



The Oak "K"

The Official Publication of LOHS

Volume 58
Number 5
January 2000

"When you can't have what you want, it's time to start wanting what you have." —Kathleen A. Sutton

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Sports



May attends camp 11

Purple Flash gears up for tournaments

Jacob Mitchell
Sports Editor

The boy's basketball team is easily describable: consistently inconsistent. With a win here, a loss there, the team has still managed, however, to remain a regional threat. Key losses to regional powers St. Mary (2), Ballard (2), Paducah Tilghman and Marshall County have set back the Flash, but still the team remains undaunted.

On Tuesday, January 18, the team played host to the Marshals of Marshall Co. The team had trouble keeping up with their speedy foes, and fell to any early disadvantage. At the end of the first half the game was pretty much a foregone conclusion, Lone Oak behind 20-43. The Marshals only poured on more as the game progressed into the second half, besting the Flash 71-48.

Ryan Dunn (12) led Lone Oak's

scoring game with 23 points, followed by Jay Bazzell (12), who poured in 10 points. The Flash only hit 37.5 percent of their field goals, but made good on 17 out of 21 free



Senior Ryan Dunn battles for a basket against Marshall County.

throw attempts. They out-rebounded Marshall 22 to 18.

"We had a mental lapse," said head coach Lawrence Smithmier of the loss, "We just didn't play well." Smithmier's team saw their record fall to ten wins, eight losses, and still has high hopes for the district and regional tournaments.

"The season has gone well. Look at our record. We have played some very tough competition," commented Smithmier, "We had a tough loss in overtime to Ballard, which we should have won. We have played some very good games."

Tonight, Jan. 28, the Flash to host Graves County's Eagles, in a Homecoming contest. After tonight's match-up, the Flash host Livingston County (Feb. 1), travel to Fulton City (Feb. 4), play at home versus Heath (Feb. 11) and host Ballard (Feb. 15). All could be victories which would finish the season strong and give a good push into the playoffs.

Photo by J. Mitchell

The District tournament starts Feb. 28, and is held at Paducah Tilghman High School.

Next month, look for full coverage of the Lady Flash. The girl's team is off to a wonderful record and is one of the favorites in the region. Check back in February's issue to catch up on the excitement of Girls Basketball.



Give a tasty valentine, buy a candygram



Jody Suhrheinrich
News Editor

Ah, Candygrams. Yes, the time has come for those tasty little suckers and sentimental love notes. Candygrams are a delightful way to express your amorous ambitions for the ones you love.

They will be on sale January 31 through February 11 for the price of 35 cents apiece or 3 for a dollar.

To purchase a candygram see any member of the Future Homemakers of America (FHA) anytime during the school day. FHA members will also be set up outside the cafeteria during lunch for those interested in purchasing a candygram.

Two messages are available for those lacking in the girlfriend/boyfriend department. A friendlier message can be sent to buddies, teachers, siblings or pets. Of

course the traditional "I love you" message is obtainable. Candygrams will be delivered on Friday, February 14 during Channel One. (note: for all interested male students, I am in Mr. Baker's second hour class and would appreciate numerous candygrams addressed to "The most beautiful editor on *The Oak "K"* Staff - thank you)

Scholarships available to seniors

Kelly Reeves
Editorial Editor

☒The Drury Restaurants, Inc./Burger King High School Scholarship Program is announcing its \$500 Scholarship for seniors who are employed by Burger King. Applications are in the guidance office. Deadline is March 1st.

☒The Sammy 2000 Award Program is open to senior athletes. Winners will receive a \$7,500 college scholarship and an opportunity

to be pictured in a special milk mustache ad. Applications must be requested from Mrs. Reeves. Deadline is March 15.

☒TN Technological University is announcing its Engineering Scholarship Awards Program. Applicants must take the Engineering Exam on 2/26/2000 to qualify. See Mrs. Reeves if interested.

☒Students of a KY Farm Bureau Insurance member are eligible to apply for the KY Farm Bureau Edu-

cation Foundation Scholarship Program. Deadline is 2/25/2000.

☒The University of KY's Engineering Program is offering "Women in Engineering" Day on Friday, 2/25/2000. Registration materials are in guidance office.

☒Murray State University's scholarship application deadline is February 1st.

☒KHEAA's teacher scholarship applications are available in the

guidance office. The criteria is: KY resident, education major and financial need. Deadline is May 8, 2000.

☒The University of Tennessee at Martin is announcing its music scholarship audition days which are 1/15/00 and 2/19/00. Call 901-587-7402 for reservations.



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Club News

FCCLA (FHA)

Students are preparing to compete in Region I Star Events, Feb. 17 at Ballard Memorial High School. They will compete in such events as Job Interviews, Product Comparison, Illustrated Talks, Child Development, Culinary Arts and Entrepreneurship.

Preparations are being made to sell Candygrams. They will be sold Jan. 31-Feb. 11. They will be delivered during Channel One on Monday, Feb. 14. Cost: 3/1.00 or .35 each.

BETA

The Beta Club will be doing a Humanities fundraiser in January. They will also sponsor a food drive and serve at Martha's Vineyard.

FFA attends National Convention

Megan Williams
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Lone Oak's FFA recently joined with 50,000 other students to welcome the national FFA Convention to Louisville after a 71 year stay in Kansas City. The convention also marked the 30th Anniversary of women as FFA members.

The students spent three days attending seminars that discussed qualities such as leadership and confidence that employers look for in a possible employee. They also attended the First General Session where they received welcomes from Gov. Paul



Patton, David Armstrong (mayor of Louisville), and Mr. Danny Glover. The weekend wasn't all work and no play though. FFA members did a little sightseeing at the Coca-Cola Museum, Abraham Lincoln's birthplace and the Country Place Greenhouse.

"This year's convention was bigger and better than ever. From the opening night fireworks to the terrific line-up of speakers at the general sessions and expanded career development event workshops, there was plenty to see and experience," said Ronza Childress.



While on their trip to Louisville, the FFA took time out to see exactly where the polsettias, which they sell during Christmas, come from and how the germination process takes place. FFA members from Lone Oak left to right: Jeremy Burchard, Ronza Childress, Chance Futrell, Chad Futrell and Josh Goodwin.

LOHS prepares for Governor's Cup

Lucy Jackson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On January 28 and February 12, some of LOHS' best and brightest will be competing in the district Governor's Cup Competition. Districts will be held at LOHS.

The following students will be competing in the following areas. Quick Recall: **Amy Chapman** (11), **Jay Swacker** (11), **Garret Wheatley** (11), **Brett Sander** (11), and **Josh Woleben** (10). Future Problem Solving: **Rebecca Huyck** (12), **Erin Malmquist** (12), **Shay Barnes** (12), and **Jesse Breneman**

(11), **Rachel Gearhart** (12), and **Amber Downs** (12). English Composition: **Rebecca Huyck** (12), **Lucy Jackson** (12), and **Jody Subrheinrich** (12). Math: **Amy Chapman** (11), **Rachel Wattier** (12), and **Corey O'Brien** (12). Science: **Rebecca Huyck** (12), **Rachel Wattier** (12), and **Corey O'Brien**. Social Studies: **Amy Chapman** (12), **Rachel Wattier** (12), and **Megan Williams** (12). Language Arts: **Lucy Jackson** (12), **Mike Vick** (12), and **Rebecca Clausen**. General Knowledge: **Jay Swacker** (11), **Corey O'Brien** (12), and **Megan Williams** (12).

Eight Oakers attend All-State

Staff Writer

Every year, Lone Oak's finest musicians prepare music to audition for a state-wide ensemble. Eight of our students were accepted into the All-State Band/Choir that will be held on February 2-5. The auditions were extensive and in several different areas. The "choir kids" tried out at Paducah Tilghman, and band auditions were at Bardstown.

Representing the LOHS band is **Daniel Garrett** (11) who was the only All-State participant selected from McCracken County Public

Schools and the only tuba from Western Kentucky. When asked how he prepared for his audition, he simply said, "Practice."

Seven choir members from LOHS were also selected to attend the festival in Louisville. They are **Andy Williford** (11), **Josh Reid** (12), **Natalie Ellis** (12), **Shay Barnes** (12), **Annemarie Cason** (10), **Kelly Seeley** (11), and **Mandy Langston** (12). Approximately 650 Kentucky students will rehearse together for three days before the final performance on Friday night at the Kentucky Center for the Arts.

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The Oak "K" is a publication of Lone Oak High School, distributed monthly to all students, faculty and advertisers.

The newspaper is designed by staff members, using the Microsoft Publisher 98 system, and printed by The Paducah Sun 408 Kentucky Ave., Paducah, KY 42003. Letters to the Editor are to be under 250 words in length and signed by the writer. The Oak "K" reserves the right to edit all letters for placement as long as the meaning is not altered. The newspaper attempts to inform and entertain its readers in a broad, fair and accurate manner or all subjects that affect the audience. Final authority for the content of the paper rests in the hands of the principal.

The Oak "K"

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Sports Editor	Jacob Mitchell
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Don't get down in the dumps with dating



Mandy Langston
Coroner

Before you begin reading this editorial, I ask that you keep an open mind. I will probably say things that challenge the way you think about dating, but that is the entire principle of an editorial, isn't it? Over the Christmas break I read a book (Surprise! I'm literate!) titled *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* by Joshua Harris. It changed the way I think about being part of a couple. Here's a radical question: What is the point of dating at this time in our lives? Before you put down

this article and walk away, think about it. Very few of us are old enough or ready for marriage—which ideally is the result of dating. Think of all the pain you or your friends have been through because of former boyfriends/girlfriends. Was it worth it? Of course not!

Purity is so much more than "how far you've gone"; it has to do with how much of yourself you have compromised when dating... How much have you worried about what the other person was thinking? How much time have you wasted over petty arguments? The most important theme of Harris book is the answer to changing our attitudes about dating: **Singleness is a gift from God.** We should look upon the season of being single as a

time to learn about ourselves and enjoy not having to answer to anyone. Friends should stop teasing each other about not dating. It is a truly honorable decision to make.

Stop putting yourself down when you aren't part of a couple. Stop putting yourself down when you have to actually think about with whom you're going to go to homecoming. Stop stressing because all of your friends seem to have someone. We all are meant to have a season of singleness, and we should enjoy it. Imagine how much less stressful life would be if we quit worrying about members of the opposite sex. Our attention could be focused on the most important person in our lives: ourselves.



Candy Grams increase the pain of Valentine's Day



Lucy Jackson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

We are on our way to February and that means, for all those love birds out there, chocolate, flowers and jewelry thanks to everyone's favorite holiday -- Valentine's Day. For those of us who are living a more single life, February 14th can be the worst day of the year. Not only is the world humming with couples everywhere, this humming is managing to fill the ears of all

single people reminding them that being in love is wonderful. LOHS has, believe it or not, managed to make this holiday even worse.

Candy Grams have been a tradition for years. Yes, I know these



little lollipops and messages can be sweet to get, but for those kids who don't get one (except

the mystery candy gram from some nameless heart throb) this is yet another reminder that it's Valentine's

Day. Even worse is when a candy gramless student looks over to the Candy Gram Queen who has managed to get all of her 400 devoted boyfriends to send her a little message of love. There is no need to make people feel any more left out than they probably already feel.

This is my cry out to LOHS. Please, do away with candy grams. They simply end up making people feel worse about the fact they are alone and empty-handed on Valentine's Day. After all, we all know that those lovesick couples out there will still find a way to express how much they love each other with or without candy grams.

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Whom are we kidding?



Jody Suhrheinrich
News Editor

Music is a subject very near and dear to my heart, and lately I've noticed a trend that I find a bit upsetting. Some members of my generation seem to believe that we are living in the 1960's rather than the year 2000. Every day I get an eyeful of t-shirts with The Doors, Led Zeppelin, and Grateful Dead bears splashed all over the front. When I flip through other kids' CD's, all I see is disc after disc of Pink Floyd and other classic rock bands which are of no relevance to today's teens. Now, don't hate me. I think these bands are living legends that should be appreciated for the musical geniuses that they were, notice I said



Artwork by Scott Shepard

were. Pretending that teens of today can relate to the turbulent times of the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights movement is not only wrong, but robs us of our own identity.

It's bad enough we ruined the legacy of peace and love our parents established by looting, rioting, and

raping at Woodstock '99. We're giving ourselves a bad name by trying to imitate an era that can never be duplicated. True, imitation is the best form of flattery, but we're screwing it all up! Hippies didn't buy tie-dye - they made it. They didn't drive designer SUV's, and they didn't spend \$50 on a pair of

khakis. We are for the most part a violent, materialistic offspring that can only hope to one day equal the free spirits of our mothers and fathers. They made a difference through first striving to understand the world and then working to change it together through peaceful protest. They didn't go out and in the words of Fred Durst from Limp Bizkit, "Break Stuff."

I guess a generation infatuated with Jim Morrison and Janis Joplin is better than a generation infatuated with the Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears, and I'll admit that every now and then I like to hear a little "Stairway to Heaven" or wear my best hippie shirt. However, we need to appreciate the present. There are great bands and issues that need to be addressed today which we are carelessly ignoring by pretending we're still flower children. There's a difference between appreciating the past and obsessing over it.

To the Editor of *The Oak "K"*:

The editorial in last month's issue about bicyclists represents a very dangerous mentality. As a double biker, bicycle and motorcycle, I face this "I drive a car and roads are for cars ONLY" mentality constantly. According to state law, bicycles and motorcycles are considered vehicles and when operated properly should be treated just like a car. I have been involved in two bicycle-auto crashes which re-

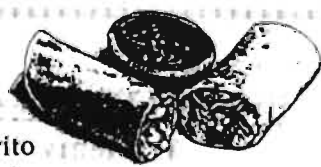
quired hospital treatment. In both cases, the driver "just didn't see the bicycle."

I suggest all drivers, especially young drivers, drive with an awareness and respect for all vehicles. All accidents have negative results, but if your negligence causes an accident with a bicycle or motorcycle, you may have the rest of your life to think about the person whose life you took.

Jim Toy
English Department



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did somebody say ?



LOHS' unsung hero: Billy Sensing



Jay Swacker
Features Editor

Everyone has a favorite teacher, even me. But this article isn't about Mr. Baker; it is about another great sage here at Lone Oak, Mr. Sensing. For those of you who have never had the pleasure of having him for class, you are missing one the funniest, most daring, and most controversial teachers in LOHS history.

Mr. Sensing commands a lot of respect for the caliber of work he

does. His method of teaching is, admittedly, tough to get through, but it is very rewarding. Anyone who has had Chemistry with him knows that the whole year is a trial by fire. Sure, you don't understand it at the time. Yes, it will most likely bring your GPA down, but he teaches the material. A year later, as I reflect on my Chemistry experience, I now truly understand the stuff that didn't make sense when I first saw it. I suppose it had to ferment for a while.

Perhaps one reason I look up to Sensing so much, is because he is a lot like me in many ways (a fact that I'm slowly coming to grips with). He has a quirky sense of

humor and is a self-proclaimed nerd. He is humble about his vast bank of knowledge. He has morals and standards and tries to convey these things in the lessons he teaches his students.

Perhaps he has said a few comments that might offend some Asian electronics manufacturers, some female students, or overzealous, narrow-minded religious people (even though he is a strong Christian), but in his case, the good points drastically outweigh the bad ones. That is why I think he is one of the best assets that LOHS has. Think about it, what would LOHS be without Sensing running around the halls like a madman?



LOHS's Lil' Darlin', Mr. Sensing

Ten Commandments pose no threat to students



Megan Williams
Co-Editor in Chief

Megan Williams
Co-Editor-in-Chief

As our country has become more and more diverse, we as a nation are so worried about being politically correct that the subject of

values has been removed from our public schools. We are so afraid of imposing religion on students that the Ten Commandments have been removed from classrooms and discussion of morals rarely occurs. Are we really improving schools by taking down the Ten Commandments and refusing to discuss the importance of good morals?

It is obvious from the behavior of many teens that America's youth are lacking in good judgment. They need guidance and

rules to live by, and the Ten Commandments are one good set to follow. Their presence in the classrooms reinforces the fact that murder and stealing is wrong and that respecting one's parents is important.

Some argue that posting the Ten Commandments in classrooms imposes religion on students. The presence of the Ten Commandments no more imposes religion on students than reading a piece of literature about religion in English class does. There are two Com-

mandments that discuss the importance of worshiping and respecting God, but the document as a whole is a piece of history that cannot be ignored. Religion has played a very influential role on American history and culture; it cannot be denied.

Students can choose whether or not to follow the Ten Commandments. Posting them in classrooms does not force them to accept the Christian faith. It simply exposes them to a piece of history while reinforcing some basic rules.

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The Pep-Club gathers to make "flashy" posters to support the boys and girls basketball teams.



Secretly, these percussionists have to think back to middle school band to help them with the rhythms (Ron had a rat trap, yes he had a rat trap)



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Staff members volunteer at PCM

On the 16th of December, the Journalism Staff of your beloved *Oak K* took an unusual final exam. We loaded up in the suburbans and trucked down to Paducah Cooperative Ministries for some community service. Various tasks were completed such as wrapping presents, sorting food, helping out wherever needed. The following are some quotes about our experience and what we learned.

"I realized how fortunate I am and how little some people have while volunteering at PCM. It put things in perspective and showed me how unimportant some of my worries are."

Megan Williams

"Working at PCM through the holidays really was an eye opener. It's a time of year when it's easy to get caught up in money and presents and forget that there are people concerned with having food and shelter."

Lucy Jackson

"My experience at PCM was very rewarding. It's amazing to see how much help can come from a handful of volunteers with big hearts and a little extra time."

Seth Bowen



Staffers help out at Paducah Cooperative Ministries by wrapping presents.

"I wish more people could participate in hands-on volunteerism like this. It really expanded my horizons to view a different area of life other than my own."

Jody Suhrheinrich

"It's nice to know that there is an organization designed to help people that are down on their luck. I'm glad that I was able to be a part of such a worthy cause."

Andrea Ramey

"Instead of sitting in a classroom, I got to meander through baked

goods. Boy was that cake delic.... oh I mean I did good things. Sorting presents, unloading toys, and everything was a pleasure."

Jacob Mitchell

"I got the privilege of wrapping presents (one of my favorite holi-

What will happen in the next century?

Andrea Ramey
Advertising Manager

With all the advances in technology and science it is hard to imagine what will take place in the new century. The Census Bureau predicts that the population of the United States will nearly double by the year 2100. By 2013 the world population, according to the United Nations Population Division Estimates, will rise from 6 billion to 7 billion.

In the upcoming years, we will see such things as a phone watch, which will be marketed in Europe first. Another interesting "project" that scientists are working on is the ability for men to give birth by cesarean section. According to Lord Robert Winston, an in-vitro fertilization expert, theoretically this could work by injecting massive

quantities of female hormones so that the placenta will attach to the muscles in the abdomen, which would act as an artificial womb.

day past times). However, wrapping presents for children who I knew were less fortunate than I am made it a lot more special."

Kelly Reeves

"There's nothing more fulfilling than handling a bunch of rotten, discolored fruit, as long as it's for a good cause. Well, it doesn't *have* to be for a good cause."

Jay Swacker

"It was a truly humbling experience to wrap gifts for children I would never see. It makes me realize how lucky we are and refreshes the Christmas spirit within me."

Mandy Langston

"I'm so proud of the newspaper staff. They jumped in, rolled up their sleeves, and willingly worked at whatever tasks they were assigned. Our PCM trip gives a much improved meaning to the phrase 'social learning experience.'"

Mrs. Campbell

quantities of female hormones so that the placenta will attach to the muscles in the abdomen, which would act as an artificial womb.

"Everyday, in some part of the world, an area larger than New York City- 214,000 acres- is destroyed, and every year an area larger than Poland- 78 million acres- disappears." says Nigel Sizer, a rain forest expert with the World Resources Institute. At this rate, the rain forests will disappear by the year 2050.

It will be interesting to see what is in store for the future whether it be human cloning, which is currently illegal, flying cars, or life on Mars. Only time will tell.



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Grisham creates another stellar legal thriller

Seth Bowen
Business Manager

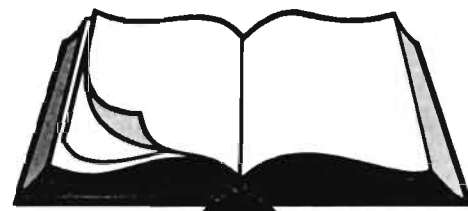
The *Partner* is John Grisham's ninth novel in publication. In the southern courts, prosecutors from a small firm win a landmark case with a \$90 million verdict. Each of the five prosecutors begin to dream what they can do with their share of the millions.

All of those dreams are dashed when one of the prosecutors secretly wires the ninety million dollars to a bank in Panama and he mysteriously disappears. For years he is able to evade capture until the plaintiff decides to hire private eyes to track him down. He is tortured in an attempt to draw out the location of the money with no success. Even the F.B.I. cannot force him to

divulge the details. Following his arrest, the real surprises begin. Where is the money? Who has the money? How did he pull it off?

Grisham stays true to form in this legal thriller. He does a great job of holding the reader's interest as well as keeping the reader guessing. Although it is a little lengthy, the book is well worth the time spent reading it. I would highly

recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the law or mysteries in general.



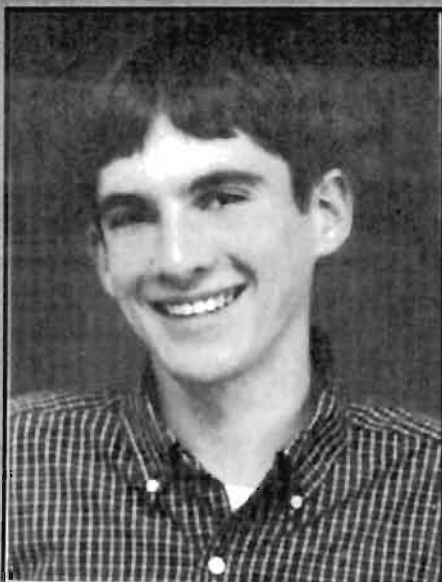
Half of Murphy-O'Brien duo named Rotarian

Jay Swacker
Features Editor

What's slightly better than putting a firecracker between your toes and lighting it? Being named Junior Rotarian. That is, of course, what it's like to Tim Murphy, this month's Rotarian.

Tim is a student here at LOHS and is a supporter of Republican Presidential candidate John McCain. Tim is also a big fan of the band Chicago. His favorite album is their *Greatest Hits* collection.

He attended the Governor's



January's Rotarian, Tim Murphy.

Scholars Program last summer. He was also named an USAA All-American Scholar and Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Tim is an active student. He is the Vice President of the Beta Club and has played the trumpet in the marching band for all four years of high school. He is a member of the Chess Club and has been on the Academic Team for the past three years. He is an Eagle Scout and is a member of Teen Court.

Tim plans on going to Centre in Danville, KY. He has decided to work in the government or the ministry. According to him, "All the best people are under 5 feet 8 inches."

Valentine's Day Word Search

Kelly Reeves
Editorial Editor

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

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Horoscopes for the new century

Andrea Ramey
Advertising Manager

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Aquarians, put wishful thinking aside and focus on personal relationships. On the 13th, give up friends that don't appreciate you and finally spend time with your family. You're known for being rational- stay away from Earth signs Capricorn and Virgo.

Romance match- Aries, Gemini, Libra, Sagittarius

Pisces (February 19- March 20)

If you're single, now is not the time to try to find true love. Wow all the adults in your life by working hard at school. It will pay off after the 19th!

Romance match- Cancer, Scorpio, Capricorn

Aries (March 21- April 19)

Being born under an aggressive zodiac sign, you accept nothing but the best and being the best at what you do. February will be no different, especially at work and school.

Don't expect fireworks on Valentine's Day!

Romance match- Leo, Sagittarius, Aquarius

Taurus (April 20- May 20)

Jupiter enters the Taurus zodiac sign on the 15th, which will leave you feeling relaxed and on top of the world. But be careful of the power of the full moon on the 19th!

Romance match- Virgo, Capricorn, Cancer

Gemini (May 21- June 20)

Be flexible and work with others, and remember you are not always in control. Do yourself a favor and take your parents' advice. When Jupiter, your love planet, enters Taurus on the 15th you must finally make a move on the person you've been flirting with.

Romance match- Capricorn, Libra, Aquarius

Cancer (June 21-July 23)

Make personal decisions on the 5th. If those around you don't seem interested in your life, don't pretend it doesn't bother you. Friend-

ship is a two-way street. An old romance will be rekindled on Valentine's Day.

Romance match- Taurus, Scorpio, Pisces

Virgo (August 23- September 22)

Romance is not in the cards for you on Valentine's Day. Instead, have fun with friends and renew those ties. Be sure to stay on top of your heavy workload. Otherwise, the stress will swallow you whole.

Romance match- Taurus, Virgo, Scorpio

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Don't over analyze your personal life; it will get you nowhere except to a depressed state. After the 18th, you will meet someone new. School will prove to be hectic, but take it in stride.

Romance match- Leo, Gemini, Aquarius

Scorpio (October 23- November 21)

You are your own worst critic. This attitude will do nothing but plague your well-being. Be sure to try something new on the 18th - it

will pay off!

Sagittarius (November 22- December 21)

Friends and family won't understand your stress. Take time for yourself. After the 14th, personal relationships will be strengthened. Mars will give those around you the determination to work through arguments.

Romance match- Aries, Leo, Sagittarius, Aquarius

Capricorn (December 22- January 19)

Life will pep up on the 2nd and your ambitious attitude will improve self-esteem all month. Don't get jealous of others' success; focus on your own dreams. Around the 15th, others will be coming to you for advice. Try to lend a helping hand.

Romance match- Taurus, Gemini, Pisces



Beware of the white-tailed suicide machines

Jody Suhrheinrich
News Editor

They strike terror into the hearts of young drivers. Their glittering eyes peer restlessly across narrow, wooded roads, just waiting for the next set of headlights. Then as your car is perfectly aligned, they complete their deadly mission. Yes, kids, deer have infested the streets of Paducah, and their terrify-


ing rampages have destroyed not only cars but our peace of mind as well.

"It's not that they accidentally wander across the road, at your try to get Jennifer a senior Connor, who had three near-death deer experiences



over the Christmas break. This year I've come across several students who have had close encounters with these mutant Bambis. All sarcasm aside, be on the look out for deer on Lovelaceville Road and in the Information Age Park. Deer can cause significant damage to your car, and you could risk serious injury if they cause you to veer out of control.

You may want to consider installing Deer Whistles on your car, which send out a high-pitched noise that deters deer, but above all, be alert. Be ready for these fleeting mammals to hurl themselves across the road. Try to avoid them, but certainly don't run into something much worse like a tree or another car.



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Rocker's comments were dumb, not punishable

Jacob Mitchell
Sports Editor

Where at one point in time racism in sports was a marquee debate, nowadays you don't hear much about it. Pushing aside a few minor incidents, discrimination and the sports world have been on two different sides of the fence. Unlike the mid-century racism that flooded baseball, basketball, and all other major sports, the latter part of last century stayed, for the most part, clean and safe. Throw out the rec-

Commentary

ord books, because in 1999 a racist baseball player lashed out on blacks, immigrants, and other minorities.

John Rocker, the fiery relief pitcher for the Atlanta Braves, let loose some rather unsettling comments regarding minorities, in specific, the ones in New York. Rocker, whose Atlanta team traveled to New York City to play

Baseball superstar: Josh May

Jacob Mitchell
Sports Editor

Joshua May, junior, is no ordinary, "everyday Joe" baseball player. Last month May was selected to attend the Roberto Clemente All Stars College Prep Camp in Homestead, Florida. In order to attend this prestigious camp, one must either be selected by a professional scout, or go through a series of tryouts to be selected. This camp, held December 26-30, played host to 144 young men.

The point of the camp was to stress the basics: hitting, fielding, and catching. After an evaluation of the players' talents, the men were then placed on one of twelve teams, according to

ability. The highest age attending the camp was 19, and Josh was placed on the 18-19 year old squad. Not only did he end up with a .500 batting average, he was awarded the team's Most Valuable Player.

He received a plaque for his efforts.

May didn't leave all of his skill in Florida, however. He brought it back with him and intends to use it all in the upcoming season for the Purple Flash, where he plays catcher.

"I was very glad when I got home," commented May, "so I could show off my new skills

to all my friends."

Congratulations to Josh May on quite an accomplishment. Look for his thundering bat this upcoming baseball season.



against the Mets, didn't particularly like all of the blacks, homosexuals and other groups of minorities in the city. He even went so far as to say that he would never want to play baseball in New York because

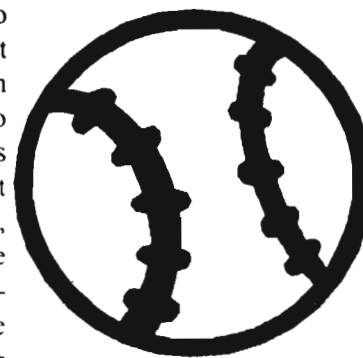
he wouldn't want to sit on a train "next to some queer with AIDS." He also called one of his teammates a "fat monkey." Rocker, who has undergone psychiatric evaluation, is in severe trouble of being suspended from baseball and being handed a hefty fine. This, in my opinion, is not right. Freedom of speech allows anyone to say what they want.

I do, however, question his judgment. Why, Mr. Rocker, would you publicly state such harsh remarks that you know would get you in se-

vere trouble? It is one's human right to have an opinion, but in today's society it is just not acceptable to display racism. How did he think fans would react? After this ordeal surfaced, Rocker even went

as far as to say that he is not a racist. Come on, like that's believable? You don't say those disturbing comments in the public eye as a joke.

The First Amendment does indeed grant the right to say what you want. However, now Rocker has put a black eye on himself, his team and the entire Major League Baseball. His comments were unprovoked, unnecessary and definitely un-smart (Just to continue the line of "un"'s.) And while his remarks are not punishable due to his right as an American, he may have scarred the sport for a long time.



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