. For the few who get totally involved in the arts it can be a lifetime study. Others use it to get into shape. A lot of punching and kicking arts can be used to substitute for aerobics. If you just have nothing to do and you are bored on weeknights it can be a fun hobby for the person who likes to get out and do a little exercise. Self defense is probably the main reason for people doing martial arts. If you are ever attacked on the street you would be familiar with the situation you will be faced with.

Below: Anybody can break a board. Brent puts the finishing touches on his yellow belt test.



Grand Tradition Martial Arts is only one of the many martial arts studios in the greater Flint area. The head instructor is Master Matt Oaks, 4th dan (4th degree black belt) in Tang Soo Do. Tang Soo Do is one of "hard style" arts mentioned earlier. Jeff Banner is another main instructor, a 2nd dan in Tang Soo Do and a 1st dan in Tae Kwon Do. Both of these styles originated in Korea. When asked why do people do martial arts, Jeff said "movies." When they watch Steven Seagal and Jean Claude, people just love it and want to learn what they see in the movies.

Since America is such a competitive society we have made competition for almost everything including martial arts. Some schools think that competition is beneficial part of a students training, whereas other schools believe that competition is purely a western egotistical way of trying to decide which martial art is the best. Jeff thinks that competition is a "good experience" for the students. He went on to say that a tournament helps a person to get used to a real fighting situation.

Bill Baughman is one of the other area martial arts instructors. Bill is likewise one of the Flushing Township Police Department police officers. Bill also trains in a Korean art. He has been training for almost 16 years in Hapkido and is a 4th dan. Hapkido is one of the few arts that combine the hard and soft styles together.

The best time to get started in the martial arts is when you're young. Bill believes that if you want to get your child started you should start them at about five years old. "Just because your not young doesn't mean you can't do arts though," said Bill. "I've had people as old as 64 in my classes," he added.

When asked about women training, Bill said that they should want to train more than men because of the higher chance of being attacked on the street. "Women should project a confident attitude. That way they are less likely to be attacked, whereas a women who walks with her head down and does not pay attention to where she's at, she would be more likely to be attacked."

Is there a super martial art? Bill's re-

All photos courtesy of Jeff Lampley.



Kevin may be in a wheelchair but he is definitely not helpless. If attacked he has a wide variety of joint locks and throws.

Sutemi Seie Kam which is a hard style. Lee loves to go to the competitions. He has been to Ireland twice and placed both times in the fighting category. He won 2nd place on his first visit and won 1st place on his second visit.

Lee believes that there are a few different opportunities in the martial arts field. Bare knuckle fighting like the Ultimate Fighting Championship and other full contact fighting like kickboxing are available if you are good. Opening your own school is a less dangerous opportunity said, Lee.

Martial arts are a rising thing in the '90s and there are a lot of schools in the area to accommodate your wants and needs. All you have to do is let your fingers do the walking. Most of the schools have a free trial lesson so you can try out what the school teaches before you sign up. When you go to try out different schools make sure to watch some classes to make sure you get what you want. Don't be afraid to ask questions. If the teacher doesn't answer you directly chances are they probably don't have what you want. If they have everything you want, join up and get on a steady schedule. Most important of all **HAVE FUN!**

sponse to that question was plain and simple "No, they all have something good to offer, it just depends on what you are interested in."

Bill had something interesting to say when he was asked if he has ever had to use his training. "I was working in a parking ramp both as a security guard. One of the trainees wanted in to go to the bathroom, so I let him in. As he came out of the bathroom he stopped behind me and hit me with a hammer on the top of the head. It didn't knock me out. Before I could get turned around a loud pop went off in my ear. He had shot me in the head with a small caliber pistol. I finally got turned around where I was able to grapple him down to the ground and hold him in a arm lock until help arrived." The man that attacked Bill was 6'6" and about 280 pounds. Bill claims that his training is what saved his life.

Lee Common, senior, is one of the top competition fighters in his class in the United States. Lee trains in Ko



A special weapons class is held at the World Martial Arts Center.

CRAZY ISN'T ALWAYS FUN

by Rob Bitz

Are we beating ourselves up?

I was at a football game Flushing vs. Powers last month. As you all know we lost. That stunk worse than heated limburger cheese, but that's not the point. That night I was with a rowdy crowd that had no idea how to show team spirit. If that's too hard to understand, I'll explain it to you in plain English. These fans were rude to the rest of the crowd around them.

In my eyes I view the crowd as a part of the team, the part that holds all the team's confidence and encouragement, and that should not be abused by a group of rude fans. I'm talking about the fans who throw things at the band like marshmallows and hot dog buns. I'm talking about the fans who pull up their shirts and antagonize the cheerleaders.

If I were a cheerleader I would not want to cheer in front of a crazy crowd like that. We also have a problem with too much profanity in the crowd. It is not uncommon to hear profane words being used by the rowdy fans of Flushing High School. "F" this, "F" that. There is no need for that.

And what about the refs? Let them make the calls in peace. I'm sure they are getting enough stress from the players without the fans getting into it.

The 15 minutes before the end of the game, I started to count how many times I saw somebody's middle finger go up at the ref, or cheerleaders or band members. I was appalled when I reached 15 before the game was even over.

I don't know about you, but that concerns me. I don't want my little brother and sister to copy us big kids if we act like that.

Yes, the goofy behavior was pretty funny, and I know these guys were just trying to have some fun. But when we have our fun, we need to watch who's watching us.

RAIDER SCORECARD

Varsity Football, Varsity Basketball, Varsity Volleyball, Golf, Wrestling, Cross Country, Track & Field, Baseball, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball, Football, Hockey, Cross Country, Track

The **Boys Varsity Soccer** team wrapped up its home season by beating Genessee Christian 4-0. Scoring for the Raiders were seniors **Anthony Joubran, Andrew Ryan,** and junior **Dave Dupuis**. "Our record thus far is 11-6-1, with our highlight game being against Powers where we tied them 2-2," says Andrew Ryan, adding that "it was a hard fought, excellent, all-around game." The Raiders finished third in the Big Nine with their only loss coming at the hands of Grand Blanc. They are hoping to be in the state playoffs by the time you read this. "We are determined to do well in the playoffs", says senior **Ken Middaugh**.

BY **MATTCHRISTOPHER**

The **Boys Cross Country** team is wrapping up a great season. The Raiders started off slowly but ended the season with two wins against Owosso and Beecher. Top finishers included sophomore **Mike Bentley**, senior **Steve McKone**, juniors **Matt Foltz** and **Grant Nelsestuen**, seniors **John Welch** and **Schaefer Arnould**, and junior **Jeff Richards**. They ended up in sixth place in the Big Nine with a record of 2-3. This Saturday, Nov. 2, Mike Bentley is expected to give the other competitors a run for their money at the State Finals.

BY **JUSTINCANNON**

"We have the talent to beat Kearsley," senior **Erik Potzmann** had said the week before the **Varsity Football** game against Kearsley. The Raiders ended up beating the fifth ranked team in the state by a score of 28-27 in overtime. The Hornets scored first in extra time putting them up 27-20. Flushing, however, came back to score on a 10-yard touchdown run by junior **Tom Whitmire**. Senior **Jeff Griffis** ran the ball in for the two point conversion putting the Raiders ahead for good. The Raiders were coming off of a 55-14 massacre of Owosso the previous week at the Homecoming Game. On Nov. 1, the team will finish off their regular season against Beecher at home.

BY **GRANTNELSESTUEN**

The **Girls Varsity Basketball** team has been playing well lately, recording a win against Clio on Oct. 8. They also played very well against Kearsley but lost 41-31. "Kearsley is ranked seventh in the state and even though we lost, I felt we played really good," said senior captain **Angie Murray**. Coach Harland said, "The girls are working hard. The defense is improving, but the offense is struggling a little." She also added that the team is looking for some wins to end the season. The girls have a game against Beecher on Nov. 4 and the cross-over game on Nov. 6.

BY **HEIDIYEAGLEY**

The **Girls Varsity Tennis** team went to the state meet after placing third in the regionals. Highlights of the day included seniors **Heidi Yeagley** and **Julie Rice** advancing to the quarterfinals at numbers three and four singles respectively. "I think we had a real good tournament," said Coach Allan Nelson. "The girls hung in there and I am real proud of them." The team ended up placing 15th in the state. They also placed a strong third in the Big Nine.

BY **DELLVARMINT**

The **Girls Cross Country** team has taken a commanding lead in the Big Nine conference this year. After defeating the Grand Blanc Bobcats in the crossover meet, the girls went on to win the Big Nine conference. Senior **Trisha Eavy** came in first with a personal record of 19:42, followed by junior **Jenni Gutscher**, seniors **Alane Millar** and **Brooke Vizena**, freshman **Kate Shipley** and **Anna Dutcher**, and senior **Cathy Bluteau**. Later that day, freshman **Alicia Shepard** went on to win the J.V. Big Nine race. On November 2, the girls will compete at the State Finals.

BY **HEATHERMORDUE**



The **Boys Varsity Golf** team is all smiles after winning their Regionals held at Flushing Valley Country Club. They beat second place Kearsley by one stroke. Photo by **PaulMartin**

After a slow start this year, the **Boys Varsity Golf** team turned up the heat by winning their Regional. The Regional was held at Flushing Valley, the team's home course. Mr. Yeagley, the golf coach, said, "This proved to be a big advantage." The golf team beat Kearsley by one stroke to win the Regional for the first time since 1982. The Raiders went on to finish their year placing 19th at the state meet the next weekend. The team also had a strong showing at the end of the season Big Nine Tourney. Senior **Neil Birmingham** led the Raiders with a 76 to finish fifth overall. Senior **Rob Londrigan** and junior **Mike Matheson** also shot solid 81's with seniors **J.D. Kalush** and **Eric Hundshamer** helping to contribute to the third place finish by both shooting 87. The team finished sixth in the Big Nine.

BY **ROBLONDRIGAN**

Basketball

Grand Blanc 59
Flushing 49

Kearsley 41
Flushing 31

Powers 57
Flushing 38

Cross Country

Girl's

First place in the Big Nine

First team All-Big Nine
Trisha Eavy
Jenni Gutscher

Boy's

Sixth place in the Big Nine

Second team All-Big Nine
Michael Bentley

Football

Flushing 55
Owosso 14

Flushing 28
Kearsley 27 OT

Clio 34
Flushing 14

Golf

Sixth place in the Big Nine

19th place in the state

Soccer

Flushing 4
Genessee Christian 0

Flushing 4
Saginaw Arthur Hill 2

Flushing 2
Owosso 1

Tennis

Third place in the Big Nine

15th place in the state

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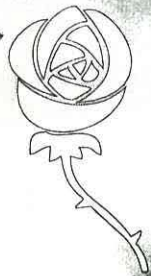
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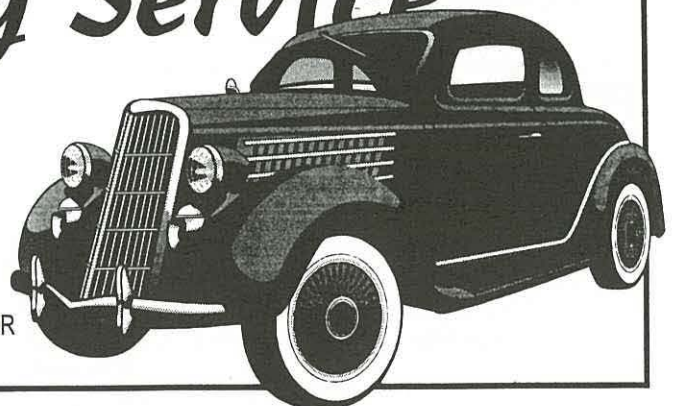
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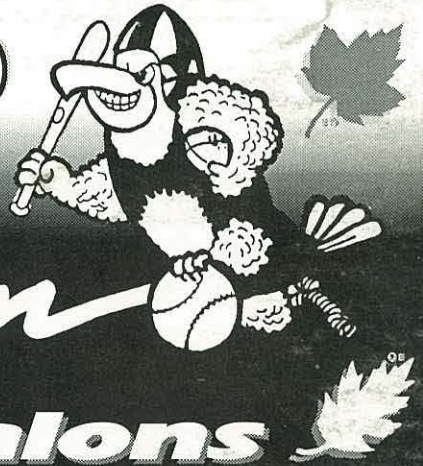
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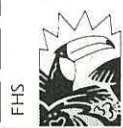
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