

Colonels march in Fiesta Bowl

by David Carmichael
Opinion Writer

Well, it wasn't exactly "seventy-six trombones," but from the stands it probably sounded as though it was.

As the Lone Oak "Kentucky Colonel" Marching Band turned the first curve onto Main Street, the shouts of the crowd grew steadily louder. With shouts of joy and praise, the crowd boosted both the Colonels' spirits, as well as their much needed energy.

The Fiesta Bowl, lasting a grueling 3.1 miles, was the main focus of the Colonels' trip this year. The parade was held in Tempe, Arizona, although most of the events took place right in Phoenix, itself. The band played two songs ("The Jetsons" and "My Old Kentucky Home") simultaneously throughout the parade. For some, it seemed to last forever. Some of the parents were worried we would pass out. Molly Harper, a tuba player for the Colonels, was constantly offered relief by her father. "Pretty soon, I was thinking, Dad, leave me alone, I'm fine!"

Mr. Light, director of the Colonels' seemed please with the trip. "I think everyone had a great time," he said.

Some students grumbled about the length of the parade, while others said it was not as long as they had thought it would be. One member stated that, "...it took forever to get past the cameras. We probably played "My Old Kentucky Home" four-hundred times in just those few blocks."

The parade was shown on a local channel in Phoenix while the band was still there, giving them a chance to

see themselves. It was also televised after the trip back home on NewChannel 6@ at 10:00 on January 2nd, giving those that hadn't already seen themselves, as well as those in our area, a chance to. Most of the band agreed they did great. As James Perry said, "Everyone thought they did good, and...[after] it came on one of the local channels, everyone thought they did even more good. It was great."

With the exceptional case of a "miss of the water bottle by the water boys (inside joke)," everyone seemed to have a great time at the parade. It was an unforgettable experience that nearly everyone enjoyed. Congratulations, band!

by Molly Harper
Opinion Editor

"Okay, it's 2 A.M., and I'm at school. This is against my laws of nature." I thought as I hopped out of Jennifer Williams' van. I was on the first flight to Arizona, the one that left St. Louis at 8 A.M. which meant the bus would have to leave the school at 3 A.M. In order for us to get our luggage and semi-conscious selves on the buses, we had to be at the band room at 2:30 A.M. (I seem to be stressing the letters A.M., don't I?) Band- it's not an extracurricular activity, it's an adventure.

The bus ride up to St. Louis was well, I wouldn't know, I was asleep. At the airport, we watched our luggage being loaded onto a cart and prayed to the great Samsonite gods that it arrive in Phoenix, not Hoboken. Our flight was on time, but the best thing about the flight was that there wasn't a ter-

rorist highjacking. "The guy across the aisle from me was trying to prove how many beers he could drink between Chicago and L.A.," Mary Howard said. "I thought there was a two beer limit!"

That night we all visited a wave pool. Afterwards, we went to eat at a place called Organ Stop Pizza. It housed one of the world's largest Wurlitzer pipe organs. We listened to him play everything from "Aladdin" to the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber, while we ate. "Play some Green Day!" was repeatedly shouted from the crowd.

Early Thursday morning, we were off to the Montezuma's Castle, an Indian settlement built 150 feet above ground into a wall of rock. After that we went to the Grand Canyon. It was beautiful, but also very cold. It snowed the whole time we were there, which honestly made the Canyon even more beautiful, but standing in below freezing weather with my friends is a bonding experience that I just don't to participate in again.

Friday morning was spent practicing for the parade at a local high school football field. In the afternoon, we went to the Sun Devil Stadium to watch the Fiesta Bowl National Pageant of Bands. Later, we were taken to "Rawhide." It was an old ghost town re-made into a restaurant and tourist attraction near Scottsdale, Arizona. After eating, some of my friends went on camel rides, but most of us preferred the stage coach. (Camel sweat is not the best odor to smell after a big meal.) Later, we regained our strength by

heckling the guy who ran the "Pan for Gold" booth.

Saturday was the big test. A 3.1 mile trek across the streets of Tempe, Arizona without passing out or seriously injuring something I may need later in life. "If you pass out, fall softly," Mr. Light told us. The parents seemed to have fun squirting us with the water bottles that were supposed to be keeping us from fainting. "It was our time for revenge," one parent said. "It was for having to sit outside hotel rooms until one in the morning to make sure that you little rug rats didn't sneak out!" It was long, strenuous, and tiring, but it was worth it to know that we had lasted through the parade only losing one person and one dropped mouth piece.

After about five hours of recuperation at the hotel, we headed to the Arizona State University Student Union. There we joined the twenty other marching bands that had participated in the parade for a New Year's Eve Party. I rang in the New Year watching "Ace Ventura, Pet Detective" with my friends.

We got up bright and early the next morning to catch the plane back to St. Louis, which by the way went much better than the the previous flight. Mary Howard didn't have to sit next to the "Cross-Country Drinker" again. I was able to drink a Coke without the turbulence knocking it out of my hand, and our luggage even came to the right airport!

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The Oak K Staff



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Artist of the Month

by Shawna Renee Williams

Distribution Manager/Co-Beat Editor

Senior Eli Knight has been chosen as the Artist of the Month because of his aesthetic talent and his unique comic book style. "He is a very independent worker. He is a worker who applies original thought and true self expression in his work. His interest in Eastern philosophy is reflected in his work." Knight is renowned for his pencil, pastel, and charcoal drawings, mainly of human figures. His talent has gotten him accepted into the Yeiser Teen Spirit art show more than once.

He began drawing his own superheroes when he was four years old because he said he had nothing in common with his two sisters. Describing his work he said that the tone always turned out "angry" because that is how he usually feels when he is drawing. "No matter what I try to draw, no matter what emotion I try to convey, it always comes out angry, distraught." His favorite piece of his is one he

drew of demons because it symbolized his inner fears. His inspirations and idols are Lao Tzu, Albert Einstein, Michaelangelo, and his sister Jenny who died when he was fourteen.

Knight also enjoys writing, is fascinated with Eastern philosophy and culture and is thinking about taking up haiku. He intends to go to college majoring in commercial and fine arts. "I'll get my BFA degree and then most likely spend the rest of my life making up little insignias on the napkins you see in restaurants.

**CONGRATULATIONS
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Judge Lance Ito recently implicated John Elway in the O.J. case because of his connection as the slow moving white Bronco.

Junior Rotarian of the month

by Jenny Suitor
Editor-in-Chief

An avid fan, Senior Shannon Hart is on her way to the University of Kentucky to pursue her plans for the future. Hart is featured as Junior Rotarian for this month. Her career plans are to attend UK and major in journalism. "My dream is to pursue a career in sports journalism in either print or broadcast. UK sports will be my specialty!"

Aside from being a UK fan, Hart participates in many activities. She is the sports co-editor of *The Oak K*, is a member of FBLA, in which she is the secretary, is on the yearbook staff, is a

member of Beta Club, Key Club, and FCA, and is the statistician for the boys varsity basketball team. Hart attends First Baptist Church of Paducah.

Hart's accomplishments and honors in her high school career include Outstanding Student for three years and Honor Student for three years. She has been selected for Who's Who Among American High School Students for three years and participated in Youth Salute. Hart has also received The Enoch Grehan Memorial Certificate for her dedication in journalism, from where else, but UK.

"Hart I most want to accomplish is a

successful career in journalism. I can't think of anything better than attending UK games and having the best seat in the house (on press row) and getting paid for it," Hart said.

Hart said her parents have been the greatest influence on her life. "My parents have definitely had the greatest influence on me. They've always encouraged and supported me in everything I do and I know they will continue to do so in the future, no matter what."

As for being chosen as Junior Rotarian, Hart said, "I'm extremely surprised. I feel really honored to be chosen and I appreciate it very much!"



Shannon Hart, senior

Lone Oak sweeps up at Yeiser Art Competition

by Shawna Renee Williams
Distribution Manager/Co-Beat Editor

Congratulations to the winners of the Yeiser Teen Spirit competition. From LOHS the winners are Abbey Martin, Aaron Nelson, Angela Raines, Eli Knight, and Missy Perry. Abbey is honored with having the most pieces selected for show out of all the contestants. Four of her unique ceramic pieces were selected. Aaron Nelson had a batik and a linoleum block in the show, a pencil drawing of Angela Raines was chosen, Eli Knight had a

hand colored photograph selected, and an acrylic painting and a black and white photo was chosen of Missy Perry's.

Next to Tilghman, who had thirteen, LOHS had the most pieces chosen for the competition. This is the best the LOHS art department has ever done, jumping enormously from the two or three pieces selected last year and even less the year before that. Dan Carver, judge for Yeiser, said that, "the entries were wonderful. I would have displayed more, but the wall space ran out and the quality of the lighting wasn't

right for several of the pieces." The competition was extremely competitive, especially with the amazing amount of entries. Several from all of the schools were chosen but had to be returned because of lack of space. Dan Carver continued to comment that it was a "very, very high quality exhibit." But he will never be a judge again because it is just too difficult to choose between all of those excellent pieces.

The list of schools that are in the show are Graves County, Ballard Memorial, Livingston Center, Reidland, Heath, Massac County,

Marshall County, Calloway County, Murray, Tilghman, and of course, Lone Oak. The Teen Spirit display was held from November 20-December 30. Mrs. Hayden will be bringing all the pieces back in case any one would like to see them who did not get to see the show downtown. The Yeiser Art Center is open 10-4:00, Tuesday-Saturday, and 1-4:00 on Sunday. It is downtown at 200 Broadway, Paducah, Ky. 42001. The number is 502-442-2453.

Congratulations again to Abbey, Aaron, Angela, Eli, and Missy.

Volunteer Cheerleaders come a long way



Tauzzia Meriwether and Kristen Seabaugh pose in front of London Bridge

by MK Garrett
Editorial Editor

When seniors Tauzzia Meriwether and Kristen Seabaugh began cheerleading on a "volunteer" squad in the sixth grade, they had no idea that

seven years later the sport would be sending them international. On December 26, the two were on their way to London, England to march in the city's New Year's Day Parade.

Meriwether and Seabaugh tried out

at a Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) camp last summer at Murray State University and were chosen to participate in the program. They were part of only a small percentage selected and from there, the cheerleaders worked hard in preparation for the trip.

"It cost us \$2000 apiece, which included the flight, meals, tours, uniforms and hotel costs, so we got donations from area businesses, passed out balloons at the mall and conducted a workshop for the middle school cheerleaders to raise money," said Seabaugh.

Meriwether said she and Seabaugh were on their own in physical preparation but, "UCA sent a video showing a dance that we would be doing throughout the parade. We learned it ourselves and performed it about eight or ten times in the two hour parade."

A total of six days were spent in

London, each one with a different tour. The girls, two of 1400 cheerleaders from across the US, visited the Tower of London, Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, Windsor Castle, and attended the *Buddy Holly Show*, a play that was presented on New Year's Eve. Seabaugh said highlights included, "Shopping, seeing the crown jewels in the Tower of London (a residence of the Queen), and seeing the *Buddy Holly Show*."

The only drawbacks, according to Meriwether were, "the food, hot soft drinks and that it rained everyday. On New Year's Day it sleeted."

Both hope to remain active after graduation and into college. Seabaugh will be trying out for the dance team at the University of Kentucky and Meriwether will try out for the cheerleading squad at Western Kentucky University.

School life needs break from monotony

by Jenny Suito
Editor-in-Chief

When I was so diligently working on my college applications over Christmas Break, I came across a very good question. "What would you change about your high school education?" The first thought that came to my mind of course, was being able to have a new school where I didn't have to worry about a floor caving in, crowded halls, cramped rooms, or cracked walls. It is not exactly an ideal learning environment.

However, when I really got serious, I thought about what kind of education I've had at LOHS. Overall, it was good and I feel ready to go on to

college. Sometimes though, I wondered if LOHS really cares about giving students a sense of pride to be proud to go to LOHS. I mean, we have a very limited amount of school spirit and fun.

Now don't get me wrong, Lone Oak is a good school and I believe there are some good intentions about giving students a quality education. However, some major improvements need to be made. Sometimes we students feel as though we are in some sort of an institution. Many of us don't get a break from constant learning and lecturing, aside from flex time, which most of us spend working on homework.

We don't have pep rallies like we used to or have as many guest speakers. I think we should have pep rallies before every major game, whether it be for soccer, basketball, football, or any other activity. The school spirit at Lone Oak needs a major boost. We have flex time to have pep rallies and guest speakers in, why can't we use it to have a little fun and recognize some great athletes we have.

Another thing that needs to be changed is the way we do elections. I believe that for any election for class officer, student council, etc. the candidates should give a speech. This teaches real responsibility and leadership. It is also a fair way for students

to express why they feel they are right for the job. The voting for every elections needs to be changed to a more fair and correct way.

Having fun takes a little monotony out of our school life. It helps students relax and learn better. I believe Lone Oak just needs to make a few adjustments in the way they do things. It makes a better school for everyone. They just need to encourage students to take pride in their school, show support, and have fun. They also need to provide students plenty of opportunities other than the normal school routine.

Are you part of the problem or the solution?

by Sarah Wallis
Advertising Manager

I have heard many negative comments throughout the years and seasons by students at LOHS related to our sports and academic programs. I realize it's hard to support a school that is falling down before your eyes, but before you make your next derogatory comment, think about if you might be a contributor to the problem.

It's easy to put something down that you don't take part in. But try

winding road to victory.

When's the last time you partici-

"It's easy to put down something you don't participate in."

being on a team that struggles to get even a small crowd gathered to watch their game. If it's a loss, it's that much harder to start down the long and

pated in a pep rally, actually dressed up for Homecoming week, or went to watch a basketball game? If it's so long ago that you have to think about

it, maybe you should think about this: The girls and guys basketball teams, soccer teams, and all of the other varieties of sports and academic programs, here at LOHS, play their hearts out to bring home a victory for YOU! So next time you want to complain about OUR team records, think about how much effort you have put into coming to the games and supporting YOUR school.

Around Town: Perseverance pays off in long run

by MK Garrett
Editorial Editor

There's much to be said for perseverance and I'm going to say it. It is one of the most important and beneficial traits a person can possess. Dedication, stubbornness, persurance—whatever you want to call it—will make a person go far and do well in life.

When a person initially makes up her mind to do something, she is determined to see it through. A decision has been made, the path is being followed and she is glad that the complex issue is over. It is a relief that she no longer has to debate the pros and cons of the situation.

However, if the course to follow through with the answer takes a considerable amount of time,

doubt begins to creep into the mind about the decision made. Second thoughts are predominant. Such is the case in marriage, choosing a college/career and having children.

I recently finalized a decision I made in November about what I will be doing after graduation. Not immediately after, as in deciding to go to Project Graduation, but as in this fall, when many others will be preparing for college. In July, I will be leaving for Fort Jackson, South Carolina to begin basic training for the United States Army. It was brought to my attention by my recruiter that the Army offers thousands of dollars in money for college if one is interested in taking a job with them for a certain number of years. The longer the enlistment, the more they give. This

sounded like a great idea to me, since money for college isn't exactly flowing from my parents pockets (or mine, either).

I went to take the physical at the end of November and after having to return four times to get everything finalized, I have ended up with a two-year enlistment that will guarantee me \$20,000 to attend college on upon completion of the term. It all sounded great in the beginning and I was excited to finally figure out how my higher education was going to be paid for, but while waiting to get it all decided, I started remembering all the horror stories I have ever heard about the Army. Push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, running miles, obstacle courses, yelling, cursing drill sergeants and early mornings made

me have serious second thoughts. But I have to remember that although this will be bad and that I wouldn't like it for a while, I will be very happy in two years when I'm in college doing what I really want and not having to worry about how it's being financed.

Making a commitment like this required major, major perseverance. I wanted to quit after those first and second times when I kept having to go back. But my determination to get myself where I ultimately want to be led me to making one of the best decisions of my life.

Students not prepared for college stresses

by Sandra Marshall
Business Manager/Beat Co-Editor

Envision with me for a moment, a typical day at school: Student X, we'll call her Jane, comes to school, exhausted from working all night to pay for college and stressed out to the point of psychosis by the thirty-two essays she has to write and send off with her college applications by this afternoon. She perches on the edge of her seat in her first period hypothetical basket weaving "I needed one more elective and all the good classes were full" class, twitching and shuddering from an adrenaline overdose and too much coffee that morning. She is fully prepared to scribble out those thirty-two essays on "why I'm a good person and what I personally plan to do for the homeless children in Asia;" she takes her pencil in hand and brings it closer, closer to that menacing blank page in front of her. A brilliant idea passes fleetingly through her mind.

—Suddenly paper and pencil are

jerked from her hands and she is dragged into the hallway to hear an hour long lecture about how there is no place in basket weaving for literacy. Finally, her instructor works himself into a frenzied asthma attack and is forced to cease his tirade. She picks up her books and prepares to leave; she is almost out the door when he cuts her off, inhaler in hand, saying, "Since you have a free period next, I'll be nice enough to let you stay and weave your 108 baskets, lest you get a bad grade." She grimaces. That free period was the one in which she had planned to type up all of the essays she'd hoped to write *last* hour.

And so the day progresses, as well as the week, month, year, until Jane misses all of her deadlines, drops out of school, becomes a heroin junkie and a welfare mother, and is finally killed in a bar brawl on 9th Street.

Sound familiar? We, like Jane, are not prepared for the stress of applying to college. By the time we reach our

senior year in high school, we've been spoon-fed all of these silly romantic notions by people who never really went to college and if they did, it was at a time when only a quarter of the United States population could actually read—ideas like if we just get good grades, get involved, do well on our ACT's and SAT's, thousands of colleges will come and beat down our doors begging us to come to their schools, no questions asked, no cash required. Well, as many of us seniors know, THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN! However, by the time we learn this evil lesson, it's too late and deadline's tomorrow.

A friend of mine who lives in Louisville and is the same age as I am, graduated from her high school a year ago in December—because on the first day of her freshman year, her teachers, counsellors and principal handed out pamphlets, scholarship information, and various other materials,

Had I known at the beginning of my high school career all that I know now, I could have graduated at the end of my junior year and spent this year studying with brilliant artists in New York City.

To all of you for whom there is still hope, know your options. Talk to the school faculty, go to the library, buy one of those books that tell about college requirements. Don't just assume as I did that you don't have to worry about college until school is nearly over. And if you're feeling really ambitious, push for a couple of full days every month during which school comes to a complete halt and someone comes in to teach all of the students about financial aid and class requirements and help them write those terrible essays. Look at it this way: if you succeed, you'll have been on a committee that did something worthwhile and it'll look really good on your college applications.

Educational apathy eats integrity

by Shawna Renee Williams
Distribution Manager/co-beat Editor

History spawns literature; literature spawns history. It's a day and age of technology when all thoughts are to the future, while our history and our poets are gasping for breath just to stay recognized. Who needs history lessons in a business? Who needs to read a book when we have visual reality and laser discs. "A generation which ignores history has no past — and no future." (Robert A. Heinlein) We do not live totally in a vocation programmed society where art and culture should be totally disregarded. This is why it infuriates me so that here in Lone Oak High the two hardest, most honored history and English class are both in the same hour one time a day.

What about those of us who want to take both AP U.S. History and AP English our senior year. Those two are my fortes, my favorites. I don't want to have to choose between the two. Not to mention that the Ivy League school that I'm striving to get into requires both of

those classes. Yet, *both* are not available. A sympathetic teacher commented that it was "very unfortunate that the schedule hasn't worked out, denying the students all the opportunities at Lone Oak High School." What is the logic behind this non-thought out schedule defect?

Of course it was my antagonistical instinct to automatically blame Big Brother and the evil school board. But a very patient member of the faculty has opened up a new avenue for me to inspect and fume over. Not only was this an unthought error of the Board but the students are also to blame. First there's the fact that most juniors do take the AP U.S. history class and the seniors take the AP English. Yet to warrant more than one class per day (ten to be exact) there has to be enough requests from the students. What does this reflect? Is the young, new generation, the future of tomorrow really apathetic enough about the world and its wonders that they prefer Sonic burgers and Tetris then more enlightening classes and knowledge. The leth-

argy and laziness that has spawned from the land of technology where remote controls are worshipped more than Mother Earth really astounds not to mention frightens me. I'm finding integrity, pride,

and passion harder and harder to come by these days. I, myself, have never been content with average anything and have trouble seeing how anyone else could either.

Game not purpose of computers

by David Carmichael
Opinion Writer

C:\WINDOWS\WIN.COM. That's the access code to get into the Windows® application on our computers in the library. I have been in the library several times this year, with needs to find different information for many of my classes. Unfortunately, I usually end up having to go on a book hunt, seeing the computers are being used. This doesn't bother me that much. What does bother me is the fact that many (if not all) of the people in the library are not looking up books, but are playing Solitaire®, instead. This should not be happening.

More than once, I have needed to go to the library to research topics. I am often forced to comb the entire library in search of one book, while I could be just typing it in, and letting the computer do that in just a short amount of time. It doesn't make sense. Many students complain to

the library aids, and sometimes it helps- but not usually. The students who could be doing work on the computers are forced to look around for the books, while others goof around and play on them. It is not fair.

I have two possible solutions for this problem. (1.) Librarians/aids keep a constant eye out for those students who are playing on the computers, and (if they have no purpose for them) kick them out. (2.) Delete Windows®, or at least, the games in it. People who are just playing games make others work harder than they should have to. Please- if the person reading this qualifies as one of these type of people- please stay off the computers so those of us who need on them can do just that.

Cupid's Jerking Us Around

by Molly Harper
Opinion Editor

It's mid-January and by now you have been besieged by a world of loud, hot-pink, lacy, commercialized hearts and cheap, re-packaged, left over Mother's Day chocolate. No, you're not in a Las Vegas Wedding Chapel, it's a month until Valentine's day!

St. Valentine was a martyr whose feast was celebrated on February 14. The exchanging of cards and chocolate on this day is coincidental. The English and French used to believe that the birds began mating on the second fortnight of the second month and that showing your love for a person would ensure that that person would love you for the rest of the year. No where in this charming little tradition is there anything about giant, neon, plastic hearts being staked down in people's yards.

I must sound bitter against Valentine's Day, but to tell you the truth it's one of my favorite holidays. But it seems that it's been air-brushed, high glossed, and mass-produced. It's kind of ridiculous when you can walk into any Mini Mart and buy true love in the form of a \$1.47 rose and hot-pink stuffed devil that says "You're Hot Stuff!"

As far as I'm concerned, the manufacturing world is disguised as a adorably chubby, buck-naked cherub that's shooting us all in the butts with it's cheaply mass-produced arrows. Valentine's Day is best spent either curled up on the couch in front of the VCR with the one you love or hanging out with your single friends making fun of the people curled up on the couch in front of VCR with the ones they love. But that's just my opinion, I could be wrong.

What *not* to get your love for Valentine's Day

Anything involving the word "edible". 'Nuff Said

Last year's Mother's Day chocolate covered cherries- Do you want to kiss someone with chipped teeth?

Flowers from the local cemetery- Do the words "Return of the Living Dead" mean anything to you?

Stuffed Animals bought at garage sales.- Do you want to have a Valentine next year?

Odd Couples

Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett- Either she's on drugs or he's got some major cosmetic surgery planned.

Lisa Marie Presley and Micheal Jackson- If Elvis is really dead, he's spinning in his grave.

Jerry Seinfeld and That Teenager- When do they have time for each other? Between his T.V. shoots and her student council meetings.....

Johnny Depp and Kate Moss- If they have a kid, it'll look like a toothpick dipped in grease.



Happy Valentine's Day !!



The Oak K Staff remembers.....

We've all had crushes at one point in our lives. Unfortunately, with crushes come those crazed, maniacally obsessive, lock-of-hair saving feelings that personify teenage love. People have lived, died, and taken headlong leaps off of buildings in the name of love, what is the most embarrassing thing you've ever done for a crush?

Chrystal Galloway- I was madly in love with this guy for four years. In fifth grade, I sent him a note telling how much I loved him, then his friend read it over his shoulder and burst out laughing. He hasn't spoken to me since.

Sarah Wallis- In sixth grade, I sent Brandon Shuemaker a big chocolate heart, a bunch of balloons, and a note from a "secret admirer." Needless to say, he wasn't as madly in love with me as I was with him.

Molly Harper- Every week in fifth grade, I used to look forward to the day we checked our spelling homework because I had a huge crush on the guy whose paper I checked. I even drew hearts for the zeros in 100!

Shannon Hart- I've done so many stupid things, it's hard to think of just one.

Bolts & Strikes

BOLTS and STRIKES

Bolts- it's all good

displayed art work
first semester is over
snow day for absolutely no reason
Band going to Phoenix
Basketball teams
We have heat
Seniors almost got to vote for Homecoming Queen (good luck next year, Juniors)
8 weeks till Spring Break

Strikes- it's all bad

pep rallies are not up to par (not because of the Cheerleaders either)
no Homecoming week
no legal Senior Skip Day
only one College Day, darn it
Lone Oak found out about Homecoming after it was over
Referees at basketball games
School spirit or lack thereof
We have too much heat

by **Shawna Renee Williams**
Distribution Manager/Co-Beat Editor

Cramped up in the house, driven inside by the cold weather, pulling your hair out and gnashing your teeth because of cabin fever; well, here's a few tales to keep you warm, interested and patient during the cold season.

1. Even Cowgirls Get the Blues, Tom Robbins

- A young woman searching for freedom when she finds out that the freak oversized thumbs she was born with were perfect for hitchhiking. Her wildness leads her to love and answers with an Oriental guru who doesn't want to be a guru, and, to the mating call of the whooping crane dance with a melodramatic cowgirl.

2. Love in the Time of Cholera, Gabriel Garcia Marquez

- A love story of a man who waits over 50 years for the woman his heart belongs with to realize that she loves him too. Marquez's writing is like listening to foreign, exotic music seduce your soul.

3. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Ken Kesey

-The documentation of a rebellious man in an insane asylum filled with poets and neurotics.

4. The Vampire Chronicles, Anne Rice

- If you haven't got a clue about this one YET then you've been hiding

in a very deep closet and you need fresh air and mothballs.

5. Slaughter House Five, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

- The account of a man living with his obese, obsessive wife and how he lost his mind to the Dresden bombing.

6. Time Enough For Love, Robert A. Heinlein

- A man over 2000 years old who finds meaning in life again with his two redheaded twin daughters and the rest of his sensual spawn and cousins; telling his history filled with love, philosophy, murder, war, and time.

7. On The Road, Jack Kerouac

- The mid-40's when young adults were finding individuality with books, drugs, and the open road.

8. Generation X, Douglas Coupland

-That would be us. A book depicting perfectly the wanna-be's, the yuppies, vampires, hippies, ecology freaks, and vandalisers.

9. Hitchiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Douglas Adams

- Dark English humor that I'm not even going to insult by attempting to describe.

10. Lolita, Vladimir Nabokov

-A man has a little crush on a young girl.

Now, I know most of you have much better things to do than to actually engage in a skull sweat sport like reading, what with all those new Nintendo games out and all, but I have

Rejection Letters Impair Judgement

by Sandra Marshall

Business Manager/Beat Co-Editor

The morning of Sunday, January 8, dawned cold and damp, the grey skies boasting of a coming storm. It seemed the perfect occasion for a trio of fed-up fast food workers to pack up a lunch of Ritz crackers and beef jerky and head off to Land Between the Lakes. At 8 o'clock in the morning—a time way that comes early for anyone who didn't get off work until three-ish the night before—the three of us piled into a turquoise blue Chevy Sprint with a broken clutch and began our interstate pilgrimage east.

We arrived sometime around noon; as I said, the clutch was really, really broken. All three of us had to be back at work at 5 o'clock that afternoon, but still, it was pleasant to think that we could get stranded out in the middle of nowhere and not have to go in. We got out of the car and wandered about in the bitter January wind—all the while chatting about philosophy, and Nietzsche, and life, and death, and the pathetic meaning of it all. We talked about what we hoped to do with our lives: fall in love with a Marilyn Monroe look alike and live happily ever after, be an auto mechanic, or just get in to college somewhere. We analyzed the object of our worship, a phenomenal book called Generation X, a regular cult classic that tells, among other things, of a group of yuppies who become bored with their meaningless existence and run away to the desert in California to find themselves and have breakdowns.

Our trio was composed of two artists, myself included, and my fiance—the outsider, the one who speaks of ratchets with the spiritual awe of one who has met the Messiah. My fellow artist and I realized that, as occurred somewhere in the fuzzy plot of Generation X, our employment by the fast food industry, the ultimate dead-end job, had sapped us of all creative strength. In other words, I haven't written a decent poem or even started a novel and he hasn't painted since we acquired our cruddy jobs. We decided the solution was simple: we had no choice but to pack up all of our worldly possessions, hop back in the car and drive...forever.

"But we can't ditch work!" my peer reasoned.

"And I have to graduate so I can get into college and spend the rest of my life running from the student loan officer!" I interjected.

"Just admit it," my recently homeless high school dropout boyfriend blurted out. "You just don't have the nerve."

We mumbled amongst ourselves and made up some pitiful excuses about feeding the cat and things of that caliber. But when it came down to it, he was right. We were tied down by too many hopes and dreams to go after the real one. And as it turned out when we made it back to our place of employment, depressed and even ready to deal with the wretched church rush, sometimes, those big illogical dreams are the only ones we have left. You see, that night when I got home, I found a letter from my first choice college—OK, so my only choice college—saying that although I was very bright, NYU is a highly competitive school. You know the rest.

I am now terribly embittered toward the evil society that taught me to work myself to death to pay for college, to make good grades to get in, to stress out for a month and a half out of my senior year trying to write essays—and for what? None of it matters. I could sleep through school everyday and it wouldn't hurt or improve my chances of going to school where I want to. I could up and go to California and write and be creative and life would go on. So why don't I? As my betrothed said that day in the woods: "Just admit it. You just don't have the nerve."

I listed books here that are really fascinating, intriguing, funny, and they have all been an important piece of my life and have helped me through many long nights and solved a few questions I have puzzled over. And all of them have a common theme: Freedom. Something we can all relate to: desiring, needing, and fighting for. So if ever boredom is a familiarly haunting face and no one happens to be around to see you commit this heinous crime, get

one of these books and attempt to read it. I promise they'll be worth it. And in case you can't find them since some of the books are rather obscure and underground, I'll be more than happy to loan them out.

*"Don't knock the weather; nine tenths of the people couldn't start conversation if it didn't change once in a while."

-Frank McKinney Hubbard

1994: THE MADNESS HAS ENDED

on the players earnings, and in protest, the players denied Americans of an age old pastime.

- 1994 was a year plagued by weird scandals. Just to drop a few names: the Bobbitts, O.J. Simpson, the Menedez Brothers, Nancy and Tonya, Michael Jackson, etc. It seems that the birth of sensationalistic journalism is upon us. There was even a movie made about it, Oliver Stone's film *Natural Born Killers*. The movie was in itself a scandal. Many people walked out after the first few minutes.

-After the World Trade Center bombing, the whole country was a little more than unnerved. Four Islamic Fundamentalist terrorists were given 240-year sentences for the act. I think this made us all realize just how susceptible we are as Americans.

-The Muddy Masses gathered to reenact the original birthplace of Peace, Love, and Rock n Roll, Woodstock.

"This country was founded by people who were into aliens, man. George Washington, man, he was in a cult...Did you ever look at a dollar bill, man? There's some spooky stuff going on in a dollar bill." Character played by Rory Cochrane in *Dazed and Confused*

Classic acts such as Bob Dylan and Crosby, Stills and Nash shared the stage with nuevo ninties acts such as Green Day and Melissa Etheridge. However, the celebration of freedom and love was plagued by corporate greed. "Woodstock '94-sponsored by Pepsi" The \$135 ticket price and \$4 hamburgers may have dampened the joyous occasion.

-The frightening rise of murders committed by children was apparent with the case of Eric Smith, now 14, who bludgeoned to death a four-year-old boy when he was thirteen. In Chicago, two kids-10 and 11-dropped a five year old boy out the window for refusing to steal candy for them.

-Violence against abortion clinics and doctors who perform abortions rose this past year, it seems that the pro-life movement has decided to use violence to save lives. Paul Hill, leader of a large, terrorist anti-abortion group, was convicted of the murder of Dr. David Gunn. His trial will begin in the next few months.

-On a dreary morning in early April, the depraved youth culture wept. At 27, Kurt Cobain took his own life. Considered the "father" of alternative music, he shoved this punk lifestyle

kicking and screaming into the mainstream. He was the poster child for grunge mania. However, he was a chronically depressed in addition to being a heavy drug user. Millions of dollars, a loving wife, a beautiful daughter, and a number one band were not enough for this tortured artist to find peace.

-The deaths of many other beloved figures in our society included Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Jessica Tandy, Burt Lancaster, John Candy, and Cab Calloway. We have lost many this past year, but perhaps Jackie O's death touched us all a little more. As America's closest thing to royalty, the Kennedy's have always fascinated us, and their queen, Jackie inspired us all. Let her live in our hearts and memory forever.

-Every year, children are brainwashed in some form or another by a seemingly innocent toy product. Ninja

covered that she herself had murdered her children.

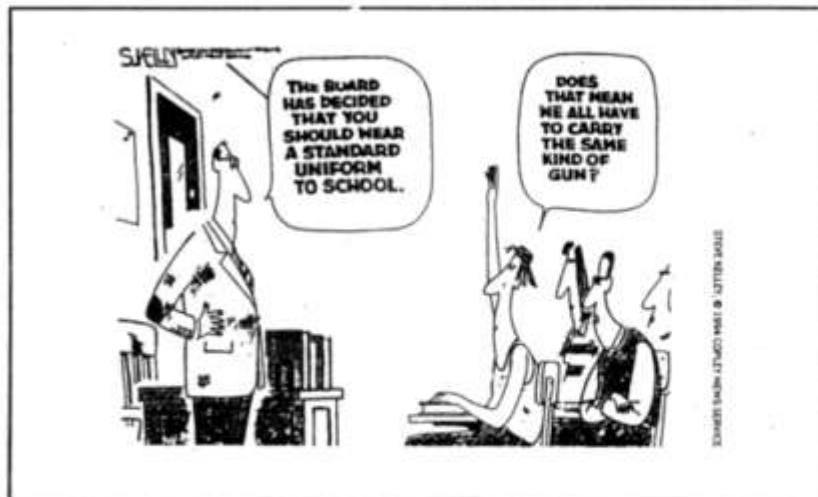
-Here's one you were happy to have forgotten, the incredible controversy over the decision over whether or not to let Michael Fay be caned for vandalism. Michael and company reportedly went on a destructive spree that totaled over a hundred thousand dollars in damages. Despite pleas from his family and our government, he was caned four times by the Singapore government.

-Many have come to the conclusion that Beavis and Butthead are the root of all evil. Eighteen-year-old Calvin Settle was indicted for manslaughter after dropping a bowling ball from a New Jersey by pass; it smashed through a car windshield, killing an eight month old baby. Many claimed that the simulation was similar to an episode of Beavis and Butthead. Calvin was indicted for manslaughter. Beavis and Butthead had no comment.

-1994 was supposed to be a year of health-care reform, however, the Democrats couldn't pull it off. Another year of outrageous spending on insurance and doctor bills is upon us.

-Also in politics, the biggest upset since Truman over Dewey, the Republicans now have control over both houses of Congress. **EEK! Run for your lives!!!** This is the first time in forty years that Republicans have held the upper deck in both houses of Congress. The new Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, has already begun campaigning for a Contract with America that may bring many changes in our lives. Is Apocalypse in our wake? I guess we'll just wait and see.

**Happy New Year From
The Oak K**



By Chrystal Galloway
Features Editor

The past year, now that it is behind us, seemed to have flown by. However, 1994 left us with more than memories. The turbulent year brought a Republican-controlled Congress, a scandalous celebrity charged with murder, an earthquake that almost destroyed L.A., and the 25th anniversary of Woodstock. And let us not forget those beautiful spirits who were laid to rest, such as the picture of elegance and grace, dear Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Here, a quick run-down of the major events of 1994:

-Residents of Los Angeles were tossed out of their beds before dawn January 17 by an earthquake that registered a 6.7 on the Richter scale. The Santa Monica Freeway tumbled to the ground. The death of sixty-one people was mourned by all.

-The free world rejoiced as South Africa, now under the rule of Nelson Mandela, enjoyed its first breath of freedom. Millions traveled many weary hours and stood in mile-long lines to vote. Said one elderly man, "I never thought I would see this day."

-For a time, the land of Rwanda was a country bathed in blood. Many remember the horror stories of murder and starvation, and the millions who fled to refugee camps. The Tutsi eventually won control of their government; however, their former enemies fled fearing retaliation. In many places, the war continues.

-What a year for soccer! It seems the whole country was into World Cup mania. It all ended in a title match in Pasadena, Calif., between Brazil and Italy. Brazil claimed the glory after ending the tie-breaker with a series of penalty kicks.

-I think the majority is still in shock, but it is true, we went a whole season without baseball. It seems that the owners threatened to put a salary cap

The EPA reported that 40 percent of America's fresh water is unsafe for swimming, fishing, or boating.

★ PREDICTIONS FOR 1995 ★

ELVIS WILL APPEAR TO SOME LADY IN IDAHO IN THE BOTTOM OF A 7-11 BIG GULP AND CONFESS TO THE O.J. SIMPSON MURDERS.

WALT DISNEY WILL BE THAWED OUT AND APPEAR AT MICKEY'S 60TH BIRTHDAY PARTY.

CALIFORNIA WILL BE HIT BY A BLIZZARD.(WE FIGURE THAT'S THE ONLY NATURAL DISASTER THAT HASN'T HIT CALIFORNIA.)

CRYSTAL GALLOWAY WILL GET COMPLETELY STRESSED OUT, CLIMB ON TOP OF THE WATER-TOWER, AND START PICKING PEOPLE OFF WITH WATER BALLOONS.

ONE OF THE CAST MEMBERS OF THE REAL WORLD IV WILL KILL ANOTHER CAST MEMBER AND BURY HIM UNDER THE FISH TANK.

BUBBLES WILL SUE MICHAEL JACKSON.

O.J. SIMPSON WILL HOPE THAT ELVIS'S CONFESSION WILL GET HIM OFF THE HOOK.

Words of Wisdom :

"Most people don't give a rat's patootie."

Oliver North, unconcerned that his involvement in Iran-Contra might hamper his run for the Senate.

"The most wonderful thing is waking up and not having your eyebrows rubbed out on your pillow."

Tammy Faye Baker Messner, whose eyebrows are now tattoos

"I knew that sometime or another he had to get married. Everyone gets married sooner or later."

Joe Jackson, Michael's father

"The criticism of Hillary Clinton has again demonstrated that the strong competent woman is still a threatening figure in our culture."

Barabra Streisand

"I have an open mind on midnight basketball. Certainly, while someone's playing basketball, they're not mugging you."

Rep. Henry Hyde (R. Ill) on funding for late-night sports program

"She won't leave!"

David Letterman, when Madonna was on his program

1995,
Here we go again!!

Lone Oak wins tough district battle with Heath

by Andy Harris
Sports Writers

Lone Oak used 26 points from Eric Fox, and a key 8-0 run in the third quarter to pull away from cross-town rival Heath, 62-55.

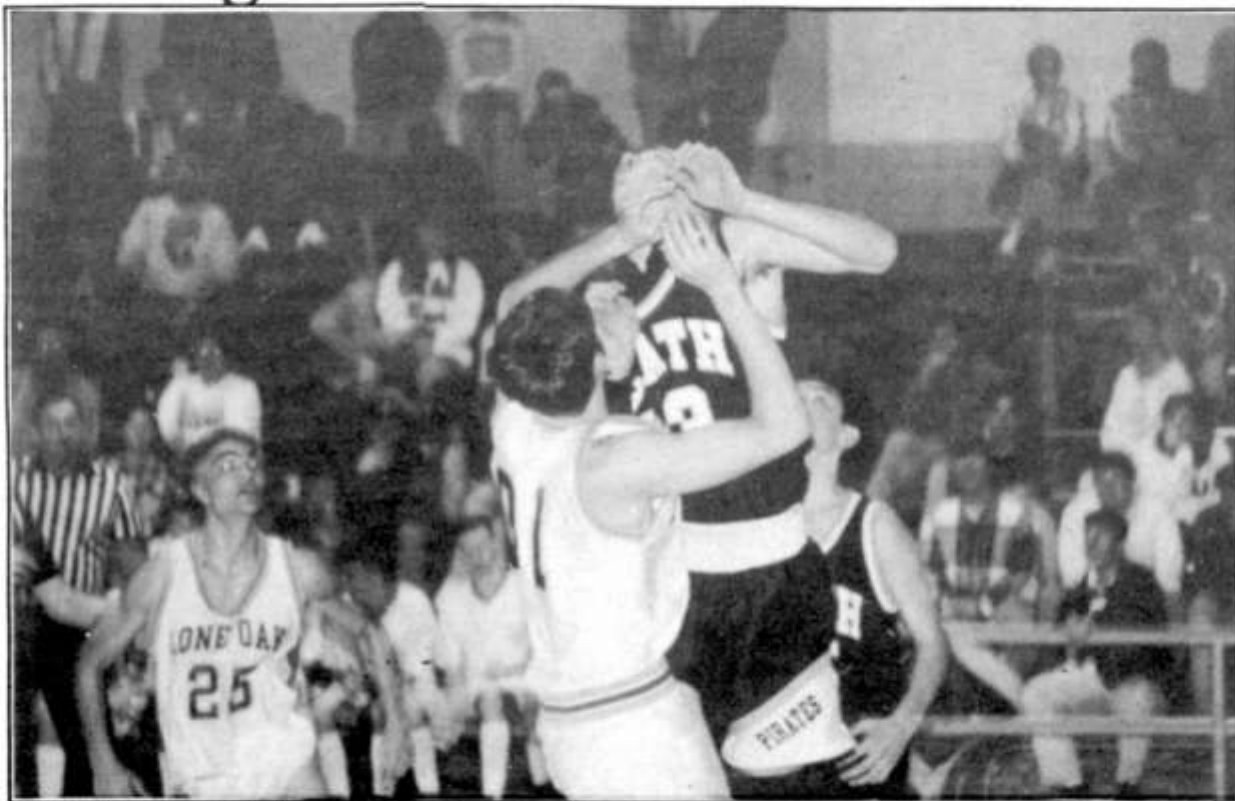
The score was knotted at half-time, 22-22, when the Purple Flash (14-4, 4-0 in the district) went on a 14-3 run to start the third quarter, extending their lead to 36-25. Lone Oak continued to pour it on, stretching their lead to 16 points, the largest margin of the game, and ended the third quarter ahead 47-33.

Heath did not give up, however. They opened up the fourth quarter with a 7-0 spurt, cutting the lead to 47-38. The Pirates lost momentum, though, when Nick Marana missed a wide-open stuff. Lone Oak held on to win, 62-55.

"We played very hard in the second half. We were a little tense in the first half. We were playing on emotion instead of intellect," said head coach Steve Dreher.

Besides Fox's heroics, Ryan Bivin tossed in 16 points for the Purple Flash. Heath was led in scoring by Jeff O'Donley's 13 points.

Dreher was impressed with the play of Bivin, citing Bivin's willingness to get on the floor after a loose ball, and his key free throws down the stretch. Not to be overlooked, however, was the big three



Jake Sanders and a Heath player battle for position under the basket.

Photo by A.D.

by Fox, which put the game out of reach.

Lone Oak now has the upper hand in the chase for the Second District crown. The Flash lead the district with a 4-0 record, and can clinch the title with a win over Tilghman this Friday.

The girls fell to the Lady Pirates by a score of 55-50, despite career-highs by Eileen Johnston with 18 points and Kelly Sanders with 17.

Johnston and Sanders, the only two Lone Oak players to score in

the second half, provided much of the scoring for the Lady Flash. Rae Ann Ragland pulled down seven rebounds, and Johnston and Danielle Roberts had six each. Lone Oak fell to 1-3 in the district, 2-12 overall.

GUYS

Lone Oak 62, Heath 55
Ryan Bivin 16, Tony Englert, Jeremy Felker 4, Eric Fox 26, Chad Kirk 4, Jake Sanders 4, Kyle Sanderson 2, Donnie Stone 6.

Field Goals 22/47; 3-pointers 3-11 (Fox 3); Free Throws 15/24, Rebounds 25.

GIRLS

Heath 55, Lone Oak 50
Eileen Johnston 18, Kelly Sanders 17, Sarah Steele, Kristie Garrett 4, Sarah Beth Phelps 2, Danielle Roberts 6, Constance Edwards 2, Rae Ann Ragland 1, Kelly Crawford, Susan Burnette.

Field Goals 17/56; 3-pointers 0/0; Free Throws 16/24; Rebounds 28.



Chad Kirk goes up for a shot under the basket while Heath tries to defend. Photo by A.D.



Eric Fox goes up for a lay-up and is fouled.

Photo by A.D.

Flashes strike Hickman County for Homecoming blowout

by Andy Harris
Sports Writer

Lone Oak's basketball homecoming turned into the Saturday Night Main Event, as the Purple Flash won easily, 81-51, over the Hickman County Falcons.

Lone Oak was leading 57-29 in the third quarter when Jeremy Felker and Hickman County's Gaylon Byassee began going at it. Both benches cleared, and a melee ensued. After a lengthy delay, both

Felker and Byassee were ejected, and forced to sit out their teams' next games.

As Coach Steve Dreher said, the fight was "probably due mostly to frustration on the part of Hickman. It's pretty hard to take when you're being beaten soundly on both sides of the ball. I thought our kids handled it reasonably well, but we need to learn not to respond. We're out there to play ball, not prove how tough we are."

The Flash jumped out to an early 9-0 lead, and were never seriously threatened afterwards. Lone Oak was led in scoring by Eric Fox's 25 points. Both Jeremy Felker and Ryan Bivin contributed 14, while Donnie Stone added 11. Ward Morgan led Hickman County with 20 points.

Dreher was very impressed by the overall team play, citing that the team had five players with at least 3 assists. He called it their

most unselfish night, and added, "It was our best overall effort in terms of intensity through four quarters."

Lone Oak 81, Hickman County 51

Tony Engler, Jeremy Felker 14, Eric Fox 25, Jake Sanders 5, Nathan Taylor 1, Ryan Bivin 14, Donnie Stone 11, Chad Kirk 1, Kyle Sanderson 8, Justin Duncan, Josh Long 2, Jon Cargill;
Field Goals 25/51; 3-pointers 4/8 (Felker 1, Stone 2, Sanders 1); Free Throws 27/44, Rebounds 32

Purple Flash outrebound Reidland, clinch second place in district

Joel Kaunisto
Sports Co-Editor

Lone Oak's trip to play crosstown rival Reidland gave the Flashes their 13th win of the season, an 88-76 decision.

The game was close early, with the teams battling to a 19-19 tie at the end of the first quarter.

The Flash jumped ahead early in the second quarter with two straight three-pointers by Jeremy Felker and did not trail for the rest of the game.

Lone Oak stretched the lead to ten by halftime and pushed it as high as 18 in the third and fourth quarters.

Reidland closed the lead to eight with two and a half minutes left in the game. The Greyhounds were forced to foul, leaving the Flashes to hit their free throws to seal the win. Head coach Steve Dreher said he had "mixed overall feelings (about the game). We took them a little lightly and we can't afford to do that."

The win pushed Lone Oak to 4-0 in the district to guarantee them at least a second place finish in the district. It also solidified their first place position.

The Flash were led in scoring by Eric Fox with 28, Felker with 25 and Ryan Bivin with 16. Felker and Bivin also pulled down 11 rebounds apiece. Lone Oak won the battle of the boards 61-34.

Said Dreher of the rebounding, "It was a bright spot in an otherwise uninspired effort."

Dreher also said "I would like to thank the cheerleaders and crowd for their support... We're lucky to be at a school that provides that."

Before the boys game, the girls fell to Reidland by a final score of 49-40. The Lady Greyhound took a 14-10 lead at the end of the first quarter but the Lady Flash came back to tie the game at 18 at the half.

Reidland built the lead to eight in the third quarter, but Lone Oak fought back to within three by the end of the quarter. Reidland pulled away in the final frame, outscoring the Flash by

six. Kelly Sanders led the team with 16 points while Danielle Roberts added 7 for the Lady Flash.



HA! HA! This is another picture from the Heath game right here next to a story



The Oak K Staff is jolly. It is obviously not deadline.



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Athletes of the Month



Senior Jeremy Felker

by Shannon Hart
Sports Co-Editor

With senior Eric Fox out with an ankle injury, fellow senior Jeremy Felker has stepped up to help lead the Flash. For his accomplishments, he has been named Athlete of the Month for January.

Felker is averaging 11.3 points and 3.8 rebounds a game as of January 13. Head coach Steve Dreher said Felker's play has surprised some.

"Eric was counted on so heavily that when he went out, we had several step forward," Dreher said. "The biggest surprise to most fans was the emergence of Jeremy Felker."

"I feel I have stepped up and started playing with enough confidence to help the team win," Felker said.

Dreher said Felker's strengths are his shooting, especially from three-point range. He also said that he usually draws the toughest defensive assignment. According to Felker, "spotting up on the wing to shoot and making quick cuts into

the lane" are what he does best.

Along with points and rebounds, Felker provides leadership for his younger teammates. "I just encourage them to keep playing hard and to keep their head up," he said. "They realize the harder they play in practice, the better it will make us."

Dreher describes Felker as unassuming, polite and caring. "I don't know if I've ever had an easier player to deal with," said Dreher. "He cares so much about his teammates, about what they think and how they feel. That stands out the most about him. He's just a very sensitive, caring individual. He's the kind of kid you'd want your daughter to marry."

Felker said now that the team has adjusted to first-year coach Dreher and his style of coaching, they are ready to have a very successful season. "There are still some improvements to be made," said Felker. But Felker predicts he and the rest of the Flash "will improve as a team and have a good shot at winning the District Tournament."

by Joel Kaunisto
Sports Co-Editor

For her hard work in basketball for four years, Eileen Johnston is the Athlete of the Month for January.

Said head coach Steve Cobb of the senior, "Eileen is by far the hardest working player on the team. And we have a lot of dedicated



Senior Eileen Johnston

players who work awfully hard. But 'Leen' goes the extra mile. She might be one of the hardest working players both in practice and in games that I have ever had the pleasure to coach-male or female."

Johnston averages eight points, four rebounds, three steals and two assists per game. Cobb also added, "She leads the team in charges and floor burns."

She normally plays the shooting guard position but has also seen playing time at point guard and forward.

Said Johnston of the season, "You wouldn't be able to tell by our record, but we're working hard. I think we'll really come around by the end of the season."

Cobb added about Johnston's contribution to the team, "Through her actions she sends the message to everyone that wears one of our uniforms that if you really want something you must work for it. She plays the game as hard as any player in the region, and she practices with equal intensity."

Flash Briefs

Murray 51, Lone Oak 50

Lady Flash head coach Steve Cobb said his team "played the best game of the season" against the Murray High Lady Tigers on Jan. 9. The game ended with Murray ahead 51-50, as a very late foul was called and the Lady Tigers' Sarah Snyder stepped up to hit a free throw with no time remaining on the clock.

Johnston: 6 pts., 7 rebs., 4-4 FT, 2 charges taken, 4 assts.

Sanders: 7-10 FG, 14 pts., 1 blocked shot

Steele: 6 pts., 5 rebs., 3 st., 6 assts.

Garrett: 4 pts., 4 rebs.

Roberts: 5-9 FG, 11 pts., 9 rebs., 1 blocked shot

Phelps: 3 pts., 3 assts.

Ragland: 4 pts., 1 st.

TEAM: 21-46 FG (45.7%), 29 rebs., 17 assts.

Carlisle 71, Lone Oak 59

Lack of rebounding and infrequent trips to the foul line helped Carlisle County hand Lone Oak its third loss of the season, 71-59.

Lone Oak had three more field goals than Carlisle, but the Comets his 7-9 three-pointers and 16-23 free throws, compared to 4-11 and 1-5, respectively, for the Flash. Carlisle also grabbed 40 rebounds, 21 of which came off the offensive boards, while Lone Oak had only 18 total.

Eric Fox led Lone Oak with 24 points, Ryan Bivin had 13 and Jeremy Felker added 8.

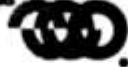
Lone Oak 96, Ballard 80

The Flash jumped out to a 27 point first quarter with Jeremy Felker scoring 14 in the opening quarter. Felker shot 6 of 6 from three-point range for the game, and the team shot 25 of 50 overall from the field.

Lone Oak shot 34 free throws to Ballard's 19, making 22.

Eric Fox scored 25 points to lead the team. Felker added 24, Ryan Bivin 21 and Donnie Stone 18 for the Flash's 11th win.

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Shannon Speaks: Rodrick Rhodes--superstar or superflop?

by Shannon Hart
Sports Co-Editor

Rodrick Rhodes. A very hot topic these days. The junior forward has been constantly criticized by fans and the media practically since the season began.

Rhodes is averaging 13.7 points and 3.1 rebounds, but those numbers haven't really been an accurate description of Rhodes' performance. When UK tips it up, it's unknown if Rhodes will score 20 points or two points.

Kentucky coach Rick Pitino finally decided to take Rhodes' starting position away. His 1-9 shooting and one rebound performance in the Louisville game was the last straw. He came off the bench in the Auburn game to score 23 points, a season-high. He regained his starting position in the next two contests and scored 14 and 17 points, while grabbing more rebounds, taking better shots and committing fewer turnovers.

After his 23-point, four assist, three rebound performance in the

Auburn game, the UK Radio Network selected Rhodes as Player of the Game. During the postgame interview, Rhodes was asked to defend himself against his many critics. Rhodes admitted he had made mistakes and hadn't played his best as of late, but failed to understand the media's scrutiny, which he called "sickening." "You've got to understand that we're 19, 20-year-old kids out there," he said. "We're going to make mistakes."

Dave Baker, WKYT-TV sports anchor, agrees. "I can't believe all the people who are down on Rhodes," he wrote in a column for *The Cats' Pause*. "I'm amazed at the number of people who just go on and on about the fact that the junior from Jersey City is 'just good enough to get you beat'...I continue to be impressed with the way that Rhodes has taken Pitino's criticism in a constructive manner, and has tried to change his game."

Others aren't so complimentary of Rhodes. *Sports in Kentucky*

columnist Bob Watkins wrote that Rhodes is only interested in helping himself by focusing on a future NBA career and not a national championship. "His goals are like those of too many other athletes in the 1990s," he wrote, "dollar-driven, ego-driven towards self-gratification." Watkins applauded Pitino for making Rhodes sixth-man. "'Playing this game for Rod' instead of the name across his chest, gets him a place on the bench. .finally.

"Nobody who watches, writes and talks about this game doubts his God-given skills," Watkins wrote. "It's the priorities."

Contrary to what many think, Rhodes isn't in Pitino's doghouse. "There is no doghouse," Pitino has said. "There is no benching. It doesn't matter who starts. Not starting Rhodes is not the same as benching him.

"Missed shots and making mistakes out of hustle don't bother me in the least. When you don't run,

don't pass, don't think, that bothers me."

Statistics aside, Pitino loves Rhodes' attitude. He was so impressed with Rhodes' leadership skills that he named him a team captain along with Tony Delk and Mark Pope.

Rhodes isn't letting the criticism get him down. The public's expectations are nothing compared to his own.

"I have high expectations I'll never reach," he said. "Perfection is what I want. I'm never satisfied with the way I play."

Rhodes has the ability to help lead this Kentucky team to a national championship in a couple of months. If he continues to play like he has in the past few games—hustling, making smarter plays and letting the game come to him—instead of playing the way he has for most of the season, he will prove his critics wrong and maybe, just maybe, help the Wildcats cut down the nets in Seattle.

After further review... Instant replay deserves second chance

by Andy Harris
Sports Writer

The state of professional football is remarkably positive, considering it is one of the few sports actually playing. But recently, while watching the Miami vs. San Diego playoff game, I noticed an imperfection. It was the referees. There were at least five million blown calls in this game. I admit, it is extremely difficult for an official to make split second decisions while the rest of the nation gets slow motion instant replay. And that brings me to the point of this article. Whatever happened to the days of instant replay in the NFL?

The world hasn't heard those famous words "Upon further review" since instant replay died two seasons ago. It was voted out by the NFL teams because, as they said, it interrupted the flow of the game. But my question is

whether maintaining the flow of the game is worth costing a team (Miami) its chance at the Super Bowl?

If he wasn't before, I'm sure Don Shula is an advocate of instant replay now. His team, the Miami Dolphins, may have been robbed of their season because of at least two bad calls. First there was the phantom touchdown, where Natrone Means scored a Charger touchdown despite the fact that he stepped out-of-bounds, which was later proven by instant replay. This would have nullified the TD and cost San Diego seven points. Then there was a Natrone Means fumble that was erroneously spotted on the one yard line, rather than being called a touchback, which would have placed the ball on the 20. The result of this error was a safety, and two points for San Diego. Without these two

points, Miami would have won the game.

These plays are just a sampling of the calls that have been missed this year. The blame for this mess cannot be placed on the officials, however. My suggestion would be to simply re-instate instant

replay. And while I'm at it, I believe that college football needs some sort of playoff system to decide the national championship, instead of letting sports writers decide who is the champion. And by the way, my non-existent vote goes to Penn State.

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Homecoming Court

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Senior Attendants:

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Heather Barnhill
Heather Hampton
Maggie Largent
Tauzzia Meriwether
Amber Nanny*

Junior Attendant:

Lana Perry

Sophomore Attendant:

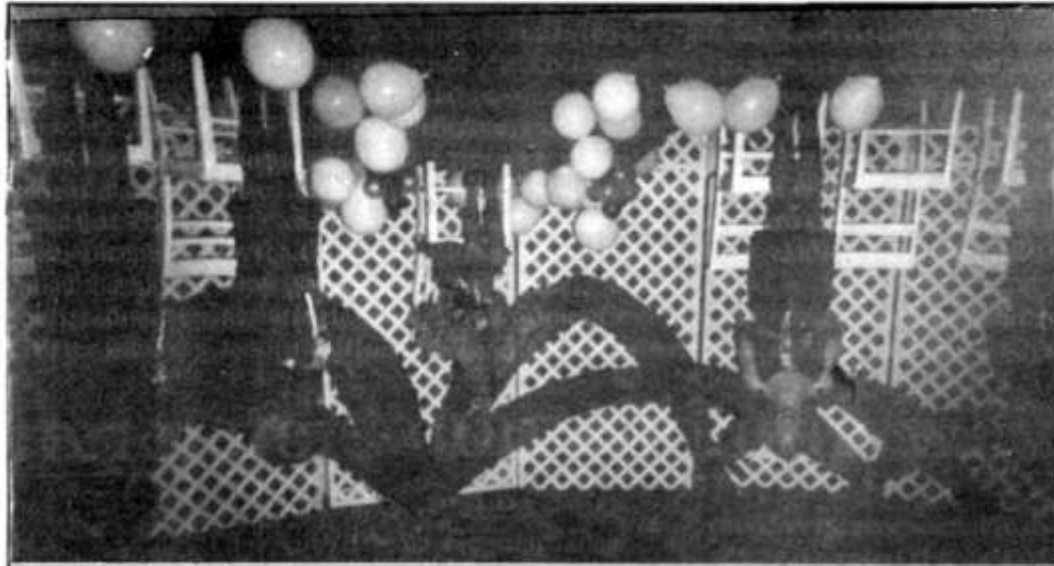
Katie Hunter

Freshman Attendant:

Ashley Emery



Senior basketball players Kelly Crawford, Kristy Hopper, Angie Smith and Eileen Johnston



Homecoming court: Seniors Kelly Seward, Stephanie Pittman, Amber Nanney and Maggie Largent



Junior basketball players Rae Ann Ragland, Sarah Steele, Kristie Garrett and Constance Edwards



Sophomore basketball players Kelly Sanders, Danielle Roberts, Gina Halstead, Sarah Beth Phelps and Susan Burnette



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John Pendegrass and Kelly Crawford



(Left:) Sophomore Patrick Fletcher marches through downtown Phoenix during the Fiesta Bowl Parade in New Year's Eve, 1994.

(Below:) The Kentucky Colonel Band makes Lone Oak proud while basking in the rays of the Arizona sun.

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to
go
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Brad S. Mills.

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