

Clinton makes campaign stop in Paducah

by Ashley Small
Editorial Editor

On Friday August 30, quite a historic event took place in Paducah. President Clinton came to visit and campaign for votes. As one can only imagine, down town was packed full of people dying to get a glimpse of not just the President and the First Lady, but also Al and Tipper Gore. The fact that Clinton and Gore were together was quite an extraordinary event in itself, since normally they do not travel together for safety and campaigning reasons.

Paducah welcomed Clinton and company with open arms, with the exception of the tobacco farmers, upset by his recent legislation. Red, white and blue covered most of the busy streets, and even those who weren't Clinton/Gore supporters couldn't help but catch the patriotic fever.

The rally at the riverfront was scheduled to begin at 8:30, but, as expected, there was a wait. The audience was notified that, "President Clinton is only 30 minutes behind schedule." This announcement was in error because it was 10:30 before our faithful leader arrived at the Riverfront. To pass



Clinton and Gore greet their supporters.

Photo by M. Upshaw

time, the Murray State band played an array of music, while everything from the "Macarena" to "Respect" blared out from several enormous speakers.

When President Clinton finally arrived it was evident that the effect of standing for 3-4 hours without water had taken its toll on much of the crowd. Nonetheless, there were still screams of support and a ton of signs

waving in the air. Clinton spoke on several different topics, from welfare to increasing educational opportunities. Basically, he echoed much of what he stated during his speech at the Democratic Convention.

Following his speech an array of unbelievable fireworks exploded into the sky announcing the end of this celebrated event.

Governor's Scholars is "an awesome experience"



Photo by A. Harris

Governor's Scholars Nikki Key, Lee Titsworth, Julie Thrasher, Marty Rudd and Anu Manchikanti

by Lucy Jackson
Staff Writer

The summer after their junior year, selected students are able to attend a five-week, state-sponsored program called GSP. The participants were Anu Manchikanti and Nikki Key, who both focused in social, political, and economic theory; Lee

Titsworth, in drama; Marty Rudd, in astronomy; and Julie Thrasher, in math. Kids from all over the state attend this program at one of two colleges and stay in the dorms on campus. Usually, there are between two and four students that go from LOHS. Last summer, the program was held at Centre College and Northern Kentucky University.

The Governor's Scholars Program gives honor students the opportunity to learn about a subject or area that is usually not offered in their high school. The class that they chose was their "focus area", although they were assigned to a seminar group and a problem-solving class. In the seminar group, students discussed different issues and ideas. In the problem-solving class, they learned different problem-solving techniques and did community service. During each week, the scholars spent approximately eleven hours in the main class, six in the problem-solving class, and three in the seminar group.

In order to participate in this program, a student must first get a certain score on the PSAT. If they accomplish this, they can then apply to the program. The application consists of a basic form. Students applying must also write an essay and get two teachers' recommendations. The applications are then sent on to the Board of Education, where the number is narrowed down. Finally, the remaining applications are sent to the Governor Scholars Program, where the participants are chosen.

Not only does this program offer an excellent learning experience, but it also

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gives the students a chance to build friendships with people who often share the same interests and have the same basic potential in the area of academics. With plenty of free time, there is a great chance to meet and really get to know people.

"It's amazing how close everyone got in five weeks. I don't think anyone realized it until closing day. Everyone was crying and didn't want to leave. I'm still in touch with a lot of people, and we're planning road trips and reunions. We write letters all the time, and I think there are a couple people that I'll probably be friends with for a long time. That's what makes GSP so awesome," stated Manchikanti when asked about the social aspect of the program.

Campaign '96: A Closer Look

Democrats are "building a bridge" to four more years

by Andy Harris
Co-Editor-in-Chief

"Building a bridge to the twenty-first century and building a gap in the polls"—that's the new motto for the Democrats and Bill Clinton. Following an extremely successful convention in Chicago, the Clinton-Gore ticket has once again widened their lead in the presidential polls.

One reason for the success of the Democratic Convention was the incredible performance of Al Gore. Like Mark McGwire at Fenway Park, he hit a home run with delegates and viewers alike. From the lighter moments of his speech—the Al Gore "Macarena"—to the more serious moments, such as the touching tribute to his sister, who

died of lung cancer as a result of smoking, he had Democrats dreaming of a Gore presidency in the year 2000.

On the heels of his Chicago success, the President immediately started on a bus tour that passed through our region. Clinton hit hard on a number of key issues, including education and family values, in an attempt to sway undecided voters.

It hasn't been all smooth sailing for Clinton and Gore, though. The president signed two controversial bills, welfare reform and tobacco legislation, into law. These bills were a long time coming but nonetheless struck a nerve with much of the American public. And that's only the beginning. The Democratic Party as a whole received a black eye when Clinton adviser Dick Morris

was exposed by *The Star* as having been involved in a sex scandal with a prostitute. The woman claimed to have listened in on several of the president's phone conversations.

Even with all the negative publicity coming out of the Democratic camp, Clinton can't help but be pleased with the way his re-election effort is going. With a twenty-plus point lead in the polls, he begins something he does better than anyone else—face-to-face campaigning with the people.

Now Campaign '96 literally hits the campaign trail. If Clinton can recapture the magic of his 1992 campaign, there will be a Democrat in the White House for four more years.

What you said...

Here are the results of a recent poll of LOHS students on the 1996 presidential election:

Bob Dole	143	31.2%
Bill Clinton	91	19.7%
Ross Perot	75	16.4%
Undecided	149	32.7%

Thank you for participating in our unscientific poll.

Republicans send Dole and Kemp on a mission to gain the White House

by Jason Carroll
Sports Editor

Bob Dole and Jack Kemp are hitting the campaign trail with a mission, to win the White House. After an enormous boost from the Republican Convention, Dole has now closed to within twenty points of Bill Clinton.

Bob Dole throughout the race has shown

his extreme will to win. Whether it be giving up his seat in the Senate that he has held for more than 20 years or selecting a running mate with a reputation as more of a moderate than an extremist, Dole is putting out his best effort. And with a woman giving the main speech at the Republican Convention, Dole has scored some points with the female voters.

Some key issues that the Republicans have

addressed are abortion and tobacco. Dole began the race by making what some considered a fatal mistake when he supported cigarettes. Dole said that he believed smoking cigarettes is not addictive; however, he did not encourage smoking due to the health risks, to which Clinton has struck back with tough restrictions against cigarette advertising and sales to minors. Dole has

also drawn criticism for his strong Pro-life views from some members in the party, such as Pete Wilson, who also opposes Dole on his stand of illegal immigration.

But with the momentum of Jack Kemp as his nominee, Dole still has hope of completing his mission as he hits the campaign trail. But will Dole-Kemp in '96 be a *Mission Impossible*?

Perot gives the presidency another shot

by Ann-Meredith McNeill
Coroner

On August 18, 1996 Ross Perot triumphed over Senator Richard Lamm in winning the Reform Party presidential nomination. Although he's not expected to get even 10% of the vote (he received 19% in 1992), he's still enough of a threat to the standard Republican/Democrat government system to keep Clinton and Dole glancing over their shoulders.

While it is difficult to obtain Perot's platform, he has been very adamant about

balancing the budget, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service along with the North American Free Trade Agreement, while remaining very vague about mainstream issues such as abortion, welfare, education and drugs. His running mate, economist Pat Choate, isn't speaking out on the "major" topics, either, but is just as resolute as Perot about NAFTA.

It is rather safe to say that Perot will not win this November, but he is still an unwavering intimidation to the two-party system to keep Dole and Clinton just a bit paranoid.

The Oak K Staff

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Thrills, spills, and drills: LOHS renovation is underway

by Ashley Small
Editorial Editor

The long-awaited renovation is underway at LOHS. It may, in fact, be difficult to see how much work has actually been accomplished. Phase I - the remodeling of E building - is nearing completion and Phase II - the new classrooms along College Avenue - is due to be finished by January.

According to Mr. Adams, "there have been lots of surprises," since the construction commenced. Before all of LOHS gets too excited, there haven't been any dead bodies found sealed up in the walls, just a few minor surprises that as Mr. Adams put it, "have been more time consuming than anything."

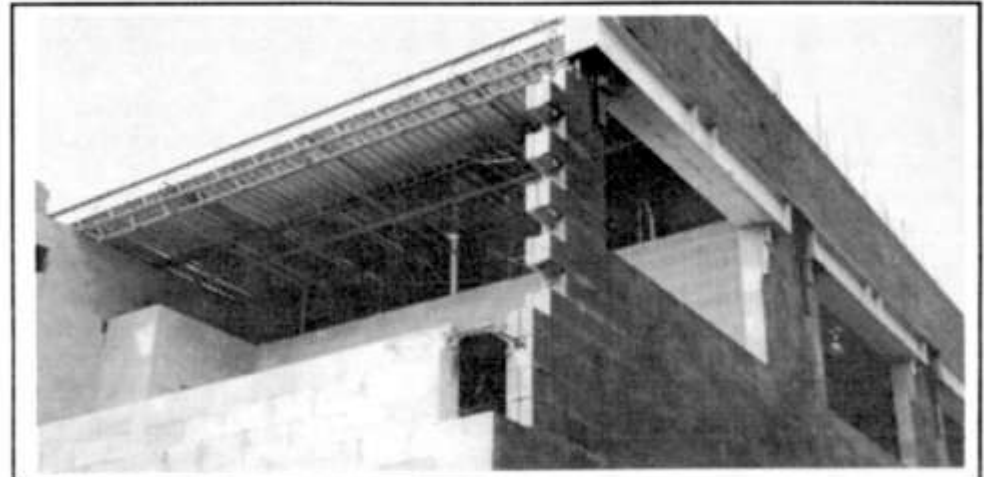
These minor surprises though, have to lead up to some larger problems. Mrs. Hayden described the damage to the new art room, "We've lost seven packages of

posterboard, three packages of expensive charcoal paper and several water color papers. A window did fall out and shatter in the middle of class. Not to mention, several student projects, and our new cabinets have been warped by the recent rain."

Mrs. Stubblefield said, "Teaching with the construction has been a real challenge. We have no appliances yet and some of our cabinets have no doors. Also, we have been interrupted by saws, drills and part of the ceiling fell out."

These problems are causing a bit of uncertainty as to the safety of this school, but Mr. Adams assures that safety is one of his top priorities.

The words to live by during this construction, as Mrs. Hayden put it is, "Look towards the future. There are a lot of problems, but they will eventually be corrected as time goes on."



Can you picture this as a bustling classroom full of activity? Photo by A. Harris

Lone Oak High School goes hi-tech with *LOHS Online*

J.R. Young
Features Editor

As hard as it may be to believe, Lone Oak is finally exiting the nineteenth century. With the renovation of the school, so comes new technology. Perhaps the most useful of this new technology is the library's connection to the Internet. By the time these words grace your eyes, Lone Oak's website *LOHS Online* (<http://www.apex.net/users/lohs>) should be up and running. So what does this mean to you?

First of all, have you ever been at home working on that tough research paper and needed some quotable facts quickly? *LOHS Online* contains links to websites all over the world that can provide you with the information you need. Read USA Today, watch CNN, and research at the Library of Congress, all from the comfort of the computer.

Need information on receiving financial aid for college? On *LOHS Online*, you'll find several links to sites offering financial aid and even banks offering loans! You can

also find information on different scholarships.

All that's only the tip of the iceberg though. You can read a calendar of events occurring at LOHS. Sports fans can find the schedules of Lone Oak sports online. You can also find a listing of the faculty and staff, club information, and links to the websites of your fellow LOHS students.

So how can you log on? *LOHS Online* was designed to be user-friendly, with all types of web browsers, and compatible with all online services. If you have an internet connection at home, you can log on there. If you do not, you may try it out in the school library. Mrs. Metzger would be more than happy to help you out, all you need to do is get your parents to sign a permission slip agreeing that you will follow the list of rules.

This writer is the site maintainer, along with help from Derek Seltzer. So the next time you're surfing the net, stop by *LOHS Online*. It's your voice in cyberspace!

E-mail address for LOHS is
lohs@apex.net

Log on at
<http://www.apex.net/users/lohs>



FFA's champion welders: Josh Bardin, Matt Thomasson, Russ Hurley and Clint Lawrence Photo by H. Wood

Art Department: full speed ahead

by Ann-Meredith McNeill
Coroner

The art department has been in a flurry of activity since the start of school. Aside from adjusting to the no supplies/no air-conditioning dilemma, the Art classes were painting the face of the President on a welcome banner for the Clinton rally. As of late they have been creating posters for Team Spirit '96—a contest which promotes traffic safety along with a substance-free lifestyle. Mrs. Hayden is also planning the yearly Art Club/Biology Club trip to

Chicago, which will take place later on in the school year. In order to go on this wild and crazy art extravaganza, you must become a member of the Art Club by paying ten dollars to Mrs. Hayden. As always there is the biggest local art event of the season—Teen Spirit at Yeiser Art Center. It is not mandatory to be in an Art class to enter this prestigious event. Categories in this competition include: photography, watercolour, acrylic, jewelry, sculpture, and many more. See Mrs. Hayden for any details on any of the above-mentioned events.

Lone Oak continues welding dynasty: 6th State Title in a row

by Megan Williams
Staff Writer

The FFA won their sixth State Welding Championship in August at the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville. Lone Oak defeated Fleming County by 32 points in the State Finals. They won not only the team championship, but also the state individual welding contest. The individual competition was won by Clint Lawrence. Other members who represented Lone Oak were Josh Bardin, Matt Thomasson, Russ Hurley and Lawrence.

"One of the reasons the championship in

welding is such an honor is because it requires new members each year, and the team must also win the region to advance to the state competition," said Mr. Woods, the FFA's advisor. Any team that wins a state championship in welding also earns the right to represent Kentucky in the Mid-South Welding Contest in Memphis, Tennessee. This is the highest honor a team can receive in high school welding, and Lone Oak has earned it every year the team has represented Kentucky, this being the eighth year. Congratulations to the champion welders and the FFA on their sixth State Welding Championship!

Berens, Harris & Jenks named National Merit Semifinalists

by Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Lone Oak seniors Andy Berens, Andy Harris, and Cliff Jenks have achieved National Merit Semifinalist status. Semifinalists are designated by taking the 1995 PSAT, a test that served as a screen for students. The scores were used to narrow down the pool to about 15,000 students. The highest scorers in each state, about one-half of one percent, are recognized by the Merit Program. In order to confirm their high scores and become Finalists, the Semifinalists must take the SAT I by November 2.

What does all this mean? The Merit Program is conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), a self-funded, non-profit organization. NMSC itself offers a total of two thousand \$2,000

scholarships. But beyond that, becoming a Finalist makes a student eligible for 1,100 corporate-sponsored and 3,900 college-sponsored scholarships. This status makes colleges aware of the high-caliber of these students, giving them much better scholarship opportunities. On this honor, Harris said, "The scholarship money I am eligible to receive as a result of this recognition has allowed me to seek admission to colleges that I might not have been able to afford before."

In early February, LOHS will be notified whether these students' SAT scores qualify them as Finalists. In the spring, scholarship offers will be mailed to the qualifying students. "During my tenure at LOHS (24 years), only once before has there been three Semifinalists," said counselor Dennis Griffith. "Judging from these students' previous SAT scores, I feel that they have a very good chance of becoming Finalists."



Photo by A. Manchikanti

Andy Berens, Andy Harris and Cliff Jenks

Academic team prepares for stellar season



Photo by Mr. Toy

Jessica Buckelew, Justin Young, Julie Thrasher, Lee Titsworth, Anu Manchikanti, Zach Mille and Brent Turner. Not pictured: Trey Swacker and Suzannah Stoll

by J.R. Young
Features Editor

The rites of autumn: football season, leaves fall from the trees, and the sound of buzzers fill the air. Lone Oak's academic team has been formed, and the season has begun. Mr. Toy and Ms. Underhill are busy rallying their players into a lean, mean, buzzing machine.

The Varsity team is made up of Lee Titsworth (12), Brent Turner (12), Anu Manchikanti (12), Julie Thrasher (12), Zach Miller (12), Justin Young (11), Jessica Buckelew (11), Suzannah Stoll (11) and Trey Swacker (11). This season, the Varsity team is hoping to better their outstanding record of 18-6 from last year.

The Junior Varsity team is made up of Janie Toy (10) Ben Sanderson (10), Shane Hook (10), Sunil Manchikanti (10) and Rachel Gearhart (9).

When asked if he felt the academic team

receives the respect it deserves, Mr. Toy replied, "The people who compete on academic team have personal reasons. They go in knowing that it is not a 'high profile' activity." To the question of how he felt about the future of the academic team, he replied, "We will always have an academic team. Currently, some people are choosing other activities. However, I don't beg people to play. The most successful team I ever had made academic team their priority. I don't see that sort of commitment any more."

Both teams have started this season with success. The Varsity team opened with a 2-0 record after beating both Heath and Crittenden County. The Junior Varsity team opened with a 1-1 record after losing one game to Heath and beating Crittenden County.

As Mr. Toy put it, "Our goal is to advance to the State Governor's Cup competition." It appears they are well on their way to accomplishing that goal.

The colonels "pop step" into action

by Estee Cheah
Staff Writer

It seems like each fall, the Kentucky Colonel Marching Band has their calendar filled to the brim with contests, concerts, football games, parades and other events to appear in. This year, the band is doing exceptionally well with band captain Cliff Jenks, field commanders Jennifer Vorbeck and Carrie Robinson and numerous section leaders leading the way. Of course, the band couldn't have done it without help and guidance from Mr. Light, the band and drill director; Stephanie Ford, color guard instructor; Ron Cowherd, assistant director; and Chad Alward, the percussion instructor.

The band has been working almost non-stop, practicing everyday after school. They have been working hard for a reason: and that is to perfect their show for 1996, "Swing Kids." *Swing Kids* was a 1993 movie of a true-story on German teenagers who enjoyed listening, dancing, and performing swing music during WWII in the 1940's.

The music that the Colonels are performing was specially arranged for them by Jon Cowherd. The color guard is dressed in various fashions of the 1940's. Several props are placed on the field to give it more

of a stage presence. The tune to kickoff the show is "Arvid Beaten/Swing Heil." The second selection is "Sing, Sing, Sing," a groovelious tune that guarantees the audience will get up and stomp their feet to the beat. "Bismarck" is the third piece, which is a morbid selection chosen to reflect the war-torn times of World War II. Between the second and third song, the band features a special bombing sequel to add excitement to the show. They close with "Bei Mir Bist Du Schon," which is another example of swing music.

The Colonel's first appearance was at the first home football game on Friday, August 30th. One of the most important event of the season for the band was the 20th annual Lone Oak Invitational Band Contest, held on September 7th at Flash Field. The week after that, they traveled to Madisonville to compete with some tough competition.

The Kentucky Colonels will also be traveling to Heath, Reidland, Bowling Green and other neighboring counties to compete in upcoming contests. They will, however, still be here to support the football team and to perform during halftime at all home games. It seems like, once again, it will be a successful season for the Colonels. Good luck, guys! Lone Oak supports you all the way!!

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Lone Oak students rise to national level in business

by Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

This past summer, two Lone Oak students rose to the national level of competition in free enterprise. In March, Lee Titsworth and Jennifer Atherton were chosen as delegates to the state seminar, with Stephanie Hamlett as an alternate because of their high scores on a series of quizzes. Ten juniors attended the American Private Enterprises Seminar here in Paducah. From June 18-21, Atherton and Hamlett attended the conference in Lexington on UK's campus, although Titsworth declined. Around 150 Kentucky students attended this event. Here, the attendees were separated into boards. Each board competed with the others in solving board cases. An example of a case is a corporation was in a bad financial situation, so the board had to make a plan and take steps to secure it. Individually, they took a comprehensive test on the principles of cooperatives and cooperations. Because

of their performances on this test, Atherton and Hamlett were able to advance to the national level. Atherton also received a \$300 scholarship because of her outstanding score.

At the national conference in St. Louis, August 5-8, there were nearly a thousand people in attendance, with members of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and Future Farmers of America, including LOHS student Willie Gholson. Once again, the students were divided into groups, but this time, they opened a co-op and sold products to each other. These teams also participated in a computer simulation of a cooperation, in which Hamlett's team placed 2nd overall. In addition to these activities, they were able to attend a St. Louis Cardinals game and visit the Gateway Arch.

"I met so many people from all over the country," said Hamlett on the experience. "I made a lot of new friends and really gained knowledge about the cooperative business world."



Jennifer Atherton and Stephanie Hamlett

Photo by A. Manchikanti

Seniors experience a week of government and fun

by Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

During the week of June 9-14, seniors Nikki Key and Anu Manchikanti represented LOHS at the 50th session of Kentucky Girls State at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Kentucky. Girls State, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, is basically a mock government of a fictional 51st state in which girls run for office at state and city levels and participate in sessions of the House and Senate, where bills, written by the attendees, are debated. Each girl was assigned to a party, either the Nationalists or Federalists, that contrived their own platforms. But it is also so much more. Girls State is an opportunity for Kentucky girls to really get to know each other "without the distractions of the boys," as director Mary Schoborg put it; as much as they despised that fact, it was the general consensus of the participants that the 50th

session was a very worthy experience.

Both girls took an active role in the program. Manchikanti and Key were both National representatives in the House. Key ran for Attorney General, winning the Nationalist primary. Manchikanti was elected commissioner of news and also wrote for the newspaper. Memorable moments include discovery of the joys of college cafeteria food, the bus rides to and from Cumberland, late nights talking, the final banquet, and karaoke, described as "the most fun 200 girls can have without any guys!"

Admitting to having bad attitudes going into the program, just based on what girls who had previously had attended said, Manchikanti and Key were both pleasantly surprised. "I really didn't want to go and whined about it the whole week before," said Key. "But after I got there and got involved, it was a really great experience, and I'm glad I got the opportunity to go."



Nikki and Anu boogie down to "Respect" on karaoke night



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Is sex the toughest level to beat?

J.R. Young
Features Editor

It is no secret that the world of video games has long been one dominated by the influence of young teenage males. However, no longer is this completely the truth as more and more girls pick up controllers to take control of Mario, Sonic, and Crash. Still, game companies seem to be ignoring this growing trend. Instead, young girls are continually bombarded by pictures of scantily clad women in games.

In the golden age of the eighties when Nintendo and Mario ruled supreme and parents lined up in toy stores to buy their kids the latest copy of the hot new game, none of this seemed a problem. Indeed, games of those days rarely involved women at all,

except in the role of the helpless princess that the dashing hero must rescue. Regardless of their impressions that women are helpless, these games did little to defame women.

Then came the nineties and with the advent of high powered game systems and CD-ROM technology came an insurgence of older gamers who demanded more risqué titles. The trend of dressing women in games in tight outfits, or for that matter hardly no clothes at all, began with the popularity of fighting games. Street Fighter II, the granddaddy of all fighting games, began this trend when its solo female character turned up in the game wearing a tight top and stockings. Ever since this, fighting games have been stripping more and more clothes off of the female characters up to the

point of dressing them in nothing more than bikinis in newer titles. However, do not think this trend exclusive to fighting games; almost every genre of games have been invaded by this trend. For example, in the arcade shooter hit *Revolution X*, one area in the game features nearly nude women dancing in cages. Also, one of this year's biggest PC hits *Duke Nukem 3D* also features scantily clad women dancing. Gaming giant SEGA pulled the game *Night Trap* from the shelves three years ago after complaints of a video scene where a woman was raped and killed filtered into the media. Surely in the nineties, a time when the sexes are presumed to be equal, such acts like these could not be going on? They are, and they seem to be getting worse.

So what does this all mean to you? Well,

if you're a girl you should be infuriated by now. Write letters to the gaming companies telling them that you do not approve of these games. Most companies are very controversy cautious and do not want any bad publicity. If you just want to avoid these games, use the self imposed rating system that game publishers now use. This system will tell you if the game is suitable for all ages, teens, or mature audiences. Most important of all, don't buy the game! If you find a game offensive, nothing will speak louder to game publishers than low sales. For years our society has placed great emphasis on the content found in movies--now the time has come for the same emphasis to be placed on the games we play.

Joe Camel might be a character of the past

by Megan Williams
Staff Writer

Joe Camel will no longer be a familiar billboard face if Clinton's new plan is approved. President Clinton intends to prohibit cigarette companies from using characters such as Joe Camel in advertising because they seem to be targeting teenagers. Other regulations include: signs advertising tobacco products are not allowed

in ballparks, tobacco companies may not sponsor athletic events, such as tennis tournaments and tobacco billboards must be written in black and white. The intention of all these regulations is to keep cigarettes out of the hands of minors.

These regulations have many Kentuckians in an uproar because they feel the regulations will hurt the sale of tobacco and may even lead to the ban of cigarettes totally. In

fact, Kentucky is so angry that it is suing the federal government, arguing that the Food and Drug Administration has no authority to regulate tobacco. Many Kentuckians depend on the sale of tobacco to put food on their table. Tobacco is Kentucky's leading cash crop. It was valued at \$561 million last year alone.

Personally, I think these regulations are a good idea. More stringent laws concern-

ing the sale of tobacco are needed in Kentucky because the laws that the state government enacted earlier this year have had minimal effects. Since adults are the major consumers of tobacco products, I don't believe that these new regulations will hurt the sale of tobacco or Kentucky's farmers. However, these regulations do intend to stop minors from purchasing tobacco products and I believe that is the right thing to do.

Exemption policy still not perfect

by Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

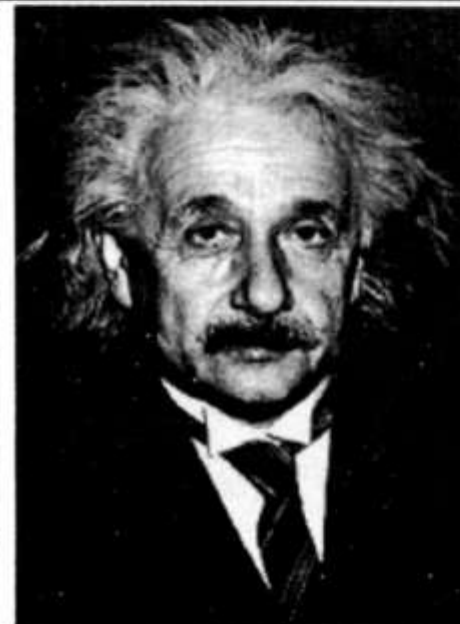
The new policy for exemption from semester exams is a much needed improvement on the system, requiring students to maintain an A or B before bypassing the test. In the past, any student who had no more than two excused absences and was satisfied with his grade was exempt from the final exams. The only thing is it's still not too great. I, like many seniors, have been exposed to the exemption process since my freshman year. So, it's possible that when I go to college, I may never have taken a comprehensive final exam.

In many college courses, there are only two grades the entire semester - the midterm and the final examination. It's going to be quite a stressful experience, learning to study for 5 or 6 college level exams over an entire semester's work. It's not going to be something that will automatically be learned, but that's going to take planning.

The entire agenda policy arose in order to raise attendance. Personally, I'm scared enough about going off to a school in a city where I don't know anyone. This added pressure to learn from scratch how to study over an entire semester for a comprehensive exam could be avoided.

It's really wonderful that the school is able to earn more money due to the high attendance rate, but it's kind of ridiculous if it will hurt its students in the long run. I'll admit that exemption is a nice prelude to Christmas and summer vacation, allowing students to start relaxing even earlier, but isn't it more important to learn these much needed study skills? Most students who are rewarded are those who come to school anyway. If a student is going to have an unexcused absence, they automatically must take finals in the first place. So, basically, most college-bound students at LOHS are the ones who are exempt.

I agree - students should be motivated and have incentives to come to school. But isn't it part of a high school's job to prepare its students for further education? There has to be a better way to encourage students to come to school. Instead of exemption from final exams, maybe students with high attendance can be given bonus points. Maybe teachers could give students the chance to take the test without hurting their average, just for the practice, or possibly give student quarter exams. There are hundreds of simple things that can be done to reward or prepare students, such as free days. Why not choose one that will benefit a student's education?



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FAA "safety" requirements remain questionable

by Emily Riggs
Staff Writer

Many have heard about the crash of TWA Flight 800 off Long Island that has made terrorism the air-safety issue of the moment. But investigators studying this spring's ValuJet crash have stumbled upon a safety problem that may be even a greater threat - poorly trained mechanics with questionable records.

Supposedly, the mechanics receive certain requirements and pass tests before they are certified. The certification process is as follows: mechanics must first demonstrate they have had proper experience or training.

The FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) requires that applicants either attend an FAA-approved aviation maintenance school for 1,900 hours or work for 30 months as an apprentice mechanic. The next step is to pass a series of written tests. Finally, airplane mechanics must take oral and practice exams, demonstrating hands-on knowledge and skills.

There appears to be abuses at every stage. According to information received from American Online, a veteran FAA flight safety instructor said, "We're handing out mechanic's certificates like bubble gum today." Basically, he's stating that anyone can get a certificate. How can someone

with barely any knowledge get an A&P license in the U.S. if the FAA forbids it? Well, according to an FAA flight safety instructor, it's easy. "You lie your way through the FAA's 'rigid' licensing procedures. It happens all the time." If certain procedures are required, then why aren't they followed? That is just one of the many questions I have about the so-called FAA procedures. It sounds to me that just anyone can get a license at any time and not have to be certified. It's no wonder why all these planes are crashing. It seems like they would learn. The most basic requirement is to be able to read, write and understand English. Continuing investigations of the ValuJet crash revealed that sev-

eral of the Spanish-speaking mechanics that did maintenance work for ValuJet lacked sufficient English. Well, let's see. One of the basic requirements for this job is to be able to understand English, but Spanish speaking mechanics worked on the plane that crashed. If the procedures are not followed correctly, then why even have any? Come on, It doesn't take a genius to figure it out. I am disappointed that the FAA is not handling the certification process correctly. Don't they know that they are risking the lives of many people? Maybe if the procedures and rules were enforced better there would be fewer plane crashes and more happy travelers.

Bolts and Strikes

Bolts

- **Girls soccer has a historical win over Reidland.
- **Coach McGroarty has brought the GSP tradition of Happy Fridays to LOHS.
- **The first issue of *The Oak K* has come out without any casualties.
- **Juniors and seniors never have to have school pictures taken again.

Strikes

- ** The NEW E-building flooded after a storm.
- **Seniors have to begin completing college applications.

Students kiss math portfolios goodbye

by Emily Williams
Staff Writer

What horror-ridden word has been dripping from the tip of every math teacher's tongue for the past several years? Come on, you know what evil word I'm talking about. It has been the most feared and dreaded word among Kentucky high school students ever since KERA put it into effect. It is the infamous, four-syllabled "PORTFOLIO!"

Oh, but fear no more, my fellow comrades. For the brilliant minds who control the Kentucky Educational Reform Act have decided that math portfolios, which were once the entire basis of our mathematical careers, are no longer mandatory. "What?" you say. "Can it be true? Can something that was shoved down our throats and dangled over our worried heads for so long suddenly be deemed unimportant?" That is exactly what I sought to uncover.

My initial purpose in doing this article was to prove that the KERA officials are confused individuals who get their kicks by playing clever little mind games with poor high school students and even the Lone Oak hierarchy of teachers and administrators. I mean, one minute the State tells us that if we don't do math portfolios, we won't graduate,

and the next minute, they are screaming at us to throw portfolios out the window. But instead of jumping to conclusions, I went to math teacher Ms. Masden, who was cluster leader for McCracken County, and hounded her for the whole scoop.

The official statement was that math portfolios took up too much teacher time and too much student time. However, Masden believes, "The criticism surrounding math portfolios pertaining to the subjectivity of the grading may have been what was pressuring KERA to rethink their portfolio plans." So in response to the ever-mounting judgement, the State decided to pull math portfolios (and *only* math portfolios) out of the high school curriculum for two years as they attempt to "streamline" the whole portfolio process.

I think it's a nice sentiment to want to make portfolios work in a less subjective and manipulative way because, in theory, KERA is a good idea (if only it worked as planned). But where does that leave us juniors and seniors? Unfortunately, it leaves us with a folder full of wasted time and effort. But, as the old saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining, so let's look on the bright side--at least we don't have to do them anymore.

Life is too short for petty hatred

by Ann-Meredith McNeill
Staff Writer

Aah, my very first editorial. I've thought long and hard about things that really annoy me and how to rant about them in a very professional way. But the truth is, as of now, I'm tired of raging about things that are petty or unchangeable. So I wanted to write another thing I've been meaning to--an open apology to all those I've wronged, crossed, or upset. Life is far too short for ridiculous and undeserved hatred.

This realization came to me over the summer. As many of you may or may not know, I went with Ms. Underhill's group to Europe. I got to see buildings older than anything in this country, experience radically different cultures, play the role of the ignorant foreigner and enjoy bread at every single meal. I also had an experience with bone-chilling terror. The TWA Flight 800 crash happened two days after we arrived, and our group was supposed to fly through New York around the date of the crash. Another fear was riding around the Paris Metro which is infamous for its frequent bombings. By the end of the trip, Emily, Chrystal and I figured we had so many reasons to die that we didn't really care anymore about taking precautions. And the plane ride home, well, I'll just say this, I had to down four sleeping

pills so I wouldn't freak out and everytime we hit some turbulence I gripped my armrests, anticipating the explosion.

Hence my great enlightenment. After a few days of seriously analyzing my attitude and persona, I decided to attempt to change, and make an effort to apologize to the people I've ever treated badly (you all know who you are.) I was sick of wasting my time and energy making snide remarks every time a certain name was mentioned or scowling whenever someone I didn't like walked into the room. It was pointless, and while it may have given my friends some laughs, it didn't accomplish anything but make me believe that I was better than everyone else.

So I'll be the first to swallow my pride and arrogance and admit that I was wrong. I hope others will be accepting and forgiving as well. I'm not asking that I be voted Most Popular Girl of the Universe; I'm just trying to stop this nonsensical rivalry. If I can't say something civil to people, I'll do the next best thing--ignore them. I know I'd much rather be ignored than be bombarded by false friendliness. I just have to keep telling myself, I'm graduating this year, I'll never have to see these people again, so I may as well try to treat others like the human being that we all are.



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Downtown Paducah - alive, revived and thriving

Thought you'd done everything there was to do in Paducah? Think again! Downtown Paducah has recently been revived, brought back to life. With character and personality, this sect of town presents a plethora of neat things to do. Antique shops? The quilt museum? Don't think that it's not you—anyone can be surprised by things when they give them a chance. So check it out!

Tired of walking the crowded corridors of the mall? Downtown Paducah offers a variety of clothing stores, such as **Chantilly Lace**, a women's clothing store that speaks for itself. Other cool places to shop (for women, at least) are **Pappagallo**, **Dogwood Lane**, **Options** and **Kisten Anne's**. These stores are great for finding gifts for those ever-hard-to-shop for mothers.

If stepping back in time is your thing, then head straight to downtown, Paducah. There are around 20 different antique shops open, and each one is different from the rest. Some of our personal favorites are **The Antique Galleria**, which offers three stories of old treasures, **Once Upon A Time... Antiques** and **Grandma's and Grandpa's Treasures**. Even if you're not an antique buff, rummaging through all the interesting trinkets is definitely a Saturday afternoon well spent. Most are within walking distance of each other. For a complete map, inquire at the Visitor's Bureau.

The **murals** on the downtown flood walls add some color and pizzazz to the Riverfront. The subject of each painting deals with historical Paducah. This project commenced in June 1996. In the future, all the walls will be filled with murals. By far, the most interesting is the one featuring the old Columbia Theatre with a brave man walking on the wild side! (See picture.)

Annie's Horsedrawn Carriage Rides offer the perfect end to a starry night. The rides cost \$12. Pick-ups are made at the downtown Gazebo and include a lazy ride around the streets of Paducah.

The Market House building holds some of Paducah's greatest hidden treasures. Of course, the **Market House Theatre** is well known for its excellent display of local talent. The 96-97 season includes the drama *The Speed of Darkness* (October), the comedies *The Boys Next Door* (January) and *Squabbles* (April), the musical *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* (June), and the murder mystery *The Mousetrap* (March). Each show plays for three weeks. For tickets, call 444-6828. The **Market House Museum** will take any visitor back in time, with its wide array of historical items from Paducah's past. **Yeiser Art Center** hosts a diverse variety of artistic experiences beyond exhibitions, including tours, workshops, classes, visiting artists and scholarships. The **Paducah Film Society** shows films in the theater the 4th Saturday night of each month. These productions include both foreign and obscure films that normally might not be seen in non-metropolitan areas.

Other interesting museums are: **Kersey's Gallery** and **Gallery 600**, both art museums; the **Museum of the American Quilter's Society** - after all, Paducah is Quilt City, USA, so it's worth taking a look at this contemporary medium of art; and the historic **Railroad Museum** - between planes and automobiles, there have always been trains.



Whaler's Catch



The Old Columbia Theatre



Cool mural at the Riverfront



The Antique Galleria



Annie's Horsedrawn Carriage Rides

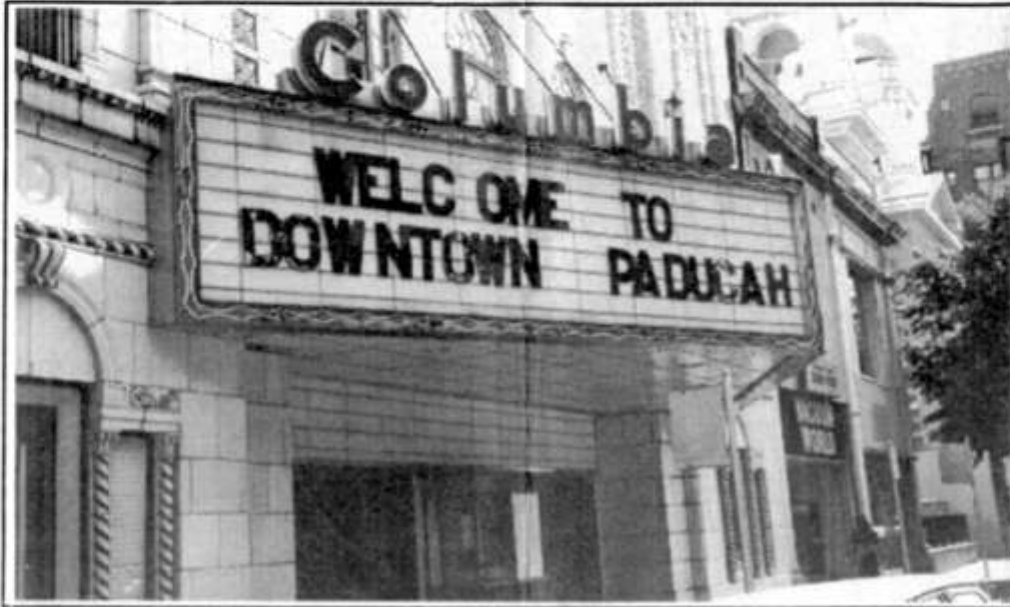


The Market House Theatre

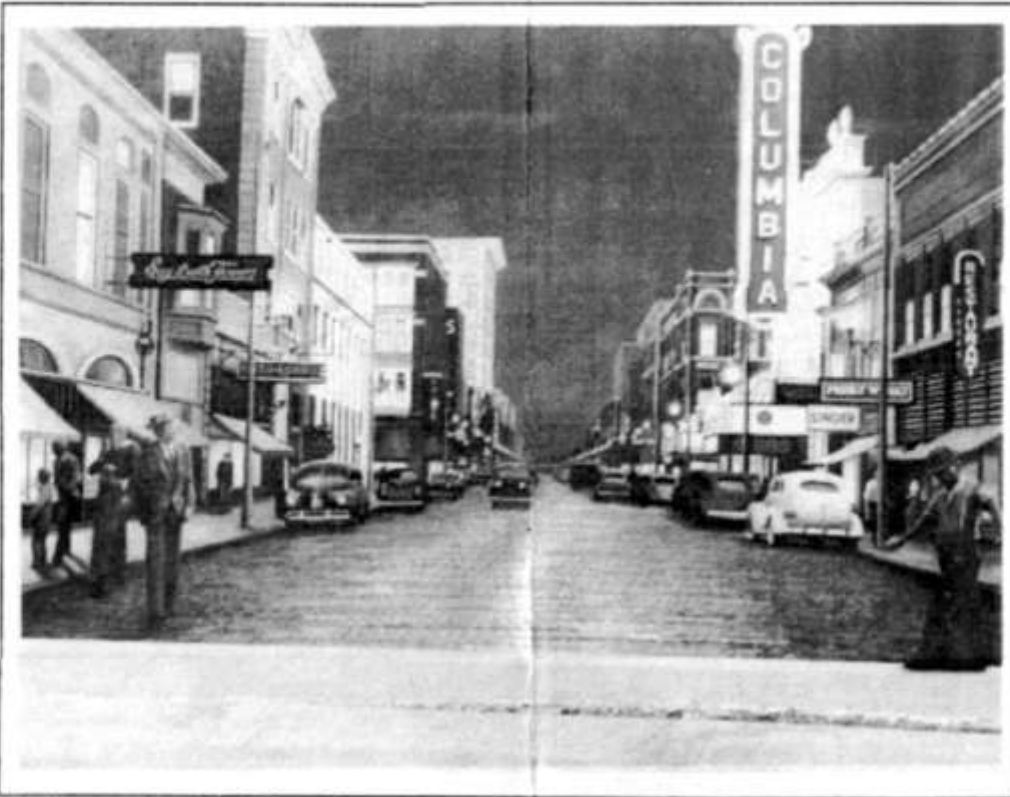
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The Market House Theatre

Raymond Schultz Riverfront Park



Mocha Lisa/Working Artists

ving



Flamingo Row Bakery



Raymond Schultz Riverfront Park



Mocha Lisa/Working Artists



Chantilly Lace

If you're looking for some interesting places to tantalize your tastebuds but are not interested in starving your checkbook, Downtown offers an array of great places. One of the most eye catching and unique is

Flamingo Row. This lesser known bakery offers not only a variety of great tasting food but also a beautiful mosaic art work out front. If popcorn means more to you than just a movie snack, then **Big Top Popcorn Shop** will, as they say, be, "Your little piece of heaven on earth." They offer just about every type of popcorn imaginable. The only hard part will be trying to decide which one to buy. If your dream job includes taste testing for Hershey's, you'll love **The Chocolate Factory.** you have to go in and experience this delicious place for yourself. Everything from trains to computers are captured in chocolate there. It's a great gift idea and even better as a treat for yourself.

If you find yourself wandering the streets of downtown and hunger strikes, our first suggestion is to try out some of the closely located restaurants. Secondly, you'll need reservations. It's going to be a tough decision between **C.C. Cohen's, Old Town, Whalers, Cynthia's, Jeremiah's** and the **Ninth Street House.** Whichever one you choose, be prepared to spend around \$30.00 a couple. All these restaurants provide not only a great atmosphere and delicious food, but most of them have pretty interesting backgrounds. Many of you may not know that **C.C. Cohen's** is supposedly haunted, and **Old Town** was once "a house of illrepute," if you know what I mean. Regardless of which one you choose, your dining experience should be an enjoyable one.

The Raymond Schultz Riverfront Park is one of the nicest places to take a stroll or have a seat, day or night. The area includes picnic tables, perfect for dining alfresco, and park benches, great for sitting and talking.

"Absolutely Artrageous!" reads the brochure for **Mocha Lisa/Working Artists.** This coffee shop/art gallery is usually the place to be on Friday and Saturday nights, with live musicians. Throughout the week, there are also poetry readings and other activities. Don't like coffee? Don't worry - there are hundreds of other non-caffeinated combinations to try. (Tornadoes, a drink blended with lemondade, coconut, and the flavor of your choice, are highly recommended.) The ground floor includes the espresso bar, gift gallery and framing studio, but beyond that, working artists have their own studios on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The artsy atmosphere gives Mocha Lisa a touch of class, as well as style.

Daniel Bailey rocks his way to the Student Spotlight

by Ann-Meredith McNeill
Staff Writer

Super-groovy senior Daniel Bailey has been chosen for the Student Spotlight for his work and dedication to brainchild band, Peace by Peace. With Lone Oak graduates Shane Martin on bass; Josh Kersey on backup vocals, rhythm guitar and occasionally keyboards; Heath sophomore Kyle Childers on drums; and Bailey on lead guitar and vocals, the band plays what he calls a "very eclectic style of music." The band was created when they all met at church and, finding that they were all musicians, they decided to play on Wednesday nights. As far as how the songs are born, Dan creates the music and with Kersey's help writes the lyrics. The effortlessly hip frontman says that through their music they want to teach their audience that



Peace by Peace members Josh Kersey, Daniel Bailey, Kyle Childers, and Shane Martin.

"peace is not the absence of trouble but the presence of God."

Bailey says he first became interested in playing music when his dad began teaching him chords at age 14. Musically, his inspirations and admirations include Bob Dylan, Kris Kristofferson, and the band Plankeye. He sites God as an inspiration in his life and attends Lone Oak First Baptist church regularly. In his spare time he enjoys (surprise, surprise) playing music. While lying in bed one night, he contrived the name Peace by Peace from an old LOHS yearbook with the theme "Piece by Piece", changing it to represent his beliefs. For friends, adoring fans and those he has yet to meet, he offers these words of wisdom, "Learn to respect others for who and what they are and you'll always end up with friends; but above all, learn to fly fish and everything will fall into place."

Gina Yates' hard work leads to Junior Rotarian honor

by Andy Harris
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Hard-working, intelligent, and active—these are all qualities that describe Gina Yates, Junior Rotarian for the month of September.

She displays a remarkable work ethic by holding down an after-school job at Elder-Beerman and maintaining her very high 3.92 GPA. She has also worked with the school play as costume coordinator for the past two years.

Yates' intelligence is demonstrated by the fact that she has received numerous awards and honors for her academic prowess. She has been named to Who's Who Among America High School Students, Outstanding Student, and Honor Student.

Yates also keeps herself busy with activities both in and out of school. She is secretary of FBLA, treasurer of Key Club, member of the Physical Science Club, and attends Lone Oak First Baptist Church.

As far as her future plans, Yates is undecided about which college to attend and may major in Business or Psychology.



Junior Rotarian Gina Yates

Yates had this to say about being named Junior Rotarian, "I work hard and I have a good attitude. It's nice to know my teachers would nominate me for such an award. I appreciate this recognition."

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Angela DeJarnett named Band Member of the Month

by Ann-Meredith McNeill
Coroner

Angela DeJarnett has been selected as September's BMOM. This sophomore trumpet player "always seems to get the job done both in her playing and marching ability," said Band Director Mr. Light. "She's very helpful when asked and seems to be developing into a real leader."

In her spare time DeJarnett enjoys dancing, which she believes helps her in marching. She also likes just hanging out with her friends. She first joined band to be with her friends but soon changed her outlook. "I began to love music and felt it helped me to meet new people and make new friends," she recalls. She remained in band even though during her freshman year at band camp she had to endure jumping jacks in the cafeteria, impromptu serenades to strangers and basically any other embarrassment her senior, Jessica Miller, made her do.

DeJarnett has participated in All-District Band, Quad-State, Solo and Ensemble and currently is seen on the field playing first trumpet in Marching Band. On being



Band Member of the Month Angela DeJarnett

awarded this great and wondrous title, DeJarnett had this to say, "I feel very honored to be chosen because many of the other students that preceded me were people I had looked up to. I hope I will be a good example for other band members this year."

Overjoyed students welcome new teachers with open arms

by Emily Williams
Staff Writer

Yes, its a brand new year here at LOHS and with it comes a whole new slew of faculty members. Just think, more people to assign homework and send students to the Principal's office. But I have the lowdown on all of them! Many Lone Oak High School students will recall Ms. Sharon Reeves as their smiling, energetic English teacher from the middle school who let students scream "TREMENDOUS" at the top of their lungs before every class period. Only now she has left LOMS and joined the ranks here at the high school as our new guidance counselor. Reeves has an impressive repertoire of experience including teaching English for a total of fourteen years in Tennessee and, of course, at Lone Oak Middle School and has also coached girl's basketball for ten years. She was also a guidance counselor at Hendron-Lone Oak briefly.

With her extensive background in working with students from the elementary school level on up, she is sure to make an excellent guidance counselor for LOHS. As she puts it, "(My previous experiences) give me a unique insight into the development of the 'whole' person that most educators don't get to see." As for her new year here at LOHS, Reeves said, "I want to challenge all of the students at LOHS to enjoy the present

but look to the future and work to be prepared for it!"

Ms. Dawn Durham is the new choir director here at LOHS. Durham is originally from Paducah and graduated from Heath High School in 1985, then went on to attend Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee and Western Kentucky University. Durham comes to us from a previous choir directing job at Owensboro High School and has only good things to say about her new job at LOHS. She showed her enthusiasm by commenting that, "(the students) I do see daily have been great."

Ms. Brenda Boyarski is yet another new face in the halls of LOHS. She is a new business teacher and says that everything is going great for her so far. Boyarski was a business teacher at Reidland High School for ten years and has worked at the University of Louisville and Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club. She attended college at Western Kentucky University where she got her Bachelor's Degree and then Murray State University where she went on to Graduate School and received her Master's Degree. Remarking about her experiences so far at LOHS, she said, "Faculty, staff, and students have all been very helpful. I look forward to becoming familiar with all the rules and regulations so I can quit bothering everyone with questions!"

Another new teacher is Mr. Kevin Blankenship who teaches Distributive



Ms. Hornbeak, Mr. Kevin Blankenship, Ms. Brenda Boyarski and Ms. Dawn Durham

Education and also Co-op courses. Blankenship attended college at Southern Illinois University and has taught at both the high school and college levels. Mr. Blankenship is originally from Johnston City, Illinois and seems to be happy to be back in the South. He noted that, "People here are definitely more helpful and friendly than where I came from. In Illinois, people were much less accommodating." Concerning his opinion of the staff and students here at LOHS, he said, "The atmosphere here is more relaxed, its like everyone is a family." An extra little tidbit of interesting info is that his cousin is Johnette Worak from the WPSD News Team.

Though not a new face a LOHS, Ms. Hornbeak is the new director of in school suspension at Lone Oak High School.



Ms. Sharon Reeves

Foreign exchange students take on Lone Oak High School

by Estee Cheah
Staff Writer

If anyone that thought, someone from another country would stick out like a sore thumb in an American school, prepare to be fooled. Eva Larsson looks, dresses, and acts like a typical American student. But looks can be deceiving. Eva is anything but your typical teenager.

She is a foreign exchange student from Uislay, Sweden. Larsson doesn't have a noticeable accent or anything of that sort. As a matter of fact, it would be impossible to pick her out of a crowd. Her hobbies include listening to music, going to the movies and running track, which isn't too much different from what American teens would enjoy.

Like the other exchange student, she is a junior. "I like it here, the teachers are very nice," she said, referring to how she likes it at Lone Oak. Her school at Uisley gives more difficult homework that is at a higher level and much harder.

The only complaint she has about LOHS is the construction and the inconvenience it causes. The air conditioning is something else she wishes would improve, along with the rest of the school. But, besides that, she has nothing more to comment about on the negative side; everything else is as positive



Eva Larsson

as it can get.

Perhaps the most interesting thing that Larsson brought up was that there is no dress code in her school back home. "Everybody just wore whatever they want, which usually is Levi's 501 jeans and shirts." Right now, she is very excited to see just exactly what this school year will bring and it's hard not to believe that it'll be anything but unforgettable.

"American people are nice, always cheerful," the petite-sized junior with the

pigtails commented. The girl that made that statement is Yuka Sakai. She is one of the foreign exchange students at LOHS.

She will be staying here for 10 months before returning to her hometown, Tokyo, Japan. Sakai, is very nice herself and is willing to write anybody's name in Japanese for them. (But that doesn't mean everybody should run up and ask her to do that - we don't want to scare the poor girl away from America forever.)

It is probably imaginable that the schools in Tokyo would be very unlike American schools. According to Sakai, the classes in Japan are larger in size, many ranging from 40 - 45 students per class. The classes here, are harder for her, but they still strike her as very fascinating and interesting. She is very happy with the conditions here in Paducah. Aside from feeling that Americans are cheery people, she also thinks it's a beautiful place to live. Sakai is glad to get away from the busy bustling town of Tokyo and to kick back and relax.

She also enjoys reading, drawing, listening to music, but most of all, playing the piano. (She has been playing for 10 years now.) So, next time you see her, stop and say "Hi." She wants to meet as many people as possible during her stay here. The only request she has for people speaking to her is, "Speak slowly." Don't worry, Yuka, there's no



Yuka Sakai

doubt you'll be picking up American slang and lingo really soon. Then, the people back home will tell you to speak slowly.

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Never mind summer camp-go to Europe instead

by Emily Williams
Staff Writer

I'm sure most of you have heard about the trip to Europe Ms. Underhill bravely launches into every summer. With no one to assist her, she tries to conduct a group of wild and crazy, hormone-drenched teenagers through the streets of some of the most famous cities in the Western hemisphere. This usually includes the prestigious hamlets of Paris, Rome, London, Munich and many others. The trip is sponsored by the Cultural Heritage Alliance (CHA) which enables would-be travelers to experience the wonders of Europe in an organized fashion and for a relatively low price.

If anyone is thinking about going on this amazing trip, I would have to give you the jubilant two thumbs up sign all the way. My European experience this summer was certainly one of the best of my life (made even better by the fact that I was with my two very best friends in the whole world). It goes without saying that such an adventure will stay imprinted on one's soul forever and change the way one views their own culture and community.

However, being the renowned world traveler that I am, let me tell you all about what to expect, along with a few words of wisdom just in case you ever find yourself Europe-bound. First of all, never underestimate the power of good sleeping pills. Keep in mind, before arriving in the star-sprinkled world of Parisian fashions and Swiss chocolate, there is an eight hour plane ride chock full of atrocious plane food, really bad movies, overzealous flight attendants, crying babies, and the most annoying pain searing in your neck that *will not* go away no matter how many pillows you ask for. Then, after passing through the

initiation rites (a.k.a. evil foreign customs), you are loaded onto a tour bus (run for that huge comfy seat in the back so you can sleep) and escorted to your very first hotel for your very first night.

Most of the hotels you stay in will be incredibly beautiful with old antiques and such, but be wary of those interesting little gadgets and gismos and, no matter what, always remember that when an elevator says, "four person max," it *really* means four person max. Ann-Meredith, Chrystal and I went through the embarrassing ordeal of breaking an elevator because in America a weight limit of some sort translates into "as many people as you can shove through the door." Also, be prepared for other differences, like rock-hard bread at every meal, toilets that won't flush, water without ice, two towels for four people, steel framed roll-away cots, and that blank stare people give you when attempting the phrase, "Sprechen sie English?"

Nevertheless, once you overcome these minor inconveniences, you can begin to appreciate the extensive culture and deep sense of history that is virtually unmatched here in the United States. There is nothing like the Notre Dame cathedral, the San Marco Basilica or all of the awe-inspiring museums, such as the Louvre where you can see the great works of da Vinci and, my new favorite painter, Girodet-Trioson. We also saw Cleopatra's needle, the Pieta, and, of course, the famous statue of David. The feeling of seeing something like the Coliseum in Rome that I'd only glimpsed before in World Civilization text books was so incredible that I can't even describe it. Just to touch the stone walls of a church that is over one thousand years old is enough to make you hold your breath.

Still, at seven o' clock in the morning it can



Last summer's jetsetters pose in front of their hotel in Rome.

be easy to fall asleep in an open confessional booth as you daydream about all the cool stuff you are going to buy as soon as you ditch that annoying tour guide. After all, nothing is more therapeutic after a long day of sightseeing than buying a really hot pair of authentic Italian leather pants. And, believe it or not, you will come to worship the Golden Arches of McDonalds. I know you don't believe me now, but trust me, french fries and Big Macs are a Godsend after a few days of broccoli soup and mystery meat.

But in conclusion, I would just like to say that this trip is well worth the money you blow on all the things you never end up using (like a multi-country electrical converter kit). It is also worth any amount of pre-flight jitters (or post flight TWA bombings) and even the no English TV factor. And think, you get to come back home and say to everyone you've ever envied, "I bought these in London, thank you very much."

So, if you are interested in going on this super-cool excursion, go tell Ms. Underhill

right now! Plans for next summer's trip are already in the works and you certainly don't want to miss out.



Ann-Meredith McNeill and Emily Williams throwing themselves into the pits of despair after arriving at Jim Morrison's grave six minutes after it had closed.

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Summer Polls

Summer days drifted slowly away as the bell for first hour rang. Once again summer is just another memory to look back on. Many of you had a summer never to forget, but others would like to forget there ever was a summer.

What was your most memorable moment this summer?

Ben Ruoff (9) - Seeing White Zombie and Pantera in Concert.
Natalie Taylor (10) - Band Camp! It was cool.
Jay Overby (11) - Transylvania Basketball Camp.
Daniel Ritchie (9) - Going to Panama City.
Jon Walker (10) - When everybody went swimming at Lucy's house.
Meghan Walkler (11) - Tereza's 16th

birthday party - no explanations.
Emily Williams (11) - My trip to Europe..
Anu Manchikanti (12) - The whole summer was memorable.

What would you like to forget?

Sandy McDaniel (10) - Football camp - We had to get up at the crack of dawn and practice three times a day.
Charlee Sales (9) - The time I got burnt really bad and I couldn't move.
Kim Telle (11) - Driving from Texas to Paducah.
Jon Walker (10) - When I was stuck at the movies without a ride, for two hours.
Lucy Jackson (9) - The time I was dressed up for a party and SOMEONE pushed me in the pool.
Ann-Meredith McNeill (12) - The plane ride home from Europe.
Ashley Small (11) - Working 40 hours a week!

-Emily Riggs

"In the end, there can be only one!"

J.R. Young
Features Editor

All great science-fiction has one thing in common—it reveals something through its story to us about ourselves. What made H.G. Wells, Ray Bradbury, and Gene Roddenberry all such great science-fiction writers was that they recognized this most fundamental building block of sci-fi literature. Gene Roddenberry's plethora of *Star Trek* spinoffs always managed (well, all except *Voyager*) to possess this one key element. However, there is one show on TV which may do it better than even the great Roddenberry's show. Which show? *Highlander: The Series*, possibly the most innovative sci-fi show since the original *Star Trek*.

Based on the cult classic eighties sci-fi film *Highlander*, the show tells the story of a race of beings known as immortals. They cannot die unless you take their heads, and with it all their power and knowledge. Since the beginning of time they have battled each

other in the ultimate battle between good and evil. They await the time of the Gathering when all who are left will gather to fight for the prize of leading the world into utopia, or ruling over the world with supreme power. Immortals are born mortal, and once dying for the first time retain the same outward appearance for eternity. They do not age, and they can die, heal, and revive in a matter of minutes. They follow a set of rules in the same vein as the knights of Arthurian time. Most important, however, are "There can be only one." and "No fighting on holy ground."

The series stars Adrian Paul (*War of the Worlds: The Series*) as Duncan MacLeod, a 400 year old immortal born in the highlands of Scotland (hence the name of the show). He is a clansman of the character that Christopher Lambert (*Mortal Kombat*) played in the film trilogy. Stan Kirsch stars as Richie Ryan, a cocky young immortal (only 24) whom Duncan has taken under his wing and trained. Jim Byrnes (just about in everything) stars as Joe Dawson, a watcher.

The Watchers are a secret organization that record and study the immortals, but never interfere. Elizabeth Gracen stars as the beautiful, yet deadly, millennium old immortal Amanda. A friend and romantic interest of Duncan, Amanda appears at random for a few episodes before again disappearing. And last, but certainly not least, is Peter Wingfield (BBC radio) as the oldest living immortal Methos. Methos has lived for more than 5000 years, mostly surviving by hiding out and pretending to be a watcher.

The true beauty of the series has always been its focus on the characters, not the Errol Flynn style sword fighting. While it may sound great to live forever, not an episode goes by where the disadvantages are brought up, either directly or indirectly. Imagine outliving your family, friends, and wife/husband. Imagine never having children (immortals are born sterile). Imagine never having the chance to live a normal life, only being able to stay in one place for a few years

before having to move to keep your identity a secret. Every episode (well, almost every) contains a flashback in the lives of the immortals, each emphasizing the trials and tribulations of the immortals (along with showing how history repeats itself).

Still, all this may not fully convey the true emotion of the series. As one fan put it to me, "There's no one who could watch season one, and then watch season two's 'The Darkness' and not shed a tear." The truth is—he's right! Each episode of *Highlander* has more emotional depth than even the best episode of *ER*. Other episodes that are great to catch are "The Gathering," "Shadows," "The Hunters," and "Something Wicked."

In the end, thirty years from now *Highlander* will probably only be remembered by its dedicated fans, which is truly sad. Shows of this quality only come along once a decade (the last I can remember is *Star Trek: The Next Generation*), so try to enjoy it while it still lasts. Unlike the characters it portrays, this show won't last forever.

Ace your classes, and sail to the head of the class

by Megan Williams
Staff Writer

It happens every fall. Students tell themselves that this will be the year their name will appear at the top of the honor roll. Then, just a few weeks into the school year, they're passing notes instead of taking them. Well, this year can be different. If students follow these steps, they will be on their way to the head of the class.

First, take notes. The average student spends between fifteen and eighteen hours a week in class listening to lectures. If students just listen to what's being said, they may remember 60 to 70 percent of what they heard for about an hour. After that hour, they are likely to have forgotten 90 percent of what was said.

Second, students should get to know their teachers. Make eye contact with the teacher when he/she is addressing the class, and take time to let them know good things that are happening in the class.

Third, study smart. Break studying into

small portions and complete something everyday. Try to avoid cramming the night before a test. Set aside plenty of time to work, and find a quiet place to study.

Fourth, devise a formula to help with writing assignments. If students can't think of anything to write their paper about, they can check out books such as *10,000 Ideas for Term Papers, Projects, and Reports* or *Finding Facts Fast: How to find out what you want to know immediately* in the school library. Make an outline to support the theme of the paper, and try clustering ideas to prove or explain the theme. Then, choose the points that will work the best, and begin writing. Don't forget to have others read the paper for errors and weak areas of writing. The *Writers Inc* is also a good resource to refer to if extra help is needed.

Remember that it's not possible to make an A on every paper or test, so don't get discouraged with a low grade. By following these steps and staying committed to completing homework assignments, students can make the grades!

POLL: School has started once again and even though we all love it dearly, there are always those few places we would rather be.

If you could be anywhere, where would you be?

Christa McLain (9) - Not here	Emily Riggs (9) - New Orleans
Suzanne Dyson (10) - The beach	Coach Grimes - On the beach
Anu Manchikanti (12) - The summer	Sara Puckett (9) - Asleep
Justin Young (11) - Home	Ashley Small (11) - Hiking
Estee Cheah (10) - San Francisco, shopping	Jon Walker (10) - Driving to somewhere besides school
Jason Carroll (12) - At a Dodger's ballgame	Charlee Sales (9) - Boston

Poll by Lucy Jackson



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Flash football opens season with 2-1 start

Lone Oak kicks off with shutouts over rivals Ballard and Reidland and a tough loss at Crittenden

by Jason Carroll
Sports Editor

Lone Oak 21, Ballard 0

Lone Oak pulled off a season opening victory against Ballard winning 21-0. Kyle Sanderson had a rushing touchdown and an interception return for a touchdown. Nathan Taylor caught a touchdown pass to seal the victory for Lone Oak.

Coach Grimes said about the game, "Kyle Sanderson showed great leadership on both sides of the ball."

According to Grimes, this game set the defensive pace for Lone Oak's season.



Photo by E. Riggs
Kyle Sanderson (15) leads his team to victory over Reidland. He had two TD passes to Nathan Taylor as the Flash won 42-0.

Crittenden County 15, Lone Oak 14

After a delay due to lightning pushed the game back to Saturday, the Flash really got struck as Crittenden won 15-14 in a down to the wire struggle.

Lone Oak's two touchdowns came from a run by Kyle Sanderson in the second quarter and Jason Moore late in the second half.

The Flash got an interception with about 1:30 left in the game. After Lone Oak missed a 3rd and 2 chance they chose to punt with about 15 seconds left. A bad snap and a Crittenden recovery left the Rockets on Lone Oak's ten yard line. A pass from Crittenden quarterback Brian Shemwell had Crittenden behind by one. And with a two point conversion, Lone Oak suffered a heartbreaking first loss of the season.

Jason Moore ran for 45 yards in the losing cause. Kyle Sanderson threw for 73 yards on four completions, all caught by Nathan Taylor.

Lone Oak 42, Reidland 0

Lone Oak took out their rage from the Crittenden game on Reidland with a 42-0 stomping of the Greyhounds. The game got off to a blast with a 35-yard kickoff return by Kyle Sanderson followed by two huge runs by Jason Moore. Brandon Bahr put the finishing touch on the drive with one of his three touchdown runs of the night.

The Flash showed impressive skills on the running game all night long. Moore led the way with 143 yards rushing, including a 20 yard carry in the first quarter. Bahr finished the game with 104 yards and nearly half the team's points.

The Lone Oak defense crushed the Greyhounds holding them to just 61 yards and a pathetic three first downs. It was this massive defensive attack that Coach Grimes said set the tempo in each game. Grimes said, "Big hits and great pursuit allowed the defense to hold our opponents to minimal yardage." Lone Oak's defense shutdown Lee Peeler of Reidland, holding him to just 35 yards, and sacked quarterback Michael Phillips three times.

Other outstanding Lone Oak players include Kyle East who kicked four extra points and threw a two point conversion. Along with Nathan Taylor who caught three passes for 51 yards and two touchdowns.

Coach Grimes said about his team as a whole, "Not only are we playing good football, but we are doing it with the best kids on the face of the earth."

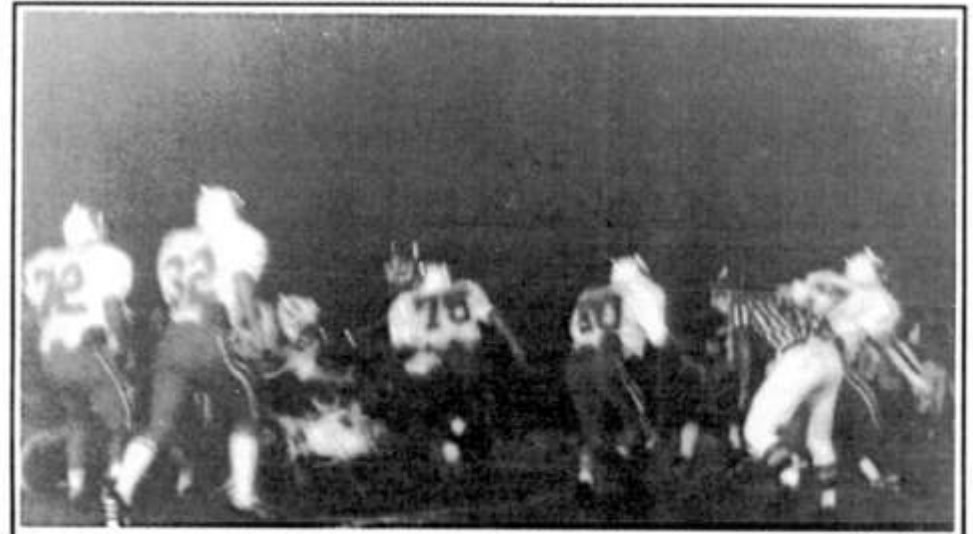


Photo by ER
Lone Oak is swarmed by Reidland defenders. They still lost anyway.

**Lone Oak vs. Heath tonight at Flash Field.
Come and celebrate victory afterwards at the
Beta Club Dance. The fun starts at 9 PM.**

LOHS golf team works together to form a winning combination

by Andy Harris
Co-Editor-in-Chief

There may not be any Kenny Perrys on this year's Lone Oak golf team, but this team is still one of the strongest in Lone Oak history.

The golf team has gotten off to a hot start by winning six and finishing second in their other four. The team has also finished fourth out of 18 teams at Paducah Tilghman and second out of 11 teams at Trigg County in 18-hole tournaments.

The key to the team's success, according to coach David Pope, has been the fact that the players play for the team and not just for themselves. "This group has everything to gain and nothing to lose. With one senior, we have potential for this year and next," said Pope.

Justin Gosa leads the team in scoring at 38.1, while freshman Brett Jones is next at 38.6. Rounding out the top six are Matt

Carter (40.6), Wes Ragland (40.9), Jeff Heath (41.6), and Chris Gregory (42.8). The average team score has been 157.2.

Golf Highlights

St. Mary 154, LOHS 155
Hickman 153, LOHS 155, Carlisle 177
Mayfield 160, LOHS 174, Heath 184
LOHS 155, St. Mary 160, Reidland 175
LOHS 145, Ballard 156, Hickman 161
LOHS 161, Tilghman 170, Fulton City 224
Graves 155, LOHS 160, Heath 170
LOHS 151, Fulton City 187, Fulton County 205
LOHS 158, Graves 170
LOHS 151, Ballard 162, Hickman 166

In order to be competitive at the regional tournament, Pope believes the winning team will have to shoot around 310. In their two previous 18 hole tournaments, Lone Oak shot 314 and 319. "In both (tournaments) we had players that could have done better than what they did," said Pope. "We have room to improve."

There are still matches left to be played before regionals, and Pope is intent on keeping his team focused. Practice on their days off will be important in achieving this goal.

"We win as a team," Pope emphasizes. Teamwork could be the determining factor in whether or not Lone Oak can finish in the top two at the regional tournament and earn a state berth.

Practice and hard work pay off for boys soccer team

by Lucy Jackson
Staff Writer

The varsity boys soccer team started out a long time before their actual season began. They attended a camp at Western Kentucky University from July 7-11. There they were able to play against other teams from the first region and held a perfect record of 5-0. The team then went on to compete in the tournament held at the end of the four days and made it to the semifinals. After returning home, the guys took a week off and then started practicing Monday through Friday. Starting around five o'clock, they would sometimes practice for three and a half hours, and now that the season has started they've continued to practice any weekday that they don't have a game.

"We get to the field around 4:30, start at five, and finish up whenever it gets dark. We use to practice until 8:30, but the days

are getting shorter so now it's more like 7:30 or 8," said Micheal Fortney.

The practice has paid off. The boys soccer team started out this year with a win, beating Calloway County 3-2. Kyle East scored two goals and Micheal Plewke scored one. They did lose their second game against Marshall County 3-1, but came back and won their third game against Christian Fellowship 7-0. A close game against St. Mary gave the guys their third win of the season. Jacob Cash scored the winning goal off an assist by Jon Camp with only a few minutes left in the game, making the score 2-1. Caldwell County and Reidland both managed to beat the Flash, but each team won only by a goal. Both of the scores were 2-1.

"I think if we get a little bit more commitment out of the entire team instead of just a few players, we can win the rest of the games this season," stated Camp, one of this year's team captains. Sharing the



Sophomore Michael Plewke controls the ball in a game against St. Mary. Photo by AM

position with Camp is Kyle East and the alternate captains are Chad Morreau and Jacob Cash. The guys have ten more games

to play and they plan on having a winning season.

Girls soccer team starts season on the right foot

by Emily Riggs
Staff Writer

Starting practice in July has paid off for the varsity girls soccer team. So far, the team has won six games and lost two (as of September 18th). The girls won their first game against Calloway August 20. On September 10th, the varsity team played Reidland and for the first time in the history of Lone Oak soccer, defeated them. The score ended up being 2-1 after overtime. Jenny Boles scored both of the goals. The team lost to Murray by one goal on a controversial call.

This year's captains are Brandy Gifford, Jenny Boles, and Melissa Fort. Gifford states, "We've come a long way since the summer and have proved a lot of people wrong." Gifford leads the team with the most assists, and Boles leads in goals. The varsity players are: Brandy Gifford, Jenny Boles, Melissa Fort, Meghan Walker, Katie Hunter, Emily Johnson, Whitney Nall, Sara Kersey, Katie Oldham, Tracey Werner, Courtney Pace, Julie Berens, Candice Dupree, Sarah Angelly, Charlee Sales, Lindsay Culp, Meghan Heine, Julie Stewart and Jennifer Patterson. The girls have eight more games left, so come and support them.

Girls tennis remains queens of the court, boys place an outstanding fourth

by Megan Williams
Staff Writer

The girls tennis team still proved to be the best team in the state by winning their fifth straight state championship at the 96 KHSAA state tournament this summer. The tournament was held the first week of June, at the University of Kentucky.

The girls finished an impressive three points ahead of the runner-up, Notre Dame (Covington). Lone Oak's number one doubles team, Abby Brazzel and Jamie O'Hara, led Lone Oak to winning the doubles competition. The number two doubles team of Jennifer Hayden and Amy Newman lost in a tough three

set match to Louisville Collegiate in the round of sixteen. In singles, Rebecca Holland and Sarah Sutor represented Lone Oak. They both made it to the finals before falling to higher seeded players. "All I've got to say, is that we have five on them," said Audrey Cunningham, a member of the girls team.

The boys team also had a great finish in the tournament. Coach Larry Heflin said, "The boys had an excellent showing with a fourth place finish." The number one doubles team, Jeremy Williams and Ryan Payne, made it to the quarterfinals where they battled it out in a tough match against the eventual champions, St. Xavier of Louisville. The number two doubles team of Ben Brazzel and

Ryan Lichtenberg drew one of the top teams and was defeated in the first round of the tournament.

Lone Oak's number one singles player, Ben Thompson, won his way to the third round where he was defeated by the top seeded player. The number two singles player, Joey Sloan, drew a top seeded player and was eliminated in the first round.

Members of both teams are now playing for their rankings on the team in the LOTA Round Robin tournament. Congratulations to the girls on their fifth state championship and to the boys on their fourth place finish!

Sports salaries go up, ticket prices soon to follow

by Jason Carroll
Sports Editor

Michael Jordan is without a doubt the greatest basketball player of all time. However, is he worth the \$30 million contract that he received over the summer from the Chicago Bulls? Probably not, but it is compared to the \$110 million-plus contract of Shaquille O'Neal, Jordan's contract seems pretty reasonable. But with all these pay increases, when will we, the fans, have to fork over extra cash for the tickets to see our role models? Prices for seats at Madison

Square Gardens for one Knicks game have already been raised to \$1500 per seat. Owners will soon realize the loss of profit from high salaries and then ticket prices will skyrocket. But for now, basketball, baseball, football, and hockey ticket sales are up 20% or more from the previous year, even with ballooning prices.

Yet some sports teams, for example, the Montreal Expos, have incredibly low salaries and remain strong teams as far as skill and ability. However, the Expos lack of high profile players shows in their low attendance. Other teams have tried experimenting with their salaries, such as the "fire sale" the Padres had a few years back when they dumped Fred McGriff and Gary Sheffield, two of today's great homerun hitters. Most teams have found that the higher salaries produce better playing teams and the big names bring more fans in to see the games. Between giving away autographs all the way to the wonderful world of Dennis Rodman, teams are doing everything to draw a crowd.

Is there no limit to what a fan will do to worship their team? Will the common man still be able to take his family to the American experience of seeing a professional ballgame? The only possible solution is lower ticket prices which will allow the working man to attend the games, despite the lost revenue it may cause the owners and players. The games, whether it be baseball, football, basketball, or hockey, are no longer about pure skill and endurance but about who can make the most money. But will the players and owners price themselves out of business? We'll see!

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