

# Scarlet Scoop

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### After The Musical

So, did you come to see this year's production of *I Remember Mama*? I can tell you we all had a blast putting this show on! All of us have been through so many long days of intense work for the past few months and it really paid off. The end result was incredible! Everyone was pleased with the production. I really miss doing the performance. These past few months of intense



acting, singing, and dancing have really taught me quite a bit, and I've learned so much during the entire experience. It became a routine for me at the end of the day to put my books in my locker and head straight to the auditorium. All in all, I'm having a hard time believing it's over! I don't know what to do with my time now. Of course, we have other things going on in the music department, but the musical is definitely one of the biggest events we do all year. I've met a lot of new people in the process, have plenty of new memories, and had a whole lot of fun!

So what was this like from the perspective of an actor? What does it feel like to do the actual performance in front of all those onlookers? Were we nervous? I'm sure you have a boatload of questions to ask, so let me try and sum it up from how I experienced it. My favorite scene was at the end of Act One where my character (Papa) leaves for Norway. Arguing with my wife (Mama – played by Danika Dow) was a very exciting moment for me. I felt very emotional in this scene, as if it were really happening, and carried this over into my portrayal. Danika mentioned to me later that she could “feel” the energy flowing between our two characters. This scene also included one of my favorite songs from the musical, *It Is Not The End of The World*, which I sang to all my children before bidding them all a fond farewell before leaving

the country. Also, dancing was something I thought I was going to have trouble with. Luckily, it came very easily for me. My character did not participate in the “Hardangerfjord” dance (apparently he sprained his knee doing it the year before), but I did dance alone with my wife at the end of that scene. The purpose of this scene was to show the audience our very close relationship. Although unbeknownst to the audience, this was a scene we would always joke around about, and sometimes we would throw in an extra line or two during rehearsal that wasn't in the script for a few laughs.

Now of course, everyone is a little nervous. This is normal. Has your teacher ever made you stand up in front of the class and give a speech? The feeling is somewhat similar. After a few moments, however, you just begin to have so much fun that your nervousness diminishes. We all love to perform for people and entertain them. Whenever I went off stage, I couldn't wait for my next entrance. I really enjoyed being up there! It felt really great to be underneath those lights putting on a show that people would remember for years to come.

You may have noticed that quite a few humorous things happened as well. At the Sunday performance, Kelsey McCann sat down in a chair and it broke. If my memory serves me correctly, on Saturday night the entire sound system blew out. It was all very unpredictable, but that's what made it so much fun! When something happens to go awry live on stage, it is entertaining to see the cast cover it up by improvising, or to see the crew quickly find a “workaround”. It truly shows the dedication that went into this year's production.



It was truly a wonderful experience for all of us, and now it's over. Time just flew right by. I look forward to next year's production with great enthusiasm!

-Justin Kiefer

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### Walkout 2007

Posters were hung all over the hall. Students were buzzing in the hallways all about the walkout. Some teachers were shunning the idea and proclaiming they knew nothing about it while others were warning students not to participate. The clock hand ticked. Everyone was waiting eagerly for 10:04 to come when the student body would rise out of their seats and walk out onto the front lawn of the school and strongly protest the fact that the teachers are working without a contract.

Students returned to class without incident. Teachers were shaking their heads and most likely thinking, "I knew this was going to happen". Some students were annoyed and some were just plain amused at how unsuccessful the big "walkout" was.

Walkouts are effective when there is a cause. Not to say there wasn't a cause for this one, after all, the teachers ARE working without contracts; however, this issue did not affect us as students. Why do we feel the need to walk out for something that doesn't even have anything to do with us? It would be a different story if, say, they were threatening to cut out the prom, but this issue dealt with the teachers, not the students. It's their responsibility, not ours. Unless it is affecting us as a student body, then we should not involve ourselves in it. We, students were warned and while some of us listened and heeded the warning, others had the nerve to complain about the lack of student response.

However, they have no right to complain. They were under the impression that a walkout would help, but they were told by teachers that it would not. They were told that what would help more is if they would stop complaining about everything and do their work in class. That would help more than anything. What is the students' reply to this? They would rather get out of class. This is where we run into a problem.



Was the walkout REALLY what students said it would be? A protest for the benefit of the teachers? Or was it just an excuse to miss class for a long amount of time? The students were under the impression that a lot of people would feel contempt for the lack of contracts and would follow them out of the school building. They felt that they would be so bold as to refuse to go back into the building until everyone had made their point. They were talking about radio and television coverage. Therefore, it would take a long time and they could stall as much as they wanted to in order to stay out of school and classes which we all know SO many people just LOVE (ha, right). Highly underestimating, is it not? What they didn't realize is that some people didn't want to get involved in the whole walkout deal for fear of suspension or some other form of punishment. Or maybe they just didn't agree with it and felt they should go against the flow no matter what that entailed. Whatever their cause, the majority of people did not walk out. In the whole student body of 570 students, only 25 walked out. Successful would you say? I think not.

By law, teachers cannot stage such a protest. The students knew this and thought they would stick up for their teachers, but as was said before, the issue did not deal with us as students in the least. Why involve ourselves in something that will not do anything to us thus earning us punishments? Teachers feel that if students really want to help out, they can attend the next board meeting\* and speak their part there instead of taking part in a walkout and getting themselves suspended thus missing classes, work, and valuable credits not to mention having a black mark on their record. Why risk it? Walkouts are only necessary when something drastic is happening. If we can avoid these in the future, there would be a lot less problems.

- Rebecca Litz

\*If anyone is interested in sharing their views on this issue, they can attend the Board of Ed meeting on April 11, 2007 in the library at 7:30. Teachers as of this printing have signed a memorandum so hopefully this is now a non issue.

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### Reflections from “I Remember Mama”

As a member of the cast of this year’s musical, “I Remember Mama”, I feel it was a great success. I do not mean this only in the traditional sense, though a standing ovation would prove it to be true. The real success was behind the scenes.

Our cast and crew this year was a very diverse group. There were individuals from many of the different cliques here at BHS. At first this was a problem because there were many times when we all thought there were too many disagreements, as is sometimes the case when people work together for a long period of time. However, we resolved most issues and were able to work together.

We all bonded quite well which was quite surprising due to the size of the cast. We joked and teased, played games, talked, and laughed together. There was an overpowering sense of family among us. We all looked out for one another and helped each other to the best of our ability. Many new friendships were formed and that is when the real magic happened.

The closer the cast is, the easier it becomes to work together in an environment that is as tense as what ours often was. The chemistry we had on stage was simply a reflection of our actual friendships. Lasting relationships were formed during the production and I’m sure that there is not a single cast or crew member that would trade this experience for the world.



- Shakira Spears

### Belvidere Wrestling Stand Out

The Belvidere Wrestling Team pulled out a whopping 2 team wins throughout the entire season, but there were, in fact, a few absolute standouts on the team this year. These two were: CJ Traintophylis and Tyler Smith. CJ, finishing with a record of 46-7, placed 1<sup>st</sup> in districts, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the regional and made it to the state tournament. Tyler finished with a record of 43-2 and placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the districts, 1<sup>st</sup> in the regional tournament, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state tournament. Commenting on the experience of the state tournament, Tyler said it was nothing new and it wasn’t as fun as it was in past years. He was very nervous about achieving what he set out to accomplish and making a name for himself. “The level of focus was much higher, and it seemed almost too dragged out,” stated the second place finisher. CJ on the other hand was much more carefree about the experience. “[The tournament] was fun, there was a lot to do. We always watched the other wrestlers and the shore was great too. [Making states] was tough, but I had the time of my life”

When I asked for them to comment about their records, they both replied that they were very happy and content with themselves. CJ was happy to beat his wins from last year. Tyler was happy to say he was the best as far as the record is concerned on the varsity level. Looking back on the season, CJ was very happy with himself, but there were minor details and some matches he wished he had approached differently. Tyler, on the other hand, believes that the season took its course, as it should have. He does wish he had the state title, but he’s just as happy to make it there.

I then asked about their futures and what was there for them. CJ said he has wrestled his last match and is now focusing on football. His plans for college are to play football for either ESU or Rowan University. When asked to comment about his time at Belvidere, he said, “The one thing I’ll miss the most, is getting my hand raised in the middle of the mat.” Tyler has plans, too, but geared towards

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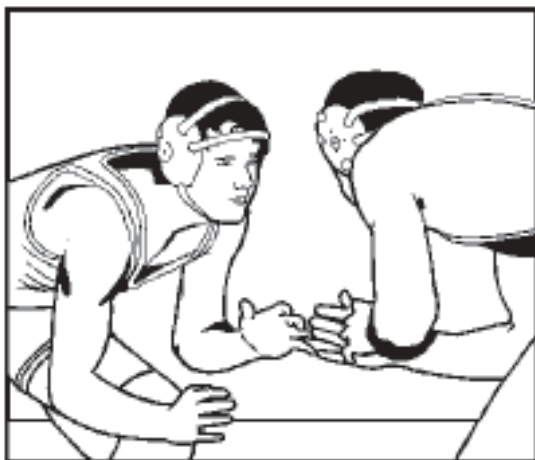
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whether or not he'd wrestle for Belvidere next year. He said, "I love it here at Belvidere, but being such a small school it's hard to get noticed." When I asked him to elaborate on that, he told me that he wants to wrestle for a bigger school so he no longer gets underestimated like he has in the past. As far as college is concerned, Tyler is looking into West Virginia, Lehigh, or Iowa.

They both agreed on the team coming up next year. They see a lot of very young, raw talent. There is a lot of potential for all of the wrestlers to be good, but it comes from development in practice.

When I asked which of the two were better, CJ of course said himself due solely to the fact that he is Greek. Tyler, however, said he was better as far as achievements are concerned but skill wise, there's no way to tell. Being that they wrestle two different weights, it's hard to tell who's better based solely on a match. But no matter who is the better wrestler, they both wrestle for Belvidere, and that's all that matters. We wish the best of luck to CJ in his future in football at either Rowan or ESU, and to Tyler as well as he looks forward to his last season as a high school wrestler. Hopefully the "Belvidere Faithful" can see the big guy for another year in the scarlet singlet.

- Mike Callas



## Competitive Cheerleading for BHS

Competition cheerleading is a very gratifying yet demanding sport. It requires a great amount of hard work, dedication, and athleticism. The Belvidere High School competition cheerleading team has done very well competing in past years, and we plan on doing it again for the 2007-2008 school year. Our goal is to do well in local competitions, move on to Regionals, and make it to the U.C.A.Nationals held in Orlando, Florida. Competitive cheerleading has many benefits. Mental, emotional, and physical strength is crucial to succeed in this sport. Cheerleaders need mental capability to remember all of the different lines and formations; the various stunt groups, and the order of the routine itself. Physical ability is also necessary. To be a competitive cheerleader, you need to have strength to perform difficult stunt sequences, dancing, gymnastics skills, and tight, sharp motions. Our practices are hard, long, tiring, and sometimes painful, but, at the same time, very fun and rewarding.

It is an amazing feeling to step on those mats during a competition representing your school, and perform knowing you gave it your all and tried your hardest. Other sports get the entire season to prove themselves; we get two minutes and thirty seconds. Competitive cheerleading is a very fun, and worthwhile sport.

Through cheerleading, many new friendships are created by bonding at practices, camp, and competitions. It feels really satisfying to represent BHS by doing well in these competitions. The Belvidere High School cheerleaders look forward to a new team, a new year, and achieving our goal of having a successful competition season for the 2007-2008 school year.

- Rebekah Unangst

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*and Spring Break  
from The Scarlet Scoop Staff*

