

A look inside *The Oak* "K"

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Thanks for Reading!

## Probable donation would open engineering doors

**Blake Harrison**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

With an updated 21<sup>st</sup> century county school in sight, Lone Oak High School is exploring opportunities to increase student elective classes. Thanks to a very generous community member, an engineering program was presented to the SBDM January 20th to help LOHS take the "lead" in the McCracken County School District in offering new and exciting courses for its students.

Project Lead the Way, by definition, "centers on developing better problem solving skills by immersing students in real-world engineering problems." It was this program, which is currently being utilized in both Trigg and Marshall Counties, that inspired an unnamed member of our community to offer enough money to purchase all of the equipment needed to start a chapter at LOHS.

It was after hearing of this offer that **Principal Brian Harper** met with Bill Murphy, who is Director of the UK Engineering Program at WKCTC to learn about the training that is required to be eligible to teach the first phase of PLTW, "Introduction to Engineering." In order

to be prepared to teach this course, a two week program must be taken.

There are a number of courses that follow "Introduction..." and depending on interest and enrollment in the first year course, the engineering program should take off.

Harper stressed the need for engineers nation-wide as a key to getting this program started. "Having Project Lead the Way instilled in our school would afford students the opportunity to experience the field before making decisions concerning college majors and things of that nature. It is important to begin developing an interest in engineering before reaching the college level."

Not only would the program benefit students beginning next school year, but starting it this early would allow administration to learn techniques that work and don't work, as well as provide information on how many students show interest in the program as they plan for the future.

Nothing is set in stone as of today, but if all goes according to plan, Lone Oak High School should be able to boast our district's first engineering program. If the program proves to be successful, nothing should stand in the way of having Project Lead the Way in the consolidated county school.

## Obama takes office

**Rachel Lundberg**  
*News Editor*



Photo courtesy The Associated Press

The January 20 inauguration of Barack Obama was a significant one for many reasons. As the first African American to ever be elected president of the United States, Obama's inauguration was a sign to many that America has passed a social milestone, and

Washington, D.C. met with massive crowds, eager spectators to what may turn out to be *the* event of 2009.

With over a million people in attendance, Obama's inauguration ceremony was the was one of the largest in history, along with the crowd of 1.2 million in the 1965 inauguration of Lyndon B. Johnson and the 1 million assembled in the snow for Kennedy in 1961. Tickets for this popular event, though distributed free by congressmen, ended up on eBay—some selling for as much as \$40,000 apiece.

"We think it's absolutely insane to be selling those tickets, said Howard Gantman, staff director of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. While not illegal, the ticket selling was strongly discouraged, and judging by the response from other Committee members, it may become illegal in the future. Along with the spectators, security was extremely tight, with over 150 "intel teams" from 57 different government agencies, 8,000 police officers, 5,000 professional soldiers, thousands of National Guard members, and sharpshooters posted all throughout the area. The inauguration was dubbed a "National Special Security Event," and was certainly treated as such.

The cost of the ceremony, an estimated \$160 million dollars, was another record-breaker. However, it was not, as so many news sites were quick to claim, four times the expense of Bush's 2005 ceremony. This comparison is based on the approximated \$42.7 million for the swearing-in and the following social activities, while Obama's \$160 million figure includes security costs. Bush's expenses, including security, are calculated to be about \$157 million. Fixed statistics of the lower media sources aside, it appears that there's not so much a difference in cost after all. Nevertheless, some critics believe that, in light of our current economic condition, a bit more restraint would have been prudent.

As to whether the proceedings lived up to the attendee's expectations or not, responses are somewhat varied. Only about 45%, according to a survey by msn.com, were greatly impressed by Barack Obama's address. Elizabeth Alexander's poem, "Praise Song for the Day," surprisingly enough, was met with mixed reactions as well. One of the ceremony's more memorable moments, of course, came at the end of Joseph Lowery's discursive and somewhat muddled benediction, as he made rhymes relating to the colors associated with various races. No doubt those will become something of a meme in the days to come.

Will January 20, 2009 become one of the more memorable of the generation? Many seem to think so. How will we look back on it from the other side of Barack Obama's presidential term? That's a bit more difficult to say.

## Distinguished David

**Aaron Williams**  
*News Editor*

January's Junior Rotarian needs no introduction. He is the man who has done it all. He is the one who brought back the Rubik's cube. He is one of the few truly beautiful people that make a hoody and warm-up pants look hot. He is *David freakin' Spencer.*

Where to begin? David has done a lot during his time

here at Lone Oak High School. Early on, little David was marked for success. He was part of the Duke TIP Program in seventh grade and the recipient of the Norma Doyle Citizenship Award in the eighth grade. Now a senior in high school, big David has more than padded his resume for college, boasting a 4.0 GPA, number one in his class. David also boasts an impressive 33 ACT score that includes a staggering 36 on the math portion. Over the summer, David attended Morehead State University for the Governor's Scholar Program as one of our school's highly qualified representatives. He is a Commended Student of National Merit and an AP Scholar. No wonder he was voted "Most Likely to Succeed" by his senior class!

Some suggest that David's brilliant performance in mathematics provides credibility to the rumor that he is a robot. "David is a funky, brainiac, running machine that I like to cuddle with," says long time friend **Nick Jacobs (12)**. Critics need look no further than David's volunteer service record to see he does indeed have a big heart which makes him, at most, only a cyborg. David has earned the honor of Eagle Scout through hours devoted to community service. In addition, he helped out Mr. Whitley by tutoring Chemistry I students last year and has also given up his time to assist with the March of Dimes Benefit Auction for three consecutive years.

David is an invaluable asset to our Academic Team and Future Problem Solving Team here at LOHS. Mr. Spencer also marched for the Kentucky Colonel Marching Band his freshman and sophomore years before choosing to pursue his music career in a different way. He chose to release his solo album 'Love Like a Symphony', which can be found on iTunes. Alright, that is not the same David Spencer. That is an elaborate story meant to make David sound way cool, as if I needed to. He has already practically done everything but release a solo album on iTunes.

David is not your typical genius. He's also amazing at sports and excels in athletics here at LOHS. This kid is all about some soccer. David was a member of our varsity soccer team all four years, a co-captain his senior year. In addition, he has played for the Jackson Purchase Futbol Club (JPFC) and currently plays for the Paducah Storm Soccer Team. He also plays on multiple indoor soccer teams, just for funsies.

David is also a talented runner, this I can vouch for myself, as I have proudly run alongside David for three years. David was a member and captain of the cross country team and also currently captains the boys track team alongside Justin Jackson. I will always be thankful for having David as my running partner to ask important questions to on longs runs, such as: "Why do we do this again?"

While unsure what campus he will arrive at next fall, David does know that he wants to pursue a career in chemical engineering. David could do whatever he wanted and still be successful. We wish him the best in everything he aspires to do.

01000111011011110110111101100100001000000100110001110101011000110110101100100001  
That's "Good Luck!" in binary code, David. Just, you know, in case you really ARE a robot or something.

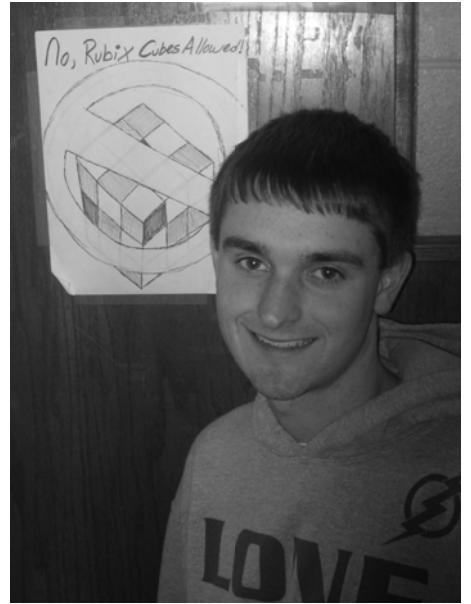


Photo courtesy Haleigh Fellows

## Citizen Pham



Luan Pham, seen above, is a beloved member of this year's graduating class. Surprisingly, he just recently became an official citizen of the United States.

See *Pham* Page 2

## Stay Safe On Snow Days

**Haleigh Fellows**  
Photographer

An unexpected, but well-welcomed gift (or at least by those who can still enjoy a day away from overcrowded hallways and boring lectures) struck the Western Kentucky area, abruptly shutting the McCracken County School System down for a shocking three days. For a usually warmer, southern climate this type of event is unheard of, and usually sends a wave of panic throughout the families across the region. Ice storms may result in joyful cries of cheer from the youth, but arouse disgruntled snorts of annoyance and worry from those wiser than ourselves.

The temperatures have reached record-breaking lows this harsh, winter season, and hit well below freezing on several occasions. One step out your front door and you are blasted with icy winds that instantly numb your body, making you hurriedly gravitate toward the toasty heater awaiting you in your car. This extreme weather is surprising, yes, but should definitely not be taken lightly. Icy conditions bring about a series of potentially dangerous complications that should be met with careful precautions.

Of course, it would be best advised and preferred that you snuggle up on the couch with a mug of steaming hot chocolate all day, but if you are to leave the confinements of your own home and venture out on the slick roads, make you sure you are prepared properly. First and foremost, **BUNDLE UP**. Drag out those forgotten heavy, winter parkas, woolen mittens, and knitted scarves. Maybe even throw on a sock toboggan or some ear muffs, if you are already cold-natured. All of these accessories will keep your body well insulated in case of a slip off the ice, and you were forced to wait for an extended period of time. Secondly, if you are fortunate enough to own a cellular device, **BRING IT WITH YOU**. This way you can easily contact someone if you were involved in a dangerous situation. Thirdly and perhaps most importantly, **DRIVE CAREFULLY!** Icy roads are not ones to be attacked by your inner-daredevil. Drive abnormally slow and keep a firm, steady grip on the wheel for better control. All of these precautions should ensure increased safety in case of unexpected weather.

With about a month and a half of the winter season left, prepare for this incident to reoccur in the near future, especially if these unnaturally cold temperatures persist. Just remember to take these three, simple safety measures and the wrinkles on your parent's foreheads shall slightly relax and their stomachs should be a little less queasy on these icy days.

## Blagojevich Scandal Causes Stir

**Aaron Williams**  
News Editor

The circus act known as the Rod Blagojevich scandal is now spiraling well into January. Since December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the media and the state of Illinois have been in frenzy over the charges brought up against Illinois Democratic Governor Rod Blagojevich. Mr. Blagojevich stands accused of attempting to sell the empty Illinois Senate seat left by President Barack Obama. He is formally charged with conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and solicitation of bribery.

The initial charges brought against Blagojevich by a federal prosecutor are only part of this full-blown, media covered scandal. Upon being indicted alongside his Chief of Staff, John Harris, Blagojevich simply elected former Illinois state Attorney General Roland Burris to the office of Senator. Blagojevich's appointment of Burris only dumped more fuel on the fire and led to further investigation from federal authorities worried that Burris and Blagojevich's offices might have had some sort of contact during the time of the crime.

Initially Burris was not allowed into the Senate, with Senate majority leader, Harry Reid stating no appointment made by the corrupt Illinois governor would be approved. Recently however, Burris has been embraced by the Senate after its refusal created outrage among those who backed Burris' nomination.

Rounding off the Blagojevich fiasco is his recent impeachment by the Illinois State Senate. Blagojevich is the only Illinois governor to ever be impeached, though the state has a long history of being corrupt and using back-hand politics. Blagojevich remains confident that his impeachment will go no further. He has, at the time of this article, yet to be indicted on any charges though his trial proceedings should soon be under way if they aren't already. He claims it is all political maneuvering.

Illinois legislators state the Blagojevich trial will not be a criminal proceeding. The trial in the Illinois State Senate will seek to determine whether the governor abused his power during his time in office and in addition to the charges already against him will try him on his unauthorized expansion of health care.

Further investigation into Blagojevich is warranted and may yet uncover more involved in his senate seat conspiracy.

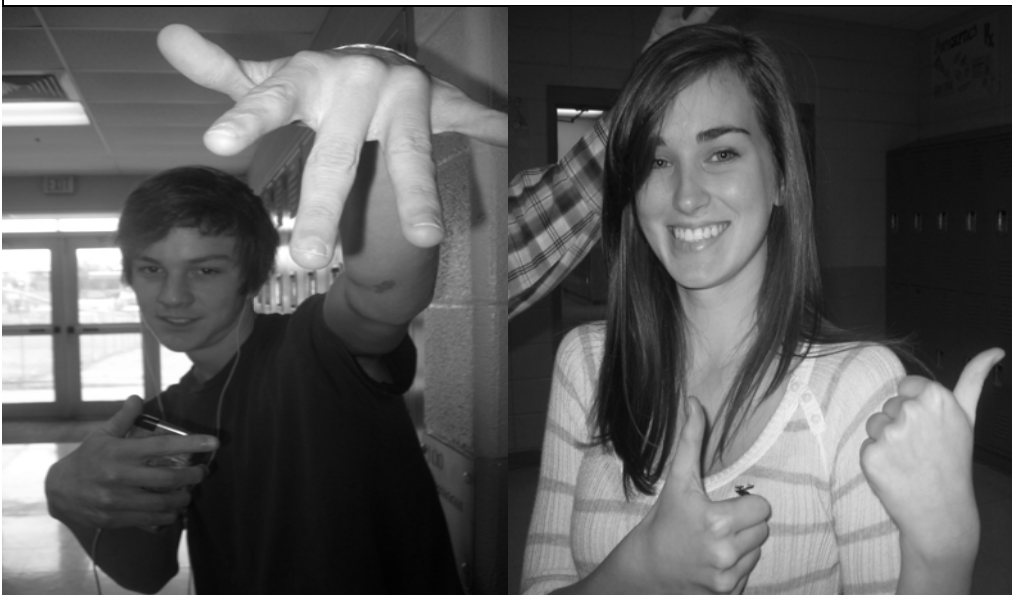
## Lone Oak Artists Recognized at Yeiser

**Rachel Lundberg**  
News Editor

Two Lone Oak Art III students, **Shanden Simmons (11)**, and **Morgan Jenny (11)**, won Award of Merit honors in the Teen Spirit Art Competition at the Yeiser Art Center in downtown Paducah on January 11. Shanden won the award for his white charcoal drawing, "The Boondock Saints." His scratchboard piece, "The Lion," also made the show. Morgan Jenny's winning piece was an ink drawing entitled "Tiny Dancers." "Stitve Castle," an aluminum engraving, also made the show.

Of the 400+ entries submitted to the show, Lone Oak students had twelve works selected for exhibition. In addition to Shanden and Morgan, six others made the show: **Chris Waddington, Katie Followell, Martha Bailey, Amber Langston, Elizabeth Johnson, and Spenser Price.**

Photos by Haleigh Fellows



**Shanden Simmons (11)** is dancing in celebration of his award.

**Morgan Jenny (11)** gives two thumbs way up!

## Pham cont.

**Derek Operle**  
Entertainment Editor

**Luan Pham**, a senior here at Lone Oak High School, is now a proud member of the United States citizenry. That's right, our homecoming king, Luan "King" Cong Pham, after residing in the good old U.S. of A for nine years, is a citizen.

Luan has resided here in Paducah since moving here from Vietnam at the age of eight. He achieved his citizenship through the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, which allows a non-US citizen child (person under the age of eighteen) to become a citizen if they have one parent that has achieved citizenship, either by birth or naturalization.

"The paper work is worst part...there's a lot of it...a lot a lot." That's what Luan had to say about the process of becoming a citizen. The whole thing took a while and he's just glad that it's over.

Now that he's a citizen, Luan has formed several opinions about his new home country. For instance, when asked what he thought was the weirdest about living in the United States, he responded, "that dogs come in bundles of eight...hot dogs that is." Luan really is quite the character, along with commenting on what he thought was weirdest, he said, "I can now travel easier because of my citizenship." That's no lie; having U.S. citizenship certainly makes crossing borders a bit easier.

Luan is now a happy citizen of our country, and we're proud to add him count him in our population. So the next time you see Luan, tell him *danh từ* (English: Congratulations!).

**Keith L. White, D.M.D.**

**Kelvin L. White, D.M.D.**

**Greg C. Goodman, D.M.D.**

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# ANDREW'S ANALYSIS

**“The Swiss god of tennis, to me, is the best athlete in the world today.”**

**Andrew Croft**  
Sports Editor



There have been many arguments over the years about who the greatest athlete in the world is. Obviously this is a completely opinionated argument, hence the topic of this opinion article. It is impossible to argue the greatest athlete of all time, due to the changes and advancements of sports technology. In previous eras, names such as Babe Ruth, Pele, Bjorn Borg, and Michael Jordan have found their way to the top of these ongoing disputes. If one were to ask a sports fan today who the best athlete in the world is, they would probably mention someone along the lines of Lance Armstrong, Michael Phelps, Cristiano Ronaldo, LeBron James, and Tiger Woods. All of these champions are among the world's top athletes. They have reached the pinnacle of their sport, and I have the utmost respect for them, especially Lance.

However, if someone were to ask me this question, I would have to base my opinion on strict criteria. In my eyes, the best athlete should have many outstanding characteristics. They should have the physical attributes of an athlete, such as speed, strength, endurance, agility, and coordination. They should have mental strengths like composure, confidence, determination, and discipline. The sport they play should be physically demanding, requiring all of the physical aspects listed above. And finally, they should basically be the dominating force of their game.

So when I put all of this into consideration, only one name comes to mind: Roger Federer. The Swiss god of tennis, to me, is the best athlete in the world today. This is a biased opinion because I play tennis myself, but I have played basically every other sport at one point in my life. Because it is an individual sport, it is that much harder to excel in, and Federer has done that better than any other tennis player in the history of the game.

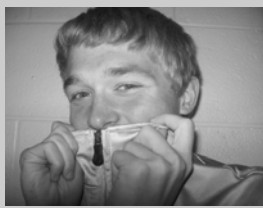
While watching Federer play, you can see his pure athleticism. His strength is revealed as he muscles the ball over the net with his unusually large right arm, solid core, and strong lower body. He moves around the court with angelic feet, barely touching the ground. He was the first person in the world that was capable of returning a 150 mph serve from Andy Roddick with pin-point accuracy, which requires an unbelievable amount of hand/eye coordination. Finally, Federer's endurance is able to pull him through those exhausting 5 hour matches.

Federer maintained the position of the number one tennis player in the world for a record 237 weeks, or about 4 years. Achieving this task required even more mental strength than physical ability. He has been put in situations where it seemed impossible for him to prevail, but has come out on top with composure and confidence. He keeps his emotions on an even keel, and has ice in his veins. Federer has managed to win thirteen grand slam tournaments in his career so far, just one away from Pete Sampras. With the upcoming season about to kick off, I am confident that he will confirm my belief that he is the greatest tennis player of all time, and the best athlete in the world today.

# Aaron Williams 180°

**“..my distaste for Miley began long ago.”**

**Aaron Williams**  
News Editor



Something has really been irking me lately. To come right out and say it, it's Miley Cyrus. After recently accomplishing a Golden Globe nomination for Best Song with the performance of "I Thought I Lost You" from the movie Bolt, my Miley-tolerance level has been pushed past the breaking point. For a while I was content to sit in the shadows and watch Cyrus jump up and down in the spotlight like an insane jackrabbit while the world looked on in adoration, but with this latest development I won't stay silent any longer: I cannot *stand* Miley Cyrus.

There are several reasons why I have not bought into the Miley-craze like many, though I'm shocked to admit it, high school age peers. The newest is of course that she, a Disney-created and promoted pop princess, is on the same list for a Golden Globe, a highly prestigious honor, with actual legitimate names such as Clint Eastwood and Bruce Springsteen. There are other reasons, of course, because my distaste for Miley began long ago.

First and foremost, is her TV show *Hannah Montana*, which is where Miley's super stardom first began. Starring with her on the Disney Channel hit is her father, country music one-hit wonder, Billy Rae Cyrus. Together these two would probably make the worst duo in TV history, but Disney continues to baffle us all by proving that if you throw enough money and promotion into a show starring a washed up country singer and his daughter about a girl with schizophrenia it WILL be a success. Seriously, has anyone ever sat down and watched this show? I have, and its script sounds like something two six-year olds who had too many Frosted Flakes for breakfast would draw up, from its overused jokes to its stereotypical plot lines.

Next in line is Miley's music. How is it possible that her albums go number one? There are so many better artists than her out there. Even the Jonas Brothers are preferable to her, and they make me gag a little every time I see them playing make-believe rock band on stage in their leather and skinny jeans. Each of Miley's CD releases can be described as an album containing twelve unoriginal, pop anthem tracks that are designed from the start to have mass appeal. They lack depth entirely: no emotional sincerity, no social commentary, and no complex instrumentals. Although the album cover is good to blow your nose on should you run out of Kleenex.

Finally is Miley's fame. Let's look at the facts: she has one childish television show, two terrible albums, and one awful Hannah Montana movie. Why do people even like her? Seems to me she should be one of the biggest jokes in the industry, but instead she is getting nominated for Golden Globes. Somebody please tell me why anyone would like that spoiled brat Miley Cyrus.

# Jordan Jabbers

**“My only regret about eating a lifetime's supply of Tootsie Rolls is that I can't buy them for a penny apiece like people in the olden days used to..”**

**Jordan Price**  
Assistant Business Manager



Anyone who has known me for five seconds would know I have a deep love for Tootsie Rolls. I find that the more I eat them the more delectably delicious they become.

Although all forms of this candy are scrumptious, I'm a little picky when it comes to the type of Tootsie Roll I enjoy most. I prefer the Tootsie Roll midges; the short, fat ones, because they are easier to chew than the larger ones and you can just pop them in your mouth. As for the various flavors of Tootsie Rolls, I only like the chocolate ones (although the vanillas are acceptable).

I find Tootsie Rolls to be the perfect candy. They have the chew-ability of gum with the added bonus of chocolate flavoring. Who could resist such a thing? My friends know of my obsession and once gave me a box with 1,270 Tootsie Rolls and a Tootsie Roll shaped pillow for my birthday. Without a doubt, those lasted no more than a week. I get bags for every holiday; I just can't resist them.

Tootsie Rolls are definitely the best candy because they are so versatile, they are a variety of flavors, they come in all different shapes and sizes, they are easy to tote around and are the ideal after meal, before meal, or anytime snack.

Here's a little history for you. Tootsie Rolls were invented in 1896 by Austrian native Leo Hirshfield. Beginning in a small factory in New York, they were designed as an affordable candy that would not melt in the heat. Tootsie, the nickname of Hirshfield's daughter, seemed to be a perfect name for these penny candies. They are now made by Tootsie Roll Industries in Chicago. This appetizing candy is available today in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and 75 other countries around the world. Just so you know, this information is courtesy of Wikipedia. (I'm not so obsessed with the candy that I have its origin memorized.)

My only regret about eating a lifetime's supply of Tootsie Rolls is that I can't buy them for a penny apiece like people in the olden days used to—that would probably make the size of my wallet a little more impressive.

There is no arguing the fact with me that Tootsie Rolls are great. In fact, I have proof that this candy is popular. Tootsie Roll pillows and pajamas are among the candy's paraphernalia that I own; why would they make such items if nobody liked the candy? As a Tootsie Roll fanatic I can truly say that with their chocolate, chewy goodness they *are* the best candy!

# The Oak “K”

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The Oak "K" is a publication of Lone Oak High School, distributed to students, faculty and the community. The newspaper is designed by staff members using Microsoft Publisher 2003 and is printed by The Paducah Sun, 408 Kentucky Ave., Paducah, Ky. 42002. Letters to the editor are to be under 250 words in length and signed by the writer. The Oak "K" reserves the right to edit all letters for placement as long as the meaning is not altered. The Oak "K" attempts to inform and entertain its readers in a broad, fair and accurate manner on all subjects that affect the audience. Final authority for the content of The Oak "K" rests in the hands of the principal.

# Fouse's Facts

**“..I nominate fellow newscrewman, Andrew Croft.”**

**Kyle Fouse**  
Asst. Editor-in-Chief



So it has definitely been a while since I have done an opinion piece, about two months or so, but I decided that this month I had something important on my mind to discuss. That, my friends, is foreign exchange students. I never thought that anybody from a different country would ever want to come all the way from their homeland to, of all places in the world, western Kentucky... not that I am ungrateful for their presence or anything, because Pierre and Alvis are really cool people, but I just wasn't expecting it.

If you could be a foreign exchange student to any country of your choice, where would you go and how long would you stay? I personally would most definitely travel to either Australia or England. Those countries have always been of interest to me and I'm sure I would enjoy them both, especially because they both speak English.

It must be quite difficult for them to leave their home and come to such a place as this. The cultural shock that they experience must be very taxing, and for this reason I propose that we should send one of our students to a school in another country to see what it's like on the other side of the coin. In fact, if it weren't for my dedication to the Lone Oak school system, I would go myself. In my stead, however, I nominate fellow newscrewman, Andrew Croft. His terrible experience with Issues Conference and the abundance of stereotypical Kentuckians has more than prepared him for any culture shock he could ever experience in any other country. There he would learn about another country, learn their language, and be the object of lust for many foreign girls, much like the male foreign exchange students are here...

I think the foreign exchange student program is a great way to get into touch with the rest of the world if a career or life in another country is the ultimate goal of someone, and I think it to be a priceless concept to be able to not only realize that there is a world outside of your own, but also to experience that very same world. But be mindful, you shouldn't logically journey to an educational institution filled with native peoples if the people in that country are notably not too fond of Americans. That would be a very poor choice indeed! So that more or less gets rid of the Middle East and some African countries, but it's ok because you still have most of South America, Europe, and Asia. So that is what I think about that whole subject, and if you should happen to see any of the exchange students, don't make a jerk out of yourself, he's judging the whole country based on what all of us are like, and one day they could be a very important person!



# Free Association

Yashaswee Malla  
Features Editor

Participants	Resolutions	Coffee	Raincoat	UPS
Caroline Williams (9)	New Year	Mocha	Wet	Angry
Sanjana Pampati (10)	New Year	Hyper	Poncho	Packaging
Carson Beyer (11)	Break 'em	Mrs. Hack	Rain	What can brown do for you?
Melissa Chandler (12)	New Year	AP Calculus	American Psycho	Late
Mrs. Daralea Harper	WHAT?! Oh...what is mine?	Hyper	Water	Postal

## MYSTERY STARS



Monica Spees  
Features Editor

This sweet senior can be seen at lunch staring off into space, unaware that she has just eaten her cookie. When she's not playing with her cocker spaniel, Lacey, she enjoys surfing the Internet on the weekends if there's nothing better to do. Although romantic tunes are popular on the piano, this girl would probably rather rock out with some Beatles hits. Who is she?

Even though he doesn't actually play the sport, this junior loves football. Comedies, especially ones starring Kevin James, crack him up, which force him to reveal his braces smile. Another pastime of his is hanging out with his dog, Blue. Do you know who this guy is?






The sophomore mystery star for January would really like to visit Florida at some point in his life. If not, he still enjoys other things here in Kentucky. He looks forward to **Mr. Elliot's** class everyday because the man makes him laugh. At the time that these questions were asked, he wasn't blue, but his favorite color is. Also, he thinks that rock rocks! Who is he?

This freshman girl loves her two pets, a cat named Sam and a dog named Drifty. Drifty is especially unique because the dog answers to the name that this girl's parents use to call her until the pooch came into the family. She doesn't currently play any instrument, but she is a former flute player. She has diverse interests, considering that Edgar Allan Poe is her favorite poet and any music played in Hot Topic is relished by her. So who is she?

Yashaswee Malla  
Business Manager

## People in the Halls

**Question:** What is your New Year's resolution?

				
<b>Josh Kent</b> (9th grade)	<b>Ross Buchanan</b> (10th grade)	<b>Alyssa Roach</b> (11th grade)	<b>David Spencer</b> (12th grade)	<b>Mr. Whitley</b>
"I would like to save up \$1000 cash to put in the offering plate at my church (Bellview Baptist)."	"I resolve to get more sleep."	"I would like to be more organized about my homework."	"I am going to try not to drink caffeinated beverages again this year."	"My New Year's resolution is to refrain from picking my nose. . . forthwith. I don't know what that means."

## Obstetrics & Gynecology of Paducah, P.S.C

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# Top Ten On Kierra and Lakin's iPod

**Jon Freeman**  
Sports Editor

This month we are featuring the top ten songs on **Kierra Prude** and **Lakin Kingston's** iPods. Kierra and Lakin love to listen and dance to the latest Hip-Hop and R&B hits in Mrs. Annie's Class.

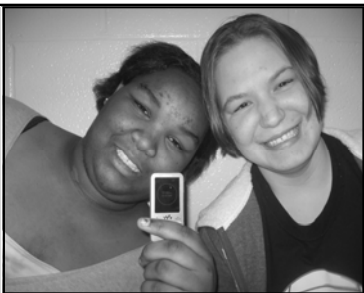


Photo by Haleigh Fellows

- 10. Superhuman by Chris Brown
- 9. Because of You by Ne-Yo
- 8. Stay Fly by Three 6 Mafia
- 7. T-Shirt by Shontelle
- 6. Trading Places by Usher
- 5. Whatever You Like by T.I.
- 4. Closer by Ne-Yo
- 3. Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It) by Beyonce
- 2. A Milli by Lil Wayne
- 1. Birdwalk by Soulja Boy

## THE PURPLE FLASH

CHAPTER FOUR: THE COMET

BY SPENSER PRICE



# Strange 2008

**Kelsey Smith**  
Entertainment Editor



2008 has come and passed with its fair share of important events. In national news, Barack Obama was elected as the 44<sup>th</sup> president and the summer Olympics took place in Beijing. On a more local level, the state education board approved consolidation and a new principal took over here at Lone Oak. But as the old adage goes (and as Jack Nicholson's character typed obsessively when he went crazy in *The Shining*), "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." So moving from the serious to seriously strange, here are a handful of the most bizarre news stories of the year.

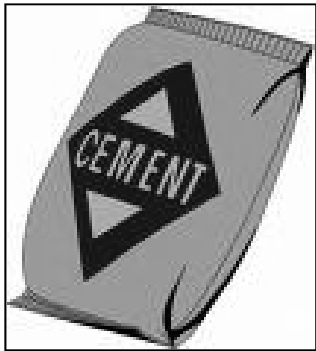
In Chicago, a woman described as "upwards of 90 years of age" was reported living with two skeletons and a decomposed body or, as some may prefer to say, her three dead siblings. The remains were covered with a sheet, and one hadn't been seen since the '80s. After this discovery, the woman was placed in a retirement home for care.

Perhaps the woman should have enlisted the help of Grigory Grabovoy—a Russian man convicted of 11 counts of fraud after claiming he could raise the dead and scamming citizens into paying for his service. One woman was charged roughly \$5075 to have her two sons resurrected. Despite that some followers still believe Grabovoy has been wrongly prosecuted, he was sentenced to 11 years of working hard labor in prison.

In Tokyo, another man was arrested for attacking and robbing two people. What prompted the attack? The bystanders had been staring at his Winnie-the-Pooh costume. The 20-year-old was with two of his friends, one dressed as a mouse, the other in a panther suit. Why? They had run out of clean clothes.



There were others who might have had a pile of dirty clothes: a family living in a Moscow suburb had a 55 pound sack of cement dropped on their home by Russian air force planes. Police told one reporter that the sack of cement had been dropped in order to create good weather for an upcoming holiday. Cement empties the sky of moisture. Air force representatives declined to comment.



Finally, comes bad news for us all: the price of rat meat quadrupled in Cambodia over the past year. Other types of meat have been unavailable to lower classes due to a 37 percent price inflation on consumer goods in the nation. On the bright side, some children were able to catch and sell the animals, and Cambodian merchants have found a market for the "delicacy" in nearby Vietnam; they exported more than a ton of live rats to the country each day.

While 2008 may have been a boring year for some, for the siblings who were finally given autopsies and the citizens living in fear of robbers dressed as children's characters, the year was anything but dull.

## The Oak "K"

would like to send out its best wishes to **Parker's Drive-In**, a generous contributor to the publication. The staff hopes Parker's is able to open its doors again soon!

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## It's On My Radio...

**Derek Operle**  
Entertainment Editor

Ever heard of a band called Stars? Neither had I until I went on one of my more recent forays into the depths of the iTunes store. I was looking around the alternative section, using the "Listeners Also Bought" pane and I ended up on Suffjan Stevens' artist page where I saw the name....Stars. I thought the name sounded interesting so I decided to give them a listen. Once I turned on the 30 second sample I was hooked.

I can't really compare them to any band that I listen to. They're a weird mix of electronic and pop, but it's so alternative, so indie, that it just doesn't sound normal...but it is still awesome.

Being who I am, I, of course, listened to their first album first, this album was called *Nightsongs*. Their debut album is fourteen tracks of indie electronica/pop glory. "On Peak Hill" is pure indie electronica. With a slow, pulsing beat and a nice chorus, "On Peak Hill" makes for great driving song. Another highlight of the album is "Toxic Holiday," an oddly blissful indie pop song with a little synthesizer thrown in there for good measure. But my favorite song has to be "My Radio [FM Mix]," a wonderful indie pop song with a steady, driving backbeat and a nice vocal intertwining between the male and female singers. All of the songs carry that same indie pop/electronica

vibe with them, giving the album a very alternative feel.

Stars have actually been around for quite a while; I was amazed to learn that this album, *Nightsongs*, came out in 2001. They are part of that group of indie bands that just never really breaks out...it's sad that artists like Stars, Spoon (an alternative pop band that Austin did a story on last year), and Nada Surf (a nice alternative power-pop band) can make such good music for extended periods of time (each of these bands has at least three studio albums) and not truly break out. Stars have a mild following, but not near the fan base that alternative bands like Modest Mouse and Vampire Weekend have. I think it's important that I get more people to listen to bands like



Photo courtesy google.com

Stars, Spoon, and Nada Surf so that these bands can be exposed to more people and finally make a break to the real big time. I mean, Stars has four studio albums and all they have to show for it is a gold record in Canada and one four star review from Rolling Stone.

Stars is an awesome indie band and I highly recommend that you check them out. *Nightsongs*, and all of their other stuff, is available in the iTunes store. This album is great and I suggest that if you are a fan of indie music or electronic, in any way, that you buy this album.

## Assassination Cinematization

**Erin Conwell**  
Features Editor

One of the hottest new movies out is the WWII period film *Valkyrie*. Based on true events, the film tells the story of one of fourteen attempts made on Adolf Hitler's life, and those were only the ones made by Germans. Tom Cruise takes center stage as Colonel Stauffenberg who joins an organization of other military officers who have been plotting Hitler's assassination. Stauffenberg's assassination takes a key role in the planning and has soon lined out their next attempt, Operation Valkyrie. The essence of their plan is to redesign the orders given to the German Reserve Army and the SS in the event of Hitler's death and orchestrate the assassination to seem like an attempt by the SS to take control and then use the redesigned orders to have the Reserve Army round up all SS and Gestapo officials for arrest, clearing away any possible resistance. This all sounds very confusing, right? The organization then plans to take over the government in a coup d'etat, but none of this is going to be easy.

Valkyrie is so suspenseful; I guarantee you will stay on the edge of your seat. You are constantly jumping to the idea that their plan is about to be foiled and they have been found out. The organization has

many close calls as they desperately strive forward with their plan to kill Hitler and his innermost circle in their bunker.

The special effects, such as the bombing scenes, are not overly done and appear surprisingly realistic. I also applaud the casting, even with Tom Cruise, who I typically have a strong distaste for, and I think all of the actors did a great job of capturing

the appropriate time period and the intensity of the films events. I also loved the accuracy of the wardrobe design. All in all, I just really feel like the film-makers really tried to stick to authenticity, which I really admired.

I would recommend *Valkyrie* to just about anyone; even those of you who don't typically like war movies, like me, because this isn't your average blood-and-guts-everywhere kind of war

movie. I enjoyed the film immensely and definitely wouldn't mind seeing it again. I don't see how anyone could not get wrapped up in our protagonists' quest to do the right thing by Germany, but the wrong thing by Hitler. Risk after risk, you won't be able to look away, fearing for the lives of your new favorite heroes. I hope you all go out and experience this breathtaking film for yourselves. I definitely give this one two thumbs up.

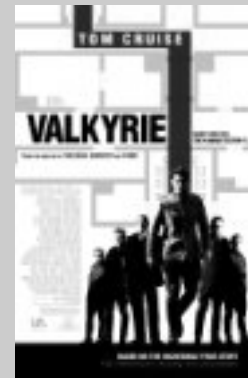


Photo courtesy google.com

## Right On the Button

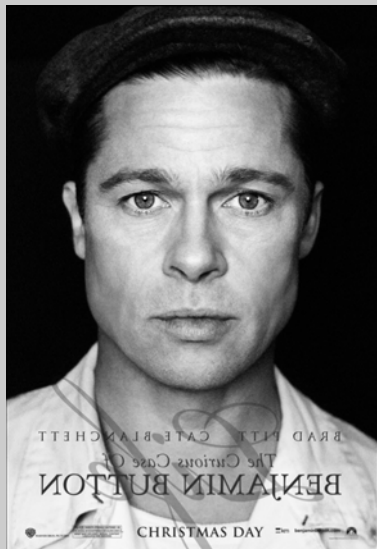
**Matthew Langston**  
Student Contributor

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button is the unique story of a man who is born with all the characteristics of an elderly person, and as those around him grow older in life, he only becomes younger by the day. The movie itself is quite longer than most others currently at the box office, as it lasts for a running time of over two and a half hours. I know what you are thinking, because I was thinking the same thing as I walked in to a crowded theater, trying to find a place to sit: why would I want to go see a movie that is about a man who is born old, lasts entirely too long, and looks extremely boring, as if it contains no action whatsoever? Well let me be the first to tell you that I was completely wrong. The previews and trailers don't do this movie

justice, and I can't see how they would, considering most trailers are one to two minutes long, and they try to cram so much of this deep, amazing movie into such a short period of time. It just cannot be done. The movie has been nominated for five Golden Globes, including best picture, best director, and best actor. Other awards include eight Critics' Choice Awards nominations and the winner of one of the top ten films of the year by the National Board of Review. These nominations and awards alone show how impressive this movie is, and just how much of an impact it has made.

The story follows Benjamin Button,

who is played by Brad Pitt, as he tries his best to live a normal life as everyone else around him does. As he continues to grow younger, he decides he wants to see the world and everything it has to offer, so he sets out on a remarkable adventure which includes everything from excitement and danger, all the way to love and heartache. He has many crossings with the lovely Daisy, who is played by Cate Blanchett. In my opinion, both Brad Pitt and Cate



Picture courtesy google.com

Blanchett deliver award winning performances as the range of emotions and acting talent shown by both are absolutely extraordinary. This movie allows you to feel as if you are right there with the actors throughout every moment of this enthralling story. Not only does this movie have an amazing cast, but the settings are stunning as well. As the story goes from one place to another, things such as buildings and cars seen in that particular town give you a feel of reality. Another enjoyable aspect is that of the visual effects. The makeup artists and crew really did an outstanding job in making the actors look young when they needed to be, and older when the time called for it. To me, that has quite a bit to do with making the story believable and real, in which this story delivered on every aspect of believable and real.

This is hands down one of the best movies I have ever seen. I would recommend this movie to anyone who enjoys seeing all emotions come out in a movie. This movie made me laugh, and it also made me cry. This movie is quite wonderful and I highly recommend it.

## BOYZ II MEN: The Legacy

**Jon Freeman**  
Sports Editor

Take a trip back in time with me. Let's go back to the 90s where the first-class vocals of Boyz II Men were topping all the charts. Michael McCary, Shawn Stockman, Nathan Morris, and Wanya Morris make up this boy band phenomenon that swept the nation in just the last decade. Boyz II Men is the most successful R&B male vocal group of all time. They have sold more than 60 million records. This a cappella quartet has created lyrical gold with their five #1 R&B hits. These five hits and eight others are all on their greatest hits album, *Boyz II Men: Legacy - The Greatest Hits Collection*. This album combines all their greatest, taking you through a time portal to the 90s.

This amazing compilation album starts out with their first single and first hit "MotownPhilly." This song swept the R&B nation with its fast beat and the bands ability to still reach such great vocals. Next the Boyz throw "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday" at you. This a cappella song gives you vocals so well synchronized they seem to be heaven sent. This is a very heart-felt song that can give you assurance that all will be right whenever it is hard to say goodbye to someone you have recently lost. The next song on this album starts out with the deep bass voice of Michael McCary speaking soft sensual words to his woman. "End of the Road" is probably Boyz II Men's most famous song. It topped the charts for 13 straight weeks and helped establish them as one of the greatest bands of all time.

The song expresses the desire to keep a great relationship going.

The band then gives you "In the Still of the Nite (I'll Remember)." This song is sung a cappella and is a cover of the 50s hit sung by "The Five Satins." The harmonizing vocals and lyrical goodness of "In the Still of the Nite" make it my personal favorite Boyz II Men song. After hitting you with amazing vocals, the Boyz team up with LL Cool J to create "Hey Lover." Sticking with back up singing while LL Cool J lays the rhymes down got Boyz II

Men wide support from the rap community. The band then helps out guys all across the nation with "I'll Make Love to You," this is one of their most highly praised songs because it can be played with some low candlelight in the room.

"On Bended Knee" followed "I'll Make Love to You" and helped make "II" their best selling album of

all time. Next the Boyz throw in an acoustic guitar with their made-for-each other vocals to make an acoustic R&B hit with "Water Runs Dry." Then, the two biggest selling artists of the 90s team up when Mariah Carey joins The Boyz to create "One Sweet Day." Boyz II Men then finishes up the album with four of their most recent hits in "Doin' Just Fine", "4 Seasons of Loneliness", "A Song for Mama", and "Pass You By."

If you are looking for some soft R&B to listen to or if you just appreciate amazing vocals then I will definitely recommend you buy or download this album. The best thing about Boyz II Men is that they are real. They have truly amazing vocals that the mainstream bands of today don't have. Check them out and I promise they will have you singing in the shower.



Picture courtesy google.com



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# Where they stand: Flash basketball

**Blake Harrison**  
Editor-in-Chief

Three quarters into the regular season, the boys' basketball team finds itself right in the thick of a topsy-turvy 1<sup>st</sup> region.

As the season began, uncertainty about bench play and competition within the region surrounded this .500 ballclub. With a number one seed at stake against Tilghman on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, it seems as though this team has performed at the level expected of them. While key reserves such as **Ray "Tayshaun" Guthrie (11)**, **Carson Beyer (11)**, **Cameron Looper (11)**, and **"Big Lou" Jordan Ludovisse (11)** have stepped in to provide solid defense while the starters take a breather, the starting group has been looked upon to shoulder the load offensively.

Traditionally, **Andy Poore's** teams have resembled that of exiled UK coach Tubby Smith, in that they have been 10 or 12 deep. This year, though, the starters are playing more minutes on a consistent basis. "Nobody ever really wants to come out of a game. I think most of us have enjoyed the extra minutes," said senior starter **Josh Byrd**.

There's no question there have been some eye-popping results within the region, which is something Poore accredits to how the teams match up. "Depending on how familiar teams are with each other and how they match up will definitely impact results."

Statistically a well-balanced team, the Flash have a different leader in each major category (points/game, rebounds/game, assists/game). This shows that every member of the team has an important role on both ends of the court—roles that each has identified and stuck to.

As tournament time approaches, there are two weaknesses the team must address before they can think about cutting nets down: free throw shooting and turnovers. The last Heath

game was a prime example of how important free throw shooting can be. Although the Flash were able to squeak out a two point victory, Heath was able to stay in the game by hitting all but one of their free throws. **Jamarielle Brown (12)** has the fewest turnovers of any starter, and if the team can follow his lead in that department, the club would be in much better shape when the fourth quarter rolls around.

## GIRLS

The injury-laden Lady Flash have fought adversity all season long. To go along with two broken wrists, the team was dealt a blow when starter **Gabby Fellows (12)** was lost for the season after tearing most of the major muscles and tendons in her knee.

In the absence of Fellows and others, younger talent has had to step in and contribute early. Surely a sign of good things to come, both the freshman and sophomore classes have pulled their weight on the hardwood. **Tiffany Brown (9)** and **Natalie Tavernaro (10)** look to be quite the combo, providing the Lady Flash with a formidable duo in the paint. To go along with the inside game, point guard **Ally Heine (12)** never skipped a beat, picking up where she left off as a junior. "Ally continues to do what she does best," **Assistant Coach Chris Gregory** remarked. What has she done? Not only has she been a stable leader for a relatively young team, but she has also continued to score at a consistent rate.

On January 13, Ally became the latest member of the thousand point club, putting her among the likes of Heidi Seltzer and Tammy Burton.

Coach Gregory feels as though this team did a lot for itself over Christmas break, saying: "They started to gel and play together as a team. They have been able to play better basketball since bonding more as a group."

Looking ahead, the Lady Flash have one goal—reaching the Regional Tournament. If they can beat Heath, they will sew up the third seed in the District Tournament.



To the left, **Joshua Byrd (12)** celebrates his basket that helped in Lone Oak's victory over district rival Heath.



Above, **Chelsea Brantley (10)** drives past her defender.

To the left, Senior forward **Cameron Tillet (13)** and Junior guard **Clayton Isenberg (22)** trap the ball handler in the backcourt.

Photos courtesy Haleigh Fellows

Below, juniors **Roberto Arreaza, Jacob Porter, Kyle Fouse, Blake McKinney, Andrew Croft, Cody Waggoner,** and senior **Chris Dallas** paint up to support the Flash.



## Fellows headed to Georgetown

**Blake Harrison**  
Editor-in-Chief

Senior **Haleigh Fellows** has signed a Letter of Intent to play college tennis thanks to...Facebook? Oddly enough, Georgetown **Head Coach Kevin Calhoun** initially informed Fellows of his interest in her services via Facebook.

We all use the social tool to keep up with friends and consume our free time, but who would've thought it could lead to this? "I wasn't even sure if I could take it seriously at first. I'm glad it turned out to be legit."

Thanks to her play at both the Ryan Holder and State Tournaments, Haleigh was able to catch the eye of GC's coach. Not only that, but even one of Georgetown's tennis players endorsed Fellows. "I had played with her in a few tournaments before. I was glad to hear she had some good things to say about me."

After the Tigers established their interest, Haleigh spent a weekend playing with and getting to know her prospective teammates. It was then that she knew Georgetown was the place for her. "I felt like I connected with the team. I have always wanted to go to a smaller school, and I know NAIA schools like Georgetown offer strong academics with competitive athletics."

Fellows knows she may be expected to play both singles and doubles in college, and **Coach Shannon Mungle** doesn't think that will be a problem. "Though Haleigh has focused her game towards singles play the past two years, she has developed into a player that will be successful at the collegiate level whether it be in singles or doubles."



Haleigh Fellows signs her Letter of Intent while Georgetown's Kevin Calhoun and her parents look on. Photo courtesy Mrs. Goodman

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