

Scarlet Scoop Scarlet Scoop

Thoughts From The Editor

“The Skyland Conference and Belvidere High School believe sportsmanship in an *expectation*.

So please let the players play, let the coaches coach, let the officials officiate, let the spectators be *positive*.”

- The Skyland Conference

Pretty self-explanatory, right? However, lately it seems that the above stated concept is incredibly difficult to understand. One would expect the *players* to jostle each other about, toss insults back and forth, or maybe even earn a few penalties here and there, so it would come as a big surprise to most people that the *fans* are the ones displaying this unruly behavior.

I've been hearing numerous stories whispered in the halls around Belvidere about the many insults, fights, underhanded comments, and other acts of bad taste that have been being displayed at recent basketball games. It seems to me like the fans have become a thriving hive of name-calling, chanting spectators.

Let the players play. The dedicated individuals that go out and play the sport are giving it their all, doing their absolute best for the team so they can do well and maybe even win the game. Their whole mind, body, and spirit is put into this game. Every last breath they have is spent out there on the court or the field. The last thing they need is to have fans, ESPECIALLY those from the school they represent (a.k.a. their PEERS), screaming such things as, “you suck”, “get off the court”, “what are you thinking”, or “(insert name here) is a/an (insert obscenity here)”. They do not need their performance criticized, their reputations mocked, or their feelings hurt while they are out there doing something they love to do. It's all in poor taste and an appalling display of disrespect.

Let the coaches coach. Coaches are trained specifically to know how best to coach their players, when to put their players in the game, and when to take them out. They do not need so called “advice” shouted to them when they are trying to keep their mind focused on the game and trying to keep their players focused at the same time. They are the ones in charge, and they will do what they feel is right.

Let the officials officiate. Believe it or not, referees go to school to learn their trade. They know the game, they know what they are doing, and they know what calls to make so everything remains fair and the game stays clean. Granted, everyone makes mistakes, but everyone has to learn to get over it. There have been instances where a student, a coach, or occasionally a parent has a problem with a call, and they go storming down onto the court red-faced and screaming. If it doesn't get this intense, they resort to throwing numerous projectiles and shouting obscenities or insults in general. The referee has to be constantly focused so he is not hurt and so he can make the right calls. He or she cannot be distracted by unhappy fans .

LET THE SPECTATORS BE POSITIVE. The biggest thing to remember is this: it is just a game. Nothing will change with a win or loss. There is no need to distract officials, coaches, players, or other fans who are trying to enjoy the game in peace. I've heard acts being planned in advance and wonder where students get the nerve to be so utterly disrespectful. I've heard numerous stories, one particularly mean one of a group chanting insults about a player whose parents were sitting right there hearing everyone criticize their child. This is not fair to the player, their parents, or those sitting around who don't take part in this. Is it really that hard to just sit and watch a game? Are discipline, respect, and humility really difficult concepts to grasp? There is no problem getting excited about a game, but when it turns to a play on people's emotions, then it has gotten out of hand and needs to be stopped. Immediately. Game over.

- Rebecca Litz, Editor

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Midterms

Midterms. The simple, 2 syllable word makes so many students cringe in anticipation of the massive amount of studying to come. The schedule this year changed from last year's period-based schedule. The exams were distributed by subject matter. Starting on January 20th and concluding on January 22nd, two exams were held each day, with a ten minute break in between. The first day, Tuesday, started the week off with the English exam in the morning and the math exam afterwards. Wednesday was the day for science and history midterms, and the language and conflict exams were held on Thursday. The new schedule was used so that every student would be taking the same subject test at the same time, rather than by period where every student would be taking the exam for whatever period they had at that time.

One positive aspect of this year's midterms is that, like last year, there were half days during testing week. These half days allowed extra time for students to study and rest for their upcoming exams. However, much feedback was received about the new schedule, and it wasn't the reaction expected. Most students, including myself, thought the new schedule was too confusing, and it excluded many electives that needed more than the two hours allotted. Classes that involved "hands-on" exams with limited sources had to have their midterms either before or after Midterm week. I personally experienced this problem with my Foods class. Our exams were very difficult to complete, due to the fact that there are more students than there are stoves, and not everyone could complete the exam simultaneously. This was not only difficult, but it was also frustrating because students had to take their exams on different days. Only a few students could complete theirs per day, and much class time was lost. Hopefully next year this will be thought through a little more.



Although almost every student had to take the dreaded mid-year test, there were exemptions for a few lucky seniors. There are many half-year courses available at Belvidere, and instead of midterms students must take finals. Hardworking seniors were rewarded with a final exam exemption. To be exempt seniors must be taking a half-year course with a final average of a 94 or above. I, along with many seniors, believe that this is a very good idea. Not only does it reward students who worked hard during the course of the year, but it also encourages other students, especially juniors, to work much harder and do the best that they possibly can in order to be exempt next year. Seniors were also allowed to either leave or come in early if they didn't have any exams, with the proper paperwork. This worked out well because it gave extra time for seniors to study and focus on other exams.

Overall, this year's midterms didn't run as smoothly as past years. Hopefully, the schedule for finals will be revised so that the same problems are not encountered. I believe that seniors should still be exempt from finals at the end of the year, because not only was it rewarding, but it also allowed extra time to focus on exams for classes that perhaps were more challenging for some. Now they are over, its time to look forward towards finals, and do the best you can for the second half of the year. Good luck to everyone!

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Cabaretti

“Life Is A Cabaret” was the consensus of the people who attended this year’s Cabaretti. Some of you may be wondering what exactly a Cabaretti is. Well, a Cabaretti is a play on the words “cabaret” and “spaghetti”, so a Cabaretti is a spaghetti dinner with live musical entertainment.

Belvidere High School’s Music Department hosted one of these events on February 6, 2009. Any money raised was put towards their spring music trip, this year to Annapolis, Maryland. Their efforts were greatly rewarded when the fundraiser produced \$725. Those who attended the Cabaretti were able to enjoy musical styles from all different genres, including (but not limited to) jazz, classic rock, musical medleys, and acoustic instruments. Many music department students volunteered their time to do various jobs such as entertaining, waitressing, serving food, selling tickets, and manning the dessert and beverage tables.

There were many students who served as the night’s entertainment, such as Alicia Cerrada-Guenther, Justin Kiefer, Noah Lucas, Andrew Mamrack, Damaris Millheim, Heather Shupe, Jessica Severns, and Steve Thompson. Among these performers, the crowd heard well known Beatles songs, original compositions, jazz favorites, and songs from this year’s production of *My Fair Lady*.

Even though the students held a huge part in the overall success of the Cabaretti, so did Mr. Zetterstrom and Mr. Riday. These two heads of the music department invest countless hours into the success of the instrumental and choral ensembles.

Hopefully since this year’s Cabaretti was such a big hit, the music department will agree to have this fundraiser more often. So next time, come out and support the music department, after all, “life is a Cabaret” and we are providing the music!

-Heather Shupe & Damaris Millheim

Boy’s Basketball

Belvidere Boy’s Varsity basketball had many set backs this season including injuries that sent three of the players to the bench. Even with these injuries, however, they managed to beat talented teams, especially one very difficult team from Bernards.

The team is led by five talented seniors, three of which were named as captain: Paul Gillette, Donnie Mitchell, and Nicholas Hummer. A large amount of talent on the team is provided by some of the Junior team members, most specifically Michal Novis and Thomas Calabrese. The support from fan base was outstanding, reflecting Belvidere’s excellent dedication from the town.

Although there weren’t many wins this year, Belvidere’s basketball program continues to grow in talent and in depth. This year’s teams are coached by Head Coach Neuman Marlett, Assistant Coach Sean O’ Brian, and JV Coach Chet Berofski.

- Paul Gillette



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Belvidere Swimming

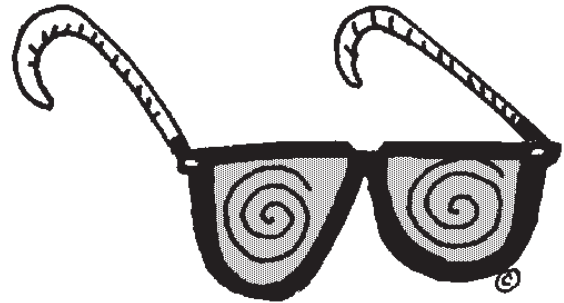
For a small school, it is an amazing fact that the high school has put together this swim team. It is something that all the swimmers, Belvidere faculty, and Belvidere High School as a whole should be very proud of. There are about twenty members of the team; this is significant in and of itself for the school's lesser known sport.

These swimmers look beyond the competition and disadvantages they have to focus on what really matters- a positive attitude and sportsmanship-like manner each carries within them despite their disappointments. If they don't get first place, they accept it. If they get last, they know it is okay because each one knows they did their best.

Isn't this what swimming and sports in general are all about? It's not about winning or losing, but how you carry yourself either way. It's about appreciating the fact that you are lucky enough to play. Sports are about having fun despite the struggles. Sometimes every player, coach, parent, or peer loses sight of that.

Looking to the future, we all hope to see this swimming program thrive, and we hope to get more and more participants every year. There will be a great many things with swimming to see unfold through the next couple of years. For now, though, congratulations to all the swimmers who have participated, and, of course, to Mrs. Schiavone for being a wonderful and supportive swim coach. We hope to see many great things from all of you. Keep up the good work!

- Nina Ghilino & Deidre Romano



Brian Erslick Hypnotism Show

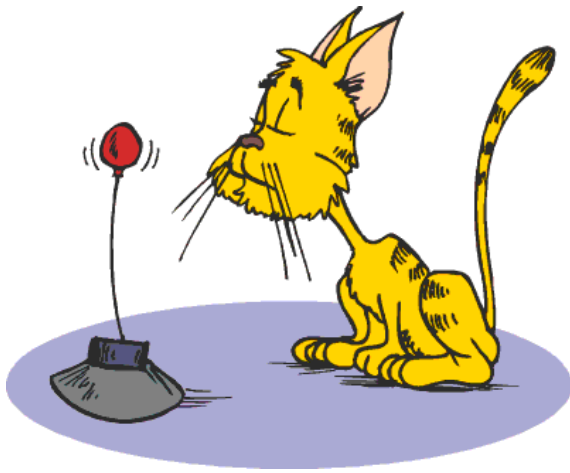
There is no question that Wednesday night's comedy hypnosis show, performed by Brian Erslick, was the hot topic among Belvidere student's conversation on Thursday. In nearly every classroom, videos captured from the night before were passed among students, resulting in chatter and laughter about the amazing performance. Erslick's show included the hypnosis of Belvidere students ranging in ages from the middle school to high school. About ten students fell into his trance, leaving the crowd doubled over in laughter.

Although the turnout was less than satisfying for the Student Government-organized show, those who attended were not let down. Many students were chosen to join Erslick on the stage as the objects of his hypnosis. However, a select few stood out as the most memorable. Who, for example could forget Courtney Stephanie's Japanese love song? As Erslick touched her knee and told her she would awake and sing the audience a love song...in Japanese, the crowd was skeptic. Much to everyone's surprise, as the music started, she lifted from her seat and proceeded to sing to the audience in a language that everyone took to be Japanese. As could be expected, laughter erupted in the auditorium. However, it wasn't only Stephanie's performance that set the crowd off.

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Come Laugh A Lot!



Brian Erslick Hypnotism Show (continued)

Nick Hummer's love and adoration of a stuffed animal was a cause of even more astonishment. He was told that he had won the stuffed animal, and would therefore fall in love with it and engage in a slow dance with it as the music started. He did just that. Belvidere students couldn't keep their smiles back as he put his arms around the animal, held it up to his face, and swung it around in an intimate dance.

The hour and a half show was filled with much more comedy than just the afore mentioned incidents. Many said it was the hardest they've laughed in a long time, while the ones who missed it, kicked themselves for having done so. Lucky for them, and for all who enjoy a good laugh, Brian Eslick will be returning to Belvidere High School sometime in May to perform his new comedic hypnotism show. After the great feedback Eslick obtained from his first showing here, it is undoubtedly safe to say the turnout for his next show will be more than satisfying, to say the least.

Last October, my family and I traveled to the Big Apple to see *Spamalot*, the musical rendition of *Monty Python's Quest for the Holy Grail* at the Shubert Theatre. If you've ever watched a Monty Python skit, you know that they are filled with outlandish humor that tends to make fun of just about everything. *Spamalot* chronicles King Arthur's quest to find the Holy Grail, and the perils in assembling his "Knights of the Round Table" in order to help him on this task. The show hosted some well known faces in the entertainment industry, including Clay Aiken of American Idol fame, who portrayed Sir Robin.

The performance got underway as a historian explained the history of Europe with Finnish dancers taking the stage. Annoyed, the historian returned, explaining that he meant England, not Finland. The set immediately vanished and was replaced by a group of monks in black robes chanting prayers and smacking the Bible on their foreheads. King Arthur appears with his servant Patsy, who knocks coconuts together to imitate the sound of a horse. Along the way, he recruits Sir Robin and Sir Lancelot, collectors of Black Plague victims, and a political radical known as Sir Galahad. Galahad and the Lady of the Lake, a mysterious woman who helps the knights throughout the show, sing a song called "The Song That Goes Like This," which parodies the typical Broadway love song found in many shows. King Arthur and the rest of his knights then proceed on a quest given to them by God to find the Holy Grail.

- Elisabeth Verile

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Come Laugh A Lot!

(continued)

The second act of the show was even more hilarious than the first! The Knights of the Round Table encounter the “Knights Who Say Ni,” a creature feared for the pronunciation of the word “ni.” They demand that King Arthur give them a shrubbery and put on a Broadway musical. After lamenting about the impossibility of doing a Broadway show, Sir Robin further darkens their spirits by telling them they can’t hope to succeed on Broadway without any people of Jewish ancestry (this parodies the large Jewish population in New York City). The Lady of the Lake appears again and sings a song about her part’s lack of stage time, and a gay Prince falls in love with Sir Lancelot. Lancelot attempts to tell the boy that he himself is not gay, but his armor falls off and reveals that he was wearing feminine clothing. Just as King Arthur is about to give up the search for Broadway because “the country hasn’t been discovered yet,” the Lady of the Lake appears and tells King Arthur and Patsy that they had, in fact, been on Broadway the entire time. Patsy then admits to King Arthur that he was in fact half Jewish, but dare not mention it to him because “it isn’t something you usually say to a heavily armed Christian.” He then reunites with the rest of his knights and accepts the challenge of a demonic creature, known as Tim, to kill a rabbit with the “Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch.” With a “hand” from God, Arthur finds the grail under an audience member’s chair, and marries the Lady of the Lake.

The great thing about a show like *Spamalot* is its departure from seriousness. Comedy gives actors room to improvise, and the cast of this show jumped at every opportunity to make the audience laugh. At the conclusion of one of his lines, the lead “Ni Knight” told King Arthur that he was the true father of Bristol Palin’s (the eldest daughter of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin) baby, which sent the audience in an uproar. At the end of the show, God pointed his hand onto an audience member who happened to be sitting on the Holy Grail. She was brought up on stage and told by King Arthur that she will one day be famous, like Rudy Giuliani (the former New York City mayor).

This is only a fraction of what happened at the show. Unfortunately, comedy is hard to portray in writing, because its presentation on stage is what makes the audience laugh. Go and see the show, and you’re bound to laugh like never before!

-Justin Kiefer



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Around The School

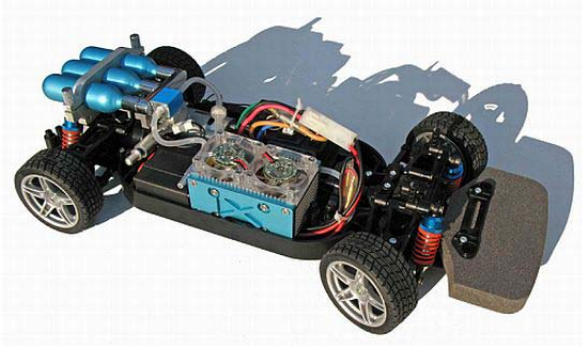
The Leos Club

There's a new club in Belvidere! Headed by adviser Judy Black and The Lions Club Secretary, Mr. Brad Day, the newly established Leos Club is something to roar about! The Leos held their induction ceremony on February 4th. What exactly do the Leos do? The Leo Club heads numerous community service projects including their most recent one: collecting eyeglasses to send to third world countries. We wish the best of luck to this promising new enterprise!



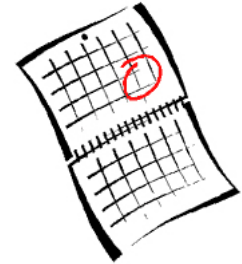
Hydrogen Fuel Cell Car Competition

We at the Scarlet Scoop would like to extend congratulations to three students at Belvidere High School for finishing second in the craftsmanship category at the annual hydrogen fuel cell car competition. Students from Morris, Warren, and Sussex County meet and match their skill in building a small car powered by an outside source. Kevina DiNicola, Sammy Gross, Frank Tammera, and Noah Sena should be very proud of their triumph. Good job guys!



HSPA Time!

Get ready underclassmen! You'll be taking the HSPA in a few short weeks. Are you ready? March 3rd, 4th, and 5th are the big days! Relax, be prepared, and envy the seniors for not having to arrive until 10:45. ☺



Welcome to the Wizards!

The Harlem Wizards are coming to Belvidere! It's going to be an exciting night on Thursday, February 26, when the acclaimed basketball team, the Harlem Wizards, will be dazzling students, faculty, and fans galore with their skill, stamina, and amazing stage presence on the court. Come on out and watch the game! Maybe you'll get to play!



National Honor Society Blood Drive

The Miller- Keystone Blood Center will be at Belvidere High School on February 26, taking blood from volunteers who are seventeen and older. If you signed up to give blood, make sure your form is handed in to Mrs. Geisinger in Room 221 or senior NHS member Alyssa Ostrzyzek. If you already have your form in, make sure you bring ID with you, eat a good breakfast, and be sure that you are not sick. Thank you to all participants!



-Rebecca Litz, Editor