

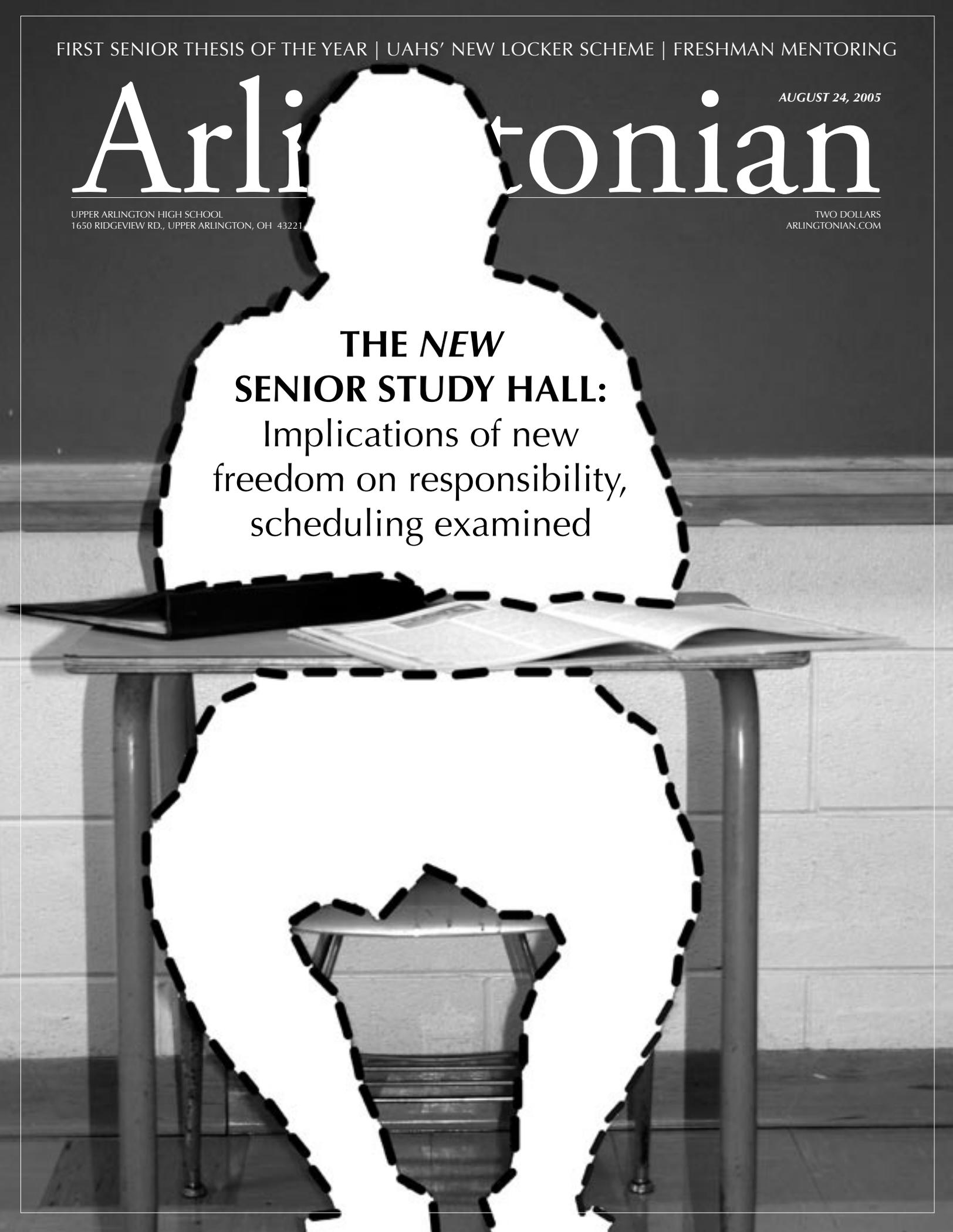
FIRST SENIOR THESIS OF THE YEAR | UAHS' NEW LOCKER SCHEME | FRESHMAN MENTORING

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THE *NEW*
SENIOR STUDY HALL:
Implications of new
freedom on responsibility,
scheduling examined

THE FEATURE PAGE

A Helping Hand

Mentors aid freshmen, provide guidance

•inyoungKANG

The group of freshmen drew closer together as they stepped hesitantly into the unfamiliar hallway. Many glanced down at the maps clenched in their hands and looked around uncertainly. They were in the right place ... weren't they?

Fortunately, freshman anxieties could be eased with the help of

"We want [the freshmen] to feel like we're their allies at school so they can be more comfortable."

•Junior Elena Tatarchenko

volunteer upperclassman mentors. Trained and organized last May, each mentor is responsible for a small group of ninth graders. They serve as guides and answer questions to help the freshmen familiarize themselves with UAHS.

Junior Elena Tatarchenko said the goal of mentoring was to help freshmen adjust to the transition from middle school to high school.

"We want them to feel like we're their allies at school so they can be more comfortable," she said.

Peer collaboration facilitator Nancy Botti said the mentors build relationships by contacting each freshman individually and encouraging him or her to have a positive start to the school year.

On Aug. 15, the freshmen were given tours of the building and provided with information about school policies such as the dress code and attendance procedures. Mentors also supervised the Freshman Super-games and met with their ninth graders again during homeroom and lunch Aug. 23.

Freshman Hannah Bills said she valued the advice she got from her mentors because they provided use-

ful information, such as what to bring on the first day.

"It's nice that [the advice] is from another student, because they understand what you're going through," Bills said.

Besides experience, being a freshman mentor requires certain skills, Tatarchenko said.

"You definitely need a lot of patience, because you go over the same information several times," she said. "You also need to be organized and actually have knowledge of the school because you need to answer a variety of questions."

Tatarchenko said she enjoyed introducing the freshmen to UAHS.

"It's nice helping them get acquainted so they can focus on their studies without worrying too much about things like fitting in," she said. "It's also important to give them a feeling of inclusion, so they can lead others when they're upperclassmen." •

Question and answer



with Junior
Ginny
Hildreth

Hi, Ginny. Ready for school?

If, by "ready," you mean ignoring the fact that I have 14 IB English journals to do by [Aug. 24], then yes, I am completely ready. Bye-bye, GPA...

So you're an overachiever?

On occasion. Except I have absolutely no achievements. Ever.

What do you think of integrated lockers?

It's a cleverly devised form of torture to make upperclassmen cry because their lockers are in the bowels of the freshman hallway, where no one can hear them scream. Although, if I'm actually not in the freshman hallway, it will be incredibly amusing.

What should be done about the parking problems?

We could build a new lot on the roof. Or unlawfully seize property and bulldoze it all into a barren wasteland deserving of high schoolers' cars.

Thanks for chatting, Gin.

Worth 1,000 words



photo • lindseySWANSON

Maintenance technician Dave Evans holds the school's American flag after the flag poles in the school courtyard were knocked down Aug. 16. A parent accidentally drove an SUV through the courtyard, hitting cement pillars, flag poles and the southeast doors.



Senior study hall now open-campus

Class of 2006 relishes new freedoms, though concerns remain

• *ashton*DIDONATO & *sam*UNDERWOOD

As the school year begins, the senior class of 2006 will be the first group of students to experience the new alternative to senior study hall. Replacing the laid-back yet supervised study hall for seniors will be an open-campus option. During seniors' open period they will have the opportunity to leave the building. Seniors may also attend an unsupervised, honors study hall or spend their open period in the Learning Center.

Yet despite its apparent benefits, many students, staff and parents believe the change is ill-conceived. Some of the most-frequently cited concerns are attendance, parking and the lackadaisical attitude known as "senioritis" that could become more common with this new policy.

New Opportunities

According to principal Kip Greenhill, one of the reasons for the new study hall option is for students to develop a sense of responsibility for themselves.

"I've always been a believer that part of the school's goal is to teach students to become responsible adults, and I think you can only teach students responsibility by giving [them] responsibility," he said.

Many seniors expressed excitement at the opportunity to leave school for one period each day. Students who have the open period first or eighth period will be able to start the school day later or end it earlier than other students. In addition, those students who have the open period before or after lunch are able to have an extended lunch period.

From local coffee shops such as Caribou Coffee, to regular lunch hotspots as well as their own homes, seniors will have a wide variety of places to spend their time off. Senior Meg Kirby said she will likely leave school premises at least three times per week.

Senior Mary Birchard highlighted the advantages of the new changes.

"I think if people are taking rigorous courses and need more [study] time it's OK [to add an open period]," she said.

Potential Problems

But along with the new freedoms this open-campus policy provides, staff as well as students are concerned about attendance

issues. The open periods may encourage students to skip other classes, and many teachers have voiced concerns about the attendance of their classes.

Journalism teacher Carol Hemmerly said she would be surprised if a senior in one of

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• **Principal Kip Greenhill**

the majority of the UAHS staff supports the change.

"I think most of the staff is willing to see if it works," he said.

Despite this optimistic attitude, some seniors may also choose to drop an elective in favor of an open-campus period.

Birchard explained why she chose to add an open period to her schedule instead of an elective.

"I thought it would a better idea to have another study hall because of [my IB cours-

her elective classes didn't at least consider dropping the class, especially if it was scheduled adjacent to a lunch or first or eighth periods.

Despite these concerns, Greenhill said



photo illustration • colinKAPAROS & lindseySWANSON

es],” she said, “because I know I’ll use the time wisely.”

Senior Maggie Bremer agreed, and said she would consider dropping an elective in exchange for an open period, although it “depends on the class.”

Because many seniors will be leaving the school, the parking situation at the high school, already a contentious issue, may take on an even greater importance.

“Parking will be a problem for seniors without spots [in the senior parking lot] because it will be difficult to find a spot on the street when returning to school,” Kirby said.

Another area of concern is whether seniors will tend to be more vulnerable to “senioritis.” While the old senior study hall was not always used to do homework, some feel the new open period will allow students to avoid their work even more.

Yet Senior Tommy Lombardi discounted these concerns and said that few students used their study halls for schoolwork under the previous system.

“Most seniors normally did not do their work during senior study hall, and there is still the option of staying at school to study,” he said.

Lombardi said he did not think seniors will abuse their new freedom. While he agreed that there will always be students who abuse their new privileges, he said most seniors will follow the rules.

The administration should be as consistent in its disciplinary action for seniors abusing open study halls as it is with other students, Kirby said.

“I don’t think it is too big of a responsibility for seniors to manage their time,” Kirby said, “especially if there is the threat of their open period to be taken away.”

“Mature, responsible adults”

By allowing seniors to leave school grounds during the school day, UAHS staff demonstrates the trust it has in the student body, a point Greenhill emphasized.

“It shows the confidence we have in our students, that they can handle something like this,” he said. “It’s not something you’ll find in many other high schools.”

Senior Cory Nyeste said he appreciates this trust.

“It’s nice that Mr. Greenhill trusts us enough to let us leave the school,” he said.

Despite the confidence he has in the student body, Greenhill said he had no plans to extend this free period to other classes.

“I want to see what happens with the seniors,” he said. “If seniors can’t handle it, obviously, younger students can’t.”

Junior Maggie Brown agreed with Greenhill and said all students should not have similar privileges because many students use their study halls to do homework.

For the present, however, Greenhill hopes this change will encourage students to make better life choices.

“I think part of our mission here is to help develop mature, responsible adults,” he said, “and you’re not going to help teach [students] responsibility by keeping [them] locked up in study hall.”

TALKBACK: “Do you think seniors should be able to leave during their study hall?”



“Yes, because it will be a lot more fun ... They’ll have to look out for themselves in college, so they might as well start now.”

•Sophomore Trent Godard



“Yeah, I think they should be allowed... I think that it gives them more freedom and they deserve it as seniors. They don’t have much homework to do anyway.”

•Junior Andy Grindley



“Yes, because a lot of [seniors] are legal adults. We should be trusted until we break that trust.”

•Senior Jacob Wershing



“Yes, because I think we should be able to make our own decisions because we are more responsible ... and it will help us in the long run, especially in college.”

•Senior Kristen Schneider

Varsity football to play new coach's old team at Crew Stadium

•jonnyGRIFFITH

Golden Bear football has been one of Ohio's greatest high school traditions for 79 years. Throughout those years, the Upper Arlington squads have managed to produce 67 winning seasons. In the best of these seasons, UA has won 4 State Championships, and in total has produced 54 All-Ohio players and 8 All-Americans, while maintaining one of the top winning percentages in the state—72 percent.

Despite a 4-6 season in 2004, which ended a 41-season winning streak, UA is back and ready in 2005 to be the foundation of a new winning streak.

The Golden Bears will first be tested against their neighboring rival, Bishop Watterson. The game will be played Aug. 27 at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at Crew Stadium. The eyes of Columbus will be watching this match-up because it is the Kick-Off Classic, the premier game to start the 2005 high school football season.

The UA/Watterson rivalry dates back to 1966, with the series record being 7-3 in favor of the Bears. Despite this dominance, the Eagles defeated the Bears in 2004 on Golden Bear turf 17-14 in a game that was not decided until the last play. The Bears will be seeking redemption, making this first game even more meaningful.

To help their cause this season, UA returns 34 lettermen from 2004, with 17 of them being juniors. Along with these veterans is the new head coach Mike Golden. Coach Golden was the head coach of Bishop Watterson for 14 years, up until 2002. At Watterson, Golden led the Eagles to 10 playoff appearances and won a State Championship in 2002. Despite his great history with the Eagles, on Aug. 27 coach Golden will be supporting only UA.

Student tickets for this game will be on sale at UAHS for \$5. Even when compared with the great games of past UA seasons, this will be a historic game fans will want to attend.

The Sports Spread

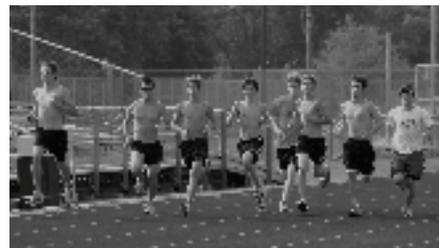


photo • colinKAPAROS



photo • colinKAPAROS



photo • emilyMEAD

UPPER RIGHT • The boys cross country team conditions for the upcoming season. The team's first meet is at Mount Vernon Aug. 27.

ABOVE • Junior Colin Hallarn and sophomore Frederick Hanover III practice under the guidance of new head coach Mike Golden (not pictured). The first game of the season is Aug. 27 at Crew Stadium.

LEFT • Senior varsity cheerleaders Sammie Heller, Sammy Copeland, Meghan Murphy and junior Toshimi Takamura fine tune a new routine. They, along with the marching band, will boost school spirit at football games.



Senior Katie Riley and UA graduate Bernard Paniccia play the quirky couple Luisa and Matt in Riley's senior thesis production of *The Fantasticks*. Riley dedicated the show to her late father.

photo • Lindsey SWANSON

Fantastick!

Senior Katie Riley's musical production raises money, wows audiences

•reneeOGAKI

From welded structures to essays on Asian stereotypes, senior theses cover a wide range of topics. While they all require a lot of work, directing a play, auditioning actors and setting up donations for charity is a huge project, even for a thesis. Yet that is exactly what senior Katie Riley set out to do.

Riley's senior thesis involved directing a production of *The Fantasticks*. She dedicated the play to her late father, with all donations going to Children's Hospital in his name. The final product was an enjoyable experience that exceeded the usual expectations for a student-directed play.

The production ran Aug. 12 and 13 at the Franklin Park Conservatory. Students packed the room with some sitting on the floor and others standing in the back. The audience members wildly applauded the musical.

Part of the reason for the production's success was that *The Fantasticks* has a delightful plot line that requires only a small number of actors. The story is about Luisa and Matt, neighbors who fall in love despite a wall built between their properties, while their fathers pretend to feud so that the two would try to rebel against them and get married. Conflict develops when Matt goes off to see the world; Luisa stays at home and starts to fall for another man. The parents actually start fighting at this point, but all is resolved by the end of the two-act musical.

With an exceptional show, Riley said

she needed exceptional actors to match. Taking the matter into her own hands, she asked specific people she knew would be good for the play. This seemed to work well, as all of the actors pulled off their parts. It also helped that Riley started preparing in March and the actors rehearsed all summer.

But even with the actors' talents, every musical needs a director who can provide strong leadership.

"I didn't like yelling at the actors and ruling with an iron fist," Riley said. "It was hard to be a director and a peer at the same time."

As much trouble as Riley may have had, her experience in theater showed. Riley and UA graduate Bernard Paniccia appeared to be quite comfortable with each other as Luisa and Matt, the loving couple.

Another strong actor in the play was senior Riley Cruttenden, who played Henry, a dramatic actor who helped set up Matt and Luisa. Cruttenden exaggerated every action to set off bursts of laughter from the audience.

Acting played a large part of the show, but the singing also contributed a key component. The singing sounded relatively good throughout the whole play, except for the slightly dissonant final chords on some

songs. One such disharmony occurred in "It Depends on What you Pay," sang by senior JP Politz, junior Joe Griffith, and senior Rick Avery. They seemed to have trouble blending with each other in this song.

However, "Never Say No," sang by Riley and Paniccia, prevailed as one of the best songs during the first act. When Luisa and Matt sang to each other through

"I didn't like yelling at the actors and ruling with an iron fist. It was hard to be a director and a peer at the same time."

•Senior Katie Riley

the wall separating them, their voices chimed beautifully and hit every note in perfect harmony. The song also evoked giggles from the audience when Matt announced his love to Luisa and she exclaimed "Oooh!" The two eventually climbed the trees by the wall so that they could talk face-to-face, ending the song with a hug.

During "Never Say No," instead of an actual wall, a stick placed between the couple represented the wall. This scarcity of props actually added to the play because it allowed the viewers to use their imaginations and rely on the actor's talents to perceive what was happening.

Overall, Riley's production of *The Fantasticks* was a great achievement, raising \$3338 of donations for Children's Hospital and gaining audience's loud applause throughout. All the hard work resulted in a "fantastick" musical for a fantastic senior thesis. •

Golden Bears get Golden Coach



• graham BOWMAN

to the stadium and watch the varsity football team practice, I smell something new. Something powerful. It's the smell of impending victory!

The Golden Bears have been going downhill fast after their state championship victory against Solon in 2000, and it seemed like only two things could save them. The first would be hiring Disney's *The Mighty Ducks* coach Gordon Bombay to lead our rag-tag group of high school boys to victory (with the added bonus of hilarity and a few life lessons along the way). The other would be to ask the gods to bless us with a football deity to set the football

As I wander the Upper Arlington campus this fall, the same familiar smells return to me. The weird, oily construction smell coming from the janitor's den, the fragrance of industrial strength bleach in the freshman hallway, even a hint of sweat, blood and tears in the weight room from innocent young freshmen forced to lift weights by over zealous physical education teachers. Not much has changed, but as I walk out



Coach Mike Golden

program back on track. Because Bombay does not actually exist, the administration was left with no other option but to request divine intervention. And it was granted, in the form of a man by the name of coach Mike Golden, a name that suggests a man who was chosen from birth to lead our failing football team out of mediocrity and into football immortality. This year we have more than just a new coach with a great record on our side; we have destiny.

But it is not all clear skies ahead. There are still several pitfalls along the way that coach Golden will need to avoid. If the season goes well and the team gets its act together, coach Golden will become something of local hero in Upper Arlington. He may even get his picture in both suburban newspapers and a shout-out or two on Kick'n it Live. If this happens he better remember when Disney's *The Mighty Ducks* coach Gordon Bombay faced a similar situation at the Goodwill Games when he lost sight of what truly matters for such trivial distractions as fame and publicity. Coach Golden must remember to stay true to his players and not lose sight of what is really important (as coach Bombay eventually realized).

So on Aug. 27, at the ceremonious first game at Crew Stadium, let's all cross our fingers and hope coach Golden is able to live up to his namesake and fulfill his destiny to become "the one" that leads the Golden Bears to Mighty-Ducks-level success.

Open-campus option flawed

• staff EDITORIAL

As a longtime proponent of student freedoms, principal Kip Greenhill is a student's principal. UAHS' open lunch policy alone is more freedom than many high school students across the country receive. So when Greenhill announced his open-campus senior study hall plan, it seemed a logical extension of his initiative to better prepare students for the academic rigours, social pressures and freedoms of college life. But while created with noble intentions, and certainly welcome by most students, the open-campus option is plagued with little problems that will surely call for some rethinking following its inaugural year.

When study halls were closed, it made little difference what period of the day a study hall was, but all study halls are no longer equal. A 48-minute period by itself is not long enough to do much. Because of this, open-campus periods at either end of the school day or next to the lunch periods are the most desirable. Guidance counselors now have to put up with seniors—either under-handedly or outright—attempting to manipulate their schedules.

Apart from the scheduling issues, open campus has issues of implementation. For the seniors with first period open-campus option, coming to school late has two potential problems: first, parking shortly before 8 a.m. without a spot in the school lot is hard enough. Parking after the rest of the student body has already arrived will approach impossible, especially as the year progresses and sophomores obtain their licenses. Second, on those random days with assemblies and extended homerooms that shorten the periods—and they are not all that rare—seniors run the risk of being late to second period despite arriving to school at the appropriate time.

All of these problems are on top of the ones that the administration has acknowledged to us: immaturity, roaming the halls, tardiness, etc.

Open campus can be a positive institution at UAHS. While not flawed fundamentally, it is flawed in the details. If these potential problems become realities in the coming year, a redesign of open-campus senior study hall will be necessary for a successful continuation of the program.

