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Vergennes Township to seek legal advice on proposal for broadband wireless Internet project

by Emma Palova

The Vergennes Township Board will seek legal counsel on an exploratory proposal for high-speed broadband wireless Internet from resident Ryan Peel.

Peel, an application development supervisor for Hastings Mutual Insurance Company, gave a comprehensive presentation in a township where a lot of geographic areas still do not have wireless Internet.

"It's an innovative idea that combines a need with a cause," said Peel about the project concept.

The entire concept is based on a nonprofit cooperative structure, in partnership with Vergennes Township, that would be self-sustainable.

The township has been on a quest for access to broadband wireless Internet for the last two to three years.

The last survey showed that the majority of residents would like uninterrupted wireless.

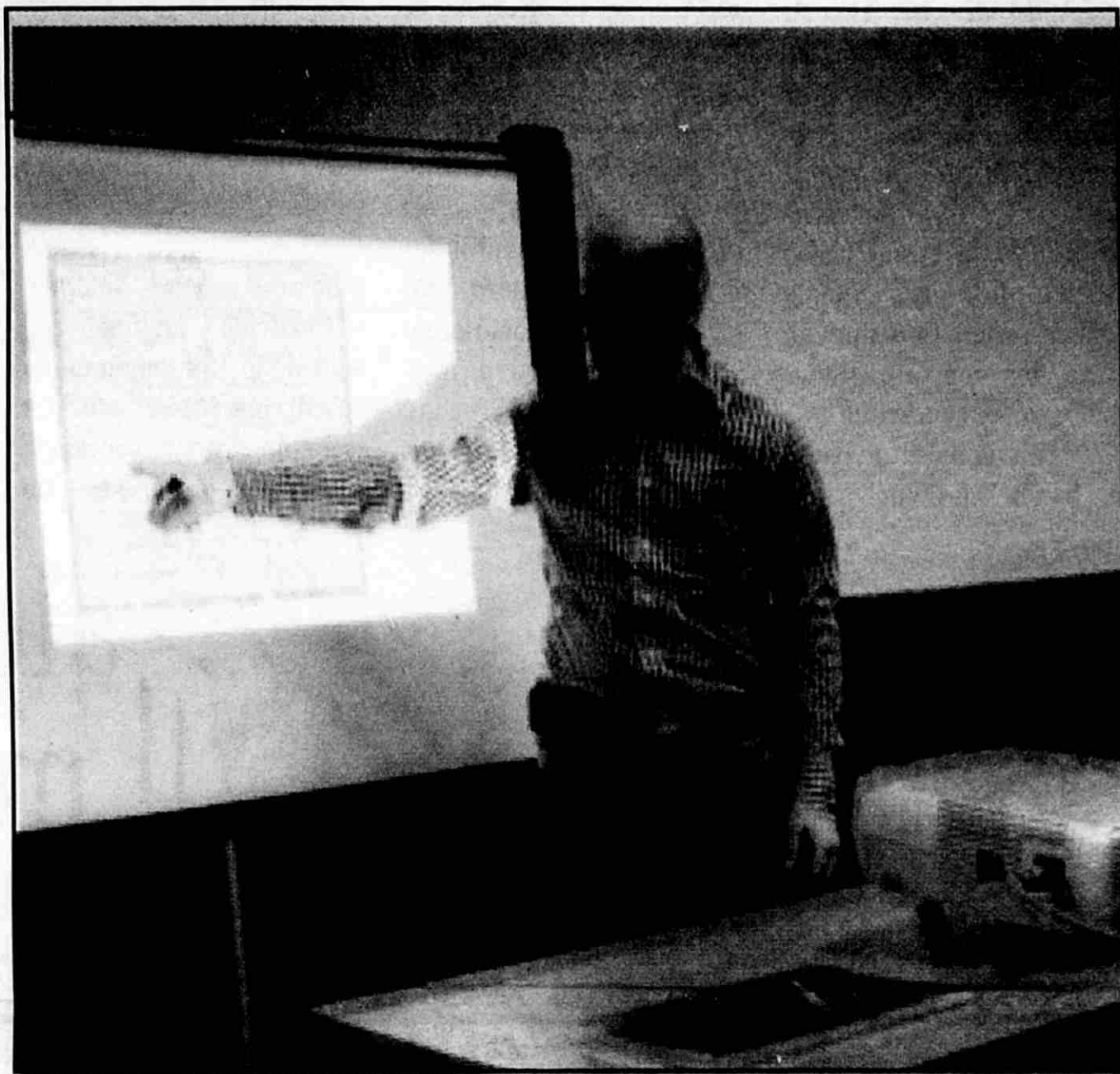
Some residents, like Heather Hoffman, live only about a mile from the Lowell High School and cannot get wireless coverage. It took Hoffman eight years and 65 manhours on the phone to finally get coverage from AT&T. Hoffman has documented her pursuit.

Most giant companies like AT&T or Comcast will not provide wireless in the township due to low density of population, thus risky profits.

The lack of wireless also affects people moving in or out of the township and could potentially decrease the property values.

Peel proposed a WiMAX coverage based off two new tower locations, on

Wireless Internet,
continued, page 2



Ryan Peel, Vergennes Township resident, gives presentation on broadband wireless network project.

Rails to trails group discusses connectivity, trailheads, names

by Emma Palova

The River Valley rail to trail group took on a variety of issues, pertaining to the trail network running along the Grand River and Flat River, last Thursday.

Lowell is fortunate to nestle right in the heart of three distinct trail systems: Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) trails, North Country Trail Association (NCTA) and the River Valley trails. The rails to trails between Lowell and Greenville, and Lowell



Lowell may have two trailheads where the two trails end. One is on Foreman, by Metric Manufacturing, north of town.

and Ionia will become a part of a 125-mile long trail network, the fifth largest in the country.

All three trail groups have been trying to work together to iron out connectivity between the trails. Currently, there are a few disconnects: one is north of Greenville and the other is approximately 1.5 miles long between Foreman and Grand River Avenue. This means Lowell will have at

Rails to trails,
continued, page 4



Jim Horman of Design Plus explains design concepts for the amphitheatre area.

Residents and city leaders participate in design charrette

by Emma Palova

Design Plus in conjunction with the city of Lowell held a charrette at the Main Street Inn, last Thursday, for the upgrade of the Riverwalk by the amphitheatre and the west bank of the Flat River.

The session drew in approximately 70 to 80

people, both city leaders and residents from the city and the surrounding townships. It was moderated by landscape architects and owners of Design Plus, Peter Lazdins and Jim Horman.

Horman said people expressed utilitarian needs

Design charrette,
continued, page 3

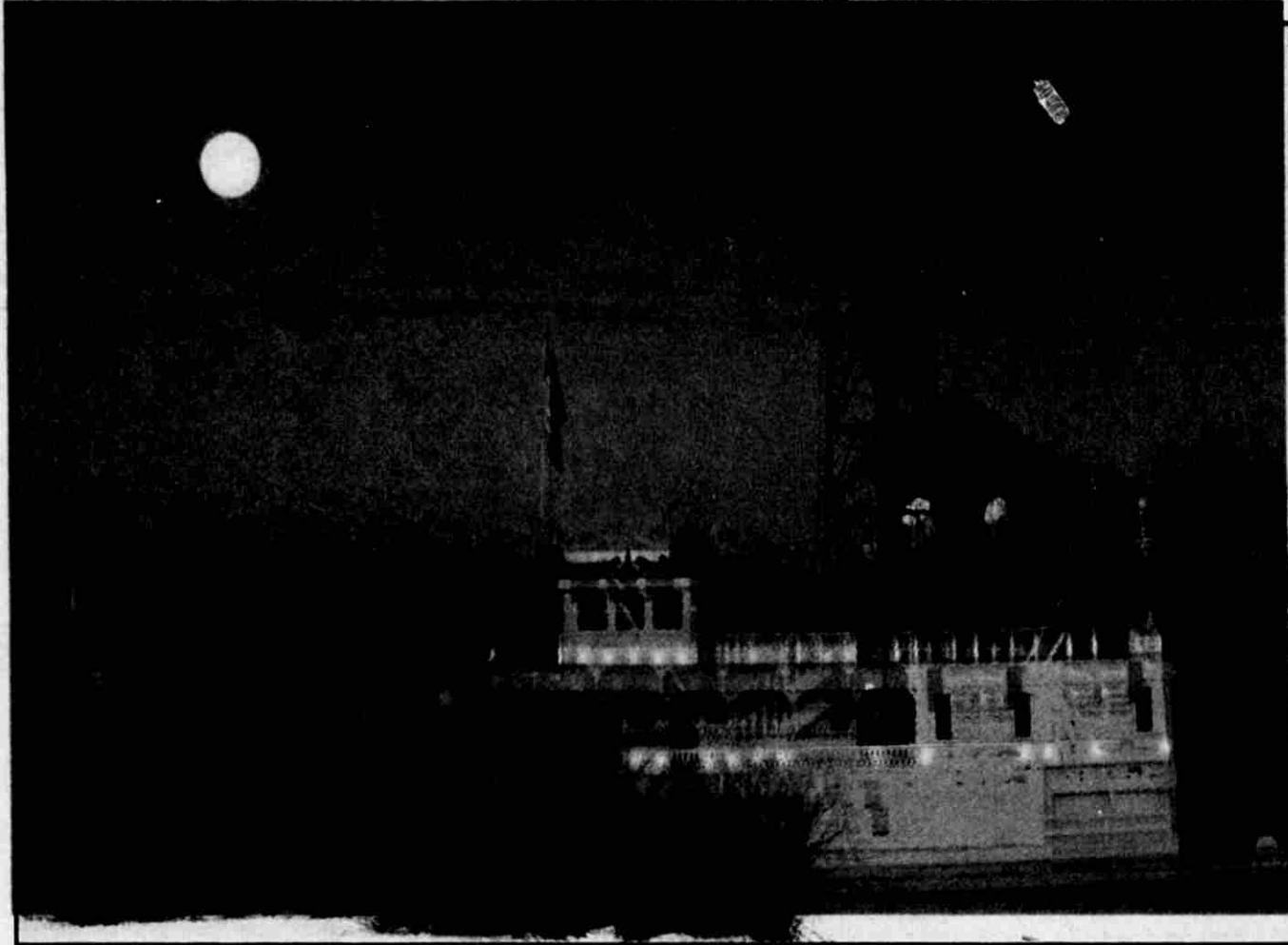
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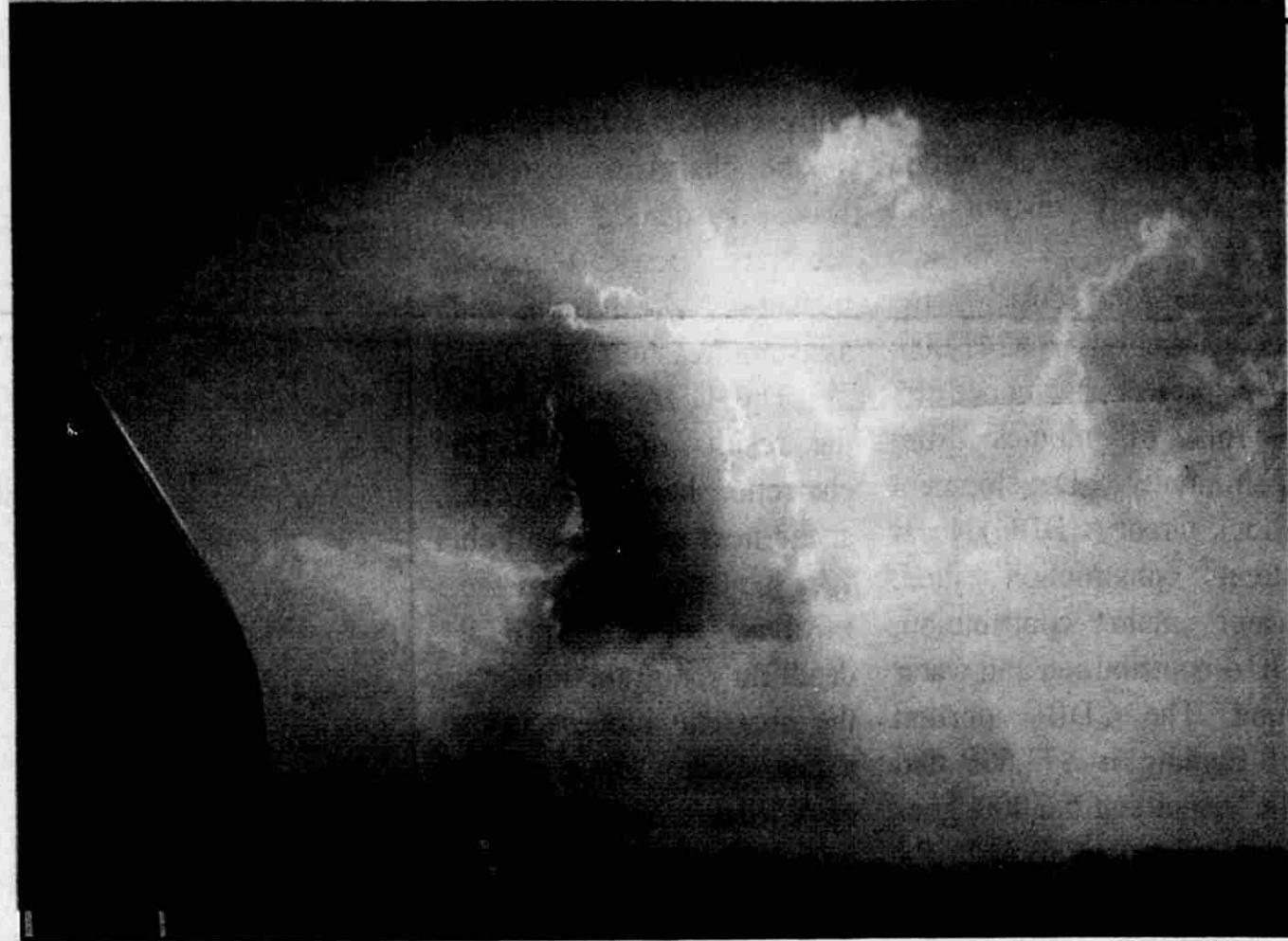
Congratulations to Our Hometown Calendar photo contest winners -

Each winner has been mailed a copy of our 2011 calendar. If you would like to purchase a calendar, please call The Ledger office, 616-897-9261. The cost is \$8.

Thanks again to all who submitted images to The Ledger



Submitted by Candice Bowne



Submitted by Jamie Allen and Susan Yunker



Submitted by Nancy Stroosnyder



Submitted by Robin Bower



Submitted by Patty Sellner



Submitted by Amanda Schrauber



By Brooke Johnson, Denver, CO. 1972 LHS graduate
Submitted by Janet Johnson



Submitted by Kathy Nosky

Photo contest winners, continued, on page 16

Art that Speaks exhibit says it out loud

by Emma Palova

Now, say it out loud. That is the catchline for the new art show at the Lowell Area Arts Council (LAAC) gallery.

The 'Art that Speaks' exhibit at the LAAC gallery explores individual artistic expressions.

Whether it is Austin Blough's untitled metal sculpture of an amputee or Ted Bergin's photograph of a doll in the backyard, the artwork speaks its own language.

"In our call for artists we didn't want to be too specific," said Casey Cornwell, new project director at the arts council. "We got exactly what we wanted."

The show is varied in both categories, adult and student. It includes words, images, markings, scratching, buttons and sculptures. Robert Penning created a mixed media piece titled 'Man Kite' and a tribute to a deceased student, 'Father's House.'

The colorful bench using papier maché and acrylics on a simple wood frame.

"The show has a wide range of interpretation of art," said Cornwell, "from traditional to experimental. It runs the gamut. It's a strong show."

Interesting is also the presentation of student art. Non-framed art is clipped on an orange snow fence. This gives the art another dimension and adds a deeper feeling.

Kathleen Mooney's piece 'Blaze on Every Hill' speaks about the unmasking of sorrow in order to discover joy.

Another exciting piece is 'Vanity Fair' by Angela Cole. It is a crown made of bronze, silver and nickel, painted with oils and acrylics. Artist Christine Parker created 'This Thing Called Love.'

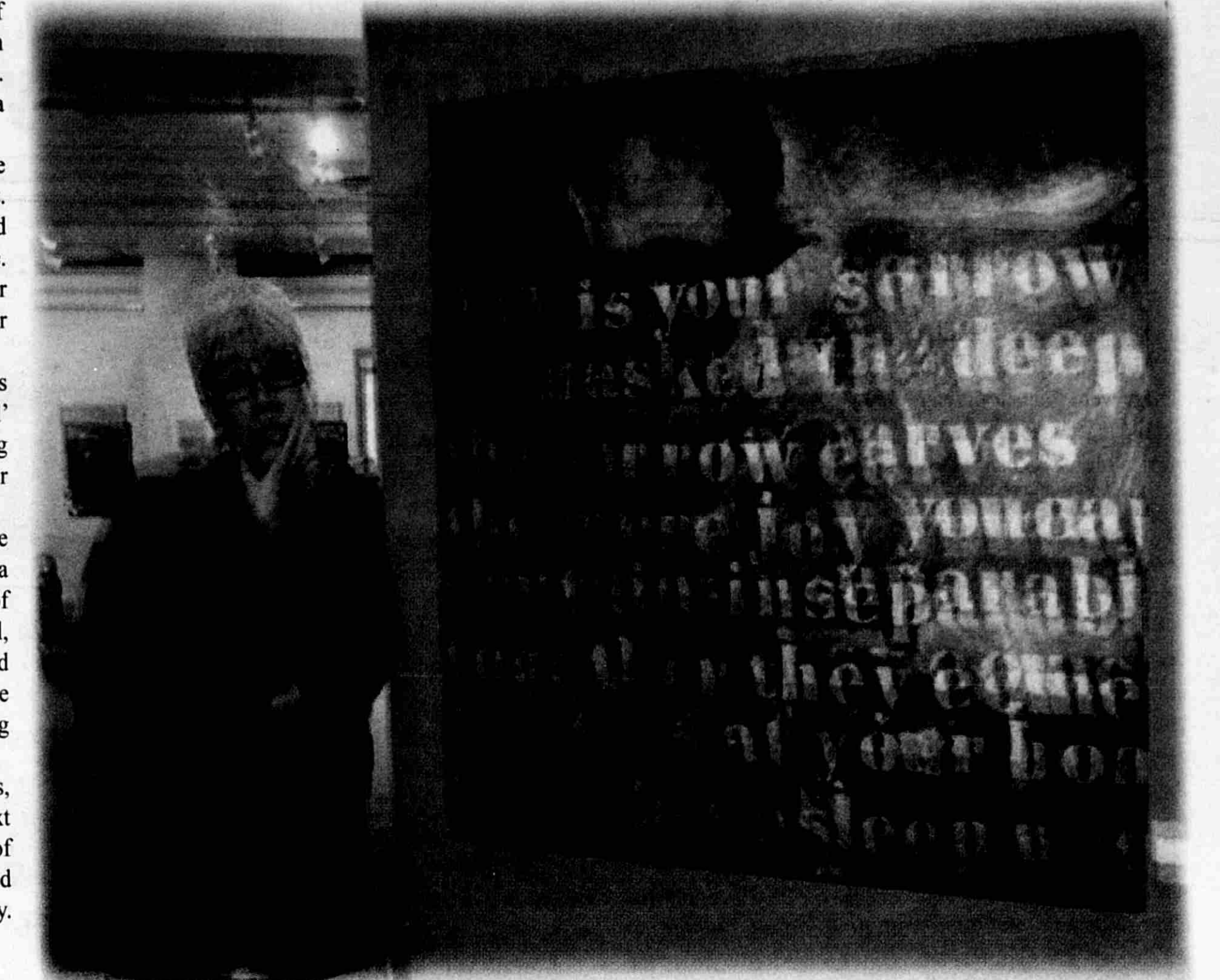
"Artists use marks, signs, symbols and text to bring another level of meaning to their work," said artist Kathleen Mooney.

"Sometimes they are inspired by the words of others, songs, poetry or their own words. Words can be emotional,

thoughtful, powerful and personal, bringing the viewer deeper into the art. Simple marks may hold volumes

of meaning and delicate communication." The show runs through Feb. 2 followed by the

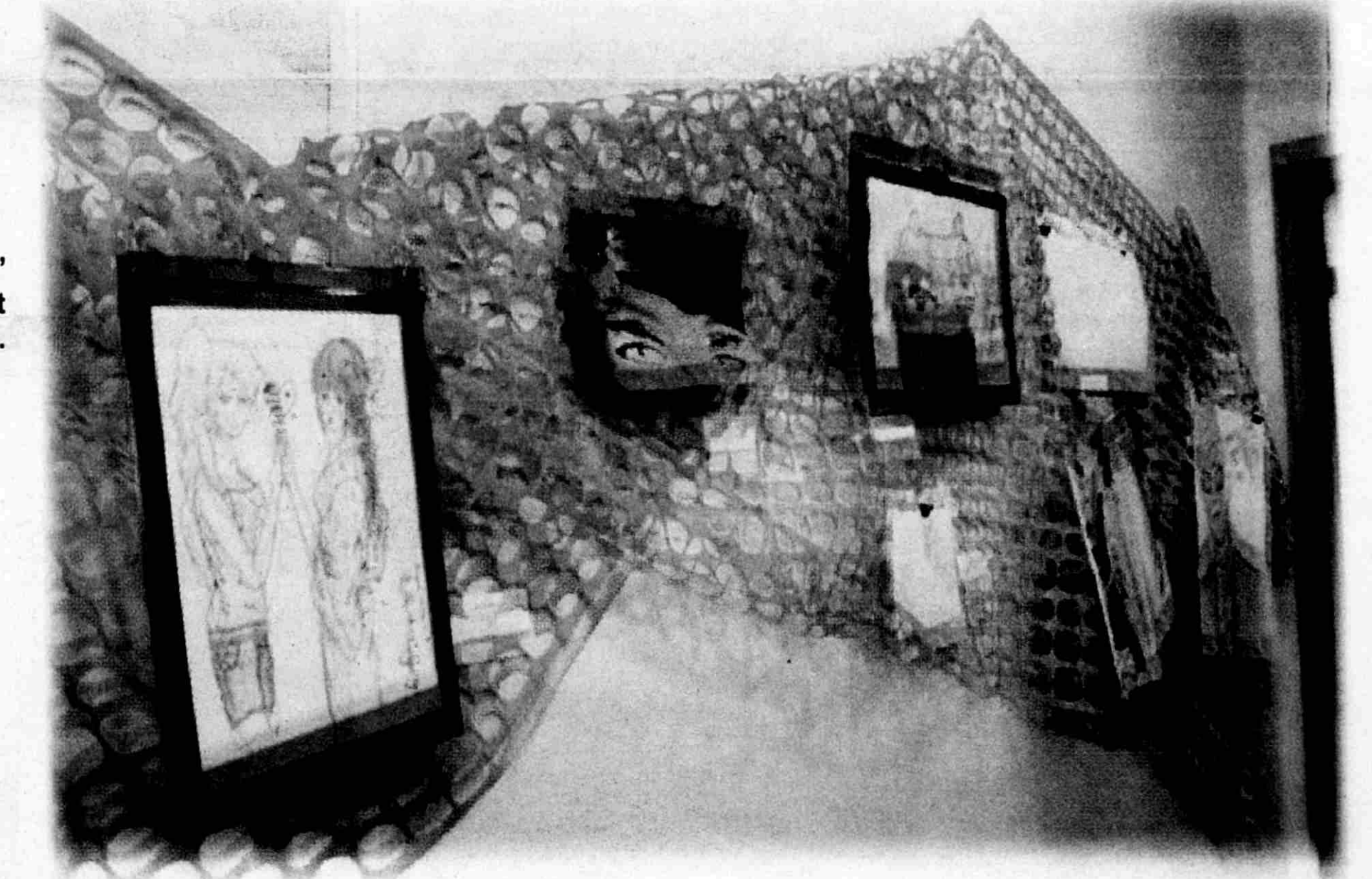
West Michigan Regional Art Competition with juror Joseph Antenucci Becherer.



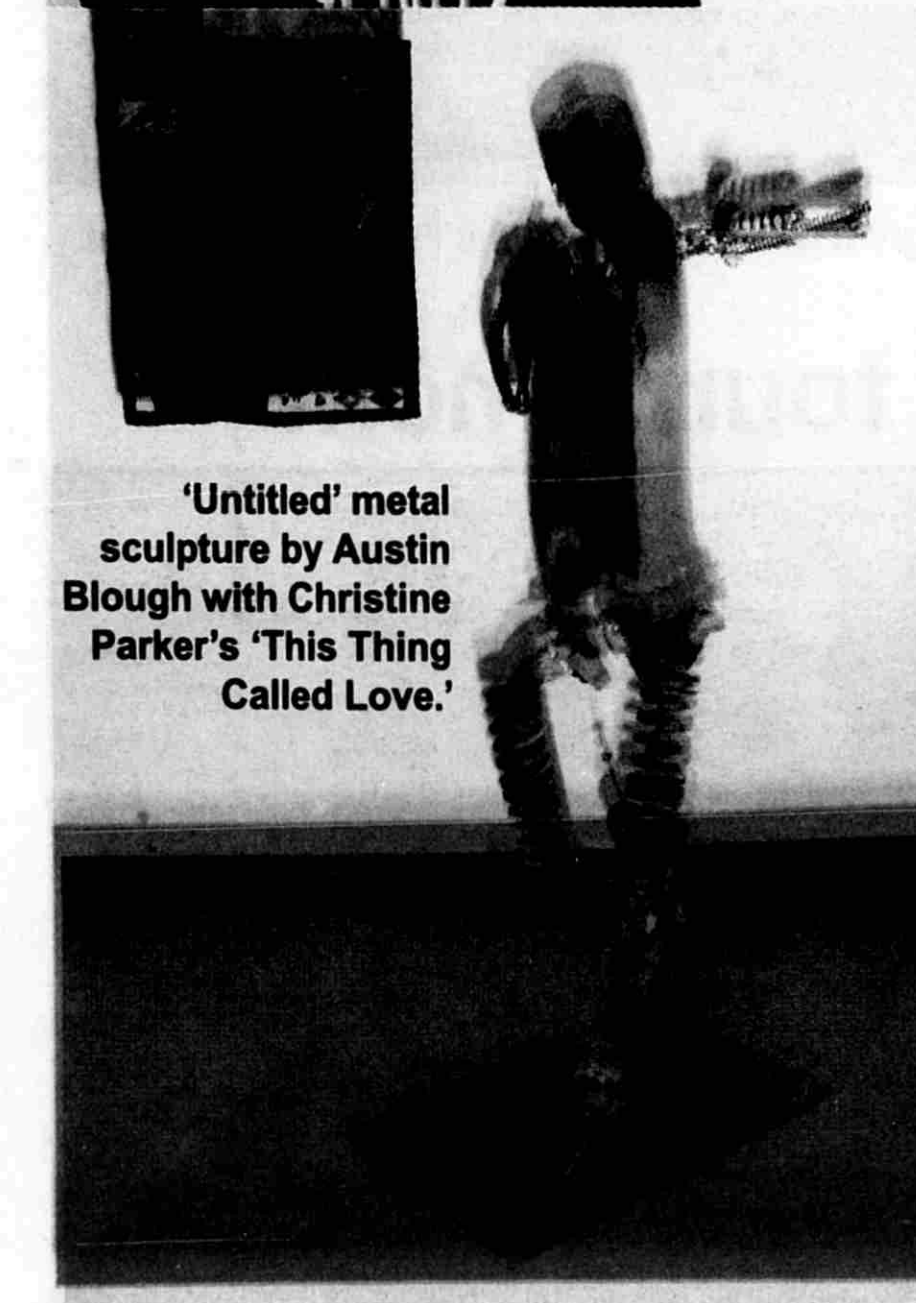
Kasey Cornwell, the new project director with Kathleen Mooney's artwork.



'Man Kite' by Robert Penning.



Interesting presentation of student artwork on an orange snow fence.



'Untitled' metal sculpture by Austin Blough with Christine Parker's 'This Thing Called Love.'

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Red Arrow SPORTS

- WRESTLING

Red Arrows come out on top at Gary Rivers Memorial

submitted by Nancy Dood

The Red Arrow wrestlers were crowned champs of the Gary Rivers Memorial wrestling tournament on Saturday at Lowell High School. There were four - four team pools that wrestled round robin, 14 teams in all. Pool champions then wrestled in the championship semifinals and if they won, they moved to the finals.

The day started off well for the Red Arrows as they defeated a tough Byron Center squad 48-18 and then went on to beat Fremont 42-19 to win their pool. By winning their pool the Lowell team wrestled their way to the championship semifinals taking on the Eagles of Hudsonville. Lowell got big wins from senior Wade Schlosser at 171 lbs., senior Jake Lynema at 285 and an exciting overtime pin from freshman Kanon Dean

at 135. Lowell upended Hudsonville 49-15, moving them to the championship match to face a very tough Hartland team that is ranked number four in Division I. Lowell is ranked third in Division II.

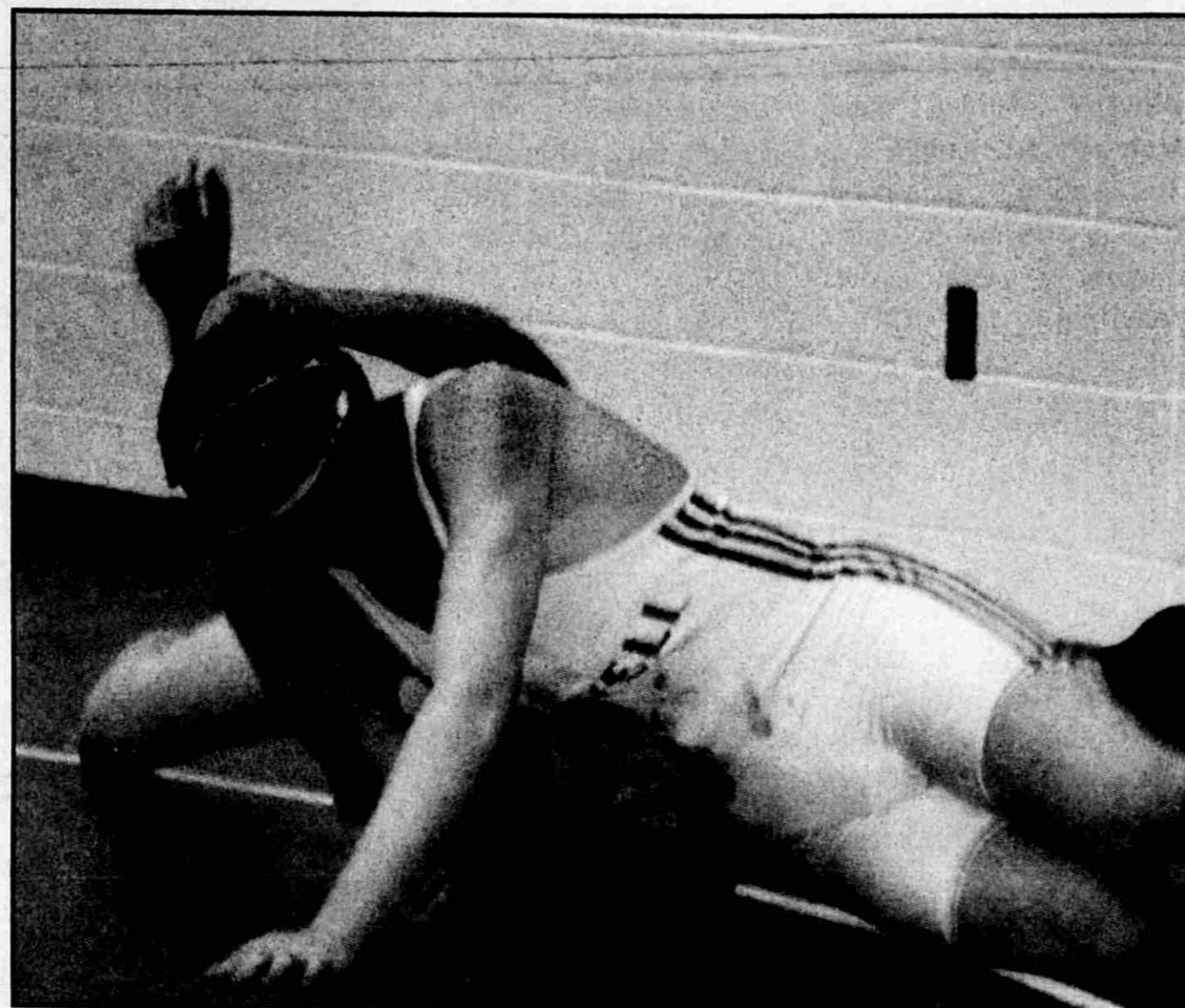
Senior Dan Fleet started Lowell off, at 152 lbs., with an impressive 8-2 win over number one ranked John Julien. Lowell then received wins from junior Jake Stehley at 160, Wade Schlosser, 171, and junior Gabe Dean at 189 for a 14-0 lead. Lowell freshman Bailey Jack at 103 lbs. and junior Calvin Meyer at 125 lbs. came away with come from behind wins to help secure the 33-19 victory for the Red Arrows. Leading the way for the Red Arrows for the day were juniors, Gabe Dean, Gabe Morse, Andrew Morse; seniors Dan Fleet and Jake Lynema; all going undefeated. Freshmen,

Garrett Stehley, Bailey Jack; and senior, Zach Jeffries, Calvin Meyer, Wade Schlosser; were 3-1.

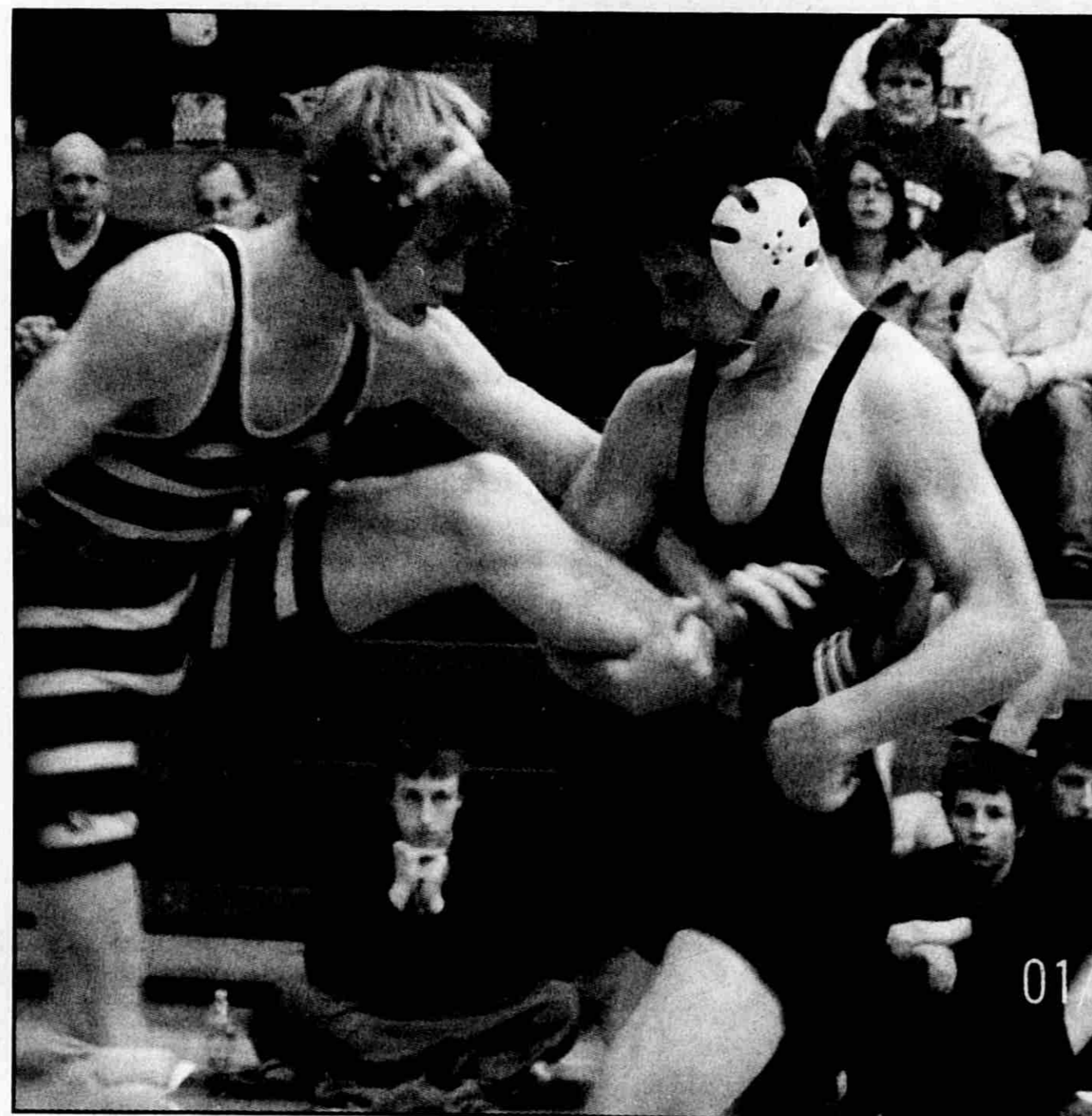
Stevensville Lakeshore beat Hudsonville 49-18 to take third place.

The Varsity White team also participated in the Rivers Memorial tournament going 1-3 on the day. They beat Sturgis 38-38 and won on a tiebreaker, most pins. They lost to tough Allendale, Hudsonville and Byron Center teams. The Varsity White team was led by junior Luke Stephens at 285 lbs., who was undefeated for the day. Freshman Garrett White at 103 lbs. and senior Nick McKay at 215 lbs. went 3-1 on the day.

Lowell will host East Grand Rapids this coming Wednesday starting at 6 p.m. and then travel to Mason, Ohio on Saturday for a tournament.



Jacob Sweet, Varsity White team, tries for the pin against Sturgis.



Kanon Dean tries a single leg take down on his Fremont opponent.



Gabe Morse works to break down his opponent.

Lowell youth wrestlers sweep Olivet tournament

The Lowell Middle School and elementary wrestling teams both came out on top at the MYWA Olivet Regional qualifier on Sunday, January 16. The middle school team defeated Davison, Eaton Rapids, Laingsburg and Lawton by respective scores of 36-27, 40-30, 49-16 and 41-29. The elementary team, even though they lost to Dundee by a score of 28-29, was still able to gain a first place victory. Due to Dundee's loss to Davison, who Lowell defeated 42-23, it came down to point criteria. This put Lowell over Dundee by a score of 70 points to 60 points, putting Lowell in first place.



Red Arrow SPORTS

- Hockey

Lowell/Cal hockey on a winning streak in 2011

The holiday break was just the thing the Lowell/Caledonia varsity hockey team needed, at least that's what it's looking like.

Lowell/Cal is 3-0 for the month of January and scored a pair of O-K conference victories to improve to 3-0 in the league.

Lowell/Cal topped the Grand Rapids Public Schools' team 12-0 Wednesday after returning from break with a 3-2 win over Wayland Friday.

In between those league two contests, Lowell/Cal topped Portage Northern 4-3 in overtime.

"My hope when scheduling for this season was to allow us to play tougher competition in the

beginning of the season to prepare us for the league games during the second half," said Lowell/Cal head coach Tim Beurer.

There were 15 games left on the Lowell/Cal schedule heading into last weekend, with 11 of them being O-K conference tier III contests.

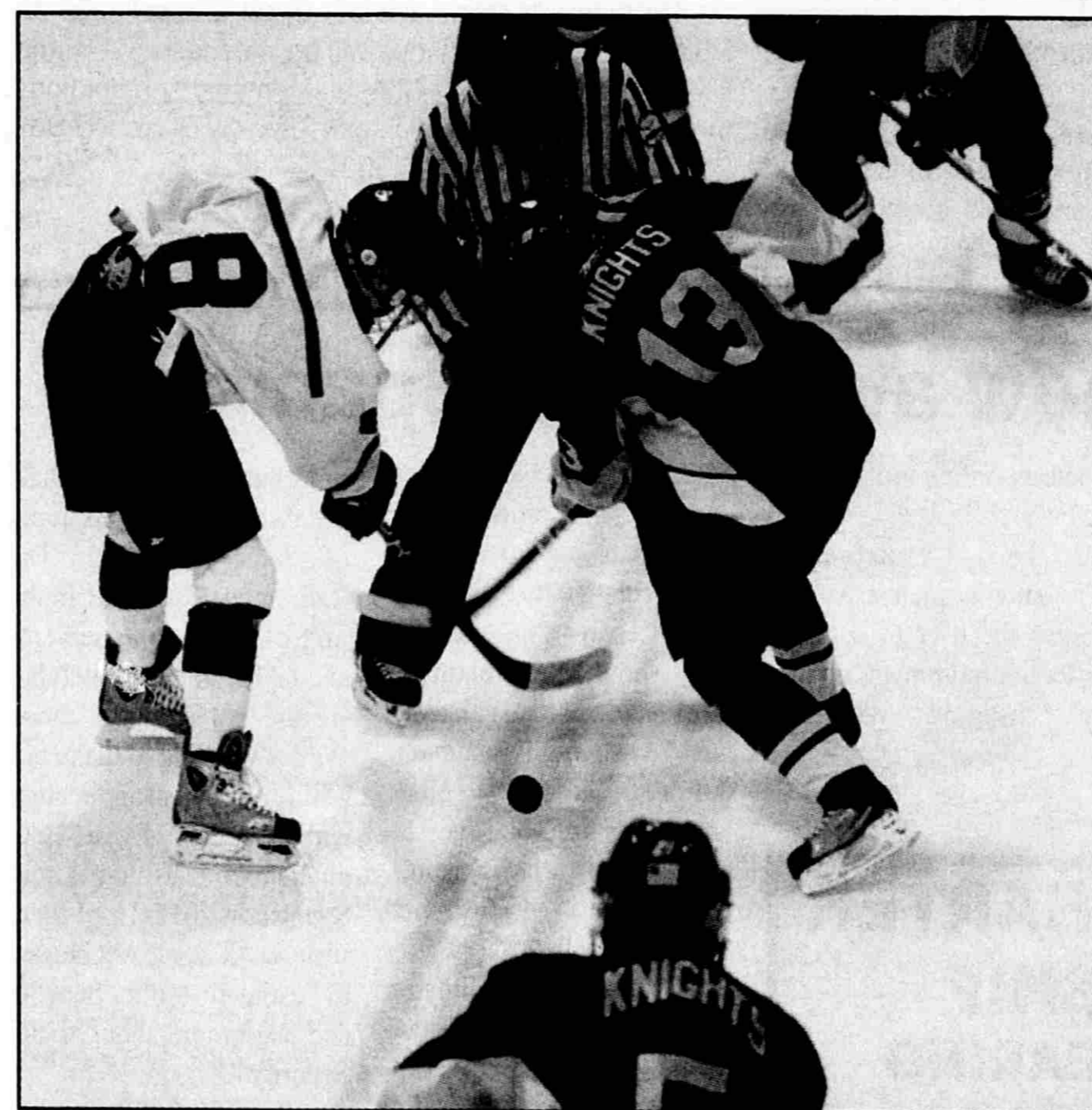
The Lowell/Cal boys took on the Unity Knights Friday. The game was mercied at 10-2. They returned to action Saturday

against West Ottawa continuing their winning streak with a 6-3 victory.

This weekend, the Lowell/Cal boys face Northview twice, at East Kentwood Friday and Griff's Icehouse Saturday.



Pictures submitted by Dan Goggins



Lowell/Cal face off against the Knights

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LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY
MENU
Week of
Jan. 24, 2011

MON: Hamburger on bun (Danimals yogurt/American cheese & saltine crackers also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), tossed salad w/ romaine, orange smiles, milk.

TUES: Egg, cheese & sausage on English muffin (quesadilla w/salsa also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), fresh coleslaw, fruit goop w/vanilla pudding, milk.

WED: Baked chicken nuggets w/wheat dinner roll (Jr. turkey & cheese sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes/butter, peaches, milk.

THURS: Pizza Dippers w/ marinara dipping sauce (3 meat sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), tossed salad w/romaine, fruited gelatin salad, milk.

FRI: Grilled cheese sandwich (Rib BQ on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), tomato soup w/ crackers, fresh mini carrots, applesauce, milk.

LHS BOWLING SCORES

Submitted by Eva Geldersma

BOYS	
LOWELL	16
Reeths Puffer	14
GIRLS	
LOWELL	30
Reeths Puffer	0

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2010 WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game at High School Main Gym

1/21	7:45 p.m.	Northview*
1/28	7:45 p.m.	at Creston
2/1	7:45 p.m.	at Greenville
2/4	7:45 p.m.	GR Christian*
2/8	7:30 p.m.	at Reeths Puffer
2/11	7:45 p.m.	East Grand Rapids*
2/15	7:30 p.m.	Mona Shores*
2/18	7:45 p.m.	at Northview
2/22	7:30 p.m.	Holland*
2/25	7:45 p.m.	Greenville*
3/15	7 p.m.	Class C Quarterfinal*

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game at High School Main Gym

1/21	6 p.m.	Northview*
1/28	6 p.m.	at Creston
2/1	6 p.m.	at Greenville
2/4	6 p.m.	GR Christian*
2/8	7:30 p.m.	Reeths Puffer*
2/11	6 p.m.	East Grand Rapids*
2/15	7:30 p.m.	at Mona Shores
2/18	6 p.m.	at Northview
2/22	7:30 p.m.	at Holland
2/25	6 p.m.	Greenville*
3/1	7:30 p.m.	at Thornapple Kellogg
3/3	7:30 p.m.	Forest Hills Eastern*

GIRLS VARSITY GYMNASTICS

* Denotes a home meet in Auxiliary Gym

1/19	7 p.m.	Rockford*
1/22	10 a.m.	Lowell Invitational*

1/26	7 p.m.	East Kentwood*
1/29	10 a.m.	Kenowa Hills Invitational
2/2	7 p.m.	at Kenowa Hills/Mona Shores/E. Kentwood
2/9	7 p.m.	at Kenowa Hills
2/19	TBA	Conference at Mona Shores

VARSITY CHEERLEADING

* Denotes a home meet in the High School Main Gym

1/8	1 p.m.	Cedar Springs Invitational
1/15	TBA	Hastings Invitational
1/26	6:30 p.m.	at GR Christian

2/2	6:30 p.m.	at Kenowa Hills
2/5	10 a.m.	Kenowa Hills Invitational
2/9	6:30 p.m.	White/Black Meet*
2/12	10 a.m.	Conference at Mona Shores

BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING

* Denotes a home meet at High School Gym

** Denotes a home meet at Middle School Gym

1/19	7 p.m.	East Grand Rapids**
1/22	9:30 a.m.	Mason, OH Tournament

1/26	7 p.m.	at Northview
2/2	7 p.m.	Greenville*
2/5	TBA	Conference at GR Christian

BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

* Denotes a home meet at Kentwood Ice Arena

1/21	8:30 p.m.	Northview*
1/22	5 p.m.	at Northview
1/28	9 p.m.	Wayland at Patterson Ice Arena
1/29	6 p.m.	at GR Christian

2/2	8 p.m.	at West Ottawa
2/11	8:30 p.m.	South Christian*
2/12	4 p.m.	Kalamazoo Blades*
2/18	8:30 p.m.	at South Christian
2/19	6 p.m.	at Jenison
2/25	8:30 p.m.	Northwest Warriors*

GIRLS VARSITY BOWLING

* Denotes a home meet at Lowell Lanes

1/22	9 a.m.	Union Tournament
1/24	3:30 p.m.	Northview*
1/26	3:30 p.m.	East Grand Rapids*
1/28	3:30 p.m.	at Forest Hills Central
1/31	3:30 p.m.	at Mona Shores
2/2	3:30 p.m.	Creston*
2/4	3:30 p.m.	GR Christian*
2/9	3:30 p.m.	at Northview
2/14	3:30 p.m.	at East Grand Rapids
2/16	3:30 p.m.	at Creston
2/19	9 a.m.	Conference at GR Christian

BOYS VARSITY BOWLING

* Denotes a home meet at Lowell Lanes

1/22	9 a.m.	Union Tournament
1/24	3:30 p.m.	Northview*
1/26	3:30 p.m.	East Grand Rapids*
1/28	3:30 p.m.	at Forest Hills Central
1/31	3:30 p.m.	at Mona Shores
2/2	3:30 p.m.	Creston*
2/4	3:30 p.m.	GR Christian*
2/9	3:30 p.m.	at Northview
2/14	3:30 p.m.	at East Grand Rapids
2/16	3:30 p.m.	at Creston
2/19	9 a.m.	Conference at GR Christian

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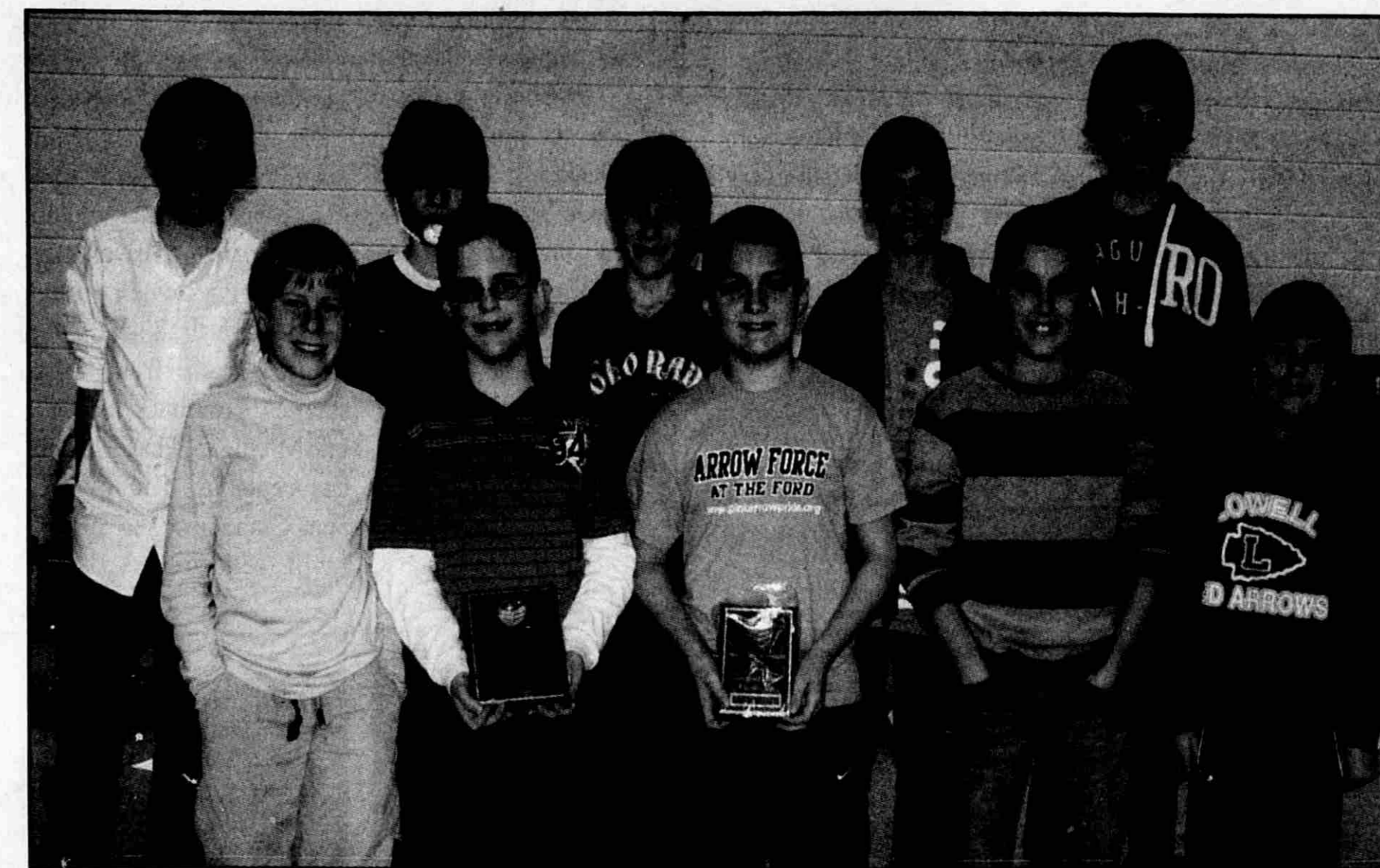


JANUARY 12 - JANUARY 18

- Apple's founder and CEO, Steve Jobs, has been granted a medical leave of absence by Apple's board of directors. COO Tim Cook will run the day-to-day operations for the company.
- In a symbolic gesture toward more civil political discourse, Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer and Republican Sen. Tom Coburn say they will sit together at the upcoming State of the Union address.
- Pope Benedict XVI approves a miracle attributed to his predecessor John Paul II. The Vatican announces that the Polish pope will be beatified on May 1. Beatification is a step towards sainthood and the ceremony is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of people to Rome.
- Borders on the brink: Michigan-based bookseller restructures for the times.
- A group of more than 100 scientists and experts say in a new report that California faces the risk of a massive "superstorm" that could flood a quarter of the state's homes. Researchers say that it will cause four or five times the amount of damage that could be wrought by a major earthquake.
- Regis Philbin, 80, will be retiring from his show, "Live With Regis and Kelly," which he has hosted for 28 years.

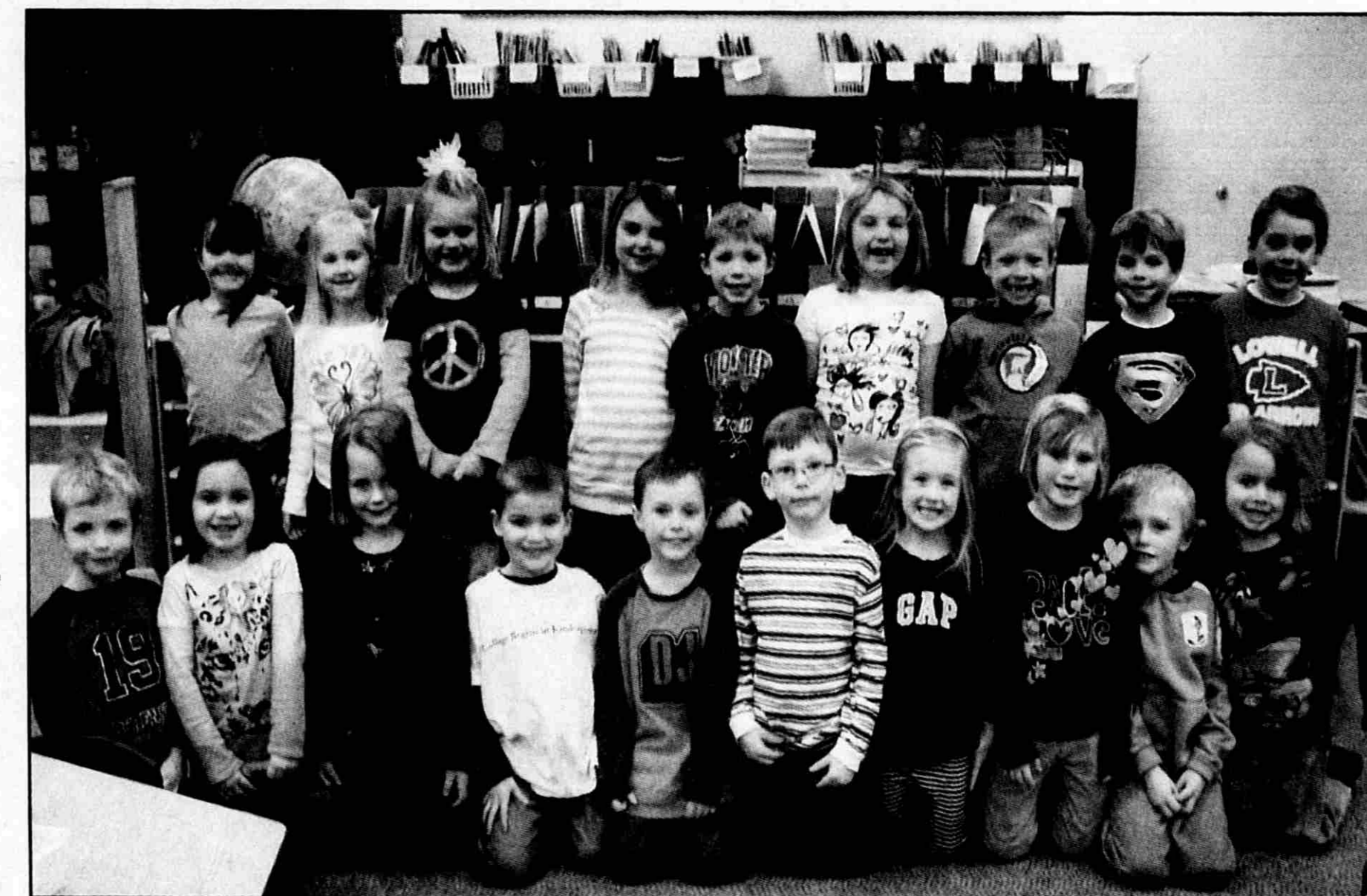
Geography Bee winners

Pictured are the Murray Lake Elementary School's top ten finishers in the annual National Geographic Bee. Over forty students participated in the preliminary bee. These ten advanced to the final school competition. After seven rounds, Connor DeKok and Garrett Pratt moved on to the championship round. DeKok nudged out Pratt by knowing that Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest peak in Tanzania. Both DeKok and Pratt received plaques for their efforts. DeKok will now take a written Geography Bee test to see if he qualifies for the State of Michigan Bee.



Pictured front row, left to right: Ryan Roest, Connor DeKok (winner), Garrett Pratt (runner-up), Eric Dimmick, and Ethan Kaminski; back row, left to right: Blake McVey, Christian Davis, Nathan Roest, Travis Cornell, and Sam Hoffman.

Elementary students Character in Action winners



The Murray Lake Elementary's Character in Action winners for the month of December are pictured above. December's trait was caring and these students were recognized by students and staff members for putting this trait into action on a daily basis.

last week's poll result:

Sound Off

Should the government provide security for members of Congress?

Yes50%
No50%

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This week's poll question - **Is it time to revive the debate on gun control?**

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2011 BRIDE GUIDE

Historic 2006 trash agreement with Canada stops waste from being dumped in Michigan

Michigan will no longer be a dumping ground for Ontario's city waste, thanks to the agreement negotiated four years ago by U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Carl Levin (D-MI). Ontario's Minister of Environment announced that Ontario has officially met the terms of their agreement, stopping shipments of city waste

to Michigan as of Dec. 31, 2010. This agreement prevents more than 40,000 trash trucks hauling city waste from entering the state, stopping 1.5 million tons of city waste that otherwise would have been dumped in Michigan every year.

"This is a great victory for Michigan in the fight against Canadian trash,"

said Senator Stabenow. "This trash poses serious health, safety, and security threats to Michigan families and our communities. Since Toronto announced that it would begin sending its trash to our state in 2003, Senator Levin and I have made stopping these garbage imports a top priority. There is still more work to be done, but today's

announcement is a major milestone in the fight to stop Canadian trash."

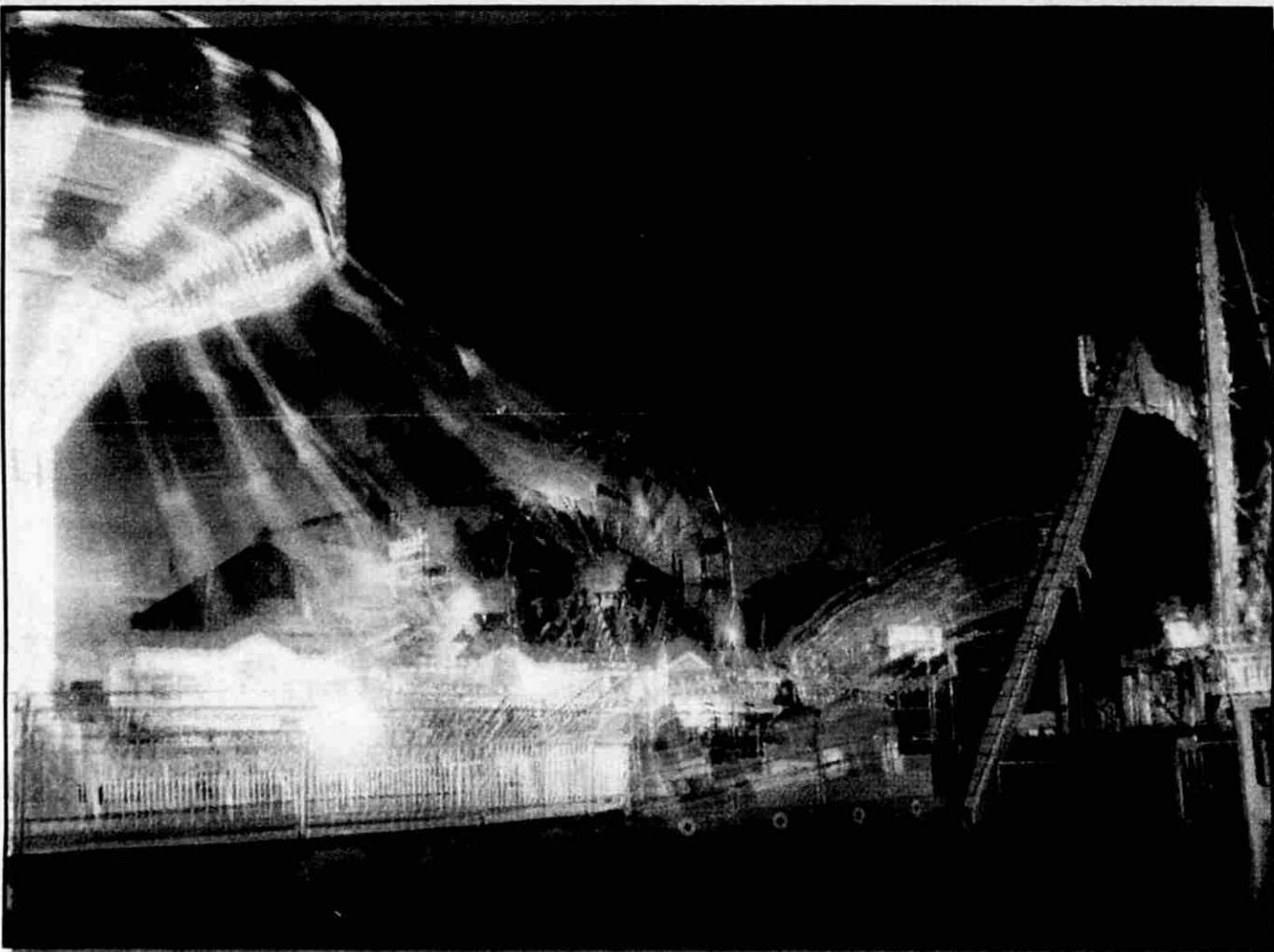
"This is an important achievement in an ongoing effort to limit and eventually eliminate all Canadian trash shipments into our state," Senator Levin said. "However, non-municipally managed trash that can come from private companies, from construction and industry, and from other sources, continues to come into Michigan. That is simply unacceptable. Along with Sen. Stabenow and others, I will work to gain passage

of legislation that would address the non-municipally managed Canadian trash shipments into Michigan. I also encourage state and local officials to consider their own steps to end these shipments."

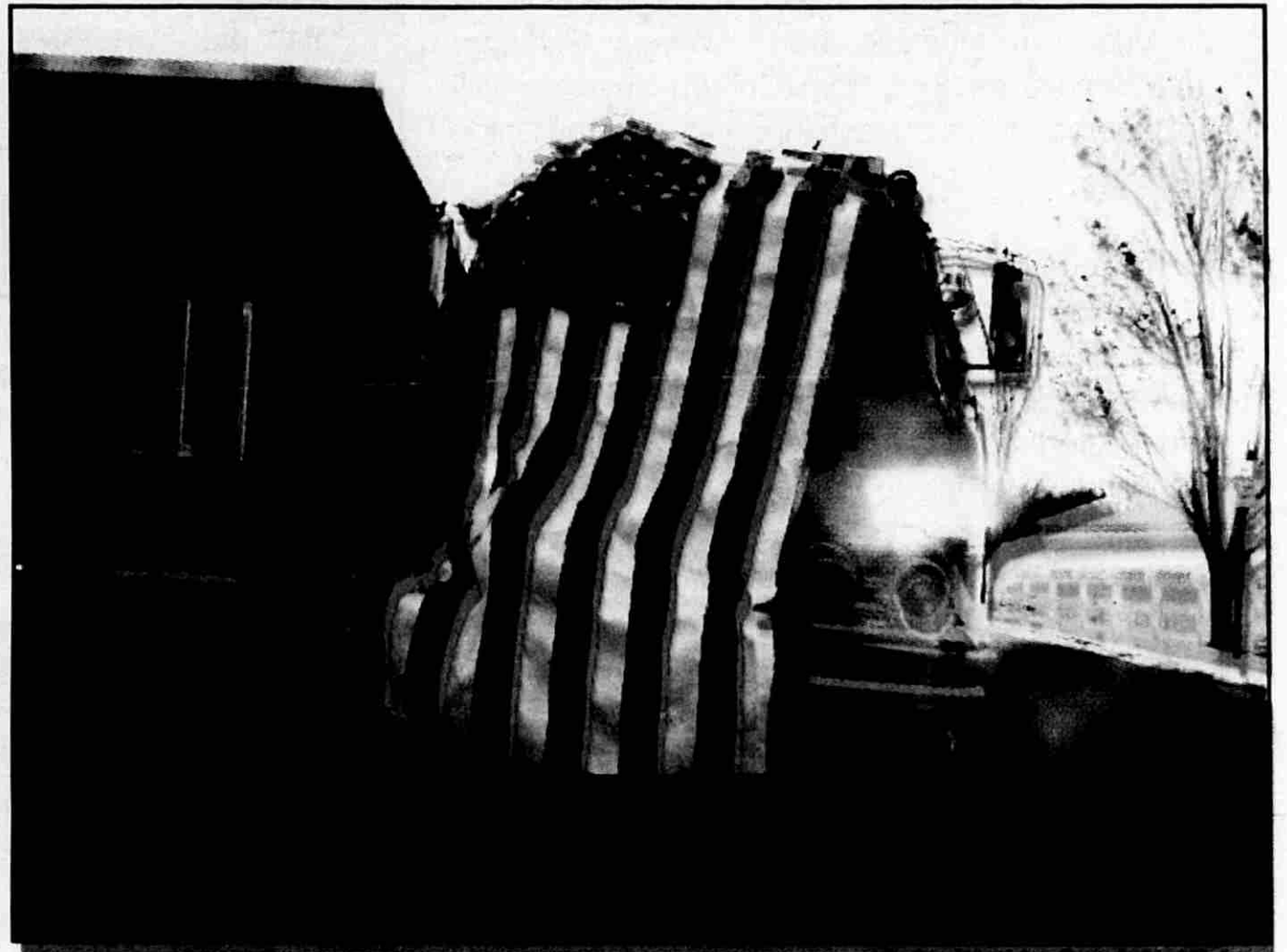
The Stabenow-Levin agreement, negotiated with Ontario's Minister of the Environment in 2006, called for the phase out and elimination of city waste shipments by the end of 2010. Senators Stabenow and Levin had been working with officials to meet the terms of the agreement. In

addition to confirmation from Ontario's Minister of Environment, the Senators received letters from the four major Toronto-area municipalities confirming that their waste shipments to Michigan have stopped. Instead of shipping city waste to Michigan, these municipalities are utilizing new landfill capacity in Ontario and other waste management alternatives including diversion and waste-to-energy facilities.

Photo contest winners, continued



Submitted by Bruce T. Doll



Submitted by Sarah N. Nielsen



Submitted by Amie Daigneault



Submitted by Neil Kirby



Submitted Jeanne Vandersloot

bloom where you're planted

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