

# The Quaker

A high school tradition for years.

Volume 93, Number 3

Salem Senior High School

November 2005

## Encore

On Saturday, November 5, the Salem Boys' Cross Country team successfully defended their State Championship defeating favorites Akron St. Vincent St. Mary and Woodridge by 8 and 32 points respectively. The victory came as a surprise to many, but not to the Quakers. "The greatest part of the win on Saturday was that no one expected Salem to finish better than second," said senior Aiman Scullion, who led the team with his 11<sup>th</sup> place first team All-Ohio finish. Scullion also mentioned how much tougher the second title was. "Last year's victory doesn't even come close to comparing to this year's win. Teams are gunning for us, but we trained hard because we knew it would be difficult."

Salem came into the season as heavy favorites for a repeat but went under the radar after mid-season losses to Woodridge and St. Vincent. At the Regional meet the Quakers finished a distant third. "I was very disappointed when we placed third at Regionals. Running bad at Regionals had become a tradition for this Salem team," Aiman commented.

On Friday the entire team headed up on a charter bus to make the trip to Columbus. Coach Wilson, the head coach of the boys' team, believed that every member of the team, whether they were running or not, deserved to be at State to support the team. He refers to non-varsity members as "the up-and-coming group," as many of them would be top runners on any other team in the area. Aiman ad-

mitted that St. V's and Woodridge were concerns, but Coach Wilson eased their worries in a meeting before State. "He told us that no matter what, we were going to line up and run our best. As long as we accomplished that, we would accomplish our goal of a State Title."

And that they did, winning their second consecutive State Title. The Quakers placed three runners in the top 25, earning the title of All-Ohio. Aiman Scullion finished in a time of 16:22, followed by Paul Shivers and Patrick Gorby in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> with times of 16:37 and 16:38. Rounding out the top 5 were Mike Overholser(58) and Mike Downs(60) in 17:28 and 17:29. The Quakers



scored 72 points, as many individual runners do not factor into the team scoring. Ryan Griffith and Justin Roberts concluded Salem's race taking positions 112 and 113 both in 18:25.

## Salem Boys Girls Take Home D2 State Titles

By Paul Shivers

For only the third time in OHSAA history, both the boys' and girls' teams won the State Championship in the same year. The last team to accomplish this feat was Hilliard in 2002.

## A dynasty begins

After spending most of the year second in the AP poll, the Lady Quakers won the State Division 2 Championship over heavy favorite Kettering Alter. Alter had received every first place vote in the polls all year long. "I really didn't think about Alter...I just wanted to run like I had my previous races," said freshman Alexis Thorne of being underdogs at the biggest race of the year.

Salem certainly didn't run like underdogs. After two miles, the Quakers were leading the meet 46

Thorne, who finished 15<sup>th</sup> in a time of 19:40 and earning first team All-Ohio honors. "I felt like I had a lot of pressure on me coming in as a freshman with people having high expectations of me." Also finishing All-Ohio were senior Deirdre Clary and sophomore Liz Shivers in 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> places. Rounding out the team's race were sophomore Sarah Yerkey in 35<sup>th</sup> place, freshman Lauren Shivers in 43<sup>rd</sup>, Junior Erin Murphy in 45<sup>th</sup>, and senior Berly Kenst in 118<sup>th</sup>.

With all eyes being on Alter, Salem went unnoticed but remained confident after their Regional victory at Boardman. First year Coach Mary Wilson reminded her team of the time and effort they had put in all year and suggested that they just have fun and enjoy the experience. "Coach told us that this was State, and all the work we had done since June was going to pay off," said Alexis. "She told us to stay loose and to relax." Salem loses seniors Deirdre Clary, Kimberly Kenst, and Veronica Waite to graduation next year, but is poised to defend their title with their depth and incoming freshmen.

"I love telling people 'I told you so!'"  
-Aiman Scullion.



Ryan Benchwick will be escorted by Leah Perry, and he will be wearing Party Boy clothes. He will be dancing to the "Party Boy Theme Song" and will be showing off the Party Boy dance. Ryan thinks he should be Sadie's King because he is "so voluptuous."



Nick Righetti is still deciding who his date will be for the big night, but he knows he will wear jeans and a sweater to the dance. Nick will be showing everyone his awesome moves while he is dancing to "The Twist." He says he will show everyone his Teli Custard dance moves. Nick thinks he should be crowned king because he is just so "junk-a-licious."



Fady Abdrasul will be escorted by Kristin Hom, but they aren't sure about what they're wearing yet. Fady will be dancing to "Run It" by Chris Brown. The dance moves he will show us will be whatever moves him at that moment. Fady thinks he deserves to be king because he's "putting a lot of time into this."

## Sadie's Court 2005

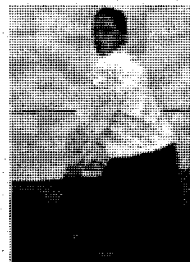
By Doug Mondell



Bunk Mull is being escorted by Andrea Mosher, and they plan on wearing cop uniforms. Bunk isn't telling what song he will dance to, but he promises it will be great. He will be incorporating the hustle and flow into his dance. The reason Bunk thinks he should be crowned king is because of a statement by Mark Jeckavitch who says that "Bunk is sick."



Jordan Nannah is being escorted by Kimberly Kenst and plans on wearing as close to nothing as he legally can. He will be dancing to "Jamairquai" by Canned Heat and will be freestyling to this song. Jordan thinks he should be crowned King because of his boyish good looks and the fact that he's "better than everybody else."



John Lantz will be escorted by Kalie McElroy, and they aren't exactly sure what they will be wearing. John has decided to keep the song that he will dance to confidential, but he promises that he will "shake it like a Polaroid picture." John feels Nick Righetti should be king instead of himself.



Jarin Heath will be escorted by Lydia Violi. However, he won't tell anyone what they are wearing, what song he's dancing to, or what his dance will consist of. Jarin doesn't think he should be Sadie Hawkins King, but Brian Wright disagrees saying that Jarin should be Sadie's King because we [fellow seniors] call him "King Heath."

# News

## Schools brace for change

### Installment two

By Kellie Stewart

As reported last month, Salem City Schools has been teetering on the brink of fiscal emergency. On Monday, October 31, 2005, the Salem School Board held a special morning meeting during which they accepted the treasurer's five-year forecast. This basically stated that if the levy passed we should be able to take care of our own cutbacks and decisions. However, if the levy failed we would fall into fiscal emergency, and the state would take over sometime around Christmas.

As was also reported, the Board has decided that the merging of the seventh through twelfth grades will come into effect starting next year. This will save precious money that the school system needs to stay out of fiscal emergency. As of yet, no one really knows how this will be worked out. There are a few proposed ideas.

Perhaps the most popular plan is cutting the high school into two - the upstairs given to seventh and eighth graders while the first floor would be given for ninth through twelfth. The only time the seventh and eighth graders would have to come downstairs would be for lunch, choir, band, or gym. With different bell schedules, they would be almost totally separate from the high school. However, what would become of the murals students have painted in the foreign language classrooms? Because of all the rearranging that must take place to accommodate everyone, most teachers wouldn't

be in their old rooms come next year.

As far as staff goes, we do know that some teachers from both the middle school and high school are expected to be cut. The cutting will primarily be based on seniority. Also, it would be difficult for one principal to take care of six grades worth of students by himself or herself. There will probably be at least a separate principal for the seventh and eighth grades, and possibly even an additional office upstairs.

Due to these teacher cuts, some classes may not have as comfortable a number of students. In order to save money, classes that once held fifteen students could be packed with thirty. The more students that can fit into a fewer number of classes, the fewer teachers need to be paid. This may result in less individualized attention for each student.

Another issue to be taken care of is working out the lunch schedule. The length of lunch periods is to be kept at thirty minutes. Unfortunately, if the middle school's lunch is kept separate from the high school's, some students will be stuck with a lunch period as early as 10:30 in the morning. The lunches could be combined, but that would cause longer lines and less time for actual eating. It seems to be a lose-lose situation.

According to Mr. McDevitt, SHS principal, a committee to take care of these problems is not expected to be formed until sometime after Christmas. More than likely, we won't know much else until then.

## Chile and Argentina

By Tiffany Jones

Dreaming for the summer? Looking for a little fun in the sun after school is out in June? Then sign up to come to Argentina and Chile with the Spanish club. The trip is being organized by Mrs. Neapolitan and is open to everyone, not just Spanish club members. The trip is being held in the first week of June and the cost will be about \$1800, which will cover airfare, hotels, and some meals. However, the more who sign up, the less the trip will cost.

## Not quite news, but close enough

Requiem for an upright chair

By Josh Bell

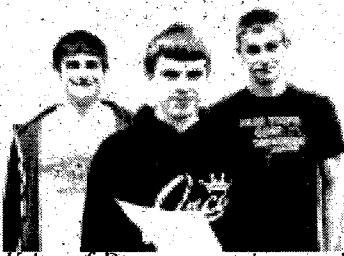
Students congregate in the lunch room all huddled around a table eating and talking away the period. This all can be changed. It doesn't matter what you're talking about or how deep you throw yourself into the conversation. You will still find your attention turned as the "OOH!" is roared out after a chair has fallen to the ground. But where and when did this unique and interesting tradition start? I talked to Mr. Jeckavitch, who commented, "If you have to 'ooh' and 'ah' when a tray or chair is dropped you are a sad little person." Mr. J. said that this so called "tradition" has been going on for maybe over twenty years now. Mr. J. also commented that the tradition isn't nearly as bad as it used to be.



What provokes this sudden movement of the vowel O? Is it the thrill of a chair falling that drives the students completely and utterly insane? It's all too funny sometimes when a simple chair crashes to the floor. But before you try to get attention by knocking a chair over, you might consider that many students have been written up for playing this prank. If the right teacher catches you at the wrong time, you'll be spending time before or after school with the detention crew. From whenever this unique and pointless tradition began up to today, you can always count on the heavy silence followed by the "OOOOO" that fills the lunchroom after a chair has been driven to the cold cafeteria floor.

## Democracy speaks at SHS

By Ashley Kaley



Voice of Democracy winners pictured (left to right) are Craig McElroy, Ryan Leach, and Mike Manypenny

Does anyone really ever think about freedom and what it really means? A majority of people don't even attempt to consider our freedom, because it's something with which we grow up and live. Thanks to the VFW there's a great way to display your feelings for freedom.

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition began in 1946 by the National Association of Broadcasters. The Veterans of Foreign Wars are the national sponsors for this contest. This competition allows high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors the chance to write an essay on a patriotic theme. There is more than \$2.5 million in college scholarships to be considered. School winners record their essays on a tape or CD with the correct labeling and send it in to move forward to another round of judging. The state winners travel to Washington, D.C., for the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Community Service Conference in March. They compete for \$143,000 in scholarships, and the winner receives \$25,000.

Mr. Viencek's English and speech classes take part in this essay every year. A number of students get picked to be entered into the contest. All the entries went to Mr. McDevitt for reading and choosing of the top three. This year's Voice of Democracy Essay Competition winners are the following: Ryan Leach (first place), Craig McElroy (second place), and Mike Manypenny (third place).

## Boardman hears, "Bus driver, move that bus!"

By Andy Thompson

On the morning of October 12, South Range Middle School special education teacher and Boardman resident Jeff Novak and his three daughters got a special visit from someone that would change their lives forever. The team from "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" was at their front door. The host of the show, Ty Pennington, was outside with a microphone, and he told the family that they had been selected to receive a house makeover. The main goal of the makeover team is "To improve the lives of one deserving family by rebuilding the family home." On May 8 (Mothers' Day), just shortly after she watched *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, Jeff's wife Jackie passed away at the young age of twenty-eight from a pulmonary embolism, leaving her twenty-nine year old husband to raise three young girls. The three girls are Zoey who is six, Harley who is two, and Presley who is only five months old.

His oldest daughter Zoey and some of Novak's students wrote to the "Extreme Makeover" team and told them what had happened and that they were in need of a new house. They were living in a 76-year-old Dutch colonial house in which the second floor shower leaked into the kitchen and family room below, the basement filled up with raw sewage every year, there were only three bedrooms, and everybody in the house had to share only one bathroom. The Novak family was the lucky family who was selected.

On Friday, October 14, the Novaks were sent on an all-expenses-paid vacation to Daytona Beach and returned on Wednesday, October 19, in the afternoon. That gave the team five days to tear down and rebuild a brand new house. After the Novak's left, it was only a couple hours later when the house would start coming down. But before that, a group of nearly one-hundred members of the Youngstown Harley-Davidson Motorcycle clubs led hundreds of volunteer workers down Arlene Avenue to the Novak home to begin work. The producers called it the "Braveheart" sequence. Jackie Novak's sister, Sue Zupko was one of the people who were on the motorcycles. After they were all done, Ty Pennington led the team into the house to start the demolition. After the interior of the house was done, three cranes came in and tore down the whole house within fifteen minutes.

In less than two days the house had gone from rubble and dust into an almost completed house with blue siding. With about two-thousand people coming and going from the jobsite, the house

was going up quicker than scheduled. They were ready to pour concrete for the driveway, people were preparing to irrigate the landscaping, cabinets and counter tops were being installed, paint was going up on the walls, tile was going on the floors, electricians were putting in lights, and plumbers were in the basement - all of this at the same time. Some other important people that were involved with his project were Canfield-based TC Quality Homes and Mr. Robert Lalley. Mr. Lalley worked on sixteen pieces of furniture and household appliances that the Novak's had wanted to keep. He owns his own shop behind his house in East Palestine. Some of the pieces he worked on were theater seats, ottomans, and pillows. With all the furniture pieces inside and set in place, the house was complete. A project that would normally take six to eight months to accomplish was built in one-hundred and six hours (less the one week). The Novak's would finally get to see their new house.

The big day finally came on Wednesday, October 19. Just one week ago the Novak's had no idea that in five days their lives would be changed forever. As the limo came down the street, Ty Pennington said to the crowd on his loud speaker, "This is going to be awesome." With approximately two to three thousand people watching, the limo came down the street. A huge charter bus was blocking the house so nobody could see it. The Novak's spoke with Ty for a few moments, then everyone said the famous "Extreme Makeover" phrase, "Bus driver, move that bus!"

Everyone was speechless upon seeing the house. The Novak's had looks of great joy on their faces. While the family looked at the outside of the house, Ty played with five month old Presley who had reached out and grabbed Ty's nose. The three windows on the second floor of the house represent the three girls, and the house's front door represents Jeff. A stained glass window under the arch of the house's roof symbolizes Jackie. The window has an imprint of an angel in it so Jackie can watch over her family at all times. Along with the house, Youngstown State University established a fund to provide full tuition scholarships to the three girls when they get older. Jackie was a 2001 graduate of YSU as well. The show with the Novak's is planned to air on November 27 at 8:00 pm on ABC.



## Middle school invasion

By Doug Mondell

All of us know that the Lem School Board has decided to shut down the middle school and send the seventh and eighth grade students to the high school. This may solve some money issues the school system is having, but high school students aren't very thrilled about this change. Personally I think it will cause too much confusion around school, and it's crowded enough as it is. Junior Kellie Stewart is also not excited about a new idea, "I don't like the thought of it because that means my little brother will be at the high school next year, and he'll only be in seventh grade."annah Johnson, a junior, was more than a little upset about the change that will occur. "I'm pre-empting it's not really happening. With the number of students we'll have I feel the administrators need to give us at least ten minutes between classes. I don't agree with or believe in this decision, and I won't have anything

to do with it. I will just pretend like they aren't here." Most of the seniors couldn't be happier that this will be their last year at SHS. Tim Colian is "excited to be leaving, because it's annoying enough to try to get through the hallways with just high school students, let alone middle school students too."

I understand completely that we have to save money some way, some how. But the high school is crowded, noisy, and too big to navigate through with only four minutes between classes anyway. Junior Keri Blackburn feels that the "younger students would be exposed to things they normally wouldn't. If the younger students don't change the way things go on around SHS and they don't make too much trouble, I won't have a problem with them being here at all. Only time will tell what will really happen, and I hope that the change is minor and will not really be noticeable.

## Bad rule of the month One way hallway

By Josh "The Liberty Protector" Fast

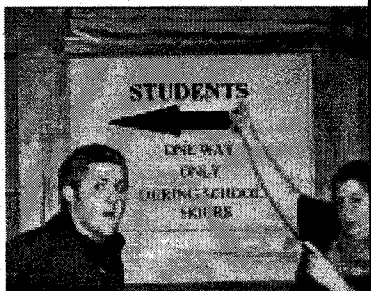
When driving to Cleveland do you go through Columbus? When traveling to Texas would you go via California? I wouldn't! The average person that drives, walks, or travels any form to a destination chooses to take the most direct route. So, why is it that when coming from Mr. Shurtleff's room in the English wing I am forced to take the hallway that runs past the office when I go to get my scrumptious lunch? There is a direct route to the lunch room that would be much simpler. That route is the notorious "ONE WAY HALLWAY."

We all know the feeling of waiting in that never-ending lunch line and we do anything we can to be the first ones to the cafeteria to get our "chick sand" and "mashies" so that we don't have to wait in anticipation. But the unfortunate students on the wrong side of the building have the unfair disadvantage of the long walk to the "right" hallway. The "right" hall is exceedingly over crowded and backed up during lunch because it is the ONLY route to lunch, but is also the exit for the cafeteria. So, once again the students traveling to lunch are at a disadvantage while backed up in the hallway.

I remember my freshman year when I was first told to turn around. "Didn't you read the sign?" I remember Mrs. Wallace, a former teacher at the high school, saying. Four years later I still encounter the same problem. Mr. Kirkland and Mr. McDevitt are now patrolling the

end of the hall waiting for unsuspecting students to prey on. Why can't we have one side of the ramp go one way and the other side go the other? It seems to work fine on EVERY highway in this great nation of ours...why not in a high school hall??

I am a hungry young man by the time 5B rolls around and have no time to waste hiking ALL THE WAY around school to get to the cafeteria. Countless other students feel the same way I do about this issue. Numerous students break this rule many times a day and are left alone for the most part. It is simply from 11:26 to 12:56 (also known as lunch time) that students are ridiculed for choosing a more logical route to the cafeteria. If any administrators read this, please rethink the rule and make this hall into a standard two way hall as opposed to the dreaded ONE WAY!



Above, Senior Josh Fast tries to sneak past the one way sign in a drastic attempt to be first in the lunch line. Senior Tiffany Jones says, "NO!"

## That'll be an arm and a leg, please

By Kellie Stewart

The school system isn't the only one with money troubles this year. From the very beginning of the year, high school students seem bombarded with costs for everything from school supplies to club dues.

Some fees are virtually unavoidable. You won't even be able to receive a report card without paying your school fees. A survey taken by twenty-five students in differing grades and schedules revealed that over 50% of them had to pay between \$51 and \$76 this year. A typical lunch in the cafeteria costs \$2.00. That seems like a pretty good deal, but if you plan on eating every day, you'll have spent over \$350 by the end of the school year! We're all encouraged to join as many clubs and extra curricular activities as we can. Unfortunately, everything seems to entail a \$10 club fee, \$5 for a t-shirt, and then even more money for the various field trips and fund raisers that the club takes part in. Not to mention that starting next year, pay-to-play is going to be implemented. At \$50 a sport, students that participate in several sports per year will be forking over some real cash.

Students who want to get their license have to pay \$250 for a driver's education course plus a \$10 gas fee and a \$4 certificate fee. Those who already have their license and drive to school daily are feeling the pressure of rising gas prices.

This year concert choir students are especially paying large sums of money. April's trip to Chicago is looming ahead, and it's costing a whopping \$450 dollars. The money's due, of course, in three easy payments of \$150. On top of that, some chamber choir students are also handing over \$72 for a dress, \$30 for shoes, or \$35 for a vest. Next year, it'll be the band members' turns to pay for their trip.

Many students must hold jobs in order to pay for all these costs. Although jobs can teach responsibility and the value of earning your own paycheck, they can also hold students back from activities they should be able to participate in. Many sports, plays, and other extracurricular activities require after school or weekend practices. "My job takes up most of my time after school and on weekends," junior Keri Blackburn commented. "It even gets in the way of school related activities like play practice and club meetings." If you jam pack your schedule with all of these things plus a job, where does time for studying and homework come in? Taking care of this balancing act worth of scheduling would induce unwanted stress on anyone.

## Point/Counter Point PETA

By Desiree Wright

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is the largest animal rights organization in the world. Since 1980, PETA has been operating under the simple principle that animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, or use for entertainment. While some of their efforts seem valiant, others may come as a shock, such as "The 'Naked' Campaign," which encourages activists everywhere to protest, sporting nothing but a sign which says "I'd Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur." Another recent campaign titled "Cut Class, Not Frogs" encourages students to exercise their rights to not participate in the dissection of dead animals in science and biology classes across America.

If it weren't for the dissection of animals, certain medical breakthroughs may have never been discovered, but as stated by the president of PETA and co-founder of Ingrid Newkirk and the September 1989 issue of *Vogue*, "Even if animal tests produced a cure for AIDS, we'd be against it." Is it necessary for this organization to be placing the rights of animals before the rights and well being of humans, or am I overreacting?

By Brittany Mercer

Let me say that I am neither a vegetarian nor vegan nor am I a member of PETA. However, I do own three pets and am an animal lover. PETA stands for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. How could anyone be against that? This organization is dedicated to protecting the rights of animals. PETA believes that animals are not ours to eat, to wear, to experiment on, or to use for entertainment. Though I personally happen not to agree on all aspects of their beliefs, I agree with their main point - animals have rights.

PETA uncovered the torture of many animals including primates, cats, and dogs. They taped it and released the awful footage to the public. Many animals' lives were saved by the organization.

It is believed by some misleading skeptics that PETA kills the animals taken in. PETA does support a mass-euthanasia policy, putting unwanted or injured animals peacefully to sleep. This is much better than letting them wander the streets and die painful deaths.

PETA's "Cut Class not Frogs" slogan is a controversial subject, but in truth it really isn't. PETA is not telling kids to go out and skip class but to exercise their right to refuse participating in dis-

Psychologists have publicly condemned PETA's propaganda videos as being unfit for children to see; however, the organization continues to target children as young as six years old with violent and graphic audio visuals. Two PETA employees in North Carolina were arrested on thirty-one animal cruelty charges after dumping domestic animals into a shopping center garbage bin last June, but you won't find that disturbing video on the PETA website, will you?

If you attended Warped Tour, Ozzfest or any other popular concert over the summer, chances are you were bombarded with numerous info packets, DVD's, stickers, pins and other vegetarian related goodies distributed by members of PETA themselves. On our walk back to the car after attending Sounds of the Underground Tour last July, my friends and I were literally chased down the street by a representative from PETA.

In my opinion, vegetarianism is okay, but skipping class to save already deceased frogs, or hindering medical research in order to save the lives of furry creatures is not. I'm an animal lover, but I don't see the significance of the PETA organization and its outrageous actions.

section. It's just important that students do know they do not HAVE to dissect animals. It's an option.

PETA is a great organization and believes in spaying and neutering of pets. To prevent unwanted animals, "snipping" controls the population. PETA's SNIP-mobile spayed and neutered 7,641 cats and dogs in the hometown area of Hampton Roads, Virginia, including 176 pit bulls free of charge and 781 feral cats. Americans complain that PETA puts animal rights ahead of human rights and safety yet when PETA actually does put people first everyone complains that they are hypocrites. PETA is just trying to make the world a better place for both people

I personally don't understand how anyone could be against an organization that is attempting to help the helpless - to give a voice to the muffled. PETA like any organization has its flaws, but, in truth, PETA is out to stop cruel and unjust behavior toward animals.



## Feature

### Going full circle on the Xbox 360

By Tracey Milchick

The Xbox: it was heavy; it was ugly; it was square. Don't worry though; Microsoft will soon be making video game history, paving the way for new gaming technology. This November 22 gamers across the US will bear witness to the highly anticipated addition to the ever-growing video game industry: Xbox 360. This will be the first installment of the "Next Generation" of video games, with new consoles outstripping predecessors. With so much hype, one begs to know the scoop behind the 360 debut.

#### What's in a name?

Xbox was Microsoft's first crack at a video game console. They didn't know the business; they didn't know the audience. Executives in charge of the 360 decided to learn from the original Xbox experience. They talked about what was good with the old system (the amazing technology and Xbox Live) and what was bad (marketing the product). David Reid, Director of Global Platform Marketing for Xbox, explains: "It got into our brains...to put the gamer at the center, not the hardware...this led to the brand, the name, and feature set...[w]e wanted gamers to have their own experience." This mindset led to the name of the console: "If you are at the center of the universe, you'll be able to spin in all directions (hence 360 degrees) and see yourself and your tastes, experiences, etc. in everything around you. Voila! 360 is born" (Official Xbox Magazine, July 2005).

#### Pampered by technology.

No doubt the 360 will be tricked out, but what exactly can consumers expect from Microsoft's newest video game contender? For starters the 360 will come equipped with 512 MB of RAM, a 3.2 GHz tri-core Power PC CPU (think of it as the power of three computers), and 22.4 GB/s memory bandwidth (faster loading time). The 360 comes with a removable and

upgradeable 20 GB hard drive to keep up with fast-paced technology. There will be two memory card slots on the console; each card can hold up to 64 MB of memory. Three USB ports are readily available for an MP3 player or digital camera. You can still play Xbox Live via its broadband connectivity and a complimentary Silver account of Live. Microsoft made sure the little details weren't forgotten. The DVD drive is quieter; fans adjust when it's turned horizontally or vertically, and two of the three processors automatically shut-down when a DVD is played. Parents need not worry with built-in parental controls. The headset now rests on top of your head, not behind - perfect for lying back to enjoy your Live victory. The new controllers, which are wireless, have a quick charge kit (guaranteeing forty hours of play per charge) and a "play and charge" kit, which does exactly what it says. The controllers also communicate with the player by flashing lights on the logo button, finally given a purpose. If friends come over, just press the "sync up!" button to add more controllers to the view screen. Oh, don't like the simply white 360? Change it! Six months from now, gamers will be able to snap off the faceplate and customize it. Now that's real power. Who can refuse?

#### Crack open that piggy bank.

Senior Kieran Klein is excited about the 360's eminent release: "I can't wait. And not only is it the first next-gen console, it may have the best graphics of [other systems]." He, like so many others, has preordered the system, which is offered in many different packages. Starting at \$299.99, the "Core System" includes the basic wired system, no hard drive, and it comes in a green box. The most costly package offered by GameStop, known as the Omega Bundle with Dell plasma screen TV, is set at \$4499.68. It con-

tains the TV, twenty launch games, and all available accessories, giving a \$292 savings. Many consumers are going for the standard \$399.99 system, which is packaged in a white box - hard drive and wireless controllers included.

#### What's next for the next generation?

Sony and Nintendo, Microsoft's prime competitors, have prepared prototypes of the Playstation 3 (PS3) and Revolution respectively. But with the 360 ready to crown itself king of the consoles, can the PS3 and Revolution hold up under the pressure to be the next ground-breaker? Here's how they compare. All three are even on technology; too many aspects must be considered to declare a clear-cut winner. Although all three come with wireless capabilities, Nintendo's "num-chuck" action controllers and Sony's seven-view-screens-at-a-time boomerang controllers can't stand up to the 360's preparedness of wireless frustrations. Revolution and PS3 beat 360 with backwards capability (ability to play past-system games), but who needs to play all of those Mario games anyway? And game releases? Sony hasn't made any official announcements of new games, and Nintendo's biggest news is that you can buy an NES emulator (woo-hoo?). My vote goes to Microsoft for their amazing launch line-up: Project Gotham Racing 3, Perfect Dark Zero, and Call of Duty 2, among others. If you just want to buy the system that will look prettiest next to that pile of dirty clothes on the floor, give it up to the 360. It's got more curves than a super model and a white, futuristic cover. PS3 looks like a computer scanner. The Revolution, well, I think they looked at a CD case for inspiration. Overall, Xbox deserves the bragging rights for a remarkable job well done.

### Thoughtful thankful thinking

By Jessica Moser

With November and Thanksgiving comes the question, "What are you thankful for?" Since kindergarten, we have all answered, "I am thankful for my friends and my family." While these are definitely worth being thankful for, what about all the simple, little things we have?

At home, most people would be lost without modern conveniences like satellite T.V., the internet, dishwashers and DVD players. Many of us grew up with these things and do not realize how great they actually are. Thanks to the internet, people are connected to the world, and it comes in handy whether you are researching for

homework or looking up the latest celebrity gossip. Also, movie nights wouldn't be nearly as fun if we didn't have DVD player, or even VCRs (I know that sounds crazy seeing as how VCRs are pretty much dead).

There are also all the funny little sounds and smells in our everyday lives. What fun would it be to get to the bottom of a soda and not hear that fun slurpy sound? Little kids wouldn't be able to annoy their parents; we all know how much fun it is to be six and slurping so loudly that you can't hear your parents yell at you. Even the seemingly annoying bark of the neighbor's dog can be something to be thankful for. It all depends on how

you look at things. The wonderfully clean smell of the air after a rain is another. It's just one of those refreshing kind of smells that make you say "ahhhhh..."

There's also the amazing invention of things like paperclips, sticky notes, and rubber bands. What else would we have to entertain ourselves with while at our desks in a class or study hall? Those fun little do-dads are just a few of the simple forms of amusement in our everyday lives.

So, this year when asked "What are you thankful for?" you can have a fun, out of the ordinary reply.

### DS Vs. PSP: Handheld Warfare

By Wesley Lindberg

This Christmas season you or a sibling may be looking at a video game system, but what to buy? With all the buzz around the expensive consoles such as the \$300-\$400 Xbox 360, the handheld systems sometimes get left behind. Take a look at the two main handhelds available on the market - the Nintendo DS and the Sony PSP.

The handheld systems have one major advantage over their console brethren, their price. The current handheld systems cost \$70 to \$250 and offer a larger game library than any of the consoles. However, this can be misleading. The DS costs \$150, but games will cost you \$30-\$40 each. This is not at all as bad as the PSP which is definitely an expensive handheld to buy. With \$250 for the system, \$50 for a game, and another \$50 for a decent memory card, you're looking at spending \$350-\$400 to get it set up to its fullest potential.

The DS and the PSP have been competing since Christmas last year, and currently

the DS is outselling the PSP in all regions. However, things might change with the release of Grand Theft Auto: Liberty City Stories on the PSP, a popular series that will garner plenty of controversial attention. The DS has more games for it and far more original games coming out for Christmas this year than the PSP does.

So which to buy? If you're just out to buy games, nothing more, nothing less, then the DS is probably right for you. If you're the kind of person who likes to do everything and anything, the PSP's multimedia functions, games, web browser, and emulated classics are up your alley. Both systems have tons of exclusive titles, so you may just end up buying both.

To buy both would be expensive, just as buying all of the major consoles would be. But it is worth it. As developers fight for more market share, they release a better and better product. To own both means you reap the rewards from both sides.

### The horror of Hollywood casting

By Ryan Newell

What has happened to Hollywood? It's safe to say 2005 has ushered in a new low for the former movie capital of the world. Original stories and screenplays now appear to be a way of the past. Remakes, PG-13 horror, and tasteless comedy have taken over the silver screen. What is the answer to this crisis?

This summer was utterly plagued with horror films with no clear plot that were targeted toward a teenage audience. The problem is nobody wants to see Van Wilder (Ryan Reynolds) in a horror movie (*The Amityville Horror*). To solve this problem would be to put better actors in the films. What also needs to end is the hiring of college dropouts as screenwriters. Their real jobs should be writing product descriptions not film scri

Whose idea was it to cast Paris Hilton in a movie (*House of Wax*)? Another example of a career gone horribly wrong is that of Lindsay Lohan. Talent is a missing word in Lohan's vocabulary. Then again anyone who dates Fez from *That 70's Show* must want their career to sink. Lohan reportedly turned down the part of Iris Steensma in a remake of the film *Taxi Driver*. The role was originally played by Academy Award winner Jodie Foster. Lohan released a statement saying that she wanted to be taken seriously as an actress and taking this part wouldn't help her career. I hate to say it, but to be taken seriously as an actress you don't star in films like *Herbie: Fully Loaded*. She has since joined the cast of two upcoming films that have re-

spectable directors and outstanding cast ensembles. The first is *A Prairie Home Companion* and the second is *Bobby*.

In Hollywood, remakes are in. This summer was bombarded with unnecessary remakes from *Bewitched* to *The Honeyymooners*. Hollywood executives need to stop thinking about money and start thinking about the quality of the movie they release.

One last example of Hollywood's downfall is the terrible comedy films that are filled with toilet humor, raunchy sex jokes, and vulgar language. A pathetic excuse for a film was *The 40 Year Old Virgin*, which featured tasteless and unfunny humor. The film starred Steve Carell who is the most untalented man in Hollywood since the invasion of Yahoo Serious.

The future of Hollywood could improve with the help of two movies, both starring Jake Gyllenhaal. *Jarhead* and *Brokeback Mountain* appear to be strong contenders for the Academy Awards. Although to credit Gyllenhaal as the only good actor to recently emerge successful would be forgetting the new talent found in Cillian Murphy and Keira Knightley. Now forgetting about the flop *Domino*, Knightley has hit career highs with *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Bend It Like Beckham*. Murphy had two hits this year with *Batman Begins* and *Red Eye*. Thanks to these new actors and rising stars like Alexis Dziena and Ashton Holmes, the future may be much brighter for Hollywood.

## Insomnium

Part 3 of 3 By Josh Bell

The tides crashed wildly against the shore outside the blackened house. Hell surrounded our very lives. It entangled us with the very evils that flew throughout our minds. We had no control over the chaos, and only deep inside my head could I feel the very presence of the nightmare that infected my mind.

The axe I held tightly locked within my hands fell. The lightning outside flashed, and the thunder roared breaking and shattering the house to millions of splintering pieces.

Silence.

There in myself I sat amongst the darkness that consumed my very soul. In front of me stood the figure that I had seen before who walked down my lane and hid in the shadows of the darkness. His face was dark and almost unreadable, all except for his eyes. No pupil from inside them emerged; only fire glowed from behind those lenses. He stepped forward slowly; his long black cape blew as he walked. Fear rushed through my veins. I knew at that very moment I was no longer in my nightmares. I knew then that he was the very nightmare.

"You look scared my friend?" He calmly spoke to me. His breath surged a scent of sulfur out at me. His eyes shot forth as I tried to close mine and rid myself of his horrific image.

He reached out with his long, pale hand and grabbed my throat. "Maybe you don't understand. I ask you a question and you respond. Simple eh?" My eyes squinted open and closed as he squeezed harder. "NOW SPEAK!" he screamed, and the fire in his eyes went out of control as he peered into my soul.

"I..." I stuttered, my tongue as fear rolled through "I'm afraid of you, I really am, but please don't hurt my family anymore, I beg you," I said trying not to let him see a tear slide down my face.

"Awe," the sarcastic tone roared out. "Compassion for your family." He let a smirk roll out onto his face. A sudden change rolled out; the smirk left, and anger and rage filled his face again. "How pathetic." He released his fingers from my neck and I plummeted to the floor.

His back was now facing me as I gasped for air lying on the black ground. "Who," I gasped again, "who are you?"

The dark bliss that once surrounded us fell upon me as I felt my skin itself come alive. Millions upon millions of tiny creatures crawled over my skin, my eyes bare to their bodies which dug and tried to eat mine. The only thing I could see was him standing over me, his eyes glaring down upon my pain filled face as I tore my flesh apart trying to get them away. The more I fought their painful blows the further they got, some even getting inside my arms and legs.

"OH GOD!" I screamed with agony as I could feel their tiny bodies crawling through my arms. His eyes burned more and more as my screams echoed through the terminal bliss.

"Now, only in the end do you see what you couldn't before." His voice was so calm as my screams echoed overtop his voice. He gave a smirk and turned and walked into the darkness from which he had emerged. My mind tried to dig through his words. All of my life I had taken everything for granted - my family, my friends, and I had become so jealous of my brother that I let it tear myself apart. So in this nightmare I torture myself to my very end? Is that what this was about - my road of perdition and to the very depths of Hell itself? It didn't matter anymore. My skin felt as though it was melting, and I couldn't even see what was crawling on and through my body. The shroud of evil had finally leaked into my dreams.

Outside my mind back in the world of reality, I lay ripping and tearing apart my flesh with my own hands. My niece stood beside my bed holding her bear in one hand and watching as I mutilated myself. My screams of horrific pain ran through the halls of the house. No one else in the family came into the room, though. Only my little niece stood beside my bed, emotionless, watching my nightmare consume me. I would cry no more, and this nightmare that infected my soul, this Hell that had been unleashed upon my body had at last won its battle. Then all silence.

"In Somnium" comes from the Latin translation of "In Dreams." We never stop to consider at any point how our dreams can sometimes affect our everyday life. Andy our main character here sees himself face to face with Satan who, not through reality but insanity and horrific fears of our residual self image, destroys us, or in this case Andy. Does this mean that all nightmares can kill you? Who knows? I suppose it is possible to die in your dreams but to tear yourself apart like Andy's graphic end I highly doubt. In Somnium, torn apart and judged, is about the hidden evil deep within us; in Andy's case it is the jealousy that rips him apart, literally. Generally we see in the end that Evil shall conquer over the weak; sadly my personal feelings tell me this is only very true in today's world. That is why we see the evil and tyranny rampant in today's society. "Sleep, those little slices of death, how I loathe them." - Edgar Allen Poe

## Upcoming concerts

By Hannah Johnson

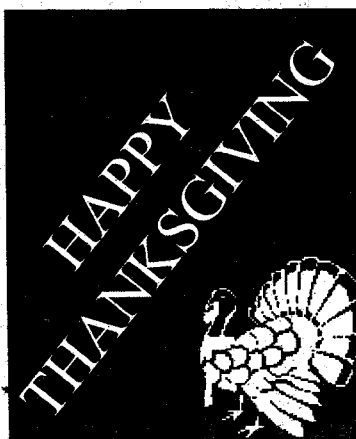
It was a Saturday morning (or should I say afternoon). I was just waking up. Listening to the radio station that I fell asleep to the night before. I began drifting to sleep again when I jumped to the sound of Pink Floyd. Yes, my all time favorite tribute band was coming to Ohio. They are called the Australian Pink Floyd tribute band and are known to play the best cover music for Pink Floyd.

So Saturday and Sunday passed, and I returned to SHS with a great topic for the school newspaper: Pink Floyd in the open. Raw. Naked. Exposed.

I presented the brilliant topic to Mrs. Dye realizing as the words came out of my mouth how ridiculous the idea was. Of course no one cares about Pink Floyd anymore. So I thought to myself on other topics. Although no one is interested in my particular taste in music, it doesn't mean I don't know what is hip right now. What a good idea. I can research upcoming concerts in this area.

Not as excited with my new topic as I was with Pink Floyd, but still fairly happy I jumped on the computer, and so my search began. I was happy to come across; Journey who will play November 26 at the Canton Civic Center in Canton, Ohio, Ashlee Simpson, who will be in Akron Ohio, November 30 at EJ Thomas Hall, Yeh!, December 4<sup>th</sup> Aerosmith and Lenny Kravitz will be visiting Cleveland, Ohio at Wolstein Center, December 7<sup>th</sup> Lifestyle Community Pavilion of Columbus, Ohio will present Mudvayne, Gwen Stefani will also be playing at the Wolstein Center in Cleveland, Ohio on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, last but not least U2 will play the 10<sup>th</sup> of December at Gunds Arena, Cleveland, Ohio.

After hours of searching all the top ticket masters I had found these six great concert shows coming soon to our area. "How exciting," I thought. Although there are many more shows in the future, here are just a few you may want to look into.



The Quaker

## Expression takes a new form

By Keri Blackburn

In today's society the world is full of diversity. People express themselves in countless ways, but the best known way of expression is music. Music has much diversity, just as the world's people do today. There are many genres of music, and they each hold the power of expression. Do different types of music affect our feelings in different ways as compared to another type of music? This question was asked to some of the students and faculty here at S.H.S. and every one of them agreed that different music had different affects on them. I found this somewhat shocking that so many people felt the same way, but they all listen to different varieties of music.

In high school there are different "cliques," and they're usually determined by sports or clothing or even musical choice. There are the groups that listen to the "bootylicious" music or the "head banging" music and, of course, the country music lovers, plus all the many other choices of music. So, what exactly do these people look for in their musical selections? Doug Mondell responded, "I have to like the lyrics, beat, and sound of the artist." Keep in mind that Mr. Mondell is a die-hard country music fan. Alyssa Nelson also commented on this question. She

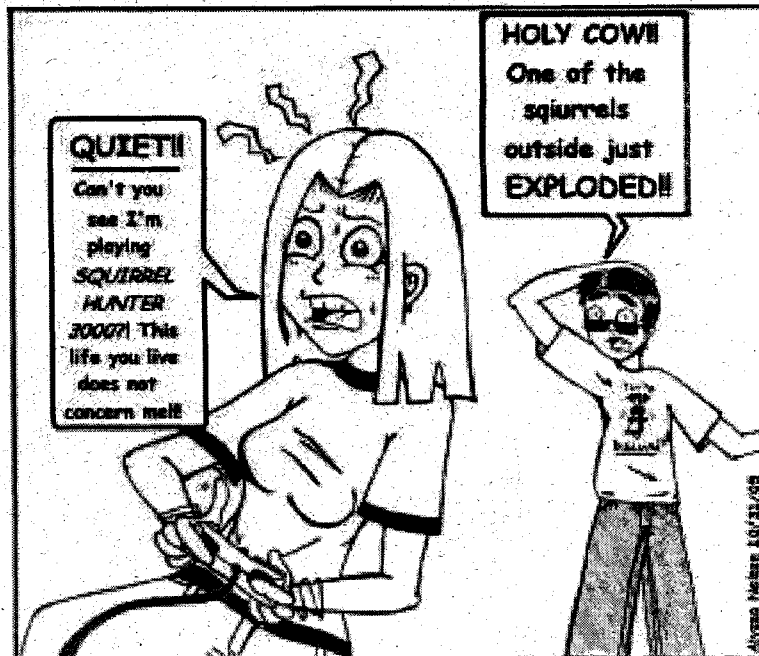
stated, "I like music with unique tunes and lyrics. I don't go so much for one type as for songs that just catch my ear." Ms. Nelson is a fan of Metallica and AC/DC. It's quite odd that people of exact opposite musical preferences look for the same qualities in their music. Both of these students are looking for the sound and quality of music; it's odd that they both end with complete opposite choices.

"Cause it's songs about me, and who I am, songs about loving and living and good hearted women and family and God. Yeah, they're all just songs about me, songs about me." (Lyrics from Trace Adkins' song, "Songs about me") Expression, it's everywhere. Every individual's view of the perfect song differs on how each wants to express him/her self. Music, for some, is a way of life. For others it's just a fun thing to listen to. No matter where we go, though, music is all around us. It's in our cars, our bedrooms, our classrooms, restaurants, and even grocery stores. Music is diverse and expressive. It's been around for years and years, and it doesn't seem probable for it to go anywhere.

## Such Are These Muddy Perimeters

By Desiree Wright

Muddy footprints trace the perimeter of your sidewalk, as these tears mix with puddles of rain; on the solid concrete that bares your soul. My feet are wet with betrayal, eyes blurred by salty drops of realization. You are never coming back. A light is on inside your house, but nobody's home. Nobody's home. You're the darkest cloud in the expanse of the skies, the river of tears that floods my once stable mind. I can't fathom the future, as I drown myself in the sorrows of the past.





# Entertainment

## Inherit the Wind

BY COURTNEY MECER

It is unfortunate if you are one of those who couldn't attend this year's play *Inherit the Wind*. It had all the elements that a good play should have - comedy, drama, and a brilliant cast.

*Inherit the Wind* was a play based on a court case against teacher Bertram Cates (played by Jon Williams) who was under prosecution for teaching Darwin's law of evolution in his classroom. A battle was between Cates's defense lawyer Henry Drummond (played by Joe Shivers) and Tim Darrah's character, famous prosecutor Harrison Brady. The whole town was on Brady's side except, of course, the reverend's daughter Rachel Brown (played by Kellie Stewart). The plot thickens while everyone is faced with whether or not to find Bertram Cates guilty.

The cast was picked by director Mr. Viencsek and Mr. Martinelli. "Mr. Martinelli and I selected the students based on their experiences, vocal projection, stage presence and interaction with other performers," said Mr. Viencsek. And if I might add, they did a wonderful job at that. Actors Tim Darrah, Kellie Stewart, and Joe Shivers did an excellent job capturing the audience's attention. They were outstanding actors that shined along with the rest of the cast. The set which was designed by Mr. Martinelli was perfectly painted, and it seemed almost

as if I stepped into the town itself. They did a beautiful job interpreting the play's theme.

*Inherit the Wind* was obviously very different from last year's play *Frankenstein*. This year's play was a bit more on the serious side; of course, there were humorous parts that no one could help not laughing at. I think the only downfall of the play all together was that at times it could be hard to hear what some of the actors were saying. However, the sound system doesn't change the fact at all that the play was more than superb.

Most people might not understand fully why we the students had to pay admission. When asked about this Mr. Viencsek stated, "It is extremely naïve to think that plays are simply fun to do. They are a business venture, and if you don't make or raise money, you're simply out of business. I believe for the past three fall productions that we've done, we haven't charged admission. We're simply running low on funds."

Students might be wondering what happens to the little amount of money that is collected from admission. The answer is simply play fees. The rest of the money goes to the Drama Department and next year's play. It is only fair to pay at least one dollar to see the play after all the hard work everyone put into it.



Ed Wrask as Hornbeck



Tracey Milchick as Mrs. Brady and Tim Darrah as Matthew Harrison Brady



Bunk Mull as Jesse Duntap, Kaleigh Gallo as the mayor's wife, and Josh Fast as the mayor of Hillsboro

## Silver screen reviews

BY BRYAN SEBRELL

### *The Weather Man*

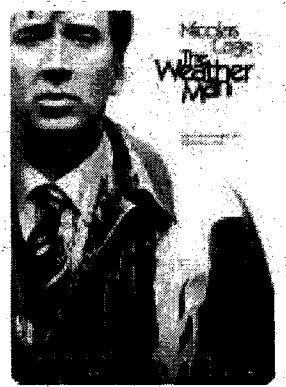
We've all watched the local news. A bunch of people in monkey suits with hair sprayed rock-hard and sporting fake, toothy smiles reciting news in falsely enthusiastic voices. Most of us probably have never thought about a newscaster's personal life, and that's what *The Weather Man* is all about. David Spritz, played by Nicholas Cage, is a weatherman on a local news channel in Chicago. Although he is exceptional in his work, he lives a miserable life. He is divorced, has trouble communicating with his children, and his father is disappointed in him.

David would love nothing more than to remarry his ex-wife Noreen (Hope Davis) and get back in touch with his children. His pre-teenage daughter Shelly (Gemmenne de la Pena) is overweight and seems uninterested in everything in the world, although she feigned interest in archery and had her father purchase expensive equipment and lessons for reasons unknown. She also smokes and is

often taunted by the boys at her school with a particular name I can't say here. His son Mike (Nicholas Hoult) is a typical rebel teenager, just out of rehab. His school counselor starts to hang out with Mike and buys his friendship but for reasons not obvious until later in the movie.

As you may have seen in the trailer, David gets hit by fast food walking on the streets. A lot. Milkshakes, tacos, chicken nuggets, fried chicken — you name it — all find a way to ruin David's trench coat. The reason why he gets hit with fast food so much is not actually revealed, so viewers can make their own theories. My theory is that those in passing cars can sense the low self-esteem in David and decide to exploit it. Those moments make up about half of the film's comedy, the other half being David's pathetic yet well-intended attempts to reunite with his family, often accompanied by well-placed swearing.

Cage's acting is superb as always. His dreary, apathetic character is complemented nicely by his



*The Weather Man* movie poster

father Robert Spritzel, played by Michael Caine, who offers David invaluable advice throughout the film.

**Pros:** Excellent acting by Cage and Caine, sad yet appropriate ending, great transitions between drama and comedy, depressing story of reality.

**Cons:** Perhaps a little too much swearing  
**Rating:** A+

## Battle of the bands

### Interview with Matt Edighoffer of Harlequin's Voice

BY DESIREE WRIGHT

### My Inner Ashes

BY TIFFANY JONES

My Inner Ashes was started in the spring of 2003 when four guys decided they could no longer hide their musical geniuses from the public. They had a little bump in the road whenever their former bassist decided to quit the band this spring but they got through it and found a friend, Josh Ruffier, to take his place. The guys are now going stronger than ever with a new cd coming out in December and a tour coming up in the spring of '06. The group consists of Frank Bycraft, vocals; Brad Etto, guitar; Josh Ruffier, bass; and Matt Steede, drums. MIA has been working on this new album for quite some time now and will feature ten new songs and three from their first cd. "We have songs for everybody," Matt says. These guys have had some pretty memorable moments on stage. Matt and Brad agree their best shows were at Peabody's and the Battle of Bands at the Sebring Civic Center while Josh thinks their last show at Robertson's Youth Center was their best. Sometimes things don't always go the way they had hoped like a show they had at the Stomping Grounds where Brad broke a guitar string and Josh broke his guitar strap. I'm sure the guys will have some more great performances on their tour. They will be going to Pennsylvania, New York, and some southern states. To book a show and check upcoming concert dates go to [www.myspace.com/myinnerashes](http://www.myspace.com/myinnerashes).

Recently, I had the opportunity to talk with Matt Edighoffer, bass player for Harlequin's Voice, a hardcore metal band from Sharon, PA.

**D:** How did you guys start out and when did it all begin?

**M:** Matt Stanton started a long time ago with the name "Priority Fall" and then Mike joined. When Dan joined to play drums they became "Harlequin's Voice", which is when Rob started singing. Our bass player, Natalie left and I already knew all of their songs so I took her place in the band.

**D:** I remember hearing something about your van having radiator problems last summer while you were touring. Where were you when that happened?

**M:** Our radiator blew out on the last day of tour in Toledo; I was on my way to Guitar Center when it started smokin'.

**D:** I know there has to be a lot, but what has been your best memory or experience so far?

**M:** The best part has to be after our Columbus show, we went to this huge party with a bunch of kids and the Safety Dance came on, so me and Stanton jumped up and danced and everyone joined in with us.

**D:** The Safety Dance?

**M:** \*Sings\* "We can dance if we want to, we can leave our thoughts behind..." Have you ever seen Bio-Dome?

**D:** No, I haven't seen Bio-Dome but this sounds pretty exciting. As a

band, what do you think your best accomplishment has been? Is there a specific song or album you really liked?

**M:** Hmm, I like our new songs, they're different. I like the fact that we don't sound like anyone.

**D:** I've always liked that about you. What are your expectations for the future? Where do you see yourself in ten years, and do you think there's any possible chance for a record deal?

**M:** I think we'll get signed as soon as we start touring more. In ten years, I don't know. I'm really focused on college, not the band right now...I can't say that for everyone else though.

**D:** What famous bands have you played with in the past?

**M:** We haven't played with too many big bands, just Marcy's Playground.

**D:** How'd that go?

**M:** We couldn't sell our merchandise because it was in their contract for them to get a cut out of any of our profits, so I made fun of their van.

**D:** It's okay; they were pretty much a one hit wonder anyways. When's your next show?

**M:** It's November, 21<sup>st</sup> at Screwy Louies in Kent, Ohio.

**D:** Can we all do the safety dance?

**M:** Oh, we'll dance, and me and you, we're going to tango. Check us out on Myspace at [www.myspace.com/harlequinsvoice](http://www.myspace.com/harlequinsvoice).

## A Rising Star

By Nikki Jackson

When anyone mentions sports everyone automatically thinks of football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and baseball. However, there are many more sports out there including gymnastics. Gymnasts, unlike other sport team players, train all year around and constantly have to eat healthy. It takes a lot of time, practice, strength, and energy. Who would be so dedicated to something like this? One such dedicated gymnast would be Salem High School's very own Jennifer Leininger!

Jen is a sixteen-year-old sophomore here at SHS. She has been involved in gymnastics for twelve years. She says, "My mom put me in a class when I was four and just wanted me to get my back handspring. Little did she know that it would lead to this." She is a level nine gymnast. The highest level that can be achieved is a level ten. Her events include vault, bars, beam, and floor.

Jen practices an hour away at FIYTZ Gymnastics in Cuyahoga Falls five to six days a week. She practices Monday through Saturday with Wednesdays off, sometimes. She normally practices three to seven; that's four hours a day! In fact, she leaves school after sixth period to go to practice. This may seem like a lot of practice time, but for Jen it has certainly paid off. She has won over 300 medals! Last year she was even named "Gymnast of the Year." However, she claims, "My best accomplishments are Nationals 2005- 3<sup>rd</sup> on bars, 7<sup>th</sup> all around; Regionals 2005-1<sup>st</sup> on floor; State-fifth time champ on bars."

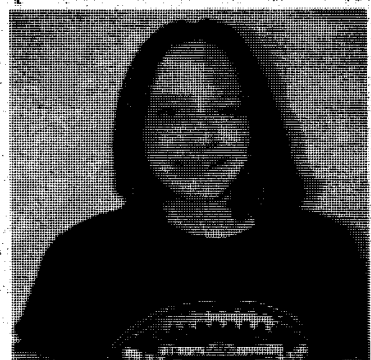
All of these accomplishments did not come easy. They came with a lot of hard work and self discipline. "We warm up for a half-hour with conditioning, running, and flexibility. We do three events a day for one hour. We then do conditioning for a half hour. I eat healthy most of the time, especially lunch. I have a little program for my arms and abs that I do every night before I go to bed." And it sure doesn't look like all this hard work is going to

end soon because Jen plans to attend Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, for gymnastics and to major in athletic training!

As for injuries, Jen has had "too many" broken bones. At age six, she broke her elbow. At eleven, she broke both forearm bones. At age fourteen she sprained both of her ankles at the same time and had reconstructive surgery on her left ankle. This year alone, at age sixteen, she has had four stress fractures in her right ankle/foot. What does Jen have to say about all this? "I am so determined! I always come back stronger than ever."

If the student body recalls, last year Jen, then only a freshman, went to Nationals for her gymnastics. However, we never found out her results. Jen traveled to Florida where she says, "I competed well, but not my best. I did a great bar routine and finished third. I ended up finishing seventh all around. I was proud of that, but I am now ready for this year's. They will be in Nashville, Tennessee. My goal is to win Nationals this year!"

Jennifer Leininger has worked very hard to achieve everything that she has. Besides preparing for this year's Nationals, she is currently preparing for an upcoming meet in Akron. If anyone wants to go to see Jen compete, the following is the information that will be needed: Where: John S. Knight Center in Akron; When: January 27-29 although Jen will probably compete on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Cost: \$5-10.



Sophomore Jen Leininger, a very dedicated gymnast.

## Miller the unstoppable

By Veronica Waite

Despite the fact that he has had obstacles thrown his way, Senior Ben Miller still manages to come out on top.



Senior Ben Miller three months after his last surgery on his right ACL.

Senior Ben Miller has had a bumpy competitive road as an intense high school athlete. At the age of sixteen, Ben had to have surgery. Since then he's had to have two more. All were due to athletic injuries, which have put his competitive career on hold.

On March 21, 2004, Ben had surgery on his left ACL and lateral meniscus. Both injuries were due to basketball. Then on April 22, 2005, a little over a year after his first surgery, he had to battle through another surgery. This time Ben suffered a broken leg and dislocated ankle. Both injuries occurred during a baseball game. Finally, on Friday, August 5, 2005, less than four months later, he had surgery on his right ACL. He tore it playing basketball.

Ben said, "My first surgery was bad because I wasn't use to the pain." Dealing with the second surgery, Ben said, "It was worse because it was an emergency, and I couldn't walk for two months afterwards." He described the third surgery as a walk through because he was use to all the pain.

Competitively, Ben was affected by his surgery because it made him work harder to get stronger. Socially, it showed him how much his friends cared about him by calling him and visiting him in the hospital. Ben commented, "It meant a lot to me."

As for this year, he plans on playing baseball for sure. In order to prevent the past from reoccurring, he has been working out to strengthen his knee. Although he has struggled through the past, Ben has seemed to put it far behind him and is focused on his future.

## What was your opinion of the state cross country race?

"It felt great to be with my team and knowing all the work that we did definitely paid off." -Alexis Thorne

"It makes me feel great when I think about making school history. We all knew it was possible for both teams to win, but it wasn't our main goal. We took our races one week at a time and tried to make history every week." -Sarah Yerkey

"I'm sure it was the most successful day in Salem sports history. It also felt great to be only the third team to ever win both titles in the same day." -Tom Yuhaniak

"It just shows how great our program is. We have great coaches and dedicated runners." -Jason Stewart

"Memories are very important and I will remember these days for the rest of my life." -Patrick Gorby

"It feels like winning state is becoming more of a tradition rather than something that you can only do if you meet certain standards." -Justin Roberts

"To have both teams win the title in the same year is a reflection of the great coaches we have; they have built an amazing program that is dedicated to the sport and to excellence." -Paul Shivers

"For both girls' and guys' teams to win, it takes strong coaching and a strong team—not just a group of talented individuals." -Joe Shivers

"Winning two state titles back to back was crazy and exciting." -Aiman Scullion

"My teammates are amazing. It wouldn't be nearly as awesome if I didn't have them as my teammates." -Dee Clary

"It's so sweet knowing that forever, when someone talks about the girls cross country team, they'll be saying my name, and how I was a part of the first girls' team in Salem's history to win a state championship. No one can ever take that away." -Lauren Shivers

"Both teams just worked so hard and deserved to be state champs." -Liz Shivers

"All the work my teammates and coaches put in is just one testimony of our success." -Ted Yuhaniak

"Salem Cross Country has always been good, but it's amazing that this team has done so well and made school history." -Kristin Pihlgren

## New coach for Salem wrestlers

By Veronica Waite

Salem graduate, Ralph Smalley, is the new head coach of the wrestling team. He will be replacing Coach Carreon. Carreon resigned due to his busy work schedule. Former junior high wrestling coach, Derek Beck, will be assisting Smalley throughout the season.

As a former four year letterman for Salem as a wrestler, Ralph was extremely successful. He was a two time district participant, ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in the state, and held the pin record until last year's senior, Sonn Hostetter, broke it. Also, he was the first and only wrestler to receive The Outstanding Wrestler award.

Coach Smalley plans on running a successful season by working hard but having fun at the same time. "One of my goals is to make it more enjoyable," said Ralph. He believes a coach should be able to participate during practice, rather than giving orders. J.P. Guiler responded, "He makes things enjoyable by running with us instead of yelling at us." His main goal is to increase team membership. So far Coach Smalley has been successful. There are twenty-six people signed up to wrestle this year, compared to the twelve from last year.

Senior Mike Manypenny said, "I think he's got what it takes to turn the team around." Junior J.P. Guiler commented, "He makes me want to work harder." With such great accomplishments and knowledge of the sport, the boys believe he will be a good coach.

## Sport shorts: fall wrap-up

By Tim Colain

**Football-** The guys finished 7-3 overall and 3-2 in the MAC. J.J. Johnson finished the season with 1,708 total yards rushing setting the new single season record.

**Volleyball-** The girls finished 18-7 overall and 10-0 in the MAC. This season they captured their 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive MAC title.

**Girls' Soccer-** The young team finished off the season with an overall record of 7-9-2.

**Boys' Soccer-** The guys finished 1-13-2 overall. Although their record isn't the best, they were a hard working team with many close games.

**Girls' Cross Country-** Placing first at Regional, they earned their first trip back to the state meet since 1998. State Champs!

**Boys' Cross Country-** Placing third at the Regional meet, they earned their third consecutive trip to the state meet. State Champs!



# Quaker Clips

