The US hockey team ended its 2002-2003 season with a 24-11-4 record, but the last week was the what really counted: the state championship.

The US hockey team entered the state tournament with an 18-11-4 record, but the final three rounds of the tournament reflected its confidence and determination. The hockey journey team reached the quarterfinals after defeating Gaffield Heights, Kent Roosevelt, and Mentor with a combined scoring record of 30-3. The quarterfinals saw the captain team defeat Lake Catholic 4-0, thus advancing to the semifinal against Worthington in Columbus.

The semifinal game on March 1 proved to be a test of willpower, as the US hockey team finished the first period with a 1-1 tie. Resolved to pick up their game, the Preppers responded in the second period when junior Adam Kriwinsky put in another goal thirty-seven seconds later. US continued dominating the game as Kassigkelt and senior assistant captain Brian Hall added three more points to the scoreboard, ending the game with a 6-1 victory. A large part of their success was determined by the impressive Preppers defense, led by senior captain Kerry Cebul along with senior John Rutter, Jonathan Kenston, and junior Dan Drobnick. The US defense emphasized speed and command over the ice by restricting Worthington to thirteen shots. This encouraged the US hockey team to advance to the state finals the next day against rival St. Edward.

St. Edward had defeated it last year in the state championship, the US hockey team looked forward to the championship game with determination. Playing in front of 3,108 fans at Nationwide Arena, the Preppers performed at their best. From the beginning of the game, it was apparent that the match would be the ultimate test of endurance and courage. The Preppers responded in the second period when junior Larry Germoysvick scored US first goal followed by a second goal by Kassigkelt. But no one was complacent, knowing that St. Edward was one of the best come-back teams in the league. The Preppers faced a daunting challenge as the game was determined in the last agonizing minutes, with St. Ed-ward attacking the Preppers’ goal relentlessly. Time was running out when senior Kevin Edwards stepped up their play with astonishing saves by goalie junior John Siders.

With twenty-four seconds left, Siders lost his stick while scrambling to protect the goal. A flurry of bodies crashed the net, the puck seemed to have disappeared, and then the buzzer went off, signifying the end of the game. The Preppers defeated the US hockey team by 6-1 and claimed the championship trophy in the state championship.

Chris Tripp: Wrestling State Champ!

Junior Chris Tripp brought his wrestling season to a brilliant close, crowned the Division II Championship at 145 pounds in Columbus. Tripp finished the season with a 42-2 record, the school’s best since senior co-captain Kevin Stone said, “Tripp had the work ethic and the will to be a state champion, and now he is. This is great for Chris and the wrestling program at US.” In the finals, Tripp defeated Mike Pucillo of Walsh Jesuit 5-3 to take the crown. In the first round, Tripp beat Norton’s Scott Joseph 14-2, and next defeated Kyle Ray of Hamilton Ross 9-6 after being down 5-0 in the first period. Tripp then defeated Van Wert’s Jason Rouss, who had put up a 35-1 record, defending him at the 5-54 mark. That set the table for the championship match.

I still lose track of the puck, and I do not think I will ever know when slashing is slashing. I think I’ve got icing down, but I still don’t understand when it’s boarding. And though I cannot watch a game of endurance and courage. The Preppers responded in the second period when junior Larry Germoysvick scored US first goal followed by a second goal by Kassigkelt. But no one was complacent, knowing that St. Edwards was one of the best come-back teams in the league. The Preppers faced a daunting challenge as the game was determined in the last agonizing minutes, with St. Ed-ward attacking the Preppers’ goal relentlessly. Time was running out when senior Kevin Edwards stepped up their play with astonishing saves by goalie junior John Siders.

With twenty-four seconds left, Siders lost his stick while scrambling to protect the goal. A flurry of bodies crashed the net, the puck seemed to have disappeared, and then the buzzer went off, signifying the end of the game. The Preppers defeated the US hockey team by 6-1 and claimed the championship trophy in the state championship.

Chris Tripp: Wrestling State Champ!

Junior Chris Tripp brought his wrestling season to a brilliant close, crowned the Division II Championship at 145 pounds in Columbus. Tripp finished the season with a 42-2 record, the school’s best since senior co-captain Kevin Stone said, “Tripp had the work ethic and the will to be a state champion, and now he is. This is great for Chris and the wrestling program at US.” In the finals, Tripp defeated Mike Pucillo of Walsh Jesuit 5-3 to take the crown. In the first round, Tripp beat Norton’s Scott Joseph 14-2, and next defeated Kyle Ray of Hamilton Ross 9-6 after being down 5-0 in the first period. Tripp then defeated Van Wert’s Jason Rouss, who had put up a 35-1 record, defending him at the 5-54 mark. That set the table for the championship match.

I still lose track of the puck, and I do not think I will ever know when slashing is slashing. I think I’ve got icing down, but I still don’t understand when it’s boarding. And though I cannot watch a game of endurance and courage. The Preppers responded in the second period when junior Larry Germoysvick scored US first goal followed by a second goal by Kassigkelt. But no one was complacent, knowing that St. Edwards was one of the best come-back teams in the league. The Preppers faced a daunting challenge as the game was determined in the last agonizing minutes, with St. Ed-ward attacking the Preppers’ goal relentlessly. Time was running out when senior Kevin Edwards stepped up their play with astonishing saves by goalie junior John Siders.

With twenty-four seconds left, Siders lost his stick while scrambling to protect the goal. A flurry of bodies crashed the net, the puck seemed to have disappeared, and then the buzzer went off, signifying the end of the game. The Preppers defeated the US hockey team by 6-1 and claimed the championship trophy in the state championship.
Walking through the Humanities wing, many have noted the marks of students on it. Some would argue that thinking of the list diminishes its selective- ness and, therefore, its prestige. Those students would argue that the honor system is a form of identity. Anuraag Chigurupati

The main obstacle facing the senior average is the stress of maintaining grades. AP classes are more weighted grades. Their grades are often the only way to make it easier to get a scholarship or a good job. A hypothetical example of maintaining grades:

At first, the current policy seeks logical. The divider for first honors stands at 88, a number chosen in an attempt to compensate for the relative lack of standardized tests, applications, and the essay. College admission officers do not look at grades, especially those of the first semester. Another problem is that senior courses are easy. At US at least, the workload during your senior year does not diminish, and seniors must keep up with their classes, lest their grades waver in front of the judgmental eyes of all college ad- missions offices.

You know that box, the glass box as you enter the humanities wing, containing the roster of all students who achieved honors in the previous semester. But the lists in that box are far too long. By having such a low limit for first honors, the school significantly dilutes its mean- ing. The problem is exacer- bated by giving equal weight to all classes regardless of AP status. The bar should be raised.

At first, the current policy seems logical. The divider for first honors stands at 88, a number chosen in an attempt to compensate for the relative lack of standardized tests, applications, and the essay. College admission officers do not look at grades, especially those of the first semester. Another problem is that senior courses are easy. At US at least, the workload during your senior year does not diminish, and seniors must keep up with their classes, lest their grades waver in front of the judgmental eyes of all college ad- missions offices.

You know that box, the glass box as you enter the humanities wing, containing the roster of all students who achieved honors in the previous semester. But the lists in that box are far too long. By having such a low limit for first honors, the school significantly dilutes its mean- ing. The problem is exacer- bated by giving equal weight to all classes regardless of AP status. The bar should be raised.

At first, the current policy seems logical. The divider for first honors stands at 88, a number chosen in an attempt to compensate for the relative lack of standardized tests, applications, and the essay. College admission officers do not look at grades, especially those of the first semester. Another problem is that senior courses are easy. At US at least, the workload during your senior year does not diminish, and seniors must keep up with their classes, lest their grades waver in front of the judgmental eyes of all college ad- missions offices.

You know that box, the glass box as you enter the humanities wing, containing the roster of all students who achieved honors in the previous semester. But the lists in that box are far too long. By having such a low limit for first honors, the school significantly dilutes its mean- ing. The problem is exacer- bated by giving equal weight to all classes regardless of AP status. The bar should be raised.

At first, the current policy seems logical. The divider for first honors stands at 88, a number chosen in an attempt to compensate for the relative lack of standardized tests, applications, and the essay. College admission officers do not look at grades, especially those of the first semester. Another problem is that senior courses are easy. At US at least, the workload during your senior year does not diminish, and seniors must keep up with their classes, lest their grades waver in front of the judgmental eyes of all college ad- missions offices.

You know that box, the glass box as you enter the humanities wing, containing the roster of all students who achieved honors in the previous semester. But the lists in that box are far too long. By having such a low limit for first honors, the school significantly dilutes its mean- ing. The problem is exacer- bated by giving equal weight to all classes regardless of AP status. The bar should be raised.

At first, the current policy seems logical. The divider for first honors stands at 88, a number chosen in an attempt to compensate for the relative lack of standardized tests, applications, and the essay. College admission officers do not look at grades, especially those of the first semester. Another problem is that senior courses are easy. At US at least, the workload during your senior year does not diminish, and seniors must keep up with their classes, lest their grades waver in front of the judgmental eyes of all college ad- missions offices.

You know that box, the glass box as you enter the humanities wing, containing the roster of all students who achieved honors in the previous semester. But the lists in that box are far too long. By having such a low limit for first honors, the school significantly dilutes its mean- ing. The problem is exacer- bated by giving equal weight to all classes regardless of AP status. The bar should be raised.

At first, the current policy seems logical. The divider for first honors stands at 88, a number chosen in an attempt to compensate for the relative lack of standardized tests, applications, and the essay. College admission officers do not look at grades, especially those of the first semester. Another problem is that senior courses are easy. At US at least, the workload during your senior year does not diminish, and seniors must keep up with their classes, lest their grades waver in front of the judgmental eyes of all college ad- missions offices.

You know that box, the glass box as you enter the humanities wing, containing the roster of all students who achieved honors in the previous semester. But the lists in that box are far too long. By having such a low limit for first honors, the school significantly dilutes its mean- ing. The problem is exacer- bated by giving equal weight to all classes regardless of AP status. The bar should be raised.

At first, the current policy seems logical. The divider for first honors stands at 88, a number chosen in an attempt to compensate for the relative lack of standardized tests, applications, and the essay. College admission officers do not look at grades, especially those of the first semester. Another problem is that senior courses are easy. At US at least, the workload during your senior year does not diminish, and seniors must keep up with their classes, lest their grades waver in front of the judgmental eyes of all college ad- missions offices.

You know that box, the glass box as you enter the humanities wing, containing the roster of all students who achieved honors in the previous semester. But the lists in that box are far too long. By having such a low limit for first honors, the school significantly dilutes its mean- ing. The problem is exacer- bated by giving equal weight to all classes regardless of AP status. The bar should be raised.

At first, the current policy seems logical. The divider for first honors stands at 88, a number chosen in an attempt to compensate for the relative lack of standardized tests, applications, and the essay. College admission officers do not look at grades, especially those of the first semester. Another problem is that senior courses are easy. At US at least, the workload during your senior year does not diminish, and seniors must keep up with their classes, lest their grades waver in front of the judgmental eyes of all college ad- missions offices.

You know that box, the glass box as you enter the humanities wing, containing the roster of all students who achieved honors in the previous semester. But the lists in that box are far too long. By having such a low limit for first honors, the school significantly dilutes its mean- ing. The problem is exacer- bated by giving equal weight to all classes regardless of AP status. The bar should be raised.

At first, the current policy seems logical. The divider for first honors stands at 88, a number chosen in an attempt to compensate for the relative lack of standardized tests, applications, and the essay. College admission officers do not look at grades, especially those of the first semester. Another problem is that senior courses are easy. At US at least, the workload during your senior year does not diminish, and seniors must keep up with their classes, lest their grades waver in front of the judgmental eyes of all college ad- mission
Some become depressed by loss, and others become inspired. The latter was the case of Jillian Wilson, Class of 2003, Libby Dingle, John Kolestky, and Libby Stewart. After the Browns lost to the Steelers in the playoff game, Jillian said, "Oh, man, just when Clevel-
ad is about to make it to the next level, at the last second, everything falls apart." Min-
etutes later, one of his pro-
cuers called about his next film project. Mr. Stewart, thinking about the Cleveland loss he had just witnessed, decided to make his latest film, "Hip Hop Battle: com: Detroit vs. Clevel-
ad." The idea stemmed from hip-hop artists from Detroit in a freestyle battle against eight artists from Cleveland, showcasing Cleveland's ex-
tensive freestyle underground. The documentary featured interviews with the artists about the art of freestyling, along with footage from the contest. Notable artists featured are Lord Jazz, Bizzy Bone, Drastic (a graduate of US' REACH program), MC Braintz (a student of Mr. Dingle's), and MCs representing Cleveland in the competition, commented, "As far as Cleveland goes, we don’t get enough re-
spect for doing real hip-hop. One of the parts of doing real hip-hop is battling, so if I feel it's just a good way to repre-
sent the Midwest. I'm really thirsty to try some Detroit MCs and see what they're about.

Mr. Stewart made the film with the intention of showing Cleveland in a posi-
tive light, with more to offer the world than an infamous burning river. To this end, he bought out Detroit-backed pro-
motors and convinced them to join in. Though this program is unique to US, it has a surpris-
ingly low profile in the school. In fact, barely half of US stu-
dents could identify the loca-
tion of our sugarhouse. De-
tners spending days collecting sap, working the stoves, bot-
ting, and other activities. All this work pays off at the end of the season, when the season's yield of syrup can exceed hun-
dreds of gallons. This year, the maple season has yet to begin, due to an extremely late cold spell throughout the region. As the cold spell con-
tinues, there is nothing to be done except to wait for the day when the first tap can be drilled. When the sap collect-
ning starts, though, it will con-
tinue unabated, until anoth-
er freeze comes or the season ends with the com-
ing of warmer weather. As the weather begins to warm, expect to see stu-
dents venturing the campus, riding on tractors, collect-
ing the sugary extract of hundreds of maple trees. And once we're done, we'll try to join in.

Markman was awarded Best Attorney, and sopho-

mock Trial Sets Off
David Kasten, Class of 2004

The two University School Mock Trial teams spent Friday, February 21st in Cleveland's District tour-
nament, competing with 30 other teams at the Justice Center. In Mock Trial each team fields four “lawyers” and four “witnesses,” two of each being plaintiffs and two defendants in a fictional lawsuit. The plaintiffs try their case against another team's defendants, and the defendants go up against yet another team's plaintiffs. Mort Kogan, a rel-
tively new event at US, having been started by members of the football club, former lawyer Mr. Perry. This year, Mrs. Larson, anoth-
er math teacher and former lawyer, joined him in coaching the team. Senior Steven Chan led the squad of 17 students, only three of whom had competed before. Even so, they shot the film with an im-
pressing showing.

US’s Team 1 won one of the two trials, defeating Magnificus. In that trial, junior Jon

Reflections of a Hockey Fan

The disappointment of the season ends with the com-
ing of warmer weather. As the weather begins to warm, expect to see stu-
dents venturing the campus, riding on tractors, collect-
ing the sugary extract of hundreds of maple trees. And once we're done, we'll try to join in.

Markman was awarded Best Attorney, and sopho-

mock Trial Sets Off
David Kasten, Class of 2004

The two University School Mock Trial teams spent Friday, February 21st in Cleveland's District tour-
nament, competing with 30 other teams at the Justice Center. In Mock Trial each team fields four “lawyers” and four “witnesses,” two of each being plaintiffs and two defendants in a fictional lawsuit. The plaintiffs try their case against another team's defendants, and the defendants go up against yet another team's plaintiffs. Mort Kogan, a rel-
tively new event at US, having been started by members of the football club, former lawyer Mr. Perry. This year, Mrs. Larson, anoth-
er math teacher and former lawyer, joined him in coaching the team. Senior Steven Chan led the squad of 17 students, only three of whom had competed before. Even so, they shot the film with an im-
pressing showing.

US’s Team 1 won one of the two trials, defeating Magnificus. In that trial, junior Jon

Reflections of a Hockey Fan

The disappointment of the season ends with the com-
ing of warmer weather. As the weather begins to warm, expect to see stu-
dents venturing the campus, riding on tractors, collect-
ing the sugary extract of hundreds of maple trees. And once we're done, we'll try to join in.
Imagine two people, both following the same religion. These two people pray to the same God, and they read from the same holy book. Now, imagine that the day in September 11th, 2001. How can it be, that one of these two people uses his religion to justify the terrorist attack on America, while the other is utterly appalled by the incident and is certain that what occurred was complete blasphemy? Yes, I am comparing Osama Bin Laden to myself. While we are both Muslims, the difference is clear: he is a religious fanatic. Fanaticism can be defined as “the blind belief that one’s way of thinking is correct, and that it is acceptable or even right to force others to follow your way of thinking.” Fanaticism can be found in all religions, in the past and present. How does this trait perturb one’s mind in such extreme ways?

The most well known example of fanaticism today is extremist Islam. We’ve all heard about it on the news: fundamentalist Islam. What does it all mean?

To begin with, one must note the true meaning of fundamentalist Islam. The term has been misused by the media, causing Americans to believe that it refers to Muslim terrorists. This is not correct. A fundamentalist Muslim is one who believes strongly in Islam and the teachings of Muhammad. Essentially, fundamentalist Islam is conservative Islam, and is characterized by conservative Christianity.

A truly pious Muslim, however, even in the most extreme case, fanaticism is not acceptable in Islam. While most terrorists would claim to be fundamentalist Muslims, they do not embody the principles of Islam. These extremists take Islam to a completely different level than its ordinary followers do. They feel they can justify whatever horrendous acts they commit by pertaining them to the will of God. Imagine a world where everyone does as they please, and then justifies their actions by claiming that God wants it that way. What kind of world would we be living in? This shift is occurring today, this misrepresentation to the world.

Fanaticism can be found in all religions in modern times; war, science, and the like. These beliefs result in such extreme and outward acts. They do not look at her as a little girl, but as an Asian baby. Next, are babies born in America. The most sought-after type of adoption is Asian children. The most recent year, 2004 saw an increase in the number of adoptions of Asian children. There are numerous lev-

Adoption Brings Children New Life

Tom Shimrock, Class of 2004

A few years ago, my mother and youngest sister, Tara, were shopping at Herington Elementary. The two of them started into the store, Tara, who was nearly 5 at the time, chimed in front of the shopping cart and immediately assumed her usual spot as “Queen” of the store. The two of them started off through the store, picking up needed items from different spots. As they turned down the aisle of the store that contained dairy products and frozen foods, there was a man unloading the shelves. Tara gave him a smile, just as she would anyone else. But this time she felt that she would show case a lot of unconditional love by just saying something to him. As they came up on the man, Tara piped in with a joyful “Hello!”, and gave the man a wave. Being kind and friendly has always come easy to Tara. Nonetheless, this is a small example of how religious extremists can cause people to confuse fanatic beliefs with standard beliefs. And in no way does this confusion apply exclusively to Islam, as it can be found in other faiths as well. Until a few hundred years ago, Christianity enforced totalitism thought control throughout the majority of the places where it prevailed. It was often backed by militant forces offering consent or death. These examples of fanatic Christianity include the Crusades and the Spanish Inquisition.

In the Crusades, crossing-Catholic Europeans sought to conquer land and convert Muslims. Previously, Muslims, Jews, and Christians had been coexisting peacefully in the Holy Lands. However, when the Crusaders arrived, chaos broke loose. These religious fanaticisms violated all Jews and Muslims in sight. Crusades became so barbaric that on the Fourth Crusade, they invaded Istanbul, the Christian city, and stole golden items from the churches. Also, there was the Children’s Crusade of 1212, when children were sold into slavery, and most died from dissolve. If the Crusades are not the most shocking piece of Christian fanaticism, then the Spanish Inquisition is not. When Ferdinand and Isabella decided to make Catholic the official religion of Spain, with permission from the pope, all nonbelievers were expelled from the country. If the nonbelievers did not give up their faith and confess their heresy against the Catholic Church, they were either sentenced to live in prison, or even worse, public execution.

Now, nearly by these two incidents were not justified in the doctrine of Christianity. However, at the time religious fanaticism fueled them. The notion that Christianity was the only true faith led ordinary people to impose their views on followers of different faiths, in spite of the biblical phrase “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” which destroys these fanatic essences. And while these examples may seem a bit outdated, fanaticism still exists today.

Recently, for instance, I read an article about another extremely religious girl. The dispute had nothing to do with religion; however it frustrated us. The young woman who was a year older was appalled by my religious beliefs. She wrote things such as “But why are you Christian? You don’t believe in God. In her online diary, which she knows I read, she posted things that truly shocked me. In this brief paragraph, I feel sorry for her, I feel sorry that she’s this religion that he might not necessarily understand. I feel sorry for the way she acts, and I feel sorry that he’s not open-minded.” After reading this, I was both upset and confused. I didn’t understand how such a universal religion as Christianity could teach its followers to dismiss the beliefs of others. But, after much consideration, I realized that I’m simply a religious fanatic. She is unable to accept followers of other faiths, and she feels that only her faith is the true religion. She also feels the need to express this indirectly, in order to convey her religion’s supremacy. She is certain that everyone should find Christ, and she pities those who prac-

Adoption Brings Children New Life
Adoption

Continued From Page 4

By Mary Simpson

On the Sunday before we had the competition, this passenger side door slammed into a fire hydrant that was sticking out of the snow. The hydrant was knocked off of a water main, and the entire southeastern quadrant of Pepper Pike and all of Hunting Valley lost water for the next 24 hours. My car sank into the water. As the water started to rise, I began as I was making a trek home from my friend’s house in Chagrin. The roads were filled with water. As I drove home during a continuing snowstorm. Thoughts about my personal life came to me, and other worries for the next day were flooding through my mind, all the while oblivious to the quickly accumulating snow on the road. Then, while making my way down a slight hill on SDM, I hit a bump and lost traction. I didn’t think much of losing traction, since my car was relatively light, but the situation quickly turned for the worse when my car drifted off the road. I was not extremely alarmed, because I didn’t seem difficult to me to gradually stop now that I was off the road. Unfortunately, there was a catch; something struck me at that moment.

As water began to flood into my car, I jumped out to survey the situation. At this point the picture was very clear, my damaged car situated against a surging plume of water. My previously hashed up initial shock had worn off of the moment, my mind, my shock fell of adrenaline, began to just overtake my thoughts. The first thoughts were simple, basic ideas such as: my feet are wet and I bet that fire hydrant was made out of pure steel. I realized standing there on the side of the road, that I felt cold and completely isolated on this dark, snowy night. It’s hard to describe the feeling of staring at something so ridiculous it only happens in movies, and then realizing that you caused it. Quickly I knew that a mistake had been made, and that it was, in fact, a feeling that I called the police, as that was apparently the thing to do in a situation such as this. I knew I had to deal with this, but I didn’t know how. The anguish of the minimal loss took a long time for me to comprehend. The reality was: it was a piece of metal that I smashed into another piece of metal. Nobody was hurt, and nothing was truly lost. I however, could not understand this initially. When bad things happen in life, I find myself questioning why they happened in the first place, and how can I deal with them. When back of my mind, but only on that cold, lonely, dark night was I able to register the fact that they actually occurred, and instead dealing with them. Only that by the time the night’s events were over was I able to gain perspectives on seemingly random events that happen in all of our lives, and how each of us deals with them.

As I was standing there, those same pieces of metal, in all their strength, twisted in the snow. Suddenly, the world seemed a great deal clearer. I knew that thoughts took me back to the situation at hand, it all seemed like an infinitely lighter load on my shoulders. I actually began to feel grateful to be standing there, alive in the cold night. The same material loss was still in front of me, but the feelings associated with it were not. By looking back at the strength of the road I had chosen in life. Seeing the strength and courage my mother has shown me in the face of something that could potentially end her road, took me to the final insight of that strange night. Life is shaped by facing problems, great or small, and dealing with them by respecting and accepting them. Only by witnessing the most inspiring person in my life face the most daunting thing I’ve ever known could I truly see that. With that inspiration I faced my crash and realized that it was completely inconsequential, a small matter of that same piece that seemed so impossibly big.

Bright blue and red lights suddenly burst into my mind, and I realized that the officer stepped out of his car all he uttered was, “Man, what did you do?” I thought about his question for a while and simply replied, “I hit a bump in the road, but I think I’ll be okay.” I knew in my heart that I had overcome my re-
The South rises again in Ron Maxwell’s sweeping Civil War epic Gods and Generals. And the film is Homeric in length, lasting the titanic strain of a full three hours and forty-nine minutes (along with a twelve minute intermission). Based on Jeff Shaara’s historical fiction of the same name, Gods and Generals contains the first few years of the Civil War, from Manassas to Gettysburg. Thoroughly executed by thousands of reenactors and as a moving testament to the men who died there, the film is at times overwhelming to those modern viewers who are glorifying the past, while teaching the present the importance of one’s state over loyalty to the Union. The film does deal but little with slavery, and does proffer other sociopolitical factors as deciding influences on the war. But this does not mean that its makers are glorifying the southern cause. It is merely the present atmosphere of political correctness, which requires us to view all things Southern prior to and during the war with the jaundiced and hateful, that dictates that we should brand at such a balanced treatment of the conflict, not our faculties for gauging historicity.

Comedian Janeane Garofalo recently appeared on the Fox television show The Pulse blasting George Bush, even claiming that he poses the same threat to American security as Saddam Hussein. And then she brazenly said that such a comment was not tantamount to a likeness of the two men on the moral plane. Justifying her fears about Bush with little more than defensive posturing, Garofalo is but one example of the many celebrities the Democratic Party has co-opted to spout varying degrees of drivel from the pedestals built upon their inflated self-image. They all sanctimoniously vaunt “diplomatic solutions” to the problem. And yet the United Nations, their champion of such means, is so fraudulent an organization that it has apostolated Libya, a long-time hothed of rights violations, to head its own human rights council! These entertainers have demonstrated not only their ignorance of geopolitics but also their naivety, for they assume some world adjudicator without any real power to enforce its dictates will be able to defuse the ticking time bomb that is the imminent conflict with Iraq. As asked in December by CNN correspondent Charles Feldman what might happen if he were wrong about a preemptive strike in Iraq, actor Martin Sheen responded, “I don’t understand you, Saddam Hussein is wrong.” And that indeed is the problem.
Tripp, Icers Cap Great Prepper Winter Season

George Hunter, Class of 2004

University School News
Sports

Tripp, Icers Cap Great Prepper Winter Season

University School's athletic program reached new heights in the 2002-2003 winter season, with excellent years for the basketball, baseball, swimming and wrestling teams.

The basketball team, headed by Coach Pedro Palarz, won a seemingly disappointing 5-15 through the season, culminating in a tough loss to the illustrious Painesville Harvey team in the first round of the playoffs. However, this year served as a rebuilding year for the team, which lost several of last year's key seniors. Injuries to captain Matt Keleshian and junior AJ DeBarr also took a toll on the team.

The hockey team's season was a dazzling one indeed. Going a combined 24-11-4 (including several tough losses in cream-of-the-crop prep team tournaments), the team went 6-0 in the OHSAA's state tournament to take home University School's first-ever OHSAA state title.

The team was led by assistant captains Brian Hall and Curt Kassigik. After a state runner-up finish to perennial hockey powerhouse St. Edward last year, the team was eager to seek revenge. It did so in the Baron Cup (usually referred to as Cleveland's championship tournament), most notably in the championship game against St. Edward. US thrashed St. Edward again in the state tournament. Coach Bill Beard has built a powerful team in his five years as head coach, and he will no doubt continue in this trend of triumph in future seasons.

The swim team also had a breakthrough season. Led by senior captain Thibonnier, the team placed first at both sectionals and districts. Starting with a strong 7th place finish by senior Jonathan Thiele in the diving competition, the team eventually earned 5th place in the state. Anchored by Thibonnier, juniors Andy Neff, Drew Hoffman, Norm Forence and "the Swim Doctor," Mark Levendoski, as well as sophomores Ilya Byzov and Robert Swaninger, it was University School swimming's finest hour yet. After Mr. Perry's third year as head coach of the team, expectations run high for next year's squad to improve on an already excellent post-season performance.

Finally, the wrestling team capped off an 14-11 season with a 1st place at sectionals, followed by a 3rd at districts and a strong showing at states. A record number of wrestlers-- seniors John Konisiewicz and Kevin Stone, juniors Chris Tripp, Joe Keller, Chase Marshall, Brian Cost, and Andrew Zeiser, sophomores Mikey Sovich and Alex Small, and freshman sensation Adam Kriwinsky-- all advanced past sectionals to the district meet in Akron on February 21st. At districts, US placed a best-ever 3rd, with Tripp winning 1st place in the 145 weight class and Kriwinsky advancing at OHSAA state champion. In Coach Joe Boardwine's third year at the helm, the wrestling team had far by its strongest showing ever.

It was truly a year of firsts for US athletics. With the hockey team's state title, Tripp's state championship, and swimming's strong state showing, the US athletic program has never been stronger. What's more, hopes for next year's teams are higher. With basketball having completed a rebuilding season and the other three winter sports teams boasting strong underclasses, US teams will continue to be the ones to watch.

Tennis Preps to Defend Title

The long hallway running along the swimming pool at University School has scores of black and white pictures of cookie-cutter US boys in white sweaters, white shirts, creased white pants, and slicked hair. And they are all holding tennis rackets. But for a long time tennis has been progressing away from the clubby; with round-the-clock and round-the-year practice schedules, tennis has transformed into a sport for many of the most committed student athletes. And within the last few years, that attitude has paid off as University School continues to raise the bar for its varsity squad: last year the team won the Division II state championships and knocked off such tennis powerhouses as Princeton High School in Cincinnati, Canton Central Catholic, and Cincinnati's Indian Hill High School in the state tournament for big wins.

The potential for continuing that record has this year's co-captains, seniors Porus Jetti and William Ellison-- who neither wear white sweater nor slick their hair-- hoping that the new season will include similar victories. "Last year," said Ellison, "we always played well when we needed to. I like our chances for this year as much as I liked our chances for last year. Indian Hill is stacked this year, but we should have a really strong team."

The head tennis coach and English teacher Dr. Paul Gibbs-- once a captain and MVP of the US varsity tennis team-- described the team's word: "Strong." He continued, "We're the best we've ever been, at least the best since I arrived at the school. And I think we have a good chance of defending our state title."

The twelve players who form the varsity team will compete for seven spots: three singles and two doubles. Along with the upperclassmen and last year's varsity talent, this year sees new arrivals from the freshmen and sophomore classes.

"Not only do we have four awesome freshmen who will be a part of the varsity squad, but we have Gui back," said Ellison. "Gui is sophomore Guillaume Schils, who returns to University School after a year at Saddlebrook, a tennis boarding school. The four freshmen are Navpaul Sidhu, Brendan Kinkoph, Brett Tobin, and Jonathan Smetona. Seniors Sanbir Sidhu and Matt Davis, juniors Trevor Zakov and Joe Smetona, and sophomore Toby AuWarter make up the rest of the twelve-person squad.

Although Ellison and the rest of the team hope for a winning season, they also hope for a season that will break the mold, so that this year's team will not drift away as another picture in the hallway with the other sweater-wearing US boys. "All I'm saying," Ellison explained, "is that we need to let the school know that we do have a tennis team, and it's good."
Track Team Under New Coaching

Justin Enorji, Class of 2003

Over this past winter, the track team has spent four days a week training for this upcoming season. They have spent time in the indoor track, in the weight room, outside in the freezing weather, and even in the pool thanks to the new state-of-the-art athletic facilities. The athletic facilities are not the only new aspect of this year’s team, and in it has a new head coach, Graham Frey, who replaced long time coach Roland Devore. Coach Frey has high expectations for this year’s team and has instilled a high standard of dedication and excellence within the team, encouraging everyone to work hard and reach their highest potential. The team is led by senior co-captains Justin Enorji and Barton Gillombarde. Gillombarde, the fastest sprinter on the team, will be among the top 200s in the state. He is one of the strongest athletes on the team and is expected to produce some strong performance this season. The team also has a strong group of seniors returning, including three pitchers, which will give the team much needed depth in the pitching department. This year’s team is returning six starters including three pitchers, which will give the team much needed depth in the bullpen. Leading the pitching staff are senior southpaw Jeff Terrell and juniors Ben Shultz and Mike Neiser. In the outfield, senior captains Jason Starrett and Derrick Walter will play centerfield and leftfield, respectively. The right field position will be filled by a committee of players depending on who is on the mound. This year’s team boasts a strong middle infield with junior Clay Starrett playing shortstop and senior captain Ben Walter at second base. On the corners, Neiser and junior Nick Bohm will split time at first base and Shultz will play third base. Senior Darren Schmidt is recovering from offseason shoulder surgery and hopes to be back behind the plate in mid-April. Junior Ricky Giavanna will begin the season as the starting catcher. Adding to the pitching staff will be seniors John Rutter and Chris Murphy. Other players vying for starting time will be seniors Steven Chan, Kyle Swenson, R.J. McKee and Steve Neola. The defense is rounded out by sophomores Robbie Dworkin, Luke Neubecker, and Anthony Janiro.

Lacrosse Hopes to Dominate Division II

Tom Moore, Class of 2003

The lacrosse team has one goal in mind this year: a state title. Defense wins championships, and that’s what this year’s squad will rely on to get past tough opponents. A good defense works from the net out. This year senior tri-captain Curt Kassigkett steps into the goal to try to replace last year’s all-state goalie, Michael Zell. The rest of the defense will center around the size of the returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Steve Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midfield will be returning lettermen Ryan Tower and Chase Marshall and senior Geoff Schmitz. Schmitz achieved second team all-state honors last year, and led the team in penalty minutes. Senior midfielders Ben Slossberg and tri-captain and defensive MVP Tom Moore will also see time in the defensive end of the field during man-down situations. Stepping into leading roles this year in the midterm scoring this season. Where most of the goals will come from, however, is attackman Jeff Bittenbender who led the team in goals last year. Jeff will be working with another senior, tri-captain Bobby Quinn, to produce goals in the offensive zone. After losing eleven seniors last season, the team will also look to strong play from the underclassmen to help its title drive. Re-t u r n i n g lettermen Alex Small and freshman Scott Grabner will both see time at a-tack. Both the midfield and defense is rounded out by underclassmen expected to add great depth to the bench. The lacrosse team begins its season on April 5 against Revere, the first game in a schedule that includes such Division I powerhouses as WRA and Hudson. The 2003 US baseball team has high goals for the season. Senior captain Jason Starrett says, “We have the talent to do some damage if we work hard, come together as a unit, and catch a few breaks.” Armed with a deep and strong pitching staff, speed on the bases and a powerful offense, the team expects success. With such talent coupled with the aggressive and knowledgeable coaching staff, the 2003 baseball season will surely be an exciting one.