



ADAM SPANIER showed off his skill on the bass guitar while entertaining with the band Forsooth. — Dictator staff photo

Musicians form own band

Brothers, friend get together to play jazz, blues, fun tunes

By KORTNEY STAPP

Three guys, a set of drums, a bass and a keyboard. Put these things together and you have Forsooth.

Forsooth is a band made up of Adam Spanier, a senior from Decatur Community High School; John Benda, a senior from Atwood High School; and Shane Spanier, a corporal in the Marine Corp.

Adam and Shane are the sons of Deanne Spanier, Oberlin band instructor, and John is a friend of Adam's and a cousin of Barbara Olson of Oberlin.

Adam plays the bass, as he has for three years.

When first learning, he played nonstop. Whether watching a movie or actually rehearsing, he always had his fingers on the strings.

"They used to unplug me from the amp, but I would still play," he said.

John's on the drums. He began playing in seventh-grade.

Shane has been on the keyboard since second grade. He is also a part of a jazz combo in New Orleans, where he is stationed.

The group started playing together when John and Adam were sophomores and Shane a senior. They would get together after lunch and go to the band room.

Soon people started coming in to hear them play.

The group performs mostly jazz and blues, but they also play novelty songs, such as "The Mario Brothers

Theme Song."

They have around 25 songs in their repertoire. Their biggest show had about two hours worth of music or 15 songs.

They have played about 10 shows in the area — the Mustard Seed in Atwood, The Jayhawk Theater in Atwood, a state teacher's dinner, a soil conservation district meeting and at the Herndon Covenant Church.

The group hasn't had a chance to get together for six months, since Shane is in the Marines, but recently played during sixth hour for the high school band class.

"It was cool getting back together and playing. It was like a reunion. It was also fun to get to play with my brother again," said Adam.

"Playing music with Adam and Shane is all about fun and reminiscing. It's just like the good old days when we had no troubles, and it's just a lot of fun," said John.

"I always enjoy coming home and playing with John and Adam. I have the pleasure of playing every day and getting paid for doing what I love. It is really easy to take this for granted, and playing with Forsooth makes me realize how special and fun playing is even if we get nothing but smiles on people's faces. Music isn't about the money made, but the time spent with friends doing something we love to do," said Shane.

Voice of Decatur Community High School

Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

Christmas is dead; long live the new year

The New Year. Shudder. After forcing down that last fossilized gingerbread man (turns out it was an ornament), Christmas has officially ended.

But not all is bad; the last year has finally found a place to die, and although its scent lingers like the smell of a dead cat under the porch, the new year promises to be a memorable one.

The Raelians, everyone's favorite fringe lunatic sect (besides the Rotary), have already gotten their 15 minutes of fame.

The Raelians, teaming up with their research group Clonaid, have seized the national spotlight with the same irresistible drawing power of that kid who stuck bugs up his nose in the first grade.

The group claims to have cloned a human being.

They also claim that all other religions are far-out, while their religion (which was given to them by little green men in the crater of a French volcano) is based on logic.

Using this Vulcan-like logic, they are already seeking some commercial tie-ins to make the whole cloning venture profitable.

How does an ice-cold glass of cherry Clon-aid, with a soy lent green candy bar on the side, sound?

The Way I See It

By Grant Reichert

But all cloning aside, the new year promises to be a great one.

Saddam has already made a new year's resolution to lay off the baked beans because he said he wants to "stop smelling like a Kurdish gas attack."

There is not much hope that he can keep this resolution after breaking so many with the U.N., but either way I doubt that any inspector's gonna want to search his personal "factories" this time.

But Saddam is so last year; bring out the new bad guy: Kim Jong II. With the huggable look of an oriental teddy bear (some kind of panda no doubt), this leader of North Korea is destined to make headlines. He was already in "Newsweek," so he should reach the real news pretty soon.

My personal new year's resolution is to not do any more work than is necessary.

School Menus

Speech team gets together to decide season's activities

By BRYAN RICHARDS

Deep from the throat of the Decatur Community High School came rapping and tapping — at the most awkward time of night.

The noise traveled throughout the whole building with an eerie hark of play.

Yes, there was mystery lurking in these sounds. Maybe it was more like madness. Madness is the one and only way to explain all of this...this...this madness also known as the Oberlin speech team lock-in.

On Jan. 3, the speech team held a lock-in from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. in the lunch room. During this, the members selected pieces and partners to work with for the speech season.

Once their acts were chosen, the team practiced skits. They also played games that would help im-

prove their acting skills and allow them to grow closer as a team.

"I thought that the lock-in was pretty cool," said Adam Spanier.

Adam has been in speech before, but this is his first year in Oberlin.

"I think the season will be great. I'm feeling a lot of creative energy flowing in the speech team."

Leigh Davis, the team coach, is very excited for this upcoming season.

"I am anticipating great things from this year's speech team, including a full team for the state competition as well as many personal bests," she said.

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