

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 28, Issue 30

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, June 4, 2003



Seniors, left, make the walk down to the stadium for the 125th commencement. Not only did the sun shine, but the smiles also shone brightly on the faces of the graduates Sunday. Pictured to the right, is Katie Lum. More graduation pictures page 10



Shining Moment

Weather provides picturesque backdrop for 125th commencement

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

For 294 Lowell High School graduates, a signature moment in one's life was framed for them in a beautiful June afternoon at the One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth commencement.

Katie Lum, Class of 2003 president, told her classmates not to fast forward but, in-

stead, to savor the moment. "It's alright to aspire to the future, but live today for the moment and celebrate the journey," Lum explained.

Lowell superintendent, Shari Miller, told graduates the journey that follows requires courage - "Map the course and follow it.

"Be true to yourself and your values, act upon them and enjoy your next step along

the journey," Miller said.

It was clear, from their comments, that the foreign exchange students have enjoyed their journey while at Lowell.

One of the graduation highlights was authored by French exchange student Anne-Gaelle Dosne. In reference to a story not far removed from the world headlines, Dosne jokingly ex-

pressed her gratitude for being introduced as a "French Exchange Student" and not a "Freedom Exchange Student."

Class valedictorian, Katie Hettinga told classmates not to let high school define them. "While it has shaped us, there is a world to

discover, so go out and take a chance and always be thankful for the memories."

Graduation, cont'd. pg. 8

A Vesting Interest

... Stories speak of impact YMCA has in community.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

For the third time in four years Lowell's YMCA Invest In Youth campaign met or exceeded its goal.

This year's goal, with a sagging economy, was lofty by any standards, but the campaign, through its leadership of chairman, Rick Seese, Y executive director, Will Welsh and teams' campaign chairperson, Jean Getzen raised \$51,800 in pledges, exceeding their goal of \$50,000 by a little less than \$2,000.

"Were there doubts? Was I a little nervous about reaching our goal? Because of the economic conditions I was," Walsh explained. "Then I looked at the positives... it is Invest In Youth, it allows us to serve all

youth, and this year, instead of focusing on monetary donations, our campaigners shared YMCA stories."

Those stories told how the YMCA has positively impacted the lives of many in this community.

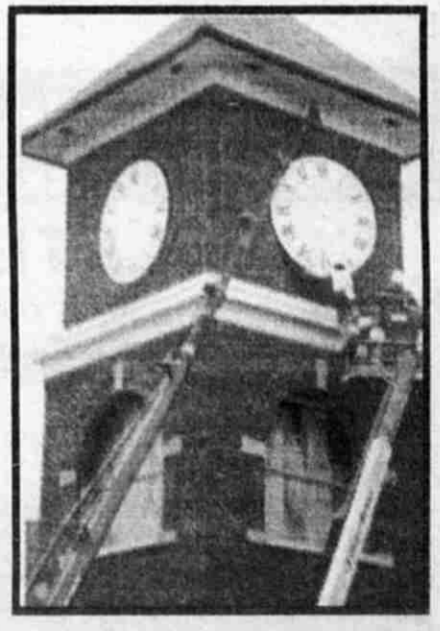
Susan Riddle's life was change forever on July 10, 2002 when her family car was hit head on by a drunk driver.

She spent two weeks in a coma following the accident and was left with no motor skills. Riddle has made great strides in her recovery and credits the YMCA "family" for much of her progress. "Coming back to the YMCA after my ordeal was kind of like being 'born again,'" she said. "Going to the YMCA is the kick-start to my daily schedule, I can't think of starting a day without the Y."

Invest-In-Youth, cont'd. pg. 8

LIKE CLOCKWORK

... With the exception of the punch list, the City Hall/police station project is scheduled to be completed on time for the open house on July 12.



By Thaddeus J. Kraus Lowell Ledger Editor

As time winds down on the completion of the City Hall/new police station project, clocks were put in/hung up in the tower on Friday.

The actual wiring and running of the clocks will not commence until sometime this week (June 2-6).

The clocks purchased from Electric Time Company Inc., were shipped in from Medfield, Mass. They were installed by Nugent Builders.

The entire project continues to tick along like the Energizer Bunny.

"One of the advantages of having all of the design people in house is being better able to keep the projects on schedule," said Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber construction

Clockwork, cont'd. pg. 8

OBITUARIES

CARIGON - Harry William Carigon, aged 74, of Lowell, passed away May 26, 2003. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Marion; children Dorothy (Richard) Sypniewski, Rosie (Lawrence B.) Haywood; brother Harold Carigon; sister Ella Aspinall; nieces Janet Allison and Judy Purdy; sis-

ters-in-law Dorothy Thompson and Pearl Peckham; special friend Ella Tuinstra; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Mr. Carigon served in the Army in Korea and Japan, past Post Commander at the VFW Lowell #8303. Funeral Services will be held Friday at 1 p.m. at the

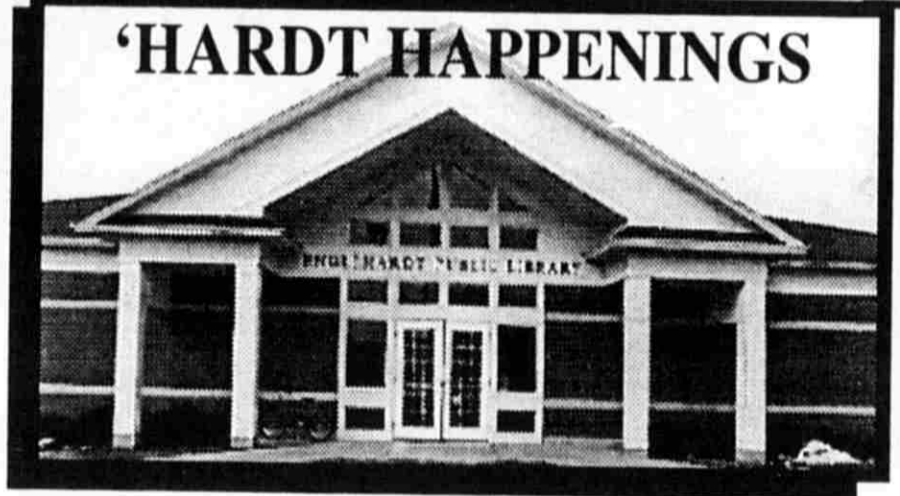
DYKSTRA - Keith Dykstra, aged 28, of Kentwood, formerly of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly June 2, 2003. He was preceded in death by his father Robert. Keith is survived by his mother Carol (Robert) Phelps of Byron Center; brothers Michael Dykstra of Elsie, Mich., his twin

brother Kevin (Amy) of Alto, Scott of Kentwood; sister Michelle Dykstra of Kentwood; grandparent Jacqueline Gruss of Kentwood, a special uncle, Duane "Dyk" Dykstra; two nieces; lots of aunts, uncles and cousins. Mass of Christian Burial will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church, 402 Amity, Rev. George J. Fekete, Celebrant. (Please meet at church) Interment St. Mary's Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

SCHRIER - Andrew Wilber Schrier, aged 25, passed away Saturday, May 31, 2003. Andy loved the Lord with all his heart, soul, mind and strength. His life was an act of worship. He founded the Hattie Beverly Center, a tutoring ministry for the students of the Madison Square neighborhood. He loved to write and he loved to sing and compose his own music. We thank God for the blessing of his life. He was preceded in death by his father, Bruce Schrier, earlier this year. He is survived by his loving wife Mary; his mother Shirley Schrier of Wooster, Ohio; father-in-law and mother-in-law Don and Dor-

othy Huizinga of Lowell; grandparents Harold and Shirley Fisher of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, Maureen Schrier of Kalamazoo; his brothers and sisters Jennifer and Rodney Conrad, Peter Schrier, Katrin and Jake Tassy, David Schrier, Timothy and Leslie Schrier, and Abigail Schrier; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Ken and Erin Byle, Sara and Rob Gowin, Matthew Huzinga; several nieces and nephews. Memorial services were held Tuesday at Madison Square Christian Reformed Church. Memorial contributions to Restorers, Inc., 1413 Madison Ave. SE 49507 would be appreciated.

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'HARDT HAPPENINGS'
Kent District Library's Summer Reading Club, sponsored by Meijer and WOOD TV8, will begin June 9 and continue through Aug. 2. There are separate divisions for children, teens and families, each with great prizes for those who reach their reading goal.
Summer Reading Club 2003 also features many exciting programs like puppet shows, storytellers, ventriloquists and magicians. There will be a "Party in the Park" with Maranda in July at Old Kent Park.
For more information about the club, call 784-2007 or visit the website at www.kdl.org.

ABRACADABRA MAGIC
Several branches of Kent District Library will present "Abracadabra with Renee Hudson" during the Summer Reading Club. This is a sensational audience participation program that includes magic

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City's first credit union eyes location on West Main

By J.N. Boorsma Contributing Writer

Planning commission member, Jim Hall summed up the reaction of most residents when learning that River Valley Credit Union was looking to open a branch in Lowell: "I know from one person that it would save them a lot of time in getting to the bank."

River Valley Credit Union is the former Amway Credit Union which recently expanded its coverage area to include Kent and Ionia counties. That, and due to the fact that many of the Amway employees live in the Lowell area, officials from the credit union began to look for a location within this area. At its Monday night planning commission meeting, the credit union brought forth plans to construct a 3,640-square-foot facility adjacent to the Lowell Family Medical Center at 2550 W. Main St.

City manager, David Pasquale said this would be the first phase of a two-part construction project with the second part

being for a possible future development. The medical center and credit union would share a common drive which would also service the second project once completed, Pasquale said.

The proposed preliminary site plan met all of the city requirements including providing the 18 required parking spaces. The project will have 29. Noting it would like to see details on lighting and landscaping, the planning commission

approved the preliminary site plan. River Valley Credit Union is expected to bring back a final site plan for approval before construction begins.

River Valley Credit Union is owned by its members; each member owns a share. According to officials, the credit union, which will be the first in Lowell, provides a number of services.

Cherry Creek hosts Aerospace & Technology Day, June 6

Cherry Creek Elementary will be celebrating the centennial of powered flight of the Wright Brothers. Students will get an exciting look into space technology, aviation, math and science at 12675 Foreman Rd. on June 6.

The 860 students at Cherry Creek will experience a variety of technology. They will have the opportunity to view a portable planetarium, investigate NASA's "Exploring Aeronautics" program in the computer lab as well as build and launch their own rocket ships (with Alka Seltzer fuel).

As an added attraction this year, the Liberty Balloon company will be presenting a two-part program, consisting of a teaching session illustrated with slides and a live demon-

stration of inflating a hot air balloon. The students will also visit an on-site helicopter, ultra-lite airplane, single engine airplane, and much more.

The day's activities will be kicked off by Tony England, NASA astronaut, and Jerry Pahl, of the Kalamazoo Air Zoo museum. Jim Fitzgerald from the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, will be showing students moon rocks, meteorites, space suits, and more.

The Civil Air Patrol is sending Alice Noble who is the regional director of Aerospace Education from Dayton, Ohio's Wright Patterson Air Force Base. She will be doing a story presentation with students about Uncle Wiggly Wings.

These children achieved **DENTAL HYGIENE EXCELLENCE** For The Month of May 2003
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REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION

NOTICE OF REGULAR ELECTION OF THE ELECTORS OF LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS KENT AND IONIA COUNTIES, MICHIGAN TO BE HELD JUNE 9, 2003

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:
Please Take Notice that the regular election of the school district will be held on Monday, June 9, 2003.

THE POLLS OF ELECTION WILL OPEN AT 7 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AND CLOSE AT 8 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING.

At the regular school election there will be elected two (2) members to the board of education of the district for full terms of four (4) years ending in 2007.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED TO FILL SUCH VACANCIES:

Nancy Hopkins
Mark T. Lessens
Write-in candidates must file a Declaration of Intent on or before 4 p.m. Friday, June 6, 2003.

GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE REGULAR BIENNIAL ELECTION

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Regular Biennial Election of Grand Rapids Community College, Michigan, will be held at the same time and at the same voting places as the regular school election on Monday, June 9, 2003, and will be conducted by the same school officials for those electors of the Community College District residing in this school district.

At the Regular Biennial Election there will be elected three (3) members for the office of Community College District Trustee for full terms of six (6) years ending June 30, 2009.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED TO FILL SUCH VACANCIES:

SIX YEAR TERMS
(VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 3)
Ellen M. James
Gary P. Schenk
Richard W. Verburg
Write-in candidates must file a Declaration of Intent on or before 4 p.m. Friday, June 6, 2003.

THE VOTING PLACES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PRECINCT NO. 1
Voting Place: Runciman Elementary School, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan. The first precinct consists of the City of Lowell and those portions lying north of the centerline of Cascade Road in Cascade and Lowell townships in Kent County, and Boston Township in Ionia County.

PRECINCT NO. 2
Voting Place: Old Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash Road, Alto, Michigan. The second precinct consists of Bowne Township in Kent County and Campbell Township in Ionia County and those portions lying south of the centerline of Cascade Road in Cascade and Lowell townships in Kent County and Boston Township in Ionia County.

PRECINCT NO. 3
Voting Place: Vergennes Township Hall, corner of Bailey Drive and Parnell Avenue in Vergennes Township. The third precinct consists of the townships of Ada, Cannon, Grattan and Vergennes in Kent County and Keene Township in Ionia County.

All school electors who are registered with the city or township clerk of the city or township in which they reside are eligible to vote at this election.

This Notice is given by order of the board of education.
Pat Nugent
Secretary, Board of Education

Sharing The Vision

SHARI MILLER
Lowell Schools Superintendent



Sunday was a beautiful graduation day for the Class of 2003. We extend our best wishes to the graduates for their future success and happiness. They represented the 125th graduating class from Lowell High School in a very respectable manner. What a great legacy for this district and this community - 125 years of educating our youth to take their places in society. Many outstanding leaders have graduated from Lowell and have shared their talents with this community and others.

We are in the process of finalizing the 2003-2004 budget. We are anticipating that State funding will not increase; some funds such as at-risk may decrease. Due to increasing costs including a \$500,000 increase in insurance, we will be making cuts in order to arrive at a balanced budget for the 2003-2004 school year. These times are difficult, but we are committed to

providing quality educational programs for all of our students. In planning for the 2003-2004 school year, we have determined that holidays will be celebrated following the traditional schedule. For Halloween, elementary students will celebrate through class parties or class activities, depending upon the grade level. Student safety will continue to be a priority. No adults will be in costumes or masks. Student parades will be conducted for grades PreK-3. Students will also learn about holidays that are celebrated around the world. Building newsletters will provide the specific details regarding holiday celebrations for each school.

We wish to thank all of our students, staff, parents and volunteers for an outstanding school year. Education in Lowell involves us all, and our children truly benefit from the

support and commitment of each of these groups. Best wishes to our students and families for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Your comments about this concern or any issue would be greatly appreciated. Send to Shari Miller, Lowell Area Schools, 300 High St., Lowell, MI 49331 or (check out our web page at www.lowell.k12.mi.us)

Franciscan Life Process Center News & Notes

Adults, as well as middle and high school students, will have the opportunity to sharpen their observation and rendering skills during a two-day workshop on June 20-21 at the Franciscan Life Process Center.

Jon LaBeau, a Michigan Wildlife Artist of the Year award recipient, will provide expert advice while demonstrating his acrylic paint techniques with emphasis on the furry coats, feathers, horns, fins and scales of animals, birds and fish.

Taxidermy samples will be on display to assist workshop participants.

To attend the workshop, register with John Knight at 897-7842. Tuition is \$65.

The Franciscan Life Process Center will offer a workshop in the art of oriental watercolor on Saturday, June 14 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Xixiang He, a Chinese American residing in Grand Rapids, will share his lifelong love of calligraphy and watercolor.

Tuition is \$70 and includes ink, rice paper, Chinese watercolors and brush. To register call John Knight at 897-7842.

Car dealer's request for banners may put kibosh on others having them

By J.N. Boorsma
Contributing Writer

The question from Vennen Chrysler-Dodge Inc. was simple enough: If other car dealers can have banners and streamers, why can't we?

The answer that came back was that the Lowell Planning Commission would prefer none of the car dealers have them. Clark Galloway, of Vennen Chrysler-Dodge, had requested that his business be granted a special variance to permanently install streamers at its location, 930 W. Main St. Under the city's ordinance, streamers are only allowed for 21 days.

Galloway said the car dealership at one time did have streamers up from about 1989 to 1993, but were taken down probably because they were rotting. In 1995, the city revised its ordinance to clean up banners, signs, and streamers within the city limits. Because of the cost in getting streamers and putting them up, Galloway said he was seeking a variance for the car dealership.

"I think we have an issue in that we have a couple of non-conforming properties allowed to do it and a couple of non-conforming properties not allowed to do it," said planning

commission chair, Clark Jahnke, who agreed that the situation may be a little unfair.

Galloway presented to the commission pictures of other dealerships in which the streamers appeared to have been replaced. Those banners and streamers that are new may have to be taken down, according to a ruling by the city's attorney, Richard Wendt. At the request of the planning commission, city manager, David Pasquale asked if the city could have the remaining banners and streamers removed; Pasquale said he was told by Wendt that if the items were up before the new ordinance was in place, they were grandfathered in, but if the items looked new or appeared to have been replaced, the city could require that the streamers come down. "I don't want to see them all over town," said commission member, Dan Pipe. "I don't mind them at the car dealerships, but how do you say it's okay at one dealership and not others?"

Doug Hopkins, the building inspector, said enforcement could be an issue if one business is allowed to do it and not another. "I already have a business owner who thinks he can have an outside display area to the right of way because car dealers have it," he said. "If car dealers can have streamers, he is going to think he can have streamers."

Commission member, David Rapp said he preferred they all come down, and the commission agreed. The new ruling

will be passed to Hopkins who will be in contact with the other dealerships, Pasquale said.

At Vennen Chrysler-Dodge, its streamers should have come down since the dealership was in violation of the city ordinance and had already received a 21-day signage permit for a temporary sign. According to Hopkins, businesses are only allowed one 21-day period for extra signage and banners.

COLLEGE NEWS

Shannon Finnegan, a 1999 Lowell High School graduate and a senior at Alma College, played the part of Mad Margaret in the Alma College Music Department's May production of Gilbert and Sullivan's opera "Ruddigore."

It is a satire of Victorian style melodrama, playfully ridiculing genres from Shakespeare to Italian opera.

Finnegan is the daughter of Nancy Finnegan of Lake Ann and Brian Finnegan of Florida.

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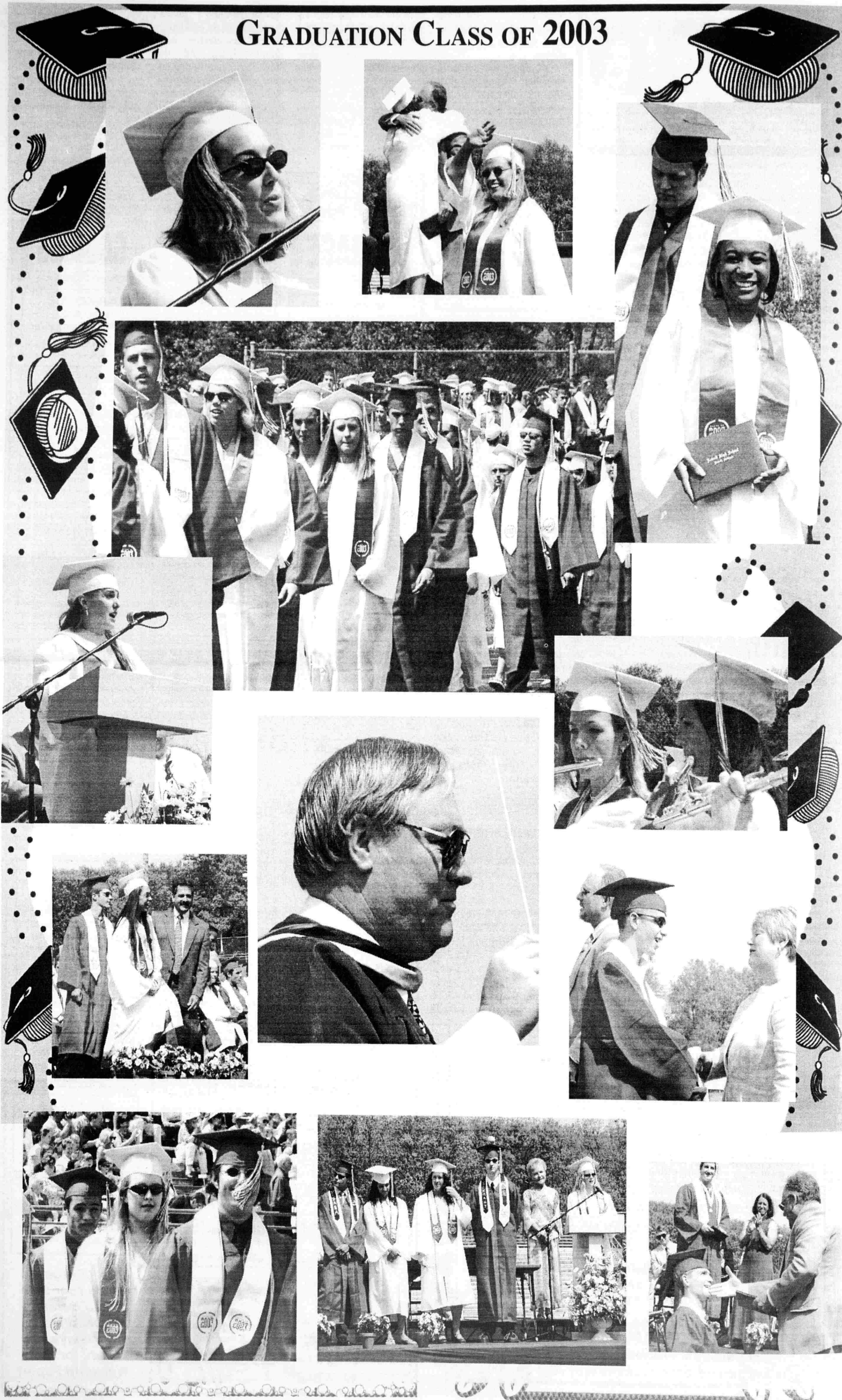
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GRADUATION CLASS OF 2003



Invention Convention 'Verry Interesting'

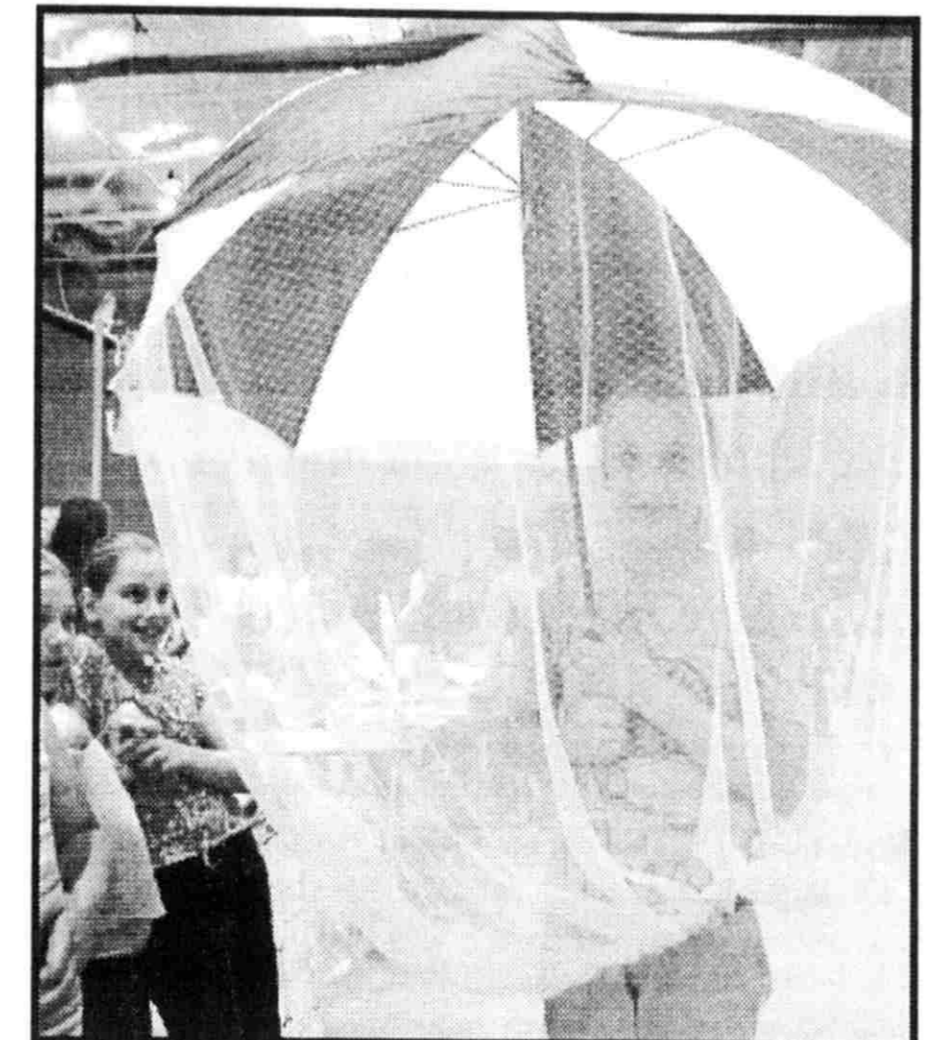
By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Over 200 Cherry Creek Elementary fifth-graders showcased their functional inventions at the ninth annual Invention Convention.

"Ultimately, the challenge put before the students is to come up with a new invention or to find a new way to do something in their daily lives," said fifth-grade teacher, Mike Fillman.

The Cherry Creek gymnasium was filled from wall to wall as students explained and demonstrated their inventions to family, friends and interested onlookers.

Amanda Lessens unveiled her Bug Umbrella. It not only kept the rain off, but had a netting to also keep the bugs away. "A lot of the people thought it was a really good idea," Lessens said. "Especially for people allergic to bee stings."



Brittany Wielinga demonstrates how to use Amanda Lessens' Bug Umbrella.

Carly Greenhoe's Patriotic Egg Collector of 2003 enabled eggs to roll safely and softly into their basket.

"Invention Convention is probably the toughest science standard we have the kids do," Fillman said. "What makes it so difficult is that there is nothing for them to go find information on what they are doing."

One requirement is that the invention include the use of a simple machine.

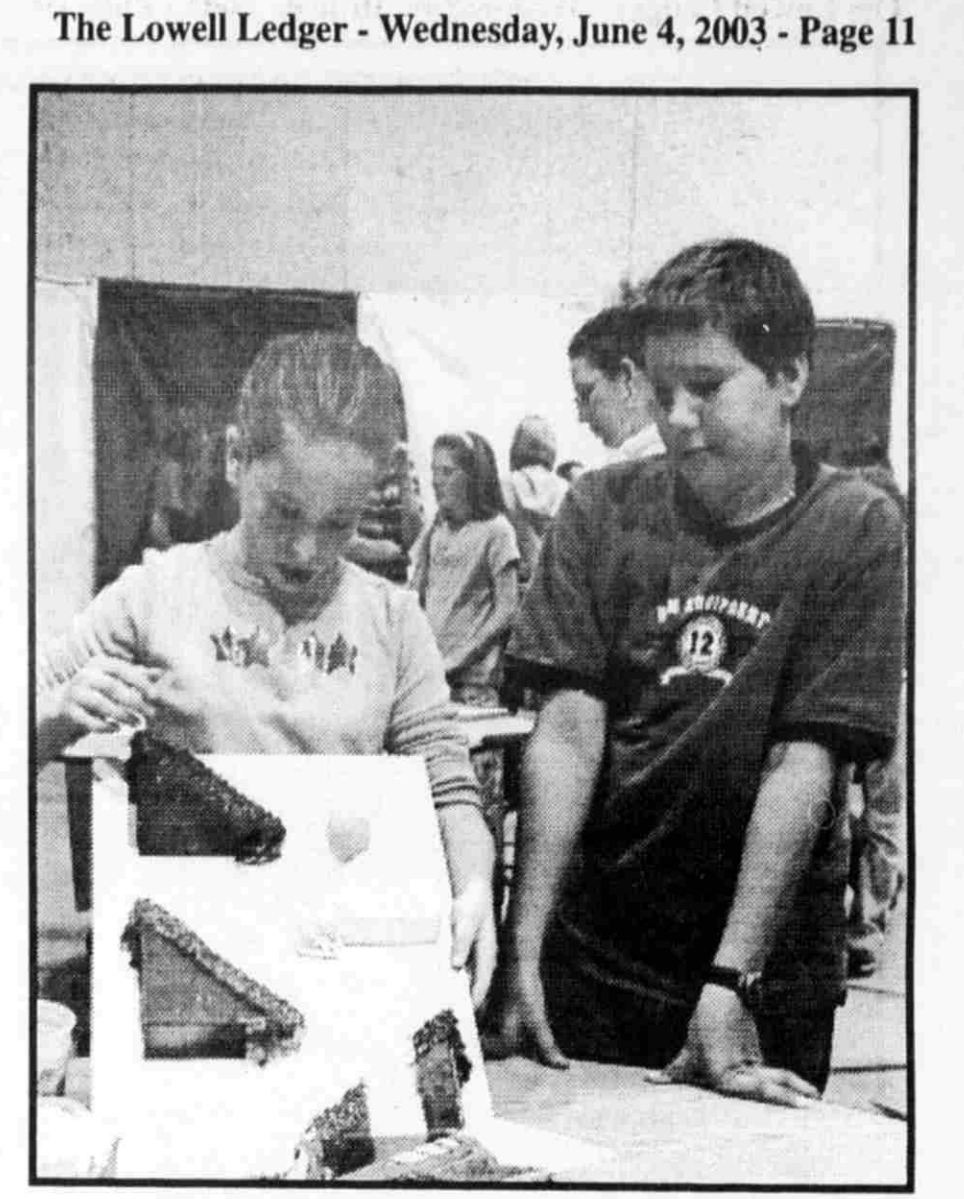
Emily Algure's Mail Maid used the mechanics of an electric car to insert and remove mail from the mailbox.

Mike Taylor did the same for his Mean Sweeper, a small toy truck with a brush on the front which is used to sweep up spills.

Taylor came up with the idea while sweeping out his family's garage.

"I got tired and bored of sweeping so I attached a broom to the front end of my remote control car," Taylor explained. "The people who visited my table thought it was cool."

The Invention Convention night was held on Thursday, May 22.



Carly Greenhoe explains her Patriotic Egg Collector of 2003 to Chad Postema.

LAAC puts out call for artists

The Lowell Area Arts Council and the Franciscan Life Process Center will present a joint exhibition- "Healing Our Environment" - from July 8 to Aug. 8.

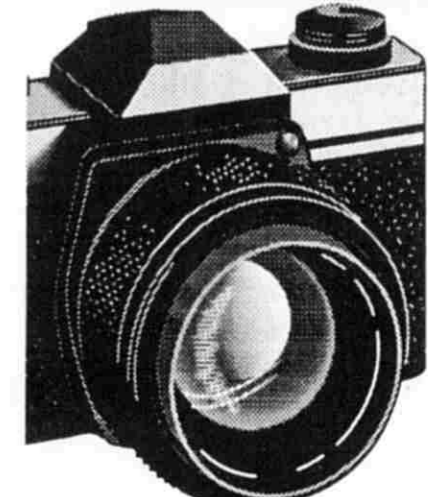
The exhibition is open to all visual art media including photography, computer art and video.

Its focus is on Earth-keeping rather than a gloom-and-doom commentary. This all-media exhibit could be on air, water, soil, plant/animal life; or our human response: recycling responsible land or fossil use, restoration through forestry, etc.

Four cash awards will be offered through a "People's Choice" selection process at the conclusion of the exhibition.

For further information and to receive a prospectus call the Lowell Area Arts Council at 897-8545 or the Franciscan Life Process Center, John Knight at 897-7842.

Attention All Coaches, Proud Parents, Athletes & Others Who Wish To Submit Photos In The Ledger...



It is important that the subject's face not be shaded in order to print your photo clearly in the paper.

All group pictures should be taken WITHOUT caps, visors, etc.

Photos will no longer be accepted if faces are too dark.

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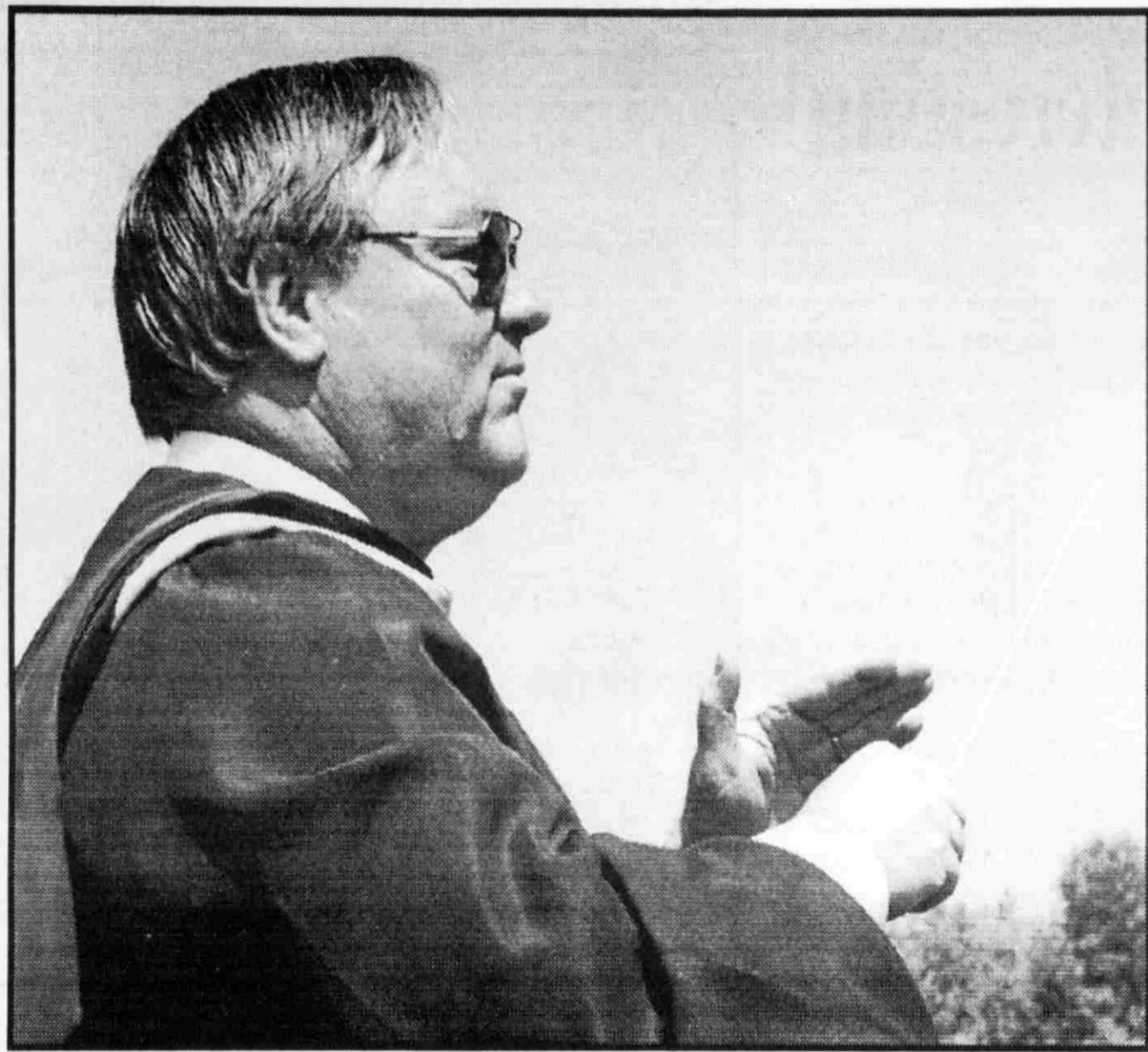
**The adventure will last:
June 16-20, Monday - Friday**

The adventure begins at: 6:00 P.M.

The adventure ends at: 8:30 P.M.

**For more information call:
897-7168**

For Oceans of Fun!



Bob Rice directs the LHS band one final time at Sunday's graduation ceremony.

Rice sounds the trumpet of his retirement as LHS band director

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Bob Rice told his freshman students four years ago that some day they may all graduate together.

Sunday, Rice and the Class of 2003 did just that. The students received their diplomas and Rice directed the LHS band for one final time as he brought to an end his 30 years of service as the school's band director.

"My wife (Lanie) and I spent spring break down south and that's when I made my final decision to retire at the

and Bushnell. Rice excused a kid because the cows on the family farm were out in the road.

"Obviously, the makeup of Lowell has changed over the years. Now, there is a little bit of everything. Lawyers, doctors, farmers..." Rice explains.

Rice is only the fourth band director Lowell has ever had. Of the four he has also served the longest.

Bruce Walter was first followed by Orville Jessup and Bill Mills. Jessup served in the position for 29 years.

Rice said. "By not competing, I have been able to get many more involved playing and experiencing music. It also becomes something they may continue later in life."

Music has been a part of Rice's life for as long as he can remember.

There was music in my home when I was a baby. My father was in the Drum and Bugle Corp. and my mother played the piano," Rice said.

The LHS band director took piano lessons at the age of seven, and hated every minute of it. "My mother gave

The LHS band director took piano lessons at the age of seven, and hated every minute of it.

"My mother gave me lessons. The problem was... right outside our big picture window, I could see my buddies playing baseball across the way. That's where I wanted to be."

end of the year," Rice explained. "I wanted to get out while I still enjoyed being a band director... while I still had good memories of this job."

Rice came to Lowell after spending one year in Pottsville. "I had 42 kids in that high school band," he recalls. In his first year at Lowell, that number more than doubled to 95. Thirty years later Rice now directs a high school band of 245 members.

"No doubt it is more difficult," Rice said. "Any time there are more people, that makes the job tougher. Not only that, but students have so much more to do today. In 1972, there were maybe 10 sports and maybe out of the 90 students, 10 had jobs."

Lowell's band director remembers that first week of practice. While practicing in the field between the high school (now middle school)

"I don't think I would have made it this far without my wife, Lanie. She has pushed and directed me over the years," he says.

Rice has pushed and directed his students through countless performances over the years.

"This year alone we did 57 performances. My first year we did between 17-20," Rice explained.

Being out in the public on such a regular basis also brings about pressure to improve and always improve.

"I know I have felt pressure to make sure the students do better," Rice explained.

Not even pressure would change the band director's view about competing.

"Years ago, I chose not to have our band compete. I believe high school bands dwindle in size when students are asked to compete,"

me lessons. The problem was... right outside our big picture window, I could see my buddies playing baseball across the way. That's where I wanted to be."

Within a couple of years, he got out of piano lessons and started playing the drums. By the time Rice entered the sixth grade, and band was first offered, he decided he could never be good enough playing the drums and switched to the trumpet - the instrument he would keep.

It was a good choice. Years later, he earned first chair in the marching band at Michigan State University.

Rice hopes life after Lowell High School will include more golf. "I will also work part time for a music company and give private lessons," he explained.

For the immediate future, Rice plans on enjoying life after graduation.

It is not the ship so much as the skillful sailing that assures the prosperous voyage.
—George William Curtis

Congratulations 2003 Lowell Graduates!

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Lowell and Otsego uncover many similarities

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Ideally, Mayor Exchange Day is an opportunity for cities in Michigan to see the different businesses and ways in which other cities serve and enhance the lives of their residents.

"I've always looked at Mayor Exchange Day as a time for us to show others what we have and for us to see what others have... It always makes me feel okay about Lowell," said Jeanne Shores, Lowell's mayor.

Lowell and Otsego took turns hosting one another's city officials. Lowell hosted Otsego on Thursday, May 15 and then visited Otsego on Tuesday, May 20.

"Otsego is very similar to Lowell," said Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale. "We're both thinking along the same way... they just completed renovating and adding on to their City Hall and built a new police station. They have also just begun undertaking a historic museum project along with working on a river trail system."

Otsego mayor, Joel Thompson was impressed by how one of Lowell's services softens residents' financial burden.

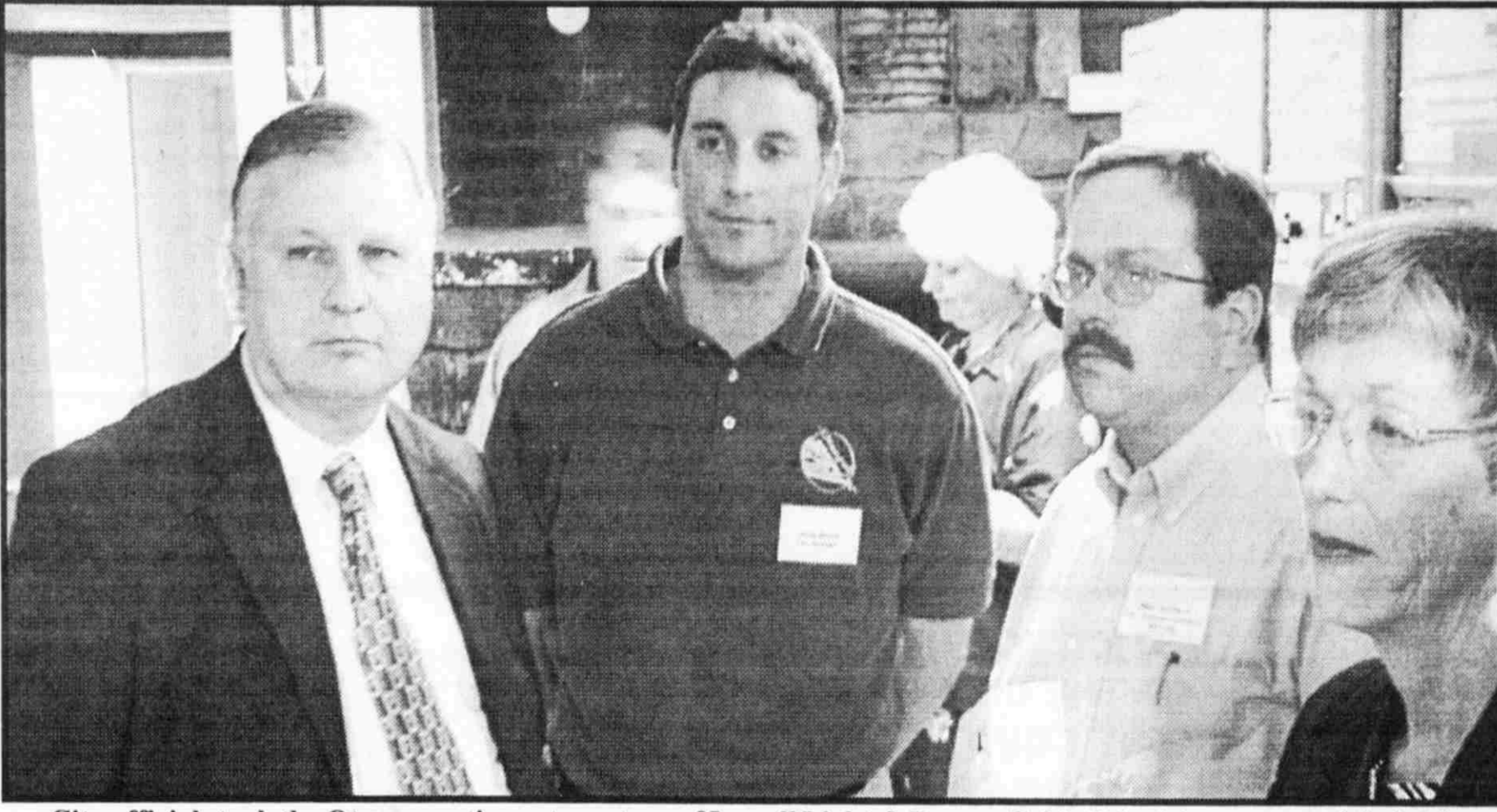
"I think a big plus is how the city softens the water at the treatment plant," he said. "That has to create a savings for residents. I would love to be able to offer that to our residents."

Thompson was also impressed with how two Lowell companies, Litehouse, Inc. and Superior Furniture compete nationally and have carved out their own market share.

"It indicates a company doesn't have to be in a major city to have a healthy market share," Thompson said.

Thad Beard, Otsego city manager, was taken back by the similarities the two towns share.

"The geographical size, both towns have rivers and a state highway running through them, and are located close to a large



City officials took the Otsego contingent on a tour of Lowell Light & Power, Cable Television as part of their Mayor Exchange Day visit in Lowell. Pictured above, from left to right, are Lowell city manager, Dave Pasquale, Otsego city manager, Thad Beard, Otsego treasurer, Matt Storbeck and mayor pro tem, Kathy Misner.

city," Beard said. "I'm really impressed by how Lowell uses the river to its benefit. It has really done a great job of beautifying the land around it. That is something we need to give more attention to."

Lowell has been a continuous participant in Mayor Exchange Day since 1985.

SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MAY 19, 2003, 7:30 P.M.

Minutes of the May 5, 2003 Regular Meeting and bills and accounts payable were approved.

The 2003-2004 Budget was presented and the first of two public hearings was held.

Review and discussion of the Highland Hills Development contingencies.

Review and discussion of South Center Street improvement and financing of Sibley and Grindle upgrading.

The following motions were approved:

- Motion to approve the request from First Congregational Church to close Spring Street on Sunday, June 8 and use of Richards Park on Sunday, August 3, 2003.
- Motion to establish a public hearing for June 16, 2003 for the resolution expressing intent to issue Industrial Revenue Bonds for the Litehouse, Inc. project.
- Motion to adopt the Capital Improvements Plan for 2003-2008 as presented.
- Motion to approve the payment of \$6,261 to Overbeck Construction for approach work needed for the City Hall - Police Station project and allocated from the Contingency Fund for this project.
- Motion to approve the bid from Snyder Asphalt, Inc. (Saranac) of \$5,000 to be paid out of the sewer and water maintenance funds to repair North Division and Howard Streets.
- Motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. The next Regularly Scheduled Meeting will be Monday, June 2, 2003.

Complete minutes are available at Lowell City Hall, 414 East Main Street (Huntington National Bank), Lowell.

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk
City of Lowell

Vezino graduates summa cum laude

Elizabeth Ann Vezino of Lowell, daughter of Joe and Barb Vezino, graduated summa cum laude and ranked eighth in her class of 225 with a 4.265 GPA from Catholic Central High School Sunday, June 1.

She attended elementary school at St. Mary in Lowell and St. Patrick-Parnell. Her accomplishments in the last year include receiving the first annual HOPE Award, a distinguished award presented to the school's most outstanding volunteer, advancing to the MHSAA State Tennis



Semifinals, and serving as a peer minister and senior prom queen.

She was also a recipient

of the President's Service Award, All-City Academic Honors, and the President's Education Award.

This fall, Elizabeth will be attending the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

Anyone nit-picking enough to write a letter of correction to an editor doubtless deserves the error that provoked it.

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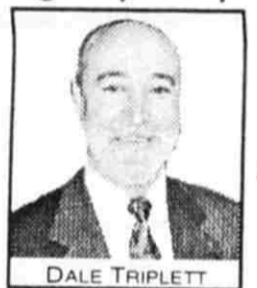
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Lowell finds Division I a tough track to run on

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Lowell was well represented in the Division I state track meets at Houseman Field on Saturday. It wasn't, however, well represented in the team scoring results. Both the girls, competing in seven events, and the boys, competing in just the 110 high hurdles, failed to place in an event.

"It's disappointing. We thought there was an opportunity in a couple of events," said Lowell girls track coach, Kathy Talus. "Our number one goal coming into the season was to three-peat as conference champion and the girls achieved that. They also performed well at the regional, finishing second to Rockford (state champion)."

"The girls have had a great year. Division I is just extremely tough."

If not for bouncing off the

pit and hitting her head on the track, Nicole Gillikin would have likely placed in the pole vault. "After that injury, she just wasn't able to really compete," Talus said.

Based on the state's best times, Natalie Kent entered the 110 hurdles with an opportunity, but a slow start out of the blocks in the semifinals prevented her from advancing to the finals.

Heather Becker did not qualify for the finals, but threw a career best of 110'3" in the discus. Troubles with the hurdles on the curve in the semifinals nixed Krystal White's chance of qualifying for the finals in the 300 hurdles.

Lowell also failed to qualify in the 800- and 1600-meter relays.

Earning all conference awards for the Lowell girls track team were Lisa Wojciakowski, Kent, White, Kim Huyser, Becker, Gillikin,

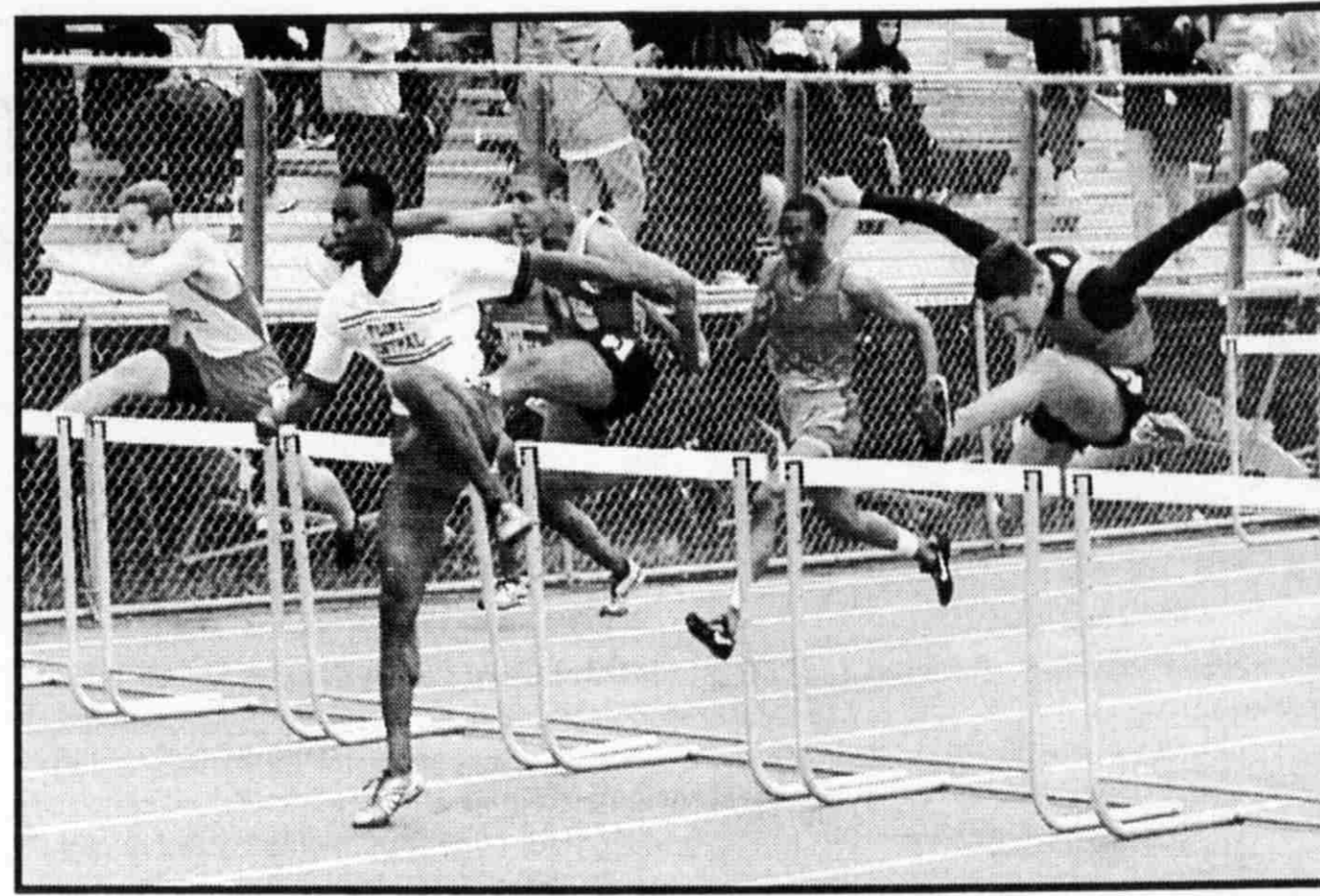
Holly Plattner, Sarah Swab and Rebekka Woods.

Post season awards were given out to Kent and White, most valuable players; Swab, most improved; Gillikin, most dedicated; Abbie Blanding and Malley Cahoon, rookies of the year; Megan Beachum, White and Sarah Bailey, coach's award; Katie Clements, sportsmanship and scholar athlete awards.

Setting school records this year were Gillikin, 10', pole vault; Kent, 15.19, 110 hurdles; Swab, 5:24.1, 1600-meter run; (White, Kent, Wojciakowski, Plattner), 1600-meter relay, 4:06.

Andy Roberts was the lone Red Arrow boy to compete in the Division I state meet. It marked the second straight year he's qualified for the event.

"We've stepped up a division and there are definitely a lot of fast guys in Division I,"



Andy Roberts runs a 14.7 in the prelims in the 110 hurdles.

Roberts said. "I just tried blocking that out and working on what I have to do."

Roberts ran a 14.7 in the prelims, but a slow start left him with a 15.0 in the semis and out of the finals.

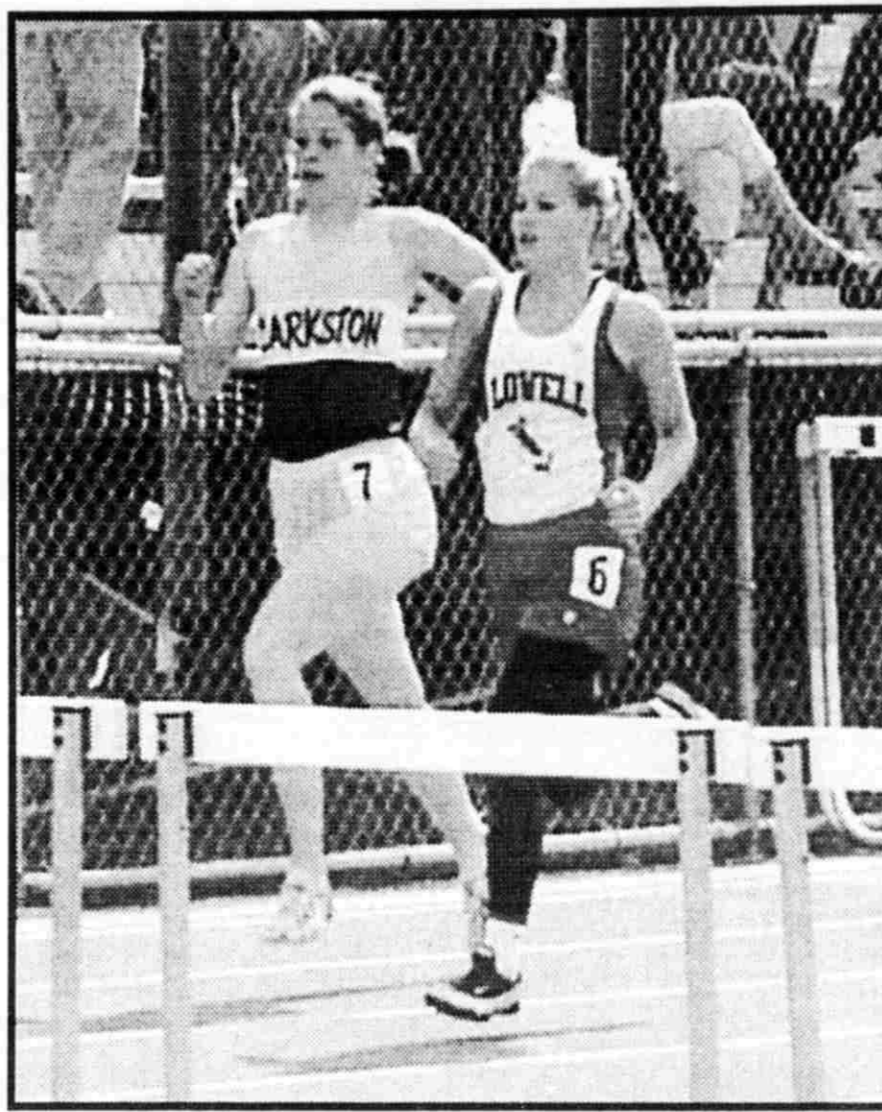
Roberts' success this year was highlighted by a third at the Champion of Champions. He attributes that to lead leg drills, running exercises and some added coaching.

"Coach Stevens brought in a friend of his to help coach me this year," Roberts explained. "That really helped me out with my form."

Lowell coach, Russ Stevens attributed Roberts' success to his hard work ethic.

"He was up against the best. He should feel very proud of the fact he was there. There are many who can't say that," Stevens explained.

Natalie Kent stays a step ahead of her challenger.



Krystal White races home in the 300 hurdle prelim.



Lowell girls absent the big hit in district loss to FHN

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

A year in which Lowell's softball team notched a record number of wins ended in disappointment as the Red Arrows lost to Forest Hills Northern 4-1 in the district semifinal at Northview on Saturday.

"We had people on base, but could not get that one base hit to drive them in," said Lowell coach, Bob Rodenhouse. "The girls are disappointed, but it's been a great year, better than I could have ever anticipated."

Trailing 1-0 in the third inning, Ashleigh Inman tripled with one out and then scored on an RBI double by Tara Kimble.

Northern reclaimed the lead in the fourth inning on an RBI single by Amanda Baron. The Huskies added two insurance

runs in the bottom half of the sixth inning to make the score 4-1.

In the seventh inning, Lowell got a two-out single by Kimble followed by a double from Jacque Benedict. Kimble was thrown out at the plate, trying to score all the way from first, to end the game.

"The seniors on this club have really come through for us this season. They have been the difference - that and their outstanding leadership," Rodenhouse explained.

Northern was defeated in the district title game by Rockford, 4-2.

Lowell 3-8
Cath. Cent. 1-2

Lowell prepared for the district by sweeping City League champion, Catholic Central on Thursday. In game one, Lowell scored single runs in the second, third and sixth innings. Central's only run came in the third on a triple and an error.

RBI base hits were tallied by Jacque Benedict and Noelle Dewey.

Becky Plummer went the distance, allowing one run on three hits while striking out nine. In game two, Lowell plated two runs in the first, and three more in the third and fourth innings.

Benedict, Plummer and Courtney Phillips all had two RBIs in the nightcap.

Benedict laced two more triples in the doubleheader, running her season total to 13, a new school record. The old record, set by Krista Posthumus, was 10.

Errors break Red Arrow boys district chances

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Late inning errors by Lowell and strong relief pitching by Northview's Sean Norman propelled the Wildcats to a 6-3 win in a district semifinal contest at Northview on Saturday.

"Our starter, Luke Tomczak threw well and gave us an opportunity to win the game, but some costly errors hurt us late," said Lowell baseball coach, Tim Antel.

With the loss, Lowell finishes the season at 13-19. "Norman came in for Northview and closed the door. That's why he's an all-conference player," Antel said.

Lowell trailed 2-1 going into the sixth inning when junior, Kyle Rozema belted a two-run homer into left-center field, giving the Red Arrows a 3-2 advantage.

Northview, showing the heart of a senior club, rallied for two of their runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to reclaim a 4-3 lead.

With the aid of two Lowell errors, Northview plated two unearned runs in the sixth inning to make the final score 6-3.

Lowell 8-6
Cedar Springs 4-2

Lowell traveled to Cedar Springs on Wednesday and swept the Red Hawks, 8-4 and 6-2.

The Red Arrows plated three runs in the first, three in the sixth and two more in the seventh while Cedar Springs tallied single runs in the first and third innings and two more in the seventh.

Lowell coach, Tim Antel used four pitchers. Alan Nugent

pitched the fifth and sixth innings to earn the win.

Lowell's balanced offensive attack included Luke Tomczak's two singles and two RBIs; Tim Droege rapped out two singles and knocked in a run; Alan Nugent, Kyle Rozema, Jake Kulhawik and Brian White each added a hit and an RBI. Lowell scored eight runs on nine hits. The Red Arrow

pitchers held Cedar Springs to four runs on five hits.

In game two, Kyle Rozema earned the victory, pitching five innings and allowing two runs on four hits.

At the plate, Andrew Benedict recorded an RB double and Alan Nugent, Luke Tomczak and Matt Scheider all contributed with RBI singles.

ATTENTION: BUFFERS NEEDED

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By DAVID STOWERS

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To sign up today and/or for more info about this fantastic service just go to their website: www.netpenny.net and/or call them from anywhere in our area toll free 1-888-248-7239.

Swim team meeting

There will be a meeting in the high school cafeteria on Wednesday, June 4 at 7 p.m. for eighth- through 11th-graders (and their parents) interested in swimming on the Lowell High School swimming team next winter.

School Menus
Week of 6/9 - 6/10

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VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Vergennes Township Zoning Board of Appeals on **Monday, June 9, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Vergennes Township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell to hear the following applications:

Reconvening meeting: Shawn and Michelle Ford are requesting a variance on property located at 13837 Covered Bridge Rd, Lowell, in the NW 1/4 of Section 24, parcel # 41-16-24-100-026. The variance request is from the Vergennes Township R-A Zoning District Section 201.304 (E) lot area, (F) Setbacks, (G) Floor Area. The applicant is requesting the variance to remove an old cottage on the property and to construct a new home. The existing lot is located in the Fallsburg Village area and cannot meet current setbacks due to the shape and size of the lot.

New application: Aaron Roth is requesting a variance on property located at 12024 4 Mile Rd, Lowell in the NW 1/4 of section 3, parcel # 41-16-003-100-006 (part of). The variance is requested because of a new property line that must go between two existing buildings which causes one building to become nonconforming located in the rear setback area. The variance is from the Rural Agriculture section 201.304 (F) (3) Rear Line Spacing.

The complete application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. State law and zoning ordinance require any residents or property owners within 300 feet of an applicant for a variance to be notified of the application.

Public comment will be heard at the meeting. Written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the office entrance will also be considered if received at the Township office prior to 7:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may also be emailed to zoning@vergennestwp.org.

Vergennes Township ZBA



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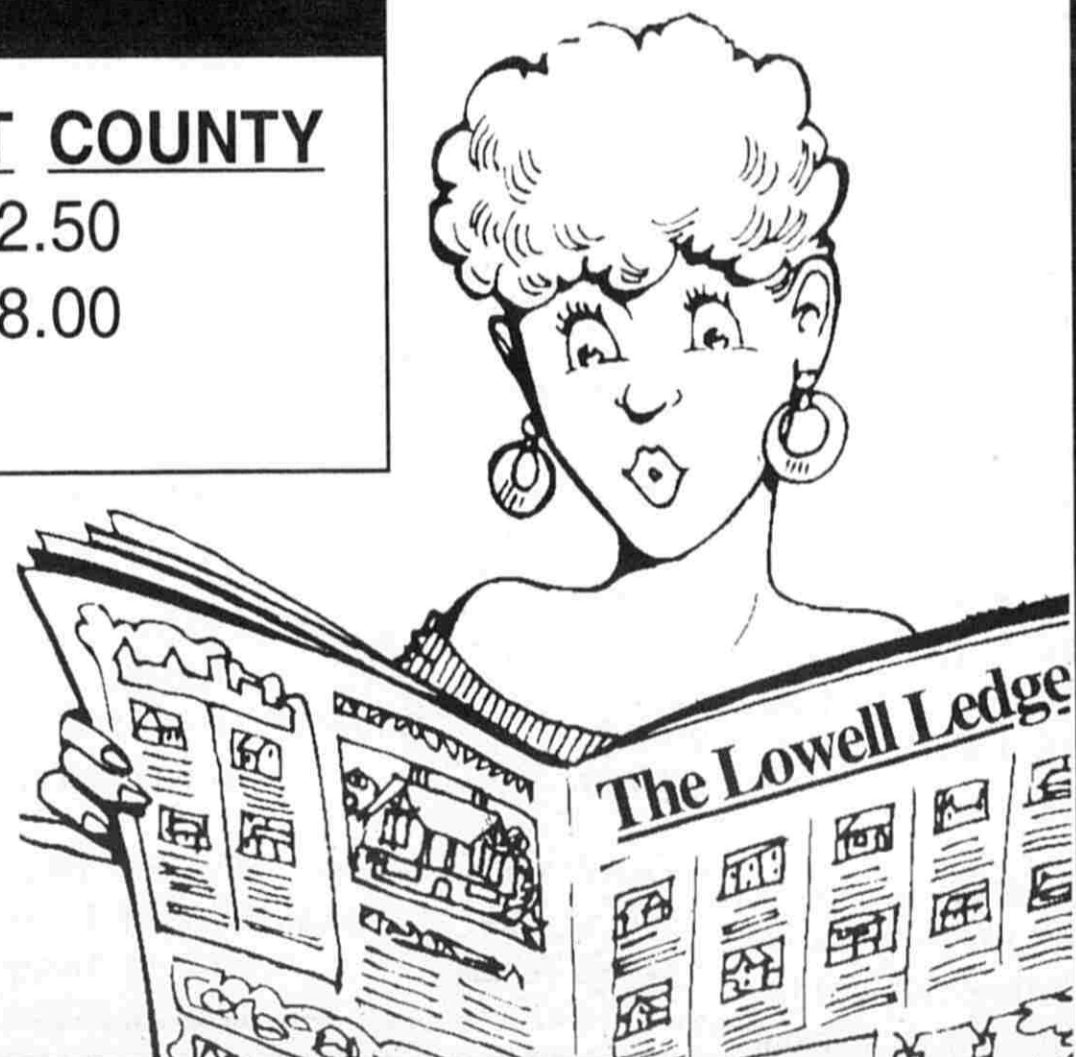
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Financial Focus

Edward Jones

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With Christopher C. Godbold



**DON'T LET COLLEGE LOANS OVERWHELM
YOUR CHILD**

For millions of kids, summer vacation is almost here. If you have children in school, you're now one year closer to the time when you send them off to college. And if you haven't started saving for that day, now is definitely the time to start—because college costs keep going up.

Let's look at the hard facts, as reported by the College Board. In the 2002-2003 academic year, the average tuition and fees at a four-year private college were \$18,273; the corresponding figure for a four-year public school was \$4,081.

Knowing that college is expensive—and likely to become more so—what can you do about it? Of course, your child may well qualify for some financial aid in the form of grants and scholarships. And it's in your best interests to look for as many of these as you can. For help in finding out what's available,

contact your local college's financial aid office, or just do an Internet search.

Still, even if your child does get some grant or scholarship money, it probably won't be enough to cover all college costs. That's why so many students take out loans.

Initially, you might think that taking out a loan or two isn't such a bad thing. After all, the rates are competitive, and the interest may be tax-deductible. But consider this: In pursuit of their degrees, students now borrow, on average, \$27,600, according to a new survey by Nellie Mae, a major student loan agency.

No matter how you look at it, that's a lot of money—and it's an especially heavy burden for young people to bear as soon as they leave school. This debt load can keep college graduates from buying houses and making other important investments in their lives.

So, how can you help keep your college-bound kids as debt-free as possible? Start by saving early. Consider tax-advantaged vehicles such as a Section 529 plan or a Coverdell Education Savings Account.

When you establish a Section 529 college savings plan, your earnings and withdrawals are exempt from federal taxes, as long as the money goes toward paying college costs. And you can contribute large amounts to your 529 plan. In fact,

some plans allow you to put in as much as \$250,000 per beneficiary. You also have the option of setting up a Section 529 plan as a pre-paid tuition program.

You might also want to look at a Coverdell Education Savings Account, formerly known as the Education IRA. Depending on your income level, you can contribute up to \$2,000 annually to a Coverdell account. And, as is the case with a Section 529 plan, your earnings and withdrawals are tax-free, provided you use the money for qualified education expenses. Also, you can fund your Coverdell account with virtually any type of investment you choose—stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, etc.

Coverdell accounts and Section 529 plans can go a long way toward reducing your child's dependence on student loans. Even so, however, you may need to encourage your children to "think outside the box" when it comes to securing a college education. For example, don't overlook the economic advantages of your local community college. You'll find that tuition is generally quite affordable—and, after two years, your child can transfer to a four-year school without having to incur four years of big-time expenses.

By making the right moves, you can help your children get off to a debt-free start in their adult lives. And that's a great graduation present.

Regular school board election, Monday

Two Lowell Board of Education seats will be voted on in the regular school election on Monday, June 9.

The two four-year seats, are currently held by board president, Nancy Hopkins and Mark Lessens.

Both board members are running unopposed, however, George Blocher is a write-in candidate.

Election polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

Registered voters will also be asked to vote three persons onto the board of Grand Rapids Community College.

Names on the ballot are Ellen M. James, Gary P. Schenk and Richard W. Verburg.

**CITY OF
LOWELL
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**LAST DATE TO FILE
NOMINATING PETITIONS
JUNE 17, 2003 • 4:00 P.M.**

Persons interested in seeking election to the Lowell City Council to fill any of the three (3) two to four year term vacancies occurring, must obtain nominating petition forms for circulation and return not later than 4:00 p.m. on June 17, 2003. Petition forms are available between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from the Lowell City Clerk, Lowell City Hall, 414 East Main Street (Huntington Bank building), Lowell.



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JAMIE DRYER

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 Central Office Administration

Character Traits Exhibited:
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 Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship

Because of her courage standing against
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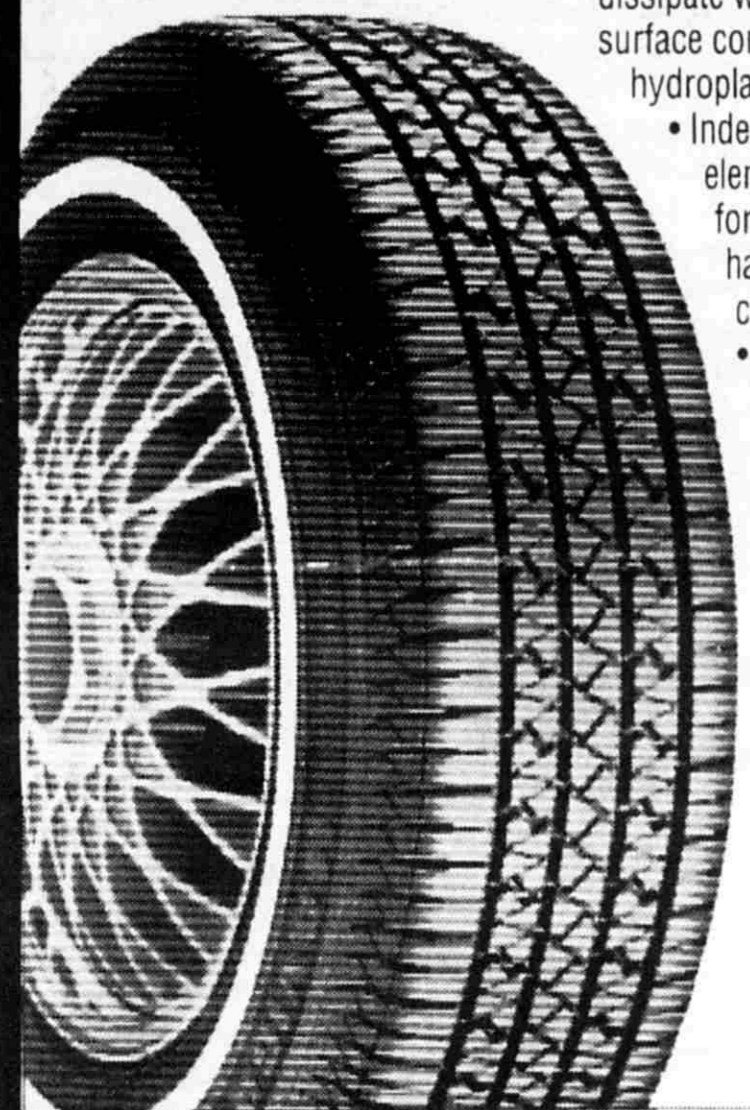
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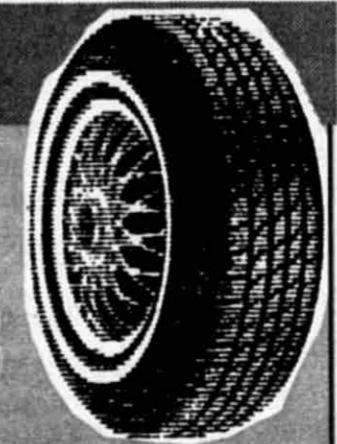


P155/80R13 79S.....	\$49.70
P205/75R14 95S.....	\$64.45
P175/70R13 82S.....	\$53.82
P175/70R14 84S.....	\$53.60
P215/70R15 97S.....	\$69.35
P175/65R14 81S.....	\$54.65
P205/65R15 92S.....	\$63.72
P215/65R14 91S.....	\$68.88
P215/60R14 94S.....	\$80.55
P225/60R15 97S.....	\$83.36

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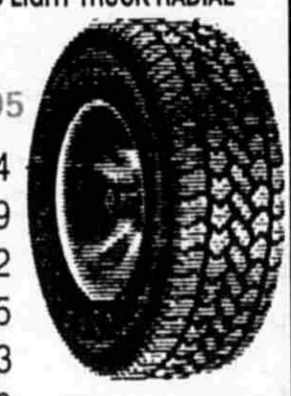
P175/80R13..	\$35.25
P185/80R13..	\$37.25
P185/75R14..	\$38.25
P195/75R14..	\$41.25
P205/75R14..	\$43.25
P205/75R15..	\$45.25
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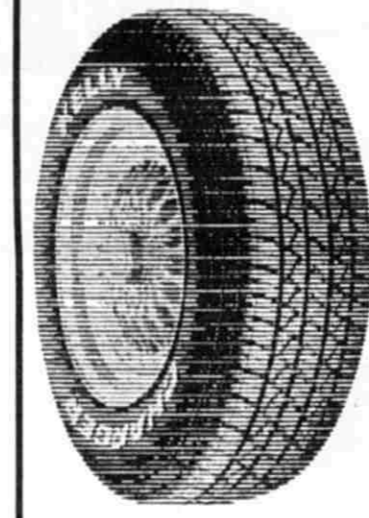


P215.....	\$72.64
P225.....	\$76.39
P235.....	\$80.02
P26515...	\$83.75
LT215.....	\$96.83
P22516...	\$77.20
P24516...	\$79.16
LT23515...	\$97.76
P22516...	\$71.80
LT22516...	\$99.72

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P245/60R14 98S.....	\$75.84
P235/60R15 98S.....	\$79.48
P245/60R15 100S.....	\$83.76
P255/60R15 102S.....	\$86.67
P275/60R15 107S.....	\$96.11
BLACKWALL	
P185/60R14 82S.....	\$62.39
P195/60R14 85S.....	\$63.59
P195/60R15 87S.....	\$66.81
P205/60R15 90S.....	\$68.08
P215/60R15 93S.....	\$72.67
P225/60R15 95S.....	\$64.68
P215/60R16 94S.....	\$82.29
P225/60R16 97S.....	\$85.18

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