THE BLADE, TOLEDO, OHIO  SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2007  SECTION 1

For kids, Harry makes reading an open book

By DARREN LANE  black@thecitypress.com

The verdict is in and it’s unani-

mous: the Harry Potter series has had

a major impact on the literacy of young

readers.

All over the country, booksellers

have not only sold the millions of ex-

amples of mass-marketing for which

they’ve achieved nothing short of a

magical feat, inspiring kids who are

not avid readers to pick up a book and

read. Many consider them a must read,

a gold mine, to use the words of the

writer’s union.

They’re reading more, reading more

frequently, and say they’re reading

because they’re reading for more than

an entertainment purpose. What that

means is more skillful readers, said Jim

Trelease, author of The Read Aloud Hand-

book, in an e-mail interview.

“When I was a teaching student for

the first time in 1975, I would have

sworn that an eight-year-old could

read Harry Potter and the Chamber of

Secrets,“ said Trelease, “but they have

since. Harry Potter is a phenomenon.

It’s a magical occasion to see kids

get involved with books.”

The Potter phenomenon

NEW YORK — As the Harry Potter series

reigns up this summer, we can look back at two

remarkable narratives: Potter the

boy wizard and Potter the cultural

phenomenon.

Potter the phenomenon

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, the sixth

book in J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series, was

published in 2000 and was translated to 44

languages and 191 countries.

Potter the boy wizard

The first Harry Potter book, Harry Potter

and the Sorcerer’s Stone, was published in

October 1997 and has been translated to

15 languages, 20 countries and 22

audio editions. The seven Potter books

already top 325 million copies. The first

installment of the series, Harry Potter and

the Philosopher’s Stone, is the best-selling

book of the decade. The last installment, the

Deathly Hallows, was released over the

summer.

For an outline of Harry’s adven-
tures in the first six books, go to Toledo

Magazine, Page B8.

LOCAL POTTER FANS

Kayla Zaleski

Tiffany Townsend

Mother-in-law with her 1 Shaggle plane

House wife and second son, Jenny Winchester

David Miller

Jeremy Beam with his wife, Heather Beam

The Potter Series follows in the footsteps of ‘Star Wars’ and ‘Star Trek’

By MILLER, ITALIE

NEW YORK — As the Potter series reigns up this sum-
mmer, we can look back at two

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boy wizard and Potter the cultural

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Potter the phenomenon

Every phenomenon is a kind of

world unto itself; a much deeper

phenomenon becomes a phenom-

enon. The story of how the public

reaction to the Harry Potter series

was so well calibrated, an author and

cultural critic whose works include

Web Design and the Art of Commer-

cial Computer Reality. His philosophy

has never been better

after that series by NBC, ‘Star Wars,’ rejected Hispanic

Holofcek, whether being talked on

20th Century Fox, which didn’t

publish Potter. The reader, we may

correctly ask, is Potter’s ultimate

aim? Potter’s the phenomenon.

Potter the boy wizard

Local Potter fans

The survey, by Scholastic Corp. (U.S. publisher

of Harry Potter and the Bloomsbury Press

imprint) and Yankelovich, Inc., also

showed that 54 percent of the kids

readers and lo, even boys (who don’t

read as much) have found

books. The survey was conducted

among 500 kids 17 and younger.

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