

November, 1995

"The Official
Publication of
LOHS"

The Oak K

Volume 55

Issue 3

Drama Class Takes To The Stage

by Anu Manchikanti
News Writer/Photographer

On December 8, Mr. Toy's drama class will be performing the three-act play "Turnabout Night at the Zoo" at Lone Oak Elementary School and Hendron Lone Oak Elementary School. The class has been preparing for the play since early October. "Turnabout Night at the Zoo" is about what happens when two kids encounter the animals of the zoo on the "most important occasion of the year" - turnabout night at the zoo, when all of the animals get out of their cages and lock up the people. The class performs for the elementary school because it is a great experience, and the younger students love to see the older ones. German exchange student and cast member Doreen Schult says, "It is a great experience to perform in front of an audience. We learn a lot about acting and speaking and a lot more that has to do with theatre." Another cast member, junior Joe Johnson, "I've found this a great experience. I'm kinda' shy, and it's helped me to be in front of an audience."

A play is not performed every year. It just depends on the interest of the drama class. The last time a play was performed was two years ago. Mr. Toy, drama teacher, feels that "this group is one of the most enthusiastic ever."

Cast and crew members of "Turnabout Night at the Zoo" are Daniel Bailey, Melissa Cochran, Beth Collins, Clint Hudson, Joe Johnson, Kathy McDaniel, Paige Ruoff, Doreen Schult, Jennifer Shaffer, Sarah Steele, Janie Toy, and Kevan Kirby. Break a leg!!



The Drama Class practices while Mr. Toy plays "point the finger" with his students.

PCC College Fair Provides Students with Information

By Tara Shelby
Opinion Editor

On October 30, PCC hosted the PCC College Fair. Included in this event were nearby schools such as Western Kentucky University and Murray State University. Other, more distant schools from as far as Princeton and Notre Dame came also. Students were then given the opportunity to ask questions and receive information on schools, majors and scholarships that they were interested in. "The information I got has been really helpful," said senior Teri Dawes. This is the second year that PCC has had a college fair, and on both occasions it has been a success.

In case you missed the PCC College Fair, you can still find information on your college choice here at school. Schools that will be visiting us soon include Southern Illinois University (Edwardsville) on November 15, Bethel on November 20, and University of Kentucky on December 4. Scholarship information is also available in the office. Most of the scholarship deadlines are in mid January and are determined by ACT, GPA, and class rank. Financial aid applications can be filed beginning on January 1.



Chris Yates, Junior.

Junior Chris "Rowdy" Yates, defending his client, Hester Prynne in the other trial of the century. Mrs. Rafferty gave her students the option of taking a test or having the trial after reading 'The Scarlet Letter'. Don't you wish all classes could be like this?

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The Oak K Staff



The Oak K is a publication of Lone Oak High School, distributed monthly to all students, faculty, and advertisers.

The newspaper is designed by staff member using the Macintosh desktop publishing system and is printed by the Benton Tribune-Courier, P.O. Box 410, Benton, KY 42035.

Letters to the editor are to be under 250 words in length and signed by the writer. The Oak K reserves the right to edit all letters for placement as long as the meaning is not altered. The newspaper attempts to inform and entertain its readers in a broad, fair and accurate manner on all subjects that affect the audience. Final authority for the content of the paper rests in the hands of the principal.

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The greedy help the needy

by Molly Harper
Assistant Editor

For the past four years, our own Mr. Franklin (otherwise known as AFKO) has involved his students in a local battle against hunger. He offers extra credit points for canned food turned into him between now and Christmas break. He calls this venture "The Greedy Help The Needy." The cans go to Lourdes Hospice where they are distributed by employees to needy families.

At first, the entire school was involved in an area-wide can drive, but the result from Mr. Franklin's classes was low. So he started his own drive. Later, he

decided to use his students' instinct of self-preservation for good instead of evil. He began to offer extra credit points for each can donated. Donations increased dramatically (surprise, surprise.)

Now, the number of cans brought in is so high that Mr. Franklin is setting new rules. The person bringing in the highest number of cans will set the "max number" of cans, that number will be divided by twenty-five to see how many points each can will be worth. Mr. Franklin will sponsor a class party, er, social learning function, for the class that brings in the most cans.

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FBLA continues Hospice tradition

by J.R. Young
Circulation Manager

This year, as in years past, Lone Oak's chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), will be conducting a hospice drive. The hospice is an organization run by Lourdes Hospital to help terminally ill patients. The FBLA club will be gathering items and putting them into baskets for the patients. Items asked for are: lotions, creams, hard candy, and Christmas items. FBLA mem-

bers will receive points for the items, but everyone is encouraged to help. The hospice drive will run from now till the second week of December. Items may be dropped off in Mrs. Harper's, Mrs. Titsworth's, and Mrs. Wyatt's business rooms. The Lone Oak chapter of FBLA is known for being the most giving club in the county, so lets hope they can continue that tradition.

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BY Tim Casey

Bands look forward to successful concert season

Cliff Jenks
Staff/Sports Writer

On October 21, the LOHS Kentucky Colonel Marching Band traveled to Hopkinsville to compete in the Kentucky Music Educators' Association State Quarterfinals. The Colonels ended one of their finest seasons in recent memory on a sour note, failing to qualify for the KMEA State Semifinals. Despite their performance at Hopkinsville, the band had quite a successful year, being crowned Grand Champion at the Marshall County and Heath contests.

Band Captain Matt Cooper, commenting

on this season said, "I hope this band has set the standards for the future of the Kentucky Colonels."

The Colonels will march in Paducah's Holiday Parade on December 2.

The Symphonic and Concert Bands held a concert on November 6 in the LOHS gym. The Concert Band performed works by James Swearingen and John Higgins. The Symphonic Band performed "The Star Spangled Banner" and works by W.A. Mozart and Robert W. Smith.

The two bands will hold their annual Christmas Concert on December 10 at 2:00 P.M. in the LOHS gym.

Gabe Watkins named Choir Member of the month

By Ashley Small
Opinion Writer

Gabe Watkins a 17 year old, senior, was chosen by Mr. Murphy as Choir Member of the Month for November. Mr. Murphy chose Gabe because he says, "Gabe is not only a wonderful singer, he is an all around artist." Gabe went through a very ambiguous audition in order to be selected for "Kentucky All State Chorus." This will be Gabe's second year to participate in this event. He has also been involved in Concert Choir and in Chamber Choir.

Aside from Gabe's vocal talent, he is quite an interesting individual. Gabe is also a member of FCA and Cornerstone Community Church. Gabe has been involved for the past two summers with an organization called Teen Mania. Through this organization he has gone to Botswana and Venezuela on one month mission trips.

Watkin's plans on going to Christ for the Nations, in Dallas and then to Western or another four year college. He plans to study music or biblical areas. In ten or twenty years Gabe sees himself on the mission field in Africa, or wherever God calls him to.

Gabe's favorite band is Pankeye. This brings us to his favorite song which is

"Revolution" also by Pankeye.

Gabe's hobbies and interests include playing the piano and who would have guessed it...singing.

As Gabe puts it, tongue-and-cheek, "I can often be seen scaling walls and crushing ice. I cook 30 minute brownies in 20 minutes. I sleep once a week...when I do sleep, I sleep



Senior Gabe Watkins

in a chair. The laws of physics do not apply to me...I am a dynamic figure. I have won cliff-diving championships in Sir-lanka, bull-fighting contests in Peru, and bean-counting championships in Chihuahua, Mexico. I don't perspire."

Science Club Rocks!!!

by David Carmichael
Business/Advertising Manager

The physical science club has already begun the year focusing on the subject of computers. A representative from Connecting Point spoke about the new Windows '95, its uses, and its downsides. At the last meeting, the club discussed a number of events. Trip possibilities discussed included the Space Center in Huntsville, AL, and shorter trips to Fort Campbell, MSU, UT-Martin, and Vanderbilt. A meeting was also

planned to utilize a new calculator attachment. The club also looked at the stars and planets using a telescope on the first clear night. Officers were also elected at the last meeting. Michael Powers and Marty Rudd were voted co-presidents. Vice-presidents are Stephanie Hamlett, Brandon Martin, and Autumn Stanley. Anu Manchikanti was elected reporter. Although not certain of what projects will come about later on, one member said, "Many events will be planned to encourage a better understanding of science."

Senior Ashley Acord receives Junior Rotarian honor

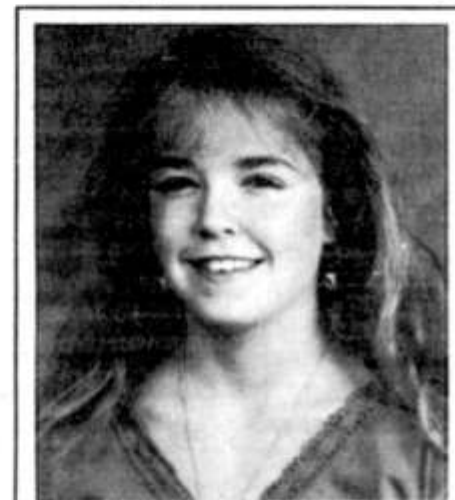
by Shawna R Williams
Assistant Editor

This month's Junior Rotarian is the seventeen year old senior, Ashley Acord. She is the daughter of Jack and Kathie Acord. Acord was born in Texas and later moved to Arkansas. From there she has lived in Memphis, Oklahoma City, and her favorite, Paducah. Her hobbies include cheerleading, softball and golf. She nobly spends volunteer time at Head Start Preschool. She is a member of the DECA and BETA club, Treasurer of FBLA, and member of the Phi Alpha Delta sorority. Acord has lettered in cheerleading for two years and in softball one year. Her other honors include being an Outstanding Student for two years and Honor Student for three years. She plans to attend the University of Kentucky to major in pre-medicine and then to go onto medical school, where she will study to become a pediatrician.

Acord admits that, throughout high school, her teachers have inspired her to try her hardest and to do the best that she could. In ten to twenty years she possibly (but doubtfully) sees herself married, with no kids, and working at St. Jude's or Kosair's Children's Hospital. "I'm not sure why I was chosen Junior Rotarian. Maybe it was

because of my academic status, but, whatever the reason, I feel very honored to receive this award."

Acord is most satisfied with her work at the preschool. "I am very proud of the fact that I volunteer for Headstart. A lot of the kids have physical and mental handicaps,



Senior Ashley Acord

and when I see them struggle to do things I do everyday, with no problem, (like walk without a walker) it makes me realize how lucky I am." To end the interview, Acord's words of wisdom to the the world is, "Live each day like there is no tomorrow."

Lisa Jalkh named Band Member of the Month

by David Carmichael
Business/Advertising Manager

Lisa Jalkh, a senior here at LOHS, has been selected as November's "Band Member of the Month." Jalkh, who plays baritone in the symphonic band, has also been in the Kentucky Colonel Marching Band for four years. She says that the most important part of band is "a person's attitude and dedication." Mr. Light, the director, said that he chose Jalkh because she "...is always willing to go above and beyond her commitment to the band. She always has a smile on her face and a friendly disposition which makes it extremely easy to be able to work with her." Jalkh said the best part of being in band was the friends and the many people that



Senior Lisa Jalkh

you meet. She said her parents, along with Mr. Light and friends, encouraged her the most in the band program. Congratulations, Lisa!

Don't forget that Thanksgiving is a time to give "thanks" for all of the things we take for granted. Many area businesses and charity organizations are taking canned goods and toys for Christmas. Why not help out a bit?

English Majors Beware!!!

Tara Shelby
Opinion Editor

Technology. It has already changed our lives in countless ways-is it now going to change our futures? Are we all going to be forced to learn the ways of computers and electronics? I should hope not, but that is just what the DeVry Institution of Technology would like us to believe. All senior English students were subjected to an hour of a DeVry representative's ramblings. His purpose was to impress upon us the uncertainty of opting for a traditional major in college as opposed to

choosing a more suitable field in high-tech training (at DeVry, of course).

While I realize there is an increasingly large number of technical jobs becoming available, it is ridiculous to believe that the average graduate's major choice is going to be obsolete in the course of only a few years. Knowledge in areas such as English and history will always be relevant to society, even if the highest paying jobs are not available in those fields. It is scary to think that many people today no longer care about literature, psychology, and history (to name a few of the majors mocked by the DeVry representative).

If the only way DeVry can convince

students to attend a technical school is by using fear tactics, then we shouldn't be forced to waste our class time listening to him. Other colleges aren't given this opportunity; they use flex time to talk to students who have expressed an interest in that particular school. None of them have been given special favors by Lone Oak. An exception was made for DeVry because the time was used to talk about the advantages of entering a technical field, and not just to promote the school.

Personally, I intend to attend a regular college in pursuit of a traditional degree despite the fact that all the mad scientists of the world will disapprove. Technology may

be the direction in which our country is headed, but that doesn't mean that everyone has to follow in its course. Instead, it should be used to assist students and professionals in their chosen career paths, whether it be an electronic field or not.

I support the idea of students taking courses in computers because of their usefulness in non-technical areas, but the idea of telling students that in five years there will not be any other jobs available is ridiculous. The next time a guest speaker is invited to our school, I hope there will be chosen a more open minded individual that has information that the students will find relevant.

Affirmative Action Equals Negative Results

Anu Manchakanti
News Writer/Photography

Affirmative action - it's a major issue in today's changing world. Many minorities and women feel that they are at a disadvantage because of the fact that they are minorities and women; therefore, politicians want to ease the difficulty in obtaining jobs by enstating something called "affirmative action." I have no technical definition for this, but my perception is that the government would enstate a few requirements, such as a certain number of minorities and women must be hired by employers.

This topic has been the center of much controversy, especially with every little politician taking a stand because of the upcoming election. As a woman *and* a member of a minority group, I am extremely offended by the whole idea.

The rationale behind the whole idea is not that bad. Women and minorities are extremely underrepresented in today's world. However, by requiring employers to hire a certain number of people from these groups causes resentment from a lot of people. Maybe I'm crazy, but I'm a strong believer in the idea that the best person for the job should get the job, whether they be male or female, Caucasian or Asian, Native American

or Japanese. I will never be happy if I know I received a job because I happen to be a woman. Of course, I'll never be happy if that's the reason I did not get the job. Where do we draw the line? People are going to have prejudices no matter what the government says. In an everchanging world, it's important that we all learn to be accepting. Yes, there will always be ignorant people who think the KKK is the greatest organization in the world, but if we would all just learn to look a little deeper, the issue of affirmative action would not even be necessary.

The point is, in this country, we are raised to believe that if we work hard we

can do anything. It's the American Dream, and that should be true. But let's face it, it doesn't seem to be happening. However, we are making progress, and I just think that affirmative action will hinder that progress. People should be hired because they are the best person for the job and are willing to work hard, not just to fill some quota. Affirmative action almost goes against the principles our country was based on. It's true, minorities and women should be given the jobs they deserve. At the least, employers should do it for selfish reasons to benefit their businesses with the best workers. And at the most, we can hope for a more tolerant world where affirmative action is not necessary.

Who Are You To Tell Me Who I Am?

Ashley Small
Opinion Writer

As you walk through the halls of LOHS, you see the variety of people we have roaming this school. People who not only speak, dress and act differently, but also have different problems, feelings and beliefs. They are more than just part of a clique or group, but individuals even though all you may ever know about these people are that they are preps, rednecks, hippies,

jocks or brains. They are as different from their group as they are from you or me. As much as we all strive to fit in and to be accepted, it is our differences that make us who we are. None of us are equal to each other; we are all different. No matter how much we work to be like the group we are part of, it is inevitable that when we learn to accept ourselves, we must also accept our differences. We were not created to be the same as our friends. We don't have to all like the same musicians and writers, or all enjoy doing the same things because we are made to be distinctly different from one another.

It seems that especially in high school, all you hear about is "being yourself," but it is so surprising how high schools are full of cliques and elite groups. The fact is that no matter what group you have been stereotyped into, most of us are struggling to find out who we are, by trying to find acceptance from others. We are all individuals, and

Webster's Dictionary defines that as, "a peculiar to and distinguishing an individual from others." Many of us shudder at the thought of being different from our friends and being shunned by your group, but the truth is that it is okay to be who ever you are. You have talents and skills that no one else has.

You don't have to be a genius to realize that most teens spend their high school years in a constant search for who they are, but what many may never realize is that who you are has absolutely nothing to do with whether or not you are accepted. I can't imagine our high school without all the different people in it. That variety makes not only this school unique, but it allows people to make friends with and to learn from all kinds of people.

**Be Yourself- Forget
What Everybody Else
Thinks!**

**Happy
Thanks giving!!**

From *The Oak K* Staff

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Don't Make Me Sing "We Are The World"!

by Molly Harper
Assistant Editor

It seems that because this is my last year at Lone Oak, I am more aware of what goes on in its hallowed halls. I guess it's because I subconsciously want to absorb everything that is Lone Oak-esque before I graduate. Unfortunately this new awakening of the senses has brought something disheartening to my attention.

There is a subtle caste system at Lone Oak. People aren't told which clique they belong to, they eventually sift through the cliques where they don't "belong" and settle into the group where they do. There is an infinite number of these levels (kind of makes high school feel like a weird "Dungeons and Dragons" game doesn't it?), but usually by the second semester of one's freshman year one has found his or her "place."

Unfortunately, being part of a clique means excluding and humiliating people who aren't in the clique. I've seen examples of Klan-like intolerance and cruelty towards people who are just a little different because the tormentors think that it makes them look good to their friends. Moronic activities like throwing paper at a kid sitting alone in the gym or yelling homophobic slurs at students half-way down the hall has become a favorite sport among people so limited in their intelligence that they can't find anything better to do.

I'm not saying everyone should be guaranteed six hugs every day and that there should be a mandatory "Kumbaya Hour." I'm saying that accepting a person's quirks and worrying about your own is better than sitting around trying to come up with more childish, puerile ways to demean someone else.

End of Nine Weeks is Headache for Students

Cliff Jenks
Staff/Sports Writer

As the end of the nine weeks rolls around, things really tend to slow down at LOHS. The assignments trickle to a halt and the nine weeks ends without any teacher breaking the sacred deadline. While all the teachers are averaging grades, students enjoy a plethora of free days.

This scene is about as far from the truth as it gets. The amount of homework in each class should remain the same as the end of the nine weeks approaches, but instead it increases two or three fold. In almost every

class more and more homework is assigned because teachers feel that certain material must be covered in the first nine weeks. In order to fit all of this material in, some teachers take it upon themselves to extend the nine weeks one, and sometimes two days past the official end of the grading period. In addition to this, there are the dreaded portfolios. We all know that in each class one portfolio is assigned per nine weeks, and usually these are assigned near the end of the nine weeks. Many students are left doing six portfolios in a span of two weeks.

The solutions to these problems are quite

simple. If teachers were to 'pad' their schedules by a couple of days, and cover the material at a steady, even pace, the end of the nine weeks hassle and the tons of homework would be eliminated. As far as the portfolios are concerned, as long as they are around, if they were assigned at the beginning of the nine weeks and students are given a longer amount of time to finish, these assignments would not seem nearly as bad. With these few corrections, it would be much easier for students to complete their assignments and not have to deal with the extreme pressure of school at the end of each nine weeks.

We've gone from Beethoven to Bill Gates

by Shawna R Williams
Assistant Editor

Now available: a microprocessor inside the prototype of a t.v. that automatically adjusts for the best reception when you switch channels; a video camera, called the Canon ES500, that has a beam of light that monitors the relative position of your iris to the image in the viewfinder and toggle functions such as quick zoom, wipes, and record on and off which is activated by merely looking at the function name; "Goldstar's" 13-inch fashion tv costing \$300 for a spring-loaded dial that whizzes through the channels while a curved row of consecutively blinking LED displays a forward or backward selection. Everywhere you channelsurf to nowadays you'll find a gaggle of sleek, chrome-plated gadgets,

remote controls, satellites, monitors, computers, pagers, cell phones, doo-hickeys, whatchamacallits, and other things that go beep in the night. Take the rollercoaster ride with e-mail, on-line, Internet, wireless technology, beepers, personal messengers 100D, PCS networks, KDPD, MTEL'S, PDA'S, RCA, RBDS, and GPS. Yes, my friends, the technologically advanced ladder leading into the next century is rearing to go and it is titled Lifestyle Liberation. Personally, I'm scared. I'm scared that Brave New World is becoming a bleak, soma reality. I'm afraid that the simple appreciation of a hand made piece of art is lost. I'm terrified that the pleasure of nature or Michelangelo's David is going to be lost. I'm frightened that "Barefoot in the Park" will no longer bring an understanding smile upon young lover's faces.

It seems that over the course of history, man has been striving to reach a point where food and shelter is not the daily goal so that he can spend more time improving his mind and soul. Anytime there was a great economic boost in society, it was followed by, well, basically a big 'ol party. The Italians had their Renaissance where the goal was to create celestial art with demi-god models, experiment with astronomy and mathematics, and to be as learned as possible. In the "Roaring '20's," the thought on everyone's wine smelling lips was a good, euphoric dance and indecent amounts of money to blow on philosophers, eccentric writers, and sparkly dresses. And today...nintendos and internets are the only thing that stirs the "red-blooded" passion(?) of the young and crazy today.

Not too long ago, a representative from

DeVry Institute came and talked to the senior English classes. For over half an hour the man did an ecstatic song and dance about how wonderfully advanced the world is becoming and before too long we won't need people for anything. "Won't it be grand?" Personally, the man made me quiver in my jeans. I was horrified. All I'm saying is: technology is fine and good as long as the majority spends the newly-freed time doing productive, mind-expanding things other than Mortal Combat. We have the possibility for human evolution. Don't let that opportunity pass you by, just because the cacophony of radio waves, that are now polluting the air, has sucked out any creative thought you once had. Let your bare toes linger in the damp, dewy grass occasionally; then you can go back to your Bill Gates worshipping, in visual-reality technicolor.

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'Tis the season to be jolly, fa, la, la

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening? In the lane, snow is glistening. It's a beautiful sight, we're happy tonight, walking into winter wonderland.

Ah, the holiday season. There is nothing better than that first cup of hot chocolate, the glimmer of colorful Christmas lights shimmering through town, having to get up before dawn to warm up your car and scrape the ice off your windshield, seeing millions of relatives, making your checkbook bounce . . . well, maybe those last few aren't so great! There are so many people who need help and so many things *you* can do. For most people, the holidays is the busiest time of the year. From interesting facts to movies to tips on buying gifts, this feature will help you get in the mood for the approaching Christmas season.



Paducah Gets in the Holiday Spirit

by Ashley Small
Opinion Writer

Surely most of you have noticed how quickly the holiday season has slipped upon us. We will be having the usual day or two off for Thanksgiving and a couple of weeks off for Christmas before we know it. While Christmas vacation is a wonderful time to relax and sleep in, the inevitable boredom will at some point set in. So instead of spending all our vacation complaining about how there is never anything to do around Paducah, I decided to find out some interesting events going on around here during the holiday season.

One thing I want to do this vacation is see and experience some places in Paducah that I have never really taken the time to see in the past. One interesting place is the Market House Theatre. I am sure many of you have seen plays performed there. For the holidays they are putting on *A Christmas Carol*, which is not the typical Scrooge and Tiny Tim story. This production is a play-within-a-play, so it gives this classic a new angle. This play will be performed December 15-17. Tickets are on sale for only \$6.

Of course it wouldn't be Christmas without the usual Holiday Parade, which will be on December 2nd. Though, most of us would rather not attend this annual event. I thought it would be worth mentioning simply for the fact that you get free candy and the floats aren't bad either.

Then there is always the "Christmas Fantasy." This is a yearly event that is performed at Tilghman High School Auditorium. It's a combination of music and theatre. It will cost \$6 at the door and will be presented on December 11 at 6:30.

Paducah's first ever "Candlelight Christmas Trail" will begin on November 27 and run through December, Mon. thru Fri., beginning at 7 p.m. This is a 10-mile

trail which follows a similar route of the Dogwood Trail.

For all you art buffs or just those people who enjoy a good painting, Paducah will be alive with many different art exhibits this holiday season, such as the Gallery 600 and the exhibit being shown at Yeiser Art Center called "Teen Spirit."

I know there is a multitude of other events going on here in Paducah during the Holiday Season, but that is just several to get you started and to give you a few good ideas.

Must-see Holiday Movies

The American President - Michael Douglas stars in this comedy about a widower president with a teenaged daughter. Enter Annette Bening, a beautiful environmental lobbyist who falls in love with him. The added twist is this is during an election year, and as he goes public, he begins to drop in the polls. This movie portays how much of an effect the media actually has on elections. Great for lots of laughs, and you can even have something political to think about afterwards.

GoldenEye - Pierce Brosnan is the revived James Bond, following in the footsteps of Sean Connery, George Lazenby, Roger Moore, and Timothy Dalton. The evermacho bond is described in reviews as "chauvinist, sexist, and misogynist." Bond, of course, is the hero, ladies' man, and perfectly refined gentleman. His martinis are still shaken, not stirred. Expect lots of action in his new wheels, a BMW Z3. The plot has to do with Star Wars (not the movie) and a nuclear weapon, hence the title *GoldenEye*.

Home for the Holidays - Holly Hunter is a stressed out single mom about to go home for the holidays. She loses her job right before she goes home to her wacky, dysfunctional family. Claire Danes, of *My So-Called Life*, has a supporting role as her daughter. There's love, there's laughter, and there's a very realistic family.

It Takes Two - Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen are featured in this story of an orphan and a daughter of a rich businessman who decide to twist fate and play cupid. (They aren't that annoying!) Kirstie Alley and Steve Guttenberg (*Three Men and a Baby*) costar as the lovebirds-to-be who fall in love at the kid's camp during a food fight. A cute movie that's definitely a no-brainer.

Making a Difference This Holiday Season

At Lone Oak High School

***The Beta Club** will be getting Salvation Army angels and buying gifts for the needy.

They will also be caroling at Parkview Convalescent Center.

***The Key Club** will also get Salvation Army angels. They will be having a toy drive for Family Services.

***FBLA** will be collecting toiletries and other interesting Christmas stuff to make baskets for Lourdes Hospice.

***Mr. Franklin** is having the annual "The Greedy Help the Needy" canned foods drive. The canned goods will be donated to Lourdes Hospice.

What You Can Do

*Donate toys to the Key Club. Take them to Coach McGroarty's room starting December 7th.

*Donate toiletries to the FBLA. Take goods to any business teacher.

*Donate canned goods to "The Greedy Help the Needy." Take food to Mr. Franklin's room

*Donate your time! You don't have to be in one of these clubs to help out.

*Donate a new toy (\$10 and up) to Todd Ferren's "Toys for Tots." Not only do you make a difference, but you also receive a free photo sitting and a 4" by 6" picture. Call 554-8652 for information.

*Volunteer to ring bells and collect money for the Salvation Army. Call 443-7575 for information.



la, la, la, la, la, la...



Michael Douglas stars in *The American President*.

Things You Never Knew About Thanksgiving

There is no record of the Pilgrims ever eating turkey, pumpkin pie, or cranberries on the first Thanksgiving, but eels and deer meat were.

The first international celebration was held in Washington, D.C. in 1909.

There was not official Thanksgiving until President Lincoln issued a proclamation at the victory at Gettysburg.

The first Thanksgiving lasted three days.

After the first two Thanksgivings, there is no colonial evidence that such a day was regularly observed.

Thanksgiving is a legal holiday in the Canal Zone, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Rituals similar to Thanksgiving were observed thousands of years ago by the Chinese, ancient Jews, Greeks, and Romans.

During the Pilgrims' first year in Plymouth the Pilgrims' rations were only five grains of corn daily.

Great Holiday Gift Tips

by Anu Manchikanti
News Writer/Photographer

Okay, so the Christmas season is about to officially start. There are a million things to do, and buying gifts is on everyone's list. The constant dilemma is what to buy at the last minute. Here are a few great gift ideas and where to buy them.

Lotions & soaps, & gels, oh my! The new store at the mall, **Bath & Body Works**,

has a plethora of scents, lotions, gels and all kinds of neat stuff. There are baskets and travel kits, loofahs and massagers, and more. If you don't have time to sniff out all the great scents, I highly recommend the peach.

Luxuries of Life Nothing beats a pair of satin pajamas, and **Victoria's Secret** is definitely a winner. There's also a great array of perfumes and lotions. The store in our mall is set to open December 2nd.

Gourmet Goodies Who doesn't like to

eat? From popcorn to chocolate, stores like **Gourmet Gallery** have it all. There's also the possibility of a gift certificate from great restaurants like **Applebee's**, **Olive Garden**, and **El Chico**. Saving the food for a rainy day is not that bad of an idea. If you've got younger siblings, offer to babysit while your parents go out for a night on the town, courtesy of you.

Memories A pretty picture frame is nice, but it's even better with a meaningful pic-

ture. Great finds are at **Pier 1 Imports** and **Kirkland's** for the frame, but only you know where the picture is. Another inexpensive, tearjarring gift idea, especially good for mothers, is a photo album filled with special pictures. Sort of like "This Is Your Life." Make sure to include pictures from their childhood, wedding, and anything else special. You can find cool photo albums at the same stores where you find the picture frames.

Polls

What are your holiday traditions?

Jonathan Abernathy (9) - My family comes over, and we trade gifts and eat dinner together.

Emily Williams (10) - My brother and I always sneak downstairs in the middle of the night and peek in our stockings and shake our presents.

Paige Ruoff (12) - On Christmas Eve, we go to my grandmother's and play bingo.

Crystal Griffith (11) - On Christmas Eve, we get to open one gift at my grandparents.

Renea Cummins (11) - We always open gifts from youngest to oldest grandchild.

Nikki Key (11) - My uncle comes up from Texas and brings a pinata. At our family-get-together, all the little kids take turns trying to break it.

Gina Yates (11) - My friends and I draw names for Christmas gifts. We always get together and exchange the gifts and eat and watch movies.

Anu Manchikanti (11) - My mom's a vegetarian, so we have our own table at Cracker Barrel!

What's your favorite part of the holiday season?

Kelly Williams (12) - Watching my little sister open presents

Stephanie Hamlett (11) - Food

Nikki Key (11) - Seeing all my family

Gina Yates (11) - Presents

Crystal Griffith (11) - Gifts

Renea Cummins (11) - The hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping

Anu Manchikanti (11) - Parties, shopping, and trying to decorate and eighteen-foot Christmas tree

Missy Perry (11) - Getting out of school

Ben Gross (12) - Sleeping

Jennifer Dunn (10) - Presents

Paige Ruoff (12) - Eggnog milkshakes at McDonald's and popcorn

shrimp at Long John Silver's

Brandy Montgomery (11) - Giving

Monica Doyle (12) - Seeing all my friends

Jonathan Abernathy (9) - Decorating with Christmas lights

Jeremy Modglin (12) - The Christmas Rush for parking spaces at the mall

Emily Williams (10) - I know it's not very original, but the truth is the presents.



Football team ends season against top ten foes

by Blake Vandermeulen
Sports Writer

Hopkinsville 42, Lone Oak 7

Hopkinsville strutted into Flash Field being ranked number one in the state with their Mr. Football candidate Miguel Merritt and about ten other quality division one college prospects. Lone Oak took the field with that age old attitude "We have nothing to lose and everything to gain." Unfortunately a win couldn't be gained however many positive things were taken from the game. Lone Oak was the only team this season to stop the Tigers on their first drive. Hopkinsville then went on to score three straight times to leave the Flash trailing 21-0 with about ten minutes left in the second quarter. Lone Oak then took the ball 84 yards in nine minutes and scored a touchdown to make the score 21-7 and give the team a tremendous amount of momentum. On the ensuing kickoff the Flash went for an on sides kick that they recovered, however they were penalized for touching the ball before it went ten yards and Hopkinsville took over on the Flash side of the fifty. The penalty would come back to kill the Flash. On the first play from scrimmage the high power Tiger offense scored to make the halftime deficit 21 instead of 14. Hopkinsville would then score the only points of the second half on their way to the 35 point victory.

Murray 22, Lone Oak 7

The number eight ranked Tigers ended the Flash's season on a down note with a 15 point victory at Flash field. Head coach Randy Grimes said Murray's superior speed and some unexpected play calling was the difference in the game. Murray took the opening kickoff and used a tough ground game to score a touchdown that served as a wake-up call for the flash defense. Lone Oak scored later in the first half to cut into the Murray lead that had risen to 15-0. Lone Oak took the ball inside the Murray 20 yard line twice in the second half but came away without any points both times.

Boys varsity roster

Chad Kirk
Justin Duncan
Cameron Ikeard
Josh Long
Kyle Sanderson
Donnie Stone
Jon Cargill
Vince Carter
Daniel Cashon
Justin Gosa
Russ Peck
Chris Peeler
Kyle Slankard

Girls varsity roster

Sarah Steele
Kristie Garrett
Rae Ann Ragland
Constance Edwards
Kathy Murphy
Kelly Sanders
Danielle Roberts
Sarah Beth Phelps
Gina Halstead
Susan Burnett
Kim Adams
Ashley Emery
Amanda Mitchell
Brandy Gifford

Abundance of talent should lead to significant improvement for Lady Flash

by Andy Harris
Sports Editor

This year's Lone Oak Lady Flash basketball team is drawing comparisons to the Kentucky Wildcats. Not because they have a shot at a national title, but because they have one of the deepest teams in the region. This team should definitely improve on last year's poor record. "Our players are so close in abilities, any one

of our 14 players could be a starter on any given night," said head coach Steve Cobb. "We put a lot of emphasis on not who starts, but who's out there near the end with the game on the line."

Expectations for the Lady Flash are high. They return four starters, highlighted by Kelly Sanders, who was the third highest scoring sophomore in school history with 10.7 points per game. Also returning are super center Danielle Roberts, leading rebounder Sarah Steele, and seniors Kristie Garrett, Rae Ann Ragland, Constance Edwards and newcomer Kathy Murphy. Sophomores Ashley Emery and Kim Adams should also make significant impacts.

What will make this season a successful

one? According to Cobb, a winning season, a district championship, and going back to the regional tournament are among his goals for the team. "We fully expect to be competitive with the best teams in the region," he said. "And by the end of the season, I think we will."

But capturing a district crown won't be easy. Defending champion Heath, along with Reidland and Tilghman will all be tough. On

the regional level, expect Graves County to repeat as champions. They return ten seniors from a team that advanced to the State Tournament semifinals.

One thing is for sure, though. Losing seasons have become a thing of the past for Lone Oak. With all their talent, Cobb's biggest problem may be just finding enough playing time for everyone.

"This group of players is unique in that while there is a lot of competition for playing time, they genuinely are pulling for each other to succeed," said Cobb. "They understand for us

to get where we want to go, it will take everyone contributing along the way. They are truly a special bunch of young ladies, and as long as they keep that togetherness intact, anything is possible."



Kelly Sanders returns as the Lady Flash's main offensive threat.

Boys basketball team retools with young guns

by Andy Harris
Sports Editor

Stop me if you have heard this: The Lone Oak boys basketball team will be undergoing a facelift this season.

New head coach Craig Wallace, the third different coach in three seasons, inherits a team that lost four starters from last year's squad to graduation. That leaves him with a very inexperienced lineup. Donnie Stone, the lone returning starter, and senior Chad Kirk will be the only players who logged serious minutes last season. Stone, the 6'1" junior, will likely carry the scoring load from his small forward position. Kirk could be the only inside threat for the Flash. Keeping him out of foul trouble and on the floor will be a key.

Other players who figure to contribute include Josh Long, a deadly outside shooter who may start at point guard. Kyle Sanderson and Justin Duncan saw some playing time last season, while Cameron Ikeard and sophomore Justin Gosa should also make an impact.

Along with a lack of experience, size once again will be a problem for the Flash. With no players taller than 6'1", rebounding and inside scoring will be weaknesses Lone Oak will



For the Flash to succeed this season, junior Donnie Stone must take a leading role.

have to overcome.

After finishing in a tie for the district title last season, Tilghman and Lone Oak should once again be at the top of the second district. However, don't count out Heath and a very

end of the season.

"My goal is for this young team to improve continually throughout the season and be in position to make our third straight regional trip," said Wallace.

experienced Reidland squad. As far as talent goes though, the Tornadoes are head and shoulders above everyone.

In the regional race, Marshall County and their sensational big man Dan Langhi leads the pack, while Tilghman and Graves County aren't far behind.

The road ahead may be long and bumpy, but with a strong young nucleus and a wealth of good shooters, count on the Flash to be in the thick of the regional and district races by the

Congratulations All-Region Soccer Players

John Fusco
Nate Hein
Jenny Boles
Stephanie Getz
Sarah Steele

Rodman back to trouble in midwest

Andy Harris
Sports Editor

Dennis Rodman is once again making news. The man with the hair of many colors has brought his three ring circus to Chicago. The Bulls, looking to regain their dominance of the past, signed Rodman to shore up what was a weak rebounding squad last year.

It's common knowledge that Rodman is the best rebounder in the NBA, but it's also

obvious that he is the biggest pain in the league. Noted for his insubordination, Rodman has made a habit of missing practices and showing up late for games. As if his on-court antics weren't bad enough, he's even worse off the court. He has posed in Playboy, dated Madonna, and worst of all, played for Detroit. Plus, he hasn't spoken to any of his teammates

off the court - with the exception of his sidekick Jack Haley.

Now the Bulls are pinning their championship hopes on the misfit Rodman. They are hoping that the blend of Rodman with mega-stars Jordan, Pippen and Kukoc will be the winning formula.

Let's face it, Rodman plus Bulls does not equal championship. Just ask the San Antonio

Spurs, who had the best record in the league last year, whether or not he is a distraction. Despite their dazzling record with him, the pressure of Rodman finally caused them to crack. It will take a miracle for Chicago to tame Rodman, and unless they do, their is no trip to the NBA Finals in their future.

NBA will be fantastic, again

Cliff Jenks
Sports/Staff Writer

Although all the NBA regular season amounts to is a warm-up for the playoffs, this year should be a bit more interesting. The most interesting team of the year could very well be the Chicago Bulls, who in the off-season lost B.J. Armstrong and gained Dennis Rodman. With Michael Jordan back for the entire season and the addition of Rodman's ability on the boards, "Da Bulls" could be back in 1995-96.

Another point of interest in this NBA season will be the addition of two expansion

teams north of the border. The Vancouver Grizzlies and Toronto Raptors will be typical expansion teams, getting beat almost every night, but both teams have strong front offices that will guide them into the future.

Orlando Magic taco salesman Shaquille O'Neal will be sidelined until somewhere around the New Year because of ligament damage in his thumb. The big man promised that if the hard fouls committed against him continued, then a reign of terror called "Sha Fu" would hit the league.

The new crop of NBA stars should bring some added hype to the league this year. The 1995-96 rookie class should be

almost as exciting, but not as deep, as the 92-93 group which brought O'Neal, Alonzo Mourning, Latrell Sprewell, and Jimmy Jackson. With high school phenom Kevin Garnett, North Carolina standout Jerry Stackhouse, and number one pick Joe Smith leading the way, the rookies could make some noise this season.

Several more stories should be worth watching this year. They include: Jordan back (again) in Chicago, Charles Barkley back (again) in Phoenix, Houston trying to win a championship (again), Milwaukee and Dallas trying to reach the peak of mediocrity (again), and yet another possible Magic Johnson comeback (again).

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It's gonna be awesome, baby!!

Blake Vandermeulen
Sports/Staff Writer

The college hoops season is upon us and several teams will be tough, but only a select few have a realistic chance of cutting down the nets in the Meadowlands in New Jersey. The UCLA Bruins, last year's champions, will have to recover from the loss of three key starters, All-American Ed O'Bannon, All-PAC 10 Tyus Edney, and underrated center George Zedek. However, the remaining pieces to the championship puzzle - most notably Toby Bailey, Charles O'Bannon, and J.R. Henderson - will make the Bruins a top contender this season.

The Kansas Jayhawks are most experts' pick as preseason number one. The Jayhawks will feature the nation's best

inside-outside punch. Jerod Haase and Jacque Vaughn will run the offense, with Scot Pollard and Raef LaFrentz on the boards. Newcomer Paul Pierce will add his sheer athletic ability, which the Jayhawks have lacked for several years.

If the NCAA tournament were a three-on-three competition, the University of Kentucky could field two teams that could take the title. With the return of Walter McCarty, Antoine Walker and Tony Delk, the Wildcats have a foundation for their first NCAA Championship since 1978. With the addition of freshman wonderkid Ron Mercer and Ohio State transfer Derek Anderson, the 'Cats will be the most talented team in the country.

The Big East should finally see a return to

glory this season. Villanova comes into the season ranked number three in the country, led by junior forward Kerry Kittles who is a legitimate national "Player of the Year" candidate. Georgetown should be loaded this season and ranked in the top ten with flashy All-American point guard Alan Iverson running the show. Ray Allen will lead a UConn team that may not achieve as much as last year, but will be full of individual talent. St. John's and Pittsburg will also have shots at the big dance even though most of their talent will be young.

This is going to be a great season of college basketball with some interesting matchups from early in the year until March. Two of the better early season events will be The Great Eight, next week and the Maui Invitational, December 28-30.

Business classes experience "real world"

The senior business students in Daralea Harper's office procedures and co-op class were introduced to a "simulated" job interview at LOHS. They were each responsible in preparing a resume, letter of application, and follow-up letter to one of the following people: Mr. Tilford Underwood, Mr. Dick Thomas, Western Baptist Hospital, and other area businesses and leaders. The students were interviewed on video by the panel of professionals. Students were evaluated on their appearance, attitude, manners, qualifications, and experience for the position. Simulated job interviews give the students an opportunity to see what it is really like in the "world of work."



GIRLS (left to right): Bottom Row-Misty Anderson, Amy Driver, Amanda Ransom, Mandy Flournoy. Middle row- Shakira Rushing, Amy Kelly, Audra Hall, Sara Reid, Erica Cannon. Top row-Tabitha Adams, Heather Beyer, Susannah Hardy, Marie Fort, Mandy Lain, Kelly Rowland, Johna Davis, Monica Doyle, Rebecca Holland, and Jamie Mourier



Boys (left to right) Bottom row-Nathaniel Miller, Jeremy Williams, John Pace, and Darren Merritt. Top row-Todd Robertson, Aaron Bracy, Jeremy Oster, Jason Turner, and Jason Schaefer.

Before you jump -the holiday season doesn't have to mean suicide

Chrystal Galloway
Editor-in-Chief

For some people, the upcoming holiday season is a wonderful expectation. They happily relish that first glass of egg nog, do their Christmas shopping early, buy a tree the day after Thanksgiving, and basically tease the rest of us who at one time really loved the holidays, like, when we were five. The next few months will be extremely stressful on high schoolers, especially seniors. For the underclassmen, finals loom over their furrowed brows. However, on a worse note, this is the big decision time for many seniors. Not only do we have finals and research papers, most college applications, financial aid forms, and last ditch efforts on standardized tests must be finished and turned in by January or even as early as November.

With all these factors - not to mention the other bad Christmas stress - the next couple of months are going to be less like a winter wonderland and more like an icicle-laden heck. There are times in everyone's life when things just stress you out to the point where you either want to cry constantly, pray for a car wreck, or climb the water tower and start picking off underclassmen.

You can't eat, you can't sleep, and probably aren't getting along well with people. Stress is usually caused by big changes-anything that can disrupt your life (having a loved one die, breaking up with your boyfriend/girlfriend, doing bad in a class) or even changes that you're happy about (like going to college or moving). Stress can also be caused by pressure: what others expect of you or what you demand of yourself, like earning perfect grades or finding a good job.

Feeling this way, however, doesn't mean that the next step is Prozac. It could mean that you should take some time out for some serious soul-searching. You could start keeping a journal or taking long walks. You may be able to manage stress better by simply spending some time alone so you can identify the source of your problems and to consider solutions. Or, if you have a good friend, sometimes just talking to someone helps.

However, there is a point when stress can begin to take you over the edge. To figure out if you need professional help, take a look at the toll stress is taking on your life. According to Thomas Mourian from *Sassy* magazine (May 1995), if you often experience the following conditions, you may need to seek counseling: Have you been having trouble sleeping for more than a couple of

weeks; eating more or less than usual; getting drunk or high all the time; being overly sexually active or verbally or physically abusive for no reason; feeling tired all the time; or having frequent headaches or stomachaches for which there are no physical

Face it. With finals, college stuff, Christmas expenses and shopping, freezing weather and family coming in, the next couple of months are going to be less like a winter wonderland and more like an ice-laden heck.

explanations? Do you feel like you're constantly moving at top speed? Is it becoming increasingly difficult for you to get along with or simply be around other people? If any of this sounds familiar, your stress level may be teetering over the edge and you may need to talk to an expert.

There are also signs that indicate that you *definitely need to see a therapist*. If you feel worthless and hopeless most of the time...have frequent thoughts or daydream about suicide or thoughts about harming others...see things or hear voices that other people can't...change topics mid-sentence

or give answers utterly unrelated to questions asked...believe you have a secret, threatening power over others or have a recurring idea, fear or fantasy that you can't let go of...then it is probably time to take a crash on the couch.

There are many places around Paducah that offer counseling, though sadly there aren't any free-of-charge. Most places, such as the health department, Mental Health Services, and Christian Counseling Center, have fees based on family income. Other places, like Charter Hospital, charge most services to insurance. If you are broke and really don't want to confide to your parents about your problems, then look to your older, trusted adult whether it be a teacher, a co-worker, or your school guidance counselor. Ms. Jones and Mr. Griffith are really helpful and understanding.

You are always going to have problems, and for the most part, a good hot bath, a workout, or a box of Godiva chocolates will make you feel better. If you learn how to deal with them by taking care of yourself and communicating with others, you will find that your problems will be much more manageable. Don't forget to enjoy this season of cheer, spend at least one whole evening with people you care about looking at Christmas lights and drinking cocoa.

Ten ways to brighten someone's Day



J.R. Young
Circulation Manager



10. Do not use the words "dumb" or "stupid" in describing another person.
9. Tell your teacher that you learned something today!
8. Say something to your parents besides "Where are the keys?" and "Give me some money."
7. Read The Oak K!
6. Invest in AFCO!
5. Don't make one complaint about the school's condition (as hard as it may be).
4. The school announcements, watch them, you might learn something.
3. Give your brother/sister the day off as your personal slave.
2. Tell Mr. Baker you think he's cool!
1. Two simple words, "Thank You".

And oh, by the way, "Thank You" for reading this article.

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President: Jennifer Hibbs Vice President: Ashley Canup
Secretary: Kelly Adams Reporter: Heather Cook
Treasurer: Carrie Parnell

Second Chance Saturday debate-how does it reflect our school? A poll of students reactions

Shawna Williams
Assistant Editor

Last month, there was a staff editorial printed in *The Oak K*, titled "Overachievers Not Wanted." There were several heated responses, both for and against the subject matter. Here are but a few of your thoughts.

1. Did you agree or disagree with the editorial? Why or why not?

Lisa Jalkh-Yes, I agree with it because I think students should try the first time.

Michelle Lewis-I think that we all should be able to have a second chance, including the overachievers.

Daniel Bailey-I think it's slimy both ways. It should be open to everybody, including dumb people like me. That's why I think we should all quit school and move to Montana.

2. Do you approve of the Second-Chance Saturday Policy as it is? If not, how would you change it?

Autumn Stanley-No, it's a good system and it helps to give underachievers a second chance if they're willing to spend a Saturday to raise their grade. Yet, if teachers' biggest argument for SCS is that these students work their ends off to raise a grade one letter,

SCS should be offered to any student willing to work as hard for a letter grade, REGARDLESS OF WHAT GRADE THEY HAVE TO BEGIN WITH.

Paige Ruoff-No, not entirely. A few of the teachers have the right idea! They give the students work to do and a test over the work to determine whether or not they receive their points. All of the teachers really need to adopt this policy.

3. Do you feel unfairly excluded by any of these policies, such as Second Chance Saturday of the lowering of the GPA requirements for participation?

Nate Hein-Yes, If I had the chance to raise my B's to A's, my GPA would be a lot higher. This would help my chances of getting into the college of my choice.

Julie Barons-Yes. There's nothing a straight-A student can do about a B, so why can a D or F be raised?

4. What do you think it says about our school, that the GPA requirements are being lowered so more people can participate in school activities?

Ashley Albritton-I think that it doesn't say much for our school except that we need

more basketball and football players who otherwise wouldn't have been able to play. It's like, since the GPA is being lowered, everybody thinks, "Oh well, I can be stupid now cause I only need a 1.6 GPA to play."

"You'd be an idiot not to take advantage of such an opportunity."

Jarred Lampe (12)

Nate Hein-It just proves that our school's main priority isn't grades. It's who wins the game on Friday night.

Paige Ruoff-Our school obviously places more importance holistically on athletics than academics. Evidently it's much easier to get excited about being "District Champs" than about producing Merit Scholars.

One student became impressively vocal and interested in the poll. *Jarred Lampe* turned in a response that deserved to be read in full concerning the first question:

"All students would agree that being able to participate in SCS to raise a C or B to an A would greatly enhance one's chances of getting into the college of their choice. Although this being a great idea in theory, one might also see the problems that would arise from such an idea. Now I'm one that would never make it easy on a teacher, but wouldn't this policy put a lot of not an overly excessive amount of added work on the teachers and a minimal amount of pressure on the day to day hard work of the A and B's student? All I'm saying is, wouldn't you feel a little angry that for the "A" you worked so hard for all nine weeks was given to someone else for only a couple Saturdays of work. You'd also be an idiot not take advantage of such an opportunity. This bringing most, if not all LOHS students in on the designated days would cause the teacher/student ratio problem to arise. Would it not also bring about a six day school week by the methods in which school officials would have to control such numbers? (Just a thought).

Heck, let the kids that face flunking out improve their grades without everyone whining that they're being treated unfairly."

Video Game reviews for the season

by J.R. Young
Circulation Manager

In an effort to help Lone Oak High School's students from throwing hard earned money into piece of garbage (i.e. Madden Football '95), the following is a review of recent computer and video games.

Super Nintendo

Chrono Trigger-(92%)-Though it isn't the best game Square has ever created, it by far sports the best graphics and music. Boasting a time travelling story line and multiple endings, Chrono Trigger deserves to be regarded as one of the best games ever made.

Secret of Evermore-(85%)- Although it features great graphics and great sound, it has a lackluster plot! The one thing that Square is best known for appears to have been forgotten in this project. The plot doesn't make you want to continue playing and there is no emotional value in this game.

PC CD-ROM

Phantasmagoria-(90%)- The first adventure game in which you control a character in FMV (full motion video) world has been greeted with lukewarm response from gamers. The demand for a high end computer, bad acting, and overall ease of

the game have turned many people off.

Warcraft-(94%)-One of the best and most fun strategy games I've played on the PC since Sim City 2000 (well besides Transport Tycoon). It's mixture of city building and war sim (Sim City on steroids) make this game one of the best. My only complaint is that I can barely stand the wait for Warcraft II.

Tie Fighter CD-(96%)-The best outer space fighting simulator ever made has been upgraded for the CD-ROM platform. This incredible upgraded version includes more missions, more cut scenes, and even better graphics.

Oldies, but Goodies

Final Fantasy III-(SNES)- In my opinion this ranks as the best game ever made—on any system! With an involving storyline, and challenging play, this game will keep you busy well past the normal duration of most games. It also rewards you well with a nearly thirty minute long ending.

Sim City-(all platforms)- If you haven't played this game, where have you been? No doubt about it, this is the best simulation game ever made. Sim City allows you to build and manage your own thriving metropolis, and is the closest you'll ever get to being mayor without being named Jones or Montgomery.

How to Beat Grandma at Chess

Cliff Jenks
Staff/Sports Writer

Over the Christmas holiday many students will either be visiting relatives out of town, or family will be coming to the exciting city of Paducah to see the many sights this fascinating part of the world has to offer. Over the years, I've heard many interesting ideas to make the long weekend not so long. They include:

Bowling: This is a time honored tradition in the "Jordan" family. How often do people go bowling over Thanksgiving? More often than you think. Join the fun at a local alley.

Skating: If anyone is interested in going back to the good old days of elementary school, this should be loads of fun. Might as well try it,

going around a rink over and over again could be an enjoyable experience.

Football: This is the only way anyone can tackle an annoying cousin without getting into trouble. If they accidentally break an arm, so what? A hospital couldn't be too far away.

Basketball: Two-on-two with family, talk as much trash as you want.

Board or Card Games: Even the great-grandparents could be involved in this. If you like your family at all, try this because you get to hear some pretty funny stories about dumb things your parents did.

Remember, no matter how boring your family is, in most cases, you only see them a few times a year. Make the most of it before you don't have a chance to anymore.

Top Few Holiday Movies to Rent (as judged by the staff)

1. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*
2. *Scrooged (with Bill Murray)*
3. *Miracle on 34th street*
4. *Santa Clause*
5. *When the Grinch Stole Christmas*

Thanksgiving Wordsearch

I H S L E R R I U Q S A T E A W L E L R E B D
 N E K L O R E T N I W S E R O S L Y S P E O A
 K P L Y M O T H I N I G O N F P G A L O S W E
 R O S C S T U F F I N G S A P S O D E Y S A H
 O T G U E I S A P U S D Y A I F B I H E N N H
 A A D B T A L L S Y I H E C W O B L U L A D D
 S T A Y H U I M V A A B I O T C L O H T T A O
 E O B M A Y R R F A N C E R B U E H T R I R T
 I E U E N I U K S J S U U N S T A R E I R R P
 P S C C K C H L E I T F T S L P E W P O U O O
 N S K E S R G C W Y H O T H I N O K S H P W P
 A E S I G N S F I C O O L E D L O R K A N D C
 C F K O I R Y A S D O U B A F C S Q U A N I O
 E K I T V W O M O D E S I Y N R E T T U B B R
 P R N R I E I I A D Y R A O K E L S J U S T N
 W U E A N R I L T H F M U S K E T U R N I P S
 H E A T G E H Y A S H O P P I N G S S A S L R
 D E A L P Y D Y L A E U G H L E G D O S N Y O
 U R I P A A T H E T I X C L L G I V E E E S B
 U P U M P K I N S T M Y A R E E V R E Z V G E
 W I S T O M A T O L B F E M V C D O I H S W E
 E S L L O R T E S Q U A S H R D W A A T C H Y
 O U R B S A C K Q Z X B O R A I M S Q U A W M
 A R I J E G I B B L E T S E A M A T C I A L O
 V C O R N E S Y M S C A H S U K M N D K H D L

TURKEY
 GOBBLE
 THANKSGIVING
 FALL
 PILGRIMS
 INDIANS
 POTATOES
 PIE
 STUFFING
 MUSKET
 ACORNS
 SQUANTO
 PUMPKINS
 PURITAN
 CORN
 TOMATO
 HAM
 FAMILY
 SHOPPING
 SCURVY
 PLYMOUTH
 MILK
 HOLIDAY
 SNOW
 SQUIRRELS

MAYFLOWER
 HUNTING
 FUR
 BUCKSKIN
 POPCORN
 APPLES
 CIDER
 ROAST
 GIBBLETS
 HEADRESS
 AXE
 PAPOOSE
 SQUAW
 BOW AND ARROW
 MAIZE
 SQUASH
 EGGS
 TURNIPS
 YAMS
 ROLLS
 BUTTER
 PECAN PIE
 WINTER
 DEER



Bolts and Strikes

Bolts

- ▲ We are less than a month away from Christmas vacation.
- ▲ The staff suspects that people are actually reading *The Oak K*!
- ▲ Thanksgiving is here, we get to see our family.
- ▲ Student elections are this month.
- ▲ Seniors only have seven months left at LOHS.



Strikes

- ▼ We are less than a month away from semester finals.
- ▼ We think people are reading the paper because the headlines of our editorials are keyed across the hoods of our cars.
- ▼ Thanksgiving is here, we get to see our family.
- ▼ Student officers won't really have any responsibility until ten years from now, when we have our first reunion.
- ▼ College applications are due in about a month.

The Christmas Decorations go up too early Fa la la la la la la la

by Blake Vandermeulen
 Sports Writer

Isn't nature truly wonderful? As the leaves change colors and a nip comes to the air, I am always reminded of the great things fall has to offer. High school football games, hot apple cider, and that first flicker of a flame in the family den as you enjoy a bowl of your mother's homemade chili are all rites of fall everyone has come to cherish. How could anybody resist watching little boys and girls shop for their first Halloween costumes as stinkin' reindeer dance above.

It seems as September changes to October, Halloween and Thanksgiving are forgotten and the "Christmas Season" is ushered in by most department and discount stores. Dillard's, Elder Beerman and Super Wal Mart are just three of the many stores who have their Christmas decorations up by

October 1. Do they really believe this is going to get people in the holiday spirit? Well, to quote a famous Christmas character "Ba Humbug!" I realize the local stores are just following orders given to them by some corporate executive; however, they could at least let us enjoy Thanksgiving before the green and red goes up.

My solution to this relatively small problem is very simple. From my experience working at the mall, the week leading up to Thanksgiving is a relatively slow time. Why not put all the decorations up that week? This way the stores would have all of their decorations up and the "Christmas Spirit" wouldn't be lost by seeing the same decorations for three months.



Sleep; and if life was bitter to thee, pardon,
 If sweet, give thanks; thou hast no more to live;
 And to give thanks is good, and to forgive.
 -Algernon C. Swinburne
 (Happy Thanksgiving, Lone Oak)