

THE OAK K

The Official Publication of LOHS ♦ Volume 55, No. 4, December 1996



Lone Oak has been getting into the Christmas spirit. See pages 6 and 7 for holiday news.

Autumn "Spam" Pate wins State Beta Club V.P. race

Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The 56th annual State Beta Club convention commenced on December 6th at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. There were 25 members representing the Lone Oak chapter and over 3400 total delegates. The Lone Oak students had one main goal during the convention: successfully campaign for Autumn Pate for State Beta Club vice-president. And that they did.

The members left around 7:00 Friday morning and arrived in Louisville via Brooks Bus around noon. They were free until 7:30 that night. At this time, the first session of convention was called to order. The state officers, elected at the last convention, were introduced, and President Dale McCamish gave a speech entitled "Play hard, play fair." After this, the excitement began as the stage was cleared, and the campaign speeches began. Each candidate, running for either president, vice-president or secretary, gave a two-minute campaign speech. Immediately following their speech, students from their respective schools presented one-minute skits, incorporating their candidate and their slogan.

Pate's campaign centered around a double theme, born in her nickname Spam and love of Dr. Seuss, hence "Spam I Am." Pate's speech was written completely in rhyme in following the theme of Dr. Seuss. "One more word in finality-an adaptation of Dr. Seuss, a formality. Would you, could you vote for me? Would you, could you, please, please, please!" pleaded Pate as she ended her speech. The reaction from the crowd to her speech was excellent, with resounding cheers from all the delegates. Pate decided

to do her speech in rhyme mainly because of the originality and creativity it brought to her campaign and it would get people's attention. Her skit consisted of many of the Lone Oak students dancing to a mix of the Spam song and "Kick Out the Jams" by the Presidents of the United States of America." The dancers were clothed entirely in black, except for the white gloves and socks they



Autumn Pate is installed as Kentucky State Beta Club vice-president.

wore, producing a crowd pleasing effect with both black lights and strobe lights. After the completion of the speeches, the crowd poured into a small room where the campaign teams rallied for their candidate.

The next morning, the delegates gathered for the Second General Session. Inspirational speaker Dave Stone spoke on the role of youth in today's society. "We must lead by serving others," he repeatedly said. Also at that session, secretary Robin Johnson gave a speech entitled "Success through others."

Saturday afternoon, many students participated in the academic competitions. The Lone Oak students who competed were Jackie Allshouse, Spanish; Estee Cheah, English; Susan Burnett, Math; Michael Plewke, Spelling; and Angela DeJarnett, Social Studies. Earlier, Anu Manchikanti, Zach Miller, Julie Thrasher and Lee Titsworth participated in the Quiz Bowl

LOHS prepares to move into new building as Phase II is completed

Jason Carroll
Sports Editor

Are you tired of walking through the crammed hallways, littered with construction trash, fearing the dangling light fixtures and dodging construction workers and their rusty pieces of equipment? Well, then you might have a problem because things are only going to get worse before they get better here at Lone Oak.

If you have classes in B or C buildings, get ready for major changes. After Christmas break, the new section of the school should be prepared for our learning experience.

Complete with new student and teacher desks, the new rooms are spacious, accommodating and, quite frankly, not crumbling down. Hallways are more open and much brighter, with huge windows letting in large amounts of sunlight to the rooms. Science labs will be equipped with storage and other facilities that "they haven't had since we've been here," said Mr. Rushing. Not to mention how much cleaner the new building looks.

Even more changes will happen with the offices, library, weight room and agriculture room. Currently being completed are commodious (senior vocabulary) weight and

competition, and Nola Goehman was entered in Creative Writing. Anu Manchikanti and Julie Thrasher also compiled a scrapbook of Beta activities for that competition.

Beta members were free until Saturday night, as they reported for the last General Session. The meeting began with Vice-President Ryan McGinnis speaking about friends. Then, the new state officers were installed. Besides Pate, Spencer Kiljian from Christian County and Amanda Patrick from Scottsville High School were inducted

Ag rooms adjoining new offices. The offices will be only temporary through the end of the school year. Many of the new rooms will hold two classes through the end of this school year, with movable dividers serving as walls. It is hoped that by next year these rooms will be used as only one classroom, allowing more movement and options for teachers in larger rooms.

Over Christmas break, the janitors will move the teachers' personal items to their new rooms. There will be no need to move the desks or file cabinets because only new ones are going in the new rooms. All of those boxes you've been avoiding on the

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as president and secretary, respectively. After this, the talent competition was concluded, with all the finalists presenting their entries.

Outside of General Sessions and academic competitions, the Lone Oak students were free to explore the happening city of Louisville. The science center and Galleria were within walking distance. Students also went to the Oxmoor Mall on Saturday afternoon. Another memorable part of convention was the dances. Thirty-four hundred Beta Club members crowding onto one dance floor for two hours described this wild and crazy scene. But the best part of Beta Convention was the opportunity to interact with other high school students, see old friends and make memories that will last a lifetime.

way to the cafeteria are the teachers' new desks.

The most strenuous project will most likely be moving the library. All the books in the library will be moved to where Mrs. Harper's room is currently.

After everything has been moved, the construction crew will have 14 days to demolish B and C buildings. By the time that is done, Delaware Street should be the new front of the school.

If everything goes as planned, the new section, which will replace B and C buildings, should be completed by the beginning of the next school year.

LOHS students attend DECA National

Emily Riggs
Staff Writer

On November 28th, DECA members arrived in Minneapolis for DECA Rocks, a motivational leadership conference. When they arrived, they went to an opening session. On Friday, DECA got a chance to see the Mall of America decorated to kick off the holiday season. When DECA members return from the mall or the game a party for all conference members was being held. All games, prizes, entertainment, fun and food were all free in your conference registration. DECA hosted an outing at the mall on Saturday afternoon following the workshops.

When DECA members return from the mall or the game a party for all conference members was held. All games, prizes, entertainment, fun and food were free, included in the conference registration.



A view of the Mall of America.

Photo by Tonya Traylor

As an option for Saturday evening chapters pre-purchased tickets for the NBA "Minnesota Timberwolves" against the "LA Clippers." Those who preregistered for the pregame tour with the Timberwolves were given a ticket.

Each day, DECA members would select a meeting for the given time slot. LOHS students attended conferences like "How to Look Like a Million." This conference was about a person's ability to project self-confidence and professionalism. Another conference, "Recipe for a Successful Interview" explained how to prepare yourself for an interview. The top motivational speakers spoke at these conferences. All conference participants will receive great items to take home with them.

"It was a good chance to meet people from our state and also people from the central region as well," says Kristy Smith.

Getting a diploma becomes harder

Lucy Jackson
Staff Writer

Graduates for the year 2001 and after may have a harder time getting their diplomas than Kentucky students have had in the past. The State School Board voted December 3rd to decide exactly what the guidelines for graduating in the state of Kentucky will be.

The new plan will require three English credits; one required English elective; three math credits, including Algebra I and geometry; three science credits, including chemistry or physics; and three social studies credits, including U.S. History, Economics and Government, and World Geography or World Civilization. Students would also be required to take one art history class or art

appreciation and either take Health and P.E. or play a sport.

These recommendations will still have to go through two public hearings for final approval, but more than likely the State Board's vote to accept the new requirements is a good indication they will become a reality for the class of 2001. Many LOHS teachers, however, have written members of the State Board and Commissioner of Education Dr. Wilmer Cody expressing their concern about the possible negative effects these new standards would create.

"With 15 requirements and 7 recommended electives, students would have little time to take such electives as band and choir for all four years," stated LOHS teacher Debbie Masden. One idea is

having a seven hour day or block scheduling the entire school year. If block scheduling were to go into effect for the entire year, students would take four classes a semester, earning eight credits per year.

"In the large scope of improving education in Kentucky, personally I feel that significantly increasing the number of teachers and expanding facilities so that the student/teacher ratio is lowered will have the most positive impact on the achievement of students," wrote Mrs. Kay Campbell, a teacher at LOHS, in her letter to Dr. Wilmer Cody.

In the spring of 1997 if the final approval is made, schools across Kentucky will prepare for the new guidelines and a new era in Kentucky education.

FFA attends National Convention

Megan Williams
Staff Writer

During the week of November 12 - 15, the FFA attended the National Convention in Kansas City, Kansas. The week began with an opening from the National FFA Officer Team and greetings from the National FFA Alumni given by Ty England and former Miss America, Dr. Debbie Turner. The two gave very motivational speeches that excited the students for the week ahead. The biggest topic discussed at the convention was the movement of the National Convention to Louisville in 1999 to 2004 with disapproval from Kansas City according to a couple of Lone Oak FFA members. Another large topic discussed was agricultural education careers.

"The opening session of the convention was one of the best experiences ever. The worst part of the convention was the weather. It was really cold," said Danielle Vinson.

Besides discussions of the movement of the convention, the students also attended several workshops. One emphasized personal growth and helped students to discover their star qualities and encouraged them to follow their own path to success. The 1996 Career show informed students of agricultural careers that are growing in popularity. The FFA also had the opportunity to visit Truman's home, library and the Agriculture Hall of Fame.

"I learned a lot about personal growth and careers at the workshops," said Rebecca

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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 or all subjects that effect the audience. Final authority for the content of the paper rests in the hands of the principal.

Juniors encouraged to take action at Issues '96 conference

Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

While many people were trick-or-treating, Lee Ann Atherton, Jill Irby and Sarah Warmack attended the Issues '96 Conference from October 31st to November 3rd. The conference was held at the Kentucky Leadership Center on Lake Cumberland. These three students were nominated by counselor Sharon Reeves based on their leadership ability.

Issues '96 is a four-day, issue-based conference for top student leaders from across the state of Kentucky. The conference is for sophomores and juniors and operates with the hope that participants will take what they learn with them back to their community and implement it there. The four main goals of Issues '96 are to help young people become more involved in shaping public policy regarding youth issues, believe that they can be resources



Junior Lee Ann Atherton shown here. Sarah Warmack and Jill Irby not pictured due to an outbreak of influenza.

for bringing about positive change in their community, acquire the skills they need to give leadership to local change efforts and become knowledgeable about the issues that affect them.

At the conference, attendees participated in action groups. These groups each focused on different contemporary issues which affect young people. The groups which the Lone Oak participants were a part of were

Before attending Issues '96, each delegate assembled a scrapbook to give direction to their action groups. These compilations consisted of newspaper and magazine articles, photographs, pamphlets and other material on the issue they will be studying. With the assistance of these scrapbooks, the action groups worked toward designing programs that address their particular issue. Atherton and Irby both received awards for the notebooks they prepared prior to the conference.

Atherton was selected as a delegate to help plan the Issues '97 Conference. Only six delegates out of the 172 in attendance were given this opportunity. On her honor and experiences at the conference, Atherton stated, "This conference was like any other I'd been to before! I'm pretty sure I made 171 new friends...Overall, I learned that my life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it...It was a very rewarding experience."

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Band members tryout for All District

Estee Cheah
Circulation Manager

On Tuesday, November 19, the annual All-District Band tryouts were held at Paducah Tilghman High School. Determined musicians from neighboring counties gathered there, hoping to participate in one of the two bands offered. All freshmen were to tryout for the Freshman Band, and everyone from a sophomore up to a senior were designated to audition for the Senior Band. Both bands are very well-respected in this region.

This year, Lone Oak reaped success in the try outs. Among the new All Districtband

members are seniors: Jennifer Atherton, Cliff Jenks and Erin Powell; juniors: Jackie Allshouse, Scott Bryant, Phil Sisto, Trey Swacker and David Carmichael; sophomores: Elizabeth Rigdon, Nola Gochman, William Mills, Josh McGuire and Jonathan Light. Those selected for the Freshman Band were Jackie Jenks, Andrea Ramey, Monty Breneman and Becky Clausen.

The District Bands will meet during January for three intense rehearsals with guest directors from universities. The two bands, along with the District Middle School Band, will give a concert in Tilghman's auditorium sometime in mid-January.

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Wells retiring after 31 years at Lone Oak High School

Emily Williams
Business Manager

Mr. Wells has been a well-known entity at LOHS for generations. However, this semester will be his last for after Christmas break he will be embracing retirement bliss (and what better way to ring in the new year?) Many students and teachers will be much affected by his departure. Mr. Mizell expressed it for us all by saying, "For 26 years, he has been a good friend and co-worker—I'm going to miss him".

Mr. Wells has been a teacher here at LOHS for 31 years and has taught over 10 different subjects ranging from Sociology to Drivers Ed! He was born and raised in Grand Rivers and went to various grade schools later going on to attend Murray State University. Besides being a teacher, Wells has also been employed as a salesman and even a volunteer



Wells shows he can be a lean, mean hunk of hiking machine.

Photo by D. Griffith

policeman. So that's where he got all of his expertise in busting teenagers!

Leaving a long teaching career behind him, Mr. Wells hopes to pursue yet another occupation; however, as of now he is wisely keeping his options open. Perhaps he will take it easy and enjoy some of his favorite past times, such as camping, hiking, boating, and, yes, scuba diving (bet you would've never guessed that one). Wells vehemently denies any thoughts of "laying back and taking it easy" for he will definitely stay active after retirement. When asked why he chose to retire now, Wells said, "It is just time to move on and make room for the younger ones."

I'm sure we will all miss his wisdom and years of experience, but as the old credo goes, he is "sailing off in to the sunset" and, hopefully, on to better things.

Artists compete in Teen Spirit



Pictured are Rebecca Eason, Ann-Meredith McNeill, Allan Ramsey and Derrick Riley.

Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The artists of Lone Oak High School have once again excelled at Yeiser Art Center's Teen Spirit competition. Derrick Riley was awarded fifth place. Rebecca Eason, Missy Perry, Ann Meredith-McNeill and Allan Ramsey also had works that were chosen.

Teen Spirit is a regional art competition held annually. Students submit entries by the end of October. The art works are judged on imaginative content, personal interpretation and individuality, and technical competence and skill in handling media. Teen Spirit is a juried competition,

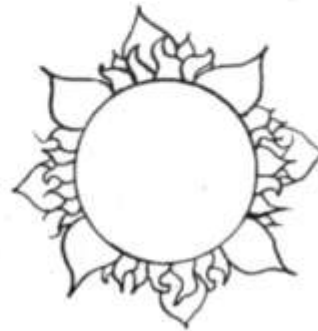
judged by art professionals. The competition included nine counties.

Riley's work was entitled "America's Pastime." It is a graphite drawing of his grandfather, sleeping in a reclining chair. When asked if he was surprised that he won, Riley replied, "I didn't even know I was in it." Riley was awarded \$25 for fifth place. Perry had both a drawing and sculpture in the exhibition, McNeill a black and white photograph, Eason a sculpture and Ramsey a photo collage.

Lone Oak has participated in Teen Spirit for five years, and it's obvious why. Each year, the artists from LOHS are well-represented. Congrats to all the winners!

Congratulations to the 96-97 Art Club Officers

- Allan Ramsey-President
- Matt Humphrey-Vice President
- Penny Horner-Recording Secretary
- Daniell Shane-Treasurer
- Audrey Cunningham-Corresponding Secretary
- Stephanie Burnette-Photographer/Historian



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Thinking isn't really as hard as students make it out to be

Ann-Meredith McNeill
Coroner

High school—on the surface it is a supposed place of education, yet if an outsider cares to delve the depths, one will find that knowledge seems to be the subject of least concern. However, even though learning isn't the sole focus of teenagers, it appears to be the choice topic of teens who voice their gripes. While anyone who knows me realizes I am not the Queen of School Spirit who relishes every second of being trapped within these crumbling walls, school really isn't as difficult or evil as most make it out to be.

There are two major categories of complaints about school, the first of which is the condition of the school. That I don't have too much of a problem with, even though the construction does wear on the nerves quite a bit. I'll let that one slide. But when people are constantly whining about how hard their homework is, it gets me riled. These are not honor students, taking six hours of AP classes that are complaining,

these are regular students taking regular classes where the teacher might ask them to (gasp!) read an entire book or finish up work at home. I realize that I am no genius and the general populace of the school isn't either, but things have just gotten ridiculous. I recall being assigned a research paper in an English class during the second semester—nothing out of the ordinary. The class received a sheet of ideas to help them along. There were the usual moans and groans because this was an assignment which required effort, but one guy (who, of course shall remain anonymous) got so offended that he might have to actually go to the library or something equally horrific that he marched right down to the office and demanded to have his classes changed. "The other English class doesn't have to do research papers!" he cried. When the office staff explained to him that it was the second semester, it was too late to have anything done about class changes, he got extremely perturbed and proceeded to gripe about it for the following three weeks.

My grades have fluctuated as erratically as my mood swings, but overall, I must say, a teacher has never assigned anything I thought was excessive or beyond my comprehension. I usually just had better things to do or wanted to prove something, whether it be that I could defy authority or some unknown self-righteous teen hang-up. I just can't believe that the academics at this school are so impossibly out of reach. Not that the teachers aren't doing their job—they are teaching to some people who understand completely without explanation, and people who can't grasp the assignment after it's spelled out word for word. The students do not realize that this lack of initiative will be very detrimental to them later in life; such as the student who proudly proclaims, "I ain't never read a whole book in my life!" (Sad but true, I actually overheard someone saying this.)

I'm sorry if I sound condescending, but it sickens me that these people are the ones known as "the future of this country." The future looks pretty grim if that is true and the

educational standards of this country are not completely revamped—not necessarily KIRIS, but that's another editorial entirely. High school is, from what I've heard, a joke compared to college. I can believe that, and it scares me to think that I am hardly prepared to handle higher education due to lowering of learning standards because teenagers don't want to work at academics. I'm sick of sitting in class, hearing the same concept explained over and over because those who don't understand are always talking or sleeping or interrupting the teacher with an irrelevant comment. If people would only listen every once in a while, they may actually understand the material instead of having to groveling for a C at the end of the nine weeks. Asking questions is a wonderful thing, and staying after class or school for extra help can be, too. Reading out of class is not something to be ashamed of. Educate yourself as much as possible, and you may find yourself quite fascinated with the world around you.

LOHS labeled center of gang activity

Ashley Small
Editorial Editor

Many of you may have recently noticed that *The Paducah Sun* has been running several articles centered on or relating to the gangs and drugs in the McCracken County and Paducah City Schools, with a special emphasis on Lone Oak High School. I, for one, agree that this is a very timely and important issue to report on, as more and more small communities are being flooded with gangs and drugs. But as a student of LOHS, I truly believe that *the Paducah Sun* has taken this a bit too far. I don't stand alone on this issue, either. The majority of students I spoke with shared my opinion that *the Paducah Sun* has made Lone Oak out to be some kind of haven for gangs and drugs, when, for the most part, besides the annoying construction problems, LOHS is a pretty productive school. "I think it's insane.....it's not as if we all walk down the halls in fear of gangs," was how junior Emily Williams felt about the issue.

While the Lone Oak academic team won the MSU President's Academic Invitational Tournament, and several members of our school received impressive recognition by being chosen for the Teen Spirit Art Competition, it is our drugs, violence and gangs that made headlines. Unfortunately, this is what the community now associates with us.

Please, don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to play down the relevance of gang and drug prevention. I think it is of the utmost importance to bring in the drug dogs and begin the necessary programs and task forces to get this problem under control. All I am saying is that while our school, like every school, is not perfect and it does have its obvious share of flaws, it also does have its strong points. To ignore the problems of this school now means they will only multiply, but to focus our entire communities attention on them means we neglect the great programs and people we also have here.

Bah-humbug is the word of the day

Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

As the holiday season rolls around once again, I am reminded just how lucky I am. Maybe that's the reason that I feel it is important for those of us who are blessed to help the less fortunate. No, I'm not saying make these people into personal charity projects but get an angel off the Christmas tree at K-Mart or bring a few cans for one of the many food drives going on. It doesn't take that much to make a difference, and until the people with the means begin to help others, some people will never get a break. What has really upsets me and is just reinforced by the holidays is the general apathy of our generation. As a member of several community service clubs, I have always loved participating in activities and make them something that I can enjoy. However, this year I have noticed that people literally have to be dragged by their toenails just to go sing a few songs for the elderly or ring some bells for the Salvation Army. Today's society has just gotten so material. Everyone's focused on "me, me, me!" What I want for Christmas, what I have to do Saturday morning, whom I have to buy Christmas presents for. It's just sad that few people rarely take the moment to be thankful for what they have.

This problem is very alarming because most people seem to be completely missing the point of Christmas. Whatever happened to "Peace on Earth, goodwill toward men?" It's not enough to think about doing something or wish you could make a difference when it's not that hard to make these things a reality. How many of us have walked by a Salvation Army kettle and not dropped our spare change in it? How many times have we spent outrageous amounts of

money on material things to fit some quota of what a Christmas present should be?

I'm not saying that we should forget ourselves, but there are just so many people out there who can be touched by the simpler things in life. So as we go along, doing our Christmas shopping and gathering with friends and family, let's not forget those who are less fortunate. There are numerous groups around our school collecting goods, from cans to personal items, for various ministries. A few dollars can go a long way if everyone does their share. So, don't be a Scrooge—reach into your pockets and find a way to help!



Drawn by Emily Williams

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LOHS students get in the Christmas spirit this season

Math students help the needy

Emily Williams
Business Manager

LOHS math students are helping spread the holiday spirit by participating in Mr. Franklin's "Greedy for the Needy." The program is basically a clever ploy of Mr. Franklin's to get students to help underprivileged families and score some bonus points so he can deal out a generous holiday helping of passing grades.

In order to receive bonus points all students have to do is turn in cans of food which go to

help needy families. The idea is that "greedy" math students trying to get bonus points are inadvertently helping the "needy," hence the name "Greedy for the Needy."

Algebra II student Autumn Pate said, "I think the program is a good idea because all we really have to do is bribe Mom out of a few cans of green beans, and we get extra credit points, plus we are helping needy families for the holidays."

Student Council gathers canned goods

Ann-Meredith McNeill
Coroner

All of LOHS is invited to participate in Fleming Furniture's Seventh Annual Christmas Tree Food Drive. Trees from many schools were decorated by students and displayed, and there will be a growing number of canned goods under the trees as they are donated. The school that brings in the highest number of non-perishable food items will win \$300, with second and third place being \$200 and \$100, respectively.

Council members Amy Bowling, Emily Rigdon and Anu Manchikanti decorated the Lone Oak tree. The members, with the help of the Art classes, made white posterboard

ornaments trimmed in gold glitter. Certain teachers, as always, will be giving out bonus points for students who bring in cans of food. Last year, Fleming Furniture brought in over 17,000 food items and distributed by the Family Services of Paducah.

Lone Oak has won the second place award three times. Mrs. Hayden, Student Council Organizer, hopes to bring in the first place award this year. "We've always been only fifty or so cans short," she said. The trees will be on display at both locations of Fleming Furniture, on Hinkelville Road and South 16th Street until December 19.

FBLA gives to Hospice

J.R. Young
Features Editor

In what has become a tradition, Lone Oak's FBLA hold an annual drive for Hospice baskets. These baskets are delivered to brighten the day of the terminally sick. The club filled 56 baskets with items such as shampoo and candy.

During the week of December 2 through 7, members brought in goods to fill these bas-

kets. On that Friday members gathered to put together and fill baskets. Chris Garnett from the Hospice Center then came to pick up the baskets, but also talked to students about the work done there.

Mrs. Wyatt and Titsworth were happy to say that this year was the most successful ever. "We really appreciate everyone who contributed."



FBLA members fill baskets.

Photo by J. Young

Art Club invades Noble Park



Art Club members toil away on their project.

Ann-Meredith McNeill
Coroner

Holiday spirit is in the air and Noble Park will be displaying it with huge cards adorned with symbols of this time of year. Lone Oak is one of two schools being asked to participate in this seasonal event. With a design created by the very artistic Matt Humphrey, the card will represent the idea of peace on Earth. Using motifs such as angels, wreaths of olive leaves and doves, the art classes will

create giant cards out of 8'x 4' pieces of plywood. The cards will be shown this year and possibly the next two years. It is an honor for Lone Oak to be exhibited in this showcase, as only one other high school is taking part and the rest are created by more experienced artists.

Remember this Christmas season...

'Don't shoot your eye out!'
— A Christmas Story

Justin's Jabberings: Hallmark's quest for power

J.R. Young
Features Editor

As Christmas arrives we once again come face to face with the beast known as Hallmark. I know what you're thinking, "A beast more fearsome than Microsoft and Disney?" Indeed, Hallmark is more evil than both these sadistic companies for one single reason—Hallmark invades our everyday lives!

While you can turn your computer off to run from Microsoft, and you can go see Space Jam to both escape and spite Disney, there is no running from Hallmark! So what do they do so bad? What don't they do! They have made it their "prime directive" to build even the most insignificant holiday into a feast of kings! What's worse, actual holidays worth celebrating, such as Christmas, now seem trivial when placed side by side with St. Patrick's Day. St. Patty's Day is one of the better examples; it gets even worse when you delve into the world of "appreciation" holidays. Maybe Hallmark executives were celebrating St. Patrick's Day too heavily when they came up with Secretary Day, Sweetest Day,

Teacher Day, Boss Day, Employee Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day.

So what has driven the franchise that names stores after their owners to such a state of madness? I would say upgrading to Windows 95, or the horror of Highlander's season five writing, but we all know the truth—pure and simple it's greed. Not that the world of greeting cards and cartoon cat Christmas ornaments isn't a large enough piece of Americana for anyone, but to Hallmark it is not. Along with the other three Horsemen of the Apocalypse (Microsoft, Disney, The Gap), Hallmark has niched itself out a position in America's economy and culture, and it may take a blowtorch to get the leach off.

So are all these companies really so evil? Maybe not, but their god-like egotism really annoys me, and this is my column! If it were a perfect world (and Leonardo DiCaprio didn't grace every page of this newspaper), Hallmark would be just another store selling cheap cards and plastic cartoon cats. I doubt the beams of time will ever bend to create this Utopia for me. After all, I'm just a guy.

Deck the halls with boughs of presents, fa la la la la

Estee Cheah
Gift Authority

Decorations in stores of red, green and white. Students marking off the days until break. Nat King Cole singing non-stop about chestnuts roasting on an open fire everywhere you go. Yup, all signs point to one thing- Christmas is fast approaching. The season is a time to show your loved ones that, well, you love them. And what better way than giving gifts.

All right, about now all those pocket pinching scrooges are probably wondering if I'm crazy and have nothing better to put in *The Oak K* than this. Now, now, it's Christmas- let some air into your pocket, will ya? Christmas only comes once a year, and there's no better time to give and share.

OK, I understand if you're broke, and you're absolutely penniless, and all you can afford is a worthless piece of junk for your best friend. Well, I'm here to help-just call me the Gift Authority (cheesy name, but at least I'm an equivalent to Bob [Bobbee] Sports Authority). Here's a few ideas that could cue you in on a gift for everyone from your Grandma to Fido the dog even if butterflies are beginning to flutter out of your pockets. Plus, what you want to give to your significant other and what to give, if you never want to see them again.

Your 'rents: They've always screamed and shouted for you to get your chores done. Well, there's no better time to do it than to start now. Spend a couple of bucks on construction paper (or snatch a few from your little sis/bro) and make chore coupons. Put the chore you're willing to do on the paper such as (gasp) cleaning out your room, taking out the trash, etc. Make as many as you want but keep in mind, you're parents are probably planning on using these. In the end, you're happy (maybe not, but at least you found a *good* gift), and there's no doubt you're parents will be too, especially when they see that *clean* room of yours.

Your Siblings: This is *the* worst group of

people to shop for because your feelings for them vary from day to day. One day, they could be really cool, and the next, total buttheads. So, if you did spend a huge sum

So, if you did spend a huge sum of money on [your sibling's] gift, resist the urge to tear it up after you find out they threw your toothbrush in the toilet.

of money on their gift, resist the urge to tear it up after you find out they threw your toothbrush in the toilet. But a good gift idea could be as simple as staying out of their hair on finals week and maybe letting them raid your closet once a month, if (and only if) it comes back two days max, clean and restored in full condition. If they're of an opposite sex as you, borrow a couple of CDs from your buds and record their favorite tunes to make a cool tape to jam to.

Your B/F: You've been through thick and thin together, and what better way to remember that, than to make a way awesome collage of all the great times you shared. Put pictures in of the summer camp where you guys first met, snip magazine clippings of clothes, celebs, etc. Your B/F will love it - trust me.

Your Aunts & Uncles: Even though they pinch your cheeks every time they see you and tell you how cute you are (now, why can't that guy in biology class say you're so cute?), you still have to show your appreciation. The best I can say for this one is to just whip out your Easy Bake Oven and grab the recipe and the ingredients from mom's cupboard for a fruit cake. And if they are pretty cool, add nuts. Guys, don't even try baking; just run to the bakery.

Your Grandparents: Dentures-just kidding! Hey, they're grandparents, everything you do is the absolute best! Put your

creativity to the test and break out the markers- how about a cute card with one of your baby pictures inserted in it. Chances are they'll get so teary-eyed, they won't be

able to read the thing.

Fido the Dog: It loves to chew on your shoes, right? Just give him that old pair of tennis shoes stashed in the corner of your closet and VOILA-presents for your beloved doggie. If you have cats, sorry, I don't know a thing about them. Besides, I don't want to be blamed for Fluffy puking all over mom's new couch.

And finally, what should you give your significant other? This seems to be the most traumatic one of all. Get this, the guy you adore shows up with a neatly wrapped box with a big red bow on top. It's your Christmas present! You excitedly open it and you find a cute sweater. You try it on and it looks like you just got swallowed by the blob. Without hesitation, you take the thing off and storm out to throw it at him. "You think I'm actually that fat?" The guy tries to talk himself out of it, but it isn't working. Next thing you know, it's splitsville. Sounds stressful? Heck yeah, it is! But I'm here to help, right?

For Him: Ask him! Buy something you know he'll like but don't take it upon yourself to decide because a guy's and a girl's tastes are very different. I know, I know-guys usually say, "I don't know. Just get me whatever." But no matter what you do, bug the heck out of him til he spills.

What not to get him:

Tickets to any sports event - Unless you like

the sport, you might be the one ending up having to watch it with him.

Briefs-What exactly are you trying to tell him? Besides, he might be a boxer-kind-of-man.

A video game-You do want to see him again before this century is over with, right?

A subscription to any type of magazine with the word "Play" in it - You get this, and Pamela Anderson Lee could become his live-in.

Then what should you get him? If he doesn't know what he wants, listen to what he points out at times. For example, you're walking around in the mall with him, going on about something, and all of a sudden, he interrupts and says, "Man, those jeans are so cool." That could be all you need to get him the perfect present that you know he'll like. After all, he interrupted *you* while you were talking.

For Her: As I said before, ask! It's the best way to find out. Besides, most of the time, a girl will tell you what she wants.

What not to get her:

Any type of clothing she hasn't approved-A pair of tight leather pants are not as flattering as you think, especially if she has to wear them. Besides, she might want to see how great you look in them.

Pots & Pans-You actually think she'll cook for you!?!?

Underwear- Sorry, guys, it's not working. Anything that has Leonardo DiCaprio (or her main crush might be) on it- Giving her something she likes is a good idea but unless you want to take 2nd Place, this could be an exception.

Girls will more than likely hint for what they want, so don't worry!

Christmas is a really great holiday, and with everybody getting into the spirit of it, it could possibly be the best Christmas ever. As for the presents, it's really the thought that counts, but sometimes you just have to use some common sense to make it work.

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Nikki Key is chosen as Junior Rotarian for December

Lucy Jackson
Staff Writer

Along with her many other achievements, Nikki Key now has the honor of Junior Rotarian to add to her list. Nikki is the senior class president and has been class president three of her four high school years. She is also the recording secretary for the Student Council, vice-president of the Beta Club, corresponding secretary of the Key Club and a member of FBLA. Key participated in Girl's State and attended the Governor's

Scholars Program this past summer. She has also been the statistician for the varsity football team for four years and is famous for her pink pencils that assisted her on the sidelines. A memorable moment Key recalled was one game her sophomore year when she yelled at a ref to unfog his glasses and was almost thrown out of the game. "It was only because she was a girl," said Anu Manchikanti, Key's partner in crime.

Nikki is also a member of the yearbook staff and was the first recipient of the Doc Grimes Football Scholarship. She is a fourth

and fifth grade choir teacher at her church. She'll also be modeling for the Bradley House of Brides for their Prom '97 commercial and was both a junior and senior football homecoming attendant. Nikki isn't sure where she wants to go to college, but she is pretty sure that she wants to be either a corporate or entertainment lawyer. Key's prize possession is her black Mustang, although she also seems pretty fond of her ten-year-old little brother Jarad and her new puppy Shelby. "She's like a miniature Lassie."



Nikki Key, Senior

Mr. Wolverton is Teacher of the Month



Mr. Wolverton

Megan Williams
Staff Writer

The man behind WLOH and a two year teacher of ICP and Chemistry here at Lone Oak was chosen by the Student Council as Teacher of the Month. Mr. Wolverton began teaching at Hickman High School after three years of military service. With two sons to get through college, he began doing engineering and then administrative management. Sixteen years later, Mr. Wolverton returned to education at Marshall and Fulton County. Teaching has always been a dream of Mr. Wolverton's.

"I do not remember a time in my life when the learning process wasn't special to me. I still enjoy learning about practically

everything," said Wolverton.

Mr. Wolverton enjoyed high school, but does have some regret for the things he put his teachers through. When he isn't teaching, Mr. Wolverton enjoys golf, reading and spending time with his two grandchildren.

Wolverton feels that teaching is one of the most rewarding jobs in life. He believes that if a person is more interested in making a contribution than a fortune, teaching would be a good job.

"I certainly feel honored to have been selected and appreciate the encouragement and recognition from the Student Council, however, it's difficult to feel that the award is deserved when you work in a building with so many educators who are truly excellent teachers," said Wolverton.



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Light is Band Member of the Month

Ashley Small
Editorial Editor



Johnathan Light, Sophomore

Jonathan Light, a sophomore in the Lone Oak Kentucky Colonel Marching Band, was chosen for "Band Member of the Month" for December. Light plays the trumpet in the marching band, and according to Mr. Light, is a very dedicated musician.

Jonathan has accomplished many things through his hard work, including being picked for the third year in a row to play in All-District band.

When asked why he chose Jonathan, Mr. Light said, "Not only is Jonathan a gifted musician, but he just enjoys being a part of anything having to do with music. He practices all the time and has chosen music education for his life's work."

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Congratulations to the November Student of the Month, Chad Morreau, and the December Student of the Month, Brian Sykes!

A Christmas Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Everyone enjoys opening presents on this day
6. Thin strips of glittering material
8. Glossy evergreen leaves with spiny edges and bright red berries
9. Gaiety
12. Gifts wrapped with pretty bows
14. The other traditional Christmas color
17. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Doner, Blitzen, Rudolf
18. White flakes that fall from the sky
19. Frosty the _____

Down

1. Songs for the Christmas Season
2. One of the traditional colors of Christmas
3. Decorations go on the Christmas _____
4. This jolly 'ole fat guy loves to say, "ho, ho, ho"
5. 'Tis the season to be jolly
7. These brighten up any house, Christmas tree or window
10. A holiday drink made of milk and beaten eggs
11. This will get you kisses this holiday
13. High-spirited
15. Fine fabric used for trimming or tying
16. Items that decorates the Christmas tree
18. This mean old man despises Christmas

The giving season

Lucy Jackson
Staff Writer

It's the season of giving, and yet, I must admit not very often do I find myself going out of my way to give. How many people actually do? I realize that some people really do find ways to make the holidays of less fortunate people better, but others don't ever really get around to it. I happen to be one of these people. Even though I'd really like to help someone, I tend to be rather taken with all the lights, cookies and last minute shopping. So I often forget to do my little part to spread Christmas cheer to the people who need it the most.

I know that this is a result of the fact that I'm forgetful, but I also have a hard time

thinking of things to do. Hopefully this year teenagers who want to help out during Christmas will be able to. In order to make this easier I have provided this list of ways anyone can help out.

1. Take old clothing and other items to the Salvation Army
2. Bring items for the FBLA to put into the baskets for the Lourdes Hospice
3. Donate items to food or clothing drives or bring cans for the student council
4. Find out what churches are taking up things for the less fortunate and give to those organizations
5. Donate money to the bell-ringers or volunteer to be one yourself

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Jingled out of the theaters

Andy Harris
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Jingle all the Way, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sinbad, is a heartwarming story about families and the Christmas season. Schwarzenegger and Sinbad play fathers who are willing to do anything to get their sons the hottest Christmas toy ever, Turboman.

I have seen plenty of bad movies in my lifetime, but this one has to be the worst. Besides the fact that the plot was juvenile, and the characters were as fake as the *Brady Bunch*, this film topped it all off by being just plain "corny." Anyone with even the slightest brain activity would be extremely insulted by the lack of intelligence throughout the entire movie.

This is just another step in the decline of Schwarzenegger's acting career. Along with *Junior* and *Last Action Hero*, it is just part of a sad trend. If Arnold can't kill anyone, he can't act.

Maybe the only thing that kept me from leaving this hellish form of sadistic torture was Sinbad. His hilarious psycho mailman character was a refreshing touch that made an otherwise completely idiotic movie tolerable.

In all seriousness, this isn't the worst movie ever made. It is a good one for mom, dad and the kids to go see because of its wholesome family appeal. But other than that, I can think of other ways to waste valuable time and money. Here is a little advice—if you do go see this movie, please, do not eat before you go.

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Will Kentucky football ever match up to the basketball team?

Andy Harris
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Why can't Kentucky have a good football team?

It sounds like a simple question, but there's no simple answer. In a state dominated by basketball tradition and folklore, many believe that football will never be able to make a name for itself.

It's hard to imagine that it was just three years ago that the football Wildcats had a winning record and were playing in the Peach Bowl. Kentucky had a very successful season and nearly upset Florida, a team that drummed the 'Cats 65-0 this year. But the bowl game versus Clemson was just a sign of things to come.

With Kentucky leading late in the 4th quarter, Marty Moore intercepted a Tiger pass and seemingly sealed a UK win. Then came the unthinkable. Moore wanted to be a hero and return it for a touchdown, but instead he fumbled. Clemson recovered and scored the winning touchdown.

This game may have seemed fairly unimportant at the time, but consider what has happened to Kentucky's football program since that fateful day. They have won nine games over the last three years and haven't been able to land any blue chip recruits, with

the notable exception of Tim "Crybaby" Couch, of course.

All this has led to the firing of head coach Bill Curry. Curry exemplifies a coach who was done in by the success of the basketball team. His inability to recruit was largely due to the fact that players were afraid they would be overshadowed by the basketball team. He can't be blamed for that. In fact, Curry deserves credit for leading a team with no talent to four wins this year. And had he been lucky enough to have Moe Williams this season, Kentucky might have been bowl bound.

"... players were afraid they would be overshadowed by the basketball team."

There have been few schools over the years that have been able to maintain successful football and basketball programs. Crucifying a coach for a general apathy towards football from a university standpoint isn't fair. If Kentucky wants football, then they are going to have to invest in it. It doesn't matter who the coach is, if there's no money, the football 'Cats will continue to dwell in the cesspool of the SEC cellar.

Bob's Wide World of Sports

Bob
Sports Authority

Welcome to Bob's "Wide World of Sports" where I answer all your sports questions, and I am always right. For instance, Albert Belle recently signed a five year deal with the Chicago White Sox worth \$55 million. At the news conference where the deal was announced to the media, Belle said about the contract, "It's not about the money." Rather, he claimed that he wanted to go to a team who has a chance to win it all. Oak K, even those simple minded sports fans out there can figure this one out.

With the Cleveland Indians, Belle had made it all the way to the playoffs and was offered a similar salary, yet he wants us to believe that his reasoning behind going to Chicago, a team that was undoubtedly the biggest flop of the 1996 season, had nothing to do with those extra millions the White Sox offered. Get real Belle; you're just another greedy player who left his team and fans behind for the extra cash.

Which brings me to my next point. If baseball owners are struggling with their financial situation so much, then why do they continually raise players' salaries year after year? It seems to me that when any business is losing money, they first raise prices and then cut salaries. Well, the own-

ers don't seem to have any problems with the first idea, but they can't seem to grasp that last concept. The owners know the players are overpaid, the fans know it, I know it, and probably the players even know it. So why in the heck aren't they doing anything about it? Simple solution: have a single player salary cap!

Before you criticize, consider first some of the players your favorite team has lost due to this salary problem. For example, if you're a Charlotte Hornets fan, you know the problem with Larry Johnson and Alonzo Mourning wanting more money. An individual player salary cap in addition to the team salary cap would help the fans and the small market teams, not to mention all owners to keep salaries from inflating any further. Small market teams would benefit because the players who have maxed out on the salary cap would have no reason to leave a city full of fans that love them, e.g. Shaquille O'Neal.

And finally, I'd like to give a message to everyone who had a comment about the college preview article I wrote in last month's issue. Yes, we all make mistakes, and I am prepared to admit that I, the sports authority, made a mistake. I should have never ranked the Kentucky Wildcats that high!

Donnie Stone looks forward to the LOHS basketball season

Bob Carroll
Sports Authority

Donnie Stone has shone through as the Lone Oak basketball team's true star. Last season, Stone averaged over fourteen points per game, along with more than five rebounds and better than two steals on average per game. Stone says there are three keys to his success—"hardwork, determination, dedication." He gives credit to Dominique "The Human Highlight Film" Wilkins as being his inspiration to play basketball. Stone has always enjoyed watching Wilkins dunking and wants to follow his pattern.

Stone believes Lone Oak will be a much better basketball team due to the team working harder, and having more experience



Donnie Stone makes a pass during the Christian Fellowship Game by A Manchikanti

than last year. After practicing every day, the team prepares for the next team they are to face by practicing their dribbling and shooting skills. Before the game, the team watches "Above the Rim," Stone likes to listen to music to get pumped for the game. He says the teams that Lone Oak will have the toughest time with should be Paducah Tilghman and Mayfield. Donnie will be playing either forward or guard this season.

Stone thinks his greatest abilities as a basketball player are his ability to penetrate to the basket and drive on a fast break. He is planning on going to college but is not decided as to which one.

Good luck this season, Donnie, and good luck to the Lone Oak basketball team.

Final Season Stats for the Lone Oak Football Team Record 4-6

Team Stats			
Rushing	183 total yds	4.1 avg yds.	
Passing	74 total yds	12.8 avg yds.	
Player Stats			
Rushing	Jason Moore	TD	YDS
	Brandon Bahr	6	605
Receiving	Nathan Taylor	4	441
	Kyle Slankard	3	398
Passing	Kyle Sanderson	0	72
		4	736

Lone Oak honored with three All-Star selections

Bob Carroll
Sports Editor

Lone Oak proudly had three players to attend and play in the West Kentucky All-Star game. Those players were Kyle Sanderson, at quarterback; Jason Moore, at cornerback; and Nathan Taylor, at defensive end. These three players were selected by the coaches from the Western Kentucky Football Conference. "This is a big honor," said head coach Randy Grimes.

In the game, Jason Moore had an interception that set up the West team's only offensive touchdown. That touchdown was led by Kyle Sanderson's quarterbacking skills. Nathan Taylor controlled his side of the line of scrimmage, allowing only one gain of more than five yards. Taylor ended the game with 6 tackles, Moore had 5 tackles and one interception, while Sanderson had 35 yards off of six carries. The West won 14-12 over the East.

Lone Oak captures McDonald's Tournament title

Andy Harris
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Lone Oak got their season off to a hot start by winning the McDonald's tournament in impressive fashion. The Purple Flash crushed Christian Fellowship, 76-34, then took care of Reidland in the championship game, 79-67.

"This was a great win for our program," said head coach Craig Wallace. "It brought the tournament title back to Lone Oak after not winning it last year for the first time. The guys played hard, smart and unselfishly."

After losing in the first round of last year's tournament to Christian Fellowship, Lone Oak had revenge on their minds as they headed into the rematch. But with superstar Chris Johnson gone from last year's team, the Eagles were no match for the Flash.

Lone Oak was never seriously threatened in this game, though their halftime lead was only 13 points. Josh Long led all scorers with 13 points, while Donnie Stone and Justin Duncan each chipped in 12. Most importantly, blowing out Christian Fellowship allowed Wallace to go to his bench, giving the young players some action and helping to get rid of some butterflies.



Daniel Cashon and Kyle Sanderson knock the ball away from a Christian Fellowship player. Lone Oak won the game 76-32.

Photo by A. Manclukanti

Lone Oak advanced to the championship game to face Reidland, a 62-57 winner over St. Mary in overtime. Once again, the Flash jumped out early and never looked back en route to a 12 point victory.

Kyle Sanderson was en fuego for the Flash, torching Reidland for 23 points. Stone also

came up big with a 20 point effort. David Wall led Reidland with 22 points.

The key to Lone Oak's success in this tournament was by far their unselfish play. Five players scored in double figures against Christian Fellowship, while four did the same versus Reidland. As far as the all-

tournament team, it was practically the entire Lone Oak starting lineup, with Stone, Sanderson, Duncan and Long leading the way. Sophomore Jon Shelby probably should have been on the team as well. He averaged 12 points in the two wins.

For Lone Oak, these two wins will go a long way in building confidence for the remainder of the season. After winning only three games all of last season, they are already off to a 2-0 start. "The guys have worked hard to improve, and these wins help to prove that we are better," said Wallace.

Lone Oak 76, Christian Fellowship 34

Jon Cargill 4, Daniel Cashon 3, Justin Duncan 12, Mitch Flood 2, Eric Fowler, Justin Gosa 4, Jeff Heath, Matt Hopper 2, Josh Long 13, Les Miller 3, Chris Peeler, Kyle Sanderson 10, Jon Shelby 11, Donnie Stone 12, Carl Walter
Field Goals 32, 3-pointers 3 (Stone 2, Long), Free Throws 9-27, Fouls 16

Lone Oak 79, Reidland 67

Cargill, Cashon 2, Duncan 15, Flood, Fowler, Gosa 4, Hopper, Long 2, Peeler, Sanderson 23, Shelby 13, Stone 20, Walter
Field Goals 31, 3-pointers 3 (Sanderson 2, Duncan), Free Throws 14-24, Fouls 21

Lady Flash come up short against Ballard for McDonald's crown

Andy Harris
Co-Editor-in-Chief

For the second straight year, the Lone Oak Lady Flash made it to the championship game of the McDonald's Tournament, but once again they ran into a tough opponent in the Ballard County Bombers, falling 62-44.

Lone Oak made it to the championship game with defense, but it was their offense

selves.

"We did a good job early of attacking their pressure and controlling the boards," said head coach Steve Cobb. "Then we forgot what we needed to do to be successful and got caught up in their game."

Amanda Mitchell led Lone Oak with 13 points and 15 rebounds. Kelly Sanders added 10 in the losing effort.

According to Cobb, the Lady Flash simply

outside.

In the first round game, Lone Oak completely dominated St. Mary, 45-23. The Lady Vikings were held to only five field goals for the entire game by Lone Oak's suffocating defense.

Sarah Beth Phelps led the way for the Lady Flash by scoring a career-high 12 points and also had seven rebounds and four assists. Cobb said of Phelps, "(She) has been our steadiest player by far."

The key for Lone Oak to improve on their performance in the McDonald's Tournament will be making better decisions, taking better care of the ball and shooting better.

"This team is not a star-studded team that can just show up and beat people," said

Cobb. "We must play good tough defense, go to the boards and make better decisions offensively every time we take the floor."

Lone Oak 45, St. Mary 23

Kim Adams 5, Ashley Emery 4, Brandy Gifford 2, Amanda Mitchell 4, Courtney Pace 8, Sarah Beth Phelps 12, Kelly Sanders 8, Bethany Wright 2

Field Goals 20-50, 3-pointers 1-2 (Adams), Free Throws 4-6, Fouls 24, Rebounds 33 (Mitchell, Phelps 7)

Ballard 62, Lone Oak 44

Adams 3, Emery 4, Gina Halstead 3, Mitchell 13, Pace 2, Phelps 9, Sanders 10

Field Goals 17-53, 3-pointers 0-1, Free Throws 10-13, Fouls 15, Rebounds 32 (Mitchell 15)



Amanda Mitchell battles for a loose ball against St. Mary.

Photo by E. Riggs

that let them down against Ballard. Lone Oak led 12-3 at the end of the first quarter and only trailed by one at halftime. But then the Bombers turned up the defensive pressure, holding the Lady Flash to only three third quarter points while scoring 25 them-

rushed to many shots and didn't get back down the floor on defense. Another worry was Lone Oak's inability to get the ball inside to Mitchell and Sanders. Until this happens, he says they will struggle because they are not shooting the ball well from the



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PAIN MANAGEMENT CENTER OF PADUCAH

"Meeting the health needs of patients without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin."