

Jam Master Jean

Monica Spees
Features Editor

January's Junior Rotarian is none other than the fascinating Jeannie Suhrheinrich. When she is not assuming her role as "the best hostess in Paducah" at B. Russell's, Jeannie enjoys dancing, yoga, hiking, volunteering on Saturdays with RecycleNow, and running around with Ally Heine during second hour, participating in activities such as wheelchair races, Fivestar trips, and the general terrorizing of Lone Oak High School as we know it. She also likes hanging out with her two sisters and the rest of her family.

Throughout her school career, Jeannie has been involved in several activities. While she seems to only be mild-mannered Jeannie Suhrheinrich, she has adopted some alter-egos. She attaches to her name the title of Beta Club president, Math Club secretary, involvement in Biology Club, Academic Team, and Future Problem Solvers. Jeannie was selected for the Youth Leadership Institute in the eleventh grade, was a member of the dance team for two years, and has been involved in Backpack-4-Kids.

This fine young lady has not gone this journey alone. Along the way, she has been accompanied by the loves of her life, two dogs named Gracie and Josie, and the fittest cats you will ever see, Peanut and Snickers. Her vehicle of choice is her mom's car, because she's just that cool. She is especially fond of the bumper sticker that bears the phrase, "All people are created equal members of one human family."

When asked if she could be stranded on a desert island with anyone, Jeannie replies, "Either Kyle Oetjen so he could entertain me with his raps and misspeaks, or Zia Choudhury for his killer looks and so we could quote Patton Oswald all day." Sounds like fun! As I'm sure you have noticed, Jeannie has a keen sense of fashion. She says that she most likes to wear anything that goes with one of her sweet pairs of high heels.

Jeannie says that her role model is her mom because "she runs the house all by herself, is fiercely independent, and has amazing stories about being the director of a homeless shelter and food pantry." Jeannie has been blessed with wonderful family members who have supported her in her successful academic career.

After she makes her departure from Lone Oak High School, Jeannie is not quite sure what her plans are, but going to Indiana University, University of Arizona, Louisville, or Vanderbilt are all possibilities. Wherever she goes, the generous Jeannie wants to major in international relations, emphasizing global health. "I'm also applying to be a part of a team that is going to Africa this summer to help in HIV/AIDS communities." That's totally awesome, Jeannie! We wish you well on your admirable endeavor.

Whether she is involved in a project to beautify our community or simply flashing a dazzling smile to her friends, Jeannie remains a caring and an intelligent individual whose selfless attitude and hard work have earned her the well-deserved title of Junior Rotarian.



Photo by Ally Heine

Robinson's a Man of TROY

Blake Harrison
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

After nearly 6,000 yards, 91 touchdown passes, and a championship birth later, quarterback **Corey Robinson (12)** is about to make his college plans official.

After being recruited by an array of schools ranging from UT-Martin to Ole Miss, Robinson plans to sign on the dotted line February sixth to become a Trojan.

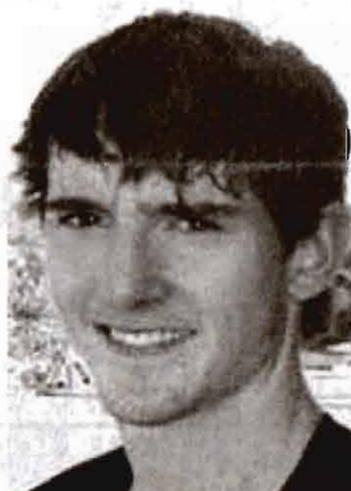
Troy (Alabama) is a Division IA school in the Sunbelt Conference. While they compete for conference titles against teams such as Florida International and Middle Tennessee, you can also find them playing the likes of Georgia and Florida. They will open their 2008-2009 campaign on the road against the National Champions of LSU, and will later make the trip to Columbus, Ohio to face The Ohio State University. Why Robinson you ask?

Corey attended a summer camp on Troy's campus the summer following his junior year. Coaches were so impressed with his throwing ability, they kept close tabs on him throughout his record-breaking season. Although the coach who specifically recruited him left for a job at Auburn, the rest of the staff kept their eyes open.

Robinson alluded to the fact that Troy's use of a spread offense, also utilized by Lone Oak this past season, was a factor in

his decision. "I'm already comfortable with that offense, so that was something that I considered."

Before Christmas break, it appeared as though Corey had his eyes set on Ole Miss, but those plans fell through. "After visiting Troy, I realized that I could really fit in down there. Their football team is like a family. It just felt like a good place." He liked Troy so much, in fact, he didn't bother making a trip to Mississippi.



Picture from mccracken.k12.ky.us

Troy's coaches made it clear that Robinson will get a shot for playing time, and being redshirted his freshman year is a possibility. The QB at the top of the Trojans' depth chart will be a sophomore next season, so Corey should come in with a chance. "The game is a whole lot faster, and I'll need to get stronger and my footwork needs to improve."

Corey will sign a National Letter of Intent on the sixth of February. Troy's offensive coordinator, **Neal Brown**, is expected to be in attendance.

When approached for his reaction to the news, **Coach Haskins** had this to say: "I'm happy for Corey. It was a family decision, and I think he'll get a shot to play early." Haskins has sent numerous players into the college ranks, and it's a great feeling. "Anytime you have an athlete get a full scholarship, you realize they are saving a substantial amount of money."

Primary Focus

Mark Kaltenbach
Features Editor

The primary system is more or less straightforward. It consists basically of a series of votes or caucuses held in each state, with the candidate who wins the most going on to run on the ticket of his or her party.

The current contenders for the Democratic nomination are: Barack Obama, the 46 year old senator from Illinois; Hillary Clinton, the senator from New York and former First Lady; and John Edwards, the former senator from North Carolina and the vice presidential nominee for the Democrats in 2004.

The leading Republican candidates are: Arizona senator John McCain; former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee; former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney; Texas congressman Ron Paul; and Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City.

The first contest for the presidential candidates took place at the Iowa caucuses on January 3, with Obama and Huckabee emerging victorious. Edwards narrowly edged out Clinton for second place. Romney earned the "silver medal" on the Republican side.

The next contest, occurring only five days after the Iowa caucuses, was the primary in New Hampshire. Polls showed Clinton trailing Obama by as many as thirteen percentage points in the days before the vote. However, as the returns began coming in, they showed Clinton maintaining a narrow lead which she never lost. For the Republicans, McCain, whose campaign had been declared dead in the water by most political analysts only months earlier, won a major victory over his chief rival in the state, Mitt Romney.

The next contest for Republicans arrived a few days later in Michigan. Romney, who was born in Michigan and whose father was a popular governor there, won the state. McCain finished second.

The Democratic National Committee

stripped Michigan of its delegates for holding its primary early. As a result, the candidates did not campaign there. Obama and Edwards did not even place their names on the ballot.

The next competition occurred on Saturday, January 19. It was on this date that both parties caucused in Nevada and the Republican South Carolina primary took place.

In Nevada, Clinton and Obama finished first and second, respectively. Romney placed first on the Republican side. Ron Paul finished a distant second.

In the crucial South Carolina primary, John McCain succeeded in besting his Republican rivals.

The Democratic primary in South Carolina took place a week later on January 26. Barack Obama won a stunning victory, garnering approximately 55 percent of the vote. Clinton finished second, Edwards third.

The presidential primaries are far from over. The Republican primary in Florida is set to occur on January 29. A week later, on February 5 or "Super Tuesday", 22 states cast their ballots. With the contests in both parties still far from decided, the February 5 states will undoubtedly prove crucial.

A win for John McCain in Florida, where he is polling neck and neck with Romney, would probably cement his stance as the Republican frontrunner.

Some pundits speculate that a clear Democratic frontrunner may not have emerged even after February 5, and that the race could remain undecided until the Democratic convention. Recent controversy has surrounded some speeches and comments made by former President Bill Clinton.

The presidential race of 2008 is proving to be historic in its sheer competitiveness. With the constant shifts in momentum and the slim margins of victory, the winners could be decided by only a few pivotal votes.

Cheaters Never Prosper

Derek Operle
Co-Sports Editor

Cheating is bad. It's what we've been told since we were little. But what exactly constitutes cheating? Looking off someone else's paper? Plagiarizing? Giving people answers?

"Networking?" The answer is: all of the above. Why do students cheat? To answer this question I interviewed a few students. They responded with a variety of reasons, ranging from their fear of getting a bad grade to laziness to just trying to get it done. These reasons and many more "force" students to cheat their way through high school. It's going on all around you.

I conducted a survey here at LOHS. The question: "How often, if ever, do you cheat on school work?" Listed below the inquiry were the five possible answers: daily, several times a week, several times a month, rarely, and for those special few, never. Over the past month I have asked 500 Lone Oak High School this question so I could get some solid statistics on cheating.

Of the 500 students I surveyed, 15.8% cheat daily, 25.6% said they cheat several times a week, 21.0% cheat several times a month, 32.6% rarely cheat, and 5% never cheat. Do you know what this means? *Ninety-five percent* of the 500 students I surveyed admitted to cheating.

After I gathered these statistics, I showed them to some teachers. Needless to say, they were more disgusted than shocked. Many of them were more worried that 95 percent admitted that they cheat. In the words of **Mr. Armstrong**, "That's a big number." I showed these results to **Mr. Whitley**. After seeing them, he responded, "One could wish we had the pride in ourselves to aspire to our own accomplishments." **Mr. Watwood**, when faced with these statistics, expressed his opinion on cheaters: "Cheating is the epitome of laziness and I think capital punishment should be used on violators." This point of view, though a bit extreme, is the general consensus among teachers on the issue of cheating.

People say cheaters never prosper. It turns out, that's untrue. This survey included many advanced/enriched classes at each grade level. You can't really stop people from cheating, they're going to do it now matter what. It doesn't matter if you assign fill-in-the-blank work sheets or full-fledged essays, it's going to happen.

So, in conclusion, cheating is a problem, an imminent problem that will not be going away anytime soon. Cheating in school leads to cheating in life (cheating on taxes and participating in corrupt activities). Cheating is stealing. When you steal other people's answers, you steal their property. With nearly 100 percent of students cheating, it has become an epidemic.

How can we let this happen?



Kings of the Castle
Page 2



Writer's Block
Page 3



Truly Treasure
Page 4



Golden Globes
Page 5



Which Top Model Are You?
Page 6



Calvinball!
Page 7

The Policymakers of LOHS: Inside the Site Base Council

Ally Heine
News Editor

What most people seem to always overlook or forget about is the importance of having a site base council. Let's be realistic. Most likely, less than five percent of the people in this school honestly know what the site base council is actually for or actually does.

The site base council consists of three faculty members, two parents, and our principal. Mrs. Helmich, Mr. Watwood, Mrs. Jarvis, Jeff Parker, Iftakhar Choudhury, and Ms. Wear are the golden ones that make up the site base council. The site base council allows teachers and parents to elect representatives to make decisions about school policies. When talking to Mr. Watwood about the council and all of its glory, he was asked about what the council has actually changed or come up with for the year of 2008. He stated, "All teachers and council members are serving on committees with specified goals." The site base council actually hopes to have new and updated policies by the end of this school year.

Now that you know somewhat of how the council operates, I know that your next pondering thought is what they actually have to do to create or enforce a policy on the council. In order to do this, a concern is brought to the council. After this, they will discuss it and make it a policy if needed. If it is in fact needed, the policy must be read a total number of two times before the council and then improved. If all of the council members have come to an agreement on the policy, it is ready to be enforced. In order for a policy to actually be enforced it must follow McCracken county board policy and Kentucky department of education.

Now that you know what the council does, and how it does it, I'm sure you are asking yourself why it is important to even have a site base council. First off, a council for schools is required by state and also is the reason for most all policies and/or rules that the school enforces, and most all of them come from the council and their approval.

Furthermore, without the site base council and its wonderful members, our community, our town, and probably our world, would become nothing but a chaotic, horrible mess. Luckily for us, we have the privilege of having a site base council. So here's to you site base council members — thank you for your policy enforcement and rules.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: CHESS CLUB

Mark Kaltenbach
Features Editor

Chess Club. On the back. On the back. On the front. Chess Club. This is my first year as a member of the chess club. I walked in the door on that illustrious first club day and was met with a sight which is often discussed with hushed voices and wary glances but almost never actually viewed: Mr. Whitley, Mr. Jarvis, and Mr. Neel huddled together in the same room. It is impossible to talk about chess club without emphasizing the significance of this triumvirate.

Naturally, I was very nervous about joining the chess club — assuming, based on its three sponsors, that it was just a cover organization for some sort of conservative think tank or right-wing lobby. However, upon the commencement of the meeting, I discovered that it was, for the most part, actually devoted to chess. This is not to say that my experience was totally devoid of political discussion. On the contrary, I have yet to engage in a single game of chess,

my time being primarily spent discussing various issues with Mr. Whitley, my worthy and valiant nemesis. Almost everyone else, however, was playing a chess game.

There was much joy and fanfare, the many children gathered in the room laughing and chatting and generally having a grand time. As I scanned the crowded chemistry lab, I had difficulty finding a single glum face. Certainly there were strained looks of intense focus, the occasional sweaty brow as a player debated some move, but, for the most part, it was all smiles and cheers. That is, of course, until I happened upon the faces of the club's three illustrious leaders. They scanned over the group of students with restrained anguish, seemingly unbelieving that so large a crowd had gathered at their once small, quiet club. Indeed, the numbers within chess club have swelled to a level which rivals any other club in the school.

To summarize, chess club is a refuge for scholars and thinkers; a haven for dreamers and poets; a harbor for leaders and pragmatists; a home for radicals and revolutionaries; a sanctuary for innovators and authors; a place where, despite its conservative leadership, anarchy is held at bay and a feeling of kinship and brotherhood continues to reign.

S. Blair Tolar, MD

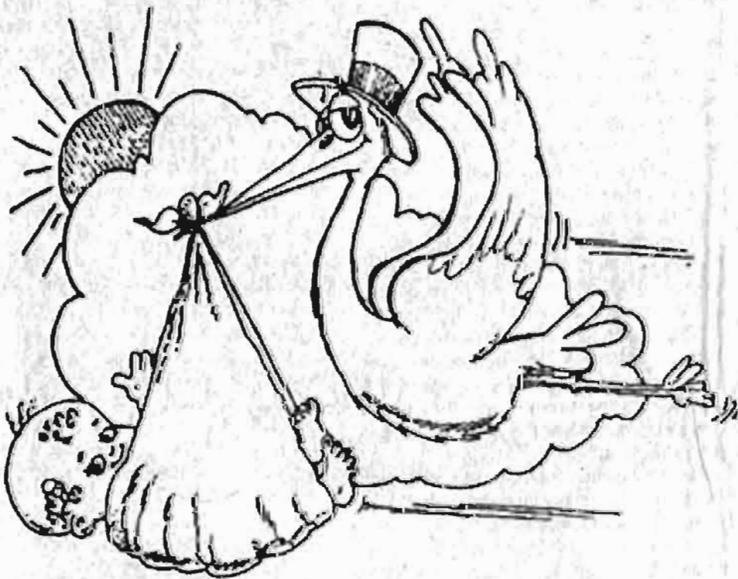
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Austin's Argument

Austin Clark
Sports Editor

At this point in my high school career, no single word can describe the mixture of feelings within me. Nostalgic thoughts on past experiences, as well as the feelings of anxiety and uncertainty on what is to come, fill my mind. In this busy time filled with decisions, a person eventually comes to the reality that an end to this experience is inevitable. Whether or not it was a good one, responses may vary.

Unfortunately, some of us regret things we have been a part of or relationships we have been in. Hopefully you have made peace with yourself and righted your transgressions. For most of us seniors, it is too late for us to make up for the misuse of our time. Since hindsight is 20/20, my warning and potential advice for underclassman is not too late. Personally, after three and a half years of high school and the consistent transitions of relationships, most of the heartache and time spent fretting over friendships is foolish, and it is all I can do not to laugh. However I say "most" relationships because not all have been meaningless. A person can learn from a good relationship as well as a bad one, taking away lessons that will prepare them for future experiences.

On the contrary, meaningless relationships seem to outnumber legitimate ones. If you

take a moment, think about relationships you have had, and think of why exactly you and this person were associated, you will be able to make an assessment. Relationships that are solely based on bad habits have the tendency of leaving both people oblivious to qualities outside of the trivial things that bring them together. As it turns out, the actual habits are the only things that bring them together. All conversations seem to end up being based on experiences at a party, or the only reason you meet up with them later is to engage in undesirable behavior. If you can relate to this, I advise you to rethink your relationship with them. Who wants to walk away from high school saying, "Wow, I spent every weekend for 4 years with that person and never really got to know them."

"...For most of us seniors, it is too late for us to make up for the misuse of our time..."

Underclassmen, choose your crowds wisely. Don't cling to people around you because, whether you like it or not, you will have to say goodbye to most of them after you throw your graduation cap into the air. If you can discipline yourself to where you can have great times with fellow peers and not have to depend on them to make decisions about your future, you should have an easier and more comforting closure to your high school career.

Jeannie's Jargon

Jeannie Suhrheinrich
Photographer

For this month's opinion I tried my best to obtain my view on current events, like politics or something else with equal worldly value. However, there is one issue that overrides such opinions and is all that I can think about lately. That issue is friendship.

I have to wholeheartedly agree with Austin's opinion piece and his view of high school friendship; how it is wise for you underclassmen to choose your companions wisely, based on their character and not on what status they hold at Lone Oak or for the crazy fun things they do on the weekend. It seems I have been on a roller-coaster ride of friendships throughout my four years here, and I realize now that the only ones who have stuck are the ones with the people I admire, who have always remained true to themselves and are unique in every way.

I realize that, as you progress in school, some interests and values are left behind, along with the friends who shared similar values. But I also feel that it is wise to regard these changes with acceptance and to not pass judgment on your previous cohorts. Because let me tell you, when you are judged and mistreated by people you formerly put your trust in, it can be one of the worst feelings you will ever have. It will in turn make you judge yourself and wonder what you have done wrong; it can make you mad with

paranoia. I know that being straight-up honest with someone can feel excruciating (believe me, I have been both the victim and the offender; I am not perfect either), but lying to a friend feels so much worse. I would appreciate a friend's honesty far greater than discovery of a clever white lie, even if it were designed for what I wanted to hear, instead of the blunt truth. I wish we would all take a good look at our friendships:

"...I wish we would all take a good look at our friendships..."

do the people you regard as your friends make you proud of who you are? Do they appreciate you as much as you appreciate them? Or if you really think about it, do they make you feel bad about yourself? Are you constantly vying for their attention and to be included? If so, I desperately urge you to reevaluate your relationships.

So my opinion is this: even though you may never see your high school friends after graduation, that's no excuse to write off your friends for now because they annoy you or are no longer one of your priorities. Realize that accepting the fact that things have changed and addressing the issue head-on is one of the most beneficial things you can do, for you and your friends. Because without friends, life (and high school) is one lonely place and loyalty is one of the most powerful attributes you can have. It all boils down to one lesson we learned long ago: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

AARON WILLIAMS 180°

Aaron Williams
Online Editor

I was perplexed this month when the deadlines rolled around for opinion pieces. I had opinions once, but they seemed to have flown right out of my head. Maybe they went south for winter. So there I was, suffering from that age-old disease known as writer's block. It was like being stranded on a once lush, tropical island that had been devastated by a hurricane and was now barren and fruitless.

I was terrified, and then it hit me. I could write my opinion as a means of support for anyone who has ever gone blank on an assignment. So here are Aaron's tips to making it through a project you are completely lost on. Tip number one: Do NOT panic! Many people have been in the same place you are now. Your train of thought has left the station and you feel all alone. What you don't know is in five minutes another might roll on in, so take a moment to breathe and see if something comes to you when you're completely at ease.

Still nothing? Okay! Here's tip number two: If you are still all alone on that train platform with no steam engines of thought in sight, just start out on your own. People have an unkind name for this type of thinking. They typically call it "BS." I heard somewhere this is an acronym for the delicious treat, "Blueberry Sundae." I don't think that

person knew what they were talking about, but not knowing what you are talking about is something you have in common! So even if you don't know what you're doing or what you're talking about, just start working or typing.

"...suffering from that age-old disease known as writer's block..."

Now you're probably worried that if you do this you won't be able to make it work. That halfway through your blueberry sundae you're going to bog down and be unable to continue forward. This can be slightly horrifying, because then you're sitting with a half-finished load of crap. Don't sweat it, though! Finish it out and see if anything comes of it.

The third tip is the most important: When you've finished your blueberry sundae, take the time to cut and add things to places where they can help your assignment. You will find yourself gaining more and more confidence in your clueless piece as you trim it up. It will be like watching a beautiful butterfly emerge from the cocoon it constructed as a hideous caterpillar.

However, this method should only be used in situations of extreme duress. Do NOT use this as a strategy for every assignment. Tips one and two are only for the assignments you have no clue about, and only when they are breathing down your neck. Solid research and study is always the first resort, but if worse comes to worse, follow the three tips and you'll get it done. Kind of like I just did.

Aaron Asks

Aaron Megibow
Entertainment Editor

They are everywhere. They are wandering our halls and sitting next to you in class. They are the few, the excessively proud, the music snobs. You all know them. They dress in a way they feel is alternative, think in a way they feel is outside the box, and spend all of their time in music's past and its underground, having an allergic reaction to any music which is currently mainstream.

But, what exactly is it about music snobs that is so unnerving? Is it the condescending looks I get from them as I sing along to Rihanna's latest hit? Is it the iPod with a trendy cover that only has music in the "oldies" and "indie" folders? Is it the pretentious aura which permeates every fiber of their being? No. What gets under my skin about music snobs is the fact that they lack the most important spice in life, variety. Adding to this is the perception music snobs have that they are the epitome of variety, and are the saviors to all those "lost" in popular music.

Variety is important on all levels. Where would our nation be without it? Where would we be if we were taught only one subject, fed only one food, allowed only one book to read? That's right, we would be nowhere. We would simply be wandering around with our head in the clouds. And that, my friend, is

exactly what music snobs do. Their level of exclusivity when it comes to music creates a self-induced state of culture lag. This culture lag can often cause an impenetrable barrier to be built between the real world and the music snob world. While in the real world, solo musicians go by their first and/or last names, in the music snob world they go by exotic names which trick you into thinking they are

a band and not a solo artist. How can we break down this barrier? How can we get music snobs to open up?

A music lover's life can be enriched by doing a few simple things. First, go buy a CD of an artist you have never heard of. Second, venture into the Rap/Hip-Hop section (you would be surprised at how poetic rappers such as Jay-Z and Notorious B.I.G. can be).

Third, turn on a radio station other than 100.7. Popular radio stations such as 96.9 and 105.5 aren't all that bad. Sure, the music can get a little repetitive, but that's the case with all radio stations.

So, let's embrace variety. Let's quit living in the past, condemning all that is current. Let's stop living in the underground, mocking all that is popular. Music snobs, don't fear the present! After all, you are living in it.

"... What gets under my skin about music snobs is the fact that they lack the most important spice in life, variety..."

Monica Matters

Monica Spees
Features Editor

In case you haven't noticed, there has been a change in movies and TV shows over the years. Before television arrived on the scene, silent films in black and white appeared at theaters. "The Wizard of Oz" introduced us to the world of color on the silver screen some years later. Not long after that, Clark Gable scandalized the world in "Gone With the Wind" when his character uttered a four-letter word on camera. When console TVs were brought into households across the world, all three channels were flooded with black and white shows about cowboys and happy families. Today, the world is a different place.

We have been blessed with the opportunity to own fifty-seven inch big screen TVs that can get hundreds of channels. But are we really blessed? Looking back over the years, our society has undergone some major changes. These changes have been reflected in television shows and movies. What am I talking about? I'm talking about the stuff we see and hear whenever we watch these shows or movies. Is all this "stuff" really progress in the name of entertainment, or is it just unnecessary crudeness?

I mentioned the late Clark Gable in his role as Rhett Butler in "Gone With the Wind." (For the uncultured out there, it was a pretty big deal in the 1930s when the character of the charismatic actor Clark Gable told his wife that he didn't "give a damn." Except he didn't say "dam." That was the first time a foul word had ever been said in a movie. Yeah, it caused an uproar.) What he said was such a big deal then. Look at us today. A cuss word is not big deal on the tube or in movies. It's not that people are using profanity more these days. People certainly cussed back in the 1930s, but certain lines had been drawn that kept some things out of movies. When the movie-making industry was in its early years, a man once said that movies are not the place for sex, drugs, violence, and profanity. Obviously, his opinion was not a popular one in later years. Subtly over time, these things have slowly been shown to us on TV and at the movie theater. We tried to block it out when it was just minor things. We continued to block it out when the sex, drugs, violence, and profanity became more prominent in the things we watched.

We can't blame the makers of these shows and films for their filth. We have displayed our immunity to such things.

Think about it for a second. Does anything said or done on television or in a movie really shock you? Do you even bat an eye at graphic sexual scenes, intense violence, or continual profanity? Some of you may say, "No, of course not. I'm practically an adult now. I can handle that stuff." Okay. Go out and do all the stuff the well-paid actors and actresses are doing if you're so mature. Oh, and while you're at it, sit around and do nothing. Don't get a job, and just hang out all day talking with your friends. If you do have a job, make sure that it's as dramatic or as adventurous as possible. Get caught up in seven different love triangles and figure out a way to make every person happy at the end of thirty minutes. They do all that on TV, right? So, what's the big deal? What, you can't handle that? My point exactly. The stuff we see on TV and movies is not realistic. We let ourselves believe that it is and find all the abrasive actions and language somehow acceptable or unimportant.

"... Think about it for a second. Does anything said or done on television or in a movie really shock you?..."

Some of you may not care what the content of your favorite show or movie is. Who cares what it's rated, right? Just as long as it's interesting. That's fine if you feel that way. For the rest of you, my guess is that you haven't really thought about this stuff much lately. As I said, we've become immune. I'm not saying that I'm not immune. My parents, who grew up during the time when married couples on sitcoms slept in separate beds, find stuff shown in movies more shocking than I do most of the time. And I'm sure that by the time I have my own kids, I'll probably freak out over the stuff they'll be watching. But, you guessed it, they won't see the problem because they've gotten used to it.

I'm not saying that it's a sin to enjoy television shows or movies that you have to be seven-teen to watch. There are many movies out there with an "R" rating but a good message. What we have to do is recognize the unnecessary profane things when we see them. No, I don't mean ignore them, because we've been doing that long enough. I mean really pay attention to what's going on in that show or movie and realize that it's not realistic, nor is it necessarily right. The values of our world are changing. That doesn't mean we have to change with them.

Sold On Burroughs

Aaron Megibow
Entertainment Editor

QVC and The Home Shopping Network. They both seem like fairly benign entities. After all, how corrupt could a few middle-aged semi-good-looking people presenting fake emerald earrings and robotic vacuum cleaners be? *Sellelevision*, by Augusten Burroughs (author of *Running With Scissors*) explores the secret lives of four fictional characters who work for one of these seemingly harmless television shopping networks.

Sellelevision begins with a thirty-five year old man by the name of Max. After an unfortunate mishap on air, he is fired from his job at a television shopping network. Throughout the novel, Max has issues finding a job, a boyfriend, and a purpose in life. The second character Burroughs follows is Bebe, *Sellelevision*'s star. She has the ability to sell anything in a matter of seconds. After placing a personal ad on the

internet she experiences a whirlwind romance with an owner of a chain of dry cleaning stores which involves trips to Paris, gifts of candy necklaces, and questionable family relations. Peggy Jean, the novel's most interesting character, experiences a great deal of drama from a stalker named Zoe who picks on Peggy Jean's issues with body hair and a masculine voice. Peggy Jean becomes intensely neurotic over this Zoe character, which is what makes the novel interesting. A lesser character in the novel, Trish, experiences a rise in fame due to her complicated affair with the head of the *Sellelevision* network.

This novel is a must read not only for the simple fact that it's by the lovely Augusten Burroughs, but it is full of plot twists. This book doubles as a comedy and a mystery. Every page is full of rich yet twisted humor (a common characteristic of Augusten Burroughs). If you're looking for a great read which gives corruption a comedic twist, pick up *Sellelevision* by Augusten Burroughs.



Image from amazon.com

Slightly Stoopid Review

Patrick Hollowell
Staff Writer

Who ever thought there would be a mix of acoustic rock, blues, reggae, hip hop, and punk all into one band? Well, there is, and they go by the name Slightly Stoopid. The band out of Ocean Beach, California has been around since 1995 and is still releasing quality albums. This relatively unknown band is original and has a style unique from all the mainstream music groups dominating the charts today.

Since the first time I heard the band at the beginning of this school year I've taken the time to listen to all seven of their albums. Every one of their albums is slightly different, yet all portray a soft and mellow mood. This easy-going music is great to listen to after a stressful day at school or just when relaxing with friends. Although not as popular, Slightly Stoopid reminds me of a few very popular bands such as 311 and Sublime. Slightly Stoopid has performed with these groups on several occasions. If you do enjoy these bands I promise you will like Slightly Stoopid.

Slightly Stoopid has produced seven al-

bums which include *Chronchitis*, which was released in August of 2007. Some of their most popular albums include *Closer to the Sun*, my personal favorite, and *Everything You Need*. Some of my favorite songs include "Closer to the Sun," "Collie Man," "Sweet Honey," and "Officer."



Image from amazon.com

The group consists of six members who play a total of eleven instruments. Miles Doughty and Kyle McDonald plays guitar, bass, and sings; Ryan Moran is on the drums; Oguer Ocon (OC) plays congo, drums, harp and also sings; Dela rocks out on the saxophone and C-Money plays the trumpet and keyboard. This variety of instruments is one of the main reasons this group can pull all the different genres into one and make it sound great.

So if you are ever looking for something a little different, throw in a Slightly Stoopid CD and I guarantee you'll enjoy it. They may not be your favorite band, but it would be impossible not to enjoy some of their music. You can preview some of their songs for free at <http://www.myspace.com/stoopid>. This website also gives a list of their winter tour which stops by St. Louis on February 22 at The Pageant.

It's A Treasure

Hannah Hudson
Business Manager

Finally, a decent sequel that actually makes you happy that it was made. Most sequels don't exceed the excitement of the original or leave you snoring, but *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* is an exception. Nicolas Cage is back as treasure hunter Ben Gates. This time Ben is trying to prove the innocence of his great-grand father, Thomas Gates. A scheming Mitch Wilkinson comes forward with one of the eighteen missing pages in a diary. This diary has been passed down from generation to generation in Ben's family starting with his great-grand father. This diary happens to belong to John Wilkes Booth.

Ben's great-grand father is now thought to be a conspirator in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln because his name is found on the same page as Booth's other accomplices. Ben is sure of his great-grand father's innocence and sets out on an adventure to prove it. He is

accompanied by his father Patrick, played by Jon Voigt, his loyal sidekick Riley, played by Justin Bartha, and his "female companion" Abigail, played by Diane Kruger.

Their adventures take them to Buckingham Palace, the White House, Mount Rushmore, and the Library of Congress. At each location at least one law is broken. They kidnap the President of the United States, sneak into the Queen's study and the Oval Office, and steal a book from the Library of Congress, all the while being chased by the police.

I was pleasantly surprised by this movie. I expected another sequel you wished you hadn't seen, but if you see *Book of Secrets* you will not regret it. There is the perfect balance between action, morals, mystery, and romance to keep the audience guessing until the unpredictable end.

The combination of creative writers, directors and producers made a movie that complimented the original, but still set itself apart. This is probably the best sequel I have ever seen.



Image from imdb.com

Before Our Time: Annie Hall

Lee Cole
Entertainment Editor

Fading in from black, the camera focuses on Woody Allen. Behind his famous black rimmed glasses and clad in his trademark tweed, he looks into the camera directly and begins, "There's an old joke. Uh, two elderly women are at a Catskills mountain resort, and one of 'em says: 'Boy, the food at this place is really terrible.' The other one says, 'Yeah, I know, and such ... small portions.' Well, that's essentially how I feel about life. Full of loneliness and misery and suffering and unhappiness, and it's all over much too quickly." With these lines, Woody Allen's classic comedy *Annie Hall* begins.

Released in 1977, *Annie Hall* follows Alvy Singer, played by Allen, and his relationship with Annie Hall, played by Diane Keaton. Coming off the success of his earlier, slapstick comedies and sexual farces that gained him enormous popularity, Woody Allen took his filmmaking in an entirely different direction with *Annie Hall* by including his own philosophies on relationships. The result was a new kind of comedy, with vast influence on filmmaking. *Annie Hall* is greatly autobiographical, and Allen's character is little more than a mirror image of himself. Alvy, like

Allen, is a neurotic, Jewish comedian, who is examining his failed relationship with Annie and his life in general. As he tries to make sense of the breakup, he takes a look at his past relationships, guiding the viewer all along in a number of asides and unique cinematic techniques. In the end, Alvy's conclusion is bittersweet, but the viewer is left with a sense of understanding and insight into the 1970's relationship.

The winner of numerous awards and acclaim, *Annie Hall* is regarded as a landmark in film history, altering the future of American comedy for many years to come. While its style has been copied again and again in countless romantic comedies, no film has ever managed to capture the same sentiments and the same insight. Woody Allen, along with Diane Keaton and her infamous hoysish fashion, secured their places as movie icons, and Allen especially found himself in the pantheon of America's finest directors. But what makes *Annie Hall* so

terrific is the ease in which viewers are able to identify with the characters, and with the common emotions that go along with romantic relationships. Although it comes from a different time and place, Woody Allen's magnum opus should not be missed.

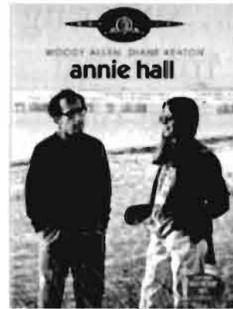


Image from imdb.com

Do-You-Know about Juno?

Lee Cole
Entertainment Editor

This holiday season past, the film *Juno* found unlikely success, winning the hearts of millions and garnering both critical acclaim and over \$70 million in its first month at the box office. It's been tremendously popular amongst America's youth, and it's a prospective candidate for the Oscars. But as I sat in the second row of the theater (every other row was taken up by, presumably, a sea of teenage girls), I couldn't help but feel thoroughly unimpressed.

Juno tells the story of a young girl, played by up-and-comer Ellen Page, who becomes pregnant after having unprotected sex with her friend. She ultimately decides to give the baby up for adoption to a wealthy couple. Michael Cera gives a convincing performance as Juno's boyfriend and Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman offer the film's most impressive performances as the adopted parents. Outside of this, however, I struggle to find any other aspect of the movie that rises above mediocrity.

Ellen Page's character, Juno Macduff, is not only poorly acted, but also gratifyingly annoying. Her one liners, that somehow pass for wit, grow old within the first five minutes. This isn't entirely her fault, though, and much of the blame must go to Diablo Cody, who wrote the screenplay. Before seeing *Juno*, I had read high praise of Cody's sharp wit and droll dialogue, and these notions were only confirmed when the line, "That aint no etch-a-sketch. This is one doodle that can't be undid, homeskillet," came through the speakers. If there was any doubt that what I was

witnessing was comic gold, it vanished completely when Cody included a brilliant allusion to Thundercats.

Aside from this, I failed to see any sort of identifiable theme, any real point to the film. The latter half of the movie is taken up by Juno's ambiguous relationship with the adopted father of her child, which has no real relevance to the main plotline. She tells off the real father at one point, only to take him back later, with little importance to the plot other than, perhaps, going to show her irresponsibility and immaturity in handling every situation, even for a 16 year old. I found it hard to believe, as she carried about in her nonchalant way, that she cared about anyone or anything other than herself, even when she would give in to the few shocking fits of emotion that seemed so forced. And while much of this could be attributed to a poor actor acting against the backdrop of a genuinely talented supporting cast, I found the character of Juno to be ultimately unlikable.

With a terrific ensemble cast (excluding Page) and a talented director (Jason Reitman, *Thankyou for Smoking*), *Juno* should've been good; but it wasn't, because of a poorly acted title character and horrendous writing. It was almost as if Cody made it up as she went, telling herself all along, "As long as I include an indie soundtrack, Napoleon Dynamite-esque credits, and quirky vernacular, people will buy into it." And they did, because people want to be "hip" and "cool." *Juno* tries desperately to seem "hip" and "cool." An anchor on the TV Guide network recently said that *Juno* represented a new generation of teenagers. If this is true, I don't want to be a part of it.



Image from imdb.com



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The Golden Globes

James Summerlin
Editor-in-Chief

So the Golden Globes were cancelled because of the moronic writers' strike. That ticks this entire staff off. I was looking forward to sitting down in front of the TV with the staff and wasting three hours of my life. I must apologize to the staff now. The Globe party is cancelled.

So, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, children of all ages, in protest of the writers' strike, I will host The Oak 'K's first ever awards show, *The Golden Globes*. Except it's not a show and the winners won't get an actual award. We had to cut back because of the budget. Hopefully, after the networks see this, they'll give in so Jay Leno can actually be funny and Conan O'Brien and Dave Letterman can shave. (Maybe Nate will too, but I don't think the writer's strike is keeping his beard going.) The awards show will look back on the best (and mostly worst) of entertainment in 2007. Move over, Oscars. The real awards show is here.

Best Actor: Keanu Reeves — He's never going to actually get a real award. For anything. This one is just to make him feel better. He didn't even act in anything this year. What better reason to give the award to him when he's not making trash like *The Lake House*.

Worst Actor: Eddie Murphy — Yes, we all know you were in the very successful *Dreamgirls*. But if you release *Norbit* at the same time, you can't be taken seriously. Period. Eddie, you were great on Saturday Night Live. But please, stop. Now.

Best Actress: Samantha Neville — No one displayed a sense of fear, courage, and other characteristics better than the dog from *I Am Legend*. Seriously. She didn't stutter through any of her lines. Her magnificent performance impacted the entire entertainment industry. Hold on. Are dogs eligible? Didn't stop Lassie, did it? The verdict is in: Samantha wins hands down.

Worst Actress: Lindsey Lohan — Ever since *The Parent Trap*, Lindsey Lohan told the world she couldn't act. And yet she keeps getting called back for roles. *I Know Who Killed Me*

got nominated for an astounding nine Razzies (awards for the worst movies of the year). Maybe she should have taken lessons from Samantha.

Best Movie Soundtrack Above 200 MHz: Alvin and the Chipmunks — We never get to hear many albums by half-clothed, computer-generated rodents (and there's an obvious reason why), but when we see work like this we must recognize it for what it is: a total waste of time. But because it's the only album in this category, the inaudible recording of "Funktown" wins the award.

Feel-Good Movie of the Year: I Am Legend — Nothing spoke to me more than the excellent directing and inspirational script of *I Am Legend*. My emotions have never gone so high since I watched *Rocky IV*. Then again, wouldn't it be cool if Sylvester Stallone played Robert Neville? Dude, a combination of Rambo and Rocky would make a totally awesome character for the last man on earth. I mean, did you see Sly in that new Rambo? Now there's a "last man on earth" character for you.

Best Ensemble Cast: Delta Farce — This world needs more Larry the Cable Guy. Yeah, I said it. When Delta Farce came out, people camped outside the theaters with the occasional tree stand for this masterpiece. Chants of "Git-R-Done!" and "Here's Your Sign" filled America. Who knows why there wasn't any Oscar buzz?

There you go, folks. The first ever Golden Globes Awards Ceremony was a success. The stars came out tonight (and they probably won't come out again). It was an emotional night for both the winners and the losers (Joan Rivers hasn't stopped smiling yet). Hopefully, the writers' strike ends before the next awards show so there won't be another cheesy attempt at poking fun at an awards show. See you next year!

I ♥ 2007: The Year In Review

Aaron Megibow
Entertainment Editor

- Rehab became the most popular drug.
- Tyra Banks and Jennifer Love-Hewitt were proud of their bathing suit bodies.
- For the first time in eight years, a Clinton was in more political cartoons than a Bush.
- Imus learned not to mess with minorities in the morning.
- Donald wished he could have fired Rosie.
- Ellen had a nervous breakdown because of a dog.
- Britney & Jamie Lynn Spears now have a lot more in common.
- Nicole Richie couldn't remember which side of the highway to drive on... and then she got pregnant.
- Rihanna told us to use umbrellas in the rain, and to just shut up and drive in the car.

- Perez Hilton became the new Joan Rivers.
- Movie sequels became summer blockbusters.
- Jessica Simpson broke it off with John Mayer.
- Tila Tequila almost fell in love with a firefighting lesbian.
- Ted Haggard showed his congregation why you shouldn't use meth and hire "escorts"
- People all over America admitted that Anderson Cooper has got it going on!
- The writers' strike affected everyone.
- Tiffany "New York" Polard picked the perfect wife, Taylor Made.
- Jordan Sparks put you on her heart just like a tattoo.
- Pageant Place showed us that beauty queens really are as ditzy as they seem.
- Paris showed us that you can get out of jail if you have a rash (but then you get put right back in)

- Brett Michaels' "Rock of Love" made Flava Flav's "Flavor of Love" look classy.
- America's Next Top Model marathons proved to be a fan favorite.
- The Lohan family finally reunited.
- Kim Kardashian got her own show because of a naughty home video and her impressive rump.
- You were surprised when you found out that K-Fed was the more "fit" parent.
- Saaphyri showed us that you can be from 54th n Crenshaw and still graduate Charm School (and then come out with your own line of lip chap and hair weaves)
- CNN covered the election like it was 2008

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Free Association

Hannah Hudson
Business Manager

	Brittany Spears	Caucus	New Year's	Winter
Natalie Tavernaro (9)	Rehab	Oh, God! Not Hilary!	Party!	Boring
Alex McKinney (11)	Overdose	Iowa	YEY!	Snow
Taylor Ryan (11)	Drugs	Huh?	Rock out!	No school
Mrs. Sprunger	Sad	Awesome	Sleeping	Long

MYSTERY STARS



Derek Operle
Co-Sports Editor

This month's senior mystery star is a self-declared rapper and master of "urban poetry." Along with free styling, his hobbies include running his own lawn mowing business (which has been going strong since 2004), watching the Office, and participating in his multiple extracurricular activities (Academic Team, Band, and Beta Club). Can you guess this mystery star?

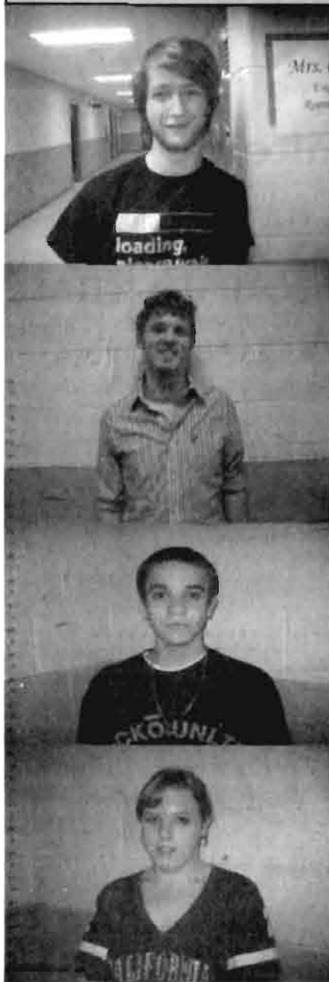
Our junior mystery star is truly a "jill of all trades." She plays two instruments (accordion and harmonica), is a master of origami, and is an excellent tennis player. Along with the aforementioned activities, she also enjoys spending time with her six Webkinz, collecting teddy bears, and listening to her Spice Girls CDs. Can you guess this mystery star?

The sophomore mystery star is a twin. Intriguing, you say. Well not near as intriguing as her list of hobbies, which includes shopping, finding practical applications for her favorite color (mustard yellow), making nachos, and playing her favorite board games (Apples to Apples and Yahtzee). She likes to buy seasons of her favorite TV shows (Dawson's Creek, the Gilmore Girls, and the Office) and watch them in marathons. She also enjoys watching her favorite classic movies ("the Shining" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"). Can you guess this mystery star?

January's freshman mystery star is an outstanding athlete. He participates in cross country, track, and baseball. When he's not playing sports, he spends his time reading the Harry Potter series and watching the Pirates of the Caribbean movies. He also enjoys watching his favorite hockey team, the Nashville Predators, play on TV.

December's Mystery Stars: Kady Cavanah (12), Josh Dolan (11), Clayton Isenberg (10), and Kylie Tillet (9)

What's Your Story?



Jeannie Suhrheinrich
Photographer

January's featured senior is Jeff Reeder, a daredevil who survived a daring escapade with a Dodge truck last October. Jeff is also a musician, having taught himself how to play the piano and having participated in All State choir. His musical interests include classical tracks (mostly Beethoven and Mozart), Atreyu and Sevenfold. When Jeff's not skateboarding or playing PS2, he's watching Monty Python and the Holy Grail, A Clockwork Orange or Shawn of the Dead; some of his favorite movies. Thanks to his love for French class, Jeff's future plans and goals include being a French or music teacher and making at least one trip to the beautiful country.

Zach Hughes is the lucky junior to be selected for What's Your Story at the beginning of 2008. Zach is the perfect example of a good student as an Eagle Scout who enjoys rigorous classes like AP Chemistry and AP World History. You can often see him drumming, playing video games or hanging out with his friends. His favorite musical artists are Pink Floyd and Rush, while his favorite TV shows are Scrubs and Family Guy and he displays superb taste with his love of his movies Eastern Promises and Sin City. After high school, Zach is entertaining the idea of going to UK and hopes to be a pharmacist or doctor.

Keep an eye out for this outstanding sophomore, Koty Wilkins. Although he may not stand tall at 5'1, Koty earns respect with his sharp manners and love for the arts in his Arts and Humanities class. He enjoys playing basketball and listening to Lil' Wayne, and if he's ever stationary you can be sure he's watching Aladdin or Antz, his movies of choice. His dream job? A police officer or manager of the year at Burger King.

Courtney Clark is a beautiful freshman who among other things enjoys spending time with friends and family, especially her nieces and nephews. She loves to listen to rap and hip-hop music and loves to watch the Real World (and who doesn't?). Courtney's love for math class will likely take her far, along with her goals to attend a stellar college and earn a respectable and high-paying job. So watch out for this girl, she could just be your boss one day!

Aaron Megibow
Entertainment Editor

Quiz: Which Top Model Are You?

- How would you dress for a first date?
 - Lots of loud clothes with plenty of cleavage.
 - A mod ensemble with black and white stripes.
 - A hair weave and a nice dress cinched at the waist.
 - A bra and panties from Victoria's Secret (and nothing else)
- Your signature walk involves:
 - Being outrageous
 - Elegance and sophistication
 - Being FIERCE
 - South American attitude!
- Your ideal photo shoot would be:
 - The Surreal Life
 - A plain black and white photo shoot
 - A bathing suit shoot with hunched shoulders and twisted legs
 - A tropical shoot with Leonardo DiCaprio
- Your motto is:
 - Anything loud and profane.
 - Keep it plain, simple, and retro.
 - Be FIERCE!
 - Hey, check out my Brazillian accent!

Mostly A's- Janice Dickinson
Mostly B's- Twiggy
Mostly C's- Tyra Banks
Mostly D's- Giselle Bundchen

Photos by Jeannie Suhrheinrich

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Obscure Sports Monthly: Calvinball

Brick Green
Coroner

One faithful day, when I was but a wee lad, a copy of the Sunday newspaper was lying on the coffee table in my family's living room. On first sight I snatched it up and quickly tore through it to find the only section that really matters (at least to an elementary-aged kid), the comics section. My personal favorite was the Calvin and Hobbes strip. I was always fascinated by the imaginary world painted by Calvin, with Hobbes by his side. My only wish was that I could play in that imaginary world. Well my wish has finally come true with Calvinball.

Calvinball is a game played with any amount of people and with any rules you can think of. So, basically, you get to do whatever you want, whenever you want. Actually there is one rule that must be kept and it's that every person involved in the game must wear a Calvinball mask and no one questions the mask. A Calvinball mask is what I call a

"raccoon mask." It's a black piece of cloth with slits cut out for your eyes. This is completely essential and unnecessary to the game.

The elements of Calvinball that make it worthy enough to be featured as this month's obscure sport are the "rules," or the way the rules are essential but ineffective to the game. So the official rules are as follows:

Any player may declare a new rule at any point in the game. The player may do this audibly or silently depending on what zone the player is in.

A player may use the Calvinball in any way the player sees fit, from casual injury to self-reward.

Any penalty legislation may be in the form of pain, embarrassment, or any other abatement the rule deems fit to impose on his opponent.

The Calvinball field should consist of areas, or zones, which are governed by a set of rules declared spontaneously and inconsistently by players. Zones may appear and disappear as often and wherever the player decides. Zones are often named for their effect.

For example, a corollary zone would enable a player to make a corollary to any rule that has been, will be, or might be declared. A pernicious poem place would require the intruder to do what the name implies. Or an opposite zone would enable a player to declare reverse playability on the others.

Flags shall be named by players whom shall also assign the power and rules which shall govern that flag for that particular moment in that particular game.

Songs are an integral part of Calvinball and verses must be sung spontaneously through the game when randomly assigned events occur. These random events will be named and pointed out after the player causes the event.

Score may be kept or disregarded. In the event that score is kept, it shall have no bearing on the game nor shall it have any logical consistency to it. (Legal scores include 'Q to 12', 'BW-109 to YU-34,' and 'Nosebleed to Trousers'.)

Any rule above is carried out during the course of the game may never be used again

in the event that it causes the same result as a previous game. Calvinball games may never be played the same way twice.

To make it easier to follow rule number nine, although you don't have to abide by it at all, there have been different types of equipment suggested for use. In addition to this equipment you may come up with anything else you would want to use. The equipment includes the following:

Ball - A Calvinball may be a soccer ball, volleyball, or any other reasonable or unreasonable, spherical or non-spherical object.

Calvinball field - The Calvinball field should be any well-sized field, preferably with rocks, grass, creeks, and other natural hindrances to health.

So now the world knows Calvinball in all its glory. This is truly one of my favorite obscure sports featured yet and I hope to see it being played in schoolyards and backyards and any other yards forever. Or at least I hope that someone will make a Facebook group about it.

Boston's Triple Threat

Austin Clark
Sports Editor

Never in the history of professional sports has a city had the opportunity to hold titles in the three most significant American sports in the same year, until now. This year Boston is the city to be from, or at least to be rooting for. Earlier in '07 the Boston Red Sox crushed this year's Cinderella story of sorts, the Colorado Rockies, in four games. After baseball was finished, we as fans moved on to football and watched history unfold before our eyes. The New England Patriots became the first team in NFL history to go 16-0 and the second team ever to finish the season undefeated ('72 Dolphins). The Patriots will make their fourth appearance in a Super Bowl in the last seven years and, with a win, will be without a doubt the newest dynasty in professional football.

The season going full force now is basketball, of course, and despite diminishing ratings over the past few years, fans now have something to root for and follow into the NBA playoffs coming in April. People have been bored with the increase in salary/decrease in shot percentage trend of professional players who in general, have lost the incentive to actually achieve something greater than an all-star bid or a multimillion dollar signing bonus. But this past year, something amazing happened. Boston's leader and backbone, Paul Pierce, got some much-

needed help. At the trade deadline, Seattle sharpshooter Ray Allen was traded to the Celtics, followed by possibly one of the most important trades in NBA history. This past off-season, the Boston Celtics acquired one of the most explosive big men in Kevin Garnett. Garnett almost single-handedly took his Timberwolves to the NBA finals in '03 but fell to the Lakers, who eventually won the title that year. Garnett has brought leadership and sparked a fire that has stormed the league. Not since the glory days of Byrd, Parrish, and McHale, has a Celtic team clicked so easily. Both Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen are going to the All Star game in New Orleans, Garnett receiving more votes than any player on the ballot and even being considered for league MVP. The Boston Celtics were off to a 34-8 as of January 28. Not since the 1996 Chicago Bulls won the title has a team started off that well.

Regardless if you are a fan of the Celtics, people like to see unprecedented things occur and this certainly meets that criterion. In 1979, Pittsburgh held the World Series Title and also the Super Bowl title, but never has a city held all three titles in the same year. If the Patriots can win this weekend and the Celtics continue their dominance, be prepared to see a single city, Boston, at the epicenter of sports as we know it.

Flash Basketball Update

Blake Harrison
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

After such a storybook football season, playing basketball was one of the last things Lone Oak fans thought about. However, time waits for nobody and basketball season started quicker than we knew it.

The guys' team, led by a handful of seniors, took time to adjust, and struggled in the early going. With twelve players committed to football and basketball, it was hard to find time to get in the gym. The first two weeks of games were played without them, and Christmas break brought on a slew of games in a short amount of time. Over the break, they were able to play high quality teams that presented a challenge. Those experiences will benefit the team in the long run. "Playing some of the best teams in the state prepared us for the road ahead," commented Coach Poore. He pointed to team depth as a major strength, and he said he was pleased with the contributions of each player.

Beginning with a win over Reidland on January 11, the Flash have proceeded to roll to a 4-0 record within the district. They soundly beat Reidland twice, came out victorious at Heath, and beat Tilghman, thanks to a thunderous rejection by Jamarielle Brown (11). That emotional home victory should propel Lone Oak toward finishing off the regular season strong. The region is absolutely wide open, and is up for the taking. If

we can put up a strong showing in the district tournament, we will be in great shape when the region tournament rolls around. At this stage in the season, there's no way I would put my money against this team.

The Lady Flash have fewer seniors, and rely on their youth as well as veteran leadership. They began the season with a big win in overtime against Hickman, but have struggled to win on a consistent basis. Coach Mungle seemed optimistic when asked about the team's strengths and weaknesses. "If we start rebounding the ball better and can get consistent scoring, we'll be in great shape." He referred to the team's ability to penetrate to the basket and be aggressive as strong points.

Junior Gabby Fellows, who leads the team with nearly ten rebounds per contest, is top ten in the region. Point guard Ally Heine (11) is tops on the team in both scoring and assists, and is in the top 20 in the region in each category. Senior Ashley Williford leads the team in blocks and shot percentage.

The Lady Flash are currently 2-2 in the district, and will have the opportunity to better their chances for a higher seed. Two district games remain, and with wins, the girls could definitely be major players in time for the district tournament. They got a big morale booster on January 26, when they were able to beat Reidland by two points in overtime. With that win, they showed signs of determination and resilience. A number one or two seed is a distinct possibility going forward.



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