By Bob George

"The Cobras are great" -- part of a cheer which echoed in many gyms throughout the season.

No cheer could have reflected the feelings of more than 100 Cobra fans in New Philadelphia High's gym, however, than when they all stood and rightly proclaimed, "We're Number One," at the conclusion of the third Ohio Regional Campus Basketball Tournament.

The number one team, the number one cheerleaders and the number one queen all belong to Stark County Branch.

It all started Thursday, Feb. 6, when Stark defeated Cleveland State Lakewood 87-40 and met Miami Middletown Friday to emerge victorious 75-60.

After seeking revenge and finding it against Ashtabula 78-61, the Cobras played championship ball with Ohio University Portsmouth and downed them 58-56.

Darrel Sutton led Stark against Lakewood with 14 points. Cliff Ball followed with 12 and Rick Swank double-figured with 10.

Miami's defense and a boy named Jordan Smith provided Stark with some competition the first half. After plaguing Guy Mack, Smith had trouble containing the inspired second-half comeback of Mack who led the team with 19. Terry Byers garnered 17 and Tom Calabrese 11.

Coach Bob Kistler's Cobras' sought revenge for their only loss of the season against Ashtabula and more than redeemed themselves with a 78-61 trouncing.

Mack held Dan Dunlap, a member of the all-tourney team, to 16 points while scoring 25 of his own. Chester Bryant used his patented fade away jump shot to score 22 points and Calabrese hit from the outside for 10. The Cobras grabbed a record 79 carom against Ashtabula's 17.

Stark jumped to an early lead and led by 10 points throughout most of the championship game. The inside work of Mack and the outside shooting of Bryant and Calabrese led the Cobras to victory. John Vournazos and Jack Spencer, both members of the all-tourney team, led the taller Portsmouth five with 18.

Mack was named to the all-tourney team by the branch coaches and elected most valuable Stark Branch player by the team members.

Complete sweep made

For Stark Branch, the state basketball tournament was a complete sweep: the varsity cagers won, Homecoming Queen Carol Keith (above) won and the cheerleaders won.

Carol was chosen from a field of 16 branch campus queens. The girls were judged on poise and talent and came from schools all over the state.

The varsity cheerleading squad won first place in a cheer contest between the cheerleaders of the participating teams in the tournament.

After performing their "Hello," "Cobra Beat" and "Dizzy" routines, the Stark girls received a standing ovation from the large crowd.

Elaine Cebulko, Linda Hunt, Madalana Matter, Janet Tedrick, Lynn Warner, Linda Cicchinelli and Debby Zingler each received single trophies plus a unit trophy.
Newsman comments on role of press

By Bob Bernier

The press isn't the fourth branch of government in this country, but it has an important role to play. That is the opinion of Godfrey Sperling, Jr., manager of the Washington news bureau of the Christian Science Monitor.

Mr. Sperling commented on the place of the press in the U.S. in a private interview before giving his lecture, "Inside Washington: Principles, Payola, Politics and America's Moral Tone" last Friday.

He came to the Stark Branch as a part of the Student Activity Council's Concert-Lecture Series. He also lectured before the Political Science 110 class.

Mr. Sperling says the press is doing a good job of informing Americans, but that it can and must do a better one. He feels the role of newspapers as a "watchdog" for the people is an important one.

Television has changed the role of newspapers, according to Mr. Sperling. For the first time, Americans are fighting a war in their own homes according to him. It is more shocking and disturbing than reading it in "cold print," he says.

"Television has accelerated the decline of newspapers," he says, "and newspapers will have to transfer to 'reflective journalism.'" He defines reflective journalism as "giving the public thoughtful assessments and interpretations" of the news.

Both newspapers and television have problems of handling the sensational, he says. "It is a problem to balance the news; you can't just ignore the sensational."

Mr. Sperling told his audience Friday night he saw "very little disposition in congress in favor of accepting Nixon's volunteer army" proposal in place of the draft.

He said it is the opinion of most observers in Washington that Nixon is off to a good start. Even people who have made a profession of attacking Nixon have expressed satisfaction over the way he has handled himself so far.

Mr. Sperling blames the distrust of the American citizens of congress for causing the credibility gap. He says the feeling of distrust rubs off on the president and the executive branch.
It's a girl and a girl and a girl!

By Pam Guertal

Denny L. Bettisworth, a speech and drama instructor here, found himself "speechless" Monday morning, February 3, when he learned his wife had just delivered triplets.

Mr. Bettisworth said they had been forewarned of the babies and he "sort of expected" them, but he admits he was still "dumb-founded" when he heard the news.

"After they were born," he said, "I sat down and began thinking of ten years from now as to where my family would sleep and how the family would go camping."

"My mind was like a road map," he added, "with all sorts of routes to take. I don't realize yet what my future life means."

The three babies were all girls. Kara Lynn, 5 pounds, 9 ounces; Kimberly Jo, 5 pounds; and Kristine Rene, 4 pounds, 2 ounces.

Only one of the babies has a special name and that is Kara. Mrs. Bettisworth's two sisters are named Sara and Carol. The baby's name resulted when Bettisworth's son tried to pronounce the two names at once and ended up saying Kara.

Mr. Bettisworth said an interesting point to note is the time element. About one month ago his wife had a check-up from her doctor and he said everything was fine; she could expect one child around March 4.

One week later the doctor said she could expect two children around March 4.

But on February 3, three children were born.

The triplets were the first to be born in Aultman Hospital in 14 years.

Cmich cites city problems to club

The most pressing problem in Canton today is the development of housing. This is what Stanley Cmich, Canton's mayor, told members of the Political Science Forum in a meeting last Thursday.

Mayor Cmich met with the Stark Branch club for two hours in his conference room at Canton City Hall.

He said Canton is attempting to deal with problems of inadequate housing through government programs. The mayor stated he is opposed to federal sponsorship of urban renewal projects and added that cities should be allowed to collect those taxes meant for urban renewal now collected by the federal government.

Mr. Cmich outlined programs to renovate the downtown area. New traffic and street lights will be installed shortly, according to him, and progress is being made in controlling air pollution.

The mayor reported that industry is spending thousands of dollars on air pollution control in the city, but automobiles are accounting for over 50% of the pollution.

Mr. Cmich served six years as Canton safety director and he informed the club that this is not the usual springboard for political success. According to him, safety directors are not popular and he credits a six-year break between his service in the office and his campaign for mayor for the "mellowing of his enemies."

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Ex-CIA man to speak

"The C.I.A. Is a Necessity, Not an Evil" will be discussed tonight at 8 in Lecture Hall 100 by Tom Braden, assistant to Allan W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

His lecture, open to Branch students without charge, is part of the Student Activities Council artist-lecture series. Non-students may purchase tickets at the door.

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The flunk-out

By Jim Hillbish

The shock has worn off, somewhat, yet in the walking subconscious of morning, Sharon often dreams dejectedly before her alarm rings in the day's realness.

Nine weeks ago it was different. Then, she purposely overslept to arise rejuvenated for days filled with new friendships and conversations and music (found in the lower level lounge) and less importantly, the inevitable classes which interrupt college life.

But today is another time. She must be downtown early with her stack of help wanted ads staring her to countless waiting rooms for interviews with obese personnel managers who always mock, "We'll let you know - next week."

It has been nine weeks since Sharon (which is not her real name) flunked out of Kent State University Stark County Branch.

In her high school days, the colloquial term flunk-out denoted social freaks called "hoods" who earned nothing for Modern American Education. Sharon did receive a smattering of F's and D's in high school but neither in tragical proportions. At the suggestion of her school's counselor, she chose Stark Branch for higher education because, according to him, the school might have been easier than other colleges.

After her initial week here, Sharon discovered the following in chronological order: "Mooven and Grooven" (i.e. baiting and dating) and the "different" classes of the university. "M&G" is an infectious stimulent common to most colleges and Sharon (Renamed Cher by a bevy of new friends) fitted in. The "different" classes consisted of intellectual outpourings by highly trained instructors and professors; something she rarely witnessed in her high school where elderly English teachers often shrieked for silence and burly football coaches stumbled through history lectures purloined from American Heritage magazines.

Many of her new college instructors took attendance only during the first week of school, feeling that the ten minutes of class time gained were reason enough to ignore the long lists. As a result, Sharon averaged 4-5 cuts per week. Only one of her instructors used the pop quiz device although she easily avoided embarrassing grades in them by simply not handing in the answer sheets.

The Tuesday of the third week of her college career Sharon "went out" for the first time on a school night and failed her first five-hour midterm the next afternoon. She rationalized the F as being not her fault because she had spent three hours studying for the exam and understood in rough outline the chapters assigned. Her failure must have been the professor's fault and she arranged a conference with him. His defense was terse: 70% of the test came from lecture material. Sharon immediately resolved to begin taking lecture notes (on 3x5 cards painstakingly hand printed during each lecture).

More storm warnings came later. She forgot entirely a theme that was graphically announced on her course syllabus but only passively mentioned by her instructor. Two term papers were due that needed longer preperation than the two evenings she devoted to each and resulted in two D's. She blamed her spotty attendance for another F in her five-hour and three P's and 2 D's in other three-hour tests. For the first time, the revelation that she might not pass struck her but was shrugged off as pure nonsense.

Actually, Sharon surrendered just two weeks after that thought. She did not study for her finals (What's the use, now?) and her life collapsed. "Mooven and Grooven" was no longer a release, her family barely spoke to her in protest and for a very brief moment she considered the merits of suicide by drowning.

Her IBM final grade readout confirmed her worst expectations, and as of December 15, Sharon became a flunk-out in every sense of the word.

SEE "THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST"

On Feb. 21 or 22 at 8 p.m. in "Cedar Chest" Theatre.

Branch students admitted free.

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