

## Frankly Speaking

*The Onion: "America's finest news source"*



**FRANCESCA PELUSI**  
Writer

*The Onion* is a satirical newspaper that mocks current news and opinions. It is possibly the funniest, most controversial and finest news source around today.

The best part about *The Onion* is that the news is all with a touch of edgy sarcasm and humor.

For *The Onion*, teens provide the basis for the mockery. For instance, today's homophobia amongst teens is used as an idea for one of *The Onion's* videos.

It is a "newscast" showing a video of a new anti-smoking campaign. The ad shows two teen boys going into a restroom at school, with a pack of cigarettes. Then it says, "Are they smoking? Or are they gay?" Also, another ad says, "Don't be gay. Don't smoke." This satirical video mocks the extreme homophobia teenagers.

An article titled, "Teen who just discovered Led Zeppelin Starting to Piss off Friends" discusses a teen who is "pissing of his friends" because he is constantly reinforcing what a huge fan of Led Zeppelin he is, also that he was the first to discover them out of his group of friends. Could this be an attack on teenagers being "posers" and being over-bearing with their cool bands that they were the first to find and no one is as cool as them because they listen to them like all the time?

My favorite teen mocking article has to be, "Local Teen Hates Life, Mom, Hair." Mocking our teen angst it reads, "Jensen's parents have attempted to address her various dislikes, which reportedly include church, her lame bicycle, 11 pm curfew, the family's inadequate basic cable package, and all fish-based foods except for breaded fish sticks."

It has come to seem that our news today from the mainstream is one big joke. It seems as though when Patty down the street gets a new cat, it becomes a news story.

It's better to laugh at ourselves than to take everything our mainstream media tells us seriously. *The Onion* is a great source to make light of controversies and news.

## New bleachers good, long awaited addition



**KAITLIN DUNN**  
Editor-in-Chief

In the addition to all of the construction and renovations around the school, Bloomington High School has finally decided to build new bleachers.

As a little kid coming to the football games, I was petrified of climbing the bleachers. My parents always wanted me to sit way at the top but I was too afraid because I always thought that I would fall through. The gaps in the bleachers are really big as it is and as a little kid, they probably looked twice as big. I could barely go up the stairs and had to go up one step at a time. It really does surprise me that no one has ever fallen through because I would think a small child could easily.

The current bleachers are wooden and could easily crack from the weight of all of the fans. When the student section jumped during

football games, I had to hold onto someone because I could feel the bleachers wobble up and down. Also, wood can weather easily and the wood used for the bleachers was definitely not the new, high tech "fake" wood that does not crack and weather.

The visitor's bleachers are also included in the renovation plans. They desperately need this renovation to be made bigger. Some of the opposing team's fans would have to stand during games if the bleachers became too full. This happened especially during in town rivalries. The opposing teams were not properly welcomed to our school by the small, wooden bleachers.

The news of the building of the bleachers surprised me, but it was a relief. Because this construction project has been talked about for a while and has never been completed, I thought that it would be completed once an accident happened.

Our school is far from "run down" and the old bleachers did not do us justice. The new bleachers will be a great addition to the already renovated parts of the school.

## Our Views:

### Athletics take precedent over academics

Every year, several athletes sign with the college that has offered them a scholarship. This is made a special event after school. Although students do receive academic scholarships, it is not made into a public event. This does not seem fair to students who are not athletic, but work hard in school to get an academic scholarship.

The local newspapers and media recognize high school and college athletes more than the academic students. There are stories about students in sports, but only little side sections about students who scored well on the ACT or received an academic scholarship.

Students who are the "star athletes" of a high school receive more recognition from other students, faculty, and the administration.

It is no surprise that "star athletes" are more highly regarded than "star students". News about athletes is everywhere and schools do little to hide the precedent that athletics have over academics.

Our school, however, is trying to prevent favoritism toward athletes. It used to be that athletes were the only ones that received a monogram letter "B" for their letter man jacket. Now, students are recognized for academic achievement by the school board and administration and also receive a monogram. Dr. Bob Nielson, District 87 superintendent, said at the Academic Achievement Awards that he was proud to be honoring so many students on their academic achievements.