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Puttin'-a-Round

President Steve Gibson and Placement Director Darryl Stack (pictured above with Mark V'Soske of Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce and Kevin Emahiser of Buckeye Telesystems) participate in the Buckeye Telesystem 2000 Golf Classic at Bedford Hills Golf Course, held on September 8th. The event was attended by over 145 customers, vendors and employees.

Dear Karen Fitzgerald,

We received our copy of the Stautzenberger Signal a few days ago and read it from cover to cover. Dedicating your first issue to me and the kind words about me made me very proud. Thank you.

The new format of the Signal is great, more of a magazine than a newsletter, and it is obvious that you and Ed Shimborske, as well as the many others that you enlisted, have worked very hard to get this issue to press. Congratulations!

This just proves that there was much latent creativity within the walls of Stautzenberger College that I had left untapped. I applaud your ability to recruit creative people with new ideas and computer graphics skills to bring the Signal to a new level. I am delighted to see that you have maintained and broadened the philosophy on which it was originally based; a wide range appeal - from marketing to current student interest.

From one perfectionist to another, you will probably never produce an issue with which you are completely satisfied; however, if you look back, your first attempt is much more developed than mine was. You have an excellent basis on which to build and your challenge is to maintain the momentum and keep the creativity surfacing.

I used to wonder how it would feel to watch others run with projects that used to be my own. Now I know. I take pride in having provided the springboard. You'll find me on the sidelines as the head cheerleader as you move into the twenty-first century.

Best wishes with the Stautzenberger Signal and with the overall success of Stautzenberger College. You are obviously dedicated and take pride in your work; you deserve the success.

Best regards,

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The Stautzenberger Signal

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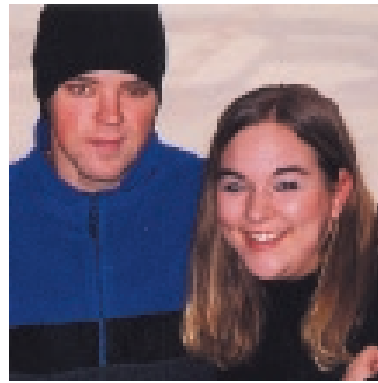
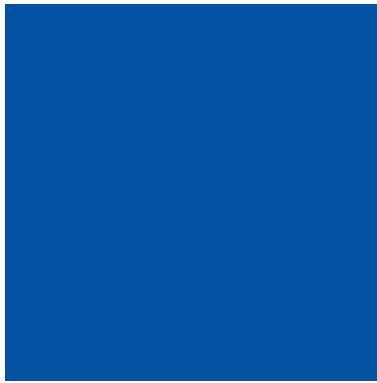
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SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES: A LOOK AT THE TOLEDO STORM



If you've attended a Toledo Storm game recently, you've probably noticed the countless new faces on the ice (figuratively speaking, of course)! The team only includes three returning players from last year. The rest are all newcomers, making the Storm one of the youngest teams in

the league. Regrettably, the season began a bit rocky, but, at the time of this writing, the Storm was starting to smooth things out by winning seven out of ten games. And while everyone involved certainly deserves credit, the main man responsible

for the improvement is head coach Dennis Holland.

Only a first-year head-coach, Holland has managed to put together an impressive hockey team, bringing youthful players to the scene while providing the Storm with new skills and even higher aspirations. And while that might sound "new school," Holland decided to keep several players from last year's roster to bring both knowledge and experience into the realm of the rookies. As a result, Holland now believes his players are motivated and ready to reach the next level.

To reach that next level, Holland and the team know they must improve defensively and strive toward better teamwork. "Because of the young players," Holland claims, "rookie mistakes are expected." Yet, despite some these inevitable flaws, Holland stresses, "They can beat anybody - it's just a matter of putting it together at the right time!"

The Storm continues to make every effort possible in attaining their goals. As a team, they strive to be more consistent from game to game, though individually, each hopes to be a better player by year's end.. Now, their biggest



goal is to make the playoffs, which Holland feels is a definite possibility.

With such vast talent, this team's future looks promising. Through their desire and motivation, the new Toledo Storm will accomplish any goal it sets. Dennis Holland and the roster of players have worked hard for continual improvement and will surely merit a play-off position!

The Toledo Storm hockey team holds the keys to a successful season, and we at Stautzenberger wish them then best of luck as they unlock the doors!

By Shelby Rhodes, Lindsey Korte and Sarah Maguire

STACK IN THE CORNER



HISTORY does repeat itself, just a little differently...

Stautzenberger's 75 years of training people to increase their skills has made an impact on so many lives. Past grads seeking new opportunities would peruse the classified section of the local newspaper, an employment agency, or our placement department, get an interview, land the job and live happily ever-after... YESTERDAY!!!

TODAY... 79% of all Fortune 500 companies are web site recruiters (up from 60% in 1999). Among corporations using web sites for recruiting roughly half use their site to

provide basic information and encourage candidates to apply through more traditional methods via mail and fax. The other half have more sophisticated recruiting sites that can receive and process resumes via the web.

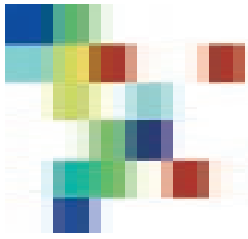
So, in today's job marketplace the only thing certain is change itself. No matter how much we would like things to remain the same, change is inevitable, and those who aren't afraid of change, yet realize the need for and anticipate change, are the ones who will continue to grow and prosper.

My toolbox today includes the following favorite web sties:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| www.techies.com | www.dice.com | www.jobs.com |
| www.kforce.com | www.monster.com | www.jobs.internet.com |
| www.careerjournal.com | www.ohioworks.com | www.hotjobs.com |

And remember: you still need a good resume with excellent interview skills. Graduates have lifetime help from our placement department.

The skills of today are the jobs of tomorrow... some things never change!
By Darryl Stack



Stautzenberger Profile:

Reach for the sky

Julie Miller, a 1999 graduate from Stautzenberger College, recently accepted a position with Purdue University. The new position will not only utilize her Bachelor's Degree in education, but also put to use her proficient training in Stautzenberger's Vet-Tech program. At Purdue, Julie will work as a technician in the school's small animal surgical center. She suspects the new job to be very rewarding, as she will finally have the opportunity to both teach and learn new things at the same time.

The main reason Julie has been given this opportunity is simply because she excels in whatever she puts her mind to. She believes in one rule: "You must love what you do."

Julie has always had a love for animals, making her an ideal educator to instruct up-and-coming vets and technicians. "Watching and aiding critical animals back to health is the most rewarding and satisfying experience you could ever have in this profession, states Julie, matter-of-factly, "It's the reason I chose this profession."

I asked Julie if she had any

advice to the students here at Stautzenberger currently enrolled in the Vet-Tech Program, to which she replied, "At Stautzenberger, you get a top notch education. The quality is not surpassed anywhere. You are really trained well in the basics and can either reach or surpass your goals — however, it's all up to the individual to do something with the knowledge they acquire. You can either go out there and make your dreams come true, or you go out there and make your dreams not come true. It's all up to you."

I felt very honored to speak with Julie because she's done something truly extraordinary with her life! Julie has obtained her goals through a firm dedication to what she loves. I intend on following in her footsteps!



By Kelly Hufford

...and many happy returns

If you've read the article right next to this one, then you already know that 1999 Stautzenberger graduate Julie Miller has accepted a teaching position at Purdue University and will be instructing University students as a Veterinary Technologist, teaching small animal surgery in the Department of Clinical Science.

I am particularly proud of Julie, as she was the very first student I ever enrolled at Stautzenberger College. That was four and a half years ago, when I initially accepted the role as admissions representative, so the fact that Julie called me as soon as she accepted the position was extremely gratifying. As admissions representatives at Stautzenberger College, we are truly interested in "our" students and the attainment of their goals — it's the greatest feeling and the best part of the job!

We congratulate Julie for her hard work and dedication in the Vet Tech Program and are equally proud of our many

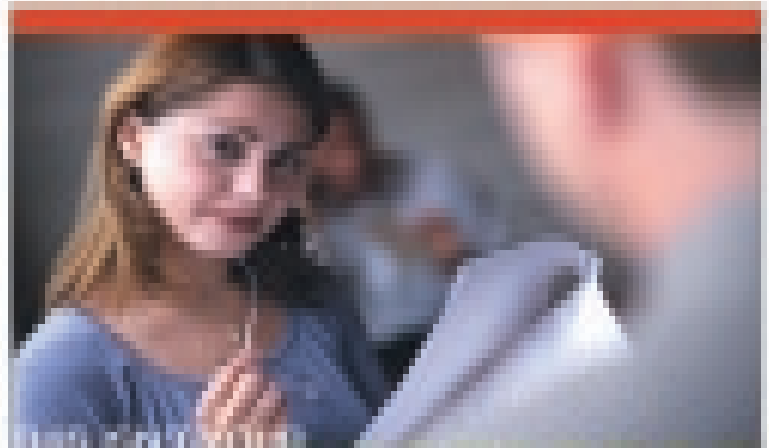
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A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

A wonderful lady named Robin from Luna Pier, Michigan, granted me with a random act of kindness recently. In fact, all she asked for in return was for me to help someone else sometime (just for the reward of how wonderful you feel).

I made it to my first class at Stautzenberger College because of Robin. The gas gauge in my car has not worked for about a year. As a result, I have to calculate my mileage with the shortcomings of human intervention. At first, this was sometimes a problem... as well as the reason I always carry a gas can in my trunk. Accordingly, I thought I had all the bugs worked out of my system, as it had been a long time since I had any miscalculated problems. Then, on November 14th, they returned.

In all actuality, it could have been

the worst day of my life. Instead, thanks to a sympathetic woman named Robin, it was one of the best. If you could recall this date and think back to 5:30 P.M. during rush hour, you would note it was raining, snowing and hailing. Thus begins my predicament...

I spend a lot of time in my car. In fact, there are many times when I feel it actually speaks to me. On this given date, it told me to get off the expressway. Not wishing to tempt fate, I headed toward the off-ramp, stalling just as I reached the top. The light was red, of course. Luckily, I got the car started again just long enough to reach the crest of a hill, where I hurriedly put the car in neutral and coasted down to the bottom. Unfortunately, there was another red light waiting for me at the bottom.

When the light turned green, my car sat motionless at a dead stop. Frustrated and certainly not looking forward to starting school on a dreadful note, I got out and started to push. Everyone sped past me, honking and spewing out obscenities as I heaved against my steel beast. Then, from nowhere I heard a gentle voice in the near-distance. "I'll help you push!"

I looked up, eyes transfixed on a woman with no coat running down a hill through sleet and snow. She swiftly ran up behind my car and kept it rolling. Without her extra momentum, I would have never gotten my car out of traffic.

Then, after pushing my car to the side of the road through almost-unbearable snow and rain, the first thing she said was, "How can I help?" As if she hadn't

already granted me an incredible favor, she proceeded to drive me to the gas station and then back to my car again (by the way, I erroneously assumed that every off ramp had a close service-station close — this one did not). Traffic was horrible, the weather was worse, but she went about all of it as if I was her sister, not a complete stranger.

I thank you, Robin, once again. I want you to know that I will always remember what you did for me... and what you asked for in return. I have continually been reminded of how much a little benevolence can benefit someone's life. Your kindness reconfirmed my belief in human kind. Thank you, Robin, for that glass of milk.

By Patricia Ray

FEELING TESTY?

Here at Stautzenberger College, we teach several courses that allow individuals to become certified in many of today's top-paying careers — specifically, in the computer industry. Now, we have even better news! As of October 24, 2000, 282 students (out of 352) tested here at the Stautzenberger College VUE Testing Center have passed! This is quite a testament to our instruction and confirms that 80% of our students pass certification tests the very first time they take them!

There are several certification courses that can be taken at Stautzenberger College. The following gives a brief description concerning each.

Earning an A+ Certification awards students the knowledge, proficiency and customer relation skills needed to become a successful computer service technician. As an added bonus, in the A+ Certification course offered at Stautzenberger College, students build their own PC - hands on - then take them home!

MCSE (Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer) is a premier certification for professionals who analyze business requirements and design and implement the infrastructure for business solutions

based on the Windows(r) 2000 platform and Microsoft server software. In this course, students are responsible for installation, configuration, and network systems troubleshooting.

Cisco Systems allows students to receive a CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) certification through Stautzenberger. This recognition provides students with a foundation in networking for the small office market. Moreover, CCNA professionals can install, configure and operate LAN, WAN, and dial access services for small networks.

I-Net +, another program that Stautzenberger College provides, is a CompTia Certification program that provides students with an extensive background in Internet-related careers. And remember, there are currently 620,000 unfilled jobs in the U.S. alone dealing with Internet-related careers!

Accordingly, a huge congratulatory goes out to the teachers and students of Stautzenberger College for performing so well in these certification courses. It's doubtless that many more prosperous careers will continue to develop and emerge due to the indisputable strength





THE GLUE THAT HOLDS THIS COLLEGE TOGETHER: AN INTERVIEW WITH KAREN INKS



When I was asked to do an interview with a person from school, my mind fluttered momentarily. "Who do I pick?" I queried myself. There's Ed, with his rather serious demeanor and underlying humor; Karen Fitzgerald, who has helped me to no end by keeping my head straight in times of academic trouble; maybe even Harvey Soule who taught me my first class, NT Essentials, over a year ago.

"No," I thought, "none of these would do, it would have to be someone with some pizzazz, skill, and a blatant sense of favoritism! Karen Inks must be my subject then!" So I made my way down to her office with a bunch of oddly phrased questions.

It started out pretty normal, as most interviews do. We took our seats and I made eye contact. The first question was to be a query into how long she's been employed at Stautzenberger. The tension was mounting. "Get a grip... remain calm..."

Just as I was about to ask, the phone rang! I relaxed again. It's hard to go into an interview when you have no clue on how to go about this sort of thing. When she returned, I asked the question: "So how long have you been employed here at Stautzenberger College?" Her response was quick and to the point. "Three and a half years," she replied.

"There — that was painless! I'll go ahead and continue with the interview then," I thought to myself.

I attempted to add some humor for the next question and inquired as to whether she thought the school needed better food in the cafeteria. She chuckled and said, "Yes — we absolutely need better food!" I agree, seeing as a rancid hot pocket did my friend in for a few hours last August.

Being a music writer first and foremost, I wanted to know if she listened to any of the music our small but hard working music scene has to offer. Her reply was disappointing, but expected, as she stated that she really doesn't listen to a lot of local music. Nevertheless, she did have quite a few musical interests that surprised me. Noting her unconventional demeanor, I was overjoyed to see that she had a matching taste in music. It ranged from the big band era to rap, rock and reggae. I then proceeded to ask what her job entailed at the school, and she told me that she was an all-around kind of girl who did everything from putting grades on the cards (BONUS!) and writing transcripts to archiving (this was of particular interest to me, as I had no clue up to that point what she did at the school). Needless to say, I was surprised at how much she really does for our school! It prompted my next interrogation...

"With all the stress of your daily life," I asked, "How do you manage to keep a pleasant appearance every time I see you?" She simply replied, "I find ways to deal with it." That, and she lives by the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have done to you." I was pleased to hear this, as more people should be living daily by that decree.

I figured it was time to get down to her birthplace, but I didn't ask her age or birth date (out of respect for ladies in general). She cooperated though, explaining that her birthplace was a town near the mountains and rolling hills and beautiful valleys; a place called Cambridge, Ohio. "It was a great place to grow up, not that much crime and clean air. It's still the same today as it was when I grew up there." Personally, I found that a little endearing, as way too much innocence has been lost in American towns over the past 20 to 30 years.

For the last ten minutes we spent together, she was in and out of her cubicle trying to keep stuff together. In fact, I was a little relieved when she returned and reminded me I had questions I still needed to ask! We talked about the Internet, music, politics, music... and music (maybe I'm biased?)

With that I bid a farewell to Ms. Karen Inks. I think it went well for my first real interview. I only hope I did justice to her rather out of the ordinary, yet becoming, personality.

JASON BEAM: DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

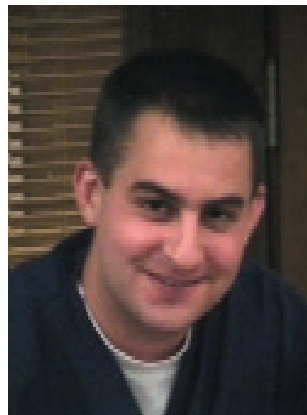
Meet twenty-six year old Jason Paul Beam, a student here at Stautzenberger College enrolled in the Veterinary Technician program. Still in the "first phase" of his coursework, he decided to attend Stautzenberger because of the small classes and the simple fact that the college has one of the best Veterinary Technician programs in the area.

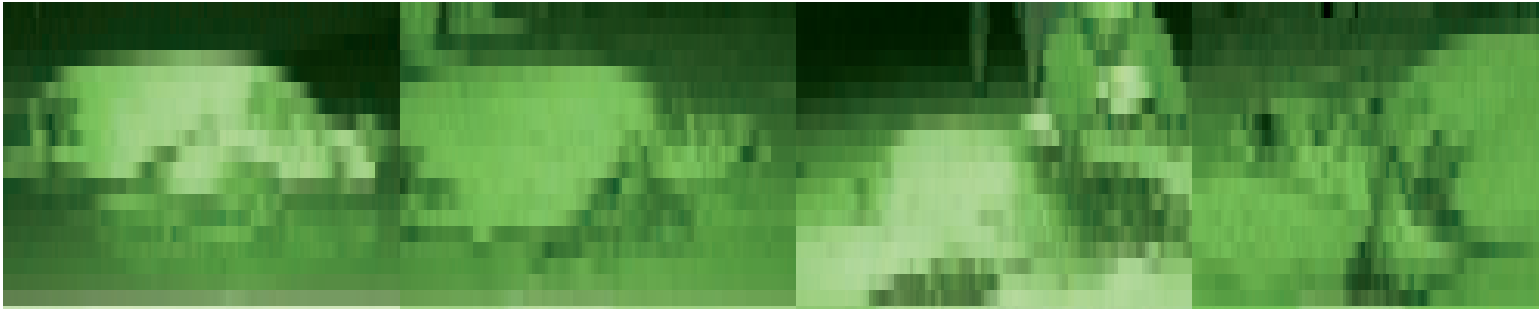
A native of Toledo, Ohio, Mr. Beam would ultimately like to become a "full" veterinarian and relocate to Florida. He knows the road to success may be lonesome and demanding, but he's found plenty of things to keep active in during his diminishing spare time. These activities include playing video games, fishing, golf, and working out. Yet Beam's plight

is more elaborate than most, as he also actively participates in the Air National Guard. "The experience is something that everyone should go through, at least once in their life," Jason claims.

Jason currently earns a living working for BAX Global, in Swanton, Ohio, and in order to "stay on top of his game," indulges in Arby's and margaritas (separately, of course). So, next time you glimpse the majority of Vet Tech hopefuls, most of whom are females, take an even closer look. There you will surely find Jason Beam rising to the top... like "a diamond in the rough."

By Malcolm Harper





Turtle walks in Florida are seasonal, yet offer an inexpensive night of fun; one enjoyed by both young and old. This ancient ritual has been going on for 100 million years, and June and July are prime months to view the Sea Turtle's Nesting Process in select Florida counties up and down the Atlantic seacoast.

Our spontaneous decision to experience a turtle walk predetermined that official turtle walks were full (some are booked weeks in advance!). Unthwarted, we designed our own walk! Five strong, equipped with flashlights, we scoured the beach in search of sea turtles intent on nesting, picked an area where lots of staked nests stood in evidence, and hoped it was a popular enough retreat for this sort of behavior.

Official turtle watches are held from 9:00 till 11:30 PM on select nights, and fifty people is usually the maximum capacity. A trained turtle guide explains the nesting process, and the event takes anywhere from an hour and a half to two hours, depending. Likewise, the guides carry walkie-talkies and pretty much know the best spots. Neither the moon nor the tides seem to affect the turtles in the least, and those trained can even tell the species of the animal by the drag patterns the reptile leaves as it comes ashore to lay its eggs. They are always Loggerheads, Greens or Leatherbacks in this area of Florida.

We, on the other hand, walked the beach for at least forty minutes, heading in one direction without success. We occasionally shone our lights on suspicious looking clumps, but to no avail. Disgruntled, we headed back towards the car. However, this particular evening offered a full moon, so once our eyes were accustomed to the dark, we realized flashlights were hardly necessary at all. Then, all of the sudden, we spotted a big, dark object in the distance, crawling towards the shore. Treading ever so slowly and quietly, we watched her journey from

afar. A family of turtle watchers camped out on a nearby blanket confirmed our suspicions. Patiently, we waited until the nearly 200 pound Loggerhead found a suitable spot to nest. Generally, a female returns to the exact spot of her hatching to deposit her eggs (fortunately, for onlookers, they are quite nearsighted on land, though they have excellent vision in water). Once settled, the little lady dug her body into the sand and moved the loose, dry sand away to dig out an egg chamber. Sensitive to beach activity at this point, she threatened to return to the water with intimidation, so we waited patiently from a distance.

Finally, the reptile began to dig a hole in the sand about two feet deep with her back fins. Sand flew through the air everywhere as she dug deeper and deeper, finally creating a hole shaped like an inverted light bulb.

Once our celebrity started laying her eggs, it was safe to approach her, as she is unable to stop the process once it has begun. As a result, we all crept closer and formed a half circle around her. Soon, word on the beach was out, and 25 spectators joined our group. A seasoned watcher gently cleared the sand away from her behind, and someone else held a small flashlight. We could actually see the turtle depositing her eggs (roughly 75-150) in the hole.

Turtle eggs take anywhere from 49 to 60 days to hatch, and hatchings occur very early in the morning, from 5:30 AM on. Whether they arrive as little boy turtles or little girl turtles depends on the incubation temperature. If it is 84 degrees or above, females emerge; below 82 degrees, males will hatch. Temperatures ranging from 82 to 83 degrees bring a nice mixed gender batch of hatchlings. Upon hatching, the new turtles, who are only about one and 3/4 inches in length, have to eat through a yolk sac. Then, they scramble madly towards the ocean. Often, artificial light sources confuse the

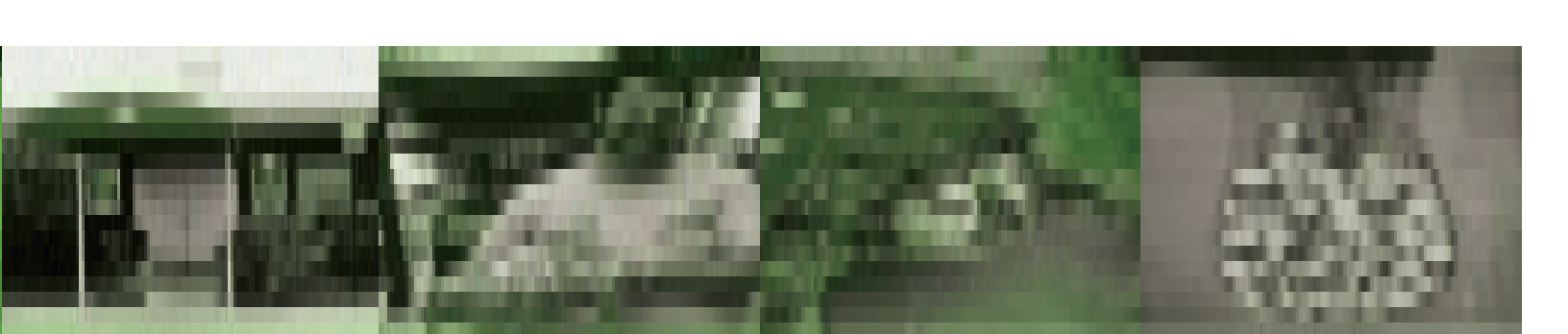
babies, causing them to head in the wrong direction.

When our particular turtle was done nesting, she rested briefly, then covered her eggs with her back fins and carefully packed the sand over the clutch. This process helps the hatchlings when they emerge, some two months later. Amazingly, she used her back fins almost as we use our knees, bending them to smooth down the sand. Her front fins made exaggerated swimming strokes to hide the nest and fill in her body pit, though the veteran of the group helped fill in the sand a bit. Upon completion, she rested again, then quickly turned around and ambled back into the sea. Everyone patted her on the shell as if to say, "Good job," or, "What a good night's work!"

Each morning, volunteers stake the nests with wooden sticks painted orange that are numbered and dated. Sadly, only about ten per cent of all nests are staked. We checked our spot the next morning and, to our dismay, our turtle's nest had not been staked. However, a tourist-looking sunbather had taken up residence right over the nest, oblivious to what was underneath!

At the Marinelife Center at Juno Beach, an official count is kept for the 5.4 mile section of beach nearest to them. As of July 15, 2000, the tallies were as follows: Loggerheads: 4, 152 / Greens: 319 / Leatherbacks: 33. Plus, we learned it is a federal offense to dig up a turtle nest or disturb it in any way, punishable by jail time! Yikes!

This was a once-in-a-lifetime event for Ohioans, nearly landlocked. Since we don't reside on the shores of Lake Erie, we found this to be very educational; the turtle walk showcased nature at her finest. Of interesting note, the successful turtle walk also happened on my birthday; one I'll no doubt remember fondly for a long time! Maybe in the future and down the road, I'll return to the West Palm Beach



Vacations always offer opportunities for newsworthy stories, so a visit to the Marinelifelife Center at Juno Beach in Loggerhead Park, Florida, was a prime story just waiting to be written. The center is actively involved in all aspects of sea turtle conservation. This donation-based, grant-funded agency both monitors beaches for sea turtle nests and releases hatchlings that can not leave the nests on their own. In fact, it is the only rehabilitation facility for sick and injured Sea Turtles in Palm Beach County. By and large, the Center's goal is to release turtles back to the sea as they sufficiently recover.

This facility is manned entirely by volunteers, so we spoke with Scottish born Jeff Porter, who was very helpful and delighted to share his expert knowledge with us. Jeff donates his time at the center on weekends and leads turtle watches - all out of dedication to save and protect the sea turtles. During the day, he is an environmental engineer, as well as a certified rescue driver.

The Center acquires its sea turtles from various sources, including the Marine Patrol and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, though, occasionally, concerned citizens will find injured reptiles and bring them in as well. The three species found here include the Loggerheads (the most common), Green Turtles and Leatherbacks (real unusual looking), all of which are housed in salt water tanks (an elaborate pump system

and a salt water well bring intake from the sea). Likewise, turtles of all sizes are residents here, from hatchlings to large turtles of nearly 200 pounds. Generally, hatchlings are acquired from the public via a drop-off box for baby turtles in front of the center. When a nest hatches, un-hatched eggs, runts and little fellows who crawl the wrong way are all retrieved. Those brought to the Marinelifelife Center are later released at sea by boat a few miles out, away from predators like birds, crabs, fire ants and fungus (turtles also face many afflictions, including viruses, respiratory infections similar to pneumonia, salt water parasites, worms, and neurological toxins).

All turtles at the Center are named, then identified by small metal tags placed on their back fins. One of the few veterinarians on staff, Dr. Nancy DiMarco prescribes medicine and often donates her clinic for surgeries. Otherwise, veterinarian technicians help out during the week, going as far as to provide physical therapy as a necessary part of the turtles' healing process. Reptilian Medicine may have made dramatic strides in recent years, but it is still in its infancy.

The turtles I met at the Center all had different problems. Shell abrasions and chipped shells were common, as were missing fins. One turtle had been run over by a boat prop, leaving a severely damaged shell, and then there was Winnie, a 162 pound Loggerhead who couldn't

blink her eyes or open her mouth due to a virus. Fed on a feeding rack hoisted up by two volunteers, her condition is readily improving day by day. Eventually, she will be released. Turtles like Winnie eat cut up fish and squid in captivity, though in the wild their diet consists of crabs, lobster, clams and conch.

Still, the most memorable turtle story belongs to Snag, a repeat offender who has been an occupant at the Center four times. His weakness for fish hooks resulted in three visits last year alone! He was certainly named appropriately!

If turtles are not destroyed by predators or man, they can live for over a hundred years. However, they have a high mortality rate. For over fifteen years the Marinelifelife Center has done what it can to dramatically increase the odds of the survival of sea turtles. Get involved — an adopt-a-turtle program is in place, as is a strong membership program, and there is a gift shop where anything and everything turtle-related can be purchased.

This total turtle experience was very educational and certainly not your everyday event. Help protect the sea turtles — they deserve our support and assistance.

NETWORK+: A COMPTIA CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Founded in 1982, CompTIA today represents over 7,500 computer manufacturers, distributors, retailers, re-sellers, and companies. Likewise, CompTIA certifies information technology and service professionals with its widely adopted and vendor-neutral A+, Certified Document Imaging Architect (CDIA) and I-Net+ certification programs.

Get certified! Information Technology (IT) professionals have found that

it makes prospective employees more respected by providing technicians with a credential recognized and valued throughout the industry. Plus, technicians have greater job opportunities and a higher chance for promotion.

The Network+ exam covers two broad areas: networking technologies (which is two-thirds of the exam) and networking practices (which is one-third of the exam). Utilizing a networked computer

station, the exam is similar to traditional multiple-choice tests with a final score figured upon exam completion.

The Stautzenberger VUE testing center offers this certification. For the benefit of your future, call now!

By Lindsey Korte and Karen Fitzgerald

ENTER THE WORLD OF COMIC BOOKS

In the midst of everyday insanity, do you ever feel that you need some "me" time; that you're constantly just going through the motions of life in T-Town? Are you loaded with tons of homework and need a little breather? Maybe you need a vacation... or maybe you're longing for some healthy escapism. Well, listen up, because I have just the solution for you! It's time you treated yourself to some good old-fashioned reading and imagination. That's right! I'm talking about comic books!

Comic books have been a part of our culture for over eighty years, and they are not going anywhere. In fact, today, comics are hotter than ever. While veteran writers and artists are still delivering the goods, a whole new group of hot young artists and writers are offering their take on classic characters, making them accessible to a whole new audience while pleasing older fans as well. It is definitely time you check out comic books, and you can look no further than your local comic book store, Monarch Cards and Comics.

Monarch is now in its 18th year and showing no signs of slowing down. Owner Steve Shufritz originally thought of opening a used bookstore, but then something happened. Steve discovered an old box of comics and began reading them again. That was all it took for "the comics bug to bite again." Needless to say, the store took a new direction. With persistence and patience, Steve and his wife worked their regular jobs in addition to taking care of the store full time. Eventually, they outgrew their location at Airport and Westwood and settled into their current location in the Colonial Village Plaza. Now they have more than just comic books. In Shufritz's well-organized store, you can find graphic novels, T-shirts, card games, beautifully sculpted statues, and hard-to-find action figures unavailable in large department stores.

Okay, so you're thinking reading comic books was something you did as a child. Well, think again, Bub! Comic books offer something for both children and adults. For example, comics such as Pokemon, Sailor

Moon and Dragon Ball-Z are bringing in the kiddies. As Steve says, "With so many kids knowing how to play a video game and working on a computer before they even enter school, parents are happy they're reading something."

But adults have many choices as well, if not more. One can now choose from such genres as science fiction, fantasy, westerns, mysteries, and good old-fashioned super heroes.

Don't know where to start?

Summon up a character or genre you've always liked, or if you've never had an opportunity to pursue your curiosity, try picking up a comic book that you think you might enjoy. In this case, judge a book by its cover! It's usually pretty easy to jump on board, but if you're having difficulty, there are always trade paperbacks that reprint popular story arcs. You'll be caught up in no time! Still lost? Go to Monarch's and ask Steve's partner, Ed Katschke, for help. He's extremely knowledgeable and always willing to help point you in the right direction for something suitable to

your tastes.

Take my advice: comic books are a great pastime. Whether you read them or not, their influence is very much around us. Take, for example, the recent Bruce Willis film Unbreakable. Not only did it

draw in a large audience, but it also treated comic books with respect.

If you need further proof look at this past summer's hit, X-Men, which attracted many

new fans and is spawning a sequel. Other comic book movies coming your way include Spiderman, Batman: Year One (about Batman's first year as Batman), Tomb Raider (based on the hit video game and the comic book), and Blade II.

Although there are plenty of popular Hollywood comic projects in the works, it's important not to forget the power of the written word and the mastery of the artists. After all, that is the essential beauty of comic books! They've endured due to their ability to capture your imagination, take you on a pleasure trip a million miles away, and keep you coming back for more. Do yourself a favor — take a trip to o to

Monarch Cards and Comics, located at 4400 Heatherdowns in the Colonial Village Plaza, or give them



INCREDIBLE 16 YEAR- OLD PASSES NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED A+



Tim Saddoris, son of Tom and Cindy Saddoris, is a sixteen-year-old junior at North Central High School who recently passed the A+ Certification course at Stautzenberger College. Tim, eager to learn, signed up for the A+ class offered at Four County. Unfortunately, there just weren't enough people signed up for the course, and the class was cancelled. Knowing that Stautzenberger College offered the A+ class, Tim decided to enroll and completed the course successfully.

In addition to passing the course, Tim sat for two national certification exams, both of which are required when becoming an A+ Certified Technician, and rose to the challenge. Passing these nationally recognized certifications will open many doors in the world of Information Technology for Tim! Likewise, the A+ course will give Tim the information and tools necessary to continue on in a computer network-engineering program (i.e. MCSE for Microsoft, CNE for Novell, CCNA for Cisco).

Tim was born in Toledo and moved to Williams County in 1991 with his parents and younger brother, currently residing

near Pioneer. Tom, his father, thought that living in the country would show his son different responsibilities than those of the city.

Currently, Tim plays baseball for North Central High School and is a member of both the school's marching and pep bands. He is also involved in 4-H and takes various dairy projects to the William County Fair each year. Moreover, this phenomenal student enjoys writing his own computer programs and assisting his friends in resolving challenging computer problems. For extra money, well-rounded Tim also works on a dairy farm.

In the upcoming months, Tim's goal is to take a Cisco class at Four County. "My future plans include attending a four year college, getting married, and having kids... the usual stuff," he said. Tim Saddoris' future is going to be a promising one. He and his parents are very appreciative for what Stautzenberger College has done for him.

Stautzenberger looks forward to assisting Tim in his future training goals.

By Shelby Rhoades

www.925kissfm.com



www.925kissfm.com

FLEXIBLE LIFE... NO! FLEX-ABLE COLLEGE...YES!!

Have you ever had the desire to change your career, gain knowledge of a new topic, or upgrade your work skills, but just couldn't find the time? Well now you do, as Stautzenberger College has finally conceived a solution in the form of a new program called "Flex-Able College."

Challenging the impossible, Flex-Able College enables people to balance home life, college, and work by offering a variety of subjects on weekends — one Saturday, a Saturday and a Sunday, or maybe five Saturdays — whatever works for the time-defied student. In addition, it also services graduates with continuing education programs (CEUs) in their quest to meet requirements and maintain valuable certifications. Classes start in January! Contact the school or our website (www.stautzen.com) for assistance and get more information about Flex-Able College. Start a new adventure... on your own terms!

by Sarah McGuire

SAFEKEEPING



Have you noticed how serene and peaceful Stautzenberger's "campus" is? Recently, I had the pleasure of talking to the man responsible for it. His name is Leroy Carter and he's been a security guard here at Stautzenberger for about eleven months. You've undoubtedly seen him around the school, especially if you're a night student, dutifully protecting the faulty and students.

When asked what he loves most about his job, Mr. Carter replied, "The students — they've been really friendly." And even though he hates the cold weather and isn't too fond of all the walking, he's always seen going out of his way to get students to their cars safely at night. Parking has never been safer! A big thanks goes out to Mr. Carter for his commitment and dedication



www.wlot.com



AFI
The Art of Drowning (Nitro)
AFI is back yet again with a new album titled The Art of Drowning. After their last offering, Black Sails in the Sunset, I thought they couldn't possibly put out another kick-ass album, but they came back with a vengeance and proved the punk community wrong! They've changed their style a bit... with astounding results!

When I first put the CD in, I didn't really know what to expect. I had premonitions of the same AFI of yesteryear. But as soon as the introduction was over and the first track, "The Lost Souls," came raging over the stereo, I wanted to jump out of my seat! I continued listening, song after song, and was flabbergasted by the whole album. Then, I got to song fourteen, "Morningstar," expecting it to speed up, though it didn't. Instead, it stayed at the same pace throughout the whole song, forcing me to rethink my initial reaction.

The Art of Drowning is intriguing and circle-pit drawn, taking listeners into Davey Havok's thoughts and soul, leaving them shivering at the thoughts roaming around in his mind. I leave you now with the choice of whether or not to purchase this excellent AFI album; if you pass though, you'll be missing out on one heck of an adrenaline rush that will leave you waiting impatiently for the next album!

Andrew Clark &
Dayna Kiffel



DASH CROFTS
Today (Nuance/Lighyear)
From the old days to "Today," Dash Crofts' stunning new CD collection of songs, written by longtime friends Jim Seals and Louie Sheldon, impresses. Some of the most beloved Seals and Crofts songs, like "Diamond Girl," "Summer Breeze," "Hummingbird," "We May Never Pass This Way Again," and "Fly-Away," are included, as are so many more old and new favorites.

Still, the highlight of this album is Crofts' unmistakable voice and breath taking harmonies. His voice works suprisingly well with the background vocalists, his daughter Lua Crofts, Cory Fite, Tabitha Fair and, of course, Louie Sheldon, who also provides acoustic and electric guitar, keyboards, synth and drum programming. The CD also features Jeffery Scott Wells on tenor, alto and soprano saxophone, and Patrick Crossley on upright bass. Dash, on the other hand, provides acoustic and electric mandolin in addition to vocals.

Although this is Crofts' first solo album (taking two years in the making), it still retains the same musical charm found in music of long ago. It's truly pleasant and soothing to listen to.

Highlight tracks include "Today, Sunrise," "Ridin' Thumb,"



"Golden Rainbow Girl," "Hollow Reed," and a few others.
Linda Collyer

EVOLOTTO
1776 (Sin Klub Entertainment)
Okay, this is what I'm talkin' bout right here! Schmid and his boys show us what Toledo music is all about, without rap-rock and wussy lyrics. 1776 kind of pays tribute to itself, seeing as they really have no similarities with any other band (other than the fact that Schmid sounds like Serj from System of a Down at times... but there's nothing wrong with that)! Simply put, this is the kind of album you actually have to listen to to understand. "Punk Rock Juggernaut" is my favorite track, closely edging out "A Clockwork Green"... you probably have no idea what I'm talking about, do you? Just go buy this album, for cripe's sake! The other two members, Chris and Ben, compliment the lyrics and bass playing of Mr. Schmid so well you'd think the three were around each other constantly — wait a sec, they are! The CD is very well put together. In fact, the only complaint I have is that when it was given to me to



review, the case was cracked!
Andrew Clark

FROGWINGS
Rockin' At Toad's Place (Flying Frog)
Recorded live at Toad's Place in New Haven, Connecticut, and the Wetlands in NYC, Frogwings' latest album features a bevy of tunes from a new band put together by Butch Trucks, former drummer of the Allman Brothers Band. Formed in May of 1997, the band initially developed from Truck's aspiration to play in a group with his nineteen year old nephew, slide-guitar sensation Derek Trucks. Though somewhat of a family affair, the rest of the group is rounded out by Marc Quinones (percussionist with the Allman Brothers Band for the past six years), Oteil Burbridge (bassist and one of the newest members of the Allmans), Jimmy Herring (guitarist with the Aquarium Rescue Unit, currently touring with the Allman Brothers Band), Kofi Burbridge (keyboardist and flutist), and Oteil's brother (another member of the Aquarium Rescue Unit). In addition, for the first time, the band is using a rotating method, using a different lead singer for each CD. Here, Edwin McCain is featured as their lead singer, though John Popper (of Blues Traveler) joins in as well.

Standout tracks include "Just One" and "Among Your Pillows," both of which, in my humble opinion, resemble material from the Grateful Dead era. Any and all Deadheads will enjoy

MUSIC REVIEWS



this up and coming ensemble.
Brenda Redlin

SHYNE
Shyne (Bad Boy)
Brooklyn-based MC/rapper Shyne debuts with a self-titled debut of lyrical skills, something inconceivable with regard to a 19-year-old (dare I say, Shyne definitely has potential). Though I must note, upon listening to the music on this CD, I'm clearly referring to the artist, not the album itself.

Interestingly enough, Shyne (whose real name is Jamal Barrow) is a native of Central America. In 1992, upon moving to the States - Brooklyn — he began writing lyrics in hopes of turning away from street life. After some lucky exposure — performing on the street and being noticed by music industry insiders — he was ultimately introduced to a recording contract with Bad Boy Records, home of the late Notorious B.I.G. With that in mind, while Shyne's voice can't help but bring the truly talented Biggie Smalls to mind, Shyne fails to come close to Biggie's "latent-but-always-evident" humor and depth. On the other hand, if you want to talk "bad boys," since he signed on to Puffy's label (Bad Boy), Shyne has been involved in one fatal car crash, several arrests, and a charge of attempted murder (on January 8th, Shyne stood trial for opening fire after a wad of money was thrown in Puff Daddy's face at Club New York). Aside from all that, Shyne still remains humble and credits his Higher Power for the newfound success: "...God is blessing me with so much," he states. And as far as sounding like Biggie Smalls, Shyne claims, "...It's disturbing when people say something like [that]... I sound like Shyne."

The first single released from this disc is the mega-popular song, "Bad Boyz," which features catchy background vocals from dancehall reggae sensation Barrington Levy. Undoubtedly, it's the album's strongest track; the rest of the material hardly comes close, mostly due to somewhat stale production, making the overall tone of the disc kind of somber. Nevertheless, an honorable mention can be given to the second single release, "That's Gangsta," which incorporates a hook once used in the famous DOC cut, "It's Funky Enough."

For a first release, Shyne doesn't do too bad, although



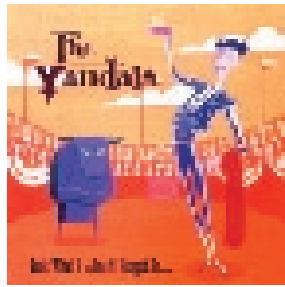
I think saying that he could've done better is an understatement.

Malcolm Harper

THE UNION UNDERGROUND
An Education In Rebellion
(Portrait/Sony)

OK, we've all heard this before — boy meets guitar and they fall in love. The problem: it's the same unvarying relationship, and you want to forget it ever happened! That said, Union Underground is definitely nothing to write home about. They sound like Powerman 5000 without any catchy lyrics or crunchy guitar riffs, and that just makes for a bad stew.

As I've always said, it's good to see a band make it on a big record label, so this is no exception. Likewise, Columbia Records usually does a great job delivering talented artists into the public's embrace. It's just that Union Underground is more of the same Limp Bizkit aggro-rock that's over-flooded the market for the past two years. If you like what's happening in the industry right now, pick this up. On the other hand, if you're



like me and respect good music, then avoid this one like the Bubonic Plague!

Andrew Clark

THE VANDALS
Look What I Almost Stepped In (Nitro)

Even though I'm in a punk band, I'm not that "into" the whole punk scene. I like the old school stuff, like the Ramones and the Sex Pistols, but wasn't hip to the Vandals, who've been around for quite some time. As a result, their latest release, entitled Look What I Almost Stepped In, made me go out and buy most, if not all, of their previous albums.

This record is poppy, but not too poppy; it's punk, but not too punk. The lyrics are hilarious and as catchy as the music itself, but I really have no clue as to how to rate them in the echelon of punk rock. Have they always been this good? I used to hear rave reviews about them all the time, deciding that in time, I'd hear for myself. Looking back, I wish I'd always been into these guys!

The whole CD is just beautiful and hits hard with the first track, "Behind the Music," a semi-success story of the band's latest album and all the stuff that happens out of sight. In addition, "Sorry Mom and Dad" is a tribute and formal apology to parents everywhere, which I actually agree with.

The album continues with songs centering around relationships and typical punk stock that we've come to know and love. And "Flowers Are Pretty" is just plain gorgeous! It's one of those songs that makes you feel like all your problems in the world mean absolutely squat. The song is a genuine piece of work, and even if the rest of the album sucked, it would more than make up for it (but it doesn't).

I'd recommend this pup-



py to any punker or rocker or rapper or anybody who has a bad outlook on life or their ex-girlfriend. After you hear this masterpiece, you'll welcome pain with a smile on your face.

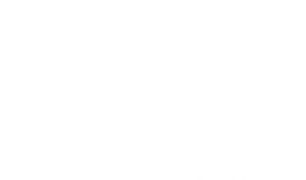
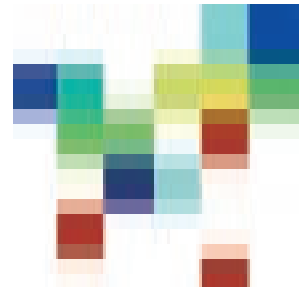
Andrew Clark

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Bounce: The Original Motion Picture Soundtrack (Arista)

When I received this CD, which is basically an accompaniment piece to the motion picture Bounce (the Miramax film that reunites Gweneth Paltrow and Ben Affleck), two words came to mind: love and passion. In other words, it's a CD that caters more toward women.

The CD's first single release, "Need To Be Next To You," doubles as the first solo recording from Leigh Nash, better-known as the front-woman of Sixpence None the Richer. The single, which was shipped to radio in advance, has already made quite an impact on Top-40 radio and select A/C (adult contemporary) channels. To its credit, the CD also features Sarah McLachlan guesting with Delerium, Sophie B Hakwins, Anita Paris, Tara MacClean and others.

A couple of the songs are really good, but the rest is simply decent. In fact, as I asked people to take a look at the line-up, most people didn't know who any of the singers were. In an attempt to emphasize my earlier point, I had a guy listen to the CD to see what he thought. He replied, "Wasn't bad; only a handful of good songs though." Then again, he already liked all the aforementioned singers. Still, we both think the song "Never Gonna Come Back Down" (by techno producer BT) seems out of place on the CD. It's certainly



The Perfect Leaf

When I was a child, I loved spending time with my mom. We enjoyed going to the nearby woods together to walk the trails. During the Fall, my mom, brother, and I would sometimes meet my aunt at a place called Golls Woods and spend all day collecting the beautiful leaves that had fallen off the trees seconds before. I would race around trying to find that perfect leaf, my eyes dancing with all the colors. It was always exciting, and I would be so sad when it was time to go, even though I knew we would be back next fall for another adventure. Today, I went back to the woods to recapture my memories, realizing now that there is much more to them than I remembered.

It's a gorgeous day; almost perfect. The sun is shining, and a slight, cool breeze is blowing. I decide to take a tour down Toadshade Trail. As soon as I sit down, I notice the canopy of trees that surrounds me. I can only see

patches of the bright blue sky through the leaves that continue to whisper in the wind. The sun is bright, however, and the trees are not allowing the light to hit the ground. From my vantage point, I can only see shadows.

The trees are all very tall. Some are skinny with no branches until the very top; others are bigger with branches hanging in every direction. A couple of trees look naked because they're wrapped with branches with no leaves. And pine trees stand tall and full, reminding me of giant Christmas trees. As the wind picks up, the trees look as if they will fall over, swaying back and forth and bending over with the wind. I stare in

amazement at the never-ending forest and huge maze of trees.

The trees remind me of the ocean. The wind picks up in continuous tides, becomes louder, and dies down like an ocean rumbling off in the distance. Locusts sing loudly with chirping crickets, as if they have their own symphony. Hunters shoot pheasants, and I hear their fire as an airplane slowly flies over, rumbling through the sky. Children yell from far away, and motors hum as cars drive away slowly. I also hear twigs breaking off the branches of the trees.

Being out here makes me feel at peace. The breeze is a little chilly on my arms, but it feels good. It's beautiful, and now I understand why I liked being out here so much when I was young. The air smells very clean; almost invisible, but slightly reminiscent of a pine air freshener you might buy at a local car wash.

A lot of people pass me as they walk down the Toadshade Trail. A couple walks by holding hands, though the man is hardly noticeable in his camouflage. Perhaps he is going hunting. Minutes later, another couple strolls by with five children; four girls and one boy, all of whom are dressed in shorts, excited and happy to be walking with their parents.

As I continue to reminisce, I notice a runner. He is a younger man wearing a cut-off shirt with a pair of red shorts.

As he runs by me, I realize he is out of breath; perhaps training for a big track meet this coming week at school.

As I gather up my things, the wind really starts to pick up, moving all the trees next to me. Hundreds and hundreds of leaves fall around me.

Then, out of nowhere, the most splendid leaf in the woods falls near my feet. I bend down to pick it up and revisit my childhood all over again. It is that perfect leaf that I have always searched for. This time, as my adventure comes to an end, I place my wonderful leaf back on the ground.

Maybe a child out with his mother for an autumn stroll will discover it.

The Cycle of Life

As I look out the window at the big oak tree, I am in awe of the beauty that God has created for us to enjoy. In that one single tree, I see God's perfectly skilled craftsmanship in every leaf. What started out as a tiny seed has now expanded to an enormous display of life, begging each of us to drink in its beauty with every glance. Each branch seems to have its own need for individuality, spreading out in all directions, as if to say, "This is who I am and this is where I want to be."

The branches are filled with thousands of green leaves that blow in the wind, giving the tree a swaying movement as if it were alive. On many occasions the branches actually do come alive with the very actuality of life — a mother bird diligently builds the nest that will harbor her young, embellishing the branches with life itself.

No sooner has the new life appeared and disappeared than the never-ending cycle of change occurs. The leaves that were once a beautiful deep green now change to a fabulous array of colors — red, orange, yellow

and brown — giving us our announcement of the upcoming change of life that we have to look forward to.

As the petals of color begin to fall off of the tree, I realize the true significance of life. How amazing this creature is; knowing just what to do and when to do it! I notice the mountain of leaves that lay before me under the arms that once held it. Another leaf begins to float down, hoping to be welcomed by its brothers below. As it finally hits the ground that will become its new home, the others rustle in excitement of his arrival. It becomes one with the heap that used to seem so distant.

All at once, I feel a soft breeze on my face that seems to sing to me. When I open my eyes and gaze back upon the mount of new life, I see nothing except an array of color floating through the sky. The wind swirls the leaves around softly, causing them to dance in the sweeping coolness. As they drift farther and farther from one another, I feel their overwhelming sadness; they leave behind all familiarity and comfort. A single leaf catches my attention as it settles to a new home.

My inexperienced friend seems so lonely, lying in the nearly death-stricken bed beneath it. It rests motion-

less, conveying that the world has come to a complete halt. I sit there for a moment and marvel over a creation that, not long ago, had been part of an enormous oak with the sole purpose of beautifying its host. What purpose does it serve now?

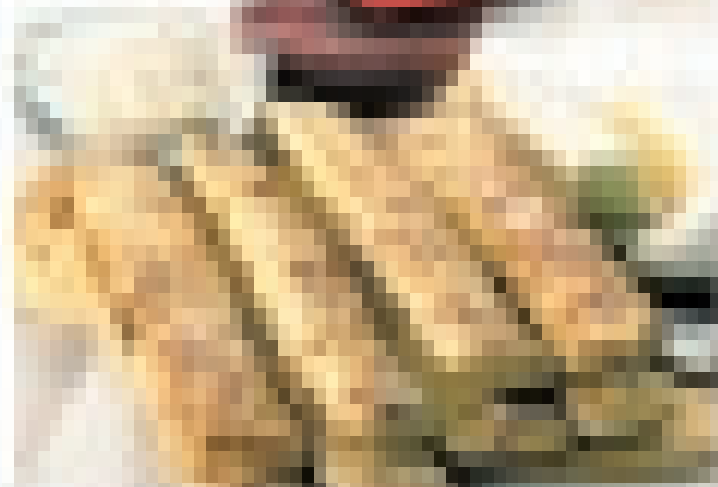
It took only a short while before a small, white flake drifted and settled on the leaf that now lie dying. The flake only sat there for a short while, but many of its brothers followed. I gazed over at the oak at the same time, once so bright and full of color. The limbs seemed to droop in sorrow, as though they were becoming icicles themselves. Then the snow started to fall faster and cover each branch with a white coat.

As quickly as it had come, the chill slowly faded. Looking again, I noticed small blossoms all over the arms protruding from the trunk of the giant oak. It only took a short time before the buds of bright green opened up to the new warmth. The air took on a new fragrance that gave this experience a new array of pleasure. The tree, which only a short while before had been bare and lifeless, was now full of new life and meaning.

by Sharon Hunt



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