

The Oak 'K'

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A Salute to Wooten

Sneha Pampati
Staff Photographer

It's time to get to know another important member of the senior class of 2006. Sure, everyone is important in some way or another, but some might say that **Rachel Wooten (12)**, this month's Rotarian, is a little more so than that average student at Lone Oak High. In fact, she happens to be the class valedictorian, class president, Beta Club president, and FCA missions leader. She is a two-year member of that ever-successful varsity academic team, and is also in FCA, obviously Beta Club, and the harmonious chamber choir that inhabits our school. To add to her many accomplishments, she even attended the Governor's Scholars Program at Centre College this summer, where she made friends with Chinese and Indian people. She says they are cool! For someone who is as busy as she is, you would think that she doesn't have time to do anything else, but no, there is more.

Rachel is an active member of the First Baptist Church in Paducah, and she is also an active member of 4H. Through 4H, she attended the Issues conference her junior year, and she still participates in Backpacks 4 Kids. She even tutors little Hispanic children at the middle school and on that note she greatly en-

joys Mexican food. In the time that Rachel has left over from all her other activities, she sleeps and she goes to her job at the Clay Chameleon. That's right, she has somehow figured out how to warp time and make enough time to keep a job. With such a busy schedule, she even finds time to have friends. When she isn't at school, at church, or at work, she enjoys reading and hanging out with her friends.

Rachel has big plans after high school, and they include going to the University of Louisville. At Louisville, she plans on studying pre-medicine. Her future plans also include her going to Mexico to help poor children; she's just a giver. Give, give, give; that's Rachel's philosophy. If you think this is great just wait and see what all her friends have to say about her.

"After all of the time that I have spent with Rachel this year, I have seen how caring and sharing and daring and raring to go she really is," says her fellow Hispanic children tutor **Drew Robison (11)**. "She has such a stupendous personality and she is the hardest worker I know... and she has nice hair," says **Meagan White (12)**. **Thomas Bailey (12)** said, "One time when I was five, I remember falling into a well and in my most desperate moment of need, I saw the silhouette of an angel, but really it was Rachel Wooten and she threw a ladder down and I was saved. This is why I love Rachel Wooten."



January's
Junior
Rotarian
Rachel Wooten

Photo courtesy
of Gene Boaz
Photography

Get in Line

James Summerlin
Staff Writer

The marching band season is over now, but that doesn't mean our school can't still brag about our mad instrument skills. The indoor drum line season has just started for the first time for Lone Oak High School and the drum line is "burnin' it up."

This is the first time Lone Oak High School has participated in indoor drum line competitions so I had one question about this mysterious competition. What exactly is indoor drum line anyway besides drumming indoors? For one thing, it's not just drums. There is a blend of marimba, xylophone, and other percussion instruments trying to achieve a unified sound to please the judges. The great thing is that they don't have to march around with the large drums because it's indoors.

What sets this ensemble apart from marching band other than the fact that only percussion instruments are the only participants is that the competitions are national. It isn't focused on winning regionals and state to keep on advancing. Most of the competitions are national and not state-funded.

I asked xylophone and marimba master **Kyle Oetjen (10)** of what he thought about this new way to show off his marimba playing. He said, "Indoor drum line is great," and then put four mallets between his fingers and amazed me with his skill on the marimba. When I asked **Jimmy Wexler (10)**, the drum line's timpani and marimba player, he said he joined "for the experience and to gain ability."

Under the leadership of Calvin Warren, the success of the indoor drum line looks promising. The first competition for the drum line is February 4 in Cleveland, Tennessee. Updates of the schedule will be coming soon!



Above: Kyle Oetjen shows off his tremendous mallet skills
Below: Tim Cook and Kyle Oetjen warm up by "burning it up"



Above: Kyle Oetjen leads some of the drum line in a warm-up before practice

Blog Hogs

Rebecca Choudhury
Editor-in-Chief

Creating a weblog, or blogging for short, isn't exactly new, but it does seem to be enjoying a great upsurge in popularity as of late. Millions of Americans of all ages use websites such as Xanga and MySpace to write online diaries of sorts, filling them with various kinds of information from political analysis to funny anecdotes and details of daily life. Although teenagers are not likely to see their blogs featured on the national news (Yes, it's true. Some blogs are discussed on television...), they make up by proportion the largest part of the blogging community. A whopping 19 percent of teens are regular bloggers in comparison to a mere seven percent of adults. That's a ratio of nearly three to one!

What is it that makes blogs so attractive to high school students? For many, reading and writing weblogs is a social activity, not so unlike e-mail or instant messaging. In fact, studies show that teens who engage in blogging are much more likely to utilize other means of electronic communication than those who don't. "I have friends who spend all their time blogging," said **Katie Rorer (12)**. "Other people had them. Their friends wanted them to have them. They just got addicted." When asked what first got her into blogging, **Amber Millay (11)** summed it up: "Everybody else does."

As popular as blogging may be, the fact remains that a significant amount of teenagers don't participate. "I've just been too busy to make one, I guess" said **Kathy Jo Newton (11)**. With so many other things to do, many teens just can't find a place in their schedules to create and update a weblog. To students like **Ben Selbe (12)**, blogging "seems like a big waste of time." When asked why she abandoned her blog, **Kristy Graziano (11)** brought up an entirely different point. "I did enjoy it at first," she said, "but after a while I just didn't have anything to say. People aren't interested in your life story."

But are students interested in learning about the personal lives of their fellow students? Absolutely! Would 38 percent of internet linked teens read blogs otherwise? The one common answer between all those surveyed for this article was that blogs are perfect for a good laugh. "It's pretty funny what people write in those things," said Millay. Newton agreed. "Most people just make fools of themselves, in my opinion." It seems that a significant number of teenaged webloggers have trouble distinguishing between thoughts that belong in type and thoughts that...don't. "When you read someone's blog you can't help but think, shouldn't they be keeping these things private?" said Selbe. A warning to angry bloggers everywhere: tone it down and keep it interesting, or the tears you elicit from your readers probably won't be of sympathy.



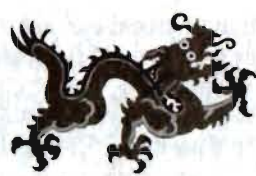
Photo courtesy of www.images.google.com.



Getting Wound Up
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Happy New Year!
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Are you ready?
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The Pointless
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Have a Ball
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Memoirs of a Memoir

Sneha Pampati
Staff Photographer

I started reading "Memoirs of a Geisha" last break and I finished it in only two days. I'm a slow reader, so judging by how quickly I read the book, you can tell I really enjoyed it. I'm telling you, it was pretty good!

The book is about the life of a geisha, as the mysterious title may have suggested. Author Arthur Golden did a wonderful job with the novel. He draws in you from beginning to end. There is absolutely no doubt that this book is great.

It is about a girl, Sayuri, who was born trapped into a life of poverty in Yorido, a small town in Japan. As soon she realizes that her father has sold her and her sister, her life is completely changed. The book is filled with wonderful, colorful characters. Golden basically introduces an entirely different culture in this book, and he does a good job of it. Imagine explaining an entire culture and its customs. It must be pretty hard.

When I first started reading the book, I thought that a geisha was just the Japanese word for a prostitute. In reality, a geisha is an artist. To become a geisha is not an easy job. They spend years preparing themselves. They have to learn to speak eloquently, to play many different instruments, complicated dances, spend hours putting on make up and their complicated kimonos. The book shows the deep and dark side of geisha life. This book is a must read, and that doesn't mean just watch the movie.

If I had to find something wrong with the writing, there was one small, annoying thing that bugged me throughout the entire novel. The book has way too many metaphors. Everything, and I mean everything, is described using figurative language. Don't get me wrong, figurative language is great but when every simple concept is described using clouds and oceans, it can get very old, very fast. Golden just went to the absolute extreme with the metaphors.

Besides the overly used metaphors, the novel is actually pretty good. There were times that I just could not put it down, and there were times when I rolled my eyes at the cheesy dialogue, but that is what really made the novel so good.



All photos from
www.imdb.com



Lions, Witches, and Wardrobes, Oh Yeah!

James Summerlin
Staff Writer

"The Chronicles of Narnia" is a set of seven books written by C.S. Lewis. The purpose of the books was to illustrate principals and ideas that he believed using a lion named Aslan and children that find them selves in the magical land of Narnia. The seven book series became immensely popular, especially the second book "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." Disney bought the rights to make a movie based on classic tale, and it has done really well in the box office.



The story is about four children—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy—who leave home because of German air raids on their city during WWII. They live in a professor's home and discover a wardrobe that leads them to Narnia. When they arrive, they find out that the land has been taken over by the White Witch, who claims to be queen of Narnia. It's up to the four children to save Narnia from the evil clutches of the White Witch.

This movie in my top five list for "Best Disney Films of All-Time." It was an excellent film and I highly recommend it. The visual effects were amazing and

the computer animation was awesome. The story was very true to the book, which kept the purists happy. The message behind the story is also thought-provoking.

"The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" illustrates love, sacrifice, and other stuff like that. You might even choke up while watching the film.

The only thing that I saw wrong with the film is that the four children aren't very expressive except for Lucy. This is their first movie, so I wasn't expecting much out of them, but they should have tried to have more expression on their faces. They got in a magical world through a wardrobe; their faces should be in awe. However, they looked like they aren't too excited. Don't let that stop you from seeing it though because a lot of other no-name actors did a great job on the film.

"The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" is one of my must-sees this year. Don't think of it as a poor man's "Lord of the Rings", because it's not. It is one of the best films of the year. I give "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" a 5 out of 5.



Hostile about Hostel

Sam Hadfield
Staff Writer

If you are thinking about seeing Hostel, don't. This is one of the biggest letdowns I've ever seen. I was looking forward to this movie and was thoroughly disappointed at what I saw. Unless you prefer movies with absolutely no plot, laden with pointless, horrific torture and violence this movie is not for you.

Hostel is about two friends from California who travel to Europe so they can backpack across the countryside. They stay in hostels overnight, which are shelters similar to inns one can stay at for virtually nothing.

The two friends meet another foreigner while they're traveling the country. He becomes their friend and joins them on their travels. While in Amsterdam, the trio is informed that the prettiest women are in a hostel in a small town in Europe. The man tells them that the women will welcome any men with open arms because the men in the town have gone off to join the war.

The women are the bait. They meet two Chinese sisters at the hostel and become friendly with them. Eventually, one of the sisters disappears with their foreign friend. They see a picture later of them. Eventually, we find out that the two did not run away at all. In actuality, the foreigner's head had been severed and we never find out what happened to the girl. Apparently, there is a club set up called the Elite Hunting Club, in which anyone can pay \$25,000 in American currency to torture and maim an innocent person.

Both the friends figure that the foreigner just decided to go off on his own so they just go to a bar with the two women they have met there. After a while one of the friends is feeling very uneasy, so he goes back to the hostel. When he awakes he being dragged down to a dungeon like area and is handcuffed to a chair by his legs and feet. The "surgeon" working on him said he could run, and then proceeds to slice both of his Achilles tendons. When he gets up to run of course both of his feet are torn. He also gets his knee drilled and it shows every bit of it.

The other friend comes looking for him of course. He gets dragged down there and gets a garden rake hand tool jabbed into his chest numerous times. He manages to escape but comes back for the other Chinese girl who is getting her eye blawtorched by one of the madmen. You then see her eye hanging out of her head.

When they are at the train stop and are about to escape she notices her eye in the reflection of a window and proceeds to jump in front of the train. That's the end.

The violence was unnecessary and the plot was neither original nor did it keep your attention. On top of that it was way too short. I'm surprised Quentin Tarantino would even put his name on this movie. 2 out of 5



Way Off!

Autumn Midyett
Assistant Business Manager

"Off The Map" is an unusual film that deals with depression. The story is told by one of the main characters, Bo, who, years later in a city apartment, retells the story of her father's depression. This film is the story of the summer that Bo's father suffered from severe depression and how he got better.

The story takes place in New Mexico in the middle of nowhere in the seventies. The Grodin family consists of Bo, a preteen girl, Arlene, her mother, and her dad, Charley, who is dealing with severe depression. The family lives in a small, secluded house. Neither parent has a job of any sort so the family lives on something like five thousand dollars a year. The family gets a lot of things from the local dump, but they seem to be comfortable with their surroundings. They don't have a telephone or television.

Bo has been home schooled her whole life. She is usually seen reading some book or opening a new package she received in the mail. Bo likes to write letters to various snack food and candy companies claiming that she had purchased a defective product so that the company will send her a box of whatever product for free. It always works, so she is never lacking for snacks.

One day the family receives a letter from the IRS saying that they are going to be audited. They don't seem too worried. Then an IRS agent shows up at their home. He gets

stung by a bee in their yard and has an allergic reaction. For the next several days the family has to take care of the agent, William Gibbs. Bo develops a bit of a crush on William and William claims to be in love with Arlene.

William Gibbs, as it turns out is also suffering from depression. He has been depressed his whole life he tells Charley. It started when he was six and found his mother, who had committed suicide, dead in the hallway. William grows so attached to the Grodins and their home that he never leaves. He starts painting while he is there as well.

By the end of the movie Bo has decided that she wants to go to the public school and her father is over his depression, as is William. The older, narrating Bo tells us that William became a famous painter and remained with her family in New Mexico until he died a very mysterious death.

This movie is an interesting look at an unusual family dealing with a common issue. The movie is pretty unusual, but still has heart and humor. Each character is dealing with something different; growing up, finding themselves, and recovering. This movie is pretty good, but not something I'd love to watch over and over again.



Wound Up for "Wind-Up"

Rebecca Choudhury
Editor-in-Chief

If you've never heard of the contemporary Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami, please do yourself a favor and read this article very carefully. That's H-A-R-U-K-I M-U-R-A-K-A-M-I. And though I could write a glowing review of any Murakami work I have ever read, this particular article is dedicated to "The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle." Strange name? Yeah. Stranger book? You betcha. Strangely gripping? Absolutely.

"The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle" is really a tangle of stories within stories. The main plot centers on Toru Okada, a fairly average young man living in suburban Tokyo of the 1980s. When the novel opens, Okada has recently quit his job and is playing househusband while searching for a new position. Meanwhile, his wife, Kumiko, is working harder than ever and slowly drifting away from her husband. Toru thinks little of it, until Kumiko doesn't return from the office one night. The night turns into weeks as he sets out to find her, plunging headlong into a convoluted nightmare of meetings, partings, and confrontations that leave him confused and the reader spellbound. And wondering, no doubt, exactly what kind of illegal substances the author must have been using to create such a beautifully twisted cast of characters and quietly bizarre setting.

If the summary is lacking in detail, it's because I'm wary of straying too far into the numerous side-plots of the novel; to write a summary that would do the story justice would take this entire piece and more. "The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle" is a book extremely difficult to describe or explain, especially to someone unfamiliar with the writings of Haruki Murakami and their peculiar style. Suffice to say, this novel is truly fantastic, in every sense of the word.

Each character, regardless of role or frequency of appearance, is carefully crafted by the author. Each one has an odd history, and demons that haunt and harass into the present day. Despite the surreal circumstances of the plotline, and the undeniably weird personalities of the characters themselves, the interactions between Okada and his friends and foes are extremely realistic and very, very moving.

First-time Murakami readers should be aware of the fact that the situations of the novel can be a bit shocking at times. As always, the author does not write euphemistically. Murakami can be blunt, unflinching. Pretty graphic. I'm not a light reader, but certain passages made me squirm. Internally, at least. Anyone unable to stomach descriptions of a man being skinned alive or beaten to death with a baseball bat should probably think hard before turning that first page. Anyone offended by, shall we say, "adult" situations, probably shouldn't read even that far. But for everyone else, "The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle" is an absolutely brilliant work of fiction, sure to capture the imagination from start to finish.



Who's the Critic?

Sam Hadfield and Grant Price
Staff Writers

Grant Price and I recently interviewed a number of different people and asked them what their favorite movies were. Mine personally, is anything "Cabbage Patch Kids" with a close second for the "Cars Bears" films. What can I say? I'm a fan of rainbows. Grant's favorites are all Jean-Claude Van Damme films because Van Damme is almost as ripped as he is, but not quite. If you know Grant, you can vouch for him. He is constantly pumping iron in the weight room.

Now that all that is out of the way, here is the moment you've all been waiting for. Mr. Pope enjoys "Coach Carter" because, "having been a former basketball coach it shows how things should be, and it was a true story." Mr. Whitley's fav's are, "All Lord of the Rings because I'm on of the few people that understands it." Meagan Dewey (11) said, and I quote, "'The 40-Year-Old Virgin' because it is very funny." Ethan Feldner (12) decided on, "'Braveheart', because I have a fetish for kilts." Kevin Montplaisir (10) loved "Mission Impossible" because "it's awesome." The man himself, Phillip Cooper (12), said, "'Pulp Fiction' because it's cool"

I know everyone is going to read this article and weep because it's such a fine piece of literary gold. We are probably the smartest people in the entire school. Why do we stoop to this level of writing when we could be on the staff of the New York Times? I have no idea.



Kelcey Cares

Kelcey Buchanan
Business Manager

Well seniors... It's the beginning of a new year. That means we will be graduating in a few short months from Lone Oak High School. While some are saddened by the thought, most of us are overjoyed by the fact that we are going to get out of this place and begin a new journey in life. Leaving friends is just another way of making new ones.

I guess you can say I am very logical about graduating and leaving Paducah altogether. I have talked to some people that have asked the question, "Won't you miss your friends?" I am not going to say that there will not be anyone I will miss because there will be a few, but, in this day and age we have the world at our fingertips. Cell phones which not only call people but have text messaging and internet access, house phones (which are almost a thing of the past), the internet which is fully equipped with MSN, Yahoo or other messengers, and if all else fails.... We have trans-

portation that allows us to visit the people we will miss. I guess it is my own little theory, but it's true, isn't it? If you really miss someone, the miles in-between won't matter, because you will keep in touch with him or her somehow. I have a friend who moved 600 miles away two years ago and I still talk to him and see him often. It is a proven fact that my theory works!

"...seniors have the opportunity for a new start,..."

It is an amazing idea that we as seniors have the opportunity for a new start, a clean slate, so to speak. Whatever mistakes we have made in the past are wiped clean, and you have the chance to meet new people and if needed to, have the ability to gain a better reputation. To some, meeting new people might be a scary challenge, but to me it is an exciting adventure; a quest that I find enticing and seemingly fun.

Seniors, we have FOUR months until we graduate! How awesome is that? Have you filled out all of your applications and scholarship essays? Yeah, I didn't think so do not worry, I haven't either yet. So, that's what I shall do... See you at graduation!

Choudhury Chats

Rebecca Choudhury
Editor-in-Chief

What is more catching than a cold, more draining than the flu, and more uncomfortable than a severe case of the chicken pox? Senioritis, of course! Or at least that's the impression I've gotten now that the second semester has finally begun. All the moaning and groaning that has been steadily increasing in volume since August is reaching a fever pitch, and it only gets worse from here. The common cold may last for a week or two, but a common case of senioritis lasts for months. And, oh, how long are those months, both for the afflicted and for those who have to listen to their... suffering.

It's funny, but I'd never really witnessed senioritis firsthand until I became a junior. True, I didn't know many seniors as an underclassman, nor did I have as many seniors in my classes then as I do now. Still, with all the racket senioritis makes, I really can't understand how I spent two years at Lone Oak without noticing it. Last year I might have heard a complaint or two in a single day. Nowadays I seem to catch one or two in a class period. On a good day!

Don't get me wrong; it isn't as if I'm unsympathetic. I may not know how frustrating it is to be months away from graduation, but I do understand how wonderful a good gripe can be for letting off some steam. When I'm feeling a little overwhelmed with schoolwork or particu-

larly put-out over an assignment, I can grumble with the best of 'em, absolutely. But after I've had my fun grousing I get over it and move on. I finish whatever it was that was bothering me so, and I try my hardest not to let it bother me anymore. And I try to take things a class at a time, to keep all that stress from piling up again. Admittedly, this method does not work, but it does delay the blowout and cushion the fall just a bit.

I suppose in the end, senioritis comes down to issues of fairness. Seniors have spent the last twelve years of their lives in school. They've

"...The real unfairness of senioritis comes from giving into it..."

done their time," so to speak, and it must seem unreasonable to have to work so hard when the end is so near. But to do things halfway because the year is half-over isn't the way to go. And how is it at all helpful to waste time whining and worrying when there's something constructive to be done? The real unfairness of senioritis comes from giving in to it. To fall victim, to waste what's left of one's high school education by stressing

out and slacking off, is monumentally unfair to oneself. It's unfair to the teachers who are forced to grade the assignments and prepare the lessons to put those efforts to waste. And it's tremendously unfair to remind younger classmates day after day of just how much more time they must put in before they too can look forward to graduation with all the anticipation and obvious relish enjoyed by their senior associates.

Cash Blingin'

Laura Cash
Staff Writer

Pressure. Everyone is familiar with this word, especially teenagers. It seems that pressure is extending from everywhere, every source, and I am fed up with it.

I am pressured from school to make excellent grades. "That's how you will succeed-keep your grades great, get into college, do great things while there, and get a great job." Every student knows how difficult it can be to meet these standards. I have always chosen to take the more difficult classes-AP and honors- whenever possible because those classes, along with good grades in those classes, look terrific on high school transcripts. At the same time, though, I can be very overwhelmed with classroom expectations, a.k.a. homework. Especially during my senior year, I just slack off of my schoolwork because I am too tired to think and concentrate from a hard day at school.

My parents are also another major pain. I mean source of pressure. They, too, insert school pressure, especially now that I am dealing with multiple college forms. Every night I argue with my parents about my progress on these forms-and again all I want to do

is slack off and retreat. I want to scream, "Lay off and leave me alone! It will get done in time unless you keep driving me insane!" Don't they know that making me angry will only make me despise what I'm doing and potentially lead to an "abandon mission" mode on my part? Since I have succeeded this far in so much, have I not shown them

that I am responsible, goal-oriented, and capable of accomplishing things, especially when dealing with my future!

I keep telling myself that after this month everything will calm down and I will be able to breathe; all college forms will be completed by then, and teachers sometimes ease up on seniors due to portfolio work, but then again I will be stressed over my portfolio. I am not exactly sure how I am going to make it to the end of the school year. The infamous and incurable senioritis has

already set in; I started expressing its symptoms long ago, but due to all of this pressure it has come to the disease state.

"Don't they know that making me angry will only make me despise what I'm doing..."

Summerlin Says

James Summerlin
Staff Writer

It happens every time something bad happens in our country. Politicians get off their seats and begin to point fingers trying to find who is responsible for a situation. I call it "The Blame Game."

Let me explain. When a crisis occurs like Hurricane Katrina or 9/11, politicians constantly blame their opponents for not acting accordingly in a crisis or something like that. Accusations are thrown both ways and no one seems to really know what happened.

OK, stay with me if you're lost. I'll give an example. When Hurricane Katrina devastated the New Orleans area, people rushed to help the victims of the disaster. After a few days, democrat politicians were asking why FEMA had not responded to the situation or why President Bush didn't do anything. Meanwhile, the mayor of New Orleans questioned why the Louisiana governor didn't get refugees out of New Orleans before Katrina hit. Louisiana was raging against FEMA and George Bush for not sending help although the law re-

stricted President Bush and FEMA because the state of Louisiana did not ask the national government for help.

Question: Besides getting the upper hand in a re-election, why is everyone trying to place the blame on another politician for these types of situations? Couldn't they try to fix what has happened instead of looking at the past and finding fault? It's not just one specific group of politicians. It's everyone.

Is it wrong for politicians to place blame when something goes wrong? I really don't think there is a right or wrong answer to this question. What I do know is that you can't change the past. You can learn from the past to improve the future, but no one in Washington will do that because they are so one-dimensional. They only follow their party lines and stay opposed to the other party no matter what. People cannot think for themselves and because of that our country isn't moving forward.

"... You can learn from the past to improve the future..."

The Oak "K"

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Snizzay-Hizzah Tells It All

Sneha Pampati
Photographer

Sometimes I wonder how wasted our lives really are. We spend the first twenty-five to thirty years of our life preparing for it and then sleep for another third of it. That leaves about twenty years to do whatever we want to but not really. Our small specks of lives have so little effect on the world that sometimes I feel like a single piece of dust floating around in a vacuum cleaner. Wow, that was almost too deep. Well, anyways back to my point. I might bump into other pieces of dust in my lifetime, but still I am but a small piece of dust floating around. Depressing, I know, but just wait I have more.

Sure, there are a select few who make great big differences in the world. Gandhi did a lot, and so did John Adams (he was important, right). But, how many John Adamases and Gandhis can we expect to come across in our lifetime, probably no more than 2.5. If we are lucky we might come across more, but to be scientifically correct I will say no more than 2.5. Right about now, you may be thinking that I sound like the biggest idiot in the world and to tell you the truth I am not really sure where I am going with this, but lets just wait and see.

So back to the speck of dust idea. You know how on the back of shampoo bottles, there is always a small box that reads "Questions, Comments, Call 1-800-SHAM-POO. We're open from 8-5 on weekdays." I hope I haven't

lost you yet, but well there are certain people who wake up everyday to drive over to their job at that shampoo company. They live their lives answering questions about why that darned dandruff shampoo didn't work like the commercial said it would or about how you can get a more volumized hair-do. So my point is, STAY in school or you'll end up at the monotonous shampoo company and believe me this is just no good.

But, the great thing about all this is that no matter how small of a part we really do have in this theater of life, we do not let get that in our way. We act with complete dedication and dominate the life we do lead. So, even though we really are as small as a piece of dust, we act like the huge dust bunnies that you find under couches. The shampoo people feel like they are actually making a difference in the world, and they probably are helping some poor split-ended girl's hair but they feel like they are doing so much more than just that.

So, we've learned that I am a piece of dust, dandruff is just not cool, and you have to stay in school, and BE the dust bunny. I feel that to fully complete this article, I have to add something about how cocoa puffs are awesome because they make plain milk, chocolate milk. It's really cool!

"...I am but a small piece of dust floating around..."

Chinese New Year

Autumn Midyett
Assistant Business Manager

Chinese New Year is the most important traditional Chinese holiday. The holiday consists of several celebrations. The New Year season lasts for 15 days. There are various festivities during this period of time.

The early days of the season include a "Reunion Dinner" on New Year's Eve where family members gather together. On the first day of the New year families often celebrate together. At this gathering, red envelopes containing various amounts of money are given to any unmarried family members regardless of their age.

The seventh day of the New Year is also an important day. This day is considered to be "the common man's birthday", meaning that this is the day that everyone becomes one year older. On this day a colorful fish salad is eaten and friends and family gather together to make wishes for wealth.

The Chinese New Year is often celebrated with firecrackers, dragon dances, and lion dances. Not every day of the 15 day celebration is all fun and games though. The third day of the New Year is known as "chee hao," which means easy to get into arguments. On that day visiting friends and family is considered inappropriate.

The Chinese New Year celebrations end on the 15th day of the New Year with the Lantern Festival that night. This takes place under the first full moon of the year. The Lantern Festival has been a part of the New Year's celebration for an exceptionally long time. It can be dated back as far as 2000 years ago during the Han Dynasty. However, means of celebration of this day have changed only a little.

Technology has allowed for more complex and eye-catching celebrations, of course, but the idea is generally the same. Elaborate lanterns (some even made out of ice) and mechanically operated floats are all part of the festivities. Dancing and fireworks are also included in the Lantern Festival.

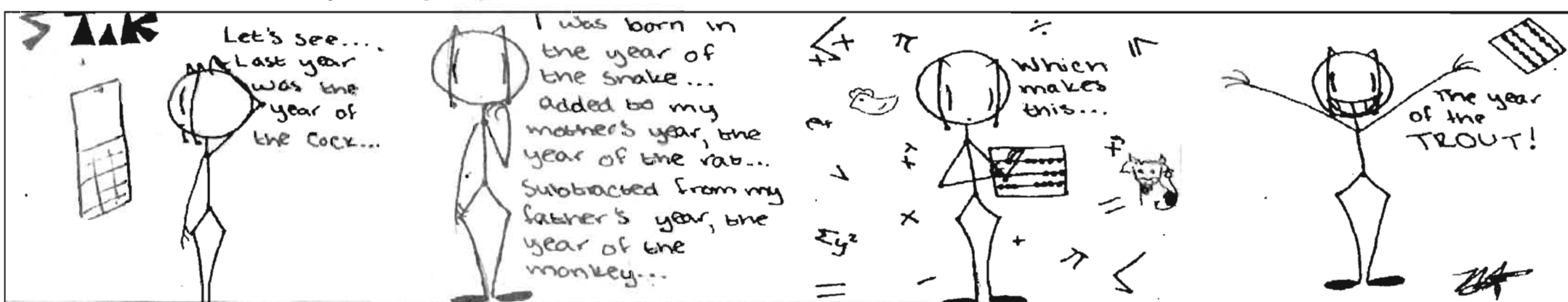
The Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year and the Spring Festival, falls on January 29th this year. This date begins the Chinese New Year because it is the day of the second new moon after Winter Solstice. The date is determined by the Lunisolar calendar used by the Chinese. The date of the Chinese New Year varies from year to year, but is always between January 21 and February 21.

2006 is the year of the dog and the 4703rd Chinese year. This year is the last year in the metal cycle, which began in 2004, according to Chinese Astrology. Next year, 2007, will be a year of the pig, which is in the water cycle. Because this is a transition year, Chinese Astrology suggests that everyone pay attention to his or her health and safety this year. It is also suggested that this is a lucky year romantically for those born in a year of snake or a year of pig.

If you want to celebrate the Chinese New Year this January 29th fireworks and convincing you parents and other family members to dole out red envelopes full of cash are probably out of the question, so consider the following: getting some friends together to make up a dragon dance (you can find pictures of real dragon dances online as quickly as you can say Google), play a game of Mahjong, eat some mandarin oranges (they equate wealth and good fortune), or just eat out at your favorite Chinese restaurant. In order to get a head start on my holiday greetings, Kung hei fat choi! Congratulations and be prosperous!



Photos courtesy of <http://www.rainfall.com/horoscop/chinese.htm>



Chinese Zodiac

If asked to name all 12 signs of the zodiac, many would begin to spout the familiar Aquarius, Pisces, Aries, etc., but that set of 12, the Western set of 12, is not the only one. Another group zodiac figures have been popular in China since the eighth century B.C. Like its Western counterpart, the Chinese, or Eastern, zodiac is divided into 12 signs, but in the Chinese system these signs are determined not by month of birth but by year. No doubt many of you readers are somewhat familiar with the Chinese zodiac, or at least with your own signs and their characteristics. But for those who aren't, keep reading! Whether you believe in astrology or not, it's always good fun. And when identifying your sign, remember: the Chinese New Year does not begin on January 1. Those born in the first and second months of the year could have been born under the sign of the year before.

The Year of the Rat

1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996

People born under the sign of Rat are noted for their charm. They are often well off financially and work hard for what they have. The ambitious Rat is a terrible perfectionist, as well as an insatiable gossip. Rats are very social and show great support and generosity to friends and family. A Rat is fiercely loyal to both and is more than willing to fight for a loved one whenever necessary. They are most compatible with people born in the years of the Dragon, Monkey, and Ox.

The Year of the Ox

1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997

When an Ox speaks, he or she really has something to say. And it'll be eloquently stated, no doubt. Although generally patient and easygoing, an Ox is also extremely stubborn and quick to anger when his or her decisions are called into question. Oxen are always on the ball and really know how to encourage their friends when some support is needed. Unfortunately, they also tend to be a bit bigoted and can be very...eccentric. An Ox will generally get along quite well with a Snake, Rooster, or Rat.

The Year of the Tiger

1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998

Tigers seem to have trouble making up their minds. Perhaps it's because they're always thinking. Brave and tenacious, and a little mistrusting, Tigers sometimes get themselves into trouble with authority. Nevertheless, despite an unusually quick temper, a Tiger has an ability to inspire a great amount of respect from his or her peers, and is gifted with an incredible depth of sympathy. Tigers tend to gravitate toward Dragons, Dogs, and Horses.

The Year of the Rabbit

1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999

Rabbits are cool, conscientious, articulate, and ambitious. A Rabbit wants to go somewhere in life, and generally has the skills to get there. They're lucky when it comes to money but are too cautious to gamble; a Rabbit does, however, have a pretty good head for business. Kind, classy, and trustworthy, Rabbits get along well with others despite their reserved attitudes. Unfortunately, the ordinarily tactful rabbit does have a fondness for gossip. Rams, Boars, and Dogs make great pals for a Rabbit.

The Year of the Dragon

1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000

The only thing quicker than a Dragon's temper is his or her mind. Dragons are gifted with mental acuity and great physical energy, as well as good health. Dragons are by nature honest, a quality that makes them well trusted by close friends and acquaintances. The sensitive and sympathetic Dragon is sometimes taken advantage of because of its amiable nature, but is certainly no pushover. When pressed, a Dragon is extremely stubborn and very brave. Assuming the Dragon's wacky eccentricity doesn't scare them away, Rats, Snakes, Roosters, and Monkeys make faithful friends.

The Year of the Snake

1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001

Snakes are calm and composed, deep thinkers who exude an air of great wisdom. Underneath the serene exterior, however, is an intense and passionate perfectionist. Snakes are procrastinators, but they work themselves hard. This is because they prefer to rely on themselves and their own judgment. Snakes almost never want for money, and though they don't often like to share it, they will go to great lengths to help out a person in need. A Snake is most likely romantic and attractive, but a little vain and fickle in relationships. They tend to get on best with Oxen and Roosters.

The Year of the Horse

1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002

Horses love people, and people love Horses. With their talent, wisdom, and cheerful natures, Horses are generally a popular set. Horses are great at making money and reading others. They're fiercely independent and hate taking advice, but have all the skills to take care of themselves. Horses are hard, reliable workers but can be very impatient at times. More than almost anything, a Horse loves to socialize and have a good time. Tigers, Dogs, and Rams make the best friends for a Horse.

The Year of the Ram

1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003

Rams are highly artistic, and know just how to turn their talents into lifelong financial security. They're gentle of temperament and very compassionate, but they can be far too shy for their own good. In fact, a timid ram is often clumsy and confused in social situations. Although they may not show it, Rams are passionate people and hold strongly to their beliefs. Many Rams are also deeply religious. Although they are sometimes easily bewildered and generally pessimistic, Rams seem to lead charmed lives. They get along best with Horses, Rabbits, and Boars.

The Year of the Monkey

1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004

There's almost nothing a monkey cannot do. Endlessly clever and astoundingly creative, a monkey finishes what he or she starts with seeming ease. Far from having their heads in the clouds, however, Monkeys have solid common sense and are able to make sound decisions quickly. They can be strong-willed and short-tempered, but rarely hold grudges. They have excellent memories but forgive and forget easily. On the downside, the flexible Monkey is easily discouraged and has a bad habit of looking down on others. Monkeys tend to be best suited for Dragons and Rats.

The Year of the Rooster

1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005

On the outside, a Rooster is adventurous and brash. Underneath, however, Roosters are cautious and deep-thinking individuals. They are also clever and capable; they love to keep busy and absolutely hate to fail. Stubborn Roosters always think they are right, a quality which, along with their eccentricity, makes forming relationships very difficult for them. This is why Roosters tend to be loners. Although very moody and at times coarsely outspoken, a Rooster nevertheless makes an interesting and worthwhile companion. Dragons, Oxen, and Snakes get along with Roosters quite well.

The Year of the Dog

1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006

Although they are sometimes cold and aloof, Dogs are among the most loyal and trustworthy people around. An honest Dog makes an excellent leader and knows how to keep a secret. Dogs are quick-witted and sharp-tongued, which at times can make them seem overly critical of others. A Dog can't help but inspire great admiration and confidence, despite a tendency toward stubbornness and selfishness. They're a bit off-center in some ways, but their hearts are in the right place. Dogs make good friends for Horses, Tigers, and Rabbits.

The Year of the Boar

1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007

Boars really do like to charge into things. They're noble and loyal to a fault, and are extremely protective of their loved ones. When it comes to friendships, a Boar values quality over quantity and treats his or her friends with great kindness. Although quick-tempered, a Boar hates to argue and seeks to solve problems honestly and peacefully. Boars don't say much, but they read a great deal. The studious Boar loves to learn and keep informed. A Boar gives his or her all in everything, studies included. Boars most enjoy the company of Rabbits and Rams.

FEATURES

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

James Summerlin
Staff Writer

On February 5, an American holiday will take place. It's the time of year when good friends get together and yell at their 50 inch plasma-screen TV whether they are laughing at a commercial or screaming for their favorite football team. That's right. It's Super Bowl Sunday.

Many people have different plans on what they will do on this sacred day for football fans. Some will tape the first-half of the game so they can go to church and come back for the second half. Others will plan a Super Bowl party just to show off the size of their television. If you plan to do this, be sure you keep these party tips in mind.

- 1. Food is your focus.** Whether you have the classic party dishes (chips and dip, buffalo wings, Domino's Pizza, hero sandwiches) or something different (cheese balls, little smokies, popcorn chicken, or a veggie plate for the health fanatics) you have to make sure the food is good. No one is just coming to the party just for the game. They can watch it at home. You also have to make the food layout a buffet so the guests can bring the food to eat in the living room. Be prepared for a big mess in your living room to clean up after the game.
- 2. Be creative.** Decorate the room so everyone will be amazed when they walk in. Set up the battlegrounds and draw the enemy lines with masking tape. Decorate one side for fans supporting the NFC team and one side for the AFC. Buy some soft foam footballs to throw at the TV so you and your guests can express anger toward the referee when they make a ridiculous call. Do something different so that only the game isn't the only exciting thing at the party.
- 3. Be mindful of your guests.** When someone throws a Super Bowl party, some people might bring dates that hate sports. If this occurs, set up a room that is away from the rest of the football fanatics so they can talk quietly. If the guests that are coming are really crazy about the game, set up a few TV's around the house. Maybe put one in the kitchen so that when someone craves more food from the "buffet", they won't miss a second of the game of the year.

This is the game of the year so don't blow it for your party guests. A big TV isn't the only thing that makes a successful party. Put some originality into it and go all out so people won't be just talking about the game when everyone leaves.

SO, HOW WAS YOUR NEW YEAR'S?

Grant Price
Staff Writer

I asked a few students and teachers recently, How did you spend your New Years and here were there responses.....

- Brandon Phillips 12th - I ate pie with my grandparents and played bridge.
- Matt Hopper 12th - I had fun.
- Tera Millay 12th - I got beat by Adam Perry (12th).
- Josh Lynn 9th - I celebrated Hanukah .
- Jeremy Watwood- I had a good time.
- Matt Langston 9th - I broke a pool stick on Cameron Farley's (9th) back.
- Lauren Gray 12th - I watched the ball drop.
- Andrew Latino 11th - I had fun playing poker.
- Ms. Sturm- I had dinner at home with some friends.
- Mr. Morehead- Visited with Erin and Mr. and Mrs. Downey at my house.



Sam Hadfield and Grant Price
Staff Writers

This tennis aficionado is 18 years old, and a senior at LOHS. He has blonde hair and blue eyes. His interests are human contortions, jigsaw puzzles, unicycle stunts, secret handshakes, collecting different furs and shark teeth, assembling K'NEX, and making re-make movies of Transformers starring himself. (He is also the BETA president and is Verbatim J. Heflin's star tennis player.)

This gal is a 15-year-old freshman at LOHS. She is short with brown hair and brown eyes. Her interests are cheerleading, soccer, and playing games. She also enjoys tanning at her local tanning bed. She is of Cuban descent and her favorite number is 151.

Our next Mystery star for January is a 5 feet 6 inch girl that has blonde hair and blue eyes. She is currently in the 10th grade and says her favorite subject is math. Her hobbies consist of hanging out with her friends and she loves the sport soccer. Her music genre of choice is country. When she grows up she has dreams of one day becoming a teacher. Her current favorite instructor now is Mr. Peterson.

Our last and final Mystery star of this month is a senior guy that stands at 5 feet 10 inches tall. When I asked him what he liked to do he said he loves to fish and get hot and sweaty. This beast who is originally from east..... Kentucky is also an avid weight lifter. He played for our excellent football team, and when I asked him about it all he had to say was "New Attitude!" His favorite bands are the Red Hot Chilli-Peppers and Bootsy Collins. If you spot this fellow in the halls of Lone Oak High it's a very likely chance he will have an abundance of gel in his hair as well. After high school he hopes to attend college but is not sure where.

Last month's stars were: Megan White (12), Kristy Graziano (11), Scott Pullen (12), and Jay Horton (12)

Are You Intellectually Inclined?

Laura Cash
Staff Writer

- For what do the letters "i" and "q" stand in the IQ Test?
 - Intelligence Quotient
 - Insanely Quisitive
 - I Quit
- Look! Gullible is written on the ceiling!
 - Fat chance.
 - It is possible.
 - Where?
- People describe you as...
 - too smart for your own good.
 - not easily fooled
 - one who lacks common sense.

- On April Fool's Day, you are usually the one who...
 - is playing all of the pranks.
 - is laughing at the jokes and pranks but not participating in them.
 - is the butt of all the jokes and pranks.
- Your role model is...
 - Donald Trump
 - Mahatma Gandhi
 - Anna Nichole Smith

Answers:
Mostly A's: You are too intellectually inclined.
Mostly B's: You have a great balance in your life.
Mostly C's: You are not intellectually inclined.

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Best of luck to all our Flash Teams!

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Roamin' the Halls of Lone Oak High



Chris Hampton (11) and Sarah Parker (11) are getting their lab on in this fun and exciting, hands-on Chemistry Class.



The Office Aides, Kristin Ross (12) and Becky Brookshire (12) are chilling with Mrs. Shelby in the office.



Meagan White (12) and Adrienne Tucker (12) are working on their serious aide work for their teachers. Serious!!



Sarah Robertson (10), Adam Hall (12), Kady Cavanah (10), and Kaity Lafferty (10) are getting down and dirty into the Paper Mache glue in Art.



Mr. Morehead's Spanish class is absolutely fascinated with the conjugation of the verb, "jugar". Just look at the beautiful expressions of awe on their faces!



The US History class is trying to identify the handsome picture of Franklin Pierce that Mr. Jarvis is holding up.

Sneha Pampati
Staff Photographer

Everyday during fifth hour, I go to Mrs. Goodman's class to write for the newspaper and I also do other fun and exciting things that do not leave the journalism room unless you are a member of the newspaper staff. That's right, secrets. So, I sat there wondering what everyone else is doing during fifth period. Fifth hour happens to be an exciting hour at our school. These pictures happen to be the fabulous results of my hard work of roaming around in the halls of Lone Oak High, trying to find interesting classes. To my surprise, there is a lot going on around the

high school during fifth period. And I always thought that after lunch, teachers just quit teaching; who knew? I was once again proved wrong.

School doesn't stop after lunch, in fact, students learn about conjugation in Espanol, become mad scientists in Chemistry, become good politicians in US History, and well just read the captions under the photographs and you will understand what I am saying.



The newspaper staff is working frantically to meet their upcoming deadlines. (all photos by Sneha Pampati)

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Purple Flash B-Ball Heats Up

Kelcey Buchanan
Business Manager

Lone Oak High School Basketball teams have worked extremely hard this 2005-2006 season. All teams have battled serious injuries, yet have fought even harder to keep their heads above the water. Fans continue to support the players because we know how hard they are working and are proud of them for it.

Laura Forsythe says "We have worked really hard this season. I just hope that no one else gets injured this season."

The girls' teams have made major improvements this season having won 6 out of the 9 games played since Christmas. Over Christmas break, the girls traveled to Owensboro, Kentucky for a tournament. Losing the first game against Louisville Fairdale, they girls rallied back to win against Mayfield (39-29) and Larue Country (59-56). The last game they played was a close one, but unfortunately the lost that game to Lexington Bryan Station (36-30). Playing Fulton City, the girls won 74-39; CCA 47-33.



Picture taken by Laura Forsythe (12)

The only game recently lost was against Graves County 64-14. Playing Reidland they won 55-27, and with a stellar performance beat CCA for the second time with scoring 55 points and holding CCA at bay with only 15 points.

So far this season, Emily Sheer averages 15.2 points, 7.8 rebounds, and 3.7 assists per game. Katie Roar averages 7.6 points per game. Laura Forsythe and Karlie Grooms continue to improve.

The Junior Varsity team has an upcoming district game with Paducah Tilghman. Both the JV and Freshman team continue to improve and work hard. "These girls have battled through a lot of injuries and they just keep working hard. I am so proud of

them," Coach Tim Adams says.

The Boys' Basketball teams have also had their fair share of injuries and have battled back from them just as well as the girls have. This season has been tough on all three teams, but the guys have continued to work hard and the improvement has showed. Jesse Byrd (11) states that he would like to have a year with out a broken nose or sprained ankle.

The freshman team has won 8 games and lost only 4. They fought for the big District win against Heath and succeeded. It was a close game with the score of 36-31 Lone Oak. They have also beat Reidland and St. Mary's in District match-ups. The Junior Varsity team has struggled a little this season, but faith is still high. They have won 4 games this season against both St. Mary's and Tilghman, and 2 against CCA. They continue to practice and work hard everyday.

The Varsity Boys' Basketball team won two games and lost two games during the John E. Robinson Tournament just before Christmas break. Winning the first game to Fulton City and the third game to Murray High; Losing the second game to Madisonville- North Hopkins and the last game to Waynesville, OH.

So far this year, the Varsity Boys' team has won games against Carlisle County and CCA on two separate occasions. When Lone Oak went back to Reidland after losing to them the first game played against them this season, fans were a little apprehensive of the turn out. While Reidland gave LO a small run for the money, LO beat the Greyhounds 63-56.

To no surprise, Lone Oak Boys' Basketball's leading scorer is none other than Mr. Chase Denson himself with an average of 25 points a game and 7 rebounds. "We work well together as a team. We pass the ball to chase and watch!" Landon Blackman # 31 says as laughing. Luke Shue-maker has the second highest average with 14 points and 5 rebounds.

"I would rather play Halo then to go watch a game.... But I LOVE Landon Blackman!" Michael McNeil states.

The season is looking up for the Purple Flash and they are prepared for what ever is going to challenge them next. "Hopefully we can get a post season scrimmage set up with the Ducks!" Coach Andy Poore exclaims.



LO PEP RALLY

Photos by: Rebecca Choudhury and Kelcey Buchanan

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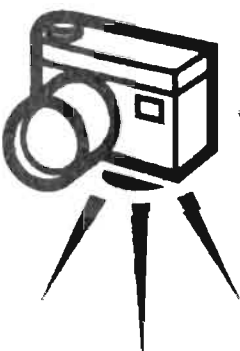
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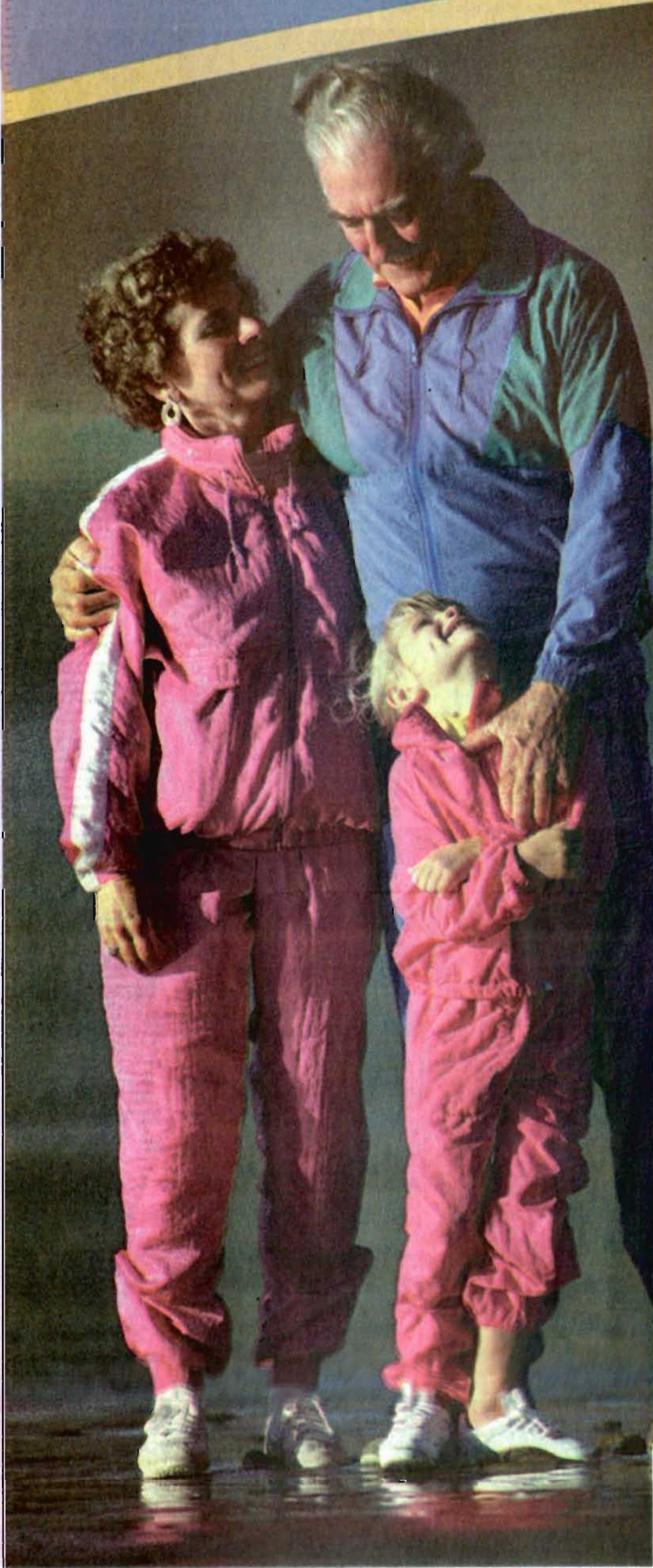


Rheanel Tolar M.D. is an adult internal medicine physician now accepting new patients age 16 and over. She is located in Lone Oak at 2850 Bailey Square, suite #4 on Lone Oak Road. Call Total Life Care for an appointment at 534-8928.



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