Kristy "The Laughing Girl" Slominski
HOBY '01

I remember sitting with my sophomore peers in our auditorium and first hearing about the HOBY Leadership Seminar. I honestly was not sure what they were talking about because the microphone kept squealing, so basically all I heard was "HOBY... great... yada yada... leadership... blah blah... opportunity." Despite the lack of info, I still remember knowing that I wanted to be a part of HOBY.

I know that every young person struggles in their pursuit of self. A large chunk of my puzzle was missing, and I realized that I'd have to get off my butt and start looking for that piece if I ever wanted to be complete. Call me cheesy, but after hearing more about HOBY I had a strong sense that this particular experience would help me conquer a few of the gaps that I was facing. I wrote my essay, had a few interviews, and after getting the news that I'd been chosen to be an ambassador, I freaked out and started waiting impatiently for the seminar.

My HOBY weekend came and passed too quickly, but the impact was enormous. I walked in that first morning of the seminar and found scared looking sophomores, a few "interesting" counselors and JC's, and a lot of cheers. The enthusiasm was contagious and I am glad to say that I have taken it home with me. Being surrounded by so many amazing leaders helped me overcome a lot of struggles that I was facing. I realized how much time I was wasting not being myself and not enjoying the choices put in front of me.

The skills which I learned at the seminar have given me confidence and the tools I need to open the doors ahead of me. Since then I've changed my perspective on a lot of things, found better uses of my time by joining local volunteer groups and getting involved with my church, and I have realized that life isn't all that bad. :) I left that weekend with a new family of friends, another piece to my puzzle, and a lot of memories and laughs/cries (thanks to my wonderful J.C. Jaimie Kurtz).

Being an ambassador at HOBY 2001 was an amazing and unique experience for me. I thought that it was just the beginning, but it wasn't! After going back to the HOBY reunion and seeing so many awesome people again I realized that there was much more ahead. Hopefully, I'll get the opportunity as a Junior Counselor to see another batch of sophomores experience HOBY next year. Until then, I'll keep in touch with my HOBY friends and continue to use my enthusiasm for good causes.

Thank you again to everyone who made this experience so special!

John Wetzel
HOBY '00

HEY ALUMS!

At Michigan HOBY West-North 2000, there was a discussion about a little thing known as the Formal Ball for Michigan's Youth Leaders (you know, that whole networking groups thing). Well, we're finally going to do it! Here's the gist of it: all HOBY alumni from the state of Michigan are invited as well as non-HOBY outstanding high school leaders, along with the entire Michigan legislature, and community and business leaders from around the state. We will gather later this winter at the Lansing Center (in Lansing, MI, of all places) to eat, drink and be merry. Of course there will be entertainment, music, networking with the VIP's, and maybe even dancing. (Guys, remember: from city to city, HOBY girls are so pretty!).

So what is this Formal Ball for? It will be the largest fundraiser in Michigan HOBY's history, and the proceeds from the tickets which the VIP's buy will go directly to both Michigan HOBY seminars, to help them be even MORE OUTSTANDING!!

Alumni leaders, in the next few weeks, you should be getting packets about how you can get your alumni club organized to help out, as well as what you can do to help make your seminar even better! And for individuals, if you're really interested in helping out and don't want to wait, contact John Wetzel (see the contact list, I'm Tri-Cities VP), Brad Harris, or Dave Clark.

MORE TO COME!

GET READY FOR AN OUTSTANDING TIME!!