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Thank you  
for  
reading all  
year!

## Grant provides MacBooks

Andrew Croft  
*Sports Editor*



In midst of all the consolidation mayhem, McCracken County High Schools were surprised with an exciting opportunity. Apple has granted each school with an eight year contract during which each student will be provided with their own MacBook to use in school

and to take home during all four years of high school. MacBooks are the top-end laptops currently on the market, due to their sleek, sophisticated appearance and their user-friendly software. The price of one can range from \$1,000 to \$2,800, and the students are getting their white, 13 inch MacBooks for free, except for a minute take-home fee.

Because the majority of the population still uses PC's, using the new MacBooks will take some time getting used to. Each teacher in the county has already received their laptops in order to become familiar with all the different available features. Some teachers from each school were selected to be part of the "Vanguard Team," a group of Apple-trained teachers that will assist students and fellow teachers with any problems they may encounter with their laptops. The Lone Oak Vanguard Team consists of Teresa Wallace, Ronnell and Melanie Jarvis, Morgan Morris, and Terri Wehmeyer. These teachers will be responsible for training the rest of the faculty on how to properly use their

MacBooks.

The educational possibilities and benefits of having a MacBook are honestly endless. With the technology, teachers and students will be exposed to new and exciting forms of education. As an owner of a MacBook, I can attest to all the amazing programs that come pre-set on them, such as iMovie, iPhoto, Garage Band, Safari, and iTunes. I can also say that using a MacBook is much easier than any other computer after you get used to it. Teachers will be able to assign fun, educational projects that students can use their laptops for. For example, in AP German, we are currently creating full length German new broadcasts using a video Cameron and Mrs. Wallace's MacBook. Using iMovie, we are editing the footage, adding backdrops, subtitles, and even music, making it appear like a high quality broadcast. Also, wireless internet has been installed in all the schools, providing a convenient source of research, preventing an entire class from having to go to a computer lab. Organization will be easy to maintain with MacBooks because students can take notes and do their homework on them, eliminating the need to carry around textbooks, papers, or pencils, and eliminating demand of worksheets. I was also informed that teachers will be able to monitor what is on their students' screens, giving them the ability to keep their students on task.

The MacBooks will finally provide both teachers and students with an easy, fun way to teach and learn.



Photos by M. Goodman

## Much ado about Martha

Erin Conwell  
*Features Editor*

This month's Junior Rotarian is one lovely lady named Martha Anne Bailey. You are sure to have noticed her before as she bounces her way from class to class, waving to nearly every person in the halls. She just can't but be friendly and caring.



Photo by Haleigh Fellows

That must be why she spent her spring break in Honduras helping to keep the children in high spirits at Orphanage Emmanuel while the rest of us were vacationing on the beach. That is only one of the many activities Martha does as a member of First Baptist Church of Paducah.

Church isn't the only thing she is devoted to though, she is also heavily involved in our school as well. She has experimented with several sports in her time here. She ran track for one year, played tennis for two years and was a vital member of our soccer team for three years. She also is the Secretary of the Lone Oak Beta Club and made us all proud at the Beta Convention when she showed off her artistic abilities by bringing home first place for her charcoal drawing. She has continued her passion for community service with her attendance at the 4-H Issues Conference and her involvement in the Backpacks for Kids program the past two years where she spent her afternoons filling backpacks with needed supplies for underprivileged children.

Somehow in the midst of all these extracurricular activities Martha finds time to be an exceptional student as well. She is so outstanding in fact that she was selected to participate in the Governor's Scholars Program where she spent most of her summer at Centre College taking courses and getting a taste of college life. While there her magnetic personality led her to add several new friends to her already overflowing list, these friends can often be seen popping into Paducah to say hello to her. She must have really enjoyed her brief college experience since she decided high school classes aren't challenging enough and spends the last part of her school day at WKCTC where she has taken courses in both Sociology and Basic Public Speaking. Martha will also be graduating as an Honor Student this year meaning she has managed to maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher throughout her scholastic career at Lone Oak.

Next year she will be taking her many talents to the University of Kentucky where she plans to major in Elementary Education and minor in Spanish. Her tuition there was mostly paid for thanks again to her prestigious acceptance into the Governors Scholars Program. Martha does not plan on continuing any sports while there but is considering joining a sorority and will no doubt be a member of several other organizations there as well.

Martha Anne isn't all work and no play though. She loves to kick back and have fun on the weekends so it's no surprise that her house has become the accepted hangout for all of her many friends on Friday and Saturday nights. There they often spend time playing ping-pong, billiards, Wii games or a plethora of groups games such as catchphrase or taboo. She keeps all of these memories well documented in photos. This is something she is definitely passionate about since her bedroom is full to the brim with filled photo frames, collages, and albums. You can count on her to never forget an experience. Martha also enjoys jamming to music, especially in her car. Some of her favorite bands include a well-rounded mix of Fleet Foxes, Guster, and Taylor Swift.

Everyone just loves Martha, but with some much to love who couldn't? Friends such as Katie Followell (12) say "Martha is just an amazing person, for sure!" I guess that is also why she is this month's Junior Rotarian. Now that you know just how magnificent Martha is, give her a wave next time you see her cheerfully bouncing down the halls of our school.

## For she's a jolly good Fellows

Haleigh Fellows  
*Photographer*

Gabby Fellows. Honestly, what else do I need to say? I suppose I could add her athletic domination, her charming personality, or her impressive academic success, or maybe even her captivating beauty, but I don't want to make anyone jealous, or do I? Don't even say it. I know I'm her twin, but bias has no say in this matter. Gabby Fellows is undeniably amazing. But just in case you don't believe me, I've gotten some back up. **Stephen Miller (11)** had to say, "Gabby is the spark that ignites my life." **Natalie Tavernaro (10)** agreed and chimed in saying, "She is the equivalent of Mary Poppins, she is selfless and a wondrous individual. Her athletic ability is unbelievable and I've never seen someone work harder on their school assignments."



Photo by Haleigh Fellows

As you can see, it was of no surprise to learn of Gabby's nomination as May's Junior Rotarian. She has managed to maintain an outstanding GPA of 3.8 while juggling her three sports: cross country, track, and basketball. Now, Gabby doesn't just play sports, she attacks them with her ferocious competitive spirit and agile skills. I mean, she basically came out of the womb sprinting. In her seven years as a member of the varsity track team, she has managed to go to state all three of her high school years and put up top ten finishes in the 400, 200, and 100 meter dashes. She also showed off her speedy skills in the cross country races, sprinting past me in the last 100 meters (much to my dismay) pushing her way to three state meets. But, sprinting isn't the only thing she's good at. Gabby's been ballin' it up on the varsity basketball team for four years, making the All-District team her junior year. Basically, there isn't one sport Gabby isn't hands down incredible at.

Along with Gabby's outstanding athletic ability and brainy skills, she is an excellent leader and one of the sweetest, most accepting people I know. You couldn't find one person that wouldn't admit Gabby has a heart of gold and is that little ray of sunshine to brighten your day. **Mr. Mungle**, the recent fill-in for a certain biology teacher complied saying, "Gabby has a way of always bringing a smile to your face. She is very pleasant to be around." Obviously, the rest of the faculty agreed. Gabby was selected to be a part of the 4-H Issues Conference last year, where she repped for Lone Oak High School discussing main issues facing teens today. This superb little senior also spends her summer assisting and playing with children at the Paducah Park System as a camp leader. How cute is that?

Gabby plans to extend her kind heart, patience, and smarts to her major in middle school education at the University of Louisville next year. And trust me, any school would be blessed to have her influencing their students; the kids at the Paducah Parks flocked and clung to her like she was their first blanket or teddy bear. So, if you have kids in the future and are trying to decide on a school to send your children, I recommend looking up where Gabby Fellows is exercising her teaching skills.

If you still think bias is the determining factor in this brag sheet, you must be crazy. It's hard to find anyone with as impressive of a successful list as Gabby. She really is the perfect fit of a Junior Rotarian: an excellent leader and role model, extremely bright, charming, and ridiculously athletic. And really, what more could you ask for?



## NEWS

## Civil Service Expansion Gives Students Many New Opportunities



Aaron Williams  
News Editor

The funding behind national service has recently been tripled in a bipartisan effort by Congress. The measure passed is meant to expand the AmeriCorps domestic service program. The size of this expansion is rather large and projected to increase the number of volunteers in AmeriCorps from 75,000 to 250,000. The expansion of AmeriCorps also aims to add new programs such as strengthening schools, boosting energy efficiency, cleaning up public parks, and improving health care for underprivileged communities. In total, these expansions to AmeriCorps will add up to about six billion over the course of five years, and many claim that this money will be spent improving the lives of American people and therefore is a sound investment in our nation.

The expansion of AmeriCorps will also offer new opportunities for students of high school age by providing them with summer positions intended to exchange civil service for money towards college. To discuss just how great of an opportunity this is for students across the nation as well as here at Lone Oak High School, the Oak K interviewed Maggie Melson, a former participant in the program.

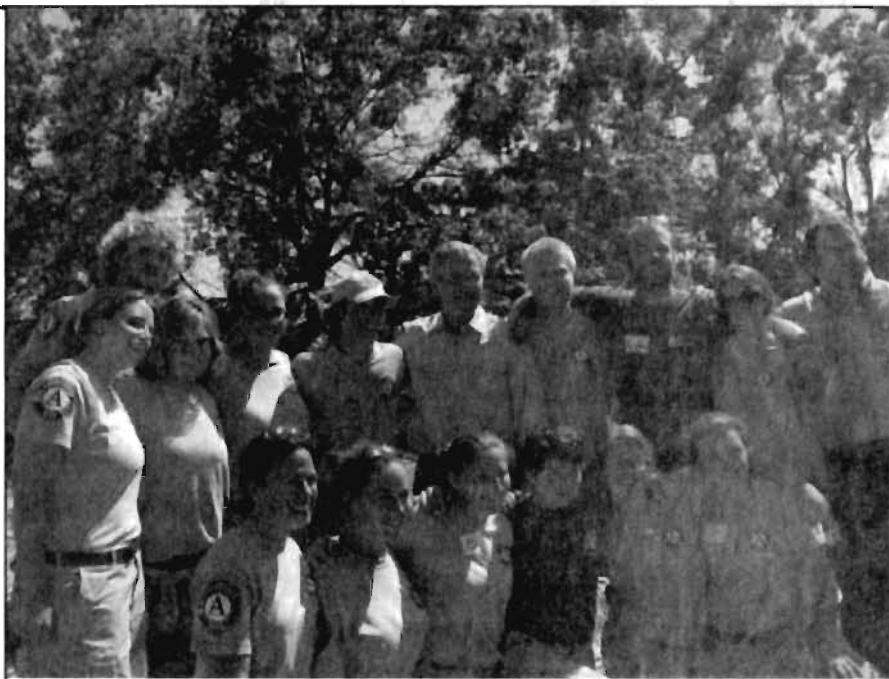
Ms. Melson got involved in AmeriCorps right out of college, electing to participate in a program of AmeriCorps designed for 18-24 year olds. After completing her ten month commitment and logging over 1700 hundred hours of community service, Melson had some very positive things to say about AmeriCorps.

First of all, AmeriCorps is an excellent idea for students who get out of high school and are unsure as to whether they are ready for college yet. AmeriCorps provides food, housing, and a structure environment for students looking for something to engage themselves in or for pay towards college. "It teaches students responsibility and the importance of community service," Melson explains.

AmeriCorps is also a rewarding, positive environment for students to mature in. Teenage student in the sixth grade through their senior year in high school can earn up to \$500 by committing a summer to AmeriCorps thanks to a new program. The benefits are not limited to financial ones in this situation, however. Students enrolled in this program will be sure to stay occupied, out of trouble, and all the while will be gaining attributes to make them leaders in their community. According to Melson, over 72% of those who volunteer continue to serve throughout their lives.

Just what can high school seniors expect by giving a commitment to AmeriCorps similar to Maggie Melson's? Thanks to the bill, the stipend received from service with AmeriCorps has been raised to the same amount as a Pell Grant, \$5,350. Once again, in addition to reaping financial rewards students will receive the same leadership trying and be involved in the same positive environment. However, you might also find yourself doing some travelling. Melson travelled to Sacramento, California to where she was based. During her time with AmeriCorps, her group lent aide to areas Portland, Tucson, Buloxi, and communities around New Orleans. The work they did included Katrina cleanup, demolding houses, trail building, and environmental projects. They worked side by side with other volunteer networks such as SOLVE and Hands On.

The expansion of national service is a major civic breakthrough for our nation, and one that offers students many monetary opportunities and who couldn't use extra cash for college? Especially if you're travelling across the country, working with truly selfless people, and gaining skills that will aide you the rest of your life as a leader.



Photos Courtesy Maggie Melson

## Swine Flu Fever Breaks Across Nation

Kyle Fouse  
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

As we all may very well be aware of, recently we have been struck by hysteria over a new and apparently deadly viral antagonist... Yes, I am speaking of the infamous Swine Flu, otherwise referred to as: Hog Flu, Pig Flu, Pork Flu, Sausage Flu, Bacon Flu, and much more recently called the H1N1 virus. This new viral scare has recently struck fear into the hearts of millions, namely the people that watch any sort of news program anywhere ever. It has been reported that in Mexico alone there are already at least 68 deaths attributed to Hog Flu, and in the capital city nearly 1,000 people have fallen ill with the disease. In the United States there have been at least 8 confirmed cases of the virus among the several suspected cases, which one can imagine will only escalate as the many hypochondriacs decide to check themselves out.

Although many nations worldwide fear a Swine Flu pandemic, precedence tells us that it is usually a mild virus, rarely ever transferred from pigs to humans, and even then it is rarely ever even detected. The recent outbreak of an apparently more contagious and deadlier version of the Swine Flu virus has left many people guessing, wondering, and freaking out.

I won't be the first to publicly ask why the news always seems to have such glorious field days with any sort of news virus (remember the West Nile Virus, the Avian Flu, SARS, etc.). It's already been stated by not just one, but many, sources that the new strain of the Swine Flu should have mild effects on infected humans and that the symptoms should be treatable and the virus dismissed quickly with proper treatment of antivirals such as Tamiflu.

I can only expect that although this new version of the Swine Flu is a lot deadlier and widespread than it normally is, it will eventually be put under control and travel to Mexico and all consequences of the recent scare will be pacified and put behind us. In my opinion, the H1N1 virus will be laid to rest in the pages of history faster than we will expect. Perhaps we were lucky that it received such widespread action and attention, but in my opinion it was just a little bit unnecessary.

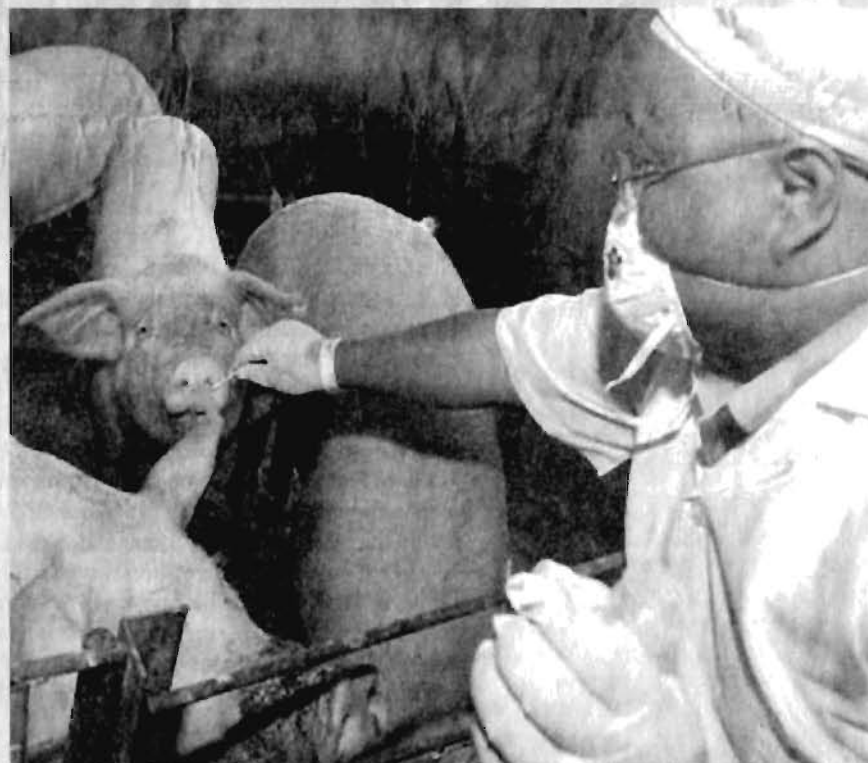


Photo from Google.com

## We're Raising School Spirits!

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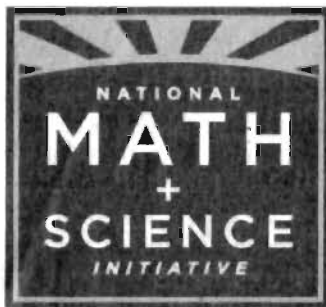
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## Students Spend Saturdays Studying

Yashaswee Malla  
Business Manager



This year, students at Lone Oak High School who were enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) English, math, or science courses were encouraged to attend a set of three AP practice sessions that were held on select Saturdays if they were planning on taking the AP exam for the corresponding course in May. You may wonder why these students would willingly sacrifice six hours of their precious time on multiple Saturdays to go to review sessions, but they have good reason. There is a financial incentive to pass the exam—and these prep sessions are preparing these diligent students to do just that. If the student passes an exam, they are awarded \$100.

These prep sessions and monetary rewards are the benefits of the grant that was given to our county by the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI). The NMSI, affectionately referred to as "Nimzy," was formed in response to one of our nation's greatest intellectual problems—the alarmingly low number of students who are prepared to take rigorous college courses in the areas of math and science. Nimzy's mission is to strengthen math and science education in the United States so that our students can be successful in today's world. This program is led by private donors such as the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Exxon Mobile Corporation.

The AP Calculus sessions assembled in our high school's library and were spearheaded by Mrs. Beckman. Her students were fortunate enough to have their sessions conducted by a couple of test graders. Mrs. Beckman's students were given a quick review of the content then allowed to work in groups to complete numerous review packets that contained samples of multiple choice questions and previous free response questions. Mr. Whitley accompanied his students to the AP Chemistry sessions that were conducted by the science teacher at Reidland High School, Jodi Butler, and the leader of the science department from the NMSI, Lou Acampora. Mr. Whitley attested to the fact that they most reviewed content and they also took a practice exam. Sometimes people could not attend due to the sessions conflicting with other school-related activities—something that Mr. Whitley says should be looked into for next year. Mr. Fountain stays busy by leading both the AP Physics and the AP Environmental Science sessions. He thinks the program gives students wonderful opportunities, and wishes "that more students took advantage of it." The AP Biology sessions are taught by Mr. Wallace. There are also sessions for AP English Literature and AP English Language. AP Literature was instructed by Mrs. Goodman and Mrs. Thompson. AP Language was taught by Mrs. Carter. Two of the AP Literature sessions were held at Lone Oak and one at Reidland, as were the AP Language sessions. These sessions were devoted to a breakdown of test content and strategies for answering the multiple choice questions and the how to's on writing stellar essays; both of these AP English groups took a full-length practice exam at their session in Reidland.

## Hagan Signs with Bellarmine



Senior Hannah Hagan, above, signed a Letter of Intent to play tennis for Bellarmine University on Friday, May 1. Hagan has won Regionals and advanced to the State Quarterfinals in doubles each of the past two years. Even so, she's not sure whether she will play doubles in college or not.

"It doesn't really matter what I play—I'm ready to do whatever they ask me to do."

Photo courtesy Brenda Metzger

## AP European History Class Travels to Chicago

Erin Conwell  
Features Editor

The AP European History class, along with some friends from AP English Lit. and Composition, took their annual visit to Chicago April 13th through 15th. The group gathered at the school at a dreary 5:30am to jump on board the roughly six hour train ride in Carbondale. When they arrived the students were happy to unwind in the renowned Palmer House Hilton before starting their big city adventure. While there they visited the Chicago Art Institute to get a first-hand view of some of the famous works they have studied this year including *American Gothic* and *Paris Street Rainy Day*. They also confirmed that *The Scream* is still missing. The group also stopped by the Museum of Science and Industry where many students toured the WWII German U-505 Submarine on display. They even experienced the Chicago's extremely safe and sanitary public transit system when all 20 of them crammed in an already crowded bus to cross the expansive city. Most of the students also tasted some local cuisine at Giordano's Pizzeria where they tried world famous Chicago deep-dish pizza.

Some students chose to take the several block hike over to the Sear's Tower to view the Windy City from 98 stories in the air. The group spent their plentiful free time shopping along the world famous Magnificent Mile or milling about in some of Michigan Avenues numerous restaurants to shelter from the chilling rain. With a little help from Starbucks coffeehouses and the Corner Bakery just down the street from their hotel, the students were able to easily shake the bitter cold.

## Parker's Drive-In: Rebuilding

Monica Spees  
Features Editor

January 15, 2009 is a day that many in Paducah will never forget. It was on that morning that the well-beloved Lone Oak eatery Parker's Drive-In went up in flames and was reduced to ashes. Fortunately, no one was injured, but the smoldering remains and smoky sky did little to lift the spirits of Lone Oak. Despite this tragedy, the future of Parker's looks promising.

"We're putting that fire behind us. Everything in the past is behind us," owner Paul Parker proclaims. The comfy diner is being rebuilt at a remarkable speed and is expected to reopen around the first week of August. It won't look exactly like the old building, though. Parker's is going to be twice as big with a new color scheme, double the seating capacity, ten more booths, expanded parking, and a world-class kitchen with some of the area's top chefs. While we will all still remember Parker's as it once was, the excitement at a brand new facility with so many wonderful additions can't be suppressed.

"It's going to be a new restaurant with a new theme and a whole new interior. We're looking forward to reopening," says Parker. "We're looking forward to seeing our old friends back in the diner and our new friends, as well." Take it from us, Paul, we're looking forward to seeing Parker's, too.



Seniors Sean Smith, Richard Scelzi, Cody Brown, Zach Hughes, and Derek Operle standing in front of the U-505 submarine, which was the only German submarine ever captured, at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry.

Photo courtesy of Cody Brown

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Assistant Editor-in-Chief  
Kyle Fouse

Business Manager  
Yashaswee Malla

Assistant Business Manager  
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News Editors  
Aaron Williams  
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Sports Editors

Jon Freeman  
Andrew Croft

Photographer

Haleigh Fellows

Coroner

Forrest Walters

Adviser

Molly Goodman

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## Weez Waves Goodbye

"I think that's the key to high school, pick up as many habits as you can and have as much fun as possible while you aren't in the 'real world'.."

Derek Operle  
Entertainment Editor



Well, it seems the perils of procrastination are at my doorstep yet again. I sit down to write my newspaper story, as usual, the day before it's due, hoping to come up with some, at least, decent ideas for my senior goodbye...only to realize that, after four great years of high school behind me, and two of those spent on the Oak "K" staff, I'm not ready to do this...I'm not ready to say goodbye...or as Michael Jackson and his siblings would have said: "I never can say goodbye."

And, it's true...I really cannot say goodbye to this place, this school is where I became who I am today. If not for Lone Oak High School, and all the amazing people I've met as I went through it, there would not be a *me*. I'm just not willing to part with this place. I don't know if I'll be able to handle abandoning these storied hallways, filled with friends and teachers that I know, love and respect. It's going to hurt me, and, like I said, I'm not ready and certainly not willing to leave high school.

But, enough harping on me not wanting to leave...let's deal with what nearly every senior goodbye ever written deals with: what I've learned from my experiences. Well, I can't say that I've learned too much, because then it'll seem like I tried more than I actually did...which wasn't very much.

And now, a little elaboration on that last sentence: I have a crappy G.P.A. and a lower ACT score than I should have. I never really studied for a test. I probably came to school only about three quarters of my senior year (thank you, 4-H for all of the glorious times you gave me while I wasn't in school like everyone else)...(yea, I just said that). And I certainly didn't keep up with my make-up work; I'm the worst procrastinator I know. I've certainly picked up some bad habits, more bad than good probably.

I think that's the key to high school, pick up as many habits as you can and have as much fun as possible while you aren't in the "real world," everyone's all serious about going to college and getting a job...it's too soon for that, you're only young once, this is the only time you'll ever be in high school; you might as well enjoy it. In other words, essentially, what I've learned is not to be too serious, and I'm not saying don't try at all, even I tried some, maybe not my best but I gave it a good shot. I mean, hey, it's not like I'm graduating valedictorian or salutatorian or anything like that but I'll be graduating with the best four years of my life (so far, anyways) behind me.

And now, without any further ado, I'm going to thank a few people and get this thing over with...I would like to thank my parents for driving me everywhere and helping me pay for all of my trips and expenses (I love you, mom and dad). I'd also like to thank all of my teachers this year (Mr. Neel, Mr. Whitis, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Beckman, and Mrs. Goodman) for putting up with all of my absences (especially that one that lasted a solid two weeks). The Oak "K" staff...I want to thank you guys for being amazing

because we are the best school paper...and, yes, we should have our own television show to capture the drama we go through every day, it would be so much better than The Paper (the show from MTV). Aaron Williams, without whom, I probably wouldn't have discovered the magic of Phish and jam bands, in general, and, also, for being a great friend. Mrs. Goodman, I know I already thanked you for putting up with the absences, but I also need to thank you for greatly helping me out in the writing and speaking departments. I now know no fear really when it comes to public speaking. And, Mr. Roe, thank you for accidentally introducing me to the magic that is 4-H, who knows what would have happened had you never handed me that application for Issues Conference...Also, Mrs. Watts, thanks for all the talks and making sure I got stuff done...like that whole "applying for college" thing. Also I would like to thank Mrs. Wear (who we all love and miss dearly), for making my underclassman and junior years awesome, and Mr. Brian Harper, for both making my senior year great and excusing all those absences. There are so many more people I could thank...but I wouldn't have enough time, or space on the page, to do it. So, really, I want to thank everyone here at Lone Oak High School for giving me a great four years.

Well...there it is...my senior goodbye...a bit long-winded, mostly because I never want to stop writing it. But, I guess I have to. I guess I have to say goodbye...even though I don't want to. But, just remember, I'm not saying goodbye forever...I can't do that...I never can say goodbye.

## Aaron Williams 180°

"..I knew what I had to do. I had to let go and let everyone know how much I appreciate everything they did for me."

Aaron Williams  
News Editor



I was recently informed that my plan to be a featured columnist for the Oak "K" next year by writing in from my college campus was not going to work out. Apparently, this is a *high school* newspaper, and neither a legitimate or major publication. When this news was broken to me I was sent reeling. All this time, here I was, trying desperately to hit it big on the Oak "K" by investigating secretive organizations and major scandals here at Lone Oak High School and now they were telling me that none of this really mattered, that this was all just supposed to be for *fun*.

That just couldn't be true. How was the world supposed to go round without the stories I wrote for the Oak "K"? What would people do without poorly written music reviews, news articles about things too strange to be headline news, and a feature about some of Tom Cruise's most absurd movies?! Alas, I could not accept it until my fellow Oakers were forced to tie me to a chair and sedate me. Only after I had stopped ranting about how I was the best writer on staff and how they *needed* me to keep this paper afloat was I able to come to grips with reality: My time with the Oak K was over, and I needed to write a senior goodbye.

How does one write a senior goodbye? What can one say that has not already been said? The tendency is to try and be original and to avoid the mundane; but how, in the limited space of a newspaper column, can you describe everything you have learned during four years at Lone Oak? You certainly cannot fit all of your experiences and your emotions into a single article much less a single word. In fact, to even try to sum everything you have learned and will miss at LOHS in one word is obscene and has a tendency to speak volumes about your personality. Who would want that to be the legacy that they left behind?

With these questions answered in my mind, I knew what I had to do. I had to let go and let everyone know how much I appreciate everything they did for me. Cameron, thank you for constantly contradicting everything I say to counterbalance my extreme exaggerations so we could salvage the truth from whatever story I was telling at the time. I give my thanks to Richard Scelzi who provided hours of entertainment as I watched him try to use his good looks to his advantage.

Nick J, thank you for challenging me to be a manly man at everything I do in life. Josh Lynn, thanks for comic relief and for being such a good sport when we poke fun at you. David, thanks for the many miles we logged together. I apologize that you had to run the last of them solo, though you ran them very well. Zach, thanks for joining forces with me to create one of the biggest jerks in the high school. And to the man I have known all twelve of these years at Lone Oak, Sean Smith, thank you for simply being my friend through the good times and the bad times.

Finally, thank you Mrs. Sprunger for teaching me how to make up for destroying a person's entire iTunes music library, Mr. Jarvis, for teaching me what to say when the Boston butt is not even hot, and Mr. Neel, for teaching me the value of \$2.25. In all seriousness, thank you Mrs. Goodman. What you have taught me has vastly improved my ability as a writer and without the opportunity you gave me on the Oak K I would have never fully understood my love of it. Thank you all very much. Now I can finally say: goodbye!

## Conwell's (final) Comments

"I have really enjoyed the ride even if you the reader hasn't gotten a lot out of my long drudging agony of trying to produce decent stories."

Erin Conwell  
Features Editor



If there is one thing I have learned from time here on the Oak "K" staff it is that I am a terrible writer. My first three years of high school I was convinced that I was a good if not at least a decent writer. I could come up with fiction stories in a flash, and still can; but when it comes to the real world my writing lacks the luster and appeal needed to achieve success. In fact I think the major problem is that my writing skills were never challenged as it has been my senior year with the high standards of Mrs. Goodman's AP Literature and Composition class. Whatever the reason, I realize now that being on the newspaper staff was probably a mistake.

I really have enjoyed the class however. I have lots of fun memories of our little 6<sup>th</sup> floor refugee camp's long sessions of elementary school reminiscence with co-staffer Haleigh Fellows, listening to Jon Freeman go on and on about sports reporter Erin Andrews, and the heated debates about whether Shawn Johnson is attractive or mousey. I have really enjoyed the ride even if you the reader hasn't gotten a lot out of my long drudging agony of trying to produce decent stories.

As my farewell, I will leave my goodbye at just this and I wish you all good luck in your decisions for next year. Just remember not to be discouraged if you aren't always good at everything you thought you were; take what good memories you can from all things. Be the overall experience good or bad.

Good bye Lone Oak High School!

## Yashaswee Yaks

"...I find myself experiencing a wide array of sentiments when forced to face the fact that my days in this building are numbered."

Yashaswee Malla  
Business Manager



Life has given me multiple opportunities of meeting many different kinds of people in a variety of locations. With each new meeting came a time to part, this time bringing with it the inevitable goodbyes that must be conducted. If nothing else, these brief encounters have taught me that life is a series of holding on tight and letting go when the time is right, of beautiful moments and wonderful memories, of awkward hellos and bittersweet goodbyes. I am afraid that it is time for another one of those goodbyes.

*Goodbye*... such an ironic word, for the word alone means that something is coming to an end, but it is this word that causes memories of the beginning and all the moments in between to come flooding back—allowing the fires of the past to burn anew, rekindled by the presence of the possessions that we must soon leave behind.

Now that it is finally time for me to leave the place where I have invested four years of my life, a place that I spun dreams of bidding farewell to from the moment I entered, I find myself experiencing a wide array of sentiments when forced to face the fact that my days in this building are numbered. Four fruitful years at Lone Oak High School have come to an end all too quickly. It seems as though it were only yesterday when Mrs. Wear had assembled the class of 2009 into the stuffy gymnasium and surveyed the then freshmen class with her intense gaze, emphatically proclaiming that we make the most of our seven hundred fifty-some days at Lone Oak High School, for the end would be upon us before we knew it. Slouched on the sticky bleachers, drowsy due to the August heat in that age of innocence, 750 days seemed to be a lifetime away. Now, as I stand here today with four years of the high school experience under my belt, I can say for a fact that time goes by more rapidly than you would like to think and if you blink for even a fraction of a second too long, you may miss something wonderful...

No matter how much I am longing to take part in our "commencement exercises" on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, and begin the rest of my life in "the real world" (because apparently all of this so far has been fake), I am afraid of what lies beyond and will miss what I have to leave behind. Every moment spent here hasn't been entirely peachy, but I have learned to love it here just the same. Happiness, after all, does not mean that everything is perfect... it just means that one has chosen to look beyond the imperfections. Plus, if it weren't for the imperfections we wouldn't have things to poke fun at or complain about and life would start to seem pretty boring.

I am pretty sure that there has rarely been a dull moment spent here, and for this I have all of my wonderful teachers and amazing friends to be grateful for. Each and every one of you has unknowingly left an imprint in my life and has made my journey through these halls more enjoyable, more enlightening, more memorable. From the early days of Tab, Jolly Ranchers and Ballard already being out to the newfound glory of Russell Peters, making collages, and accomplishing a lot of stuff and things, the moments that we have shared together have created long-lasting memories that will allow me to reminisce on these past few years a decade from now and have something to smile about, taking into consideration that I remember not to forget them all. That's just the thing with memories, they are so easy to make and you never know when you are making them, but they are just as easy to forget.

I guess I could go on and on about how sad it is to say goodbye, but it would be futile because first of all, no one would bother reading it—not that they would take the time to read this either—and secondly, that it all boils down to the same thing: saying goodbye is difficult because of all the sentiments attached to the things that we must abandon. All this makes me think about how incredibly lucky I am to have so many beautiful people, moments, and memories in my life that make saying goodbye so heartbreakingly difficult.

The seniors of The Oak "K" would like to thank Mrs. Molly Goodman for all she has done this year. Without her hard work and dedication, this year could not have been a success.



# Monica Mutters

"Honestly, there were times that I almost stormed into the office ready to rant and rave about a ridiculous change. However, I have survived the year."

**Monica Spees**  
Features Editor



The inevitable has arrived. My years of grade school are drawing to a close. As I ponder this surreal milestone in my life, I must first thank some of the people who have made the last stretch of this journey memorable.

**Mr. Morehead**, I began my day and my freshman year with you in Spanish 1. Your humor and soft-spoken personality made me realize that high school was going to be an entertaining place. **Mrs. Jarvis**, you're now known by some authoritative title, but you are my Enriched English 1 teacher. Your educational and life lessons have prepared me for a challenging future. **Mr. Smithmier**, without you, I would've never known who Stephen Hawking was or how to throw staplers. **Mr. Adams**, I hated every minute of Geometry, but such a challenging scholastic experience allowed me to mature. **Mr. Watwood**, Government was amazing, and I'll never forget how much we laughed. **Mrs. Poore**, I think you're the only teacher to ever call me out for punching someone, but we all enjoyed seeing Chrissy flinch. **Mr. Ford**, you gave me the courage to challenge myself musically, a skill that has come in handy more often than I ever dreamed.

**Mr. Nall**, you lived up to my sister's praises. I feel fortunate to have been the student of such a kind, good man. **Mr. Neel**, two years of hilarious ranting and technological mishaps have made my time at this school as exciting as the French Revolution. Giving me two more years of laughter and unexpected surprises was you. **Mr. Poore**, I try to use proper grammar—um, in both languages. **Mrs. Green**, you take the prize for tolerating me longer than any other teacher in this school. Two-and-a-half years of your patience and genuine love have made a math classroom a less intimidating place. **Mr. Forsythe**, it must've been scary to follow the Ford legacy, but I just want you to

know that I loved band and I lost my fear of messing up. **Jarvis**, I'm at a loss for words, but a glare in the hallway says it all. You should get a fire hose by your room. **Mrs. Downey**, you kept your promise: We're gonna have fun in here. We're gonna laugh, and we're gonna laugh A LOT. **Mrs. Goodman**, you also have a membership in the "Two-Year Club," but technically I've been in your class three times. I heart Journalism, and I heart doing stuff and things in AP English. **Mr. Fountain**, your class was never just an Introduction to Chemistry and Physics; it was an hour of valuable information and responsibility.

**Mr. Burks**, I couldn't have asked for a better P.E./Health teacher. It's my last year in high school, and you definitely helped make it my most fun year. **Mrs. Harper**, I've never met anyone like you and I hope I don't, because there can only be one Daralea, and that makes you very special to me.

When this year began, I was so skeptical about new policies that I even had something called "the car analogy" to express my displeasure and make the policy-makers see things my way. It went something like this: One day, you're at home and you hear a knock at your door. Upon answering it, you see a policeman standing on your doorstep.

In an authoritative voice he says, "Mr. So-and-So, I'm the new sheriff in town and I've got some policies of which you may not be aware. One of them involves reducing car accidents, which have recently increased. I've decided that the best way to decrease them is to get rid of all civilian vehicles. I'm sorry, but I must confiscate your vehicle."

You're suddenly filled with dread. "Why, Sheriff? Did I do something wrong?"

"No, not really. It's just that the some people can't handle the driving privilege."

"But I'm a great driver. I have a perfect record."

"I'm aware of that, Mr. So-and-So, and you're not the problem. It's just that 10% of the town's population seems to be causing 90% of the accidents. The risk is just too high. I'm revoking all driving privileges. Now, your keys, please."

Honestly, there were times that I almost stormed into the office ready to rant and rave about a ridiculous change. However, I have survived the year. I didn't live under a Nazi regime for seven hours a day, though! I still miss some aspects of the way things used to be. Recent encounters with those in charge here have made me realize that they don't have it in for my graduating class. I have seen that they do remember what it was like to be a senior in high school, and they want us to have fun. They know that the future, reality, is on its way, and it's not going to wait for us catch up.

Has the fact that I may never see some of these people again sunk in yet? No, but it's humbling to know that after May 30<sup>th</sup> I will not be returning to LOHS. I won't shove past underclassmen to make it to my next class down the hall. I won't strain to hear over the deafening roar during morning announcements. I won't watch the clock and wait for that one long chime. I won't get up the next day to start it all over. This is it.

I remember having recess at Hendron Lone Oak Elementary one day. As my friends and I played silly games, we noticed that many people were gathering in the stands at the nearby football field for the annual football field pep rally.

"Look! High schoolers!" someone chirped.

"What are they doing?"

"I don't know, but it looks like fun. I wish I was in high school right now!"

We all whole-heartedly agreed, then continued with our game, oblivious to what we were witnessing: our futures. Last fall, when we had Senior Day at the football field, my friends and I noticed the elementary school kids having recess. All we could say was, "Man, I wish I was back in elementary school."

In a matter of days I will grasp my diploma and leave LOHS. This year, I have had some of the most wonderful times of my life. Despite the fact that they are swiftly fading, I wouldn't trade the memories for anything. And so, in the words of my favorite philosopher, Forrest Gump: that's all I got to say about that.

## Haleigh Hoots

"..why do I find myself waking up dreading each day that creeps closer and closer to orientation?"

**Haleigh Fellows**  
Photographer



Senior year has come crashing down to its bittersweet end, and I still can't believe it's already here. The seniors' smiles can be seen for miles, and their anxious jitters are enough to shake the entire school. It's like one big group of yelping cocker spaniel puppies. However, I feel the corners of my mouth slowly turning downward and my body sluggishly slumping over in my desk. Everyone is so excited about moving on into the wonderful world of college, but I find myself clinging to the comforts of the small classrooms and crowded, locker-filled hallways. I'm not ready to say goodbye to my beloved Lone Oak High School, and I'm not sure I want to.

I know, I know. I'm crazy, right? That's what I keep telling myself too. Who doesn't want to relish in the newfound freedom, or escape the constant nagging of your parents who seem to care too much? College is supposed to be the time of your life, a one in a lifetime experience you will never forget. So why do I find myself waking up dreading each day that creeps closer and closer to orientation?

I've realized a great deal of things about myself over these final months. I absolutely hate change, I'm terrified of failure, and I'm less independent than I'd like to think I am. Heck, I barely even know how to do my own laundry for trying out loud. Unfortunately, the prospect of college life is forcing me to face all of my inner demons. College is change, I may fail, and I'll have no one to depend on but myself. I've tried to come to terms with the reality facing my future, but to be completely honest I'm scared, scared to death.

As I walk across the stage in my obnoxious purple robes the night of May 30<sup>th</sup>, I know there will be no glimpse of a happy grin or a huge sigh of relief, but rather a girl on the verge of tears struggling to let go of her past. Maybe over the summer I'll finally replace frightened, baby Haleigh with a mature, adult Haleigh, but for now I'm just a sad little senior not ready to part with her familiar surroundings. So instead of goodbye, I'm going to say I'll miss you. I'll miss you Lone Oak High School.

## What it's all About

"The most insightful thing I have learned is finding out what it is all about."

**Jon Freeman**  
Sports Editor



There are many things in high school that I have learned. The most insightful thing I have learned is finding out what it is all about. What is it all about you might ask? Well that's up to you to decide. Maybe you find what it's all about your freshman year or it takes you all the way to your senior year. It varies on who you are. Many teachers and coaches have influenced my finding out about what it is all about. One teacher

was **Mr. Nall** and his insight into how to be content in life which I touched on earlier this year. Another teacher was **Coach Whitts** who of course taught me A LOT in health class which definitely has prepared me for the real world and helped me educate others in certain aspects of their lives. And of course **Coach Miller** has helped me by pushing me to work hard at what I do and showing me that the results really do pay off even though I didn't believe him at first.

Many other aspects of high school shape your life and help you find what it's all about such as relationships with people. If it wasn't for most of my friends I wouldn't be the person I am today. For instance, **Andrew Harlan (10)** and I found the true meaning of Christmas is all about baby Jesus. Or **Forrest Walters (12)** who taught me that dark colors don't go well with light colors. **Josh Byrd (12)** taught me that you truly can find happiness in such a small little burger. And of course the very missed **Ana Cosoreanu** taught me how to love and be a way better person.

Sure I am definitely not gonna miss all the homework and staying up all night to work on a project that was assigned two weeks before but I am going miss all my friends. I'm ready to say goodbye to all the drama but not ready to say goodbye to all the fun times I have had. But now the time has come for us to go our separate ways. To go to UK, U of L, WKCTC or wherever we have chosen to go to further our future. I look forward to making new friends next year. To letting college help shape me just as high school has. Have fun without me and never forget what it's all about.

## Harrison's Last Hootah

"It is impossible to go through life alone, so make an effort to befriend others and take advantage of what they have to offer."

**Blake Harrison**  
Editor-in-Chief



As I cautiously avoided the inevitable (writing my senior goodbye) I struggled to decide what I would say, and just how I might say it. Some lines are sad, some are funny, and some are filled with thank-yous.

After careful thought, I concluded it was my responsibility to share what I will carry out of high school as my most important experience.

Sure, I did see record-setting athletic events, epic fights, and procrastinated my way through papers and such, but who cares? It is my firm belief that a high schooler should take time to enjoy life and not be too serious all the time. You should also not blow things off—you can learn something from every situation.

Ultimately, I can say that after four years, my time was best spent developing relationships—relationships with friends, teachers, other faculty members, etc. There's no doubt that what little studying I actually did paid off, but the real grade I got as a freshman really doesn't stand out at this point.

What I do remember are the good times I had in my classes, and how thankful I was to have had each teacher. Unlike many, I am not going to go through and name every single person I want to thank—the day is too short. But, if you did happen to have me in class, I can assure you that I appreciate what you had to offer and I admire what you do.

My transcript may follow me to the next level, but when I come back and need someone to talk to, need advice, or someone to write a letter or recommendation for me, I know where to go. That is why I am advising anyone reading this to take stock in people. Invest your time building relationships. Help others. Listen to what others have to say. Above all, do not let yourself get to the end of your career at LOHS and realize there's no one to come back to.

It is impossible to go through life alone, so make an effort to befriend others and take advantage of what they have to offer. Don't waste your time trying to be the coolest kid around or the biggest standout—one of these days, what you did will not matter. What will matter is how you treated that teacher or lab partner when you run across them later on.

Sadly, I will not graduate as Valedictorian or with any sports records. I would gladly add that to my resume. However, I can proudly say that I will carry with me friendships, special bonds, and the utmost respect for a host of people I have come across over the past four years. If there is one thing I would like you to carry from this piece, it is to walk out of Lone Oak High School satisfied with how you treated others and what legacy you will leave behind.



*I, \_\_\_\_\_, being of sound mind and body, and this  
being my last year at Lone Oak High School, hereby bequeath:*

**Martha Bailey:** Shanden Simmons the art table and Andrew Croft all of my love and the neighborhood.

**Tyler Barker:** My parking spot to Nick Rolens, my German skills to Google Atkins, along with my class clowning ability and proper speech to Rebecca Fountain.

**Jake Boren:** I want to leave all my intelligence and love to Nicole Jackson and wish her a happy 12<sup>th</sup> grade year.

**Melissa Borgia:** Leave all my loudness to everyone. I leave my locker to Kelsey Brice. Leave my lovelessness to Mr. Cobb.

**Nickolas Boulton:** My ability in 0.5 seconds to Kevin, skullduggery and subterfuge skills to Josh, my imaginary parking spot to Keaten and banana pants to Brittany.

**Megan Bowman:** My parking spot to Shannon Bowman. My tennis skills to Ilyssa Brickeen and Katie Clayton.

**Cara Boyd:** LOHS cheerleaders fun memories and luck next year, spring break mom van memories to Ilyssa Brickeen, Lance Derezza, Macey Evans, and Braden Throgmorton. "Dynasty" and "Special" beads to Macey Evans. Erin Traughber my cheerleading uniform.

**Cody Brown:** My parking spot to Kyle Kauffman.

**Jamarielle Brown:** First, the blood, sweat, and tears number 8 jersey to Joe Starks, getting on Mrs. Morris's nerves to anybody worthy of the crown and another state appearance to the football team.

**Caleb Burchett:** I leave my good times to Ron Allen, I leave my computer skills to Bryce Lawrence. I leave my good spirit to James Carmen.

**Heather Burgard:** Rupert to Korrina Davidson (may you share many dances); my bus seat to "Nick" (you know who you are); my charismatic likability to everyone; and my wonderful high school experience to my brothers.

**Sarah Burton:** The "exploder" to Emily Burton.

**Josh Byrd:** Game day breakfast at Hardee's to Ray, Cullen, Mitch, and lil cuz; good grades and wisdom to Roberto; also to Roberto the secret handshake.

**Travis Calhoun:** Charles Gossett the space boots, Kevin Doughty a map to find it, Mr. Jarvis a signed My Life by Bill Clinton.

**Andrea Campbell:** My center field position to Haley Spear, take it and work hard to keep it. I give my Harry Potter obsession to Ashley Cialella and Shelbie York! I give the fun times of looking at the baseball field to Chastity.

**Travis Cartwright:** My saying "This guy!!!" to Drew Rodgers. My beasting speaking skills to Pierce Crider. And the nickname double D to Ruth Wooten.

**Melissa Chandler:** My opera soprano power to Katy Miller; my math skills to Alaina Ramage; and the worship we've shared to my family: Olivia, Aubrey, Harper, Kayla, Sarah, Ross, Tyler, Austin, and Cameron. Never lose strength.

**Adam Clarke:** Roberto someone else on the soccer team this is almost as cool as me to talk to at practice, and I leave everything else to be split between Corey Adams and Ricky Greuelle and maybe my brother.

**Angela Conyer:** My wiffle ball bat and comfy chair in the library to Micah and my slice of the cheesecake to Katie Hagan and Katie Yates.

**Chrissy Coorts:** Dana Wilson, the ability to lighten the mood and my soccer position, Sunshine a smile for every day, Maddison Mundy, the talent to make everyone happy, Kelsey Smith, good luck with your love, Kendra, rock it.

**Megan Currin:** Color guard memories to K-Miles, clothes for Patlonna, bananas for Mrs. Wallace, serpentine style and my awesome German skills to all German classes, also, Mrs. Wallace = favorite teacher.

**Josh Dolan:** To the A-team, I leave the ability to always be the best dressed team, Big Greasy, and crows. You know what to do with them. To Lil Dol, I leave everything, even the name Dolan if you want. To Seth, I leave the Hammer of God and the Treasure Trove. Finally to Analiese, I leave my love and all the memories we've had and the more to come. Peace out LOHS and have fun with block next year.

**Buckner Edwards:** A Guy Fawkes mask to one Zachary Bender, my parking spot and love for tattoos to my younger brother Barrett, and C.J. Capps, all you get is what you've managed to mooch off of me this year.

**Cameron Farley:** My ACT score to Mr. Whitley and the legendary Speedo to Harley Andrews.

**Gabby Fellows:** Chelsea and Kendra foursome nights, cat to Natalie, Johnny and Roberto a pounding, Rachel L a valentine, Harlan all my inspiration, Scott my love, Lance a block, and Stephen a California king.

**Haleigh Fellows:** Stephanie to Natalie, Laffy Taffy/jokes and a trash can to all my tennis girls, Little Caesar's pizza boxes to Craig, to Kyle my infamous "boob belts", to Croft bitter-sweet disappointment, and to Corey my undying love for Mitch and Bobby.

**Mark Francis:** I leave my knowledge of computers to Mrs. Harper. Hopefully, I have given her some good tips about them over the years.

**Jon Freeman:** "What it's all about" to Mitch, The PB room to Cullen, "I heard you was good" to Roberto, "The wee-wee bump" to Drew, and to the baseball team I leave advice about "What it's all about."

**Bethany Finley:** My parking spot to my sister; all the amazing times in art class to Kaci Ballard, and all the amazing homework from all the freshman teachers to my brother. To everyone else...ENJOY HIGH SCHOOL!

**Adrianna Fitch:** My crazy moments and idea to my brother Sean, my random dancing moments to Natalie Brelsford, and my unusual humor to my non-sister twin Charis Gurrola.

**Jeff Godman:** My managing skills to my brother and I want to bequeath my locker to my brother.

**Garek Gray:** Nothing, I'm taking everything with me.

**Allen Haase:** My great confidence to Seth English and my baseball number to whom ever feels fit enough to wear it.

**Hannah Hagan:** Write up slips to Jackle Ponting, the legacy of the Hagan mascots to Katie Hagan, homeless people to Coach Poore, stink bombs to Kelsey Smith, and singing skills to the tennis people.

**Ellie Hammons:** All future tennis trips with the infamous Coach Poore & Coach Mungle duo to the younger generations of girl tennis players; all my rounded Fuller vowels to Miss Katy Miller; and all the best luck for those who brave calculus.

**Blake Harrison:** Movie days to Carson and Mrs. Mornar, senior trip plans to Hurricane Harper, AB Block to Mrs. Jarvis, unlimited amounts of sunflower seeds to Coach Miller, good study habits to Drew, my excellent art skills to the Art I crew, creepers and a Diet Mountain Dew to DJ Caitlynn, all of my love to Mrs. Watts, my respect, admiration, and the November '08 issue to Mrs. Goodman, and most importantly, the keys to Mrs. Goodman's heart to Andrew Croft. Use them carefully and choose the next recipient wisely!

**Hannah Hudson:** The pitcher's mound to Tiffany Brown, volley tennis and illegal lunches to Macey Evans, fun times at Teen Court with Dominique to Shannon Bowman, interesting softball talks with Randa and Jamie Jones, and everything else to Rachel Englert.

**Ally Heine:** To Emily Burton, Orbit commercials; to Dana Wilson, Soccer Sprints; to Ilyssa Brickeen, her little brother; to Molly Green, my winter gloves; to Macey Evans, Basketball practice, volley-tennis skills, Spring Break House Extravanzas, Raptors, Kool-aid packets, my life, & yard signs; and to Maddie Parker, I leave my best friend Macey.

**Jessica Heine:** I wish all the happiness possible to a person whose heart will never leave my own and the best of luck to my little freshman friend, Micah!

**Kyle Hogancamp:** The corner of my couch to Roberto Arreaza, my car to Jacob Porter, and awful movies to Rachel Lundberg.

**Amanda Holler:** My parking spot and locker to Nick Holler, a willingness to be a good student to Shelby Warren, memories of church trips to all members of the LOCC Youth Group. I love you guys!

**Hannah Hudson:** The pitcher's mound to Tiffany Brown, volley-tennis and illegal lunches to Macey Evans, fun times at TeenCourt with Dominique to Shannon Bowman, interesting softball talks with Randa and Jamie Jones, and everything else to Rachel Englert.

**Nicholas N. Jacobs:** My full seat and big thighs to Jackie Lile, triple p for my bro Mitch Jacobs, all my testosterone to Houston Hopper, everything else to Jacob Porter, and nothing to Jordan Ludovissle.

**Elizabeth Johnson:** My parking spot to Alex Clark, crazy elevator rides to Nic Holler, my spot on the yearbook staff to Nicole, to Kara I leave all my happiness & joy of being a senior.

**Blake Jones:** To Nathan, Prescott, Tony, Caleb, and Jessica my hunting shows. To Hunter that night at your house, and I'm leaving gravity hill to Michelle.

**D-Ann Jones:** All of my school books and hard work.

**Tevin Jones:** My newly wrecked, stolen locker, and aneurysms to Alexis Rouse (incoming freshman). I would also leave my bon qui qui impersonations to Macey Evans.

**Monica Kauffman:** Awesome future New Years to Kevin Dowdy, my "cookies" to Emily Williamson, and all the crazy memories of the crew to Kayla Miles.

## Senior Wills

**Courtney Kerns:** Ilyssa Brickeen I leave my love for Jantzen, Macey Evans I leave PCB memories, Chayton & Chandler Holland – "Fruit", Lexi Eggeneyer I leave common sense and my Hollister Wardrobe.

**Matthew Langston:** Everything to Matthew Dolan.

**Lauren Ligon:** All the fun times in PE to Caityln, Sadie, and Adam; my awesome dance skills and turkey sub to Lydia; and my meetings in the library to Randa and Jamie.

**Peyton Logue:** All of my humor and hard work to the 2009-2010 Lone Oak Football and Basketball teams. And all my matching socks to Tyler Crane and Cameron Looper.

**Yashaswee Malla:** My phantom desktop background and the #6 to Alec Valerius; my spelling skills to Rashmita Edem; my great origami skills to Sanjana Pampati; my AP calculus notebook to people of calculus; and "Oh dear!" to any and all I have had the pleasure of spending my time.

**Cody Martin:** All my drama and misfortune to my love Korrina, my yellow cleats to Cameron Looper, flat tires to Maegan Alexander and my weekends to Houston Hopper.

**Victoria McBride:** Mayhem girls, my love, Alex Sohl: an eternal hall pass to the band room, Alex Clark: the chosen, Mrs. Green's sixth hour: a teacher for a while year, Kara: AP German, Brittany Osborne: another "Courtney", Leigh Ann, Olivia, and Chelsea: Whitney's dances, everyone else: what ever you'd like.

**Dakota McCullough:** I leave Thor's "Hammer" down to Jordan Hogancamp and all the crazy events during Mrs. Green's fifth hour class must go to Nick Roberts and swift kick to Ansley Zirkle.

**Alex McKinney:** Ian my golf clubs, Andrew Harlan my backseat on the suburban, Austin my truck and parking spot.

**Michelle McNeil:** Lauren Smith and Haley West: BOODY-DOO!, Elizabeth Lester: the D-VAN, Pierce Crider: my heart, Cameron Stewart: my love, Ryan McLeary: bahama-mama, Alyssa Smith: time charts.

**Damien Miles:** Nick Knauss: donuts in the parking lot. Kathryn Moore: a dark empty closet. The magic club: free cookies. Ansley: a dark void from which you will never return.

**Ryan Mitchell:** My parking spot to Shannon Bowman. My back seat on the suburban to Taylor Croft.

**Lindsay Monical:** My parking spot to Kaylie Palmer, my locker to Jared Hill, and my best cheerleading memories to Ashlee Bennett!

**Becky Moore:** Mike, Tommy, Kara, Ashlee, Kathryn, Nate, Kenny, Clemmons, Josh, Kyle, and Nicole the courage to survive this school. I love you all!!! Horns in the air!!! Rock on!!!

**Dylan Murphy:** My parking spot to Jacob Porter and fun rides to Panes farm to Eric Winn and Dane Myers.

**Jamie Musgraves:** Kaci Ballard, Kim McCain, Creston Musgraves, and Bradley Hover all the courage to make it through your last year and all the good times that come with it!

**Britley Noonan:** Kyle Marshall all of my sarcasm, Matt Cruse my stretching and insults, Nicole Bowman my hugs, Ethan O'Daniel my fozzball and face-scrunching; and Robert Marshall all my love.

**Landon Oliver:** All the vacuums to Jon Jon, all the lunch times to Stephen and Tyler, all the pots on Chelsea to Jaran, and everything else to Ashley.

**Derek Operle:** The Entertainment page to Andy and Kelsey (Kelsey, the editorship, and Andy the ability to write a review every month), Roberto, Kyle, and Seth the Academic team, and I leave 4-H to Brittany Osborne, yes, the entirety of 4-H...also, the game-game goes to Mrs. Goodman, may it be played until the end of time time.

**Ryne Parsley:** my laziness to Marco and my free time to Mrs. Goodman.

**Kayla Prall:** Patsy Pierce, Kim McCain, and my dear Olivia, all the fun times of Senior year and to all fellow band members, all the memories we shared.

**Jeff Prescott:** My luck to Jessica Downs, my football skills to Jay Cain, and my height to Koty Wilkins

**Haley Quinton:** All the library books you can want to my brother Austin, sunflower seeds to Shelby W, a spelling book to Andy W, and my locker to Ian B, my parking spot to Dean F, and much love to Dustin, Chris B, Alex C, and Haley W.

**Alex Raney:** Kara, the vast majority of my high school objects, Charles, THE SPACE BOOTS, Shelby Garner, my friend Travis and the school gets next year's great return of James.

**Kaitlyn Ray:** I leave my locker to my cousin Chelsea, my parking spot to my brother, David, and my favorite memories with lil' B.

**Emma Robinson:** Moist towelettes to Makenzye; My amazing singing voice to Jackie P; all my neon party hats to Macey; crazy spring break memories to Braden; mom vans with cargo carriers to Lance and Ilyssa; and movie days to Carson

**Danyell Ryan:** My parking spot to Marcus Davis, Lindsay Monical's locker to Jared Hill, and all my memories to Mrs. Sturm and Daralea Harper.

**Cinthia Sanchez:** My senior English book to the lucky upcoming seniors.

**Richard Scelzi:** To Roberto, Nelson Mandela; to Megan Sin, ham-fried rice and secret hand shakes; to John Scelzi, the first shower in the morning.

**J.T. Scourick:** To Croft I leave my bowties; to Rob, soccer camping trips; to Watwood and Craig, a bottle; to Carter, a better chair.

**Karina Soto:** I leave all my stuff to my BFFs. Don't fight over anything please! Ummm, oh, and Beto, if you ever hit Omar I'll come back and knock you out!

**Monica Spees:** Miss Connie to Becca, the dead soccer ball to Jordan, the number 9 to Alec, awesome times to the yahoo P.E. freshmen, church stuff to the church kids, and the definition of reason to Geoff.

**David Spencer:** Warm-up pants to Croft, my shot to Cody, the ability to sprint to Lee, a good night's sleep to Kyle, two-mile followed by 4x4 to Shelby, and the future of guys distance and everything else to Ricky.

**Sharee Spencer:** To give Arionna and Sylvia my attitude about Frank, (inside joke). My locker and my happy senior year and Arionna to be Godmother to my baby.

**Kevin Stafford:** My stealth and ninja skills to Kyle Kauffman, all my pennies to Jon-Jon, and to Dustin Fouse. I leave my fro pic.

**Ronica Stokes:** I leave being lazy in Mrs. Harper's class to Morgan LeQuatte.

**Patrick Tallent:** I'm leaving Penelope to Josh Mayfield. I'm leaving Kevin Dowdy the War on Thursday. I'm leaving Charles active camo.

**Dustin Taylor:** I leave everything to Garek Gray except THE SPACE BOOTS; I leave those to Charles.

**Evan Tharp:** I leave everything to my future wife except for my locker which I leave to Payton Harris. I leave my computer fixing skills to no one. I AM THE BEST AND CANNOT BE REPLACED.

**Val Thomas:** I leave all the fun times and memories of my senior year to my cousin JoShona and Matthew Starks.

**Cameron Tillet:** Bailey- sun block, Croft and Lee- an itchy ear, Ian- self-control, Cullen- basketball IQ, Jake- puberty, Ray- soft hands, Ludo- nerf basketball, Clayton- long text, Megan- Asian stereotypes, Alexis- all my decisions, Bobby- respect for something, and Harlan- nose jokes.

**April Timmans:** My choir skills and randomness to Gummy Bears, Cork-uh-nee, Tor-Tor and Strawberry Short Cake. My loudness to Allison Strickland. Well girls, have fun, be good, and be loud! Oh, and Ally, be nice.

**Adrian Vandenberg:** My role as coach and the ability to be awesome to Kevin Dowdy. I also leave Joey Allen my pretty guitar skills.

**Tricia Wages:** My locker to Stacie Sosa, my choir skills to Sammy Lee and to Torie. I leave my kindness to Sammy Lee and, to Amanda Bogg; I leave the freshman with lots of fun.

**Emily Wallace:** My lame bottom locker to my wonderful brother Tyler, and the remainder of my art supplies to my lovely sister Olivia.

**Forrest Walters:** Making fun of Byrd while I'm in Lexington to Roberto. I leave Jon Freeman's Spanish II folder to Jack Coleman, and "What's your fielding percentage?" to Hollywood Harrison.

**Nicole White:** My mad softball skills to Olivia Travis, the "best singing voice ever" to Alaina Ranage, to whoever wants my locker can have it, and lots of fun to the incoming freshmen.

**Ron White:** My parking spot and books and paper.

**Aaron Williams:** An 18 minute 5K to Ricky Grewelle, Molly a broomstick, Austin Clark gets my milk straw, Corey Adams gets Haleigh's heart, Rachel Lundberg gets a big, dark rain cloud, John Scelzi gets Tuesday nights, and Bailey gets a good first impression.

**James Tyler Wilson:** Nothing to anyone, due to the fact that I'm not dying. Unless of course you consider the idea that with every second of life, from birth, you are one second closer to your inevitable end.

**Evan Winters:** My parking spot and everything else to Shanden Simmons because he has actually stuck with school unlike most of my friends.

**Lawrissa Yeaman:** My sweeper spot on defense to Dana Wilson. To Alex Shol, I leave this, this and this, and that. Analise Jones, my first clarinet chair; and to Gary and Aubrey holding down the seconds.



# People in the Halls

Blake Harrison  
Editor-in-Chief

Question: What are your feelings on the Macbooks?



Dana Wilson (9)

"I'm pretty excited about them. They will be a big responsibility, but I think the students will be able to handle it."



Cody Woodford (12)

"Why can't I get one of those?"



Jeff Godman (12)

"I think it's a good idea. It will save on paperwork."



Mrs. Wallace

"I am *the* Mac Momma!"

## MYSTERY STARS



Kelsey Smith  
Entertainment Editor

This slender, blonde-haired freshman is a former flute player who loves both music and visual art. Along with being creative, she also enjoys playing with her dog, whose name is Fly. Who is she?

This sophomore can be usually be spotted wearing black high tops and a hoodie, with headphone wires dangling from his ears. Some of his favorite artists are Korn, the Beastie Boys, and Insane Clown Posse. He spends a lot of late nights playing zombie games on Xbox. Who is he?

This seniorita claims she "marches to the beat of a different drum." She thinks zebra stripes are beautiful, is terrified of sharks, and is surrounded by words at her job. You can often find her hanging out with her crazy boyfriend. Who is she?

This dark-haired, dark-eyed senior has had four different jobs throughout high school. His favorite food is chili Ramen noodles, and he currently has a \$12 fine at the public library. Who is he?

### Someone's Bashing Twilight? ...You Are Now Entering the Twilight Zone!

Derek Operle  
Entertainment Editor

#### Journal Entry After Chapters 1-6:

Well...I knew within the first few pages of this reading "book" that it would be quite a chore to read. Already in these first few chapters I feel like I'm listening to a fifteen year old girl tell me a story about a dream she had, and that isn't necessarily a good thing, I get that feeling because that's the way that Stephenie Meyer writes. Yes...I said it: she writes like a fifteen year old girl who is obviously filled with damsel in distress fantasies and is boy crazy. And that's not even what upset me the most...that would have to be the fact that for some untold reason these local natives can sense who is a vampire and who is not. Yeah, I'm getting a discouraging feeling that this "book" is going to get worse for me.

#### Journal Entry After Chapters 7-12:

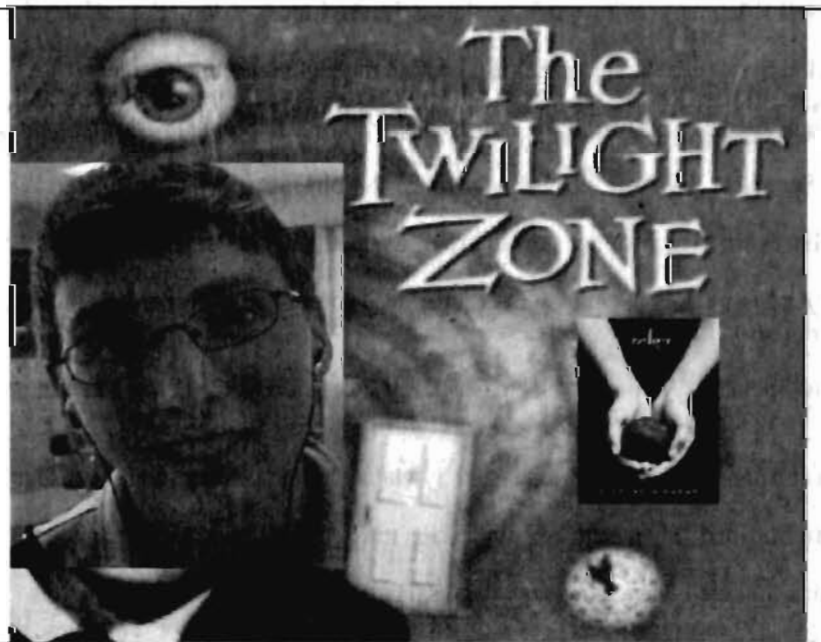
I was right...my disapproval of some of the things in this book has risen to the next level...it's in a whole new league now. It was bush league before this point. Meyer cannot, mentally, at least, be more than fifteen years old...no way. Sure, she uses big words like *palpitations* and *labyrinth* but she does not seem like anything more of an adolescent storyteller to me...but that's enough ranting on her writing style...let's get to what happened in this oh so glorious installment of *Twilight*...Basically, Edward turns out to be majorly creeping on Bella...and she turns out to enjoy being kept track of at all times. It's these kinds of things I don't like...even though he does save her life, it was still really creepy that he followed her out of town and then tracked her down by her scent...seriously...if you were looking for a definition of the word creeper there would be no need to go any further than Edward.

#### Journal Entry After Chapters 12-18:

Okay...Meyer has finally escalated past her boy crazy stage...and moved on to the hopeless romantic stage...and by that I mean, my goodness, could she be any cornier? The answer to that question, I believe, is no. Seriously, after about a century of purposeless life Edward, all of the sudden, falls deeply, deeply in love with some run-of-the-mill, albeit oddly calm girl from Arizona...how frickin' cliché is that? I'll give her (Meyer) credit for massively appealing to the romanticist that lives in everyone but still...that's even too corny for me. Also, after nearly four hundred pages, a true conflict, one with actually cool sounding consequences has arisen. Finally! Some action involving Edward...and not in the way that all the high school girls were hoping. Here's to hoping that Meyer can do some justice to the "epicness" that a vampire battle has the potential for. Well, at least now I have something that I can actually look forward to in this book...besides the end that is.

#### Journal Entry After Chapter 19-Epilogue:



I was so wrong to even expect there to be a good fight scene...There was practically nothing there. All that build-up so that Bella could be knocked out and wake up days later. Come on, Stephenie Meyer! Appeal to the guys a little more! You can't ignore all the cool possibilities there were for a vampire fight: feats of strength and awesome banter...Hey, it would be a fight to the undearth...and she ignored it, simply skipping over it right to a hospital where Bella tries to convince Edward to "change" her...which he doesn't. How dumb is that??? The one hopelessly corny, romantic thing that I expect to happen and it doesn't happen!!! And the cheesyness definitely went over the top in the hospital anyway, I mean, come on, the heart monitor thing during the kiss...the professed love as she fell asleep...while both are very romantic and sweet, they are altogether utterly and inexcusably corny considering the end. The end is unforgivable for me. Seriously, Stephenie Meyer...I would have given you a little more credit than that...after all, you do write like a fifteen year old girl.






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Blake Harrison  
Editor-in-Chief

# Free Association

Participants	30 minutes extra everyday	Seniors	The Oak "K"	Focus Groups
Jamie Wilson (12)	Weak	Almost	Words	Worth it
Mrs. Poore	Long	Exciting	Informative	Interesting
Rebecca Housman (10)	Lame	Graduate (hopefully)	Blake Harrison	..next question
Mrs. Watts	Yuck	Awesome	Prestigious	Mrs. Jarvis

## Schedules Schmedules!

Monica Spees  
Features Editor

It has been widely stated that next year at Lone Oak High School will be quite a bit different from the previous years. Starting in the 2009-2010 school year, LOHS will be using AB block scheduling. While this shift offers benefits, it also possesses negative qualities that have many students and teachers uneasy. As a senior, I will not experience the new schedule firsthand, but I was interested in learning what those left behind had to say about it.

Although incoming freshmen may not know the difference because they have never experienced the traditional schedule of Lone Oak High School, students who have almost completed their first year here do have an opinion. **Alec Valerius (9)** is skeptical about the change. "It sounds really confusing. I don't like it. Maybe if I get the hang of the system and the way it works I might get used to it." Fortunately, Alec has three years to adjust. **Bethany Adams (11)**, however, does not have such a luxury. As a member of the class of 2010, she is particularly unsure of her academic future with such an evolution in class scheduling. "I'm excited because I have more options, but I'm not crazy about being in class for so long. I won't be able to concentrate. I might forget stuff taught to me two days before." Despite her anxiety, Bethany attempts to be positive. "I'm iffy about it, but we'll see."

It is true that more classes will be offered, a feature especially useful to those students wanting to narrow their curriculum according to their occupational decisions, but a lengthened class period might mean an increase in easy distractions and eventual idleness. Just like any other routine in life, some personality types will be suited for the change and others won't. Students with a good work ethic and the ability to stay focused will likely meet the new schedule with ease. Those who are unable to work with their friends around or who are often forgetful might have trouble. From a similar experience in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, I can honestly say that I fell into the latter category, constantly forgetting when assignments were due and when there were tests in certain classes. Some students may struggle as I did, but perhaps a prolonged exposure to the schedule will allow them to adjust.

Every teacher and staff member here at LOHS has an opinion on next year's schedule, though they may not always be willing to share it. **Mike Nall** broke from the norm and did not hesitate to give his thoughts on what's to come. "I see both positive and negative points. The positive: it gives students more choices. The negative: some students have trouble with hour classes, so they'll probably struggle with hour and twenty minute classes. I've never experienced the every-other-day thing. We'll just see how that goes."

Whether or not students and teachers approve, AB block is coming to Lone Oak High School in August of this year. Only time will tell how effective this new schedule will be.



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Tammy Carr, A.R.N.P  
Natalie Woods, M.S.N

2603 Kentucky Ave., Suite 201  
Paducah, KY 42003

Phone (270) 443-1220





# VESPERTINE

**Kelsey Smith**  
Entertainment Editor

Vespertine is a word you may not be familiar with, but more importantly, *Vespertine* is also an album you may not be familiar with.

For the record, the word vespertine is an adjective that means 'of, pertaining to, or occurring in the evening.' The adjective is derived from the noun 'vespers', which are evening prayers. The album *Vespertine* was released in August of 2001 by Icelandic singer Björk, her fourth studio album.

Björk has said that *Vespertine* is more introverted and intimate than her first, second, and third albums, *Debut*, *Post*, and *Homogenic*. The album is also layered and intricate. An Inuit choir appears on most tracks; electronic duo Matmos created beats with everything from playing cards to Rice Krispies; the song "Sun In My Mouth" opens with a line from e.e. cummings's poem "I Will Wade Out." The more times I listen to the album, the more instruments I notice, the more harmonies I pick up on. I hear more and more and more and more.

The album starts with the first single "Hidden Place" (which you can hear card shuffling beats on). "Hidden Place", arguably the "loudest" track, transitions to "Cocoon", the second single, which may be the softest, most minimal song on the album. And though they are different in dynamics, both are equal in intensity.

"Hidden Place" is about the world people form from emotional bonds. How the unity between two people can form an untouchable, hidden place. "Cocoon", similarly, explores the cocoon that comes from close-



picture from google.com

ness, being wrapped up in someone, consistently awed and amazed. The lyrics make this evident: "Who would have known a beauty this immense/ who would have known a saintly trance/who would have known: miraculous breath" - but what's even more is that Björk transports the listener to this cocoon by whispering on the track. After "Cocoon" comes "Undo", "It's Not Up To You", and then the

third single, "Pagan Poetry." "Pagan Poetry" is the fifth track, and the first track of what I consider to be the most beautiful three-song succession in history. "Pagan Poetry" starts with a music box, ends with chanting, and leads into "Frosti", an instrumental composed entirely with handbells. The handbells from "Frosti" bleed over into the first few seconds of the next track, "Aurora." The handbells remain on the track, while synthesizer, harp, and vocals return to create an ethereal, wintry landscape of sound (cue map of Iceland). Following are "An Echo, A Stain", the aforementioned "Sun In My Mouth", "Heitloom", "Harm of Will", and "Unison."

If my love and admiration of this album doesn't convince you that it's worth listening to, consider this: *Vespertine* made it into the book "1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die", and who knows, your time may be coming.

# Kudos For Kalai

**Derek Operle**  
Entertainment Editor

For this month's review I decided to, once again, scour the iTunes library until I found something new and interesting and



picture from google.com

this time I've found a rather interesting acoustic artist. His birth-given name is Kaniela Ka Lei Ali'i 'O' Kalani Kala'i (he was born in Hawaii, in case you couldn't tell, and raised in Alaska) but he just goes by Kalai. His official website's biography of him describes him as "an old school young buck" that besides being a "lyrical BIGfoot," puts the "z in skillz" instrumentally. The description also goes on to say that "if Dave Mathews, Paul Simon, Ben Harper, James Taylor, John Mayer, Bill Murray (yes, the comedian) and Béla Fleck had a baby it would surely be this guy!" A description this ridiculous is hard to believe...but it's actually quite true.

His music ranges coast to coast with soft ballads, edgy blues, straight jazz, acid jazz, and a little bit of his own thing, as the website puts it. Yes, his music is pretty awesome...it's just like they say it is: great acoustic music with awesome lyrics and a great feel. For this review, I decided to listen to his debut album *Acousticism* (released in 2001).

This album is chock-full of acoustic gems, every song is good, but there are probably three or four great ones. My favorites are "Untouched," "One Life," and "Fading Out." These songs, of course, are all acoustic, hence the album title, and are

all rather mellow yet still upbeat, especially "One Life." And I would like to add an artist to the ones already listed to "have a baby" and make Kalai...Dispatch. It really reminds of Dispatch, the acoustic-ness and some of the slight tribal sounds (bongos and congas) really make Kalai sound like a stripped down version of Dispatch at times.

All in all, and I know I tend to say that a lot, this is a great album, one of my favorite that I've found this year, and I have no idea how more people don't know about this guy or how he hasn't hit it huge by now...he really does sound like all of the artists that were said: he's a great guitarist and lyricist and I think we'll be hearing a lot more from this guy in the future. So get on iTunes, or Kalai's official website (kalai.cc), and get a hold of some of this guy's tunes. The guy is the real deal and he needs to be supported so that he can continue making his beautiful music. Get out there and buy some Kalai...I promise you, you won't be disappointed in the least; he'll have you jamming like a jelly sandwich.

# Love That Lux-Pain

**Rachel Lundberg**  
News Editor

Over the course of the last few years, a new video game genre has begun to flesh itself out: visual novels, plot-driven adventure games characterized by lots of text and minimal gameplay. One of these, released in North America in March of this year, is *Lux-Pain* for the Nintendo DS.

*Lux-Pain*, first released in Japan, follows the story of Atsuki Saijo, a member of the secret organization known as FORT. Atsuki uses the power of Sigma (short for "Signus-Anima", Latin for "seal soul") to read the thoughts of others, an ability he gains from his ring, a device known as a Lux Pain. His job is to find and neutralize victims of Silent, a virus that feeds upon negative emotions and increases violent tendencies.

The game, though slow-moving at times, is engaging, the kind that any adventure-mystery fan wouldn't want to put down. And without giving too much away, there're plenty of unexpected twists with a Silent-infected serial killer on the loose. If you've ever wanted to feel like you're the main character of a murder mystery, you might want to give *Lux-Pain* a try. A thorough playthrough takes about 20 hours, so there's lots of talking and investigating to do, as well as lots of opportunities to use your stylus to dig for information in subconscious thoughts. For horror lovers, there's some of that too, between chilling thought-reading scenes, telepathic duels, and freakish monsters taunting you with macabre musings about Armageddon as they attack.

Visually, *Lux-Pain* is pretty nice, as it's easy to see as soon as you watch the title scene. It's not fully animated, but the characters speak and have a decent array of different emotions. The soundtrack is pretty good, consisting of 34 different background tracks, with themes for emotions or locales ranging from a sunny day in the park to the interior of a murderer's

mind, all of which are available in the extras after you beat the game. The voices are also consistently well done, and my only complaint is that I feel they should have done them for every scene. Unfortunately, this brings me to the game's biggest downfall: the translation. The subtitles are not only riddled with errors that could have been picked up if only they had been run through a spell-checker, but they hardly ever even match up with the voices. Most of the time, these errors, frustrating though they are, are not a real problem. However, there are a few scenes that are simply incomprehensible, and this is a huge fault for a text-based



picture from google.com

game such as *Lux-Pain*. Not only that, but the plot can be quite confusing if you don't make an effort to understand it by reading the in-game information in the FORT database.

Replay value for this game isn't particularly high, simply because it's less intriguing and suspenseful when you already know what's going to happen. This is remedied a little bit by the fact that there are almost 40 unlockable bonus scenes, most of which require additional playthroughs to obtain. There are also three different endings, and the game can have up to two more chapters depending on how well you do.

If I were to rate *Lux-Pain* based on criteria such as gameplay, visuals, plot, etc., I would probably only give it a five out of ten overall. To be brutally honest, *Lux-Pain* is little better than average, if at all. Even so, there's just something about this game that really drew me in. On a basis of enjoyment alone, I would rate it an eight out of ten. So if you like mystery games like *Hotel Dusk: Rooms 215* or stylus gameplay similar to *Trauma Center: Under the Knife*, I'd say *Lux-Pain* is definitely worth your consideration.

After all, a new copy is only \$20, which is pretty cheap for a recently released game these days.

# Gomez Rises With the Tide

**Andrew Croft**  
Sports Editor

Gomez, an English indie band, has been flying under the alternative music scene since the late 90s. The band consists of vocalists/guitarists Ian Ball (who's voice greatly resembles a tone-down Chris Cornell), and Ben Ottowell, bassist Paul Blackburn, vocalist/guitarist/keyboardist Tom Gray, and drummer Ollie Peacock. Although they have made a name for themselves in Europe and Australia, breaking into the top music charts with multiple CD's, they have a slim American following. Their small fan base has come from touring, the states with several music festivals such as Lollapalooza and Bonnaroo in the past few years. Gomez released their first four studio albums under virgin Records, receive the Mercury Music Award in 1998. In 2005 they were dropped by Virgin, but later signed a new deal with Dave Matthew's ATO Records, a division of RCA Records. Under their new label, they released their highly acclaimed fifth studio album, *How We Operate*, which was highly successful and even featured songs on television hits *Grey's Anatomy* and *House*.

Gomez's musical style is often compared to that of Wilco, Rogue Wave, Elbow and Ryan Adams. They are especially known for their ability to surprise their listeners with different aspects of music. Their sound differs from song to song, due to their wide variety of influences, and the fact that all five members write songs and three of them share the lead vocalist role. Personally, I would describe their music as indie-folk, or

"coffee-house" rock, consisting of soothing acoustic guitar/banjo riffs backed by emotional vocals and world percussion.

They recently released their sixth studio album entitled *A New Tide* under ATO Records. Though it hasn't received the best reviews so far, it is by far my favorite album of theirs. The band finds themselves wedged between their typical folk sound and 90's radio music. The CD is full of their signature easy listening guitar ballads that any Gomez fan would expect to hear. However, it also includes the bands hesitant attempt to establish a name for themselves as versatile musicians, adding in a few upbeat rock songs with distortion-filled choruses.

The album kicks off the "Mix," an attention getting song which begins with an acoustic guitar melody and a catchy vocal performance, but then swiftly moves into an electric masterpiece. Some more mellow songs on the CD include "Bone Tired," "Natural Selection," and "Other Plans, showing that Gomez has truly found a comfort zone that they will always be able to excel in. Two of my favorite songs on the album are "Little Pieces" and "Win Park Slope," probably because they both can easily be compared to the musical sound of The John Butler Trio, including complicated slide guitar and banjo parts. I have been listening to *A New Tide* constantly for a few days now, which is unusual for me. So for anyone who is a fan of easy listening, acoustic music, I highly recommend Gomez's *A New Tide*.



picture from google.com

Thanks for reading and supporting The Oak "K" this year!



# A Race to the Finish Line

**Haleigh Fellows**  
Photographer

The Lone Oak Track Team's bid for state looks to be repeated again this season, especially on the boy's team. With two returning First Team All State Competitors **Justin Jackson(12)** and **Stephen Miller(11)**, along with former teammates **Ricky Grewelle(9)**, **Scott Hall(11)**, and **Roberto Arreaza(11)** the boy's team is full of experienced veterans who know how to compete under pressure. Justin and Stephen have already proved their titles from last year snatching top place finishes in their races at a regional meet at Paducah Tilghman. Justin sprinted his way to first in the 400 and 100 meter dashes, and Stephen grabbed a victory in the 300 meter hurdles, both against a very tough field. **Alan Treece**, the girl's and boy's varsity coach, is pleased with his team and is very optimistic about their chances this season. "It would be hard to find two kids in the state that work harder than Justin Jackson and Ricky Grewelle. They always support and encourage their teammates. They along with Scott Hall have really stepped us this year. Well, let's hope that all that hard work and improvement pays off, and we see the boy's team on a bus to Louis-

ville to the state track meet in June.

Though the girl's team suffered some tough injuries before the season started, they have the talent and experience to still give them a good shot of competing at the state meet. Returning for the Lady Flash are runners **Macey Evans(11)**, **Lexi Gurrola(11)**, **Gabby Fellows(12)**, **Molly Green(11)**, **Joeshanna Starks(10)**, and **Shelby Schaeffer(9)**. Already coming off an impressive cross country season, Macey and Shelby's confidence should be build to bring them out on top in their longer distance races. Lexi struggled with an injury earlier in the year, but is completely healthy and back on her feet and fighting to jump her way back into a state meet. Coach Treece is anxious that he hasn't been able to put the teams he originally planned out on the track due to the several injuries, but still thinks he can put together some strong forces that will be a threat at the state and regional meets. "Hard work and commitment to your teammates are the things that make champions. Senior Gabby Fellows has battled to recover from a devastating knee injury just so she can make it to state once more before she graduates. Many athletes could learn a lesson from her. Hard work, commitment, and perseverance make winners, not coaching." Wish these ladies good luck, and maybe they will see themselves on a bus with the boys to the state track meet in June.

# On the Diamond

**Jordan Price**  
Assistant Business Manager

With the end of the season within reach, the fate of the team lies in the district games. Having a very successful season thus far if we win the district game, the infamous LOHS baseball team will be traveling to Heath to compete against Pirates who themselves have had a pretty fair season. The team is already Regular Season District Champions. Coach Miller's outlook for the proceeding game is a positive one, he has no doubts that our boys will play to the best of their ability to ensure a top spot among the rankings.

With 33 total players, eight seniors and most of them starters, the team is built up of hard-working boys with a love and respect for the game. The team even recruited a few eighth grade boys to form the best possible lineup.

The make-it-or-break-it game takes place on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. Forrest Walters replied "yeah" when asked if the team is going to win districts. With an impressive total of four home runs under their belts, this team is ready for anything the Pirates have to throw at them (excuse the pun). To finish the regular season eight to eleven games lie ahead of the team. The boys will have the summer team and fall weight training and conditioning to keep them up to par. The team will be playing a full summer schedule for a total of 35 games.

But in the likely event that the district tournament is won, the team will be celebrating with a day off from practice.

To date, the team has won 15 games and only lost nine. In order to keep their winning streak they plan on playing hard and giving these next few games everything they have got.

Staying in school until the 29<sup>th</sup> will have no effect on the regular season, if anything Coach Miller says that staying in school longer will "keep the players more focused". No new games will be added to the schedule to accommodate the extra time spent in school.

The seniors on the team include: **Allen Haase**, **Ryan Mitchell**, **Forrest Walters**, **Derek Roof**, **Dylan Murphy**, **Jon Freeman**, **Ryne Parsley**, and **Josh Byrd**. Allen Haase and Josh Byrd have both received baseball scholarships and signed with Mid-continent University. Allen Haase is leading the has a record of 5-1 and a 1.15 ERA, and Derek Roof with three wins and ERA of 1.89. As for the batting report, Josh Byrd has a 21 RBI and a .338 average; Jon Freeman has a 21 RBI and a .338 average. A striking record will be following this year's seniors as well as the rest of the team in their future years, and the Coach has nothing but praises to sing. Coach Miller said that "at this point in the season, the players have worked extremely hard".

**Jordan Price**  
Assistant Business Manager

The Lone Oak girl's softball team is on a roll when it comes to pop flies, ground balls and some extraordinary pitching. With an impressive season of nine wins and eight losses, they are headed to the big leagues of High School softball. Their district tournament game takes place on May 19<sup>th</sup> and is a sure-fire win for the girls.

Celebration for this season can't come early enough because these athletes are preparing for the summer traveling teams and weight lifting in the fall. When they win the big district game the team plans on celebrating by going on to win regionals.

The team is made up of about 25 girls including five seniors and five eighth graders. Starters usually consist of **Nicole White**, **Andrea Campbell**, **Hannah Hudson**, **Nikki Ross**, and **Lauren Ligon** who occasionally switches out with **Lydia Sawyer**. The eight games they lost where only lost by a total of nine runs. Their home run record stands at three; hit by **Tiffany Brown**, **Chasity McIntire**, and **Nichelle Ezelle**. Luckily for the team they have not had any players seriously injured this year. Assistant Coach **Gregory** says

"knock on wood" for that.

The team has an average rating from a regional stand point but is well on their way to winning their future games. With a total of 18 games and two weeks left in the regular season until the district tournament the only goal is to eliminate errors on the field. Hoping to be one of the top two teams to win districts and to go on to regionals, the team is practicing non-stop.

The top senior batting averages are held by **Nicole** who has a .390 with 12 RBIs and **Andrea** with a .390 with eight RBIs. The senior pitching stats go as thus, **Hannah**: 3-3. With these impressive statistics the district tournament should be no problem for the girls.

**Lydia Sawyer** commented on the most memorable moment of the season. "When **Shelbie** was driving and leaned out the window to talk to the coach, and her foot hit the accelerator, and the engine revved."

With the district games looming nearer and nearer, the girls are wasting no time preparing for the festivities. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, be sure to be present at the game to support the Lone Oak High School Softball team who work hard year round to be the best. They exert all their time and energy to make sure that "Lone Oak" is at the top.

# Pattern of Excellence

**Jon Freeman**  
Sports Editor

As you know the Lone Oak Tennis Team has shown a pattern of excellence in the past as they have dominated the 1<sup>st</sup> Region since John Hancock signed the Declaration in 1776. But seriously Lone Oak is the dominating force in Region One and looks to capture the regional team title just as they did last year. The recently crowned #1 seed in singles, **Haleigh Fellows (12)** looks to win the title after falling short in the semis last year while **Dakota Durrett (10)** is the 4 seed in the tournament. The **Hagans (Hannah (12) and Katie (11))** look to 3-peat as Regional doubles champions and go very very deep into the state tournament as they hope to get a top 8 seed. The other doubles team, consisting of **Ellie Hammons (12) and Katie Yates (11)**, look to ride Ellie's veteran experience to the finals as she finished runner-up in the region with then doubles partner **Dakota Durrett**. Go root on the Lady Flash as they strive to do there best and bring home another team title.

The boys team who of course yet again finished first in the region last year look to

recapture the first place crown as there only challenger looks to be the Paducah Tilghman Tornadoes. **Brian Bredniak (12)** is hoping to run through the regional tournament and steal the first place trophy while on his way to the state tourney. Freshman **Bobby Kaltenbach** has shown great improvement in his game and is banking on getting a high seed in the regional tournament this year as a singles competitor. Lone Oak's top boy's doubles team consisting of **Cameron Tillett (12)** and **Chris Dallas (12)** are expected to win the region just as Chris did last year with another teammate. Our other beloved doubles team is **Lee Dapp (11)** who finished runner-up with teammate **Cameron Tillett** last year, and **Andrew Croft (11)** who lost in the semi-finals of the boys singles tourney.

Come cheer on the tennis team as the look to deepen the history of their beloved program with another Regional Title which means a step closer to a Team State Title. By the time the paper is release the Regional Tournament will have already been played at the Larry J. Heflin Tennis Center and the team will be on there way to state. So wish the Tennis Team good luck at the State Tournament.

**Gene Boaz**  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
270.554.2642  
www.geneboaz.net

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

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

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

Office Hours  
By Appointment



Toll Free 800-810-8005

Phone (270) 898-6215  
Fax (270) 898-6504  
6045 Kentucky Dam Road  
Paducah, KY 42003

Phone (270) 554-1904  
Fax (270) 554-1905  
150 North Friendship Road  
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