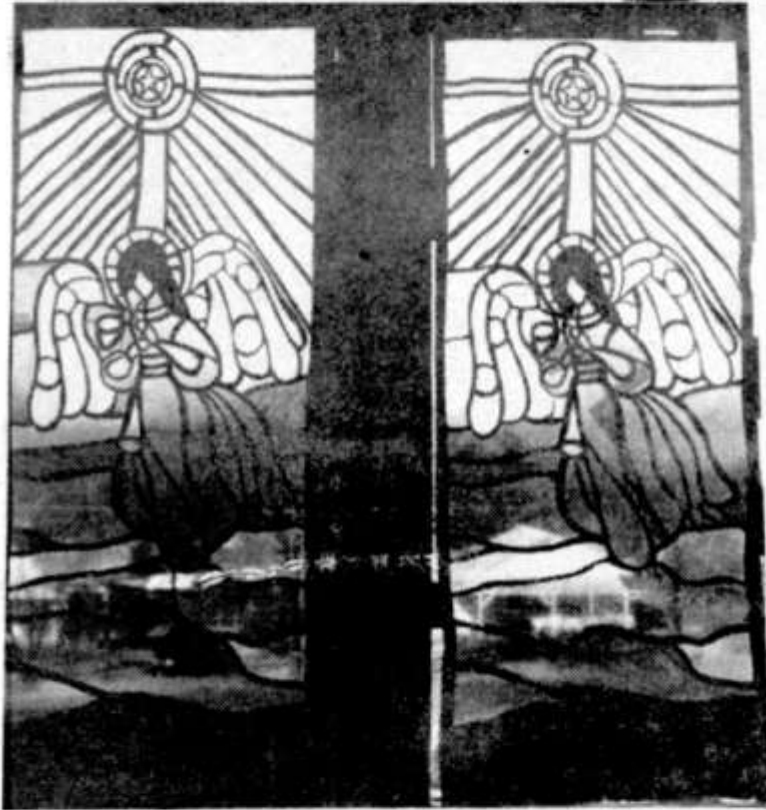


Tuesday, December 20



The Art Department's stained glass windows are displayed in the school's front windows

## Art Department paints the town

By Chris Titsworth  
The Lone Oak Art Department has taken the responsibility of decorating LOHS and some of the surrounding community for this holiday season. The art department achievements can be seen at our school, The Parlor, Super Value, and the Board of Education's Christmas tree.

At Lone Oak all art students participated in the designing of thirty-six windows along the College Avenue side of our school. They tried to create a stained

glass effect with the materials of black construction paper, colored accitate, tissue paper, and cellophane. They have also decorated the bulletin boards in our school halls. They have decorated them in the past and are also responsible for the decorating of them in the future.

When the manager of The Parlor asked for some assistance in decorating art 3 and 4 students quickly volunteered. They made Christmas wreath and hung garland to try and give the place

a more holiday spirit. Art 3 and 4 students will receive a pizza party for tackling the job.

Art 3 students, with a little help from some art 4 students, painted and cut out some common holiday figures. Some of the figures are Santa Claus, a snowman, and children enjoying holiday fun. These characters are displayed in Super Value's frozen foods section. The art department has decorated for them in the past and will do the same in the future for other upcoming holidays and events.

## Bands combine for Christmas

By Shannon Adler  
The Lone Oak High School "Concert Band", along with the Lone Oak Middle School "Sixth Grade Band" and "Cader Band", presented a Christmas concert on December 11 in the L.O.H.S. gymnasium.

The "Sixth Grade

Band" played "Cook King Venecias", "Frosty the Snow Man", and "Holiday Stetch Hide", a Christmas composition by Ron Goshard, the director. The "Cader Band" performed four songs including "He is Born" and "Jingle Bell Rock".

The Lone Oak High

School "Concert Band" performed "Stetch Hide", "A Christmas Carol", "Santa Claus is Coming to Town", and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas". They also played excerpts from "The Nutcracker Suite" by Tchaikovsky.

## Betas serve Louisville

By Dave Bosch  
On the weekend of Dec 7, twenty-two students attended the annual state Beta Club convention in Louisville.

This year Stephen Borders, a Lone Oak Beta Club Junior, ran for the office of State Beta Club Vice President. Many hours of work went in the preparation of the campaign materials and skit, performed by all attending Beta Club members. This year's campaign slogan was "Borders serves you." Stephen related the game of life to the game of

tennis in both his speech and the skit.

Our school was also represented in the speech contest by Amy Rushing. Amy's topic of discussion was on the presidential election and the electoral college.

Picture on page 3

Although Borders and Rushing did not win first place in their competitions, the weekend was still a success. Beta Club members had the chance to participate in

(See pg. 3) **BETA**

## Faculty holds annual dinner

LOHS faculty staff, cafeteria workers, and their spouses held their annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 17. The buffet dinner, paid for by the teacher's fund, took place at the Holman House.

Several door-prizes

were awarded to lucky recipients and the teachers presented their Christmas gifts to Mr. Rushing, Mr. Adams, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Adler, and Mrs. Stubblefield. Mrs. Helfer commented that, as expected, the evening consisted of much fun and fellowship.



The middle school and high school bands shared in the Christmas spirit by presenting a concert on December 11.

# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Teens must be careful

Every year around Christmas and New Years, teenagers are told of the dangers of drinking. However, every year a great number of them go to parties or just "have a few beers" with friends. No matter what is said, many teenagers will continue to drink, but they don't have to drink and drive.

There are several things a person can do to keep himself out of a situation where he has to drive drunk. Probably the most commonly used technique is through the designated driver. When a small group plans to drink when they go out, they can appoint one person, who will not be drinking, to drive. The responsibility of the designated driver can go to a different person every time they go out.

Another way to keep drunk drivers off the road after is by taking everyone's keys at the door. When someone who has been drinking wants to leave, a sober person can drive him home. If he does not have his keys, he will not have the opportunity to drive home.

Finally, if all else fails and a person finds himself in a situation where there is no one who can drive home safely, he can call his parents. Although this does sound like an invitation for punishment, it can save a person's life. It will also convince parents that their kids are responsible enough not to drive drunk.

So for those who feel it is necessary to drink this holiday season, make sure someone else is driving.

## New grading scale is needed

This school system should adopt a 10-point grading scale (i.e. A=10, B=9, C=8, D=7, E=6, F=5, G=4, H=3, I=2, J=1, etc.). The present system is unfair. Colleges and universities use the 10-point scale. Why shouldn't Lone Oak's grading scale correspond with the very institutions students are being prepared to enter?

Also, colleges and universities require a specific grade point average for

entrance and scholarships. The grading scale at Lone Oak should be weighted equally so that students are eligible for the scholarships they deserve!

The Board of Education should realize that the very system which was initiated to encourage students to excel is, in fact, hindering the progress of those the scale was intended to help.

Tip Hooker



Christmas Cheer?

## Suicide soars during holiday season

In the next five minutes, someone in the United States will try to kill himself. At least sixty Americans will have taken their lives by this time tomorrow. Over 25,000 people in the United States killed themselves last year and nine times that many attempted it. The suicide rate drastically increases during the holiday season.

There is no one specific reason why a person kills himself. During the holiday season, when the suicide rate is especially high, some feel alienated from their families and

feel as though no one cares.

Almost all who seriously intend to take their lives leave clues as a cry for help. They do not really want to die, they just want someone to notice them. Some drop broad hints, but some just have a change in behavior. The decision to end one's life is not spontaneous, but is premeditated and given extreme consideration.

It is not impossible to identify a suicidal person. The most evident clues are the threats, even jokingly, "I want to kill myself," or "I want

be better off without me." These threats should be taken seriously.

There are also "attitude" hints, such as a withdrawal of school and family life, a loss of appetite, and an avoidance of conversation. The person might give away his most valuable possessions because he feels he will not need them anymore.

Suicide is a very catastrophic event. It can be prevented, however, if signs of suicidal tendencies in a friend are noticed and acted upon. Misty Cash

## More attention needs to be given to hostages

Last month, generous efforts were made to save three whales off the coast of Alaska. This project brought together several countries. The whole idea of countries

working together to help someone else is wonderful. However, our country has its priorities mixed up. The whales have been in the news daily and a lot of

time and energy have gone into their rescue. There is also an American by the name of Terry Anderson who has been held hostage for three full years and is still in Beirut.

Is it alright to put this much money and time into altering nature but overlook a man whose life is threatened by another country? Would he still

be there if we had all worked together and put as much time into his rescue as we did the rescue of the whales? I think through the ordeal of the whales, we have proven to ourselves that anything can be conquered through working together. Let's see this much effort put forth to save our trapped American citizen.

Amy Gordon

## Are finals needed for everyone?

The students in McCracken County are now taking their semester finals before Christmas vacation. It is my belief that finals should not be required for those students who work hard all semester long and have maintained an "A" average for the two nine-week reporting periods. I believe that finals should only be given to those students who need a good grade on a final to help raise

their grade in various classes.

Many other high schools, some of which are in this area, and colleges have this policy and I wish that the McCracken County School Board would take a look at adopting this policy. Students need to be rewarded for doing their best and I believe that by eliminating the "final" in a class where the student has an "A" average, more students

would work harder to make better grades.

We have often read or heard our school board use terms like "Strive for Excellence" or "Schools of Excellence", if they were to adopt the "option finals" policy, they might indeed have more excellence in the various high schools in the county. Excellence should be rewarded and this is one way this can be accomplished.

Robert Wagner

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# A white Christmas is on the way

By Joe Herman  
 Good News deep freeze dreamers, this year we will have a white Christmas, a very white Christmas. It seems this year with all the hurricane and storm activity down by the Gulf of Mexico that the jet stream has been severely displaced. As a result of its displacement, winter storms will flow along the jet stream as usual and instead of dropping off at Montana or Minnesota like they normally would, they will deposit themselves from

the point of the jet stream that was originally over Minnesota and Montana. A point that lies directly over western Kentucky! Experts are predicting that we can expect to get up to 9.5 feet of snow in the month of January alone! So grab that old winter parka from out of the depths of the closet, revive the shovel from the bowels of your attic, and prepare for the biggest arctic blast to hit Kentucky since the blizzard of '59.



(Cont. from pg. 1) **BETA** competitions, attend lectures, show and ice

skate at the Galleria, and eat at either 'inefish' or the rotating restaurant atop the 25

story Calt House overlooking the Ohio River and all of downtown Louisville.

## Dear Santa,

Here is an example of Santa's interesting mail from Mrs. Mitchell's first graders.

Dear Santa,  
 I have bin a good girl. I want a Jesus doll. I want a cabbigpach. I love, you!



Shay

Dear Santa,  
 I have bin a goodboy and you breang me a spoo shutl.

Love  
 Carl

Dear Santa,  
 I hav hen good girl. I hope that I see you. I want a checer game. I want a little mrs makeup. Santa-I love you

Jamie

## Everybody knows...

....April Gordon has the hots for Coach McGroarty.

....Carolyn Kerins knows what a "dink" is.

....Mrs. Campbell loves to keep her classes busy.

....Stacey Overby likes leather.

....Ronnie Nichols ran for Senior Class president.

....No one knows what to do during a fire alarm.

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## NASA honors students for exhibits

Julie Walker and Elizabeth Jones placed 3rd in the NASA competition. Julie wrote a poem about the launching of the "Discovery" and Elizabeth drew a picture to illustrate it.

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# If you think 1988 was strange, wait until next year

By Laura Wallis  
As the year draws to a close, one can look back and remember what events throughout the year have made 1988 memorable.

From steroids in the Summer Olympics to the PTL scandal, magazines such as Globe and National Enquirer had a field day. AIDS seemed to be spreading through Hollywood about as fast as unwed actresses had children. Rumer Glen Willis and Quinton Anderson Renolds won awards for the worst named children of the year. Lisa Bonet tried to give birth to her acting career with her own show, but instead gave birth to a bouncing baby girl.

One of the most popular pastimes was

finding out which politician was currently having an affair. Jessica Hahn and Donna Rice seemed to be in a contest to see who could appear the most times on magazine covers (and under the most covers). As far as the front covers go, Tammy Faye, along with her mascara, beat them both.

1988 was definitely Elvis' biggest year! He was sighted all over the country, a few places being a helicopter in Hawaii, fishing in New York, and in a supermarket in Michigan. Elvis has supposedly stated that, "I needed the rest even more than I knew." (Was that before or after his statue was found on Mars?)

Plastic surgery was

common among the stars. Cher was supposed to have had two ribs removed, breast lift, nose job, and a navel reshaping (actually, she only had the breast lift and nose job). Michael Jackson went all out and got a cleft put in his chin, along with two nose jobs. He decided against lightening his lips and altering his cheeks and eyes.

"Rocky" was a big "hit" with women whose names end in "a." During the year, Stallone dated Cornelia, Alana, Vanna, Joanna, and Dena, none of them tying him down for long.

1988 was a big year for the well-publicized "make-uns" and "break-ups." Hollywood nominees for the

"scariest couple" award were Brigitte Nielsen and Mark Gastineau, and Terence Trent D'Arby and his ego; however, the award was properly given to Roben Givens and Mike Tyson.

Although Madonna and Sean Penn were said to have broken up for good this time, the couple once again "beats" the media and proves them wrong. Vanity and Nikki Sixx never made it to the altar after he showed up wearing her engagement earring in public. Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell, along with Ryan O'Neal and Farrah Fawcett, continue to remain single even after all of the years together (and kids together).

Robin Williams took up with his son's nanny

ending his nine year marriage about the same time. Joe Piscopo was seen at a movie making out with the babysitter. Neither of these could top America's "angels" Steven Spielberg, Bruce Springsteen, and Robert Redford turning devilish. All three were rumored to have had "flings" while wives were away on business.

This country cannot help but be filled with plenty of entertainment in 1989. The new post said to be coming to the White House cabinet, Secretary of Psychic and Astrological Resources, will definitely help out in troubled times. And if things get too serious and boring, Elvis will talk to us from the grave or maybe even return to singing.

## Johnston serves as Rotarian

By Jim Yerins

Bill Johnston has been chosen as the December Junior Rotarian by the staff and faculty of LOHS.

In his freshman year, Bill was a member of FBLA. In his sophomore year, he was a member of the Physical Science Club. During his junior and senior years, he was a member of the Physical Science Club and the Beta Club.

Bill was an honor and outstanding student his sophomore year and junior year. Also in his junior year he was in Youth Salute and placed 3rd on the National French Exam. He also participated on the Academic Team and the Forework Hotline.

Bill plans to attend Georgetown University with a major in French and a minor in Computer Science. After graduating from college, he wants to be an interpreter.

Bill states that in the next 20 years he sees himself "in a nice, private office making \$70,000 a year, and



married to a beautiful wife, with the typical 2.5 children. Basically, a married yuppie."

"I was surprised to discover that I was chosen Junior Rotarian, and I feel that I can live up to the appellation," states Bill.

## Choir hosts holiday dinner

By Amy Gordon

The Lone Oak Choir hosted a Christmas Dinner on December 18 in the Lone Oak Cafeteria. The money raised through the dinner will go into the choir fund for future activities. The L.O.H.S. highlighted the afternoon with a performance.

## Students make New Year's resolutions

By Lori Snear

With the new year quickly approaching us, it is now time to begin thinking about what the future holds, and what we hold for the future. In doing this, one usually follows tradition and makes some resolutions with which to start the new year. Following are the results of a random survey of LOHS students as to what they hope the new year has in store for them.

To make it through until graduation without going insane or getting in too much trouble—Laura Wallis.

I resolve to eat less and drink more—Jim Yerins.

I want to learn how to fly—Joe Herman.

To grow a wig—Cwen Adams.

To be caught in a mosh and be the first person to find my way out—Brian Austin.

To hire Ann Landers as my personal advisor—Deanna Lindqv.

To achieve a 45-inch vertical leap—Shawn Hall.

To hassle Mr. Tov as much as humanly possible—

Jennifer Moore and Kerri Poach.

To finish this year without losing my sanity—Lori Cooper.

married to a beautiful wife, with the typical 2.5 children. Basically, a married yuppie."

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**Escobar takes "chance of a lifetime"**

By Aimee Bahr  
Which would you choose if your parents gave you a choice between a huge party or a visit to a foreign country? When Nuria Escobar was faced with this question, she chose the visit to a foreign country.  
Nuria Escobar, a 15 year old from Guatemala, is a freshman here at Lone Oak High School. She is staying in Paducah with her aunt until the end of the semester.  
Nuria decided that

visiting the United States would give her a great opportunity to practice her English.  
Since living in the United States, Nuria enjoys going to the mall and shopping.  
Nuria feels the biggest difference between the U.S. and Guatemala are the schools. In Guatemala schools are not coeducational.  
The Oak K staff wishes to extend a fond farewell to Nuria.

**The pro's and con's of a part-time job**

By Jennifer Snow  
Can you identify with the words "No, I can't go out Friday, I have to work"? If so, you're part of a growing majority. If not, you're in for a treat. One of these days, the world of employment is going to beckon you through its worn entrance. Before this time approaches, you need to know what to expect. Here's an opportunity to look first hand at a day in the life of a working teen- and to decide for yourself whether or not you'll join the ranks of the employed.

2:18 p.m., Thursday afternoon. Two more minutes. If it takes three minutes to run to the locker, thirty seconds to pick up everything that falls out of it, and another minute to get to the parking

lot, I may be on my way home by 2:30. That's only if I survive until the bell rings, though, which at this point is questionable.

3:36 p.m. I'm running out of my house to my car, jacket and nametag in hand, keys in mouth, praying that I can get to work by four.



4:02 p.m. The violent search for my time card begins. The clock sits in front of me, sneering. Yes, late again.

5:44 p.m. The rush begins. People pour in every available entrance,

waving money and buying everything that isn't tied down. I feel like a kid in my cash register.

7:10 p.m. Ah, breaks are wonderful things. My suffering feet and my aching head are allowed to rest for a whole half hour. I think I'll sit and make a list of things that need to be done- by someone besides me.

8:55 p.m. More anticipation. Five more minutes and I'll be out of here! No! Was that a bus that just pulled up?

10:19 p.m. Finally, my bed and the end of my hectic day are living before me. As I begin to drift off to a well deserved sleep, I ponder the day's activities. Today did, at least, go by quickly. Tomorrow will be even better. After all, tomorrow is my day off.

**Tennis Association holds chili supper**

By Clay Wagner  
Prior to the exciting basketball game between Lone Oak and Tilghman, the Lone Oak Tennis Association sponsored its first chili supper on December 6. Chili, hot dogs, cake, and various soft drinks were served. The Tennis Association holds events such as this to raise the money that is needed for the maintenance and expansion of the Lone Oak tennis courts.

Over the past two years, the association has been responsible for the resurfacing of the tennis courts and the installation of lights for nighttime play. They are in the process of choosing a contractor to supervise the building of

a facility which could include space for storage, restrooms, and possibly a pro shop. Future projects include the building of four new courts, which would bring the total number of courts in Lone Oak to eight.

Association treasurer Larry Heflin reported that the chili supper was a great success and that over \$800 was made from this one event. He also remarked that the Tennis

Association would sponsor its annual pancake breakfast sometime in February.

The members of the Lone Oak Tennis Association are working hard to improve the tennis facility in Lone Oak; and, considering what they have accomplished in just two years, one can only wonder what the future has in store.

**Who's checking my list?**

Dear Santa Claus,  
I was talking to mommy and she said that you were not real. I thought it was you that left me my toys, but she said that her and daddy left them-- they even ate the cookies I left you and the carrots for Rudolph too! I was sorta wondering how you could be in so many stores at one time. I cried a really long time but it didn't help any. Mommy said that there is a Santa Claus in your heart and he is real, but he doesn't leave gifts and stuff. I don't really understand that, but it helped cause now I know that someone like "the Grinch who stole Christmas" didn't kill you. Now I have to be extra nice cause mommy and daddy are checking my list!

I love you,  
Amy

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**"Scrooged" enlightens season**

By Todd Walker  
 Bill Murray stars in "Scrooged", a 1989 version of Dicken's "A Christmas Carol." Murray plays the head of an evil TV empire that gets "scrooged." His plans are to score big holiday ratings with an intercontinental live production of Scrooge. Murray hates everything about Christmas until a visit from a modern day Jacob Marley played by John Forsythe. Of course there are special appearances by the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and Christmas future.

There are also four more versions of "A Christmas Carol." In 1938, MGM produced "A Christmas Carol" starring

Reginald Owen. There was also a 1951 British version starring Alister Simms. In 1970 there was a classic musical version starring Albert Finney, and there is even a cartoon version starring Mickey Mouse and Scrooge McDuck. The 1951 version was the most true to Dicken's tale and Alister Simms was truly a despicable Scrooge. These movies may sound different, but carry the same message, "Merry Christmas and God bless us everyone."

So on a rainy day go out and rent these older movies, or better yet go see "Scrooged." It will get you into the Christmas spirit and will keep you from being scrooged.

**U2 rattles to the top**

By Tim Hooker  
 U2's new album, Rattle and Hum, is the band's best yet and should further increase its constantly growing popularity. This new LP is an intriguing collage of covers, plenty of new songs, and bits of other people's music.

"This song Charles Manson stole from The Beatles. We're stealing it back." Bono announces as the band opens the album with a fiery cover of "Helter Skelter." Bob Dylan's suspenseful "All Along the Watchtower" is also covered, as are three U2 favorites. These include scorching versions of "Bullet the Blue Sky" and "Pride (In the Name of Love)," plus a gospel rendition of "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For."

"When Love Comes to Town," a blistering blues

number with R.R. King, is among the best of the new songs on this record. Other standout cuts include the hit single "Desire," the ballad "All I Want Is You," the dreamy "Heartland," and the scorching "Hawkmoon 269."

What's most unique about this album, though, is that it contains parts of other artists' recordings. Jimi Hendrix' "The Star Spangled Banner" brings in "Bullet the Blue Sky" in a complementary manner. An anti-apartheid street song, "Freedom for my People" leads into the band's own "Silver and Gold" in a good way, also.

All in all, Rattle and Hum is an excellent record that should not only be heard by fans of U2, but by plenty of others as well.

**L.O. weight room undergoes many changes**

By Scott Henry  
 The weight room of Lone Oak High School has recently been vastly improved upon. Over 4400 pounds of new weight and equipment have been purchased to augment the already impressive collection of free weights and weight lifting machines. The room was recently painted by the football players on a "freeday" they had. And perhaps most interesting of all the new improvements is the

chain-link cage around the entrance.

According to Coach Roth, this cage is for three reasons. The first is for liability against unauthorized people getting in and getting hurt on the machines allowing for lawsuits against the school. The second is for security against theft. The third is for the fact that the weight room is simply not for everybody. Right now, the weight room is

for all athletes when supervised by the coach and physical education classes when supervised by the teacher.

In the future, though, Coach Roth hopes that the weight room will be open to everyone and have a fulltime staff. Coach Roth feels that with the proper use of this new equipment, it will lead to a better attitude and performance by Lone Oak High School's team players.

**Clubs get Christmas spirit**

By Aimee Bahr  
 The TENNIS CLUB held a chili supper Tuesday, December 6 from 4:30 - 7:30 in the Lone Oak High School cafeteria.

FRLA is planning a Christmas party at Parkview Nursing Home. Members are also presently working on the American Enterprise Project. For this project members are again making a calendar with student's names and birthdates.

stuffed stockings to needy children.

Along with sending articles to the Spouse Abuse Center, members of TRI-HI-Y are collecting clothing for the Lone Oak Church of Christ and sponsoring teacher pals.

FCA is helping a few needy families by providing Christmas gifts, money or clothing.

KEY CLUB will be selling candy at all Varsity home games.

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## 'Twas the day before Christmas

By Amy Kilpatrick

'Twas the day before Christmas and all through the school not a person was studying for now it was yule. The homework was thrown in the locker with care, in hope that a fire should soon burn right there.

The pupils were bored all slumped in their seats, while dreams of corvettes drove from their feet. And Mr. Toy with his keys and McGoarty nearby were planning the break, to sneak on the sly, when there on the roof, there rose such a clatter the roof wasn't leaking, so what was the matter?

Across the lunchroom Rushing flew like a flash, he had stepped on a french fry and fell on his dash. The reflection below of Rob Wagner's car shown light on the roof and objects glowed from afar. When what to Rushing's blood shot eyes should appear, was Mr. Mizell and eight tiny — chipmunks? With a person like Jim so loud and so slick (ha ha) I know in a moment it was just a dumb trick.

More rapid than Lone Oak (football) they came as he whistled and grunted and called them by name. "Now Ethel, Now Danny, Now Lou Ann, and Escabito, On Curly, On Dudly, On Erma, and George. To the top of the steps to the top of the wall, now hut one and hut two, I hope I don't fall!"

And then in a hanging I heard on the roof the slurping and snarfing of each scrumptious fruit.

As I drew in my head and was turning around, Down the hall Mizell came with a hound.

He was dressed all in purple from his head to his toe, it looked somewhat different from a shirt and a how. A bundle of candy he had flung on his back so he looked really sneaky sneaking his sack.

His eyes, oh they were heavy his dimples, how scarv, his cheeks were like apples his nose big and hairy. His droll little mouth all stuffed to the brim, while pieces of candy were strung from each chin.

The end of a Nestles he held with his teeth and Hershey kisses encircled his head just like a wreath. He had a mischeivous face and a stuffed little belly that shook when he laughed like elephants and jelly.

He was chubby and plump and a quite conceited old self, and I laughed when I saw him in spite of myself. A chomp of his bar and a flick of the crumbs, I knew he just having some fun.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his sport, and passed all the candy and faked with a jerk. And tackling a teacher (who had just now turned blue), and receiving the signal down the hall he flew. He sprang past Adams and gave the chipmunks a whistle and away they all stole fast as a big missile. But I heard him well as he ran out of sight, "The candy is mine, and I'm outa sight!"

## Christmas Wishes...

Mr. Mizell— peace and harmony for the whole world and a stopper for his thermos  
Mr. Clark— for his girls' basketball team to get along and play to their potential  
Mr. Rushing— a couple of days of perfect attendance (so he won't have to write notes)

Mr. Sensing— a new consolidated high school  
Mr. Hopper— to win the lottery  
Mrs. Baker— peace  
Mrs. Campbell— caribbean cruise (students who don't gripe)  
Mr. McGoarty— Snow! Snow! Snow!—for skiing  
Brian Griffith— wheels for his '57 Chev

# Merry Christmas

from The Oak K



## Does old Saint Nick have his ominous side?

By Joe Herman

While I was on my way to the post office to mail my Christmas list, I chanced upon three older gentlemen conversing on a bench. As I walked by, I heard one say jokingly to the other, "Sure Bert we believe you. Next you'll be trying to tell us that there's a Santa Claus." Upon hearing this I stopped and asked, "Why did you say that? Everyone knows that there's a Santa Claus." I had just finished speaking when they all broke out in a fit of hysterical laughter. Annoyed, because I could not decipher the cause of their enjoyment, I quietly dismissed them as being incurably insane and began walking again. But as I approached nearer and nearer to my destination my mind started recollecting what the man said. Then I stopped dead in my tracks. What if there

really isn't a Santa, I thought. And soon I found myself doubting the very existence of our annual jovial benefactor. Ashamed I tried to banish these thoughts from my head. I felt I was defiling Christmas and betraying Santa and hoped he wasn't listening in to my thoughts. Finally, after I could see no other way to extricate these unholy thoughts from my mind, I decided to write them down in for the sole purpose that this might clear my head. But after seeing how sound an argument I have produced and how the indisputable logic seems to imply that my accusatory thoughts are correct, I feel I have to let the public know. But I admit, I will not allow myself to doubt the legitimacy of Santa for I dare not endanger my Christmas presents by offending, or disbelieving in Saint Nick.

Okay, first of all we are led to believe that Santa has tabs on all of us. Now how is this possible? How can he know how every one in the whole entire world is every minute of the day without the benefit of modern technology? He's been giving toys to tots since before computers and satellites. There is only two possible solutions to this, either he cannot do this and made up the whole thing to deceive poor innocent, unsuspecting children or else there's the second option which I myself strongly believe. He has spies. Many, many spies

work for Santa and spy on every person in the world. They peek in your windows, rummage through your belongings, and eavesdrop in on your innermost thoughts. Ever wonder how the meanest kid in school still manages to get Christmas presents even though he's been naughty. It's because he bribes Santa's spies with your lunch money.

Then there's the problem of Santa's guest appearances at department stores. How does a grossly overweight man manage to faunt from store to store to street corner to T.V. so fast? He seems to be everywhere. This brings us to his means of transportation. I myself have always had a hard time trying to believe that Santa has reindeer that can fly. How is it that he has the only population of this particular species of reindeer? How come they never die or get old? Let's face it, Donner and Blitzen have been around for a while. How is it that they can still cover the globe in less than one night?

With all these facts it is impossible to elude the inescapable conclusion that Santa is a fraud. Either he surely does not exist or else he is a chronic liar. Now if he's a liar how can we trust him? Personally I don't want a dubious character lurking in my house while I sleep. Sorry Santa, but I'm keeping a fire in my chimney this year.



Shawna Burcham— gum  
Amy Kaufman— a box of crayons  
Connie Izert— teddy bear  
Penee Hollingsworth— dolphin

Ty Garden— home stereo system  
Elizabeth Homan— a nice car ('cause her parents want to get a cheap one)



Tim Stonecipher takes a break while waiting for the free throw.

## Tilghman gets revenge

Tilghman 59, Lone Oak 41  
Thurs Dec. 8  
Lone Oak 6 16 27 41  
Tilghman 16 28 44 59

LONE OAK (41) -  
Brantley 9, Brookshire 4,  
Burnett 4, Henderson 6,  
Hooker, A. Jones 1, L.  
Jones 6, P. Jones 11,  
Willett

Field goals 15/39,  
3-pointers 0. Free  
throws 11/26. Rebounds  
22. Fouls 13. Record  
0-3.

TILGHMAN (59) -  
Copeland 11, Edmonds 11,  
Farmer, Harris, Houser 2,  
Kirchhoff, Lowery 6,  
McDonald, Peck 13, Penix,  
Taylor 16, Young.

Field goals 24/45,  
3-pointers 4 (Peck 3,  
Copeland). Free throws  
7/14. Rebounds 30.  
Fouls 20. Record 3-1.

Officials - Dunn,  
Perry.



Brad Kinsey takes a charity shot.

## L.O. receives much needed win

By Tina Griggs

The Lone Oak Purple Flash varsity basketball team went into the Mayfield game needing a win. Their needs were met. The first quarter proved that both sides could shoot, dribble, run, and basically do all the things a basketball team should be able to do. They stayed within a four-point range of each other usually with Lone Oak leading.

Lone Oak lead the entire second quarter except for the last 30-45

seconds. The two teams again merely swanned baskets, fouls, and points. At half-time the score was 36-30 with Mayfield on top. The third quarter was fast-paced and exciting like the rest of the game. The quarter ended with Lone Oak leading 50-47.

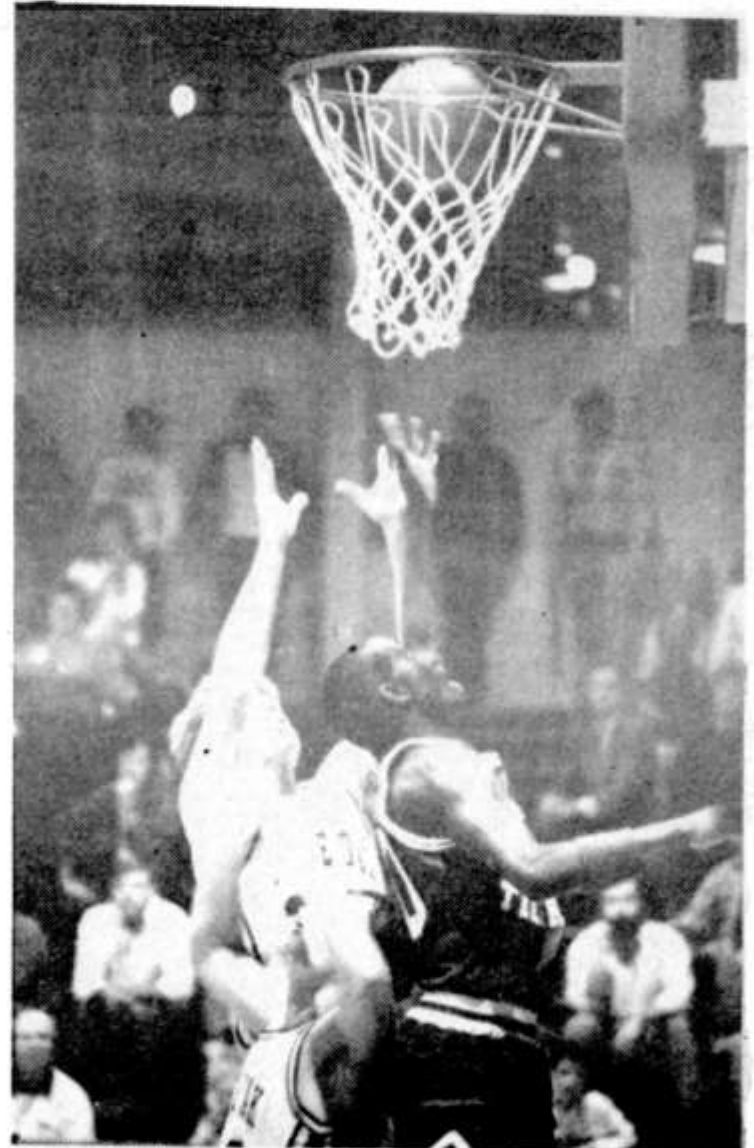
In the last quarter the teams huddled down and kept the range between two and four points. The game ended with a victory for Lone Oak, 70-67.

## L.O. track gets jump start

By Lori Spear

According to L.O.H.S. track coach Mr. McGroarty, track practice will begin earlier than usual this year. It is tentatively scheduled to start soon after students return from Christmas vacation. There will be

weightlifting sessions two or three nights a week until March when official track practice will begin. Anyone interested in joining the track team should talk to Coach McGroarty before the season starts.



Nathan Baker soars to steal the rebound away from Tilghman.

## Semester Test Schedule

Friday, December 16:  
8:40-9:55... Second hour semester exam.  
10:45-12:00 ... Fourth hour semester exam.

Monday, December 19:  
9:35-10:50... Third hour semester exam.  
12:25-1:40... Fifth hour semester exam.

Tuesday, December 20:  
7:45-9:00... First hour semester exam.  
1:05-2:20... Sixth hour semester exam.