

January, 1996

"The Official  
Publication of  
LOHS"

# The Oak K

Volume 55

Issue 5

## Students prepare for Governor's Cup

By Justin Young  
Circulation Manager

This February a select group of the academic elite at Lone Oak High School will be representing our school in the Kentucky Governor's Cup competition. These students will be competing in written tests in a variety of subjects. The district competition will be held the 9th and 10th of February, followed by the regional competition on the 23rd and 24th, and lastly the state level will be held the 10th and 11th of March. The following is a listing of the categories and students which are participating in them.

**Quick Recall:** Patrick Kaufman, Paige Ruoff, Brent Turner, Cliff Jenks, Anu Manchikanti, and Lee Titsworth. **General Knowledge:** Stephanie Getz, Wendy Wexler,

and Craig Jackson.

**English Composition:** Shawna Williams, Craig Jackson, and Chrystal Galloway.

**Math:** Stephanie Getz, Dallin Birch, and Paige Ruoff.

**Social Studies:** Patrick Kaufman, Paige Ruoff, and Craig Jackson.

**Science:** Stephanie Getz, Patrick Kaufman, and Kelly Williams.

**Language Arts:** Wendy Wexler, Shawna Williams, and Marty Rudd.

Last year three Lone Oak students made it to the top level of state competition. Lone Oak has a long history of performing well in Governor's Cup, and this year should be no exception.



Under the watchful eyes of the immortals Einstein, Shakespeare, and Steinbeck, Quick Recall members Lee Titsworth, Cliff Jenks, and Anu Manchikanti prepare for the Governor's Cup competition.

## Key Club and WLOH sponsor Love Match

By Anu Manchikanti  
News Writer/Photographer

Ever wonder if there is anyone at LOHS that is your perfect match? Okay, maybe not, but now you can find out who the most compatible people in this school are for you. The Key Club and WLOH will once again be sponsoring the Love Match fundraiser.

The first time the school participated in this fundraiser was in February of last year. Because of the previous success and enthusiastic response from the student body, the program is being continued this

year.

Here's how it works. Students will fill out the questionnaires in early February. Questions dealt with a variety of topics, ranging from food to music to stranded island preference. They were sent to Data Match, a company which enters the information into the computer. The computer will then find the top ten people in your grade and in the school who had answers most like yours. The results will be back in early February.

When the results come back, they will be sold during flex time. There will be two lists that can be purchased. One list is the list of students in your grade, and the

other is of the best matches in the school, exclusive of your grade. The cost will be 2 dollars for one list and 3 dollars for both. All the profits benefit the Key Club, a community service organization, and WLOH, the media class.

Love Match is a great fundraiser because it allows students to find out their compatibility factor. Even some couples

end up together. Senior Paige Ruoff says, "I'm was tempted to put down the answers that I knew my boyfriend would so we'll end up together." Hey, honesty is the best policy, and it will make for some very interesting matches.

### Some Sample Questions:

1. Love is: A. a bad joke  
B. an emotional high  
C. reason for much confusion  
D. nice, with the right person

2. In the yearbook, I would most likely be named: A. most dependable B. best personality C. most athletic D. class flirt E. friendliest

## What's Inside:

- Features:** The Year Gone By;
- Mr. LOHS/Senior & Miss LOHS/Senior**
- Editorials:** Martin Luther King
- News:** All-State Band; JR Rotarian
- Sports:** Flashes Beat Murray

## A Response To "A Left-Out Senior"

### Staff Editorial

Recently, the staff received a letter commenting on our inability to publish a well-rounded paper.

The letter's main points were that we are negative and whiny about everything, we are biased in who we choose to cover with polls, and we ignore certain "cliques" because it gives the "newspaper clique" a certain sadistic pleasure. We would like to tell "A Left Out Senior" that the only reason that the letter was not printed was because the author did not sign his or her name.

The aim of an editorial is to point out

a problem and suggest a way to solve it. By reading *The Oak K's* editorials more thoroughly, you would find implied solutions in each one. An editorial defends a position. When you defend a position, you don't exactly give the opposition a lot of leeway. Also, we don't try to be clever with how we arrange the paper. We haven't created some secret code in which the headlines spell out how really feel about certain people. We arrange it according to how long each story is and how much space we have.

Poll questions give students a chance

to say interesting things or give their thoughts on an issue. Nobody wants to read answers like "I don't know" or "Ask somebody else," so why should we print them? If a person wants to be included in a poll, their reply should be interesting or at least informed. The staff makes a point to ask many people the questions, but it's often the same people who give the printable responses.

The newspaper staff is comprised of many different kinds of students. We haven't branched off into our own little "clique." We cover the entire

school and its activities. If some of the staff members happen to be involved in the activities we cover, it's by chance. If more people want to be represented in the paper, they should approach the staff and tell us what they would like to see printed. (Please, remember to sign your name to any letters you write.) There's no guarantee we'll be able to comply, but we will try our best.

## "O, Let America Be America Again..."

Shawna R Williams  
Assistant Editor

*...Build now your Church, my  
brothers, sisters.*

*Build never with brick nor Corten  
nor with granite.*

*Build with lithe love.*

*With love like lion-eyes.*

*With love like morningrise.*

*With love like black, our black-  
luminously indiscreet;*

*complete; continuous.*

Gwendolyn Brooks, from "The  
Sermon on the Warpland"

January 15 was Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. In a day where the only thing broadcasted is violence, crime, and senseless hatred, i.e. the "Rebel Flag" trial about the boy who was shot

for having a Confederate flag on his truck, it is refreshing to have a day dedicated to a man who sought peace, not just among the black race but among the whole world. It is a reminder that civilization is learning the meaning of civil, that people of any creed can work and live side by side, and that people can reach their dreaming stars.

King graduated from Morehouse College in 1948, Crozer Theological Seminary in 1951, and received his degree from Boston University in 1955. He then became a pastor for the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Just a few of King's accomplishments and deeds for the desegregation fight include: the formation of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the promotion

of the sit-in campaign against Southern lunch counters, advised the "freedom rides" for interstate bus travel, the leadership of many demonstrations in Albany, Georgia in 1962 and in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963 for desegregations of public facilities, and then the mass demonstration in Washington, D.C. in 1963 with over 200,000 attendants, he prompted the voter registration drive in Alabama in 1965 where he was arrested, and he worked against poverty and the Vietnam war. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. (From Collier's Encyclopedia, ed. 14) But most importantly he practiced and preached the revolutionary idea (that idea will always be revolutionary) of nonviolent demonstration and resistance to racial discrimination.

If anyone, King should be a mentor to any person who feels they cannot accomplish their desires or make their dreams come true. So, take a time and reflect back to one of the guardian angels of history and hear the words of Langston Hughes when he sings,  
*O, let America be America again-  
The land that never has been yet-  
And yet must be-  
The land where every man is free.  
The land that's mine-  
The poor man's, Indian's, Negro's,  
ME-  
Who made America,  
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith  
and pain  
Whose hand at the foundry, whose  
plow in the rain,  
Must bring back our mighty dream  
again.*

## Changing Our Attitudes Towards Education

Ashley Small  
Opinion Writer

It is that time again, we are all holding our breath and crossing our fingers and hoping against hope that any brown-nosing we did these past nine weeks pays off. Yes, it is the beloved nine weeks end and if history repeats itself, as it usually does in this instance, there will be the fights with the parents, the groundings and the Second Chance Saturdays.

I am sure if any of us are anything

alike, we all promise ourselves and our parents that we will do better next nine weeks. We are going to study harder, go to bed earlier and be more organized this time around. We all have done it, but I would bet money that very few of us have ever succeeded in completely modifying our study habits. We don't change because we simply don't have to.

By now most high school students realize they only have to complete sixty to sixty-five percent of their work in order to receive a passing grade. Students are simply not motivated to

do more or to do better. Most American student's attitude toward education and school work is generally apathetic. We all get worked up and worried about our grades right before the report cards go out or for a couple of weeks afterwards, but it soon wears off and we are back where we began, hoping that we turned in some extra credit and praying that we make 100% on our final exam.

What I am trying to say is that there is more to our grades than passing by the skin -of- our- teeth. I really do think that the majority of students

really care about their grades. I think we get frustrated and discouraged about not reaching the goals we had set for ourselves and throw in the towel, instead we should challenge ourselves and not just close the book.

I think promising ourselves we will do better, getting tutors and going to Second Chance Saturday are all a step in the right direction, but the first thing we must change is our attitudes towards our education.

# Sensing teaches music, or does he?

**Cliff Jenks**  
Staff/Sports Writer

Recently and possibly permanently, Mr. Sensing's second and third hour physics classes have spent a great deal of time around music. Is this some feat of departmental cooperation? Are the physics students doing some important experiments involving sound waves or pitch frequencies?

Is Mr. Sensing just trying to teach his classes something about musical instruments or singing?

The answer to all of these questions is "no." Second hour physics has moved to the band room, and third hour physics has been in the choir room for several months. Why? Lack of space. When the 'mobile unit' (trailer) was removed for the fabled school renovation, the classes had to move

to the only classrooms in the school that were not being used. What does that mean for students? A lot of trouble and frustration. In these rooms, which no one ever thought would be used for anything but band or choir, there are no desks and the chalk board is difficult to see. These inconveniences translate into a difficult learning atmosphere where students are forced to take notes in their laps. Senior

Patrick Kaufman, on his class in the choir room said, "Physics is a difficult class, even without the added distractions."

What's the solution? There are none in this overcrowded sea of neglect, but for the sake of LOHS's physics students next year, I hope that the renovation is complete so they can have regular classes without all of the distractions.

# Big Brother Bill is Watching

**J.R. Young**  
Circulation Manager

In the twentieth century many people believed our greatest threat was from the government that controls our nation. As the twenty-first century rapidly approaches it appears the balance of power has shifted to a new threat—the large global corporations that we work for. Computers have given companies and governments the power to know anything and everything about us. So someday if one of these companies was to acquire a god-like persona of itself, it would make most sense if it was the currently most powerful company in the world—Microsoft.

Right now I'm sure many readers are laughing their heads off at the sound of this. Make no mistake though, Microsoft is not the "American Dream" company that we all have been led to believe. Besides the count-

less government investigations and anti trust infringements, Microsoft also has a few other deep dark secrets. Not many purchasers of Windows 95 knew that if they registered their software on-line Microsoft was able to secretly read the contents of their hard drive and know everything they had on it. What does this mean? Microsoft now knows all the software you are using, purchased or pirated. This may not seem like a major problem to some, but I see it as a serious infringement upon my privacy.

Microsoft has also built itself a monopoly of the computer operating system market that even the old Bell Telephone Co. would envy. There are estimates which state that over eighty percent of all the personal computers in the world use Microsoft Windows. Along with this startling number, Microsoft says nearly eighty percent of computer users Microsoft Word for their word processing

needs. Now with more and more programs being exclusively written for Windows 95, Microsoft has placed consumers in a position where eventually all will have to upgrade to Windows 95 or be left behind muddling through an obsolete IBM OS/2. Even worse is that even as Microsoft tricked the masses into upgrading to Windows 95, they have already released plans for a Windows 96!

If it wasn't bad enough that Microsoft now has total control over the basic software you use on your computer, they are also making an attempt to seize hold of the new lucrative on-line service business. In a move that sent anti-trust alarms blaring, Microsoft packaged the software for its new Microsoft Network into Windows 95. So when the countless millions of users upgrade to Windows 95 they are greeted with an on-line service that is built into the most popular operating system in the world! Brilliant

plan Bill, just a little iffy on the legal side.

A recent columnist said Microsoft ran the world and backed up the statement by pointing out computers run the world, Microsoft's software runs the computers, so Microsoft runs the world. Microsoft has now created a vast monopoly over basic software for personal computers. With the increasing popularity of the Internet, Microsoft has also found a new way to reach its customers, and along with it—spy on them. Now, I may just be getting a little paranoid. Bill Gates may not be doing no more than playing a multi-player game of Doom right now. Still, I'm just the slightest bit uneasy that as I'm writing this Big Brother Bill may be watching these words flash across my computer screen. Perhaps history will have a fond memory of Bill Gates as a revolutionary, then again, perhaps someday all that will be spoken of Bill Gates is, "...he liked Big Brother."

# Pooh Bear--why hath you forsaken me?

**Chrystal Galloway**  
Editor-in-Chief

I really hate endings. Especially when it means I have to give up something. In just a few months, it will be the end of high school for me and about 200 other seniors. Everyone knows I have been dreaming of escaping this one cow town since my break from the womb, and I'm sure many of my classmates feel the same. However I can't help but feel a little restless, and more than a little scared. The rest of the next semester will be full of neat senior-type things. Class night and honors awards, our last homecoming and prom, finding out who's going where and doing what, so many bitter sweet experiences all leading up to graduation. When will the finality of it all hit me? When they measure us for our caps and gowns? When I'm filling out my senior will?

I keep saying I can't wait to get out of high school, and for the most part, I am overjoyed about my plans for post-graduation life. In June I am fortunate enough to be traveling to Europe with Ms. Underhill, and after that I I am assured acceptance to a good college with little financial strain. My future is looking bright, but the future is a shrouded

thing. I haven't exactly loved the whole high school experience, but at least I knew what was going on. It has been crazy and weird at times, but its always been familiar.

Now it is time to grow up, take responsibility for our lives, and give up that whole childhood thing forever. It feels like I'm running out of time to make mistakes, to grasp that last bit of assurance and stability before I find my self falling faster and faster towards the harsh reality of life. So briefly are we kings and queens. Old enough to have real fun yet young enough to be coddled by parents and high school. No wonder people claim high school is the best time in life.

Okay, sorry about that. I didn't mean to pull an apocalypse raving on everyone. I know that many believe that life hasn't even begun for us yet. High school is probably one of the most stressful social periods of our life, once we are out maybe we can learn a little more about who we are. This is hardly the end of our young lives, but it is the end of something. Innocence? Childhood dreams? Not for me. I'll probably sleep a little less soundly this summer, appreciate every issue of the paper more, and enjoy being young for a little while longer.

## The Oak K Staff

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*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.

## America said goodbye to one legend and let another "get away with murder"

1995 in a nutshell: America said goodbye to one legend and let another "get away with murder."

1996: To seniors, it means emancipation from the halls of high school and ducking a loan officer for the next decade. To freshmen, it means one more semester of being stepped on. However, we can't step into the new year without looking back at the events of the last one.

1995 may be dubbed "The Year of O.J.", but believe it or not other events did occur during the trial. America was shocked by the tragedy of the Oklahoma City bombing, and angered by the cruelty of Susan

Smith. After 25 years of separation, the Beatles reunited (electronically, anyway) leaving many to ask themselves, "Can piggies really fly?" Women attempted equality between the sexes at Women's Conference in Beijing, China (a country where women are still traded for cattle). The Pope thrilled many Catholics by visiting the U.S. England's future Queen, Princess Diana, openly discussed the possibility of divorcing Charles. Sadly, one of the world's greatest rock musicians, Jerry Garcia, died of heart failure.

### What's on the Tube?

#### Television

Friends  
Mad About You  
ER  
Caroline in the City  
The Single Guy  
Frasier  
Seinfeld  
Ricki  
Grace Under Fire  
Home Improvement  
Hope and Gloria

### Memorable Melodies

#### Music

Rembrandts-Friends  
Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men-  
One Sweet Day  
Goo Goo Dolls-Name  
Deep Blue Something-  
Breakfast at Tiffany's  
Seal-Kiss From A Rose  
Meatloaf  
Jars of Clay  
Beatles- Free As A Bird  
Hootie and the Blowfish  
10,000 Maniacs goes solo

### Bestsellers in 1995

#### Books

Stephen King-Insomnia  
Michael Crichton-The Lost  
World  
John Grisham-Rainmaker  
Howard Stern-Mrs. America

### What's Happening in 1996!

As usual, the seniors are all looking forward to graduation, but there are other events planned here at LOHS.

The Basketball Homecoming will be held on Feb. 16. The theme is "Keeper of the Stars."

On Feb. 16-19 students will enjoy a four day weekend. This is your chance to warm up for spring break, so relax and enjoy it!

Thank goodness for springbreak!!! Apr.8-12 is your chance to make for the beach. Don't forget, this is your last chance to get a tan before prom.

Speaking of prom, the formal will be held on Apr. 27. For the juniors and seniors this will be the biggest event of the year.

### Movie Mania: What was Seen in 1995

#### Best Movies

Batman Forever  
Scarlet Letter  
Apollo 13  
Father of the Bride II  
Toy Story  
While You Were Sleeping  
Braveheart  
Sabrina  
Legends of the Fall (so sayeth Molly)

#### Worst Movies

Water World  
Legends of the Fall (so sayeth Tara)  
Seven  
Ace Ventura II

#### Most Memorable Movies

Pocohontas  
Casper  
Congo  
Die Hard III  
Something to Talk About  
Little Women  
American President  
Jumunji  
Nixon

### What was the most important/memorable event of 1995?

**Shane Turner**-Not important but very memorable (unfortunately) the O.J case.

**Amanda Ransom**-A very important event that changed my life in every imaginable way was the death of a great man and musician, Jerry Garcia.

**Jack Bishop**-The O.J. trial and my sixteenth birthday.

### What are you looking forward to most in the new year?

**Teri Dawes**-Leaving home and church camp.

**Rachel Steele**-Moving/visiting my old home area in Ohio for a month and naturally, graduation!

**Kristie Garrett**-Graduation and saying good-bye to all my friends, watching all of us go our separate ways.

**Shawn Dittman**-Can't wait to...forgot.

**Chris Hughes**-I am going to plant a tree for a better tomorrow.

#### Next Month's Poll Question:

*Do you have any special Valentine's story?*

*If you do, write them down, include your name and grade, and return to room B202.*

## Brazzell named Jr. Rotarian

Cliff Jenks  
Staff/Sports Writer

Senior Abby Brazzell is January's Junior Rotarian. Brazzell is involved in a slew of activities ranging from tennis club, to Beta Club, to vice president of the FBLA. A member of the Kentucky State Champion tennis team for four years, Brazzell also received the All-State Tennis Award, and teaches tennis lessons during the summer.

Besides tennis, Brazzell enjoys reading John Grisham novels, in-line skating, and spending time with her family. About her family, Brazzell said, "I am proud of being brought up in a family with love and support." Brazzell has three dogs: Cooper, Elly, and Buffy. Brazzell lists her favorite bands as Blind Melon and Toad the Wet Sprocket,



Senior Abby Brazzell

and her favorite movie as *Blazing Saddles*.

Brazzell will attend Eastern Kentucky University and she plans to study medicine. Congratulations, Abby!

## Thrasher makes a splash on swim team

By Tara Shelby  
Opinion Editor

Julie Thrasher is one of three members of the Lone Oak High School swim team. Due to the team's small size they are unable to compete at the school competitions, but they still attend whenever possible in order to represent our school. Thrasher has participated in two swim meets this year; one at Hopkinsville and the other at Paducah.

Thrasher has found that being a member of the school swim team is a rewarding experience and she is proud to represent our school. Thrasher says she enjoys swimming for two reasons. "Swimming is a good stress reliever, and by being on a team I've learned to have team spirit."

Other activities Thrasher is involved in are Chamber Choir, Beta and Key Club, church youth group, and the Paducah Swim Team.

## Band members travel to Elizabethtown

by David Carmichael  
Business/Advertising Manager

On November 16, many band members traveled up to Caldwell County for the All-District, one of the greatest honors for a bandsman. Here, they also attempted to make the first cut for All-State Band, the best of the best - the dream for all band members. Those who made the first cut were: Cliff Jenks, David Carmichael, Autumn Pate, Greg Hosfield, Phil Sisto, Josh McGuire, William Mills, Jennifer Atherton, Erin Powell, and Jackie Allshouse. These students were selected to try out in the second and final cut in Elizabethtown, December 7.

For four hours of snow and sleet, Mrs. Sisto and Mr. Light attempted to transport the students to the hotel. After spending the night, as well as staying up too late, they hurried to eat breakfast, then proceeding to the site of the tryouts. After warming up their horns (they had been in twenty degree weather for a while), each person tried out in their selected area. After many hours, the results were in: Cliff Jenks (junior) in the symphonic band, and Autumn Pate and David Carmichael in the Concert Band (both sophomores). This was the first time in two years since anyone has made this band. Congratulations to those who made it, and all that attended!!!

## Sophomore Pate in All-State

Cliff Jenks  
Staff/Sports Writer

Sophomore Autumn Pate is the January Band Member of the Month. Her two years in the band have been extremely fruitful. Her accomplishments include: 3rd chair in the All-State Concert Band, twice recommended for the All-State tryouts, 3rd chair in the High School All-District, Freshman All-District Band, and a superior solo at the KMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival. Pate is also a member of the Lone

Oak Kentucky Colonel Marching Band.

"Autumn is an outstanding student who is willing and able to handle anything and everything asked of her musically," said Mr. Light.

On her future in band, Pate said, "I hope to better myself as a musician and to become the best leader I can for others in the future." Finally, Pate would like to thank Mr. Light and all the upperclassmen for, "showing me what band pride really is." Congratulations, Autumn!


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## Jackson and Ruoff receive both "Senior" and "LOHS" titles

By Chrystal Galloway  
Editor-in-Chief

Even though it was a great honor to receive Miss LOHS and Miss Senior, most students would agree that Paige Ruoff's title as "Best All Around" fits her much better. It seems like everyone knows and loves Paige, and for good reason. If Paige had a sports team, its mascots would be Pooh Bear and Tigger (which happens to be her cat's name). Not to say that sweet is her only talent. She is also a Governor's Scholar, a National Merit Commended Student, Beta Club President, a member of FBLA, Key Club, and FCA as well as an Honor Student and an Outstanding Student. If you think that is impressive, the Perfect Attendance Award is pretty much over the top. She feels that she was awarded Miss Senior because "I'm not one of those incredibly radical people, I'm friends with a wide variety of people." As for receiving the Miss LOHS award, she feels that it was



Paige Ruoff with her lovable cat, Tigger.

*The greatest honors a school can bestow upon its students are Mr. and Miss Senior and Mr. and Miss LOHS. This year, the class of '96 was fortunate to have two students who shone brightly enough to be given both titles. Paige Ruoff and Craig Jackson, much like peanut butter and jelly, are two wonderful entities found rarely without each other. Possessing intelligence, dedication, and personality, they represent everything good about LOHS.*

because "I try to be really personable with teachers. It's probably because both of my parents are teachers; I understand they are real people."

Her father is Bob Ruoff, who many of you know as the principal of the Paducah Tilghman Trade School. Her mother, Nancy Walker Ruoff, teaches first grade at Cooper Whiteside Elementary. She claims that since the proverbial "they" canceled Northern Exposure, she refuses to watch TV. Her favorite music is usually from soundtracks. "My two favorite Christmas presents were the soundtracks to Phantom of the Opera and Rocky Horror Picture Show." Much like Craig, Paige has a thing for Mexican food, especially Vegetarian Dinner C at Los Amigos. Her favorite memories of high school include her freshman advanced English class, anything involving Mr. Toy, the numerous trips to see Tommy and her St. Patrick's Day/Fox and the Hound party.

She feels that her "high school experience" has made her a more aggressive person. "I don't tiptoe around people anymore. I speak my mind. I have also learned to take most things into my own hands. You can't rely on other people to do things for you." One of her most influential teachers was Mrs. Werner, who taught her Gifted and

Talented classes that "...it was ok to be a thinking person, it was good for us to share opinions." She hopes to continue her education at University of Kentucky, with a pre-veterinary major and on to graduate school at Auburn. "One of my best times



Senior Craig Jackson, lounging around the house in his comfortable mode.

this year has been dissecting my cat in Anatomy and Physiology. I was so afraid I would be grossed out and have to change my career goals."

Paige's words of wisdom? "Try to always stay optimistic, try not to pick out the bad things in other people. Focus on their attributes. Don't think you are better than people, because they will prove you wrong."

Not only is he Mr. LOHS and Mr. Senior, he also has the coolest facial hair in this school. The scruffage in question belongs to the one and only Mr. Steven Craig Jackson, a senior of outstanding academic talent as well as honor and nobility. Mr. LOHS is chosen on the basis of teacher nominations, and Mr. Senior is chosen by the student body. "I feel that the staff chose me because I have always worked hard and been a committed student. I have always given respect where respect is due." He believes that the award is based more on a student's good attitude than grades. On receiving Mr. Senior, Craig felt the main reason he got it was because "not many people voted." Joking aside, "I haven't closed myself off to people, I haven't confined myself to a certain little 'clique.' I mostly just hang out with a very diverse group of people I really like. I don't alienate people."

His parents are Steven and Brenda Jackson, a lawyer and a paralegal. One of his best friends is his sister, Lucy, who is an

eighth grader at LOMS. He doesn't watch much television, but admits to really liking the Discovery Channel and occasionally MTV. His favorite movie and book is Dune. His favorite bands are U2, Afghan Whigs, and Fugazi. However, "Definitely, one of my top favorite things to do in the world is eating. I really love cheese...all dairy and grain products, actually." He covets El Maguey, especially the Quesadilla Mexicana. All of those wonderfully soft and cozy courderoys and wool sweaters he wears are mainly GAP, though he has a taste for obscure band T-shirts.

His achievements in high school include being Vice President of Beta Club, a Governor's Scholar, Historian and Secretary

of the Art Club, and being voted Most Unforgettable by the senior class. He also placed in the Foreign Language Festival's Spanish Written category, 1st his freshman year and 2nd his sophomore year. His favorite memories in high school are of all the Beta Conventions and Mr. Werner's 9th grade Advanced English class. His favorite teachers include Mrs. Masden, Mr. Baker, Mr. Toy, and Mr. Werner, though he stresses that they aren't the only teachers who have influenced him. "I used to be almost on the shy side, but with the help of Mr. Toy, the school play my sophomore year (Lizzie Borden of Fall River) and Footlights, I really opened up. Now I'm not hesitant to be in the middle of things; I'm less inhibited." One of his joys in life is playing the guitar, which he began his freshman year. He is currently in a band with Mitch Stallons and Benjamin Bolton called Shai Fu Shite. At time he was a Wandering Bob.

As for his future, which is certain to be interesting, he hopes to attend Washington University in St. Louis with his girlfriend, Susan Bongiolatti, who is a freshman there. They have been together for almost two and a half years. His goals in life are like many people's, he just wants to be happy. "Love makes me happy," he grins. And everyone would be happy if they took some of his advice, creed's he lives by, "If you learn anything in high school, learn who you really are and be that person. Don't be afraid to be a little crazy or wacky. If that's who you are, then so be it."

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## Boys and girls basketball teams both pick up key victories

by Blake Vandermeulen & Andy Harris  
Sports Writers

### Boys

Despite a 1-9 start to the season, the LOHS boys basketball team has shown a great amount of improvement throughout the season. Two of the last four games have gone into overtime, with one ending in a two point loss to top-seeded Pope County in the Eldorado Holiday Tournament. The other overtime game was a district battle with Heath. The Flash ended a nine game losing streak by beating Murray at home 75-66.

Coach Wallace had this to say about the first ten games, "Even though we are 1-9, I feel pretty good. Of course, I would be happier with some wins, but we knew this would be sort of a rebuilding year after graduating four starters." Wallace said his club has made great strides defensively and has cut down on turnovers. He said the team must get better offensively in order for some

wins to come their way.

Wallace said every player has played well at times, but the trio of Donnie Stone, Josh Long, and Chad Kirk have been depended on the most.

Even though the Flash are off to a slow start, Wallace said his team still feels they have a chance to get back to the regional tournament.

There has been no make-up date scheduled for the January 9th game against Carlisle which was cancelled due to bad weather. However the December 8th game against Reidland has been moved to February 3rd.

### Girls

The Lone Oak girls basketball team has struggled so far this season to live up to their high expectations for this season. After winning their first game of the season, the Lady Flash lost five straight games. But now they have rebounded from their slow start with two straight victories over Heath



Danielle Roberts shoots over a Ballard player in the McDonald's Tournament.

and St. Mary to improve their record to 3-5.

Despite the slow start, head coach Steve Cobb is still pleased with his team's

performance. "Our schedule is as tough as anyone in the region so our record is not what some might expect. But this team will be a factor before the season is over," he said.

Kristie Garrett leads the team scoring, with 13 points per game and averaging five boards a game. Kelly Sanders had a big 12 point, 10 rebound performance in a win over district rival Heath, and Danielle Roberts played a pivotal role in a three-point win over St. Mary, netting 16. Sophomore center Amanda Mitchell has also had some big moments this year.

The name of the game for Lone Oak so far has been defense. The Lady Flash are giving up an average of just 47 points a game. That is the best defensive performance by any Lone Oak team since 1981. "Our rebounding and defense are certainly our strong points," said Cobb, "but if we're going to go far in the tournament, our shooting must get better."

# The greatest sports year ever???

by Blake Vandermeulen  
Sports/Staff Writer

The past year in sports was full of tremendous highs and lows. The unbreakable record was broken. Three of the most dominant athletes in their respective sports came back from extended absences. Dynasties continued and ended, and some new ones possibly began. After it all ended, we were left with what might have been the most exciting year in the history of sports.

Without a doubt, the story of the year was Cal Ripken, Jr. Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's unbreakable record of 2130 consecutive games played. The refreshing part of the story was that Ripken did it all with class. He received a thirty minute standing ovation from the hometown crowd that included the great Joe Dimaggio and President Clinton. During the ovation, Ripken took a lap around Camden Yards to say thank you to the fans and shake hands with some of them fortunate

enough to have a seat up front. ESPN broadcaster Chris Berman had this to say about the magical night. "It was a night that transcends sports, and there are not many of those. You knew where you were when man landed on the moon; I think we'll remember where we were for this game."

Michael Jordan rocked the basketball world with his return to the game he mastered. Jordan's simple press release of "I'm back" on March 18 was followed by a 22-point performance in his first game, which was an overtime loss at Indiana. Jordan went on to lead the Bulls to a 13-4 record in the seventeen games he played. During that seventeen game stretch, Jordan had the best performance by an NBA player all season. On March 28 Jordan electrified the Madison Square Garden crowd as he lit up his old nemesis the New York Knicks for 55 points and a Bulls victory. Despite a second round exit from the playoffs at the hands of the

Orlando Magic, Jordan once again assumed his throne on top of the sports world.

Along with Jordan, two of sports other brightest stars returned to the games they dominated. Monica Seles returned to the tennis court for the first time since the stabbing incident that left her with an injured shoulder and a shattered sense of security at her place of work. Seles' first tournament was the Canadian Open where she was seeded number one and went on to take the championship. In the U.S. Open, the only major event she played in during 1995, Seles lost to her fellow top seed Steffi Graf in the finals. Mike Tyson finally got out of prison and pummeled stiff competition like Peter McNeely, who gained about a million bucks and a Pizza Hut commercial.

There were actually some games played in 1995, and the following is a chronological account of the year's biggest and best games. Tom Osborne finally achieved a National

Championship as the Nebraska Cornhuskers defeated the Miami Hurricanes on their homefield in the Orange bowl. The San Francisco 49ers broke most of their own records as they blew out San Diego in the Super Bowl. This was the 49ers fifth Super Bowl victory, which also set a record. Jim Harrick got that monkey named the Wizard of Westwood off of his back as UCLA defeated Arkansas for the National Title. UConn capped a perfect season with a championship in women's hoops. The Houston Rockets held a Phi Slamma Jamma reunion on their way to their second straight NBA title. The city of Atlanta finally won a championship as the Braves beat the Indians in the World Series.

1995 was without a doubt one of the greatest years in the history of sports. 1996 holds many intriguing questions, but take my word for it, there won't be a year like 1995 for a long time.

## Celtics of the early sixties don't compare to the '95-'96 Bulls

by Blake Vandermeulen  
Sports Writer

Comparing sports teams from different eras is pretty risky business. Fans of a formerly dominant team or detractors of a current team on top will always have reasons to explain why a team of the past is superior to a current team. The 1995-96 Chicago Bulls are off to a 30-3 start and are on track to break the Lakers record of 69 wins. The 30-3 start translates into a winning percentage above 90, and if the Bulls continue at this pace, they will end up with 75 victories and only seven losses. With this torrid start, the

question of, "Is this the greatest team ever?" has become a sports cliché. But, should they be compared to the Boston teams of the late fifties and early sixties?

With Michael Jordan once again leading the league in scoring (barring any unforeseen incidents or another retirement, he will win his eighth scoring title), and Dennis Rodman continuing to dominate the competition on the boards, the Bulls are definitely a championship caliber team. When you throw in Scottie Pippen, the best all-around player in the game today, Chicago instantly becomes one of the greatest ever.

The Bulls are certainly a great team and deserve all of the attention they are getting; however, they shouldn't be compared with the Celtics teams of days gone by. There are simply no connections between these two teams or the league they played in. The Celts, led by dominant big man Bill Russell and backcourt whizzes Bob Cousy and John Havlicek, won eight straight titles in their hay day. However, they made no three week long west coast road trips and games on consecutive nights were a rarity. The players of the league also lacked the physical and

athletic ability of today's players.

The current edition of the Bulls also has some advantages the Celtics didn't enjoy. Most notable is expansion. The NBA has expanded a number of times in the last thirty years, and the result is a watered-down talent pool that could possibly make a very good team look legendary.

When it's all said and done, there is no argument. So the next time someone asks you who the greatest team ever is, just reply, "There is no comparison," and leave it at that.

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To be eligible for this honor, submit your band name(s) along with your full name to Chrystal Galloway, Shawna William, or Ann-Meredith McNeill. We appreciate all submissions and the time and effort of those involved. Good Luck... Now, Go be Cool!!!

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