

Meet

Mike Jones

Athletic Director

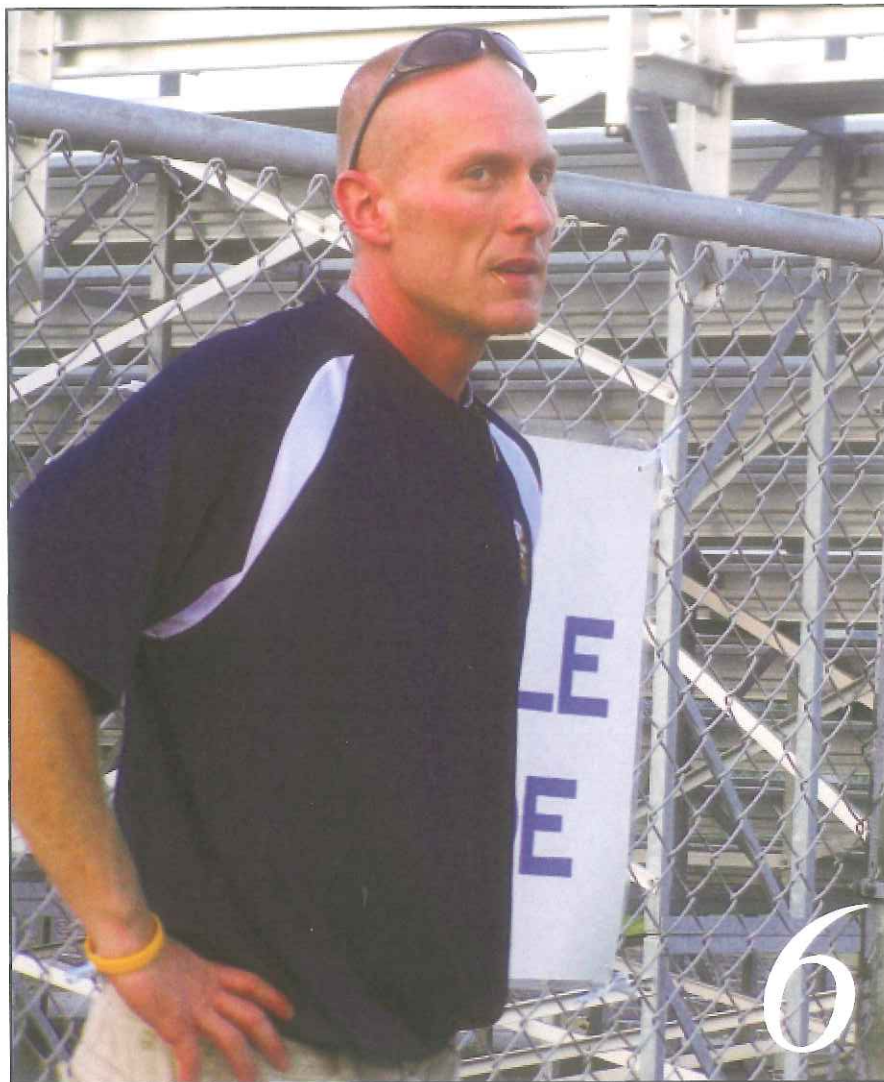
Mr. Mike Jones dives in to his new role as athletic director following the retirement of Mr. Steve Reed. (Story on p. 6)

NO FOOTBALLS
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THE STADIUM

Delta High School ♦ 3400 E. S. R. 28, Muncie, IN 47303 ♦ Volume 37 ♦ 10.7.2005

the eagle's eye

Contents 10.07.2005



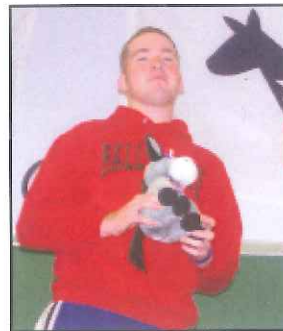
Meet Mike Jones

Mr. Mike Jones took over the role of athletic director upon the retirement of Mr. Steve Reed. Feature writer Steve Hopkins shadows Jones on what would be his typical Friday evening and details the various encounters and decisions that he makes.

Point / Counterpoint – The Indiana Pledge Law



FOR IT!
Sophomore Bobby Helfst cites opt-out clause to the Pledge Law and need of patriotism in times of war as justification for the Pledge Law.



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(by Sean Hays)

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Changing Guards

Band director Mrs. Jennifer Olfier admits that her style differs wildly from that of former director Mr. Keith Pautler. Olfier and students speak of the transition – and what she plans to do with the band program.

(Story by Hillary Bradburn)



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No Direction Home - In his personal column, Jerrick T. Adams reminisces on the end of summer.

The Last Word - Steve Hopkins expresses his distaste for druggies and drinkers – especially the seemingly proud ones.



Bringing Spirit

Cheerleaders often experience a great deal of ridicule due to stereotypes. What they think of such pigeon-holing and why they feel they work as hard as other athletes – if not harder.

(Story by Bobby Helfst)

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They now call him

Graduate Matt Painter, through hard work and determination, has risen to the rank of head coach of Purdue University's men's basketball team. How he got there, what it takes, and what Delta means to him.

COACH

Sean Hays ❖ Feature Writer

It's December, snowy, cold, and the hint of the seasonal blues. Boredom and the need to get out of this place come to mind. Giving in to slacking is looking pretty good right now. Questions come to mind, such as "What am I going to do after I graduate?" "Can I become successful?" "What will life be like after high school?" Thoughts of past Delta graduates and the realization of true success come into play.

One of the most well-known Delta graduates is Matt Painter. He is now known as "Coach Painter" as Purdue University's men's head basketball coach. His determination and drive set him apart from many people. Was it the fact that he graduated from Delta, or just his type A personality? Many people would be happy to say both.

Painter, who graduated in 1989, is in his first season as the head men's basketball coach at Purdue University.

Painter graduated from Purdue University in 1994 with a bachelor's degree and from Eastern Illinois in 1998 with his master's degree. He said that Delta prepared him for college.

"I do not think high school can really prepare you for life quite yet. You have not lived long enough," he said.

He added that he had some very good teachers who helped him tremendously.

"Mr. Kip Omstead was probably the teacher I learned the most from because he was so demanding," Painter said, referring to his junior English teacher.

"He was always challenging students and was very firm in terms of discipline."

He said that although many teens resent that approach, as life goes on, you respect someone who only cared about your improvement as a student.

Mr. Omstead described his former student as a very smart guy.

"Matt really didn't get the credit he deserved as a student. He was a better student than most people thought," Mr. Omstead said.

Mr. Omstead said one of Painter's best qualities was his ability to budget his time.

"Mr. Richard Williams was also an inspiration to me as a student," said Painter, referring to his creative writing teacher.

"He made you think 'outside the box' and look beyond the obvious!"

With his determination and drive, and with some help from his teachers, Painter finished somewhere around 25 out of 250 students in his class.

Not only was he successful in his studies, but he was also successful in his basketball skills.

"The highlights of my basketball career at Delta were winning the sectional my senior year, three county championships, and going 60-12 in my three years of varsity basketball," he said.

Mr. Sam Fields, assistant principal, was Painter's freshman coach.

"I really liked Coach Fields, especially since he let me run the show as our point guard. We had five guys average around 7-8 points a game."

Painter's varsity coach was

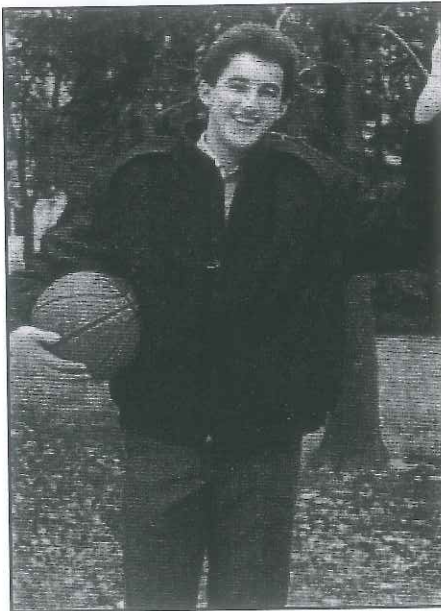
Stan Daugherty.

By his senior year, Painter had several colleges recruiting him. He ended up choosing Purdue.

"I chose Purdue over Michigan State, Minnesota, Ball State and Evansville, mainly because I wanted to experience something else besides Muncie, Indiana."

He added that he chose to play at Purdue for a lot of reasons, but the main reason was Coach Gene Keady.

"He was very honest and I felt I could trust



Matt Painter poses near his home as a high school student.

him," he said. "His players graduate and they always overachieve on the basketball court."

Painter added that his basketball career at Delta and the coaching of Coach Keady helped him succeed on the college basketball level.

Painter played guard at Purdue from 1990 to 1993. He appeared in 109 games, with 50 starts. He averaged 4.5 points per game and totaled 276 assists. He was team captain during the 1993 season and was named All-Big Ten honorable mention. He helped lead the Boilermakers to three NCAA Tournament bids and one NIT appearance during his playing career.

"My highlights at Purdue were probably the relationships I had with my teammates and coaches," he said.

After Painter had graduated, Purdue went on to win three straight Big Ten Championships. He said he was disappointed he missed out on those years.



Matt Painter is ready for his first season as Purdue head coach.

"I do not have any regrets, but it does bother me that we did not have more success," he said.

On April 1, 2005, Painter officially became Purdue's 18th men's basketball coach. It didn't take long for Painter's name to move to the top lists of Purdue's all-time winningest coach Gene Keady and athletics director Morgan Burke.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for me and really a dream come true to be able to coach at my alma mater," said Painter. "We have set our goals very high and want to win championships here at Purdue. This program has a phenomenal history and tradition, and we want to continue to build on that."

He said that being asked to coach caught him by surprise.

"We had a lot of discussions before everything fell in place. I feel very blessed to have this opportunity."

Being hired as head coach for Purdue took some work along the way. Painter spent the 2003-2004 season as the head coach of Southern Illinois, where the Salukis attained a 25-2 record and an appearance in the NCAA Tournament. Painter earned Missouri Valley Coach of the Year honors for his accomplishments.

He added that he has feelings of guilt because he left SIU after one year as head coach.

"My wife's family lives in southern Illinois, so there was a lot more to the decisions than just basketball," he said.

Painter said his decision was a lot harder than people would expect.

After attaining a 16-4 record in the 2000-2001 season, Southern Illinois emerged to the national scene the following year, attaining a school record 28 wins en route to the NCAA Sweet 16. The 2001-2002 team

The Painter File

Birthdate – August 27, 1970

Hometown – Muncie, Indiana

College – Purdue '94 (B.A.), Eastern Illinois '98 (M.S.)

Playing Experience – 1990-93 Purdue

Coaching Experience -- 1993-94 Washington & Jefferson, Asst. Coach; 94-95 Barton College, Asst. Coach; 1995-98 Eastern Illinois, Asst. Coach; 1998-03 Southern Illinois, Asst. Coach; 2003-04 Southern Illinois, Head Coach; 2004-2005 Purdue, Asst. Coach April 1, 2005-present Purdue, Head Coach

finished 28-8 and defeated Indiana, Iowa State, Georgia and Texas Tech.

In the 2002-2003 season, Southern Illinois continued to win, claiming their second-straight regular season conference title and making a return trip to the NCAA Tournament. The team was also featured on a nationally televised documentary on MTV.

Before coaching at Southern Illinois, Painter coached one year each at Washington and Jefferson College, Barton College, and spent three years at Eastern Illinois.

"My most memorable moments in coaching are the times I have helped a player in attaining their college degree, mature as a person, improve as a player, or help them have a successful basketball career," he said.

Painter added that it is obvious going to the NCAA tournament at Washington & Jefferson and almost getting to the Final Four at the Division III level were exciting moments for him.

"Our success at Southern Illinois (3 NCAA and 1 NIT) probably stands out the most, especially the year we went to the Sweet Sixteen," he said.

He said much of his coaching advice has come from former coaches, especially Coach Keady.

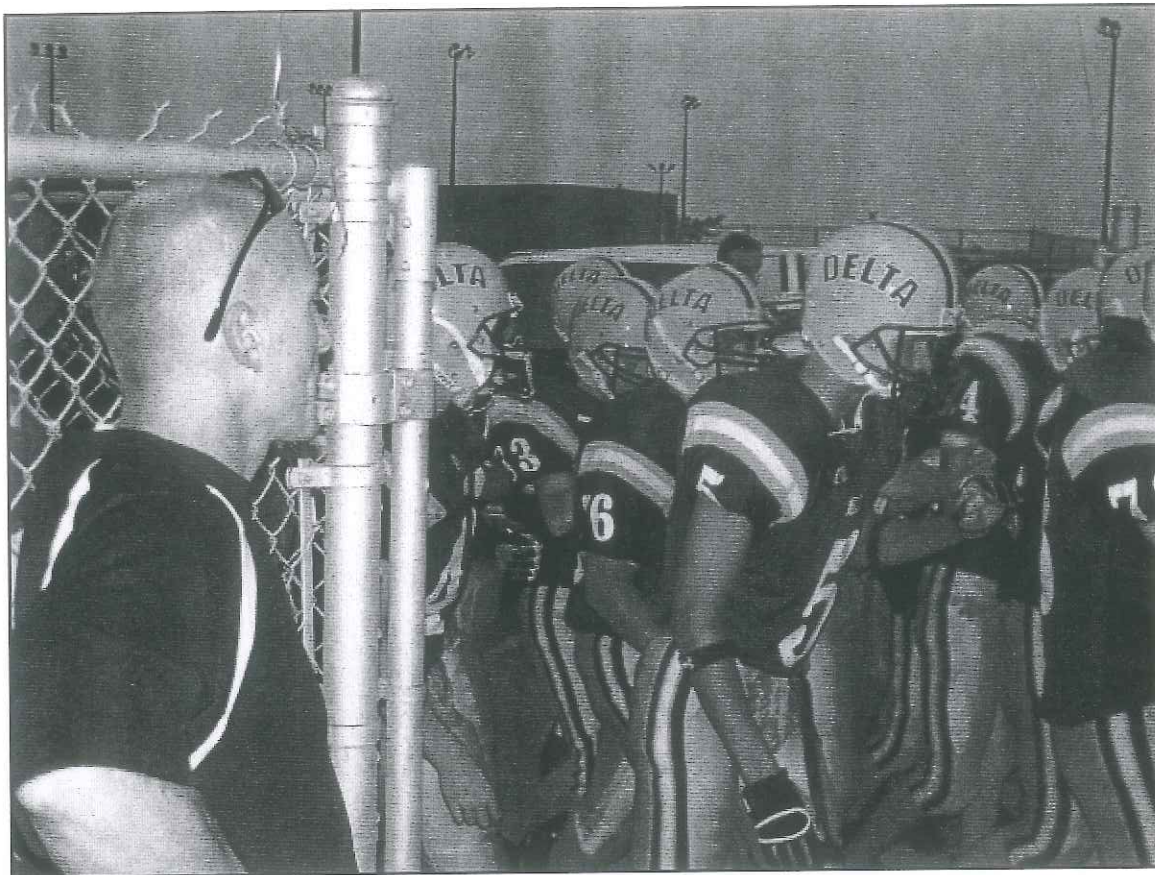
"Coach Keady is the best. He is a great person. The fans only see him on TV when he is fighting for his team," he said. "He looks like a bulldog, but he is surprisingly a very approachable guy."

Painter said his strongest point as a player and a coach is his ability to listen and store information about the game.

"I have always listened to my coaches throughout the years, so there isn't really anything that Coach Keady can say now that he hasn't already told me in the past 16 years," he said.

To many, he is a prime example of success. Certainly his teachers couldn't be happier for the Delta graduate.

"Do not complain about what you have because that is all you have." Painter said. "Nobody wants to hear why you did not get the job done. Figure out what you have to do to be successful- everyone is different. Make the most of every situation and do not make excuses or pass the buck."



Athletic director Mike Jones watches the Eagle football team take the field to warm up before the game against New Palestine on August 26.

New Sheriff

Story and photos by
Stephen Hopkins ❖ Feature Writer

in Town

Mr. Mike Jones dives in to his new role as athletic director following the retirement of Mr. Steve Reed.

5:20 p.m. Friday, August 26

More than two hours before kickoff, Mr. Mike Jones, athletic director, is on the move in his school-owned Gator motorized cart, constantly attempting to keep the night's events running smoothly.

It is Jones's second home football game, and it is shaping up to be a hectic night.

"I do all I can do to prepare," said Jones. "I don't want to have to scramble, but with this job, there are a lot of things that come up."

Jones is not alone, however, in his preparation for this game.

"One person that deserves a lot more credit than I do is Susie Mansker," said Jones, referring to his secretary. "She does a lot of work behind the scenes leading up to the game."

Mansker compiles the rosters and all of the programs.

Mr. Eugene Wolfe, janitor, is in charge of mowing the field.

"Eugene does an excellent job," said Jones.

5:25 p.m.

Jones rides up toward the north entrance of the school where he receives a care package from a janitor for the referees that he had made earlier.

Inside the plastic box are towels, candy bars and bottled water.

"I strive to make everyone as comfortable as

possible," said Jones. "Public relations are key."

5:30 p.m.

Jones rides over to the west side of the school to meet with the New Palestine coaches and players.

The team bus has not arrived yet, but a few assistant coaches have.

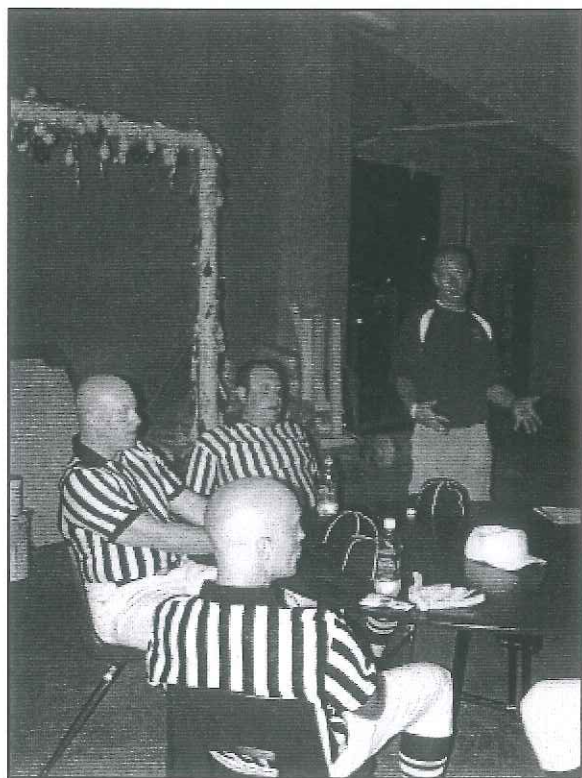
Jones tells them to contact him via cell phone when the team arrives.

5:35 p.m.

During the day on Friday, Jones goes over to the stadium and stocks all of the coolers, once again trying to do all that he can in advance.

On his way back to the stadium to check on the concessions area, Jones is stopped by Mr. Don Harmon, principal of Delta Middle School.

Harmon needs more game tickets to sell at the middle school dance. He has already sold 200 to students who plan on going to the game after the dance. Although the revenue earned by the athletic department is appreciated, Jones knows that the administration of Delta High School will not enjoy the added stress and responsibility of looking after numerous, hormonal



During halftime, Mike Jones meets with game officials and offers them a drink and something to eat.

He is 34 years old and is single.

He graduated from Ball State.

He has two German Shepherds that he rescued from ARF. (Dillinger and Girl).

He runs Friday-Sunday. Monday-Thursday he is in the weight room.

Likes to golf when he has the time.

Wants to stay close to Winchester to keep an eye on his mother.

Meet Mike Jones

middle school students.

A smiling Jones hands more student tickets to Harmon, saying, "I am sure that (assistant principal Mr. Fields) is going to love this."

Jones and Harmon previously worked together at Yorktown High School.

At Yorktown, Jones taught history and coached both football and track.

He later taught at Muncie Central and coached football. World Geography was his favorite class to teach.

5:51 p.m.

New Palestine has arrived. Jones greets the head coach and asks him if he can do anything for the team.

Jones strikes up a conversation about New Palestine's win over Whiteland and how one of Whiteland's players was listed as being 7 feet, 390 pounds.

Their head coach described him as being, "a real-life Fred Flintstone."

"I try to find something in common with everyone. It makes them feel more comfortable," said Jones. "It breaks the ice."

Jones said he has noticed he gets treated a lot nicer by opposing coaches now that he is the athletic director instead of a football coach.

"We don't want (New Palestine) to beat us," said Jones. "But we want them to leave and feel as if they have been treated well. We want people to say good things about Delta."

5:59 p.m.

Jones catches up with officials. He hands them their paychecks and they head into the school to suit up.

Each of the five officials gets paid \$60 per game. The officials travel from school to school doing games as a crew. This particular crew was from Indianapolis.

Former athletic director Steve Reed hired all the officials through this year and the next. Jones has already started hiring officials for the 2010 season.

"Experience will be my greatest tool in selecting officiating crews," said Jones. "Another good thing to do is ask coaches how they feel about certain crews."

Jones also meets with the chain crew member who makes the first-down markers and speaks with them shortly about the upcoming game.

The chain crew members are all volunteers.

6:03 p.m.

Jones drives over to the stadium to meet with his ticket sellers and ticket takers.

"I have an all new staff," said Jones. "I want them to develop a relationship with me. I offered all the people that worked for Reed to continue, but most of them declined."

Ticket sellers and takers make \$20 per game.

On his way back to the Gator, he picks up a Mountain Dew.

"I never drink sodas, but once a week, I need to get jacked up," said Jones with a laugh.

6:20 p.m.

Jones travels back to the school to gather a table and five chairs for the officials. He walks into the commons and asks Mr. Gregory Hinshaw, principal, if he may have one of the old lunchroom tables. Hinshaw says he may have one if he fills out a form that he has taken one.

After speaking with Hinshaw, Jones walks into Mr. Fields' office to give him a hard time about all the tickets he sold to the middle school students.

"That's wonderful," said Fields with a sarcastic smile.

Jones heads back to the stadium once again and heads up to the press box at the top of the stadium to find himself a sandwich.

"This will possibly be the only time I get a chance to eat, so I am going to take advantage of it," said Jones.

The athletic department buys the food from Minars IGA, a grocery store in Albany.

"One of the first people to buy season tickets was the man who owned Minars," said Jones. "I think that we should be loyal to our patrons."

6:29 p.m.

Jones speaks with the police officers who will keep security during the game.

There are four officers hired for a regular game, but when Delta plays Yorktown or Muncie Central, there are two additional officers present.

While speaking with the officers, Jones spots an elderly New Palestine fan trying to cross the track using his walker.

Jones hustles over to the gentleman and offers him a ride to the visitor's bleachers on the Gator. The



Mike Jones gives a New Palestine fan a ride to his vehicle after the game ends.

man agrees, and his wife walks behind as her husband and Jones ride to the other side of the field.

7:11 p.m.

Jones turns on the stadium lights. He is constantly on the move and talking on his two-way radio

"Being the athletic director is the one job crazier than being principal. The time involved and the number of people you have to deal with are great in number."

---Mr. Greg Hinshaw; principal

or cell phone.

Jones sent 25 free tickets to New Palestine as a kind gesture and to encourage people to make the long trip to Delta.

"There are so few visiting fans, that I don't think anyone had to buy a ticket," said Jones, noticing the barren visitor's bleachers.

7:30 p.m.

The game starts and Jones gets his first breather of the night. But it doesn't last for long.

Minutes into the game, a New Palestine player is injured. As the player is taken off the field in the

Gator, Jones walks over toward him and asks him what is wrong.

The player, holding back tears, says, barely audible, that it is his ankle. Jones asks if he can do anything. The assistant coach says no and thanks Jones for his concern.

Jones gets his first chance of the evening to watch some football and does so without much distraction until halftime.

8:40 p.m.

It's halftime. Jones walks to the officials under the stadium and leaves to get them each a bottle of water. One official also asks for a hot dog and a Pepsi.

Suddenly a pole just outside the place where Jones and the officials are sitting emits a shower of sparks from an electrical box.

He immediately calls a janitor and notifies Hinshaw and Mr. Chad Briggs, assistant principal.

Briggs, Jones and two janitors place a barrier around the pole consisting of caution tape and wooden posts.

They also ask an officer to stand watch over the area to make sure that no one gets hurt.

9:15 p.m.

Jones gets his second chance to watch a little bit of football. In the few moments that he has to relax, Jones describes the goals he would like to accomplish as athletic director.

"There are two things that I try to accomplish: 1) Safety of everyone in attendance and 2) Treat people right," said Jones.

9:50 p.m.

The game ends and the fans start to file out.

Jones hops into the Gator and drives over to the visitor's bleachers to pick up the elderly gentleman that he had helped before the start of the game.

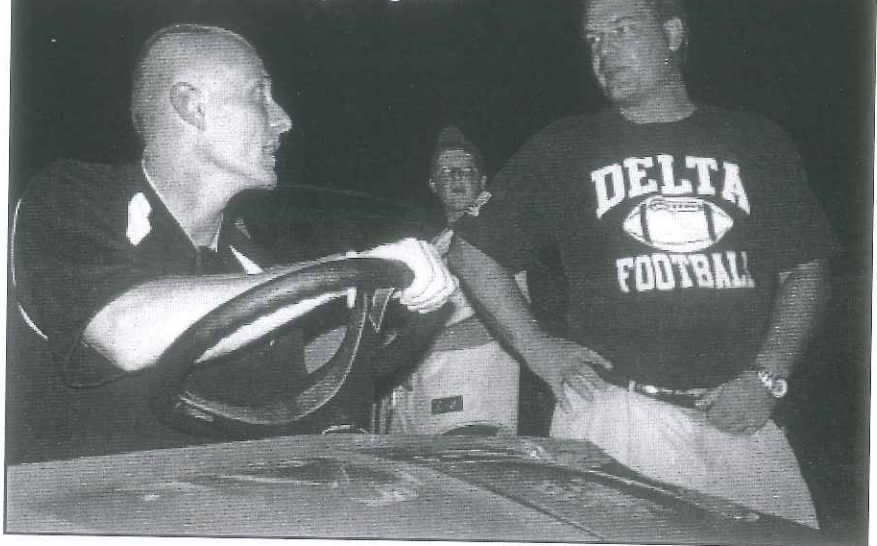
Jones takes him all the way to his car, much to the appreciation of the gentleman and his wife.

10:20 p.m.

Jones turns out the lights of the stadium and heads up to the press box to make sure everyone is gone and to straighten up.

After checking the press box, Jones speaks with Hinshaw and an officer and departs from the stadium.

Mike Jones speaks with Mr. Hernly, quarterback Tyler Hernly's father, about the officiating of the night's game.



"Being the athletic director is the one job crazier than being principal," said Hinshaw.

"The time involved and the number of people you have to deal with are great in number."

Jones misses football but finds that being athletic director is a worthy challenge.

"The job makes me feel so alive, and what is life without a little excitement?" said Jones.

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Eric Clapton – *Back Home*

In *Back Home*, Clapton falls despairingly short, succumbing to the dullness of domesticity. (review by Bobby Helfst)

★★ out of ★★★★★

Most would figure that a musical artist who had been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, not once, not twice, but three times and who had received 16 Grammy awards would be able to put out a thoughtful, successful album after several slow years to ponder and produce new material. When you add in the fact that the aforesaid artist was Eric Clapton, there should be no doubt that a new album would be great, right? WRONG!

Clapton, whose new album *Back Home* was released on Aug. 30, is known for classics such as "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" (penned by Bob Dylan) and the love ballad "Wonderful Tonight" (composed by Clapton himself). Clapton, however, falls despairingly short on his newest album, which deals with life at home as a husband and father.

Clapton now has two daughters, but he had a son 15 years ago. The boy, Conor, died in a tragic accident when he fell 49 stories from a hotel balcony. Clapton channeled his grief into his writing, and he composed a heart wrenching song entitled "Tears in Heaven," which won six Grammy's in 1992 for the single alone. One would deduce that his newfound joy of his quiet nurturing of his daughters would give him inspiration to produce at least

one brilliant song, but alas, *Back Home* falls short.

The first song on this album is entitled "So Tired," a father's lament to how busy family life is. Repetitive, boring, and uncreative, the song restrains Clapton, especially in his vocals. The addition of seemingly endless back-up singers makes it feel like a bad Vegas show, and Clapton is lost in this



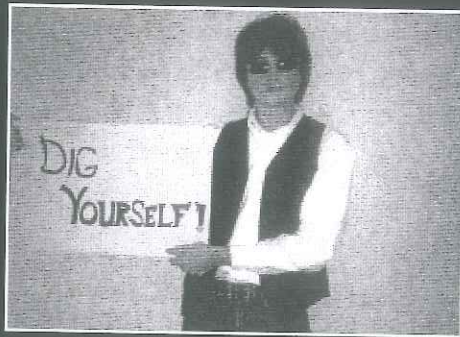
messy train wreck of a song.

Two indistinguishable songs later, the listener comes to what may be the best song on the album, "Love Don't Love Nobody." This one is actually enjoyable and is more reminiscent of the good ol' Clapton days. A slow, reflective piano intro is followed by slow acoustic guitar chords and quiet drum beats. Clapton delivers a good vocal performance, which seems very similar to "Wonderful Tonight." The chorus, however, again falls prey to those voracious back-up singers, who also throw off

Clapton's near-perfect blues performance. The lyrics are also wonderful; the chorus reads "It takes a fool, to learn that love don't love nobody," and the verses are just as poignantly written.

The main problem with this album is that it doesn't stick to a single style of song or genre; it is continually jumping back and forth among the different types, making it seem like a half-baked experiment thrown together for a cheap profit upon an unsuspecting public. Even though Clapton is changing genres throughout the album, each of the songs still sounds the same! The songs flow from one to the other, which is both a blessing and a curse: It gives the album unity, but it also keeps most of the songs from being recognizable.

Clapton gives a worthy effort, but falls short. Perhaps a different producer was in order. Clapton is more than capable for greatness, but he just might need somebody else to put him in the right direction besides himself. If he were to have had Paul Bishow, the producer of his album *Slowhand*, which included the hits "Cocaine" and "Wonderful Tonight," *Back Home* would have been a success. This is all speculation, of course. Maybe this album was meant for the clearance rack.



In a soldier's stance, I aimed my hand at the mongrel dogs who teach, fearing not I'd become my enemy in the instant that I did preach. My existence, led by confusion boats, mutiny from stern to bow. But I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now. (Bob Dylan)

Jerrick T. Adams ❖ No Direction Home

... So summer is now little more than a fading ember. And what is there to say of this summer? What could be said of Mercury nights and silvery dreams? Bittersweet ... it's all so very bittersweet.

Fast times ... tremendous kicks with some fantastic cats. New faces, which were welcome and necessary. For the first time in quite some time ... I was free to be what I am. I was free to be as mad and savage and manic and romantic as I cared to be ... I was not held by previous perceptions; I was able to achieve something of a clean canvas and was, at long last, granted artistic license to damage my canvas in whatever ways I saw fit and to paint my masterpiece. And, to be completely honest, I think it's a hip portrait.

Late nights ... or early mornings, more accurately. Youth is a bit of a cruel mistress ... who do I fool? It is the cruelest of mistresses. We are, in reality, but prisoners of the night; walking pieces of hunger that know no fulfillment. Angst does not do reality justice ... to call it desperation would be a far more accurate claim. We burn like mad across the pathway of the night and look for kicks and cats to kick around with ... and some of us make the mistake of seeking some connection.

Romantic cats, some of us are. I know I am. I'm one of the cats out searching desperately for some kind of connection ... and it's funny where you find it. One can easily bare his soul at two o'clock in the morning ... there are no secrets at two o'clock in the morning; only raw and bleeding honesty. I could never find the sensational words to doll it up at that hour ... so that's as naked as I can be. I recall crimson nights, standing idle, with my hands in my pockets in the Steak 'n' Shake parking lot ... or perhaps reeling through the aisles of Wal-Mart at the most obscene hour (yes, yes ... what a romantic respite from this harsh, corporate world), laughing excitedly and digging everything and everyone all at once ... fantastically shallow kicks and startlingly naked conversation ... depth that can't be achieved in daylight. It's quite the thing ... and you don't realize it till you're awake at nine o'clock in the morning; pounding head and aching eyes and grappling with the seemingly wasteful prospect of sleep in the face of such LIFE. It's really beautiful ... and it's one of the finest feelings I've known. So fleeting in its almost tragic beauty ... but man, what a sensation while it lasts.

... and Sunday morning coming down ... when all of

the romance and kicks and deep crimson colors begin to fade and you're left with the grey, grey dawn. The trouble with cats like me is that the connections all seem rather fleeting ... and one day you wake up and find that you're as alone and cold as you ever were; that no heat of midsummer's dreams could warm you or tear you from the reality of winter's breath upon your neck and the devil dogging your heels.

It's a strange sort of blue ... the blues one experiences with the end of summer; when sweet summer nights turn into summer dreams. Tinged with shades of crimson and violet ... the memories of summer days are few for me, but summer nights ... they make my mind hurt like a warehouse. For though they are sweet, they're just as bitter ... and it just makes you ache for the breath of spring.

And we haven't even faced autumn.

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IN FAVOR



Sophomore Bobby Helfst cites opt-out clause to the Pledge Law and need of patriotism in times of war as justification of the Pledge Law.

Patriotism. Patriotism is defined in the American Heritage Dictionary as being "Love of and devotion to one's country." Patriots and patriotism in general have come under fire as of late, threatened to be crushed down by those who wish to erase that swelling of pride for home and country. I'll admit that our current president is doing a less than satisfactory job, but patriotism should not be tied to the president's performance.

A new law is in place in Indiana which requires every public school to hold a Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence daily. Some are arguing that this is unconstitutional, referring to the First Amendment's clause "Congress shall make no law respecting establishment of religion..." claiming that the phrase "under God" in the

Pledge of Allegiance is one such establishment.

Our country was founded with laws based upon Christian beliefs and morals. This does not mean that you must be a Christian. Heck, you have the right to be a Satanist if it so pleases you, but our country is based upon those Christian beliefs. Our forefathers traveled to the

New World so that we would have the right to practice whatever religion we wish to, or none at all.

Why should the majority of students suffer because one child's parents take offense to their child reciting a traditional oath to home and country? Why should those who choose to do so be persecuted for

**I pledge allegiance
to the flag of the United States of America
and to the republic for which it stands one nation
under God indivisible
with liberty and justice for all.**

Oh, the conservative state of Indiana has made another wonderful law.
THE PLEDGE LAW IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL and here's why.

I believe it is sensible within this context that the Indiana Pledge Law is unconstitutional. Indiana state legislators shall make no law respecting religion. I'd say an act of the state of Indiana requiring that all public schools have a time for students to pledge allegiance to any god qualifies. I believe that if public schools are going to remain public, then the separation of church and state needs to remain intact within that institution.

How many times have you and I read people fighting to get this or that religion acknowledged by the public school system? I've read time and time again the stories of parents who demand prayer sessions to be included

in the school's curriculum, or scientific theories to be thrown out in favor of faith.

Public school is not the place for a faith-based curriculum. There are plenty of private schools that include a faith-based curriculum. If parents want their children immersed in this, send them there, or a better idea, go to Sunday school. Heck, read the Bible at home. The phrase "under God" was added in 1954 by Congress "to deny the atheistic and materialistic concept of communism." In those terms, it worked. The "evildoers," as President Bush likes to call them, don't have an issue with being "under God," it's the "liberty and justice for all" they dislike. If we Liberals really want to

make the right wing nuts, we should change "under God" to "with equality between men and women."

Why do we go to school? Well, my guess why we go to school is just for that, schooling! Schools have taken over almost every role a parent used to play, from enforcing discipline, to babysitting, and to teaching social skills and values. I don't think adding more religion is helping any. Schools have a more important role in society, and that is educating children.

Many conservative politicians ask if the courts rule the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional, and many have. For example, California's 9th Circuit Court, ruled that the forced recitation



Senior Sean Hays cites the necessary separation of church and state and the precedent of a case recently disputed in California in his argument.

AGAINST IT

IN FAVOR

showing their patriotism? Just because one person does not agree, that does not justify a mass persecution of the majority.

Think about it. If we were to devote all our time to making sure nobody was ever offended by anything, nothing would ever be accomplished! And that is precisely what has been going on, what with a new case being filed over the pledge or the Star-Spangled Banner or some other pointless topic almost daily! Not only are those who file these cases wasting their time, they are also wasting the time of Congress and the courts, which, in turn, wastes our time - and money.

"I pledge allegiance, to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the republic, for which it stands, one nation, **UNDER GOD**, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." The phrase "under God" does not have the person pledging to the god of Christian beliefs. You can pledge to any god, be it Zeus, Odin, Osiris...whomever you so wish.

Also, since nobody is required to say the pledge, I see no reason why they should be offended by others taking the opportunity to show their, that's right, **PATRIOTISM**. There are individuals who choose to remain seated

during the pledge and moment of silence, and quiet during both. As long as they do not interrupt the pledge or moment of silence, I hold no quarrel with them. (I have heard of one instance in which a teacher told their students that it was required of them to recite the pledge. That is incorrect and unconstitutional. If we were forced to, we'd be starting down a well-traveled path to ruin.)

Another dispute has reared its ugly, troublesome head. Some individuals argue that since a moment of silence is meant to be used for prayer, and one is required to be held during school hours, this violates the separation of church and state. I view the moment of silence as a time to privately honor and show respect to those who have fallen and are currently fighting to protect our right to complain about saying the pledge.

Just play along with me for a moment or two. Imagine you're a soldier. You've been shipped overseas to a hostile foreign land. You must suffer through harsh conditions and separation from loved ones, and then you receive word of **ENDLESS ARGUING** over a **SET OF WORDS** back home.

Pretty disheartening, isn't it?

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting establishment of religion or prohibiting the free practice thereof or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

AGAINST IT

of the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional.

The Indiana Civil Liberties Union has been rumored to possibly file suit against the state. The ICLU's main issue is the moment of silence. Ever since the Supreme Court prohibited organized prayer in schools in 1962, states have been passing laws designed to facilitate silent prayer by students who choose to participate. An almost identical Virginia law was challenged, but the court refused to hear the case.

Conservatives also ask if all religious faith will be abolished in all public areas. A number of conservative politicians have asked if this would lead to outlawing "God Bless America," or any other song having to do with American patriotism. In the words of the great Roy Blunt, R-Missouri, "The great strength of the United States is that we are and will continue to be, despite the liberal court's decision, one nation under God." Nobody sings "God Bless America" anywhere except on the Fourth of July and before sporting events. I really don't think that those areas relate to the separation of church and state. All are private arenas, and if a law was made to outlaw the singing of "God Bless America" or any other patriotic song, then it would be ruled unconstitutional.

"Our Founding Fathers must be spinning in their graves," said Sen. Kit Bond, R-Missouri. "What is next? Will the courts now strip 'So help me God' from the pledge taken by new presidents? This is the worst kind of political correctness

run amok."

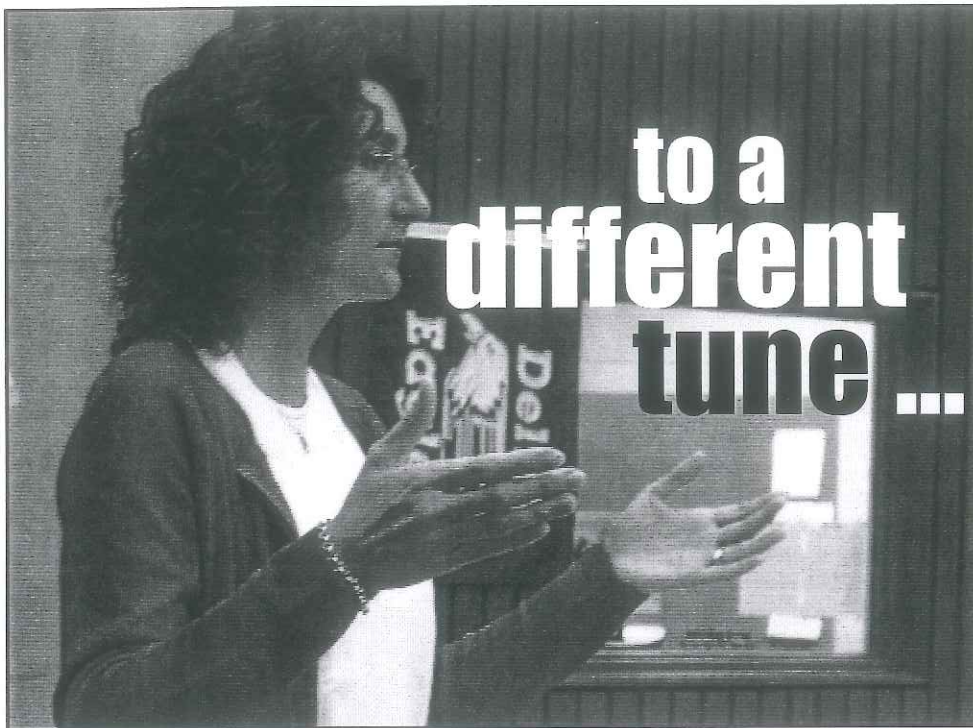
I don't think he knows that there is no law stating "So help me God" be recited when officeholders are being sworn in. George Washington spontaneously added the phrase during his inauguration. I would classify that as a start of a tradition. There is no law that requires a newly elected president to say the phrase. I would oppose it, and I'm almost certain the Founding Fathers would have as well.

In no way am I being unpatriotic or disrespectful to our serving men and women. I have the utmost respect for those who are fighting for our country and freedom. I, in fact, say the pledge, which many would consider hypocritical from my arguments. I am patriotic and love our country as much as the next guy. I'm also a Christian, I believe in God. I have no problem at all saying the pledge.

What I am trying to get across is simply looking at the bigger picture. We are the most culturally and religiously diverse nation in the world. Escaping the religious persecution of King George, our ancestors traveled to this land. If we continue to deny the same freedoms of other religions, then we in fact are an allusion to King George.

Not everyone is Christian. I know it's hard to believe, especially in this state.

For those who are not Christian we need to be respectful to them. They are Americans that should not be ostracized by a single phrase. For as long as we cannot accept others' beliefs and religions, this nation will stand divided.



to a different tune ...

Even new band director Mrs. Jennifer Olfier admits that her style differs wildly from that of former director Mr. Keith Pautler. Olfier and students speak of the transition – and what she plans to do with the band program

Hillary Bradburn ❖ Feature Writer

When a student starts at a new school, it is a big change for him or her. They don't know anyone and their surroundings are unfamiliar. But when a teacher starts at a new school, it's an even bigger change for the teacher and several students. Not only are the teachers unfamiliar to their surroundings, but their students aren't used to them and their teaching methods.

Mrs. Jennifer Olfier is the new band director, replacing Mr. Keith Pautler. She came here from Kalamazoo, Mich., where she taught at Mattawan Middle School and Mattawan High School. She got married and moved here because her husband, Andrew, works at the Rock Tenn paper mill in Eaton.

Olfier says she enjoys being a band director because she gets to work with a wide range of students. Also, she is passionate about music. She enjoys all types of music from jazz and pop to rock 'n' roll and heavy metal.

She plays the flute and the piano. She took eight years of piano lessons when she was young, and she was in a marching band with over 250 people and in a

concert band while she was in college at Western Michigan University.

She said she also loves musicals, especially *Rent* and *Phantom of the Opera*.

"It's so beautiful," she said.

In her spare time, Olfier likes to read. Some of her favorite books are the Harry Potter books and the Shopaholic series. She is a big shopper as well.

"It's a bad thing for my credit card!" she said.

She also loves to walk her dog, Maddie, who is a shi-tzu poodle mix. She has two other pets, a grey longhaired cat named Mel, and a tiger colored longhaired cat named Andy.

Olfier seems to be enjoying Delta so far.

"I like it. The people are very nice," she said.

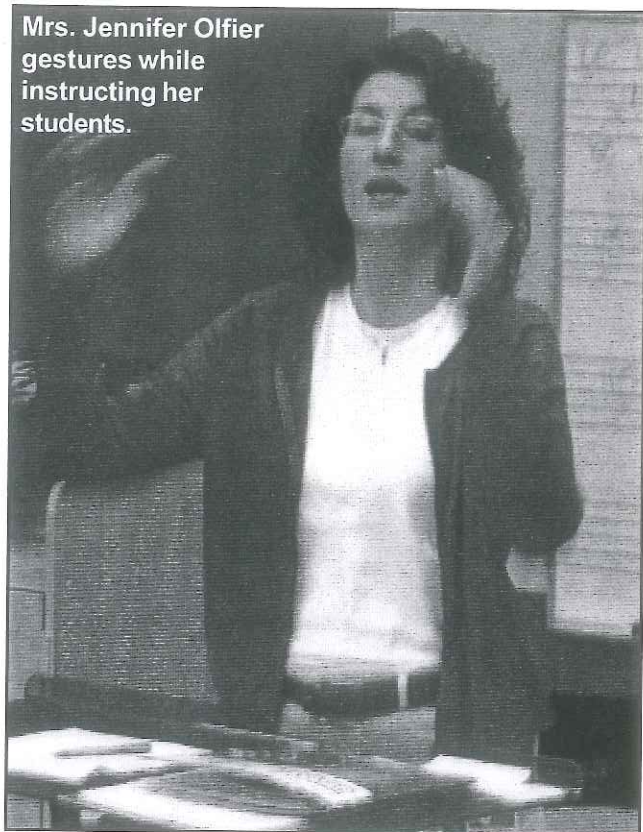
But, of course, she is different from Pautler. She is much more conservative.

And she feels pressure following him, especially when people make comparisons

"Everyone is very concerned that I am going to change everything here. I have no intention of taking away great traditions that have been a part of the band program. I want to help keep them strong and carry them on. That is what makes our band program special, and I would never want to take that away."

—Mrs. Jennifer Olfier, band director

Mrs. Jennifer Olfier gestures while instructing her students.



between the two of them.

"It's a natural thing and I have expected it. My students are quickly learning that I am not very similar to Mr. Pautler, but I have my own experience and areas of expertise that I bring to the band program," she said.

And there's a difference in the band this year.

Sophomore Anna Fleckenstein and sophomore Alex Moore seem to agree.

"She's not as psychotically fun," said Fleckenstein "She doesn't dress up or scream. Pautler got into it and dressed up, too."

"Pautler was more crazy. She's more uptight and she's more nervous about what we wear," said Moore.

So, of course, there is a lot for students to adjust to.

"I don't think they [students] like me more than Pautler. It's a big transition," said Olfier.

For some students, this is true.

"I don't like the changes at all," said Fleckenstein.

However, some students think differently.

"I like her," said sophomore Austin MacMillan.

Moore feels the same way.

"I think she's not used to the way our school works, but once she gets used to it, she'll do a good job," he said.

Besides the change of teachers, not much will change about the band program. There will be the same traditions, although Olfier would like to add new pep band tunes and have the concert bands perform more. Also, she would like to increase the number of students.

"I plan to carry on the great tradition of concert and jazz bands that have always been a big part of Delta," she said. "Everyone is very concerned that I am going to change everything here. I have no intention of taking away great traditions that have been a part of the band program. I want to help keep them strong and carry them on. That is what makes our band program special and I would never want to take that away."

Some worry about the pep band changing, becoming less crazy at football and basketball games. But Olfier said, "If you have been at the past three football games, you will have seen the band dressed as pirates, geeks and nerds, and last week was a sleepover theme. So we were there in our PJs. One of the fun things about pep band is getting to dress up, so I don't want to take that away from the students."

Olfier did work with a marching band at her old school, but she said she has no plans to bring one to Delta.

"It's too expensive and competitive," she said.

So far, this transition seems smooth. Olfier and her students can breathe easily now.

"It's going to be hard for her to do a good job because she's following a legend, but she's doing a good job," said MacMillan.

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Cheerleaders often experience a great deal of silent (and not-so silent) ridicule due to stereotypes and generalizations. However, in spite of such pigeon-holing, they put forth a great deal of effort, both when cheering and in their academic lives. In spite of critical comments, they still bring the ...

S P I R I T

Bobby Helfst ❖ Feature Writer

The cheers of the crowd surround you, deadening the announcer's voice. Spectators file to their seats, carrying tubs of buttery popcorn and juicy hot dogs. Bodies collide on the field and a yellow flag is thrown. Over the angry yells of the crowd, the cheerleading squad begins the school fight song while doing a complicated build, elevating several girls high off the ground.

Welcome to the homecoming football game.

Hope Lehman is the cheer squad's head coach for her second year, and this is her third year involved with the cheerleading squad. Lehman started out as the assistant coach and then applied for the head-coaching job when the position opened up.

The Roster

Junior Varsity

Amanda Reel
Skyler Wright
Jennifer Grove
Brooke Sorg
Adrianna Menefee
Gaby Bonilla
Wendy Heaton
Miranda Mastin
Lynnette Wyatt

Girls Varsity

Katie Alexander
Hannah Whiteman
Ali Petty
Alexis Glore
Megan Devoe
Kayla Farber
Kelli Chriswell

Boys Varsity

Lauren Campbell
Kristy Davis
Grace Baker
Sara Fry
Mandee Motsenbocker
Courtney McCormick
Amanda Jordan
Erin Evans

With the loss of five senior cheerleaders, one would think that this year's squad would be having trouble. That, however, is incorrect, according to one squad member.

"Things are going well. Everything is starting to come together really well," said sophomore Alexis Glore, a second-year cheerleader.

Compared to the five senior members of the squad last year, there is only Kristy Davis, the solo senior.

When thinking of cheerleaders, some

conjure up images of a brainless robot mindlessly smiling and chanting, put in front of the crowd to keep redblooded American boys entertained. According to Lehman, this is as far from the truth as possible.

"Most of our girls are very good students, and most of them are on the honor roll. They make good decisions for themselves. I realize my girls aren't perfect, but as a whole they are true leaders. Cheerleaders tend to be very outgoing and like to laugh a lot. Sometimes this is misconstrued as being 'ditzzy' when in reality the girls just have a great deal of confidence," Lehman explained.

Another preconceived notion is that all you need to be a cheerleader is to be able to do a few flips and



Members of the junior varsity squad pose for a photo. Photo / Deltonian Yearbook Staff

memorize some "simple" cheers. That is wrong as well.

"I don't think most people realize how hard we work," Glore said. "We started practicing in May, and practiced from 6 to 9 a.m. three days a week throughout summer. We work as hard, if not harder, than other teams, and most people don't realize how hard it is to hold or toss people above your head," Glore added, ending her remark with a chuckle.

Lehman said, "Because our season lasts the entire school year, we do not practice every day. However, we work very hard when we practice."

"Most of our girls are very good students, and most of them are on the honor roll. They make good decisions for themselves. I realize my girls aren't perfect, but as a whole they are true leaders. Cheerleaders tend to be very outgoing and like to laugh a lot. Sometimes this is misconstrued as being 'ditz' when in reality the girls just have a great deal of confidence."

—Hope Lehman, coach

These grueling practices, which take place twice during the week and on Saturday mornings, include stretching, abdominal workouts, warm-up jumps and tumbling, cheer material, and new routines.

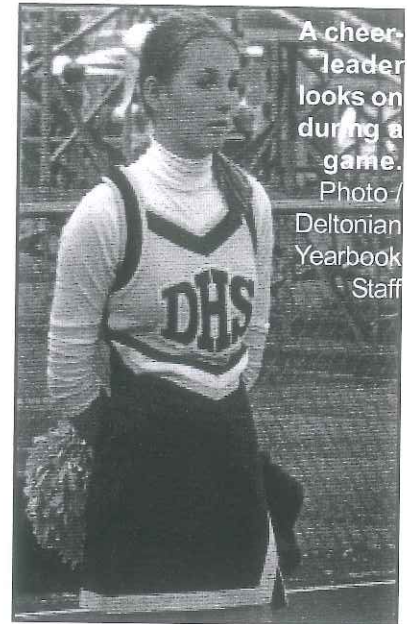
A cheerleader's main job is to keep the crowd fired up and excited about a game. As years move on, cheerleaders are increasingly taxed by demands for more and more complicated stunts. The cheer squad has added two to its repertoire, the Hip-Hop Over and Swedish Falls, both involving flips in the air.

"The Swedish Fall is a little misleading. We are not allowed at the high school level to actually fall; the girls have to wait until college for that," Lehman explained.

Not only do they cheer at all home football and

basketball games, but the cheer squad also travels to competitions. They participate in three to four competitions a year, starting in October, during which they receive more of the recognition they deserve, said Glore.

"I think that the majority of Delta's cheerleaders will go on to be very successful after they graduate from high school, as do most former cheerleaders," Lehman assured.



A cheerleader looks on during a game.
Photo / Deltonian Yearbook Staff

"We work as hard, if not harder, than other teams, and most people don't realize how hard it is to hold or toss people above your head."

—Alexis Glore, sophomore

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**Dr. Michael Crider
says ...**

**Be skin smart.
Don't tan!**

**Michael K. Crider, M.D.,
3310 W. Purdue Ave.
Muncie, IN 47304 P.C.**



Nine planets around the sun, only one does the sun embrace. Upon this watered one, so much we take for granted. So let us sleep outside tonight, lay down in our mother's arms for here we can rest safely.

(Dave Matthews)

Stephen Hopkins ❖ The Last Word

I am tired of it, just plain tired of it. If I hear one more story about how high or drunk someone got last weekend, I am going to flip out.

I don't care if you do it. I really don't. I believe that it is your own choice and in most cases, I am not in any position to tell you not to participate in these activities. I am pretty open-minded, and if you aren't bothering me or putting others in danger, do what you will. I only wish that students would talk about something other than that party on Saturday.

I already know what will happen when students read this story. Some will immediately start talking about how I am a jerk for writing about this. (And "jerk" is the G-rated version of the names I most likely will be called.) I am prepared to be ridiculed.

Why don't I drink? Why don't I smoke? Why can't I just relax and have a good time?

First, I don't have to participate in any of these activities to have fun. Some would think I am childish, and I would agree. I enjoy plenty of other things that are less risky.

Secondly, I have respect for my body. I can't afford to lose brain cells by drinking or sniffing air duster. I am an athlete. I want to have the best lung capacity that I possibly can. If I smoke, I will have a lot more trouble.

And finally, I don't have the money to blow on alcohol or a new car if I were to wreck my old one because I drove drunk. What's a pack of cigarettes cost? Way too much for me to even consider.

A shock that has also come to me is the severity of the addictions of some of my classmates. What used to be a recreational activity utilized once or twice a month has become a weekly if not daily undertaking.

Another surprise was the type of drugs that can be purchased and used. Alcohol, sleeping and pain pills, and marijuana no longer satisfy a lot of students. Some have "graduated" on to more serious drugs like cocaine, heroin and ecstasy.

It is hard for me to sit back and watch them hurt themselves like they do. I want so badly to help them.

I have offered my hand and the use of my ears to many, only to be turned away by all but a select few.

I have come to learn, however, that one can only

offer help. You cannot make decisions for others. They have to want to change.

I believe that drug and alcohol abuse is selfish. Just think for a moment of all the things that you can do physically and mentally. Now think about people who have disabilities that they did not cause and cannot control. We take our capabilities and gifts for granted.

Over this past summer I worked at a camp for kids with muscular dystrophy. These kids would love to be able to

do the simple things that "normal" people do such as riding a bike or walking to the store.

Some were not able to do things as simple as brushing their own teeth, feeding themselves and going to the bathroom.

How about kids with severe asthma? They have never smoked a cigarette in their entire life

and yet some have trouble breathing while sitting on a couch.

I know everyone comes from different backgrounds, and therefore I am not going to judge any individual. Some may drink or use drugs as a method of attempting to cope with struggles in their life.

I don't know what your struggles are, but I can assure you that I have had some of my own. But once again, everyone is different and no one is perfect.

I encourage everyone to be strong when things don't go the way we would like them to.

There are so many other positive, constructive activities that you could participate in rather than hiding behind drugs or alcohol.

If someone would like to write into the magazine and argue a well-reasoned point on the merits of using alcohol and drugs, I will read it. Remain anonymous if you wish. I am willing to listen to other people's ideas.

A shock that has also come to me is the severity of the addictions of some of my classmates. What used to be a recreational activity utilized once or twice a month has become a weekly if not daily undertaking.

Q & A

Meet the various members of your high school community.

Katie Maine – Social Studies teacher

Matt Graham – Social Studies teacher

Basics - Experienced in U.S. History, Government and Geography, Maine has student taught at Yorktown and taught for two years at Daleville Junior / Senior High School. She is a former student (and star volleyball player) of Delta High School and a Ball State graduate.

What inspired you to choose the particular areas of study that you chose?

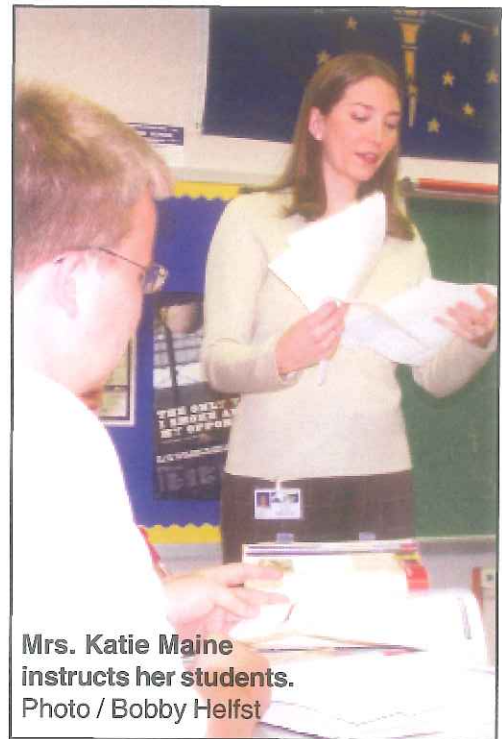
I have always loved to talk to my grandparents about our family history, so I always was interested in history class. Government intrigued me as well. Geography always piqued my curiosity because my dad is an airline pilot and he's been all of the places I teach about.

Do you have any plans to become a part of the volleyball program here later in the future?

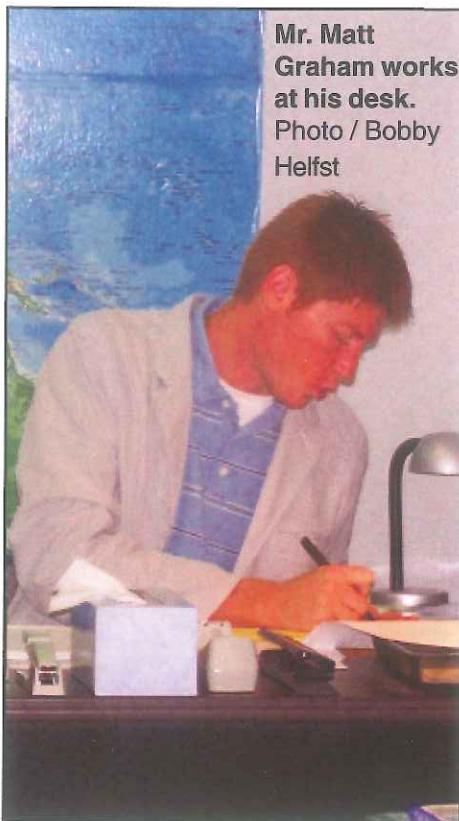
I have a 6 and a half-month-old and plan on having more kids so coaching volleyball has been put to the side for now. I definitely wouldn't rule it out for the future, just not right now.

From the perspective of student-turned-teacher, how has DHS changed, in terms of facilities, faculty and students?

The facilities are the same, much of the faculty is the same, but thankfully the students I graduated with are no longer here! I am very glad to have taught somewhere else for my first two years. I learned so much from that experience, but there is nothing like the feeling of coming home. I am so grateful for that.



Mrs. Katie Maine instructs her students.
Photo / Bobby Helfst



Mr. Matt Graham works at his desk.
Photo / Bobby Helfst

Basics - Experienced in U.S. History, Geography and Government, Graham taught for one year at Northfield Junior / Senior High School. Graham attended North Miami High School and Taylor University

What inspired you to choose the particular areas of study that you chose?

My mother is a teacher and I saw in her a sense of purpose and a feeling that she was making a difference to someone, so that spurred me toward teaching in the beginning. I was a business major at T.U. for 2 years, but I did not feel that I was best using the talents I have in that area – so I made the switch and got my social studies degree in two and a half years.

What is your opinion of Delta High School thus far, both in terms of facilities, faculty and student body?

Delta has been great so far in all aspects.

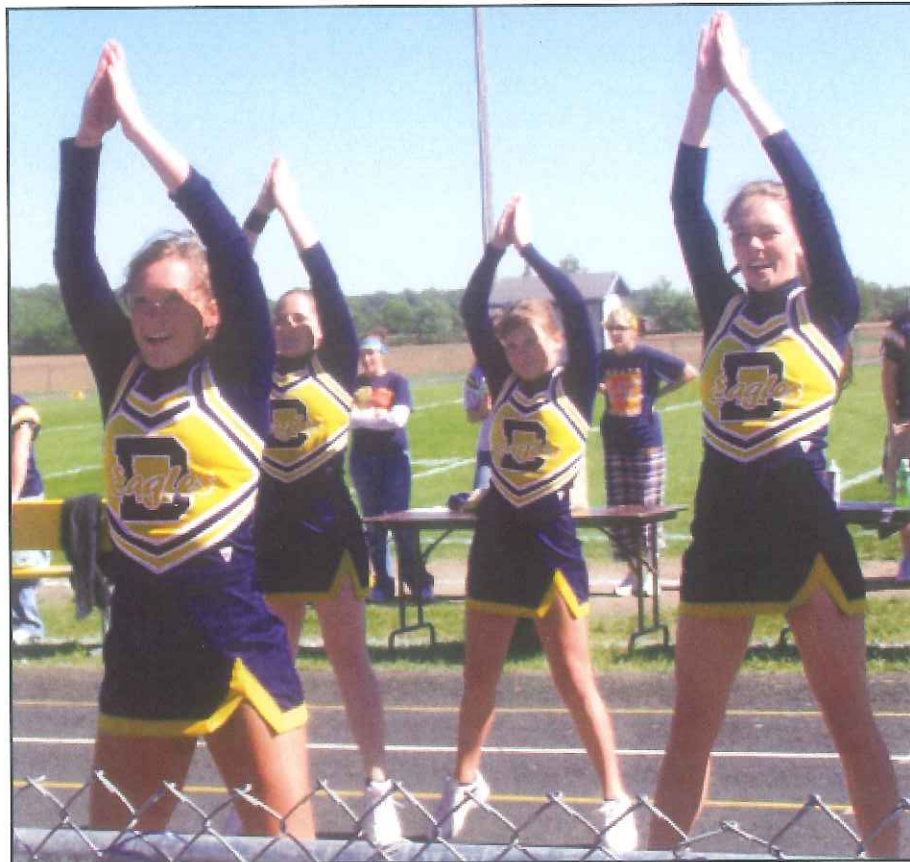
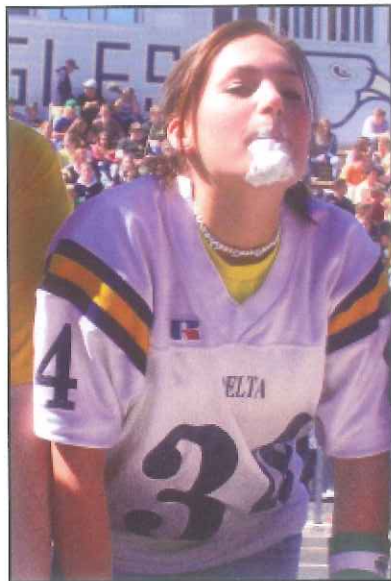
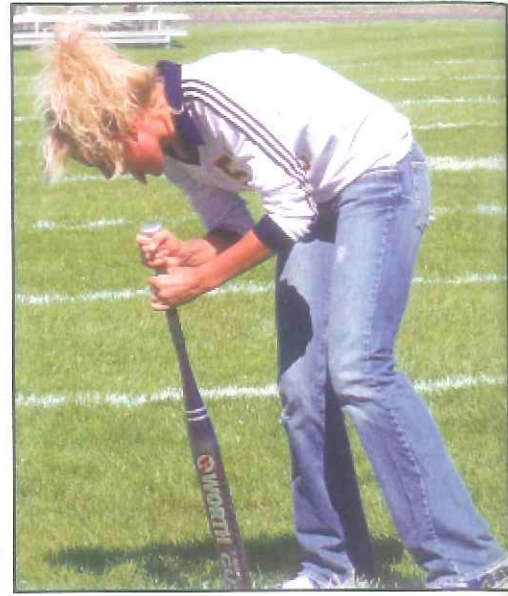
Tell me about some of your interesting experiences in teaching prior to the commencement of your tenure here.

I only have one year of experience, but I did have a kid throw up in class on another student. Another time, a leak in the roof developed and burst over the head of a girl in my class.

I know you are acting as a class sponsor for the junior class. What inspired you to apply for that particular position?

Mr. Hinshaw was my biggest inspiration in this area. That is why I'm strongly considering making him an honorary junior class sponsor for this year, or maybe junior class sponsor emeritus.

HOMECOMING 2005



Photos taken at the Homecoming Picnic / Pep Session on September 30, 2005 by members of the Deltonian yearbook staff.