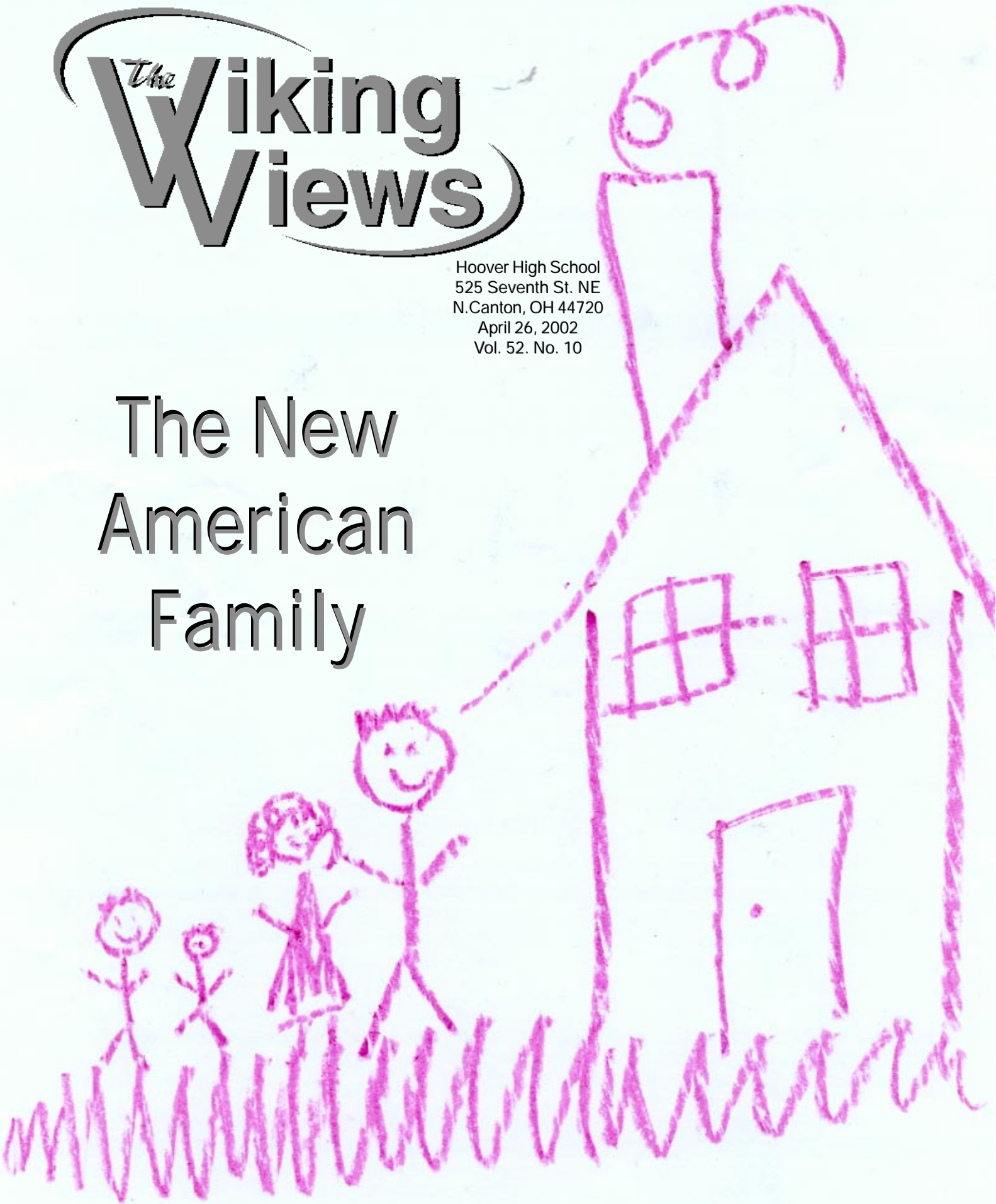


The Wiking Views

Hoover High School
525 Seventh St. NE
N. Canton, OH 44720
April 26, 2002
Vol. 52. No. 10

The New American Family



Spring sports seasons off to successful starts

A Closer View...

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Harry London's Chocolates is located near the Akron-Canton Airport. • Senior Justin Doyle works on homework in the courtyard. Doyle was named The Repository Teen of the Month for May. • Mr. Andy Rankin looks over a student's work. Rankin is one of many teachers that are former Hoover students.



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Editor's Note:

During the spring, a group of Hoover High School's finest athletes take the court everyday, whether for practice or for a match. They don't tackle or dunk, and no cheerleaders come to support their efforts. However, this does not make the boys tennis team any less talented. In fact, as of press time, the tennis team is undefeated, and the seniors on the team have yet to lose a set. I would encourage each of you to attend a tennis match; they are a lot more exciting than you may think. See the sports insert for stats on the team. Also, track, softball and baseball are all off to successful starts, and every team would appreciate support. For information on how each team is faring so far, check out the staff report on spring sports.

For many of us, time not spent at school, sporting events or other extracurricular activities is spent at home with our families. In our in-depth section this issue, we take a look at different aspects of how families come together, such as adoption. Also, Amy Schumaker explores how birth order affects your personality. Take a look to see if you fit the "typical" oldest, middle or youngest child.

Finally, Prom is just around the corner. It's a night that many of us will remember for the rest of our lives. Please, don't ruin it by doing something stupid that could hurt you or others around you. If you are going to drink, please don't drive. Let's make this night special.



Cover art by Megan Grisez

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The Viking Views

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The Viking Views is a student-produced newspaper distributed to approximately 1700 students and staff. Because the paper is a forum for student opinion, letters to the editor are welcomed and may be edited to fit available space and to eliminate obscenity, libelous information or personal attack. Names will be withheld at the discretion of the Editorial Board, but letters must be signed to be considered for publication. Letters should be sent to the above address or placed in *The Viking Views'* mailbox in the staff mailroom.

The Viking Views is a member of the Northeast Ohio Scholastic Press Association, the Great Lakes Interscholastic Press Association and the Quill and Scroll Society.

Unsigned editorials represent the majority of the Editorial Board.

Signed columns reflect the opinion of the writer and not *The Viking Views*, the adviser or the administration.

The Viking Views will make a clear distinction between fact and opinion in all the news printed.

The Viking Views will print retractions for errors when they are brought to the attention of the staff.

New classes to offer variety

By Angela D'Orazio

Staff Writer

It's never too late to change your mind. As school comes to a close, most students, excluding the graduating seniors, already know which classes they will be taking next year. But, students still have an opportunity to participate in four new and different classes being offered at Hoover.

Foods, Marketing, Career Preparation and Broadcast Journalism are the newest additions to Hoover's course description book. However, the Marketing and Foods class are simply restructured versions of last year's classes. According to guidance counselor Peg Garlock, the courses were added to better accommodate both the students and the staff.

"The foods class, for instance, was created because the state would not allow students to get credit for both food courses [Foods for Fitness and Creative Foods], so we just combined them," Garlock said.

The class will be offered to sophomores, juniors and seniors and will be taught by Mrs. Ann Bradway. However, according to Garlock, Foods is not a "new" class but just a combination of the two older food classes.

"We took the best of both classes and put them into one," Garlock said.

With the retirement of Mr. Carl Pachmayer, the marketing program will also undergo some minor changes, Garlock said. The Marketing Education course will be only a semester long, as opposed to the full year course it has been.

"This course will be essentially the same as the full year course; we're just going to condense it into a semester," Garlock said.

However, according to Garlock, Hoover students who take the new semester marketing course at Hoover will not be eligible to immediately go into the other marketing courses at Jackson or GlenOak.

There is no prerequisite for the semester marketing class at Hoover, and the course is open to juniors and seniors only. Final decisions are being made as to who will be teaching the class.

A brand new addition to the Business and Technology Program is the Career

Preparation course. This semester course will be offered to students in all grades and there is no prerequisite to enter Career Preparation.

According to Garlock, it is still unclear who will be teaching Career Preparation. The course will teach students how to prepare

résumés, be effective in interview situations and locate jobs.

A full-year course now being offered to students interested in journalism is the Broadcast Journalism course.

The class will be the newest addition to Hoover's journalism program, but, according to Mrs. Valeta Drake, a possible teacher of the course, Broadcast Journalism embodies all areas of journalism.

"The students in Broadcast Journalism will be exposed to all aspects of journalism: writing, on-camera work, producing and scheduling through teamwork with Mr.

Wilson's Video Productions class," Drake said.

The Broadcast Journalism is just one of three journalism-directed courses offered at Hoover. Students can also take Newspaper Production or Yearbook Production. Drake believes that Broadcast Journalism is necessary to complete the journalism package.

"We have a wonderful Video Productions class, and we are expanding technology, so we want to expand the journalism program to correspond with that," Drake said.

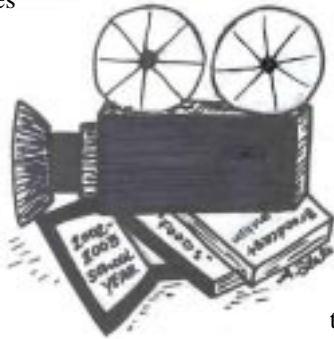
To take Broadcast Journalism, a student must have first completed Journalism I. This year's juniors are an exception, however.

Junior Mike DeSantis signed up for Broadcast Journalism, not because of an extreme interest in journalism, but because he is excited to learn something new and see where it will lead him.

"I signed up because it sounds like an interesting course that might help me to decide on a future career," DeSantis said. "So, maybe at the end of the course I might look back and say, 'Oh wait, maybe I did really like that.'"

According to Drake, the Broadcast Journalism class will be taught by either herself or Ms. Pam McCarthy, who also teaches Newspaper Production. Details about Broadcast Journalism are still being finalized, but there are many hopes for the course.

"We want to present what is currently the morning announcements in more of a news format and increase the sophistication of the broadcast," Drake said. "Our goal, after much training, is to have on-camera interviews with various people in the school community about issues that are of concern to students and staff."



Science fair participants earn award

By Allie Krucek

Staff Writer

The School Excellence Award is only given to the schools in the area that best demonstrate their scientific knowledge. With an average score of 4.3 on a scale of five Hoover's entries in the District 13 Science Fair were honored with this award March 23.

Chemistry teacher Mrs. Connie Hubbard's reaction was of great pride for her students, she said.

"I was beaming," Hubbard said. "I was

so excited for them. I even had goosebumps."

Hubbard motivated her chemistry students to participate in the fair.

"I encouraged them greatly to go, because I knew that they were doing high-quality work, and they would be able to compete and do well," she said.

The projects required hours of research and organization, according to junior Neil Bhagat.

"I started in late December and worked until about 3 a.m. the night of science fair,"

he said.

Bhagat's project dealt with the nitrate concentration in water and which buffer would reduce the nitrate concentration the most. This is an issue that he felt is important to the environment.

"When most people think of water poisoning, they think of arsenic and lead, but I think of nitrate," he said. "I think it's a problem a lot of people don't know about."

The students who chose to participate in

☐ See FAIR, p. 5

'Night on the Town' soon here

By Jenna White
Staff Writer

For years, juniors and seniors have danced around the Cultural Center's winged Pegasus. This year, they will be dancing beneath Medieval chandeliers.

Traditionally, Prom has been held at the Cultural Center. However, this year it will be held at Glenmoor Country Club May 11 from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m.

The idea to change the Prom's location was suggested by junior class officers Mike Baughman, Andrew Burnham, Paula Gulling, Emily Coury and Jay Schumacher.

Schumacher said that the committee wanted to give juniors and seniors a chance to have a new atmosphere for Prom.

"There is nothing wrong with the Cultural Center," Schumacher said. "We were just given an opportunity to explore new horizons and offer students other options."

The Prom committee's decision to offer Glenmoor was approved by Principal Rick Campbell. Campbell, in turn, offered juniors and seniors a chance to vote on the issue Aug. 31 in homerooms. Despite a close vote to move the prom to Glenmoor, some seniors are unhappy with the decision.

"I think it is unfortunate that we have to change the location of prom," senior Melissa Rice said. "It is tradition to have it at the Cultural Center. You shouldn't change tradition."

Despite negative feedback from some

seniors, members of the Prom committee said that Glenmoor has many advantages. They said one benefit may be that students will be offered a choice of chicken or Filet Mignon for dinner at the Prom. Committee member Angél Hakim said that including dinner in the cost is beneficial.

"You don't have to worry about reservations and a crowded restaurant," Hakim said. "Instead, you get to eat with all of your friends, and it is fairly cheap. You also have a limited menu, so you don't have to worry about what you want to eat."

Following dinner and the dance, after prom games will be held from 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. in the Commons and gym. Senior Mike Langford is looking forward to after prom.

"Last year, I really liked sumo-wrestling and the gladiator joust," Langford said. "I also enjoyed the karaoke and casino games."

These activities, as well as an inflatable obstacle course, bungee run and giant slide, will be included at After-Prom. The cost will be \$5 per person.

On Sunday, students can take an 8 a.m. bus to Cedar Point. The bus will return around 11 p.m. Tickets are available in room AA-6 beginning May 6. The cost is \$40. After-Prom committee head Darlene Mishler encourages students to buy their tickets for both the Prom and Cedar Point early.

"Students should buy their tickets as soon as possible, so that they can enjoy their 'Night Out on the Town,'" Mishler said.

Prom Dates and Times

A Night Out on the Town

- Date: May 11
- Location: Glenmoor Country Club
- Times to remember:
Juniors arrive 5:45-6:15 p.m.
Seniors arrive 6:15-6:45 p.m.
Dancing until midnight
- Cost: Couple \$75; Single \$37.50

New York New York

- Date: May 12
- Location: Commons and gym
- Time: 12-5 a.m.
- Cost: \$5 (per person)

Cedar Point

- Date: May 12
- Location: Bus leaves from 7th St. Entrance
- Time: Bus leaves at 8 a.m.
Bus returns approx. 11 p.m.
- Cost: \$40 per person for bus and Cedar Point ticket; \$15 for the bus trip only

FAIR

(Continued from p. 4)

the science fair had earlier deadlines than other chemistry students did for similar projects, according to Bhagat.

"But, it was good because I procrastinate," he said.

Two judges scored each project for the official science fair rating. The judges were local science and health professionals, local college professors and science teachers, according to Hubbard.

"They base [the ratings] on four things: the knowledge the student has gained, use of the scientific method, clarity of expression and originality and creativity," she said.

Shuster said that she initially felt pressure in the adjudicated situation.

"I was really nervous, but [the judges]

were really nice, and they just asked us what we did and how we went about it," she said.

According to Bhagat, the judging system provided students with an opportunity to win unique awards.

"There was a multitude of special awards where judges from colleges and corporations interviewed you so they could give you scholarship money or special distinctions," he said.

To be considered for special awards, projects had to receive a superior rating and be judged by the award sponsors, according to Hubbard.

Bhagat received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Environmental Research as well as an honorable mention from the Ohio

Water Works Association. The Ohio Water Works Association also asked Bhagat to conduct research with them over the summer.

Bhagat also qualified for the State science fair and plans on conducting further research and additional trials prior to the competition May 11.

According to Hubbard, projects had to receive a certain amount of points to qualify for State and not all superior level projects met this requirement. She said is proud of her students that qualified.

"[State] is the day of the Prom, and they are going to put in a hard day at the science fair and then drive back and be beautiful for the Prom," Hubbard said.

Editor receives national honors

Nelson places in top five in national contest

By Dana Sands

Staff Writer

Being named Ohio High School Journalist of the year by the Journalism Education Association (JEA) was not the end for senior Lindsey Nelson. Nelson was also named as one of four runner-ups at the national level competition. There was one overall winner named at the national competition.

Mrs. LeAnne Nelson, Nelson's mother, was there when Lindsey opened the letter informing her of her award. She saw the excitement on Nelson's face, but Nelson acted very calmly about the accomplishment.

"She got this big smile on her face," Mrs. Nelson said. "I think she's very humble about her recognition."

In order to apply for this competition, Nelson had to go through an admission process and had to send in several items pertaining to her journalism career.

"I had to do a portfolio that had to be less than 35 pages front and back of all my different work," she said. "I had to write a short essay about my journalistic life and I had to have two recommendations written by Mr. [Brad] Cook and Ms. [Pam] McCarthy."

Nelson, editor-in-chief of *The Viking Views*, has always expressed an interest in the field of journalism.

Mrs. Nelson recalls Nelson wanting to be a journalist since before middle school. Her third grade teacher told her mother to get her a computer immediately.

"I can remember Lindsey telling me that when she's in high school she's either going to be the editor of the yearbook or the editor of the newspaper," Mrs. Nelson said.

When Nelson was younger, she'd set her alarm clock a half an hour early so she could read. Her love for reading further progressed to writing, and soon she was hooked.

"Reading really helped her with her language skills and her love of writing," Mrs. Nelson said.

Nelson was a member of the yearbook

staff in middle school. She joined the yearbook staff at Hoover the second semester of her freshman year. As a sophomore, she was in Journalism I and a member of the yearbook staff. During her junior year, she switched her focus to the newspaper staff.



Lindsey Nelson

"I like newspaper because it gave me an opportunity to meet people that I wouldn't have normally [met,] and it is preparation more for my future," Nelson said.

Nelson and her parents find that the newspaper staff, made up of 62 students plus one adviser, has proven to be a great support system for her.

"She really does feel that it is a great group to work with," said Mr. Robert Nelson, Lindsey's father. "They all

have expectations and are striving to exceed those expectations."

McCarthy, advisor of *The Viking Views*, thinks very highly of Nelson's journalistic capabilities.

"She's a multi-talented journalist, competent in several different media," McCarthy said. "I think she can probably write her own ticket, whether she wants to be a magazine journalist or newspaper reporter or work in television news. I think she has the ability to do any of those."

Nelson is attending Ohio University's Scripps School of Journalism in the fall, where she will concentrate on magazine journalism.

"Because Scripps School of Journalism is rated so highly, it could open up a lot of opportunities for her," Mr. Nelson said.

Nelson finds that she'll be very prepared for college in the fall.

"I think going into school I'll have a lot more experience than most other people there," Nelson said. "Some [high] schools don't even have journalism programs, so going into college I'll have a lot more experience-wise."

Nelson is very impressed by the

journalism program offered at Hoover and how much she has learned because of it.

"Our program has become very well-established within the state and we have one of the best newspapers in the state," she said. "Rewards are a reflection of how our program has gotten better."

Nelson will travel to Columbus with her parents and McCarthy, May 21. There she will attend the Annual Association for Women in Communications and the Columbus Matrix Foundation will award her with the Gladys J. Lamb Memorial Scholarship.

This is the second year in a row that Hoover has been home to the Ohio High School Journalist of the year. Last year, Amanda Codispoti received the honor and Jessica Coomes was first runner-up.

Members of *The Viking Views* staff find that Lindsey is very deserving of this award.

"Lindsey works harder than anybody I know," senior Lindsey Wyckoff said. "She makes it seem like everything is so easy, but deep down she works so hard on everything she does."

Senior Brian Strausser agrees.

"She is the complete journalist," Strausser said. "Sometimes, after she edits one of my stories, I look at the corrections she has made and I say 'Wow, I'm an idiot.' She makes everyone around her a better writer. Overall, I don't think there is anyone more deserving of the award than her."

Senior Lindsey Nelson, editor of *The Viking Views*, edits stories at a recent newspaper late night. Nelson was recently honored, receiving one of the four national runner-ups positions by the Journalism Education Association.



JEN BROWN

Teen of the Month has come far

By Lindsey Nelson

Staff Writer

When senior Justin Doyle was approximately 18 months old, he became interested in a lightbulb. In fact, he was so intrigued by this lightbulb, he grabbed it in his hands, promptly burning himself. His parents said he cried for hours afterward.

It is this adventurous spirit that led Doyle to be named The Repository Teen of the Month for May.

"[My sense of adventure] has led me to become involved in many activities that some other students don't always seek out," Doyle said. "If I like them, I really become dedicated."

These activities include being a member of Student Council Executive Board, Leadership Council Youth Staff, the Hi-Lo's, National Honor Society and an attorney on a two-time state-qualifying Mock Trial team.

Doyle has also played varsity tennis for three years, earning the Ohio Tennis Association Silver Raquet Award and Federal League honors last year. He is also a swim team statistician and a four-year member of Ski Club.

When he's not busy with school activities, Doyle is a volunteer at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Quail Hollow, Habitat for Humanity and St. Luke's Nursing Home.

Out of all of his activities and achieve-

ments, Doyle is most proud of earning his Boy Scout Eagle Scout, because "it represented eight years of work."

Doyle's involvement in such a variety of activities is most likely a reason he was chosen for Teen of the Month, according to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo and Debby Doyle.

"He exemplifies the best characteristics of academics, community and athletics," Mr. Doyle said.

Teen Board President Carleen Risaliti, a senior, also feels that Doyle's versatility as a student was a reason he was picked, even though he is not "your typical Teen of the Month," according to Risaliti.

In fact, when the top 50 students of the senior class were asked to fill out Teen of the Month applications in September, Doyle was not in that group. However, in November, Risaliti approached guidance counselor Margie Blake and asked if she could have Doyle fill out an application anyway, and Blake agreed. When Risaliti asked Doyle to fill out an application, "he was honored that

we thought that highly of him," she said.

"He has a lot of things going for him...that a lot of other candidates don't have," Risaliti said.

Junior Rachel Liber, Doyle's girlfriend of two years, thinks that Doyle's ability to communicate is the key to his success.

"Justin has great people skills," she said. "You could set him beside anyone, and he could start a long, deep conversation with them."

Mrs. Doyle also feels that Doyle is "driven to be with people."

"His goal in high school was to really connect," she said.

Doyle will continue to improve his communications skills as he goes to Notre Dame next year, majoring in Business and Communications. His dream job is to be in charge of marketing at ESPN.

Liber feels that Doyle will thrive in whatever he decides to do.

"I think Justin is going to be very successful and happy no matter where he goes, because he takes any situation and makes it fun and interesting," Liber said.

Mr. Doyle feels that looking back 50 years from now, Justin will have "accomplished a variety of things."

"He will be successful in his career of choice.... [and] in his family endeavors," Mr. Doyle said. "There will be a bit of adventure to his activities in the future."

To Doyle, success is "to earn the respect of your peers and accomplish great things."

Doyle's goal for his life is to continue to make a difference in people's lives. At his funeral, he hopes that each person would say something different about him.

"That means I was able to touch everyone on an individual level," he said.

Until then, Doyle continues to live by the motto "Eat, drink and be merry because tomorrow we may die," from the song "Trip- ping Billies" by Dave Matthews Band.

"I just make a conscious effort to live each day to its fullest," Doyle said. "I wouldn't want to have any regrets."



Justin Doyle

Orchestra plays on

By Kristen Petrarca

Staff Writer

The orchestra will hold a movie music theme concert May 28 in the Hoover Hall of Performing Arts. Featuring music from well-known movies such as "Jurassic Park," "Shrek" and "Cabaret," orchestra members and director Mr. Ron Varn expect that the concert will be a success.

Varn believes that the audience will enjoy the concert because the music will be easily recognizable.

"I think they'll enjoy the themes from 'Jurassic Park'," he said. "It's probably the most familiar."

Senior orchestra member Nicci Heppe and junior orchestra member Elizabeth DeBellis agree with Varn.

"The audience will enjoy the fact that they know the songs," Heppe said.

DeBellis is "excited" to be playing more

popular music.

"I really like some of the music like 'Shrek'," she said. "We play 'Jurassic Park' and it sounds really cool."

Heppe is also looking forward to the "Jurassic Park" theme because of the fact that her section, the violas, has a major part.

"The violas have the melody in the beginning," she said.

In order to prepare for a major concert, the orchestra must practice often, which includes practicing outside of class, said Varn.

"We rehearse on a daily basis and [the students] prepare on their own," Varn said.

In spite of having to prepare both in and out of class for the concert, Heppe feels that the students generally enjoy the music selections.

"Playing the movie themes gives you a different way to express yourself musically, while also expressing the movie," she said.

ADS PAGES

News Worth Noting

Literary Magazine makes appearance at Borders; 10 Hoover students take part

Several Hoover High School students participated in a poetry reading and artwork exhibition held at Borders on the Strip April 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. Students either read poems they had written for the Literary Magazine or displayed drawings they had submitted. Kevin Doyle introduced the poems and readers.

Miss Tiffany Walker, an English teacher at Hoover, was the adviser responsible for coordinating the Borders Event, along with a teacher board of faculty from Lake High School, Canton South High School and GlenOak High School.

Walker also hand-picked the participants for the event based on their submissions to the Literary Magazine.

She was very satisfied with the quality of work Hoover presented at the event.

"I think all the students did a wonderful job presenting their poetry readings," she said.

Mr. Rick Campbell, principal of Hoover High School, also attended the event. Campbell said

that he was impressed by the talents represented there.

"It always amazes me the amount of talent we have at Hoover, especially in the fine arts," Campbell said.

Campbell believes the Hoover students did well and got their message across to those listening to the readings.

"They did a great job of communicating," Campbell said. "I thought it was excellent. I just wish more people would have taken advantage of it."

Although the main focus of the evening was on the readers, the artwork hanging behind the speakers drew many favorable comments as well.

"The artists had fabulous work," Walker said.

Walker felt that overall, the event went very well.

"I want to thank all the students who participated, be it the reading or displaying of artwork and especially the emcee," Walker said. "And also thank you to Mr. Campbell for attending the event."

-Kate Allison

'Adam,' played by eighth grader Tommy Jeffcott and 'Eve,' played by junior Heather Lazaroff, converse during a portion of "Scene." "Scene," which was started by a former drama club adviser, is a compilation of student-written skits.



JOSH BRANCH

News in Brief

Hoover junior Nathan

Monaco was one of the 70 Ohio juniors chosen as a Martin W. Essex scholar for the coming year. He will attend a week-long School for the Gifted program at Ohio University in August. The Ohio High School Athletic Association also selected Monaco to attend the National Federal Student Leadership Conference in Indianapolis in July.

The William A. Summit

and Dorothy J. Summit Memorial Award will be presented to senior Tricia Lilley for her entry in the Stark County Bar Association 2002 Law Day Essay Contest. She will be presented with \$250 at the Law Day Luncheon May 1 at the McKinley Grand Hotel in Canton.

Seniors Abby Moore and

Bob Allensworth were both chosen as North Canton Elks Teen of the Month for the month of March. The two were invited to attend a dinner celebrating their achievement May 22.

Senior pianist Jordan

Sommers qualified for the

state competition at Bowling Green State University. Sommers won the regional Middle East District Buckeye Audition at the University of Akron April 13. Sommers played music composed by Beethoven, Chopin and Scraben.

At the last meeting of

National Honor Society, new officers were elected for the junior class. Elected as the president of NHS was Mike Desantis; vice-president, Andrew Burnham; treasurer, Katie Bang; and secretaries, Francie Pedersen and Anna Wakulchik.

Six Hoover students

won awards at the 16th Congressional Art Show held April 13. Best of Show was awarded to senior Ashley Grasse, while senior Cliff Seeman won a first place drawing award. Junior Holly Fleischman won a first place award for the mixed media/collage category and senior Shannon Howard won a first place painting award.

Honorable mentions were also given to junior Katie Bang and senior Katie Pagan.



May

2- Choir Awards Banquet, 6 p.m.

11- Jr./Sr. Prom at Glenmoor

17-18- May Fiesta Performance in Hoover Hall, 7 p.m.

19- May Fiesta Performance in Hoover Hall, 2 p.m.

22-Senior Recognition Assembly in Hoover Hall, 8 p.m.

-Andrea Kovatch

Add spice to your life

When dinner and a movie gets boring, a new take on dating might be the answer

By Alexandra Walter

Staff Writer

The anxious feeling in your stomach has been building all night as you prepare. Butterflies dance all over your nervous stomach as you walk up the front steps of your date's house. You have anticipated the date with the person of your dreams and have gone over the whole night in your head over and over again for as long as you can remember. Your hair is perfect and you're smelling good. The tunes in the car is perfect cruising music and the stars are out in force. The night is perfect, but alas, the outcome of this dream date is unknown.

Where are you and your date off to? This date is special, and you are determined to not make it another routine night at the stand-by dinner, movie and Starbucks.

Whether dating for the first time or spending the evening with the person you still love seeing every night, there are a variety of local dating activities if you are willing to be a little adventurous.

A classical evening à la mode

Add some dating variety by dressing up and traveling to Umstadd Performing Arts Hall to hear the Canton Symphony, directed by Gerhardt Zimmerman.

The concerts are held Sundays at 7:30 p.m. and ticket prices range between \$16 and \$28, depending on seating. If you present a Hoover ID with your ticket purchase, a discount will be provided.

Members of the Symphony are joined by the Canton Symphony Chorus for a more informal performance at the Cable Recital Hall in the Cultural Center for the Arts.

These concerts are only \$10 for students. The last April cameo concert is tonight at 8 p.m.

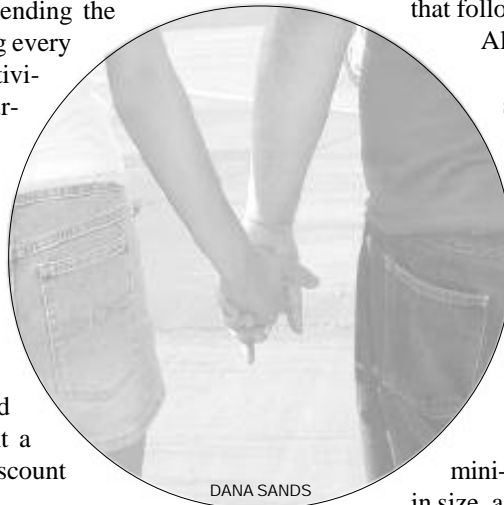
Following the musical festivities, you and your date could share homemade ice cream at Taggart's.

Taggart's is located on Fulton Rd. in Canton and is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

The Kitchen Sink is the largest sundae available, with two scoops of chocolate, strawberry and vanilla ice cream and is covered with hot fudge, caramel, marshmallow topping, homemade whipped cream and pecans.

This sundae comes with two spoons, so it is a great way for you and your date to share and finish your lovely, cultured evening.

For more information on the Canton Symphony, call the box office at (330) 452-2094 or log on to www.cantonsymphony.org.



Floating on cloud nine

Grab a picnic basket and some sparkling grape juice and go a couple of thousand feet in the air to float through the sky among the birds.

With the help of Russell's Balloon Adventures in Hartville, you can do just that.

Owner Mark Russell says "every flight is different" and "part of the magic" is that there is no motion in the basket of the balloon, since it is traveling at the speed of the wind.

The peak time for flying is May through October. Also, due rising and descending air that could turn a heavenly trip into a dangerous one, the balloons can only take off at sunrise or two hours before sunset.

Accompanying each flight is a commercial pilot and a crew that follows the balloon until it lands.

All of this can be yours for \$275.

For more information on how you and your sweetie can get a ride, call Mark Russell at (330) 877-8484.

Blazing a trail to their heart

For an romantic outdoor journey through creeks, woods and shady lanes, you can both travel just seven miles south of Canton, off of exit 99, to Bear Creek.

Guided trail rides are offered everyday at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1, 3 and 5 p.m.

The rides last about an hour and include a mini-lesson on handling your horse, which can vary in size, age and breed.

For a good cause, you could visit Bear Creek today when they host their annual St. Jude Ride. All donations aside from the initial fee goes to St. Jude's Hospital.

This ride is three hours long and costs \$40, but for those with their own horses, the ride is free of charge.

When the bright summer sun shines, Bear Creek also offers other activities, such as fishing, swimming or camping in thier log cabins.

If you work up an appetite during your journey in the woods, you can travel several miles north to the Stables Hall of Fame Grille on 13th St. in Canton.

Since the Stables was constructed from an old 1900's horse barn, it makes the perfect dining atmosphere after a horseback riding trip.

The restaurant is owned by former Cleveland Browns player Chris Spielman and serves everything from the specialty Spielman Burger, covered in bacon, mushrooms and provolone cheese, to pasta and steak.

For further information on riding dates and times, or for reservations call Bear Creek at (330) 484-3901.

IN AN HOUR OR LESS



London's Chocolates

By Megan Grisez

Staff Writer

"My dear friends, you are now about to enter the nerve center of the entire Wonka Factory. Inside this room, all of my dreams become realities. And some of my realities become dreams. And almost everything you will see is edible. Edible. I mean, you can eat almost everything."

These words of Willy Wonka describe my anticipation of the tour at Harry London's factory. However, I found no rivers of chocolate, edible walls, Oompa Loompas or plump girls transforming into giant blueberries. Although it may not have exactly mimicked the surreal situation of Wonka's factory, the 45-minute tour provided an educational and interesting look into the world of chocolate.

Before beginning the Harry Londons



KELLY CLARK

Chocolates factory tour, visitors are greeted with a sample of chocolate. During my tour, this treat was a signature Ohio buckeye.

The tour began with an eight-minute informational video on the history of Harry London's.

The video includes the history of Harry London's Chocolates. As a Canton, Ohio, resident, I was excited to see that something big could come out of the dinky little town. Harry London, a Cantonian himself, began this company in 1922. Since then, it has expanded into a well-known business enjoyed all over the world. In fact, all of the chocolates with the Disney name on it are produced at London's.

After getting through the first 10 minutes of the tour, the rest is a lot more fascinating. The guide takes you throughout the factory,

explaining the entire chocolate-making process. It is really interesting to see the large amounts of equipment and ingredients it takes to make the chocolate sold in stores.

The tour ended in the chocolate store, where we were given free samples and then left to browse the many delicious treats available for sale. With each adult ticket, a \$2 discount is given with any purchase of \$10 or more. After smelling chocolate for the past 45 minutes, all of the candy looked delicious.

Harry London's factory is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located on Lauby Road, just north of the Akron/Canton Airport. Tour tickets are \$2 for adults (\$1 on Saturdays), \$1 for children under 18 and free for children under two.

With this low price and close location, I recommend this tour to anyone interested in chocolate production. It may not be Willy Wonka's chocolate factory, but it is still interesting, and if nothing else, the samples are at least worth the price of the ticket.

Students earn a living by working summer jobs

By Laura Detore

Staff Writer

Gas. Insurance. Car Payments. College. These require money and for most students, that money comes from jobs. As the high school years pass, many teenagers become less dependent upon their parents and begin to become more responsible for their own expenses.

There are only a few weeks left until summer, making this the prime time to be searching for a summer job.

Guidance office secretary Mrs. Cindy Harper recommends checking the job bulletin board. There, businesses place notices if they have openings for teenagers. Examples of jobs posted are babysitting, Wendy's, Best Burger, telemarketers and lifeguarding.

A manager of Acme in North Canton, who chose to withhold his name, also said there could be possible openings for the summer. An applicant must be 16-years-old. If hired, they can work anything except running machinery. Acme is also willing to work around a schedule.

Another place hiring soon is the new

Fisher's. It is set to open in May. An answering machine said there are openings in deli, meat, bakery and cashier.

Sophomore Tiffany Bader applied at Fishers online and called in a few days. She went for an interview, but was told they are unwilling to work around schedules.

Bader also applied at Dairy Queen and was hired in a few days. She likes working there because "they're willing to work around your schedule."

There, Bader only works 3 or 4 nights a week and gets paid higher than minimum wage. When looking for a job, Bader recommends being persistent.

"Fill out lots of applications and listen to your parents, because even if you think you don't want to work somewhere, it might not be as bad as you first thought."

Sophomore Christen Misanik currently lifeguards and teaches classes at the North Canton YMCA. She knows how tough it is

to find work when you're a teenager.

"It's such a pain to get a job before you're 15," she said.

Misanik had to take a lifeguarding course to become certified for this job.

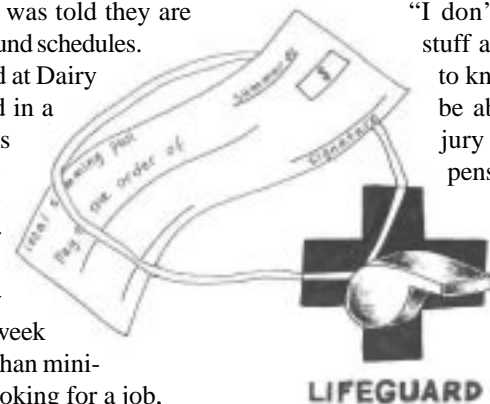
"I don't only have to know stuff about the water, I have to know CPR, first aid, and be able to react to any injury or accident that happens in the pool area while I'm on guard," she said.

Though it took many in-class hours to even apply for her job, Misanik still enjoys it.

"The nicest thing about working at the YMCA is when you see a kid around town and hear them saying, 'Mommy, mommy, that's my swim teacher.'"

Misanik has advice for teenagers searching for jobs.

"Go somewhere you enjoy spending time at because you're gonna be there awhile."





Ms. Palmer



Mrs. Savage



Mr. Rankin



Mrs. Nidy



Mrs. DeMuesy

To teach and be taught

Former Hoover students return to teach

By **Brittany Kress**

Staff Writer

It may be a new school building, but these teachers definitely know the ins-and-outs of Hoover High School and its students.

At least 11 former Hoover students are now teachers here, giving them the dual experience of life on both sides of the desk.

Ms. Rita Palmer, English and French teacher, graduated in 1967. After receiving her education degree from Walsh University, and perfecting her teaching skills at other various institutions, she returned to Hoover to teach.

"I thought it was the best school in Stark County and that's where I wanted to be," she said.

Mrs. Kathie DeMuesy, Graduation Reality And Dual-Role Schools (GRADS) teacher, continued her education at Kent State, Akron and Ashland Universities after graduating from Hoover in 1966.

DeMuesy found that she "continued to

admire and respect the district even after [she] graduated."

Mrs. Peggy Savage, English teacher, found working alongside her former teachers to be a bit awkward.

"They never made me feel like a student, but they kept telling me to call them by their first names... [and even though] I was older, I still couldn't," Savage said.

Savage graduated from Hoover in 1977 and then attended Grove City College before returning to Hoover.

"I think it's kind of nice to have a sense of loyalty and, maybe, I care more about some things than others because it's part of my past," she said.

Mrs. Kim Nidy, computer and business teacher, admits that teaching at Hoover has given her a new view of the teenage lifestyle.

"I still keep apologizing to my parents for being such a pain in high school," she said.

Mr. Andy Rankin, English and speech

teacher, graduated from Hoover in 1995 from Miami University in 1999. Through teaching, he feels he has learned many important things.

"Teaching has helped me to see that learning is not a one-way street," Rankin said. "The student has responsibilities and the teacher has responsibilities as well."

By experiencing the roles of both a Hoover student and teacher, Rankin has a new respect for the teaching community.

"I think sometimes, as a student, it's kind of hard to see that teachers really are people like everyone else," Rankin said. "I think that was one of the biggest eye-openers coming back here to teach."

Savage has also noticed various changes in the lifestyle of teens at Hoover over the years.

"Kids are much more worldly now, and I think it's because [today's teenagers are] just exposed to a lot more than we were," she said.

Wedding bells ring for Hoover teachers

By **Lane Shetzer**

Staff Writer

It's that time of year again; flowers blooming, birds chirping and wedding bells ringing? Miss Dana Roberts, Mr. Troy Kozee, Mr. Joe Martino, Mr. Charles Miller and Mr. Thomas Oakes are all planning weddings.

Roberts will be married to Mr. Bob Broadhurst June 29 at the Cathedral of Life in Canton. She met her future husband through a Christian organization.

Her wedding will be small, including two of her students who will be playing their vio-

lins.

"Some of my students are going to attend my wedding," Roberts said. "One of my students is going to tape with a video camera."

The wedding will be followed by a honeymoon in the Riviera Maya in Mexico.

Martino has planned a later wedding for August 10. He met his future wife, Ms. Gail Aemmer, through his hobby of painting.

"She bought one of my paintings at the Whistle Stop Art Gallery," Martino said.

Rather than planning a honeymoon after

the wedding, the couple has instead decided to take on a project.

"We are building a new house together and will be busy with that," Martino said.

Miller met his fiancée, Ms. Michelle Gordon, while working at the Olive Garden.

"She was with her ex-boyfriend," Miller said.

After the meal, Gordon wrote her phone number on a comment card.

"I happened to accidentally turn [the card]

☐ See **Married**, p.13

AP classes put to the test:

Do the benefits of advanced classes really add up?

By **Leia Dickerson**

Staff Writer

In most academic pursuits, students strive to be number one. This spring, though, students will be striving for number five.

In May, Hoover students, along with students across the country, will take Advanced Placement exams, for which the highest score is a five.

According to a Newsweek article, over 1.1 million AP tests were given in 1999. The number is growing, due to the incentives AP testing offers for high school students.

Senior Ann Jena currently takes three AP classes, and has taken two in the past. She said taking those classes have her “much better prepared [for] next year” than taking less rigorous classes instead.

Jena also plans to use her AP tests for college credit. She said she has researched AP policies at Washington University in St. Louis and Duke University, among others, and hopes she can use them toward college credit.

Senior Christa Ellsworth currently takes three AP classes, and has taken two in the past. Ellsworth, who will attend Ohio Northern University, also wants to earn college credits for AP work. Ellsworth said that her AP English is demanding.

“It’s a pretty steady stream of work,” she said.

AP English teacher Rita Palmer agrees with Ellsworth’s assessment of the class.

“It’s like jumping to sophomore English in college,” she said.

Many students like the challenge of taking an AP class in high school.

she is taking math and science courses, which she enjoys more. Christian offered advice to underclassmen in making decisions about taking AP courses in high school.

“Make sure you love the subject,” she said.

Palmer also said enjoying a subject should be considered in deciding whether or not to take an AP course.

“[AP English is] a fun class, but it helps if you love English,” she said.

Guidance counselor Peg Garlock said AP classes are valuable.

“[You] can save yourself a lot of time and money,” she said.

Despite the benefits, Garlock said sometimes students concentrate too heavily on their class load.

“It does add stress to the senior year,” she said. “[But] there are students that have handled it well.”

Overall, Palmer said AP classes are worth the effort.

“I think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages,” she said.

Jena agrees that AP classes will help for college.

“You don’t have to take AP classes, but if you do, you have to be prepared for all the work that comes with it,” she said.

“Make sure you love the subject.”
– Liza Christian, 12

Senior Liza Christian is taking three AP courses this year. She said AP classes teach responsibility that is essential for next year at college.

“It’s up to you to tell someone if you don’t understand something,” she said.

AP classes do not only present challenges in workload; they present problems in their subject areas.

Christian said she has taken AP classes in the past for subjects she dislikes. Now

MARRIED

(Continued from page 12)

over [and find her number,]...I was just surprised,” Miller said.

He called Gordon and found out he had made a life-changing decision.

The wedding will be held June 8 in Waynesburg, Ohio. It will be followed by a Caribbean cruise honeymoon.

Oakes met his future wife, Ms. Deanna DeSario, at BW-3’s in Canton while he was there having dinner.

“We began talking, and talking became dating,” Oakes said.

They will be married July 20 at St. Paul’s Church in North Canton. After the wedding, they will travel to Hawaii for nine days.

“I feel good about the wedding because

both sets of parents have been married for over 25 years,” Oakes said. “Both of our

families feel marriage is one of the most important decisions you can make.”

ICE SKATING, COOL IDEA!
PUBLIC SKATING FUN ALL YEAR LONG!!!
DJ, GAMES, PRIZES!!!
CENTER ICE
SPORTS COMPLEX
GOOD LUCK HOOVER HOCKEY!!!
Starts November 8
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PUMPS FOODS PUMPS Coca-Cola

Tanning is bad news

Shopping, gossiping and tanning. For many girls, these are three must-haves necessary to lead a complete teenage life. Most girls go through this stage at some point during their teen years. The love for shopping may never end and gossiping will continue to be a daily ritual.

But what about tanning? I'm sure that if it were up to most girls, they would *never* let anything get in the way of their weekly appointment at the tanning bed. But this is just asking for trouble. Do they realize, according to dermatologist Dr. Mary Staus, that their chances of getting skin cancer "significantly increase" after going to a tanning bed opposed to simply laying out in the sun?

And it isn't just girls that tan. An increasing amount of guys have begun to tan for some reason that I will never understand.

Now many of you are probably thinking, "Yeah, well, that will never happen to me. I won't be one of those people that get skin cancer." I never thought that I would get skin cancer, at least not now, since I have been careful with my skin, wear sunscreen often and have never once went tanning. But I turned out to be one of the 1.3 million people to be diagnosed with skin cancer this year. Mine happened to be the most dangerous form, a malignant melanoma.

It is rare to be diagnosed with a melanoma at seventeen, and fortunately my doctor caught it early enough that the cancer had not spread. I do *not* have a family history of melanomas, so it is true that it can happen to anyone. For those of you that go tanning, the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) states that "most...tanning beds emit mainly UVA radiation... [which] have a suspected link to melanoma, and...they also may be linked to immune system damage and premature skin aging."

And for those of you that don't know, "80 percent of sun damage occurs before age 18," according to the AAD. You may think that your skin looks perfectly fine now, but the damage you have created from being in the sun or tanning does not show until later in your life.

With the knowledge of this information alone, why would you want to go tanning? Isn't your health and future more important than how dark your skin is? I would certainly hope so.

I'm sure many of you girls are now thinking, "But what about Prom? I can't go to Prom with *white* skin!" or "I have to get tan before vacation so that I won't burn."

Let me just say this. To those of you who think you have to get tan so that you don't burn later, it's not true. If you don't wear sunscreen, then yes, you will burn. If you continually put on sunscreen every day when you are on vacation, you will

have enough protection. You're just harming yourself more if you tan ahead of time.

For those of you that are attending prom this year and those of you that plan on attending in the future, many people will say that prom is "the best night of your life." Years from now, when you look back on your high school years, you want to remember all of the great and memorable moments from prom. You don't want to have regrets of what you should have done differently. More specifically, you don't want to find out 10, 20 or even 30 years from now that you have skin cancer from your high school tanning. You could get skin cancer tomorrow, or have it right now, and not even know it.

I'm sure that most of you girls, considering how concerned you are about your looks since you tan in the first place, don't want to start getting wrinkles on your face when you're young. Unfortunately, that is one of tanning's side effects. Although many of you think that being tan is a healthy look, let's just see who's healthier at a 30-year class reunion—the one that went tanning or the one that wore sunscreen. I think we all have a feeling what the answer will be. Don't ruin your future just for one night.

So, to all those that do tan, please see a dermatologist. You are harming yourself and putting yourself at a much greater risk than you may think. Skin cancer is one of the few cancers you can protect yourself from, and I urge all of you to take advantage of that.

Ask Allison



Allison Martino

Featured Student



Tyler McInturff

If you could be a celebrity, who would you be?

- "Paul Walker, because he gets all the ladies, and he drives nice cars."

What is your favorite sports team?

- "Tennessee Titans."

What teacher has inspired you the most?

- "Mr. McGee, because he was full of energy and made class fun."

Solid, liquid, or gas?

- "Liquid, because I could be all three of them."

What has been your worst dream?

- "I dreamed once there was a werewolf in my closet."

What is your way for expressing thoughts?

- "I play the guitar, because it helps me feel better."

What do you do when you are angry?

- "I throw things, and I just walk out."

Describe yourself in one word.

- "Energetic."

- Jenn Hess

ADS PAGES

Editorial Board: Andrea Blake • Molly Giammarco • Emily Harwell • Natalie Hinton • Dave Murphy • Lindsey Nelson • Nina Perlman

PROM

For many high school students, prom is seen as the greatest of their high school careers. Because of its significance, many consider this night to be the perfect opportunity to throw elaborate parties, get drunk or do other things that may lead to dangerous situations. As a result, instead of fond memories, prom may serve as a night of regret. While prom is an important milestone in your life, it is not worth it to take foolish risks that may ruin your life and those around you forever.

This year, at prom 2002, we encourage everyone to make the most of the evening, have fun with friends and create memories that will forever be referred to as fond ones. This can be accomplished

by being responsible and safe. Foolish risks, such as drinking and driving are not essential to having a good time at prom. Don't make the night of prom the night that will change or ruin your life forever.

"While prom is an important milestone in your life, it is not worth taking foolish risks that may ruin your life."

The time after the dance is another place where students feel the need to participate in reckless activities. Instead of attending a party where drugs or alcohol will be present, go to after prom. If after-prom is not part of your plans, have fun, but be smart about the decisions you make.

While prom may tempt you to do something stupid and childish, think everything through, several times. After all, it's just another dance and another night. It's not worth the perpetual regret that consequences of these acts will cause you.

SCIENCE FAIR

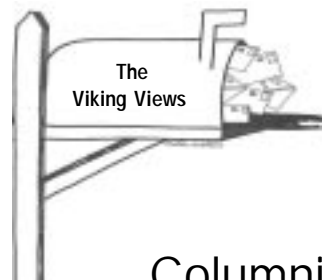
Some Hoover students were recently rewarded for displaying what they have learned in the classroom.

We would like to congratulate the 16 students who attended the District Science Fair last month. Several students were awarded prizes and scholarships for their projects. For the outstanding showing at the District Science Fair, Hoover High School received the School Excellence Award, which is given to schools whose students receive high rankings. Our students far exceeded the requirements needed in order to earn this trophy.

In order to compete in the competition, students spent dozens of hours over several months designing, researching and experimenting. This includes hours both at school and off-site, where students worked with professionals in their field of interest. These students gained real-world experience that will be useful in college and beyond.

We would like to extend additional congratulations to the 10 students who earned a rank of superior, qualifying them for the State Science Fair to be held May 11. These students have taken their love for science and investigation above and beyond the requirements in class and should be proud for honorably representing Hoover High School.

We also encourage all students to consider entering next year's District Science Fair. This is an excellent opportunity to hone research, writing and speaking skills. Again, congratulations to all the students who participated in the District competition and good luck to those attending the State Science Fair.



Letters to the Editor

Columnist confused

In regards to the letter written to the Viking Views, we strongly disagree with the columnist, Matt Grimes' opinion. We, as seniors, had to wait our fair share of time to go to prom. It gave us something to look forward to. It is a tradition, called the Junior/Senior Prom. This means only juniors and seniors attend.

As for you being deprived of senior memories, grow up. Memories can be made at Homecoming and Sweethearts during your first two years. Since many of you have never been to prom, let us lay it down for you. It is all about the seniors. It is a celebration of us finally getting out of high school. We think, deep down, that we really do care if an occasion underclassman arrives, and yes, we would notice.

Let's be serious now, Glenmoor isn't all that big, nor is the Cultural Center, where last year's prom was held, and there were only 450 people there, or less. IT WAS PACKED.

Hopefully this is a better expression of our feelings on why we don't want underclassmen at our prom other than "Because!" So, underclassmen, wait your turn, we did!

-Ashley Ewing, Kristin Gocsek, Meghan Kumberle, Molly Maser, Kristen Sheets, Shamaa Taki, and Jenny Zaytzeff, Mary Zink-12

Campbell Condensed

A hearty serving of Campbell's soup for Hoover's soul

What do you think about Prom being held at Glenmore this year?

"Well, before we have it, it's hard to make a comment," Principal Rick Campbell said.

Campbell said having a successful prom is the main goal of the junior class.

"I know Ms. Alvarez and members of the junior class have worked very hard to make this a very successful prom, and I anticipate it being that way," he said.

According to Campbell, this may not be the last change for prom in the next couple years.

"I don't anticipate this being the last change for it, because I have a concern...with some of the classes we have coming through [that have] increased numbers," he said. "I think [with] change, no matter what it is...there's always a concern,

but I think they have worked extremely hard to try to make this very successful."

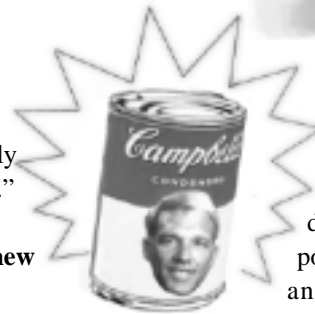
What do you think some of the new classes will bring to Hoover?

"We want to take a look at offering students classes that they're interested in and a source for a lot of success down the road," Campbell said.

According to Campbell, the main concern with adding new classes is scheduling.

"I think anytime you add something, it affects the whole curriculum...[so] we have to take a look at what we're already offering and...how [a new class] affects the major overall schedule because it can create conflicts with students' schedules," he said.

Mr. Campbell responds...



Campbell said.

Campbell said he leaves it up to the coaches as to whether they want pep rallies or not.

"If coaches want pep rallies,...we're more than willing to have those. So if we didn't have [any], it was because there were no pep rallies requested," he said.

Even though no pep rallies were held during school, a community rally was held for the girl's basketball team.

"[If] any student wanted to come to a rally to show support for that team, they would have had the opportunity to be here," Campbell said. "I think it was a wonderful turnout, and I appreciate the students who took the time to be [there]."

—Natalie Hinton

Viking Virtue :

"The white light streams down to be broken up by those human prisms into all the colors of the rainbow. Take your own color and be just that."

—Charles R. Brown

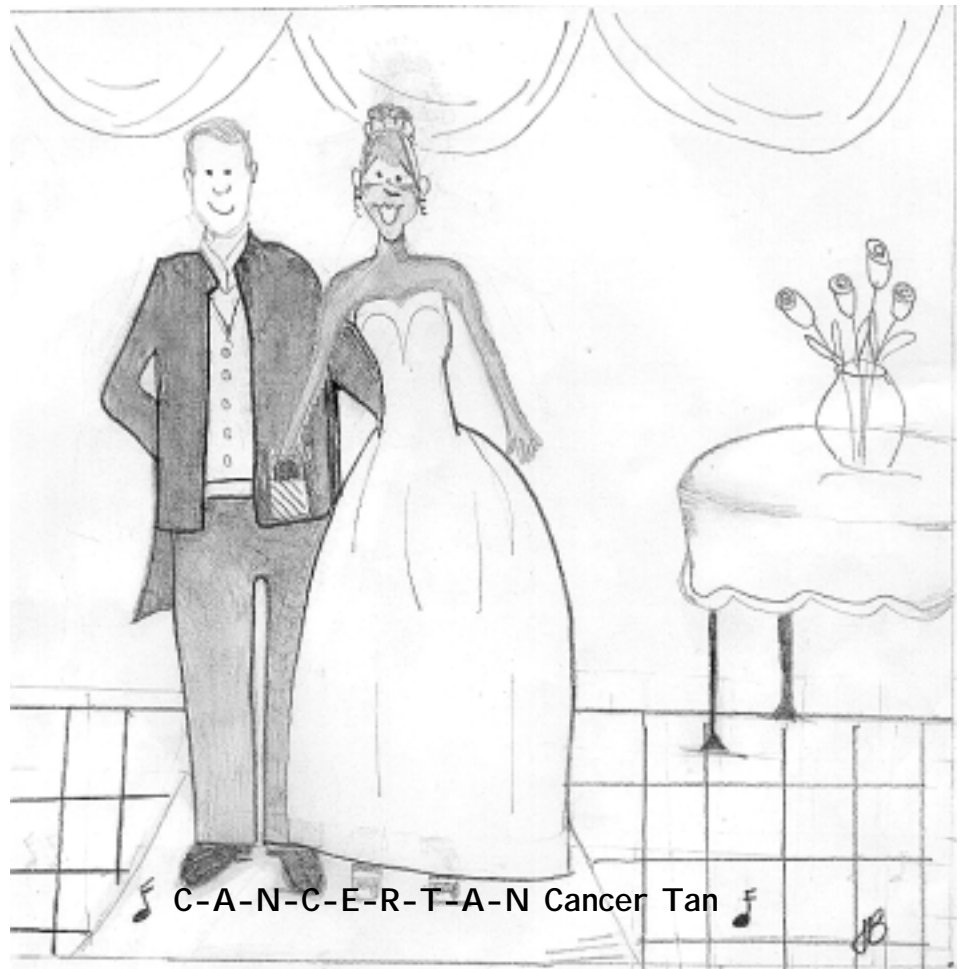
We were all born as individuals, with our own hopes, fears, loves, and dreams. We shared them with friends and family members proudly. We dressed the way we wanted to and didn't care how others thought of us.

For whatever reason, as we grow up, we seem to hide our real selves in order to fit in. We buy special jeans and expensive cars in the hope that we will be accepted by our classmates.

In the midst of spending all this time and money trying to be someone else, we forget who we really are. We look to be "normal" and attempt to "fit in." In the process of trying to be like everyone else, we lose our true self, our individual color of the rainbow.

We need to stop thinking about what others will think of us, and start discovering what we think about ourselves. When we know who we really are, we can truly shine. After all, a rainbow wouldn't be nearly as beautiful if it was only one color.

—Amy Schumaker



Dragons come to Glenmor

As the seniors' last day grows closer and closer, a certain issue has begun to infect its way throughout the halls of Hoover High School faster than a zit on a typical male freshman.

I can feel it in the air; the hundreds of Murph This fans at Hoover are starting to rise to a frenzy. Before my rusty Honda Accord sputters its way out of the Senior lot for the last time, the masses are demanding, no, pleading to know the answer to a question that's plagued their minds throughout the past school year.

"Murph," cry the column-admirers, "what *do* you do on the weekends?"

The answer sounds like this:

"Right, so the orc on the right is slashing you in the ... *sounds of dice rolling*... stomach. That's... *more dice rolling*... 12 damage. The orc swings his axe wildly about his head, challenging you 'filthy casters' with numerous obscenities. Anyone here speak Orc? OK then, you hear him say..."

The guys that recognize what I'm talking about are probably starting to emit a collective groan, because they know that I'm about to break a fairly large taboo. Let's face it, people aren't very impressed when they learn that you spend your weekends slaying evil (or good) in the popular role-playing game "Dungeons and Dragons."

And even though my fine dice-rolling skills and autographed "Player's Handbook" haven't scored me any dates lately, and my non-gaming friends could really care less *how* high in level my Ranger is, dungeon-clearing still has a few saving graces. Once the gaming books have closed for the night, I've noticed that a few life lessons from the world of fantasy still continue to exist.

Teamwork is the first of these lessons. Whether you're fighting a horde of pitchfork-holding kobolds or trying to sneak into a guarded fortress, you aren't going to be very successful going solo unless your last name ends in "Baggins," or you happen to have one of the aptly-named "Staves of Power" in your backpack.

And how does this apply to the real world, where the closest thing to a cluster of angry goblins is the morning swarm of freshman in the "A" hallway?

You've all seen the good that teamwork can accomplish, from the fundraising of National Honor Society to the heartfelt Senior Dances by the Leadership Council.

Yet, you've also seen the not-so-good.

Murph This



Dave Murphy

I've been told that the Junior prom committee, though planning what is sure to be a stunning prom regardless, has spent a decent amount of time bickering and fighting with each other. Now, just think of how much more potential Prom would have if the organizers started working as a team in the beginning... and *stayed that way*.

I suppose I can't be too hard against some of the power-trip-

ping prom planners, because I know how hard it is to back down when you've put a lot of personal time into something. I felt the same way about my first and favorite "Dungeons and Dragons" character, who wisecracked, slew and launched fireballs for over one and a half years of real-life time.

Unfortunately, a few bad dice rolls one day, followed by a few worse dice rolls and one angry, brain-sucking monster reduced him to a pool of blood, spellbook pages and gushy cranium juice. I was given the chance to bring him back a few months after his untimely death, but but revisiting the past just wasn't the same.

It was time to move on, time to grow out of an old shadow and leave my character in his rightful place—D&D eternity.

And when it comes to the prom spectacle, it's time for juniors and seniors to follow the same path and move on. Our time for petitioning, complaining and muttering curses is at its end, because what's done is done, and it's far too late to change anything.

In the end, Prom isn't about decorations, Prom isn't about dinner and Prom certainly isn't about location. The redeeming value of Prom is the memories, and the more you loosen up and enjoy the magical night, the greater a time you'll have.

Whether you're bachelorin' up the floor, dancing with a sweetheart or using your fire-breath to heat up entrees, heed the advice that "Dungeons and Dragons" has taught me, and I can guarantee that your night will be magical... perhaps literally.

The Viking Views

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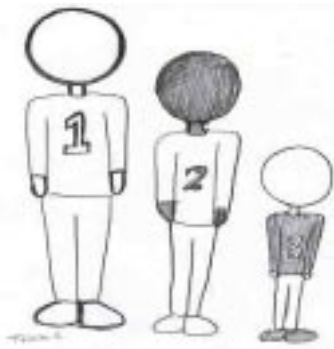
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How do you think your birth order affects you?

“I think that there are advantages and disadvantages. I get to do more than my sister was able to do at my age, but my brother gets to do more now than I did when I was at his age.”

–**Landen Morrison, 9**



Morrison



Miday

“Even though I have an older brother, I don’t seem to have any restrictions. It really doesn’t affect me at all.”

–**Jen Miday, 11**

“I’ve got to do things earlier than my brother did because my parents realized that if he could be responsible, then I could also in those same situations.”

–**Greg Habib, 9**



Habib



LaRocca

“Being the middle child means that you are not precious, because you are not the first and not precious for being the last. You are just the junk in the middle.”

–**Billy Stiffler, 10**

“It’s a disadvantage because you are always the first to experience something. That means that you are always the first one to screw up. So your siblings learn from your mistakes. The older children have no mistakes to learn from, they just make them.”

–**Alexis Miller, 11**



Smith



Herman

“Following my older brother’s footsteps is definitely not easy, but I don’t base my life around trying to be perfect. My parents are pretty understanding when it comes to my brother and I and our separate lives.”

–**Allison LaRocca, 10**

“I’m the last child, but I’m 10 years younger than my closest sister. I have all of the birth order personalities of the youngest child and the only child, and I think it spoiled me.”

–**Megan Smith, 12**



Doyle



Ossakow

“I was the youngest, but I now have a younger sister. She got spoiled, and I became another child. It’s better to be the younger child than the older one. The older siblings can help you with homework and growing up, and you can also learn from their mistakes.”

–**Jonathan Herman, 12**

“I think that I am more responsible because of my older brother. It is comforting to have someone pave the way for me.”

–**Brenna Doyle, 10**

“Since I am a twin, my family does not really have a birth order, so it doesn’t really affect me. But the only thing that I think is different is that occasionally Hilary and I get half-presents because we’re twins, and people think that we like sharing stuff like that.”

–**Drew Ossakow, 11**

Foxprints

Tricia Clem



Children find happy homes through adoption

Your family can be an important source of love. However, not every family is as picture-perfect as the Cleavers. The birth order of siblings can cause tension and fighting among children. Some families are not able to bear children so they choose to adopt. In Sociology classes, students learn about the difficulties of marriage and what not to do in a real marriage. Whatever the situation, the love your family can provide can help you get through anything.



By Shannon Green

Every year, according to www.adoptioninstitute.com, there are more than 1.5 million children adopted in the United States, making up 2 percent of children living in the United States. Since 1995, the adoption rate has decreased because of the increased difficulty to get a child.

According to Jennifer Morando, director of the adoption agency A Child is Waiting, there are now more requirements and training a family must through to adopt a child.

"All families who are looking to adopt must go through a 24-hour training and are questioned on their background of parenting," Morando said. "We are looking for the best possible home for these kids."

According to Morando, there are always some troubles with placing children who have been in many different homes.

"Older boys, after the age of 16, are always hard to place," Morando said. "They are old enough to understand and often have many problems with their new parents right from the start."

Morando believes a child having problems adjusting to a new home is not at fault.

"The biggest problem is that families do not commit totally to a child," Morando said.

In 2000, Stark Country finalized 77 adoptions. Some Hoover students have experienced adoption.

Junior Anne Conley was adopted at the age of four out of foster care. According to Conley, she was just old enough to remember leaving her foster mother.

"I didn't really know what was going on. I remember having to pack my clothes and crying, wondering where I was going and who I was going to meet," Conley said. "When I saw my foster mother crying, I got the idea of what was going on."

Conley now lives with her adopted parents and four other adopted siblings. Conley

often thinks about getting in touch with her birth mother but is not quite sure she wants to meet her yet.

"I think about it, and I don't want to meet her yet," Conley said. "I would like to meet her when I know more about

her, and I am older."

Conley knows little about her birth mother, and believes that just knowing a few things is good for right now.

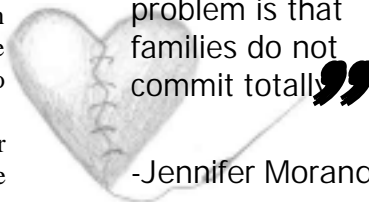
"The only thing that I know is what I have heard from a family member," Conley said. "We have the same hair and eyes, and I am happy with just knowing that."

According to Conley, there is just one piece of advice that she wants to pass on to other people who are thinking about giving up a child for adoption.

"If you can't take care of [a child], there is no use in destroying a life," Conley said. "Give [the child] to someone who cares and can give the baby a better life."

Conley's parents adopted her, along with four other adopted siblings. Conley and her parents get along very well and have a great

"The biggest problem is that families do not commit totally"



-Jennifer Morando

See **ADOPTION**, page 23



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE BELLISSIMO

Posing for a sibling picture, Jaclyn, Julie and Jennifer Bellissimo smile for the camera. Each girl has specific characteristics based on their order in the family.

that many oldest siblings are too young to get used to life in the spotlight.

"I was so young when my sister came that I was never used to being the center of attention," she said. "Lots of oldest kids probably don't even remember."

According to Isaacson, first-born children get mad when people are not respectful toward others, and they sometimes feel "as if everyone is out to get him or her."

Oldest children often seek careers in business, research, counseling, promotion and leadership. According to psychologist Alfred Adler, first borns may turn to their father for support when the next child is born.

Second Born

Second-born children often become clever and sometimes deceptive in order to compete with their older sibling. Because the first-born child is often physically bigger than the second born, the second born often gets attention for their academic achievements.

Freshman Andrew Arnold has never felt the need to academically beat out his older brother.

"I was always as big as my brother, if not bigger, so I didn't have to be clever," he said.

According to Isaacson, second borns usually criticize other people, and tend to show their love for others by correcting them.

Second-born children often go into accounting, banking, art or carpentry and may become receptionists, secretaries, teachers or writers. Their strengths are their self-discipline, honesty and determination.

Third Born

Second-born children are known for picking on the third born. Third-born children are often rebellious but they are sensitive to others' needs and are compassionate, practical and creative. According to Isaacson, third-born children usually prefer one close friend to many acquaintances.

Third-born children may go into careers in sales, law enforce-

Everyone has their place in the family. What's yours?

Have you ever wondered why you are so different than your brothers and sisters? And if you're an only child, do you feel stressed that you have to live up to your parents' expectations since you're the only kid in the family? Research and tests have been conducted to show how birth order can affect children's attitudes and personalities.

By Amy Schumaker

Only Child

An only child often likes being the center of adults' attention. According to Clifford E. Isaacson, who developed the web-site www.ncn.net/~cliffi/birtho.htm, only children are often very organized and like their lives to be stable. Many often feel a lack of freedom and, according to Robert Needleman at www.drspok.com, may feel "a great deal of pressure to be perfect."

An only child often goes into careers in radio, finance, teaching, ministry and management.

Junior Nick Gambone, an only child, believes that researching birth order characteristics can really tell something about a

person.

"I love being the center of attention" and "I trust others to do the right thing," he said. "I think this whole birth order thing is true."

First Born

First-born children often have trouble when their siblings are born because they have been the center of attention until the new baby comes home. They often feel that they are not loved and are not getting enough attention.

However, junior Jenna Schweitzer thinks

“I don't think you can judge anyone on any scientific level.”

-Mike Langhoff

See **ORDER**, page 23



Experiencing the Future

Sociology students learn the ups and downs of marriage

By Tyler Allchin

ANDREA BLAKE



Being part of a family is usually learned through experience, but some students at Hoover High School are getting additional help from their psychology/sociology class.

Mr. David Reese, who teaches the class, has been giving students a family learning experience for 18 years. His students first started participating in a marriage project in 1984.

“I pair students up into couples or roommates and they have a series of goals to attain, such as apartments, cars and groceries,” Reese said. “The couple that saves the most money, but lives comfortably, wins a serious prize.”

The project has become an important teaching tool for Reese.

“Being a psychology teacher, I know that when the brain is having fun it’s most likely learning,” Reese said.

Reese said that the most rewarding part of the process for him is when students enjoy themselves.

“I’m a big believer in projects. Projects are the best way to learn; it’s fun,” Reese said. “When I see the students really getting into it and having fun, that’s fulfilling.”

Reese said that the project, which was created to bring variety to his sociology class, has turned into a great learning experience for his students.

“I’ve been doing it a long time, and I teach it with the hope that the students receive learning experiences from it,” Reese said.

Senior Lindsay Wardle, who was in Mr. Reese’s sociology class last semester, felt that the marriage project provides a good way to learn about others.

“Working with another person, you had to deal with them,” Wardle said, “compromising and learning to make deci-

Seniors Katie Magoon and Jason Sanford exchange marriage vows for their sociology class project. All the students in the class were paired with either a roommate or a spouse.

sions with that person.”

Similar thoughts were echoed by senior Marcus Mercer, who also thought that the marriage project was a good learning experience, but in a more financial way.

“You learn a lot about money management,” Mercer said.

One of his biggest learning experiences came when Mercer took a trip to the supermarket.

“When I went grocery shopping it helped me appreciate how much money it takes to buy food,” Mercer said.

Reese said that grocery shopping is one of the most enjoyable parts of the project for most students.

“[Students] make videos and they tape themselves getting groceries,” Reese said.

Mercer felt that the project helped him learn many good lessons.

“I learned a lot about what it takes to live on your own,” Mercer said.



ADOPTION

Continued from page 20

relationship.

Conley is very thankful for the opportunities that her parents have given her.

"I am very appreciative of my parents, because if it weren't for them, I wouldn't be here right now," Conley said.

According to www.adoptioninstitute.com, almost 90 percent of children adopted from foster care are less than five years old. Senior Tessa Hannan was also adopted, but at the much earlier age of two days old. Hannan's birth mother put her in foster care, because she felt that she could not adequately take care of her and she wanted her to have two parents.

"I think it was really brave of her, because she couldn't take care of a child. She was doing it for me," Hannan said. "I have a lot more advantages than I would ever have."

Like Conley, Hannan also thinks about finding her birth mother and meeting her.

"I would like to meet her sometime," Hannan said. "Once, even if that's all it is."

Hannan lives in a family with other adopted brothers and sisters, so she never feels like the "odd one out." Her parents

adopted several times and also have had 37 foster children.

Hannan feels that her family is just like her normal family.

"Adoption has never been an issue," Hannan said. "This is just my opinion, but I think it is a better choice than abortion."

Senior David Bartley was adopted at a young age. He has a brother, Adam, and a sister, Sarah, who are also both adopted.

Bartley agrees with Hannan in that he does not feel any different because he has been adopted.

"It is just exactly like my normal family. I grew up with them," Bartley said. "I really don't even consider myself adopted."

According to Morando, adopting a child is not easy, and it takes a lot of patience. Oftentimes, parents who adopt give up on a child early on. Morando believes that there is one thing all parents who are looking to adopt should keep in mind.

"A family cannot commit to a child enough," Morando said. "They go through many different times, and often they have trouble because they are at a stage where it is taking a while for them to adjust."

Morando compares the commitment involved in adoption to a marriage.

"When someone is having trouble with their spouse, they just don't divorce them

any scientific level, because their experiences that they go through change their personality," he said.

Middle Child

Middle children often lack the definite characteristics of the first or last born. They are neither the leader nor the baby and tend to lack a sense of belonging.

Sophomore Ken Eckberg likes being a middle child.

"Being a middle child is cool, because you are not expected to follow a certain standard," he said.

Needleman said that being a middle child has both good and bad points.

"In one way, that's a good thing, because it gives the middle child more freedom to follow his individual path," Needleman wrote on his website. "On the other hand, the sense of being less understood makes some middle children feel unloved."

"I'd wager that most middle children had no idea that they were so important," he said.

Youngest Child

Babies are almost always fussed over. Parents tend to view this child as their last

right away," Morando said. "It is the same with a child. The first time you have a problem with an adopted kid, you can't just give up on them right away."

Junior Andy Allman has lived in a family with two adopted siblings most of his life. His older brother, Bill, and younger brother Seth, were also both adopted.

Allman was only four years old when his younger brother Seth was adopted. Allman describes his parents as always having a great "love for kids" and being "caring."

According to Allman, growing up with adopted brothers was never an issue for him, although many people often questioned him when they were together.

"People were really surprised with him, and I didn't understand why," Allman said. "He was my brother, and that's all I knew."

Conley, along with Hannan and Barley, are very thankful for their adoptive parents.

"I love my adoptive parents more than anything in the world," Conley said. "They give me the life that I have now."

However, Conley said she does not understand why people often think she is different or set her apart from other people.

"I live a normal family life, so why do people think I am different?" Conley said. "The only thing I don't have is my birth parents. I am still me and always will be."

chance and so they pamper their youngest children. On the other side, these children feel performance pressure.

They can walk down the path that their older siblings made, but they are usually expected to make an improvement on their accomplishments.

To compensate for this performance pressure, the babies of the family make their own niche by being charming and clever to make people like them.

Junior Ellen Manusak does not agree that her parents ever pushed her to succeed more than her siblings.

"My parents are more relaxed with rules with me," she said. "I guess they just gave up."

Information compiled from these web-sites:

-www.aol.drspok.com

-ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/hstein/birthord.htm

-www.ncn.net/_cliffi/intro.htm

ORDER

Continued from page 21.

ment, journalism, invention, creative writing, animal training or childcare.

Senior Colin Davis, a third born, believes only some birth characteristics are true.

"I like having more than one close friend, and I am majoring in engineering," he said. "But I do like to choose to go my own way and I think that I am helpful."

Fourth Born

Fourth-born children often feel immature and unwanted. They may have a strong need for revenge against people who hurt them.

Fourth-born children tend to analyze situations and may go into fields involving management, teaching, comedy, dentistry or hands on labor.

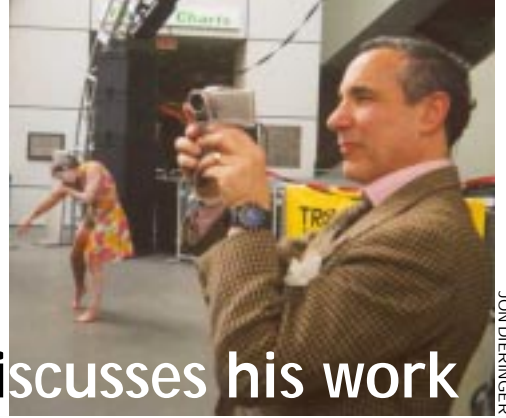
Their strengths are their thoughtfulness, understanding attitude and work ethic.

Junior Mike Langhoff, a fourth child, thinks that people cannot be judged by the order that they are born.

"I don't think you can judge anyone on

Blood, vomit, mutants, poignant social satire

Legendary filmmaker Kaufman discusses his work



JON DIERINGER

By Jon Dieringer

Staff Writer

The halls of Cleveland's Rock 'N' Roll Hall of Fame are covered with the names of iconoclastic rock stars like Lou Reed, Iggy Pop and others who challenged everything sacred to everyone, defying convention and bringing about change in a society which had turned a cold shoulder to them.

But April 5, these same halls were filled with middle-aged "rock" fans who were merely looking for a leisurely way to spend their Friday afternoon.

If Lloyd Kaufman had his way, all of it—the halls, the people, everything—would have been covered in blood, puke and other unpublishable bodily fluids.

The staunchly-independent director and co-president of Troma films was in Cleveland for "Tromapalooza," a completely free, six-hour celebration of no-strings-attached independent film and music.

As he watched the calamity of the afternoon ensue, which included an appearance of the band Friends Forever from the critically-acclaimed documentary of the same name, Kaufman spoke openly to fans about a variety of subjects. Meanwhile, clueless museum patrons looked from the many levels of the HOF down to the main stage with looks of disgust and amusement as the band, well, covered Super Bowl XXXIV.

"All good movies have themes and rhythm," said Kaufman, making clear the correlation between film and music. "And of course every movie has to have a twelve-minute jazz solo, so it was only natural that we'd put together Tromapalooza here at the Rock 'N' Roll Hall of Fame."

For Nate of Friends Forever, the connection was just as clear.

"Troma are the only true purveyors of rock 'n' roll today, where everyone else has dropped the ball," he said.

To a vast cult including fans and filmmakers alike, Troma has become synonymous with quality, independence and head-crushing. Their films are violent and raunchy, but, because of that special Troma

magic, to an extent that's almost charming. With such films as "Surf Nazis Must Die" and "Sgt. Kabukiman, NYPD," Troma has defined an ageless, sexless demographic that might as well not exist to the mainstream and vice versa.

It's impossible to bring up the studio without mentioning their flagship character, the Toxic Avenger, who has been the star of several feature films and even a popular children's cartoon series. Most recently, he can be seen in the new Moby video, "We Are All Made of Stars."

"It was Stan Lee or Jon Voight who said that what Marvel did to the comic book superhero with Spiderman, we did to the movie superhero with the Toxic Avenger," Kaufman said. "What makes Toxie a hero is that he conquers all his worldly problems; he has to pay his rent, take care of his mother and he's got skin problems."

What's more of a wonder, though, is why Troma has survived when so many other independent companies have folded in recent years. Kaufman can explain this with the dedication of the "Troma team."

"The most important thing in [Troma filmmakers'] lives is that film, whatever we're working on," he said.

For Lawrence Daniel Caswell, host of the film-related talk show "The Fourth Wall" on WCSB Cleveland, Troma's importance lies in the company's social agenda.

"[Troma] are some of the few people in America actually making satirical films," said Caswell. "Satire is a dying breed in America. Satire is now pulled off as parody; people are funny, but there's no social commentary. [Troma] makes criticisms of culture via humor, and they make very poignant criticisms."

Caswell cites "Citizen Toxie" as especially socially aware. The film is indeed a large step forward for satirical content in Troma movies in terms of both scope and execution, offering socially-oblique takes on religion (Hank the Angry Drunken Dwarf as God: "Tell the Pope to stop talking about me. He doesn't know me."), abortion (pickets shout "Choose life or die") and neo-Nazism.

While Troma films can currently be distinguished as forward-thinking in terms of their satirical content, other studios are just recently catching up in other areas. The resurgence of raunchy, Troma-esque humor in mainstream cinema does make Kaufman, in an understated tone, "a little upset."

"This crap that the Farrley Brothers ["Shallow Hal"; "Me, Myself, and Irene"] do, they are remaking movies that we made in the 1980s," he said.

Other directors, said Kaufman, are exploring doors that Troma has opened.

"There are many directors like Peter Jackson, Quentin Tarantino and in Spain, Alex de la Iglesia and in Japan, Shinya Tsukamoto...There are major directors around the world who are influenced by Troma and are taking some of the elements that we have pioneered...and making very important mainstream movies," Kaufman said.

Ultimately, Kaufman remains uncertain as to why Troma stands when so many other independent studios have fallen.

"We don't have money to advertise, but the fans somehow manage to find our movies when they play in the theatres," he said. "In fact, our fans find us theatres."

But as a Troma fan, Caswell sees that the company's success lies within itself.

"Even if you don't like what [Troma's] about, you have to respect it," he said. "You have to respect the fact that they are about their own film aesthetic."

Fortunately for its worldwide base of fans, Troma has a number of projects in the works from both Kaufman and what he describes as "the next wave of Troma."

"We're organizing a new movie about the fast-food industry. We're going after the industry, which is a very, very bad industry in my opinion, on every possible level; the health level, the humanity level and the exploiting-people level," he said. "We're going to make fun of the Indians' situation and how they have to own casinos."

A more serious, up-front direction for

☐ See TROMA, p.32

Stepping out with 'One Mic'

By Courtney Hill

Staff Writer

You can hate him now, but he won't stop now.

They call him Nasir Bin Olu Dara Jones, or as he is known in the rap world, Nas.

The controversial Queensberg, N.Y., rapper and performer has portrayed Christ on a crucifix for a video from his 1999 release *Nastradamous*.

Nas thoroughly upset the Catholic Church and other performers, such as P. Diddy, in his video.

Nas' new album, *Stillmatic*, dropped in late December and the single for "One Mic" was released April

16.

Nas's voice/style is comparative to former hip-hop super-star Mase.

"One Mic [is my favorite on the album], because it's talking about how cold the world is, but when he picks up a mic, he's free from it all," junior Josh Budisak said.

This work takes a different approach from the standard rap cliches.

"It's more of his earlier kind of work, it doesn't have so much famous rappers in it," Budisak said.

The only bit of advice Budisak offered was to add

more tracks to the album.

The CD has 15 mind-blowing tracks including "Every Ghetto," "Got Ur Self A..." and "You're Da Man."

His tracks represent the way he feels toward his life and the hardships and daily routine he goes through.

The way Nas deals with things and how he expresses himself is no longer just a form of hardcore rap. It has evolved into a poetic device.

Rhymes and patterns break up the tracks and give new meaning to hip-hop.

If anything could be improved on "Stillmatic," it would be Nas' voice. Nas tends to mumble though his tracks and slur his words to a sometimes-incomprehensible point.

Overall, the album was a definite progression in the right direction for albums of the past and worth the money to purchase.



Celine Dion sees 'A New Day'

By Brittany Yurick

Staff Writer

She's back. For the world's most famous diva and stay-at-home mother, retirement was very much overrated. Celine Dion's re-emergence after a two-year career break to have son Rene Charles finds her back in familiar territory.

On her eighth English album, "A New Day Has Come," Dion explores new sounds and styles as she delivers not only a truly enjoyable album, but also a set of songs that could earn her numerous nominations for next year's Grammy awards.

The title track of the album is a breathy new-age concoction of such sounds as Enya and Sarah McLachlan that blends Dion's classic sound with a more angelic, mystical tone. It talks about the significance of the birth of her new son.

The album opens with two uptempo songs: the uplifting and energizing "I'm Alive" and the magnificent "Right in Front of You."

Her voice is vibrant and expressive in both songs, with a slight hint of calypso and synthesizer effects. The simple lyrics are inspiring and hopeful, making the songs terrific openers for the album.

The power ballads, as most have come to expect from Dion, aren't lacking in jurisdiction, as "I Surrender" and "Goodbye's (The Saddest Word)" are made especially for the Kleenex-ready hearts of collective fans.

The song "Have You Ever Been In Love" is much more subtle than previous ballads but is certainly effective.

One might wonder if such a variety of ballads, full of moon-gazing and romance, will do well in competition with the current radio fare, but most likely it will. Dion is one of the only artists healthy and confident enough to pull it off.

The biggest charm of the album is Dion's attempt to be new and different. The song "Sorry for Love" keeps pace with recent techno exploits, whereas the goofy "Rain, Tax (It's Inevitable)" and the playful "When the Wrong One Loves You Right" are perfect examples of grown-up teen pop.

Dion also pays tribute to old-school singers in two of her album cuts. They include

"At Last" by Etta James and "Nature Boy," originally produced by Nat King Cole. Both come off as fresh and new, even though they have been covered countless times by various other artists.

With such a sudden comeback after the birth of her son, Dion's album is pretty much perfect.

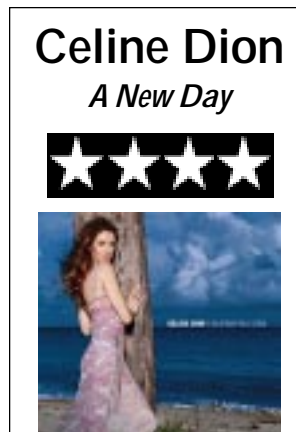
Just one song may fail to move audiences in any fashion. "Prayer," written by Corey Hart, is lackluster and doesn't really excite the ear or the heart.

Yet, 15 out of 16 tracks is definitely good enough to earn this diva

four and a half stars.

It is not very often anymore that a singer can perform power ballads and give some variety to a CD, while also having the ability to astonish her audience with amazing vocal talents.

Don't be surprised by Celine Dion's comeback, but instead, expect her to continue making quality albums for years to come.



Spring movies sizzle

By Mike Previtera
Staff Writer

April showers usually bring May flowers. With two of this year's most anticipated movies right around the corner, this May might just have a lot more to offer than just flora.

On May 3, Sony Pictures will release its big-screen adaptation of Marvel Comic's web-slinging, arachnid-superhero, "Spiderman." Not to be outdone, George Lucas and Lucasfilm Ltd. will release, "Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones," the fifth installment of their hugely-popular sci-fi series, "Star Wars."

My Spider Sense is Tingling

Comic books-turned-movies never had a reputation as excellent—think "Batman and Robin." "Spiderman," though, may have a chance. Directed by Sam Raimi ("Evil Dead," "For The Love of The Game"), "Spiderman" follows its comic book roots about newspaper photographer Peter Parker (Toby Maguire) who obtains incredible powers after being bitten by a radioactive spider.

With supernatural powers come newfound responsibilities, as Parker must save New York City and the world from an evil scientist (Willem Dafoe as super-villain "Green Goblin"), get the girl (Kirsten Dunst sporting red hair and playing Mary Jane) and realize he's no longer just a geeky photographer. Even though "Spiderman" may have a chance, it still looks to be just another superhero movie, with decent special effects.

The Force Is Strong With This One

When George Lucas announced he was filming a prequel to the "Star Wars" trilogy, fans everywhere went nuts.

When "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace" debuted in 1999 though, the critical response was less than mediocre. "Menace" suffered from bad casting, weak plot lines and Jar Jar Binks, Lucas' annoying, kid-friendly, computer generated side-kick.

Therefore, it's no surprise that when "Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones" was announced, fans and critics were apprehensive.

But, according to Harry Knowles of www.aintitcoolnews.com, who allegedly reviewed "Attack of the Clones" early, Episode II was more than he had hoped for.

"Lucas succeeds with the film beyond my wildest dreams," Knowles said on his website.

Starring Hayden Christensen as Anakin Skywalker (who, later in the series, becomes the infamous Darth Vader) and Ewan McGregor as Obi-Wan Kenobi, "Attack of The Clones" tells of Skywalker's coming-of-age.

At the same time, great unrest is occurring in the Galaxy as an army

of clones looks to overthrow the Republic and establish a Galactic Empire in its place. With a plot full of action, love and mystery, "Attack of the Clones" looks to have something for everyone and very little Jar Jar.

If the reviewers are somewhat correct, both "Spiderman" and "Attack of the Clones" look to be more than just overhyped Hollywood moneymakers.



The best things come in threes...?

A commentary by
Chris Montoya

What do walking zombies, divorced cops gone bad, elves and T2000's have in common? All of them have been involved in trilogies throughout the timeline of movie production. Throughout the history of the silver screen, many a sequel has passed, but it's rare to see any movie, set of characters or main plot repeat itself three times. Trilogies are rarely mediocre, either slaying the box office or dying by that same hand.

The trilogies of "Evil Dead," "Die Hard," "Lord of the Rings" and "Terminator" have all been celebrated as being many things, ranging from the cheesy "Die Hard: With A Vengeance" to the visually jaw-dropping "LOTR." Although not all three installments have come out for "LOTR" and "Terminator," they promise to make a unique impact on the casual viewer's mind. With computer graphics stunning audiences every time they step into the theater, the extravagant scenery in both films is sure to amaze.

One of the most famous trilogies, "Star Wars" has two sets of three movies. The first three came out 20 years ago, creating mass appeal for science fiction fantasy. The next set, "The Phantom Menace," is yet to be completed, but the first movie was out two years ago, and the next is set for a spring release ("The Attack of the Clones.")

Trilogies are a rare breed and should be both embraced and shunned for their traditional, corny tie-ins with prequels. Due to an overuse of an idea, they may cause a good idea to turn into a lame cliché. Still, they are truly a cinematic gem.

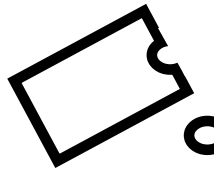
TROMA

(Continued from page 30)

Troma?

"In a nutshell, a fast-food chicken restaurant is built on a sacred Indian burial ground, and zombies go into the chickens," Kaufman said. "The movie will be called 'Poultrygeist.' And if all goes well, it's going to be a musical. It will be very ambitious."

With the encouraging dollar-vote and dedication of fans everywhere, it just might be coming to a theatre near you.



Entertainment Updates

April

- ♦ 26 Donny Osmond @ Allen Theatre
- ♦ 26 Lord of the Dance @ Palace Theatre
- ♦ 27 Agnostic Front @ Agora Theatre
- ♦ 28 Avoid One Thing, Flogging Molly, The Slackers @ Agora Theatre
- ♦ 28 Lit, Pressure 4-5 @ Odeon
Bile @ PiT Cleveland
- ♦ 29 Paul McCartney @ Gund Arena

May

- ♦ 3 Morbid Angel, Motorhead @ Agora
Buddhapalooza @ Beachland Ballroom
Franklyn @ Phantasy Theatre
- ♦ 5 Duvall, The Creature Comforts, Ultimate
Fakebook @ Grog Shop
- ♦ 12 The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion @ Beachland
Ballroom
The Queers @ Grog Shop
- ♦ 13 High on Fire @ Agora

Buddhism meets mainstream

Do you have any big plans for May 3? If your answer is no, then you should plan on going to Buddhapalooza at the Beachland Ballroom in Cleveland. For \$8, you get to see such bands as Sounder, Viva Caramel, Dreadful Yawns and Snodgrass. The doors open at 7 p.m. and the bands start at 8 p.m. The only downfall is that you must be 18 or older to attend.

All proceeds made at Buddhapalooza will go to the Cleveland Shambala Meditation Group. Free meditation classes are offered to anyone interested. The classes focus on a basic meditation process that works with breathing. According to the Shambala website, "through meditation we learn how to make friends with ourselves, which allow us to open up to others." The Shambala Meditation Group has meetings in both Akron and Cleveland. For more information on how to get involved in Shambala, go to www.buddhapalooza.com and connect to their link.

-Jamie Hill

'The Rookie' a hard-hitting drama

By **Jamie Lohman**
Staff Writer

Now that the 2002 Major League baseball season has begun, fans are flocking to stadiums all over the country. But these days, stadiums are not the only places where people can quench their thirst for baseball. In theatres, Disney's new movie "The Rookie" offers audiences both an exciting and inspirational baseball story.

"The Rookie," directed by John Lee Hancock, is based on the true story of Jim Morris, a 35-year-old high school science teacher turned Major League pitcher during the 1998 season.

The beginning of the film briefly touches on Morris' youth and his family's move to the small town of Big Lake, Texas. The film then shifts about 20 years into the future where Morris, played by Dennis Quaid, is a science teacher and baseball coach at Big Lake High School. Morris is married to Lorri (Rachel Griffiths), has three children and his dream of playing in the majors is long over after injuries forced him to retire from the Milwaukee Brewers organization.

However, after Morris gives his team a

post-game speech about achieving dreams, the team makes a deal with their coach: if the team wins the district championship, Morris must try out for the Major Leagues. Taking their coach's speech to heart, the underdog team amazes everyone by fulfilling their end of the deal.

Morris keeps his promise by attending a Tampa Bay Devil Rays tryout camp, where he impresses scouts by pitching consistently around 98 mph, faster than he had ever thrown before. Here, the focus of the plot changes and the rest of the film revolves around Morris' decision to pursue another baseball career and his journey through the ranks of professional baseball.

Yet, "The Rookie" has as much to do with baseball as it has to do with Morris' relationships with his family, friends, high school players and his wife, all of whom continually support him as he fulfills his lifelong dream. Even more poignant is the look that the film takes at the strained relationship between Morris and his father and the loving relationship between Morris and his son Hunter (Angus Jones). The on-screen bond between Quaid and Jones is especially strong

and provides for both comical and touching moments.

Both Quaid and Griffiths deliver emotionally-charged performances that excellently convey the doubts, financial problems and triumphs that confront the Morris family. Quaid is also effective in presenting a pitching motion that resembles that of a true Major Leaguer.

Equally impressive is the film's setting and cinematography, especially the panoramic views of the Texas landscape. The provincial simplicity of Big Lake and its shabby baseball facilities also provides a striking contrast to the massive, glittering Ballpark in Arlington where Morris makes his Major League debut, showing just how far Morris' dream has taken him.

However, leading up to Morris' debut, some of the film's non-baseball scenes are slow-moving. Nevertheless, "The Rookie" is an all-around entertaining film suitable for people of all ages and interests. It is more than just a baseball story; it is a story of pursuing dreams in the face of seemingly impossible odds, and that is something anyone, not only baseball fans, can appreciate.

JV softball overpowers league

PROVING GROUNDS

JV teams are the proving grounds for varsity sports hopefuls. Taking advantage of the opportunities for advancement, the JV softball team has compiled a 6-0 record.

Against Jackson April 9, the team came back from an eight run deficit. In the seventh inning, with two outs, the Lady Vikes started the rally that led to a 12-11 win.

Fresh off the Jackson win, the girls overpowered GlenOak April 11 in a 24-4 victory.

"We were really hitting well in the Jackson and GlenOak games," freshman Ashley McLaughlin said. "The [Jackson and GlenOak] pitchers got nervous, and we took advantage of that."

ROAD TO RECOVERY

After a rocky 0-3 start to the season, the freshman baseball team finally embarked on the road to recovery, improving their record to 2-3.

Against GlenOak April 17, the boys won 10-7 after nine innings of play. Brian Scheller believes the team had a change in attitude that appeared in the GlenOak game.

"After we lost our first two to Jackson, we wanted to prove to the league that we

were still in it," he said. "We concentrated more before the GlenOak game, because we knew they would be difficult to beat, and that helped us win it."

Mike Risaliti believes that through practice the team has corrected their weaknesses.

"We're working on getting hits in key situations and at the end of the game," Risaliti said. "We made some fielding errors under the pressure too."

The team's battery of strong pitchers has contributed to pulling the team from their slump.

"We have great pitching depth," Andy Howes said. "Jimmy Henderson has a good breaking pitch, and Brian Scheller has good speed."

A TROPHY CASE

After the winter sports points were tallied, Hoover regained the lead for the All-Sports Trophy. Hoover has 78.0 points, with Jackson taking second at 75.3 points. Jackson had held the lead with 56.8 points over Hoover's 45.0 points after the fall sports season ended.

Athletic Director Mr. Joe Eaton believes that outstanding finishes in all of the winter sports put Hoover on top.

"I can't center in on one team," he said.

"It's not so much a championship team; it's just being in the top two or three for the league."

In order to hold the lead, the spring teams need both talent and luck.

"We need to win two Federal League Championships, and Jackson has to finish low in two or three sports," Eaton said.

SOFTBALL SEND-OFF

Hoover softball pitcher and first baseman, senior Kristen Houtz, recently committed to play for the Malone College softball team.

While Houtz looks forward to playing softball at Malone, she said that it will be difficult leaving the Hoover softball team.

"I love every player on that team and I would do anything for them," she said. "[When I'm pitching] I know if someone hits a routine fly ball or a grounder, my team will be there to get the out. I truly admire this team and I will miss them the most."

BILLBOARD AWARDS

Kiel Cox, a 2000 Hoover graduate, is representing Walsh University in an ad campaign released last month. The billboard, featuring Cox tossing a soccer ball, can be seen on Wales Road in Jackson Township. Cox currently plays offense for the Cavaliers.

In his senior season at Hoover, Cox was named first team Federal League and won the team's "Best Offensive Player" award.

Girl's Got Game



Bethany Chambers

phy. Hoover has 78.0 points, with Jackson taking second at 75.3 points. Jackson had held the lead with 56.8 points over Hoover's 45.0 points after the fall sports season ended.

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"I can't center in on one team," he said.

McKinley joins Federal League

By Mike Giannetti

Staff Writer

The vote was unanimous. McKinley will be joining the Federal League. March 25, the McKinley Board of Education voted to decide whether they would join the Federal League. Austintown Fitch and Boardman were already voted on. Both of the schools accepted the invitation. There would be no difference with McKinley.

With 32 State titles, 10 of which came from the football program, Canton McKinley High School is a powerhouse when it comes to their sports program.

With the addition of McKinley to the Federal League, its size expanded to include eight teams, although McKinley won't play its first full-length schedule with the Federal League until the 2004-2005 season. The joining of the league will relieve scheduling

problems McKinley has had in the past years and will also help Hoover when scheduling teams. Hoover will have more league games than if McKinley hadn't joined. It also will add league games to the basketball schedule that otherwise wouldn't have taken place.

"We would be down to five teams. We would have eight league and 12 non-league games, which is not good at all. Bringing in Fitch, Boardman and McKinley will create an eight-team league," Hoover head basketball coach Sam Pepper said. "Now we will have 14 league games."

According to The Canton Repository, McKinley's head football coach Mr. John Miller looks forward to joining the Federal League, but feels that it will pose a challenge to their sports teams.

"I'm very excited," Miller said. "I know what we're getting into. We've got great re-

spect for [the Federal League] coaches and players. I know we're getting into a very competitive league, and it just continues to get more and more competitive."

Hoover Head Football Coach Mr. Don Hertler Jr. feels that McKinley will add even more competitiveness than what the league already has.

"[The Federal League] has been competitive, and [McKinley] will just add to the top," Hertler said.

McKinley will also bring a challenge to the Federal League, making the other teams work harder in order to compete for the league title.

"It will force the other league schools to make more of a commitment, and it will be a challenge for us because we are not a real

☐ See MCKINLEY, p. 29

BGSU cuts programs

By Lindsey Wyckoff

Staff Writer

When an athlete signs a letter of intent, it means that they are committed to going to that school and achieve their goals of earning a spot on a college team.

Senior Scott Green thought he had everything figured out: he would attend Bowling Green State University (BGSU) next fall and play tennis. At least that was what Green *thought* he was going to do.

On March 20, Green found out that BGSU cut its tennis program, and that he wouldn't be playing there next season.

"They cut the program because of costs and Title IX," Green said. "Apparently, the athletic department was in a large debt and, with Title IX, the [men's] sports are what get cut."

Since 1972, Title IX has been in affect. This law states that women have the same rights as men in federally-funded athletics. Though it was known that BGSU had money problems, Green said cutting men's tennis was a shock to him.

"I was stunned when I heard the news; [it was] something I never expected," he said. "One minute I had all my plans all laid out, and then they were taken away."

In spite of the disappointment, Green felt support from BGSU coach Jay Harris.

"I knew I'd be all right because Jay [Harris] was really nice about it, especially since he just lost his program," Green said. "He assured me he would help me find a new home and things would work out for the best."

Despite the loss of his plans, Green said he was able to find that "new home" in The College of William and Mary, a school he had considered earlier in his college search.

"The school is awesome," he said. "[Their] academics are really strong and the tennis facilities are outstanding—right now [the team] is 44th in the country."

Green added that his new coach should have a positive impact on his tennis game.

"He's an intense coach who will get the full potential out of me," he said. "So from that aspect, I'm really excited to get down there and start working."

With many positives, there was one negative that Green found.

"The distance is obviously a major downfall to all of this," he said. "But right now, I'm just trying to get stronger in the weight room for next year."

For the time being, Green is focused on his current season, in which he is currently undefeated.

"In the [high school] season I just want to continue to improve on my game and good things will happen," he said.

McKinley

(Continued from p. 28)

big school," Hertler said.

Pepper agrees with Hertler and feels that McKinley will put the heat on the Hoover basketball team.

"[Teams] will have to prove [themselves] that much more to win the League. It's tough to go 14-0 in league play and it will make [the league] more balanced," Pepper said.

With the addition of McKinley, Austintown Fitch and Boardman to the Federal League, Hertler feels that it will be one of the best leagues in the state of Ohio.

"All three schools bring really good football programs, and they will make our

league the top league in Ohio, not just in football, but in all sports," Hertler said.

Pepper feels that Hoover sports teams are up to par in all sports and can compete.

"Players are welcoming it. I think we will [either] compete or learn to [compete]," Pepper said. "In all sports I don't think we're that far behind McKinley, if not we're as good as them, including football and basketball."

In all, Hertler feels that the addition of McKinley will benefit both school districts.

"Aside from football and basketball, McKinley will have to raise the level of their other sports, and we will have to keep trying to improve and try harder to win the league every year," Hertler said.



Eaton earns N.E.O. award

By Brian Strausser

Staff Writer

Hoover High School Athletic Director Mr. Joe Eaton was recently named the Northeast Ohio Athletic Director of the Year, after 17 years of holding his position as Hoover's athletic director.

The award is split up into six districts, and because Eaton won the Northeast Ohio District, he is now entered as a contestant for the Ohio High School Athletic Director of the Year, which will be announced in the upcoming months.

The award came with great prestige to Eaton.

"It's a great honor to be recognized by your peers," Eaton said. "You work hard all year long and throughout your career. Seventeen years as athletic administrator here at Hoover High School, and it's kind of like going to the State basketball tournament for the girls. This is kind of the pinnacle for athletic administrators is to be recognized as Athletic Director of the Year for Northeast Ohio."

Principal Rick Campbell believes that Eaton is the perfect example of the ultimate athletic director.

"When I take a look at that position, you want someone who is a people person and can relate to parents, coaches, students and athletes," Campbell said. "And he does that extremely well. I know I appreciate his relationships that I see him develop with the athletes. I think from the kids' point of view, they appreciate him and what he attempts to do for them. He cares very much for the student-athletes here at Hoover, and I think that's a very special quality that he has."

According to Eaton, North Canton is one of the finest high school programs in the state.

"Throughout the state of Ohio, we are always getting calls from other schools scheduling conferences on why we are so successful," Eaton said. "And I think it's community involvement, sports administrators, great athletes and great coaches. [It's a] combination of people put together for success."

Hoover looks for spring success

Softball

Heading full swing into a new season, the Lady Vikes softball team prepares for another Federal League challenge.

This year, the team hopes to capitalize on how well they get along as a team, according to junior Michelle Karam.

"Team unity has been a big goal for this season, and hopefully it will take us places," she said. "We have more unity this year than any other year I have played. Everyone gets along great, and we have a good time."

According to senior Tricia Lilley, the Federal League teams are prime competition for the Lady Vikes.

"Both Perry and Lake have a lot of returning senior and new upcoming talented players," Lilley said.

Goals and expectations are also set for out-of-the-league competition.

"Boardman has always been one of the strongest teams we have played in the past, and over time become one of our biggest rivals," junior Alexa McCleaster said.

Lilley added they hope to beat the Spartans and advance to Regionals.

Even though the team lost four starting seniors last season, the remaining girls stay positive.

"Our team is really young, because we only have three seniors, but if everyone pulls together we will be able to overcome this aspect," sophomore Amanda Kohler said.

The team is working to improve for the end of the season tournament.

"We need to get better every game and eliminate the small mistakes early so we can be fully competitive come tournament time," Coach Jeff Hite said.

Hite also said each of the girls adds a different aspect to the team.

"In all honesty we have a pretty cohesive unit; on different nights different players step up," Hite said.

—Ashley White

Track

As the track team enters the season, they have one very important thing going for them, a remarkable start.

Both the boys and girls track teams started off the season right by placing high in their

opening Invitationals. The boys captured second at the Hillard Davidson Invitational and the girls placed fourth at the Salem Cope Invitational.

"We've really worked hard and have a lot of young and old talent on the team," junior Tad Martinez said. "We will be extremely competitive this year."

The girls team also has many young faces this season.

"We have so many superb freshmen this year like Sarah McCort, Alex Bourlas and Ashley Muffet," sophomore Annie Revoldt said.

Both the boys and girls teams have hired new coaches this year, with Travis Ackerman coaching the boys and Mark Baker coaching the girls.

"Ackerman is doing great, he is learning a lot and has good experience from being around Mr. [David] Clegg," sophomore Ryan Cowen said. "Coach [Shawn] Bilker and Coach [Don] Shimek are good assistant



LINSEY WICKOFF

A stride ahead of his competitors, sophomore Alex Ramsey runs the 400-meter dash against GlenOak. Ramsey, a three-sport athlete, looks most forward to competing against Jackson.

coaches and help with many individuals."

Ahead on the boys and girls track schedules lie many grueling invitationals and meets, that will either make or break these two talented teams.

"We've had so much success thus far," sophomore Alex Ramsey said. "I'm looking forward to the challenging meets we have coming up."

The Jackson and the Federal League meets seem to be the most difficult for some runners.

"Our last duel meet against Jackson is always my favorite but also the most challenging, said Alex Ramsey." After that meet we hope to be undefeated."

As the pressures of the season now dawn upon the track team, at least one thing has to come together for success.

"We have to trust one another, and know that we can compete with anybody," sophomore Lindsey Furbee said.

—Don Kotnik

Baseball

Warm weather, girls and baseball were all things that some of Hoover's baseball players were able to enjoy over Spring Break.

While in Cocoa Beach, Fla., March 29 to Apr. 7, the Hoover varsity baseball team pulled off three wins and two losses.

Senior Brett Rozniewski feels that the pitching and hitting of the team helped them achieve this.

"[Pitching] was real good; Aaron [Slabaugh] pitched a shutout in his first game and Marcus Mercer, Kyle Brickwood and Jimmy Savage pitched good as well," Rozniewski said. "[Hitting] was good; Pete Foradas hit a homerun in his first game and [Kurt] Davidson, [Andy] Warner and [Josh] Budiscak hit pretty good."

Coach Mel Long feels that some of the underclassmen stepped up and did a good job filling their roles on the team.

"Some of the younger kids played well in Florida," Long said.

As expected with any young team, defensive errors can be a problem. In recent practices the Vikings have focused on the defensive aspects of the game.

"We need to improve on our fielding, that's where we showed our weakness early on this season," junior Jim Clugston said. "For the games we lost that is the reason we lost."

☐ See **BASEBALL**, p. 31



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULA GULLING

NEO wins National Competition in Florida

For the second time in two years, the NEO Varsity All-Music cheerleading team won Nationals. This year's competition was March 23 in Orlando, Fla. Hoover students on the team include senior Mary Zink, juniors Amber Webb and Paula Gulling and sophomore Tracy Russell. Also winning first in the Senior Open category was NEO's Senior Open team, which includes senior Erin Schuller.

2002-2003 Hoover Cheerleaders

Freshman

Anne Bundy
Malena Caruso
Gina DiPietro
Alyssa DeWees
Rachel Gerassimakis
Molly Moldovan
Katie Selinsky
Ashley Slingluff

Junior Varsity

Marissa Baum-9
Bridget Beadle-11
Tara Beavers-9
Bethany Brisbin-10
Khalei Fogle-11
Ashley Grogan-10
Emily Kneen-10
Merritt Woods-9

Varsity

Tricia Bello-12
Stephanie Coomes-12
Danielle Frock-12
Kayle Frock-11
Michelle Guth-12
Nicci Kynkor-10
Heather Reiss-10
Madison Woods-10

BASEBALL

(Continued from page 28)

Senior Marcus Mercer agrees with Clugston.

"If there is one thing that needs to be improved, it is defense," Mercer said. "At times, we haven't played defense well."

Long feels that if the team plays well defensively they will be successful, but as soon as their defense goes they will be in hot water.

"We're pretty good when we play good defense, but when we breakdown defensively we're in trouble," Long said.

At the same time, the team's pitching staff and offense will help the team out throughout the year.

"I think pitching and hitting will be the

strong points," Mercer said. "We have guys that can throw strikes and also guys that can hit the ball very well."

With nine seniors and upcoming sophomores, the team looks to be successful this season.

"If our hitting can keep up and our fielding and pitching hold up, it should be a pretty successful season," Rozniewski said.

Clugston feels that because of a well-balanced and highly-competitive Federal League this year, it will be exciting to observe how the season plays out in the end.

"The Federal League is very strong this year and it will be interesting to see how the season goes," Clugston said. "We have the talent to win a lot of games."

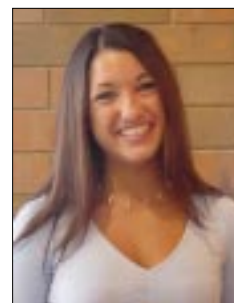
-Mike Giannetti

Gulling takes cheerleading to a new level

By Megan Williams

Staff Writer

Ever since her eighth grade year, junior Paula Gulling has been competing individually at cheerleading competitions.



Paula Gulling

Both her eighth grade and freshman year, Gulling competed only at a State level, but for the past two years Gulling has taken her individual cheer-

ing to a National level.

According to Gulling, cheering individually at a State level, is different as she gets older.

"When you are younger, you don't have much to worry about. You would just get out there and do it," Gulling said. "But now it is a lot more competitive, and I get a lot more nervous."

Before her competition, Gulling would run through her routine for about an hour four days a week.

"This year I could not practice as much as I would have liked because of a pulled muscle in my leg," Gulling said.

Despite this fact, this past March, Gulling placed fifth at Nationals in Orlando, Florida. Before competing, Gulling said she felt very apprehensive.

"[Before competing] I am really nervous, but excited at the same time," Gulling said. "It is more nerve-racking than team [competition], because it is just you by yourself and all eyes are on you."

However, Gulling claims that after she gets out on the floor, she is all smiles.

"When I am actually competing, I don't think about anything," Gulling said. "It is like I am in a zone. I just get out there, have fun and do what I know how to do."

Can you get any richer?

There used to be a time when I could go down to old Municipal Stadium and watch the Cleveland Indians play baseball at a price so low, my father wouldn't have to worry about having enough money left to buy me a \$5 pennant afterwards. We knew there would be plenty of good seats at a reasonable price, and at the same time, we would be able to watch the true American pastime at a point when it wasn't as much of a business as it is today.

Look at life in the big leagues. If you think Major League Baseball is financially stable, I advise you see psychology teacher Mr. David Reese, because you have a problem.

Maybe it is just me, but when the president of our country is making \$400,000 a year, and Alex Rodriguez is making \$150,000 a game, something is wrong. President Bush makes some of the most important decisions this country will ever face. He's the one who could decide whether or not your brother or sister heads over to Afghanistan, while Rodriguez is out there deciding whether or not to chew barbecue or ranch sunflower seeds before the game.

Baseball is now all about making money, when before, the players actually had a little bit of compassion about winning, and showed loyalty to their fans. In fact, since 1970, the yearly revenue of the league has grown from \$600 million to about \$1.8 billion. And between 1975 and 2001, the average salary rose from \$44,676 to \$1.2 million a year, with the absolute minimum salary reaching \$109,000.

Unfortunately, the ones who pay the price for all this is us, as fans. We are the ones who are charged \$5 a hot dog and \$4 a Pepsi. When players' salaries rise, so do ticket prices. And don't look for a decrease in either of the two anytime in the near future.

The fans are the ones who provide teams with revenue to conduct business, because most franchises pay their players by ticket money. Ticket prices for Major League games are up 93 percent in the last 10 years, and it is all because of big-name players wanting more money than they know what to do with. When Rodriguez is making \$17,000 an inning, and Albert Belle wants

to renegotiate because he only makes \$10 million a year, you know a change is needed. Without one, the teams with the most money will always be on top, because they are the ones who can afford to pay the league's finest players.

Just another Friday



Brian Strausser

That is why the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and the Pittsburgh Pirates are in baseball's doghouse; they have no money to work with. In 1997, Belle made more for the White Sox than the whole entire payroll of the Pirates. That is ridiculous.

Although free agency has been around since the mid-70s, it is also a problem. A player now has the right to consider contract offers from other clubs after he has played with a team for a certain amount of time.

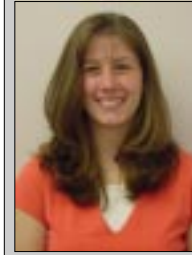
Free agency is why Roger Clemens is making \$1,286 a pitch and the Florida Marlins were a one-year wonder. They won the World Series in 1994, lost their whole team to free agency, and finished near the end of their division the following season. And why did all their players leave? They didn't have enough money to pay for all those sudden, big-name stars.

But there is something that makes me feel even worse than anything. I plan on going to college next year and majoring in communications. The average salary for a person with a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University communications program is \$27,495. That's four years of long nights and studying to earn \$123,000 less than Rodriguez makes in one game. My motivation to go onto college split in two after I read that statistic, but I'm sure I will manage.

But I know that when I'm a father, I plan on taking my son to a Major League ballgame just like my father has done with me several times. It's a tradition for a father and son to go to the park and watch the game that Babe Ruth and Ted Williams made look so easy. All the history and all the drama packed into one ballpark, for one day. What else could a father possibly ask for?

Well, if professional baseball keeps going at this pace, I will be the one asking my son for money to buy his hot dog.

Featured Athletes



Senior Kristen Houtz has been playing varsity softball for three years, and plans to continue her pitching career at Malone College.

Houtz also participates in a traveling team, in which she won the Best-of-the-Best pitcher award at Kent State last year.

She has many accomplishments and game-winning experiences under her belt.

"My sophomore year against Perry I had a game-winning hit that took the team to Regionals, and last year I saved the game against Massillon when I was thrown in at the last minute to pitch," she said.

Houtz is very confident that this year's softball team will achieve success.

"We have very good team chemistry and unity," she said. "And as long as we stay close and work together we will be extremely successful."



Senior pitcher Marcus Mercer has been playing baseball for nearly 10 years and has been a varsity letterman on Hoover's baseball team for two.

One of Mercer's many accomplishments occurred last year during a game against Central Catholic.

"My hardest and most rewarding game as a pitcher was against the State-ranked Central Catholic team," he said. "We ended up winning the game with the final score being 9-3."

According to junior Pete Foradas, Mercer's leadership skills and positive attitude help to create success for the team.

"Marcus is pure class," he said. "He is a strong and accurate pitcher that plays a major role in getting our team ready for a game. His love for the game and positive attitude will help us to reach our goals this season."

—Brittany Yurick