

Teenage author writes his own success story

By Tim Smith
staff writer

Look out literary world, here comes Ben Hurvitz. The 13-year-old Hurvitz, a candidate for president of Orchard Lake Middle School, among his many endeavors, is proof plenty that teens can work hard at school and still be popular.

And he's good, too. The eighth grader recently was selected as one of 10 winners in a statewide essay contest sponsored by the Michigan Opera Theatre, Ford Motor Co. and Little Caesars Enterprises. His effort, entitled "The Arts," was among 50 entries.

"I just wanted to get across the point that I'm really for the arts and they should be continued," said the West Bloomfield resident about his one-page entry. "It's really important for people in society, it helps them escape every day situations."

When asked what he thought separated his effort from those that fell short, Hurvitz answered with his usual straight-to-the-point honesty.

"I SPENT a lot of time on it," the now-accomplished essayist said. "I really put down what I thought and I wrote it as factual. Others might have tried to make it into a story."

Agreeing was teacher Natalie Minninger, whose "Mentored Writers" after-school class for gifted young scribes includes Hurvitz. She said Ben's essay won because it was "succinct" and stayed on course.

'He just has this spark. He always wants to say something, write it down, communicate. . . He's really talented and there's not just one channel or vein he writes in.'

— Natalie Minninger
Ben's teacher

An excerpt of Hurvitz' essay might bear her evaluation out. "Art can be interpreted in many different ways. Therefore, no one is right or wrong in the way he perceives it."

Meanwhile, Minninger added that the pupil is a true leader, one who is looked up to by others in the school.

"He just has this spark," she said. "He always wants to say something, write it down, communicate. . . He's really talented and there's not just one channel or vein he writes in."

For example, Hurvitz is editor of the school newsletter "The Viking Voice," he and others in the Mentored Writers class work on future contributions. The publication includes everything from sports reviews to travel tips to science news.

HURVITZ is a team player, undoubtedly.

"Cameron, this is really great," said Hurvitz from across the classroom after reading eighth-grader Cameron Smith's Halloween poem.

Mentored Writers is for those youngsters who love to write, said Minninger, adding that enrollment is

based both on talent and teacher assessments from the previous year.

Minninger said pupils in the average classroom are required to write five compositions in a year, plus a book report and research paper.

"But they really don't have a fo-

rum that displays their talent continually, month after month, year after year. Mentored Writers is for those students who are truly voracious writers."

Hurvitz certainly qualifies as one. He said he'd love to have a book published someday but thinks working for a newspaper might be the way to go.

"THERE'S MORE pressure but it's easier to get a job. At least it's a guaranteed salary."

As much as Hurvitz relishes writing and even doing interviews for Viking Voice articles ("I hear myself

asking a lot of the questions you're asking," he does have other irons in the fire at Orchard Lake Middle School.

"I think I'm in every club in school," he said, speaking with absolutely no arrogance in his voice. "I'm running for (school) president. I'm going to try out for the basketball team."

So with all of that on his plate, what's the biggest challenge for Hurvitz?

"Shuffling schedules, meeting deadlines and getting everything in," he said. "Because I don't want to disappoint anyone."



DAN DEAR/staff photographer

A young man with many interests in Orchard Lake Middle School pupil Ben Hurvitz, pictured in the computer lab where he helps compose the school newsletter.

50% off carpet and furniture cleaning, call 352-6220
50% off

Your child will gain one full grade level in just 36 hours. Guaranteed.*

At Sylvan Learning Centers we help students catch up, then move ahead by stressing the basics. Our learning programs feature:

- Complete diagnostic testing
- Positive reinforcement and rewards for success
- A full range of teaching aids, including computers
- Enrichment programs
- Reading
- Math
- ACT/SAT Prep
- Individual instruction
- Writing
- Algebra
- Study Skills

*Your child will improve at least one full grade equivalent score in each of reading, writing and math in 36 hours of instruction. We will continue up to 12 additional hours of instruction at no further cost. Measurement is based on a nationally recognized assessment tool. See representative in local reading comprehension or vocabulary test and results immediately upon completion.

1301 Sylvan Learning Corporation
Sylvan Learning Center
3575 W. Maple Rd. #100
West Bloomfield, MI 48304
737-2880

Bargain Days

FEEL WARM WITHOUT FEELING THE HEAT

Byrant natural gas furnaces will keep your home comfortably warm without burning you with high heating or repair bills. For dependable, affordable climate control, Byrant gas furnaces are the ideal choice.

Conrad D & G Heating soon to see which Byrant gas furnace is best suited to your home. With several sizes and options to choose from, D & G has the ideal unit for you, because Byrant heating units are built with The Night Shift... To Last.

398A

ASK ABOUT COMFORT CREDIT FINANCING

5 YEAR WARRANTY ON PARTS & LABOR WITH PURCHASE OF DELUXE UNIT

476-7022
19140 FARMINGTON RD.
LIVONIA
"SERVING THE NORTHWEST SUBURBS SINCE 1954"

GAUDIOR ACADEMY
A More Joyful Learning Experience

- Promotes Active Student Participation
- Encourages "Hands On" Cooperative Problem Solving
- Academic Integrated Program includes:

ART DRAMA SCIENCES MUSIC COMPUTERS FOREIGN LANGUAGE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

• Small Student/Teacher Ratio • Parent Involvement Welcomed and Supported

Open House November 7th 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
25350 W. Six Mile • Redford, MI 48240 • 538-3666

Visit DeGiulio Kitchen & Bath Showrooms

...And IMAGINE THE Possibilities

DeGiulio Industries

Deanborn Showroom
15150 Century Drive
at Midway at Greenfield
Call 271-4990

Livonia Showroom
33750 W. Six Mile
Call 422-1100

HOURS: 9-7 Daily 9-4 Sat.

SALEM LUMBER & BATH SHOPPE
30650 Plymouth Rd. • Livonia
422-1000

8 Ft. Rough Square Edge TREATED TIMBERS

4"x6" \$4.99
5"x5" \$6.99
6"x8" \$11.99

8'x8' BARN
Includes:
5 Complete Factory Trusses
Asphalt Shingles
5/4" Thick Floor
W" O.C. "Masonite" Primed Siding

\$319⁸⁸
plus tax

Other Stocked Sizes
8x10
8x12

SHEET STOCK SALE

1/4" birch \$17⁸⁸
1/2" birch G2S \$34⁸⁸
3/4" birch G2S \$38⁸⁸

NEW ROOMS FOR SALE

PINEMILL Cream \$13⁴⁹
WOODFIELD Chestnut \$14⁴⁹
Hazelnut Walnut \$14⁴⁹
BLEACHED OAK White \$14⁴⁹

AS 14'4" x 8" modern 2 OC grooving

WE CUT PLYWOOD

1/4" oak \$22⁸⁸
3/4" oak G2S \$48⁸⁸

prices effective thru 11-13-91

store and shed hours
monday thru friday 8 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.
sunday 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Recycle and Save!

9th ANNUAL GOLF MERCHANDISE SALE

WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY • October 30 - November 3

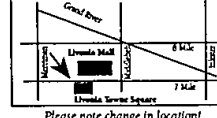
- All men's and ladies' apparel 30% to 70% off! Sanebelt, Hogan, Tulett, Ashworth, Tail, Leon Levin, Stanley Blacker Bogner, Aureus, Head, Slatenger and more!
- Nice selection of Golf Shoes, New and Used Golf Clubs ...and New Golf Bags!
- REGISTER TO WIN PRO LINE GOLF EQUIPMENT EACH DAY! 5 Lucky Winners! New contest held each day of our sale. No purchase necessary. Deposit your free entry coupon at our sale!
- Daily Sale Specials!

MEET R.G.A. GOLF PROFESSIONALS DAILY...

JOHN MOLENDRA
DAVE ZINK
MARK REASON

RANDY ERSKINE
TOM VAN HAAREN
GLENN POLICE

LIVONIA TOWNE SQUARE
Shopping Center
Seven Mile Just West of Middlebelt
Across from Livonia Mall
Golf Sale Hours: Daily 10 AM - 9 PM Sunday 12 Noon - 5 PM
Held next to Kuppenheimer



Retiring or Retired?

Bolanis & Associates has straight answers to your financial questions.

- What's the best retirement plan option for me?
- Where do I invest for growth and safety?
- Will I still have to work?
- How can I reduce my income taxes?

Most people are unprepared to make the important financial decisions necessary for their retirement...decisions which will affect them and their families for the rest of their lives.

Join Charles Bolanis, CFP, ChFC, Jeffrey Shoffer, CFP, and members of their firm of financial planning professionals for a free seminar on the financial issues important to those people facing retirement. Spouses and friends are encouraged to attend.

Advance registration is required.

Two, FREE financial planning seminars to choose from.

Monday, November 4
The Southfield Marriott
27033 Northwestern Hwy.
Southfield, MI
7-9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 5
The Sheraton
3200 Boardwalk
Ann Arbor, MI
7-9:30 p.m.

BOLANIS & ASSOCIATES, INC.
Financial Planners • 26911 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 300 • Southfield, MI 48034 313-262-1466
Financial Planning Services • Registered Investment Advisor Offices serving Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland and Columbus