

## The Importance of Being Earnest: A witty spring play

by Ben Fick

The 2006 spring play is coming up. There is good reason to be anxious for the play due

to its successful history with audiences around the globe. Oscar Wilde wrote, "The Importance of Being Earnest" in England in 1895.

"It's rumored to be the wittiest play ever written," said junior Scott Isaacson, the lead actor

starring as John Worthing.

The main characters John Worthing and his friend Algernon Moncrieff both pretend to be a man named Earnest, John's imaginary brother. He goes by the alias of Earnest and in doing so deceives all of his friends. Forest Lake High School junior Tyler Sperry plays Algernon. Both of the characters are well liked by their friends and neighbors,

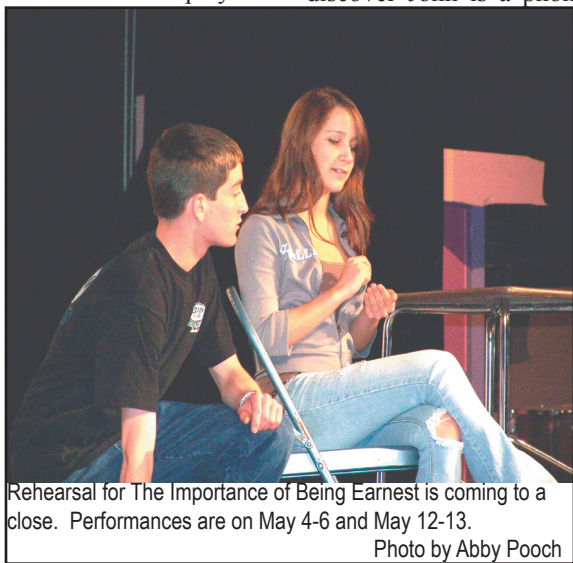
but they don't know who they really are. As the plot thickens the other characters discover John is a phony and eventually that Algernon is also acting as someone else.

"Most people would say that the play is very well written, with hidden subliminal humor, you just have to be interested enough to catch it," said Isaacson.

Play practices are being held regularly after

school from 2:45 to 5:00 p.m. every day after school. Different parts of the play are run through everyday with emphasis on character development.

"If the audience comes to watch with an open mind, I think they will be greatly rewarded with the humor and overall message of the play," said Isaacson.



Rehearsal for The Importance of Being Earnest is coming to a close. Performances are on May 4-6 and May 12-13.

Photo by Abby Pooch

## Earth Day unmasked

by Josh Nelson

Very few people recognize the holiday Earth Day. Even fewer know when or what it is. This year marks the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the holiday, first recognized on April 22, 1970 to make people aware of what can be done to help the Earth.

Gaylord Nelson, a former Wisconsin senator helped develop the idea of Earth Day.

"I heard about teach-ins that were going on about the war in Vietnam and thought what better way to get people knowledgeable about our environment."

Every year on April 22, Nelson goes around preaching his idea for a cleaner planet. The idea behind Earth Day is that people conserve energy, use resources wisely, and appreciate the environment in general. But the trouble is trying to get people motivated to recognize the holiday.

People are more cautious of things they are doing to harm or pollute the environment on this day. It's also the day where energy is conserved energy and folks use alternative ways to get things done that aren't so detrimental to the earth.

By being more cautious of the environment around us, dangerous things as pollution, disease, global warming, and other dangerous disasters can be prevented.

### What can I do?

Want to know what you can do to help the environment? The World Wildlife Fund offers some suggestions:

1. Don't leave the water running.
2. Turn the light off when you leave a room.
3. Conserve paper. Print on both sides when possible.
4. Wash your clothes in hot or cold water by hand. It works as well as a washing machine and cuts back on energy.
5. Use plastic plates and cups - ditch the paper ones.
6. Read and follow energy-saving tips on appliances.
7. Turn your computer off at the end of the day. Leaving it on all night takes up about as much energy as printing off 5,300 copies.
8. Look at labels. They usually give directions on whether the product can be recycled.

## Ten to state Four entrants make finals

by Ben Fick

On Friday April 21, the Speech team competed at the state tournament. Ten Forest Lake High School students competed and four alternates also attended.

"Forest Lake always has a good showing at the state tournament- this year was no exception. Our expectations were high," said senior captain Caleb Rotach.

FLHS students who earned trips to the state tournament are: Rotach, Rachel Piersdorf, Shawna McNamara, Paula Reignier, Paul Joachim, Abby Pooch, Emily Wagner, Shannon Joyce, Caitlin Sapa, Dana Bergantine, Katherine Monberg, Jake Loeffler, Becky Zierke, and Dave Savord.

This is the last year that Henry Hebert will help coach the speech team, as he is retiring this spring.

"Everybody loves Hebert, he's great to have around and brings everybody's attitude up," said Rotach.

Piersdorf and McNamara both qualified for the state tournament in the Storytelling and Dramatic Duo categories, respectively. After having a fabulous time with her friends in the fall play "Hello Dolly" McNamara decided to join the Speech team.

"It was my first year so I learned a lot, speech has definitely helped me to grow as an actress too," said McNamara.

Four of FLHS' 10 entrants placed in the state finals. Katherine Monberg placed 3rd in Original Oratory, Laura Jacob earned third place in Extemporaneous Reading, Rotach and McNamara placed third in Duo and Piersdorf placed seventh in



Shawna McNamara and Caleb Rotach practice their state-entrant performance in Dramatic Duo. The duo made it to the final round.

photo by Ben Fick

Storytelling.

"We are very pleased with how our team did at state," said coach Becky Haven.

Speech was a great experience for the entire Forest Lake team and indeed they will continue to excel.

"Some of our finalists are underclassmen," said Haven, "so we are expecting good things next year too."

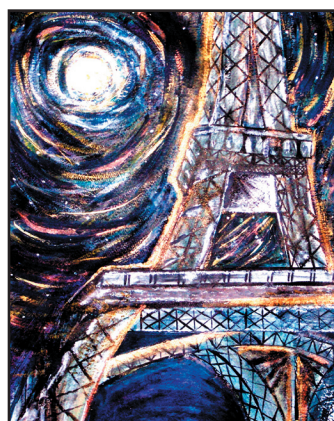
"I've just had so much fun and I love being with the team," said Piersdorf.

"You learn to take critiques from judges and coaches and the frustration of losing to someone if you beat them in your competition," said McNamara. "I encourage anyone interested in language or English to give Speech a shot next year."

## Future Picassos

These four works of art were featured at the 5th annual Region 7AA Visual Arts Festival in the Forest Lake High School cafeteria on April 22. There were over 65 works of art displayed with seven schools participating.

Pieces of art are, in clockwise order, by Pa Houa Vang, Morgan Frank, Naomi Wolf, and Ashley Lang.



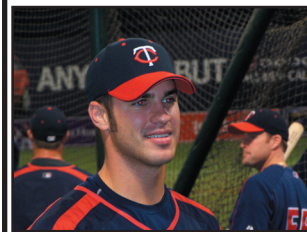
Forest Lake's own festival of cultures.

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All about April weather!

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An inside look at the Twins Media

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Last minute Prom checklist

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## FFA rides onto state Open house to be held May 5

by Abby Pooch

Formerly dubbed “Future Farmers of America,” the currently christened “National FFA Organization,” is now much more than farming. The FFA is about leadership and teaching students about how to constructively lead their lives. The FLHS FFA is continually working toward this purpose and has achieved rapid recognition for their diligent toil.

The Forest Lake chapter of FFA will be sending 33 students to the state competition after their having advanced past regional competition. Katie Miron will be competing the category “Creed,” where (9 graders only) memorize and recite the National FFA creed. Ann Miron, Katie Miron, Kim Zalusky, and Jack Oswald will be advancing in the Dairy category where competitors complete a written exam relating to the dairy industry and they evaluate dairy cattle and place them in a class. Joey Denbeste, Corey Steje, Anthony Marquart, and John Wielinki will compete in Forestry where competitors have to complete a written exam about various forestry skills such as identifying trees and forestry equipment. Allison Mollen, Angie Collar, Trevor Osterbauer, Sam Marois, and Kaylea Tyler advanced in the Meats category, where they fill out a written test, judging and identifying meat carcasses. Matt Joyer, Ashleigh Morgan and Ben Elfelt advanced in the category of Poultry, where contestants evaluate poultry and poultry products and fill out a general knowledge exam. Helen Lininger, the first in her respective category, advanced in Farm Bureau Discussion Meet. In this category, contestants discuss current issues in agriculture.

State will be held at the University of



Minnesota in the Department of Agriculture on April 24 and 25.

Advancing 33 people to the state competition is a great accomplishment to begin with. However, the Forest Lake FFA has more successes up its sleeve. Three students will receive the Minnesota FFA Degree which, according to Mike Miron, is “the highest recognition that the state organization can bestow upon an active member.”

Forest Lake FFA is one of the ten finalists for the Outstanding Chapter award. To qualify for this award, the chapter looks through all the things they’ve done throughout the year and selects one individual thing, one leadership chapter event and one community affair they submit. Then, members of the FFA Alumni and the FFA Foundation work together to judge the winner. There are 191 Agriculture programs in Minnesota, so to get to the top ten is, well, outstanding.

The FFA is always on its toes, planning and participating in various events. On April 22, they had a horse show. On May 5, they are going to have an Open House. The Open House is a great gathering of students, politicians, organizations, the general public, and agriculture. There will be a lot of different activities, like interacting with barn animals and tasting various agricultural products.

To join FFA, you must be enrolled in at least one Ag class every year. Then you have to fill out a one-page application. The first year, the chapter pays the dues, but after that the student has to pay.

The FFA is staying busy, Learning to do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, and Living to Serve!

## Stars and Strikes Bowling alley to open in Wyoming

by Josh Nelson

Ask anyone what word they would associate with the city of Wyoming, the first word that may come out of their mouth is “boring.” They may not be saying that any more though. A plan is in the works for a new bowling alley which is scheduled to open next month.

The finishing touches are currently being done on the Stars and Strikes Bowling Center which features 24 lanes for standard leagues, fun leagues, parties, and open bowling. The bowling lanes will be constructed with up-to-date technology, lights, seats and sounds.

In addition to bowling, the facility will include an entertainment room, called The Celestial Hall, for a myriad of events such as weddings, corporate meetings, Bingo, parties, holiday specials, and more. Other entertainment options include lights, microphones, a stage, and a dance floor for various activities.

The bowling center will also feature The Moonbeam Grill to satisfy hunger needs. The grill will feature a variety of foods such as appetizers, salads, sandwiches, wraps, burgers, pizza, pasta, chicken, steak, prime rib, and more, available for eat-in or take-out. Dining

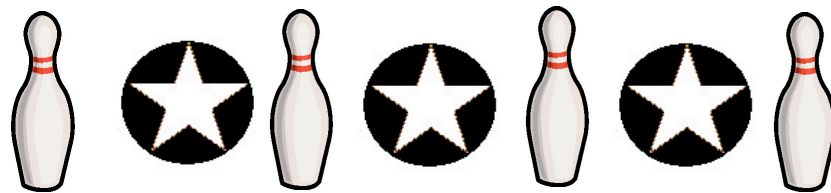


The exterior of the new bowling alley in Wyoming set to open soon.  
photo by Josh Nelson

is also available at your traditional bar setting in the Starlight Lounge where you can purchase drinks and pull tabs, watch one of the big screen televisions, or enjoy playing in a pool table tournament, or you can show your moves on the giant dance floor.

Birthday parties are another amenity of the facility. The Comet Club will provide a party package for a cheap price which would include bowling, arcade, food, drink, cake, games, prizes, etc. As well as enjoy the big arcade center to play your favorite video games and win special prizes with credits that you can earn by winning.

The opening date of Stars and Strikes Bowling Center has not yet been released. For more information, call 982-0627, or visit the website at [www.starsstrikes.com](http://www.starsstrikes.com).



## Not allowed Prom under-21 policy for safety

by Melissa Monson

Prom 2006 is rapidly approaching. However, some people may be going solo or going with their second best choice due to the school’s age policy. The policy states that no one 21 and older can attend prom and those who want to attend with someone from another school or that is 19 or 20 years old, has to fill out a blue form and provide a copy of a photo ID. Have you ever wondered why the policy won’t allow people 21 and older into prom?

The decision to change the policy was made at an administrative level, so don’t blame the teachers here at FLHS. The under-21-prom-policy was implemented during the 2004-2005 school year, so it is still relatively new. However before this policy existed, the age situations were dealt with on a case-by-case basis. There was an incident which may have led to this policy, but information about said incident was unavailable.

Brad Leventhal, one of Forest Lake High School (FLHS) science teachers, is the head of the prom committee and he commented that the main reason for the policy is that 21-year-olds can legally buy alcohol and possibly bring it to underage students at the prom.

“Kids are gonna get alcohol, if they wanna get alcohol,” said Olson.

However, if they eliminate some of the potential ways to get alcohol, it makes a big difference. The parent’s input is one reason besides alcohol, as well as legal issues beyond alcohol, if you get my drift.

Leventhal as well as activities director Joel

Olson both believe that there is a major gap between high school students and those 21 and older.

“Three years out high school, you should be doing something better with your time,” scoffed Olson.

Leventhal commented that the way high school students are much more expressive in their interactions than those older than them. Before the policy was put into place, Leventhal noted that older people who came to prom felt out of place and their date felt uncomfortable. Leventhal stated that the policy helps to keep the prom at the high school level, because that’s the main demographic for the prom anyway.

School IDs and/or licenses are checked when you go to prom, so don’t try sneaking someone in who is 21 or older or someone you didn’t fill a slip out for.

Olson thinks of safety first.

“When people send their kids to school, they expect a certain level of safety, said Olson.

For all the students who will be at FLHS for next year’s prom, don’t expect this policy to change.

“Not that I know, who can predict the future,” stated Leventhal with a voice of uncertainty.

Leventhal wanted to give a few bits of advice about prom.

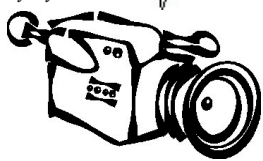
“The point is to have fun, don’t try to take it too seriously.”

Although this doesn’t resolve any issues for those who wanted to take dates 21 and older to prom, it does offer a little piece of mind. Knowing why something isn’t possible helps you to accept the things you cannot change.



## Lights, Camera Action!

by Tyler Scanlan



You’ve probably noticed the posters in the hallways inviting you to meet the next Steven Spielberg by joining the new after-school TV and film club. While the next Spielberg might not be at the club a new opportunity certainly is.

“The goal of the club is to promote events going on in FLHS by recording and broadcasting seven or eight events this quarter and broadcasting them on Lake Area TV, which is channel ten.” said Tim Newcomb, the club’s advisor.

The club is free to participate and gives students access to all of the tools necessary for creating a proper product. The club also hopes to produce a venue for students to create and show their own personal film projects and is working with Ranger News to create a video yearbook for the 2006-2007 school year.

Numerous sponsors have already made significant contributions to make the club possible including \$5,000 by LA TV, a gift card from Best Buy and seven replacement cameras from Canon. For the public to get a better idea what is going on in the high school, the club is looking at broadcasting events ranging from baseball games to the upcoming dodgeball tournament. The club already has 25 people signed up and is looking for anyone else interested. If you are, be sure to drop in Mondays after school in Room 204 for your chance to flaunt your filmmaking skills.

### *The Forest Breeze*

The student newspaper of  
Forest Lake High School

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*The Forest Breeze* is a monthly publication created by students in the journalism class at FLHS. *The Forest Breeze* welcomes letters to the editor, provided they are not obscene and do not exceed 200 words. The staff reserves the right to edit for length. Unsigned letters will not be printed; however, names may be withheld upon request.

Views of the *The Forest Breeze* writers are not necessarily the views of the students, staff or administration of ISD #831.

Minnesota celebrates its diversity and heritage

Festival of Cultures  
First-time event draws crowd

by Melissa Monson

The Festival of Cultures was held on April 7 from 6-8:30 p.m. in the FLHS cafeteria. Festival of Cultures was exactly what the title implied, a celebratory festival introducing or familiarizing students, parents, and the community, with varying cultures from across the globe. It was headed by Jan Masterson, the principal at the Lino Lakes Elementary School. At our own school, Spanish teacher and International Club leader, Annie Dahl, helped to coordinate this event.

Dahl revealed that the festival was the result of an imaginative parent. “[It was an] idea that a parent of a Lino Lakes student [came up with] and it just snowballed into a celebration of many culture [from there],” said Dahl.

International Club students volunteered for this event, as well as students from Southwest Junior High School (SJHS).

The event had an outcome of approximately 500 people. It was

Sophomore Amay Yang helped to run the Hmong booth. Yang and her brother were asked by SJHS principal, Marc Peterson, to run a booth at the festival. Yang and her brother were grouped with another family and everyone dressed in traditional Hmong attire. The booth displayed books that were translated from English to Hmong, woven baskets, Hmong clothes, several photos, and they served rice.

Since the festival was held in an educational facility, it was to help students, adults, and senior citizens learn something. Yang agrees.



Dressed in traditional clothing, FLHS senior Amay Yang answers questions about the Hmong culture.

“[I hope people] learned that there are all different kinds of ethnics and cultures out there and they should open their horizon[s] and try to learn something new about the different cultures,” said Yang. “[I also hope] that [they learn] that each culture is different and unique in their own way, which sets all of us apart from one another.”

While Yang didn’t get to scan the booths around her, she stressed the importance of learning about other cultures other than your own.

“Learning about other cultures will open one’s mind about other cultures and accept others for who they are and not [just for] the color of their skin or what their background is,” said Yang. [In addition, it] will make the person more aware that there are over a hundred cultures out there; who knows, you learn could learn something about yourself [by learning about your own culture] that you didn’t know before.”

Festival of Nations  
Annual event at RiverCentre May 5

by Maya Bryn

There is only one place in Minnesota where you can drink mango juice from Egypt, eat egg rolls from Japan and top that off with a cream puff from Holland. The 2006 Festival of Nations- an event that has been uniting the nations of the world since 1932. On May 4-7 in downtown St. Paul, the RiverCentre will be bustling with people visiting, performing, cooking and selling. Ninety-seven cultures and ethnic groups from around the world will transform the RiverCentre into a place rich with the smells, sights and sounds of diversity.

You can experience so many things at the Festival of Nations. There is the International Bazaar which provides visitors with imported gifts from different parts of the world. Exhibitors provide jewelry, artifacts, clothing, accessories and much more.

People can also enjoy watching folk artisans create unique pieces from their own cultures. They use traditional skills that have been passed through numerous generations. There

is silver work done by using customary Native American methods, Easter egg designing done at the Ukrainian booth and people carving the famous wooden clogs from Holland.

Visitors can watch the Festival’s unique forms of entertainment. Over 75 adult and children’s dance groups perform using authentic dance moves and traditional costumes. Other performers include native musicians giving examples of their cultural compositions.

After walking around and visiting all there is to see in the exhibits, you can taste traditional food and drinks from 35 different countries around the world. For those who like consistency, there are always cheeseburgers and pizza.

The Festival has designated May 4 and 5 for students grade 6 through 12 and FLHS will be participating in this experience. This opportunity is for students presently in a world language class. They will journey down to the RiverCentre on May 5.



LEFT: FLHS students are shown how a henna tattoo is completed at the Pakistan booth during the local Festival of Cultures held April 7. RIGHT: Southwest Junior High Freshman wears traditional Hmong clothing at the Hmong table.



Mock crash May 17  
Community effort promotes smart choices

On Wednesday, May 17, Forest Lake Senior High School and the Forest Lake Police department will be showing the aftermath of drinking and driving. Using two crashed vehicles, police officers, helicopters, ambulance and crew, and the Fire Department, they will be recreating the tragic and devastating outcomes of a fatal alcohol-related crash. It will start at 9 a.m. and will be open to seniors. It is in cooperation with the safe and sober campaign.



Forest Lake Police Department and other emergency services will team up May 17 for a visual message about the impact of drinking and driving.

Buckle up Forest Lake  
SADD campaign kicks off

by Jamison Hull

As many students have probably noticed, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) has started its annual seat belt campaign to get students to buckle up and drive safely. Every year, all the schools in Washington County compete to see which school has the largest percentage of students who wear seatbelts. There are SADD members stationed at the entrances of the school as students arrive. They record how many people are wearing their seatbelts.

“Last year we were not the highest percentage in the county,” said SADD advisor Ms. Judy Hill, “but we did get the most improved of all

the schools in Washington County.”

In the past, SADD has used such techniques as a buck for a buckle, but some of these have caused too much chaos. They will be going back to some of their more successful techniques such as mock tickets for those who do not buckle up and raffle prizes for those who do.

“We are using pretty much the same techniques as last year,” said Senior Leader Jessica Alexander, “but mock tickets seem to be the most successful tool and we will be using those as our main tool.”

All these different techniques are just tools to help students buckle up and stay safe.



Let’s dodge!  
2006 NHS Dodgeball Tournament tonight

by Tyler Scanlan

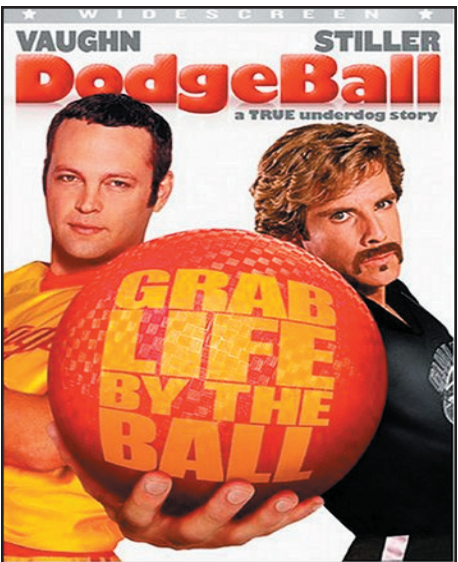
Dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge are the memorable five D’s of dodgeball according to Patches O’Houlihan from 2004s *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story*. These D’s are expected to be demonstrated this Friday, April 28 in the FLHS gym as the second annual NHS dodgeball tournament commences at 7 pm with teams of eight taking the court.

To get in on the fun without getting a ball to the face, one can merely watch from the stands for an admission cost of \$2. Many people are entering their own teams and the profits will be donated to charity.

If all of this isn’t enough to spark interest, the teachers are also putting together a couple of teams for a chance to erect some vengeance on the students.

“Dodgeball is a sport of violence, exclusion, and degradation,” says O’Houlihan in the movie.

So enjoy yourself when participating or watching the tournament tonight as the sport of dodgeball is on full display.



**Dodge, Duck, Dip Dive and Dodge.** FLHS students and faculty take part in the annual NHS Dodgeball Tournament tonight.

Forest Lake Dance Team Fall Season Try-Outs  
(Open to students entering 9th-12th grade next year.)

Monday, May 1 - Practice (3-5 p.m.)  
Tuesday, May 2 - Practice (3-5 p.m.)  
Wednesday, May 3 - Practice (3-5 p.m.)  
Thursday May 4 - Practice Optional  
Friday, May 5 - Try-Outs (4 p.m. - ???)

## Filling free time... ...and making some money

by Melissa Monson



Summer is rolling around the corner and students across the country will be released from the torture-chamber entitled school and will now be endowed with large quantities of free time. There is no longer the homework, quizzes, tests and school-related stress that students get while going to school. So, what are students going to do with all that extra time on their hands? Get summer jobs, of course, or continue to work at the one that they've worked at all year, but will now see even more of with their very free schedules.

Are you new to the world of working and not sure where to start or are you just looking to get out of the icky job you have now? Either way, here are a few tips for you.

"Start looking whenever," said Forest Lake High School (FLHS) Dean Holli Hebl about when to start looking for jobs.

FLHS Career Resource Center (CRC) representative Val Handstad said that now is the best time to start looking for a job. She also emphasized that it would be wise to make a list of honors, clubs, and community service activities that you've participated in to help you when you fill out applications.

Finding a job is hard, I'll admit to that phrase, but Hebl suggests that students look in the newspaper's want ads, grocery bulletin

boards, call the YMCA, check with churches for positions such as a camp counselor or as a very last resort, go door-to-door.

If you don't have an employment history yet, don't fret, because there's plenty to do to remedy that. To try to gain experience, you can get an internship in your career of choice and possibly get a job there. This would give you excellent insight into possible careers to help you decide what you would like to attend school for. You can also volunteer your time at places such as the Birchwood nursing home in Forest Lake, because this looks really good on your application and may make an establishment want to hire you even though you don't have any work experience.

"To get experience, communicate effectively with the hiring person and say you're willing to learn," said Handstad.

Dean Vicki McDougall had a few words to say as well, "Get a job anywhere you can and establish a good work ethic."

How should you go about applying? Handstad commented that students should go in and present themselves in a professional way and if the place is hiring, get an application or leave a resume. (if you know how to make one!)

Hebl's last bit of advice is, "Keep plugging away at it!"

I would have to agree with Hebl and add my own two cents by saying, remember the phrase, "Persistence pays off."



## Accept others

### Take time to learn about other cultures, understand their roots with an open mind

by Carl Magnuson



At a young age, Americans are taught words like amigo, bonjour, and konichiwa with or without their meanings attached. Food, clothing and customs from other cultures have become commonplace. However, these aspects from other cultures are often tweaked to fit with the American lifestyle, blurring the original intent of the traditions. Simple customs we assume we understand are sometimes culturally lost in translation and other cultures can become irked or even offended because of this.

"Americans think that Cinco de Mayo is about Mexican Independence," said Megan Espe-Och, a Spanish teacher at Forest Lake High School (FLHS), "It's actually about when Mexico won the battle of Puebla and defeated Napoleon."

Hispanic culture is very widely accepted and somewhat understood among Americans due to proximity, but more deep-rooted customs are easily overlooked. For instance, Americans have a common misconception that Hispanic men tend to have an angry machismo attitude towards women.

"[The stereotype] is not true, Latin men tend to be more polite in respect for that temper," said Espe-Och.

Adversely, America's views on Japanese culture tend to be narrower and Americans only take stock in a select variety of entertainment and pop culture. Japanese customs are tossed to the wayside in the eyes of the American majority because we often don't understand how certain customs originated.

"The biggest misunderstanding is that they simply copy the West when, in fact, they have a method referred to as adopt/adapt/adept," said history teacher Ron Tungseth. He says this method involves the Japanese taking something they see first hand, practicing it themselves and then applying it to their culture.

There's another common, blind assumption that says the Japanese are either too polite or too shy. "The way they view privacy is different,"

said Tungseth, "They have to create their own privacy because of how crowded it is in such a small amount of land."

For Forest Lake, though, there are a select few cultures that really need a cleaner spotlight and more open minds to pay attention. Right now, Hmong culture is widely misunderstood.

"There's no real country for the Hmong," said Senior Pazhong Thao, "a group of refugees from Thailand and Laos started to move to Minnesota 25 to 30 years ago."

In Forest Lake there is a big misunderstanding of the Hmong culture and many people would rather halt progress than to view other cultures with an open mind.

"People don't like change," said Thao, "I shouldn't have to defend my culture. People shouldn't view the Hmong culture as different because when people think something's different they think it's bad."

On a more prominent scale, there sits the middle-eastern culture and all the false accusations tied to it.

Middle-eastern culture is too routinely written off as misguided and unimportant by Americans today. The commonalities between Western and Middle-eastern cultures are not recognized by a vast majority of Americans.

"I think religiously, Americans think Islam is very different, but the Bible and the Qu'ran are very similar," said Tungseth, "We didn't take advantage of that similarity and now we're suffering for that ignorance."

What people don't realize today is that Christianity and Islam are built around the same events, prophets, heroes and basically we believe in the same God. The ignorant hate that some Americans harbor pushes their rich culture away and makes it more difficult for America to help perpetuate Middle-East peace.

While I believe it's important to sample other cultures and work them into our routines, we need to understand how certain customs work and why they're still around. There are plenty of ways to learn the background of certain cultures around Forest Lake. Take time to figure it out by taking a language or civilization class, use the web, or talk to someone. Many other cultures are considerate enough to study our culture, so return the favor!



### Spring Concert Series

The Forest Lake Area High School music department will wrap up its concert season with a four concert series during the month of May.

**Band: May 15, 8 p.m.**

**Choir: May 16, 8 p.m.**

**Orchestra: May 22, 8 p.m.**

**Fourth Annual Pops Concert: May 31**

The Pops Concert will feature the entire music dept. and will be held in the Field House.

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Better attitude for women

by Maya Bryn

Attention, all high school girls, what we desperately need is a make-over, no, not for our faces, but our attitudes towards one another. Girls these days seem to just despise their fellow female. How many times have I passed another girl and just knew that I was being criticized in her mind? I can't even count. Girls tend to focus on clothes, make-up, body shape and size, attractiveness and other petty excuses to make themselves feel better.

Let's face it; girl world has too many rules. You must be skinny to be pretty, but not too skinny or else you're sick to look at. Your clothing must be cute, not original. Please, whatever you do, don't make yourself stand out. It's so "not cool" to look weird. Okay, granted not all of us listen to these pathetic rules, but you and I both know they're there. That's why most of us try to make ourselves look as great as possible every morning, so we will please ourselves as well as impress anyone who will look. An unknown author once said, "The average woman would rather have beauty than brains, because the average man can see better than he can think" It seems like we even try to get a glance of approval from girls when our outfit doesn't consist of a t-shirt, sweatshirt and jeans. I never thought I would ever need my friends' approval on anything, I thought they liked me for me. What happened?

It seems like girls are generally more vicious and judgmental towards strangers. These are people you don't know anything about! Truthfully, how many times have we caught ourselves saying, "What is she wearing?" or "That outfit is so ugly," or even "That chick is truly hideous," about complete stranger? I'm not saying all of us like that, but every girl is capable of being mean. Ellery Queen once said,



"Women exchange the kind of glance women use when no knife is handy." So why are we always trying to size each other up? Why do we leave someone victimized to increase our own self-esteem? Calling someone fat will never make you any thinner.

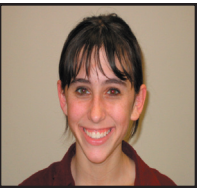
Chris Rock once said, "Women would run the world if they didn't hate each other." This is sad but horribly true. When *men* are picking up on just how mean we are to each other, you know we're ignoring the issue. We often pick apart the women we don't know. Do we hate each other because we think we all aren't equal? Does that give us the right to treat whomever, however we want? I don't think so.

In today's society, women's only power is our bodies, and therefore our minds are lost. The way we treat each other really reflects on the people around us, like the opposite sex. If we allow ourselves to call each other horribly demeaning names like "whores" or "sluts," that just gives guys permission to use those terms as well. The differences between elementary, middle and high school are astounding. Physically, nothing mattered to us back then-we were who we were. We were all about having friends and fun at school. We didn't use such vicious terms for each other and we weren't as stereotypical and judgmental. Then we grew up and competition grew too. Now, we seem insecure and don't really know who we are or what kind of person we want to be. Things seem backwards. For example, if a girl is confident and smart, she is an enemy. If she's tough and flirty with everyone, then she's pretty cool. I'm not saying that those traits are awful, since most girls are flirty sometimes.

There is a certain cliché that we have mostly forgotten, but should continue to live by. "Don't do to others what you wouldn't want done to or said about you. If girls learn to do this, we'll all be better off. Be kind to your fellow female, after all we have to stick together.

Restaurant Review: Don Julio's New Mexican food in town

by Abby Pooch



Just like the family or new kid in town, the new restaurant in town evokes a certain curiosity. Should you try it or stick with the old standby? Will the food be good, will they have good service, etc.? I am here to answer some of these questions about the new restaurant on the block, Don Julio.

A couple weeks ago, I went out to lunch to check out this new restaurant. I had heard pretty good things about it, but I wanted to see if it could live up to the hype. I expected it to be really good, and I wasn't disappointed.

I went at about noon to eat so I ordered the Lunch No. 7, which was a quesadilla, an enchilada and a chalupa. My mom got a beef chimichanga with rice and a salad. Everything was absolutely exceptional. You could tell that the tortillas were homemade, because they had a rich taste that you just can't get from grocery store tortillas. For an appetizer they served us warm tortilla chips with mild salsa (there was hot sauce if you were in need of an extra kick). The enchilada tasted like it was from Don Pablo's and yet it was half as expensive. If you want your Mexican food really spicy, this is probably not the place for you. I don't like extremely spicy food, so I really enjoyed it. The food, though not spicy, had a plethora of mouthwatering flavor.

Whether you like to eat a lot or a little, like lots of salad or lots of meat, Don Julio has what you want. They have everything from nachos for appetizers, beans and rice for side dishes, fajitas and enchiladas for the main dish and sapodillas and flan for dessert. Anything that you can think of that is classic Mexican food, they are most likely to have. They also have a huge list of

combination meals in the middle of the menu, so for those people who go to Perkins and want pancakes and hash browns but have to buy eggs too because you can't just buy "Hash browns and Pancakes", you won't be disappointed at Don Julio. If you want beans and an enchilada or rice and an enchilada or beans and rice and an enchilada, you can get almost any combo you can think of.

One of the things that bothers me more than anything is going out to eat extremely hungry and then waiting forever to get my food. This did not happen at Don Julio. I ordered my food and a short time later, it arrived! Not once did I sit and look around longingly at the food of my neighbors. When it came, I didn't even think it could be ours because it came so quickly. I was very impressed.

I thought the prices at Don Julio were phenomenal. The meals my mom and I had filled us to bursting and a couple of hours later we were still uncomfortably full (but in a good way). Each of us paid less than six dollars for our meal! To me that was a pretty good deal. The most expensive thing that I could find on the menu was a fajita for \$17, but it was a two-person meal. However, make sure that when you go, you bring cash or credit, because they don't take checks.

The other thing that impressed me is how they made the inside of the restaurant unique. I remember going there when it was a Chinese restaurant, and then it was distinctly Chinese. Now, as a Mexican restaurant, it is distinctly Mexican. The walls are painted in colors reminiscent of Mexican culture, with paintings and brightly colored blankets hanging from the walls. Soft Spanish music is playing in the background. With great service and fantastic prices who wouldn't want to eat delicious food while being serenaded by complimentary music?

Biking days are here again

by Ben Fick



It's hot and sunny outside. However, the lake water is still a little on the chilly side. That being said, what is there to do? Celebrate bike month and get the bike out of the garage or basement, pump up the tires and go cycling. Call up some friends and head out on the road or find some trails. Both road and mountain biking are fun with the right equipment. Always wear a helmet when on the road or trails, falling over without one is painful.

Road biking is great for traveling long distances in a short period of time. It is easy to ride a mountain bike on the road, but it would be a lot slower than riding a road bike. A road bike is light, sleek and has drop handle bars, which puts the rider's body in an aerodynamic position. Road bikes are manufactured out of steel, aluminum alloys and carbon fiber. Steel and aluminum are less expensive and don't absorb shock from the frame as well. Carbon fiber frames absorb shock from the road so it is less noticeable to the rider. This produces a smoother, gliding feeling on the road. Some nearby trails used for road biking are the Gateway Trail, which starts at Pine Point Park in Stillwater and the Hardwood Creek Trail, which starts in Hugo. Road bikes range in price from \$500 to \$5,000. Road bikes can be adapted into triathlon bikes. This requires aero-bars and bigger wheel rims for reduced air friction during longer rides.

Mountain bikes have thick frames and shock absorption systems in the front and/or back of the bike. A mountain bike can be used on all terrain. As its name indicates though, a



mountain bike is suited for gravel trails, jumps and hills. There are a number of great places to mountain bike in the Twin Cities Area. Afton State Park in Hastings, Wild River State Park along the St. Croix River, Battle Creek Park in St. Paul, and Pine Point Park are just a few relevant examples of places to go. Generally, mountain bikes cost between \$300 and \$3000. Mountain bikes are made out of the same metal materials as road bikes, except the frames are constructed to be thicker and able to withstand much more pounding.

Buying a new bike can be a frustrating and expensive endeavor. To get a nice bike, a person needs to be willing to invest at least \$500-\$800. Forest Lake Cycle and Skate, Boehm's, Grand Performance, Freewheel Bike, Penn Cycle, Gateway Cycle and Erik's Bike Shop are some of the nearby stores that allow test rides and will help fit the rider for a perfect bike.

Another addition to make cycling more fun and efficient is clip-less bike pedals. Unfortunately, their name confuses first-time users. They are called clip-less, however they actually have a clip that a special bike shoe clips into. It is expensive to buy the shoes, but the clips can be purchased at reasonable prices. Usually, the store will give deals when the shoes and clips are purchased at the same time. These are pedals that are designed so that shoes can clip in to the pedal, allowing the rider to pull up as well as push down, making much more use of the legs during cycling. Specialized helmets, bike shorts, gloves and socks also make riding more enjoyable.

Regardless of whatever biking style fits, get out there and ride. There's a lot of fun to be had as long as safety is the first priority. Wear a helmet, be conscious of cars and road signals and use common sense- it never fails.

Global warning: why worry?

by Katie Walker



Global Warming, it's as real as we're here today, just waiting to see what catastrophic event will happen next. Parts of the Arctic have already fallen, and the saddest of all, when we will only think of polar bears as an animal from the past, extinct due to global warming, and the failed efforts to make a difference.

Most of the energy we use today comes from fossil fuels-coal, oil, and natural gas. These are fuels that are being consumed more rapidly than they are being replaced. That means that someday we could run out of them. On top of that, the punishment of our pollution, will come in drastic measures: catastrophic events (like hurricane Katrina), world warming, flooding due to the ice melting in the freezing cold regions, whole towns and countries being wiped out, all arctic species extinct, no more skiing, sledding, ice skating outdoors, no more snow ball fights and snow-women/man making. No more snow days! Due to all these changes, farmers will lose tons of money, because the agriculture will change too; there will be droughts and floods, and the seasons in Minn. won't be the same.

However, there is a way to stop this; it's not too late. According to Will Steger, world renowned Arctic explorer, if we reduce our emissions by 80 percent in the next ten years, the environment won't change as drastically. Floods and disasters can be prevented, if America steps up to the plate. "We can change what's bound to happen if we keep polluting," said Steger.

People, we can use renewable energy, which comes from energy sources that are constantly being replaced and are usually less polluting than energy from fossil fuels. Examples of renewable energy include solar,

wind, geothermal, biomass and hydro. All of these we can produce in our own country, and we don't have to rely on foreign countries for our oil, which could go higher and higher at any time. Exxon-Mobil made the most money last year. Out of all the businesses on the United States, an oil company made the most money, something's definitely wrong.

We deserve better, our children deserve better, and our children's children, and so on. People, we can make the difference, if we don't who will? If you honestly believe your voice doesn't count, it does, and the earth needs you to speak up for it. As Steger said in my global warming article, it is our generation that will see the changes and it is our generation that has the power to be heard. We have the power to pass legislation to force companies into reducing their remissions, and make all companies substitute at least 20 percent of their energy into wind power, or any of the other better sources. If Minn. passed a bill to get more windmills, farmers could start windmill farms, and earn tons of money off of that, while at the same time reducing the remissions we're putting out into the world, and preventing many of the horrible things we will witness, just within 80 years.

Don't be a hard-headed-fool and think that there's no such thing as global warming, because there is. If you just sit by and let it happen, then in 30 years or so you'll remember this editorial while sitting on your couch watching the news of how all these places around the world are flooding, and a little voice in your head will say, "I told you so," that voice, me, so never forget, FLHS, "I told you so." Let your voice be heard!

If you're interested in finding a way to prevent global warming, contact Katie Walker email- [babygirl6512006@yahoo.com](mailto:babygirl6512006@yahoo.com), or on my space @ My <http://www.myspace.com/69214910> My Blog URL <http://blog.myspace.com/69214910>



# April Showers

## Ways to save your emissions

by Katie Walker

- Buy green power- its electricity generated from renewable, high-efficiency, or low-pollution energy sources, such as wind or solar energy. Green power could replace electricity that would otherwise come primarily from burning coal- one of the dirtiest fuels for producing electricity. Here in Minnesota, 75% of the energy we consume comes from coal- less than 1% currently comes from wind.
- Turn off lights, computers, and appliances when not in use.
- Turn your thermostat down in the winter and set your air conditioner higher in the summer.
- Buy energy-efficient bulbs and appliances. Look for the Energy Star Logo.
- Get a home energy audit. Seal cracks and insulate.
- Recycle, and encourage others to recycle.
- Car pool, to save on fuel, and buy more fuel efficient cars. SUV's and trucks put off the most emissions into the environment.
- Drive less: walk more, bike, etc.
- Use energy efficient bulbs.
- Buy only energy efficient (Energy Star)
- Help preserve parks & green spaces
- Tell congressional representatives to help fight global warming.

## Turnin' up the heat

Arctic Explorer Will Steger warns Minnesotans about the danger of global warming

by Katie Walker

Students at Forest Lake High (FLHS) are so happy the winter is over, that they may not realize, last winter could really be one of the last winters. Global warming is a factual event, which is already in the making. Scientists don't even debate the fact that, the emissions humans produce have caused the ozone layer to thin, meaning there are fewer layers in between earth's atmosphere and the sun, which in will turn Minnesota's winters into high temperatures, which appear during the winters down south, just in the 21 century.

Will Steger, World-Renown-Arctic-explorer/journalist/photographer, and Minn. native, came to Forest Lake to speak about the issue of Global-Warming from the view of an eyewitness to many drastic changes in the Arctic. Steger has traveled the Arctic since he was 12-years-old.

In 1995 there was a snow ice cap in the Arctic that Steger even crossed. Disturbingly in 2003 this same ice shelf was water, and still is today, with more ice breaking off and melting

"From 1999-2003 the Arctic has seen significant melting," said Steger.

When the permafrost- frozen lands, melt they will give off methane gas and carbon dioxide at six or seven times the healthy amount. These gases have been frozen for over 100 million years.

The Arctic is covered nine months out of the year, and now has temperatures 25 degrees above normal.

"It's very dangerous. In 50 years, half of the Arctic will be defrosted, and in 100, the whole thing gone," said Steger.

Within ten years it will be impossible to cross the Arctic with dog sleds.

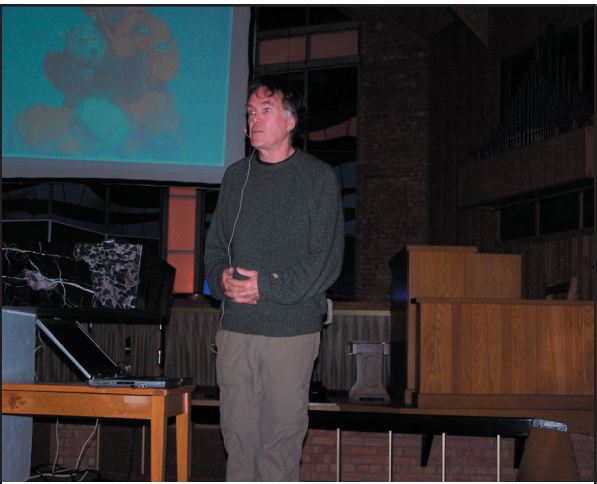
The Arctic is not the only ice mound melting; the Green-land-ice-cap, which is two miles above sea level and across all of Greenland, is starting to melt. This is causing glaciers to slide into the ocean.

"If Greenland 'slips' this will cause a rapid rise in sea level," said Steger.

"The only way to prevent this is by cutting

our remissions by 80 percent in ten years," said Steger.

The way to cut down on our emissions by 80 percent is to incorporate other sources of power, like wind mills, which could be used for 20 percent of our energy instead of getting all 100 percent of energy from foreign countries, as



**Heated discussion** Will Steger speaks to Faith Lutheran Church about the imminent danger that is global warming.

we are now. This plan of wind power would bring profit for farmers and many business opportunities here Minn.

"This is your generation's problem, you will see these changes. It's not the politicians in office now who will see these changes, that's why they're not doing anything about it," said Steger.

Global-Warming will bring catastrophic disasters. People will see an increase in catastrophic disasters all over the world. For instance the typical tornado season is June-August, and already this year, alone, America has seen 300 tornadoes.

According to Kare 11 news from December 21 to January 12, the average temperatures across the state were between 15 and 21 degrees above normal. Another aspect of this unusually warm weather is the lack of below zero temperatures this January. The first time the thermometer

dipped below zero was on January 14th at International Falls with -4 and at Babbitt with -2. Duluth, the Twin Cities and many other cities in Minnesota below zero temperature last January.

According to the Star Tribune, last January was the warmest in at least a century.

"If we start changing things now, we can prevent many of the catastrophic disasters to come, and help to preserve the Minn. environment," said Steger.

While global warming will cause many problems for America, it will cause problems for the entire human race, including the Inuit people, (Eskimo people of the Arctic).

"If it wasn't for stores, and supplies flown in the Inuit people wouldn't be alive right now," said Steger

The Inuit people would hunt on the ice, but with the severe ice melting, the ice is unsafe because they don't know which chunk is going to break off next. This has become a problem for all the animals in the Arctic regions.

Statistics have shown that the first animal to become extinct from global warming will be the polar bear, in which scientists have already seen a significant drop in their species.

"Polar bears can swim between 50-60 miles at a time. Out of the bears that swam out last year, 200 disappeared, because of the ice breaking off and melting. If the news would've covered this, we would have changes by now," said Steger.

As many people are opposing to the fact, that there is such thing as global warming, there's your answer. There is such a thing as global warming, and it's not natural, it's not going away. According to Steger it's not even a debate between scientists, it's known through out the world, and while many other countries have started cutting down on their remissions, the United States is lagging behind, this includes Minn. So the question is what are you going to do about it? For more information on global warming, you can visit <http://www.globalwarming101.com/or> [www.willsteger.com](http://www.willsteger.com).



## Water, water everywhere!

Flooding in Minnesota has not been as bad as usual, so far

by Stacey Johnson

With the snow melting and spring rolling in quickly, flooding is not uncommon. Fortunately, this year, flooding in Minn. has been minor unlike previous years. According to a researcher for the *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*, in April, 1997, a major flood occurred along the Red River, which borders North Dakota, Minn. and Manitoba, causing \$2 million in damages. Grand Forks, one of the main cities destroyed was evacuated and school was cancelled for the rest of the term. The highest peak of the water level reached 54.35 feet.

This spring, however, flooding has been a different story. "The Red River was still a threat this year just not as severe," said Mark Turbak, Red Cross.

According to GrandForksHerald.com, Grand Forks and Fargo areas experienced moderate flooding peaking at points not much higher than

the set flood level.

Even though Minn. hasn't experience terrible flooding disasters this spring, the Red Cross has still contributed in assisting people with the



minor disasters.

"We provide emergency help, food, shelter, clothing, basically the lost necessities," said Turbak. "Also, we provided financial assistance and medical needs."

Not only is the Red Cross staying well prepared but is advising people in risky areas to stay prepared as well.

"People can be ready for sand bagging, knowing the area, having a disaster plan ready, and having enough cash on hand," said Turbak.

But once the floods strike and much damage is made, the Red Cross can not financially help everyone alone. Fundraising and donations can be made to the Red Cross in order for them to assist victims of flooding. Also, according to Turbak, the Red Cross has grants and contracts with agencies from around the area.

If interested in helping out flood victims, contact the Red Cross, check with the community, or make a donation.

For more information on flooding, contact the Red Cross or go to the NationalWeatherService.com.

# ers Bring " " "



## Tornadoes Suck



### Be Prepared!

by Tommy Monahan

Spring and early summer are the seasons for windstorms, tornadoes and hail. Be prepared by putting together a power-outage and storm survival kit. Organizations are urging Minnesotans “to get a kit, make a plan and to stay informed.” Assemble your kit in a large canvas tote bag or a water-resistant storage container. Keep it in an easily accessible place.

#### The Safety Kit should contain:

- A safe light source. Avoid candles, which could start a fire.
- Extra batteries.
- A high-quality multiple tool that includes pliers, a screwdriver, a cutting blade and a wire cutter.
- An up to date fire extinguisher with an easy-to-read-gauge.
- A well stocked first-aid Kit.
- Canned food and jugs of water.

Other items you should have available are a battery-operated radio for news updates and instructions from the local authorities, a battery operated clock, prescription medications and pet supplies. Don’t forget boredom-busters like books, a deck of cards and games. It can be a long wait till the power returns.

### Tornado Levels

A **tornado** is a violently spinning column of air in contact with both a cumuliform cloud base and the surface of the earth.

F= Fujita or the Fujita scale rate the intensity of a tornado by the damage caused.

The first level of damage is F-0 or “light damage.” A tornado has the level of an F-0, if it has winds less than 73 miles per hour.

The second level of damage is F-1 or “moderate damage.” The wind speeds of a moderate damage tornado are 73-112 miles per hour.

The third level of damage is an F-2 or in other words “considerable damage.” The winds in this tornado can be up to 157 miles per hour. At this high rate of winds, mobile homes demolished.

The fourth level of damage is an F-3 tornado or “severe damage.” This tornado’s can get up to 206 miles per hour. The speed of this tornado leaves roofs and some walls torn off well constructed houses.

The fifth level of damage from a tornado is an F-4 or “devastating damage.” This type of tornado’s gets up to 260 miles per hour.

The F-5, otherwise known as “Incredible damage.” These tornadoes can get up to 320 miles per hour. Strong frame houses leveled off foundations and are swept away, cars flung through the air.

### Duck and cover

by Tash Thompson

It is nearing the end of April 2006 and already over 450 tornadoes ripped across the Midwest. This is a dramatic increase from 2005 with 194 by the end of April.

Tornadoes are most common in central North America, east of the Rocky Mountains and west of the Appalachian Mountains, or right here. This is known as Tornado Alley. Tornadoes usually form in late afternoon and early evening. However, tornados can occur in every state and time in North America.

Tornadoes are a small bundle of extreme energy that can have winds that range from 40 to 300 miles per hour. Tornadoes have the power to destroy homes, make cars and trucks fly, and turn glass, wood shards, and other debris into lethal missiles.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, tornadoes can form with or without a moment’s notice. Be prepared; assemble a disaster supply kit, and watch or listen to the weather reports. Be ready to hurry to the basement, bathroom or other internal room in your home. The safest place to go if there is a tornado is your basement or separate underground cellar. However, if you do not have a basement or underground cellar, a bathroom or internal room on the lowest floor of your home is recommended. If you’re going to your bathroom, it is recommended to take a mattress, if possible, and lay down in the tub with the mattress over you. If you cannot get to the basement or don’t have one, and can’t get to your bathroom, an internal room without

windows is recommended, even a closet.

According to Jeff Lewis, tornadoes form on the backside of a thunderstorm. Normal air rotation in a thunderstorm is horizontal. When a tornado forms the air rotation is vertical, which allows hot air to rise and rotate while doing so. Before tornadoes, the sky turns green because the hail in the clouds only reflects green light.

“That’s a good way to tell if a tornado is coming. The sky usually turns green before the tornado forms,” said Lewis.

If conditions are right for a tornado, but there has not been one spotted, a tornado watch may be issued by the National Weather Service. If or when this happens, stay tuned to the radio or television for further updates. If there has been a tornado spotted by either Doppler or storm trackers, then a tornado warning is issued. Now it is time to hurry to the basement, bathroom, or internal room.

After the tornado has past, watch out for fallen power lines and listen to the radio for information and instructions. Use a flashlight to inspect your home for damage. Never use a candle, because of the risk of explosion from gas leaks.

If there is a risk for a tornado, play it safe, watch or listen to the weather reports and hurry to the basement if there is a warning in your area.

## Raindrops are fallin’ on my head

### How to stay occupied on a rainy day

by Jamison Hull

As the saying goes ‘April showers bring May flowers’. Most love the May flowers, but don’t know what to do with all the April showers. There are a few interesting things you can do when those showers come. Whether it is with a group of people or by your self the rain does not necessarily mean boredom.

Here are some ideas that may make your April showers a little more interesting when you are alone or with just a couple of people.

- Read an interesting book.
- Baking cookies is fun and the rewards are great at the end.
- Write a short story or a poem.
- Do Crafts such as drawing or painting can pass time quickly.
- Play Video games which can stimulate your mind while the rain falls.
- Watch TV or a movie.
- Relax by a window and listen to music.

Obviously rain does not mean that you have to stay by yourself. You can go to a friend’s house and have fun.

Here are some things that could be done with a group of friends.

- Go to the local bowling alley.
- Go to the mall if you have money to spend.
- Go to the Science Museum in the cities.
- Play basketball in a gym such as Shoreview community center.

These are all choices avoiding the rain but, of course, you can just go out in the rain and do things like play football. And if all else fails take a nap and wait for the rainbow to come.



“Whether the weather be fine, whether the weather be not, whether the weather be cold, whether the weather be hot; whatever the weather, we’ll weather the weather, whether we like it or not.”

# It's a Home Run!

## Benchwarmers hits it out of the park

by Melissa Monson

Raise your hand if you've ever been bullied by others before. I know almost everybody has, myself included. Well, in the recently-released film, *The Benchwarmers*, touches on this sensitive issue. "It's never too late to take a stand," as the tagline suggests.

Gus(Rob Schneider), Richie(David Spade), and Clark (John Heder) are all adults that were picked on as kids. Gus sees the town's little league team practicing and it inspires some nostalgia about the days when he played baseball. He becomes inspired to play baseball again, so he invites his friends, Richie and Clark to play with him. However, when they go to play at the baseball field, the town's little league team shows up and tries to bully them into leaving "their" field. Gus is resilient in leaving the field, so he challenges the team to a game against him and his two friends. Shockingly, the trio beat the entire team, especially with Gus' home runs.

Mel(Jon Lovitz) is a multi-billionaire, whose son just happens to be the kid that the trio helped out earlier in the film after he had been bullied by the little league team, and he decides to help Clark, Richie and Gus. He convinces them to become a baseball team, entitled *The Benchwarmers*, to take a stand for all the kids who couldn't play baseball because they weren't accepted. The movie then encircles around *The Benchwarmers* games, success and an unexpected twist involving the team's best player, Gus.

Heder may seem like an unfamiliar name to people, but remember that movie *Napoleon Dynamite*? Well, that was Heder's performance, which in my opinion, will be probably be his most notable role throughout his acting career. As my friend put it, he knows how to draw a crowd. His role as Clark is filled with random outbursts, nose-picking and an impressive record for throwing the bat instead of hitting the ball. Schneider and Spade are great comedians, but in my opinion, Heder was the funniest of the three guys.



**We're number one!** Richie (David Spade), Clark (Jon Heder), and Gus (Rob Schneider) celebrate their victory.

However, I can't forget to mention, Howie (Nick Swardson), Richie's brother. He lives with his brother, Richie, but he lives in a closet. Why? He is extremely afraid of the sun. The scenes where he has to venture outside are hilarious and when he does finally go outside and realize that the sun isn't a monster, you find him eating copious amounts of sun block. Finally, one of the actors, or should I say actress that appeared in the movie, that shocked me a bit, was Molly Sims, who played as Gus' wife.

I love the message of this movie about standing up for yourself, it's a very important life lesson. Although it is a comedy, it did make me want to say, "aww" when *The Benchwarmers* let the kids who weren't accepted, become the team and play the last game of the season. Mel, as well as Richie, Gus, and Clark, decided to make it an ongoing thing and to form a new team every season, so more kids get a chance to play baseball and be accepted as misfits.

Should you spend your hard-earned money to see this in the theater or wait until you can rent it for a better price? I think this movie is worth your money. This movie had me laughing constantly, as well as the friend I brought with me, and the hyena-laughing women behind me. The humor is more orientated towards a character's, especially Clark's, lack of intelligence. But, honestly, who doesn't laugh at other's stupidity? So, if you haven't already seen this movie, then I think it's about time you did.

# TV's best picks

## Lost, Scrubs are hits

by Carl Magnuson

### Drama

*Lost* has taken a hold of a dead genre and has allowed it to thrive in movies, television and has furthered its hold on other forms of media. It actually falls into the science fiction category, but not to the cheesy extent that *Star Trek* had. It has fantastical elements and focuses on the unknown to torment the characters trapped on the island.

The premise is simple: a variety of people crash land on an unknown island and have to face whatever the island can throw at them to survive. At first they don't get along and have issues trusting each other. The majority of the show revolves around the happenings of Jack (Matthew Fox), Kate (Evangeline Lilly), Locke (Terry O'Quinn), and Sawyer (Josh Holloway). Beyond the core there are about eight other people to keep track of at any given time.

The show was taken on a whim by ABC before the script was ever written. It didn't fit in with anything on television at the time and certainly didn't belong on a family network like ABC.

The writers deserve more recognition than most others because of how unpredictable the show tends to be and how they've decided to deter from common television set-ups. Each episode gives a different character from the show to shine by devoting half the time to their past and the other half to the troubles on the island. Most characters have only gotten one or two episodes whereas Jack, Locke and Kate have stolen four or five episodes a piece.

Viewers tend to identify with certain characters and they find themselves afraid of each episode. This fear originated late in the first season when Boone (Ian Somerhalder) was cut from the cast, unbeknownst to him until right before shooting.

It's expected that there will be another death among the cast at the end of the second season. It's all speculation, but viewers are worried nonetheless.

### Comedy

*Scrubs* is unlike any show on television right

now. It's a revival of something called black comedy. A type of comedy that hasn't really had a chance to shine since *M\*A\*S\*H* ended in 1983.

It stars J.D. (Zach Braff), Dr. Cox (John C. McGinley), Turk (Donald Faison), Carla (Judy Reyes), and Elliot (Sarah Chalke). They portray dedicated, if uncontrollably immature doctors, nurses and residents attending Sacred Heart Hospital. They cope with failure and death

through a childish brand of humor and playing off of each others mistakes.

The show revolves around J.D. and how he views his hardships and friendships. He and his friend Turk act as if they haven't left kindergarten yet. Dr. Cox is quick to verbally humiliate them, but offers his advice and help when they really need it.

Dr. Elliot Reid is a struggling female doctor, trying to cope with stressful days and uncooperative

patients. She has a tendency to mirror what J.D. goes through, but her mishaps tend to end up in Carla's hands and thus have a different twist, making her ordeals bearable.

That leaves Dr. Bob Kelso (Ken Jenkins), the seemingly cold-hearted, pig-headed chief of medicine. He's a step up from Dr. Cox, but is often on the receiving end of Cox's latest fit. He does his job well and is the first to step back from the troubling situations and dehumanize the death the hospital inevitably goes through.

The show uses unconventional means to draw viewers in and often seems as if it has no desire to stay on the air. Certain episodes featured an a capella group lead by one of the cast and one of the creators.

The writers and producers of the show are quick to force certain characters to perform dangerous stunts and dress them up in ridiculous costumes for the various dream sequences the show has. In fact, during the first season the creators were constantly ready to end the show.

*Scrubs* has an uncanny knack for mixing the morose with the whimsical in a way that keeps this viewer eager for next week's episode.



# Mad for Mirage?

## Submissions due May 5

by Abby Pooch

Do you ever wish that you could publish your writing or art so that others could see and enjoy it? The Mirage, the school art magazine, could give you that chance.

The Mirage is organized by Mrs. Kaiser, and designed by the yearbook staff. Any student from the high school is welcome to submit a form of art. They are welcome to submit short stories, poems, paintings, photos, sculptures, etc. Almost everything submitted is published.

"You can submit anything as long as the subject manner is appropriate," said Kaiser. For example, a lot of writing that is inappropriately mushy or suicidally dark usually doesn't get put in. A lot of the time writing is chosen by English teachers, who have recommended to their students to submit their writing. Most of the visual art is submitted by the art department. However, if any individual wishes to submit art they've created, all they need to do is bring it to Room 642 before May 5.

The Mirage used to be funded by a grant, but when the grant ran out, the school had to start charging for the magazine. It is printed here at FLHS, so the yearbook department

must fund all of the necessary costs, which can amount to quite a copious cost.

"At the beginning," said Kaiser, "the Mirage was free, but when the grant ran out, we had to start charging two and three dollars. However, even with that we weren't getting enough to pay for the supplies. Now the Mirage costs \$5 and we just break even." Each individual Mirage is made with thick, heavy paper and a plastic cover, bound together with a plastic binding, and all these things add to the cost. Also, several years ago the yearbook department purchased a special machine that helps in assembling the magazine, and they are still working to pay that off.

Students were able to purchase The Mirage when they ordered their yearbooks. However, when the yearbooks come out, (around Memorial weekend) there will be extras of the magazine and students will be able to purchase them if they so choose. Then, if they submitted something, they will have the satisfaction of claiming (and proving!) that they have had their work published.

# Play for YPA

by Andy Setterholm

For a select few here at FLHS, the school play is like Christmas come early. Unfortunately for them, school plays just don't come often enough to sate their thirst for the theater. Between school plays, many local performers find solace with YPA (Youth Performing Arts), an organization run by volunteers that periodically puts on musicals.

"As soon as I began seventh grade, I joined and I've been loving it ever since," said Paula Regnier, FLHS junior. "Everybody there has something in common, a love for performing. You can really relate to them and form great

friendships." The YPA is headed by Susan Novak and run by volunteers. The entire set for each show is constructed by volunteer work, as are all necessary costumes.

The YPA cast and crew are currently in production of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat, their second show of the year. Directed by Vanessa Novak, the performance will hit the theater June 15 and run through June 25.

If performing is an activity you enjoy, YPA might be the place for you. If you are interested, contact Susan Novak or check out the upcoming show.

## Going to the Movies

New movies for new adventures

### Opening in Wide Release

Movie	Rating
<i>Akeelah and the Bee</i>	<b>PG, for some language</b>
<i>RV</i>	<b>PG, crude humor, innuendo and language.</b>
<i>Stick It</i>	<b>PG-13, for some crude remarks.</b>
<i>United 93</i>	<b>R some intense sequences of terror, violence</b>

### Opening in Select Theatres

Movie	Rating
<i>Clean</i>	<b>R for drug content, language and brief nudity.</b>
<i>Guys and Balls</i>	<b>R for sexual content, nudity and language.</b>
<i>Killer Diller</i>	<b>PG-13 for some language.</b>
<i>The Lost City</i>	<b>R for violence</b>

# Want a dance? Then you gotta jump ‘n jive...

by Abby Pooch

Are you *In the Mood* to jump, jive and wail? Many Forest Lake High School students have caught swing dance fever. Every Thursday night, many caravan down to the cities to go to the Wabasha Street Caves to swing. However, wouldn't it be nice if you didn't have to drive all the way down to Minneapolis to swing? This may just be possible.

Deborah (who wishes her last name to be anonymous), a concerned community member, worries about the disintegration of today's youth. She says that she used to be very involved in swing and ballroom dancing and is an enthusiastic supporter of it because it is such a great alternative to not only other, racier forms of dance, but also to destructive decisions and actions. Deborah helped to arrange the FLHS swing dance in March and hopes to have another dance in May. She is also looking to next year and hoping that maybe there would be a group who would want



to hold a FLHS swing dance once a month. At the dance in March, the FLHS National Honor Society (NHS) raised money for Lakes Lifecare center (where Deborah works), across from the Forest Lake Blockbuster. They have a program there where they teach kids how to develop healthy relationships in high school. Swing dancing, therefore, corresponded very well with this as it has the potential to be a healthy facet of any teen's life. The potential swing dance in May is very probable, but it is still in need of a group who would help organize and run it. Deborah says that she needs to find a group who is in need of a fundraising opportunity (because the money raised from the dance would go to profit the group who ran it). Any group that was interested could reach Deborah at her home by calling (651)-433-4629. In Deborah's words, "[I'm] looking for a group that would get the ball rolling."

# Party ‘til dawn

Infomation gathered by Brandon Anderson  
The 2006 senior all-night party is scheduled for Thursday, June 8, following the graduation ceremony. It will be an exciting, fun, safe, and chemical-free graduation celebration. The party will be held at Southwest Junior High. Students are expected to stay all night and it will end at about 5 a.m. on Friday. The party is a great chance for seniors to spend one last night with their fellow classmates and friends and celebrate. Some of the entertainment will include casino games, giant tricycle races, bungee challenge, a velcro wall, buddy photos, a coffee house, and pool tables. Seniors can have their t-shirts airbrushed-painted and can have their hair done with unique styles and colors. The swimming pool will be available for water polo or for a quick dip. There will be a DJ playing a variety of music and a movie room to watch your



favorite movie. There will also be an appearance by hypnotist, John Ivan Palmer. There will be a variety of prizes awarded throughout the night. Each student will receive a prize valued around \$25. Everything will be included in the ticket price, so students do not need to bring extra money. Many volunteers are needed to make the party a success. You do not need to be a parent to help out with the party. Volunteers will be doing anything from serving food to dealing blackjack. Help is always needed before, during, and after the party. Advance tickets will cost \$50 and can be purchased during all lunch periods May 30-June 7. For any additional information on how to contribute and/or volunteer, please call Glenda Lipp at 651-464-1801 or Shelley Madison at 651-464-5520.

## Concert Calendar

Who's coming to town this spring

.....					
<b>April</b>					
29	8pm	R Kelly	Orpheum	All Ages	\$48.50-78.50
30	7pm	Mitch Hedgberg	Trib.Orpheum	All Ages	\$30-35
<b>May</b>					
1	6:30pm	P.O.D.	3 Degrees	All Ages	\$17-20
7	7pm	Black Eyed Peas	Xcel	All Ages	\$37.50
8	5pm	Avenged Sevenfold	Myth	All Ages	\$29.50-35
8	7pm	The Fray	Quest	All Ages	\$26.50
12	7pm	Tool	Orpheum	All Ages	\$66.66
15	6:30pm	Taproot	Quest	All Ages	\$13-15
19	8pm	John Prine	Orpheum	All Ages	\$35-50
20	8pm	Wolfmother	Fine Line	18+	\$13-15
22	6:30pm	H.I.M.	Myth	All Ages	\$27.50
22	7pm	Matt Costa	Varsity Thtr.	All Ages	\$10-12
25	6pm	Flyleaf	Varsity Thtr.	All Ages	\$12-14
25	7:30pm	INXS	Orpheum	All Ages	\$38.50-68.50



# A silent thriller

## A journey through *Silent Hill: 2.5 stars*

By Tyler Scanlan

*Silent Hill* is one of those movies that will tease you with spectacular moments, but in the end is a colossal letdown with a confusing story and poor dialogue. The story for *Silent Hill* centers on the Da Silva family which consists of wife Rose (Rahda Mitchell, *Man on Fire*), husband Christopher (Sean Bean, *The Lord of the Rings*) and their adopted child Sharon (Jodelle Ferland). The family is really struggling with Sharon's violent night terrors in which she often mentions the town of Silent Hill. In an effort to help her daughter, Rose searches for and goes to the rural West Virginian town with her daughter. Unfortunately for the Da Silvas Silent Hill was evacuated over 30 years ago due to mining fires that continue to burn showering the town in ash and leaving a constant fog cloaking it. They arrive under distress during which Rose and Sharon become separated, leaving Rose to roam the town in search for her daughter. This is when the story picked up and the creepy creatures begin their onslaught. *Silent Hill* is an extremely well made film that is a visual treat. The town itself is ripped perfectly from the videogame on which *Silent Hill* is based and ash rain with the ever present fog give the town a perfect foreboding feeling. When the creatures start to come out an absolutely breathtaking effect occurs with the walls of the buildings peel away revealing its metal foundation. The creatures themselves are as life-like as you can get and designed with an emphasis on super freaky. *Silent Hill* is definitely one of the most visually striking films



I have ever seen. The problem with *Silent Hill* is that behind its flashy exterior is a very poorly written script that leaves much of the audience in the dark on the plot and cringing at the soap opera dialogue. This dialogue makes the very accomplished actors look bad, which is too bad because Mitchell does a great job of carrying the film. There were about five lines of dialogue that drew unintentional laughs at key moments from much of the audience, killing the film's mood. Then there is the story which left me exhausted and irritated. Throughout the film, I struggled to get my bearings and the ending confuses the audience even more by opening up even more questions about what happened and why it happened, and obviously opens the door for a sequel. The film leaves you thinking you should have played the four games before entering the theatre if you wanted to understand it. In the end *Silent Hill* is worth a look if you are looking for a spellbinding visual trip and don't mind some extremely strong gore along the way. The movie has its moments that entrance you and float in your mind for days, but doesn't do a very good job of scaring you in this "horror" film. The film's plot is unbelievably confusing for how shallow it is and often trips on its own feet trying to finish on a strong note. Basically *Silent Hill* is beautiful to look at, but leaves the audience feeling like they just watched a two hour inside joke that only the game's fans find funny. Two and a half out of five.



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# ACTIVITIES

## Mixed experience Young athletes fuel both track teams

by Tommy Monahan

As the Forest Lake High School boys track team gets off to a new season, there are a lot of new faces on the team. The team is hoping to go far into the season and finish strong. Senior captain Jamison Hull competed in the mile relay and placed fourth at the White Bear meet on Wednesday April 12. The boy's team is starting out fresh with a great variety of competitors. Lead by senior captains and head coach Paul Kendrick and his assistant coaches.

"We lost a few seniors but gained some great young athletes," said Hull. "We have a really strong young team."

The individuals that stood out the most in Forest Lake's fifth place finish at White Bear were the throwers. Just missing the cumulative school record by a short three feet in shot put were Tyler Kleinhuzen, Derek Peterson and Collin Peterson, the three competitors who had great scores and got the team off to a good start.

"It will just take us some time but we'll pick it up and have a successful season," said Hull.



by Tommy Monahan

This years Forest Lake Girls varsity Track team is hoping to go far into the season even with the lost of some seniors from last year. Even with a younger team composed of mostly sophomores and freshman the team has a lot of depth in every event. Lead by head coach Janet Howe the girls are hoping to go far into the conference, along with Howe on the staff three new coaches have been hired to help out the team even more.

"We're really young, but I think we have some real good talent," said Howe.

Returning to the team is junior captain and state participant Kristi Jo Buerkle; she brings strong leadership in the distance events. Buerkle competes in the 200, 400, and 4x200 relays along with her teammates. The girl's high jump and distance runners are very strong and are hoping to contribute some crucial points this season.

"This years is going to be really fun were young with a lot of new kids but we are going to be just fine because we have a great bunch of talented girls," said Buerkle.

## Back on the diamond Varsity softball season starts slowly

by Dan Carey

As the snow melts and the cold chilly air of winter is replaced by the warm air of spring, the Forest Lake Softball team takes the field. As a new season of softball begins, so does a clean slate as the Rangers compete in four straight games against SEC competition.

The Rangers started their season on April 10 with a close game with against White Bear. Even though the Rangers lost the high scoring duel, they showed that their bats had no rust as they out hit the Bears.

On April 12, the Rangers' bats seemed to go flat as they got shut out by Mounds View 10-0, bringing their record to 0-2.

The Rangers snapped their small losing streak with a 4-0 win on Monday the 17th against Park Cottage Grove. The Rangers started their scoring as Sophomore Kathy Crudo recorded a first inning triple. Crudo was then driven in with a single from fellow sophomore Jessica Skogen. Adding to the offensive attack was Senior Michelle Secor as she brought in two more Rangers on a pair of singles.

The Rangers went to Stillwater with a 1-2 record but fell to a 1-3 record against the Ponies, losing 3-1. The Rangers had a strong pitching performance from freshman Alyssa Dunrud as she had one earned run and one walk.

After losing 10-7 to the Hastings Raiders on Monday, the Rangers were hoping to improve their 1-4 record Wed. April 26 at home against Woodbury. The team travels to Roseville May 1 and returns to the home field on Wednesday, May 3 to host the Stillwater Ponies. Game time is 7 p.m. for all games in May.



sophomore pitcher Krystal Plouff

## Pitchers lead baseball team to early success

by Brandon Anderson

The spring is finally here and that means a new season for the FLHS baseball team. The team has high hopes for the season and hopes to dominate with their strong pitching staff. They lost a few key players, but they have some nice depth to make up for it. They hope to be led to victory by their senior captains: Nick Carroll, Jed Hanson, and Jeff Brooks. The head coach of the team is Brian Raabe and his assistants are Dan Forsythe, Tal Gravelle, and Gary Storm.

"Our goals for this season are to win our conference, get through the play-offs, and get to the state tournament," said Coach Raabe.

The Rangers opened up the season at Schumacher Field on April 8 against Duluth Central. Junior Trip Shultz pitched 5 2/3 innings, struck out seven batters, and only gave up one run. They got some key runs off of walks and won the game 6-1.

"We have a great 1 and 2 man at pitcher and some good defense. We also have a lot of upper classmen leading the way," said Coach Raabe.

On April 10, the Rangers played the Roseville Raiders. Jed Hanson pitched seven strong innings while striking out seven. Both teams scored a run in the third inning and the Rangers scored two in the eighth to get the victory 3-1.

On Thurs. April 13, the Rangers headed to Mounds View to take on the Mustangs. Trip Shultz started on the mound and pitched a no hitter. The Rangers out-hit the Mustangs 7-0 which led to a 4-0 victory over Mounds View.

On April 21 the Rangers traveled to take on the Woodbury Royals. On April 24 they faced Big Lake. The team travels to Hastings tonight and will return home to host the Roseville Raiders May 1. Game time is at 7 p.m. and all home games are played at Schumacher Field.



## New Season, New Sport FLHS fields first ever lacrosse team

By Andy Setterholm

A \$10,000 grant from the U.S. Lacrosse Association has sponsored the first ever Forest Lake lacrosse team. The grant and all necessary paperwork to organize a lacrosse team was completed and submitted by sophomores Matt Mollet, Chris Pignato, and Nabil Cheikh.

"We found out there was a grant program available through the USLA, so we decided to go for it," said Pignato.

The team is not a sanctioned high school team, but a Community Education team. The Minnesota State High School League does not yet support lacrosse. The team is open to anyone who signs up, and equipment is provided by the team.

Lacrosse requires strength, speed, agility, and hand-eye coordination, making it an ideal sport for athletes looking for a way to keep in shape this spring. Originating in Canada, lacrosse

spread to the East Coast of the U.S. and is slowly making its way west. Most of the New England states have high school lacrosse leagues, and the rest of the U.S. is following suit.

This year's team, founded by the trio of sophomores, will mainly focus on improving skills and learning the finer points of the game before participating in a competitive league next year. The team will be arranging scrimmages with other schools this year, but for its debut season, competing in a league with experienced schools would be overwhelming.

The season begins practice April 26 and continues for five weeks. Practice will be held behind Century Junior High on the soccer fields. If you are interested in joining the team or need more information, contact Matt Mollet, Chris Pignato, or Nabil Cheikh.

## Returning trio leads boys tennis

by Jamison Hull

Returning three of last year's top four singles players, this year's Forest Lake boys tennis team hopes to improve on last year's section runner-up to Grand Rapids and reach state competition. They have started off the year strong with a solid 4-2 record, already beating section rival Blaine. Senior Jeff Kohler placed third in singles and all three of the doubles teams were victorious. They ended the day winning the match 4-3.

"It was a really big team victory," said Kohler, "It was a real testament to our depth and gave us some early confidence."

The team's first loss this season was to conference foe Hastings in a 5-2 match. Seniors Luke Odegard and Dan Cromwell were victorious. Despite the loss, the team stayed positive because of close matches and some match-up problems that can be fixed.

"We did not have the best match-ups, but we felt that we were the better tennis team," said Kohler.

The team will continue to follow their top three singles players this season. All three are seniors and hope to bring the team to the next level this year.

"We feel our top three singles can lead the way with first and second doubles right behind them," said Kohler, "we hope that this will be enough to make it to state this year as a team."

The Forest Lake tennis team will be competing at home against conference opponent Stillwater at 3:30 pm on April 27.

## Synchro eyes State Tourney

by Stacey Johnson

Synchronized swimming is back in season and off to a 3-1 start.

"This season is going really good," said junior Ann Husfeldt, member of the team. "We have a lot of creative routines and a couple of girls who are really good."

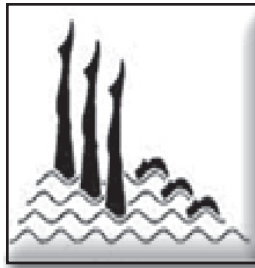
The swimmers are coached by Laura Davidson, Brittany Arcand and Allison Pepper and led by senior captains Rachel Merier and Karyn Williams.

The team has big goals for the season. The program fields seven teams: four short, one long, and two extended.

"For the whole team, we want to send more girls to state this year," said Husfeldt.

Last year, the team went 6-2 through the season, losing to Stillwater's powerhouse team. The Rangers' extended team placed fourth at state.

Come support the Rangers as they take on the Stillwater Ponies Tues, May 2 at 4:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior High pool.



## Golf tees off '06 season Young stars lead golf teams

by Katie Detlefson

The Boys Golf team is anticipating a productive 2006 season led by Coach John Buck. The team will rely on the talent of returning varsity golfers like junior captain Kyle Lewis. The team graduated six golfers last year, so returning talent is extremely valuable. Lewis has been a varsity competitor since eighth grade and brings a lot of experience to the group. At the April 18 match, Lewis placed second out of 150 golfers. Sophomore Andrew Kelly will also be a team leader along with Sophomore Joe Pelton. These two young players will be expected to compete with the senior competition from opposing teams.

The boys recently won the Forest Lake Invitational with Lewis shooting a 78, followed closely by Kelly. With Lewis at the helm, the team will make a charge for the State Tournament beginning June 6 at Bunker Hills.

by Katie Detlefson

Warm weather and golf courses opening inspired the FLHS Girls Golf team to begin practice for the 2006 season. Under Head Coach Joel Hall the team is looking forward to a good

season and hoping to win their conference. The team took second place in conference last year, and they would like to improve this season. Senior Ashley Weeda and Junior Nicole Tetrault are the team captains this year. Freshman Betsy Kelly will be an important part of the team this year, as will Weeda.

The team is younger than years past, but the lack of age is certainly not a lack of skill. The team will be a top competitor in the conference. The team's next competition will be May 1 at Forest Hills Golf Course.



# ACTIVITIES

## A day in the life of a reporter

FLHS students experience work behind the scenes during Twins Student Media Day



by Josh Nelson and Tyler Scanlan

It was a memorable day for a bunch of rookie journalists, as we took a trip to the Metrodome for the Minnesota Twins Media Day. Our excitement started even before we walked into the building running into Twins phenom pitcher Francisco Liriano and All-Star closer Joe Nathan. As we meandered through the Metrodome hallways, we recognized other famous faces as we passed by announcer Dan Gladden, pitcher Brad Radke, and other recognizable individuals before the media event began.

As the press conference commenced, there was a lot of speculation as to who we would be asking our questions. The guesswork was finally answered as Twins backup catcher Mike Redmond and reliever Matt Guerrier entered the room and the questions began to fly.

“What’s going to be the key this year, in order to get to the World Series?” Josh asked Redmond.

“We’ve got to stay healthy,” said Redmond. “We have a good enough team to compete but staying healthy is the key.”

Then Redmond and Guerrier were whisked away to continue preparing for the game and to much surprise and excitement, Twins General Manager Terry Ryan approached the microphone.

“Who are some players that can contribute to the team this year, if needed, from the minor leagues?” asked Tyler.

“We could see Terry Tiffie, Boof Bonzer, Matt



Moses, etc,” as Ryan named off a player from every position who is next on the depth chart to be called up if needed.

After Ryan exited, WCCO radio personality Rita Maloney and FSN television analyst Ron Johnson walked in. Another barrage of questions were unleashed from the group until the interview session was over.

After finishing the interviewing process we were led to the various media posts within the Metrodome.

We first entered the journalism press box and met some of the writers and scouts that were up relaxing and preparing notes before game time. Up in this area, we met former Twin

Al Newman who was at the dome scouting for the Arizona Diamondbacks, and writers for the Associated Press and the local papers.

Then we traveled upstairs to the television booth where we met TV analyst Bert Blyleven (pictured). We introduced ourselves, took a look at the great view and even got our pictures taken with Blyleven. After that we went next door to the radio booth getting to gaze at the fancy equipment that radio

analysts John Gordon and Dan Gladden work with.

To conclude the tour we were led down to the field to observe and photograph batting and fielding practice. We got to rub shoulders with some of the star and our favorite Twins players like Torii Hunter, Justin Morneau, Rondell White, and Tony Batista. After a short time former Twin great Tony Oliva led the whole group in singing happy birthday to Twins catcher Joe Mauer. After our little choir practice we were allowed to peruse the field for about twenty more minutes until our Twins media day experience was over.

Another perk of the media day was we were provided tickets to the night’s game in section 141, row 12 and waited there before the game with anticipation and hoped for a great game from starting pitcher Kyle Lohse.

Unfortunately, we didn’t get it. After just 3 1/3 innings, and eight runs given up, Lohse was pulled from the game by manager Ron Gardenhire. The outlook seemed pretty bleak for the Twins. At one point, they trailed 9-4.

The Twins scratched back to the score 10-9 before running into super-closer Francisco Rodriguez. The Twins loaded the bases with two outs. It was all up to outfielder Lew Ford to keep the game alive.

With a three-ball, two-strike count, Lew Ford forced a walk to tie the game and sending it into extra innings. After holding the Angels scoreless, it was the Twins turn in the bottom half of the 10th inning. With two outs and Mauer on third base, the Twins decided to pinch hit reserve Michael Cuddyer. On a fastball from former Twin J.C. Romero, Cuddyer catapulted a ball over the center field fence, winning the game for Minnesota, and put a perfect cherry on top of a great experience the night was.

After witnessing what a sports journalist goes through in an average day, it seems like it would be a very fun and interesting job to have. They get to associate with all kinds of star players and get a great seat to the game every night.

## A necessary move

### Sports stadiums needed in MN

Commentary by Dan Carey

Once upon a time, the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome was a state-of-the-art facility. In 1982 Minnesota was blessed with a stadium that could host both the Twins and the Vikings but now, both teams are trying to get rid of the once great Metrodome for a stadium that could rival Houston’s Minute Maid Park in MLB or Detroit’s Ford Field in the NFL. All the two stadiums need is the go ahead from the state of Minnesota which won’t be an easy task.

Probably the most important of the proposed stadiums is for the Twins. Threatened with contraction a few years back from Bud Selig, commissioner of Major League Baseball, the Minnesota Twins rattled off three consecutive AL Central division titles while being a small market team. A good portion of the Metrodome is controlled by the Vikings including suites even during baseball season and that means what ever revenue that is generated from suite sales is thrown to the Vikings rather than the Twins. This is not a very good concept as the Twins lose potential revenue that could go for free agents during the off season and we all know that the Twins need some revamping.

The new stadium would feature 18 more bathrooms than the Metrodome along with a 24-foot upgrade to the ‘Dome’s’ concourse which would be open to the stadium. Now getting to the bathroom won’t be harder than trying to get through the Amazon

The Twins’ Owner Carl Pohlad and a host of others have been battling the Minnesota legislature for many years and with a new proposal saying that Pohlad will pay around 48% of the total cost of a new baseball stadium leaving the state to raise the rest remaining costs of the proposed \$478 million complex that would be built in the Warehouse district of Minneapolis. Remaining costs would be paid off from a tax on all items in the Twin Cities. The tax would be 25 cents per \$20 spent. So it shouldn’t be that big of a deal but you never know how people pinch their pennies.

The Minnesota Twins aren’t the only team that

wants a new stadium. The Minnesota Vikings and the University of Minnesota football team are also looking for a new home. The Vikings aren’t just looking for a stadium, they are trying to get a whole new complex entitled ‘Northern Lights’. The new complex would feature a new stadium, practice facilities, business center, and a shopping mall among many other things. The proposed facility will be located in Blaine and will cost an estimated \$675 million. The newest proposal cleared state Senate and will now be review by the Minnesota state Legislature. Although the stadium bill has moved one step closer, project officials say there is a long way to go before the ground could ever be broke.

Out of all the stadium proposals, probably the most likely to get approved by the state is an on-campus stadium for the U of M football team. Currently, the Gophers share the Metrodome with the Twins and the Vikes. The Gophers are one of only a handful of teams that share their home field with a pro franchise and that has to change. If you look at college stadiums like the “Big House” which belongs to the

University of Michigan or Neyland Stadium which hosts the University of Tennessee. One thing that both these stadiums have is seating that is in the one hundred thousands and is usually full for every game. The Gophers stadium will be an open air facility that will bring back the nostalgia of the Gopher’s old home Memorial Stadium which existed from 1924 through 1982 and cost around \$248 million. The stadium would be called TCF Bank and would have a goal to be completed in 2009.

All we need to get these new stadiums in Minnesota is the approval from land owners and the Minnesota government. So if you can, mail your congressperson telling them that you want new stadiums and maybe one day, Minnesota will be one of the top sports states in the country. You can sign up for the Minnesota Momentum drive to break ground on the Northern Lights project at <http://www.minnesotamomentum.com> or talk to your legislature. We need your help more than ever now that the stadiums are down to the final stages of being approved.



**YOUR MOOCH FRIEND.**

**YOU.**

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Hormel Hot Dogs are just \$1.\*

**For tickets call 612-33-TWINS or visit [twinsbaseball.com](http://twinsbaseball.com)**



# Final Say

## A host of holidays in May

### May Day

by Tash Thompson

May Day is the celebration of fertility and life, but has lost its importance and meaning in the Americas. May Day, celebrated on either April 30 or May 1, was the second most important holiday for the Druids of the British Isles, second to Samhain, or Halloween.

May Day stems from the pre-Christ Pagan celebration of Beltane. Beltane splits the Pagan year in half, and the second half ends on Samhain.

A common symbol associated with May Day is the May Pole. Traditionally, red and white ribbons, symbolizing fertility and virginity, were hung from the top and then wrapped around the pole to symbolize the marriage and union of man and woman.

During the May Day celebration, there were often mock marriages and the children that resulted from this were said to be fathered by God.

Puritans did not like the tradition of May Day, so the tradition never caught hold in the Americas, but has retained the name of May Day and a few of the traditions. American children are taught about the traditions and have small celebrations. Children make baskets of flowers and hang them on peoples' door handles, and in some places they still wrap colorful ribbons around the May Pole.

This May 1, celebrate May Day by making flower baskets or a May Pole, and help spread the word about a beautiful celebration.



## Cinco de Mayo

### Celebration of Napoleon's defeat at Puebla

by Brandon Anderson

A common misconception about the 5<sup>th</sup> of May is that it is the Mexican Independence Day. That is not true at all. Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 5, 1810. May 5 has a much deeper meaning that many people do not realize.

There is a lot of history that goes back to the 5<sup>th</sup> of May. On the morning of May 5, 1862, 4,000 Mexican soldiers smashed the French and traitor Mexican army of 8,000 at Puebla, Mexico.

It all started when the French, along with Spanish and English troops, landed in Mexico five months earlier on the pretext of collecting Mexican debts from the government of Benito Juarez. The Spanish and English troops made deals and were out quickly. The French, under Emperor Napoleon III, came to stay. Mexico had all of the finest modern equipment, but the French were not one bit afraid since the United States was busy with its own Civil War. Assuming the Mexicans would give up their capital, the French army left the port of Vera Cruz to attack Mexico City in the west. The



Mexicans under the command of General Zaragoza, waited for the arrival of the French. The French made a huge mistake by sending their cavalry to chase Diaz and his men, who slaughtered them. The rest of the French infantry attacked the Mexican defenders through mud and harsh weather.

When the battle finally ended, several French were killed or wounded and the rest of them were being chased by the Mexicans. For the Mexicans, it was a great victory that kept Napoleon III from supplying the confederate rebels for another year. This allowed the United States to build the greatest army the world had ever seen.

Today the holiday of Cinco de Mayo is celebrated the most in the state of Puebla, Mexico. There is limited celebration throughout the country of Mexico. The holiday's popularity is increasing along the U.S.-Mexico border and in parts of the U.S. with Mexican heritage. The holiday has become a celebration of Mexican culture, food, music, beverage and customs unique to Mexico.

## Giving back to Mom

### Get creative this Mothers' Day

by Maya Bryn

Mother's Day is the one day out of the year when children and adults alike give thanks to the women in their lives who have enjoyed, and tolerated, them the most. In that case, why not give her something that shows her what she does, is appreciated. This year, Mother's Day is May 14.

Since we were little, homemade gifts were perfect. Making mom a homemade card with a bracelet made of plastic beads or creating coupons saying things like "Wash and Dry the Dishes" or "One Hour of Quiet Time" was all you needed to make her smile. This is still true-homemade gifts make mom realize that their children are willing to put in time creating something for her. It really is the thought that counts. However, in the chaos of people's lives today, material items make mom just as happy.

Here are a few hints on how to find the perfect gift for your mother. If you're thinking about getting her clothing or things for the home, look at the colors she wears or lives around. Is your



mother the collecting type? If she is, find something that fits her collection theme. One of the most popular gift ideas is jewelry. Find nice pictures of the family and place them in a frame that matches her home décor; this will stir memories and pull on the heart strings. Another great idea is the gift of relaxation. Buy a gift card to a spa or salon; letting her pamper herself shows her well-being is important.

Sticking to tradition is also just as nice; get her some lovely flowers, perfume or candy. Still stuck on what to buy? Just ask her. Most moms will help out on what they're interested in. So, whether it is a homemade gift, something magnificent or just a simple box of chocolates, mothers everywhere will appreciate the time and thought it took to find them a present.

## Word Search

Brian Raabe  
Nick Swardson  
Patches O'Houlihan  
Luke Odegaard  
Jeff Kohler  
Ann Miron  
Agriculture  
FFA  
Softball  
Tornadoes  
Prescription  
Southwest  
Volunteers  
Society  
Puritans  
Mexico

## Last Minute Prom Reminders

• Grand March •  
Be there by 5:45 p.m.

• Pictures •  
at Grand March

• Dance •  
8:30-11:30 p.m.  
USBank Building

• Remember •  
Bring extra money!

## May Happenings

Better Sleep Month  
National Hamburger Month  
USA Tennis Month  
1- May Day  
5- Cinco de Mayo  
6- No Diet Day  
7- Melanoma Monday  
8- V-E Day  
13- Mother's Day  
18- National Bike to Work Day  
19- Armed Forces Day  
25- National Tap Dance Day  
28- Memorial Day  
31- No Tobacco Day

### Your turn...

## How's 4th quarter going?

"It's going great! I'm passing all of my classes because it just started."

-Brett McGee, junior

"Good. Get out early and easy classes."

-Eric Amunson, senior

"It's harder than the other quarters but it's going ok."

-Amay Yang, sophomore

"Economics is horrible, anthropology is boring, ancient civ. is the bomb, and CAD is fun."

-Broc Grell, junior

"I just really want to be outside. That's how it's going."

-Tara Olson, senior

"Ok. It's exciting that there's only seven weeks left."

-Tia Johnson, sophomore

"It's going pretty good. I wish it were going faster."

-Ashley Weaver, junior

"Ya' know, you win some, ya' lose some."

-Kyle Mericle, senior