

blazer

flushing high school's independent voice

volume 52 * december 1999

BUDDY'S

CARS 108

& Ca

ICE
TIME

news

- 4 *If Gilligan only knew*
- 5 *Simply symphony*
- 6 *Club News*

opinions

- 10 *Who should call the shots in your education?*
- 11 *Blending colors*

features

- 15 *West Point Story*
- 18 *Show us what's in your closet*

sight + sound

- 26 *It's time for Primetime*
- 28 *Kicking back at The Elbow Room*

sports

- 31 *Parental Discretion Advised: Gang Related*
- 32 *1999 Fall Sports Awards*

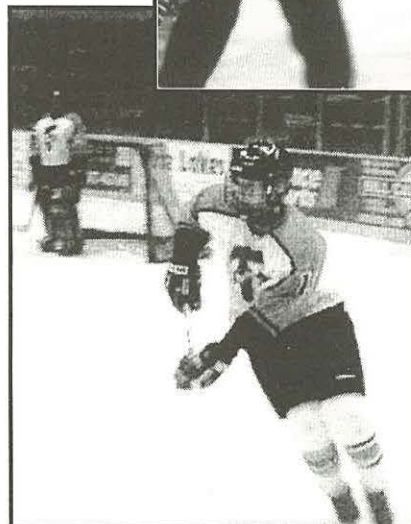
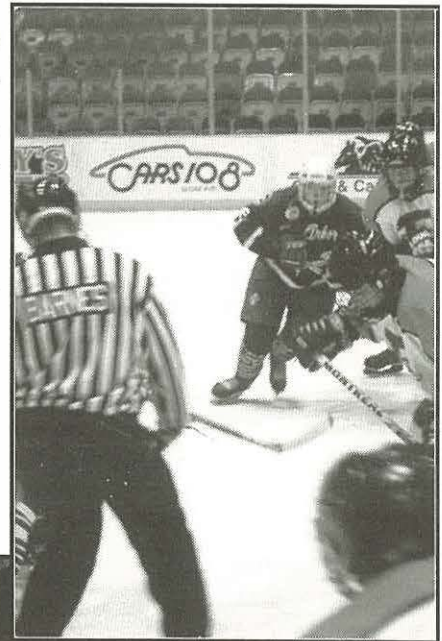


➊ *The girls' varsity basketball team celebrates their district championship over Saginaw Heritage. The girls went on to win Regionals against Flint Northern, and their season ended at the state quarterfinals against East Kentwood. Senior Jodi Young received All-State recognition for a second year. Photo by Kelly Edwards*



on the cover

The hockey team battles it out against Ann Arbor Pioneer in the finals of the Tier Tournament. The Raiders lost 7-1, but were proud of their improvement from last year, where Ann Arbor beat them 11-1. Flushing has been playing excellent defense, and goalie Alan Faille had 36 saves in the game. Photo by Kelly Edwards



Defenseman Tommy Lynch takes the puck around the net to pass it up the ice. The Raider Hockey team played this game in the Tier Tournament; they made it to the finals before losing to Ann Arbor Pioneer. Photo by Kelly Edwards

THE DAILY DOSE
BY JOE DAILY



Hey people,

Well, it's that blissful time of year again. Christmas is almost here and soon we'll be enjoying our little break. It seems to get shorter every year. When the kids in elementary reach our age, they'll get a half day on Christmas Eve, but they'll have to be here all the earlier on December 26th. They'll have regular school until December 31, when they'll get another half day, and won't have to come to school on New Years.....until ten o'clock. God bless us, everyone.

In this issue of the *Blazer*, we have an extended Sight & Sound section for those of you still writing your Christmas lists. In news, there's an interesting photo story on cardboard canoes, which were constructed in Mr. Hinds' Research Methods classes. You can get a recap on the fall seasons with "1999 Fall Sports Awards," and voice your opinion with "Who should call the shots in your education?"

I'd like to thank the people who sent me responses about my article from the November issue, "cancer tears me apart." I guess you know who you are and I appreciated your words of encouragement.

Speaking of responses, keep them coming in. We'd love to hear your opinions on different articles, school policies, or interesting things going on around town. Be sure to include your full name, or we won't print it.

So, until next time, have a holly jolly Christmas, or if not Christmas, Winter Break, and we'll see you again in the year 2000..... unless that whole thing with the crazy computers happens. I had to ruin it with that. Bye.

Joe Daily
Editor-in-chief

editorial staff

editor-in-chief

Joe Daily

sight & sound editors

Cory Glover
Jameson Myers

news editor

Andrew Fotenakes

sports editors

Seth Tuuri
Jason Witz

club news editor

Mandy O'Boyle

copy editor

Pat Santala

opinions editor

Samantha Anderson

photo editor

Kelly Edwards

asst. opinions editor

Sarah Allegro

ads editor

Justin Puro

people editor

Aron Duby

staff artist

John Sharp

features editors

Jessica Bouchard
Andrew P. Kryza

subscription manager

Andrea Rishmawi

business manager

Justin Puro

staff contributors

Sarah Fauster
Jason Kennedy
Katie Sharrow-Reabe
KJ Wilson

The *Blazer* is dedicated to the highest standards of journalism, including accuracy and fairness and avoidance of libel.

The staff editorial, which carries no byline, is the opinion of the Editorial Board of the *Blazer*.

Opinions of byline opinion writers, columnists, and cartoonists are those of the writer/artist, not the staff, the adviser, the faculty, of administration of FHS or Flushing Community Schools. Ad policy: The *Blazer* does not advertise goods or services that are illegal to minors and retains the right to refuse an ad for any reason. Letters to the Editor are welcome. They may be delivered to room 121. Letters will be edited for spelling. Unsigned letters will not be printed, but the writer's name may be withheld for reason.

how to reach us

The *Blazer*, Flushing High School, 5039 Deland Road, Flushing, MI 48433
The *Blazer* is affiliated with the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association and Quill & Scroll Society. The *Blazer* was awarded the Spartan in 1995, 1996, and 1997 and Quill & Scroll's International First Place, 1992-1999.

⤵ Tiffany Patterson, Aileen Koliboski and their second hour class used over 30 rolls of duct tape on their 180lb canoe.



⤵ Julie Bedard learned concepts such as volume displacement in the inaugural year of the canoe project. One canoe held 16 people, approximately 2860lbs before sinking. Figures showed that the canoe could have held up to 30+ people

If Gilligan only knew

BY ARON DUBY

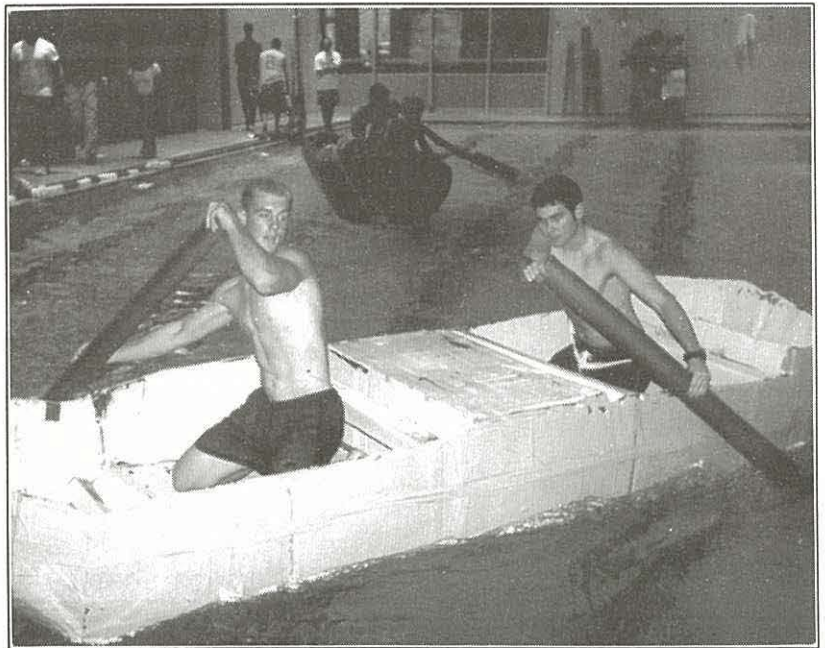
If you were given some duct tape, cardboard, and paint, what could you build? How about a canoe that could hold up to 30 people for a trip across the pool at the YMCA?

Sound impossible? Well for three weeks that's exactly what Mr. Hinds' first and second hour Research Methods classes did.

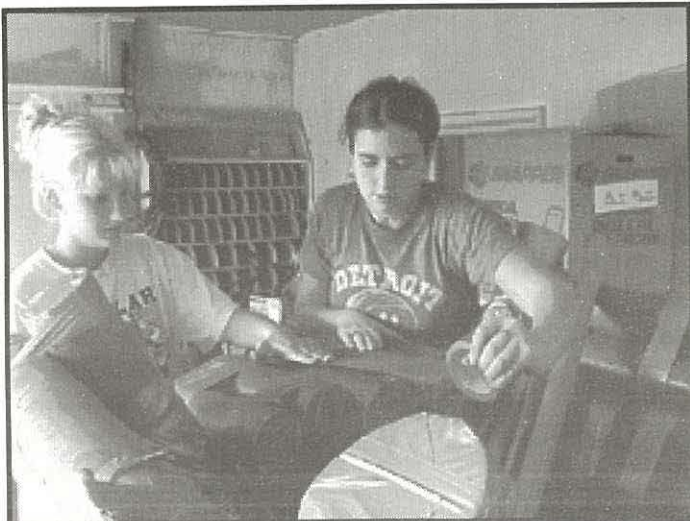
Each class prepared a canoe of their own design along with paddles using only those three simple materials.

Could the challenge be met? ➡

Logan Beson and Tyler Phillips paddled their third hour boat to victory in one of three races held. The races included a 1-lap sprint, a 4-lap relay involving bricks, and a 20-lap endurance run.



➡ BrieAnna Hilliker and Julie Bedard spent about three weeks at the Hilliker's house building their canoe.



⤵ "The canoe race idea came from a similar event held by the engineering school at Central Michigan University," said Mr. Hinds.

Simply Symphony

BY ABBY BOLKEMA

If you see someone walking in Flint carrying a violin case, what's your first thought? Mafia? Try again. It's probably a member of the Flint Youth Symphony Orchestra (FYSO). The group with over 80 area students meets with conductor Mrs. Davin Pierson Torre, every Tuesday at the Flint Institute of Music.

Of the 80+ students, six are from Flushing. There are three sophomores: Lauren Ham, a string bass player, Melia Caverly, a cellist, and Rebekah Nerreter, a percussionist. The sole junior is Myke Patterson who plays bass. The final two members are senior violinists Sara Bolkema and Alaina Sarver.

The FYSO performs concerts at a variety of different venues, in addition to the newly renovated Whiting Auditorium. In April of 2000, they will be taking a trip to New York City. The symphony takes a trip every two years. In 1998, they traveled to England. During these trips, FYSO members play with orchestras from around the world.

"I'm looking forward to meeting all of the people we will get to play with from both Colorado and Japan," said Lauren.

"Yes, I will enjoy the opportunity to meet new people and play with other groups," said Alaina in agreement.

All members agree that the highlight of the trip will definitely be Carnegie Hall. They aren't as excited about listening to the New York Philharmonic, but actually playing on stage, just like the professionals. A bon voyage concert is planned to happen just before the trip.

Another concert, this group's first, will be performed during the holidays, on Dec. 17 at 8 pm at Flint Southwestern Academy.

Before these concerts and the trip, the pressure to per-

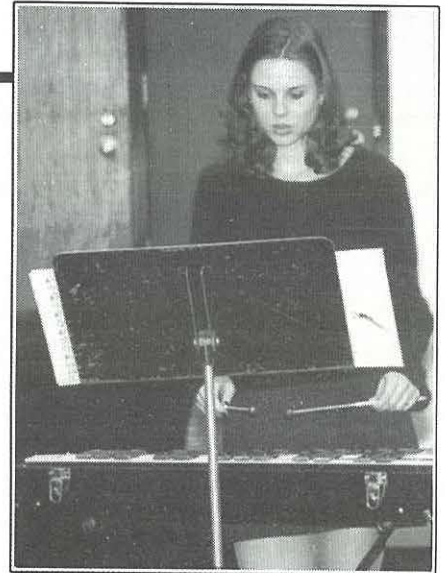
form well increases, and rehearsals are more frequent and focused. A normal weekly rehearsal happens only once a week for 2.5 hours, but when a concert is approaching the strings practices two times a week, Tuesdays and Saturdays.

"I always appreciate the difference Saturday practice makes," says Lauren, in spite of complaints about weekend practices.

The Flint Institute of Music has many other music programs besides the FYSO, including Philharmonia, String Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Concert Band, along with private lessons and chamber groups. These groups join the rest of the Flint School of Performing Arts to put on a Showcase Concert every year. This incorporates bands, orchestras, dance ensembles, and vocalists. The traditional grand finale combines all of the music groups, which can add up to 300 musicians. In 1998, Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture was the number performed.

Being part of a symphony requires a tremendous amount of work. Students must contribute to the group's success with practice and concentration. They need to be willing to get picky and accept corrections from the director and other musicians. They may not always appreciate these pointers, but they are not without reason.

"It kind of sets us apart from other orchestras," added Lauren.



⤴ Rebekah Nerreter plays the glockenspiel at a FYSO practice held weekly at the Flint Institute of Arts.

Photo by
Abby
Bolkema

Le Musée de

FHS receives
an artistic
facelift

Flushing



⤴ This mural of a Dodge Viper RT/10 painted by senior Mike Pritchett is the first of two murals planned for the autoshop. There are tentative plans for Mike to paint another mural of a Corvette later in the year.



⤴ Raymond Joubran, a 1994 FHS graduate, painted an inspirational mural for the wrestling team in the small gym. The two-day project was the idea of wrestling coach Andy Rishmawi. Photos by Andrew Fotenakes

Making the holidays special

CAROLS OF THE CLUBS

BY SARAH FAUSTER

Over the holidays, a great deal of work goes into decorating. Trees, lights, and paper snowflakes are all part of the display. Also, along with all of the decorations that make the season so much more beautiful, the contributions that people make toward helping people make it even more so. Knowing that there are people out there making a difference makes the season special.

Many different groups come together to try to make the holidays happy for everyone.

"This year, we are going to be doing Toys for Tots and we are helping to set up for the Candlewalk," says Sarah Allegro, a member of SLO. "When we help with Toys for Tots, we go and help organize and wrap toys. When preparing downtown Flushing for the Candlewalk, we set up the milk jugs to light the way."

It takes SLO about 10 hours for two days with 20 people.

Andrea Rishmawi, a member of Student Council mentions that they will help Santa write and deliver his letters. Projects like these are what makes these clubs interesting.

"Also, we are going to do the pictures with Santa here again," says Andrea.

The pictures with Santa here at the high school are usually a big hit. High school students who still have a love for St. Nick get to be little kids again.

Spirit Club has set a goal to try to get a banner for every hallway. This goal might not seem like a big one, but if people knew the hours spent making the banners to decorate the hallways, you might change your mind about that.

"We don't have anything really specific planned for Christmas," says Mikala Mondelli, a member of Spirit Club, "but we will, of course, have Christmas banners up in the hallways."

Members of this club are often scattered outside of the art room on the floor, drawing and painting to make things more colorful around school.

Varsity Club spends about a day on the Candlewalk. They help with setting up and lighting the candles. They also help wrap and hand out the gifts for Toys for Tots. Many members are proud of what they do because they get to see the children and make a difference in their lives.

"I would like to help fill baskets with food at St. Robert's food pantry for Christmas," suggests Mia Sokol, a member of Varsity Club.

Ideas like these are just what people need to speak up about because it gets students involved in the community.

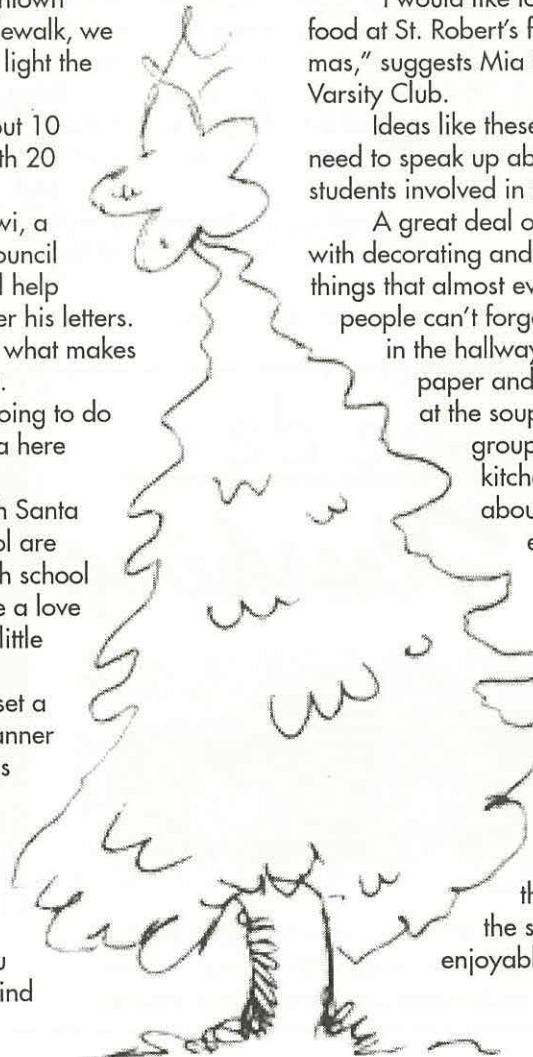
A great deal of the clubs are associated with decorating and providing gifts. These are things that almost everyone notices. However, people can't forget what isn't displayed up

in the hallways or wrapped up with paper and ribbon. SHINE helps out at the soup kitchen. This dedicated group has been going to the kitchen every Sunday for about two hours. They do this every week, all year.

Some members say that it is reassuring knowing that they help out, but it is even more reassuring helping out on the holidays. All of these groups and clubs do something special for the season.

No job is bigger than the other and they all make the season a little more enjoyable than it already is.

Illustrations by John Sharp



HEIAN KARATE DO



224 Oak Street 659-1966

Monroe Farms

659-4417

Baled hay and straw,
fresh eggs, shelled and ear corn,
fresh garden produce, free barn cats too!

6466 N. Elms Road, Flushing

A Day of Beauty

RELAXING Full Hour Massage
LUXURIOUS Pedicure and Manicure

Lunch - Skin Analysis
Steam Hydrating Facial
Make Over Lesson
Make Up Gift

NOW \$95.00



Pamper
Pkg. #1

Full Hour Massage
Hot Oil Manicure (or Fill)
Steam Hydrating Facial
Make-Over Lesson
\$90 Value

\$52

Pamper
Pkg. #2

1/2 Hour Massage
Hot Oil Manicure (or Fill)
Steam Hydrating Facial
Make-Over Lesson
\$72 Value

\$40

Pamper
Pkg. #3

Full Hour Massage
Pedicure
Manicure
\$85.00 Value

\$75

Pamper
Pkg. #4

1/2 Hour Massage
Pedicure
Manicure
\$70.00 Value

\$60

MERLE NORMAN

C O S M E T I C S T U D I O S

659-5550



212 E. Main Street, Flushing

Appliances

for the next MILLENIUM

SCHNEIDER'S APPLIANCE AND KITCHEN

in Owosso

Appliances by: Kitchens by:

GE

Amana

Sub Zero

Viking

Maytag

Pioneer

Prestige

Holiday

Free Computer Aided Design

(517) 723-8122

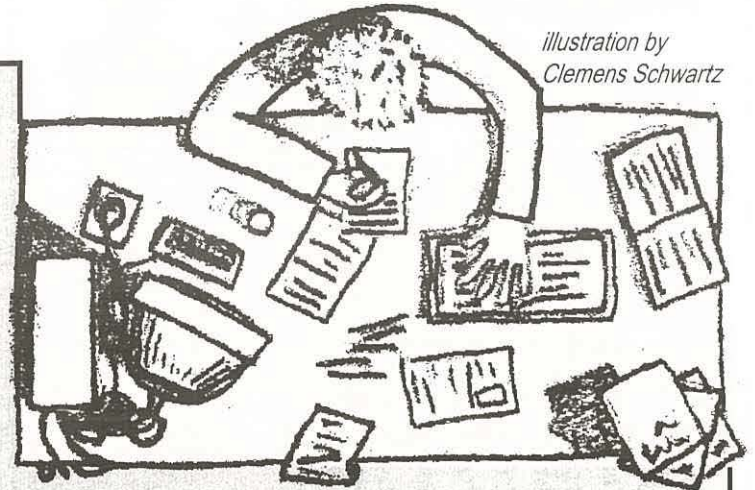
illustration by
Clemens Schwartz

Deadlines, deadlines Let's cut seniors some slack

The end of first semester is almost upon us. Do you know where the seniors are? Chances are they're buried under the college applications that should have been in the mail by the end of last month, or still composing yet another scholarship essay. (Thank goodness for all the essay-writing that's been going on around here.)

The holidays are about here. Time for cheery gatherings and gift exchanges and no-bake cookies. But you'd better not expect the stressed out seniors to do much more than show up, and they'll probably arrive late, babbling about borrowing a typewriter so they can complete some application form that cannot be downloaded from a website.

We think the rest of the world should cut them just a little slack. Frankly, they're under a lot of pressure to plan their whole future, discuss defining moments in 300 words or less, and round up the requisite letters of recommendation from the most articulate educational professionals who might be



able to say a few kind words on their behalf, all the while maintaining grades sufficient to get into the college of their choice. Of course it's not as bad as they will face "out in the real world," but they're getting crabby from all this effort.

We hope that all the seniors will have given enough thought to their future plans so that when that future arrives, they won't feel left behind. It would be sad to think of them looking out their windows next fall when the cheese wagons are rumbling past and realize that all their buddies have packed up and moved on without them.

In a few more weeks, the deadlines will all be past, and just a few precious months of senior year will be left to savor with friends. Meanwhile, hug a senior before doing so becomes trite. Before we know it, they'll be gone.

Informed opinions are always welcome

BY KELLY LYNCH

Throughout my life, I have been one of those kids who voices their opinion and takes strong stands on issues. As I have become older, though, I have realized something. There are too many people in this world that come to conclusions too quickly and get an attitude about things that they have refused to learn about first. One can only learn from experience, though, and I have done this, too. For instance, I never liked the way the yearbook did senior pictures in color; I thought they looked better big and in black and white. But little did I know that the reason the pictures are smaller is that the company that makes the yearbooks allows us a limited number of color pages and we

can't fit all of the pictures if they were any bigger. I was narrow minded, and once I became informed on why it was done the way it was, I understood and no longer felt strongly about it.

People, especially in high school, get so worked up about things they don't take the time to learn about, or more importantly, do anything about them. I'm sure that some time throughout high school you have thought that Homecoming elections were done the wrong way, or that when your class put on Sadies they did a horrible job, or that the senior personalities your class chose were stupid.

What people need to understand before they get mad about these kinds of things is that there are not too many

people willing to put time into this school. When classmates knock themselves out to get things done that need to be done, it is not fair to criticize their work. It is so easy to be ignorant, and so easy to get fired up about things quickly. I have done it many times, but it backfires when you listen to the other side.

One would think that I only feel this way now because I feel bad when things I do and decisions I make are criticized by classmates. That is partially true, but the stronger reason is because now I look at things like posters in the hallway and instead of just reading them, I think about how someone took their time to make them.

Who should call the shots in your education?

Recently, the Kearsley school district has run into some controversy over the content of their curriculum. The book *Kaffir Boy* has been opposed by some parents due to its graphic descriptions of apartheid and prostitution in African countries. Some people argue that the book has an incredible amount of educational value, and the scenes in question are important to the book. If you look at page 10, you can see a debate on the issue.

Tell us what you think. What kind of involvement should parents have in the school's curriculum? Should the major decisions be left up to them, or the school board? Bring your opinion in a written or artistic form to the *Blazer* room (121) by the end of the school day on Friday. The best ones will be published next month.



↑ "I'm working on my voice from God," jokes Mrs. Haldy. Here, she helps senior Amy Keith sort out prizes for a game of "Loteria." Photo by Samantha Anderson

Loud and clear

BY SAMANTHA ANDERSON

Mrs. Linda Haldy is the first of the Flushing High School teachers to take part in a district-wide experiment providing teachers with microphones to amplify their voices. After talking to teachers who use these microphones at Central Elementary, Mrs. Haldy decided to try one out.

"I really like it," commented Mrs. Haldy. "It helps amplify my voice, but in a natural way."

The microphone is worn around the neck, and it serves both teacher and students. Teachers using the microphones notice that students pay more attention than they have in the past, and this is believed to be a result of the amplified voice.

"I was worried it would be invasive and distract from the class, but most people usually forget it's even there," she said.

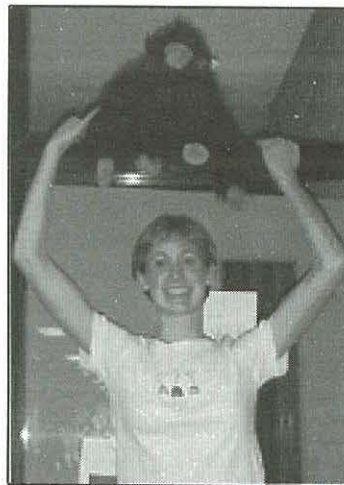
Although the program is just beginning in the Flushing school district, it is quickly catching on. Teachers from many schools are looking into getting microphones of their own. The basis of this experiment came from a professional study looking into the effects of amplified voices.



Mrs. Haldy has been sporting her new microphone since the beginning of November. Photo by Samantha Anderson



Contest Winner



In the November issue of the *Blazer*, we asked for your help in naming our new mascot. Although we received several good responses, freshman Katie Sharrow-Reabe's caught our attention. The new mascot is officially called "Spanky." Katie received two free passes to Cinema Hollywood. Photo by Samantha Anderson

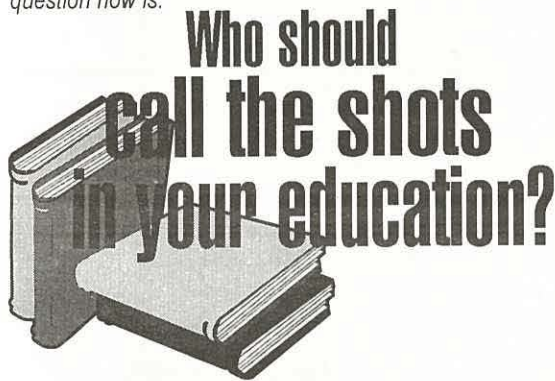
Attention Seniors

All senior portraits for the yearbook are due in room 121 by Friday December 17. Make sure that proper arrangements have been made by your photo studio.

In the November issue of the *Blazer*, names misspelled include Jason Theodoroff, Kelsie Fons, Meghan Conklin, Brianne Byrski, and Marianne Millan. Photo credit was omitted on page 20 for Clemens Schwartz. The basketball team's web site address was incorrectly stated on page 33. The correct address is [http://www.angelfire.com/mi2/Flushing Lady Raiders/index.html](http://www.angelfire.com/mi2/Flushing%20Lady%20Raiders/index.html).

Recently, the Kearsley Board of Education received some complaints from parents concerning assigned material for a high school English class. The book (*Kaffir Boy*) was essentially about apartheid in African regions, but had some questionable content describing, among other things, young children trading sexual acts for food in order to survive. The group of parents were successful in getting the questionable scenes removed from the book. The board confiscated all copies of the book and blacked out the six lines in question. This raises the debate of who should have the final say in curriculum decisions.

"If *Kaffir Boy* is part of the adopted curriculum, the board should not agree to stick plastic sheets over a paragraph or two," says David Harshfield, Flushing's English department coordinator. However, he does concede that, "Page 118 of *Kaffir Boy* is, perhaps, shocking when seen or read out of context." So, the question now is:



Parents have the legal right

BY DAVE CAMPBELL

Knowledge is power. That is something society is learning all too well these days. Information is all around us. When there are many choices and not enough time to look at all of them, it must be decided what is acceptable and what is not.

Young children are too ignorant to know what they need to learn to prepare for the real world. That is why we have our public education system. Even though not all parents agree with the public school system for their child (i.e. private schools), the majority do.

Why do movies come with ratings like "parental guidance suggested," CDs with warnings of explicit lyrics, or plays advertised as unsuitable for children? These things don't mean that society is against kids and doesn't want their business, but that parents should have a say as to what their child is exposed to.

Parents aren't perfect, but that doesn't disqualify their right to decide what to censor from their kids. That doesn't mean they should censor everything and anything, but that until a young person reaches a legal adult age, the parent should have the final say.

It's not that knowledge is bad. It can be quite beneficial in the right context, but if the wrong people are exposed to certain information, they could hurt others. The problem with school censorship is deciding who is mature enough to properly handle certain pieces of knowledge. The school knows that students are still developing, so how can it be determined what is suitable for the student body as a whole?

Ultimately, legal guardians are responsible for minors, and have a legal say as to what the minors are exposed to. It only makes sense that parents of students should have a say in what is and is not censored from their children. However, because of the fact that the average class has 30 students, each parent shouldn't have to wade through the curriculum of their child. If a group of parents disagree with a portion of a class, it should be removed. Until a child reaches legal age, parents have the final say.

Let school board members do their job

BY SAMANTHA ANDERSON

While a certain level of parental involvement is appropriate in the educational process, a line needs to be drawn somewhere. In a perfect world, parents would read over school curriculum and voice their concerns at a school board meeting in a timely manner. However, most parents do not look over the course outlines which are sent home, reason being that they trust teachers to choose appropriate material for classroom instruction. This is where a problem surfaces. What, exactly, is appropriate?

As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child." Although parents play a vital role in a child's development, they are not the sole influence. Children need to be exposed to various cultures, viewpoints, and experiences in order to become well-rounded and truly educated. This will not happen if their parents attempt to keep the unpleasantness of life hidden. Take, for example, the book that was censored from Kearsley students. The plot line centered around the autobiographical experiences of a young boy growing up in Africa, and graphically described such things as apartheid and young children trading sex for food in order to survive. Although

this is not a pleasant description, the fact remains that it actually took place and can give an accurate depiction of life in other cultures. A school board deemed the material worthy, and therefore, it was introduced into the curriculum. The members of the school board are not just random people chosen on a whim- they are a group of elected parents, chosen to make responsible decisions for the children attending district schools. The best interests of their children are at heart, and their decisions are made accordingly. Therefore, their choices in curriculum should be respected by the community.

Sadly, this was not the case in Kearsley. The board eventually caved to parental pressure, and censored an autobiographical work. Each copy of the book was collected, and six lines were blacked out. In the process, students' educations were limited and the author's freedom of expression was taken away. The worst part of the matter lies in the fact that the students probably would have taken the questionable material in stride. Now, instead of remembering a great literary work, they will remember an act of censorship.



Blending colors

BY JASON WITZ

Like Martin Luther King Jr., I once had a dream. Then, I was rudely awakened by a grim reality; a narrow-minded reality that darkens the existence of humanity; a reality that gives me a burning sensation of anger and disgust. Racism, one of the most cold-hearted, misplaced prejudices that exists, and for what?

While in my car the other night, this particular topic came up, and what a certain individual had to say really struck home as being inspirational.

"I look at all the races in the world as fingers on God's hand. Blacks could be the thumb whites the index, whatever, but if all the fingers come together as one, we would form a fist, and as a nation, we would be unstoppable."

He also added, "Hating someone because of their color or race is the lowest and dumbest you can get as a human being."

In the Lord's eyes, we are all His children, regardless of ethnic background. So who are we to judge other people as to whether they are good or bad? Why is it that certain people glare and snicker when they see a white person walking with a black person, Hispanic person, or a person of any other race? For what it's worth, someone could be purple with yellow polka dots. It's what's inside the person that counts. Remember that the next time you feel the need to bash someone else's ethnicity. Take a good look into the mirror and put yourself in the other person's shoes.

Hype and Gripe

BY JASON KENNEDY

👍 Lady Raiders are kicking serious butt this year. Oh, wait... You already knew that. Anyway, they deserve some well-earned credit. Beating Powers is good in my book.

👍 My hat is off to Joe Daily. His article in the November issue of the *Blazer* was wonderfully written, and the song *Done For Me* is excellent, powerful, and poetic.

👍 Wild tiger populations are back on the rise. Scientists predicted the big cats would be extinct by the year 2000, but a recent census reveals that in some Asian ranges, numbers are greater than just a few years ago. The tiger is still very endangered, but in light of this recent evidence, researchers have found new optimism.

👍 Seat belts save lives. No one knows this more than Samantha Roetzer, the three-year-old granddaughter of Claudette Waugh. Leaving a Chinese restaurant, the grandmother accidentally left the door ajar. As she rounded a sharp turn, the child fell out of the car, but the belt had entangled around her and she became wedged in the undercarriage. She escaped with only scrapes and bruises.

👍 It is relieving to know that the goodness of human nature is not yet extinct. Following the explosion at the Clara Barton Terrace Convalescent Home, family members, neighbors, passers-by, and a singing team caught off guard by the blast quickly formed an emergency team to save the residents of the building.

👍 DNA research isn't just for forensics and cloning dinosaurs anymore; it's being used to help Lonesome George, a picky male giant Galapagos tortoise which has rejected every female on the island as a mate. George's DNA shows he's more closely related to species from the distant San Cristobal and Espanola islands. A suitable match is being flown in.

👍 Pokémon. If you're not familiar with the animated craze going on right now you should beat yourself over the head with the rock you've been hiding under. Children are running around all over the country to see the movie (I wonder if Disney has invested in Hasbro stock), piling into Burger King to get the toys, and playing the card game as if it revealed the secrets of life. For parents it has become the most disruptive and annoying craze of the decade.

👍 I'm sick of hatred toward violent video games. *Family PC* lists in its October issue their pick for the most violent video games, among them *Carmageddon*, *Resident Evil*, and *Doom* (*Doom's* dead, get over it), along with suggested alternative titles like *Myst* and *RollerCoaster Tycoon*. I don't know about you, but I wouldn't want to give up my Ultimate Death-mobile to build a virtual Cedar Point.

👍 Physics is hard... Don't believe what Mr. Yenior tells you.

👍 The Catholic Church is upset with the movie *Dogma*. Since it features two fallen angels with an attitude, churchgoers are calling the film blasphemous and a direct attack on their faith. The women activist groups should be happy, however: the movie features Alanis Morissette as God.

👍 Speaking of the Church, certain Christian groups are revolting against J.K. Rowling's new book, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Kids love the book, but some religious adults feel that their children should not be an audience to the story's blatant description of witchcraft and magic. For some reason a snake tempting a naked woman in another well-known book hasn't caused such controversy. With news like this, it makes me wonder whether soon we'll see parental advisory labels on books as well as on CDs and cassettes.

T cousin Trampoline

It is the day before the big holiday. My parents are frantically cleaning the house and getting crankier with every sweep of the broom. My family members will be here soon, and so will their kids, all of whom are excited to see Cousin Andy. Cousin Andy. Cousin Punching Bag. Cousin Trampoline. I am excited to see them, too. What time is their bedtime, again?

The family is here, and my little cousins have already started playing a game creatively entitled, "Jump on Andy." They're having fun, and so am I, until I find a foot strategically placed in "no man's land."

Fifteen minutes later, I'm back in somewhat stable form. Rather than jump on me in my weakened condition, the young-uns have decided to throw small, hard, pointy toys at my head, but it's ok. One of them throws a punch. Isn't it funny how a child's fist fits perfectly into your eye socket? The floor has become a sea of old toys that I haven't seen since I was nine. The TV blares loud cartoons, and the house reeks of grilled cheese. Oh, yes, it is the holidays.

After several hours of playing, I'm worn out. The kids are still ready to roll. My back aches from giving an accumulated four hours of horseback rides. I look at the clock, realize that I'm late for the plans I made, and quickly explain to the children that I have to go, but I'll be able to play bright and early in the morning, under one condition. "Don't wake me up before nine." The kids agree, and I go about my business.

It's past midnight, and I've just arrived home. I'm tired, and need sleep. I enter the bathroom to find the counter covered with Aquafresh for Kids and *Toy Story* toothbrushes. My toothbrush is wet from what could have been recent usage by persons other than myself. I step into my room to grab my pajama pants, but decide against it in as not to wake the two little kids sleeping in my bed. I head to the cold recesses of the basement and lie down on the sofa, the wooden frame from which digs into my spine. There is no sound to be heard. How pleasant. I fall right asleep.

8:58. Giggles come from the stairwell.

8:59. Footsteps on the floor beside me.

Breathing and more giggles behind me.

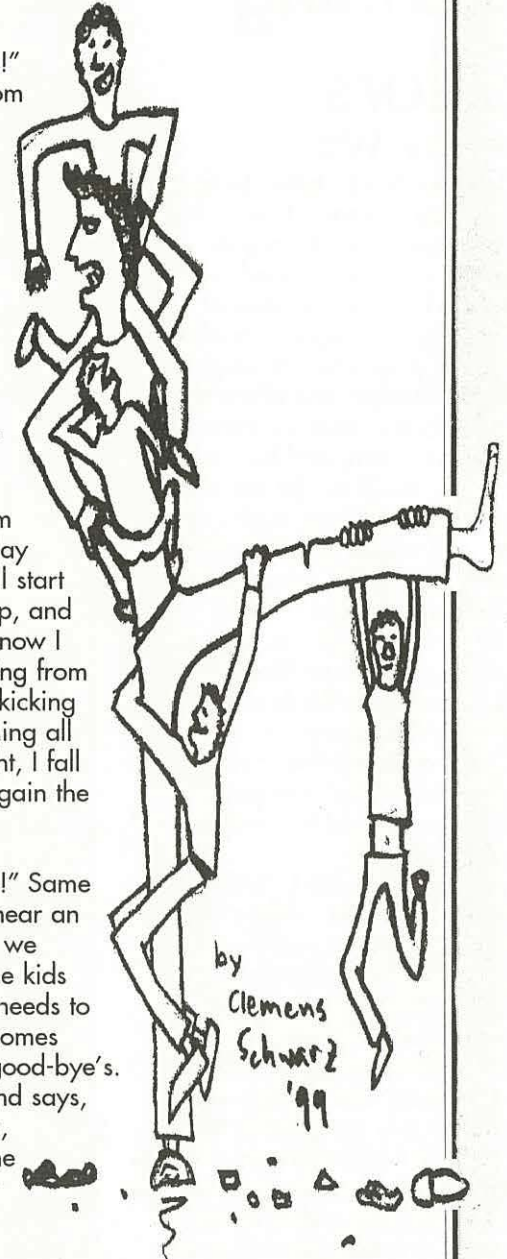
Exactly 9:00. "WAKE

UUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUP!!!!" Several kids dive on me from the back of the couch. Out of defense, I curl up into the fetal position. I think one of them just licked my foot. The TV clicks on again, and the first music I hear that day is the theme from *The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*. Good Lord, it's the holiday, and it's going to be a long one.

Yesterday repeats itself. My parents are spazzing out again, and I'm still a walking target. The day goes by fast and dinner will start soon. More family shows up, and thus more little cousins. By now I have at least six kids hanging from me at once, punching and kicking different parts of me, laughing all the way. Much like last night, I fall asleep quickly, until once again the morning repeats itself.

"ANDY, WAKE UUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUP!!!!" Same routine, except this time, I hear an adult voice say, "Hurry up, we have to pack our bags." The kids rush upstairs and do what needs to be done. The family soon comes downstairs and says their good-bye's. One of the kids hugs me and says, "Thanks for playing with us, so much, Andy." I smile. The statement is followed up with, "You smell," and a punch to the forehead. I body slam the kid onto the couch and give him a belly blow, a really slobbery one at that, and everybody's off.

Silence in the house. Toys have all been cleaned up. The house smells normal. The throbbing in my head has ceased, and there's nobody hanging from my foot. I realize that the holiday is over, and I miss my family members. I begin to anticipate the next holiday. For I am Cousin Andy, the human trampoline, and I love every minute of it.



Another year, Another list

BY JOE DAILY

A new year is close upon us, along with a new decade, a new century, and a new millennium. And a new month, too, I guess. Anyway, for those of you looking forward to change and a fresh start on life, it's time to get out a pencil and some paper and put together a New Year's resolution list. In case you need a little inspiration, here's mine:

- Solve the Y3K problem - I figure we got kind of a late start on Y2K, so I'm going to get an early start for the year 3000. Oh it may sound silly, but come New Year's Eve 2999, your ancestors will know who to thank.

- Get a date with the dance team - I mean the entire dance team. If I rent a gigantic bus with a good sound system, and pay them a lot of money, it could happen. Maybe.

- Gain some weight - My ultimate goal is to someday weigh 300lbs, but I'll settle for 10 or 20. I'll need it if I'm going to be a professional wrestler.

- Start using the metric system - Everyone else is using it, and I hear it's an easier system. When it's 22 degrees outside and I'm going 90 in my car, I feel great!

- Lunch Games - Once a week during lunch, we'll have some crazy games to play to liven up the lunch hour. We could play "Ketch the Ketchup," "Napkin Brigade," or "Pop Can Parachutes." Wouldn't that be fun!!?

- Have fun with science - I'm going to create a half man/half monkey. I'll name him Mankey.

- Get a helper monkey - Deadlines can be chaotic and us editors sure could use a friendly monkey to run errands for us. He could go on food runs and take stuff to the post office, and dance a jig for our amusement during troubled times. Mankey could do it, but he's not going to be very cute.

- Write a movie script - I want to write about teenagers, so I should probably work on it while I still am one.

Well, that's my list for this year, and I wish you the best with yours. I hope to accomplish at least one of my resolutions, so if anyone knows where I can buy a monkey, let me know.

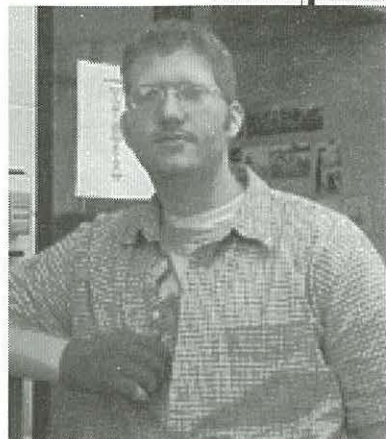
photo survey

What is your New Year's Resolution?

"To gain 600 pounds eating only cheese."
- Susan Harshfield
junior



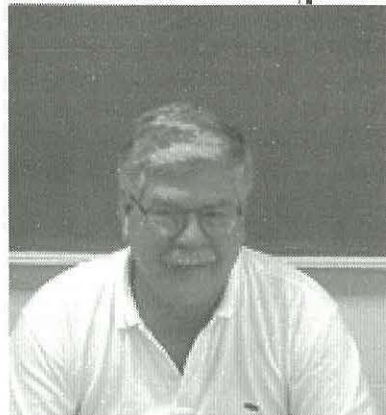
"To get my picture in the *Blazer*."
- Clint Wheeler
senior



"To be the next Mrs. Vaughan."
- Tegan D'Arcangelis
junior



"Lose 30 lbs.
Heaven help me!!"
- Mr. King
grade 13



Lower Prices than at School
Faster Delivery
Higher Quality

Starting at
\$59.95

Limited Option Designer



ARTCARVED
CLASS RINGS

*Details shown on ring not available on Ltd. Edition styles. Limited time offer.

OFFICIAL DESIGN CENTER

FLUSHING *Valley Jewelers* INC.
122 E. Main Street Flushing, MI 48433

OWN A MASTERPIECE



DAVID L. GREEN • OWNER



**Hungry Howie's
Pizza.**

1419 Flushing Rd
487-0923

Next to
Super Star Video



Don & Jean Wolfe

502 S. Saginaw St
Flint, MI 48502
(810)-232-9634

Somerset Town Centre
4290 Miller Road
Flint, Mi 48507
(810)-230-8008

Little Caesars

659-7520



*2 medium
pizzas with 3
toppings and
crazy bread
\$12.99*

201 E. Main Street Flushing

Get Tan
For The Holidays
at **TAN**



**CENTRAL
STATION**

Corner of Seymour Road and Lynn Street

Prom Time and nothing to wear?
We have that special dress for you.

Save 15%

When you purchase before 12-31-99.

We have a large selection of all the new styles
and colors as seen in your prom magazines.

We carry sizes 2-4x.



(810) 695-6578

Linda's Bridal Emporium

112 E. Grand Blanc Road, Grand Blanc

Hours: Monday 11-7, Tues-Wed 12-6, Thursday 12-7, Fri-Sat 10-5

WEST POINT STORY

"To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."

-George Washington

BY KYLE JERICHOW

After his 1999 graduation Chaz Hilliker went on to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point. Chaz's first days at the Academy were a lot of PT (physical training), which they call "Beast."

"I have a cousin who is a cow, (a junior) and he told me a lot of things that go on here, so I had a pretty good idea of what I was getting into," said Chaz. "Some people came here and they really didn't have a clue. Beast was about giving us basic knowledge about the military and learning how to be cadets."

There are two details of Beast, each three weeks long.

"Second detail we went into the field on and off doing BRM (basic rifle marksmanship), ITT/STT (individual and squad tactics training)," he explained.

Then the squads spent time at Lake Frederick covering everything they had learned, including 24 straight hours of tasks (known as "Warrior Forge") like swimming across the lake, and one rope bridge. During Beast, there were not days off. Chaz says, "Sunday was pretty lax with church and all. It depended on your squad leader."

The squads then spent time battling OPFOR (10th mountain soldiers), repelling, and carrying "wounded" squad mates on a stretcher. This detail ended in a mock infantry battle with the OPFOR during Warrior Forge, which was cadet squad vs. cadet squad. Basically it is "laser tag" with real rifles and blank ammunition. During this training Chaz also tried out for the combat weapons team (a club). Although he didn't make it he says, "Everyone gets trained with the M9 (a pistol) at Buckner; for me that's next summer."

Chaz has also started his academic year. He explained, "We started class August 16. I came home for Labor Day having finished three weeks of classes while most colleges had just finished their first week. They expect a lot from you in school. There is always something to do, a project, or a test coming up. Study time is from 730 to 1200. But you have to do other things like polish shoes, and shower, too. The common saying goes, 'they give you five hours of home work, and only three hours to do it.' Sometimes you just have to blow it off. But I've had my share of late nights working on papers and projects."

In addition to this, plebes (freshmen at the Academy), as well as everyone else in the Army has to take the APFT (Army physical fitness test). It consists of two minutes of push-ups, two minutes of sit-ups and a two-mile run.

To get away from the stress, Chaz said, "Plebes now have TVs on their computers and DVD players (most upper



features
features

classmen don't).

Chaz also said, "[After Beast] all my days seem to be the same, breakfast, I usually have about four classes, but the rest of the time is spent sleeping, doing homework, getting mail, etc. As it is everywhere else, some days are better than others; you have to look at the picture. This is a great institution and as much as I wish I could go party on the weekends, come and go as I please, and skip class if I wanted to, I wouldn't trade being here for any other college.

"Sometimes it's hard being away from home, but really it isn't. There really isn't time to think about stuff like that, and if you do it will screw you up. We've got phones in our room, and some people spend a lot of time on it. I call home one to two times a week. E-mail is the key. It's free. And you can get to it when ever. AOL instant messenger is also good."

"In case I make this place out to be some God-awful hell, don't think it is. I'm an unrecognized plebe and life just isn't that fun. There is a lot of sacrifice and commitment involved. Recognition comes on March 14, then things become cool. Then we can call upperclassmen by their first names, and duties become very relaxed. This place is what you make it out to be. It's just that we like to tell everyone 'how hard it is' and kind of make fun of ourselves. It's one of those things you can't explain why it is; it just is. There are a few people who absolutely love being here. On the contrary, I hear someone everyday say how much it sucks here. It's a stress reliever, but also true depending on how you look at things. I just look at it in the prospect that a little sacrifice now will pay off a lot in the future."

"... I wouldn't trade being here for any other college." - Chaz Hilliker

Money Money Money Money Money Money

The *Blazer* goes to work **Makin'**

BY ANDREW P. KRYZA

Face it, you're broke. What a bad time to be in such a situation, what with the holidays rapidly approaching, not to mention prom and spring break just around the corner. You need to make some money. You need a job. A job. The responsibility and time that it consumes is frightening to some, but it has become a reality nonetheless. A job is a big step, and

many don't know what to look for or expect in finding, preparing for, and being content with one. Fear not, *Blazer* is here to help.

A large portion of Flushing's student body, mostly upperclassmen, is employed in one way or another. Student employment opportunities are seemingly endless, with jobs ranging from newspaper carriers and ice-cream store clerks, to office receptionists and lawn care specialists. Salaries are also very open, ranging from minimum wage (\$5.15), to over \$20 an hour. The opportunities are out there, but a person needs to find them.

Before a student under the age of 18 can get a job, Michigan law says that they must first obtain a work permit. After obtaining a permit (permits vary depending on the student's age), the student must have it signed by the employer and the administrator of their choice. After the permit is signed, the student is ready to work.

Of course, many constraints come along with a job,

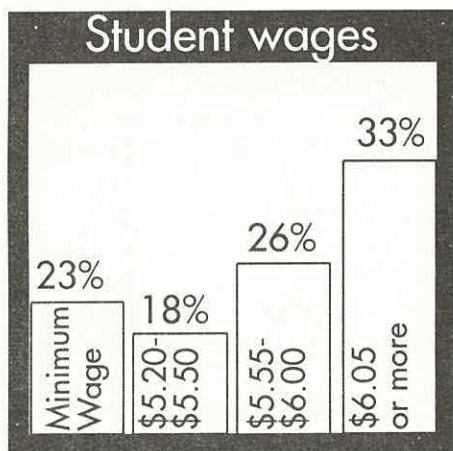
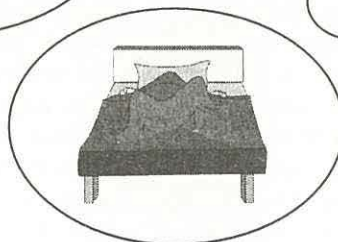


photo survey



"A bartender in Cancun on a restaurant off the ocean, earning \$150 an hour plus tips and phone numbers."
-Nesrine Hamati



What is your idea of a DREAM JOB?



"Testing out mattresses for Sears"- Jon Duvendek

most typically on the topic of the hours a minor is allowed to work.

"We get a lot of people in here complaining that they have too many hours or too few hours," explains senior Michelle Bass, who works in the Co-Op office.

Again, Michigan law determines how many hours a student can work, and between which hours. According to the law, minors under the age of 18 can work no more than 48 hours in one week. With school hours put into the mix, student can be on the job for 18 hours in one school week. Students under the age of 16 can start work no earlier than 7:00 am and clock out no later than 7:00 on school nights and 9:00 on the weekend. 16-17 year-olds can work beginning no earlier than 6:00 am and no later than 10:30 p.m. Of course, these rules can't satisfy everybody. 18 hours in one week mixed with schoolwork can be overwhelming to some, while not enough to others. For those who wish to work as much as possible, Flushing offers Co-Op, a program in which juniors and seniors are allowed to leave school to go to work while receiving a class credit. As of now, 91 students are enrolled in Co-Op.

All too often students find themselves in a job that just isn't suited for them. Rather than applying at any place with a "Help Wanted" sign, students should look for jobs that appeal to them personally, otherwise their work experience could prove to be negative.

An employee's co-workers and boss also affect the quality of somebody's work experience.

"I'd love my job if it wasn't for my boss," says one student who prefers to remain anonymous.

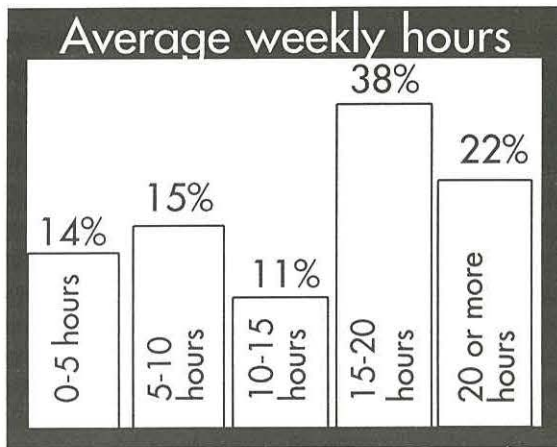
Other students, like senior Cory Glover, say the opposite:

"I have excellent co-workers: they're very helpful and fun to work with, and they make work a lot more enjoyable," says Glover about his job at Super Star Video.

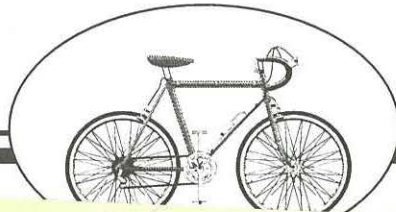
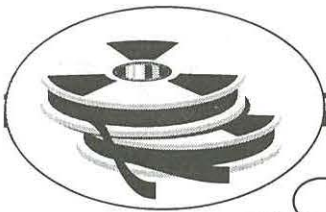
Along with the wages a student receives, most jobs offer certain benefits to their employees, including free food, discounts on store items, holiday bonuses, and tickets to local events.

"I love my job," says Little Caesar's employee Missy Bastuk. "I get free food all the time."

So, there you have it. You know what you have to do, now do it. The world of work can be challenging and stressful, but it also gives you the experiences that you'll need in the not-too-distant future. But even more important, it gives you something worth more than any experience; the money to do all those things that make high school all the more enjoyable.



Results of the two graphs are based on a survey conducted at all three lunches to get a rough average of students' wages and hours. 70 students responded to the survey, giving an estimate of the information contained in the preceding article.



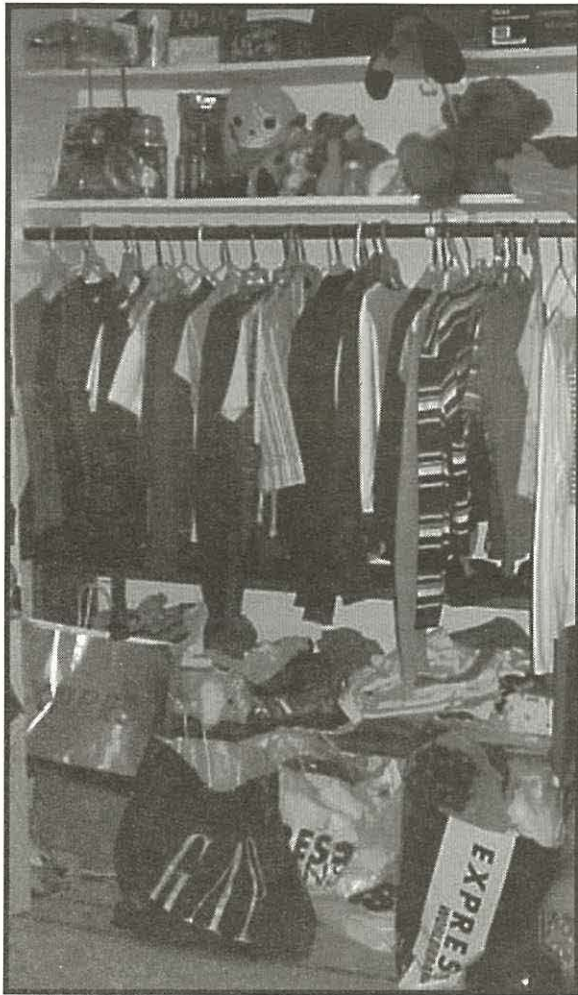
"Working at Super Star Video with Andy Kryza, so I can be just like him."
-Jessica Winston

Good Journalism to talk to students -T.Y



"Mr. Bickle's personal assistant."
-Adam Winters

Show us what's in your CLOSET



C Andrea Hiller accepted our challenge and let us take a look into her closet. It's always this neat, she insists. Photo by Katie Sartor



BY CHENEILLE PAGAN

Dressing in style is very important to most students. They choose to spend their money mostly at the Genesee Valley Mall. A popular place where girls like to buy jeans is Express. According to guys, there is not just one store where they regularly buy their jeans. 60% of students are willing to spend at least \$50 or more on a pair of jeans. Fashion is just as important to guys as it is to girls. On an average, students shop three times a month, which is almost once a week. Therefore teens are shopping quite a bit to keep up with the latest fashions.

According to the Gap staff, leather, wool sweaters, and vests are some of the latest trends. About 8% of the people surveyed are not concerned about fashion and 10% shop for bargains like jeans under \$20.

"Why pay \$50 for one pair of jeans that are a namebrand, when you can buy three pairs for the same price?" asks senior Melinda Hathaway.

Those who are extreme into fashion have a different point of view.

"Rarely would I wear off-brand clothes," said freshman Stacy Hiller.

This survey was conducted during A, B, and C lunches. 205 students participated in taking the survey. Out of the 205 students, 128 were girls and 77 were guys. There were 48 freshmen, 48 sophomores, 24 juniors, and 85 seniors. According to our survey, most parents buy half if not all of their child's clothing. As far as how much students spend on clothes each month, most girls spend between \$25-\$50, whereas, guys either spend under \$25 or between \$50-\$75. Almost everyone likes to save a penny here and there, but girls seem to be slightly more into bargain shopping than guys. As a result of the survey we came to the conclusion that with age comes responsibility. The reason might be that seniors have jobs, therefore, buying the majority of their clothes. Freshmen care a lot about style because they have just come to the high school and may feel that they need to fit in. By senior year, upperclassmen know that people like you for who you are not what you wear. Clothes don't matter as much as you may think they do.

"I like the variety of jeans at Vanity."
-Jamie Lakies

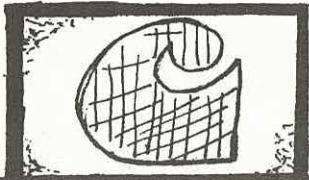
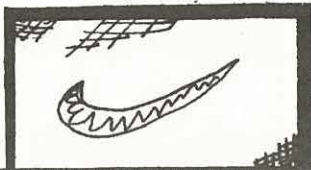


NEW YORK & COMPANY



THE LIMITED AMERICA

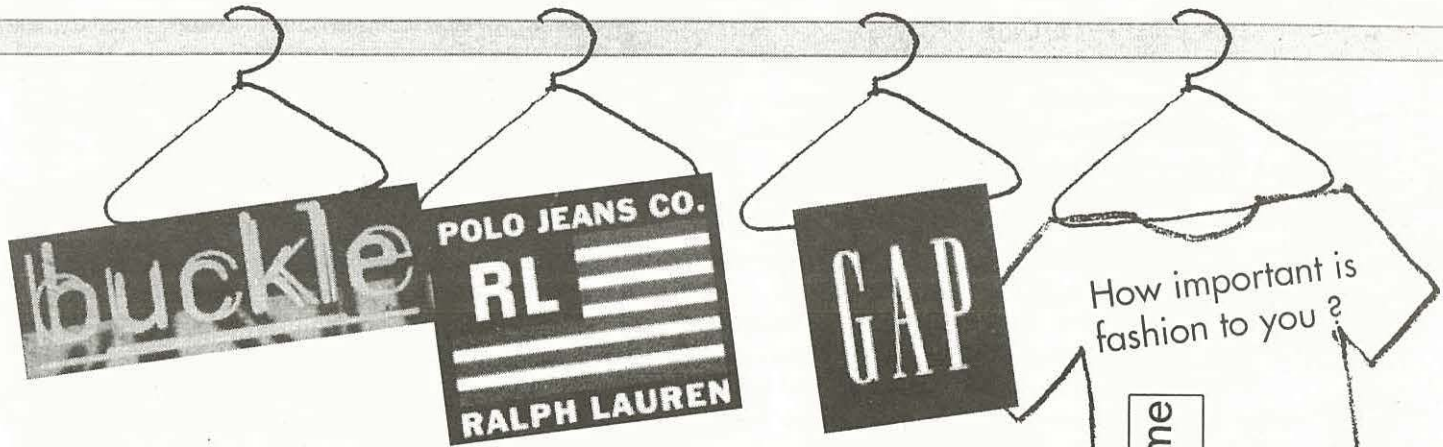




SHIRTS

HATS

SURVEY AND LAYOUT BY ANDREA HILLER AND KATIE SARTOR



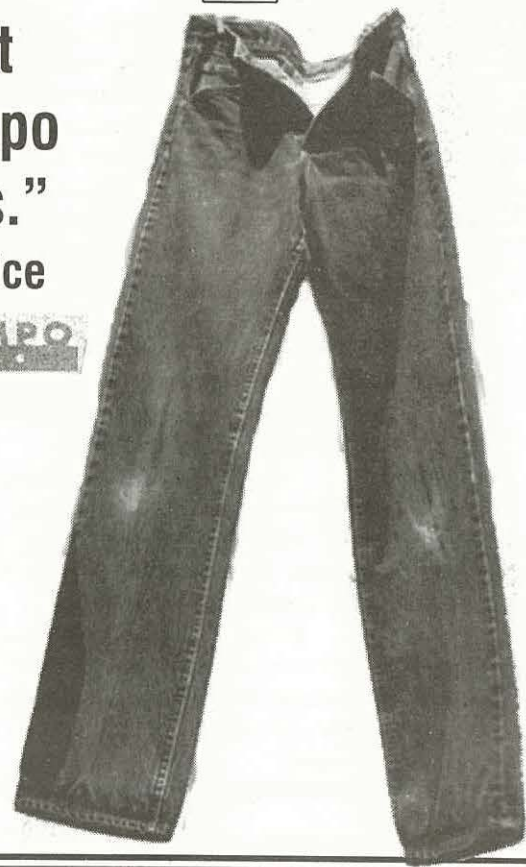
56% some

36% a lot

18% not

“Cargo pants are still hot on the market.”
-Eric Wagner, Buckle staff

“I like the shirts at Contempo Casuals.”
-Lacey Grice



CONTEMPO CASUALS

17%

What stores do you shop?

These are your favorites.
47% prefer “others” including Hudson's, Structure, Buckle, Sears, JC Penney, Tommy Outlet, Hot Topic, Vanity and Contempo.

AMERICAN EAGLE

12%

OLD NAVY

12%

GAP

12%

ABERCROMBIE AND FITCH

Your favorite malls:
Genesee Valley 44.5% Birch Run 11%
Great Lakes Crossing 19% 12 Oaks 8%
Somerset 13% Lakeside 4.5%

Here's "Pickachuen" At You



Ash is the main Pokemon trainer in the game

BY CHRIS WOLFORD

If your younger brother or sister starts saying Pikachu or Weedle, don't worry, they aren't being controlled by a drug dealer or gang member. They are just experiencing the "Pokemon Craze."

Despite what most people think, Pokemon is not just for kids. Pokemon is fun for all ages.

"Pokemon is really cool. Everyone should love it," said Sophomore Jessica Wolford.

It may have little cute cartoon monsters for kids, but it has appeal for older people too. There is a lot of strategy in Pokemon. The basis of Pokemon is that Pokemon trainers search the worlds for Pokemon and train them. Once they are trained, the trainers are able to fight with them to find new Pokemon.

Pokemon could be considered non-violent, meaning that nobody gets hurt. Pokemon range from the cute, harmless Jigglypuff to the very dangerous dragon Charizard.

Pokemon is into it's second season on TV and released its first movie Wenesday, Nov. 10.

In the first two releases for Gameboy, *Red* and *Blue* versions were produced. The set of 150 Pokemon were introduced with 139 Pokemon on each version. Some Pokemon were only available on *Red*, and others only on *Blue*. The importance of these releases were that they introduced the first Pokemon.

Pokemon pinball was next. This release was a break from battling Pokemon and instead relied on using a ball to catch the Pokemon.

Pokemon Snap, a photography game for the Nintendo 64, allowed Pokemon fans to catch pictures of around 60 of the Pokemon.

Pokemon Yellow, Nintendo's newest installment on Gameboy is almost the same as *Pokemon Red* and *Blue*, except that you get Pikachu as a starting Pokemon instead of choosing between Bulbasaur, Charmander, and Squirtle.

Wizards of the Coast, producer of *Magic: The Gathering*, also grabbed hold of the Pokemon phenom, releasing the new Pokemon trading card game. Wizards released its third set, *Fossil*, near the end of October.

There's no "Magic" in Pokemon

BY JASON KENNEDY

If you're not familiar with the anime craze going on right now, you should beat yourself over the head with the rock you've been hiding under. Pokemon easily defeats beanie-babies when it contends for the century's most annoying fad. And everywhere you look, there is a Pikachu peeking out at you.

Why is Pokemon bad? Although kids enjoy it, it isn't teaching them anything. The cartoon is a glut of poor animation with pointless violence, and the movie is nothing more than a seed of the same thing with terrible reviews. The Pokemon card game is the hottest on the market, defeating longtime standing Richard Garfield game, *Magic: The Gathering*. Both, however, are produced by Wizards of the Coast, a Washington based game company that got its name with *Magic*. After one time of playing through both Pokemon and *Magic*, you'll realize that Pokemon lacks a lot of merit. There is little strategy compared to the grandfather game, and unlike *Magic*, Pokemon doesn't challenge you playing skills. Since *Magic* has been around for so long, however, WOTC felt its popularity might soon be on the decline. Solution: Create another monstrously popular game that will appeal to little kids and keep them playing longer.

Burger King is just another trick of advertising. Since it is virtually impossible to get Pokemon toys in Kids' Meals, BK is just emptying its over-full containers of old toys.

It is predicted that there is at least another three years left to this fad. When it is gone, it will have been replaced by something even more insidious and lucrative, and until then we can only wait.



Mew, the most powerful Pokemon and also a psychic.



Zapdos, the most powerful electric Pokemon



Bulbasaur are the best Pokemon to start with.

MILLHOUSE & HOLALY, LLP

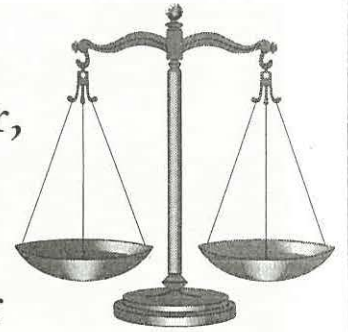
Certified Public Accountants

Good Luck Raiders

Gary K. Sanborn
(810)-767-6702
Fax 767-7427

503 S. Saginaw St.
Suite 1500
Flint, Mi 48502

Bueche, Failer,
O'Callaghan
& Zintsmaster
Attorneys at law



G-6258 W. Pierson Rd.
Flushing, MI 48433
(733)-6975

The Village Cleaners

G-2499 Flushing Road	232-3550
250 W. Main Street, Flushing	659-5841
1468 E. Pierson Road	659-7840
1913 E. Court Street	239-5331
11925 N. Saginaw Street, Mt. Morris	687-5580
G-4057 Clio Road	789-6425

*Come into one of our six area locations
for all your dry cleaning needs*

Office & Main Plant
6483 W. Carpenter Rd.
Flushing, Michigan 48433
(810) 659-5834

no preservatives
totally pure



Simply Soap

G-6280 W. Carpenter Flushing, Michigan
810) 732-3785



HOURS:

MON.-SAT. 8 AM TO 6 PM

SUN. 10 AM TO 3 PM



505 Coutant Street
Flushing, MI 48433

Phone: (810) 659-5741
Fax: (810) 659-5745

NOCTURNE

PLAYER'S GUIDE

Nocturne Publisher: Terminal Reality



Cost: \$50-\$55

Terminal Reality has put the hurt on Capcom's *Resident Evil* series with its newest title: *Nocturne*. The story is based around an incredibly secretive governmental organization simply known as Spook House. Spook House is dedicated to the research and extermination of monsters around the world. This is where the player comes in. The player assumes the identity of the mysterious monster hunter

You can even make out the pin-stripes on the Stranger's suit. The quality of the sound is excellent, with music playing just as a monster briefly runs across the screen. The characters are refreshingly unique. Along with Stranger, there are several different Spook House agents to interact with. There is a shape-shifting demon, a Buddhist monk, a half-vampire, and a mobster who was brought back from the dead. Some of them will fight by your side, needing protection because of their contributions to the plot. The best feature is unarguably the environment, from the gothic look of a German Castle, the constant patrol of mobster drive-bys, and the eerie quietness of a small Texas town, to the sheer terror produced when investigating a cemetery, hearing the clanking footsteps of an unknown intruder coming closer and closer...

Unfortunately, the unparalleled quality of this game comes with an exacting price. The game requires the latest technology to run at maximum performance. To get the maximum performance out of the *Nocturne*, it requires a 32 megabyte video card, Sound Blaster Live!, and 128 megabytes of ram. The game slowed down on a Pentium 500 and took up a massive 1.2 gigabytes.

BY NICHOLAS ROSSELL

Reviews

known as Stranger. You must guide Stranger through four chapters of monster killing. Simple enough plot, but that's not where the game shines. The graphics, sound, characters, and environment are where the game comes into its prime. The graphics are some of the best ever seen in a game and the amount of detail is incredible, from Stranger's trench coat billowing on a windy evening, right down to the Franken Mobster "Smiley's" stitched up face.

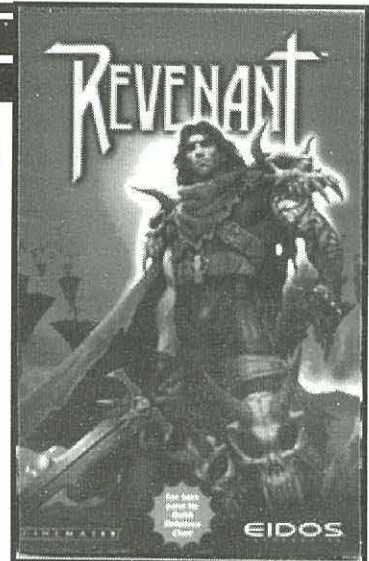
Revenant Publisher: Eidos Interactive



Cost: \$40-\$45

The Dictionary defines a revenant as one that returns after death or long absence. That is the plot of *Revenant* in Layman's terms. You play as Locke D' Averam, resurrected for the noble cause of saving a warlord's daughter from a mysterious cult. Unfortunately for Locke, he can't remember who he is or what he did in his past life. Throughout the game, Locke must recover his memories of what caused him to be condemned to Hell. The game plays similar to *Diablo* and *Dark Stone*, but in many aspects is different. *Revenant's* combat system is excellent, far beyond that of *Diablo*. Instead of *Diablo's* tedious point and click, movement and fighting are done with a gamepad or keyboard. Aside from the three basic attacks, there are several awesome combo moves to pull off. An especially brutal one is when fighting an Ogrok. Locke trips the Ogrok, thrusts his sword in the ground, and punches the Ogrok repeatedly in the face. It's cheap, but really effective. The spells of the game are very nicely done as well. For example, the Maelstrom spell creates a massive funnel of energy around Locke that shoots out massive energy blasts towards all monsters on screen. The graphics of the game are quite good considering they have limited support of 3D acceleration. Unfortu-

nately, there are two things that keep this good game from being great. The first is the voice acting of the characters, especially Locke. Part of the time he sounds rather subdued and easy going. The rest of the time he sounds like he's on a major caffeine buzz. The second is the rather limited replay value. The only thing that can really be changed the second time around is the focus on primary stats and what weapons to use. This is where the game falls short of *Diablo* and *Dark Stone*. While *Diablo* and *Dark Stone* had several different character classes to choose from, in *Revenant* you're stuck with Locke. Just having one character to vanquish evil with is not enough.



BY NICHOLAS ROSSELL

Game

Computer



-BAD



-DECENT

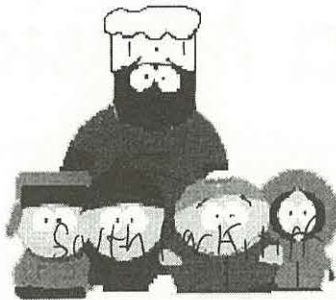
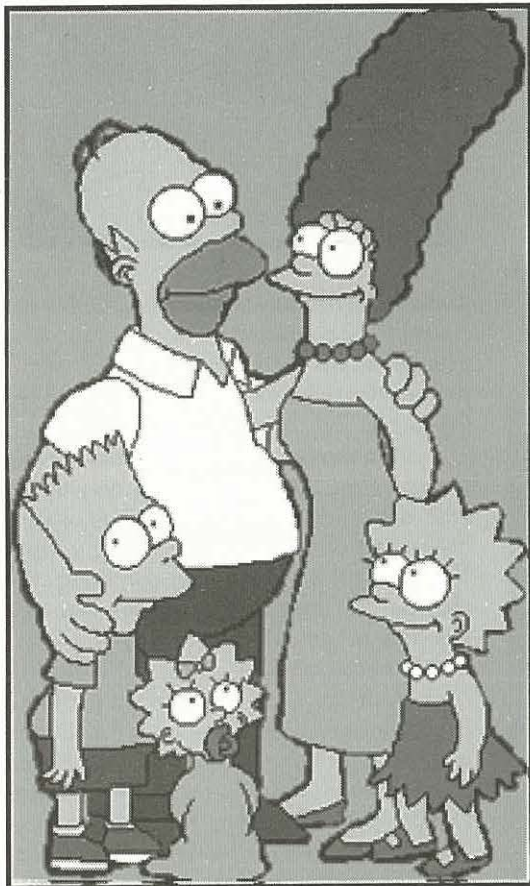


-GOOD



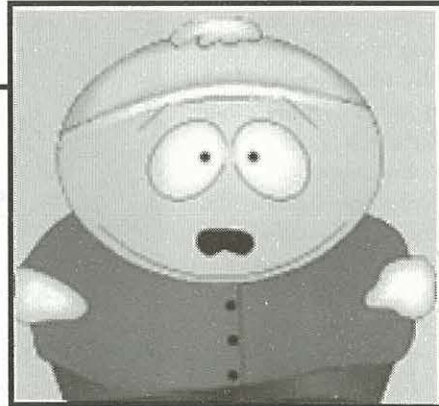
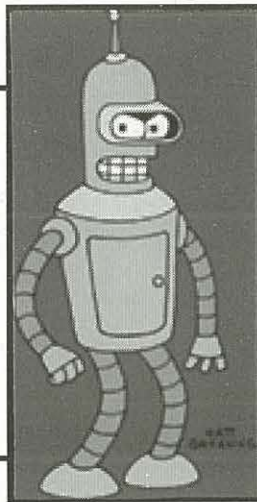
-EXCELLENT

It's Time for



Clockwise from far left: The all-American family, *The Simpsons*; Chef and the kids from *South Park*; The hilariously obese Cartman from *South Park*; The alcoholic robot from 30th century *Futurama*, Bender.

PRIMETIME



BY JORDAN CLIMIE

Remember back when the only cartoons around were basically animated rabbits and talking mice? Well move over Bugs, a new era of cartoons are here. And the best thing about them? They're on primetime. That's right, now you have a choice if you would rather see middle-aged men talking about life's problems, or a cartoon baby plotting diabolical ways to take over the world. But there's more to it than that, much more.

Take a look back at the '80s. Cartoons weren't anything besides your basic Disney and Warner Bros. characters. But then came along a short cartoon skit on the *Tracy Ullman Show*. It was called *The Simpsons*. It was shown a few times, people liked it, so creator Matt Groening made it grow. He expanded the show, talked to a couple TV networks, and bang, *The Simpsons* started a whole new generation. The new generation would soon be followed by *Beavis and Butt-Head*, an inside look at an "average" teenage boy's life.

With *The Simpsons*, they paved the way for primetime cartoons. But we can't give all the credit to them. There had to be followers to carry on the legacy. These followers were a group of kids from *South Park*. It's true, Comedy Central caught on and decided to go for it, with *South Park* and a Canadian cartoon called *Bob & Margaret*. With the style of *South Park*, it was sure cartoons could

match up against real life anyway. With their arrival, network TV had to make a comeback. Their comeback was *King of the Hill*, a show about a propane-selling Texan and his family. People began to notice cartoons more. They built a following of hardcore fans and weird computer nerds who couldn't stay away. Mike Judge had made two top-rated cartoon shows, and it wouldn't end there.

It wouldn't end because of Matt Groening. For years, he had tried to get his new cartoon idea into a show, and it worked. In the tenth season of *The Simpsons*, he premiered *Futurama*, a story about a pizza delivery boy who gets frozen for 1,000 years. Following soon after was *Family Guy*. It was an instant success, with an idiot father, much like *The Simpsons*, and a diabolical baby trying to rule the world. Finally MTV got back into the race after *Beavis and Butt-Head* was cancelled years before. Already running *Celebrity Deathmatch*, an animated show using clay, they created *Downtown*, a look at life in the big city. Sure, it might not be popular, but they're at least in competition.

As the years go on, you're sure to see more and more primetime cartoons. Some of them will stay for decades, others will get cancelled. But at least you can see how far cartoons have come over the years, from a high-pitched mouse named Mickey, to a sling-shot terrorizing boy named Bart.

Music on a Mission

SoundWaves

by Kevin Wilson



A million faces of all shapes and sizes clutter the small room before stage. All at once, these faces turn to watch an approaching figure walk from the darkness enveloping the stage. He continues, walking towards a small podium and lowers his head to the mike. Dressed in a suit and tie, he begins to speak before the members of the United Nations' Commission on Human Rights. This single person speaking of violations of the truth, of justice, and of human rights is none other than Zacarias (Zack) De la Rocha, the singer and lyricist of Rage Against the Machine. Zack made his appearance at this event for a reason - to ask for a retrial of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a journalist and former Black Panther convicted of a 1981 killing of a Philadelphia police officer. Mumia was hit with a death sentence and conviction so harshly that it has raised questions from such groups as Amnesty International and even the European Parliament.

And by doing this not only Zack, but every other member of Rage against the Machine, are only doing one small thing on their great list of achievements. From Rock for Choice to the British Anti-Nazi League, RATM has definitely left its impact already within the music and culture of many by their calls for righting wrongs, fierce music style, and a perseverance that Ghandi would have to appreciate.

But now, the setting and the stage changes to an event in the past of no less importance and notability. The date is June 25. Upon this stage, a man has set his tools upon a stage to be sold to the highest bidder. But the proceeds for this event shall not go into the man's pocket, but into a center which treats something he himself dealt with for a long time - drug abuse. He is Eric Clapton, rock & roll legend. Upon this night, Clapton will sell not only 100 of his guitars, including his famous 1956 Fender Stratocaster named "Brownie" upon which he wrote the song "Layla", but he will raise over \$5 million. All of these

funds will go to his Crossroads

Center drug rehabilitation facility in Antigua. With not only this, but the Concert for Bangladesh and numerous other tributes on his record, Eric Clapton has proven himself one who works for not only the music, but for the people as well.

Not many people in the music industry are like this. Many individuals only find those who are either selfish, non-active, or simply not caring of what goes on in this world. They don't think that music can bring about change. But there are also those who appear like they might act selfish and not give a care to what happens to people, but in fact, do.

A prime example of this is the hip-hop group Beastie Boys. Arising in the '80s along with such groups as Run-DMC and Digital Underground, they do not outwardly appear like the musicians who crusade for purposes. But the members of the Beastie Boys, both together and separated, have been apart of many functions. The Beastie Boys themselves are known for the Tibetan Freedom Concert, that is now an annual event. This concert is dedicated to the freedom of Tibetan monks who are being oppressed by the current Communist government.

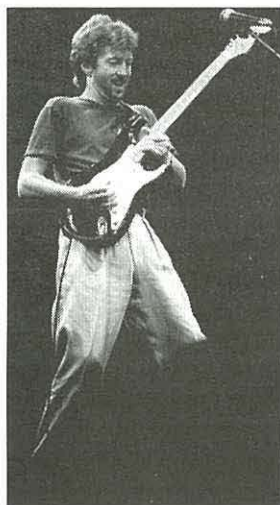
"We'll do whatever we can to be supportive to the Tibet situation, and if it looks like doing concerts will benefit it, then we'll continue to do that." Beastie boy member Adam Yauch told MTV News.

The Beastie Boys and RATM ignited headlines with their January benefit designed to raise funds to pay for a hopeful retrial for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Mumia's execution is set on Dec. 2, and RATM and the Beasties are doing everything in their power to stop it.

All of these groups have something in common. They have a goal that they see in the skies, and they are reaching for that star. Whether it be injustice, drug abuse, or ruthless oppression they choose to fight against, each of these musicians follow their own sacred path to right these wrongs that they see before them. And in this way, they are legends. Not because they can just play music, but because they are after a much more noble goal.

There is no doubt: they are music on a mission.

From top to bottom:
Beastie Boys, Zack de la Rocha of RATM, Tom Morello and la Rocha at Mumia, and Eric Clapton.

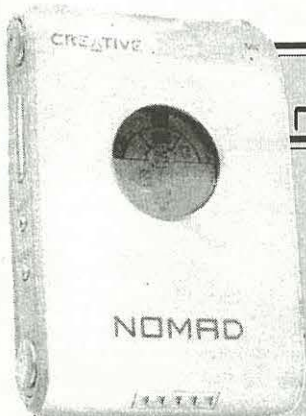


Dreaming of a

BY ERRIK MALMSTROM

CHROME PLATED Christmas

Remember Transformers and Ninja Turtles, Barbies and Cabbage Patch Kids? Those were the gifts parents knew to buy their children. As Y2K approaches, the toys that once were wanted by the masses of kids are now dead. It's not that older kids don't enjoy toys, but the toys they want have a very high price tag. So, to help all the readers out there, here is a guide to some things teenagers might want.



NOMAD MP3 PLAYER NOMAD MP3 PLAYER

Creative Labs Nomad MP3 Player will keep you from ever wanting to buy another CD again. That could very well be a marketing concept for this awesome product. What is an MP3 player? An MP3 Player is a music player that allows you to play downloaded music off the Internet. Although it is about the size of a deck of cards, it contains the latest MP3 technology. Another advantage to this product is that there is no possibility of skipping. However, with praise comes a giant boot to crush it down. Some sites charge money to download MP3s, and some download times are extensive. This is a good product, but it requires the assistance of a nice computer. The Nomad retails between \$250 and \$300.

ANNIHILATOR 3D GRAPHICS CARD ANNIHILATOR 3D GRAPHICS CARD

Computer game fans will love the Creative Labs Annihilator 3D Graphics Card. This card is of massive proportions, and will make them happy until something better comes along. For the time being, this product is glorified and bowed down to by all. This card is made with the new NVidia's GeForce 256 chip set. It takes advantage of a new transform and lighting engine, or T&L for short. The card uses DirectX 7, which helps out the T&L engine. The card is compatible with both lower-end model and brand new processors. Be warned that the card may be host to all sorts of new bugs, but don't let that stop you. To give this card a simple explanation is impossible. It is beyond any console unit ever produced. The card retails at about \$250.



3D Blaster
GeForce 256
Annihilator

SHARP PORTABLE MINIDISC PLAYER SHARP PORTABLE MINIDISC PLAYER

Imagine never listening to a bad CD again. This is very possible, if one has good taste in music and a Sharp's Portable MiniDisc Player/Recorder. Just pick a good song and plug the recorder into a stereo via the digital optic cable or using the analog plugs. Then, synchronize the recorder to the CD, and the outcome will be a whole song with no interruptions. Recording can also be done on a MiniDisc. Each disc holds 74 minutes, about the length of an average CD, but with much better quality. Sharp's MiniDisc Player / Recorder retails at \$199, and a 4-pack of mini discs retails at about \$6.

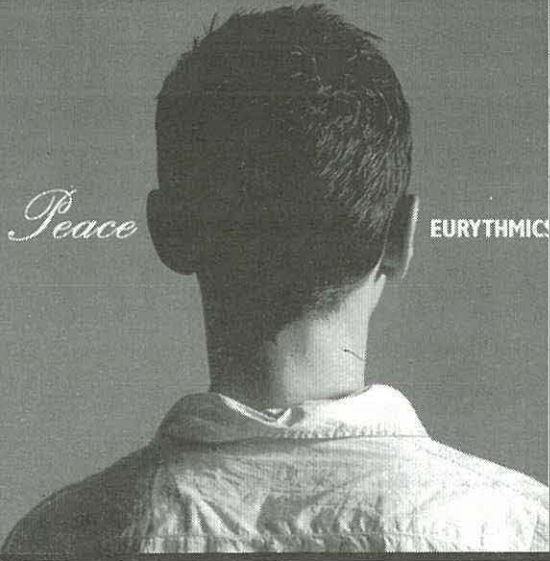
SONY PORTABLE DVD PLAYER SONY PORTABLE DVD PLAYER

Last, and most expensive, is the Sony Portable DVD Player. Basically, it's a DVD player that can be taken anywhere. It sports a whopping 4-inch screen powered by a rechargable lithium ion battery. Very cool. Retails at \$1000, but has been falling in price. Note: It can be hooked up to any TV using the included cable.



Peace

EURythmics



Eurythmics

Peace



Review of the Month

CD Review

You can tell right away by listening to Eurythmics' new CD *Peace* that Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart have a musical chemistry between them. From the first song to the last, there is an unstopped flow that sends the listener into a

been below par, Eurythmics hits the shelves with a vengeance.

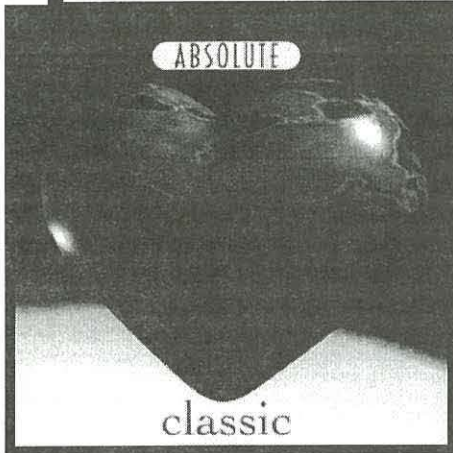
Peace is a mix of soft rock with cool undertones. Lennox's voice is the fusion between vocalists Allison Krauss and Kathy Mattea, however Lennox's singing transcends beyond country music into its own vogue. In '80s retro-style, there is still the hint of techno, reminiscent of James Bond theme music, in the intro to "I Saved The World Today," a sarcastic jab at human superficiality. The album is all about mood. Each song propels the listener into its own message, and there is a feeling of elevation listening to happy songs like "I Want It All," and depression with "Anything But Strong" - both among the best on the recording. The finest song by far is "Peace Is Just A Word," and "I've Tried Everything" features a powerful message.

mood-filled bliss. There is much to be said about the group which started in 1983 with "Sweet Dreams (Are Made Of This)," and took off with the cover titled track to the #1 worldwide single. *Peace* marks the first return of Lennox and Stewart to the studio in ten years, and while the recent quality of reemerging '80s bands has

Peace is worth the money to add to any collection, whether you're a fan of easy-listening or crass-mania. There is little to be disappointed with in this album.

By JASON KENNEDY

Absolute Classic



Classical music isn't just about pianos and violins. It is a complex gathering of tones set in order both vertically and horizontally, following stringent rules and principles, but with exceptions.

Today's music would be non-existent or at the most simple and unconstructive had it been without this strong foundation. *Absolute Classic* is a collection of classical pieces ranging from the Baroque to the modern periods, from sweet and soft to loud and raucous. There is most assuredly a piece for everyone, or at least a hint of where to start. It has a few traditional pieces, such as "Spring from Vivaldi's Seasons," followed by a little Bach. There is a change to a light Spanish melody, "Rhapsodie Espagnole" by Maurice Ravel. Next is a traditional Mozart piece, followed by another Spanish fling by Charbrier. A slow, lulling "Mahler Symphony" creeps its way out of silence. Slow and lulling are two words very rarely used to describe Mahler's works. If you like heavy drums, try Symphony #6, "Pathetique." Antonin Dvorak's Symphony #8 follows. You've probably heard Dvorak's #9, "New World Symphony," somewhere - it's about Dvorak's trip to America. The American composer, Gerswin, is featured with "Rhapsody in Blue." The last track on this CD is rather short for Classical music, it's only 2:35. It's from Carl Orff's opera, "Carmina Burana." It is a choral and symphonic piece that starts with a rousing fanfare and then plummets into an intense "piano." This gradually builds to a climax even bigger than the opening. The Marine Corps Recruiting commercial used this piece with great effort.

Why won't people try classical? It's just like any other music, in fact it is the basis of music. So expand your horizons and check out *Absolute Classic*.

By CATLIN COYNE

CD Review



-BAD



-DECENT



-GOOD



-EXCELLENT



November 16 was a day many Korn fans thought they might never see. The release date of their newest CD, *Issues*, was originally scheduled for September, but as the month drew closer, there was rumor it was going to be upped until October. Then, into November. Maybe a Korn Christmas release. Y2Korn? Fortunately, now no one has to wait any longer than it takes to drive down to Best Buy. *Issues* is in stores, and there is a lot in store for Korn fans with this release.

There has been a real development in sound since *Follow the Leader*, and these two CDs sound nothing alike. Not to say there aren't any similarities, but *Issues* is its own identity in music. The radio release "Falling Away From Me" is the closest relation with *Follow The Leader*, but is far from the best song. The album essentially relives a story, relating loss, ego, confusion, and insanity.

The album is heavy into bass, so if you're a lyric listener, keep the woofers down or you may miss something.

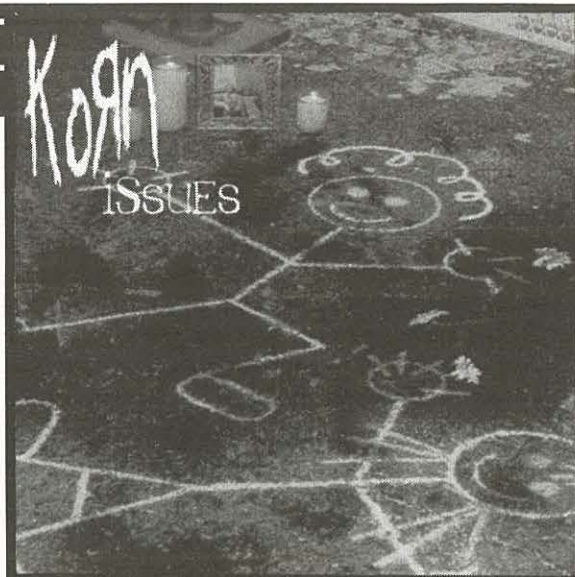
What rocks about the issue of *Issues*? "Wake

Up," "Hey Daddy," and "Let's Get This Party Started" are easily the best songs, and for best quality of song, listen to

"Make Me Bad," during which Jonathan Davis sounds a hint like Ozzy.

Korn fans united can safely plug the hardest music in the world back into their veins when their only fix over the summer of girl-bands was Limp Bizkit and Orgy.

BY JASON KENNEDY



Final Fantasy VIII



Once, every so often, there is a movie, novel, or even a game considered an Epic.

September 9, 1999, better known as 9-9-99 was a huge day in the world of gaming. Final Fantasy VIII, a single game in a series of epics was released. The game itself had changed. It now had a totally new game engine. There had always been a code for what an RPG should be. This game broke all the rules. The graphics had changed and now used the full scale of a person instead of a plump midget character. The backgrounds look stunning and are all pre-rendered, and in some cases, fade in and out with the movement of the characters. For an extra game, Squaresoft added a card game just before the game was released. The game is played like a battle and has a different set of rules than are normal in most card games. The

winner in the end could even walk away with the other player's cards. This feature is fun and a nice break from gameplay. Be warned the card game is very difficult to understand at first, but hang in there and it gets easier. The most stunning and breakthrough addition is the new magic system called junction. To junction means to combine together. In fact, that is exactly what you do. At the beginning, the character starts out with two guardian forces. When junctioning a creature to a character, a list of abilities are presented. At any time after that, the guardian forces can be changed. To sum it up, each guardian force has a unique ability, these abilities are able to be altered to what it can do. The options make it learn new abilities to help aid the journey. It is very helpful. The last little blurb about the game is on the amazing story that is present in this game. Many people think a video game is just death and destruction. This is far from the truth.

FF VIII incorporates a very easy to understand storyline, but still holds the interest of the player better than any movie I have seen. The game was by far the best in the series. If the idea of playing a love story turns any player off, don't let it. It is such an achievement be missed.

BY ERRIK MALMSTROM

Kicking back at The Elbow Room

BY CAITLIN COYNE

Go ahead and heave a sigh of relief- Flushing finally has it's own coffee shop. The Elbow Room, owned by Rick and Marcia Brandt, lies between Planet Gymnastics and The Rye Bakery, right along Main Street.

Mrs. Brandt says they started thinking about opening the coffee shop in 1994, with the intent of creating a friendly atmosphere where friends can meet and gather; a place that would be comfortable for Flushing's teens. After five years of work, it has evolved into a beautiful cafe that offers not only the normal coffees, but also a wide variety of gourmet coffees, teas, and other assorted beverages. Also included in their wares are a collection of confections, such as biscotti and chocolate covered coffee beans.

The Elbow Room has more than just food and drink.

It also tries to have a minimum of two nights of entertainment per month. Two popular groups have been the Joe Daily and Cory Glover duo, and the band Counterclockwise, comprised of Ryan Brandt, Jason Dake, and Allen VanHouzen.

The Elbow Room holds normal hours, 7:00a.m. to 9:00p.m. Monday through



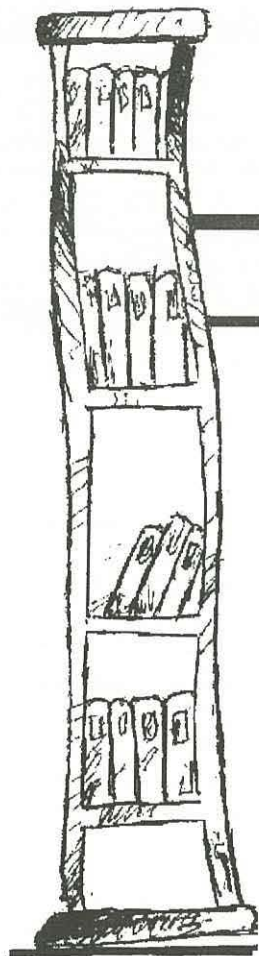
Junior Amanda Abramson spends her afternoons as one of The Elbow Room's employees. Photo by Cory Glover

Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and is currently closed on Sundays. Mrs. Brandt hopes that will change once the next-door bakery is open.

The cafe has been well patronized. According to Mary Jo Stilson, an employee, The Elbow Room is consistently busy, including a rush in the afternoon as people get out of work and start to head home. It is also pretty full when there is nightly entertainment.

Mrs. Brandt expects the Elbow Room to stay pretty much the same in the future, perhaps flourishing a bit with the addition of The Rye with the connection doorway between the two.

So whether it's kicking back and sipping a latte while perusing a favorite book, or gathering around the table with an Italian Ice and discussing the days to come, The Elbow Room is the place to do it.



THE BOOKSHELF

BY AMANDA O'BOYLE

As soon as you open the novel *Cold Sassy Tree*, by Olive Burns, you feel like you have just entered another world. The novel takes place in the fictional Southern town of Cold Sassy in 1900. After the Civil War had ended, the South was just getting back on its feet.

Cold Sassy is a town where everyone knows everyone else's business and where family sticks up for each other, even if there are bad feelings on the inside. Will Tweedy, a fourteen-year-old who is trying to find his way in a changing world, tells the story of Cold Sassy.

At the beginning of the novel, Will's grandmother, Miss Mattie Lou, has just passed away. The family is in mourning, and everything is as it should be until three weeks later, when Will's grandfather announces he is getting married to a

woman who is young enough to be his daughter. The family is in shock because a proper mourning period is a year, and they instantly become the center of town gossip. The grandfather goes on with the marriage regardless of what the community or his family thinks. This event leads to many other misunderstandings and mishaps, most quite humorous.

Though this book might seem like a quick read, and it will probably bring a smile to your face, there is much more to this seemingly simple novel. It brings up the issues of death, forgiveness, moving on with life, and not letting the opinions of others shape who you become. Though some of the novel is somewhat opinionated and blunt, it reflects on life and makes the reader feel good. It's a wonderfully written book and should remain on your bookshelf as a classic.



JOE'S WORLD
BY JOE DAILY

the best **new releases**
you haven't seen

- american history x

One of the most powerful and controversial films to recently be released, *American History X* tells the story of Derek (Edward Norton), a young white supremacist, who has changed his views after spending three years in prison for the brutal murder of a black youth. Upon his release, he finds that his younger brother Danny (Edward Furlong) has adopted the racist ideas he once believed in. Derek is now left to deal with the horrors of his past life, and to take action to save Danny from making the same mistakes he did.

American History X is an impacting drama that leaves the viewer with mixed emotions. It features powerful performances by Edward Norton and Edward Furlong, as well as a strong supporting cast (Fairuza Balk, Beverly D'Angelo, Elliott Gould, and Avery Brooks). It also uses an excellent flashback technique, showing scenes of Derek's past in black & white.

- election

There's nothing quite like a dark comedy, and MTV Productions' *Election* is proof of that. Starring Reese Witherspoon as Tracy Flick, an overachiever running for class president, and Matthew Broderick as teacher Jim McAllister, who'll do anything to stop her, *Election* is a hilarious film with plenty of ironic twists. You'll have to judge this one for yourself, and don't forget to 'Pick Flick.'

- 54

Take a provocative look at the rise and fall of one of the most popular nightclubs of all time with *54*. Young Shane O'Shea (Ryan Phillippe) finds an escape from his family and a home in Studio 54 as a busboy, and works his way to become a bartender. He becomes lost in the never ending parties, and finds himself getting involved with drug abuse and other problems. Mike Myers gives an unforgettable performance as owner Steve Rubell, a more serious role than he's usually seen in.

54 sucks you into the party scene storyline, filled with spectacular costumes and dance music. It also stars Salma Hayek as the club's main attraction.

- october sky

October Sky tells the true story of four high school students living in a 1950's coal mining town, with no chance of ever getting out into the world - until they take an interest in rockets. Homer Hickman, Jr. (Jake Gyllenhaal), the son of a head coal miner, goes against his father's ideals in pursuit of his fascination with rockets. He enlists the help of his three buddies and their teacher (Laura Dern), and they work to make it to the state science competition.

October Sky is a great film that's both heartwarming and humorous, and suitable for people of all ages. It's truly a quality movie experience.

- psycho

A shot by shot remake of Alfred Hitchcock's masterpiece, *Psycho* stars Anne Heche as Marion Crane, a criminal on the run who takes refuge at a motel. The motel is operated by Norman Bates (Vince Vaughn), a quirky man with a "mother" to die for.

The film costars Julianne Moore as Crane's sister and William H. Macy as a private investigator, and is directed by Gus Van Sant. Be sure to check out the original *Psycho*, and any of Hitchcock's other suspenseful thrillers.

- rushmore

Meet Max Fischer (Jason Schwartzman), a 10th grader at Rushmore Academy. He writes hit plays. He's editor of the school paper. He's captain or president of numerous clubs and societies, some of which he founded. He's gifted. He's also the worst student.

Rushmore, one of the best films of 1998, is a hilarious dark comedy from the director Wes Anderson (*Bottle Rocket*). It costars Olivia Williams as Miss Cross, the 1st grade teacher Max is in love with, and Bill Murray as steel tycoon Mr. Blume, Max's friend and competition for the beautiful Miss Cross. The film features catchy music and beautiful camera techniques, and keeps you entertained throughout.



◆Buy Union ◆Buy American

M & M Leathercraft

Full Line of Leather Supplies & Kits
 Professional Products Made
 Coat Repair & Cleaning
 Varsity Jackets
 Zipper Repair

1276 Linden Road, Flint (810) 732-4907

Back Aching?



Join Thousands
 of people
 in Mid-Michigan benefiting
 from "Quality" and affordable
 Chiropractic Total Health Care!

Call Now!
659-2020

PASCHKET CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC P.C.

133 N. Cherry Street, Flushing

car of the month

Rod Pierce's 1985 Chevy Blazer

BY JOHN THOMAS

Rod Pierce has a Primer gray 1985 Chevy Blazer. He and his dad started taking it apart in a garage about two years ago. About a month later the Blazer had a new look with different front and rear axles. They added lock rite lockers and 3:73 gear ratio. Then they bolted bolted six inch skyjacker spring lift on. Rod put a set of nitro skyjacker shocks on it. The Blazer was starting to take shape. They had



to put it outside after adding 38 inch radial ground hogs on it. The Blazer was jacked up the way he wanted. The license plate reads "HI RIDE."

They have plans to fix the rusty body this winter. After adding new body panels, Rod plans to paint it fire engine red. After the face lift, Pierce's Blazer will draw even more stares than it already does.

But for now, "It gets me from mudhole to mudhole," says Rod.

Parental Discretion Advised

Gang Related

Sports apparel turning into gang wear

BY JASON WITZ

Walking through Genesee Valley Mall can be a rather interesting experience. Just make sure you wear neutral colors. Nothing flashy, nothing glitzy, and certainly nothing that might associate you with some type of "gang." What type of clothing, you ask, would associate you with a gang?

I decided to sit at the mall one evening and just watch the people come and go. I saw a group of young men wearing bright red bandanas, that were waving freely on top of a cherry-colored Yankees cap, tilted ever so slightly to the left. Over to the right, I saw another group, consisting of four or five young men all sporting new metallic, shiny blue Detroit Tigers coats with matching hats. Now, maybe these people are major Tiger fans, and they are just showing an undying support for the home team. I mean, come on, the Detroit Tigers are the team of the future, right? Perhaps though, their blue "rags" leave something else to be determined. Are those blue bandanas another way of showing support, or do they symbolize a hidden meaning known only to "boys in the hood?"

Now please don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that wearing these types of clothes automatically means that someone is affiliated with a gang. That is not always the case, but people really like to label each other by their appearance. That fact will never change unless we all wear uniforms like in the military.

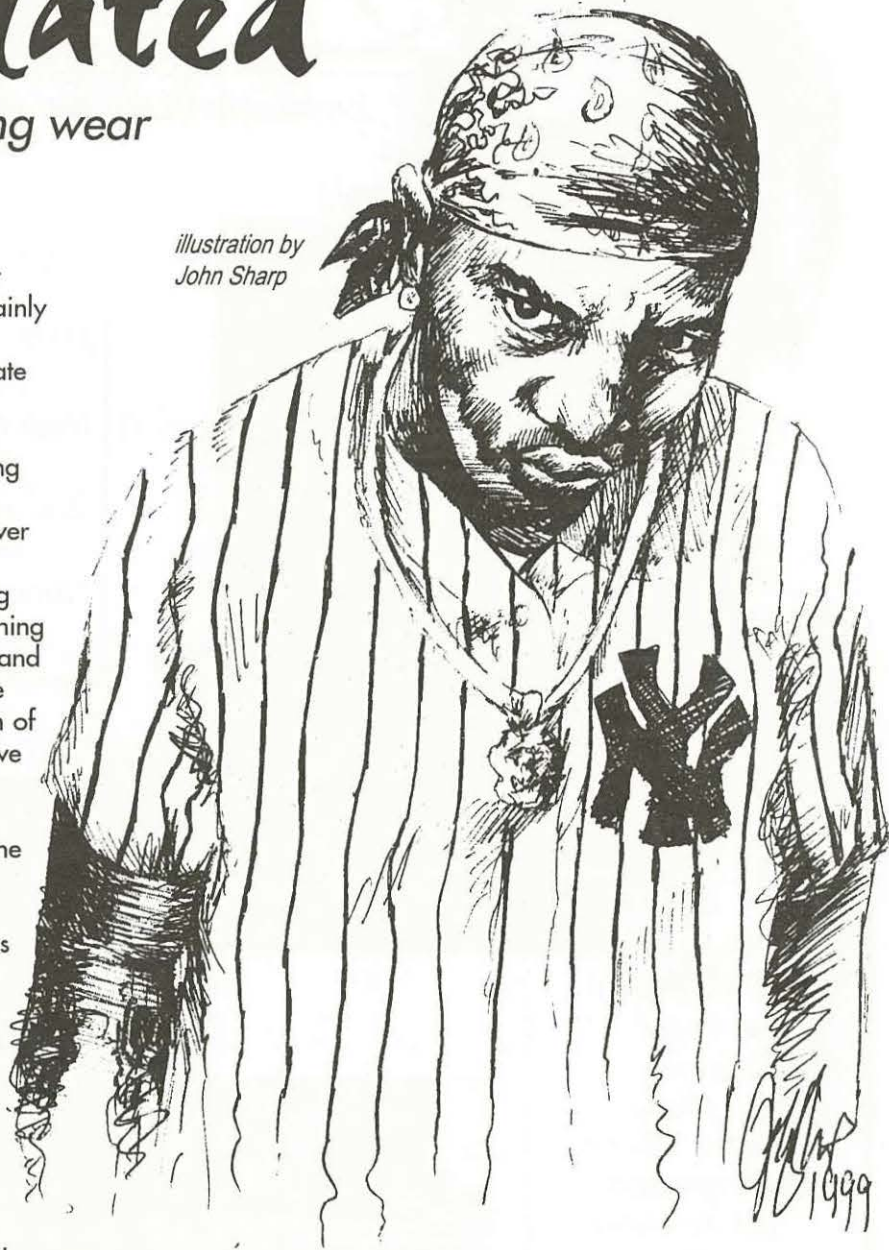
Flip through the channels on the television and what do you see? A rap singer with some Oakland Raiders gear on. The nature of his explicit lyrics and thuggish ways almost cries out, "I'm a gangbanger!" Young, impressionable minds that see this guy on TV decide that the lifestyle that is portrayed might just be the thing for them. On the other hand, when little Johnny wears his Charles Woodson jersey to school, someone might think he is proclaiming his affiliation to a gang. We will just throw out the fact that Woodson won the Heisman Trophy in 1997 and is one of the premiere, young athletes in the NFL. Now is little Johnny a "gangbanger" or really a Charles Woodson fan? Is he someone to look up to as a role model for a young athlete or criminally minded gang member?

How and why do we sit and judge these people?

This is our nature to "stereotype" people. We too often judge people by what they wear, how they talk, the cars that they drive, and the music they listen to.

Nick Douros, an employee of Time Out Sports in Flushing, explained this ironic issue: "People aren't scared to buy certain kinds of hats or sports apparel anymore,

illustration by
John Sharp



whereas eight years ago it was more of a fear than a stereotype," meaning that people were skeptical about purchasing a particular team's apparel due to the excessive hype of gang usage. "The stereotype is still on the Los Angeles logo because it is still associated with gangs."

We will never get rid of the stereotypical gang member. We will always have a vision of a person that is basically bad, wearing a particular type of clothing and associating with similar type people. We will also have a vision of people in a sports arena that are showing their support for a particular team by wearing clothing associated with their team, waving banners, and sometimes acting totally absurd. Are these people also "gang" members? In a sense, yes. These fans certainly outnumber the people that wear the same logo for another purpose.

1999 Fall sports

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY KAREN ERSKINE



Lori Banacki. Photo by Kelly Edwards

Girls Tennis

MVP

Andrea Thomas

Most Spirited

Brianne Byrski

Most Improved

Andrea Thomas

Most Wins

Laura Stephenson and Marianne Millan

1st Team

Andrea Thomas, Fawna Glassford, Julie Forbes

2nd Team

Karen Erskine, Brianne Byrski

Honorable Mention

Marianne Millan, Laura Stephenson, Lori Banacki

Boys Golf

MVP

Dan Pear, Bob Boise

Matt Krump Award

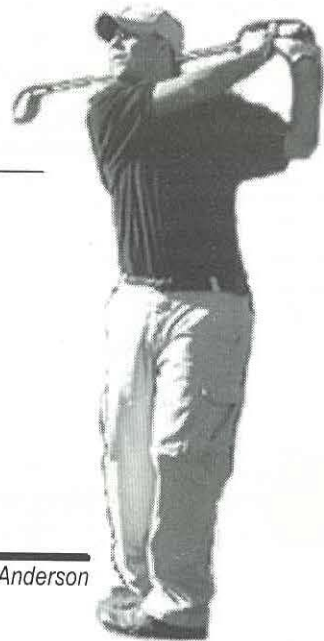
Jeff Lawrey

2nd Team All Conference

Bob Boise, Dan Pear

Honorable Mention

Matt Rau, Aaron McWilliams



Jason Francis. Photo by Sam Anderson

Football

MVP

Brent Edwards

Best Defensman

Josh Biggart

Best Linemen

Nick Willette, Dominic Palacios

Most Improved

DeAnte Stribling

Unsung Hero

Mike Beaver

1st Team

Kyle Odegaard, Brian Chapman, Brent Edwards

2nd Team

Shawn Conlen, Mike Fray, Nick Willette, Josh Biggart

Honorable Mention

Josh Summerfield, Dominic Palacios, Andy Cookingham

Swimming

MVP

Kinga Dornimitza

Most Improved

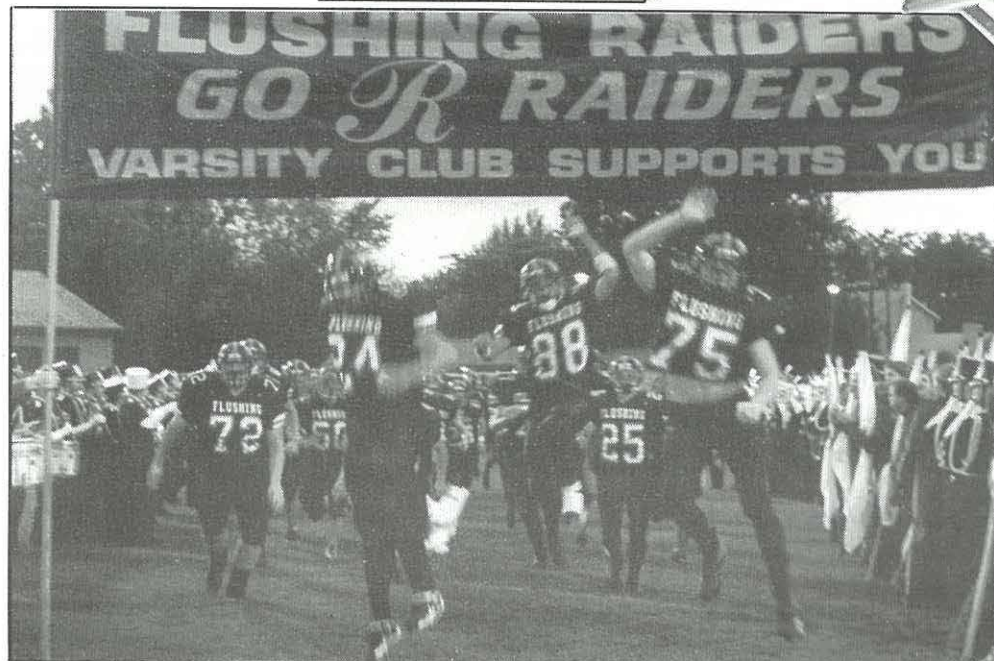
Sarah St. James

Coaches Award

Lauren Rogers



Maureen Rose. Photo by Kelly Edwards



↑ The Football team slaps the banner as they do before all home games. Photo by Kelly Edwards

awards

Girls Cross Country

Senior members of the Cross Country team, Laura Bristol, Karen Sharrow-Reabe, Kate Shipley, Alicia Shepard, Lauren Shuster, Mia Sokol, Anna Dutcher and Amy Gensel. *File Photo*



Boys Cross Country



MVP

Karen Sharrow-Reabe

Most Spirited

Anna Dutcher

Most Improved

Lauren Bigger

1st Team

Marchelle Fuller

Karen Sharrow-Reabe

Luke Hayes. File Photo

MVP

Luke Hayes

Coaches Award for Leadership

Mike Bills

Most Improved

Steve Bills

MVP

Nick Metiva

Coaches Award

Aaron Ringle

1st Team

Nick Metiva

2nd Team

Jake Sigulinsky

Honorable Mention

Rick Batey, Orea Sweeza

2nd Team All State

Nick Metiva

Soccer



Jake Sigulinsky. Photo by Sarah Allegro

A glimpse of winter Hockey



Flushing has eight returning seniors, including Pat Harvey, a first year high school player who has starred in the travel leagues for years, all looking for their first Big Nine title since 1981. Led by captain Eric Lerche, the team has a good defense to build around and is on the way to fully coming together offensively. This season can be summed up with the words of starting goalie Alan Faille, "We'd love to kill Powers." Justin Lewis is shown in the above picture. *Photo by Kelly Edwards*

Coach Hartman and his Grand Slam Breakfasts

BY MIKE FRAY

It is not uncommon to find the varsity boys basketball team practicing before school. In fact, 7:00 AM practices have become a daily occurrence as the boys prepare to go for a third straight Big Nine Championship.

"The morning practices allow us to use the whole gym and do things we would not be able to do with half the gym," said senior Dominic Palacios.

Although these practices are productive, most of the players complain about getting up early running to start out their day.

"Yeah, we get a lot a done, but getting up in the morning and running is definitely not something I like doing," said junior Josh Summerfield.

The boys are looking forward to the upcoming season, and they all believe a three-

peat is possible.

"The league has about six teams that are good enough to win it all, but I think we are ahead in the race if we continue to work hard," said senior Brent "Buddha" Edwards.

This year the Big Nine is going to be a battle every night. With Davison, Kearsley, Carman/Ainsworth, Beecher, Powers, and The Raiders all looking strong. All of these teams have enough experienced returners to compete for the title.

"We see it as a wide open race," said Coach Hartman. "Powers has the most experience coming back, but there is not a whole lot of difference between teams this year."

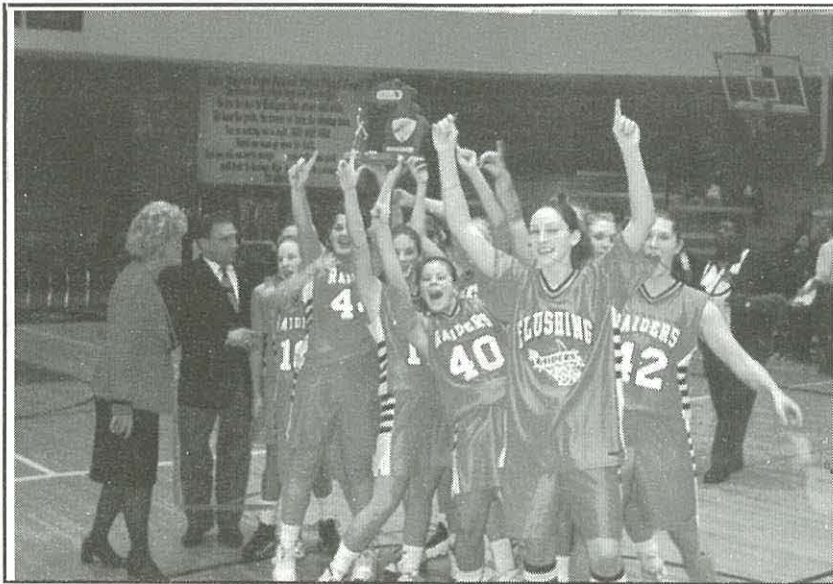
The boys season started with tryouts on Nov. 15 and the home opener was a non-conference game against Lapeer West.

Varsity Girls Basketball



The Raider girls celebrate their regional victory over the Flint Northern Vikings. The regional final was hard fought, with the Raiders coming out on top 49-45.

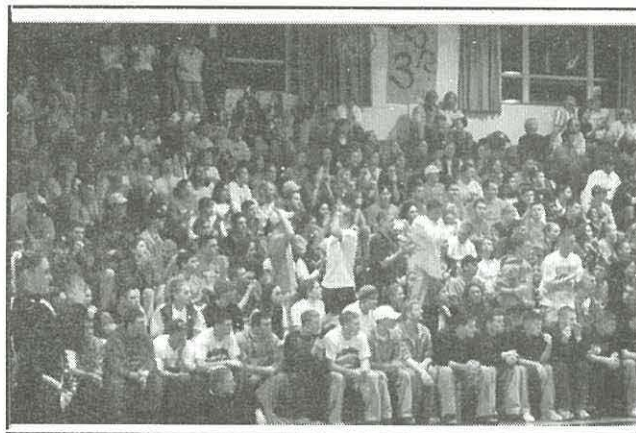
Photo by Mike Fray



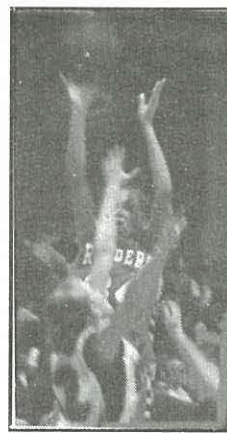
Running after a **RECORD BREAKER**



⤴ Lacey Grice contributed four points in the district championship win against Saginaw Heritage. Photo by Kelly Edwards



⤴ The rowdy Raider section cheers the girls to victory. The mob of Raider fans have followed the girls throughout the season. Photo by Mike Fray



⤴ Erika Ford rises above the Saginaw Heritage defense for a piece of a district championship. Photo by Kelly Edwards

Raiders wear a regional crown

BY LOGAN BESON

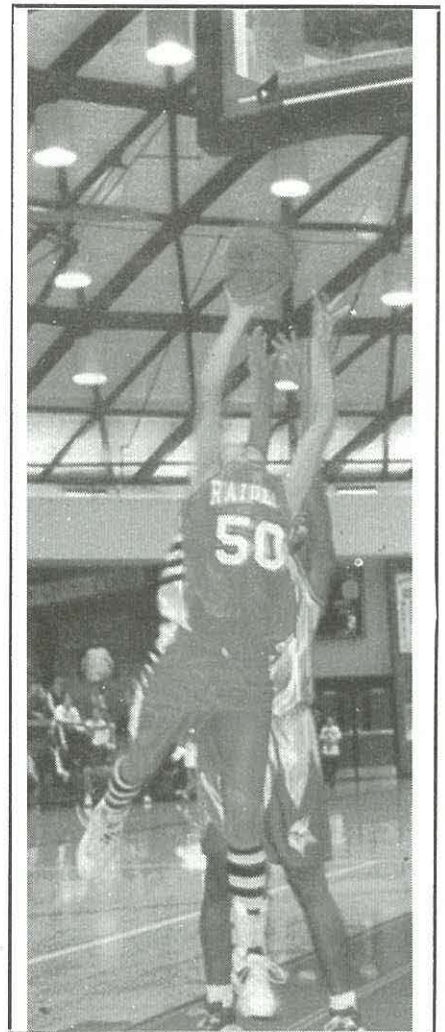
With excellent gameplay, the Raiders were able to overcome incredible odds and push their way into the state quarterfinals for the first time since 1976 by defeating the Flint Northern Vikings 49-45 in the Saginaw Heritage gym.

The Raiders' high point of the game was when Lacey Grice buried a free throw with 5.8 seconds left in the game.

"It was a shot I had to make," said Lacey.

The Raiders' high scorers throughout the tournament were Jodi Young averaging 20.4 points and Erika Ford averaging 13.7 points per game. Jodi and Erika both earned all-state honors for their season's work.

The Lady Raiders' success has been powered by a great student section, cheering them on to victory since the season's start. The rowdy Raiders section, as some call it, has witnessed a season that will never be forgotten.



⤴ Becca Grappin skies past a Northern defender for two of the Raiders' points. Photo by Mike Fray

Karen in Profile

Birthdate:

Dec. 12, 1981

Height/Weight

5' 9" / 130

Parents:

Ellie

Sharrow and Kevin

Reabe

Sibling:

Katie, 15

Pets:

Gracie the Whippet

Years running

cross country:

Six years

Favorite runner:

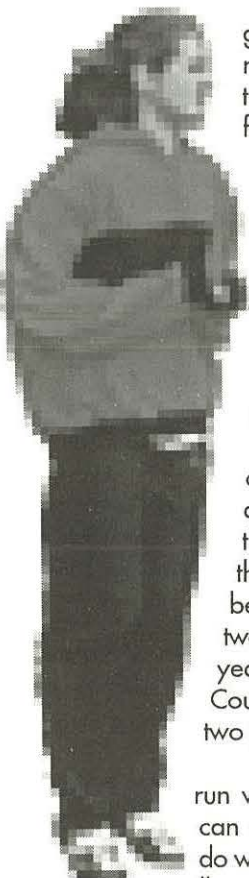
"My dad, who holds the state 880 record of 1:50.4."

Favorite thing to do on the weekend:

"Hang out with my boyfriend."

Future Plans:

"I'm going to Lyman Briggs at MSU to major in Biology."



Good to go the distance

BY ARON DUBY

Running 3.1 miles in 19:41 to get 48th out of a pack of 283 runners at the Class A state cross country finals, taking third in the Big 9, fifth in regionals, and Academic All State and First Team All Conference/County sounds like a great season, but to a true athlete like Karen Sharrow-Reabe, there is always that ounce of doubt.

"I felt like I had a good season, but when I stopped and looked back on it, I wonder if I could have done better," she said.

Karen is no stranger to big competition. She has been running all four years of high school, and this was her third year running at the state meet. Her awards include being a varsity captain for the past two years, Academic All State for two years, First Team All Conference/County for two years, and MVP for two years.

"It takes a lot of determination to run well, but anyone who trains hard can do well," commented Karen. "To do well in the fall you have to train hard all summer because your competition will be too".

"The team did really well considering



↑ Karen and the rest of the girls varsity cross country team hang out after regional finals. From left, Alicia Shepard, Marchelle Fuller, Lauren Hendry, Anna Dutcher, Alicia Glover, Karen Sharrow-Reabe, and Kelsie Fons. Photo by Katie Sharrow-Reabe

it was a pretty young team," said Sharrow-Reabe. "We had a lot of first timers, and it's mentally tough your first year," said Sharrow-Reabe. "We had two freshmen and a first-year runner at states this year."

The two freshmen were Marchelle Fuller, Karen Adado, who took a sick Alicia Shepard's spot at the last minute, and the first-year runner was Lauren Shuster.

"You have to run the race for yourself," commented Sharrow-Reabe. "No matter how much your coach is yelling at you, or how much your parents are yelling at you, you only give as much as you want to".

In the eyes of a spectator, Karen Sharrow-Reabe had a great season and a great high school cross country career, but it has taken its toll on her:

"I get butterflies in my stomach every time I go past a golf course."

Meeting Metiva

BY BRITTANY BEEDE

Scoring 22 goals, obtaining nine assists, and being named this year's MVP, Nick Metiva played a significant part of the varsity soccer team winning the title of district champions.

"It was an honor to win this year's MVP," said Metiva. "It meant a lot to me."

According to teammate Dave Lutz, it was no surprise having Nick being named the MVP. He remembered one game where Nick scored with a bicycle kick off an oncoming corner kick.

"We improved throughout the season once we got used to each other," said Nick.

The team had an unfortunate surprise with the death of their coach early in the season. The team paid their respects to their coach by having his initials placed on the sleeves of their jerseys.

"The death of Coach Batey was hard for a lot of the players, especially the ones who already had him as a coach," Nick said.

Dean Papas stepped up into the head coach position. In Nick's opinion, he did a good job coaching the team this year.

Nick At a Glance

Nickname:

Red

Height/Weight:

6'1"/180

Birthdate:

Oct. 29, 1981

Parents:

Brent and Ann Metiva

Siblings:

little sister, Brooke, 12

Future Plans:

"I plan on going to college, I'm not sure where yet."

Years playing Soccer:

Nine years

Position:

Forward

Proudest Award:

Second Team All State, 1999

Favorite thing to do on the weekend:

"Watch a lot of TV"

Favorite TV show:

"That '70s

Show,

that

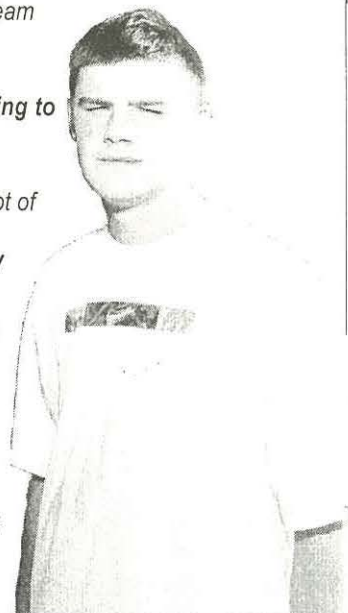
shows

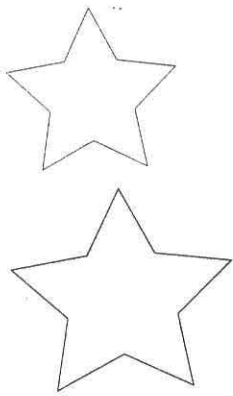
pretty

funny."

Dream Car:

"One that flies!"





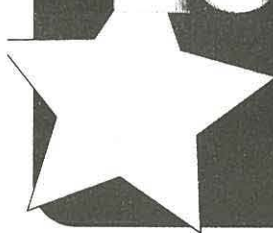
TAN INTO THE MILLENNIUM

**TWO-CAN
TAN**

\$40.00

**1 month
no co-pay**

**20TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**



**Park Place Centre 810.743.2340 • Somerset Towne Centre 810.733.0322
Bristolwood Plaza 810.746.9600 • Mt. Morris Towne Center 810.687.6700
Lincor Park 810.230.6200 • Grand Blanc 810.233.5200**