

The Oak "K"

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OVERACHIEVING ROTARIAN

Sneha Pampati
Staff Photographer

And this month's Rotarian is...**Danielle Musgrave(12)**. Danielle is not your typical high school student; she is much, much more. She is currently Beta Club Vice President, Commonwealth Honors Academy attendant, and she still has a 4.0. You seniors should know that maintaining that GPA is not very easy! Not only is she all that, but she is a bag of chips.

She volunteers weekly at Lone Oak Elementary School where she teaches kids that bullying gets you nowhere through the No Bullying program there. She also works at Arby's almost every day, so if you ever happen to go to Arby's, say hello to your November Rotarian. Even with all these extracurricular activities, she still manages to do what is most important in her life. She believes that her friends are the most important thing in her life and tries very hard to make time for them in her busy senior schedule. She is also taking many hard classes, like AP Calculus and AP English. Plus, she is independently studying AP Spanish and she is corresponding Earth, Space, and Science. Can we say over-achiever!

Her future plans include attending Murray State University and majoring in pre-physical therapy. Can we say ambitious! In fact,

she is actually taking a class at Murray State every week. She attends Psychology classes every Thursday there. If this doesn't show you what a hard worker she is, just read what her friends have to say about her.

Rachel Wooten(12) said, "Danielle is one of the only people I know who doesn't procrastinate, she is a diligent worker!" Cheesy, but so true! **Kristin Warren(12)** says, "She's a great Spanish and No Bullying buddy, but the things that stand out are Spanish conversations and 'she's old.'" She is not old! **Kasey Newton(12)** said "I've known Danielle since second grade. We've been friends ever since and she is one of my closest friends." Aww, so cute! And last but not least, **Becky Brookshire(12)** said, "Flying eggrolls, Mrs. Reynold's class, rabbits and fuzzy-heads. That about sums it up." Now, you might not understand what all her crazy friends are talking about, but they all convey the same overall message. A message which suggests that she is an absolutely awesome senior! Go Danielle. Go!



Picture Courtesy of Gene Boaz

Faster Than A Speeding Bullet...

Kelcey Buchanan and Sam Hadfield
Staff Writers

The cross-country runners have worked very diligently this season. They run a 5k, which is 3.1 miles, every meet. This is the first year Lone Oak has fielded a girl's team as well. The whole girls team beat Tilghman by three points to advance to state. The girls' team qualified for state the first time out, and has had an exceptional season. The girls team includes **Tiffany Treece (11)**, **Kim Dunn (10)**, **Haleigh Fellows (9)**, **Gabby Fellows (9)**, **Olivia Fellows (10)**, and **Robin Ezell (10)**.

The boys' cross-country teams also have a few runners who qualified for state. **Ryan Timmons (11)**, **Thomas Bailey (12)**, and **Jesse Byrd (11)** will be representing Lone Oak. Ryan placed 10th in the region out of a considerable number of runners, and ran like a speeding bullet too! This is Ryan's fourth year to have qualified for state, Thomas' third year, and Jesse's first year. Ryan said, "I found out I could run when I was running from the cops one day." Thomas said, "My favorite memory was going to state my junior year...wait a second, I got passed and missed state by one point."

STATE RESULTS:

Haleigh Fellows finished 62nd out 198 runners, with a time of 22:02:86. Gabby Fellows finished with a time of 22:38:83. Kim Dunn finished with a time of 23:50:72, her personal best. Robin Ezell finished with a time of 24:44:46. Tiffany Treece finished with a time of 26:09:69, although she injured her hip during the race. Olivia Fellows, 35:12:62.

For the boys, Ryan Timmons finished 46 out of 199, with a time of 18:01:92. Thomas Bailey finished 85 with a time of 18:47:97. Jesse Byrd finished 99 with his personal best of 19:00:22. Congratulations to the State runners!

There are several awards given to the cross-country runners. Some include "Most Improved Runner" which is going to Robin Ezell, who decreased her time by three minutes and 26 seconds. The perseverance award goes to Melvin McClure who has run on the squad for four years. He has decreased his running time over the four years by six minutes and ten seconds.

The other runners on the boys team had very good seasons also. **Chase Denson (12)** laughed as he thought of his cross country memories and said, "My best memory is when I sprinted by a third-grader at the regional meet to finish 45th." Alex Croft chuckled and decided to share an experience of his own. "My best memory was when I beat the kid with two torn ACLs at the finish line!" he said.



Lone Oak ends its 2005 marching band season

See page 7

Sweet Treats from LOHS

Jessica Gordon
Assistant Editor/ Archivist

It is in this time of year we give thanks for many things. Good health, the love from friends and family, your car actually starting this morning, not failing that horrid test last hour, and various other simplicities that fill our lives. Now, we give thanks to FMD class for their wonderful contributions to this holiday.

During this leaf falling season, the FMD class (also known as the Daily Living Class) made delicious peanut butter pies. In doing this, students learn the valuable life lesson in learning how to function successfully in the kitchen. The idea is to help students gain confidence and independence through such activities.

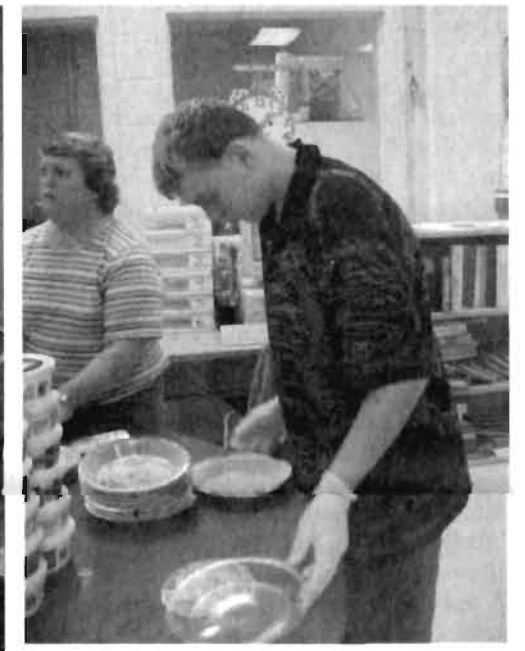
The origins of this tradition of pie making may be traced to Lone Oak High School teaching assistant Alesiah Payme. She is dubbed the "recipe guru" and without her, the peanut butter pies would not exist. It was in the year 2002 that the fun began, and last year 75-80 pies were sold.

Of course, the end result brings in some revenue. Usually, the money goes towards field trips, which involve community

education. This year, the money is actually for another purpose: baking cookies for Christmas on the River. Supported by the Seamen's Institute, the cookies go to the people stuck working on the water instead of going home for the holiday we all know and love.

Christina, the top pie seller, was asked what her favorite part of baking pies. She said, "Measuring the powdered sugar!" She thoroughly enjoys making these peanut butter treats, as do all members of the FMD class.

If you missed your chance to purchase a pie this year, don't worry. This holiday tradition is sure to be back next year.



Photographs by Jessica Gordon

Be thankful these aren't your memories...



Page 2

If you don't have anything nice to say...



Page 3

They'll have your head spinning



Page 4

Turkeys in the draw



Page 5

Rush to your local maul



Page 6

Get Smart!



Page 7

GOOD GRIEF!

Autumn Midyett
Assistant Business Manager

A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving is one of the numerous Peanuts television specials ranging from A Charlie Brown Christmas in 1965 to I Want a Dog for Christmas, Charlie Brown in 2003. A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving came out on television in 1973. In 1974, this special was nominated for the Outstanding Children's Special Emmy and won an Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Children's Programming.

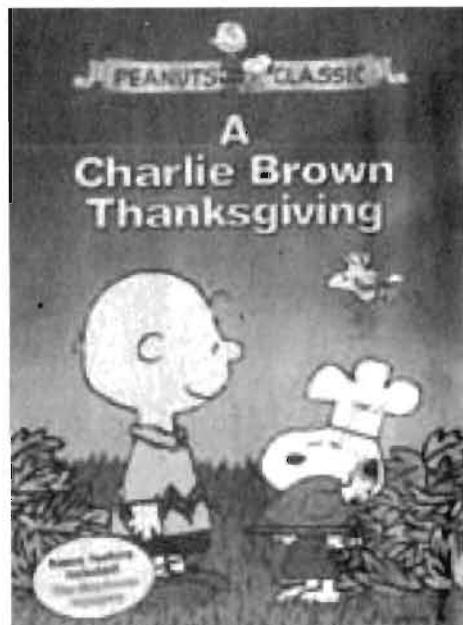
This cartoon starts out with a scene familiar to any Peanuts fan. It starts with a bang as good 'ol gullible Chuck falls for Lucy's football gag quite literally, he lands with a smack on the grass. Later, at home, Charlie Brown receives a phone call from a certain red haired girl. No, not THE red haired girl, it is Peppermint Patty. She has called to invite herself over for Thanksgiving dinner. Charlie, being his wishy-washy self can't tell her no even though his family is actually going to his grandmother's for Thanksgiving. Seconds later, Peppermint Patty calls back to say that her friend Marcie will also be able to attend the meal. Soon after she calls once again to inform Charlie Brown that Franklin can come as well.

Charlie Brown immediately seeks the advice of his blanket toting best friend, Linus. Linus is quick to come up with a solution. Since Charlie Brown's dinner at his grandmother's isn't until four thirty he can simply have two dinners. He can cook for his friends earlier in the day and then go to his grandmother's later. The problem though is that Charlie Brown's cooking abilities extend to cold cereal and occasionally toast. Linus assures Charlie Brown that with the help of Woodstock, Snoopy, and Linus he can pull off the dinner.

Of course, surely you're wondering what the moral of the story is. It is a Peanuts Holiday Special isn't it? Charles Schulz always liked a good moral. At the dinner a plate full of popcorn, buttered toast, pretzels, and an unidentified candy-like substance is served. This causes

Peppermint Patty to become irate. "Where is the turkey?" she demands. With this Charlie Brown leaves the table. Peppermint Patty, realizing that she has hurt his feelings demands that Marcie go apologize to him for her because she's not good at that sort of thing. When Marcie goes to talk to Charlie Brown he tells her that he isn't hurt, just sad that he has ruined everyone's Thanksgiving. Aw! Poor wishy-washy Charlie Brown! Marcie convinces him that it isn't ruined and of course the moral of the story is made clear; Thanksgiving isn't just about turkey, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce.

If there are any Peanuts fans that haven't seen this one they should certainly find a copy. However, if the Peanuts gang is a little too cheesy for your taste there is no way that this special will convert you. This Peanuts Holiday special is a great way to get into the Thanksgiving spirit though, and is fun no matter what your age.



Picture courtesy of movieoutfitter.com

"Où Où Amélie"

Rebecca Choudhury
Editor-in-Chief

Break out those glasses and prepare to read. It's time for a subtitled foreign film! This month, I chose to review "Amélie," a French film released in November 2001. If the title rings a bell, it may be due to the five Academy Award nominations this picture received not long after. Not content to let better-known critics have the only say, I decided to review it myself, to give you all the benefit of my professional opinion. And so, with this in mind, I humbly submit my take on what it certainly a most...interesting...movie.

Set in the distant past of 1997, "Amélie" is about the weird and whimsical life of Amélie Poulain (Audrey Tautou), a very unique young woman indeed. Falsely diagnosed by her doctor father with a heart condition at a young age, Amélie grows up closeted away with her eccentric parents and within a fantasy world of her own design. Upon reaching adulthood, Amélie leaves her father, now a widower, to move to Paris, where she takes a job as a waitress in a small café. She leads a life filled with interesting characters, and she herself is the most interesting of all.

One evening, Amélie finds a small box hidden in the wall of her apartment. Opening it, she finds a treasure of childhood trinkets and toys and makes it her mission to return her precious discovery to its rightful owner, who hid it away some decades ago. Upon fulfilling her noble purpose, Amélie develops a newfound love for helping her fellow man, and sets out to improve the lives of those around her, in her own creatively subtle ways. But when she meets a stranger at the train station and recovers his odd scrapbook of discarded photos, love turns her plans to other purposes. Will Amélie be able to overcome her oppressive shyness for Nino Quincampoix

(Matthieu Kassovitz), the man of her dreams?

"Amélie" is a delightfully inventive film, guaranteed to leave you in a good mood at its end. It is, in a word, sweet, a romantic comedy filled with childlike fancy and spirit, with a dash of dark humor here and there. Audrey Tautou is fantastic, playing her part as the introverted and imaginative heroine to a T. Beautiful backdrops and a truly lovely soundtrack round out the film, adding visual and auditory interest to the film's entertaining plotline.

But, a word or two of caution: "Amélie" is an R-rated film, and with reason. Potential viewers would do well to keep this in mind before sitting down to watch.



Picture courtesy of impawards.com

RVing: A Sports Odyssey

James Summerlin
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered why sports fans really care? Why do people root for a sports team even though they don't know any of the players personally? Why do sports fans act like lunatics after their team wins or cry themselves to sleep after a loss? If you have ever pondered these subjects, "Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer" by Warren St. John is the book for you.

Warren St. John, who writes for many New York publications such as the New York Times, says in his book that he was a Tide since childhood and remembers cheering for his beloved football team for as long as he could remember. He recalls in his book that when he was in college at Columbia University, he listened to a radio broadcast of an Alabama/Auburn football game. When the Crimson Tide lost, he went to a bar and got drunk to ease his pain of losing. He later went to his dorm and cried himself to sleep.

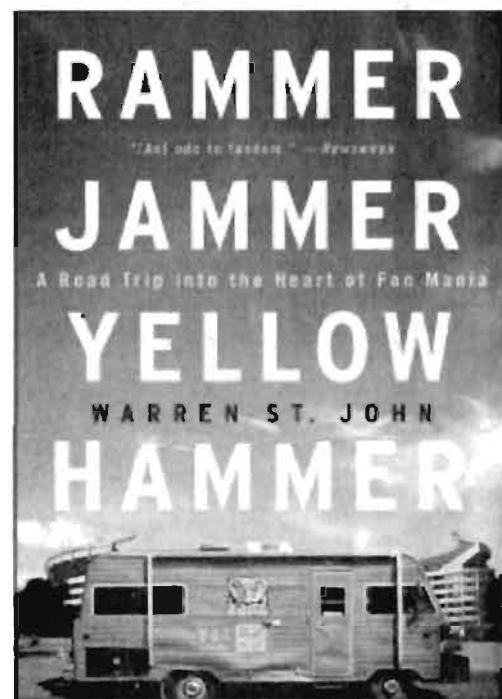
He wondered to himself why he cared. He didn't know any of the players personally. He didn't go to the University of Alabama. Why did he give a rip about a football team that he didn't know? He decided to find out what makes fans so crazy about their teams. His plan was to travel with the Alabama football RV caravan, the largest group of football fans that travel with a college team.

He quickly made friends with the craziest of fans. Like the father who wouldn't go to his daughters wedding because the wedding was during Alabama/Tennessee game, a big college football rivalry. He talked to the minister in Tuscaloosa who asked to put a television in the sanctuary so he could watch Crimson Tide games while he was giving a message. Warren met up with John Ed, a man who could get you a ticket to any game you wanted for about \$200, even if the game was sold out. He met Paul Finebaum, the most hated radio talk show host in

Alabama. You find out about these people and other fanatics that are crazy enough to write a book about.

This was one of the best books I read, hands-down. It was funny, interesting, and a bit suspenseful, the perfect recipe for a book. I learned a great deal about my favorite football team and its fans and how great and how foolish both can be. Although it does have a large amount of profanity, Warren St. John does a great job describing what he experienced in his travels.

This book isn't just for Alabama fans. This book is an investigation of people's behavior with the sport teams they love and cheer for. This is a must-read for all sports fans and people who just don't understand fandom. I give "Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer" a 5 out of 5.



Picture courtesy of askjeeves.com

Sneha Pampati
Staff Photographer

When I was told that I needed to write a review. I planned on writing about a book. But, as I was driving home listening to my music, I changed my mind. I decided on reviewing a band, now. I don't know if I am breaking some review writing commandment but anyways, here I go. Cake is absolutely friggin' awesome! If you have not heard of Cake, come talk to me and we'll arrange something for your poor deprived soul. In fact, I am listening to Cake as I write this article.

What is Cake? Cake is a band that sings songs about the most meaningless things. When I first started listening to Cake, I had a hard time because I tried to understand the meanings of the songs. I thought that each song had some hidden implication but really it is just a bunch of funny words combined together to create art. Basically, to listen to Cake, you just have to suspend your intuitions. Just listen and enjoy songs that read, "some people drink Pepsi, some people drink Coke, and the wacky morning deejay says democracy is a joke."

What makes Cake so "absolutely friggin' awesome?" The answer is simple. You know how you listen to a song over and over again but eventually the song loses its appeal and after a while just hearing the song irks you.

Well, no matter how many times I listen to the songs by Cake, each experience is equally amazing. I mean, I am looking at the Play Count on my iTunes, I have listened to "The Guitar Man" (a great Cake song from their album "Pressure Chief") nineteen times in the last two months. That is huge number and yet the song gets better each time I listen to it.

So, what should you do now? Go grab a piece of cake (no pun intended) and listen to some great songs by Cake. My personal favorites are "Comfort Eagle," "The Guitar Man," and "The Distance." These are some great songs with some entertaining lyrics!



Picture Courtesy of centipedia.com



Thanksgiving Memories



Grant Price
Staff Writer

I recently asked a few students and teachers what their favorite Thanksgiving memories were and these were my favorite responses.

Coach Whitis- Crashing my four wheeler into a pond.

Meagan White (12)- The time aunt Bertha choked on a Turkey leg.

Bart Lewis (11)- When I stuck my hand inside the Turkey.

Tyler Smith (10)- When I ripped a turkey's head off and ate it raw.

Josh Lynn (9)- When my dad threw the turkey at my brother and threw scalding hot gravy on my face. Then the house burnt down and took half of Chicago with it.

plate and fight for Elena. Maybe, he thinks, it's time once again to put on the mask and take up the sword, to save his family as he has saved others. But perhaps Zorro is not the only one in the family with secrets.

Antonio Banderas appears as dashing as ever in this family-friendly film spotted with humor and romance. This movie is probably not quite what many would expect. It has less swordplay than its predecessor, and many of the action scenes stretch to provide entertainment. Yet, it does not fail to please. I do not believe it should be compared to the original solely by lack of zing. As a movie in itself, it is very entertaining and heartwarming and will leave viewers with a newfound appreciation for family life.

THE LEGEND OF ZORRO

Monica Spees
Student Contributor

The handsome Antonio Banderas and beautiful Catherine Zeta-Jones team up once more in "The Legend of Zorro." The sequel to the 1998 action-drama "The Mask of Zorro," this next chapter picks up ten years from when the last movie left off...

It is the year 1850 and the people of California have voted to join the United States as a free state. However, uncertainty is ever present as the North and South teeter on the verge of civil war. Alejandro Murieta (Banderas) has assumed the name of de la Vega, the former Zorro's surname, and the title of a don. His secret life is one that only his wife Elena (Zeta-Jones) and a priest friend know of: Zorro, defender of the people. Don de la Vega faces serious marital problems, possibly arising out of conflicting demands on his time. Despite his vow at his son Joaquin's birth to abandon his secret identity, he finds himself living more and more of his life behind the mask.

Three months later, he finds himself single and a habitual drinker. Alejandro has kept hidden away his mask, cape, silver spurs, sword, and faithful steed Toronado all the while, trying to forget the time spent as Zorro that now seems wasted. It isn't long before Don de la Vega discovers that his ex-wife is betrothed to a certain Count Armand from France, owner of a large vineyard, expansive tracts of land, and a dark secret. Alejandro is constantly nagged by his son to step up to the

Choudhury Chats

Rebecca Choudhury
Editor-in-Chief

On the occasions I have taken the time to seriously peruse the Lone Oak High School library, I must say I've been fairly surprised at what I've turned up. It's no Library of Congress, true, but it's decent, especially considering the size of our school. More than the quantity of books available, the variety of books does say something about the academic environment at Lone Oak, and that something is mostly good. Mostly. But the doors to the library, like general opinions concerning appropriate high school literature, could stand to be opened a bit wider.

This is not to say that sorship. In fact, students better off than their coun- Lone Oak High School students to explore new couldn't hurt to break out a bit further.

The reason we teenagers is that at some point in the decided that it might be next generation for life in tion goes, or should go, far cal skills. It should extend mindset that encourages evaluation of new ideas. When one reads something offensive to oneself, or anything about which one has never really concerned oneself, new ideas take root; however strange such ideas may be, to ponder them, and to discuss them, shouldn't be. When we catch a glimpse of how another person thinks, our brief, unconscious reactions give us a glimpse of our own ways of thinking. Our true beliefs and personal takes convention. Our perspectives on society, and the ebb, flow, and undercurrents that make up everyday life.

And so, I would like to extend a challenge to each person who is reading this opinion piece - assuming someone still is - to make an effort to read books out of the scope and spectrum of a high school English class. Don't be afraid to experiment, and don't be afraid to feel.

When we catch a glimpse of how another person thinks, our brief, unconscious reactions give us a glimpse of our own ways of thinking.

Lone Oak is some den of cen- here at Lone Oak are probably terparts at some other schools in ing in generalities, the faculty of does a good job in encouraging literary horizons, but I say it the binoculars and set our sights

ers are required to attend school history of education, someone kind of important to prepare the the adult world. This prepara- beyond the academia and practi- helping students develop a growth, the incorporation and

Midyett's Musings

Autumn Midyett
Assistant Business Manager

Is it wrong that highly opinionated people bug me? I mean, I think its great that they know what they think. I guess the ones that bug me are those people who argue their point to death and are constantly trying to convince everyone else that they are right and everyone else is wrong.

I tend to think that if you want to believe something, go for it. I have no right to tell you other- wise. In return, I hope Just because you think or bad doesn't mean you for that matter. No one things are right or whether something is opinions.

I understand that that forcing their views think that they should try they believe for the bet- though, that if you're to think the way you ful, it's probably more to make them agree. More than likely you will just make them feel bad, angry, or annoyed.

When I talk about these highly opinionated people and their opinions I am not just talking about religious, political, or moral issues. I'm also talking about music, movies, and food... just about everything you can have an opinion about. Most of the time people aren't quite as highly opinionated about things like this, but this is just as annoying. I know that I am occasionally afraid to admit to my peers certain movies or music that I'm interested in checking out, because I can just imagine the inevitable "Aww! Autumn! I can't believe you're watching/listening to that!" when I rent some random movie or something.

If you have a definite opinion and you feel a need to voice it that's fine. Please just don't try to shove your opinions onto everyone else. Everyone should try to respect others' beliefs and opinions.

Please just don't try to shove your opinions onto everyone else.

that you will think the same. something is right, wrong, good, are necessarily right. Or wrong, really knows whether some wrong. All the opinions about right or wrong are just that.

some people have the opinion on others is the way to go. They to convince everyone of what ter good. I generally think, really trying to convert someone think, and you are really force- likely to drive people away than

SUMMERLIN SAYS

James Summerlin
Staff Writer

Ah, Thanksgiving. Food, family, and hand turkeys. That's what Thanksgiving's about, right? We go to our grandparents' house which is about nine hours away for a meal of the food of the gods, turkey and dressing. Then we go home and everything ends. Does anyone get anything out of that besides a meal to hold over until Christmas?

I've asked people how their Thanksgiving went and they are ungrateful for everything. How ironic is that? On Thanksgiving, people complain about their families arguing, the food tasting bad, and their hands not being turkey. They miss the entire need to have the attitude of

We are supposed to be day, everything we have, cause it could all be gone in ing is supposed to be a re- for granted. All the things should remind us to be For example, we go to visit that we don't live with

Just look at the victims thing was taken from them. longings were gone and

though people donated to their relief, they will never forget the impact the disaster had on them, and it will take them years to get their lives back to normal. Look at citizens of third-world countries who have nothing at the start and will live poorly for the rest of their lives. Be thankful you live in America. Be thankful you have the freedom to go to school and maybe someday become successful. You have a lot to be thankful for.

This Thanksgiving, don't complain about your circumstances. You are very fortunate to be who you are and to live the way you live. This year, consider the things you are thankful for. In fact, I challenge you to get out a piece of paper and write down things you are grateful for. You might be surprised.

We need to have the attitude of gratitude.

big enough to make a good hand meaning of Thanksgiving. We gratitude.

grateful for every moment of the and every breath we take be- a moment's notice. Thanksgiv- mander not to take everything we do on the special holiday grateful for the things we have. family to help us be thankful them. (Just kidding.)

of Hurricane Katrina. Every- Their families, homes, and be- they were left with nothing. Al-

Snizzay-Hizzah Tells It All

Sneha Pampati
Staff Photographer

At the end of every school year, I start having this feeling. It goes a little something like, "I hate school." But this year is different because the feeling has already started. I am already counting the days till Thanksgiving, Christmas break, and basically summer vacation. School just isn't the same anymore. All my life, I've been told that senior year is your best year and it's your easiest year. Well folks, I've been lied to! Senior year is by far the hardest year ever. There is so much to worry about, from filling out college applications to passing AP Chemistry and most of all to surviving school. Oh and there are also deadlines for everything your senior year. If I hear my parents remind me about one more scholarship deadline, I will freak. I am always busy and always stressed.

I have encountered feel- nothing like this year. Some- more than a 15-minute nap. a 15-minute nap, that's 15 could have spent doing my AP which I happen to have almost never really had homework finished homework in school lucky if I have just two hours I remember studying for 5 my AP Calculus and AP

remember not doing so well on both of them. Five hours in one night is extreme. I mean, when am I supposed to sleep? Eat? Breathe?

Everything about your senior year is frightening. This is my last year home and I am trying to cherish every moment because once I leave Paducah, I'm gone. Balancing schoolwork with family, college deadlines, and extracurricular activities is hard work. I am reading this article and shaking my head because I hear myself whining. I hate whining but I am compelled to do so. I realize that the only person who can do anything about all the stress is I, but where do I start?

Should I drop some extracurricular activities? Should I give up my social life? Should I give up my family? Should I give up school? I refuse to give up any of these things, so all I can do is prioritize! So right now, instead of writing this article, I should probably be filling out the massive number of college applications lying on my desk. In fact, one of them is due next Friday. I just don't know what to do anymore! Sorry to all those who have read my whining.

I mean, when am I supposed to sleep? Eat? Breathe?

ings of stress before but times, I wish for nothing But, no, if I were to take valuable minutes that I Calculus homework, every single night. I've until this year. I always last year, but now I'm of homework each night. hours the night before Chemistry tests. I also

The Oak "K"

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Kelcey Cares

Kelcey Buchanan
Business Manager

You go to the office to sign out for an appointment of some kind, or for a different reason, and then start heading to the band room to go to your car that is parked closer to the band room than the gym. As you approach the band room, you realize that there is a random sign on the door. Still walking to the door, you rationalize that it is a memo for the band students. As you approach, you realize that it's not for them. It's meant for you.

"Do not use the band room as a quick escape to the parking lot during class hours." You stand there staring at the sign, wondering what your next move will be. If you're brave enough, you might try to go through the band room and hope that you will not be caught, or you might walk away to find another route. Either way you will have to turn around, maybe even feeling defeated. So what is your next option?

The only other good option gym, go out the doors on the what feels like a mile, to get to five or ten minutes when it minutes in the first place.

The band room still seems way to get to your car, but on the classes held in the band didn't realize that you had yet peeling, but quicker than going gone up the stairs in the E build- down the other stairs to the park- people would have thought about that option. You could also have gone through the weight room, if you wanted to risk capture by Coach Haskins and a good chewing out.

When you've finally found a tricky route to your car and have left for your appointment, what happens when you come back? Your parking spot, like before, is still closer to the band room than any other door. How do you get back into the school? All doors are locked, so what do you do? That is a good question, and unless you get lucky and a door has been kept ajar.

Some people, realizing that there is no way to get into the school from the parking lot might think of just leaving. Technically, they would not be skipping school, because they signed out.

There should be some way of getting in and out of school during school hours that does not disturb any teachers or classes, and does not require walking to the main entrance. If the E building were to be used in getting in and out of the school, if the door leading outside from the down stairs were to remain unlocked, it would provide a much easier way for students to enter during school hours.

"Do not use the band room as a quick escape to the parking lot during class hours."

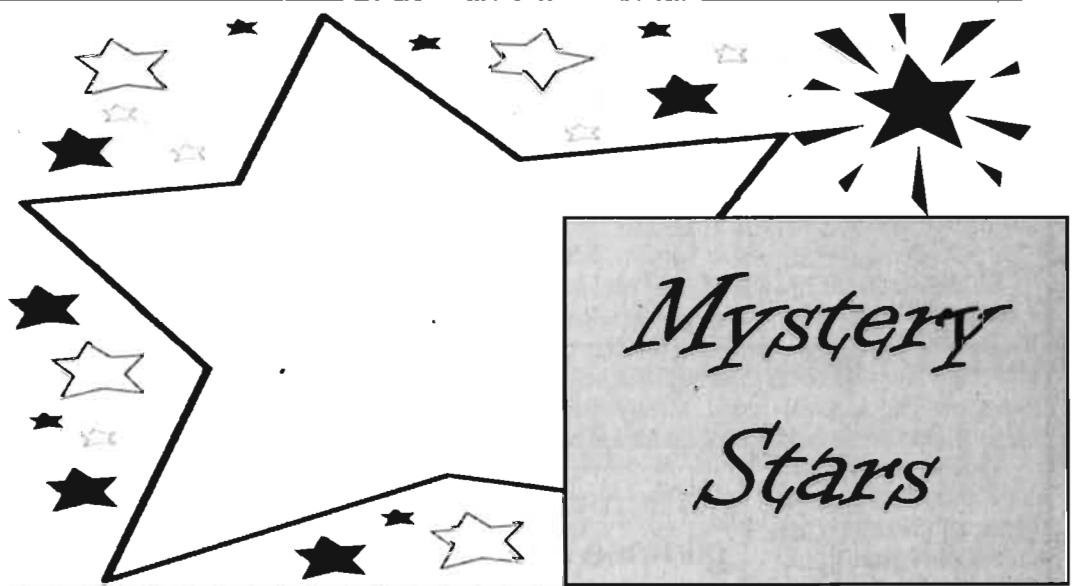
would be to walk back to the opposite side, and walk, over your car... taking an extra should have only taken five

like the best and quickest the down side, it does disturb room. In a mad fury, you another option. Not as ap- to the gym. You could have ing, down the hallway, and ing lot. But not very many

ing lot. But not very many

Guess the Rims!

Laura Cash and Kelcey Buchanan
Staff Writers



Rebecca Choudhury
Editor-in-Chief

Revenge of the Mystery Stars! If you had some trouble identifying our first round of Stars, try your luck with the sequel...

Our first star is a sixteen-year-old junior. He stands head and shoulders above this writer, and quite a few other fellow students as well. His distinctive curly locks make sure this one stands out in a crowd. This Mystery Star is something of an animal lover; at least, he loves his two pets, a dog and a cat. He also loves playing the piano and bowling, and studying Spanish with B-mo "porque es muy divertido." Undoubtedly, his fantastic language skills will help this tenista and volibolista when he someday conducts research in orbit on the international space station.

With Thanksgiving on the horizon, this junior dreams of his favorite seasonal treat: edamame, with a refreshing TaB chaser. Considering his aunt once managed to simultaneously burn and fail to defrost the traditional Thanksgiving bird, it's no wonder he's not looking forward to testing the turkey. At any rate, this November holiday can't compare with Christmas in our Star's eyes. After all, what could be better than a holiday brimming with "Yule logs and glad tidings"?

If Star one is giving you some pause, try for Star number two. She is a seventeen-year-old senior who loves knitting, old soap operas, and the Mob. If you haven't come across this Star hanging out at Maiden Alley, you might have met her at her exciting and fast-paced job at Sears. She loves to dance, and has been doing so in various forms for the past twelve years. Growing up, she wanted a pet dog so much that she sometimes forced her younger brother to play the part, jump-rope leash slung around his neck. Apparently, the company of her goldfish, Gun, just wasn't enough. Perhaps these childhood frustrations are the reason she so enjoys dissecting animals in anatomy and physiology.

Like the gentleman above, she too loves Christmas. In fact, she gets a head start on her holiday season, breaking out the carols and X-mas movies on the first of November. However, Thanksgiving is special to her as well. Sharing delicious arroz con chorizo y pollo and corn casserole with her family is great, but it's not the only reason she has a soft spot for Turkey Day: her little sister was born the day after.

Last month's Stars: Sarah Heine (12) Brad Conkwright (12) Laken Dunaway (9) Ryne Parsley (9)

Unfortunately, many students see the arts a more of a hobby than a career choice. Why not do something that comes easily instead of something that requires years to learn?

Whatever students decide to do, realize that these options are only a few. There are others, believe it or not, but to list them all would take up the whole newspaper. When it comes down to it, no matter what a student decides to do,

that person only needs to do their very best and said person will succeed.

HERE ARE YOUR OPTIONS

Jessica Gordon
Assistant Editor/Archivist

When it comes to the future of a student the possibilities are endless. However, it's come to the attention of this writer that many of the various and numerous options out there begin to loose face or become second best within the popularity contest that is the career field. With that in mind, its time for a discussion of the options high school students know and don't know about.

Pressure on high school students is intense when it comes to grades and test scores. And why is that? College, of course, as it seems to be the first and best option for life after high school. Someone with a college degree is sometimes more respected and studies prove that the better degree equals the better salary.

Another beloved option is the military. To be one of the many giving up their lives as a civilian to become a soldier and defend the United States of America is all very noble. It's a career that will also pay a soldier's way

through college as a reward for serving his or her country.

Less noted is the idea of going into vocational school. Carpentry, auto mechanic, and other trades and crafts are taught there. Basically, it's a school where you can take the hands you're given and learn to use them to do something besides paper pushing in a cubicle all day.

Also, there's simply getting a job after graduation. Yes, the probability of a big salary involved is slim. Yet, if someone could be content doing something like that why should the person bother to do anything else? There is nothing wrong with earning a living (that doesn't have to do with illegal activities, of course).

In Lone Oak High School, there are so many artistic students that could make it if they only tried. There are thousands of publishers and agents just waiting for someone like LOHS' student artists to come along and give them a chance at succeeding in using their talents to the greatest capacity.



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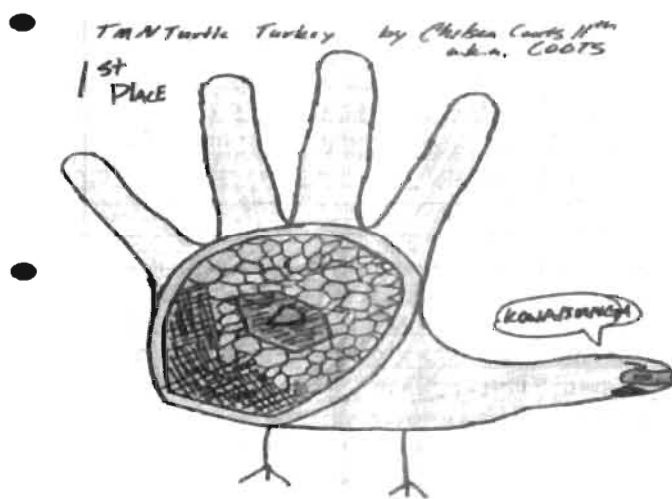
Non-traditional Turkeys

Larua Cash
Staff Writer

It is once again time for that great 'Oak "K"' tradition of hand turkeys! It has always been a terrific Thanksgiving tradition of this newspaper to hold a competition throughout Lone Oak High School, and I was determined to uphold this fun tradition this year. With the help of the 'Oak "K"' staff, adviser, and the great students at Lone Oak High School, I was able to bring together some very creative examples of hand turkeys. The hand turkeys below were my favorites out of the ones submitted (but Chelsea Coorts' Ninja turtle turkey is not first place, despite what it says!)



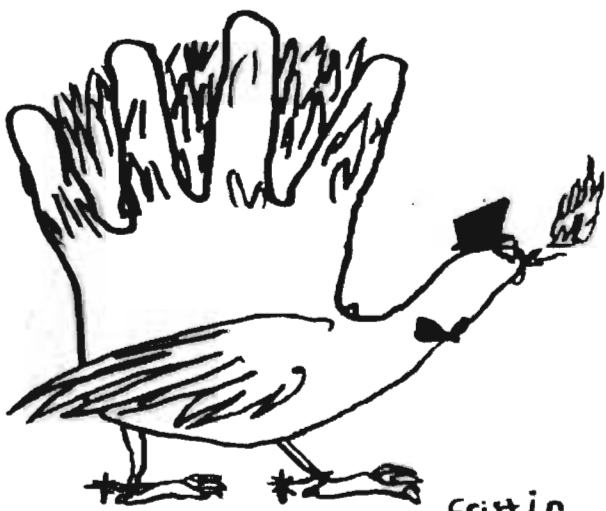
Courtney Martin (11)



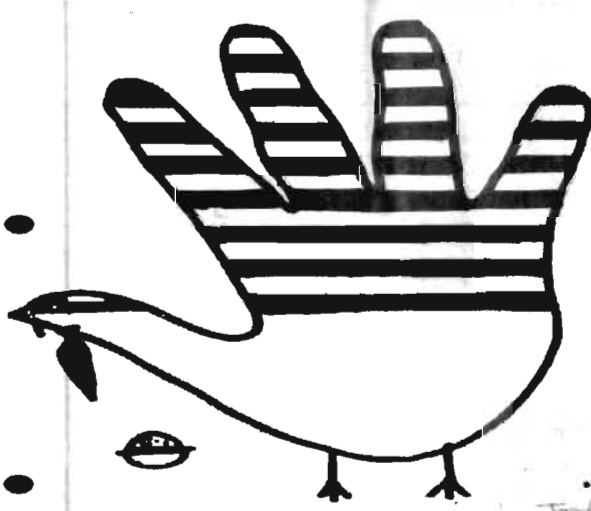
Chelsea Coorts (11)



Vanessa Kaiser (11)



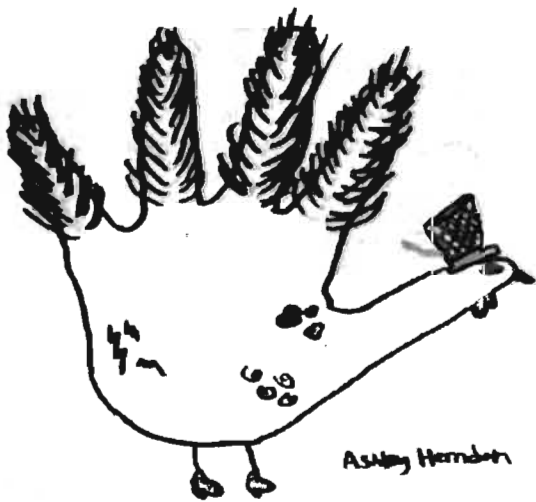
Cristin Coram (11)



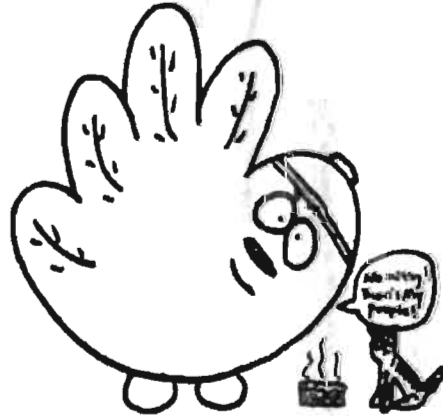
Jordan Hines (11)



Seth Bowden (11)



Ashley Herndon (10)



Mrs. Warmack



Mr. Neel

Cartman Turkey

The staff of the Oak "K" would like to say thank you to all who participated in our Thanksgiving Hand Turkey Contest!

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WHEN BLACK FRIDAY COMES...

Autumn Midyett
Assistant Business Manager

On the day after Thanksgiving most people are assumed to be busy doing one of a couple things. They either eat leftovers or go shopping. The day after Thanksgiving is commonly known as the biggest shopping day of the year. This day itself has really become a holiday of sorts over time. The day after Thanksgiving is frequently called "Black Friday". This name comes from the concept of retailers who were "in the red" or in debt coming back into the "black" or making profit on the day after Thanksgiving.

Although it is generally assumed that "Black Friday" is the biggest, busiest shopping day of the year, it usually ranks around number five as far as amount of dollars spent. It is however, usually the biggest shopping day in terms of traffic. It seems that a lot of people go shopping that day, but do not buy as much as they do at other times. In terms of profit the four days making up the two weekends right before Christmas rank as the biggest shopping days of the year above the day after Thanksgiving. The normal tendency of sales for the Christmas shopping season is to increase dramatically on the day after Thanksgiving, drop sharply, and then sales tend to increase steadily throughout December up until Christmas.

On the day after Thanksgiving many shoppers get up extremely early in order to wait in line for stores to open so that they can get the best selection and hit the early morning sales. These early morning sales are often very crowded and customers are very competitive. Everyone is determined to get exactly what he or she wants at the very best price.

What will Lone Oak students do the day after Thanksgiving?

Of 25 students:

- ❖ Eight students say that they will eat leftovers.
- ❖ 11 students will go shopping.
- ❖ Six students will attempt to scare off their relatives.

Thanksgiving Mythbusters

James Summerlin
Staff Writer

Most of us know the story of Thanksgiving. Pilgrims come on *Mayflower*, Squanto comes and helps the pilgrims survive, and the pilgrims and Native Americans have one big party. Though this story may be fine and dandy, there is a little more to the plot than what is on the surface. There are some myths that need to be uncovered.

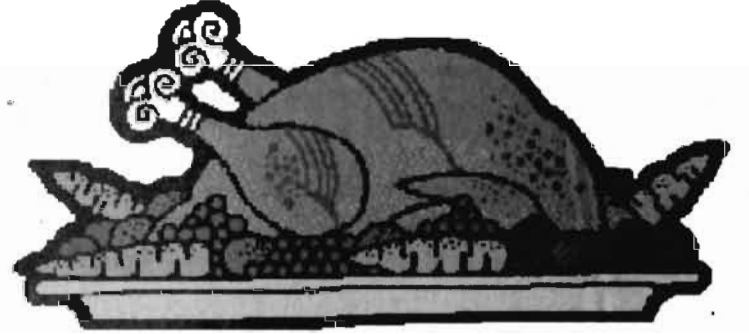
As we all know, Puritans from England traveled to America for religious freedom on the infamous *Mayflower*. They dropped anchor at Cape Cod on November 21, 1621. However, when they got there, they had to endure a grueling winter, which killed 46 of the 102 people that landed in Massachusetts. The pilgrims did survive and because of a large harvest that fall, they had a large celebration with the Native Americans.

Myth 1. Pilgrims continued the celebration on and on. Not really. The celebration did not become a yearly event because in the Puritans' minds it was a secular event. It didn't continue until 1789 when George Washington declared the first Thanksgiving in honor of the new Constitution although it was not observed nationally. Abraham Lincoln later declared the holiday a national event on the last Thursday of November. Franklin Roosevelt found the holiday too close to the winter celebration so he asked to move the holiday to the third Thursday of November. The motion didn't run too well with state legislatures so a compromise was made so that Thanksgiving would be held on the fourth Thursday of November. It has been that way ever since.

Myth 2. Pilgrims had the celebration to be thankful for the harvest. Although that might have some truth to it, the feast was originally going to be a time of mourning for the pilgrims that didn't survive. However, William Bradford saw that they should thank God for the ones that have survived. So if Bradford had not noticed that the pilgrims needed to be thankful, Thanksgiving might have never happened.

Myth 3. The original meal of the pilgrims was turkey. We really don't know if the pilgrims actually had turkey. We do know they had venison, fish, and corn, but it is not for sure if the main course was turkey. The tradition of the menu most likely evolved because turkey and dressing isn't a meal that is cooked everyday in a normal household.

This is only a few of the myths that have been revealed. So the next time you read the Thanksgiving story in a textbook or somewhere else, keep those myths and their realities in mind.



The Center of Attention

Grant Price
Staff Writer

The Thanksgiving season is upon us and one of the best parts is the traditional Thanksgiving feast. You finally have everything prepared after slaving over a hot stove all day. Everything is perfect, even the turkey. But don't get too excited just yet, you have one last thing you must do before all of your hard work can pay off: a seasonal centerpiece to top off the setting to make your meal truly perfect.

This simple centerpiece, which for the record is one of my personal favorites, requires a pumpkin, some fall flowers (I prefer mums), a decorative plate, and a few candles. I like this specific piece because it allows you to get extra use out of your Halloween pumpkin, and also gives you a chance to show off your mums before the cold winter months come around.

Making this piece is cake. First, you simply cut the top off of the pumpkin and hollow it out. You want to make sure you cut the top half off completely, because later on it will serve as a bowl. Then pluck the flowers off of your mum bushes, until you

have a considerable amount, about enough to fill your pumpkin. Now place it on your decorative plate and just be creative with the candles. I've gotten extra rowdy a Thanksgiving time or two and actually rigged a way to set one on top of the mums in the pumpkin. Yowzers! But I'll let you have your own patent signature there. I know that's my favorite part.

So from the dining room table...I'm Grant K. Price!



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Get SMART

Autumn Midyett
Assistant Business Manager
Grant Price
Staff Writer

The term "SMART Board" has recently become a more common term at Lone Oak High School. A SMART Board is an interactive whiteboard that is connected to a computer and a data projector. SMART Boards can also be used as computers once the computer screen is projected onto the board. The computer can be operated through the SMART Board at the touch of a finger. When you are using a SMART Board you can highlight key points, access applications and websites, and write notes. Your work can then be saved to a file which can be printed, emailed, or posted to a website.

Lone Oak High School purchased its first SMART Board during the second semester of the last school year with grant money. This SMART Board is shared by all of Lone Oak High School's teachers. English teacher, Mrs. Downey recently purchased a second SMART Board for her yearbook staff. This board was purchased with yearbook money, but she also uses it in her other classes. The SMART Board purchased by Mrs. Downey cost about \$3,000. On the subject Mrs. Downey said, "I want to give all of my students the ultimate edge..."

At the beginning of this school year teachers had a training seminar to learn how to operate the SMART Board. This seminar was taught by Sheila Elrod of Southern Business Communications from whom the school's SMART board was purchased. This seminar must have worked because several teachers have been using the SMART Board. Mr. Morehead, who is reported to have used the SMART Board quite a bit last year said, "For a board, it's very smart. It's a good tool for hands on learning for teachers and students."

According to www.smarttech.com, research findings show a positive impact of interactive whiteboards in the classroom. Studies show that SMART Boards benefit student engagement, learner motivation, and knowledge retention. It is also helpful in teaching students with varying

learning styles like visual learners, kinesthetic learners, and tactile learners because it can present information visually and can also use movement and touch. The SMART Board is a good tool for students with special needs. Students who are hearing impaired can see visuals on the screen. For visually impaired students who have some vision ability the visuals on the screen can be changed and made easier to see in ways that aren't possible on an average computer screen. Use is made easier than keyboard and mouse applications for students with physical challenges because of the large screen and touch-sensitive surface.

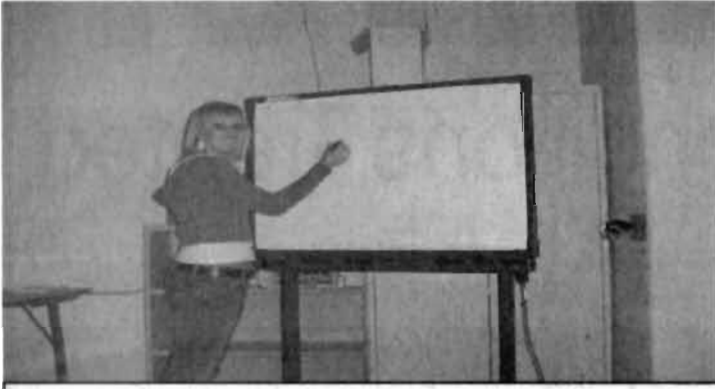
Teachers also benefit from the use of SMART Boards. SMART Boards are easy to use and allow teachers to incorporate more digital and interactive resources into their lesson plans. Anything done on the SMART Board can be saved which is excellent for reviewing or for teaching again the next school year. Teachers also benefit from the amount of student involvement that is encouraged through the use of SMART Boards.

Lone Oak's SMART Boards are most frequently used for presentations, especially Power Point presentations. According to Ms. Metzger, "Students and teachers work together a lot with it" which she says is always a good thing. Ms. Metzger also said that the school would like to get a laptop to connect to the SMART Board and that it would be nice to have SMART Boards in each department. There are definitely plans to obtain more SMART Boards in the future.

SMART Boards are the next step in progression. Not too long ago chalkboards were replaced with the white marker boards that are so common now. Interactive whiteboards like the SMART Boards will almost certainly eventually replace those white marker boards. SMART Boards definitely have a lot of excellent qualities, however, Oak "K" staff member, Grant Price got up close and personal with Mrs. Downey's SMART Board and reported back that although it can do just about everything, its not a very good kisser.



Photos by Sneha Pampati



Adieu to Adiemus

Rebecca Choudhury
Editor-in-Chief

The Lone Oak High School marching band put the capstone on its 2005 season Saturday, November 12, in Indianapolis, Indiana. There Lone Oak participated in the Bands of America competition, an annual event featuring competitors from around the country.

Readers may have noticed a few faces missing from classes the Friday before; they just might have been with the band. Marchers left the Lone Oak High School parking lot early that morning, in order to make it to Indianapolis for a six o' clock preliminary performance at the RCA Dome. Lone Oak's score in the preliminary competition qualified it for semifinals competition, making it one of the top 34 bands in a pool of some 91 marching bands.

As any of the sixty who fell out of the running can tell you, getting to semifinals is no easy task. Lone Oak marcher Susan Spencer (12), for one, was very excited to have made it so far, especially in her last year here at LOHS. "I'm happy with the BOA turnout. We made it to semis and that's good enough for me," said Amber Millay (11). Surely ranking as one of the top bands in the nation is good enough for anyone.

Due to some really excellent luck, Lone Oak received a prime semifinals performance slot: first, bright and early at 7:30 am. Our marchers arrived back at the stadium at 6:10 for warm-ups and took to the field a little over an hour later for what would be their last performance of the year. Unfortunately, Lone Oak did not advance to finals. Neither did it quite hit last year's mark of second place in Class A. Lone Oak's competition bracket. However, when the band polled into Lone Oak late Saturday night - or was it early Sunday morning? - every marcher went home with a sense of accomplishment and memories of a season well spent. For some, it would be the last. Lone Oak's senior marchers checked in their uniforms for good.

"It's sad that marching band is over forever," said Alison Crawford (12).

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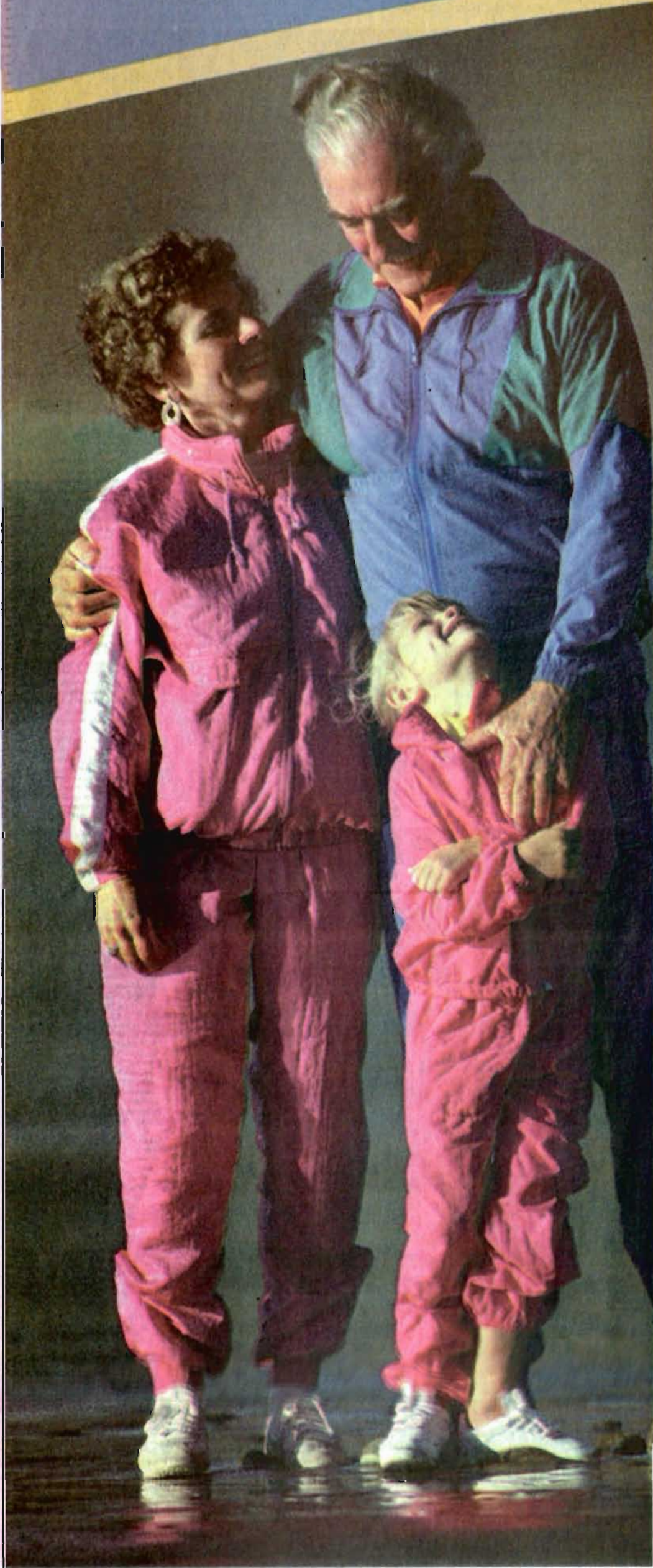


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