

AHS grad enriches Greater Cincy art scene

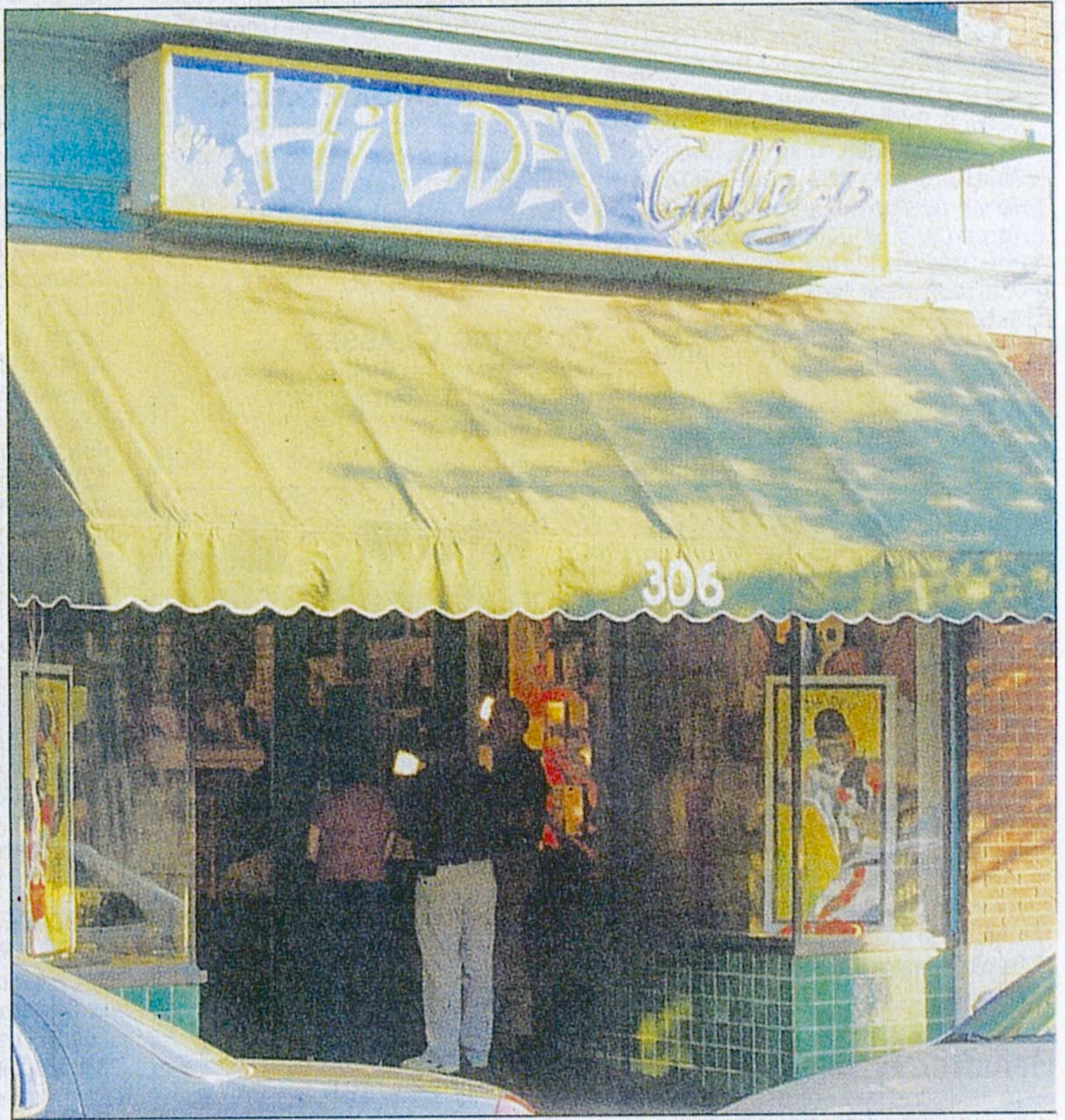
By Jereme Simmons
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BELLEVUE, KY— After a four year stint at the Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida, 2003 Anderson High School graduate Tyler Hildebrand is back home in the Queen City, ready to make a splash in the local art scene.

Tyler and a large party of friends, family, neighbors and art enthusiasts celebrated the opening of his gallery and workplace, Hilde's Gallery, at 306 Fairfield Ave. (Kentucky Route 8), Bellevue, KY, with spirits, food and plenty of visual stimulus. Hildebrand joins a growing artisan community making an appearance in Bellevue, just across the river from downtown Cincinnati and just east of Newport. According to Bellevue Renaissance Group President and Co-owner of Cleves and Lonnemann Jewelers, Charlie Cleves, the area is, "on fire."

Hildebrand's business cards declare that he is an illustrator and sport boldly dark, modern comic book style renderings of characters such as Alice Cooper. Inside his shop/gallery you'll find an eclectic mix of images ranging from stylistic paintings of Bengals heroes, pop film icons and local landmarks. His designs grace canvas, clothing and maybe someday comic books, which are one of his favorite mediums.

According to Hildebrand, his biggest influences include Jim Borgman, a family friend and two of his favorite teachers from the Forest Hills Local School District - Jeff Krause and Pat Andreadis.



JEREME SIMMONS/STAFF

Hilde's Gallery in Bellevue, KY.

"Basically, these two spent hours with me up at school. Sometimes even after school," said Hildebrand. "They were really important to me being in to art."

Hildebrand had the opportunity to see Borgman at work and always knew that he would like to do what he does and do it here in Cincinnati. Although Hildebrand says, "he (Borgman) has a handle on it around here for now." Maybe we

won't see Hildebrand in the newspapers yet, but we can expect to see his designs on people's backs and hanging on people's walls, including local celebrity Nick Clooney who purchased a painting at the opening.

The young artist says he is pleased to be back in his hometown and amongst his people. While he doesn't claim to know exactly what the future has in store he says opening a gallery is certainly, "a good starting point."



JEREME SIMMONS/STAFF

Tyler Hildebrand with a couple of his works.



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Nick Clooney chats it up before buying one of Tyler Hildebrand's paintings.