

A look
inside
The
Oak "K"

Pi Day
Page 3

What's
Up with
"The
Flash?"
Page 7

Ipod Top
Ten
Page 8

No Hazard
Here
Page 9

2009 MLB
Preview
Page 10-11

Thanks
for
Reading!

Legislative bills to change landscape of Kentucky education

Kelsey Smith
Entertainment Editor

Two legislative bills are currently hot topics in the state of Kentucky: one is House Bill 322, which addresses the days missed by school districts due to the ice storm in January, and the other is Senate Bill 1 - a proposition to get rid of statewide CATS testing and portfolio requirements.

House Bill 322 was introduced in the House of February 6th. Initially, it allowed counties that were identified as federal disaster areas to request that 10 missed days are forgiven and required the commissioner of education to approve the request. Counties that had not been declared federal disaster areas could also submit a request to have 10 days waived, but the request was at the discretion of the commissioner. Several amendments were then made to the bill. The House committee added a statement that missed days be waived only due to bad weather. The House floor then added two additional revisions, which stated that the commissioner of education was permitted, not required, to approve requests for federal disaster areas and that school districts be required to use all allotted makeup days in their 2008-2009 calendar before submitting requests for waivers. The bill passed in the House on February 25th with a 92-6 vote by members. The bill was received in the Senate the next day. The Senate committee made two changes to the bill: one that would allow school districts to extend their school year even for half days that were missed and another that set the deadline for forgiveness requests. The bill moved onto the Senate floor, and again, two changes were made. The first granted districts the power to extend the school

day by at least thirty minutes to compensate for instructional days missed, while the second made it mandatory that all schools makeup at least ten days before attempting to have days waived. Despite this, the McCracken County Board met on March 19th to vote on options for making up the missed days. The Board voted down extending the school day and agreed to extend the school year until May 29th, setting graduation for May 30th. The revised calendar is pending approval by the commissioner but should be approved within two weeks.

The other Bill, Senate Bill 1, was introduced in the Senate on February 3rd. The Bill eliminated both CATS testing and writing portfolios as statewide assessments and passed through Senate without any votes in opposition. CATS is to be replaced with a test that won't compare schools in Kentucky to each other but to schools nationally and on-demand writing will be used to gauge the writing skills of students. The test will not include practical living and vocational studies or arts and humanities sections, but the bill states that each school must have a program to evaluate students' knowledge in these areas annually. Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear signed the bill on March 26. The Kentucky Board of Education hopes to have these new tests fully implemented by the year 2011 or 2012 and will use other forms of testing to make sure classroom performance is evaluated.

Parents, students, and teachers alike have voiced opinions in favor of and against both bills, arguing that extending the school year will exhaust the students or eliminating CATS testing will hinder the progress the state has already made in education. But one thing is certain: big changes are coming in Kentucky education- and hopefully with long term results that will satisfy most of us.

RE-VAMPING VAMPIRES: LONE OAK ALUMNA WRITES VAMPIRE TRILOGY

Jordan Price
Assistant Business Manager

It is my pleasure to introduce the up and coming writer of the century, Molly Harper. As an alumnus of Lone Oak High School and of the one and only Oak "K", she's reserved an article in the paper despite having graduated thirteen years ago. At my interview with Harper, the first thing she had to say was laughably, "Now I get revenge on the people who didn't think I was funny in high school." Having known Harper previously and more than just as an interviewee, I knew that she was joking as is her comical nature. Harper is hilariously witty, and this trait more than shows in her first published book, "Nice Girls Don't Have Fangs."

Having the special privilege of reading the first chapter of this paranormal romance, I was delightfully surprised to find that the characters are truly embodied, not at all flat or filled with hot air like many of today's vampire personas. That's right, VAMPIRES! Straying away from the common misconceptions of vampire-ism, the book's main character is not bitten, but through a less than medical sort of blood transfusion is transformed into a creature of the night. This book is full of ROFL moments, but so as not to give away the whole thing, I'll stop here. You'll have to get your own copy to find out what nice girls *do* have.

Please see "Re-Vamping" Page 6



Photo courtesy jnash

LOHS students represent in local art show

Congratulations to the following art students who won awards at the Purchase/Pennyrile Region Kentucky Art Educators Show at Murray State University:

Shanden Simmons (11), 1st place in 2-D for entire show
Bethany Underhill (10), 1st place, Cultural Diversity
Leah Grace (10), 2nd place, Printmaking
Spenser Price (10), 2nd place, Drawing
Kelsey Greene (11), Honorable Mention, painting

The following students also had work in the show: Taylor Masse (11), Erica Tran (11), Katie Followell (12), Morgan Jenny (11), Emily Wallace (12), Kaitlin Kaufman (11).

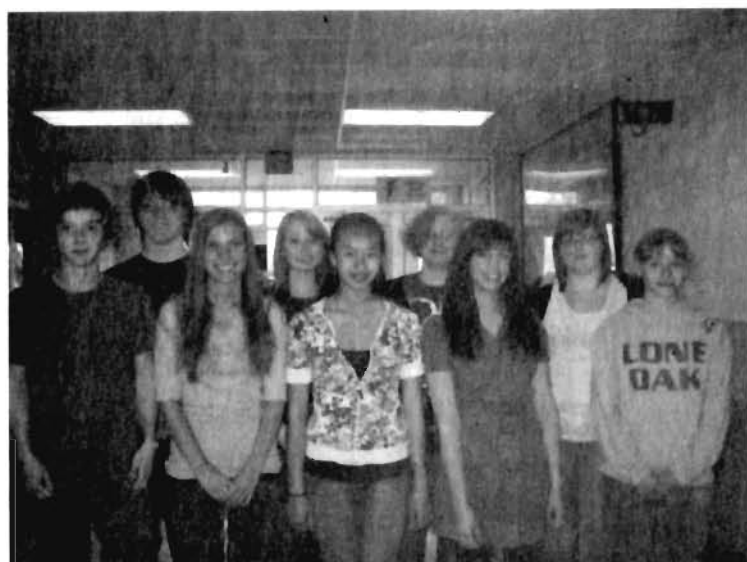


Photo courtesy Kyle Fouse

Oh Dear! Yashaswee is Here!

Monica Spees
Features Editor

At Lone Oak High School, there is not a staggeringly high number of Asian students. Despite the small Asian population here, one of those students manages to stand out above the rest. Whether all eyes are drawn by her incredible intelligence, her occasional native Nepali wardrobe, or her almost constant laughter, there is no doubt that Yashaswee Malla captures attention.

This month's Junior Rotarian, who recently decided to go to DePauw University to major in Business, comes from half a world away, but has slowly made her way here to Paducah, KY. Yashaswee was born in Nepal, then moved to Germany; San Diego, California; Long Island, New York; Jackson, Mississippi; Hillsborough, New Jersey; Cumberland, Rhode Island; and, finally, Paducah in 2004. Although she has moved around for much of her life, Yashaswee has excelled in public speaking, music, academics, money and time management, computer skills, choreography, responsibility, and independence. Her organization is particularly striking. I can guarantee that if I ever need assignments from a class I missed or even a few facts about her to use in her Junior Rotarian article, Yashaswee will proudly present me with a neat, accurate list or outline from which I can derive any needed information.

In addition to her academic success, Yashaswee puts in many volunteer hours, especially at the Pain Management Center (yes, I know you're singing the song from the commercial in your head) where her dad works. She has volunteered at the Salvation Army during Christmastime to hand out gifts and has helped some of her Nepali acquaintances move into a new apartment. Between her rigorous AP Calculus and AP English schedules this year and her service to the community, it really comes as no surprise that she was selected to be a Junior Rotarian.

As academically and professionally accomplished as she is, Yashaswee has another side to her. When she is not being taken by surprise and uttering her catchphrase (Oh, dear!), she can be found perched in front of the nearest computer watching her favorite comedian, Russell Peters, a Canadian-Indian (the brown kind). When she's not actually watching Russell Peters, she can be heard quoting him. Her most frequently-used RP quote is: "Fthirty-fwaaawr flttee!" Translation: thirty-four flty. Her favorite quote, however, is: "! Xobile" Yashaswee suggests that you watch the RP video to get the full effect and to hear the correct pronunciation.

While watching Russell Peters videos tends to dominate her free time, Yashaswee's culture plays a large part in her life. She has learned Classical Indian dance, which she has performed in front of many people, including audiences of the 2006 Lone Oak High School production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* and the entire school for the talent show of the same year. Once a month, Yashaswee and her parents travel to Nashville to visit the Hindu temple and stockpile Indian food. And trust me; there is no shortage of Indian food at the Malla house. If anything, guests are encouraged to eat more.

Yashaswee Malla is undoubtedly a very interesting girl. While her intelligence is astounding and her humor is side-splitting, Yashaswee is also an amazing friend. She has never ceased to bring a smile to my face and happiness to my day. Yashaswee Malla: isn't she...cool?



Photo courtesy Gene Boaz

NEWS

LOHS Juniors Overcome ACT

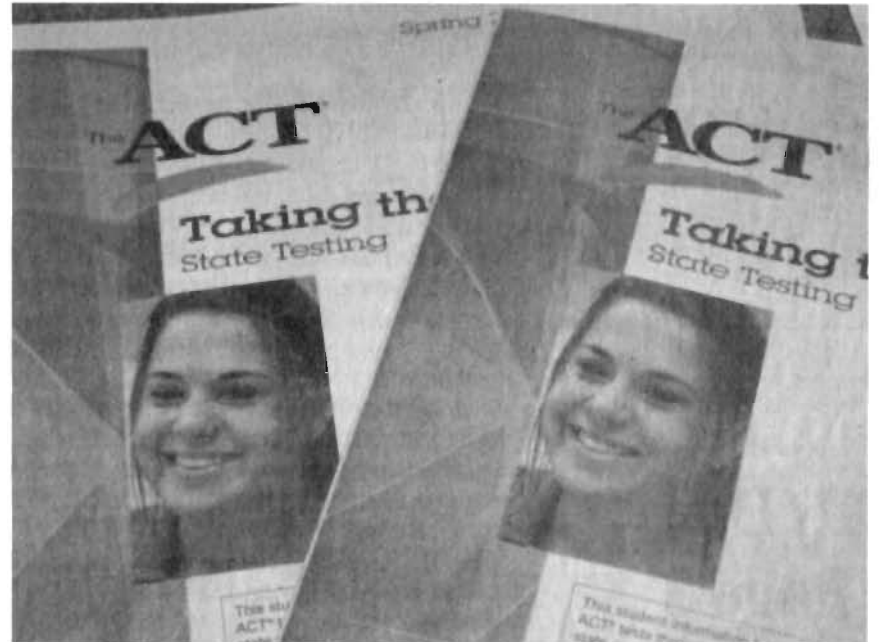
Erin Conwell
Features Editor

Here at Lone Oak High School students are seeing a lot of changes when it comes to state accountability testing. The PLAN test, a precursor to the ACT, has been an optional, low cost test available to sophomores across the state for several years to help students gauge how well they will perform on the ACT and explore future career options. However, in recent years the state has decided to make the ACT mandatory for all juniors in Kentucky. The test is free to the students and administered during school.

The PLAN program helps sophomores build a solid foundation for future academic and career success and provides information needed to address school districts' high-priority issues. The exam assesses the four subject areas of English, Math, Reading and Science and can predict the level of success on the ACT. The assessment also helps schools narrow down areas where both individual students and the school curriculum are weak so that changes can be made to improve learning. The scoring scale for the PLAN test is from 1 to 32 and Kentucky students typically make scores between 16 and 19 on average. According to Kentucky Department of Education the average scores in each content area in 2008 were 15.9 in English, 16.4 in Mathematics, 16.0 in Reading, 17.4 in Science, and the average composite was 16.6. Both the PLAN and ACT assessments were mandated by Senate Bill 130 in 2006 and were included in the high school ACT Index beginning with the 2007-08 school year.

Just in the past month the juniors at Lone Oak High School took the ACT test. In addition to the standard multiple choice test they also took the career interest and aptitude questionnaire. The test will be used by the school system to help determine areas needing improvement in the curriculum but the test is also very helpful to students. By offering the test for free it gives all students a chance to determine accurately if college is right for them and possibly give some students who perform well a better opportunity for scholarships and convince them to pursue higher education. Colleges use the ACT to make admissions decisions, determine course placement, for academic advising, and make decisions about scholarships and loans. Most of the students seemed fairly grateful for the free opportunity such as **Katie Hagan** who ecstatically proclaimed, "Can you say AMAZING! I was so excited I

got to take it for free. I couldn't focus!" Still however some students are intimidated by the idea of the ACT and are unhappy about its new use in commonwealth accountability. One such student would be **Ali Davis** who claims, "It was pretty horrible. I wanted to eat my arm off." The scores are usually available online about 2 ½ weeks after testing dates and are mailed to students' homes in about 3 to 8 weeks so students should be beginning to receive results soon. You can check for yourself at actstudent.org.



Photos by Haleigh Fellows

AIG Bonus Controversy Stirs Up Washington

Aaron Williams
News Editor

Washington and Congress have been sent reeling these past few weeks by the AIG bonus controversy. You have most likely heard about this on the news, but may be unsure of the details or what it exactly is. In today's uncertain economic and political times, it is important to keep yourself informed. AIG, or American International Group, as you know was the first in a series of investing companies and banks bailed out of their debt by Congress in late 2008. More recently, Congress at the urging of President Obama, has passed an economic stimulus package focused on boosting the economy and getting the country back on the road to recovery from the current recession.

However, apparently contained in the bailout was an amendment to the bill that would provide 165 million dollars to AIG for them to distribute as bonuses to employees. This led to the bill being dubbed as a squandering the people's money. As the US deficit grows to nearly 1.6 trillion, politicians are coming under more and more pressure to watch how the people's money is being spent. Combine that pressure with the already terrible economic recession and you have all the ingredients you need for a

good old fashioned finger pointing and name calling session on Capitol Hill.

Politicians from both sides of the aisle are working in frenzy to find the ones responsible for this. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has pointed the finger at Federal Reserve Board Chairmen Ben Bernanke. Meanwhile, President Obama continues to urge bipartisan cooperation and asks representatives and senators alike to place the blame on him since he is the one in charge of the nation. He is also diverting blame from his Secretary of Treasury Timothy Geithner who claims he knew nothing of the bonuses until three days before they

were paid. Since then Geithner has stayed in office despite demands for his resignation and worked to get the bonus money back where it belongs.

Though Congress initially failed by not preventing the bonuses in the first place, an error that has been attributed to both Geithner and Senator Christopher Dodd, they have recently redeemed themselves in an effort to regain the people's money and their trust. As of March 19th, 2009 Congress has imposed ninety-percent taxes on the all employees with salaries over 250,000 in companies funded by the bailout. The hope is that this will recoup the money lost in bonuses handed out to AIG's financial division.

AIG

Photo courtesy of google.com

Ice Storm Woes Cancel Dogwood Trail

Jordan Price
Assistant Business Manager

Due to the recent havoc that the ice storm brought upon the trees in our local area this year, the historic and memorable Dogwood Trail has been cancelled. If the trees were not bent and broken by the weight of the ice, they were brutally crushed by the falling limbs of larger, stronger trees. Thus there is only a slight few in good enough condition to show, but not enough to coordinate an event.

The lighting and displaying of the area's Dogwood trees began in 1964 when the trail was only two blocks long. Today the trail stretches a span of 12 miles in main and alternate routes. Beginning on Sycamore Street's west end, the trail now covers a great deal of the city.

Comparable to the annual quilt show, the effort and the publicity put into the Dogwood display is extensive. It is unfortunate that this event will not be taking place this year. For many, the show signifies the arrival of spring, and the red and white blooms carry other sentiments as well. The Dogwood picture and painting contest in which many participate has of yet not been specifically cancelled, but further information regarding this



Photo courtesy of google.com

competition has not yet surfaced. In accordance to the competition, the Dogwood Ball at the Carson Center also has no new information concerning its occurrence.

Considering that the 2009 year would be the 45th anniversary of the Dogwood Trail carries even more dismay to those who enjoy and take pride in showing off their own personal and individual displays of the beautiful, flowered trees. The Dogwood is native to the Paducah area and, unknown to most, the fruit breeding inside the tree is often used to make jams and jellies as well as to attract many species of birds; just another reason to long for the cancelled experience.

If the procession were to be taking place this year, throughout the weekend of April 25th-28th, the streets would be lit with spotlights that have been positioned just so as to show the trees' finest aspects, such as its wide blooms, open canopy, and sturdy trunk. The modes of transportation through the pink and white arbor that blankets the streets of Paducah range from private cars to a ride in a horse drawn carriage.

This time honored tradition, although not taking place this spring, will always have a home in years to come. Many say that throughout the next few years, the trees, having been naturally trimmed, will become increasingly more beautiful and popular.



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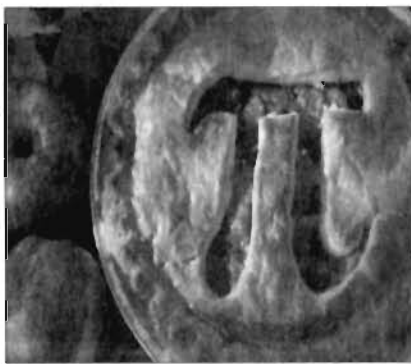
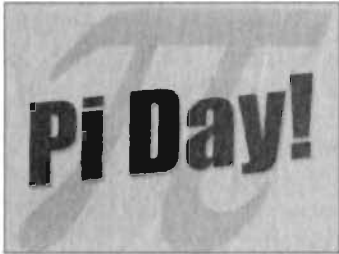
Care for a Slice of Pi?

Putting Testing to the Test



Yashaswee Malla
Business Manager

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Images courtesy of Google.com
Photos courtesy of Yashaswee Malla

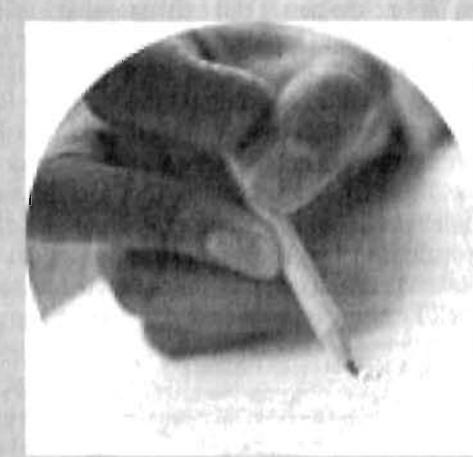
Monica Spees
Features Editor

With the possible passage of a bill to alter state testing and portfolios, there has been quite a stir among local students and teachers. Needless to say, strong feelings are provoked in the students who must toil away at these mandatory tasks and the teachers who supervise them. Are the supposed positive effects of these scholastic evaluations evident to the participants?

Cody Longworth (10), when asked about state testing, said, "It's useless because we don't need it to get into college and it's not used for anything." Portfolios? "I, like, hate portfolios because I don't like to write." Cody is probably not alone in his opinions. Writing is not every kid's strong suit, and the mere thought of a standardized test can send some straight-A students into a sweaty frenzy. Perhaps the tests and portfolios aren't really fair for those who excel all year in the classroom but fall short in other, less significant, areas.

Some students, like **Emily Wontor (12)**, expressed slightly stronger views on this issue. "The idea [of portfolios] sounds good, but when we do it it's miserable for all involved. I think it is a good idea they [Kentucky lawmakers] want to get rid of them, because they're getting to be a hassle. We spent more time this year studying other aspects of literature, anyway." This is very true; as a senior, I can attest to the fact that our English classes focused more on reading classics and analyzing literature than writing personal narratives on our favorite summer vacations. Emily also commented that "they put way too much emphasis on passing these state tests rather than actually learning anything or passing classes."

The students aren't the only ones who possess these sentiments. **Mrs. Beckman** claims that she is "excited they're going to redo it and go more in-depth with less content. It's better to learn a few things well rather than a lot of things poorly." She is also glad that the students don't have "to do a formal portfolio." However, **Mrs. Daralea Harper** derives pleasure from portfolios. "What I like about portfolios is helping all my assigned kids and others. I had at least 25 [seniors] and enjoyed every minute of it. You learn so much about a student. You appreciate what they've been through and how they've done it with grace, style, and courage. Some make me laugh, cry, think, [some] lift my spirits. It really makes you see the kid."



Although there seems to be a mostly negative vibe directed toward state testing and portfolios and ambiguous benefits from them, only time will tell if these two scholastic features will be present in the future. Perhaps we should adopt Mrs. Daralea Harper's attitude and seeming motto: "I just roll with the flow."

Pi Day is a very special day for many math lovers. March 14 is a day when math enthusiasts around the world are able to gather and join hands in the shape of the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of the most cherished mathematical constant known to mankind.

At Lone Oak High School, Pi Day is celebrated by the annual selling of slices of pie to the student body. This occurrence is made possible by **Mrs. Beckman** and the Math Club, whose members bring in homemade or store-bought pies. Students are able to purchase their favorite kind of pie, a choice made fairly difficult by the delectable assortment of pies displayed on the cart.

Fun Facts:

- The founder of Pi Day was Larry Shaw.
- Pi Day was first celebrated at the San Francisco Exploratorium in 1988.
- Pi is an irrational number, which means that it cannot be expressed as fraction.

Glossary:

Circumference - distance around the circle

Diameter - width of a circle

Pi - the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter which yields a value of approximately 3.14

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Aaron Williams 180°

"We bleed purple, and the phrase 'Heath Pirate' becomes an expletive."

Aaron Williams
News Editor



We are experiencing the last days of Lone Oak High School. Consolidation is no longer a possibility, it has come to fruition. Consolidation is now a concrete date in the future that we are drawing ever closer to. More than likely, this year's freshman class, the class of 2012, will be the last class to receive their diploma from Lone Oak High School. Consolidation offers this county and its students many new opportunities. That does not mean that there won't be a few things missed when it is all said and done. The loss of three competitive high schools in the county and the emergence of one, powerhouse school will undoubtedly impact high school athletics. I think of all the things that I will miss once consolidation occurs, the Heath-Lone Oak rivalry will be the biggest.

The Flash-Pirates rivalry is one of the most colorful of this region without a doubt. It is one that extends for many of us as far back as our earliest years in the school system. At any one of the two Lone Oak elementary schools, school spirit and pride develops early. Stop any third, fourth, or fifth grader and ask them who their rivals are. They will tell you Heath and Concord. We at Lone Oak are taught early to dislike the Pirates. As we grow older, we pit ourselves against them in middle school academically and athletically.

At LOMS, there is nothing worse than a Heathen. Once we reach high school, maturity teaches us that we are not so different than our rivals. They are far more like us than many other schools in the region. After all, they are much more down to earth than some of the schools around here. We share the same county, sometimes the same neighborhood or street. We become friends with Heath students and associate with them on weekends. However, when game night rolls around both parties understand whose side they are really on. People suspend friendships and relationships for forty minutes or thirty two—whatever the case may be. We become once more the passionate lunatics we were taught to be since day one. We bleed purple, and the phrase "Heath Pirate" becomes an expletive. It is much the same for the other side as well I am sure.

The highlights of this rivalry extend far into the past. I can only cite what I myself experienced while I had the pleasure of being in the LO student section these four years. I will always remember the chants, the mayhem, the absolutely irrational anger. I will remember watching Chase Denson catch fire and drop 47 points on the Pirates in Robinson Arena while Chris Dallas and I succumbed to clinical insanity over the Flash basketball team coming all the way back. I will remember watching Corey Robinson break the touchdown pass record on the Heath gridiron before an absolutely massive fan base. Some of this school's finest athletic moments have been against the Pirates. It will be sad to see it all go; even with all the new rivalries that will come once the consolidated school is born. I am grateful to have been able to cheer and compete for my school these four years. To the Lone Oak-Heath rivalry all I can say is: So long and thanks for the memories.

Fouse's Facts

"It will have been an investment in ourselves, instead of a country abroad."

Kyle Fouse
Asst. Editor-in-Chief



For the month of March I decided to take on an opinion that would be, perhaps, beneficial to the mentality of the people of the United States of America. And although I'm not necessarily an "Obamanite", I don't necessarily find myself comfortable among the right-wing conservatives that associate themselves with the Republican Party. As of yet, it is my strong opinion that it is still too early for anybody to have any premise with which to judge him as a good or bad president and leader of our country, because the truth is that all power essentially comes from us, and that the government and its policies are ideally our responsibility as citizens.

To be quite honest with everyone at Lone Oak, I found myself in support of Obama during the presidential election because of his relatively little time spent in politics and its entanglements as opposed to the other candidates such as Clinton or McCain. The reason for that was this: one who has spent such relatively little time in politics cannot have made many enemies, and with his sudden upsurge in popularity (coming from a variety of different factors, not only limited to his oration skills) I put my own personal support behind him and the Democratic Party.

For the purpose of this argument, I will divide the political system into two factions, The Republicans, who are well known for their foreign policy and are usually seen as the global police, and the Democrats, who usually concern themselves with domestic policy and the improvement of the country on a more (for lack of a better word) selfish level. I believe that after 8 years of a Republican Executive Office and years of aggressive foreign policy, it was time for the United States to become more concerned with our own issues domestically than with a waning crisis abroad.

The recent stimulus bill passed by Congress and signed by President Obama has received much criticism from many different proponents, and I believe that this is unjust. Many people say that he will only further the national debt, but I'm pretty sure that a vast majority of our presidents have inherited a country in debt, and have only furthered this process. I believe that his package has a legitimate chance at success, but that even if it fails it will be a step in the right direction. It will have been an investment in ourselves, instead of a country abroad. It will have been a spark of hope that will (even if unsuccessful) breed a new era of much needed domestic reform and advancement. We will hopefully realize that it is not simply the desires of a single person that determine the fate of our country, but the opinions of its people; its fundamental components. It is up to the people to take the power that has always rightfully been theirs into their hands, and advance the popular ideas that we all know and essential for the survival of our nation and our American livelihood well into the 21st century. What I say is this, as Americans, we should not focus our efforts on assigning blame, but rather to keep our eyes on the things that we all know need to be done. It is the people who have the power, and we should all make sure we get our fair piece.

Yashaswee Yaks

"Tears cannot be explained, and I believe that the mystery surrounding them makes them all the more fascinating."

Yashaswee Malla
Business Manager



Why do people cry when they see a good movie even if they know that it is just that ... a movie? The question of why people cry in general has not been scientifically determined, never mind the complicated task of explaining the psychological phenomenon of why people are deeply moved by something that does not directly affect them.

As you may have guessed, many experts have tried to dissect the anatomy of the teardrop and many others have searched for the origins of this bead of moisture, but they have yet to find a link between the tear duct and the human heart.

Crying is a form of empathy. It is a catharsis of pure human emotion. It is one of the most beautiful aspects of being human. Tears cannot be explained, and I believe that the mystery surrounding them makes them all the more fascinating. It is said that "tears are words the heart cannot say," since tears are able to express a depth of emotion that under-

mines language barriers; they are the universal language of an individual's heart and soul.

There exists a common thread among almost all films; they all play on human emotion. The many individuals that take part in the creation of movies are fully aware of the fact that if they are able to move their audience significantly, their movie will be considered a success; they take advantage of our weakness as a human race to sympathize with others to produce a masterpiece that is able to reach out and touch the hearts of many.

Plight may differ and be specific to a certain region or era, but emotion remains universal – it is just how different people form their own connections that is individual. Some may be deeply affected by certain movies while others may consider it a waste of their time. What some may see as the most moving scene of the entire movie, there will be those who may not even be affected by it. It all depends on one's personal experiences and how they are able to relate to the story.

All in all, you know a movie is good when it is able to draw you in, when you are able to connect with the two dimensional actors on the screen, and when you leave the theater still thinking about them and the events that took place in their lives that affected them throughout the movie. You may even experience your emotional catharsis long after you have seen the movie itself.

The Oak "K"

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Haleigh Hoots

"..I feel I'm just sticking to the code, following the standard definition of an honest person."

Haleigh Fellows
Photographer



Honesty. The quality or state of being honest; fairness and straightforwardness of conduct, speech etc; integrity; sincerity; truthfulness; freedom from fraud or guile. According to Webster's Dictionary at least. However, the connotation of this word has become skewed in daily life. Honesty is no longer black and white; it has reached the hazy, grey terrain. As most things that enter a cloudy region, there is usually a

sort of controversy involved. So, the question is: Should people really abide by the dictionary definition of honesty?

Throughout my life, I have adhered to the elementary school rule, "honesty is the best policy." I'm very straightforward, and I hardly ever beat around the bush. If someone were to ask my opinion, they would get uncensored thoughts directly from my brain. Unfortunately, this has categorized me as a brutally blunt person. Many people find my honesty overbearing and inconsiderate, making them dislike my character. But I feel I'm just sticking to the code, following the standard definition of an honest person.

Thus, I believe those people who do censor themselves aren't really being honest. Yet, these are the people who hold back because they don't want to hurt the other person's feelings or sound too righteous in their beliefs. And there's nothing wrong with that, huh? However, these are also the same people that if you got a really bad haircut and asked their opinion would respond, "It looks really amazing!" when clearly it looks terrible. Most people view these conservatives as very pleasant, considerate human beings. But, what's considerate about being insincere and untruthful?

I've come to the conclusion that there really is no right answer to this question. It's based on your moral beliefs and your personality. Nevertheless, I do feel that we should mesh these two sides together to create a happy, more honest medium. The brutally blunt side that I'm so fond of, could take a little edge of their sharp words, and the overly polite side could try and cut the excess sap from their words. Instead of saying, "That's a really good look for you!" say "That's fresh and interesting." Not hurtful, but still honest, which is probably the best definition of what honesty should be.

ANDREW'S ANALYSIS

"For whatever reason, we feel like we have to waste our time checking for new wall posts on Facebook.."

Andrew Croft
Sports Editor



With the ice storm of 2009 over, the reestablishment of power, and FEMA finally picking up all the tree limbs, we can all relax on the couch with our eyes glued to the TV or computer and continue on as if it never happened. I have never been more excited to get on the internet and search for random youtube videos or get on iTunes and listen to music than when I found out the internet was back up and running smoothly. For those of us who went days, even weeks without electricity, I think we can all honestly say

that we were going somewhat senile. I was constantly catching myself trying to flip light switches or turn on televisions that obviously wouldn't work. I constantly had to get out of the house in an attempt to keep myself occupied.

We who are fortunate enough to have the use of things like cell phones, iPods, and satellite TV have naturally been embedded into who we are as humans. We are constantly on the internet chatting with someone in another country, downloading music (legally of course), or typing a paper for school that we can immediately save to a minute flash drive and transport it with us wherever we go. We have become so used to technology that we have finally reached the point where we are hardly impressed with the latest inventions, and we don't even think about the insane things that all of our new and expensive toys can accomplish.

So, the fact that we couldn't function properly without power for a few days proves that a lot of the available modern technology has practically become an irreplaceable necessity in our everyday lives. For whatever reason, we feel like we have to waste our time checking for new wall posts on Facebook or texting five different people simultaneously. Due to the rate of technological improvements increasing exponentially, this problem will almost certainly worsen year by year.

I do feel that in some ways this is almost an unfortunate fact. We have become spoiled by all of the new convenient knick-knacks that are constantly being produced, and we assume we need to have them. I couldn't count how many times during the ice storm I heard someone say, including myself, that they wish they could play a video game, or how bad they wanted to watch some TV.

I'm not saying I wish we didn't have all of the technology available today, because trust me when I say I practically live off of my iPod and on finding new bands on the internet. I just think we allow these sort of things to blind us from the real necessities. Also, several studies have been made on how modern technology has affected the social communication and health of the world today. It has been proven that the face-to-face communication skills of today's youth have been significantly hindered due to things such as texting and online messaging. Though these things can be helpful at times, it is important that we maintain personal interaction with the rest of the world. Concerning health, the American obesity rate has drastically increased in the past two decades due to the production of new computer games and gaming consoles.

I love all of the technology available today just as much as anyone else, and would be devastated if, for whatever reason, I couldn't have it anymore. But if you take a step back, and look at how it has changed the way we function today, I think you will see where I am coming from. I feel that if we don't slow this process down soon, it will be an irreversible problem in the near future.

Lundberg Says It on Ya

"I mean, do you really think a 10-year-old could name the four states of the Gadsden Purchase all by himself?"

Rachel Lundberg
News Editor



There are many things in this world that are pointless, pathetic, and make no sense whatsoever. Bureaucracy, for example. Or those new Danimals "Crush Cups". I mean seriously, that's the dumbest idea I've heard in a long time. There's one thing in particular, though, that's really been bugging me lately—game shows. Game shows are in the same class as reality TV. The only difference is that the contestants wear nametags and the host has at least a one-to-one ratio of Botox to actual human flesh.

Game shows have to be one of the least entertaining things on TV. I'm not joking when I say I'd rather watch a segment about the Quakers on the History Channel. Not only is most of each show's half hour block made up of commercials, but the actual show isn't much better. No one makes it that far on shows like *Millionaire*, and I'm never that excited watching overly-happy thirtysomethings piece together the phrase "better late than never" letter by letter. *Jeopardy!* isn't as bad as most, but it bothers me that they'll have questions about the French Revolution and eighteenth century U.S. politics right next to ones about freakin' *Happy Days* or *Gilligan's Island*. Or, if you can name the character played by Lamar Burton in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, you must be really smart. To be fair, though, without *Jeopardy!* we wouldn't have the hilarious *SNL* version, with "Sean Connery" exclaiming, "My day has come!" when Will Ferrell-Trebek identifies the category as "Famous Mothers".

That brings me to my next point. There is nothing more disheartening, nothing that can induce such despair for the plight of the human race as watching an episode of *Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?*. Really and truly, it is no laughing matter. I have seen a man assert that a cube has eight sides, fail to identify a prime number, and still walk away with a few thousand dollars. It also stings that it's hosted by Jeff Foxworthy, quite possibly the least funny man alive. I am ashamed to be part of the geographic group to which his drivel appeals. Still, if you get a lousy grade on a test sometime, just turn this show on and remind yourself, "Hey, at least I'm smarter than *that* guy!" You're probably smarter than a 5th grader, too. After careful study, I've come to the conclusion that they give some of the kids the right answers. I mean, do you really think a 10-year-old could name the four states of the Gadsden Purchase all by himself? I didn't learn that until this year.

There are so many terrible game shows in existence. Once, out of pure masochism, I turned on the Game Show Channel (yes, it's real, it's horrifying), and began watching a miraculously inane one called *Lingo*. I hadn't ever heard of it, and I wish that I could go back to that ignorance. I would have saved so many brain cells that way. After five minutes I found my will to live draining away. This kind of programming cannot be healthy. However, there is one game show that I know of that is actually not that bad. *Cash Cab* asks a variety of engaging questions, and I've yet to see a contestant who makes me want to smash my head against something. Kudos to you, *Cash Cab!* You are a step above the rest. Your other game shows aren't off the hook, though. Conspiracies, every last one of you. I just know it.

Derek's Dealio

"A recording artist should be talented, and I think that is the message being sent by American Idol, of late."

Derek Operle
Entertainment Editor



American Idol is awesome. I love that show...but I didn't always love it...

I used to make fun of it, say it was a girly show. After all, three of the first four winners were girl pop sensations and the one guy that won was a soul singer. I was in middle school... could you really blame me for not watching the show whose first ever winner sang "Since U Been Gone"? The past few seasons, however, have been great. They have produced artists that I actually liked. The fifth season saw the discovery of Chris Daughtry and season seven brought us both David Cook and David Archuleta. The show, as a whole, is getting better. They have also started to allow contestants to play instruments on stage, and this makes the show really good because it can prove that the contestants are talented in more than just one way, which I think is an important quality in a recording artist.

A recording artist should be talented, and I think that is the message being sent by American Idol, of late: if you're not *that* good you shouldn't go for it. And that seems to hold true, even if we do enjoy watching people fail outrageously at the auditions. So many people watch the show, it barely even matters who wins. Winning doesn't matter as far as success rate is concerned. I mean, look at Chris Daughtry, compared to that season's winner...The point is, that this show has become a major media influence and point of exposure for new, budding artists and I think that it will continue to do this, and do this well, as long as it doesn't mess with its format too much, and it allows America to keep choosing its idols.

Aside from bringing some of the most talented musicians and vocalists to the forefront of America's attention, American Idol also brings some of the best stories about people right into your view. As far as back-stories go, I would have to say that this season is the best: Scotti MacIntyre is blind, Allison Iraheta is 16, and Michael Sarver worked on an oil rig before auditioning for the show. This season also has some of the better contestants ever to be on the show: Kris Allen, Danny Gokey, and Adam Lambert are three of the best vocalists I have ever heard on Idol.

So...next time I hear you complain about American Idol, I want an explanation of some sort because I didn't use to watch it until I really sat down and experienced the magic of the show for myself. But now I think you catch my drift when I say American Idol is awesome...because now I've learned to respect the show and like it for what it really is, a reality show with musical competition...and that's the kind of show for me.

Ally Articulates

"My summer reading assignment for this class was one of the major turning points in my appreciation for literature."

Ally Heine
Student Contributor



Throughout high school I've never really been an avid reader. In fact, I had an extreme distaste for books all together. I even had a thought once while reading a non-fiction, minority obsessed, history infatuated piece, to burn the entire thing—piece by piece, page by page, until each word of each sentence gasped its very last cynical breath. So it goes.

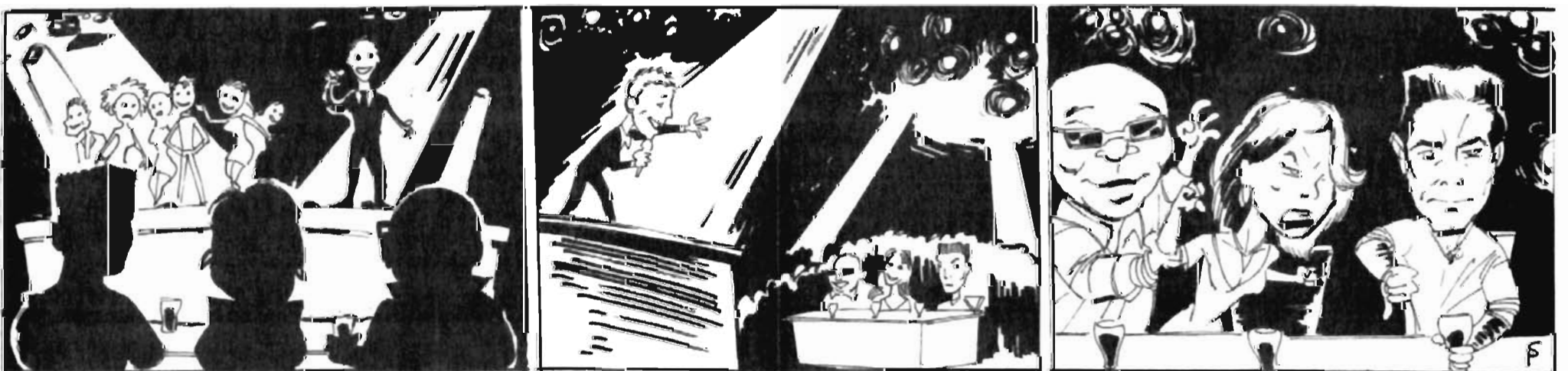
Now, I would never name names of authors, nor the class that required this read that I thought was nonsense at the time, but Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States* really knew how to grind my gears. My flames of bitterness continued to rise for this book throughout my junior year and even occupied my thoughts in my time off from school. I began to think that the hatred I had for this book would demolish any bit of appreciation I had, or willingness to read, any other piece of literature/short story/AP U.S. summer reading assignments the rest of my high school career.

This was until I decided to enroll in AP Literature my senior year. My summer reading assignment for this class, I can honestly say, was one of the major turning points in my appreciation for literature.

George Orwell's *1984* had me flipping through the pages to get that "new book smell." Yup, I'm a creeper. I smiled when Winston and Julia finally met in secret, I got chills when the picture frame spoke to him, and I was infuriated when Winston "won the battle over himself." Yes, yes, this class did, in fact, allow me to see the lighter part (or darker, as Joseph Conrad would describe) of reading and literature all together. Whether it was being able to see literature's best example of evil through the manipulative Iago, understanding the erroneous expectations pressed upon Jane Austen's characters' love lives, or coming unstuck in time with the Trafalmadorians, I began to appreciate, each piece I read.

So as a more appreciative, less bitter, tolerant reader, I would like to take this time to apologize to any teacher that may or may not have assigned a liberal wacko's piece of work to read over the summer, for my probably poorly written article protesting my anger towards both, the teacher of the class and author of the book. I understand now that even though I may have thought I was wasting my time reading another pointless book, it was just another bump in the road down my long journey of learning to appreciate each area of literature.

I also hate hoccer.



MYSTERY STARS

Haleigh Fellows
Photographer



This adorable blue-eyed freshman appreciates classics, like the Beatles, but can also rock out to something more modern, like Ben Folds. He is already on his way to becoming the next Raphael Nadal showing his athletic talents off in tennis and soccer. In his spare time, he enjoys playing ping pong with his favorite ginger. Who is this outgoing freshman?

This sophomore girl is known for her baller skills on the basketball and volleyball courts. Her favorite thing to do on the weekends is shopping and going to the movies with her friends. She also enjoys her "foursome" nights, where she makes obnoxious animal noises as her classic Cray defense mechanism and rocks out on Guitar Hero. Who is this silly, red-headed beauty?

This bubbly junior can always be seen sporting a big grin and flashing her signature peace sign. On the weekends, she likes to spend time cruising the roads of P-town with her friends in her big, white Kia. Her favorite way to relax is to curl up in bed with a good ol' Sarah Dessen book. Who is this colorful, scarf-wearing junior?

This quiet senior has what most people would consider the whole package. He has a heart of gold, muscles of steel, and the brains of Einstein. He's represented the purple and gold on the football field for the last four years and likes to chill at his friend's houses watching comedies on the weekends. Who is this outstanding senior?

Free Association

Jon Freeman
Sports Editor

Participants	A-Rod	Economy	Block Scheduling	Spring Break
Mitch Jacobs (9)	Steroids	Bad	Long	Oil
Eric Winn (10)	Cheater	Debt	Thumbs down	Da beach
Katie Clayton (11)	Who?	Obama	BOO!	Home
Cameron Tillett (12)	Shrinking	Ms. Sturm	I'm Gone	Rap music!
Coach Gagnon	A-Roid	Teaching	More classes	Baseball

RE-VAMPING VAMPIRES (CONT.)

Continued from p. 1

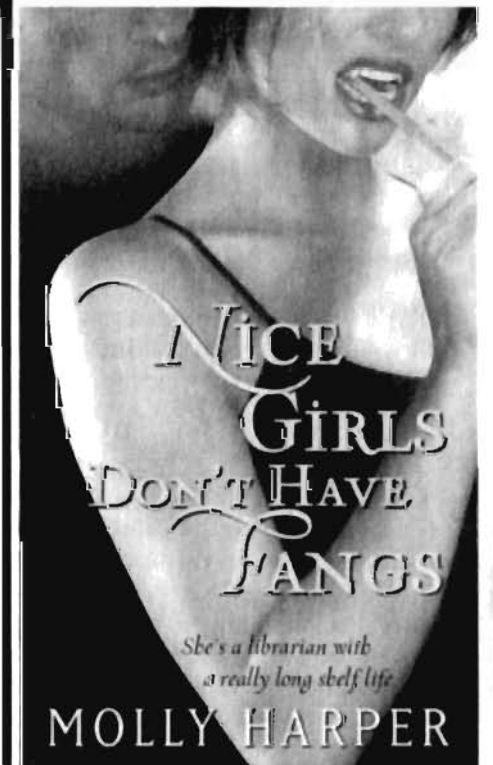
Following graduation, Harper went on to pursue journalism at Western Kentucky University after having been inspired by her many Lone Oak English teachers. Specifically Mr. Werner. Being first noticed by this former teacher for her portfolio piece on the heated political discussions between her and her father at the dinner table, he inspired her to write professionally. I am also inclined to mention that Harper was set straight by our very own Alan Franklin in his somewhat intimidating pre-calculus class. At WKU, Harper began to write seriously and interned during the summers at the Paducah Sun and at the Cincinnati Inquirer. Her first assignment at the home town newspaper was writing obituaries, then she went on to write news and feature columns on education. After graduating from college she became a full time employee at the Paducah Sun. Some years later she took time off from the Paducah Sun to stabilize the home life of her small children, but being the multi-tasker that she is, also worked full time at my church, Immanuel Baptist.

When asked how "Nice Girls Don't Have Fangs" came to be, she replied that it all started with her living in "The Apartment of Lost Souls, where appliances and small electronics came to die." With the dishwasher foaming at her feet and the TV flashing an eerie blue screen, she made the decision to either write or go completely bonkers.

Now a distinguished writer, Harper works for a medical advocacy group based in Paducah. Wishing to gradually become infamous, she hopes her audiences are able to relax and laugh with her vampire novel. Having not set out to teach the world, all she asks of her readers is that they enjoy the funniness that is Molly Harper's style. As for what she has to say to inspiring high school authors, "Writers, write." Harper advises not to take writing a book too seriously; apparently it takes many, many drafts to make the editors, publishing houses, prospective readers, and most importantly, the writer themselves happy. We're talking more drafts than a lifetime of portfolio pieces. It took Harper a whole year to just have her book published.

As for the mythical romantic comedy, it officially debuts on March 31 in bookstores everywhere or it can be pre-ordered at Amazon.com. I have already bookmarked my copy. When you fall completely head over heels for "Nice Girls Don't Have Fangs", you'll be glad to know that its two sister books will soon follow with their releases in August and December. Visit Harper at www.mollyharper.com then read and belly laugh all you want.

Courtesy of Pocket Star Books (Simon and Schuster)



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THE PURPLE FLASH CHAPTER 6: PROMISES

BY SPENSER PRICE



TO BE CONTINUED.

The Top Five Most Ridiculous/Egotistical Tom Cruise Movies of Our Time!

Aaron Williams
 Scientology Expert / News Editor

Zach Hughes
 Senior Tom Cruise Analyst / Biceps

Tom Cruise. He is the man who stole Katie Holmes away from us with crazy scientology voodoo magic and somehow had an Asian child with her. We are baffled by this. He is also a movie star. In particular, Cruise has had a taste for eccentric roles over his career. We decided to pick some of our favorite portrayals by Tommy boy and present them to you as a treat. Without further ado, we give you: The Top Five Most Ridiculous/Egotistical Tom Cruise Movies of Our Time.

5) Minority Report

Why it's ridiculous: Minority Report is a film about the possibility of psychics predicting murder in the future known as "precrime." Sounds pretty cool right? Wrong. Spielberg really dropped the ball on this one when he casted Tom Cruise as main character John Anderton. Only Cruise's limitlessly absurd ego could take a script this bad and turn it into an even worse movie.

Best egotistical moment: Cruise shows just how tough John Anderton can be when he bullies a seventy year old woman named Hineman who created the psychic "precrime" program. Classy Tom, classy. Also, at fifty minutes in, Cruise portrays Anderton taking on a squadron of awkwardly hovering jetpack cops using only a fire escape ladder and his awesomeness as weapons.

What Cruise probably said when he got the role: "This movie is all about reading minds. If I could read minds, I'm sure every woman in this room would be thinking about how sexy I am right now."

4) The Last Samurai

Why it's ridiculous: Cruise plays Nathan Algren, an American military officer who is haunted by the misdeeds he was a part of during his time in the military. He suffers 'Nam-like flashbacks of killing Native Americans and feels the need to redeem himself. He does so by going to Japan and becoming a samurai. Hi-ya!

Most egotistical moment: Initially, Cruise's character travels to Japan to train raw Japanese recruits for the Emperor who is trying to modernize Japan. Rebelling against the Emperor is Katsumoto, a super-samurai whose soldiers tear Cruise's troops to tiny little pieces in their first battle. Cruise proceeds to take the samurai on himself after his army is gone. He manages to kill one and is accepted into Katsumoto's village. He then pulls the totally arrogant move of hitting on the slain samurai's wife. Ouch. Later, when the Emperor crushes Katsumoto's rebellion Tom Cruise is left alone on a battlefield full of gunned down Japanese knights. Yes, that's right. The incredibly white Tom Cruise is supposed to be the Last Samurai. Oh come on....

What Cruise probably said when he got the role: I love the Japanese! I can't wait to shoot a film with them! They are so nice to me. Maybe one day I will kidnap a small Japanese baby all for myself and call it Suri. Suri sounds Japanese, right?

3) Mission Impossible 3

Why it's ridiculous: The truly impossible thing about MI3 is why it is even considered a good movie. Somehow Cruise/Wagner Productions managed to make a blockbuster with absolutely no plot. Seriously. They never tell you what super secret destructive powers the object they are trying to save the world from has. Tom Cruise doesn't even know! It does look like a small kitchen fire extinguisher though. Lethal. Be sure to check out MI4: The Strangely Shaped Device That May or May Not Be a Threat to the World.

Most egotistical moment: Take your pick. This movie is full of them. Near the forty-two minute mark, Impossible Mission Force Agent Ethan Hunt (Cruise) scales up a sixty foot wall of the Vatican. Once reaching the top, the camera zooms in for a close up and Cruise, his piercingly serious eyes glaring into the face of the audience, says: "Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall." However, the most outrageous moment occurs at one hour and seven minutes in when Cruise survives a missile strike that rips apart a car less than fifteen feet behind him before deciding fighting people is way too lame and proceeds to take on a plane with an assault rifle. Oh yeah, and he wins. Totally believable.

What Cruise probably said when he got the role: "Oh boy, another Mission Impossible movie! I haven't been this excited since I jumped on Oprah's couch, screaming at her! Oprah!"

2) War of the Worlds

Why it's ridiculous: This pile of re-imagined Hollywood nonsense would most likely cause author of the novel, H.G. Wells, to do back flips in his grave. In the film, Tom Cruise plays a dockworker-by-night, slacker-father-by-day that simply wants to show how young and hip he still is. Normally, the lazy guy with a heart of gold is a fairly likeable character. However, Cruise can't hide his scientology-fueled ego long enough to make it work. Instead, his fake deadbeat dad attitude leads to many awkward confrontations with his kids, from cursing at his teenage son while playing catch to bitterly mocking his ten year old daughter when she offers a little advice.

Most egotistical moment: To kick things off, Cruise manages to steal the only car in the city that still works and drives to his ex-wife's house in the suburbs where he thinks he and his kids will be safe from the alien invaders. Later in the movie Cruise is captured by one of the giant Martian tripods, but not before he miraculously found several grenades. As the aliens are finally about to make Cruise useful for something (fertilizer) he manages to pull the pins on the grenades with his teeth and toss them inside the tripod. To clarify things a bit, it takes five to eight pounds of pressure to pull the pin from a grenade, which isn't something a person could do without ripping out several teeth. Fortunately for the world, Cruise's jaw is heavily reinforced with crazy due to the many stupid things he's said over the years, because, as we all know, Tom Cruise and insanity go together like peanut butter and salmonella.

What Cruise probably said when he got the role: "War of the Worlds has aliens in it right? Right?! Scientology has aliens too! I was born for this role!"

1) Collateral

Why it's ridiculous: This movie is the definition of ridiculous. And by ridiculous we mean ridiculously terrifying. A hit man rides around all night in a taxi cab mowing down targets. Do we need to say anymore?

Most egotistical moment: After viewing this film we have come to the conclusion that substituting "egotistical" for "horrifying" would be more appropriate. Cruise plays a mysterious hit man named Vincent who takes Max (Jamie Foxx), a taxi driver, on a hellish ride through the streets of L.A. Rated R for its intense violence. Vincent brutally guns down two muggers at one point and later kills a jazz musician point blank. Nothing can top the climax, though, when Vincent strolls into the Fever nightclub and kills well over a dozen people before reaching his target and making us wonder why we ever wanted to make fun of Cruise who pulls off the "cold-blooded killer" role so well.

What Cruise probably said when he got the role: "So what if I jump on Oprah's couch and cry like a sissy? So what if I follow a religion a science fiction writer made up? At the end of the day, I am both lethal and terrifyingly insane. Do you really want to mess with me?"



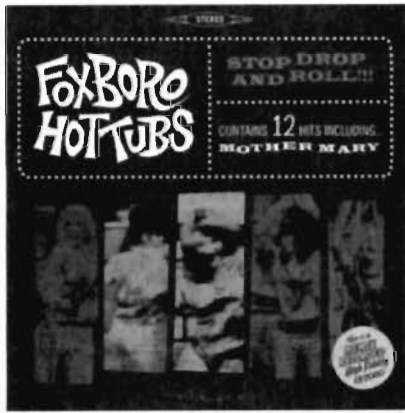
Photos courtesy of Google.com

Green Day? No...Foxboro Hot Tubs!!!

Derek Operle
Entertainment Editor

Do you know who the Foxboro Hot Tubs are? Odds are that you don't. The Foxboro Hot Tubs are Green Day in disguise, that's why you've never heard of them. No, for real, that's who they are: one day the members of Green Day and a couple of their friends teamed up to form a band called The Foxboro Hot Tubs and the resulting album was *Stop, Drop, and Roll!!!*

Now, for some, simply knowing that this band is "secretly" Green Day would be enough to check it out, but know this: this is Green Day in a more garage-style mode of play, emanating a distinct sixties vibe that makes them sound like a modern reincarnation of The Kinks. This Kinks-esque feel is perfectly demonstrated on the songs "Alligator" and "Broadway," both of which have great riffs and catchy choruses. a la "You Really Got Me," a Kinks classic later covered by Van Halen. A few songs even take on a feel reminiscent of the modern Scottish alternative-rock band The Fratellis, this is particularly evident on tracks like "Sally" and "27th Ave. Shuffle." But, even more surprisingly, there's a song that sounds like it's been ripped straight from a Smiths record, it's one thing for Green Day to recall sixties garage rock, but to mimic the sound of the great British alternative-rock band The Smiths is



Picture from google.com

another, and they do this to perfection on the rather slow "Dark Side of Night." As for the other songs, many of them take on that punk-pop feel that is so often present in Green Day's work. The second single from the album, "The Pedestrian," and the album's title track are clearly influenced by the band's normal style, incorporating chant-able choruses and solid, driving rhythms.

The thing I love about this album is that Green Day did not publicly admit to creating this album until months after its release, they actually intended it to be a practical joke on their listeners, but also for it to be something they could enjoy. And believe, you, me. It is enjoyable. I loved every song on this gem of an album. This album is one that you can put on shuffle with the rest of your Green Day and there will be times when you can't tell the difference between the two. And that's a good thing. Green Day, as I said, is one of the biggest bands of the past two decades for a reason, they make good music. And they only strayed from their style for a few songs on *Stop, Drop, and Roll!!!* which means that all of you Green Day fans out there should come out and buy this one. But this album isn't just for Green Day fans, it's for fans of rock. But not just traditional Green Day-style rock, garage rock, punk rock, and classic rock fans will all enjoy this album. So get out there, buy this album, don't be an *American Idiot*, you'll like it, trust me on this one.

STEP BROTHERS: INSTANT CLASSIC?

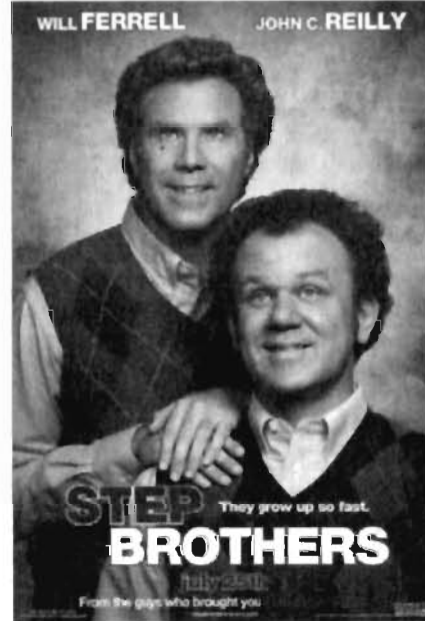
Jon Freeman
Sports Editor

Have you ever seen a movie that inspired you to go out and do good deed for someone else? Or a movie that changed your view on life? Well, *Step Brothers* is not one of those movies in the least bit. But, this outrageous comedy will have you laughing the whole time. With Will Ferrell writing the screenplay and being executive producer of the movie you know its going to be knee-slapper. Will Ferrell and John C. Riley team up in this comedy like they have before in *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*. If you thought that this dynamic duo was a fine match in *Talladega Nights* then just wait until you see *Step Brothers*.

The movie follows Dale Doback (John C. Riley) and Brennan Huff (Will Ferrell) as they are both jobless, middle-aged, and still living with their parents. When Brennan's mom and Dale's dad both meet at business conference they fall in love and decided to get married which leads to Dale and Brennan becoming step brothers. When Brennan and Dale's silly antics start putting the parents' relationship and the

overall peace of the household in peril Mr. Doback lays the law down and tells them they have to get jobs. They wear tuxedos as they interview as a team and it comes as no surprise that they don't obtain a job. The boys then get the idea to start their own music company calling it Prestige WorldWide. They create their own music video which stirs up some confusion in the house. Brennan says, "I'm gonna make beautiful music for a sad world." Though Dale and Brennan ultimately split up their parents, the devious duo come up with a hysterical scheme to get the couple back together. Three words: Catalina Wine Mixer.

This movie proves to be extremely quotable just as other Will Ferrell comedies like *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgandy*, *Wedding Crashers*, and *Old School*. With quotes such as "I was watching Cops," "I've been called the song-bird of my generation," or "Barbara Walters, Oprah, your wife" - which you have to watch the movie to get of course. You don't want to miss the duo's music video or the scene where they sleep walk. This hilarious comedy is a must see for comedy lovers.



Picture from google.com

Top Ten On Bethany Adams' iPod

Kyle Fouse
Asst. Editor-In-Chief



This young lady always has a smile on her face. Although school isn't her favorite thing in the world (you can tell by the way she trudges through hallways), she always puts her best foot forward. Very partial to socializing and conversing, she is also an avid music fan and always has her iPod ready for any down time she encounters during class. I am pleased to present the following list of her top 10 songs.

- 10. Signs by Bloc Party
- 9. Don't Know When but A Day Is Gonna Come - Bright Eyes
- 8. The Professor - Damien Rice
- 7. Scar Tissue - Red Hot Chili Peppers
- 6. New American Classic - Taking Back Sunday
- 5. Lindsay Quit Lollygagging - Chiodos
- 4. Nicotinic - Kate Nash
- 3. Tiny Dancer - Elton John
- 2. Poker Face - Lady Gaga
- 1. Zombie - The Cranberries

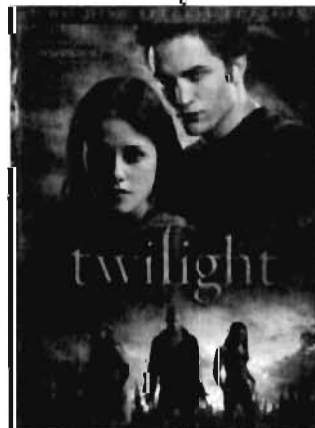
Picture by Haleigh Fellows

*Adams
Adams
Adams*

Twilight: A Highlight

Erin Conwell
Features Editor

With its release onto DVD on March 20th, the Twilight craze just keeps growing. The DVD sold 3 million copies in its first day alone and thousands of fans went out at midnight parties to celebrate its release and several of the film's stars came out to select locations to join the celebration. Nearly 600 people made a voyage out to the now famed Forks, Washington to celebrate where the story itself takes place. The local Quileute tribe even joined in and shared legends of their history and dances including some of their sacred wolf dance. In Hollywood around 400 fans lined up outside of a Hot Topic to wait for the midnight appearance of a mystery Twilight actor for the release. The mystery star turned out to be Ashley Greene who plays Alice Cullen, who presented hundreds of autographed copies of the Twilight DVD. Many of the fans were holding out for Robert Pattinson, however the closest they got was a life-size cardboard cutout that still provoked shrieks of excitement among his adoring female fans. Some of the fans got out as early as 6 a.m. to secure a spot at one of the exclusive locations where celebrity appearances were rumored to occur. One of these crazed fans proclaimed "We're high on Twilight!" They certainly must be to spend the entire day waiting for just a



Picture from google.com

glimpse of who knows which cast member.

Twilight has now reached record fame, putting even more pressure on Summit Entertainment to make sure the sequel is just as, if not more, amazing. In order to insure this they have ousted Twilight's director, Catherine Hardwick in exchange for Chris Weitz whose former works include *The Golden Compass* and *About a Boy*. The books' author, Stephanie Meyer, is enthusiastic about working with Weitz posting on her blog, "I'm excited to work with Chris and I think he brings a lot to the table." There was also some speculation that under a new director some roles would be recast. This has worried many fans who have come to adore Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart, and other cast members. It was seriously considered that Taylor Lautner would be replaced in New Moon because filmmakers weren't sure that one actor could portray a character that undertakes such intense changes as Jacob Black will in the sequel. He definitely worked hard for the part though, going to the gym 2 to 3 times a day and staying to a strict nutrition program for the past year to prepare for the part. The cast has gained some new additions as well such as Dakota Fanning who will be taking on the role of Jane, however, the rest of the Volturi are still up in the air for the moment. After the madness surrounding this weekend's DVD release, I'm sure things are only going to get crazier come November 20th when Twilight fans everywhere head to theatres for New Moon.

R. DONALD HEINE, D.M.D.

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Charlotte Sometimes...

Derek Operle
Entertainment Editor

Charlotte Sometimes, her name taken from a children's book of 60's, released her debut album *Waves & The Both of Us* around May of last year. This album went largely unnoticed but experienced mild success in the iTunes store.

While you may not have heard of her, you should probably give her a listen because she's one of the next wave of artists following in the footsteps of the indie act Cat Power, and doing it well, I might add. The album has twelve original tracks and one cover, that being of "How I Could Just Kill a Man" by the infamous Cypress

Hill. The album starts out with a great track called "Losing Sleep" which perfectly demonstrates her style: by using a cool acoustic riff with an electronic background which really helps the song to flow and sound a little upbeat despite how sad her lyrics might be. The title track of the album is one of the better songs on the album as it has a nice, happy, quick chorus and really shows her more "lovey" side. The rest of the album, however, tends to be a little slower and depressing. But there are a few more happy



Picture from google.com

songs like "Sweet Valium High" and "Army Men." *Waves & The Both of Us* is overall a great album and it would do well for any fan of Cat Power or indie pop, in general, to pick up a copy of this one.

More Than Just Reading

Kelsey Smith
Entertainment Editor

Generally, I have two rules about movies: one, always read the book first, and two, never see a movie more than once while it's in theaters.

For the record, I began the first chapter of *The Reader* after watching it at Maiden Alley and finished it just before seeing it for the third time.

The Reader is set in Germany over the span of four decades. Some have even described it as a "biographical timeline." The story follows the lives of the main characters Michael Berg, a fifteen-year old student, (played by David Kross and Ralph Fiennes) and Hanna Schmitz (Kate Winslet), a 36 year-old streetcar attendant.

Michael and Hanna meet as Michael is hunched over the alley outside of Hanna's apartment, sick with an illness that "makes every step painful." As he is propped against the wall, a woman (Hanna) looks first at the vomit on the pavement, then at Michael and shouts, "Hey, you! Hey, you!" She then leaves the screen and returns holding two buckets of water. She empties the water at both of the places where Michael has thrown up, pausing briefly to wipe off his face with a rag before turning to wash her own hands. Michael begins to cry, and Hanna wraps her arms around him and says, "Kid, you're all right." She then walks him home, and the following day, Michael is diagnosed with

scarlet fever.

Three months later, Michael is taken off bed rest and goes to Hanna's apartment to thank her. From there, from that small encounter, Michael and Hanna begin to have an affair that includes Michael reading aloud to Hanna. He reads *The Odyssey*, *War and Peace*, Chekov, Twain, plays,

poetry, anything. And the effect of Hanna on Michael and his reading on Hanna becomes more and more evident as Michael begins cut his last class to see Hanna, and she is shown crying while he's reading, laughing, coming to appreciate them as though she had written herself.

Then she disappears. Michael knows nothing, hears nothing, feels nothing.

The film then jumps to Michael in law school. He and a group of other seminar students are taken to a trial aiming to sentence Nazi guards from WWII. His professor leads the group to the balcony, the judge calls the case to order, and as Michael is reaching into his bag for a pen, he hears the judge say to the defendant, "So, your name is Hanna Schmitz? That is your name, Hanna Schmitz?"

The movie follows the rest of the trial, follows the sentencing, and moves in and out of the past and the present in a way that allows the viewer to see the affect Hanna had on various stages of Michael's life. It shows the effects both obvious and subtle. It's moving. It's honest. It's beautiful. And never have I cried so much during a movie. Never have I recognized so many qualities in cinema characters that reminded me of people I knew or things that I went through. And like I said, never have I paid to see a movie more than once.

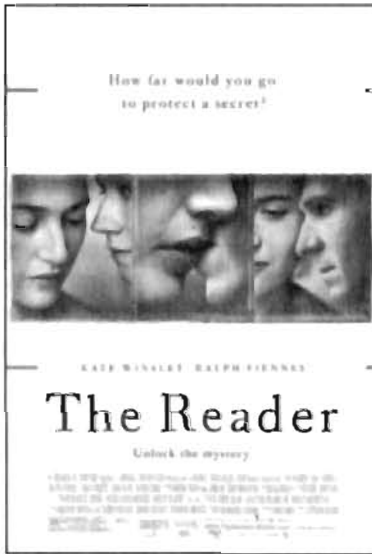


Photo courtesy of google.com

No Hazard Here

Andrew Croft
Sports Editor

The Decemberists are an Oregon based indie-rock band that has had my attention for a few years. Though I am still unfamiliar with their earlier material, I fell in love with their fourth studio album, *The Crane Wife*, released in 2006, as I constantly listened to the mesmerizing title track. The band is fronted by singer/songwriter Colin Meloy. Other members include Chris Funk, Jenny Conlee, Nate Query, and John Moen. They have one of the most uniquely diverse styles I have ever heard. The band's songs range from upbeat pop songs (similar to Death Cab for Cutie) to softly swaying English folk ballads. They often incorporate instruments like the accordion, organ, upright bass, and banjo into their music. On their website, they credit bands such as Norfolk and Western, The Places, The Long Winters, Camera Obscura, and (as previously mentioned) Death Cab for Cutie as largely influencing their music.



Photo courtesy of google.com

Colin Meloy has taken a path less traveled by modern musicians when it comes to his lyrics. He is notorious for his lyrics that carry a plot from song to song, creating a "rock-opera" (for lack of a better term). The albums often include love, drama, and even unpredictable plot twists if closely analyzed. Taking their music and lyrics into account, several critics have compared The Decemberists to the likes of Neutral Milk Hotel, another favorite of mine.

The Decemberists recently released their highly anticipated new album, *The Hazards of Love*, on March 29th. Meloy took the idea

of this album from a 1996 EP by Anne Briggs, who is most known for being covered by Led Zeppelin. After I listened to the first few songs, my first impressions are this album will not disappoint even the most die-hard fans. The band keeps their same musical style, but adds a bit more hard rock to the mix. Meloy worked his magic with this CD, and produced another masterpiece, telling the tale of a woman named Margaret who is ravaged by a shape-shifting animal; her lover, William; a forest queen; and a cold blooded rake. Each song blends into the next in a style similar to that of Pink Floyd's *The Wall* and Rush's marathon song "2112 Overture." The band also invited several

guests to appear on this album, including Lendar Diamond's Becky Stark, My Brightest Diamond's Shara Worden, The Spinanes' Rebecca Gates, Robyn Hitchcock, and one of my idols, Jim James of My Morning Jacket. Meloy incorporates several examples of dual vocals between himself and his female acquaintances, often resembling soliloquies in a Shakespearean play. My favorite song so far is "The Wanting

Comes In Waves/Repaid," which starts with a soft harpsichord melody, leads into an emotional chorus, then completely changes into an electric guitar driven second and third verse. "Annan Water," is another song that caught my attention, with its swift acoustic guitar and lyrics that paint an adventurous scene for the listener.

Of the two albums I have, *The Hazards of Love* is by far my favorite. I highly recommend it for anyone who likes The Decemberists, or for anyone who has never heard them before.

WATCH THIS!

Rachel Lundberg
News Editor

I was skeptical: I wasn't sure *Watchmen* could be successfully adapted for the screen. But Hollywood really came through for me this time. The film exceeded my expectations on many levels. Much as it begrudges me to praise Zack Snyder, I will concede that odds are he deserves credit for at least one of the good parts of this movie.

Visually, *Watchmen* was beautiful. The cinematography was simply gorgeous, especially in the opening scenes. The focus of each shot really popped, but didn't do so by subtracting from the careful detail of the background. The action moved from small to wide scope—a picture on the wall, the murderer throwing Blake onto a coffee table, a few bits of glass—separated by smooth pauses. In other words, it was like watching a comic book. *Watchmen* is not the first film to make use of this technique, but it's the first I've seen to use it so well. Dave Gibbons, illustrator of the graphic novel, laid the groundwork, and the cinematographers put the icing on the cake. It was delicious eye candy.

It's clear that a lot of effort was put into the little details. Even Dollar Bill, who only got a few seconds of screen time (most of them dead), had a carefully crafted, accurately reproduced costume. It's the details that made the graphic novel so great, and Snyder seemed to understand this, at least to some extent. The viewer was treated to little pieces straight from the book, such as the Nostalgia perfume ads, and the sign on Hollis' gate declaring, "Obsolete models a specialty!" There was a certain large detail, however, that was changed; Ozymandius' costume hardly resembled its comic book counterpart at all. The bland, dark body armor did not reflect the vain and showy personalities of Adrian Veidt and his ancient namesake. That wasn't the real problem, though. Without going into detail, suffice it to say that a quick look at a poster could ruin the story's final dramatic twist.

If there was one area where the movie really fell short, it was characterization. The actors weren't the problem; a large majority of them did an exemplary job. The writing is where it could have been better. Certain scenes from the comic that at first may seem insignificant were in fact essential to portraying a particular character. None of the characters of *Watchmen* are intended to be very likable. Alan Moore crafted a set of somewhat

pathetic human beings so that he could better get his point across. When the instances that most clearly show their faults are left out, the story loses something on a deeper level. Dan Dreiberger and Rorschach were the most affected by this. Dan, arguably the only person in the story who is not a self-centered jerk, is incurably spineless. ("Is one lump okay, or should I go out...?") The movie Dan actually had at least half of a backbone, making him a decent character. Again, this is a bigger deal than one may think. Rorschach, as I expected would be the case, was portrayed as the sort of hero.

Though he may be easier to sympathize with, Moore made a point not to let the reader forget that he is also a bigoted, racist, homophobic, radical right-winger. "Hurrn," indeed.

The movie was almost three hours long, but it held my interest the whole time. Still, with three hours, how did they manage to leave out some of the important stuff? For instance, Bernard and Bernard, the news vendor and the kid who hung out at the newsstand, were an integral part of the story. They reflected the subconscious change in the people's attitude as nuclear war drew nearer. They showed up for a brief second at the end of the film, in what seemed to be a token appearance, but it meant nothing to an audience who didn't know who they were. Even old Hollis Mason, who was introduced at the beginning of the movie, never fulfilled his purpose as part of the big picture (i.e., to die). They would have had time for more of Rorschach in prison, or a more thorough sequence of Jon on the moon if they had cut some of the more unnecessary scenes, like Laurie turning on Archie's flamethrowers, or Dan and Laurie beating up the street punks, a laughably cheesy/gory segment by all accounts. (Snyder just couldn't let go of *300*, could he?) However, the DVD release is expected to have excerpts from "Tales of the Black Freighter" and "Under the Hood", so that's definitely something to look forward to.

The ending of the movie was changed, in what was clearly an effort to make it a bit less ridiculous. However, the alternate ending was not a very thorough or appropriate substitute, and seemed to

downplay the thematic moral question of the story, as well as leave a few minor plot holes. Silly as it may have been, it would have been better to go with the comic book ending to preserve the full dramatic impact of the final reveal. *Watchmen* was a solid film for many reasons, despite the challenges of adapting the most revolutionary graphic novel of the medium. There's nothing quite like it, and I'd recommend it to anyone who enjoys a well-crafted plot. If you're considering reading the comic, I suggest that you do. This is one of those rare instances where the movie is more enjoyable if you have.



Photo courtesy of google.com



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Blake Harrison
Editor-in-Chief

2009 MLB PREVIEW

National League Central



Chicago Cubs

Key Additions: Milton Bradley, Aaron Miles
Major Losses: Mark DeRosa, Kerry Wood
Bottom Line: The Cubbies enter 2009 as the favorite to win the NL Central, again. There is no question about the talent Chicago has, it's just a matter of health and the ability to make it past "The Curse." Their rotation goes four deep, and the bullpen will feature power arms like Jeff Samardzija. DeRosa's versatility won't be easily replaced, but Miles should prove to be a worthy alternative.



Milwaukee Brewers

Key Additions: Trevor Hoffman, Braden Looper
Major Losses: CC Sabathia, Ben Sheets
Bottom Line: The Brew Crew wound up on the short end of the free agent stick when they chose not to re-sign Sheets and lost out on Sabathia. To Milwaukee's credit, they did attempt to lock up CC long-term, but the Yankees easily outbid them. Though the rotation is solid and Hoffman was brought in to close games, the Brewers may not be able to stand out in the National League in '09. Even so, they will field one of the youngest and most impressive batting orders around.



St. Louis Cardinals

Key Additions: Khalil Greene, Trevor Miller, Dennys Reyes
Major Losses: Braden Looper, Aaron Miles, Russ Springer
Bottom Line: The Redbirds set out with one goal this offseason: find a premier closer. Did they do so? Not so much. They did shore up the left side of the bullpen, but the back end of the 'pen is a major question mark. The lineup and starting rotation, if healthy, should keep St. Louis in contention for the long haul. Phenom Colby Rasmus, rated as the #3 prospect by *Baseball America*, should finally stick with the big club and begin what looks to be an excellent career.



Cincinnati Reds

Key Additions: Ramon Hernandez, Arthur Rhodes, Willy Taveres
Major Losses: Ryan Freel
Bottom Line: Honestly, most teams would gladly swap their top prospects straight up for Cincy's. Cueto, Volquez, Votto, and Bruce are all stars in the making. The problem is, they are all still relatively young and inexperienced. Volquez and Cueto are top-of-the-rotation starters with high strikeout totals, which makes them fun to watch. I'm not ready to say the Reds are contenders just yet, though.



Houston Astros

Key Additions: Mike Hampton, Pudge Rodriguez
Major Losses: Brad Ausmus, Mark Loretta, Randy Wolf
Bottom Line: The Astros do have three veteran bats (Berkman, Lee, Tejada) and leadership at the top of the rotation (Oswalt), but it is very unlikely that Houston will be in the playoff picture this year.

National League West



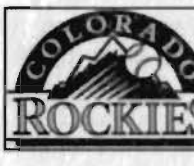
Los Angeles Dodgers

Key Additions: Orlando Hudson, Randy Wolf
Major Losses: Derek Lowe, Brad Penny, Greg Maddux
Bottom Line: After over three full months of playing chicken, Manny Ramirez and his agent finally decided to accept the Dodgers' contract offer—his only serious offer, at that. Regardless of what LA could've done this offseason, without re-signing Manny, fans would have been disappointed. Bringing him back legitimizes the lineup and automatically puts the Dodgers atop the NL West.



Arizona Diamondbacks

Key Additions: Jon Garland, Tom Gordon
Major Losses: Juan Cruz, Adam Dunn, David Eckstein, Orlando Hudson, Randy Johnson
Bottom Line: What makes Arizona an intriguing club are young studs Chris Young, Stephen Drew, Justin Upton, and Max Scherzer. Throw them in with former 20 game winner Brandon Webb, and you have a legit contender. If there is a team out West that could challenge LA, the D-Backs are it.



Colorado Rockies

Key Additions: Randy Flores, Houston Street
Major Losses: Brian Fuentes, Matt Holliday
Bottom Line: Colorado is just two years removed from an improbable run through the post season, and there's only one problem—the biggest bat and bullpen arm from that run are long gone. Sure, they picked up the talented closer Street to fill the void, and Todd Helton is still around, but quality performance from the bullpen in late innings is what wins ballgames. Fuentes, a lefty, had been one of the best of late, which made the odds tilt in the Rox favor frequently. The NL West is usually wide open, but this year the Rockies might have a hard time keeping pace with the Dodgers.



San Francisco Giants

Key Additions: Jeremy Affeldt, Randy Johnson, Edgar Renteria
Major Losses: Omar Vizquel, Tyler Walker
Bottom Line: With very few exceptions, the Giants' roster features no household names (not including the starting rotation). The addition of Johnson gives San Fran veteran leadership and a reason for fans to come to the park every fifth day. The Giants might actually have one of the best rotations pound for pound in the majors. However, if they can't score runs, that won't matter.



San Diego Padres

Key Additions: Henry Blanco, David Eckstein, Cliff Floyd
Major Losses: Michael Barrett, Khalil Greene, Trevor Hoffman
Bottom Line: In a disappointing turn of events, the Pads were unable to retain the face of their franchise in Hoffman. San Diego is the epitome of a club cutting costs in a drastic manner. After losing two starting infielders and Hoffman, the only other noteworthy names in San Diego are Jake Peavy, Chris Young, Adrian Gonzalez, and Brian Giles. Because of the fact that the Pads are not a complete team, I do not see them competing this season.

National League East



Philadelphia Phillies

Key Additions: Raul Ibanez
Major Losses: Pat Burrell, Tom Gordon
Bottom Line: The reigning World Champs did not lose any major parts from their 2008 team, but added a left handed bat in Ibanez. You would have to believe that the Phils are the favorites to win the NL East as they look to win another title.



New York Mets

Key Additions: J.J. Putz, Francisco Rodriguez
Major Losses: Endy Chavez, Claudio Vargas
Bottom Line: The Mets have to be one of the few teams that outshine the rest as far as addressing needs this offseason. Not only did they sign record setting closer, Francisco Rodriguez, they also traded for another shut down closer in Putz. Having both of these guys at their disposal will only shorten games as the season progresses. With that in mind, it's feasible to assume that the Mets will challenge the Phillies for the NL East crown.



Atlanta Braves

Key Additions: Garrett Anderson, Kenshin Kawaka, Derek Lowe, Javier Vasquez
Major Losses: Mike Hampton, Jorge Julio, John Smoltz
Bottom Line: Opening Day for the Braves will mark the first time in 20 years that Smoltz will not be on the roster. It will be hard to watch Smoltz pitch in a Red Sox uniform, as it will be to watch the Braves without him. All emotions aside, the Braves could be a team that is quickly overlooked—a dark horse, so to speak. With veterans Lowe and Glavine in the rotation and youth in the field, Atlanta could be a spoiler come September.



Florida Marlins

Key Additions: Emilio Bonifacio, Scott Proctor
Major Losses: Kevin Gregg, Mike Jacobs, Scott Olson, Arthur Rhodes, Josh Willingham
Bottom Line: The Marlins are one of those clubs that you just aren't sure about. They seem to trade away talent every offseason, but somehow find a way to compete in spite of their transactions. Uggla and Ramirez make up the best young middle infield in baseball, and Cameron Maybin might finally emerge as a premier center fielder. Who knows?



D.C. Nationals

Key Additions: Daniel Cabrera, Adam Dunn, Scott Olson, Josh Willingham
Major Losses: Emilio Bonifacio, Chad Cordero
Bottom Line: Impressively, D.C. went out and got a big name bat in Dunn this offseason. He will provide a much needed offensive boost, as well as a reason for fans to attend games. Scott Olson was a great addition to the staff as well. Even so, the Nats will not contend this year.

American League Central



Chicago White Sox

Key Additions: Wilson Betemit
Major Losses: Orlando Cabrera, Joe Crede, Ken Griffey, Jr., Nick Swisher, Javier Vasquez
Bottom Line: Looking at the players that left the ChiSox, you would think that they were headed in a bad direction. The reality is, though, they might be the most balanced team in the division. The Sox have a huge veteran presence in the clubhouse, including many players who were on their latest World Series Championship team.



Detroit Tigers

Key Additions: Adam Everett, Edwin Jackson, Brandon Lyon
Major Losses: Kyle Farnsworth, Edgar Renteria
Bottom Line: The Indians burned me last year, but the Tigers burned everybody a year ago. They were being talked about as having one of the greatest offensive lineups in baseball history, not to mention being picked to win well over 100 games. Dontrelle Willis went wild. Miguel Cabrera was overweight, and the rest of the pitching staff underperformed. Last season's core is intact, but after watching them last year, I don't see how anybody could pick them to win the division this early.



Cleveland Indians

Key Additions: Mark DeRosa, Carl Pavano, Kerry Wood
Major Losses: Franklin Gutierrez
Bottom Line: I had the Indians pegged as a title contender last season, and they fell apart. They are still relatively young and do have ample talent, but two major pitching question marks have me concerned. For one, Carl Pavano is penciled in as the #3 starter. Pavano has not been healthy since his years with the Marlins. On top of that, Kerry Wood is slated to be the closer on Opening Day. Just ask Mr. Gagnon how reliable Wood is. Not so much.



Minnesota Twins

Key Additions: Luis Ayala, Joe Crede
Major Losses: Adam Everett, Dennys Reyes
Bottom Line: A healthy Liriano at the top of the rotation will be the difference maker for the Twinkies. Their lineup, featuring Joe Mauer, Justin Morneau, and Denard Span, should be enough to keep them in contention. It is their inexperienced pitching staff that raises the most questions heading into the season. Carlos Gomez should break out with a more complete offensive year.

AL East and West breakdowns on page 11

2009 MLB
All-Star
Weekend



St. Louis
July
13-14

2009 MLB PREVIEW CONTINUED...

American League East



Tampa Bay Rays
Key Additions: Pat Burrell, Jason Istringhausen, Adam Kennedy
Major Losses: Rocco Baldelli, Cliff Floyd, Edwin Jackson, Trevor Miller
Bottom Line: You have to give the Rays the benefit of a doubt and say they are the favorites to win the AL East. They finally put it all together last season and shocked all of baseball. Just about all of their core is back, a year older and more experienced. They brought in a veteran bat in Burrell, and signed oft-injured reliever Jason Istringhausen after his disappointing exit from St. Louis, to give the club more leadership. Everyone will be looking to take out the Rays this season.



Boston Red Sox
Key Additions: Rocco Baldelli, Brad Penny, Takashi Saito, John Smoltz
Major Losses: Coco Crisp
Bottom Line: If you compare payrolls, the Yankees would win the heated battle with the Red Sox. However, I personally like the Sox starting pitching depth and experience over that of the Bronx Bombers. More of Boston's players have experience within the rivalry and in October. John Smoltz, a free agent steal, will be a big part of what the Sox can do in October once he's healthy.



New York Yankees
Key Additions: A.J. Burnett, CC Sabathia, Nick Swisher, Mark Teixeira
Major Losses: Bobby Abreu, Jason Giambi
Bottom Line: Sick. Just sick. The Yankees did what they do best, again. Because they cannot develop their own talent, they thought it would be nice to steal everybody else's. They signed the top hitter and the top two pitchers on the market this offseason. The only way the Yanks could live up their payroll is to win the next 15 World Series. My guess is, one of the big starting pitchers they brought in will be a complete bust (a la Carl Pavano), and they will not win the Series.

American League West



Los Angeles Angels (of Anaheim)
Key Additions: Bobby Abreu, Brian Fuentes
Major Losses: Garrett Anderson, Jon Garland, Francisco Rodriguez, Mark Teixeira
Bottom Line: The Angles took majors hits losing both K-Rod and Big Tex. That being said, the Halos are still a very good team. They will miss Teixeira's offensive production, yes, but losing K-Rod as closer might be a bigger problem. Fuentes is a fantastic closer, but K-Rod saved over 60 games last season, something that will be hard to match. The Angles should have enough to pull out the division title.



Oakland Athletics
Key Additions: Orlando Cabrera, Nomar Garciaparra, Jason Giambi, Matt Holliday, Russ Springer
Major Losses: Houston Street, Mike Sweeney
Bottom Line: If healthy, I could see the A's offense keeping par with the Angels'. Where they will lose the battle is in the pitching department. It looks as if LA has a more complete staff, which gives them the edge over the Athletics.



Texas Rangers
Key Additions: Eddie Guardado, Derrick Turnbow, Omar Vizquel
Major Losses: Milton Bradley
Bottom Line: Like many other teams, the Rangers' downfall will probably be pitching. They have offensive weapons like Josh Hamilton and Ian Kinsler, but the inexperience in the rotation will spell doom for Texas.

Pages completed with references to mlb.com

An ode to senior hoopsters

Blake Harrison
 Editor-in-Chief

With the school year winding down, I felt it appropriate to recognize our senior basketball players who played hard all year long.

Jamarielle Brown finished leading the team in rebounding at 6.3 per game while contributing over 11 points per contest, good for second on the team. Brown, an all around athlete who is best known for his skills on the gridiron, was a three year starter. One of his most memorable plays occurred against Paducah Tilghman his junior season, during which he blocked a crucial shot attempt to seal a victory.

Cameron Tillet, a one year starter for the Flash, ended the year averaging nearly 15 points and over 5 rebounds per game. Tillet's biggest offensive night came against Lyon County (27 big man points) his senior season. Cameron also led the seniors with a 61.2% 2-point field goal percentage.

Josh Byrd, who started for two years, was looked upon to be a floor general and rebounder. Byrd was second among seniors behind Tillet with a 64% free throw percentage. Josh was able to contribute nearly five rebounds every night, and was second in assists/game as far as senior are concerned.

Peyton Logue, a little used big man, returned to the hardwood for his senior season after not playing as a junior. When put into games, it was a guarantee that P-LO would play tough defense and crash the boards.

Ally Heine, a three year starter for the Lady Flash, finished her career with well over 1,000 points. She led the team in total points, assists, and finished third in rebounding. A lot of pressure was put on Ally throughout her career as she played the point guard position during most of her tenure with the Lady Flash. She was able to guide her team night in, night out, including their home win over Paducah Tilghman on senior night.

Gabby Fellows, who missed the majority of her senior season due to injury, provided a pleasant contribution to the team, seeing as she has only been playing basketball for five years. When healthy, Gabby filled the shooting guard role, proving to be an offensive threat on a nightly basis.

Last but not least, **Iesha Brown** returned to the team for her senior season after sitting out one year. Brown played valuable minutes all season long, and she was looked upon to provide stellar defense in key situations.



Cameron Tillet



Gabby Fellows



Peyton Logue



Joshua Byrd



Jamarielle Brown



Ally Heine



Iesha Brown

Upcoming baseball/softball schedule

Baseball

Softball

Date	Opponent	Location	Time	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Mar 31	Heath	home	6:30 PM	Apr 1	St. Mary	away	4:30 PM
Apr 3	TBA	at Various Sites	TBA	Apr 2	Reidland	home	5:00 PM
Apr 4	TBA	at Various Sites	TBA	Apr 13	St. Mary	home	5:00 PM
Apr 14	Paducah Tilghman	home	6:30 PM	Apr 16	Paducah Tilghman	home	5:00 PM
Apr 17	TBA	at Christian County, Hopkinsville	TBA	Apr 20	Calloway County	away	5:00 PM
Apr 17	Christian County	at Christian County, Hopkinsville	7:30 PM	Apr 21	Carlisle County	away	5:00 PM
Apr 18	Union County	at Christian County, Hopkinsville	3:00 PM	Apr 23	Heath	home	5:00 PM
Apr 18	TBA	at Christian County, Hopkinsville	TBA	Apr 27	Reidland	away	6:00 PM
Apr 20	Graves County	home	6:30 PM	Apr 29	Heath	away	5:30 PM
Apr 21	Heath	away	6:30 PM	May 5	Carlisle County	home	5:00 PM
Apr 24	Franklin-Simpson	at Calloway County	7:30 PM	May 7	Murray	away	5:00 PM
Apr 25	Calloway County	away	5:30 PM	May 12	Graves County	away	5:00 PM
Apr 25	Madisonville-North Hopkins	at Calloway County	3:00 PM	Schedules courtesy khsaa.org			
Apr 27	Reidland	away	6:00 PM	May 11	Graves County	away	4:30 PM
Apr 30	Paducah Tilghman	away	4:00 PM	May 12	Carlisle County	away	4:30 PM
May 1	Ballard Memorial	away	4:30 PM	May 14	Calloway County	home	7:00 PM
May 2	Marshall County	away	1:00 PM	May 16	St. Mary	home	2:00 PM
May 4	Reidland	home	6:00 PM				
May 5	Mayfield	home	6:30 PM				
May 8	St. Mary	away	4:00 PM				
May 9	Crittenden County	TBA	4:45 PM				

GO FLASH!

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Pain Management

Centers Of Paducah And Marion

Paducah Center
2831 Lone Oak Rd, Paducah, KY
270-554-8373

Marion Center
108 Airway Drive, Marion, IL
618-997-7820



Dr. Laxmaiah
Manchikanti,
Medical Director



Dr. Yogesh B.
Malla

Conditions Treated

- Low Back & Neck Pain
- Headaches
- Neuropathies
- Sympathetic Dystrophy
- Myofacial Pain
- Cancer Pain
- Other Conditions