

THE OAK K

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Congratulations to the cheerleaders for their 1st Place finish at regional competition in Marshall County. See page 11 for story.

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Proposed consolidation puts county in an uproar

Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The proposed merger of the three McCracken County high schools has been the most controversial topic in recent memory. The school board's District Planning Committee made a recommendation for the consolidation after assessing the school system's strengths and weaknesses. Tom Fusco, director of instruction and a member of this committee, said in an interview with *The Paducah Sun*, "We kept hearing the same things over and over again. We heard that the facilities and a lack of teaching space were weaknesses." The consolidation would allow the middle schools to move into the high school buildings, and the elementary schools to move into the middle school buildings.

The committee offered three areas of consideration: curriculum, institutional practices and technology; organizational structure of schools; and community resources and adult education. The consolidation would address the first two points.

"The best reason we came up with [for one high school] was curriculum," said Fusco. "We don't have enough resources to keep up

with three high schools. We want to move ahead with technology. That would be hard to do with three high schools...We keep hearing that our kids don't have the same opportunities." The proposal would allow the teachers and resources that are so widespread now to come together, creating much better opportunities for area students.

The instigation of this proposal was the tax hike by the school board in October, bringing the rate to the highest level allowed by the state. If approved, McCracken County High School would be the largest public school in the state. The proposed site for the school is somewhere in the Heath area, probably near the Information Age Park.

There are two plans for the proposed organizational structure of one high school. The first plan has separate freshman and senior learning centers, the centers each having their own administrators, libraries and cafeterias. All students would have faculty advisors, hopefully the same teacher for all four years. The second idea is based on the "school within a school" concept, randomly assigning the students to one of three individual units. Each unit would have its own building. Ninth and tenth grade students would have to remain within their own school, while eleventh and twelfth

graders could branch out into different schools, hopefully creating a very personalized student/faculty situation. Each of these schools would also have its own principals, counselors, libraries and lunch rooms, also.

By far, curriculum would be the greatest benefit of the consolidation. Possible course offerings include: marine biology; sociology, anthropology and humanities; four years of German, Latin and Spanish, as well as five years of French and two years of American Sign Language; debate and advanced debate; interpretive arts, persuasive arts and photography; choir, band, orchestra and jazz or stage band; career development and college survival; and AP agriculture, as well as a slew of other AP courses. The school board has stressed that the same number of teachers will still be needed for "X" number of students, so there should not be worries of teachers losing their jobs.

The school board voted to have public hearings in order to feel out of the public's view on the entire matter. While the reaction was favorable in Lone Oak, the residents of Reidland and Heath only had negative things to say at their meetings. The board has reiterated that they will not proceed without full public approval.

Scholars capture 1st Place at Governor's Cup

Estee Cheah
Circulation Manager

The District Governor's Cup academic competition was held at Reidland High School on February 8 for the Quick Recall portion. Other events were postponed to February 11th, due to bad weather. The schools that took part in the annual competition were Lone Oak, Heath, Reidland and Tilghman.

The Quick Recall team placed 3rd overall. During the first match, they lost to Heath. However, in the second match, they came back and defeated Tilghman. Unfortunately, they lost again to Heath in the third round. Members of the Quick Recall team were Anu Manchikanti, Lee Titsworth, Zack Miller, Trey Swacker, Brent Turner and Julie Thrasher.

Many other students were recognized for their outstanding performance on the written tests. The following students will advance to the regional competition: 1st place-Lee Titsworth, Language Arts; 1st place-Brent Turner, General Knowledge; 2nd place-Anu Manchikanti, English Composition; 2nd



Photo by A. McNeill

District Governor's Cup winners (back) Lee Titsworth, Jackie Allshouse, Barbie Liles, Andy Harris, Brent Turner, (front) Justin Young, Anu Manchikanti, Julie Sims and Andy Berens.

place-Matt Upshaw, Math; 2nd place-Andy Berens, Science; 3rd place-Marty Rudd, Language Arts; 4th-Andy Harris, Math; 4th place-Jackie Allshouse, Science; and 4th place-Zack Miller, General Knowledge. The Future Problem Solving Team (FPS) also placed 2nd. The members of the team include

Matt Upshaw, Barbie Liles, J.R. Young and Julie Sims. The students mentioned will advance to the regional competition on February 20th for the FPS team and English Composition and February 22th for the written tests at Marshall County High School. Congratulations, and good luck to all.

LOHS excels at tough competition at the DECA Regionals

Ashley Small
Editorial Editor

On Monday, January 27th, a group of twelve students from LOHS headed to the annual DECA Regional Competition. There, they met up with over 400 other DECA members from eleven different counties to compete in an array of different areas, including general marketing, retail sales, extemporaneous speaking and many other job related events.

In order to prepare themselves for this event, the students wrote resumes, studied other tests and watched videos. Obviously,

these preparations paid off when five of the twelve DECA members from LOHS placed in the competition: Mark Wilson—1st place in Job Interview; Christy Anderson—3rd place in Retail Merchandising; Tonya Traylor—4th place in Apparel; Michael Priddy—2nd place in General Marketing; Jamie Lyles—4th place in General Marketing.

The DECA convention seems to be a very positive event. And according to Mark Wilson, the DECA president for LOHS, it's much more than a competition. "You're learning something that will help you later on in life."



Left to right- Mark Wilson, Jamie Lyles, Tonya Traylor, Christy Anderson, and Michael Priddy.

Congratulations, DECA Team!!

The Perfect Idiot is the perfect production

Emily Williams
Business Manager

The annual play is swinging into full force as tryouts in January yielded forth 20 talented thespians to star in this year's production of *The Perfect Idiot*. The young prodigies include seniors Lee Titsworth, Anu Manchikanti, Autumn Stanley, Megan Green and Julie Thrasher; juniors Danny Wood, Justin Young, Emily Rigdon, Jackie Allshouse, Julie Sims, David Carmichael, Suzannah Stoll and Ashley Chappell; sophomores Josh Reeves, Travis Smith, Josh

Watkins, David Ham, Pierre Rivera and Sunil Manchikanti. Rehearsals began February 5th and, in regards to the cast this year, play veteran Autumn Stanley said, "There is a lot of tension right now between the cast because there is so much to live up to. The play last year was really excellent, and we don't want to be failures. However, I think we will surprise ourselves." Those chosen for the support crew will be announced in a few weeks. Tickets will run \$4 for students and \$5 for adults. If all goes well, students can look forward to the premiere of this spectacular event on March 21.

Art students recognized as region's finest



Top left-Allan Ramsey, Matt Humphrey, Derrik Riley, and Ann-Meredith McNeill. Bottom left-Doug James, Amanda Hall, and Jesse Gholson.

By Ann-Meredith McNeill
Coroner

The Regional Art Competition is considered by most Art students as the most prestigious contest in the area. Lone Oak's finest artists made quite a showing at this year's exhibit. Matt Humphrey was showered with various awards, including overall Best of Show. Mrs. Hayden said of the winners, "Lone Oak has always done well at Regionals. I'm glad to see this year is no exception. Congratulations to all the winners!"

Watercolor
1st place-Missy Perry's "Currency Crunch"
2nd place-Christina Ellington's "Revlon and Ribbons"

Pencil Drawing
1st place-Derrik Riley's "America's Pastime"
Allan Ramsey's "Snowflowers" and Missy Perry's "Missy" will also be featured at the show.

Charcoal drawing

Honorable mention-Amanda Hall's "Unbound"
Charles James' "Die Gitarre Kabel" will also be featured.

Mixed Media
Best Of Show-Matt Humphrey's "Eye Abomination"
Honorable mention-Matt Humphrey's "Treeface"
Also in the show is Humphrey's "Zero"

Graphite
Honorable mention-Matt Humphrey's "Schizophrenia"

Sculpture
2nd place-Missy Perry's "Radiation Self"

Photography
2nd place- Allan Ramsey's "Political Machines"
Honorable mention- Jessie Gholson's "Angel Fire"
Also in the show is Gholson's "Melanholly" and Ann-Meredith McNeill's "Seated in the Shadows #1"

Senior Superlatives

Mr. LOHS-Nathan Taylor Mr. Senior-Chad Morreau
Miss LOHS-Nikki Key Miss Senior-Nikki Key

<u>Most Likely To Succeed</u>	<u>Most Dependable</u>	<u>Best All-Around</u>
Cliff Jenks Nikki Key	Chad Morreau Amanda Crouch	Nathan Taylor Amy Stewart
<u>Most Talented</u>	<u>Most School Spirit</u>	<u>Most Athletic</u>
Donnie Stone Jennifer Vorbeck	Daniel Bailey Tonya Traylor	Kyle Sanderson Sarah Beth Phelps
<u>Class Know It All</u>	<u>Most Catching Smile</u>	<u>Most Attractive</u>
Joe Saladino Julie Thrasher	Jon Camp Audrey Cunningham	Kyle East Casey Powell
<u>Most Fashionable</u>	<u>Friendliest</u>	<u>Biggest Apple Polishers</u>
Jesse Oden Angela Lyles	Rudy Ottoway Dana Sowash	Jason Hurt Sarah Wood
<u>Class Flirt</u>	<u>Most Unforgettable</u>	
Michael Powers Becky Cole	Zack Miller Ann-Meredith McNeill	

Project Graduation '97 provides substance-free fun

Lucy Jackson
Staff Writer

May 23rd, the 1997 senior class will be walking out the doors of LOHS as graduates. Partying after such an important day is of course in order, but with the help of parents and businesses, the biggest party will be right here at LOHS. As soon as these seniors are completely free from high school, approximately 85% will decide to stay an extra six and a half hours longer to do everything but study at Project Graduation. Project Graduation is given as a present to the senior class by their parents.

The senior parent chairpersons are Wayne and Donna Rushing and under them work five committees that pull Project Graduation

off. Each committee has junior, sophomore and freshmen parents working with the senior parents, so next year there will be experienced parents ready to step in. "I'm excited about Project Graduation 1997 because the interest and enthusiasm of the parents is outstanding," stated teacher Jim Toy who will be dedicating much time to Project Graduation.

This is Project Graduation's 10th anniversary here at LOHS. Lone Oak was one of the first schools in Kentucky to put on such an event. It was started in the Northeast by a school which had a bad experience because of the use of drugs and alcohol by students after graduation. Keeping students at school and substance free while still having a good time was the perfect solution. Chuck

Robertson—a parent of LOHS graduates and a member of the Kentucky Highway Patrol, is the person responsible for bringing this idea to Kentucky.

In order to attend Project Graduation, there are only three requirements. Students must arrive alcohol and chemical free, they must come at a certain time, and they must stay until it is over. Students are to check in at 11:00, and the activities begin at 12:00. This year, when it comes to activities, the sky is the limit, and creativity will be an important key. There will be various activi-

ties from board games to putt-putt golf. There will also be line dancing, karaoke, a casino and numerous other things to do. So despite their interests, all students should be entertained. This year, there might even be sumo wrestling outfits so seniors can possibly discover a hidden talent and if not, have some unusual fun.

After a long night of playing games and spending some final bonding time with their friends, at around 5:30 in the morning LOHS class of 1997 will truly leave high school.

Giving blood doesn't have to be a pain

Andy Harris
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Red Cross is in need of your help. Lone Oak High School will host a blood drive March 18th to help boost low blood supplies in the region. Tentative plans have the drive located in the gym lobby. Sign up will be in the library or with a Beta Club member.

Why is it important to give blood? To put it simply, people need blood. Cancer patients, premature babies, accident victims, burn victims and shock patients all use donated blood. It is also needed for patients undergoing major surgeries, especially heart surgery. Donating blood ensures that there is always enough for those in need.

Giving blood has even been found to be healthy. According to recent studies, donating blood helps reduce iron buildup that can put one at risk for a heart attack.

Not everyone is eligible to give blood, however. You must be 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds and not have given blood in the last 56 days. In addition, donors must undergo screening and health histories to make

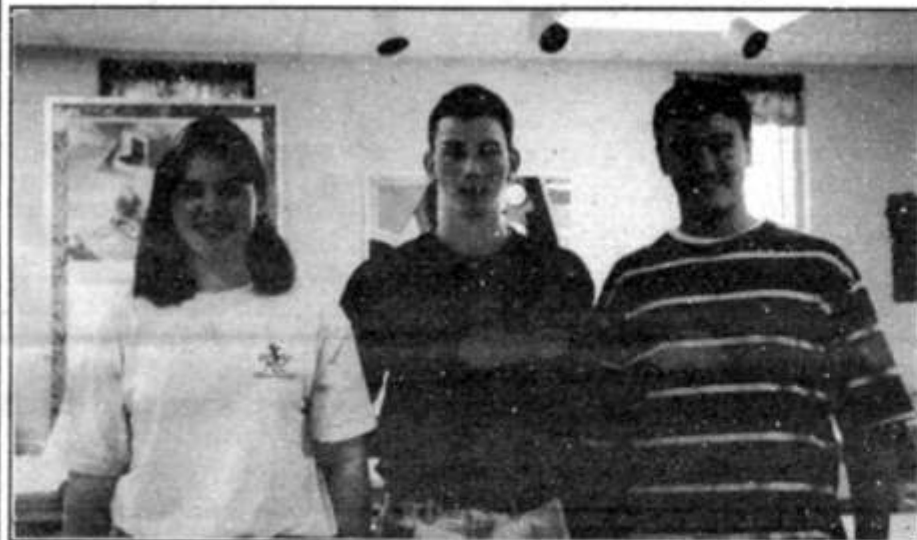
sure they are not at risk for sexually transmitted diseases carried through the blood. Anemic people are also ineligible.

For those who are afraid of needles, don't worry, it's not as bad as it looks. First, the donor is stuck in the earlobe to determine their bloodtype. Then comes the needle in the arm, but it's not painful if the donor is relaxed. There is a slight sting from the anticoagulant in the needle, but that doesn't last.

One important note, though—don't forget to eat breakfast. Reactions are unlikely, but the chances for one are increased without a good breakfast. It is also important to stay calm and not get nervous. Donating blood doesn't affect your overall strength or ability to perform. However, it may not be a good idea for athletes to practice that day because of the risk of dehydration. So remember to drink plenty of water in that 24-hour period.

Giving blood is safe and easy. It takes five to ten minutes, you get to miss class and you get free food. But most importantly of all, it could save someone's life.

Lone Oak excels at history competition



History day winners Janie Toy, Brent Turner and Keith Deaton. Not pictured: Trey Swacker

On February 13th, while most students were at home due to the snow, 19 Lone Oak students attended the annual history competition at Murray State University. For the third year in the row, the U.S. History team placed 1st. The World Civilization team finished 2nd. Keith Deaton and Brent Turner came in 2nd & 3rd, respectively, in U.S. History. Trey Swacker placed 2nd in World Civ, while Janie Toy tied for 4th. The U.S. History team consisted of Mike Richards, and Manchikanti, Brent Turner, Melanie Schweikarth, Kevin Brandt, Ashley Grimm, Matt Upshaw, Justin Young, Keith Deaton and Lee Titsworth. Participating in the World Civ competition were Janie Toy, Julie Sims, Trey Swacker, Tracy Werner, Andy Berens, Andy Harris, Autumn Pate and Jason Carroll. Congratulations to all the participants!

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Student Council establishes new scholarship

J.R. Young
Features Editor

The 1996-97 LOHS Student Council may be forever remembered as one of the most active in school history. They established the honors of Teacher of the Month and Student of the Month earlier this year. Now they have created the George Murphy Scholarship, in honor of the former choir teacher and student council advisor.

Qualifications for the award are high. Besides being a senior, students must also have a 3.0 GPA or higher, show leadership in school and participate in school activities.

Those applying must submit a transcript, current as of the fall semester. Also required are a list of awards the student has won, two letters of recommendation (one from a teacher and one from another person outside of school), a completed application and an essay. The topic for this year's essay is, "It is 2017, twenty years after graduation, you are attending your reunion. The president of the United States is in your graduating class; yet, you are the one being honored. Why?" The essay must be 250 words or less. Applications can be picked up in the office and should be turned in to Mrs. Hayden by March 27.

Justin's Jabberings

Walking 101

J.R. Young
Features Editor

Walking, the simplest of all modes of transportation. From the day we take our first steps, we are walking everywhere. Soon, though, we realize that some sort of order must be applied to walking or else all anarchy will break loose. Yet, it appears some have taken it upon themselves to toss aside all logic and instigate the anarchy for all.

As children, one of the first things we are taught in kindergarten is to walk on the right side of the hallway. So we all line up behind our teacher and march our way down the hallway to wherever our destination lies. Simple enough, eh?

So then we pass on to the coolness of middle school (our own lockers, choice of classes and puberty). Middle school is quite a change from the friendly confines of grade school. The hallways are more crowded, and we find ourselves without the guidance of a mother duckling to follow around. Yet, we still maintain some degree of order. Whichever way you're going—you stay on the right. It all makes sense, and if it doesn't, a theme is explanation enough for most.

Then comes the freedom of high school, and for the first couple of weeks everything seems fine. Classes are going okay, you learn which bathrooms to avoid, and you realize that fifth and sixth period homework is meant to be done during flex time. Then it happens. The shackles of anarchy break, and we have people crossing the imaginary line in the hallway that separates order from chaos. What is going on people?

Am I the only one who doesn't understand this form of hallway chicken? Is there a voice in your head telling you that this action could produce a faster route? "If I go this way, everyone will move out of my way and let me by!" Sorry Moses, but this Red Sea isn't parting. There are too many people in the hallway to stop and let you through. I mean, seriously, when was the last time you saw somebody cross into oncoming traffic in a car? "Gee, officer, I just kind of figured they'd get out of the way." Ladies and gentlemen, that's the reason police men carry billy clubs—to beat the chronically stupid. Worst of all, once minds have been polluted in high school, they continue this trend throughout the rest of their lives. The mall is a perfect example of a place where the simple act of walking has gone horribly wrong.

I know I went off a bit there, but this problem is especially annoying now during construction at Lone Oak. The hallways are hard enough to navigate with all the people in them; we don't need to create more problems.

Is it another free day? Again??

Ashley Small
Editorial Editor

Okay, picture this: you walk into one of your hardest classes of the day to find a substitute behind the teacher's desk. As the class files in, the sub announces that he/she has no idea how to do the assignment, so everyone should just do their best. At this, the whole class breathes a sigh of relief, recognizing a substitute as the universal symbol for a "free day." Besides, everyone deserves a break now and then, right?

But what happens if the substitute isn't just there for a day or two? No, this sub is there for weeks and more often than not, it's someone who hasn't been trained in the subject area. Though this may seem like heaven at first, in the long run it's the students who will be missing out. And the results will be reflected in the CTBS and KIRIS testing, at the end of the year.

This exact scenario has been taking place this year at LOHS in a couple of classes. If a

teacher isn't well or has an emergency, they should be able to stay out of school and feel their classes are being well taken care of.

Mrs. Shelby recently subbed for two and a half weeks while Ms. Champion, a mathematics teacher, was out. When interviewed, she explained that she has a business major and not a math, but the school was unable to find anyone with a math background to teach. Shelby said she wasn't able to help very much, especially in geometry classes.

But it's not just the substitutes that are feeling the pressure in such classroom environments, it's also the students. Brittany Hoggan, a student in one of the long-term substitutes' classrooms had this to say about the issue, "Basically, all you had was what was in the book, and if you didn't understand that you were at a loss."

Of course, the administration is very aware of this issue, and when Mr. Griffith was asked about it, he said, "We have a hard time finding full-time teachers in the areas

of science and math, so it is obviously extremely hard to find subs for them." He also recognizes that when there are subs who don't understand the subjects, coupled with discipline problems, all most substitutes can do is babysit.

No teacher wants to be out of his or her classroom for a long period of time and finding substitutes to take care of classes isn't going to get any easier. So, the only way to combat this problem is for everyone to pull together, especially the other teachers. If, for instance, a Chemistry teacher is absent, a different Chemistry teacher could volunteer to either come explain to the entire class or help the substitute beforehand. The students have an obligation, as well, to be respectful and get as much as possible out of class.

Although it isn't going to be easy without the normal teacher there, if everyone would put out a little extra time and effort, a bad circumstance could be made a lot better!!!

If you could be any kind of candy, what would it be?

- Charlee Sales (9) - Butterscotch
- Daniel Cashon (11) - Reese's Piece
- Jana Doss (10) - Sweetart
- LaDonna Atkins (12) - Lollipop
- Martan Athenas (9) - Peppermint
- Zack Miller (12) - Mentos
- Jonathan Shelby (10) - Butterfinger
- Amanda Maddox (11) - Pop Rock
- Zack Roberts (10) - Blow Pop
- Missy Perry (12) - Fun Dip
- Tonya Zacheretti (11) - Starburst
- Sara Angelly (9) - Sweetart
- Angela DeJarnett (10) - Jolly Rancher
- Aislynn Washam (12) - Lemon Drop
- Brandy Gifford (11) - Hershey's Kiss
- Audrey Cunningham (12) - A Nerd
- Jay Overby (11) - Sweetart
- Kyle East (12) - Zot
- Brian Reynolds (9) - Lollipop
- Adam Rowland (10) - Rolo
- Grant Clouser (12) - Solid chocolate bunny

Pollsters: Emily Riggs and Lucy Jackson

Weight gain could result in loss of crown

Megan Williams
Staff Writer

Today, women are constantly criticized about their weight, especially well-known, famous women. They are expected to carry the Barbie doll image, a body size that is nearly impossible to achieve or maintain. The critiquing of female actresses and models has become ridiculous.

Recently, the pageant industry began considering terminating Miss Universe's reign before she could crown her successor because she had gained a few extra pounds. At 5-feet-7-inches, Miss Universe only weighed 119 pounds when crowned. For a woman of this height, this weight is below the average. The extra pounds probably allowed her to reach her proper weight. These additional pounds would not cause Miss Universe to look or become overweight or

even a little heavy on television for that matter. An overweight Miss Universe would not be very appealing to viewers, but in this case Miss Universe was not overweight. This consideration of terminating her reign is outrageous. Other female stars have been ridiculed about their weight as well. At last March's Academy Awards ceremony, Alicia Silverstone was criticized for gaining 5 or 10 pounds. The names such as *Babe* and fat girl tabloids called her were completely exaggerated. They acted as though she had gained 100 pounds instead of 5 or 10.

With disorders such as anorexia and bulimia on a rise among young women, the tabloids aren't helping the matter by reinforcing the shedding of pounds on someone who doesn't need to. The media should lower their standard of beauty and they just might help slow the rise of eating disorders among America's youth.



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Planning committee's proposal serves to better students

Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The proposal to consolidate the McCracken County School System could be the best thing that ever happened to this area. McCracken County is full of both academic and athletic talent, but for so long, it has amounted to nothing because it has been so widespread. The consolidation would cause a much-needed matriculation, a change for the better because of the longlasting benefits.

As a Governor's Scholar this past summer, I came in to contact with people from all across the state of Kentucky. Not only did I realize how lucky I was, I also saw the many opportunities I was missing out on by going to Lone Oak. There are so many classes that I would have loved to have taken or really need to take, so many activities that many students could excel in, that just cannot be offered to three different high schools. Four years of several foreign languages, numerous math and science courses, more computer classes...the possibilities are end-

less. As it is now, I do not feel like I have been prepared to go to college. Not to insult any of my teachers because I think they have all done a great job, but the fact that the grades in many classes are tremendously inflated, as well as the lack of diversity in course offerings, makes it impossible for me to feel secure about entering such a rigorous environment. Advanced students are forever complaining about how they are ignored, and with a new school, this would be eliminated. Furthermore, the average student would benefit just because of all the resources that would be available with a consolidated facility.

The opponents of consolidation have one main point—bigger is not better. First of all, I would hate to go to a school where I didn't know the teachers and where I didn't know most of my classmates. I'm not sure how the second problem could be alleviated, but the proposal of separate freshman and senior learning centers would keep the small atmosphere in such a big school. The concept of a school within a school has been very successful all around the country, espe-

cially locally in Henderson County and Graves County. Another possible downfall to consolidation is the distance that some students will have to travel to get to school. This is unavoidable, but if it came down to gas money or a quality education, anyone who would choose the first one needs to rethink their priorities. As for teachers losing their jobs, it will take the same number of teachers to facilitate 2300 students in one school as in three.

In athletics, many students will be left out but there will also be an increased number of activities to help compensate for this. Also, with such a large student body, the possibility of intramural sports should be considered, still giving everyone the chance to compete. A school this large could only create state-winning athletic teams and school spirit. It has been argued that it will be hard to break the traditions set by many schools, but with the increasing lack of school spirit here at Lone Oak, I don't think that will be much of a problem. Besides, who doesn't support a winning team? The winning athletic traditions that could be established would bring

school spirit not seen in this area for some time.

I would personally hate to have changed to a new school this past year, but if I had been raised knowing that I would be going to such a huge school, it wouldn't have been that much of a problem. The first few years might be difficult, but after that, it should be smooth sailing, as the younger students are prepared for the new atmosphere and benefits. And to go to the largest high school in Kentucky would probably make the transition easier.

Any proponent of education should realize that change is additive. This can only serve to better the area as a whole. It's logical, considering the current tax base and the impending need for structural improvements around the county. There are so many students in McCracken County who deserve so much more than they're receiving. What's more important—knowing every person in your graduating class or receiving a high quality education? In the long run, I think we all know the answer to this question.

Consolidation will cause more problems, fewer solutions

Andy Harris
Co-Editor-in-Chief

With all the problems plaguing the McCracken County school system, it seems as if everyone is jumping head-over-heels for a consolidated high school. If it all seems too good to be true, it probably is.

The number one reason for consolidation, according to the school board, is money. There isn't enough money to fund three high schools, so more opportunities would be available to students by one super

high school. But having a new high school begs the question, where will the funding come from to build a brand new high school?

Wide speculation revolves around increased taxes for county residents. This is something most taxpayers won't be thrilled with.

Another downside to a consolidated high school is the sheer size of the school. Combining Lone Oak, Reidland, and Heath, would create one of the largest, if not the largest public high school in the state. This will create numerous problems. First and

foremost will be the lack of individual attention paid to students. They will be mere numbers, recognized only as faces in the crowd, not by their names. Discipline would also be affected by the number of students. Because of the diverse backgrounds being thrown together, fights would run rampant, and drugs would become increasingly problematic.

An ulterior motive for consolidation would be to create better sports teams. While more people may or may not create better teams, it will make fewer opportunities for students

to compete in extracurricular activities.

But maybe the most important reason against consolidation would be the wrecking of community pride. People take pride in hailing from Lone Oak or Reidland or Heath. But with the elimination of community high schools, it must also be taken into account that the sense of community would go along with it.

So before the school board leaps head first into a decision to consolidate, remember this—bigger may be better, but small isn't too bad, either.



Brooks Ware

"I believe the consolidation may pose discipline problems because of the tremendous amount of students attending the school and also the rivalry between the students of each individual school."



Coach Grimes

"If financially things are correctly done, I believe it will work."



Lindsay Culp

"I think students will have a better chance to prepare for college."



Grant Clouser

"Consolidation...does a body good."



Michelle Williams

"I think it would provide students with many different opportunities."

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Business Manager

Te quiero, mi amor. Ooooh la-la! Oh yeah, St. Valentine's Day is here again. Bring out the teddy bears and chocolate hearts because that is what V-day is all about. At least, that is how we know it to be here in the good ole' USA. For years, though, long before we even had the slightest notion of what love even is, people were celebrating Valentine's Day in a much different fashion, or shall we say, *fashions*.

You see, the holiday is believed to have begun somewhere around 40 A.D. and since has been spread to every fathomable region of this earth. It is not known exactly how the traditions evolved, but for hundreds of years there has always been some form or another of a "Lover's Day." Theories state that Valentine's Day may have been the product of an ancient Roman festival called *Lupercalia*, in which men beat their women with leather strips in hopes to increase fertility. *How romantic!* Another interesting tale involves a Christian named St. Valentine who made friends with many little children. When St. Valentine was thrown in prison for failing to worship the popular gods of the time, the kids were wrought with distress and wrote love letters to Valentine and threw them to him between the bars of his cell window. But the best, and hands-down most romantic theory, has got to be the English belief that since birds mate on February 14th, then so should we human lads and lasses. In fact, that very point is mentioned in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and also in a poem written by

Geoffery Chaucer (both of whom are English). The practice of sending letters or poetic verses was actually started by a Frenchman called Charles, Duke of Orleans. After being captured and locked up in jail by a riotous pack of Englishmen, he initiated the custom by sending his grief-stricken wife love poems illustrating his undying love for her. *Awwwww.* Of course, nobody can really decide on which origin is the correct origin so it will forever be a mystery.

Not only are there conflicting views on how Valentine's Day started, there are also a wide variety of different customs. I'm sure most people are familiar with American V-day customs, unless, of course, you've spent most of your life buried under a rock. But in the olden days and in the olden countries, customs were as odd and as varied as assorted chocolates. For instance, most of the old customs were geared towards single women and their quest for a mate. These traditions were a little farfetched, if not *really* desperate. Some women wrote names on scraps of paper, rolled them up in bits of clay and soaked them in water. The first name to float to the surface was supposedly the name of their "true love." Other single women pinned five bayleaves to their pillows on the eve of Valentine's Day, apparently infesting their dreams with visions of the perfect mate.

In a more wiccan-like style, some young women would circle a church 3 to 12 times at midnight on Valentine's Day chanting rhymes that would supposedly produce the image of their destined soul-mate. Continuing along this same thread of belief, women in England also liked to have

gatherings in which names of single women were put into a jar. The men drew names and that lucky lady became their "valentine." They would shower her with gifts and affection (no matter who she was or how cute she looked or didn't look. Yuck!)

In Denmark, Valentine's day was a day dedicated to friends. People would send their dearest acquaintances pressed white flowers called *snowdrops*. Danish men sent rhymed valentine notes signed with dots in place of their name. They would make one dot for every letter of their name, and if the woman guessed who sent the valentine, then the mystery man would reward her with an Easter egg on Easter. In many places, this is still a popular practice.

So as you can see, Valentine's day is not just the modern American custom of exchanging cardboard Valentine's (courtesy of Garfield and Friends) and yelling at your boyfriend for forgetting that the day-o-love even *exists*. Instead, it is a day in which the whole world can exchange heartfelt love letters, send and receive gifts, hold cult-like ceremonies and probably *still* yell at boyfriends and even girlfriends (although I'd bet more men are yelled at than women) for forgetting your unappreciated and taken-for-granted little ol' self on the only day of the year when you are supposed to be pampered properly with roses and hugs. This has simply been a brief informative speil on the wheres, whats and whens of one of the most detrimental holidays of all. May you turn the page a little more enlightened and ready to confront your significant other with an outraged cry of, "Just where are my snowdrops, hmmm?"

A little extra something special

Emily Williams
Business Manager

If indeed you *are* incredibly desperate on Valentine's Day and want to try some funky ways to see into your romantic future or coax some cute guy into seeing things *your way*, then here are a few techniques the hopeless romantics of the olden days coped with their romantically challenged lives;

1) You can do the crazy dance around the churchyard at midnight Valentine's Day eve like the women of Britain. The key element to this is that you have to repeat the chant over and over while encircling the church at least 3 times. The chant goes as follows;

I sow hempseed
Hempseed I sow.
He that loves me best
Come after me now

2) Another option is the ever-popular all-powerful love amulet. Believe it or not this is an actual recipe that I found in a book and I'm totally not making this up. It goes as follows: take a piece of fabric, pick your fave color, preferably not black, (we're thinking romance here, not death) and dust the inside of it with cinnamon. Then make the fabric into a pouchlike structure and fill it with items that pertain to your object of lust. It can be pictures, letters, hair particles, anything he has touched, anything characteristic of him, etc. Then tie it up with a piece of string and put it under your mattress. He will soon be putty in your hands.

3) For those less adventurous types there is the fabled candle routine which involves minimum effort and optimal results (I sound like a salesman trying to push vacuum cleaners). It involves a red candle, encircled with ribbons of pink, red and white doused in floral scented oils. Now all you have to do is burn the candle all night long and it will bring you good luck in love (or a visit from the local fire department). This one is easy to do. Grab some candles of your mom's and spray them with your perfume (its the nineties, we can improvise) and set that love receptor on fire. You should see results immediately. Trust me, really. I know what I'm talking about. =)



In the spring,
a young
man's fancy
lightly turns
to thoughts
of love...

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V-Day has come and gone but the romance lingers...

Ann-Meredith McNeill
Coroner

Yes, indeed, love can be the most ecstatic experience in the world-unless of course, you've just been dumped or your crush has no idea you exist. So keep in mind-although we've devoted two whole pages to love and its greatness, it is not the most important thing in the world. This is high school, and most of us will continue on with our ever-changing lives after graduation-love life included. So don't fall into an abyssal funk if you haven't racked up an extensive list of boy/girlfriends. Once you get out into the world, you may surely meet The One For You. P.S. Yes, we know that Valentine's Day has come and gone, but why should the romance end with February 15?

Boyfriends-with one or without one, you can still have a decent time

****No boyfriend?** Treat yourself to a luxurious bubble bath, do your nails, deep condition your hair (dye it if you're feeling froggy), tell yourself how beautiful you are and there is a perfect someone out there for you (he may be in Siberia, but he is out there). Get some single friends together and walk around downtown, being romantic within the setting and without a "significant other." Trash ex-lovers and commiserate. Watch movies where boys are evil and the women rule, like *Thelma and Louise*, *Heavenly Creatures*, *The Craft*, *Boys on the Side*, *To Die For*, etc. Or, if you're a guy, vice-versa, but I don't have any movie suggestions-you'll have to find them on your own. Or you could rent some plotless gun-slinging He-man ultra-gratuitous-violent movie that a girl wouldn't want to watch with you anyway (read: anything with Van Damme, Segal, or Stallone.)

Poll-What do you think the origin of Valentine's Day is?

Ashley Small
Editorial Editor



"It's a stupid, mushy day, based on Saint Valentine and a massacre." —Barbie Liles



"To show love to another person." —Brian Sykes



"It was a day set aside to show affection to someone you love." —Jon Camp



"Some cupid hit a town with an arrow, and it spread all over the world." —Sarah Stoll

*Actually, the exact origin of Valentine's Day is still unclear, it is believed to have been named for a priest who was martyred around A.D. 270. Many years later February 14 was established as his feast day. See Emily's article (next page) for a more extensive history of Valentine's Day.

****With a Boyfriend?** Get some happy, bubbly (non-alcoholic) champagne, light some candles, snuggle up close and make him tell you how beautiful, perfect and goddess-like you are, make him tell you how much meaning you've brought into his life make him shower you in loving words and the finest of chocolate. (Of course, he should do all this voluntarily, but some boys need a little push when it comes that kind of "lovey-feelings" thing.) Then do the same for him (minus the goddess-like part) and baby him-give him a back massage, make him some warm, yummy food, anything that will make him feel pampered. The guys will lap it up and become totally devoted to you. No other girl will exist to him. He will follow you around with a glazed, intoxicated-by-love look in his eye. Your friends will gag when you're not looking. And that's what loves all about, isn't it?

WEASEL BALL ALERT!

Hint to boys - If you cherish your girlfriend, do not, under any circumstances, buy her a Weasel Ball; a frightening contraption that has a ball with a furry fake weasel attached which maniacally rolls around on its own. Girls, if you receive this, your relationship is doomed: I've seen it happen. I have no idea what would possess a boy to buy this for his beloved, but this gift is the kiss of death to a couple. Trust me.

Love's code of conduct for those fickle high school relationships

****Love, love, love.** Isn't it wonderful? Ask an array of people and you will get anything from enthusiastic agreements to poison-filled glares. But one has to admit, the excitement of a new love is one of the most exhilarating things on the planet, it's just keeping it that way that's the hard part. Some relationships start out wonderful until something goes horribly wrong - he starts writing psychotic love poetry written in his own blood, she starts calling every hour, on the hour, everyday, just to hear your voice. Whatever, the point is, something goes amiss. Here are some common sense rules for relationships (this is written in femine form, not exclusively for females)

1. Don't call obsessively - let him call you every once in a while.
2. Don't call if you have nothing to talk about-nothing is worse than sitting and listening to each other breathe.
3. Do not let anyone tell you it probably won't last. People told me that and my boyfriend and I are going over a year strong.
4. Don't neglect your friends - I have a habit of doing this, and it's incredibly irritating for your best friend to watch you be in the throes of rapturous love while she is repeatedly being ignored.

5. Don't show him the altar you've built for him, the rodents you've sacrificed in his name, his bloody initials carved on your thigh. Surprisingly, this tends to scare off potential suitors, instead of flattering them. Just don't do any of these things, period.
6. Do give him lots of space - smothering is not attractive (his mom can do that for you) and he needs to go out with his friends, too. Grilling him about his whereabouts won't come across as lovingly concerned, instead it will be seen as vicious attack on his privacy.
7. Don't become totally preoccupied with him-in your eyes, he's perfect, but in reality, he may not be worth all the trouble and self-torment. You'll kick yourself later for totally worshipping him.

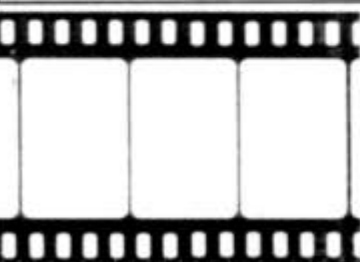
And finally, keep the whole thing in perspective. High school romances can be fickle, spontaneous and over with the blink of an eye. Don't start planning out the wedding and what to name the kids on your two week anniversary. And don't let it get you too depressed if you get dumped. Life goes on, and someday he will see you in all your gorgeousness and gorgosity and realize what a mistake he made. Then you can have the last laugh. Har-har-har.



Music and movies to set the mood

****Romantic movies-***Sid & Nancy*, *Legend*, *Wild at Heart*, *Romeo and Juliet* -any version, *Immortal Beloved*, *Somewhere In Time* (says Justin), *Like Water For Chocolate* (says Emily).

****Romantic music-**Carmina Burana (beware, it's opera, but it's really beautiful), Enigma, Mazy Star, Sarah McLaughlin, Jeff Buckley.



Reeves chosen as Teacher of the Month for February

Anu Manchikanti
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The faculty member chosen this month by the Student Council as Teacher of the Month is Mrs. Sharon Reeves. You might say, "But she's a guidance counselor!" That she is, but first and foremost, she is an educator. Reeves received a Bachelor's Degree in education at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Furthermore, she has also earned her Master's in psychology and school counseling at UT-Martin and her 30 above (Second Master's) in psychology and school counseling from Murray State University. If that's not enough, she's currently working on her school psychologist degree, only five classes away from attaining this. Her psychology interest was born "because I was interested in why people do what they do."

Reeves, the youngest of two children, spent much of her childhood moving around. She was born in Los Angeles, California, later living in Memphis, Tennessee and finally moving to Fulton County, Kentucky, where she graduated from high school. As a student at FCHS, Reeves was actively involved in FBLA, serving as a state officer. She was also a member of Future Teachers of America, though she admits, "I had no plans of being a teacher. I was in it only because my boyfriend was!" She also was a forward



Mrs. Reeves is a tree hugger.

on the basketball team and a member of the yearbook staff, science club, Beta Club and Homecoming Court. Not surprisingly, when asked what she was like in high school, Reeves replied, "I was hyper. I liked to have fun."

After attending college at UT-Martin, Reeves taught in Hornbeak, Woodland Mills and Obion County (all in Tennessee) before going to Lone Oak Middle School in 1989, where many of us first came into contact with her as an English teacher. Famous for her smurfy attitude and "tremendous" spirit,

Reeves was also the coach of the girls basketball team and journalism sponsor. Last year, she was a guidance counselor at Hendron Lone Oak Elementary School before making the move to LOHS this year. "Change is the spice of life," said Reeves. She feels most comfortable with adolescents and finds it especially "neat," knowing many students from previous teaching experiences. She changed careers from teaching to counseling because she wanted to do something with what she had learned. Reeves loves the diversity of counseling. "From one minute to the next, you don't know what to expect. No two days are ever the same. There are good things [about both professions]." She sometimes feels like the new kid on the block, learning all the ins and outs of the college and scholarship application processes, yet it is still exciting. "It's amazing, how talented people are in this school, how successful they are and will be. We're not vocal enough about the good things [at Lone Oak]."

On a more personal note, Reeves has been happily married to her husband Terry for 18 years. In fact, he was actually the first person she ever went on a date with. She was 14 and a freshman in high school. For the first week of school, she noticed a group of older boys kind of watching her. Later the same week, the older boys gave her a nice

welcoming present to high school—they stuffed her in a locker! But lo and behold, Terry was the one who let her out, and it was love at first sight. The following Friday, they went bowling. Six years later, she married him. Terry is the Public Relations Director at Dippin' Dots but is better known for his former position as a news anchor at NewsChannel Six. Reeves also has a daughter, Kelly, an 8th grader at LOMS.

Her hobbies include exercising, as she's a regular at Perma Slim. Reeves also walks a couple of miles a day because "it's a great stress reducer." She enjoys reading self-help books and is a great believer in the power of positive thinking. In the summer, she plays on a coed softball team. She has a great love for the outdoors and loves to pass time hiking. Her favorite book is *The Road Less Traveled* by Scott Beck, favorite food—spaghetti, and favorite music—country, "especially Garth Brooks. My favorite song is 'I've Got Friends in Low Places.'"

With all this behind her, there's no question why Reeves was chosen as Teacher of the Month. Everyone at Lone Oak is obviously lucky to have her here. In finality, Reeves said, "I find working with high school students rewarding and exciting, and the teachers have been nothing but supportive." Congratulations, Mrs. Reeves. You deserve it.

Ramsey snaps his way to AMOM

Lucy Jackson
Staff Writer

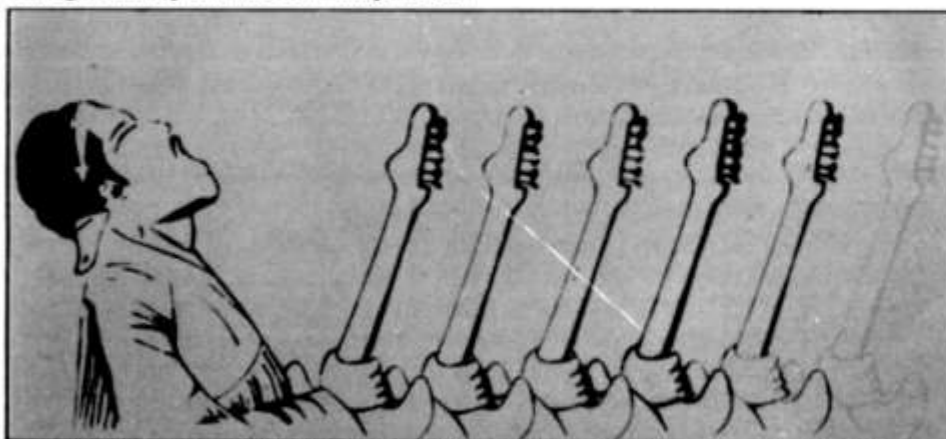
Allan Ramsey is more than just your average student at LOHS. He is more than just another face amidst the crowds that wander the hall. He is Art Member of the Month. Upon finding out this recognition, Ramsey was quoted as saying, "Lay em' down and smak'm yack'm."

Obviously, he has talent when it comes to art, but Ramsey has created more than just some art work, he has completed masterpieces that have found their way to numerous first place awards. He has received such awards as First Place in Mixed Media at the 1995 Regional Art Show, Best in Region at All State, not to mention one of his prints made it to last year's regional competition. Though Ramsey has talent in many artistic

areas, his favorite is photography. One of his photos was in Teen Spirit 1996, an art competition held this past November.

Ramsey has perfected his artistic skills not only at LOHS, where he is in Art III and Art IV, but also in a class called "Drawing from the Right Side of the Brain," which he just recently completed. As the president of the Art Club, he also gets the chance to work with many other artists of LOHS. Ramsey has found inspiration in many areas, and he recognizes Craig Jackson as his favorite artist. Cake, Smashing Pumpkins and Fountains of Wayne are some of his favorite bands, also affecting his art.

Hopefully, Ramsey will continue to produce his magnificent work and someday he'll be able to look back to LOHS where his art career only began.



Allan Ramsey's piece, "It's a Radiation Vibe I'm Groovin' On"

Photo by L. Jackson

Titsworth named Junior Rotarian

Megan Williams
Staff Writer

Among his numerous and outstanding achievements, Lee Titsworth now has another honor to add to his list, Junior Rotarian. Titsworth is very active in school activities as well as those in the community and in his church. He is a member of several clubs in which he holds offices such as president of the Biology Club, point secretary of the National Beta Club, secretary of the FCA, secretary of the 4-H Teen Club, member of the Physical Science Club, Academic Team and the Key Club. Titsworth is also involved in the drama department where he has maintained a lead role in the plays for three years. He has been a member of the soccer team for three years and a member of the chamber chorus along with his church choir. Titsworth excels in his many clubs and teams, earning awards such as All-State Choral Participant, Quad State Choral Participant, Champion of Murray State Presidents Academic Bowl and Governor's Scholar.

Outside of school, Titsworth helps with Vision Inner-city Paducah, a program that works with underprivileged youth. He is also a counselor for the Postponing Sexual Involvement program involving seventh graders. Titsworth has been a part of Boy Scouts for many years and has held the ever position for five years. He is an active member of First Baptist Church of Paducah



Senior Lee Titsworth

where he is a part of the Judgement House Lead Team and Clown and Mime Team. He was also on the Youth Pastor Search Committee and is a mentor on the Children's Survival Kit.

Titsworth hopes to attend Sanford University this fall with a double major in engineering physics and English composition. Through his many activities and programs, Titsworth has already begun to reach his goals in life. "My goals are to make something of myself by taking what I have and helping others make something better and to grow rich by giving my value away."

Star Wars Puzzle: The Special Edition

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

Boba Fett	Mos Eisley	TIE Fighter
Luke Skywalker	Empire	X-Wing
Red Five	Admiral Ackabar	Jawas
Yoda	Lando	Chewie
Obee Wan Kenobi	Han Solo	Force
Darth Vader	Leia	Dark Side
Storm Troopers	Jabba the Hut	Grand Moff Tarkin
Death Star	Tattoine	Millenium Falcon
Light Sabre	Star Destroyer	Klingons
Eewoks	Alderaan	
Jedi	Endor	

Hollywood rewrites history

J.R. Young
Features Editor

Last month's release of *Star Wars: The Special Edition*, and the subsequent release of special editions of the other two films has caused a level of hysteria in theatres. Imagine, there's more to these films, which we've all seen a hundred times, than we ever thought before. What many people may not realize is that *Star Wars* is far from the first film to release a "Special Edition" or "Director's Cut."

In July of 1989, moviegoers flocked to the film *The Abyss*. With its high level of action and ground breaking special effects, *The Abyss* was an instant hit. Yet, as people left the theatre, there was one resounding complaint—the ending. Most everyone agreed the ending to the film did not make much sense and seemed rushed. What they didn't know was that there was a good ending to this film. The original ending had been snipped and cut away to save running time in a movie that still ran over two hours when it hit theatres. So what did the audience miss? Most of the ending explaining the actions of the aliens in the film, and a 3.5 million dollar tidal wave special effect. Don't worry, though. James Cameron, the director, has released a director's cut of the film which contains all this footage. The video can be bought, or it's even occasionally shown on the Sci-Fi Channel.

Many other directors and producers have gone back and changed their films after theatrical release. Besides *The Abyss*, James Cameron was forced to cut twenty minutes

from *Aliens*. This extra footage can now be found on the laser disc version of the film. The footage mainly centers around the parents of the little girl before they are killed.

Steven Spielberg recut and added additional footage when he released *Close Encounters of the Third Kind: The Special Edition*. Besides shortening some scenes by re-editing the film, Spielberg also added additional scenes in the beginning of the film and a shot of inside the space ship at the end of the movie.

Obsessed with director's cuts, all three Highlander films have been released with additional footage. Most substantial of this added footage is in the first film when a new WWII flashback is used to add more depth to some of the characters. It is interesting to note that this scene was filmed after the release of the original American film, but did turn up in the European release.

Even a few comedies have had director's cuts. The Jim Carrey comedy *The Mask* originally featured a flashback to Viking times. The scene was most likely removed because it did not fit with the cartoonish nature of the rest of the film. Strangest of all, one of the worst films ever made, *Cabin Boy*, was labeled a director's cut when it hit home video shelves.

Most of these films mentioned are sci-fi flicks, but that's because their stories are usually cut in favor of extended action sequences. With the success of *Star Wars: The Special Edition*, movie fans can expect to find more and more directors heading back to the editing room to release director's cuts. Lets just hope we see more like *Star Wars*.

Matt Upshaw--a swell guy

Jason Carroll
Sports Editor

Surprise, surprise, Matt Upshaw is Student of the Month. Ask any teacher who has had this teenage prodigy and they'll tell you he is a top of the line student. When asked about Matt, Justin Young said, "He's a swell guy." This varsity tennis player is not just your average "stick in the mud" study boy; he also enjoys going to the lake and having fun with friends. His 4.0 GPA says volumes about his great tenacity and strong work ethic in his high school career. Upshaw credits his high academic level to "devoting to the school day a little work and attention." Other than that, Matt says "little else has to be done."

While Matt hasn't decided where he will attend college or his major, he is sure to be successful. He would like to major in law or possibly some kind of engineering. He finds law intriguing; however, his math abilities would better suit him for engineering.

One thing that many might not know about Matt, is that in his spare time he enjoys hanging out at OfficeMax. He likes to stare in awe at the legal supplies and dream of a day when he might work side by side with

the Johnny Cochrans of the world.

Matt has also been a Governor's Cup participant, another accomplishment to add to a lengthy list of scholastic achievements. This year Matt placed second in math at the district level. If you don't know Matt, you've probably at least seen him snapping photos for the yearbook staff, for which he is co-editor. Look past his perfect 4.0 GPA and his score of 35 on the ACT, and you still have a "swell guy".



Matt Upshaw sports his trademark jacket

Boys team defeats Heath in tough district battle

Bob Carroll
Sports Editor

The Lone Oak boys team goes to a 3-3 district record after a close loss to Tilghman and an overwhelming defeat of Heath. After

improvement."

Lone Oak held off the Heath Pirates in a district clash after forcing a huge number of turnovers. With four Lone Oak players in double figures, Justin Duncan, Kyle Sanderson, Jon Shelby, Donnie Stone,

"We were playing a lot better, but there is still room for improvement." --Donnie Stone

staying close through the first half of the game against Tilghman, Lone Oak's 21 turnovers played a huge role in the Oakers' loss. Donnie Stone led all scorers with 13. Justin Gosa added nine points. Eventhough the Flash did lose to Tilghman, this game was much closer than the bruising 96-66 loss earlier in the season. When asked what the difference was Stone said, "We were playing a lot better, but there is still room for

combined with two huge runs, the Heath Pirates just couldn't get past Lone Oak's "bad boys of basketball." Oakers came off with a 68-53 victory.

At press time, Donnie Stone had injured his ankle and was unsure of upcoming playing time. This could play a major role in Lone Oak's future performance. Stone said he still hopes, "to have a winning record...and to win one division game."

LOHS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM STATISTICS

Tilghman 60, Lone Oak 47
Jon Cargill 2, Justin Duncan 6, Mitch Flood 9, Justin Gosa 9, Josh Long 1, Kyle Sanderson 8, Jon Shelby 8, Donnie Stone 13
Field Goals- 18/42, 3 pointers- 4/12 (Gosa 3, Stone 1), Free Throws- 7/11, Fouls- 14, Rebounds- 25

Lone Oak 68, Heath 53
Justin Duncan 21, Justin Gosa 2, Josh Long 4, Kyle Sanderson 13, Jon Shelby 11, Donnie Stone 17
Field Goals 26, 3 pointers 1 (Duncan), Free Throws 13/20, Fouls 17, Rebounds 33

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Kelly Sanders pulls down a rebound

photo by E. Riggs



Donnie Stone prepares to take a shot against Graves

Photo by A. Manchikanti

Lady Flash defeat Graves and look ahead to tournament

Emily Riggs
Staff Writer

After losing to Graves County last year, the Lady Flash removed any doubt of their ability to beat the Eagles. Kelly Sanders started the steam by scoring the first two points off of the tip. Gina Halstead continued the scoring streak off of a steal by Amanda Mitchell. By the end of the first half, Lone Oak held a six point lead.

Starting the second half, Lone Oak maintained the same intensity as in the first half. Never letting Graves back into the game. The final score was Lady Flash 53, Lady Eagles 37.

The regular season for the Lady Flash is now over, but the games will continue. Starting February 24-28, the boys and girls District Tournament at Heath will begin. "Defensive intensity was the key to the Graves County game. If we can keep up that intensity, we should be in good shape to play Heath the first game of the tournament." Lady Flash is expected to do well, holding a record of 6-0 in the district, and hopefully take home the 1997 trophy.

Lone Oak 53, Graves 37

Kim Adams 7, Ashley Emery 13, Gina Halstead 2, Amanda Mitchell 7, Courtney Pace 2, Sarah Beth Phelps 9, Kelly Sanders 9, Heidi Seltzer 7

Lone Oak 49, Ballard 66

Kim Adams 7, Ashley Emery 4, Brandy Gifford 2, Amanda Mitchell 12, Sarah Beth Phelps 2, Kelly Sanders 12, Heidi Seltzer 10

Lone Oak 42, Marshall County 52

Kim Adams 5, Ashley Emery 4, Brandy Gifford 4, Amanda Mitchell 16, Courtney Pace 4, Sarah Beth Phelps 6, Kelly Sanders 3

Lone Oak 55, Carlisle County 38

Kim Adams 4, Ashley Emery 10, Brandy Gifford 3, Amanda Mitchell 19, Courtney Pace 6, Sarah Beth Phelps 7, Kelly Sanders 6

Lone Oak 67, Livingston 44

Kim Adams 8, Reagen Carfield 2, Brandy Gifford 8, Amanda Mitchell 16, Courtney Pace 6, Sarah Beth Phelps 12, Kelly Sanders 12, Tonya Stamper 3

Lone Oak 48, Heath 45

Kim Adams 4, Brandy Gifford 4, Amanda Mitchell 11, Courtney Pace 2, Sarah Beth Phelps 9, Kelly Sanders 8

Lone Oak 45, Mayfield 55

Kim Adams 17, Ashley Emery 13, Courtney Pace 2, Sarah Beth Phelps 4, Kelly Sander 9

Lone Oak 66, Fulton City 50

Kim Adams 4, Ashley Emery 10, Brandy Gifford 11, Allison Goldon 1, Gina Halstead 2, Amanda Mitchell 4, Courtney Pace 12,

Kelly Sanders 11, Heidi Seltzer 11

Lone Oak 59, Tilghman 32

Kim Adams 4, Ashley Emery 13, Brandy Gifford 2, Amanda Mitchell 17, Courtney Pace 8, Sarah Beth Phelps 8, Kelly Sanders 5, Tonya Stamper 2

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Cheerleaders win first place in the KAPOS regional competition

Megan Williams
Staff Writer

On February 15, screams, cheers, and excited cheerleaders filled the Marshall County High School gym as the 1997 KAPOS regional cheerleading competition began. The competition consisted of three categories, including traditional and two and half minute girls and boys varsity. Lone Oak competed against Fulton in the traditional category, while Reidland and Marshall competed in the two and a half minute girls varsity. Hickman was the only squad to compete in the two and half minute boys varsity competition.

Each of the three categories were comprised of different routines. In the traditional, Lone Oak completed two cheers, one gymnastics and one non-gymnastics, and a



Cheerleaders (back) Ashley Canup, Timera Cunningham, Jessica Fortney, Leslie Sither, Heather Cook, Christa McClain, Melanie Vinson, (front) Lindsey Fesmire, Stacie Thrasher, Dawn Simmons, Casey Powell, Kelly Adams, Sara Puckett and Shannon Powell.

dance. Lone Oak's gymnastic cheer consisted of three liberties and a basket toss, with two full extensions on both sides. They danced to the song of "5050, What's Up and Don't Stop Now." Reidland and Marshall completed a dance-cheer-dance routine, as well as Hickman.

After every squad had competed, the awards were presented to the winners. Lone Oak received an outstanding first place trophy over Fulton. In addition to their trophy, Lone Oak received the KAPEP award for most school spirit. They also received a trophy donated to them in memory of Jennifer Dowell. Reidland had a first place finish over Marshall.

"All the cheerleaders worked hard, and we were proud to come out on top," said JV cheerleader Kelly Millay.

Lone Oak will now go on to the state competition on March 22.

Fans are too judgmental of others

Bob
the All Knowing

Welcome to another edition of Bob's Wide World of Sports. In the sports world today, there seems to be a underlying problem. Quite simply, fans are too judgmental of others. When a little kid reached over the fence at Yankee Stadium, robbing one team of a chance at glory and helping the other in being crowned world champions, the sports world looked on in disbelief that such an atrocity could happen in pro ball. However, little Jeffrey Maier was cheered as a hero by Yankee fans. After Dennis Rodman tried out his new shoes on a cameraman, the news media and most of the nation realized what a menace this tattooed freak really is. Yet most Chicago fans were quick to come to the support of their multi colored rebounder for the simple fact that they want another championship. Time and time again, fans are quick to judge acts of other teams, but when it comes to their own sports gods, they can do no wrong, unless they lose. I guarantee if the Cowboys had gone on to win the Super Bowl, not a soul in Dallas would remember that little incident with Michael Irvin. Fans seem to think whatever it takes to win a championship is OK. Sorry folks, but sports should represent life. And the violation of rules should not be supported by the fans, regardless. Now on to what you really want, the March Madness preview.

This may be one of the best and least predictable Tournaments in recent history. For starters, there's no doubt that Kansas

and Wake will be there in the end. It's the rest of the pack that bother me. Cincinnati is a tough team but has struggled often throughout the season. Kentucky is another possible school that could make it to the Great Eight. Of course, my sleeper would have to be Illinois (this one's for you big guy). Kiwane Garris could take over down the stretch and lead Illinois far in the tournament. Another sleeper would be the UCLA Bruins, who have the talent but lack a coach and often don't put forth the effort. But let's cut the dilly-dally here, and get serious. Bob's Final Four picks are Kansas, Wake Forest, Cincinnati and Minnesota. If this doesn't light your fire then your wood is wet.

However, as close as many of the games might be, consider how much better this year's NCAA basketball season would be if the fifteen underclassmen drafted last year were still in college where they should be. Imagine, if you will, that U-Mass still had Camby, Georgetown had Iverson and Kentucky had Antoine Walker. Not only would this totally change the outlook of college basketball but greatly improve the level of games played this season. Currently the NCAA's field goal percentage is at its lowest level in thirty years, and there are no unbeaten teams even through February, not to mention teams like Baylor and St. Louis beating out ranked teams. If the NCAA board of directors doesn't correct things soon, the time honored tradition of March Madness could fall to the levels of a water polo championship tournament.

Congratulations to Andy Berens, Andy Harris and Cliff Jenks for being named National Merit Finalists!

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