



**AVES THEATRE CONTINUES** to be commended for excellence. Cappie nominations totaled to 19 and two were won on May 19. See **page 26** for more.

# the leaf

WEDNESDAY May 28, 2008 | Volume LV Issue IX | 7400 Cornell Road | Cincinnati, OH 45242 | (513) 686-1770 ext. 3089 | www.goaves.org

**ONCE, GIRLS LACROSSE** dominated the region. Now, they must recover from a blow to their undefeated record, and rebuild the success and pride that filled the team and school. See **page 17** for more.



## newsbriefs

**Science Bowl at national's**  
The team competed on the national level at Washington D.C. with 67 other teams. "Science Bowl National's is ridiculously insane," said **Lizzy Wei**, 12.

**Regional Envirothon**  
In a national competition held on May 6, nine students competed to prove their environmental awareness: **Becca Muskat**, 11, **Tom Seiple**, 11, **Rohan Choudhary**, 12, **Gracia Ng**, 10, **Sukhada Kulkarni**, 10, **Meg Simon**, 11, **Evan Lind**, 11, **Jing Xing**, 10, **Jackie Miranda-Klein**, 10. Choudhary, Lind, Ng, and Seiple placed first in Hamilton County.

**Dara Lind, '05 on Jeopardy**  
Who is Victor Hugo? Who is Voltaire? On Wednesday, May 7, Lind competed as a junior at Yale on the prime time trivia game show.

**Parking passes**  
To find the forms for junior and senior parking passes for next year, visit the front office. The applications are not to be turned in before Friday, May 29 and the spots will not be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

**Graduation, Senior awards**  
This year's graduation will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 1 at the Cintas Center of Xavier University. Graduation follows Senior Recognition Night, the awards ceremony for seniors on May 29 in the auditorium.

**Summer school**  
Students can register and pay online at Parent Portal, under Parent Links. The deadline for taking original classes is June 5, for repeat classes, begin registering June 13. Final assignments are based on a first come, first serve basis. If not enough students register for a class, it may be cancelled altogether.

**Softball commitments**  
Three seniors have signed: **Kelly Cassidy** at Northern Kentucky University, **Lauren Lynn** at Denison University, and **Aly Mazzei** at Muskingum College.

**Final exam schedule**  
Visit [www.goaves.org](http://www.goaves.org) for the final exam schedule.



**ASSEMBLING CARE PACKAGES** for UNIFAT students, **Denis Okema**, **Meghan Marth**, 10, and Mrs. **Mary Palmer** gather school supplies, books, pictures, and letters to be brought back to the school with Okema. The club is currently organizing another drive, given the recent surge in sponsorships throughout the school community. The club now provides support for the education of 47 children, and still hopes to add to that number.

photo courtesy of megan taylor

## Unified for UNIFAT: Community raises more support for 'invisible children' of Ugandan school

**DAPHNEHSU**  
—associate editor

**M**rs. **Jennifer Ulland** and Mr. **Greg Ulland's** Calculus classes squared off in a competition to sell the most baked goods. Mrs. **Christine Allen** shaved her head to the delight (and horror) of many. But for what purpose? These students and teachers, along with countless others, have helped this school's chapter of Unified for UNIFAT to increase the number of Ugandan children it sponsors to 47 students.

Before the Cincinnati-based organization's overnight and UNIFAT's ambassador **Denis Okema's** February assembly, the SHS chapter sponsored 30 kids to go to the UNIFAT school in Uganda with the funds raised during the 2006-2007 school year.

But with the support of students and teachers (Allen kept her promise to go bald after her five English classes raised enough money to sponsor one child

each), individuals, and local families, the club has been able to sponsor 17 more students.

"Both [of the Ullands' Calculus] classes got really competitive (and even borderline ruthless), but in the end we all just wanted to help sponsor a child," said **Abby Evans**, 11.

### Inside this organization, movement

UNIFAT, or the Upper Nile Institute for Appropriate Technology, is a primary school in Gulu, Uganda. It was founded by **Abitimo Odongkara**, who initially taught five students in the shade of a tree. UNIFAT has since grown to include 1,500 students who attend school in two temporary buildings.

UNIFAT is, in part, supported by Unified for UNIFAT, an organization of

**>> UNIFIED FOR UNIFAT: PAGE 2**

"There will be some form of the help center available... whether it is for one bell or seven..."

## Help Center teacher's retirement raises questions, concern

**RASHMIBORAH**  
—business manager

Math can be difficult. But students struggling with a topic -any topic- could always visit Mrs. **Ann Kuess** or another math teacher in the IMC's Help Center.

"Without the help center, I would really be [struggling] in math, especially for calculus next year," said **Deepthi Nalluri**, 11.

But with Kuess retiring, what will happen? Recently, it was announced that she would not be replaced.

For students, this poses certain concerns and questions in terms of

how the help center will run next year, if at all. Given the complexity of topics covered in high school math, many students would be lost without somewhere to turn to for help.

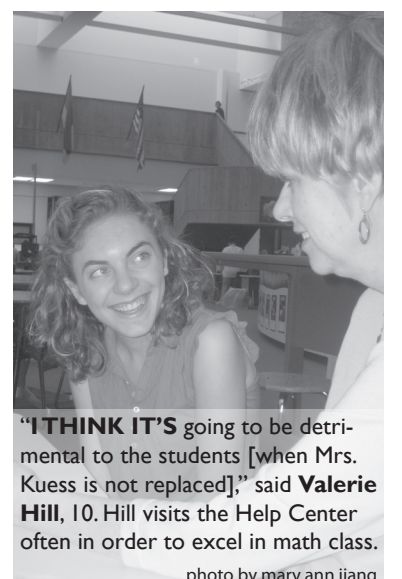
"I've met with the administration to make sure we are providing math help next year for students who need it," said Dr. **Keith Brackenridge**.

"Teachers will have to take more responsibility for their students. There will be some form of the help center available... whether it is for one bell or seven, we don't know,"

said Mr. **Chris Davis**.

As for the English Help Center, there have been concerns about how it would be affected if the math Help Center's activity or availability declined. As of now, there has been no extensive discussion about its future.

"We're trying to utilize other options, such as something similar to the Global Language Lunch-and-Learn, or help after school. But we won't be affected as much as the math department," said Ms. **Melissa Wolfe**.



"I THINK IT'S going to be detrimental to the students [when Mrs. Kuess is not replaced]," said **Valerie Hill**, 10. Hill visits the Help Center often in order to excel in math class.

photo by mary ann jiang

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## Teachers report vandalism spree Technology damaged, missing; cost to school rising

**WILLJOHNSTON**  
—associate editor

Computers, white boards, and projectors; each is a tool used to enhance the learning process, and each is among the items that have been found to be damaged within the school recently.

Over the course of the last month, a growing number of technological objects have been discovered vandalized in the absence of faculty. As opposed to outright theft, these items appear to have been the victims of minor physical damage.

For example, a number of computers have been found with the rubber bands within the hard drive severed, making features like the disk drive void.

"It is unfortunate that a few students are taking

it upon themselves to impact the whole student body," said Mr. **Chris Davis**. "This is a situation where one individual's actions can negatively affect a large number of students."

The issue was first raised when a number of teachers approached the administration with concerns regarding damaged or missing technology. In response, the administration immediately made all teachers aware of the situation.

Altogether, these incidents have cost the school approximately \$2000 dollars in the last month.

"I was surprised. I think that sometimes teenagers tend to think more in the short term as op-

posed to the long term, in this situation meaning that the damage ends up costing the community more money for repairs and new computers. I also expected more of Sycamore students than that," said Mr. **Greg Cole**.

Teachers have been advised to lock their doors when leaving their rooms, as times when they are typically gone, like lunch and after school, are suspected to be the common hours of vandalism.

"To anyone who knows who is doing this, I would certainly appreciate an anonymous tip," said Davis. "I would also be happy to reward anyone who does so."

10 local school chapters started by students from Moeller High School. For every \$300 each chapter raises, one child is able to attend UNIFAT for a school year. The money pays for a uniform, shoes, a meal a day, textbooks, and medical attention.

"What the sponsorship program does is help pay for the tuition of children who otherwise could not [afford it]. Abitimo's heart is so big that she never wants to turn away a student. However, when she lets a child in that cannot pay, it makes it harder for the school to cooperate," said president and founder of the SHS chapter, **Meghan Marth**, 10. "So, with Cincinnati Unified for UNIFAT helping out, it takes away about \$40,000 a year of money they otherwise wouldn't get."

In addition to the valuable support of individual students, classes, and families, Unified for UNIFAT also raises money through bake sales, the annual overnight event designed to educate attendees about the situation in Uganda, and the admission-free benefit concert.

What makes Unified for UNIFAT unique is the fact that the organization has direct contact with the school. And due to its volunteer organization nature, every penny raised goes to the school.

Because of this, the group is able develop relationships with the sponsored students. Throughout the school year, members have been writing letters to the children. In February, the group put together care packages of school supplies and books, and more packages are being created for the most recent sponsorships.

"We feel really connected to UNIFAT - whether through writing letters to students or by singing to raise awareness. I feel like I'm making a difference because we have such a close relationship with the school," said **Josh Goldman**, 10.

### Solidifying ties

Marth, her father **Tom Marth**, the moderator of Unified for UNIFAT **Connie Ring**, Friends of UNIFAT founder **Michael Zimmer**, junior at Moeller **Eric Werner** and his mother, senior at Moeller **Billy Yates**, freshman at Miami University **Will Tardio** and his father, and teacher at Moeller **Paul Kindt** will visit UNIFAT over the summer.

"With all of the excitement and support, Michael Zimmer, Jill Zimmer (Michael's wife), Abitimo, and I decided that it was time for some of our most committed students to visit the school and really see what their hard work and dedication is doing for the kids at UNIFAT," said Ring.

Leaving on Wednesday, June 18 and returning on Monday, June 30, the group will stay at a hotel within walking distance of the school. During UNIFAT's school day, Marth and her companions will meet all the kids Unified for UNIFAT sponsors and help teach classes.

Marth will bring over more care packages, with materials collected in a box at the front office, and letters as well as pre-treated mosquito nets to protect the students from malaria. The group also plans to install windows and doors in the currently window- and door-less buildings.

"We are hoping to interview a lot of the kids that we are sponsoring and videotape a lot, too, so when we come back we can show everyone what it is like there," said Marth.

For more information on how to sponsor a child and to meet the students of UNIFAT, visit the group's web site at [www.unifiedforunifat.com](http://www.unifiedforunifat.com) or contact Marth at [meghanmarth@aol.com](mailto:meghanmarth@aol.com).

## Preparation pays off: Dana Reinhart, 11, aces ACT

ELIZABETH HOOPES  
—staff writer



**REINHART, 11, PRACTICES** spinning her rifle for color guard. This extracurricular activity is just one of her many other interests. Just as she practices for color guard, Reinhart rigorously prepared for her ACT.

photo by daphne hsu

**D**ana Reinhart, 11, has pulled off a remarkable feat: getting a perfect score on the ACT. "When I first looked at my score report online, I thought that I was just looking at a standard scoring rubric," said Reinhart. "I was pretty shocked when I realized that I had actually gotten a 36."

Two months before the ACT exam, she bought a review book and began reviewing everyday. Two days before the test, she took full practice tests and placed herself in a testing atmosphere to make sure there were no interruptions.

She reviewed missed problems on these practice tests in order to minimize mistakes the following Saturday morning.

Reinhart also participates in numerous extracurricular activities, including Color Guard, Scrabble Club, Environmental Club, and Spanish Club.

She plans to study environmental science and engineering in college. Her dream school is the University of California Santa Barbara.

"More realistically, my future probably entails me attending college somewhere in the Midwest and then making my way to California for grad school," said Reinhart.

## 'We are creating Unity for UNIFAT'

Students fulfill promise to teacher, teacher fulfills promise to students



photo by michela tindera

**AS OF 3:15 PM**, Wednesday May 5, Mrs. **Christine Allen** had about 1/2 inches of hair left on her head. This was in response to a promise she made to her five classes that if they raised the \$300 per class to sponsor a child in Uganda for the Unified- for UNIFAT program she would shave her head. About 60 students gathered to see this event occur in the commons. Allen got the idea to shave her head from the various sports teams that dye their hair or shave their heads.

"It builds spirit and excitement for helping others," said Allen.

Currently she is sporting a dirty blonde wig similar to the hairstyle she had pre-buzz. As for the question of soap or shampoo-

"Soap, I'm going to save lots of money on shampoo and conditioner now," said Allen.

## This day in history

Ships are resurrected,  
monkeys are saved,  
British go swimming

LEAHBURGIN  
—feature chief

### 1742

The first indoor swimming pool opens in Goodman's Fields, London. Swimming would become more popular when swimming races were included in the Olympic Games.

### 1934

The Dionne Quintuplets (Annette, Cecile, Emelie, Marie, and Yvonne) were born today. They were the first documented case of surviving quintuplets.

### 1959

After several "space monkeys" were sacrificed for science during early space travel experiments, two monkeys, Able and Baker, were the first monkeys to be successfully retrieved from their space excursion.

### 1987

The *USS Monitor* was the first ironclad ship commissioned by the US government for use against the Confederacy during the Civil War. In an infamous battle against the Confederate ironclad ship, the *Monitor* was lost to the sea. On this day in history, 125 years later, a diving team discovered the sunken vessel.

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The Leaf would like to thank its benefactors for their continued support of the voice of Sycamore. Each month your contribution helps bring perspective and expression to the school and local community:

**Ed and Carol Rubeo**