

THE OAK K

The Official Publication of LOHS ♦ Volume 55, No. 5, January 1997



Nikki Key was crowned 1997 Basketball Homecoming Queen on January 25th. See page 9 for more pictures.

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Construction leaves hope for the future and a better LOHS

Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

With the start of the new semester, confusion caused by construction immediately began. January 2nd was a strange day for most students, wandering around like lost ducklings, looking for classrooms, lockers, stairwells and bathrooms. The rumor of the asbestos didn't help matters, as word quickly spread throughout the school that classes would not be in session the following Monday if B & C buildings were not torn down, obviously not true.

As for the new classroom arrangements, it is obvious that they are less than ideal. Mrs. Masden said, "The noise levels caused by construction and the shared classroom affect the learning experience negatively (and my concentration!) There seems to be daily interruptions for workers or noise or announcements." Most teachers in the newly constructed building are sharing classrooms. Though the partitions provide a visual barrier, the sound within individual classrooms readily flows to the adjoining room, sometimes making it difficult for the teacher to be heard. Amy

I think that the problems such as overcrowding. . . are being addressed as well as they can be.

Mrs. Metzger

Bowling, a student in Masden's AP Calculus, said on the frequent disturbances, "It's really irritating, trying to learn when other classes are socializing. During tests and even regular lessons, it's extremely difficult to concentrate, especially in advanced classes like Calculus and Physics."

With all this chaos, it can only be asked if the

Drug dogs not a surprise to the majority of students

Ashley Small
Editorial Editor

On January 13, during second hour, LOHS and the parking lot were searched for drugs. This was a special case, though, because it wasn't just police officers that joined in the search but more importantly, drug dogs. These dogs are trained while they are just puppies to do nothing but search and find drugs. But they came up empty-handed when it came to LOHS.

Mike Ternbow, from the Kentucky State Police, was one of the police officers that helped lead the search. This search consisted of six dogs and a slew of police officers, who scoured the halls, lockers and general meeting



Photo by A. Harris

Mr. Werner's old room leaks out of the old building. This building will eventually be replaced with a more modern facility.

students are doing or even having the opportunity to do what their job—learn. "I'm less focused—so I'm sure that's having an effect on the students as well." Mr. Toy describes his new room as small and overcrowded, with heat not controllable.

"The crowded hallways (causing even more tardiness), loss of bathroom facilities, lack of lockers and student safety are my main concerns," said Masden when asked about the problems caused by the construction and moving. However, she did feel that most of these problems have been noticed. Her views were reiterated by other teachers polled. Mrs. Metzger said, "I think that the problems such as overcrowding, lack of proper facilities, etc. are being addressed as well as they can be." Campbell addressed concerns about fire safety and restroom facilities at the January SBDM meeting. Mrs. Adams assured the council that the fire marshal has inspected and approved the building. As for restrooms, there are more facilities now than when B & C buildings were

operational. "The problems is that most of them are in E building," said Campbell.

The main problem in the science department is the appalling lack of lab facilities. Mr. Sensing said, "At least when we were in the old art room, there was running water." There is also no gas. Sensing is also having difficulty finding himself in the new classrooms because all of the supplies have been distributed between three rooms. The acid cabinet was also either stolen or lost in the moving process.

With all this negativity, it might be hard to remember that the entire purpose of the construction, a better and much more attractive Lone Oak High School. "On the positive side, the construction is providing us with a bright, clean, more modern facility. It will be much nicer than the old building when finished," said Masden. If everyone keeps their heads, the transition can be smooth. Metzger said, "I think our student body has been fantastic. The students are doing their very best under less than ideal conditions."

areas to hunt for drugs. The police officers said they didn't find anything on campus, but did find some areas where it may have been hidden in the past. Although the dogs did not search the classrooms this time, Mr. Adams emphasized that the entire school will be searched during the next one.

As one can guess, the drug dog's presence provoked quite a mixture of different emotions. A majority of the student body, however, was glad to see something done in the fight not only against drugs but also the negative media that has plagued LOHS in the past several months. Much of the school, though, was surprised when they learned the school was found drug-free. When asked if the faculty was surprised, Mrs. Reeves said, "We were hoping none would

be found, but we would not have been shocked if they did."

Overall, the search seemed to have been very thorough. According to Mr. Adams, "This search was done very well...LOHS was first on the list of all the schools, so the dogs weren't tired yet."

So whether or not you felt good or bad about the issue, be forewarned. The police and the dogs will be returning in the future. In an informative assembly where the students got to see one of the dogs on the drug team, Officer Ternbow assured the entire student body they could be back here within an hour if necessary. Since many of the students knew about this search before it took place, there is reason to believe that the next one will be kept top secret.

Academic elite prepare for Governor's Cup

J.R. Young
Features Editor

On February 7 and 8 the District Governor's Cup competition will be held at Reidland High School. Four schools from first district (Lone Oak, Reidland, Tilghman, and Heath) will compete in a variety of academic competitions

Competing are the following:

Quick Recall- Lee Titsworth, Trey Swacker, Julie Thrasher, Zack Miller, Brent Turner and Anu Manchikanti

Future Problem Solving- Justin Young, Julie Sims, Matt Upshaw and Barbie Liles

General Knowledge- William Mills, Zack Miller and Brent Turner

English Composition- Michael Powers, Lee Titsworth and Anu Manchikanti

Math- Andy Berens, Matt Upshaw and Andy Harris

Social Studies- Brent Turner, Matt Upshaw and Anu Manchikanti

Science- Jackie Allshouse, Andy Berens and Julie Sims

Language Arts- Lee Titsworth, Julie Titsworth and Marty Rudd

Alternate- Laura Clausen
Mr. Toy will serve as coach and general source of good karma for the Quick Recall team. Ms. Underhill, Ms. Werner, Mrs. Stevenson and Mrs. Rafferty will also be aiding their service to competitors.

Commenting on the Quick Recall event, Zack Miller said, "My contribution to the team is like Steve Kerr's to the Bulls. The rest of the team is tight, though, and we're going down there to mow some trim."



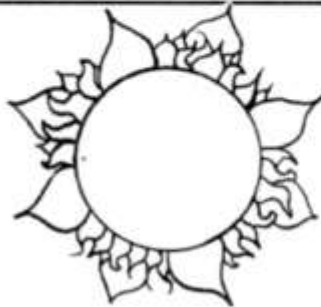
Photo by A. Manchikanti

Future Problem Solvers Justin Young, Barbie Lyles, Julie Sims and Matt Upshaw practice prior to the competition.

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Academic team continues winning streak

by Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On January 22, the members of the Lone Oak High School Quick Recall team participated in the West Kentucky Academic Bowl. Sponsored by the West Kentucky Academic Consortium, this yearly event is a great prelude to the Governor's Cup competition. The tournament is held at the trade school and televised on Channel 2 throughout the coming months.

The team met Paducah Tilghman's brain squad in the first round of the tournament, winning 36 to 16. After a break, the team met Reidland in the championship match. This game was close the entire way, with Reidland leading by two points. The second half brought on a constant change of leads, but in the end, the time was in favor of Lone Oak, as it ran out during a bonus question. The final score of this match was 25 to 24, as even moderator Tom Butler and coach Jim Toy were unsure of the score as the buzzer went off.

A Lone Oak tradition continues

Ann-Meredith McNeill
Coroner

It is time once again for the histrionic students to have a night to shine on stage. The school play offers a release for the overdramatic of Lone Oak High School, and this year is no exception. *The Perfect Idiot* by Eunice and Grant Atkinson is the play chosen by Ms. Teresa Underhill, the director of the annual event for the past two years. Underhill refuses to disclose any juicy details of what the play is about, saying only that it is a farce and for the audience to "expect the unexpected." She promises it will be a "highly entertaining" experience.

Eight males and seven females will be needed to fulfill the roles, but if being in the spotlight isn't your thing, don't fret. Underhill said she will need "A lot of support

Members of the Quick Recall team are Anu Manchikanti, Zach Miller, Trey Swacker, Lee Titsworth, Julie Thrasher and Brent Turner. This is the same team that won the Murray State University President's Academic Invitational Tournament earlier this year. They will also be participating in District Governor's Cup Quick Recall event on February 8th.

Each year, the West Kentucky Academic Consortium sponsors this competition within four districts. Lone Oak, Paducah Tilghman, Heath and Reidland are all in District Two. The champion of each district goes to the regional tournament on January 29th, also held at the trade school and videotaped. The participants in the regional match-ups are Carlisle County, Marshall County and St. Mary's. Lone Oak will face Carlisle County in the second round.

The winners of the regional tournament will receive a scholarship to be split among the team members. This scholarship is one of the main reasons for the competition. Good luck at the next level!

crew," such as stage, makeup, set, effects crews along with others. Being in the play has other advantages besides getting a taste of stardom. Mrs. Underhill said, "Directing the play has always been a positive experience. Many lasting friendships and lessons have been learned by all who take part in the play. I'm looking forward to another rewarding experience." Julie Sims and Jackie Allshouse, two-time stage veterans, jointly commented on their past experiences. "We had a lot of fun in the play. We practiced after school every day. We made lots of new friends. Boy, were we sad when it came to an end."

If all goes as planned, the auditions will be the week of January 27, and the performance will be March 21 and 22. Check the daily announcements for set dates.

All-State Band and Chorus lets students' talents shine



All-State Chorus-Front row-Sara Ryan, Jennifer Vorbeck, Stephanie Robinson, Nichole James. Back row-Aaron Watkins, Frances Owns, Callie Wexler, Erin Powell and Lee Titsworth.

Estee Cheah
Circulation Manager

At the All-District Band and Chorus tryouts last November, many musicians went, hoping to participate in All-District programs but also to be recommended to audition for the All-State Band and Chorus. Both are extremely competitive and only the best of the best will be considered to even try out for

them. Four band members from Lone Oak High School were chosen to be part of the 1996-1997 All-State Band. Senior Cliff Jenks and junior David Carmichael, both baritone players, junior Scott Bryant, a clarinet player, and junior Phil Sisto, a saxophone player, will attend and participate in the All-State Band. Erin Powell was also chosen for the band but chose the All-State Chorus instead

of the band program.

Those who made All-State Chorus are senior Lee Titsworth participating in the TTBB Chorus. Seniors Erin Powell, Jennifer Vorbeck and Nichole James, junior Sara Ryan and sophomores Frances Owen and Callie Wexler will be a part of the SSA Chorus. Those in the SATB Chorus are seniors Stephanie Robinson and Aaron Watkins.

All-State Chorus will be held on Wednesday, February 5, through Saturday

the 8th at the Hyatt Regency in Louisville. It will be held in conjunction with the KY Music Educator's Association Convention. Each chorus will be directed by a nationally known conductor, with a culminating performance to be held in the KY Center for the Arts. Congratulations to all that made the All-State Band and Chorus.

****Autumn Pate was also chosen for the All-District Senior Band but due to an error, her name was excluded from the list given in last month's newspaper.****



All-State Band members David Carmichael, Cliff Jenks, Phil Sisto and Scott Bryant.

Matchmaker, matchmaker, make me a match



Emily Riggs
Staff Writer

It is that time of year again. Valentine's Day will soon be here and who will be your perfect match? Thanks to Data Match you will be able to know who that special someone is.

The Key Club and WLOH have developed this fun, exciting way to raise money. Students will be given a Data Match

Compatibility Survey and form to fill out. After being filled out by the students, the forms will be sent off to the company to find those perfect matches. They will determine the compatibility of two people by pairing up those with similar answers.

The results should come in early February. So be ready to jump for joy or cry in sorrow when you find out your perfect match.



The Oak K staff wishes you a happy Valentine's Day filled with happiness, love and good chocolate.

Support Key Club and WLOH-Buy Data Match and find your true love without leaving the halls!!!

Gene Boaz

Photography



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Where are you going to school? An in-depth poll

Jason Carroll and Andy Harris
Staff Writers

With graduation just around the corner, seniors have now turned their attention to the elusive college search. Application deadlines are passing, financial information is due - it's crunch time, baby! In order to help you in your search for that "Holy Grail" of colleges, we have a poll of what 93 seniors say they plan for their collegiate future.

Are you planning to go to college?
Yes 87 93.5%
No 4 4.3%
Undecided 2 2.2%

Have you decided on a college?
Yes 48 55.2%
No 39 44.8%

Where are you applying?
Murray St 33
PCC 27
Kentucky 19

Union 12
Louisville 7
Western Ky 6
SIU 5
UT Martin 4
Belmont 3
Georgetown Coll 3
Bethel 3
SEMO 3
West Ky Tech 3

We thank all of the Seniors who participated in this unscientific poll.



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With new diploma standards some students won't make the grade

Emily Williams
Business Manager

As it is, the current standard diploma is relatively easy. It allows students to graduate with only 20 credits and count "easy" classes such as Consumer math, Reading Essentials, Global Issues and others as valid math, English, science, and history credits. However, there is a new standard diploma in review as we speak that is to be re-voted on by the Kentucky Board of Education this February. If the new diploma standards are passed, then 22 credits would be the minimum for graduation and it would make Algebra I, Geometry, Chemistry, U.S. History, and World Civilization required courses as well as four English credits (one of which could be Drama or Speech) and one Art History credit.

The problem that I have with these new standards is that they tend to follow the assumption that students on the whole will

actually be able to pass these classes. When taken into consideration that about 2/3 of this school's population finds it hard enough to pass Pre-Algebra and Informal Geometry, it seems even less likely. These aren't lazy people I'm talking about, either, they are students who try their best and simply can't swing the Atomic theory or Boyle's Law. After all, when upper-level students are going into Chemistry confidently and coming out with failing grades, who can expect the "less gifted" students to even come close to passing? I mean, I could be wrong, but aren't Chemistry and Geometry supposed to be for students who *want* to take them in order to attain the Enriched or Cumulative diploma. The standard diploma is standard for a reason: they cater to the average student. The reason we have the other "specialty" diplomas is so the "smart" people can get mucho kudos from those ivy league colleges they like to apply to.

Another group of people who will be highly

ticked off by the new standards are the art students, whether they know it yet or not. In case you are one of those serious art fiends who plans on making art into an actual career, listen up. With the induction of this new 22 credit diploma (including that one required art history credit) the art room will be overtaken by freshmen, most of whom won't even care about art much less who Leonardo da Vinci is. Meanwhile, those of us who truly love art and will probably continue in art after high school are forced to take typing or something equally as unimportant that certainly won't impress any art colleges anywhere. Yes, you heard me right. There will be absolutely no specialized Art 1, 2, or 3 if the new diploma is approved. Art History will be taught for freshmen only and nothing else. Ms. Hayden looks on the bright side, though, and says that, "What will probably happen is that the school will take on another art teacher so that we can still continue with studio art

courses." But it isn't guaranteed that will happen.

The only thing that I can see as guaranteed is that these new standards will push students too hard, and they may end up pushing them away. Considering a high school diploma is required for almost any job these days it seems destructive in the long run to make them even more unattainable. However, if the goal was originally to boost self-esteem among lower-level students by using fancy course names, yet lowering the standards, it is much more feasible that it will only discourage struggling students even more. I understand the wish to better Kentucky's schools and increase graduation, but a school with a large pregnancy rate, high drug usage, and an ever-growing amount of drop-outs, should be more concerned with promoting graduation instead of inhibiting it.

Lone Oak High School transformed into Central L.O.

Estee Cheah
Circulation Manager

Before Lone Oak students got out for Christmas Break, numerous teachers whose rooms were in the B and C halls handed out markers for students to sign the walls inside the classrooms. Personally, I felt this was way cool. I mean, how many times in a lifetime do students actually get to decorate the walls of our school with our signatures?

But as we all know, this quickly got out of hand. People everywhere whipped out markers and started writing and drawing in the hallways, bathrooms and even on the

ceilings. None of this really bothered me, it was just students signing their names to an already falling apart and about to be torn down building, right? Wrong.

As I walked down those halls, I couldn't help but feel like I was on the set of *Dangerous Minds*. Not only did people sign their names, they also wrote and drew very offensive things. By the end of the day, the halls displayed everything from racism to the Nazi sign to sexual harassment. The halls were also plastered with swearing and cursing and all sorts of foul language. I am not one to speak about foul language, but at least I didn't write it everywhere for the whole school to view.

There is no use in my repeating or describing what these walls had written on them for a couple of reasons. First of all, I'm sure everyone saw it. Secondly, I felt it was very inappropriate to even put that stuff there in the first place.

The school's administrators also felt this was very ridiculous. They sent the poor janitors to spray out every cuss word they possibly could with spray paint. So, basically every five inches was this brown blob smack in the middle of the wall.

LOHS has already taken the bad rap about crime, gangs and drug problems and if our hallways were seen by observers and critics, it would have been broadcast everywhere

how bad Lone Oak High School is, while in reality, we really aren't.

Truly believe not everyone participated in the graffiti in the halls. The people who actively wrote offensive things and wanted to express how much they hated the world and wish everyone would die need to get a life. Nobody wants to hear it. People like that show a lack of respect for others and especially themselves. (Almost) everyone wants to be treated like a mature adult, but that's impossible if you're acting like a three year old.

Is P.E. a must to finish your education?

Lucy Jackson
Staff Writer

In the four years students attend LOHS, they are required to complete a semester of physical education in order to receive their diploma. Students are not required to take an art class, music class or even carry out a certain amount of community service time, and yet they must complete physical tasks in order to finish their high school education. What exactly does physical fitness have to do with education? I must admit, I do not see the connection. I happen to enjoy sports a great deal and I think it is a good idea to offer a gym class, but I feel that making it mandatory is not necessary. The fact that it is required puts physical fitness on a level of importance equal to that of academics and above that of the fine arts. LOHS has yet to offer a class in humanities, creative writing or even a Latin class, and yet a gym class is provided, and students are expected to take it despite their interests.

Health occupies the semester students are not in gym. I would consider this more of a "class," though I don't think it affects one's education to the point it should be

required. P.E. though, does not provide the type of instruction which is normally considered educational. Perhaps whoever decided to make this class mandatory wanted to get teenagers in shape who otherwise would get little, if any, exercise. Still, I find it hard to believe that just four months of gym will achieve exactly that, and even if they somewhat do, the results will most likely not last. Students who don't care to or don't have the time to get in shape most likely aren't going to continue exercising after the semester is over. If taking gym were a choice, students who are athletic could take a class that they would enjoy and could excel in, and students who aren't would not be forced to take something in which they do neither.

Another negative side of requiring gym is the fact that a sophomore can really only choose five classes. Students are often unable to take all the elective classes they would like to because of the lack of room in their schedule. If gym is something that must be taken, the situation could be improved by requiring P.E. to be taken as Freshman when less electives are available.

Overall, I think that offering a gym class is

perfectly fine, but I do not feel that it is important enough to require. Students choose their electives and core classes, and I don't see why gym should be any different.

Hopefully in the future, it will not be mandatory, but until then, students must exercise their bodies to complete their education.

The Oak K	
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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 affect the audience. Final authority for the content of the paper rests in the hands of the principal.

Ebonics will be harmful to African-Americans in the long run

Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Oakland, California December decision to teach black English, or Ebonics, is completely ridiculous because instead of bringing the degree of these students' English to a higher level, they are being held back. Ebonics is not a separate language but just a dialect of English, a form of slang. Is English taught differently in the South? Is the word "ain't" correct grammar? Of course not. By teaching this slang to these children, the school might be a little more comfortable, but that shouldn't be the school's priority. Giving a quality education should, though.

By enstating this new policy, students are really being hurt in the long run. Reports on the Oakland Unified School District's website indicate nine recommendations, one of which is "African-American students shall develop English language proficiency as the

foundation for their achievements in all core competency areas." There is no way that teaching this discipline will ever allow the students to develop proficiency in English. If this language that they hear in their homes is not correct, there is no reason that the school needs to recognize it, much less teach it. Furthermore, if English is to be the foundation for all higher learning, then this school district is causing the foundation to be very weak.

In the real world, people use English. There will always be different dialects of the language, but proper, grammatically-correct English will always be recognized. This is the standard that every student should be taught. However, different dialects might not be comprehended in other places. For instance, some on in the North might not understand someone who said, "Y'all, I'm fixin' to get a lot of food." That's part of the reason why we are not taught to speak like this in school. It's slang. So why should it

be different in any other part of the country? Yes, 53% of the Oakland Unified School District's enrollment is African-American, but 99% of students in the South are Southern. Does that mean that they should be taught a certain dialect, with all the slang? No, I didn't think so.

One of the core curriculum standards at benchmark grade levels is "all students will be able to read and engage with complex and diverse literature, conduct a research project and write a scholarly paper on that research..." The first part of this standard is the important one. After 13 years of being taught proper English, I have enough trouble trying to analyze and interpret literature. I can only imagine the trouble that will arise for someone who hasn't been taught this English. It's almost like students in foreign countries who take English for years. They might be able to understand the basic principles, but since it is not their main language, they won't be truly proficient in it.

It's all right in this situation because they don't have to use English every day for the rest of their lives. These students in the Oakland School District are truly being put at a disadvantage because once they leave this area, they will have much difficulty mainstreaming.

In finality, this decision is only going to be harmful for the students. As educators, the school board should realize that trying to make a dialect an independent language is never going to work. The students that are having trouble with standard English should have the opportunity to be in the class of a teacher that can communicate with them, whether that be in Ebonics or not. If the students have a strong background in English from day one of kindergarten, they should be able to develop the needed proficiency. But in the end, standard English should be taught first.

What is your New Year's resolution and have you kept it so far?



Ashley Chappell

"To not sleep so much, but that will never happen. Especially not after all of those snow days!"



Stephanie Burnette

"To better myself in everything I do. I've probably broken it already, but I haven't given up on it yet."



Ms. Campbell

"To be more organized!"



Amy Newman

"Eat healthy and exercise a bunch, but who am I kidding?"

What did you do this year for New Year's?



Angela Pace

"My sister and I watched *Spy Hard*, ate bad Chinese food, and *completely* lost track of time and totally missed the new year!"



Travis Smith

"I led an angry flock of sheep into the courthouse downtown, and in protest to all of the publicity, I started screaming, "Pudding, pudding!"



Emily Williams

"I rang in the new year at Steak N' Shake, asking some drunkard what he wanted on his steakburger."



Jackie Allshouse

"My friends and I hibernated at my house in fear of any drunks that may be loose on the roads."

Overcrowded conditions call for more time in between classes

Megan Williams
Staff Writer

Phase II of the much needed renovation has begun forcing all students to have classes in the E building, D wing and the new A and B wings. While the new classrooms are appreciated, the overcrowded halls are be-

coming hard to bare. Between each class, many students file into the small D hall, carrying their giant backpacks behind them. The movement of people comes to a standstill from dodging on-coming students and those attempting to reach their lockers. The time it takes to get to class has almost doubled due to the crowded conditions, and

stops at the restroom are nearly impossible.

A few extra minutes added on to the time in between classes would help the situation greatly. This would slow those down who are frantically racing through the halls pushing people over in attempt to get to class on time. Fewer tardies would be given because people would have more time to stop at their

lockers and get to class. There would be less classroom disruptions because students would not have to leave the classroom to get their books out of their lockers or to use the restroom. An additional one to two minutes added to the time in between classes would help relieve some stress caused by the construction.

The Oak K consults the Magic Eight Ball

J.R. Young
Features Editor

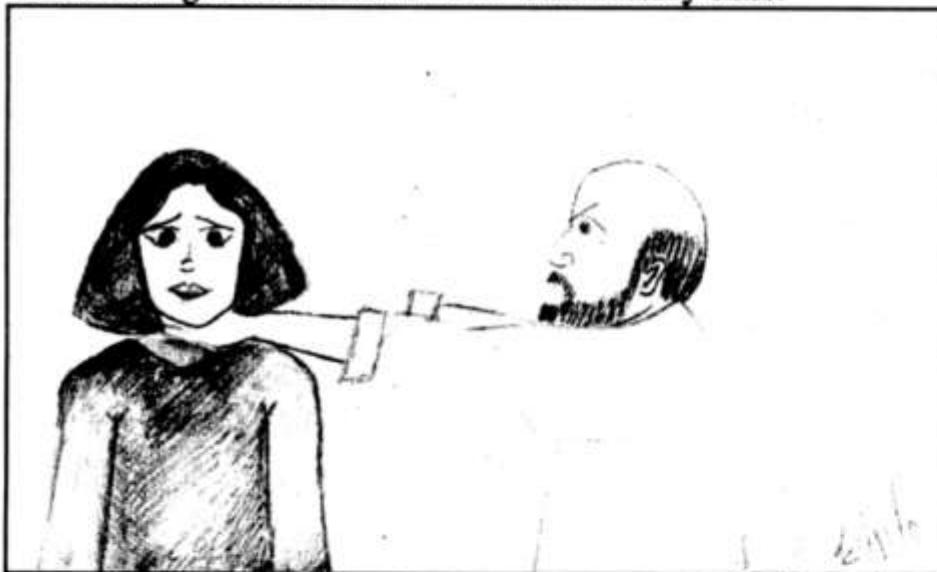
Many people have inquired about the secretive rituals of the journalism class. Good taste prevents me from telling you most, but there is one that can be shared with all. Every January, *The Oak K* staff joins together late at night and consults the mystical forces of the Magic Eight Ball. This year, we decided to pass our visions on to you, our reading public.

Entertainment

1. *The Lost World (Jurassic Park 2)* opens to the first ever \$100 million weekend at the box office. It goes on to make \$800 million world wide. Siskel and Ebert give it two thumbs down.
2. *Resident Evil 2* becomes the best selling video game of all-time. Sony promotes the game by having a zombie eat Crash Bandicoot in television commercial.
3. Alanis Morissette's new album goes platinum in its first week of release. Sales drop off dramatically as fans realize not only do all of her songs sound the same, but so do her albums.
4. Leonardo DiCaprio will be horribly maimed in a car accident.
5. DVD (movies on CD) makes a splash in the home video market, essentially replacing VHS as the format of choice.
6. Columbia House will introduce their new twenty videos for one cent deal in reply.
7. Kate Moss adopts the Hindu faith and dies the following Saturday.
8. Dan Akroyd, Jim Belushi and John Goodman finally begin work on *The Blues Brothers 2000*.
9. Techno pop will finally hit big, led by European band Prodigy.
10. The Travelling Wilburys will reunite with Eric Clapton in place of Roy Orbison.
11. *Friends* is cancelled as viewers awaken to the fact that the show stinks.
12. In the crossover event of the year, Garfield will eat Ziggy's parrot.

News & Politics

13. On May 9, Ted Kennedy is arrested for DUI.
14. O.J. Simpson wins a seat as representative from California. In disgust, Sonny Bono tells reporters, "They'll let any nut in here!"
15. **President Clinton resigns after Bob Barker raises allegations that Socks hasn't been neutered. In a fit of rage, Mr. Barker strangles students in his AP U.S. History class.**



Mr. Baker releases his rage upon his favorite AP U.S. History student.

16. On May 15, Ted Kennedy is arrested for DUI.
17. Ross Perot decides to set his sights lower and runs for mayor in Paducah, Texas. He loses.
18. An 8.4 quake will rock Southern California. Police blame Richard Jewell.
19. Blind people will march on Washington in protest for equal rights. Hundreds will be killed when they wander into traffic.
20. On a diplomatic visit to the U.S., Boris Yeltsin is arrested with Ted Kennedy for transferring alcohol across state lines.

21. After being accused of targeting young people, tobacco companies will reluctantly remove the free stick of gum from cigarette packs.
22. O.J. will kill someone.
23. Ralph Reed resigns after being spotted at a Joe Eszterhas film festival.
24. Coca-Cola will lead a crash of the stock market after replacing Mello Yellow with Surge.

Sports

25. Rick Pitino is indicted for connections with organized crime. Allegations arise when Jared Prickett turns up missing after blowing the game winning shot in the Final Four.
26. The Chicago Bulls win their second straight world championship...again.
27. Michael Jordan and Dennis Rodman retire due to "lack of competition" to form their own film production company.
28. Shaquille O'Neal and Charles Barkley retire to form a competing company.
29. Mark McGwire shatters the single season homerun record as he crushes three homers in the final game of the season for a new record of 64.
30. The Oakland Athletics finish the season in the cellar of the American League West.
31. Tiger Woods retires from the PGA Tour, having won every major in his first year of play, quoted as saying, "Maybe I'll go into films." The Jordan/Rodman and Barkley/O'Neal companies enter a bidding war.
32. Gateway 2000 purchases the L.A. Dodgers and changes the team colors to black and white.
33. MLS will draw new fans and gain popularity as the fourth major American professional sport.

Technology

34. Bill Gates is stunned as millions of computer users decide '95 wasn't a great year, why would '97 be any different?
35. America Online (AOL) users are speechless as AOL converts all users to a \$19.95 lifetime usage plan.
36. The last traces of self taught web programmers will disappear in favor of savvy Java scripters.

LOHS

37. The day after completing renovation, LOHS catches fire and burns to the ground.
38. Upon completion of the renovation, architects realize that while funny in the planning stages, two bathrooms for 900 students is not at all humorous..
39. School lets out on June 20 after the worst winter ever.
40. LOHS will play host to weekly dog shows in the gym.

Journalism

41. Mrs. Campbell will be fired after intentionally failing Andy so *The Oak K* will have someone to write sports next year.
42. Bobbee will return to the staff of *The Oak K* in November after escaping from his aunt's basement.
43. Doctors will discover AnuE is not really that happy but instead has lockjaw.
44. Estee will enter and end another dramatic relationship.
45. Ann will discard the McNeil from her name and simply go by Ann Meredith.
46. Emily Riggs will write her first REAL feature.
47. Emily Williams will quit Steak 'n Shake realizing all her friends are gone.
48. Lucy will get a job so she can purchase her own gum. Ashley will ask daily for a piece.
49. Megan will lose self-control and bash her computer after receiving an "Unable to Print" message for the tenth time.
50. Mrs. Campbell will reconsider her appointment of co-editors-in-chief as Halloween approaches.

Baker is selected Teacher of the Month

Ashley Small
Editorial Editor

* Since the Student Council was unable to vote on the Teacher of the Month for January and I was supposed to cover it for the paper, I got to select the teacher. As I tried to decide which teacher to interview I realized that no one's LOHS career was complete without meeting Mr. Baker, and since I'm one of those lucky few who gets to see Mr. Baker *everyday*, I thought I could add my own insightful comments on his teaching.

Mr. Baker attended college at Murray State, where he was also a member of Sigma

Phi Epsilon. Regardless of his fraternity, Mr. Baker says he was a serious student and "did well" while he was there.

After finishing college he began his teaching career at Lone Oak High School and this will be his twenty-fourth year of teaching here. He only has three more years left until he will be eligible to retire, but he has no specific plans as to what he will do then. He says he may continue to teach for a while.

Overall, he has enjoyed teaching, especially his A.P. U.S. History class. However, he does remark that the down side is, "...all the paperwork and ignorant policies, such as KERA."

Of course, any student who has had Mr. Baker can tell you his trademark is his sarcasm and humor. When I asked Anu Manchikanti, one of his past students what she remembers best about him she said, "He has a unique style of teaching and a dry sense of humor, which makes everything funny."

And this dry humor was well demonstrated when I asked him one thing about himself that most students probably didn't know and he said, "Well, I have a slight hair loss problem." Truly though, he said, "I hate it when people collect old stuff like stamps and old newspapers." This was pretty

surprising considering he is such a history buff.

When Mr. Baker is not at school he enjoys reading lots of history books (go figure), "attempting" to play golf, listening to music that ranges anywhere from Classical to Sheryl Crow and working in his yard (a.k.a. garden.) He also has a daughter named Libby, who is currently an English major at Murray State.

In the end, I asked Mr. Baker if he had any philosophy that he tried to teach and live by and he said, "Students and teachers should try to do the best they can in all they do. We can't be perfect, but we can try!"

Takezyn is in the spotlight

Megan Williams
Staff Writer

A new, unfamiliar face has arrived here at Lone Oak after a long journey from France. Jerome Sakezyn, a junior, has moved to Paducah with his uncle, aunt and two cousins. He and his family decided to move to Paducah because of other family members already living here.

Although he does not speak fluent English, Jerome still enjoys the activities here, especially art. This fall he will probably be playing soccer for LOHS. In fact, Jerome can often be found in the gym dribbling a soccer ball during second flex. After high school, Jerome is unsure of what he wants to do.

"I don't know, maybe working and then traveling," Sakezyn said about life after high school.

Atherton named LOHS Junior Rotarian

Emily Williams
Business Manager

"The Rotary Club is an organization that is concerned about the community and work to make Paducah a better place to live," said senior Jennifer Atherton who has the very positive attitude that the Rotary club works toward. It is certainly fitting, then, that she be chosen by The Rotary club as this month's Jr. Rotarian. But then again, it's not very hard to see why she would be chosen for *any* such honor. After all, she has accomplished in only four years of high school more than most people will in a lifetime!

Like what?, you ask. Well, she has maintained a 4.0 G.P.A for all of her high school career and manages to skillfully balance her school work with extracurricular activities including band, choir, Beta club, and Acteens. She also attends Lone Oak First Baptist and regularly participates in the youth group program. Complementing her perfect

grades and community-friendly social life are a plethora of honors and awards ranging from the Outstanding Band member of 1995 honor to being a three-time winner of the Who's Who Among American High School Students award.

It certainly seems as though Atherton has a very good head on her shoulders and will hopefully continue to use this to her advantage in the future. She plans on attending Campbellsville University after graduation where she will major in Mathematics and minor in music. When Atherton learned she had been selected she said, "I was very excited to be chosen as the January Jr. Rotarian. Attending the Paducah Rotary Club meetings has been a treasured opportunity for me and it is exciting to talk to prominent people in Paducah and see their dedication to service."



Senior Jennifer Atherton



Rigdon chosen for prestigious award

Lucy Jackson
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Rigdon was chosen January's Choir Member of the month. Upon finding out she had received this great honor Rigdon was quoted as saying, "I feel very privileged. I know I am not the best singer, but I am responsible and attentive in class, and I think that is probably why I was chosen." She has blessed us all with her exceptional talent by singing second soprano in the concert choir. Besides giving her all at LOHS, she is also a prominent member of the Lone Oak First Baptist Choir.

"Elizabeth is very attentive in class. Whether we are warming up, sight-reading, listening to a recording, or learning parts, she is always participating and making a concentrated effort," stated LOHS choir instructor Dawn Durham.



Sophomore Elizabeth Rigdon

Rigdon has talent not only in singing, but also with musical instruments and dance. She plays the flute and piccolo in the LOHS marching and symphonic band and studies tap and ballet. As busy as she obviously is, Elizabeth still finds time to display her outgoing personality by taking part in community service. Through her many music oriented activities she has developed a great appreciation for Broadway musicals. Her favorite is *Les Miserables*. Cats, not the musical, but the cuddly little animals she enjoys spending quality time with, happen to be another one of her favorite things.

As for her future, Rigdon hopes to go into some type of musical education. She would like to be in a marching band in college and anything else musical that is offered to her. Hopefully her dreams will come true and the musical world will forever be influenced by our very own Elizabeth Rigdon.



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Justin's Jabberings

Schools to stay low-tech

J.R. Young
Features Editor

I figure since our school is going through a physical renovation, perhaps it could also use an internal renovation. While I was at it, I came up with a few suggestions for all schools in general.

First, no student should graduate without taking one computer class. Every student leaving high school should know how to turn on a PC (as well as knowing what that stands for), operate a word processor and use a database or spreadsheet. It's just a fact of life that these are skills everyone needs.

On the same note, schools should offer only one computer class. Call it "Intro to Computers," or whatever, but the truth is there is only need for one computer class in high school. For instance, our school could easily do without its word processing class. Many schools across the nation are replacing art and music rooms with computer labs so they can teach their students Java and C++ programming skills. If someone is interested in being a programmer, they can learn the language in college. It's stupid to take away valuable classes to teach pointless courses.

Also continuing the technology trend, schools need to stop placing so much emphasis on careers in technology. Schools are telling students that the only jobs they can get in the world are those related to computers. In thirty years there will still be a demand for plumbers, carpenters, and welders. Hiring a plumber today will cost you \$150, but for the same price you could hire three high school kids to do HTML code for you. See the difference?

Last of all is the KERA topic. How many times have you been sitting in class and wondered, "When in my life will I ever use this?" Most students will probably never use the information they acquire in high school. The problem is that schools teach students information, and in turn the students gain little knowledge. Instead of teachers asking what metals compose the earth's core, teachers should be asking, "Why do we know that?" The reason most students have problems in math, chemistry and foreign language classes is that these classes test a student's knowledge of the subject. Most other classes are simply tests of memory. A considerable amount of time the students making the best grades are not the smartest, but simply the ones with the best memories. A few more essay questions as proposed by KERA would better test a student's understanding of the subject instead of their information retention.

Solutions exist to all of these problems. It only takes the application of a little knowledge to fix them. In my opinion these are some of the most severe problems our schools face today, but I could be wrong. After all, I'm just a guy.

Evita brings musicals to the movie theater

Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

With the release of *Evita*, Madonna has made it clear that her "Material Girl" days are over. The controversial rock opera, written by Andrew Lloyd Webber (*Phantom of the Opera*) and Tim Rice, which portrays the life of Eva Peron is just excellent. The actors, the music, the setting...it all blends to produce an empowering movie.

The movie begins in an Argentine movie theatre. To the dismay of the viewers, the movie is interrupted, only for the announcement of the death of Eva Peron. Che (Antonio Banderas), the narrator, first appears here. The movie flashes back to the funeral of Eva's father, then back to Eva's funeral, then back to Junin, her hometown. Eva is age 15, ready to move on to Buenos Aires and is willing to do anything to get there. With Senor Magaldi, she finds her ticket to the big city. Upon arrival, Eva does anything and everything to rise as a model,

actress, and broadcaster, using her physical appearance and charming exterior to the fullest. At a charity concert, she meets Juan Peron. Immediately, they are both completely taken with each other, and so the love affair begins. Then comes the courtship, Juan Peron's prison stay, the marriage, Peron's presidency, Eva's attempt of public works, then Eva's death from ovarian cancer.

Madonna does an excellent job in her portrayal of Eva Peron. After a string of bad movies, she has finally found a film in which she can use her true musical talent to the utmost. In an interview, Madonna commented, "After going through it all—from singing a whole new way, to learning how to tango, to meeting presidents and bishops...I'm 100% sure no one else could have handled the role." All the factors were in her favor, from her dancing and singing backgrounds to the similarities in her life and appearance to Peron's. In this movie, Madonna shows a side of herself never seen

before, of a much more serious, subdued persona.

In playing Che, Banderas is totally hilarious. He does a wonderful job. The audience never knows when he's going to pop up. Much to my surprise, he is also a very good singer. Banderas' true flamboyance is definitely apparent in this film.

As for the music...the arrangement is truly awesome. The music is the most vital part of the film because it is the story. This soundtrack is definitely one that anyone who sees the movie will want to add to their collection, especially since they will probably find the urge to break out into "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" whenever the television commercial is played.

Evita has Oscar written all over it. But the best part of the movie is that the possibility of the revival of the movie musical on the big screen, a dying art, only known to our generation through the animation of Disney. This film has something for everyone and is a must see.

Word Scramble

Unscramble the words and fill in the blanks with the circled letters.

P A L P E

C I N E P L

N N A Y N

R E A N M N

I S O A V R

S T Y E Y D E A R

B E L D I E

R I N D E T A

K A B T S E L B A L



apple: sawtooth; edible; basketball; pencil; manner; yesterday; trained

Single on Valentine's

Estee Cheah
Circulation Manager

Valentine's Day is cool, if you're a half of a couple that is. Chances are, it could be a total bummer if you're seriously in like with someone who doesn't even know you're alive or even worse, have no one to like. But believe, it or not, it could be pretty cool to be boyfriendless on Valentine's Day. For instance, you don't have to worry about getting a present and spending hours reading sappy valentines in the card store, then only to find out, they either totally hate your present or think your card is corny.

So instead of moping around this Valentine's Day, make it worthwhile. Just think, the girls don't have to obsess about gaining excess pounds from eating too many chocolate hearts and the guys don't have to worry whether she'll like red or pink roses better. However, a good way to spend Valentine's Day is inviting some of your buds over and having an overnight flick fest complete with assorted flavored popcorn, and unlimited refills of Hot Tamales and Sour Patch Kids.

Another idea is going somewhere with a bunch of your friends and flirt like crazy with other single specimens. Hey, you never know, maybe next Valentine's Day you won't have to spend it without anyone to love. These are just a couple of ideas, and there are oceans of other possibilities out there. Just because you don't have a significant other doesn't mean Valentine's Day should be boring and depressing. After all, isn't it just a day when a little fat boy in diapers runs around and tries to shoot people with arrows? You never know though, you could get lucky.

❁ Basketball Homecoming 1997 ❁



Attendants: Rebecca Huyck, freshman; Sarah Amundson, sophomore; and Lindsay Fesmire, junior.



Senior court members Dawn Simmons, Nikki Key, Rebecca Smithmier, Emily Johnson, Shannon Christopher, La'Donna Atkins, Casey Powell, and Dana Sowash



1997 Basketball Homecoming
Queen

Nikki Key



Homecoming Attendants:

Junior Lindsay Fesmire
Sophomore Sarah Amundson
Freshman Rebecca Huyck



Senior basketball players crown Nikki Key as 1997 Basketball Homecoming Queen



❁ The Queen's Court ❁

Dana Sowash

Shannon Christopher

Casey Powell

La' Donna Atkins

Dawn Simmons

Emily Johnson

Rebecca Smithmier



Freshman Aaron Peeler crawls after the ball in hot pursuit to beat the junior and seniors.



Junior Charlie Stevenson gets down and dizzy at the pep rally.

Kyle Sanderson leads Lone Oak Boys Basketball team to success

Jason Carroll
Sports Editor

After starting the season by winning the McDonald's Tournament, the Lone Oak basketball team has fallen to a record of 5 and 7 overall and 2 and 2 in district play. Leading the team in scoring is the combination of Donnie Stone and Kyle Sanderson who are averaging 13.8 pts/gm. Followed up by Jon Shelby 12.6 pts/gm, with Josh Long and Justin Duncan each averaging 6.9 pts/gm. Team leaders in rebounding are Shelby with 9.2 reb/gm and Stone with 8.8 reb/gm. Lone Oak has outscored opponents by an average of .4 pts/

gm with Lone Oak averaging 63.2 pts/gm and allowing a mere 62.8 pts/gm.

In the recent homecoming game, Lone Oak defeated Christian Fellowship by a score of 93 to 57. Donnie Stone led all scorers as he "whooped up" on CFS with 22 points.

Lone Oak led 30-26 at half-time but pulled away, outscoring Christian Fellowship by 12 points in the third period. Kyle Sanderson also had a good game, with 16 points.

Lone Oak went 38 of 77 from the field. Jeff Heath scored Lone Oak's only three-point field goal of the game.

Lone Oak held a free-throw percentage of 57%. After only 18 fouls and 43 rebounds in

the game, Lone Oak celebrated a huge homecoming victory. Congratulations Lone Oak on a great start to your season and good luck in the future games.

Lone Oak 67, Heath 61

John Cargill 6, Justin Duncan 10, Justin Gosa 2, Josh Long 4, Kyle Sanderson 16, Jon Shelby 16, Donnie Stone 13

Carlisle 84, Lone Oak 75

John Cargill 2, Justin Duncan 13, Josh Long 6, Kyle Sanderson 21, Jon Shelby 11, Donnie Stone 20

Tilghman 96, Lone Oak 66

John Cargill 7, Justin Duncan 9, Justin Gosa

2, Josh Long 10, Kyle Sanderson 10, John Shelby 19, Donnie Stone 7

Reidland 58, Lone Oak 49

Jon Cargill 3, Justin Duncan 6, Mitch Flood 6, Justin Gosa 6, Josh Long 5, Kyle Sanderson 15, John Shelby 9, Donnie Stone 11

Lone Oak 93, CFS 57

Donnie Stone 22, John Shelby 14, Kyle Sanderson 16, Justin Duncan 8, Josh Long 7, John Cargill 1, Justin Gosa 9, Mitch Flood 4, Matt Hopper 2, Carl Walter 4, Chris Peeler 3, Jeff Heath 3, Erik Fowler 1, Les Miller 2, Ryan Dunn 2



Jon Shelby grapples for the ball against Christian Fellowship photo by A. Manchikanti



Coach Tidwell sets up the next play with his team photo by E. Riggs

Tidwell and Lady Flash roll to a 10-4 record overall

Andy Harris
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The new year has brought a new look to the Lone Oak Lady Flash. Head coach Steve Cobb resigned from his position and was replaced by Barry Tidwell. But even with all the changes that have taken place, one thing remains the same. Lone Oak continues to win.

"I think they (the players) have adjusted well," said Tidwell. "They have good attitudes and are very easy to work with."

The team has run its record to 10-4 overall

and 4-0 in the second district. Included in those victories were two key district games against Tilghman and Reidland. Both were 18 point wins.

Kelly Sanders led the Lone Oak attack against the Lady Tornadoes by scoring 14 points. Amanda Mitchell added 10. "Anytime you go to Tilghman and win you have to be happy," said Tidwell.

The Lady Flash picked up another road win by scoring their highest total of the season in defeating Reidland 74-56. Mitchell had another solid performance, scoring 22 points. Ashley Emery also had double figures

in scoring with 13.

Lone Oak ran into trouble on the road, however, against a very tough Calloway County squad. The Lady Flash managed only 28% field goal shooting in a 59-35 loss. "We did a pretty good job on defense, but the shots wouldn't fall," said Tidwell.

As for the rest of the season, Tidwell has high hopes. "I want to keep getting better and peak at tournament time," he said.

Lone Oak 54, Tilghman 36

Kim Adams 6, Ashley Emery 6, Brandy Gifford 5, Gina Halstead 2, Amanda Mitchell 10, Courtney Pace 2, Sarah Beth Phelps 9, Kelly Sanders 14

Field Goals 23; 3-pointers 0; Free Throws 6; Fouls 20

Lone Oak 74, Reidland 56

Adams 7, Regan Carfield, Emery 13, Gifford 6, Allison Golden, Halstead 4, Mitchell 22, Pace 8, Phelps 6, Sanders 6, Tonya Stamper 2, Bethany Wright, Jennifer Young

Field Goals 28-52; 3-pointers 2-5 (Emery); Free Throws 16-24; Fouls 20; Rebounds 36

Calloway 59, Lone Oak 35

Adams, Carfield, Emery 10, Gifford, Golden, Halstead, Mitchell 6, Pace, Phelps 6, Sanders 12, Stamper 1, Wright, Young

Field Goals 13-46; 3-pointers 0-3; Free Throws 9-16; Fouls 21; Rebounds 23



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Varsity girls head coach turns in surprise resignation

Lucy Jackson
Staff Writer

On January 2nd, Steve Cobb resigned from his position as head coach of the girls varsity basketball team. Though many rumors circulated about the cause of his actions, the actual reason for his resignation is the fact that coaching takes a tremendous amount of time, and he felt that he was somewhat neglecting other priorities, such as his family and special education students.

His goal had always been to build a program that could contend for a regional championship. He felt that the players and the coaches had dedicated themselves by spending a great deal of time in the gym and working extremely hard. Unfortunately, it also meant spending a large amount of time away from his family and loved ones. Cobb believes that the group of ladies he worked with understand exactly what it takes to be the best and are willing to do exactly that, but he felt that he had to take into consideration factors that were just as important to



Steve Cobb is seen here teaching his special education class.

Photo by ER

him as coaching.

Cobb regrets only the timing of his decision, but he feels it was necessary to go ahead with his resignation. "I felt my re-

lections over the holidays could eventually affect my burning desire to get this team on the top, and I didn't want that to happen. So, I got out when the fire was still hot," said

I felt my reflections over the holidays could eventually affect my burning desire to get this team on the top... I got out when the fire was still hot.

-Steve Cobb

Cobb.

Barry Tidwell has taken the position as the Lady Flash varsity coach. Mike Murphy is coaching junior varsity, and Dan Pope is coaching the freshman team.

"This is a very special group of ladies who respect, if not fully understand, my decision. I care very deeply for all of them and will continue to do so. Nothing will ever change that," stated Cobb.

Former champs struggle to defend their crowns

Bob
Sports Authority

Welcome to another edition of "Bob's Wide World of Sports." I'd like to start this article by saying a little something about the UK basketball team. This year's team **did** have the dynamic duo of Mercer and Anderson, but now it looks as though Anderson is out for the season. With the addition of Scott Padgett in December, and the continuing improvement from Muhammed and Magloire, the Wildcats do have a great rotation of big men; however, it is apparently all they have now. Ron Mercer is certainly not the NBA star of tomorrow, yet. And without a

consistent go-to guy, the Wildcats are lacking many ingredients for a championship team. The only hope for this year's team is that Edwards steps his game up two or three notches to fill in for the injured Derek Anderson. UK fans beware when your hopes lie in Allen Edwards. How the mighty have fallen.

Speaking of champions, what has happened to the former NFL champs, South America's team, the Dallas Cowboys? It's bad enough that key players such as Emmitt Smith and Jay Novacek have been injured most of the season, but then there are the problems with Michael Irvin. Dallas really felt the effects of Irvin's drug

charges at the beginning of the season when he was suspended. Again, Irvin caused problems in the playoffs when he and Eric Williams were accused of rape. The accusation, which turned out to be false, obviously affected the team's play as they lost to Carolina. In addition, Leon Lett is suspended for more than a year. With an early exit from the playoffs, it now looks as though head coach Barry Switzer's job is on the line, and Daryl "Moose" Johnston is looking for another team. So, how 'bout them Cowboys!

Elsewhere in the world of the NFL, how the heck did the Broncos lose to the Jaguars? I mean, it's the Jaguars

for crying out loud! I knew at the beginning of the season it would be hard to tell how the playoffs would evolve, but I had no idea how far the expansion teams would go. In the wild and crazy world of sports, anything can happen I guess. Who knows, maybe the L.A. Clippers might be the next NBA champs.

And finally, as a diehard Dodger fan, I'd like to say good-bye to an era in sports. This month, the O'Malley family announced that the L.A. Dodgers are for sale. A sad day in sports history. Just wait till next month's "Bob's World" for the March Madness preview.



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