

# Mermen & Lady Hoopsters Win IAC Championships

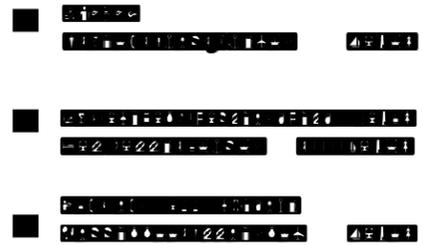
## LANSSING COMMUNITY NEWS



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### Board of Education - Weaver "3020A" Hearing Likely To Conclude In May

By Matthew Shulman

[Mon., Feb. 17, 5:00pm] -- Two years and 17 State Education Law Section 2030A public hearings later, the end is in sight for both Charles Weaver and the Lansing Central School District's Board of Education on Weaver's future status as a teacher at Lansing High School.

At a final hearing in early February held at BOCES, attorneys representing Weaver and the School Board rested their cases before a 3-person hearing panel. Lawyers written briefs are expected by the end of March and the panel's final decision is expected by the end of May.

While the specific allegations surrounding the Board of Education's charges have not been released by either party, the following chronology was pieced together from separate interviews last week with Mr. Weaver and Lansing School District Superintendent Andrea Price. Calls to the litigants' attorneys have not yet been returned.

According to Mrs. Price, information came to the Board's attention which raised "great concern" and resulted in direct talks over more than a month involving the Board, Mr. Weaver, a representative from the Lansing Faculty Association and a National Education Association (NEA) attorney. Weaver was asked for his resignation and, in April, was placed on paid suspension pending the outcome of hearings governed by Section 3020A of the NYS Education Law.

Thus began the long administrative hearing process before a panel of three hear-

ing officers: one from the state teacher's association from Syracuse chosen by Mr. Weaver, one a Superintendent of Schools from the Rochester area chosen by the Lansing Board of Education, and one a lawyer/professional arbitrator from the Buffalo area agreed to by both sides.

Though he took no part in the litigation, Lansing Faculty Association President William Phelps attended all hearings as an observer. Other than indicating that Weaver had had the choice of private counsel or an NEA attorney, Phelps said last Thursday that he will withhold all comment until the Hearing Panel releases its findings.

One consequence of the law covering the dismissal of tenured teaching staff is the cost involved in pursuing such action. Mrs. Price said that the figure thus far expended was "not available" and that the Board's counsel, Dan Bordon of Syracuse, "is looking at whether we're obligated to release this information in response to the Ithaca Journal's (Freedom of Information) request."

"The Board deliberated long and hard before proceeding," said Price. "We were fully aware when we filed the 3020A charges that it would be a long and costly procedure. We believe that the circumstances warranted this decision. We cannot say more until the matter is adjudicated."

According to Weaver, the Hearing Panel's ultimate decision would be difficult to appeal by either side. "I think the state law was recently amended to ensure that the decision of this [panel] is binding and final," he said.

### School Board Topics:

### European Trip, Proj. Adventure, BOCES & A Commercial Scoreboard

A series of special reports and an offer of a subsidized athletic scoreboard carrying a cola company's logo dominated Thursday evening's Lansing Central School Board meeting.

Physical Education teacher Cathy Haight asked the Board if they would authorize her to seek grants to fund "Project Adventure" - a program that transforms concepts from the wilderness *Outward Bound* program into multi-year course of twice-a-week 45 minute classes. "The focus is on building teamwork, trust and risk-taking," said Haight. Self-confidence comes from cooperation rather than competition, she explained. The Board agreed to review the materials and to discuss the matter again next month.

Student "Livy" Wilson received Board approval for a 10-day trip to Britain, France and Switzerland for 17 students, 2 parents & 3 faculty chaperones. The entire cost will be borne by the participants.

Lansing member of the BOCES Board Corey Gettig thanked the School Board for having let her represent the district these past 18 years and advised the Board to select her successor in time for the April 9 BOCES Board election.

An offer from a cola manufacturer to contribute \$1250 towards the cost of a scoreboard on the condition that a vending machine be installed at school and that the scoreboard bear the corporate logo drew mixed responses from the School Board.

While all Board members felt that the soft drink company's financial incentives



EUROPE BOUND - Olivia Wilson asking Board approval for an end-of-year student trip to Europe.

were inadequate, several members felt that any commercial sponsorships are inconsistent with the Board's mission.

"Money can tempt us to do many things," said Board member Joni Geiger. "I want to keep this school out of advertising." "The offer is not clear," replied Steve Colt. "We should learn exactly what they're proposing before turning it down," he said. "It's a bad precedent," put in vice-president Kathy Miller, shaking her head.

In other business, the Board extended Superintendent Andrea Price's 3-year contract by one year through 1999.

Next year is the district's 50th anniversary. Anyone interested in helping plan the celebration should contact the district offices at 533-4294.

### BOCES Cosmetology Curriculum Speeds Students To Creative Careers

"When (Gov.) Pataki proposed cutting BOCES and let anyone study the (cosmetology) book and take the state exam it bothered us," said 18 year-old BOCES Vo-Pro student Kate Smith, of Brickyard Hill Road. "It's not that easy."

Kate may not understand the ins and outs of state budget maneuvering, but she does know what's involved in the 2-year 1000-classroom hour cosmetology program at Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES. "We have to learn about bone, skin and hair structure, the chemistry of using many products and lots of different skills," she explained.

In fact, BOCES cosmetology students ("cosmo" kids, to those in the know) have to learn more than a hundred different technical skills. These not only include the expected skills of shampoos, haircuts, perms, coloring and highlighting but also less common beauty procedures, such as facials, using a straight-edge razor, manicures, hair straightening, pedicures, mens' haircuts, nails, hot paraffin hand dips, etc.

Students must also master 36 different academic units before being allowed to take the NYS written state examination. Only then may they take the practical exams where to demonstrate their proficiency, explained teachers Carol McCoy and Elaine Samson.

The T-S-T BOCES program differs from many cosmetology programs in the amount of practical experience the students receive. The Warren Road facility is open to the public most Friday mornings during the academic year by appointment (257-1551, ext 236 or 237) as a full service training salon at reduced prices that cover the cost of materials.

Each January, students vie for honors in a "Creative Style" competition held at BOCES. They conceptualize, design and realize original hair designs that develop and create the desire to learn more, said McCoy. And on March 9, a group of students will be at the International Beauty Show in New York City to attend classes on haircuts and perms



BECOMING A BOCES ARTISAN - Lansing's Jamie Werner gains practical experience as she applies her academic study to Bob Fitzsimmon's locks.

and make contacts that can lead to future professional development and job offers.

Vo-Pro students also provide services twice a month to girls from the NYS Division for Youth Lansing Residential Center whose work and behavior earn them the privilege of coming to BOCES. "It's a little delicate because privacy rules limit conversations between the cosmetology students and the state school girls," said McCoy. "but it's a great morale booster for the residents and gives our students a

lot of practical experience with different hair styles."

Some might think that all these free and reduced price services could concern local commercial beauticians, but it doesn't seem to be the case. "BOCES works hard to build a partnership between students and the commercial sectors we work with," explained vocational supervisor Tony DiLucci. More than 20 recent "cosmo" grads are at work in Lansing salons alone and the Tompkins-Cortland Cosmetology Association meets regularly in the BOCES cosmetology classrooms.

Students come to the cosmetology program in a variety of ways, explained McCoy. "Marty Ducsik does a winter 'road show' for 9th and 10th grade students throughout the 3-county area to interest them in the full range of BOCES programs as they plan their high school careers." Based on past years, the cosmetology program can expect to have 80-100 youngsters attend "student visitation days" this March 18 and 19 just prior to the public Open House on March 20.

Most cosmetology students begin their 2-year program in the 11th grade, though occasionally a student starts in the 10th grade. "We often have adults who decide on cosmetology after they've left school," said McCoy. Smith came to BOCES after earning her GED (Graduate Equivalency Diploma). She'll complete her 1000 hour training sequence in April and expects to take her NYS exam in June.

Though vocational education in cosmetology will lead most students to careers in the community, for some it simply opens doors to careers that they'd otherwise not imagined. After Smith gets her license, she intends to work as a part-time hairdresser while she continues her education in biology at TC-3 to go on to become a physical therapist in sports medicine.

"The cosmetology program makes you patient," she said confidently. "You learn to work for what you want."



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