

# blazer

flushing high school's independent voice

volume 52 \* february 2000



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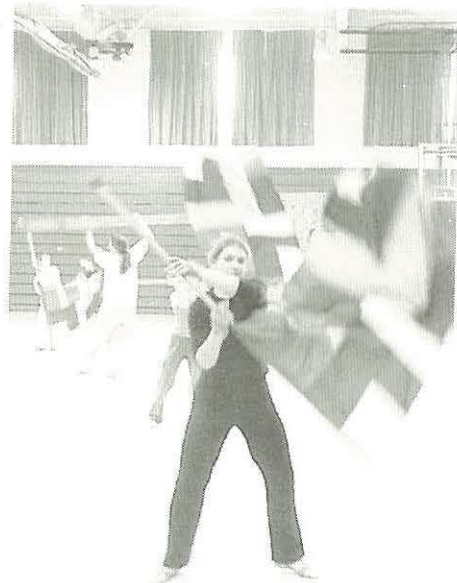
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⌚ The dance team performs at the winter pep rally. The team also performed at the Swartz Creek basketball game. Photo by Kelly Edwards

## on the cover

➔  
Sophomore Stephanie Lawrence, a member of Winterguard, usually practices two times a week, with a competition on Saturday. Their next competition is Feb. 5. Photo by Kelly Edwards



⌚ Raidermania is in full swing at the winter pep rally. Photo by Kelly Edwards

THE DAILY DOSE  
BY JOE DAILY



Hey People,

Well, how the heck are ya? I'm doing just dandy, to tell ya the truth, and quite frankly, I'm perplexed. What do you know, Joe? Sock it to me. Genetics is the whip. Well, that's all for this month, so I'll see you later.

*Joe Daily*

Joe Daily  
Editor-in-chief

OK, just kidding. This month we've given some thought to a thing called love, appropriately enough just in time for Valentine's Day. Our center spread, entitled "Not Everybody's Doin' It," gives some insight to sex and relationships, and how couples can be affected. On page 19, there's a feature on best friends of opposite sexes, and Andrew Kryza's column, *Ramblings*, contains some advice from the Ladies Man.

In the Sight & Sound section you can take a look back at the music of the past decade, and a look forward to the future with "These times they are a' changin'" and "Back in the Spotlight."

Just on a personal note, I'd like to remind everyone to play it safe this coming weekend for the Sadies dance. Be sure to drive carefully, as you always should, and make sure everyone is buckled up. It's the law, but more importantly, it's a life saver.

Take care, and enjoy this issue of the *Blazer*. It's got some great features. Normally I'd say goodbye right now and sign my name, but I already did that when I tricked you up above there. So, hello.

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.

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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.

# DETROIT WHEELS

FORMAT BY ANDREW FOTENAKES



Viper GTSR

⤴ The Dodge Viper GTSR will be one of the fastest American made cars on the road in 2000. Would you drive it? Photo by Kelly Edwards

## GMC TERRADYNE



⤴ GMC premiered its newest concept truck, named the Terradyne. This 4 X 4 has a number of futuristic options such as a PC outlet, power extending bed, and automatic doors. With all these options, this truck is definitely the truck for 21st century. Photo by Kelly Edwards.



Dodge MAXXcab

The Dodge comes equipped with a computer, internet access, e-mail, phones, and a navigation system.



⤴ The Rolls-Royce exhibit showed some of the world's most expensive and luxurious cars, while keeping awe struck spectators at a distance. Photo by Kelly Edwards



⤴ Jaguar had this large statue at the front of its smaller exhibit. They premiered their newest concept cars along with other traditional luxury sedans. Photo by Kelly Edwards.



⤴ The Karmann-Coupe convertible comes fully equipped with a retractable hard top (RHT). The top is powered electrohydraulically and folds into a 500 cubic liter trunk. The theme behind this car is "Two automobile philosophies in one vehicle." Photo by Kelly Edwards

# JEEP EXHIBIT



## SALEEN MUSTANG



Photo by Kelly Edwards

◀ Saleen also customizes Ford Explorers

This year's Jeep exhibit incorporated a number of outdoor themes to keep its image as a rugged, backroad conquerer. The Jeep Sahara display had a small waterfall and rough mountain climbing, while the 2000 Wrangler is driving through dangerous mountain terrain. Their concept vehicle is called the Jeep Varsity, a four door sport utility / hatchback coupe. Photos by Kelly Edwards.

### Sahara / Wrangler / Varsity



## Past vs. Future

The original Volkswagen Beetle began the tradition of small economical cars. Continuing with the tradition, Corbin Motors has designed this electric, one-seater named the Sparrow 2000. It's tentatively priced at around \$14,000, and has a maximum speed of 70 mph. It will register as a motorcycle. Photos by Kelly Edwards



ⓘ The Lamborghini Exhibit has always been a crowd favorite at the show. For around \$239,000, you could own one of these crowd favorites, and show all of your friends, if they can catch you. (Max. speed 205 mph)

# Social studies scores received from Meap

BY MICHAEL FRAY

Last year's MEAP test was just a trial run, but for Michigan 11th-graders this year, completion of the social studies section is mandatory.

"Starting with this year's juniors, the social studies test will count for an endorsement, as well as count toward the scholarship program," said Mr. Mikolowski.

This new implementation has many school districts statewide worried because of their poor scores on last year's test.

However, Flushing students' scores were above the state average, leading most teachers to believe that Flushing will do well the second time around.

"Our scores were above the state average in all three of the endorsed levels," said Mr. Mikolowski.

In this year's senior class, 30.1% of the students met or exceeded state standards, meaning they received a level 1 or level 2 score needed to qualify for the \$2,500 scholarship in the subject areas of reading, writing, science, and mathematics.

Out of the remaining 69.9%, 40.8% received a level 3 score, with which students would earn an endorsement, but wouldn't qualify for the scholarship.

In order to help students get the best score possible, Mr. Bickel has proposed a plan that would allow juniors to completely concentrate on the MEAP.

The plan would involve administering the test June 5-8, with the tests running from 7:45 - 10:45 a.m. each day. Juniors with transportation will be free to leave when they complete their test.

An advantage to this plan is that seniors would have already graduated, providing extra rooms to deliver the tests. Juniors would have completed all coursework and final exams by June 2, allowing them to concentrate solely on the MEAP.

## Senior Personalities Update

BY MICHAEL WHITMIRE

"Almost all seniors turned in nominations ballots," said senior Amy Keith about the senior personalities.

The election took place at the end of January and 71 girls and 65 guys were nominated. There were 32 categories to be claimed, but many were nominated for more than one. The new categories this year include Best Singer, Best Friends, and Most Likely to be Famous. These were added to increase the variety among nominees. Only two categories were eliminated, Worst Driver and Biggest Ego, because of their negative subjects.

The final ballot will also include the question, "Do you think that one person should be able to win more than one category?" If the majority of the class says yes, then those students may be able to take more than one category. The results have been printed in the yearbook since the '60s.

## Liason Officer Andy Owens



Responding to national fears concerning school safety, FHS has enlisted the services of the Flushing Township Police Department. Officer Andy Owens will be working as a full-time liason officer for all schools in the township starting in February. His services have been rendered not because of problems with security, but as an educational resource. He will be the successor to Sgt. Brian Fairchild, taking over the secondary DARE program. He will also be participating in various programs around the school.

## Pegasus 2000



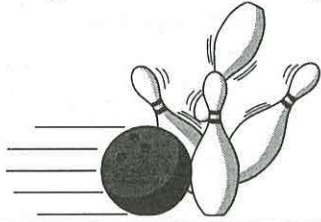
BY JASON KENNEDY

*Pegasus*, Flushing High School's annual publication of original poetry, prose, analysis, and artwork, ranked excellent by the National Council of Teachers of English and awarded the Spartan Award 1996, is looking for submissions for this year's issue. Entry categories include short stories of length not exceeding 1800 words, sketches (short-short stories) not exceeding 500 words, any number of poems not exceeding 150 lines in total, and essays or analysis works not exceeding 1300 words. All entries must be typed, double-spaced, and have the title appear on the first page of each submission. Submission forms can be picked up from all English teachers and from the art room. Deadline for all submissions is Feb. 25. *Pegasus* would also like to welcome all art entries for evaluation. *Pegasus* will go on sale in May for seven dollars.



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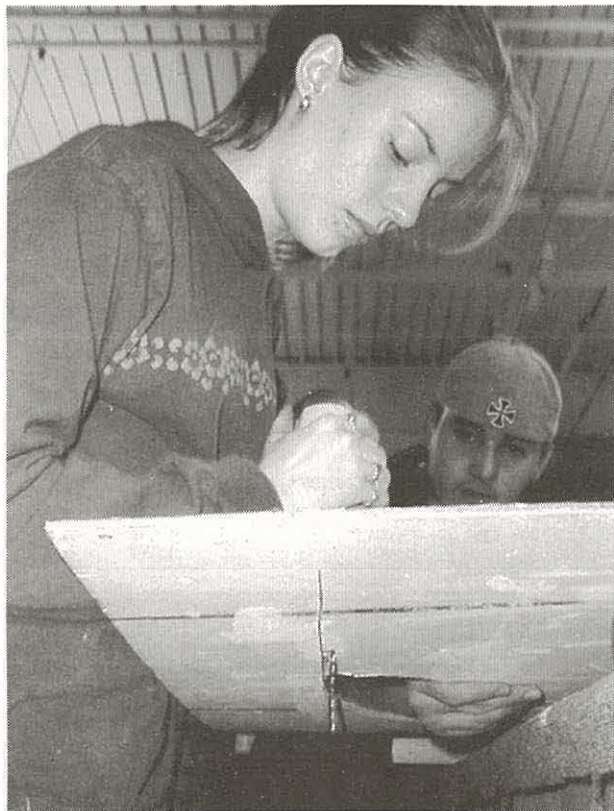
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↑ Melissa Pryor and Leonard Lopez work on the "Mousetrap" set, which took two to three months to build.

## Setting the mousetrap

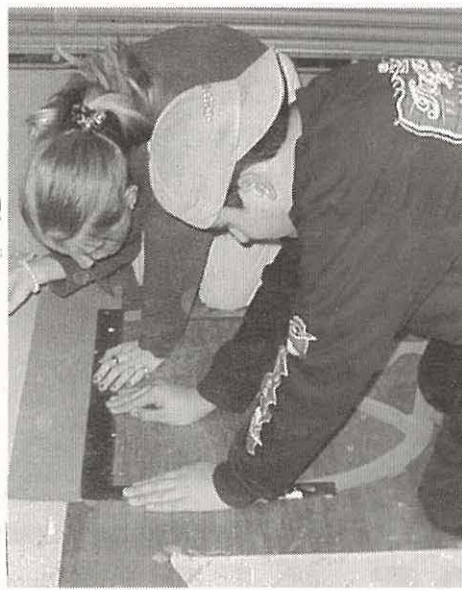
BY ABBY BOLKEMA

When you hear the word "drama," what do you think of? TV shows? Broadway? Maybe Flushing High School? You've probably been to a play or musical here. Flushing has a tremendous group of actors and actresses. Drama Club is open to anyone who wants to appear on stage or behind the scenes.

The International Thespian Society (ITS) is a high school honor organization for students in the performing arts. Members are inducted in the society based on participation in school and community drama programs. Drama Club is made up of ITS members and others who have not earned an ITS membership.

Junior Amanda Debar says her favorite part of acting is being able to let out all of your frustrations on stage.

The thespians have been to Chicago to see the new Elton John musical, "Aida," which is based on opera. They are also planning a trip to Stratford, Ontario, on May 4, to see "Hamlet," and later to see "The Lion King" in Toronto. They will be going to the Michigan State Thespian Festival



⊙ Leonard Lopez and Melissa Pryor work to trace the window that they will use for the set. All photos by Tegan D'Arcangelis



⊙ Jamie Clausius, Jason Kennedy, Lindsay Popilek, and Autumn Johnson put cleats between the flats to make sure they don't shake.

in March.

"It's really neat because you get to meet different people from troops across the state and you get to see other people perform," says Tegan D'Arcangelis, historian and webmaster of ITS.

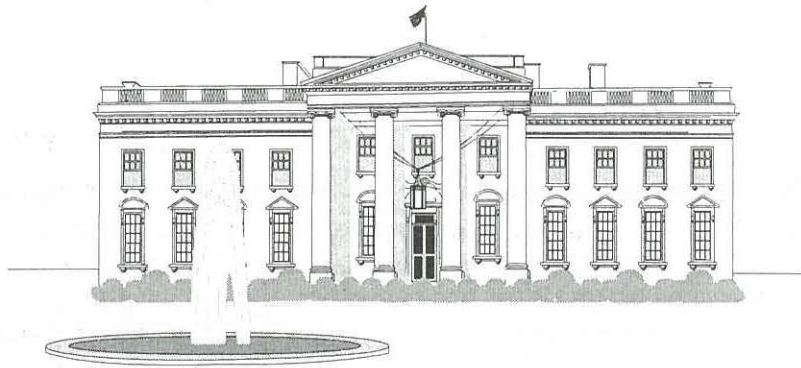
This summer some students will travel to Nebraska for the International Thespian Festival, which attracts over 2,500 students and directors.

Mr. Hamilton, Drama Club's director, is looking forward to the completion of the new auditorium.

"The auditorium will give our theatre and music students an excellent facility to showcase their talents," he said.

With the new fly system, which allows students to fly and stage pieces to be moved easier, Mr. Hamilton hopes to be able to put on "Peter Pan" in the new auditorium. Mr. Hamilton also hopes to produce "Camelot," "Gypsy," and "The Diary of Anne Frank." Besides this, "Mousetrap," the Agatha Christie mystery has just finished being performed. Amanda played Mollie Ralston, which she says "is kind of difficult because Mollie is very dependent on other people and I'm not like that."

Next up is the musical, which is soon to be decided. Auditions will take place during the second week of February.



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## Letter to the Editor

### A day of rest

Winning is all that sports have come to. It seems like that to me. Athletics are placed so highly on the totem pole that certain measures have been taken; one of these is the ignorance of Sunday's true meaning.

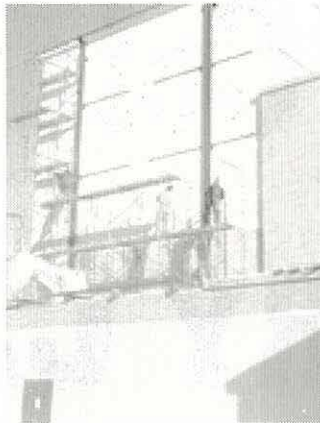
When God created the universe, he set up a law of nature which is still a wonder today. He did His work in six days and rested on the Sabbath, or seventh day. In the Ten Commandments, God clearly stated that we are to honor that Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Jews originally observed this day of rest on Saturday, but as the church advanced the Lord's Day was moved to Sunday. What does that mean to the world today? It means that in a busily bustling society where work and activities constantly pack our agendas, we need to rest.

In my case, I have to deal with Sunday basketball practices. We practice three days during the week and have games on Tuesdays and Fridays. We get Saturday off, and then practice is held on Sunday afternoon or evening. I would gladly practice on Saturday and then have over two days off. Since that is not the case, I have taken a stand and will not go to the Sunday practices. When I do this, I feel refreshed by Monday. Isn't that how it's supposed to be?

- LUKE HAYS

## Auditorium Update

➤ During the winter months, the construction workers are continuing in their efforts to finish the William H. Tunnick Auditorium. The masonry workers are finishing laying the bricks on the side of the auditorium. Photo by Sarah Allegro



➤ "Construction is continuing at a steady pace," said Barbara Goebel, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations. The school board has purchased a grand piano in preparation for the opening of the auditorium. Photo by Sarah Allegro

## staff editorial

# Unleash the watchdog

## *AOL Time Warner merger could handicap democracy*

The deal of the century. A multi-media empire taking the communication world by storm. A monopoly. Somehow, that doesn't sound as good as the previous descriptions. A monopoly of the news industry?

In early January of this year, top Internet provider America Online and major media company Time Warner merged to create what has been described as the ultimate all-media empire. However, critics are calling foul, claiming that the merger gives the now monstrous company control over the industry. This is a hard fact to ignore. The newly christened AOL Time Warner will bring together *Time*, CNN, Warner Brothers, *People*, HBO, *Sports Illustrated*, the Cartoon Network, Warner Music Group, *Fortune*, *Entertainment Weekly*, Looney Toons, CompuServe, Netscape, Digital City, and Moviefone. This unbelievable conglomeration of sources will inevitably lead to a biased distribution of the world's news.

Jeff Kagan, an independent telecommunications analyst in Atlanta, said the merger would speed the day when consumers may get telephone service, entertainment, news, and information from a single source. Whether he realized it or not, Kagan's statement spelled out the problem perfectly. Although the idea may sound convenient and progressive, it really describes a disaster waiting to happen.

In order for citizens to receive complete and accurate information, different sources must be available. The AOL Time Warner merger places a huge cap on the competition in the news industry. If all of these major sources are under the same ultimate control, only one side of the story will be told. This was done under communism in Russia, where all of the news came from a single source. This source was known as TASS and under government control. Similarly, the AOL Time Warner merger has the potential to limit information. This is not what the news industry is about. The news industry is supposed to serve as a watchdog over government and industry. This creates the effective "big picture," which in turn, gives the public diverse information and a chance to form their own opinions. This is what makes democracy work. If AOL Time Warner has its way, the little knowledge we do have will come expressly from them.

# The next step

BY SAMANTHA ANDERSON

As the year progresses, most seniors are finally making progress in their college decisions. As FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) deadlines near, some are scrambling to finish, while others are already done. Most have heard from the schools of their choice. Now, it is decision time.

With four months left until graduation, seniors Meghan Conklin, Monica Darnell, Jon Duvendeck, Melinda Hathaway, Jason Kennedy, Chris Nelson, Justin Puro, and Andrea

Rishmawi are all making strong progress. Each of them have had new events take place since the roundtable in the January 2000 issue of the *Blazer*.



## Andrea Rishmawi

"I just finished my FAFSA and I have also decided to apply to U of M Flint," said senior Andrea Rishmawi. As of now, Andrea is reconsidering her previous plans to attend Calvin College. It is still a possibility, but "I'm just not sure," says Andrea.

## Monica Darnell

Senior Monica Darnell has made definite college decisions since the January roundtable first appeared. She has decided that she will attend the University of Michigan in Flint and is headed towards a major in pre-medicine. In addition, Monica's application for the Burger King-McLanmore Scholarship was chosen to be sent to the final selection committee.



## Meghan Conklin

As mentioned in January's roundtable, senior Meghan Conklin is firmly decided on attending

the University of South Carolina. However, Meghan must complete a chemistry requirement, which she is fulfilling through a nine week on-line course.



## Chris Nelson

Senior Chris Nelson has finished most of his FAFSA, and has a broad choice of where he could go next year. Chris has been accepted to every college he applied to. "I'll be visiting U of M in Ann Arbor and Kettering in the next couple of weeks and soon be making the final decision," said Chris.



## Melinda Hathaway

In late January, senior Melinda

Hathaway received an acceptance letter to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The acceptance made Melinda's choice for her, and she now has plans to attend U of M. There are also tentative plans of rooming with senior Megan Kerchmar.



## Justin Puro

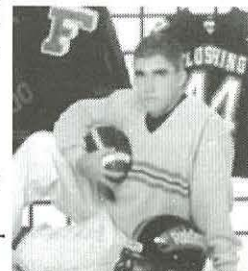
Senior Justin Puro is anxiously awaiting responses from colleges such as UCLA, which does not begin sending out acceptance letters until March.

## Jason Kennedy

Senior Jason Kennedy has finished his FAFSA application. "I have applied for enrollment in the Environmental Institute at Albion College," commented Jason. He is heavily involved in the scholarship process at the moment.

## Jon Duvendeck

Senior Jon Duvendeck received some exceptional news during the month of January. He was notified early in the month that he was accepted to his first and only choice, Calvin College. As previously mentioned, Jon will be sharing a suite with senior Aron DUBY, along with two other lucky guys who are yet to be determined.



*America is a country of democracy and freedom,  
but how far should these ideas be extended?*

# Symbolic Gestures

BY SAMANTHA ANDERSON

Symbols are meant to represent abstract ideas or to abbreviate difficult concepts. Symbols such as the dove have always been around to show the good things in life, but once representation such as the swastika or the Confederate flag come into play, a major controversy arises.

For years, the American flag has guaranteed absolute freedom. However, a fair amount of controversy has usually come along with it. The flag burning protests of the

sixties and seventies were among the first to provoke a serious debate of how far freedom of expression should go. Recently, there has been a drive to change the Constitution to protect the American flag from being used as a symbol of protest. The people behind this proposition argue that the flag is so sacred that any form of desecration should be outlawed. Their beliefs are that all of the struggles to obtain freedom are undermined each time a flag is burned.

This is a proposterous point of view. In essence, the men and women who fought were doing so for *all* forms of freedom, not just a select few. As much as some may hate it, this does include the freedom to burn flags. In the 1960's, many demonstrations included a burning flag to show disagreement with government policies or actions. If government officials act in a manner disagreeable to the people of the United States, what better way to protest than burning a flag? After all, the flag represents democracy in action, and a burning flag would be a very appropriate way to express disagreement.

When a flag is set ablaze, what is really happening? In most cases, some form of disagreement with the country is being expressed. However, all that is really happening is the burning of cloth. The real meaning of the American flag extends far beyond cheaply manufactured pieces of red, white, and blue fabric sewn together. All of the freedoms and struggles that the flag represents cannot be lost in a fire. For those who truly care about this country and what it took to create it, a flag burning cannot take that away.



## Controversial Freedoms



In April of 1999, the Walled Lake Community Education building in Oakland County was the center of a controversy concerning a symbol likened to a swastika. The symbol was actually a Native American emblem representing prosperity and had been carved into the floor of the building 77 years before. A fiery debate arose as to whether the symbol should be banned due to its strong resemblance to a swastika. Later in the year, the symbol was moved from the floor.



Wundham Regional Vocational-Technical School in Connecticut recently suspended a student for wearing a t-shirt with a Confederate flag logo on the front. School administrators stated that the student had violated a school rule by wearing an offensive symbol, but free-speech experts disagree. The debate is still causing controversy.

# Confederate flag display is a contradiction in itself

BY JOE DAILY

If the problem is whether or not to fly the Confederate flag, then the solution is simple - bring it down.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, over 47,000 protesters marched on South Carolina's Statehouse as a symbol of slavery wavered in the air above them. The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) organized the protest against the Confederate flag. The flag was put up in 1962 by lawmakers who said they raised the banner as part of the Civil War centennial then underway, though some would speculate that it was raised in defiance of civil rights laws. The legislative members thought the flag would come down in 1966, after the centennial. It didn't.

While the Confederate flag is a symbol of many things, it has come down to two slender opinions - those who see it as a memorial to Southerners who died for their causes, and those who see it as a symbol of racial oppression.

The obvious solution is to take down the Confederate flag, as was originally planned. A Confederate flag hanging above a State Capitol seems to be a contradic-

tion. When legislators peer out the window as they gather their thoughts, should

they look to the Confederate flag for inspiration? Of course not, because that flag fell in defeat some 135 years ago. The flag serves no purpose at this current residence; one that serves American ideals.

This is not to say, however, that the Confederate flag should be abandoned by our nation. Many see the flag as a reminder of the men of the Old South who lost their lives standing up for their beliefs. The Confederate emblem should find its rightful resting place in museums, or at war memorials and battlefields. The NAACP, which argues that the flag symbolizes racial hate, bigotry and oppression, would support such a venue.

This issue has come at a time of political unrest, with politicians being cautious to support a view due to the upcoming presidential elections.

Though politicians never seem to see eye-to-eye about anything, many would agree that the decision should be left up to the people of South Carolina.

What do you think of when you see a Confederate flag in the back of a car window, or on the front of a truck? Do you think of the patrons of war that fought for their beliefs, or do you think of the bigotry embedded in that symbol, one that is flown by many white supremacist groups?

Although the entire issue of the Confederate flag will never be resolved, it's obvious that a United States lawmaking facility should not be overcast by the shadows of a flag that contradicts its purpose.

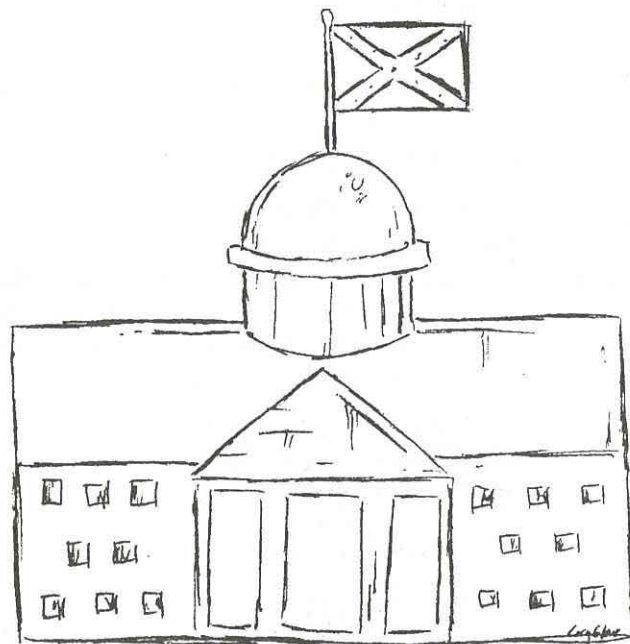
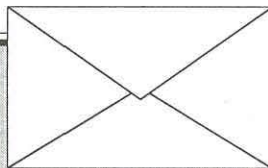


illustration by Cory Glover

## What do YOU think?

The Confederate flag, long thought of as a symbol of slavery and oppression, is waving in the air above the South Carolina Statehouse. Some argue that the

flag is a memorial to Southern soldiers who fought in the Civil War, while others say that the flag should have come down as soon as the Civil War centennial ended in 1966 and is now a symbol of hate. What do you think? Drop your responses (written or artistic) off in the *Blazer* room (room 121) by Tuesday, February 22. Responses will be published in the March issue.



# The Ladies Man



Ah, the woman. That persuasive, beautiful, antagonizing, manipulative being that we all so love. Around this time of year guys tend to have confusions about the opposite sex (as if they weren't confused enough about them all year.) Is it brought about by the ominous nature of winter or is it the unstoppable force of Valentine's Day? Who knows? Women. How do we, the guys of the world, come through to them without being A) Jerks or B) Too nice of a guy to date? To tell you the truth, nobody knows. Believe me, because I'm both a jerk and a great friend to many fine ladies. I do know this: I've been around for 18 long years, and in these long years I've figured out the answers to many of the questions that men have about women that a man could possibly know (and believe, there aren't many that men can actually know). I consider myself to have a Ph.D. in womanology. Year round, people come to me with their questions regarding relationships and women, and so, dear readers, as a Valentine treat I've decided to take some time to answer a few of these questions. I don't have all the answers. No man does. But at least I have a few.

*Reader 1:* Dude, I was walking in the mall the other day and my girlfriend stops in her tracks, gives me this sinister look and says, "I saw that! Why do you always look at other girls? What, do you think she's prettier than I am?" Then she stormed away from me. What's up with

that? I was staring at the floor. It happened four times that day.

*Kryza:* Know this: whenever there's another girl present, I don't care if you're looking at the floor, the wall, or even her, she's going to freak out on you. It's an unexplainable phenomenon, and there is no way to avoid it, especially at a mall. You could try explaining that you did not look, but it's futile. You could say that you couldn't tell how beautiful she was if you didn't see how ugly other girls were, but then you're an insensitive liar. Just bite the bullet and never go to the mall with her again.

*Reader 2:* Alright, I can't figure out who's right or wrong here, the girl I'm seeing says...

*Kryza:* Stop right there. You are never right. No matter how right you really are, you are wrong. If your girlfriend takes your car and ends up crashing into a police car without her license, it's your fault for letting her take the car. If she slaps someone, it is your fault for not stopping her.

*Reader 2:* But she...

*Kryza:* Nope. Sorry my friend, but you are wrong.

*Reader 2:* Oh, I see.

*Reader 3:* You know that you'll never know anything about us. Our powers of manipulation are too strong, our mind games too involved. We are in control here, and there is nothing you can do about it.

*Kryza:* Ah, I see I have some female readers.

*Reader 4:* Kryza, my girlfriend saw this ring at the store and hinted about wanting it for Valentine's Day. Should I get it?

*Kryza:* If a girl even looks at something, she wants it. If it's expensive, she wants it more. Save yourself some trouble and buy it, otherwise you'll hear about it forever.

*Reader 5:* I just can't figure out my girlfriend. What can I do?

*Kryza:* If I've ever heard an oxymoron,

it is the use of the words "figure out" and "girlfriend" in the same statement. The only use of the two words together is as follows, "Man, I'll NEVER figure out my girlfriend."

*Reader 6:* Kryza, how do I get a girl to like me?

*Kryza:* Without having the initials AK or wearing pistachio colored slacks?

*Reader 6:* Har har, jerk. Anyway, after I get them to like me, why do I have to put up with so much crap? I've been trying to get this girl for a long time, and nothing seems to work.

*Kryza:* Fear not, old friend, for there is a girl out there for you somewhere. Stop "trying" to get one girl to like you, and be yourself. As for putting up with their crap, it is minute compared to the happiness that a girl can bring you. Sure, they mess with your head, make you go to into stores that reek of all kinds of unmanly scents, and even make you watch weepy movies that no self-respecting man would watch without being forced to. In the long run, however, they'll always smell good. They'll always give you that smile that nobody else gets. Crap you say? In comparison there is no crap. Mind games and manipulation aside, women will always be your saving grace.

*Reader 7's letter smells strangely like perfume. It must be a lady.*

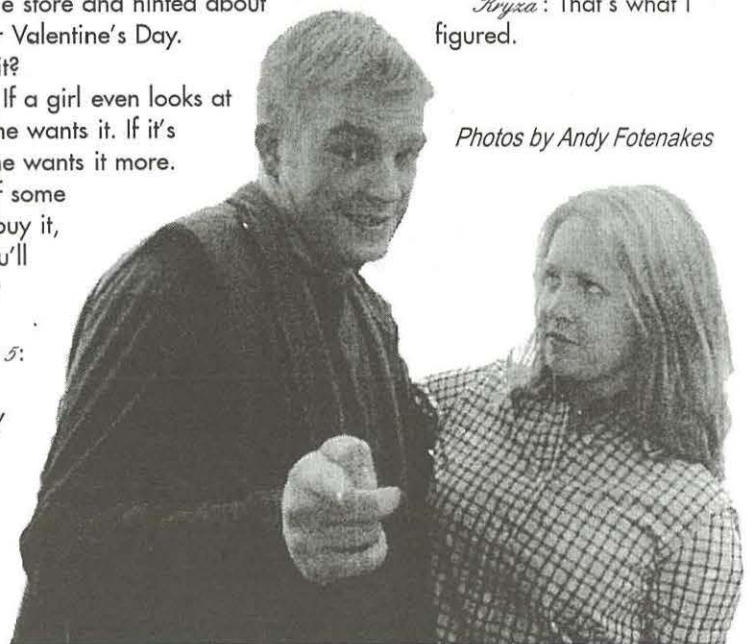
*Reader 7:* Aaw, that is so sweet.

*Kryza:* Thanks, baby. Do you have anything going on this Friday?

*Reader 7:* Sorry, you're too good of a friend.

*Kryza:* That's what I figured.

Photos by Andy Fotenakes



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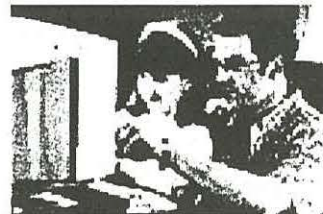
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# NOT EVERYBODY'S DOIN' IT

BY AARON ZAFIROFF AND CLINT WHEELER

Most kids are taught to wait until they get married to have sex, or at least to wait until they meet someone they love. We are all aware that this doesn't always happen.

There are many different reasons kids choose to have sex. Some explain that they just wanted to and others say that they loved the other person. Some people simply gave up their right to decide; they were drunk when it happened. Teenagers who drink alcohol are more likely to have changes in their perceptions and feelings

**"Sex can wait 'till marriage." -Lacey Grice**

about their sexuality. Even small amounts of alcohol lower inhibitions. Alcohol is also a factor in date rape, which is becoming a growing concern among teenagers.

"It's hard to open the paper and not find something concerning date rape," says Dale Coggins, health and first aid teacher.

Teenagers who choose not to have sex cite some basic reasons. Almost every one of these teens said that the most important reasons for not having sex are morals and religion.

There were teens, however, that said pregnancy and STDs are what cause them to practice abstinence. One thing is for sure, whether they choose to have sex or not, teens are more aware of the risks of sex. Consequences such as AIDS and contracting other STDs are made very apparent to teens, as well as the risk that both genders run if the female gets pregnant. The girl has to go through the nine months of carrying the child, which can mess up her life in many ways. The male can look forward to 18 years of child support.

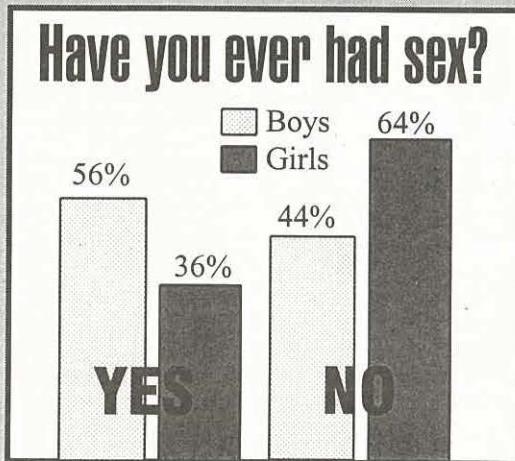
There is also a risk that isn't as obvious as the rest: the emotional risk. If two people have sex or sexual relations with each other for different reasons, one person will end up getting hurt. If one is in it just for the sex, but it means something to the other person, this can cause a lot of problems. It seems more times than not the girl ends up getting hurt.

**"Sex is a big decision that should be taken seriously." -Joe Bastion**

Many males claimed lack of partner for the reason

## What Did FHS Students Say?

Through a lunch hour survey, 200 FHS teens were asked if they had ever had sex and what percentage of other FHS students they thought were sexually active.



### What percentage of teens do you think have had sex?

A. 0-20%	B. 21-40%	C. 41-60%	D. 61-80%	E. 81-100%
3%	18%	44%	27%	8%

**SURVEY RESULTS**

As you can see from the results of the survey, there are fewer sexually active teens at FHS than you think.

they haven't had sex, but no girls marked it. This brings up the question "Are guys different than girls when it comes to sex?" Most people will agree that they are. Most guys are ready to go anytime and anywhere, when most girls need a relationship. Not all girls are like this, and those are the ones who get bad reputations. Whether that is fair or not, it is the honest truth. Most guys have the ability to share their physical side with a girl just for pleasure. Then they can just leave without any attachment. To girls, it is not sex, but intimacy that they are looking for. They get attached and when they share any part of their body it ends up affecting their emotions and feelings, giving the guys the power to crush all of that.

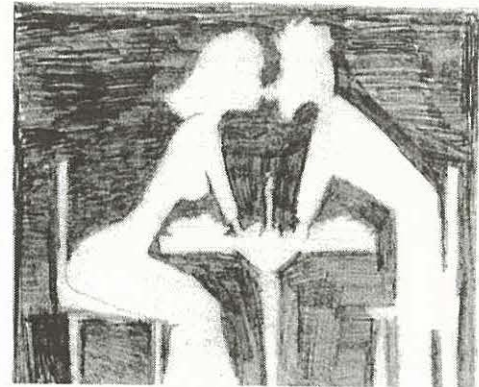
So how are both sexes supposed to be pleased? Hopefully, love. It is almost a guarantee that teenagers that are sexually active are not truly in love. Perhaps the problem is that they don't know when love comes along. Well, here are some symptoms of love. Things like never wanting to say good bye. Then not being able to wait until you see that person again. Sitting around not doing anything together but having more fun than you ever had. Having one simple kiss on the lips mean more to you than anything in the world. Having a hug makes all your problems disappear for as long as it lasts. Having a person whose tears make you sad and who's smile cheers you up.

Sex is something more openly discussed now than ever in the past. Teens today are also bombarded with issues such as STD's and pregnancy which increase how seriously they think about sex before actually "doing it." No one can deny that sex can have completely different meanings to boys and to girls, and unfortunately not everyone can look at the negative consequences of sex and make a smart decision in the "heat of the moment." But don't think that our entire high school is filled with sexually active kids; many, many of your peers are still virgins. The decision to or to not to have sex can only be made by you, and let it be your decision, not anyone else's.

## Teen Pregnancy Rate in Genesee County

YEAR	TEEN FEMALE POPULATION	NUMBER OF PREGNANCIES
1990	16,954	2,059
1991	16,484	2,040
1992	15,631	1,922
1993	15,143	1,987
1994	15,259	1,779
1995	14,887	1,770
1996	15,116	1,659
1997	15,371	1,598
1998	15,359	1,556
1999	15,405	1,417

This chart indicates that the pregnancy rate has dropped from 12.1% to 9.2% since 1990.



## Number of Cases of STDs for 15-19 year olds in Genesee County in 1998

GENDER	CHLAMYDIA	GONORRHEA
Both Sexes	748	496
Male	80	145
Female	668	351
F/M Ratio	8.4	2.4

• Be there when a friend is needed • Spend time together • Go to a movie • Walk arm in arm in the woods • Make a special tape of love songs

# I don't wanna go to school!

... so I'm not going

It's 6:30 in the morning. Do you want to go to school? Didn't think so. Reach over to the phone, dial the school and say "Hey listen, this is Joe King. I won't be in school today. Mark me for one of my personal days."

"OK Joe, no problem. Is this a test day?"

"No ma'am, just a little tired..."

"OK Joe, have a nice day..."

Click!

Nice. You hang up the phone, roll over and go back to sleep. You wake up at 10:00, make a nice brunch, and hang out in front of the television for the rest of the day, all because you were tired and the school gave you a personal day. Sound too good to be true? Here at our high school, maybe. But other schools have been doing it for a while.

Everybody has stress; it's just something that people develop. Some get it from work, some from home and others from any number of places. We all have days when we wish we could stay under the covers just a little bit longer. And sometimes, right after we've had three tests in a week, plus some other kind of activity, we just want to chill. To call up the school and use a personal day would be great. However, Flushing has not yet decided to use this policy.

LIFEBOAT  
BY JESSICA BOUCHARD

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN SHARP



Many schools in the United States have granted children this privilege. Students are allowed three excused personal days a semester, the only clincher being if there is a test that day, then that student is not allowed a personal day and must attend school.

Most of the schools that do this also run on the same rules we have here. After 12 absences your grade will go down, unless these absences are excused.

The schools say they do this to lower the stress levels of children at their school.

Oftentimes, kids get worn out and can not function due to the stress that they have from school, work, home life, or anything else going on in their lives.

Opposers to this personal day policy say that it's giving kids a chance to "skip." They also say that it is causing them to think that whenever things get bad, they can just skip out, whereas the supporting research shows just the opposite. Many schools say that by giving the kids the chance to miss school occasionally, the kids relax because they know they always have a chance to relieve stress if they actually need to. Stress is often multiplied by worrying about stress itself, and giving students a chance to "get away" if they need to lets them remain calm and collected. Supporters also added that in reality, many of the students don't even use the personal days. They save them in case something comes up later where they will really need it. But knowing that they can get out if they have to is something small enough to help them remain calm.

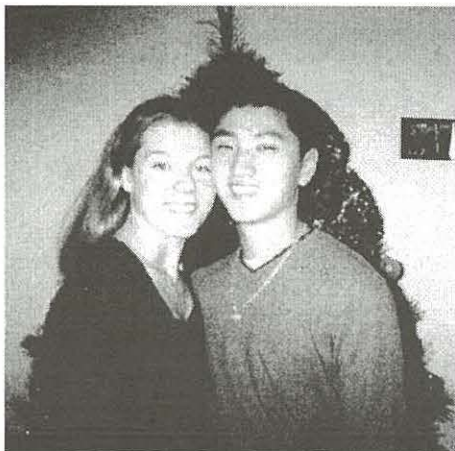
Is it a good idea to give kids a way out, or is it better to have the kids come to school and mount on the pressure? It's a tough decision, but it's not something to stress about...



↑ Juniors Becca Grappin and Josh "Big Pun" Smith, pictured above at the 1999 Homecoming, claim to have the best friendship anyone could ask for. Photo courtesy of Becca Grappin



↑ Sophomores Cara Gatza and Mark Dixon have known each other for years. Photo by Cassie Kline



➔ Juniors Alicia Gifford and Jake Siguilinski have a wonderful relationship as both best friends and as a couple. Photo courtesy of Jake Siguilinski

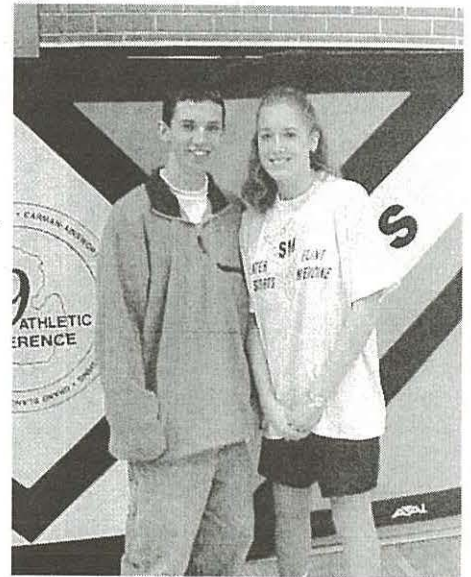
➔ Erika Ford and Brent Hortze don't let their friendship get in the way of any relationship.

Photo by Jodi Young

## GUYS & GIRLS...

# Best Friends OR MORE?

BY CASSIE KLINE AND JODI YOUNG



**D**o you have a best friend of the opposite sex? Apparently 82% of students at Flushing High School do. The survey was taken Jan. 5 during all lunches.

There are some advantages and disadvantages with this type of friendship. You have a guy/girl outlook on certain things, like whether or not you look good in the clothes you are wearing. They will always tell you the truth. The most important thing is that they will always be there for you when you need someone to talk to about anything, and you always have a friend that you can go out and do things with.

There aren't many disadvantages of having an opposite sex friendship, but there are difficulties some friendships encounter. When jealousy takes over the friendship because of a boyfriend or girlfriend coming into the picture, people tend to distance themselves from their true confidant. Another drawback to this kind of friendship is that people tend to believe that multi-gender friendship qualifies the two as a couple when in fact they are just best friends. 41% of the students that took the survey said that boyfriends or girlfriends do get in the way and 59% said they don't.

"Josh and I have too good of a friendship to let it get in the way of me and my boyfriend," says Junior Becca Grappin, "so I don't really worry about our friendship deteriorating because of my personal relationships."

Some of these friendships have lasted up to six years, while more opposite sex friendships have only been close for a few years. One friendship that has lasted for quite some time is that of Erika Ford and Brent Hortze. Although Erika has a boyfriend, she and Brent have maintained a very steady friendship.

"I love having Erika around as a close friend because I can always get a girl's perspective on anything," says Brent.

54% of people in opposite sex friendships have only known their best friend between 0-3 years. 23% have lasted between 4 and 6 years, and 23% keep on going with 6 years or more.

The trouble most friendships encounter is that romance can ruin a friendship. Most of the time, this is a bad thing. It usually causes problems in the relationship because sometimes one person wants more than just the friendship that you started off with when the other one does not. Things like that tend to tear a friendship apart.

Do you have a BESTFRIEND of the opposite sex?

82% yes

18% no

Do boyfriends or girlfriends ever get in the way of your friendship?

41% yes

59% no

Have you ever gone physically beyond the point of just friends?

53% yes

47% no

How long has your friendship lasted?

54% 0-3 years

23% 4-6 years

23% 6+ years

# DO YOU KNOW YOUR *blazer*

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, it's contest time. Let's face it - everyone loves contests, especially if you can win a cool prize. Therefore, the *Blazer* staff has compiled some questions in the style of a now famous television quiz show, to see what you know about the *Blazer* and its staffers. While there is no \$1,000,000 prize, we have something better. The winners will get their choice of a free subscription to next year's *Blazer*, or \$10 in movie passes (ok, it's not better, but it's something). Three winners will be chosen. Winnings will be based on how many questions are answered correctly before one is missed, if any. There is also a tie breaker question, just in case. Just use the slip of paper inside this issue, fill it out, and \*\*\*get it into room 121 by 3:00pm today.\*\*\* Winners will be announced in the week to come, and answers will be printed in the next issue. So, good luck, enjoy, and test your *Blazer* knowledge.

\$100 - What monthly issue are you reading right now?

- a. December b. January c. February d. March

\$200 - On what page will you find information on the staff?

- a. 2 b. 3 c. 4 d. 5

\$300 - Who is the News editor?

- a. Kelly Edwards b. Justin Puro c. Andrew Fotenakes  
d. Joe Daily

\$500 - Who is the Photo editor?

- a. Sam Anderson b. Dave Campbell c. Kelly Edwards  
d. Aron Duby

\$1000 - What volume of the *Blazer* are we currently in?

- a. 50 b. 51 c. 52 d. 53

\$2000 - What is the title of Andrew P. Kryza's monthly column?

- a. Yada Yada Yada b. Ramblings c. Eating Paste  
d. Bueller's Kid

\$4000 - Who is the adviser for the *Blazer*?

- a. Eleanor Sharrow b. Emma Sharrow c. Eve Sharrow  
d. Elizabeth Sharrow

\$8000 - From what business does the *Blazer* get food from in exchange for advertising?

- a. Hungry Howies b. Little Caesars c. McDonalds  
d. Bob's Lickin' Chicken Shack

\$16000 - The *Blazer* mascot is a stuffed monkey. What's

its name?

- a. Mr. Bojangles b. Topsy c. Spanky d. Funky the Monkey

\$32000 - In which of the following years did the *Blazer* not win a Spartan award?

- a. 1995 b. 1996 c. 1997 d. 1998

\$64000 - Who was the editor-in-chief directly before Joe Daily?

- a. Laurie Stewart b. Pam Zerbinos c. Grant Nelsestuen  
d. Aaron Liversedge

\$125000 - The *Blazer* room is often filled with the sound of Beasties. Which of the following is not a song by the trio?

- a. "Boomin' Granny" b. "Mic Checka" c. "Brass Monkey"  
d. "Hello Brooklyn"

\$250000 - What staff contributor writes the column "Soundwaves"?

- a. Jordan Climie b. Jason Kennedy c. Sarah Fauster  
d. KJ Wilson

\$500000 - Which editor is not currently employed by Super Star Video?

- a. Andrew P. Kryza b. Cory Glover c. Andrew Fotenakes  
d. Joe Daily

\$1000000 - What body font is the *Blazer* typed in?

- a. Fujiyama2 b. Castanet c. Courier d. Zurich

Tie Breaker - (whoever's closest without going over) - How many deadlines has Jessica Bouchard worked on in her high school *Blazer* career?

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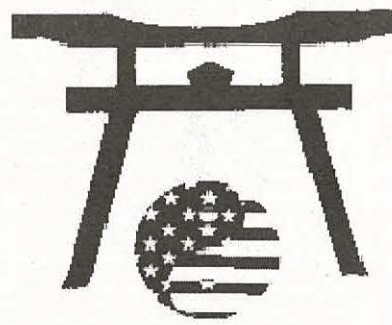
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Who's your favorite '90s artist/group?



"Dr. Dre"  
-Sean O'Reilly



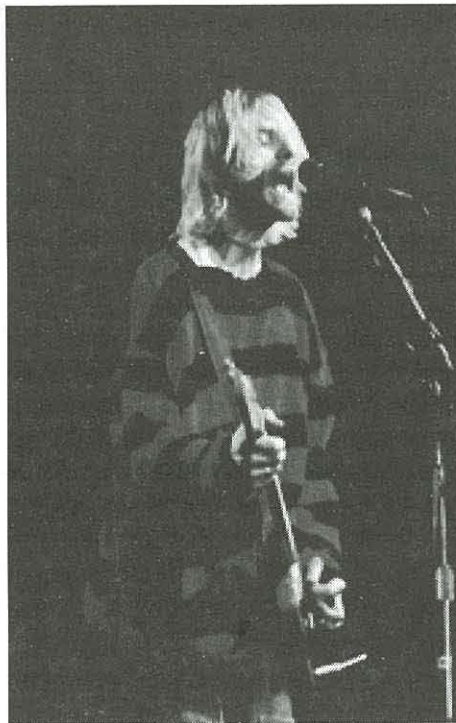
"Dixie Chicks"  
-Lindsay Caterer



"NADS"  
-Mr. Degner



"Dave Matthews Band"  
-Nikki Baragwanath & Mike Olson



↑ The influence that is Kurt Cobain.



↑ Kid Rock, a heavyweight of rap-rock.

# These Times They Are A' Changin'

SoundWaves  
by Kevin Wilson

Music has changed over the last ten years.

Of course, everyone knows that. But have you really looked at how far we've gone? We've flipped the entire musical coin as we started out with the leftovers of the '80 and ended up with a new style of music, rap-rock, which is the current popular trendsetter.

In the beginning of the '90s, we realized that '80s music was bad. We needed something to flush it down the cultural toilet and that force eventually came in the most ironic of forms. This force was branded as grunge, and the single band who led this plaid stampede was the band Nirvana. Unfortunately, the leaders of this movement would also be its downfall. With the death of Kurt Cobain, the grunge movement was taken down with him.

Without the strength of Nirvana and Kurt Cobain, the masses needed something else; something more light-hearted and fun. And faster than Hugh Hefner can get a date, punk stood up and screamed, "Me!" Punk rock returned with such acts as Green Day, who were very "in your face" with their style of music.

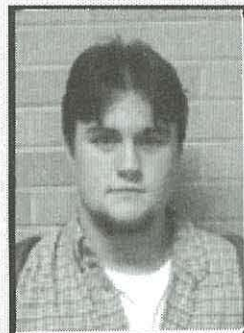
But, with themes like masturbation and other touchy subjects, punk could not hold itself up against the crowds of angry parents. So punk evolved into ska. With its more upbeat songs featuring trombones and other brass instruments, it was a lot more "user-friendly." No Doubt and Reel Big Fish would be a good example of ska in action. During this period of time techno artists such as the Chemical Brothers suddenly emerged from the cauldron of new music, but seemed to get along just fine with ska.

And eventually, change came in and made a cry for new music, but nobody answered. Ska and techno seemed like a good road to head down and no one had come out with anything else. Well, finally, rap got up out of its seat and said, "Alright!" Although having a lot of success on a more underground field thanks to the works of Dr. Dre and Snoop Doggy Dog rap suddenly exploded onto the scene in its lowrider later in the decade.

Rap slowly changed into something more glitzy and glamorous but finally mutated into what we have today, which is what many people say is rap-rock. Bands such as Korn are the major contributor to its wide spread popularity with their fusing of trail-blazing rhymes, glass-shaking bass, and heavy guitar notes. And pop, a more money-making business than ever, became a humble partner to rap and its offspring, rap-rock.

Now with all these changes, can you seriously say that music hasn't changed in the past ten years? You can't. We as people changed a lot. The only question now is: What will be the next hype? Will rap-rock become a new mainstay or will another brand new type of music enter the field? We may never know unless we actually go through it.

What do you think about '90s Music? Good? Bad?



"What's bad about ['90s music]? Pop. In general."

Tom Orrison



"It's a lot more versatile. '90s music was more innovative than all the retro-crap in the '80s."

Melissa Pryor

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## car of the month car of the month

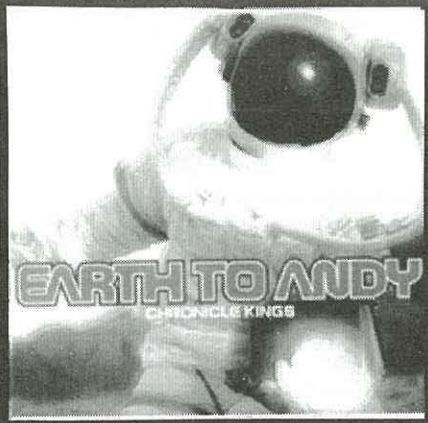
# Justin Puro's 2000 Lamborghini Diablo



BY JUSTIN PURO

Justin Puro's brand new 2000 Lamborghini Diablo is far and away the coolest car ever featured in this column. The engine eats a lot of gas, but it's worth it for a top speed of over 200 mph. There were only a handful produced, so this car truly is a gem. It's yellow color, although somewhat feminine, attracts plenty of ladies.

Only in his wildest dreams does this car actually belong to Justin Puro. Kelly Edwards took the picture at the Detroit International Auto Show, and the general public, including Justin, were not allowed within eight feet of this beautiful automobile. To see more cool cars, turn to pages four and five for in-depth coverage of the car show. For those interested, the car is available for a few hundred thousands dollars.



## Earth to Andy

## Chronicle Kings



On January 21 the band Live played at Detroit State Theater to make up for a show that was canceled last Nov 10 when lead vocalist Ed Kowalczyk fell ill and was forced to cancel not only that show, but the show that was scheduled in Canada the

next night. After a long two month wait, Live was ready to play. Before they came on the stage, the opening band Earth to Andy came out and played five songs of their debut CD, *Chronicle Kings*. The band is comprised of Andy on lead vocals and guitar, Chris Reardon on bass and vocals, Tony Lopacinski on lead guitar and vocals, and Kevin Murphy on drums and vocals. Earth to Andy filled the theater with an alternative rock sound with hard-hitting guitar riffs that made the audience jump up and down. For being an opening band with a debut CD, Earth to Andy offers a lot to the alternative sound. Try listening to songs "Biting at my heels," "Everafter," "Sometimes," which is already receiving radio play, and "The Buffalo." There is even a song entitled "Smoke Ring," a song about drugs where Andy sings about taking a little pill everyday and how he doesn't want to go back to that lifestyle. After listening to Earth to Andy you will be greatly impressed about this up and coming band. This was Earth to Andy's first tour and hopefully this summer they'll be on their own tour. So next time your out at the mall and looking for a new CD, pick up Earth to Andy's debut CD, *Chronicle Kings*.

BY JAMESON MYERS



www.friendsoflive.com

The music band Live played at the Detroit State Theater on Jan 21 after an opening act by Earth to Andy.

Nov. 10 - The trek to the State Theater ends in disappointment as we find the Live concert is rescheduled for Jan. 21. This is due to the reoccurring throat disease of lead singer Ed Kowalczyk.

Jan. 21 - We find out that Live is playing for real this time around. Once again we travel to the State Theater to see one of the most uplifting concerts in a long time. In between songs like the energetic "Dolphin's Cry" and even the thought-provoking John Lennon tune "Imagine," Ed took time to speak his views.

"The new millennium is a time for us to band together and put our differences aside," rambles Kowalczyk.

With a new record in their belts and a brand new tour they are sure to spread their meaningful message.

"It gives a message of love and an invitation to myself and to those who want to come along to ask the big questions and not feel uncool doing it." says Kowalczyk of Live's new record, *The Distance to Here*. You should be able to check out Live again this summer in Detroit.

BY CORY GLOVER

Reviews

Reviews

Reviews



## The Book Shelf

**Brave New World** Aldous Huxley

Imagine: the world you know is gone. All your morals are wheeled upside-down. There is no such thing as procreation; all life is grown in a laboratory. The government is an oligarchy, and everyone is addicted to a non-lethal drug known as *Soma*.

The frightful glimpse into 'perfect' society through Aldous Huxley's eyes is one of great imagination and insight. In his finest work, *Brave New World*, the author relates the tale of Bernard Marx, an eyesore in a world where there are no mistakes. Bernard is an Alpha, one of the five castes of the

population. A natural freethinker, he is misunderstood in his land where everyone enjoys the same thing, and sleep conditioning influences every person's conscience from Alpha to Epsilon. The society of *BNW* is a naturally promiscuous one, and such ideas as love have been forgotten over the ages.

On a date with Lenina Crowne to America, Marx visits a savage reservation: one of the last places on the planet where viviparous mankind still exists. On a whim, Marx decides to return one of the inhabitants to his home country of England. The savage is reduced to baseness by the cruelty of the condescending society.

*BNW* is a brilliantly sarcastic satire about the ideals of man and what influence just a small change can have. It is a book worth great literary merit, both for its timeless quality and bitter message.

BY JASON KENNEDY

★ -BAD

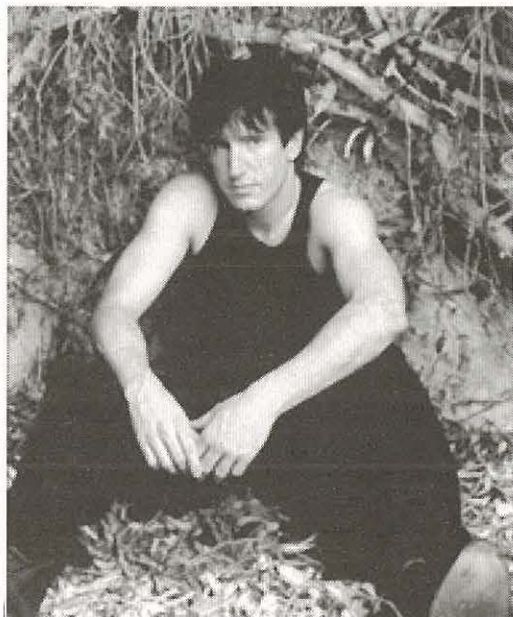
★★ -DECENT

★★★ -GOOD

★★★★ -EXCELLENT

# Back In The ..... Spotlight.....

BY JORDAN CLIMIE



ⓘ The creative mind of Trent Reznor propelled NIN to the top.

success on their shoulders. The Red Hot Chili Peppers called it quits in the mid-'90s. But then the unexpected happened: people saw a video for "Scar Tissue." They heard about a cd called *Californication*. The Chili Peppers were back and ready to re-enter the rock world. Soon they were a household name again, and still had the same energy as before.

Another story to focus on is Trent Reznor and Nine Inch Nails. With songs and stories about suicide, drugs, depression, and hate, NIN opened a road for some bands today. But the creative genius that is Trent Reznor didn't come without downfalls. After making many good records, such as *The Downward Spiral*, Reznor went into hiding, troubled by everything he writes in his songs: depression, drugs, hate and suicide, now even writer's

block. Other bands took the same road, producing hits and records, but it wasn't until the 1999 MTV Video Music Awards that the world was re-awakened. Nine Inch Nails gave one of the best performances that year. Coming out with their new cd *The Fragile*, NIN burst back onto the scene.

Other bands have done the same throughout the past year. Santana recently put out a new record, *Supernatural*, featuring the hit song "Smooth" with vocals by Matchbox 20 lead singer Rob Thomas. Other comebacks include Bush, Whitney Houston, and of course, the timeless efforts by Van Halen to make their band what it once was, minus David Lee Roth. Besides these bands who have been gone for a while, other bands have come back with electric sophomore efforts. Creed recently put out *Human Clay* with the hit song "Higher," and Third Eye Blind released *Blue*, which follows their 1997 self-titled cd. Heads up - comebacks will always be rampant on TV and in stores everywhere.



ⓘ Gavin Rossdale of Bush



ⓘ The ageless Red Hot Chili Peppers

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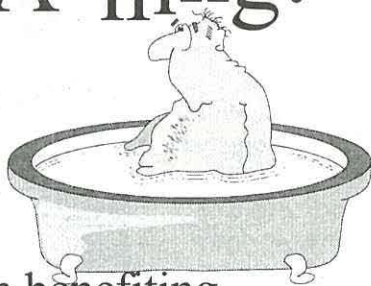
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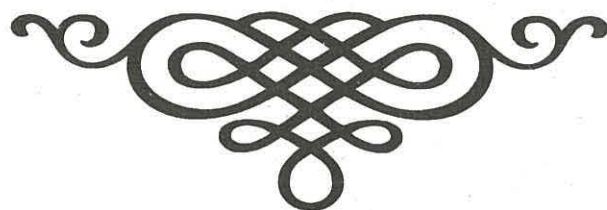
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# FRIDAY NIGHT FRISK

**What you are about to read is real. The events in this story are real, and they were experienced by real people. Names have been changed to protect the innocent, but real, people that were involved in this disgusting display of authority. It's really, really intense, so brace yourself. This is my story. Really.**

It had been a hard day's night, and I was working like a dog. I'd just finished a busy shift at Super Stare Video. New Year's Eve - the day to end all days for video rentals. Working hard for the man to put a little bread on the table wore me down that night, but I was still going to enjoy myself. I decided to pick up a friend of mine from the north side of town. His name, Coory Glover, a fellow workaholic. We'd heard about a little party going on off of Rivers Road; a real nice place deep in the shadows of suburbia. It was sure to be the cat's meow. We decided to check it out.

I strolled by the Glover place around nine o'clock. I made the pick up in my pick up, truck that is. We chatted a while and busted out of there around nine-thirty. We got in the truck, buckled our seat belts, and turned out onto Coutanto, followed by a left turn onto Elmo Rd. Glover decided to put in a little music; a soundtrack from a little picture show called *Man on the Moon*. Yeah, I like that.

We made a wrong turn on Fushing Rd., but found our way over to Rivers. The party was being thrown at the house of a girl by the name of Mira Sookol - a buxom blonde with a lot of spunk. She'd written down some directions on a green scrap of paper. I think it had her phone number; I'll have to put that one on file.

A subdivision came up on the right so we decided to check it out. We pulled into the entrance and parked the truck over to the side. I left the engine running and turned on the interior light to check out the directions. We were in the right place, just not quite sure which road to take. Suddenly a bright light came up behind us; it looked like headlights coming from some beastly truck. Maybe it was a friend going to the same party we were, just joking around. It could be one of those alien spaceships; I saw a picture show about those once. Frightening little devils. The lights didn't move so I decided to pull away from the blinding spectacle. I went a slow ten or fifteen feet when I saw the red and blue lights. Coppers. I immediately stopped the truck and turned off the engine.

The copper came near the truck and asked me to open the door and come out. I didn't quite hear him so I opened the door and asked if I was to come out of the truck. He made his statement again, so I slowly got out. He told me to put my hands on the side of the truck. I did, and

moved my legs back and apart when he instructed me to. He came over and forcefully frisked me. He felt something metal in my left pocket and pulled it out. Breath mints, the good kind. A little precaution in case midnight went my way. He opened up the case and checked it out, probably for drugs. Nothing but breath mints; I'm not into that sort of thing. He asked why I drove away from him. I told him I didn't know what the bright light was; I thought it was a friend joking around. He seemed perplexed that I didn't know a police spotlight when I saw one. Sorry, I guess I don't get frisked at night very often.

Next he had me move to the back of the truck while he went over to Glover, who was still sitting down. He had him get out and join his "friend." He asked why we were pulled over. I said that we were going to a party and stopped to look at the directions. "Not anymore," he replied. I described the green piece of paper he'd find in the truck. He checked it out with a flashlight and moved around the disc player lying on the seat; boy that irks me.

He checked out my license in the squad car while we stood out in the cold; the kind of cold that could make a crazy man go insane. There was a woman in the car, too, but she wasn't in uniform. She was sitting in the front seat and never got out. Weird.

The officer came out and gave me back my license. He told us he wanted us to take our "silly games back to Fushing." Excuse me? I'm sorry to have to use foul language but there is really no other way to phrase this - What the hell does that mean? Had this copper lost his marbles? I really don't recall playing charades in the back of my truck; just stopped to check directions. I was polite and cooperated with him throughout the whole ordeal, and he still felt the need to be a jackass, or donkey if you will. I asked, "Aren't we in Fushing?," and he replied, "No, you are not." I guess this Mira Sookol chick was a city girl; I like that.

Before allowing us back in the truck, he said that if he saw us out there again he'd tag us. Perhaps that was the silly game we were playing, and he just wanted to join in. Maybe he was just mad that a couple of teenagers on the side of the road didn't have any alcohol and weren't causing any trouble.

We drove out of the area, ran into a few friends, including Katey Bisson and Aandrea Gren, and then headed back to the party. We made the same wrong turn on Fushing Rd., then found our way over to Rivers. We got to the party, had a blast, and drove home safely. No copper was gonna ruin our evening. You know, I never did get his name. Perhaps it was Officer Inappropriate; yeah, I like that.

JOE'S WORLD  
BY JOE DAILY

# KATIE POPE



*"Come to our match on Feb. 7. We are playing Carman Ainsworth. This is the only team we've lost to, and we're looking to beat them this time. Our record is 6-1. Come support us!"*

*Katie Pope spots a teammate on bench press during the weight lifting portion of their practice.*

**How many years have you been playing volleyball?**

*"Five years, two in AAU volleyball."*

**What position do you play?**

*"Right side hitter and blocker."*

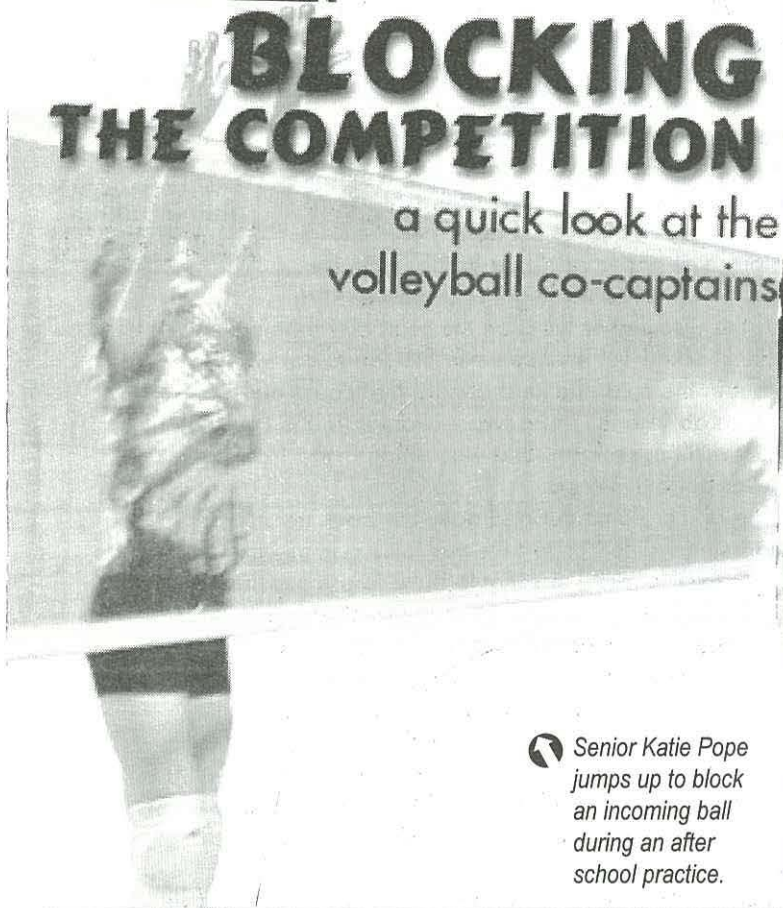
**What are your proudest achievements in the sport?**

*"Second in states at AAU, MVP at volleyball camp, being a co-captain on varsity."*

*"We are a very experienced team with an excellent bench! We have a well rounded team and we should go far."*

# BLOCKING THE COMPETITION

a quick look at the volleyball co-captains



Senior Katie Pope jumps up to block an incoming ball during an after school practice.

# LYNN NOE

**How many years have you been playing volleyball?**

*"7 years."*

**What position do you play?**

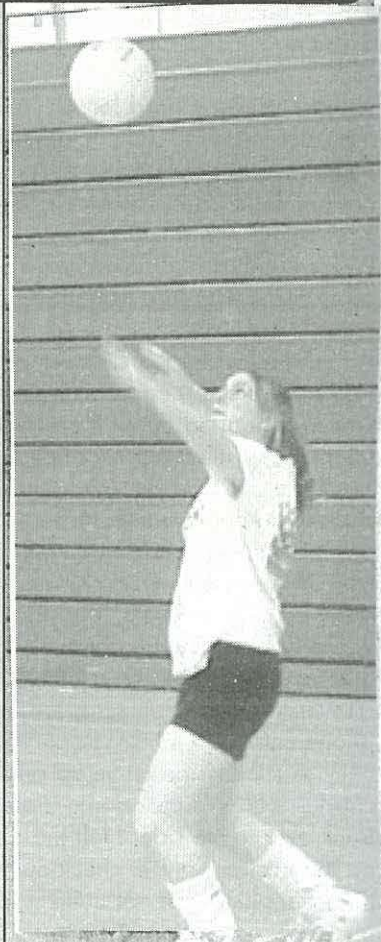
*"Setter and outside hitter."*

**What are your proudest achievements in the sport?**

*"Honorable Mention for All State as a sophomore, Second team All State as a junior."*

*"The team has done a lot better than the last two years that I have played."*

Senior Lynn Noe perfects her serve during practice on Jan. 24.



# WHITNEY VIZENA

**How many years have you been playing volleyball?**

*"6 years. Ever since 7th grade."*

**What position do you play?**

*"Outside hitter."*

**What are your proudest achievements in the sport?**

*"Beating Carman Ainsworth last year in two games."*

**How do you think the team is doing this year compared to other years?**

*"Very well, we are at the same spot as last year, 6-1."*

Trying to get it just right, Whitney Vizena prepares to return an incoming volley.



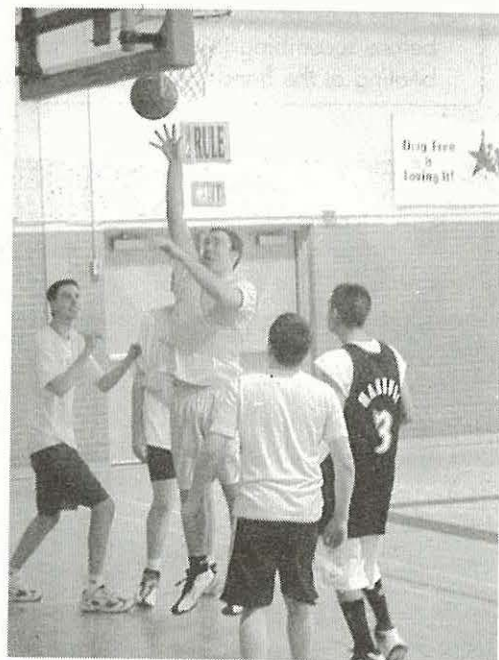


Will this deadly, sharp-shooter hit nothing but the bottom of the net, or will a leaping Chris Oleyar alter his shot? ➔

# BLOW THE WHISTLE

Rowdy IM season heads to playoffs

Ⓢ Get this kid some butter 'cause he's on a roll! Freeballers Nathan Powrie leaves the JYD KRU defense in a daze. All photos by Katie Sharrow-Reabe



BY JASON WITZ

*Webster's Dictionary* gives the following definition for the word, intramural: "Occurring within the limits of specific groups, *intramural athletics*..." Intramural athletic programs within a school system give those students that are interested in a particular sport a chance to participate in that sport. This participation is not between schools but between classmates within the same school. There are no cheerleaders, stands full of fans, bus rides to other locales, or all of the other perks that are enjoyed by team members on the school varsity teams. No coaches breathing down your neck, no referees in striped shirts, and no pressure, right? Wrong!

We normally spend the majority of each of our days awake. During this time, we participate in a wide range of activities. Some of the more basic activities we do without giving much thought to it. Other activities usually require some degree of thought on our part. Can I go the speed limit or should I chance a little faster so I won't be late for my first class? Should I take the shot myself or pass the ball to my teammate who is in a better position to make the basket? A million things are going through our minds all the time, whether we are driving a car or playing a basketball game on Saturday morning at school. The decisions we make, no matter how much thought we put into it, create a learning environment. What we derive from this environment will be dependent on what we put into it. This is a hard, fast rule that applies to us all of the time, including our leisure or fun time.

Intramural sports activities is no exception. No matter what anyone thinks, we will get out of it what we put into it, whether playing the game just to have something to do and get out of the house, or to hone skills so that next year we'll have a better chance to

make the varsity team. How are you going to interact with your teammates, and with the opposing team? Are you going to be a team player, a ball hog that earns the scorn of your teammates, or constantly trash talk your opponents to get them mad so they screw up?

I have participated in intramural sports at our school for the past four years. During that time, I have observed a growing tide of hostility among team members and clashes between teams. The fun part of the game is going out the window fast. Even the student referees appear to not care what's going on. At the last game, I saw two students of opposing teams in a shoving match after exchanging angry words within ear shot of a referee. Flagrant fouls are the norm, not the exception. Very few whistles are blown and fouls called. I don't know about you, but this does not create a very good incentive for me to get out of bed early on Saturday. This is evident each succeeding week when less and less people show up to play.

What are we learning from all this? I know what I learned from this: I'm not throwing any more money down the porcelain throne to participate in school intramural sports.

In way of some suggestions, after four years of experience, I would strongly suggest additional adult supervision at the games. To take this one step farther, I would even suggest that if the school is going to pay for referee services, they should hire adult referees that have no bias or interest in a particular player or team. This would ensure that everyone gets the same treatment, and that is the most important aspect of sports in general.

Ⓢ He's unstoppable! Jason Theodoroff takes it hard to the rack. Spectators include: Daryl Merrow, Will Bennett, and Stephon Marbury

## Playoff bound

### A Division

Red Hots  
Freeballer's  
Team #22  
JYD KRU  
Who Dat  
E.H.W.  
D.A.R.E

### B Division

Mixmaster Mike's  
The Tom McKickler's  
Sharks  
Mammas  
The Ballplayers  
Dange 'R' Us

sports by the numbers

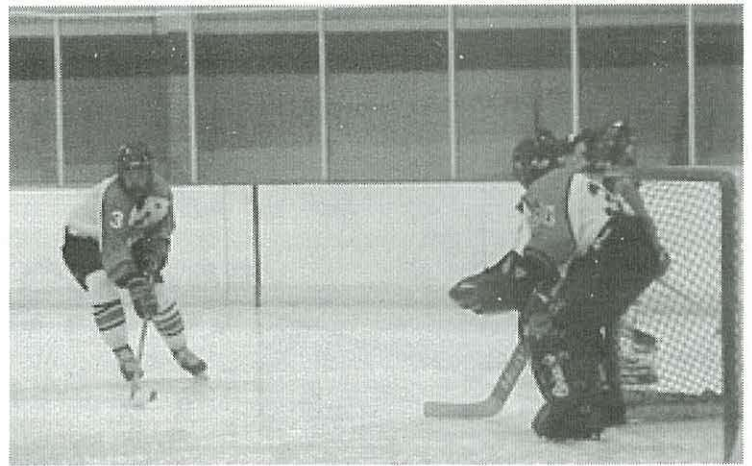
# RAIDER

156, the number of Career wins wrestler Scott Walker has at FHS, breaking the old record of 152

21.0, points Buddha is averaging per game, 2nd in Big Nine Basketball

250, number of girls skiing wins for coach Nelson

5, state rank of Powers basketball in class B, before succumbing to a good old fashioned wood-shed beating at the hands of the Raiders, 66-40



Defensman Eric Lerche is shown here gaining control of the puck against Fenton. He is one of the team captains and leaders, especially in penalty minutes. Lerche has shown hard work and dedication in earning his team high 40 minutes in the box.

athletics by the numbers

# RAIDER

BY MIKE WHITMIRE AND RYAN VISSAR

.747 students play a sport at FHS

.356 female athletes

.391 male athletes

.36 coaches

.53 teams

.22 interscholastic sports

.8 fall sports

.7 spring sports

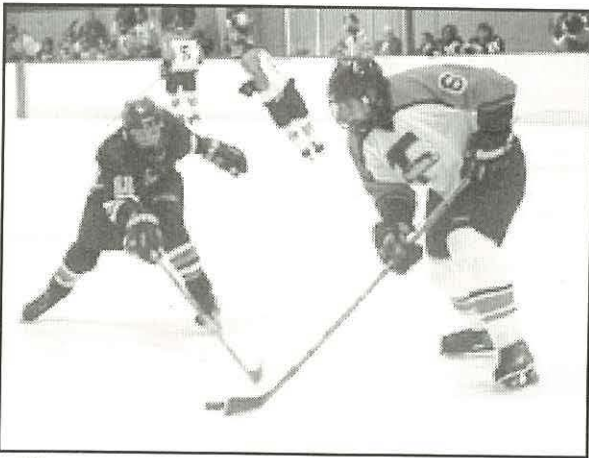
.7 winter sports



Kyle Hardy shows Flushing dominance by crashing with two Fenton players and taking them both down with him.



Goalie Allan Faille has been stupendous in goal for Flushing this year. He has a .933 save average which means he has stopped 93% of the shots taken on him. Al also recorded an assist this season, a rare feat for a goalie.



⌚ Sophomore Kyle Hardy clears the puck out of the Flushing defensive zone. Hardy has been solid on defense this year and has even scored a goal.



⌚ The Raiders put the pressure on Fenton. Nick Thomas (18) scored the third goal in the game, bringing the score to a 3-3 tie. Thomas is tied with Chris Joncas for first place in total points on the team.

# The ICEMEN COMETH

STAFF PHOTOS



⌚ Breaking into the Fenton defensive zone, Chris Joncas, a forward, is on his way to one of his eight goals of the year.

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