

Simply Aspen

Aaron Megibow
Entertainment Editor

She's funky, she's fresh, she's December's Junior Rotarian; ASPEN DAVIS! If she was a zebra appearing on a discovery channel documentary she would be seen gathering materials to make gold shoes, soy lattes, and peanut butter sculptures. Not only is she a pioneer in the fields of fashion and nutrition, but she knows how to rock out with her brain out in the classroom. She has maintained a 3.97 GPA (making her a salutatorian) but she is also a Beta Club officer and an attendant of the Governor's Scholars Program at Centre College. Her favorite class is at WKCTC, Dr. Mailey's Basic Public Speaking Class where she rocks the podium with a variety of speeches (more awe-inspiring than Bono, fa' sho)

When she's not giving 287% in the classroom, she's out educating LOMS seventh graders about the benefits of postponing sexual involvement, dacing her heart out to Fergie at pep rallies, running track, editing the yearbook, and tutoring.

After High School Aspen plans on spending her time being a groupie for Regina Spektor and The Dresden Dolls, using words from the *Mo Urban Dictionary*, and starting a welfare program for those who are unfortunate enough to not be able to afford Kanye West ablums and funky rain boots. What a noble cause!

On the weekends she spends her time star gazing to the sounds of The Spice Girls and Cher. Yet stars aren't the only thing Aspen watches. She is also a professional chav-spotter (one who recognizes wangstas; a person possessing the ability to spot wannabe thugs and punishing them to the highest extent of the law). When she isn't spending her time ridding the world of the evils of chavdom, she can be seen admiring LOHS's Chef-extraordinaire, **Olivia Fellows** (12)

Aspen also has a great many other hobbies. She enjoys sitting around with her friends listening to the sultry tunes of Marvin Gaye and discussing how to solve the world's problems, (i.e. fashion victims, people who use word-a-day calendars, Celine Dion, and of course, world hunger)

If given the opportunity, Aspen would date Abraham Lincoln (because of his super-hot honesty) and spend her time listening to Hootie and the Blowfish while dancing in the rain. But, of course, Aspen would never be found hanging around old men with bad oral hygiene, harming an animal for consumption, or faking individuality. Aspen rocks and you know it. If you don't know it, then, well, your loss.

So, as you light your Christmas menorah and decorate your Kwanza tree, think of Aspen Davis. She'll be sure to brighten your holidays!



Photo by Jeannie Subrheinrich

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD NEED GIFTS

Monica Spees
Features Editor

Christmas is a very special time of year. While most of us sit around and scribble on pages upon pages what we want to find under the tree on Christmas day, there are those among us who are denied this excitement. Those of us who are fortunate enough to belong to families that are able to supply us with tons of treasures during the holiday season don't seem to think about the possibility that there are any kids our age who can't celebrate Christmas as we do. Although we don't want to think about it, there are teenagers in our midst who may not be expecting a very merry Christmas this year.

But this Christmas, heaven will come on Earth to some of these students in our community. This will all be due to the Angel Tree project here in Lone Oak High School. The Angel Tree, sponsored by the FMD (Functionally and Mentally Disabled) unit, is a project that allows people of the community to "adopt," if you will, disadvantaged students who "won't be having a Christmas as you and I know Christmas," says Mrs. Upshaw, coordinator of the Angel Tree project in the school. By adopting these students, the people will provide the students with several Christmas presents for December 25.

The idea to have an Angel Tree here in our own Lone Oak High School was originally the idea of Mrs. Evers. "She handed the reins to me," laughs Mrs. Upshaw. Last year was the FMD unit's first year to participate in the Angel Tree project, and they were very successful. "Everyone was adopted, and we even had extra money."

Mrs. Upshaw comments. Some notable contributors to this project include Jeff Parker, Dr. Heine, the Knights of Columbus, and Mr. Smithmier. However, the givers do remain anonymous to the kids to whom they give the gifts. But anyone is welcome to pitch in, seeing as this is a community-wide project.

Perhaps you're wondering, where do you find angels for the Angel Tree? While these "angels" don't have wings and halos, they've still caught the eyes of many people. Kids put on the Angel Tree include students from our school system. Some are from our own FMD unit, and others are nominated by teachers. With the support and contributions of people from the community, these kids will be able to wake up to a great Christmas morning. I

can say, from having participated in this myself, that giving to this particular project is a truly gratifying experience. In this giving season, what better way is there to celebrate?

At the close of my interview with her, Mrs. Upshaw had a few words for the Lone Oak High School student body. "Thank you for your support of the multi-unit. You've accepted and befriended these students more than I've seen at any other high school."

Thanks to the Angel Trees here at Lone Oak High School and all over the community, disadvantaged kids who aren't expecting a blissful and joyful Christmas will be able to experience the most wonderful time of the year as it should be. Mrs. Upshaw describes last year's project as "very amazing," and she hopes that it will be even more successful this year.



Photo by Nate Brelsford



Photo by Jeannie Subrheinrich

Creative Creations

Ally Heine
News Editor

As some of you may have noticed, work from some of our very own students has decorated the halls of Lone Oak High School. Researching movies, food, cars, main events, or most anything from the 1930's, students in Mrs. Sims English class's are preparing to read Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird." Student's poster board presentations are being distributed throughout the English hallway.

The English hallway isn't the only one covered with student work; you can also find magnificent pieces of art work by the art students posted up on the display board outside of the cafeteria. When asked how displaying the student's work effects their attitude towards their class and their work, Mrs. Carter stated, "Displaying quality work helps the other students to see expectations, and will hopefully make them work towards that the next time."

Another positive of displaying student work is how it may change the outlook from visitors at our school. When visitors come to our school and see the work that has been chosen to be presented, they might see how the teachers assess in different ways. Whereas if the work posted up was just all written work, most of them might not take the time to actually read the entirety of it.

Most teachers as well as students around the school believe that it is a good idea to display students work throughout the

halls. When asked if she thought it was that important to show off the students work, Mrs. Linda Harper quoted, "Absolutely, they are proud and I am proud of what they do, and people learn from seeing other people's work."

So if you're out and about, or have some extra time while you're in the school, stop by and take a minute to look at all the work done by your fellow classmates that is being displayed!

Photos by The Oak "K" Staff



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Unlocking the Secrets of Key Club

Aaron Williams
Online Editor

The Club Spotlight's beacon of inquiry shines this month on Lone Oak High School's own Key Club. Affiliated with the local extension of the international organization Kwanis Club, Key Club is a community service organization that assists the needy, whether they are the underprivileged or the elderly, in our surrounding area.

Headed by sponsors Mrs. Sprunger and Ms. Durham and president Patsy Pierce (10), the Key Club has already had a successful year and plans on continuing the trend. The club hosted a Halloween party for the senior



citizens in attendance at the Paducah Active Day Center and plans on hosting an Easter party at the same locale later this school year.

Like many students, you probably noticed the collection boxes requesting to be filled with canned foods for Paducah Cooperative Ministries (PCM) lining Mrs. Sprunger's class throughout November and into early December. This is also the doing of Key Club. Thanks to their initiative, students here at Lone Oak High were given the opportunity to participate in the giving of food to an organization that will make sure it goes to good use for underprivileged families this holiday

season. In addition to their canned food drive, the Key Club also shopped for a needy family this December so that the family in need can enjoy an excellent Christmas.

So, what is the incentive? Why should the students here get involved with all the good that Key Club is doing? Mrs. Sprunger said it well when she told the Oak "K", "It's one of those clubs you can join regardless if your skills and hobbies; kids in the Key Club join to help others." adding "and I like being

around that." Be sure that when that first club day rolls around next year and you find yourself heading down to the no-club zone in the gym, rethink your choice and maybe consider walking upstairs to Mrs. Sprunger's room

and peek in on what the Key Club is doing. It is a spectacular way to both give back to your community and meet some new people at the same time. Plus you get to party with some very cool people at the Paducah Active Day Center! All in all, I think the Key Club is one of the up and coming clubs at our high school and it indeed is a club you don't need any special abilities to do. Now that you know, go check them out.

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From the Guidance Office...

Melanie Jarvis
LOHS Guidance Counselor

JANUARY

• If applying for financial aid, get started on preparations by obtaining a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

FEBRUARY

- Complete the FAFSA, if possible. (You'll need your family's/guardian's tax records.)
- Keep track of your college applications; be sure all schools have received all materials.

Continue to stay focused on grades.

New Scholarships:

- Commonwealth Credit Union
- Wal-Mart Community Scholarship
- Burger King Scholars Program
- Foundation for Rural Service (Ballard Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc.)
- Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation
- ESA Foundation Scholarship
- UK- Anyone interested in sports medicine at UK- that might want to be an athletic trainer at UK- applications in the office

[Link the Guidance Webpage from the Lone Oak High School web page for the latest news and information.](#)

ACT 07-08 Test Dates		Registration Deadline		Deadline w/Late fee	
Feb 9, 2008		Jan 4, 2008		1/5/08-1/18/08	
April 12, 2008		March 7, 2008		3/8/08-3/21/08	
June 14, 2008		May 9, 2008		5/10/08-5/23/08	
SAT 2007-08 Test Dates	Test	U.S. Registration Deadlines*		Intl Registration Deadlines**	
		Regular	Late (w/ fee)	Early (Intl only)	Regular
Jan 26, 2008	SAT & Subject	Dec 26, 2007	Jan 4, 2008	Dec 5, 2007	Dec 26, 2007
Mar 1, 2008	SAT only	Jan 29, 2008	Feb 7, 2008	N/A	N/A
May 3, 2008	SAT & Subject	April 1, 2008	April 10, 2008	March 12, 2008	April 1, 2008
June 7, 2008	SAT & Subject	May 6, 2008	May 15, 2008	April 16, 2008	May 6, 2008

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- Editor-in-Chief**
James Summerlin
- Assistant Editor-in-Chief**
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- Business Manager**
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- Entertainment Editors**
Lee Cole
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- Features Editors**
Mark Kaltenbach
Monica Spees
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Derek Operle
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- Staff Writer / Cartoonist**
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- Staff Writer**
Patrick Hollowell
- Coroner**
Brick Green
- Adviser**
Molly Goodman

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S. Blair Tolar,
MD

Tammy Carr, ARNP

OB/GYN of
Paducah

(270) 443-1220

Suite 201
WBH Doctors Bldg 2

Jeannie's Jargon

Jeannie Suhrheinrich
Photographer

Ahhh, wintertime. The time to look forward to holidays, snowstorms (or Kentucky's sorry excuse for snowstorms) and general merriment. It's also time to celebrate cold weather fashion. All month you've been working on pulling your knee high boots, tights, sultry sweaters and corduroys out of the confines of your closet. Wintertime fashion is the prime time to display your style more modestly than you would during the summer. However, it seems the colder it's been getting the more I am seeing a winter fashion that I would love to see die a slow, painful death: the furry boot.

And it's not just the furry boot on its own. Paired with a nice slim jean and appropriate amount of fur, I can tolerate the Eskimo boot existence. What I cannot stand is the pairing of the furry boot with a skirt. Not just any skirt; a short, micro-mini jean skirt. Not that skirts are unheard of during this time of the year, for cute skirts with tights is one of my favorite seasonal outfits. But the mini jean skirt should have been retired months ago, my friends, when the first appearance of frost should be a wake-up call that summer is long gone. And since the mini skirt is a staple to summertime livin', so should you say farewell

to it, if only for a few months.

But the short skirt/ skinned rabbit boot combo is rearing its ugly head with impressive force at Lone Oak High School. Bare legs are running rampant when I am struggling to remain warm in my long sleeve tee! It really just boggles my mind. Are these girls somehow superhuman and thus immune to cold temperatures? Do they really think that just because they are wearing an article of clothing with fur on it, the rest of the body

"...Bare legs are running rampant when I am struggling to remain warm in my long sleeve tee!"

will be kept warm and therefore it is acceptable to wear a skirt of unseasonable lengths? What's next, short shorts and rain boots in the rainy, chilled months of March and April? And I don't even believe this is a flattering outfit, unless of course you have super-model legs, which the majority of us normal people do not have. I think pairing a great fitting pair of jeans and heels with a wintry sweater does so much more for your look than trying to show off by baring skin in a time when it should be comforted in a pair of long johns.

So if you are unable to part with those boots reminiscent of an Icelandic hunter, do me a great favor and just stick with your jeans. The bare legs make me cringe! I believe you'll be doing yourself a favor too, once you realize you can be cute and defrosted at the same time.

Mark is Upset

Mark Kaltenbach
Features Editor

As part of the curriculum for my AP English class, I have been required to read several novels over the course of this first semester. Earlier in the semester, Mrs. Goodman assigned John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. I made a gallant effort to make it through this novel. However, after trudging through several hundred pages, I gave up. I could not continue. The novel is a failure.

Recently, I finished Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. This was also assigned by Mrs. Goodman. *Heart of Darkness* is absolutely masterful.

So what is the difference between these two works? The answer, I realize, lies in the way the books are written. The entire time I was reading *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, I was keenly aware that some person had written it. Irving is not a good enough author to keep himself out of his work. Each character in *A Prayer for Owen Meany* has essentially the same personality. Irving certainly tries to make them seem different, but he does so in the most obvious ways imaginable. Everything in *A Prayer for Owen Meany* is so apparent. There is absolutely no subtlety. Irving uses the story as a platform to voice his own opinions. All plot twists are thrown together, obvious. As I read and something

surprising happened, I was entirely aware of the fact that Irving intended for me to be surprised.

On the contrary, as I read *Heart of Darkness* I found myself immersed in the story. The characters each exist as unique beings. The novella stands by itself, a singular story. Every aspect of the novella is where it is purposefully and intentionally. *Heart of Darkness* is a classic work of fiction.

"...as I read *Heart of Darkness* I found myself immersed in the story."

These two books are excellent representations of the difference between classic fiction and mediocre fiction. What makes any work of fiction great? I realize now the answer is subtlety. It is detail. John Irving is not a good writer. He is average, along with most others in his field. Joseph Conrad is a great author, a true literary genius. The difference is that Conrad can see an entire story without misplacing a single word or punctuation mark, while Irving simply cannot. *A Prayer for Owen Meany* is superficially entertaining. I find this is the case with many popular authors. *Heart of Darkness* entertains on a more meaningful level. Conrad's writing is genuinely masterful. Greatness exists in the details.

Aaron Asks

Aaron Megibow
Entertainment Editor

Picture this: Grand Central Station, November 30, 2007. I'm bored and trying to find a good, light read to counteract the lingering depression I feel from just finishing Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. So, I'm looking around and all of a sudden, a glimmering gem jumps out at me: *The Mo' Urban Dictionary: Ridonkulous Street Slang Redefined*.

After completing this amazing dictionary (which clearly outshines Webster's in every way) I came to a realization: The vocabulary lessons we do in English class could be greatly enriched by incorporating just a few of these fantabulous words.

Not only do the definitions of these words create instant laughter after reading, but they also

are words that we could use everyday. Now, I know the purpose of vocabulary lessons isn't to enrich our conversational vocabulary, but we could at least put one or two of these in a month.

Such words or phrases would include, "go Huxtable" (to settle down, find a good job, and start a family), "procrastishower" (the superlong shower one takes when they have something better to do, like studying for a chemistry exam), "myspy" (when you use MySpace to spy on ex-boyfriends, ex-girlfriends, ex-friends, or even your ex-boyfriend's ex-girlfriend's ex-boyfriend's baby mama), and "unbeweavable" (fake hair that is way over the top).

I'm not asking for our great English staff to completely eliminate enriching vocabulary from our lives completely, I'm just asking to spice it up a little bit with some street slang. It won't be hard. I'd just like to have a little laughter on my Mondays during fourth hour after thumbing mindlessly through Webster's, that's all.

"I'd just like to have a little laughter on my Mondays during fourth hour..."

Weasel Wonders Why

Derek Operle
Co-Sports Editor

Why don't we have weighted GPA's here at Lone Oak High School?

The weighted GPA system is, basically, a system that rewards students for taking advanced classes. Weighted GPA's give students fives on their transcripts when they make A's, fours when they make B's, threes for C's, and so on.

Lone Oak High School offers a wide variety of advanced classes, 14 of those being AP or college level courses. Many students can and do take these classes during their high school career. I know, I'm one of them.

The fact of the matter is that many students do not elect to take these higher level courses. They choose the easy path, and they "coast" their way through high school.

One of the worst things about not having a weighted GPA system is that students taking the "fast track" can make straight A's and come out of high school with the same GPA as someone who took only the required courses and made straight A's in them. It just seems a bit ridiculous to me. Not that "normal track" people don't deserve a 4.0; I

just believe people in advanced classes deserve to be recognized for it. I think they should be able to elevate themselves to the higher echelon of their class. I just don't think it's fair to rank people that took AP Chemistry, AP English, and AP Calculus the same as those who took regular English and Integrated Science.

Not using a weighted GPA system can result in a class having 20 or so valedictorians and salutatorians, essentially taking away from the prestige of the awards. The adoption of a weighted GPA system would fix this problem by giving the advanced students higher GPA's than the standard 4.0, differentiating themselves from those who took easier classes.

This would not only help advanced students with their rank in their class, but it would also give them a slightly better chance of getting into college by beefing up their GPA and getting more colleges to consider them.

On the whole, using weighted GPA's would be a good thing, it would help out the AP and Honors students while not affecting the students who take the general education courses.

"...many studentschoose the easy path, and they "coast" their way through high school."

ULTI{NATE}UM

Nate Brelsford
Staff Writer/ Cartoonist

One month of freedom. One month of exhibiting unhampered manliness and individuality. That is what No-Shave November is all about, and Lone Oak's contributions have resulted in its incredible success.

Let's just face it: there is no other month that tolerates such a large number of shabby citizens walking around looking exceptionally wild. No-Shave November (NSN) is a national phenomenon for all ages and sexes. In childhood, nearly everyone participates. However, with the onset of puberty, great hordes of people cease their celebration and even discourage others from contributing.

This presents no setback for some. Members of all classes - even staff - at Lone Oak High School have participated this past month and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. In fact, 2007 has been my first productive year of No-Shave November. Roberto Arreaza (10) is another passionate participant of this past NSN who boasts, "I've been showing off all eight of my facial hairs the entire month." To him, No-Shave November "shows the world what real men are supposed to look like."

Unfortunately, there are some areas that

can't even tolerate one month of tolerance. Take for example the onslaught of unshaven adolescents at one Heartland high school. Nearly half the male student population was sent home for dress code violation. Oakers are truly fortunate to receive a quality education in an environment so accepting of unkempt students.

The Lone Oak High School administration is fully responsible for this giant step toward maturity and deserves our full appreciation. After all, how can teens become mature adults if they are barred from demanding the best of their physical nature as well as mental capacity? High school should be a catalyst for teen growth in more ways than one. Fortunately for us, Lone Oak has recognized this fact and acted accordingly. It is yet another victory for No-Shave November and its supporters.

As for next year's prospects, No-Shave November seems to be gaining momentum. Expect twice as many uncultivated jaw lines (and perhaps an exponential rise in the jeans-to-shorts ratio, ladies). There are also rumors of a Don't-Brush December in 2008, when brushing hair, teeth, or any other corporal area is discouraged.

Regardless, I am not alone when I say every month should be No-Shave November.

"...how can teens become mature adults if they are barred from demanding the best of their physical nature...?"

And Now A Word From Lee Cole...

Lee Cole
Entertainment Editor

I was sitting in my health class recently, thumbing through our textbook's index when I noticed something that struck as being very strange. After a moment of disbelief, and several times rechecking myself, I concluded that what I was observing was in fact reality and not some error on my part. Staring down at the columns of small print words, I noticed several entries were missing: safe sex, condom, birth control, and abortion, most notably. It was while searching for the entry for abortion that I noticed the sizeable space designated for "abstinence." So, following through with my curiosity, I decided to read the passages on that topic. Fifteen minutes of helpful reading informed me of how waiting until marriage to have sex is absolutely necessary for a healthy lifestyle. I'm told that if I am being pressured with that old line, "What are you afraid of?" that I am to respond with, "HIV/AIDS and about a dozen other STD's." HIV/AIDS is totally scary, but if for some reason, these reasons don't convince me, and I'm having trouble staying abstinent, I can always use "practice of religious beliefs" to keep me pure. There's nothing like overwhelming guilt at betraying a dogmatic moral tradition to keep those hormones at bay.

Storming out of the classroom, I was ready to face the school board and demand new textbooks. But first I decided to get all the information I could about this predicament. Using the internet as my guide, I discovered that sex education for our nation's school systems is decided on the state level. Upon further research, I found that Kentucky did have an "abstinence only" program in place; that is, a program that specifically promotes postponing sexual intercourse until marriage. While sex education is a state issue, abstinence programs are eligible for tremendous amounts of federal funding under the Bush presidency. Bush himself tried out the abstinence approach in Texas as governor. Unfortunately, however, after this step, Texas shot to the top of the list in the number of teen pregnancies, ahead of all other states. As I delved deeper into the statistics and reports on the topic, I

"There's nothing like overwhelming guilt at betraying a dogmatic moral tradition to keep those hormones at bay."

found that Texas isn't the only state where these programs have failed. Abstinence only programs have been almost universally detrimental to our nation's youth. All six reports on abstinence only programs, including a study conducted by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, have shown that these programs are ineffective and are often inclined to increase the rate of teen pregnancy and the spread of HIV/AIDS and other STD's.

So why does Kentucky implement such a foolish and ineffective program? The idea of chastity until marriage is an ancient Judeo-Christian value. Recently, the Republican Party has found tremendous support with the evangelical, highly conservative churches that represent a huge portion of American voters. Politicians in Kentucky have taken advantage of these church's doctrines to garner votes. Senator Mitch McConnell voted to put 75 million dollars towards abstinence programs. Jim Bunning voted against a 100 million dollar bill to reduce teen pregnancy by education and contraceptives. Kentucky is ranked 37th in teen birth rate, which is less than impressive. Vermont, which is ranked 1st with the lowest teen birth rate, uses a sex education program that teaches both abstinence and contraception. These programs are known as "Comprehensive" Sex Education programs, and they are a responsible alternative to "Abstinence Only" that deserve serious consideration. The *Advocates for Youth Organization* determined in a series of reports the effectiveness of these programs in reducing teen pregnancy and the spread of HIV/AIDS. None of the significant reports on abstinence programs have shown even remotely similar results. Perhaps the most distressing aspect regarding the state of our sex education is the willingness of politicians and church leaders to support abstinence programs in the face of such compelling scientific evidence. It's irresponsible and shameful that our laws, meant to protect our children, are based on ignorance and dogma. As responsible citizens, it is our solemn duty to employ reason and science in our government, and regardless of religion, values, or political outlook, we must not leave such a serious matter to politics. With the safety and well-being of our youth in the balance, reforming our sex education programs is crucial.

Santa is Real!

Derek Operle
Co-Sports Editor

Have you heard that nasty rumor spreading around Paducah? People are saying that Kriss Kringle, also known as Santa Clause, Father Christmas, and Saint Nicholas, does not exist. How ridiculous can you get? How skeptical do you have to be to say that he, the bringer of joy to people everywhere, does not exist?

There is a huge amount of evidence to support the fact that Santa Clause does, indeed, exist. For instance, I myself have seen and talked to Père Noël several times in the past few weeks. During these encounters, he told me of the fantastic progress he and his elves were making. According to St. Nick, they were completely finished with the gift production and were nearly three-quarters of the way through the wrapping process.

Some solid facts that prove his existence have been revealed through



Courtesy of msn.com

polls and events throughout the world: 86% of children say he is real; there are always gifts addressed from Santa Clause to you; these gifts really are based on your behavior (trust me, they are; I behaved badly enough to receive coal once); he eats the cookies and milk I set out for him every Christmas Eve; and there have been sightings of him all over the world throughout the years.

Now, some people try to blame this eerie phenomenon on the actions of the parents. There are just two problems with this so-called solution. One: how do the parents not get caught? And two: how do the parents deliver the presents to children all around the world?

Tell me this. If Saint Nick isn't real, why do we always get gifts from the guy? Where do these mysterious gifts come from? Why do those cookies and milk disappear? If you try to disprove his existence, you turn the holiday season into an inexplicable chain of events. The only way it all makes sense is if he exists.

With all this proof, how can you possibly doubt the existence of the man - the legend - Santa Clause?

How the Grinch Stole my Heart

Hannah Hudson
Business Manager

"Every Who down in Whoville liked Christmas a lot, but the Grinch, who lived just north of Whoville, did not." This is the first line in Dr. Seuss' Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Not long after this book was published a cartoon movie was created. More recently, a motion picture was made with Jim Carrey as the Grinch. This movie has become a Christmas classic around my house since it came out in 2000. Every year my mom and I make time in our busy schedules to watch the movie while eating popcorn and drinking hot chocolate. (I know, I know... It's cliché, but it will put you in the Christmas mood.)

For the unfortunate few who don't know, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* is a story about the Grinch, who despises Christmas and all who love it, and his encounters with a Who named Cindy Lou. Little Cindy Lou Who has heard stories her whole life about the Grinch, who lives on top of the mountain north of Whoville. She's heard stories about how kids would go up to his house and never come



Courtesy of msn.com

back. Any time these stories were told she would listen with great interest because the mystery of the Grinch intrigued her.

One day Cindy Lou Who meets the Grinch. Instead of being scared and running away, as most people would do when encountering the Grinch, Cindy Lou Who simply stands there. After meeting the Grinch, Cindy Lou Who thinks that there is more to him than anger and hatred, and tries to get him to come to Christmas celebrations in Whoville. The Grinch, whose only friend is his dog, Max, is touched by Cindy Lou Who's compassion, even though he doesn't show it on the outside. To find out any more about the movie, you will just have to watch it. I wouldn't want to give anything away.

This movie is definitely a Christmas classic. It is shown on multiple television channels as part of their Christmas specials. It's a movie for kids of all ages; my seven-year-old cousin, and my 70-year-old grandmother both love it. If you haven't seen it already, you are definitely missing out. If you have already seen it, make a tradition out of watching it with your family. It is the perfect movie to get you in the Christmas mood. It'll keep you laughing because, of course, Jim Carrey is the star! But it also delivers a good Christmas message.

Reliant on Relient K

James Summerlin
Editor-in-Chief

I love Christmas. I love Christmas music. I also love Relient K. So when I found out that Relient K was re-releasing their Christmas album with additional tracks, I asked Derek "Weasel" Operle to tell Santa Claus I wanted it. After finding out that the wait was going to be well over two months, I decided to take a visit to iTunes to buy the album.

So here's the story. A couple of years ago, Relient K released a Christmas album called "Deck the Halls, Bruise Your Hand" in a combo pack with "Two Lefts Don't Make a Right, But Three Do." The album wasn't all that popular because the

band wasn't all that popular yet. Only rock solid Relient K fans own the album. I'm glad I didn't buy it then because Relient K re-released the album recently as "Let It Snow, Baby... Let It Reindeer." This album has seven additional tracks that weren't on the first Christmas album. It really is the most wonderful time of the year.

Now, why is this album different from any other Christmas album? Relient K has always been known to cut up and joke around in their music, but they also look at serious topics with

an utmost sincerity that few will touch. It's an awesome combination for Christmas, don't you think? (Plus, this is the only Christmas album with screaming in one of the tracks.)

The weird thing about this album is that Relient K focuses on the piano pieces in this album. This album isn't all rockin', but it does feature a nice blend of slow, relaxing songs with some insane head-banging. Relient K presents rocking versions of classic Christmas songs like "Angels We Have Heard On High," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and, my favorite,

"Handel's Messiah." The slow songs include original tracks like "I Hate Christmas Parties" and "I Celebrate the Day," which centers

around lead singer Matt Thiessen's mad piano skills. (And who doesn't love a piano player that can sing?)

All in all, my doubts of any punk rock band pulling off a good Christmas album were put to rest. Relient K showed the world what Christmas is all about. Electric guitars, a piano, and a whole lot of fun. I give Relient K's "Let It Snow, Baby... Let It Reindeer" a five out of five.



Courtesy of msn.com

Before Our Time: Christmas Edition... It's a Wonderful Film

Monica Spees
Features Editor

Okay, listen to me when I say it's not Christmas without "It's a Wonderful Life." We've all been flipping through the channels on TV during this very festive time of year and come across the mug of Jimmy Stewart as the lovable George Bailey. Unfortunately, many of us have simply shrugged our shoulders and insisted that this classic is too old, too cheesy, and too long. Here's what I have to say to that: STOP THINKING THAT!

Allow me to set the scene for you. In this black and white masterpiece, many people are praying for a man named George Bailey. God hears their prayers and decides to send a wingless angel, Clarence, to become George's guardian angel. If Clarence succeeds in helping George, he will earn his wings. But first, Clarence must learn about George's life up to this point.

It all begins with a young George saving his little brother Harry from drowning in an ice-covered pond one winter. It is also at this young age that he meets a sweet girl named Mary, who is madly in love with him. At this point, George has his entire life planned out. His greatest desire is to be a world-traveler and get out of the little town of Bedford Falls. All appears to be well in his small hometown where his father runs the Bailey Building and Loan. The only blight in this picture-perfect village is grumpy old Mr. Potter, who wants nothing more than to own everything in Bedford Falls, including the Bailey Building and Loan. George's father manages to keep Potter's greedy claws away from his business as time goes by. However, life as college-bound George Bailey knows it changes on the night he once again runs into Mary, played by Donna Reed, and his father dies from a heart attack.



Courtesy of msn.com

After the death of his father, George is faced with the decision of taking over the company or pursuing his life-long dream of visiting exotic places all around the world. Good-hearted George, refusing to let Potter take over the company, reluctantly stays behind as Harry and all his friends move on to bigger and better things.

Four years later, George, who has denied his love for Mary, finds her again, this time succumbing to his feelings and taking her as his wife. As his life goes on, George changes the lives of the citizens of Bedford Falls and makes many friends, usually without even realizing he has done so. When George's life turns into a nightmare, he begins to wish he had never been born. His guardian angel, Clarence, plans to show George exactly how it would be if he got his wish.

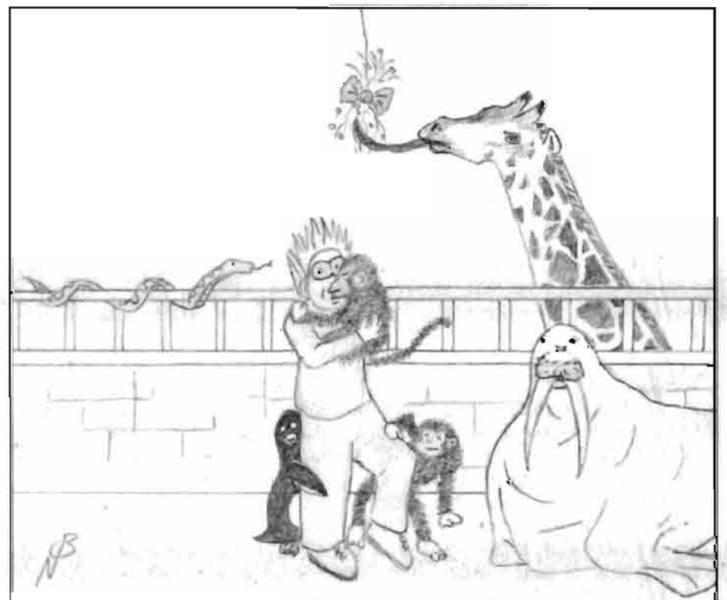
Although this movie has been around for sixty years, it still touches the hearts of millions of people every Christmas. I enjoy this movie more and more every time I watch it. Viewing this film is truly a magical experience. The acting is absolutely exceptional, even though this movie was made in the 1940s. "It's a Wonderful Life" cannot even be compared to any other cinematic experience of recent years. The story is an unforgettable one that's peppered with moments of comedy, drama, suspense, and romance. Every camera angle sets the mood of the scene perfectly, and every line that each character speaks is spoken at the right time and is totally purposeful.

Unlike many movies of today, "It's a Wonderful Life" is not just mindless entertainment. This movie carries a deep message that is relevant for all people every day of the year, not just Christmas. Honestly, I have no complaints about this movie. The acting is great. The script is excellent. The sets are flawless. The story is mind-blowing. What's not to like?

So, this holiday season, as you're channel surfing and stumble upon this great classic, don't do what you've done before. Get lost in this fantastic film. I dare you *not* to find

Worst Places for Mistletoe...

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BEFORE OUR TIME: BLONDE ON BLONDE

Lee Cole
Entertainment Editor

It would be a shame if throughout my entire Lone Oak High School newspaper career I failed to write a review of my favorite artist and greatest hero. I am, of course, referring to Bob Dylan. Many of my friends are aware of my love for his music and many continue to shake their heads in confusion whenever they hear him whining over the speakers in my Buick. But no matter what artist I find myself momentarily captivated with, I always seem to go back to Dylan. So I think it's fitting that I review one of his finest and certainly most influential albums: *Blonde on Blonde*.



Picture by google.com

tise of guitarist Bobby Neuwirth, Dylan created a sound that he's never quite been able to attain on any other album. He described the album as sounding like a "carnival." There is perhaps no better explanation for the whimsical, wild nature of the music. But, as with most Dylan albums, the lyrics are often what make the music. At this point, his lyrics are often at their most surreal.

"Desolation Row," is an epic portrait of Dylan's world, and songs like "Leopard Skin Pillbox Hat" and "Just Like a Woman" cover with vicious honesty Dylan's days with Edie Sedgwick and Andy Warhol in the Chelsea Hotel of the early sixties. Dylan's finest songwriting comes through in "Visions of Johanna," however, and the surreal imagery is mysterious and entrancing ("The ghosts of electricity/howled in the bones of her face.")

Blonde on Blonde showcases Dylan at his finest. Listeners will find him at the climax of his career, writing amidst enormous popularity, and standing at the forefront of the great cultural revolution of the 1960's. But what makes Bob Dylan so great is the way his songs reach each person individually. It's in *Blonde on Blonde* that he accomplishes this best.



Christmas Word Search

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

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| BALL | FROSTY | SANTA CLAUS |
| BELL | GIFT | SLED |
| BLITZEN | GINGERBREAD | SNOWMAN |
| CANDYCANE | NOEL | STAR |
| CHIMNEY | NORTHPOLE | STOCKING |
| CHRISTMAS | NUTCRACKER | SUGARPLUMS |
| COMET | PEACE | TOY |
| CUPID | PRANCER | TREE |
| DANCER | PRESENT | VIXEN |
| DASHER | REINDEER | WORKSHOP |
| DONNER | RUDOLPH | WREATH |
| ELF | SACK | |

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Oh Oh, It's Magic, You Know

Lee Cole
Entertainment Editor

In today's music scene, several artists of yesteryear, including the likes of Paul McCartney, the Police, and more recently, Led Zeppelin, have released highly successful albums and have found enormous popularity with the modern crowd. Bruce Springsteen's *Magic* continues this trend. But the Boss's newest release offers something more, and unlike the reunion tours and comeback albums of other artists, *Magic* deserves a place amongst Springsteen's greatest work. After a long string of mediocre releases, *Magic* hearkens back to Bruce's *Asbury Park* days, and is undoubtedly one of the best albums of 2007.

After the first few strains of guitar in "Radio Nowhere," listeners are sure they are listening to a Bruce Springsteen album. That classic "E-street" sound is immediately recognizable. Springsteen fans will notice the similarities to Bruce's first albums, but modern listeners will appreciate the raw sound. You'll find no synthesizers or drum machines in *Magic*. In fact,

Max Weinburg of "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" plays the drums with the E-Street band. The album's most popular track and the one most reminiscent of Bruce's *Born to Run* era, is "Radio Nowhere," but the album has a wealth of other genuinely well written songs. Springsteen's ability as a lyricist shines through in songs like "Your Own Worst Enemy," and the title track, "Magic." Songs like "You'll Be Coming Down," and "Livin' in the Future," make the listener feel like dancing (in the dark, of course). At the same time, however, undeniable sorrow is evoked by "Terry's Song," written for a friend of Springsteen's that died earlier this year.

Magic's greatness lies in its combination of a refreshing sound and truly insightful lyrics. Springsteen continues to prove himself again and again as one of rock's greatest artists and I can say with confidence that I have enjoyed *Magic* more than any album in recent memory. *Magic* proves, more than anything else, that "the Boss" still has a few tricks up his sleeve.

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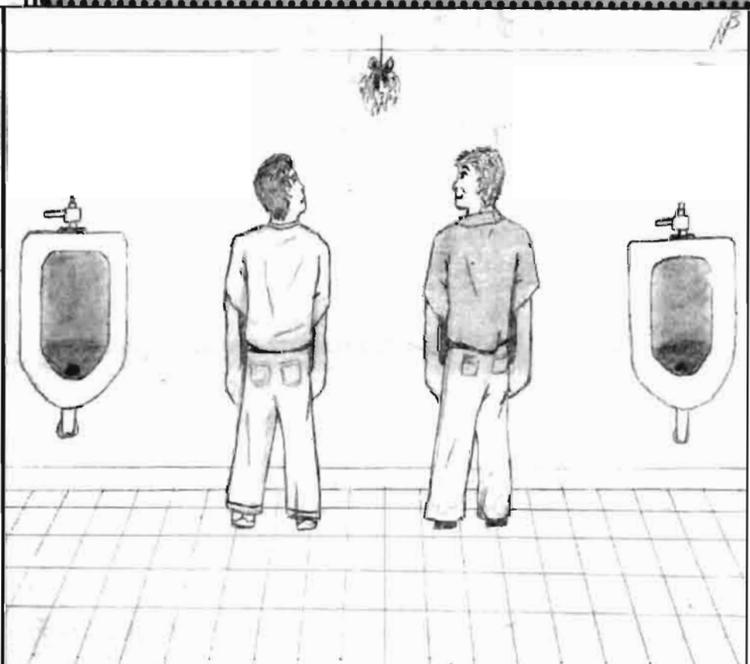
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Participants	State Football	Christmas	Cold Weather	Pep Rallies
Drey Duncan (12)	Awesome	Jesus	Snow	Fun
Mrs. Beckman	Win	Jesus	Yuck	Necessary
Katie Clayton (10)	Flash	Presents	Scarf	Purple
Josh Dolan (11)	Amazing	Tree	Snow	Loud

MYSTERY STARS



Ally Heine
News Editor

This month's senior mystery star is no doubt a comedian. You can most likely find this blonde hair, blue eyed lady "working out, or chilling with the home girls in da hood" after school or in here spare time. Her favorite teacher is **Mr. Archer** and she enjoys long walks on the lake side, as well as an occasional cube of cheese on a warm night by the fire. On the weekends you can find her either supporting the LOHS football team or at one of here infamous bonfires.

Our junior mystery star is a member of our very own band and is also an active member in our school's academic team. This outgoing brown haired, green eyed friendly young man enjoys hanging out with his friends on the weekend or in his spare time when he isn't doing something with band. His favorite food is Mexican food, and is always goes over the top when dressing up for homecoming week. He is also a proud supporter of our football team.

The sophomore mystery star for this month is a member of our varsity boy's basketball team, and he also enjoys running track. On the weekends he hangs out with one of his good friends, **Jordan Ludovissie (10)** and also enjoys playing Play Station 3, as well as trying to attend all of our football games. His favorite restaurant is Olive Garden (which is in fact, one of my very own favorites. Hint, Hint.) When this brown haired, brown eyed boy isn't at basketball after school he is usually working on homework.

Our very own freshman mystery star has brown hair and brown eyes. She is also on the Varsity girls' basketball team as well as the tennis team. If she isn't at basketball practice after school she is usually hanging out with her best friend **Jackie Ponting(9)**. Her favorite place to eat is pizza hut, and she enjoys hanging out with her friends on the weekends.
Last month's Mystery Stars were **Katie Neblett (12)**, **Michael Farmer (11)**, **Lexie Gurrola (10)**, and **Tyler Dennison-Jordan (9)**

What's Your Story?



Hannah Hudson
Business Manager

The randomly chosen freshman for December is **Matthew Dolan (9)**. After school Matthew enjoys playing in the Jazz Band. He is also a member of our awesome Academic Team. He plays the saxophone in concert band. After high school Matthew plans on attending college in hopes of becoming an engineer. When asked which celebrity he would most like to switch places with Matthew replied, "Probably Bill Gates. He's rich." Matthew says he is most like an owl because they are supposed to be smart. If he could be on any reality television show he would most love to be on the "Amazing Race" so he could travel the world.

Our lucky sophomore is **Chris Wadlington (10)**. Chris enjoys playing the guitar and hanging out with his friends on the weekends, and more recently watching our fantastic football team win games on Friday nights. After high school Chris wants to attend either Murray State University or UK to go into architecture. If he could choose any celebrity to switch places with he would definitely choose Brad Pitt; he's got the money and the ladies. He relates most with a bull, probably because his favorite color is red. "A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila" is the one reality show that Chris would love to be on.

Louis Loreda (11) is a junior with a story to tell. On the weekends Louis likes to play video games, hang out with his friends and go to the movies. Once he leaves the halls of Lone Oak High School, he plans to attend college, but still isn't sure where yet. Louis would really like to switch places with David Beckham because he has awesome soccer skills. He says that he is most like a snake because he's sly and can get away with things. (Maybe his teachers won't read this and catch on.) Louis wants to be on "TRL" because he really likes music.

Our special senior friend is **Lyle Dennison-Jordan (12)**. On the weekends and after school Lyle likes to hang out with his friends, go to Energy Fitness, and go to work. Next year, Lyle is planning on attending UK to become either a mechanical or chemical engineer. He would most like to be Stephen Colbert because he wants to put people on notice. Personally, I think Lyle is most like a cuddly capybara. (For those of you who don't know, a capybara is a large semi-aquatic rodent.) When asked which reality television show he would most like to be on, Lyle said, "I Love New York 2." He thinks he could beat out Punk, Tailor Made, and Buddah to win New York's heart.

Photos by: Jeannie Suftehrich

Quiz: Which Flavor of Love / I Love New York Cast Member Are You?

Aaron Megibow
Entertainment Editor

- 1) If you were to live in California, where would you most likely be found?
A) Compton
B) Inglewood
C) 54th & Crenshaw
D) Spendin' Chedda down on Sunset Boulevard
- 2) Which food do you prefer?
A) Hater lots washed down with Haterade
B) A sandwich with an APPLE on BOTTOM
C) I don't eat, I fight!
D) Pate'
- 3) If you lived in a large mansion with many strangers you would:
A) Talk trash and cause drama
B) Be loveable yet stern with your roommates
C) Bust a cap on anyone who crosses your path
D) Talk about how much money you have
- 4) If you were eliminated from a reality show you would react:
A) Rashly, with much shouting and cursing
B) Eliminated?
C) You would punch the security guard escorting you out
D) Politely, with a hug, a kiss, and a flash of your latest D&G purchase.

A's - Chance and Bootz
B's - Deelishis and Tango
C's - Saaphyri and Buddha
D's - Snulke (more commonly known as Leilene) and Tailor Made

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Papa John's Journal: Before and After

Icing on the Cake (Written 11-30-07)

Blake Harrison
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

"We're feelin' good. I'm just glad we finally made it there." A tired and relieved Corey Robinson (12) was happy to say that this team finally has one foot in the door. It's been a long time coming for these players and coaches, and Louisville is no longer a dream, it's reality.

Lone Oak was able to squeak out a last-second victory to punch their ticket for the 4A state title game. With just nine ticks left on the clock, freshman kicker Jack Coorts sent the key to Louisville through the uprights. "It's unbelievable; the most awesome thing ever," Coorts said. "I can only hope for another winning field goal on Saturday."

Minutes before the game got under way, I witnessed possibly the most intensely emotional pre-game experience in the history of high school football. It wasn't because the guys were ready to play or because they were excited to win. Being in that field house meant seeing an entire body of work hitting a team right in the face. As a video rewound a season of triumph, there wasn't a dry eye in the entire building. It was during those last few moments before kick-off that the seniors realized the game they were about to play could be their very last.

Although the stat sheet may tell you we had a conventional night, it was anything but that. Sure, Robinson threw for over five hundred yards again, but it was one man's heart that really stuck out in my mind. The whole team poured out their heart and soul tonight, but senior Corey Hobbs proved to be the go-to man for the Flash. Play after play, he ran through defenders and broke through tackles. More often than not, if a big play was needed, Hobbs got the call. Also a bit unusual, Robinson used his legs to start the game. During the first play from scrimmage, he ran the ball 15 yards for a first down.

Up 21-14 at the half, Lone Oak looked like a team more than able to hold off Warren East in the end. East eventually tied the score at 28, setting up a finish for the history books.

With fewer than five minutes left, Robinson made a costly mistake. A fumble was recovered and taken in for a touchdown that made the score 35-28. In the Flash's next drive, a short TD pass caught by Daniel Edwards (12) knotted the score at 35. The ensuing drive was a testament to Lone Oak's defensive dominance. They forced a three-and-out, and received the ball around the 45 yard line. With 1:42 left, Robinson took control of the team's fate and marched downfield. They had three chances near the goal line for a score, but were unable to break the plane.

The Flash set up for a field goal with just nine seconds left in regulation, and the rest is history. Coorts' attempt proved true and the game was over. Complete mayhem commenced as the Lone Oak student section rushed the field in celebration.

"This doesn't compare to anything I went through in high school. This beats anything I've ever been involved in," rejoiced former Mr. Football, Billy Jack Haskins. When asked for his reaction, man of the night Corey Hobbs said, "I knew God wanted us to win this game. There was too much riding on it. It's surreal--this is unbelievable. You can't put this into words."

The Flash are a team of respect, and that was made evident by their comments on next week's game and opponent. "It feels great. We'll be ready for next week. It's good to know we've got the whole crowd behind us," Dylan Murphy (11) said. Robinson also had some high praise for the team's last obstacle. "They're a really good team; they'll be a tough challenge."

This team has come so far that a loss Saturday would seem like a tiny blip on the radar, but don't tell them that. "I'm looking forward to getting that ring!" Tommy Wilson (12) cried.

Lone Oak has just accomplished something that they have never even come close to doing. Just five or six years ago, Flash fans were hopeful that the football team could put up three or

'It doesn't get any bigger' (Written 12-9-07)

Blake Harrison
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

It all started July 15th. Out in the heat, each of the football players began to work toward their goal of winning the state championship. Eighty-five days, 14 wins, and one crushing defeat later, I think it's safe to say it was a season for the ages.

If you truly believed what you read just moments ago, you understand that the loss to Lexington Catholic was taken in stride. Of course, it would have been nice to come back to Western Kentucky state champs, but like Coach Haskins said before the game, "Once you get this far, there is no loser."

I have a feeling that most of us understood what a challenge Catholic would be. Because of that, expectations were able to be pushed to the side. As one player put it, "We're just happy to be here; it's an honor."

As the team took the field, they were eagerly greeted by roughly 3,000 Lone Oak faithful. Standing on the field while the team warmed up, I found myself in awe of the team's achievements: we were really at Papa John's for the big game.

As they headed into the locker room, I could sense that the team was taking it all in. When they took a knee for the pre-game speech, Coach Haskins reminded them, "It can't get any bigger. You are at the final game." He urged them to "remember how much fun it was to play football as a kid," and told them, "you've earned the right to have fun." I looked around the room, and could see intensity and readiness on the players' faces. For some of them, it would be the last time they would ever put on their gear and play the game they love.

In a final word of preparation, Haskins pleaded with the offensive line. "Give us time to throw the ball, please give us time to throw the ball."

Before we knew it, the scoreboard read: Lex.Cath. 35, Lone Oak 0. The first half proved what recruiting can do for a football team. With their entire first-string and probably second-string Division 1 material, we were no match for Catholic. We pushed as hard as we could all game long, and were finally able to get one on the board with a 49 yard TD pass to Jamarielle Brown (11) late in the fourth. (It should be noted that Brown set the national records for most catches and receiving yards for a single season during the game). On paper, that may look like the only bright spot for Lone Oak, but trust me, losing this game didn't sting too bad. "What can you expect, they're like a college team," one fan said.

For the most part, fans community-wide spent the week re-living this storybook season, and that it was. We saw several national records broken, we set attendance records, win records, and most importantly, we saw our football team take the field as a forceful family all season long.

In time, the disappointment of the loss will wear off. But the heart, determination, and inner-strength displayed by the 2007 Purple Flash will live on for eternity. Those of us lucky enough to witness it need to hang onto it for the rest of our lives.

To borrow the words of defensive coordinator-turned motivational speaker Steve Duncan, "You guys have answered to the man in the mirror all season long."



NFL Playoff Preview

Austin Clark
Sports Editor

With the unlikely success of teams in lower levels of football (Lone Oak) and even at the collegiate level (Kansas, Missouri, Hawaii), people are getting used to upsets and underdogs disrupting predictions as well as their pocket books being emptied on sure wins that went south. However, I am here to let you know that your professional teams won't let you down... at least not all of them.

Yes, this year has been quite predictable. Everyone knew the New England Patriots would excel due to the recent acquisition of wide out Randy Moss. Everyone knew Brett Favre would make a valiant attempt to regain supremacy at the helm of the Green Bay Packers. Everyone knew Peyton Manning would spend more time "out of the pocket" than he would out of the film room, getting ready to defend his Lombardi Trophy he received after winning the super bowl last year. But did we expect these teams to achieve the amount of success they have?

Front Runners

The Packers and their cheese head fans had about given up on the aged Favre, whose red hair now shows spots of grey — that is until he led his team to the top of the NFC North Division with only two losses after 14 weeks of play. Favre has had a record breaking season so far and with only four games remaining, his team looks poised for playoff success.

The Indianapolis Colts have had a great season despite key players being injured. With the nagging injury of Marvin Harrison, Manning has had to rely mainly on receiver Reggie Wayne and jack-of-all-trades tight-end Dallas Clark to pick up the slack. Losses to San Diego and New England mark the only losses for the Colts, but with consistent play from their defense and special teams, the Colts will be there come play off time.

After that humiliating first round loss and ousting of legendary coach Bill Parcells, the Dallas Cowboys had a long uphill battle starting this season. Surprising critics and fans, Terrell Owens has been modest on the field and off, and he is playing top notch football. Tony Romo is putting up solid numbers with 33 TDs and over 3,000 yards passing in 12 games. With a backfield of Julius Jones and Marion Barber III rushing for a combined 1,500 yards, they seem to have all they need for a Super Bowl run.

This year, out of all the teams in the NFL one team comes to mind when you think of efficiency, domination, and perfection, and that is the New England Patriots. They are the team everyone loves to hate. But you cannot deny they are good when they beat the Cowboys, the

team with the best record in the NFC, 48-27. Every area of their team has risen to the occasion, with depth on offense and experience on defense. The Patriots are the team to beat and will be most people's prediction to win it all, including mine.

Spoiler Teams (Wildcard)

Pittsburgh Steelers: With Ben Roethlisberger healthy and playing ball like the Ben we knew before his motorcycle accident less than two years ago, don't be surprised to see the Steelers in the playoffs and upsetting one of the front runners. New head coach Mike Tomlin has done what most thought would be impossible: lead the Steelers to a winning season with a suspect team in his first year. Despite the outcome of the game versus the Patriots, I see the Steelers as a contender for the fourth spot in the AFC Division.

Jacksonville Jaguars: The Jags have the disadvantage of being in the same division as the Colts and Titans, so the thought of them being divisional champs is probably unrealistic. However, stellar play from David Garrard and Maurice Jones-Drew has kept Jacksonville in the playoff hunt. If the two can keep up their fantasy surging plays, as well as solid defense by Mike Peterson and company, the Jaguars should be the catalyst for playoff combustion and keep fans watching until the last week of play to see who gets the final spot in the AFC.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers: Out of all of my predictions, this could be the most risky and potentially devastating pick. The Buccaneers don't have a flashy offense, their defense is getting old and contracts are about up, but they find a way to win. Leadership from former Pro Bowl Quarterback Jeff Garcia has kept the team and Bucs fans believing they can make a winning season and playoff run out of all of the off field transactions occurring. This Tampa team is not the best out of the bunch, but definitely dangerous, and as Lee Cole (12) once told me, "It's better to be lucky than good," and this team has luck.

New York Giants: Over the last couple of years, we've seen Eli Manning make plays giving him a worthy comparison to his older brother Peyton. But then right before our eyes, he would make a bone head play that had us eating our words. Last season, the Giants won five of their first seven games and somehow, they found a way to not win their division and not get to the playoffs. This year however, despite key injuries on defense, the Giants have won eight of their first twelve games and with only four remaining, the likelihood of them losing more than two is not great. The NFC wildcard is clearly theirs to lose, and the outcome could decide Manning's future as a player.

Keith L. White, D.M.D.

Kelvin L. White, D.M.D.

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- Sympathetic Dystrophy
- Myofacial Pain
- Cancer Pain
- Other Conditions