

Letter to the Editor: How ghetto are we?

(In response to "BHS receives misinformed reputation" by Lauren Lapinski)

From the over-sensationalized food fight of 2006, to the suspension of four starter football players, drug searches to rumors of gang violence, media bias has fueled Bloomington High School's tarnished reputation. While some adults in the community think Bloomington might be a bit "rough", students from Normal and Central Catholic have no problem telling us their opinion of BHS. In one word: "ghetto".

Do not get me wrong; there are parts of our school that could be considered "ghetto". The old girls' bathrooms could use some renovations, and the boys' bathrooms could use some...doors. Not to mention that the exterior of the building looks almost identical to what it was like in the 60s. However, the school board has recently decided to put BHS through an Extreme Make-over: School Edition. A new student center, revamped classrooms, gorgeous new bathrooms, new signs and landscaping outside—not to mention new bleachers and a senior cafeteria in the works—are all part of the process of making our school a better place to be. Yes, it is about time, but many do not realize that the Unit 5 schools' budget is about three times greater than ours. It is easy to see why Normal schools have pristine, brand-new facilities.

Apart from the physical appearance of BHS, some isolated incidents have also contributed to Bloomington's "misinformed reputation". The fact that we had police officers patrolling the dance

floor at homecoming to discourage "lewd and promiscuous dancing" does not improve the public's perception of the BHS student body. Yes, Bloomington has had some disciplinary problems in the past, but what school has not? The real issue is that unfair coverage by *The Pantagraph* has let the hijinks of a few "delinquents" overshadow all the great things about BHS. From our exemplary academics, to our fantastic athletics and other extracurricular organizations, we are truly first-class in everything that we do, and we should not allow anyone to tell us differently.

Perhaps the most underrated aspect of Bloomington is our school spirit; everything we do is charged with Raider Pride. None of us here at BHS were in high school when we still had our mascot, but this does not diminish our spirit. No icon can define us. Being a Raider means going to a school where the football team requests the drum line to lead them onto the field. Being a Raider is about athletes going to see the spring musical, the Speech Team supporting the Reading Raiders at their fundraiser, and the marching band cheering as loudly as the cheerleaders. It is about Pasta Day, Lunch Lotto and everything else we love about our school. Mostly, being a Raider is about supporting each other in everything we do. If that is "ghetto", than BHS is okay with me. I would not want to go to school anywhere else.

Tarah Benner, Senior

Avoid the lines, skip Black Friday



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General Assignment Writer

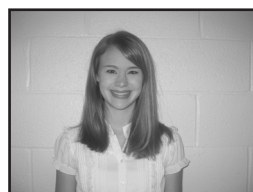
Year after year, on the Friday that falls after Thanksgiving, shoppers eagerly rush to stores to begin their Christmas shopping. This day, full of endless early sales and ridiculous amounts of lines and traffic, is known by most Americans as Black Friday.

Since the holiday of Thanksgiving falls on the fourth Thursday in November every year, Black Friday can be as early as the 23rd or as late as the 29th of November. Many retailers begin planning "door buster" sales and decorate for the Christmas season weeks before to draw consumers in.

With all of the bargain sales and holiday shopping excitement drawing consumers in, many Black Friday shoppers become victims of impulse buying. They do not have the time to think if they really need the things that they are buying due to the crowds of shoppers surrounding them and the many sale signs that are posted throughout most stores. Rather than trying to find reasonable sales on things they need for the holiday season, they become too fixed on buying more than those around them and finding as many sales as they possibly can.

With the lure of the impulsive buying, it is probably a better idea to skip the crowds and lines on Black Friday, and enjoy the rest of your Thanksgiving weekend with your family and friends. Let the lines and sales wait, until you can make your way to the stores and be able to make reasonable shopping decisions. While you will not be getting all of the Black Friday sales, you will be able to save money and you will not have to worry about the stress and impulsive spending that Black Friday shopping can cause.

Sophomores unfairly receive parking passes



KAITLIN DUNN
Associate Editor

As you may have heard on the announcements, sophomores are now eligible to receive a parking pass. This has not been the case in past years.

I got my license right before winter last year. But, because I was a sophomore, I was not allowed to get a parking pass. Instead, I had to walk in the cold, rain or snow every morning and afternoon.

This may not seem like a big deal, but believe me; it was hard with a heavy backpack and extra books.

For the last few years, parking on the street has been very restricted. Neighborhoods are not allowing parking on some of the streets. To my knowledge there is one main street and two side streets that students are able to park on that are even somewhat close to the school.

Last year, when more sophomores began to drive, the streets would fill up early and available parking would become limited.

Parking on the street was also costly. I got two parking tickets that were \$20 each.

Now, I could have been dropped off by a parent or I could have ridden the bus, but by driving to school I was able to stay after. This in turn, helped with my grades.

Some of the criteria for getting a parking pass are good grades, attendance and behavior. All of which I had.

The administration was contacted but I was told that I could not get a parking pass. This does not seem fair considering sophomores this year are given the option to park in the student lot.

The school did not add any parking, so why are there extra spaces now?

The Aegis

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