

# Lost in the crowd

*Congested hallways are a real pain, but the remedy is as simple as...well, math.*

by **Ally Huang**  
Staff Writer

It has become an inevitable sight at school: The hallways and stairwells jam up with students within seconds after the bell and no one seems to get to their next class without some bumps or jostling. The crowds move slowly, even coming to a complete stop at times. Senior **Nick Rueckert** sums up many students' frustrations with the statement, "Crowded hallways stink." And he's not referring to the smell. Maybe.

The school building was designed to minimize the problem of overcrowding. Hallways were made wider than usual to hold more students, and floors are connected with a total of six separate stairwells. The lockers were also placed in separate locker bays instead of in the hallways themselves to help decrease crowding.

"The building is designed to handle our 2150+ students very well," says Principal **Dick Dewey**, who was instrumental in planning the layout of the school.

So if the school was designed to prevent all this crowding, why are hallways still congested? The answer lies in human nature and everyone's favorite class: geometry. As many of us have learned, the quickest path between two points is a straight line. Applying this concept to real life, most students pick the most direct routes to get to their classes, which usually require walking through the B1 and B2 clusters and using the main south stairs.

It's no surprise then, that the stairwells and these two clusters are usually the slowest and the most crowded. Most students don't really do anything about the crowds.

"You would think that as a senior I would be able to push through the crowds and be on my way," says **Jamie Lou**. "Most days I just have to weave in and out of the crowds."

In this case though, the shortest path is not always the quickest one. Teachers and other staff members often encourage students to avoid the B2 stairs. Other ways to avoid crowded areas are to use the virtually unused north stairs by the locker bays rather than the main south stairs. Using the commons area (rather than the hallways when walking on the first floor) will sometimes also offer a less crowded trip. If more students begin to use these routes, the hallways should become less crowded.

There is also the problem of students standing in large groups, right in the middle of stairwell entrances. These roadblocks cause even more crowding and are also the source of much frustration from many other students.

"It's really annoying trying to get to class," says sophomore **Kara Knoll**. "All you do is run into crowd after crowd after crowd."

If you are one of those students who stands directly in the flow of traffic, you should consider relocating your group to a less crowded area where people aren't trying to shove past you to get to class.

Obviously, there is no easy solution to the hallway traffic we have, but you can solve your own hallway problems by finding different routes. "If we use the facility as it was designed (and people cooperate), we will be okay," says Dewey.

## Americans pay too much for mediocre healthcare

by **Kasia Bartzak**  
Staff Writer

In overall healthcare, the United States ranks second to last of twenty-two industrialized nations. To make matters worse, America spends about two times more on health care than the other nations. The excessive spending amounts to a yearly tax of more than \$1800 per person.

The United States is the only nation that does not provide universal health insurance, which leaves more than 43 million Americans uninsured. We pay much more for lower quality health care than other nations.

While medical technology is rapidly evolving, many believe that health care is getting easier. For most ailments, a simple cure is popping the right pill prescribed after a short doctor visit.

At an early age, junior **Kelly Butikofer** was improperly diagnosed with ADD and prescribed Ritalin. Because she's been prescribed medications that increase heart palpitations, she has had high blood pressure since age 10.

"I've been on medication almost all my life," says Butikofer. Pharmaceutical, for-profit corporations

are a key player in this trend, which may produce adverse results like the side-effects of Kelly Butikofer's meds. Her current medication is conveniently taken two times daily, prevents her from driving, and could possibly cause blackouts, heart attacks, or seizures. This is fairly representative of some Americans, who are diagnosed with ailments early in life. Treatment is typically in the form of pill-taking.

In the end, the quality of American health care suffers dramatically.

The biggest problem of turning into a pill-popping nation is the ever-expanding market created. New drugs are continually turned over for the public, competing for attention and buyers. These corporate, for-profit drug companies do an excellent job advertising their products. However, like general television commercials, drug advertisements contain only minimal truth.

The real story behind drugs should lie in prestigious medical journals written for doctors. Research articles about breakthrough drugs and treatments keep doctors updated and ready to prescribe the best possible care for patients. Several articles

**"The U. S. is the only nation that doesn't provide universal health insurance."**

**'Mediocre healthcare' continued on pg.2**



## Cows were the perfect holiday gift



**CHALLENGE:** How many llamas can you stuff into a stocking?

by **Hannah Newman**  
*Lightning Reporter*

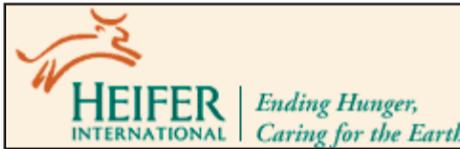
The December spotlight for Student Council included a fund drive for Heifer International. Eastview collected \$3384.31, and topped off with a student council contributions, the total gift is \$3500. By sending money to Heifer International, we are purchasing animals for this global organization. From their many purchased animals, they give one animal, such as a cow, to a family in poverty. The family can

drink the milk. When their cow has a calf, they give it to another family, and families continue to "pass on the gift." This procedure helps to continue the benefits of the gift as well as helps families stabilize.

Student Council advisor Ms. Jodi Hanson explained, "We have already contacted Heifer International and have requested

**MOO:** Who doesn't love a cow?

that our donation be used specifically for families and communities affected by the earthquake in the Pakistani region." Thus, students are helping the remaining relatives of those who lost their lives (represented with 65,000 paper links displayed in the commons the week before winter break).



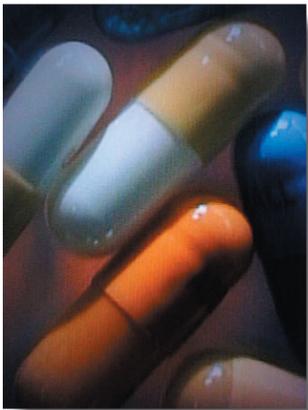
GRAPHICS BY WWW.SXC.HU

### 'Mediocre healthcare' continued

in these medical journals contained solid research on brand-name drugs, but drew faulty conclusions by distorting statistical results or withholding information.

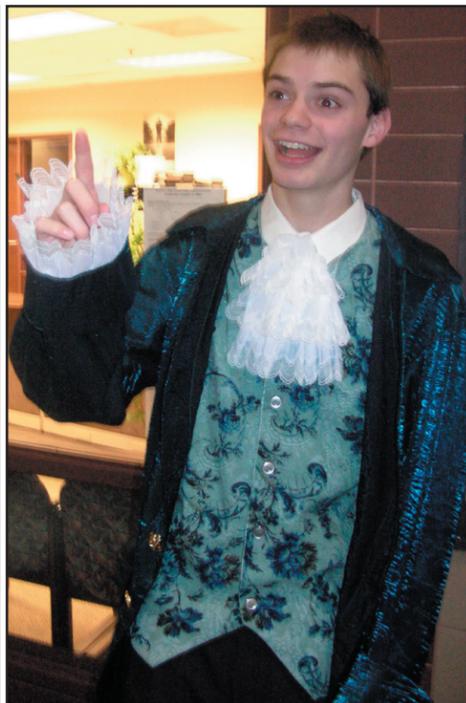
Unwitting doctors who took the article at face value continued to prescribe these drugs, not knowing they were minimally, if at all, superior to generic drugs. This type of statistical distortion only hurts the populace.

Many Americans have the notion that "newer is better" ingrained in their heads. This is because new drugs are heavily advertised. Oddly, these newer drugs are significantly more expensive than generic brands. Researchers' calculations show that newer treatments are only slightly more effective than generic brands, yet have more severe side effects. These drugs are riskier to take because they increase complications, leading to adverse consequences.



The stage has been set for a pill-popping nation, and there is not much that can be done to reverse this trend. New medical technology is not necessarily better. Numerous brand new treatments and drugs claiming superiority have proved to be equal to or worse than older medications.

## The newest fashions of 2006



...or 1706.

Juniors **Megan Hall** and **Josh Allen** aren't just playing dress-up; they've just finished participating in the AP Euro and AP Composition classes' Enlightenment Salon.

## KICK-START YOUR ACADEMICS WITH AN ACE

by **Rachael Pederson**  
*Lightning Reporter*

When attending the new ACE program at Eastview you will not be going to any locally owned hardware stores, interning with the infamous pet detective, or putting on a pleated skirt and heading to the tennis courts.

ACE, Academic Coaching (at) EVHS, is actually a clever nickname for the new peer tutoring program. Students who are confused about a particular concept or need a paper edited can get help from a

knowledgeable classmate. If you would like studying with others or need motivation to kick-start your academics, ACE is the perfect place to get help. The tutors are students who have experienced many of the same classes, assignments and teachers that you currently have. ACE is a unique opportunity to catch up or get ahead, in a laid back, friendly setting.

Tutoring is offered on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:40 to 4:00, and on Wednesday mornings from 6:45 to 7:20. The program meets in the Student Services Area in the Guidance Office.

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Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes, snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes, silver white winters that melt into springs...

## Students' Favorite Winter Activities

### 10. Eating Icicles

This activity, though somewhat unhygienic, is a fond winter memory of junior Abby Herman: "It's really gross when you think about it, but when I was younger, I didn't care."



### 9. Watching Snow Fall

While many teens are outside skiing, sledding, building snow forts, and having snow ball fights, some just enjoy sitting inside and watching the snow fall. Others, like junior Jean Chung, watch the snow fall and consider its possible dangers to young drivers. "While the soft glistening whispers of snow gently floating to the ground may look harmless," warns Chung, "they have claimed many reckless drivers over the years."

### 8. Ice Skating

One of the classic, time honored traditions of winter in Minnesota is ice skating, accompanied with hot chocolate in a toasty warming house by the rinks. You might like this activity as a figure skater, hockey player, or, like most, as a clumsy skater unsteadily stumbling their way across the ice.

### 7. Speech Team

For many students at Eastview, their favorite activity is none other than a seasonal academic pursuit. The speech team, whose season officially starts on January 27 at a tournament in Marshall, Minnesota, works throughout the winter and well into the spring honing their public speaking skills. Besides that, the social aspect of the speech team bonds the team together.

### 6. Snowmobiling

For those more into adrenaline-pumping, fast-paced excitement, snowmobiling is the way to go. There are plenty of locations nearby to snowmobile, making it a great way to spend a weekend.

### 5. Snowball Fights

No matter how old you get, snowball fights will always be a favorite among outdoor winter activities. Whether you organize a team and make real rules, or just toss the occasional ball of snow (no ice, please!) you can be one of the many that find this their most memorable activity in the winter months.

### 4. Building snow dynasties

Earlier this month, some seniors but children at heart built an igloo in front of the school. It was later knocked down by unruly alumnus, **Tim Mills**.

### 3. Hot Cocoa

Warming bodies from the inside out, hot cocoa is one of the fondest memories students have of the winter. After spending a day outside in the snow, there's nothing better than walking inside to prop your feet up by the fire and drinking a steaming mug of hot cocoa with those cute little marshmallows.

### 2. Sledding Old-School

Back in the old days where snow days regularly dotted the school calendar, kids of all ages would grab sheets of cardboard and trek out to their favorite hills for the day. Now the old use of cardboard has been tossed aside with the mass-produced plastic sleds, blow-up saucers and wooden toboggans. However, if you, like many high schoolers who have no younger siblings, find that your parents have thrown out all your old sleds in their garage sale this past summer, never fear: The old standby of cardboard will come to your rescue.

### 1. Skiing and Snowboarding!

Whether you're skiing down a black diamond hill at Buck Hill or falling down in your attempts to snowboard, speeding across the snow in all its forms is a most excellent way to spend your otherwise dull winter weekends. There are plenty of parks nearby for cross country skiing and local locations for downhill skiing and snowboarding.

by **Michelle Aderhold**  
Staff Writer



GRAPHIC BY STACEY BIRK

**TAKE COVER!** Jacob Seigel, Brandon Sommers, Nick Rueckert, Neal Slattery, and Joanna Thomsen enjoyed the winter break by building a snowfort.

# SNOW DAYS! : behind the scenes

by **Tara Smith**  
Lightning Reporter

Possibly the best feeling in the world is waking up in the morning and lying down on a fluffy couch to watch television. The experience elicits even warmer, fuzzier feelings when your TV screen says, "Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan: closed." Yes—a snow day!

The district debates as early as 5:30 in the morning to determine whether a snow day will be called or not. Administrative Assistant **Matt Percival** says the primary decision-makers include the superintendent, transportation director, and heads of buildings and grounds. "Above all," says Percival, "it is the superintendent who makes the final decision."

Certain key factors are taken into consideration. First, the superintendent receives information from the

transportation director at 5:15 a.m. regarding whether the roads are safe or not. It is then the duty of the superintendent to determine whether to keep school open,



GRAPHIC BY MARY COTTE

delay openings, close schools for the day or release schools early.

Principal **Dick Dewey** says that the road conditions and temperature as well as the students' ability to get to and from

school safely are the key deciding factors. "This could be a function of snow, ice, temperature, and drifting or wind chill," he says.

If the superintendent does determine the weather to be too dangerous and reports a snow day, many students and parents alike are curious to discover the time at which he actually makes the decision. "The district's goal is to report a snow day before the buses leave for their routes around 6:00 to 6:15 a.m.," says Percival. However, the superintendent usually likes to give his verdict by 5:30 a.m. to ensure that the entire Eastview community is informed of the decision, whatever that may be. Every so often the decision of the district results in a cancellation for the day, and many students welcome the day off. "I love snow days because I can go home and snowboard," says freshman **Brian Smith**.

Even though snow days are a relief

for students like Smith, there is always the slight possibility that a snow day may be replaced by an extra day at the end of the school year. However, there is no need to worry. According to District 196 Superintendent **John Currie**, "The only way we would have to replace a snow day is if we had several—I would think 6 or more—in a school year. Even then it would be tough to have everyone change their schedules and attend extra days."

The next time when the television scrolls the districts being cancelled because of bad weather across the bottom of your screen, don't get your hopes up. Because the district advises a strict focus on education, snow days are rare. Superintendent Currie says, "I believe the safest place for any student in our community is in school. When school is closed we have thousands of students who are home alone or in our community unsupervised."



# Much more than Legos

The student-driven robotics team has been designing, programming, and engineering autonomous mini-computers since the league was formed four years ago.

by **Grace Welter**  
Editor-in-Chief

Most states have robotics teams only at the middle school level, but Minnesota stands alone as the only state to have teams at the high school level.

The robotics team itself is actually made up of 3 teams: Team N.O.O.B., Team 20,000 Leagues Under the Plastic, and Team Pid. Eastview is the only high school to have more than one team competing.

Competitions are made up of 7 to 8 "missions" or challenges given to the participating teams in advance. The theme of

these missions this year is "Ocean Odyssey," which the team has been working on since the first week of school. Themes change year to year to demonstrate how robots can help in everyday life.

This year's theme is a direct response to the natural disaster in New Orleans. Team members simulate tasks like repairing or building oil or gas platforms in the water using Lego Mindstorm kits, which they order from the company itself.

To complete the given missions, students program what looks like essentially a small yellow brick to react to touch, light, and rotation sensors and design a

robot that is built around it.

"I would say it takes at good 3-4 hours—at least—of playing around with the software to get to know it well enough to use it," says sophomore **Ted Friedman**.

Part of the challenge of the software is the fact that so much of it is based on a trial-and-error method.

"Every time you try to do something in the program, something goes wrong and the hard part is figuring out what that is," explains senior and team captain **Rob Amundson**.

Members emphasize the importance of teamwork in problem-solving for the competitions. **Drew Perkins**, a member of Team N.O.O.B. credits the team's success to its creative and collaborative edge. "We're a group of reasonably random individuals," he says.

Parent volunteer coaches **Nels and Linda Offerdahl** insist that teamwork and communication are the most important part of responding to the challenges. They give the students short 30 minute lectures on aspects of engineering and programming and basically turn the kids loose on the missions.

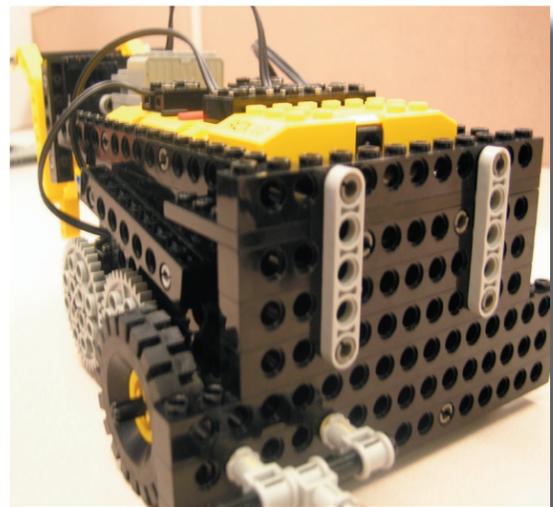
February 4 is the robotics team state tournament.



**MINDSTORM:** Ted Friedman and Mark Zingler put their robot to the test on the field. Missions are regulated with around 30 to 35 rules.



**MR. FIX-IT:** Team members Jaime Whistler, Dan Dorsch and Mike Koch look on while sophomore Alex Amundson adjusts a piece on their robot.



**A SMALL YELLOW BRICK:** This is no battle bot. Legos surround a mini-computer which team members program to perform tasks like cleaning up debris or repairing oil rigs in a simulation.

# Sudoku puzzles

*It's math. It's fun. Who knew?*

	8		6		5		1	
7		4	2				3	
		2		7	3	9		6
4					9		5	
1		3				8		2
	5		3					4
2		7	5	6		1		
	4				8	7		9
	3		9		7			6

			2	6			9	1
		6		8	4	7		3
9	4			5			8	
	8				5		4	6
		7				9		
2	9		3				1	
	7			1			6	9
6		2	4	3		5		
5	3			7	8			

	2		1		3			
	7		4	2		8	6	
5			7	3				
	5	6	2	9	8			
1	9						5	7
		3	1	6	9	4		
			3	7				8
9	1		5	8			6	
		4		2				9

Answers: (No peeking!)

8	3	4	6	2	1	7	9	5
8	7	5	6	3	4	2	8	9
6	9	6	9	8	7	4	1	8
2	6	5	3	9	7	4	1	8
7	8	3	1	5	6	9	4	2
1	9	2	4	8	6	5	7	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	3	5	1
5	4	7	8	9	3	5	1	2
3	7	1	6	4	2	9	8	5
6	2	8	9	5	1	7	3	4
7	5	8	4	2	9	1	3	6
3	8	9	1	5	7	4	2	6

Tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com).  
Puzzles by Pappocom.

# Winter Sports in Action

GRAPHICS BY MARK ELIASON

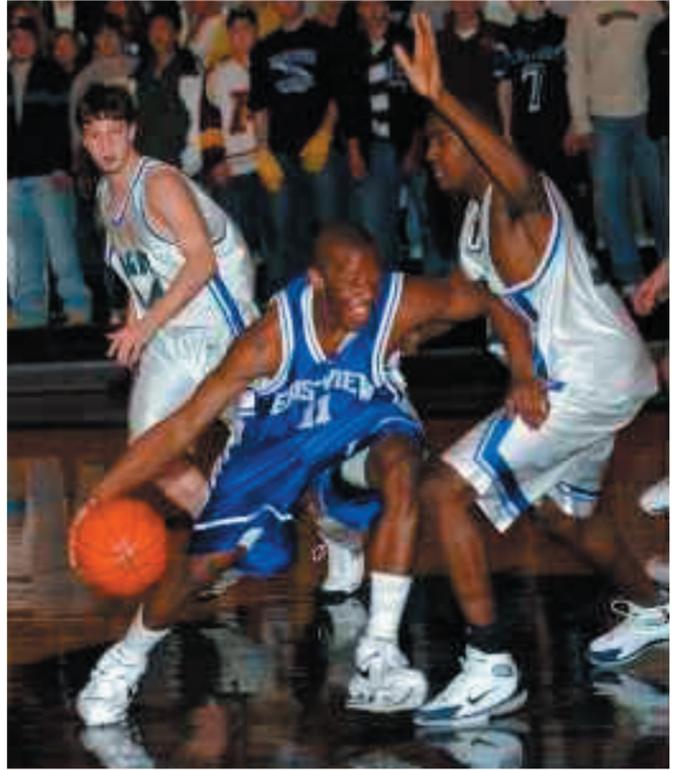


**THAT SINKING FEELING:** Sophomore guard **Ethan Thomforde** goes for the score in a home game against Lakeville South

## Boys & Girls Basketball



**HOPE TO REBOUND:** The girls' basketball team hopes to rebound after their loss to undefeated Bloomington Kennedy. At press time the girls were 11-4 overall and 8-2 in the conference.



**IN THE PAINT:** Sophomore U.T. Udo makes a move inside against Eagan. Udo, with an average of 12.8 points per game, is second only to senior Alex White's 21.9. At press time, the boys were 7-5 overall and 5-3 in the conference. They face the Burnsville Blaze at home this Friday, January 27.

## Hard work shows on the ice

*The boys and girls hockey teams 3-0 against cross-town rival Apple Valley Eagles*

by **Roxanne Klemm**  
Lightning Reporter

"Hockey is probably of the most exciting and intense sports to watch," says the captain of the Boys Varsity Hockey Cheer-leading squad. That is no exception when it comes to the Lightning hockey teams.

The boys' varsity team has been working extremely hard so far this year, and it shows. They beat district rivals, the Eagan Wildcats 4-3 in overtime. Their games are always thrilling and they attract many ex-



**Above:** Senior **Corey Denicola** makes a great stop on the puck  
**Left:** Senior Captain **Artie Peckskamp** prepares for a face off



cited students and the always loyal fans.

But it doesn't stop there, the girls team is putting forth much effort as well this season, and is just as intense to watch. After their game on January 7, their Lake Conference standings are 4-6-1.

Be sure to catch the Boys playing in Eden Prairie on Saturday January 21, and then on Tuesday January 24, girls take on the Rosemount Irish, it's a home game at the Apple Valley Sports Arena.

## Wrestling the competition into submission

*Senior leaders step up to take over where last year's team left off*

by **Kelly McCumber**  
Lightning Reporter

"Our Vision, Our Mission!" With the first half of the 2005-2006 season under wraps, the JV/Varsity wrestling team finished with an 11-1 record. With contributions from all of the competitors, the team was able to see the tasks laid before them and accomplish their mission both individually and as a team.

They put in countless hours to improve their quick feet, stamina, and most importantly, endurance. A match, consisting of three, two minute periods of strenuous work, requires all athletes to be above normal levels of physical fitness.

"They work hard everyday from start to finish, being a wrestler does not come easy, you need to work hard for your position," says Sophomore Manager **Courtney Thompson**.

To prepare for an exhilarating six minutes, the wrestlers warm up as a team and have their own superstitious preparations such as a double bounce or a favorite song right before a match. In the wrestling room before a home match they have "pump-up" music playing at the highest volume. During this time, they do various exercises to mentally and physically pre-

pare themselves. They wrestle other teammates to get their minds into the game.

In a sport where a competitive drive is a near necessity there is bound to be huge rivalries. Our cross-town and toughest opponent is Apple Valley. This team always shows heart and aggression for the victory. Other tough opponents include Eagan and Park Cottage Grove. Both of these teams prove to be tough competition for the Eastview.

Many students and coaches wondered what would happen without certain key leaders having lost them to last year's graduating class. The new senior captains, **Chad Eul** and **Minh Huynh** have done an excellent job of proving that they had many talented returning wrestlers and many new hard working freshmen.

The boys began the second half of the season with a tough loss to Apple Valley, and a strong win over South St. Paul. "We should be a tough team to beat once the section six tournament comes around," sophomore **Trevor Flaten** says with confidence. Come watch the wrestling team take down the second half of their mission in upcoming matches.

# Champs once again

## LDT clinches another Lake Conference title

by **JW Boyden**  
Sports Editor

The Lightning Dance Team has now made it four years in a row. Four consecutive years winning the Lake Conference Overall Champions title that is. After performing strong at all of the Lake Conference dance meets, both the Varsity and JV teams delivered strong performances at the Conference finals hosted by Rosemount High School.

Eastview continued their undefeated streak in the jazz competition with their choreographed rendition of the “Cha-Cha.” The girls electrifying performance helped seal the deal on another dominant showing at the Lake Conference finals. Although the team lost to Burnsville in the high kick division by a single point, they were the overwhelming consensus for the 2005-2006 Lake Conference overall champions.

Eight LDT dancers were named either All Conference of Honorable Mention All Conference. All Conference picks included senior **Katie Brown**, senior **Hannah Stoll**, senior **Mal Booth**, and junior **Elise Pederson**. Senior **Elyssa Williams** and juniors **Michelle Harvey**, **Ashley Egan**, and **Toni Damico** were named Honorable Mention.

Outside of Lake Conference competition, LDT dancers are making a big impact as well. Captain **Katie Brown** recently took first place in the Miss Dance Team Minnesota competition. **Elise Pederson** took first runner up, and **Hannah Stoll** placed sixth. In the Junior division **Michelle Harvey** placed first and **Toni Damico** finished sixth.

The Varsity team is not the only one experiencing great success this year. The LDT JV dance team placed first in both high kick and jazz at the Lake Conference Finals.

The Varsity team plans on competing in Sections on February 11 in hopes to once again advance on to the State tournament. “My hopes are that everyone goes out there on the floor and dances the best



**PERFECT FORM:** Elise Pederson effortlessly glides through the air.

they can...no regrets...if we do that we could not hope for anything more,” says junior **Elise Pederson**. Until then, the team will be competing in invitational meets and practicing hard to perfect their routines for the next level of competition.

With strong finishes at previous section and state tournaments, this talented lightning group will without a doubt find their way back to the XCEL Energy Center again this year to compete for tops in the state.

The Varsity team also has a number of underclassmen dancing for them this year. Not to mention that the JV team always produces solid dancers, so, we should see the trend in LDT dominance in the Lake Conference continue without question.

**Sections are on Feb. 11  
@ Eastview**

**State is on Feb. 17-18 @  
XCEL Energy Center**



Pictured above is the LDT dance team at Rosemount right after clinching their Lake Conference Overall Champions Title. Varsity placed first in jazz and second in high kick. The JV team placed first in both events.



**MISS DANCE TEAM:** Senior captain **Katie Brown** dancing center stage during the dance team’s jazz performance.

# Badminton trumps all

## The new hot ticket for gym class

by **Alec Schimke**  
Lightning Reporter

Without any power volleyball classes being offered second quarter, Badminton class has become a popular option for phys-ed.

Unlike most gym classes, badminton offers an atmosphere where anyone can find someone at their own ability level to play against. Badminton allows every student the opportunity to be successful, which is sometimes not easy to accomplish in other gym classes. Badminton instructor, **Mark Groebner**, believes that is what makes it such a popular class.

“Students have a wide range of ability levels, in badminton everyone can play at a level that is competitive for them and that makes it fun,” **Groebner** says.



**FWIIING:** Sophomore **Johnny Greene** goes in for the kill during his sixth period badminton class.

GRAPHIC BY GRACE WELTER

A typical day in badminton class involves a warm-up and then either singles, doubles, or tournament-based games.

“Badminton is more of a laid back gym class that does not involve too much running, but you still get a good workout,” says junior **Elise Kuhlmann**. Students leave class not as sweaty or worn out as in other gym classes, but still feeling challenged physically.

Badminton requires students to exercise their brains while playing. “It’s challenging and forces you to think of strategies to win and that makes it tons of fun,” says junior **Andrew Ryan**.

Tournament games become very competitive and addicting as well. One tournament style game that students play is called “King of the Courts.” The goal of this game is to win as many matches as possible and end up on the winners’ court to become the king of the courts.

“It’s a fun class, a good gym credit, and you get to hang out with your friends,” says **Elise Kuhlmann**. Not only do class members get to hang out with their friends, but they also get to meet a lot of new people. Some days students play with their friends while on other days they’re paired up with people they may not even know.

“Badminton is an easy game to pick up,” says **Groebner**. Students may come into the class as beginners, but when they leave they have improved a great deal and leave with a new level of confidence.

“Students really improve their speed and eye-hand coordination over the quarter,” **Groebner** says.

As registration for next year’s classes approaches, consider taking Badminton. It is competitive, challenging, and fun, not to mention that it is a great way to meet new people.



# Card-playing ban should

# GO FISH

by **Rebecca Witheridge**  
*Lightning Reporter*

When it comes to gambling, to each his own. Money is a personal matter, so who's to say when it's right or wrong for it to change hands? Each situation is mutually exclusive of all of the rest.

But that isn't the point.

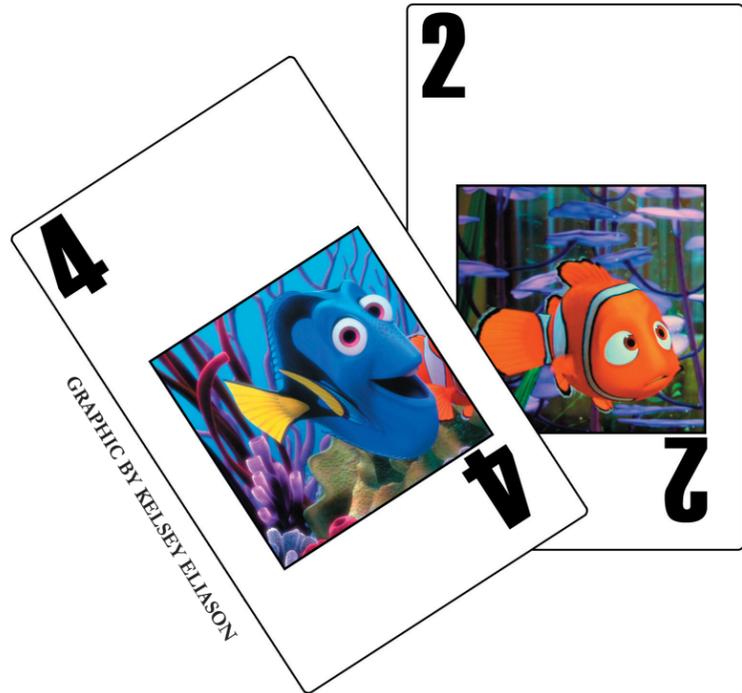
I don't like the idea of gambling. Something about trusting that devilish damsel Miss Chance doesn't sit well with me, and I certainly find it admirable for the administration to worry about its consequences. But should a fear of gambling interfere with a little game of Go Fish? I think not. I'm sure that I'm not the only student who's been scolded for playing cards in the commons, and we all know how frustrating it is to be interrupted by a teacher just when you're down to your last card!

Gambling is not an activity confined specifically to card games. Gambling is an all-encompassing concept that can be applied to basically anything. A person could just as easily bet on the number of times a French teacher says "bon" as they could on cards, not to mention the scores and points accumulated in dozens of sports.

Basketball, baseball, football, chess; they all present a potential opportunity for the avid gambler to lose a buck or two. Does the school prohibit those activities? Of course not. Admittedly, the logic behind banning cards in school makes some sense; card playing is one activity that can be somewhat monitored and controlled by the school administration. However, the ban of cards doesn't really prevent what it sets out to prevent, but likely leads only to the innovation of more creative means of gambling.

Frankly, it strikes me as odd that a deck of cards can cause such a commotion. One would think that teachers would be thrilled to see a group of students break out a deck of cards and actually, heaven forbid, interact with one another rather than sequester themselves with their headphones or PSPs. Card playing requires at least a smidgen of imagination and reasoning, as opposed to mindless slaughter of pedestrians in Grand Theft Auto (my favorite!).

Obviously, card games have no place in classrooms when teachers are attempting to capture the attention of already-distracted students, but why not allow them in study halls and before/after school in



the commons? If the card-based Magic Club (I love you guys!) can roam the halls freely, why can't the players of Crazy Eights, Old Maid, and Egyptian Rat Race? They're all harmless enough, (even with names like 'War') and are timeless

means of entertainment!

If Joe Shmoe wants to risk his week's allowance on some bet, let him. It's his choice, and he should be the one to suffer the consequences.

## All danced out: Do varied musical tastes preclude happiness?

by **Diane Kulseth**  
*Lightning Reporter*

Every school year, the Student Council sponsors a multitude of dances for the student body to socialize and have a good time with one another. But are the dances really serving all the wishes of the 2,150+ student community that we call our school? Do they need to?

Even if the dances attracted every student from the school, the capacity sign on the north side of the Commons would ruin every hope of getting proper breathing room during the 3-hour span.

Sophomore **Jen Miller** doubts the likelihood of such an event happening, especially at dances.

"The only dance I go to is Homecoming. Maybe I'll go to Sadie's, but usually just Homecoming."

“

**They need to play better music...like Marilyn Manson. I think you could dance to it if you tried. ”**

--Sophomore Jen Miller



Fellow sophomore **Jessica Grinols** agrees. "The dances at Eastview are boring, so normally I do something else. Sometimes, if I'm bored and my friends are going, then I will go to a dance."

However, it seems that something continues to attract students to the dances. After all, this year's Welcome Back dance was filled to the brim with upper and underclassmen alike ready to enjoy a good time.

Junior **Bea Halvorsen** said that she really enjoyed this year's Homecoming with all of her friends.

"I really liked dancing with all of my friends, and just hanging out, not to mention it was fun to watch the windows fog up!"

Grinols says that the most attendees are fans of the music that is played throughout the night.

"If you're a fan of hip-hop and potentially country music, then it's likely that you would like going to the dances."

Yet since the whole school is not present for dances, obviously there still are some who do not hear their music blasting from the speakers.

Miller thinks that the school needs to be attentive to the musical tastes of all the students, and says that is a large reason for not attending.

"The main reason I don't go is because I have better things to do, and besides

the 'Cha-Cha Slide,' there isn't any really good music that is played. I think the dances need to have music that appeals to a wider audience. They need to play better music...like Marilyn Manson. I think you could dance to it if you tried."

Halvorsen also believes that the music could benefit from an alteration.

"Most of the music is fine, but if they played less rap, then I think I would like the music a lot more."

Junior **Kirk Landin** agrees that the music needs to be changed, especially for

formal dances, but to the other side of the musical spectrum.

"When I attended Prom last year, I really didn't care for the music that they played for such a formal event." Landin says that the music played last May had a large impact on his decision not to attend October's Homecoming. "We are dressed so classy, so the music should be the same way for a classy event."

So what exactly can the school do to produce a dance that is more populated, when it's unlikely that everyone will be satisfied with the music?

Make it enjoyable for those who do attend.

"I think if the school held one more formal dance, it would be fun, as it's really not something we get to do often," says Grinols. In fact, this year's Winterfest dance will be semi-formal.

However, Miller disagrees with her classmate.

"I'm cheap, so if dances only cost a few bucks, instead of having to worry about dinner and dresses and such, I'd probably be more likely to attend," says Miller.

Looking past all money concerns, Halvorsen looks forward to the remaining dances of this school year.

"I will likely attend both Winterfest and Prom this year as I like to dance with my friends and it will be a fun time!"

In analyzing the differences of only 4 people from our 2000+ student school, will there ever be a hope of joining every student together for a night of dance?

Unlikely, but make it worth the time for those who do attend...and find some solutions for those foggy windows!