



### A look inside The Oak "K":

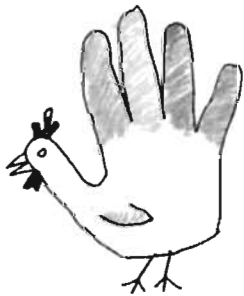
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## How We Remembered Our Veterans

**Spenser Price**  
*Illustrator*

In years past, Lone Oak High School has made a notable effort to commemorate the Veterans who are among our families and friends. Previously, the entire student body has honored the day by listening to speeches given by class officers, patriotic songs played by the Kentucky Colonel Marching Band, and the National Anthem sung by **Richie Dittsworth (12)**. A quaint group of family members who have served or currently serve in the United States Armed Forces were invited as honored guests to the assembly. This year's Veteran's Day passed in a much more subtle and brief fashion.

On Wednesday, the 10th of November, 2009, a video presentation of a photo montage of pictures from World War II to the present day War in Iraq played in most first block classes. The difference between previous years' and this year's homage was glaring. **Charles Fountain**, who is himself a veteran, says he believes the students should "personally honor veterans because they are willing to sacrifice without question."

Some questions have been raised regarding the planning that went into that Wednesday morning. Few people are aware of the way in which the morning was carried out and who was in charge. In the week prior, teachers were sent an email explaining that a video with information would be made available to them to be shared with students in first block. On the morning of Veteran's Day, an announcement suggested that **Mrs. Morgan Morris** was providing the video. However, **Morris** made it clear that she only took the matter into her own hands when it became clear that no video was prepared. **Morris** took the initiative to find a video to honor the veterans of America's Armed Forces.

Unfortunately, some classes did not even receive the video, nor the link to the Youtube website. However, **Morris** made the most of the opportunity to show gratitude for the sacrifice of our country's veterans by allowing her students to share the names and military branch of veterans in their families. Furthermore, she stated that Veteran's Day comes only "once a year" but honoring our veterans "should be an everyday thing."

It is uncertain how Lone Oak High School will commemorate Veteran's Day in the future. Hopefully more preparation will go into next year's celebration. While veterans deserve to be honored every day, to overlook the day set aside solely for that purpose is a great disservice to the men and women who serve our country.

## Doc Holliday Comes to LOHS

**Ruth Wooten**  
*Business Manager*

Lone Oak High School welcomed the Kentucky Commissioner of Education, Dr. Terry Holliday to our campus on Friday November 6th. Having been elected at the end of July this year, he has been doing much traveling to get acquainted with Kentucky schools. The Commissioner had been in the district all day, having already visited Farley Elementary and Lone Oak Elementary.

Eight students -- **Sarah Byassee (9)**, **Eileen Doan (9)**, **Shelby Schaefer (10)**, **Dana Wilson (10)**, **Ruth Wooten (11)**, **Callie Smith (11)**, **Clayton Isenberg (12)**, and **Austin Clark (12)** -- as well as Mr. Harper and Mr. Heller escorted the Commissioner through the building. The group visited many classrooms including Mrs. Teresa Wallace's; her International Studies class was working on projects that incorporated the use of the Macbooks with the German, Spanish, and French languages. The group then escorted Dr. Holliday to Mr. Jarvis's classroom where his A.P. U.S. History class was studying the Civil War. The Commissioner gladly shared his favorite battle with Mr. Jarvis who managed to work in a comment about the similarity of Dr. Holliday's name to Doc Holliday, the witty and charismatic partner of Wyatt Earp. The commissioner proudly acknowledged the likeness of the name, saying, "Yes, I go all the way back to Tombstone."

The pack of educators and students traveled to the classrooms of Mr. Guill, Mr. Mungle, Mr. Poore, and Ms. Morris. Finally over lunch in the cafeteria, Dr. Holliday and students had a brief conversation about our school and the many changes we have undergone this year, including block scheduling and the Macbooks. After wishing the football team good luck one last time the Commissioner parted with, "Enjoy it and work hard. It will go by quickly."

Students will be glad to know that, according to Dana Wilson, The Commissioner "seemed to be open to what the students were interested in."

## THE THANKFUL EAST

**Seth Helton**  
*Features Editor*

America is not the only Many of our fellow countries holidays that take place around similar harvest festival.

The Mid-Autumn Festival, Zhongqiu Festival, is celebrated the Chinese calendar, usually of the the Gregorian (our) of Houyi and Chang'e. gifted archer who was given a for shooting down the the extra he left one intact. His wife, while Houyi was gone, and as a cat mooncakes in remembrance moon.

Thanks to Elementary Americans helping our our Plantation in 1621. This is traditionally the first thanksgiving celebration. Whether this really happened is unknown, yet it's an important part of the American mythos. China has similar, traditional folklore that goes along with its harvest festival. In a popular folk tale, the Mid-Autumn festival rose to being nationally celebrated as a result of Mongol rule of China in the 14th century. According to the story, the Mongol rulers of the Yuan Dynasty would not allow group gatherings among the Chinese people. This prevented them from planning a rebellion to overthrow said Mongol rulers. Lui Bowen, an advisor to a rebel leader, decided to coincide a rebellion with the Mid-Autumn festival. He asked permission to distribute mooncakes among the citizenry with the message "Bless the Mongol Emperor" printed on them. The mooncakes were given to the Chinese citizens, and within them was a piece of paper with the message "Kill the Mongols on the 15th day of the 8th month." The rebellion was successful, overthrowing the Mongol government and establishing the Ming Dynasty.

Finally winning their independence gives the Chinese a reason to be thankful during the cool autumn months, just as we are thankful each year for our Pilgrim forefathers seeking their own freedoms in America.



nation in the world that is thankful. have Thanksgiving traditions or similar the same time. The Chinese celebrate a

also known as the Moon Festival or on the 15th day of the eight month of around late September or early October calendar. It honors the mythical story According to the story, Houyi was a magic pill by the Emperor as a reward suns that burned the crops. Thankfully Change'e, swallowed the pill one day result floated to the moon. The Chinese of Chang'e and her isolation on the

School, we all know about the Native pilgrim forefathers: at Plymouth

## Swine Shots

**Megan Ross**  
*Photographer*

Thursday November 19, the McCracken County Health Center offered Lone Oak area students the H1N1 vaccination at no charge. Staff members from all the Lone Oak schools came to get the vaccination as well. At Lone Oak High school alone, 118 students had signed up in advanced and others were taken if they had the form in hand.

Students had the option to get the nasal spray or the shot, but if they had asthma, respiratory problems or allergies, they had to get the shot. The main difference between the two vaccines is that the nasal spray is a living virus, a weakened version of H1N1, and the shot is the dead H1N1 virus.

Nurse Lisa Oetjen said she had fielded many questions from parents, mainly about the side effects of the two immunizations. Some students said the getting the shot hurt a bit, but Dallas Bebout said he "didn't feel a thing." Apparently, the little kids thought different. Whether getting the nasal spray or shot, the little kids were screaming and crying and kicking with all their might.





## Sound Snobs

**Andrew Harlan**  
Entertainment Editor

Music snobs. We are all familiar with these people, and who knows, you yourself could be one! You know, the people who thoroughly believe that they are better at listening to music and understand it much more than you or anyone - ever. These people generally only listen to one type of music and think that all others are inferior. How can a person make such judgements and consider themselves music connoisseurs?

Now first off how can one person be better at listening to music than another person? If one person chooses to listen to something that another person does not like, does that make that listener wrong? This cannot be so. People like different things, as they should. What would be the point of music if it was all about that same expression and was always the same? Music snobs mistakenly believe that what they like is what everyone else should like and nothing more than that. This makes no sense because different music touches different people in different ways.

Not to say that people shouldn't be open to a variety of music. People need to hear more than one genre to be a true connoisseurs. Listening to one type of music means you are receiving only one message, and how can you be a rounded person without many messages and viewpoints affecting you? And honestly, everyone should want to be a rounded person.

Sadly, I myself can be a bit of a music snob. It is true; I have failed music at times. Many times I find myself sitting in my high and mighty chair trying to explain to people that the music I listen to is superior to their own. I do feel bad at times for these things but I do try to do better as I grow older. Because who likes a music snob?

In closing, all music should be looked upon equally. Because some people like some things which is totally their right and just right. People should not try and place the music they listen to on a higher mantle than another person's. So I challenge you to stay open minded and accepting when it comes to music. Remember, music snobs are ignorant people. Who wants to be that?

## BUYING YOUR GRADE

**Sanjana Pampati**  
Asst. Editor

A grade is meant to be an indication of how well a student performs in a certain subject. Several things help determine a grade: class assignments, homework, tests, participation, group work, and apparently SuperValu receipts. Several teachers in our school provide bonus points for SuperValu receipts. For those of you who are unaware, our school, specifically the teachers who collect them, get a return of 1% of sales, excluding taxes, from these receipts. I'm not against donations; I'm not against SuperValu supporting education; I'm not against extra credit; I'm not against teachers having money to buy classroom supplies; but I am against people buying their grades. Let me make this clear: Bonus for SuperValu receipts *is* buying your grade.

I'm positive that no teacher in their right minds would give me a better grade if I gave them \$10. However, I can name a few who would raise my grade for a thousand dollars worth of SuperValu receipts. Why not get rid of the back-alley transaction? Maybe "commercial support" sounds better than "hard cash." Either way, it's just not fair. I would like my grade to be a reflection of my abilities--not of how often my mommy shops at my local grocery store. Furthermore, I would like the grades of my peers to be a reflection of their abilities -- not of how often their mommies shop at aforementioned grocery.

I have absolutely nothing against extra credit, provided it's related to the class. Such as an English teacher giving bonus for passing an AR goal, or a chemistry teacher giving bonus for memorizing all the polyatomic ions, or an extra anatomy worksheet to prove your skills in anatomy--the possibilities are endless. There have been times when all I needed was a few points to raise my grade to an A. I'm not going to lie; SuperValu receipts have provided me those few points before. I remember wishing that I had other, more reasonable, choices.

The Oak "K" Staff would like to salute our veterans and those currently serving in the United States Armed Forces.



## MASONIC MADNESS

**Ryan Steele**  
Staff Writer

In Dan Brown's new novel *The Lost Symbol*, he takes the reader on another thrill ride full of ancient symbols, intricate puzzles, and the occasional madman who, true to form, has a name that's nearly impossible to pronounce. This time around Brown's protagonist **Robert Langdon** gets to stay in the States, more precisely the capitol of the United States, Washington, D.C.

When Peter Solomon, the assistant of his old friend and mentor, invites Langdon to give a lecture in the nation's capitol, he doesn't take long to accept the opportunity. Once in D.C., Langdon's night quickly takes a turn for the worse and more disturbing. Within minutes of his arrival, Langdon is thrust into the regrettably familiar situation of hearing a dark and unknown voice on the other end of the phone with a request, "Open the Portal or Solomon stays in his Purgatory."

Without his knowing, Langdon has stumbled into an ancient and troubling invitation to witness one of the greatest rituals of mankind's past. In a revealing book about the mysteries of one of America's most infamous secret societies, The Freemasons, secrets, symbols, and so called "coincidences" all over Washington are exposed to the audience in a way that exceeds expectations, even for a Dan Brown novel.

With puzzles, intrigue, and enough characters and plot line to keep you guessing the whole way through, Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol* is definitely worth a read for any fan of mystery.

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## Kelsey's Kvetch

**Kelsey Smith**  
News Editor

The most common references I hear to foreign language are "college requirement" and, from adults, "something I can't remember." Oh, and those wildly popular "You're in America, speak English" bumper stickers.

The irony is, though, that many Americans believe the "speak English" part doesn't apply solely in the United States. I've been told, several times, that learning a second language isn't important because "everyone knows English." And although a large portion of the world does speak English, it is arrogant to presume *everyone* does.

One of the most important benefits of knowing a foreign language is that it allows the speaker to communicate with a wider group of people. Some contend that learning foreign language will contribute to world peace- learning another language, its colloquialisms, its slang, its culture will prevent misunderstandings. Politicians and citizens will have a more thorough grasp on what it is our international counterparts are saying. And while I don't believe learning second or third languages will solve every global crisis, I do believe it will enable members of every nation to engage in deeper dialogue.

Another important advantage of language learning, and probably the most common, involves travel. Learning the official language of every county one hopes to travel to is unrealistic- I recognize this- but demonstrating fluency or proficiency in just two languages other than English can make traveling easier in a large number of countries. Take French and Spanish, for instance. French is an official language in 29 countries; Spanish is an official language in 20 countries. That makes 49 countries where you can vacation without a pocket dictionary attached to your hip.

Lastly, is a benefit I think is frequently overlooked: reading literature and media in its original language. Being able to read a novel in its original context allows the reader to do more than comprehend plot or character flaws, it allows the reader to *feel* the novel, to understand the essence of the author's style and technique. Nothing gets lost in translation. Additionally, foreign newspapers and magazines offer commentary outside of our own cultural values and experiences; we see what people on the other side of the world are thinking.

Foreign language in America is grossly undervalued. And not only will we be unable to locate our luggage in the airport *en Paris*, we'll also continue to lag behind the rest of the world in education and economy.



## Education and Economics... it's Elementary

Seth Helton  
Features Editor

"When countries that out-educate us today will out-compete us tomorrow, there is nothing that will determine the quality of our future as a nation...more than the kind of education that we provide." In this downturned economy, these words by President Obama ring true. Without a strong educational foundation, we cannot rebuild the economic success we once had. There is a strong correlation between economics and education, meaning that one is tied to the other. Countries that have poor educational systems often have poor economic systems as well. America needs to avoid becoming one of these countries.

America has failed to make the international top ten list for proficiency in math, science, and reading in recent years (*Telegraph, UK 2007*). If you move further down the list, you will find that America doesn't even crack the top 25. Taiwan is consistently above the third spot in all three lists. Have you ever seen the "Made in Taiwan" stickers on the bottom of something you buy? That is where our industrial jobs have relocated in the past 10 years, to nations like Taiwan where not only the labor is cheaper, but the laborers are more intelligent. Large consumer-goods factories such as the ones that have moved overseas are the cornerstone of having a strong, internalized economy. Goods made in America will be bought in America and that money will go back to the manufacturer, creating a circulation of revenue and more importantly keeping that revenue in the pockets of American citizens. When we send our consumer-goods jobs out of the country, we are taking our money and putting it in the pockets of other nations. Why are we sending these jobs, especially those dealing with technology, out of the country? It's not only because it is less costly, but also because American schools aren't turning out a workforce that can compete in a globalized economy.

We now see how we are being out-performed in the global marketplace, now let's look at why. America's educational system is built around discipline-based knowledge of specific core content. Core content is taught because that is what is found on standardized tests. These tests make or break school districts and can have an enormous impact in students' career future. They also label students with scores. How many students, despite their ability to adapt to new situations presented by the modern job market, are going to be accepted into a respectable college with an ACT score below a 25? Often what we learn in high school will be obsolete or not needed by the time we are ready to enter the workforce. Instead of making students learn for tests, they need to learn how to adapt to the ever-changing job market that is so greatly influenced by technology.

Our education system will need an overhaul to compete with the technology-centered educations in other countries. Thankfully, some progress has been made, with school districts such as McCracken County adopting technology such as MacBooks and integrating it into the classroom. Hopefully, we can set a positive example and show that working technology further into the curriculum could help put our country back on top where we will set the

## Boots on the Ground?

Ryan Steele  
Staff Writer

In the recent weeks a daunting decision has lingered over **President Barack Obama**, the troop surge in Afghanistan. Nearly three months ago, **Gen. Stanley McChrystal** reported to Obama that without a surge of 40,000 troops to Afghanistan, the U.S. mission would fail.

Although an official statement by the President has yet to be made, there are "rumors" circulating among the top brass. Several officials, who spoke under condition of anonymity, are deeming the president's decision "McChrystal Light." Officials believe the President's commitment won't meet Gen. McChrystal's request. In fact, it may not come close.

As the official statement lurks nearer, Obama informed ABC News that he's "asking not only Gen. McChrystal but all of our commanders who are familiar with the situation, as well as our civilian folks on the ground, a lot of questions that, until they're answered, may — may create a situation in which we resource something based on faulty premises."

As for the amount of troops actually rumored to be deployed to Afghanistan? The several officials, under anonymity, stated that the deployment would be a gradual build up towards an unspecified number over the course of the next six months to a year. Obama is expected to make his decision at the end of this month.



## Tobacco is Whacko

Jordan Price  
Editor-in-Chief

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of death in the United States, and with over 1.3 million smokers in the U.S., corporations are constantly coming out with pills, patches, or gum to help the 70% of people who want to kick the bad habit. The cold hard fact is that less than 5% of the original 70% stay clean after 12 months.

NicVAX is a "stop smoking" conjugate vaccine consisting of haptan 3'-aminomethylnicotine that is attached to pseudomonas aeruginosa exoprotein A. It is designed to help current smokers quit and to keep treated smokers from relapsing. It is a vaccination that stimulates the immune system to produce antibodies that then attach themselves to the nicotine molecules in the body. Nicotine is a small molecule that is inhaled and then enters the blood stream. From there the nicotine molecule enters the brain and then bonds to the nicotine receptors which in turn release stimulants that give the smoker a positive feeling. The antibodies prevent the nicotine from entering the brain, therefore the nicotine receptors in the brain are not stimulated and dopamine (the happy-go-lucky chemical) is not produced. The antibodies only bond with nicotine and they do not enter the brain so side-effects on the central nervous system are not expected. Over time the deprivation of nicotine raises the antibody levels in the brain until smoking a cigarette no longer has the same effect and eventually becomes less and less pleasurable. This slowly weans a smoker off of cigarettes and their effects. The results of the vaccination should be more effective than previous "stop smoking" products because its effects are irreversible six to 12 months following the initial vaccination.

This miracle drug was invented by Nabi Biopharmaceuticals. In September of 2005, they were awarded a 4.1 million dollar grant from The U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Laboratory tests show that NicVAX blocks the effects of nicotine, even those that can be addictive. In February of 2006, NicVAX was granted the "fast track status" and then, later in October of that year, Nabi Biopharmaceuticals recruited enough patients to test the vaccine. Human testing is phase III of testing and the last phase before the vaccine can be submitted for approval to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Currently the vaccine is still under phase IIIB of testing but the majority of the patients for the phase had a high success rate with the drug. Recently NicVAX was awarded 10 million dollars from the NIDA to take their product to clinical trials. Final results are expected in the Fall of 2011.

This vaccine will be administered by primary care physicians but its focus will be taken outside the hospital. NicVAX does not prevent psychological cravings although such behaviors were not seen in clinical studies. The effects of the vaccine are not immediate so smokers may not want to quit smoking for several months after they have been vaccinated, but with no dopamine being released a cigarette just isn't as appealing as before. The most common side-effect of the vaccine is soreness at the injection site. It is not yet known how many shots are required for a smoker to quit but whatever it takes to quit could be worth it. If tobacco related deaths continue at the current rate, as many as 10 million people could die each year.

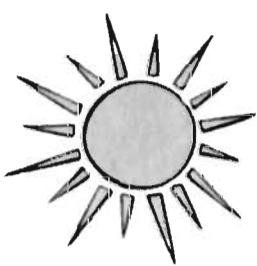
## AND THE WALL COMES TUMBLING DOWN

Rachel Lundberg  
Editor-in-Chief

On August 9, 1989, it was announced that residents of East Germany were permitted to visit West Germany. The Berlin Wall was taken apart piece by piece over the next few weeks, by citizens and government workers alike. 2009 marked the twentieth anniversary of this historic event, and tens of thousands gathered to celebrate.

Though President Barack Obama declined the invitation to attend the ceremony, citing a scheduling conflict, a prerecorded video message was played in lieu of his appearance. Among those who made an appearance at the anniversary celebration was Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Soviet Union, who was praised by German Chancellor Angela Merkel for his role in the events leading to the destruction of the Wall. Merkel credited Gorbachev with making possible the release of East Germany from communist control.

Festivities included an open-air concert and a series of special exhibits in several different museums. However, the grand event of the night was the toppling of a mile-long chain of 1,000 dominoes, symbolizing the fall of the Berlin Wall and the communist regimes that went with it.



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**Kings of Leon, Kings of Rock**

Rachel Sloan  
Assistant Business Manager

After hours of waiting in line in the cold and the lengthy wait as we stood second row in a full Rupp Arena, the lights finally dimmed. The band I came to see took the stage, and the soreness of my feet suddenly disappeared. Kings of Leon walked proudly across the stage, and the first notes of one of their newer songs, "Closer", echoed throughout the crowded arena. As the rather quiet song progressed, the excitement of the crowd built, and finally, every instrument kicked in full-force. The show had really begun. The Kings continued with two more songs from their most recent album, and played them with even more power and intensity than the album suggests.

Before the fourth song, lead singer Caleb Followill asked the crowd if we were ready to have a good time. The answer was clear as everyone in the arena screamed until the notes of the next song silenced us. Kings of Leon then began one of my favorite songs of theirs, "Taper Jean Girl", which comes from their second album. This song is much more raw than their more recent songs, and it was definitely one of the most entertaining that they played all night. After a few more oldies, they changed it up, moving into a couple slow songs which provided a perfect opportunity for Caleb Followill to show off his outstanding and unique vocal abilities. I can't recall one time that he failed to reach a note or disappointed the crowd in any way.

Lead guitarist Matthew Followill nailed every guitar solo, and it seemed as though bassist Jared Followill didn't want to be anywhere but there, in front of thousands of people watching him do what he does best. The set seemed to be flying by far too quickly, but I was pleased that they played some of my favorite songs, including "Four Kicks" and "The Bucket." As the Kings neared the end of their set, Caleb approached the microphone and thanked the fans for their support over the past few years, and promised to return to play for us again. They then began my all-time favorite Kings of Leon song, "Cold Desert." I had enthusiastically anticipated hearing this song live, since it is the slowest, most moving song they have ever written. As expected, the song blew away every person in the audience, and it hit everyone on an emotional level. To end the set on a positive note, they played one of their old, up-beat songs, thanked the crowd multiple times, put their instruments down, and left the stage.

Within minutes of the crowd yelling and screaming for one more song, Kings of Leon returned to the stage with, not only one, but four more songs. When the first notes of their hit single "Use Somebody" kicked in, the crowd was louder than they had been the entire night, and the Followill brothers couldn't have looked happier. Finally, the real last song had come. They chose to end the night with "Black Thumbail," another old song. The crowd went nuts, the lights flashed, and it was by far the best conclusion to any concert I've been to.

Overall, I was blown away by Kings of Leon's incredible musical talent, stage presence, and their ability to keep thousands of people moving and singing along. I showed up to the show thinking that the majority of the people in the crowd were only there for the over-played songs on the radio, but I was proven wrong by the overpowering voice of the crowd throughout the whole show. Even if this had been the case, I don't think a single person left with any doubt that Kings of Leon is an amazing band and that they know how to put on an awesome concert.

**New Moon Mania**

Megan Ross  
Photographer

Two months before *New Moon* was released in theaters, I was counting down to the premiere date printed on my new shirt. I have to say, *New Moon* was way better than I'd thought it would be. The effects were much better than *Twilight*. Specifically, the werewolf transformation scenes were simply amazing! The way they made Jacob turn into a wolf in mid-air left me breathless.

The movie made me laugh, cry, and the entire time, kept me on the edge of my seat. *New Moon* followed the book more than *Twilight* did, which pleased devoted fans of the book.

According to a few people, the movie was all about shirtless men, but no Team Jacob fan is going to complain about that. "Pure hotness, the shirtless scenes were unbelievable, simply stunning," said Audrey Midkiff (11).

Also, new characters were introduced, like Jane and the rest of the Volturi, the 'royalty' of the vampire world. Dakota Fanning did an incredible job portraying the cold-blooded Jane, who tortures people with her mind. Aro and Jane scared me a little bit, but hey, wouldn't you be afraid of a vampire who wanted to kill you?

**Cullen-oscopy**

Charis Gurrola  
Entertainment Editor

Hoodie over my head, I step up to the ticket booth. Looking over my shoulder, I scan the crowd through my oversized sunglasses, searching for anyone I know. Lowering my head towards the mic, I hastily mumble, "One for New Moon, please." I've read every word of every book in the *Twilight* series. They didn't inspire me to see the first movie, but they give me the right to criticize.

I step into the theatre and witness an extravaganza of men without shirts and cliché cinematography. The movie pretty much went boy leaves girl, girl meets new boy, can girl love another? Yes. No. Yes. No. Maybe. I don't know. At this point I screamed, "Choose the one that actually looks good without his shirt on and get it over with!" but no, the movie went on and on for two hours and ten minutes with a dialogue that was only a few steps above "yes, no, maybe so" in sophistication.

Now, I can't say I support Team Jacob. In fact, I'm more of a '90s Team Spike kind of gal. The acting was immature; the effects were hilarious. After the movie, fans complained how Hollywood, once again, strayed from the book. Personally, as someone who didn't even like the book, the minute deviations weren't an improvement. If this is a must see movie for you, I recommend waiting a couple weeks for *New Moon* to be leaked onto the

**CoD:MW2 = Oh My Goodness**

Kyle Fouse  
Staff Writer

There's not much I can say about this long anticipated gaming release that hasn't already been said; all of which can be expressed with OMG. *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2* is one of the most dynamically appealing and addicting games that I have ever played.

If you are a combat-hardened veteran from *CoD:4*, then you can truly appreciate the notable and sometimes profound differences that are offered from every aspect of the new installation; the campaign mode with its strategic differences and dynamic beauty, the multiplayer mode that allows you to compete and combat against and alongside your fellow soldiers, the addition of the "Special Ops" game mode.

I couldn't possibly write an in-depth review of this masterpiece, but I will give a comprehensive overview of all its components and perhaps even sway some of the doubtful to stop hesitating and purchase.

The campaign is set up the same way that its predecessor was (alternating between main characters and storyboards) and is so visually pleasing and painstakingly put together that even a nay-sayer can't help but appreciate at least that. It continues almost exactly where the previous left off, and has so many twists and turns in it that I thought it was a tray full of curly fries! Although the campaign is a bit ephemeral, I felt, despite the duration, it was a solid piece of gaming.

The Spec-Ops mode can be defined pretty much by the following group of words: random campaign stage and objective. There are 20 unique missions that allow for a challenging experience. This is where you want to be and what you want to be doing if you are interested in playing two player co-op on a single 360 or PS3 (some missions even require a partner).

Oh, and did I mention the multiplayer is even better than the last? Yeah, that might be really important. This is where *Call of Duty* really has its niche. With so many more opportunities for personal customization, whether it be kill streak perks, weapon attachments, or even unlockable titles that other players can see in multiplayer. I have to tell you straight, it's awesome.

Even if you don't like first person shooters or even the *Call of Duty* franchise, if you have a gaming system compatible with any version of this game, I highly recommend that you check out this game, whether it be as a rental or to take home as your own.

**The Purple Flash: The Greyscale**

By Spenser Price



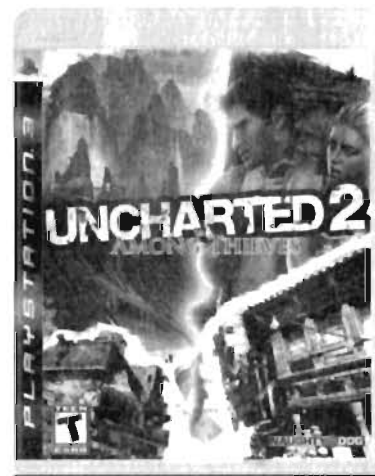
**Uncharted 2: Among Thieves**

Kendra Sanders  
Photographer

Naughty Dog brings the action packed sequel to *Uncharted: Drake's Fortune*. Play as the skilled Nathan Drake who teams up with fellow thieves to embark on an adventure to find Marco Polo's missing fleet. The adventure starts fairly easy, but soon take twists and turns that will leave you on the edge of your seat.

The adventure begins when Harry Flynn, a long time friend, comes to Drake with a plan to double cross a Russian rogue paramilitary leader and war criminal who is in search for a seemingly worthless artifact which holds a secret to the missing fleet of Marco Polo. Drake's journey takes him to the far ends of the world where agility, endurance, stamina, intelligence, and good aim will carry him all the way. *Uncharted 2* keeps you guessing until the very end!

*Uncharted 2* is not only an incredible story mode with insanely amazing graphics, but also, a multiplayer which "packs a multiplayer component that could be released as its own separate, full-priced game and people would stand in line to hand over their cash" (Chris Roper). This game is simply a must!



Courtesy of google.com

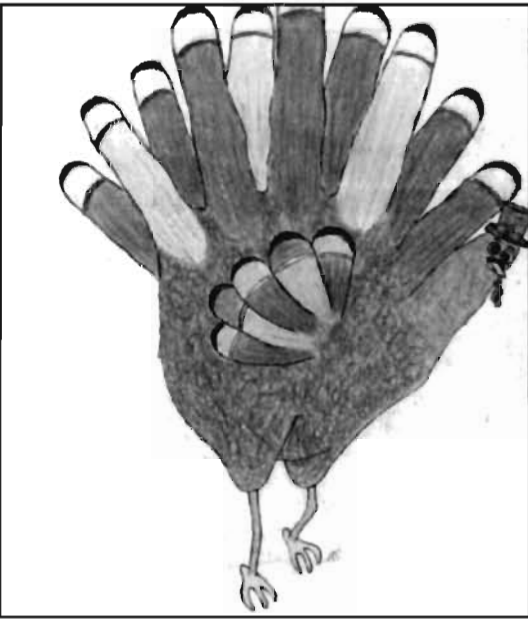
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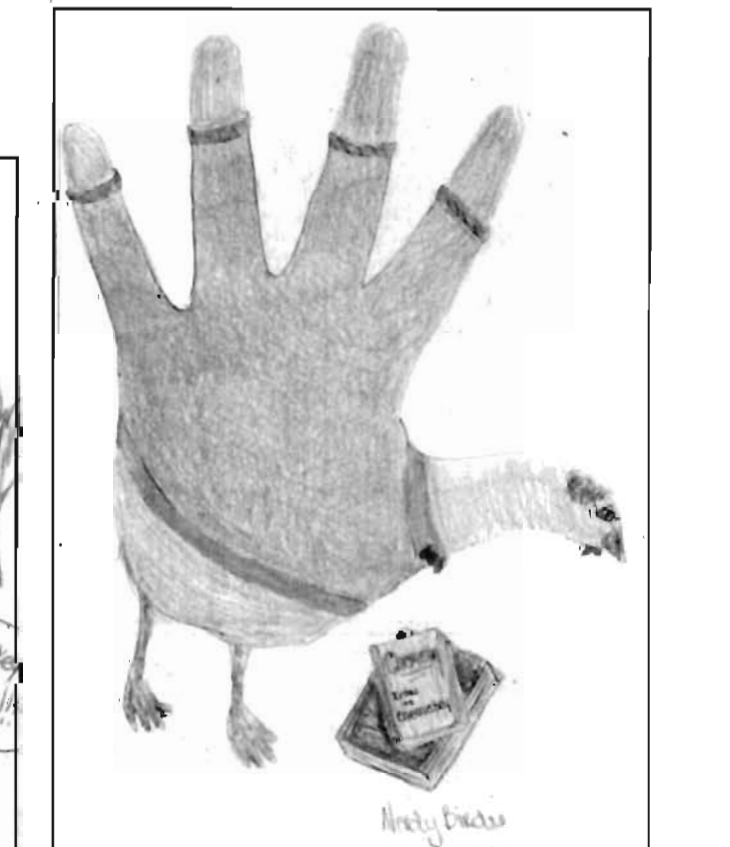
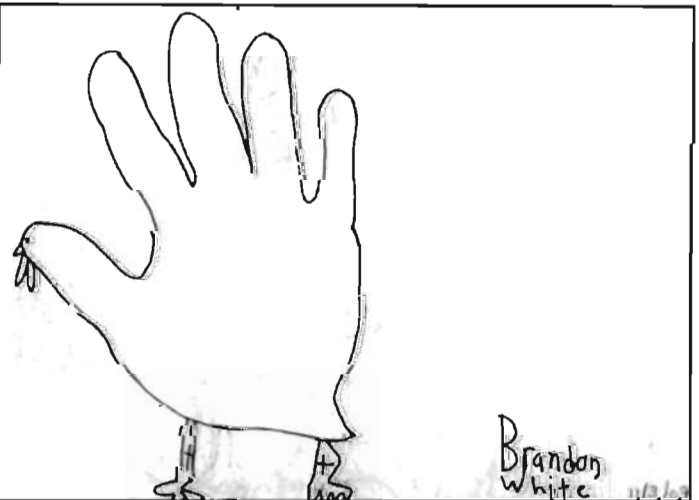
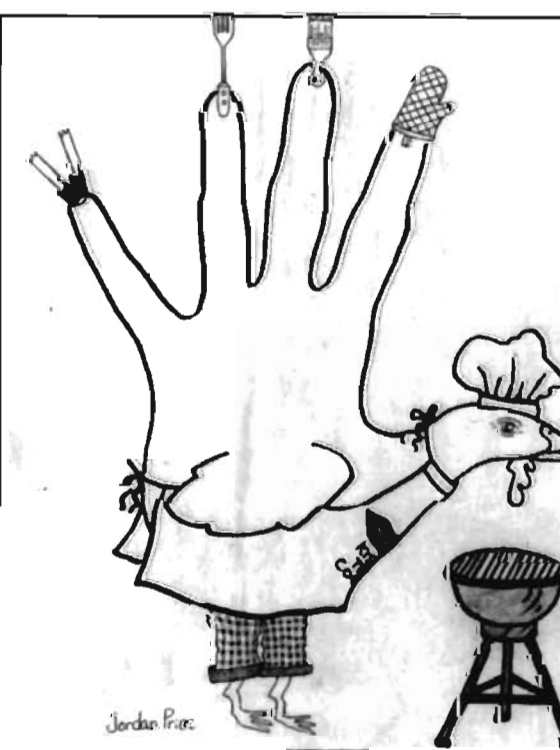
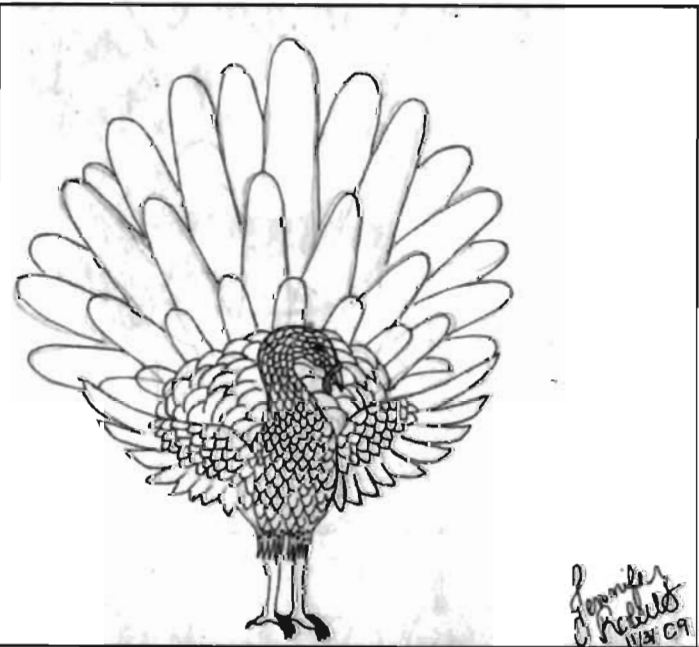
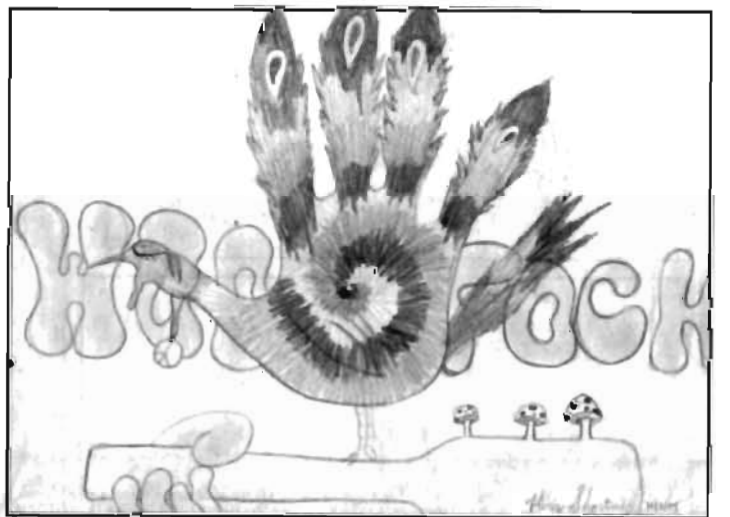
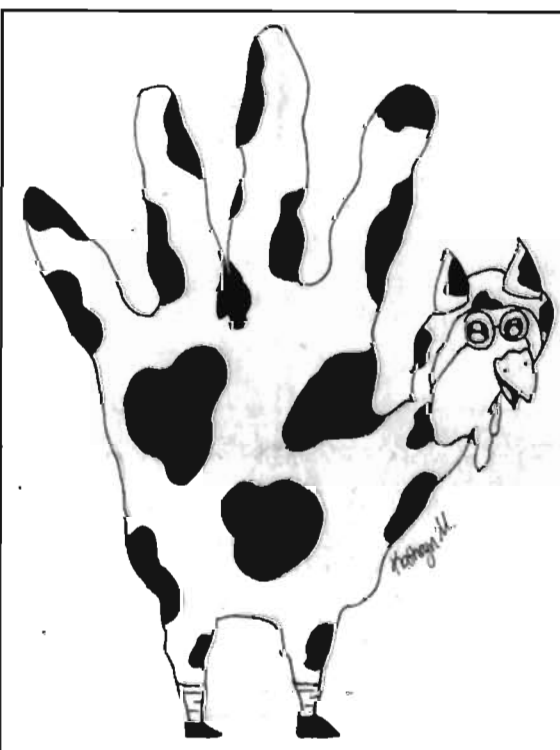
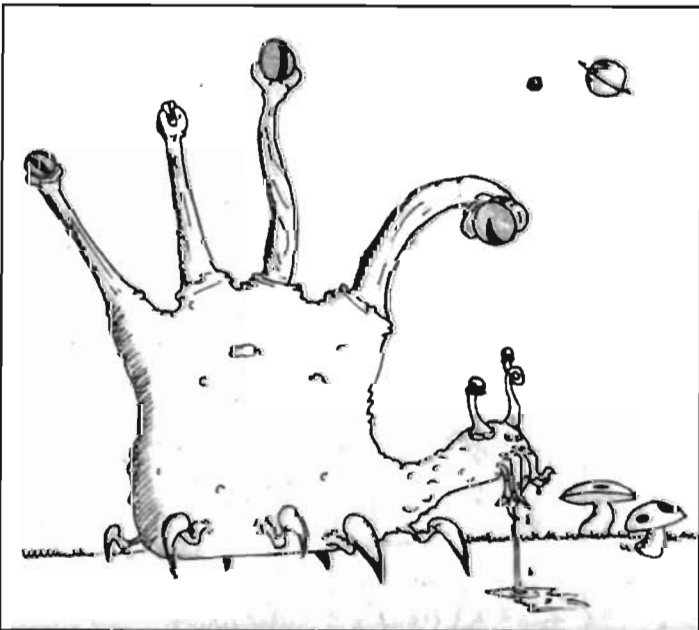
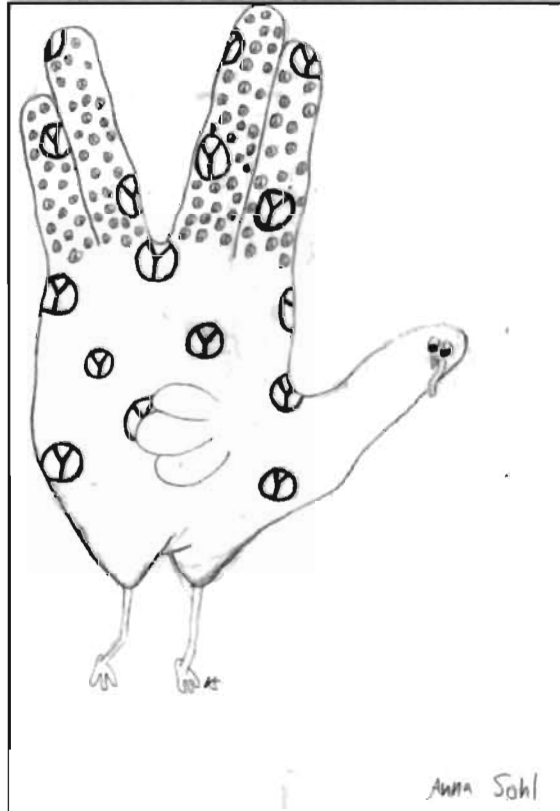
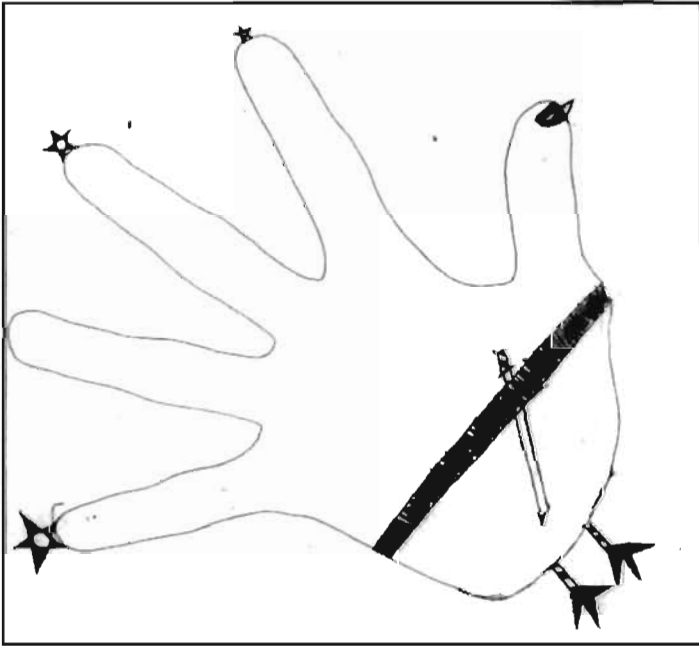
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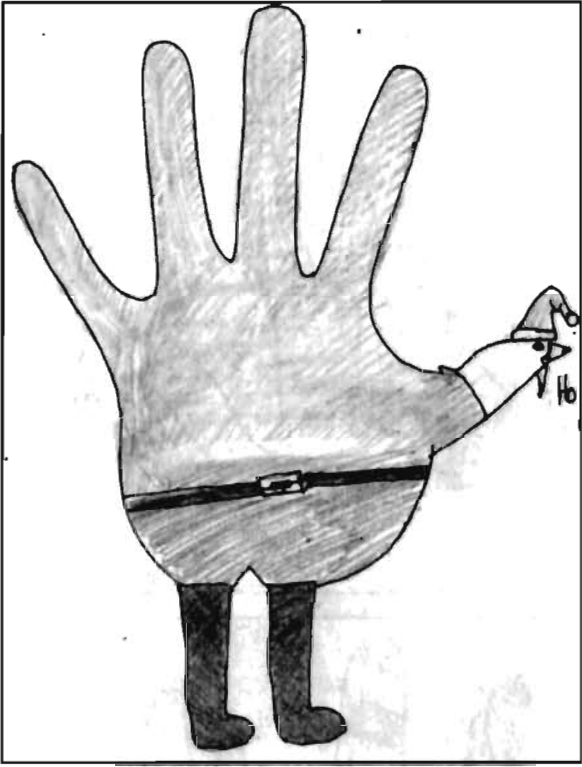




### HAPPY THANKSGIVING

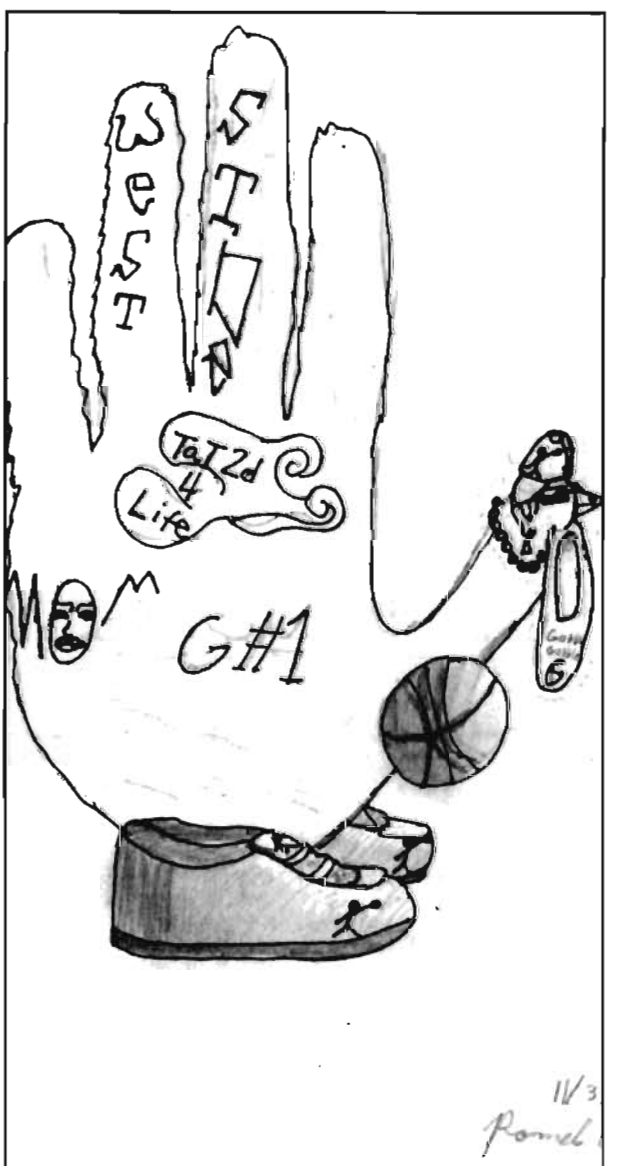
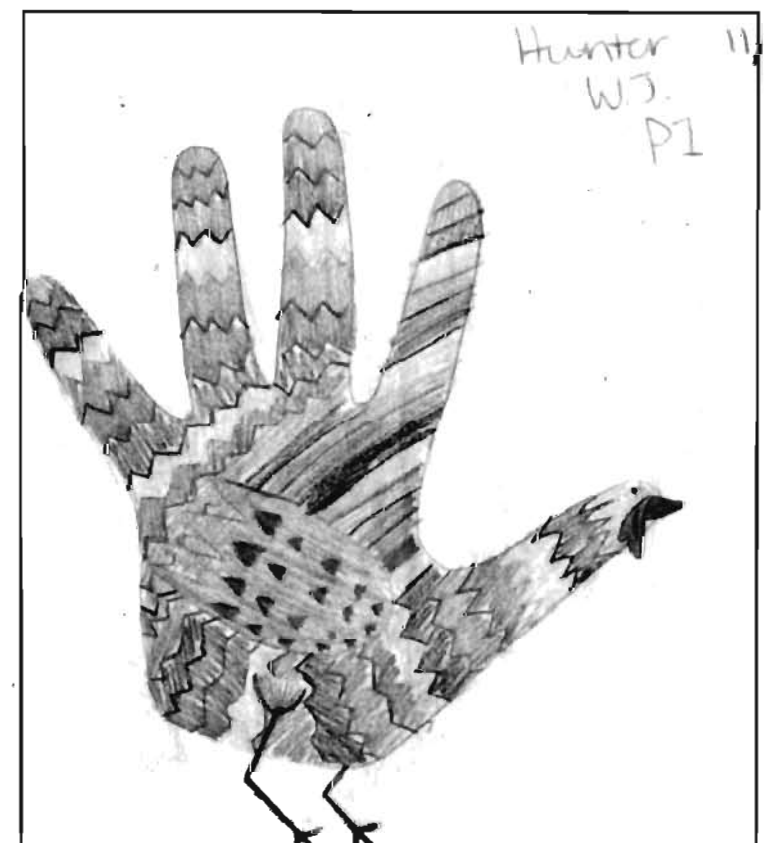
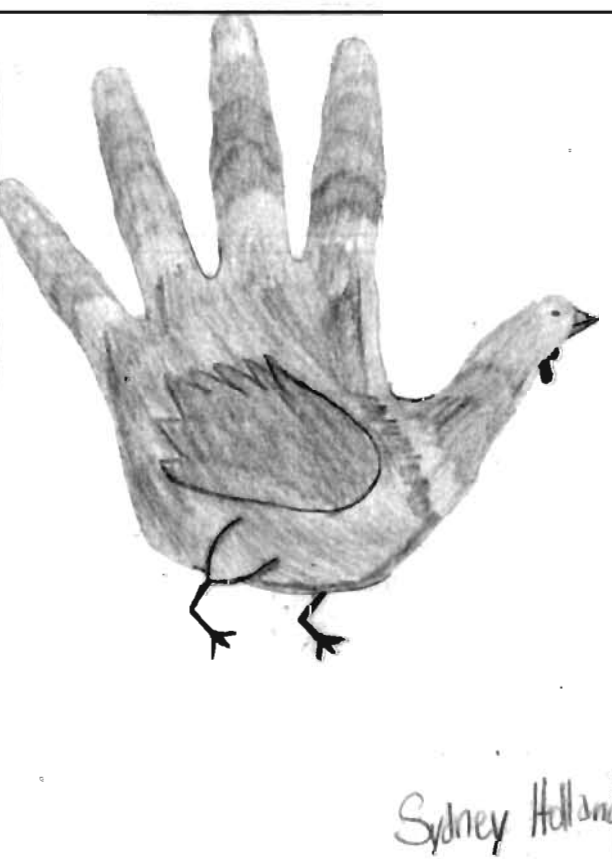
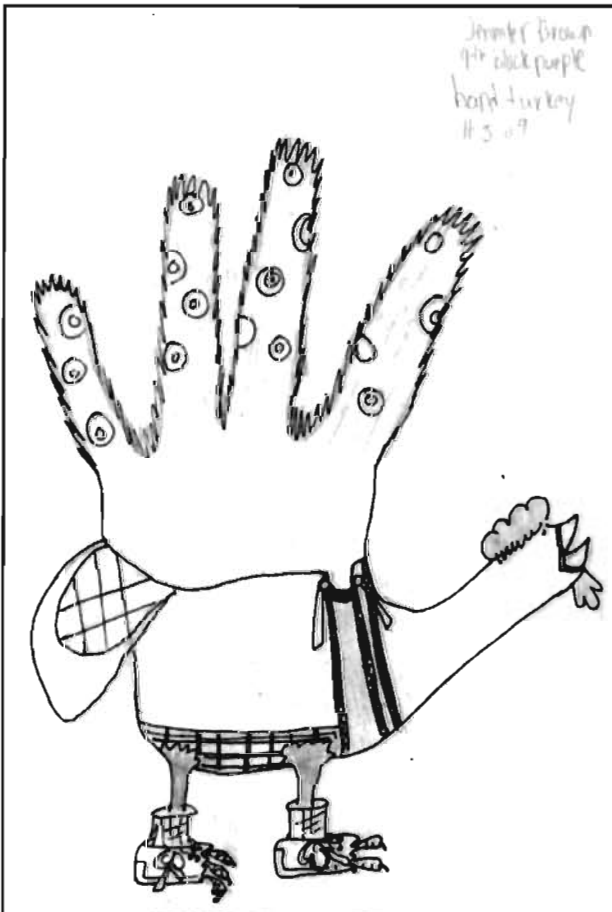
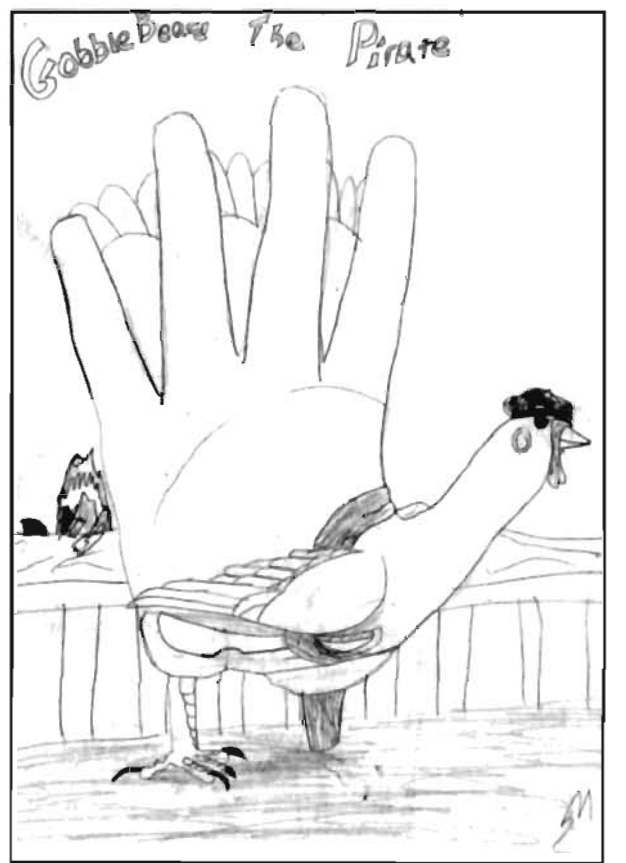
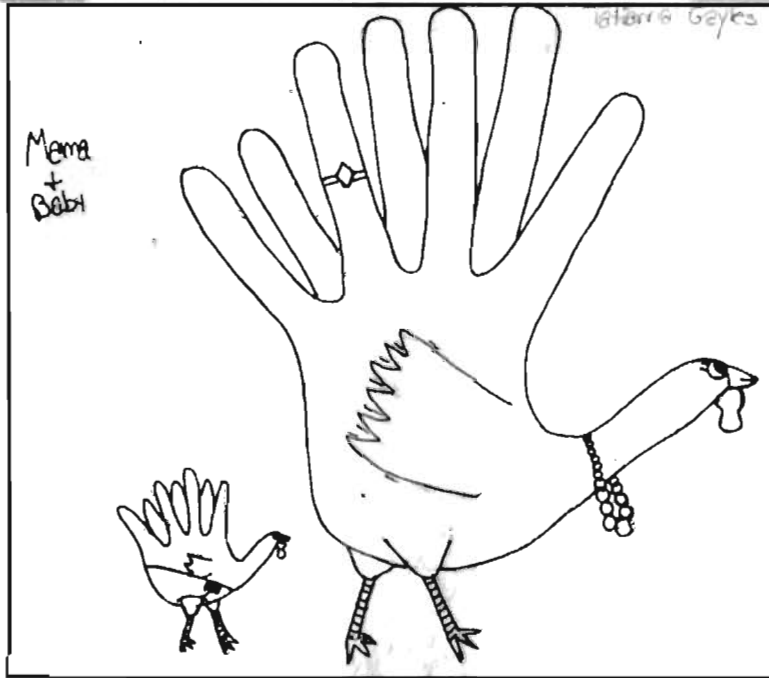
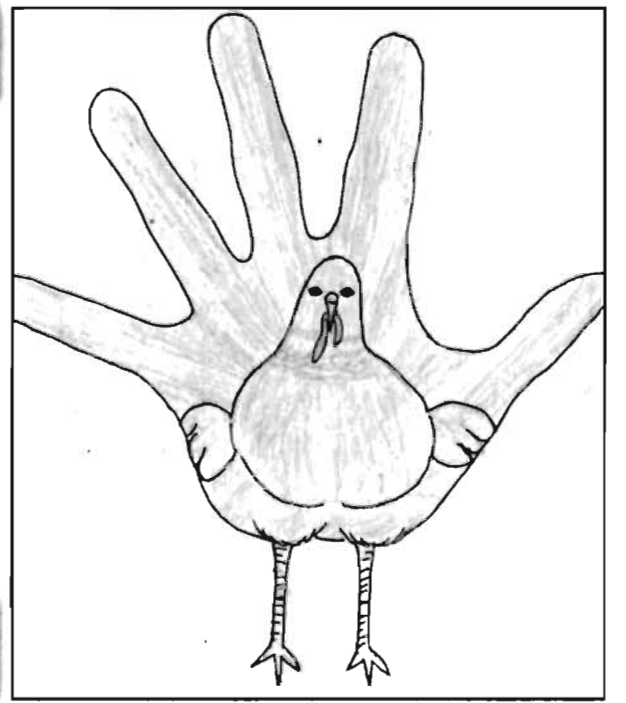
Well folks, it is that time of year again. Time for visiting family and for eating our own weight in turkey and dressing. More importantly time for the infamous Hand Turkeys Competition. So here you are, several Hand Turkeys for your viewing pleasure. Thank you to those who submitted your terrific turkeys to be placed in the Newspaper this month and "Happy Thanksgiving to all and to all a great feast!"





HAPPY THANKSGIVING

For those of you who submitted Hand Turkeys and would like to have yours back please stop by Mrs. Carter's room to collect your art. If you do not retrieve your Hand Turkey by December 1st then it will be recycled. Thanks again to those of you who contributed to the successfulness of The Oak "K" this month.  
-The Oak "K" Staff



Hand Turkeys provided by: The Yearbook Staff, Anna Sohl, Lyndsey Speer, Spenser Price, Kathryn M., Jordan Price, Zach Bender, Jennifer R., Paris Shortridge, Nicki Bullmer, Emily Followell, Brandon White, April Tidwell, Matt Starks, Shane Miller, Timothy Brian, Tatianna Gayles, Jennifer Brown, Marina Rose, Romel E., Sydney Holland, Bryan Jewell, and many talented others.



## KEEN ON KATIE

**Kylie Tillett**  
Sports Editor

Junior Rotarians are seniors here at Lone Oak High School that are all-around good examples for not only their peers, but also their community. They show strong work ethic, character, and presence as members of the student body. The Junior Rotarian for the month of November is our very own Ms. Katie Yates. Katie can be seen working on the tennis court breaking a sweat or walking through the halls sporting a big smile.

Katie only plays one sport, but that LOHS sport is known for dominating at the district, regional, and state levels. Katie had been an important player on the varsity tennis team for 3 years now. Her junior year, she and doubles partner Ellie Hammons came in 2nd place to teammates Katie and Hannah Hagan in the regional finals. She went on to the state tournament and helped the team to yet another state title.

Academically, Katie strives to be the best. While some seniors choose to take easy courses their last year of high school, Katie did the opposite. She is currently taking rigorous courses such as AP Calculus, AP Stats, AP Literature, Advanced Physics, International Studies, and also an online college psychology class. While taking courses like these throughout high school, she has maintained an impressive 3.9 GPA. Katie is also a contributing member of the Academic Team this year.

Katie is an active member of Tennis Club, French Club, and Friends of Rachel Club. She also served on of the yearbook staff for 3 years and currently holds the title of editor. This past summer, Katie spent 5 weeks at Morehead State University for the Governor's Scholars Program. She was one of 5 students from LOHS chosen for this prestigious program. Stemming from her love of tennis and her desire to give back, Katie also spends time each week in the summer and fall teaching tennis clinics and giving tennis lessons to young girls in our area.

Future plans for Ms. Yates are not yet set in stone. She is looking at playing tennis at either Georgetown with fellow teammate Haleigh Fellows or possibly at Centre. She is also very interested in attending the University of Kentucky. Although she's not sure what she wants to be, she has a few ideas. She could see herself being a chemical engineer or a pharmacist. Teammate and classmate, **Katie Hagan (12)**, adds "Not only does Katie excel in academics, she is a varsity tennis player, involved in many school clubs, and volunteers in the community. I see her as being very successful and achieving anything she wants in life."



## THANKSGIVING INTERNATIONAL





**Seth Helton**  
Features Editor

America is not the only nation in the world that is thankful. Many of our fellow countries have Thanksgiving traditions or similar holidays that take place around the same time. The Chinese celebrate a similar harvest festival.

The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival or Zhongqiu Festival, is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth month of the Chinese calendar, usually around late September or early October of the the Gregorian (our) calendar. It honors the mythical story of Houyi and Chang'e. According to the story, Houyi was a gifted archer who was given a magic pill by the Emperor as a reward for shooting down the the extra suns that burned the crops. Thankfully he left one intact. His wife, Change'e, swallowed the pill one day while Houyi was gone, and as a result floated to the moon. The Chinese eat mooncakes in remembrance of Chang'e and her isolation on the moon.

Thanks to Elementary School, we all know about the Native Americans helping our our pilgrim forefathers at Plymouth Plantation in 1621. This is traditionally the first thanksgiving celebration. Whether this really happened is unknown, yet it's an important part of the American mythos. China has similar, traditional folklore that goes along with its harvest festival. In a popular folk tale, the Mid- Autumn festival rose to being nationally celebrated as a result of Mongol rule of China in the 14th century. According to the story, the Mongol rulers of the Yuan Dynasty would not allow group gatherings among the Chinese people. This prevented them from planning a rebellion to overthrow said Mongol rulers. Lui Bowen, an advisor to a rebel leader, decided to coincide a rebellion with the Mid-Autumn festival. He asked permission to distribute mooncakes among the citizenry with the message "Bless the Mongol Emperor" printed on them. The mooncakes were given to the Chinese citizens, and within them was a piece of paper with the message "Kill the Mongols on the 15th day of the 8th month." The rebellion was successful, overthrowing the Mongol government and establishing the Ming Dynasty.

Finally winning their independence gives the Chinese a reason to be thankful during the cool autumn months, just as we are thankful each year for our Pilgrim forefathers seeking their own freedoms in America.

<i>People in the Halls</i>	<b>What does Black Friday mean to you?</b>	<b>What is your favorite food to stuff your face with on Thanksgiving ?</b>	<b>Are you thankful for the pilgrims?</b>
 <b>Colby Griggs</b> (9)	I don't even know what that is.	Uhm, turkey!	Yeah, sure.
 <b>McKenzie Neal</b> (10)	Shopping, I guess.	Uhm, turkey...I guess.	Yes.
 <b>Jacob Somero</b> (11)	This year, I'm leaving on Thanksgiving to go on a cruise. so this mean fun in the sun baby!	My favorite food would have to be that big, plump turkey!	Hmm...not really. They just caused a bunch of chaos if you ask me.
 <b>Ilyssa Briceken</b> (12)	Well, it means me and my mom going shopping together...no matter this year I'll be working, at Justice! Discounts!!	Stuffffinggg!!!	Uhm, yes. I love them because they brought food to America!
 <b>Mrs. Stamper</b>	Nothing. I'm a big supporter of hand-made. So, I try to visit locally owned businesses. I support artists. I also love to shop on Etsy.com; it's all hand-made.	I love mashed potatoes. My mom makes wonderful potatoes!	Well, I never met them. I tend to not dwell on the past. I'm thankful for everything that's gotten me here today.


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## 10 Books Every High-Schooler Should Read

**Sanjana Pampati**

*Asst. Editor*

1. **1984** by George Orwell

Recommended by **Lyndsey Speer (12)**

You may have already read this one if you've taken AP Literature. This one's about the infamous Big Brother. The novel was written during the anti-communist era during the Cold War. If you want to see communism go really bad, read the book. **Lyndsey Speer** says, "It is weird and twisted, but you get caught up in the plot once you start reading Orwell's magnum opus. You feel everything Winston is feeling while reading the book."

2. **Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** by Robert Louis Stevenson

Recommended by **Josh Lundberg (9)**

The impact this novella has had on the world is massive--over 123 film versions exist. This classic vividly portrays someone with split personality. Stevenson's masterpiece is a classic mystery polished with elegant writing. The novella is only about a hundred pages long, if you're interested. **Josh Lundberg** says **Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** is "high quality English literature."

3. **Invisible Man** by Ralph Ellison

Recommended by **Megan Sin (12)**

**Invisible Man** takes you to a world full of racism from a black man's perspective. The novel was written in 1952, a time when the narrator truly felt, "Invisible." This book has won several awards including the National Book Award. If you're interested in learning about the futility of stereotypes, read this novel. **Megan Sin** says, "**Invisible Man** is a sip of the fountain of knowledge. It also rocks!"

4. **Life of Pi** by Yann Martel

Recommended by **Nolan Brelsford (11)**

**Life of Pi** is one's about a fifteen-year-old boy in India who gets shipwrecked for a very, very long time. As if that wasn't worse enough, he's got a Bengal Tiger with him on the boat. The book is an allegory that anybody who's interested in religion, storytelling, and survival should read. **Nolan Brelsford** says, "**Life of Pi** shows how cultures are different but can still coexist."

5. **Lonesome Dove** by Larry McMurtry

Recommended by **Courtney Neel**

This one's a Western classic with complex characters, an interesting plot, and great writing. The story revolves around Gus and Woodrow, former Texas Rangers. They both go on a long journey from Texas to Montana. Their journey is filled with exciting obstacles. **Mr. Neel**, says "**Lonesome Dove** has one of the best fictional characters ever created and is funny, violent, and beautiful."

6. **On the Road** by Jack Kerouac

Recommended by **Bobby Kaltenbach (10)**

Kerouac, an important member of the Beat Generation, was said to have written this novel continuously for three weeks on one long scroll. His perseverance payed off. This classic is about Sal Paradise who takes on an epic journey that takes him across the country. Throughout his trip, he meets interesting people who will forever change his life. **Bobby Kaltenbach** says that **On the Road** made him feel like he was "right next to Sal cruising the world and discovering the meaning of life."

7. **Slaughterhouse Five** by Kurt Vonnegut

Recommended by **Andrew Croft (12)**

**Slaughterhouse Five** isn't easy to label--it's science-fiction, it's a war novel, it's comedy, it's philosophical, and the list goes on. The plot isn't that easy to explain either. The novel revolves around Billy Pilgrim's past and present. In the past, Billy was a POW during World War II in Dresden. In the present, Billy claims to be able to travel in time and that he was abducted by aliens. **Andrew Croft** says, "The way Vonnegut describes time is very interesting!"

8. **Stargirl** by Jerry Spinelli

Recommended by **Katy Miller (11)**

This high school classic is about a 10th grader named Stargirl. All her life she's been home-schooled until one day she learns she must attend high school. Stargirl is far from the average high schooler though--she's unique, compassionate, selfless, and altruistic. **Katy Miller (11)** says, "Stargirl gives you a glimpse of someone who shows kindness to everyone and is completely free from the negative influences of others."

9. **The Alchemist** by Paulo Coelho






Recommended by **Shannon Mungle**

**The Alchemist** is an allegorical tale about a young shepherd named Santiago who decides to pursue his dreams. His journey is full of unique people and setbacks. **Mr. Mungle**, says "I believe the Alchemist might open their (high schoolers') minds to a new way of thinking and the enjoyment of reading."

10. **Wuthering Heights** by Emile Brontë

Recommended by **Sarah Byassee (9)**

**Wuthering Heights** isn't anything like a typical love story. Instead, Brontë pens a story full of love triangles, obsessiveness, and revenge. When the book was first published, the book was heavily condemned for having too much vulgarity. As time passed, Brontë's literary genius was recognized. The novel will draw you into the eccentric plot. **Sarah Byassee** says the themes of **Wuthering Heights** "can apply to everyone."

Free Association	Mr. Gagnon	Steven Wooten (9)	Nikolas Anderson (10)	Matthew Dolan (11)	Katie Yates (12)
Sanjana Pampati <i>Asst. Editor</i>					
Balloon boy	scary	circus	malé	balloon boy	weird
Party in the USA	fireworks	ditzy	song	Mr. Jarvis	Miley Cyrus
Cornucopia	what?	Thanksgiving	place	corn	Thanksgiving
Yemen	groovy	Middle East	country on the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula	shoes	weird language

### No Shave November

**Andrew Harlan**  
*Staff Writer*

Beards. Bold, beautiful, manly beards. Nothing in the world of manhood is more sacred than the finely crafted, much sought after beard. The beard represents all things that are good, including freedom, hope, happiness, and glory. This month, my friends, is the month that we celebrate the greatest hair on a man's body - his facial hair. Yes, that is right; it is No Shave November, the time to let your facial hair grow out of control. No Shave November has become a very catchy and exciting idea that has increased in fame in the last few years due to rising popularity in the beard and mustache (also referred to as "stash" and also "scuz-stash").

No Shave November's origins are unknown though through simple deduction we can figure that it was founded by some high school or college kids coming up with another way to slack off. It is not so unreasonable to create such a festive event as NSN. In the old times, beards were cherished high above other valued things... well, that may not be completely true but beards were indeed a very popular form of self decoration among all races and all social classes.

Sadly, for some reason or another, men have decided to take the beards esteemed place out of its high spot on the shelf and replace it, with an awful thing - a clean shave! You can see this in literature. Consider *Moby Dick* for instance. Can you imagine Captain Ahab sailing the seas searching for the bane of his existence with a smooth face freshly sprinkled with Aqua Velva? I don't think so. But nowadays we have our celebrities that don't support Ahab's enthusiasm for the beard. Pop culture idols such as Tom Cruise, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, and The Jonas Brothers prefer the smooth face.

In the eyes of Jacob Porter, NSN "is a bold statement of manly independence!" This is true because he can grow a beautiful beard. Whereas someone that can't grow a beard will look disdainfully upon the month of November. Jon Lynn (who has no hope of growing any form of facial hair) said, "It makes me feel like less of a man." Beards, not money or position, should have the power to affect a man's stature in the real world - as they did once in the days of old.

In essence, No Shave November is a month that suggests freedom from shaving and the chains and shackles of a regimented schedule. Hopefully, this month you men participated in No Shave November and have a healthy and lush forest of hair on your face. Don't be afraid to let the beard grow, just let go.



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### In The Swim

**Charis Gurrola**  
Entertainment Editor

Lone Oak's swim team has been practicing since early September, which means swim meets are starting soon. Practicing as a group but not as a team, the swim team meets at the PAC Monday through Thursday evenings for an hour of training. Team members have been working on breaking their personal records and improving their swimming technique. The swim team's first meet will be on November 21st in Hopkinsville. This meet will be between other area schools. If students make good times, then they will move on to Regionals in the winter. While many of the stronger swimmers graduated last year, the swim team believes that they will do well. "I have confidence in my team," says Eileen Doan (9), a 100 and 200 meter swimmer for the team. Additionally, the swimmers expect new coach, Joanie Harris to have a positive impact on the team.

### SIMPLY STREAKTASTIC

**Kelsey Smith**  
News Editor

Winning one game is hard enough (ask any member of the National Football League's Detroit Lions who snapped a 19 game losing streak this season and have since become the poster children for seasons under 0.500), so when a team manages to win two, three, four in a row, we immediately recognize that as an accomplishment. In all seriousness, being able to win consistently and consecutively is the mark of a top team in any sport. Arguably, the most impressive win streak of the millennium belongs to Penn State's women's volleyball team. It is currently riding a 90 match win streak (its last loss came in September of 2007) and not only that, the Nittany Lions have also won a record 62 straight against Big Ten opponents and have 70 consecutive victories at home. Did I mention the team is vying for its third successive title this season? This week, Penn State moved into second place on the NCAA All-Time Division I Consecutive Victories list, surpassing the 2003-2007 Stanford women's tennis teams (who won 89 straight) and tying the '90-'94 North Carolina women's soccer team. Penn State now lags behind only the '57-'64 Miami men's tennis teams (137). While streaks in professional sports are no less impressive, they do tend to be less substantial (perhaps due to higher levels of proficiency among all players). The longest win streak carried on by any professional team belongs to the Los Angeles Lakers. The Lakers basketball team won 33 games in a row during the '71-'72 season and dominated the league finals four games to one. Following the Lakers are the 1935 Chicago Cubs who obtained 21 straight victories. More recently, the 2006-2008 New England Patriots came out on top in 21 consecutive games, setting an NFL record. Like professional winning streaks, losing streaks also tend to be less impressive. The longest string of defeats in NCAA Division I stands at 34, a record set by the Northwestern football teams from 1979-1982. In professional football, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers hold the record. Tampa entered the NFL as an expansion team in 1976 and launched franchise history with 26 straight losses. To find the lengthiest losing streak in baseball, fans have to look back to the 1889 Cleveland Spiders who dropped 24 in a row (the 1961 Phillies fell one game short of tying the record). Basketball's Cleveland Cavaliers also succeeded in losing 24 straight during the season in '82. Moral of the story: coming close to perfection in any area- athletics, academics, business- is a feat to be admired. As for teams with more losses than wins- well, let's hope it's just a phase.

### Cool Runnings

**Kylie Tillett**  
Sports Editor

Lone Oak's Cross Country season came to an end November 14th when Kelsey Green (12) and Ricky Grewelle (10) ran at the State Championship. They were the two members of the team that had good enough times to compete at the state level. Ricky placed 10th out of 240 runners while Kelsey placed 92nd out of 197. Kelsey says, "I'm just glad that I finally made it to State after three years of running." This year the team faced many changes such as having a very young team and a new coach. Coach VanWyck took on the role of coaching the boys and girls teams this year. Although he admits that he did not know anything about the sport at first, he says that he "had a lot more fun coaching than he expected." He says that this year the team was very young but in the future looks very promising. Ricky Grewelle agrees "I think the season went well, but overall we'll have a better team next year. We had a fresh team this year with a lot of new people, so I think next year we'll have more experienced runners."

### ONE TEAM, ONE DREAM

**Cody Waggoner**  
Sports Editor

The football team is undefeated and closing in on their impending dream of achieving a state championship. The football team has pretty handily beaten opponents in the playoffs including a 34-6 win over the Patriots of Allen County - Scottsville. The team played Marion County on Friday, November 27 in an attempt to advance to the state championship game where they will play the winner of the Bell County - Boyle County game. Due to print deadlines, the results of those contests could not be reported in this issue. Aside from the team wins, two team members are making headlines. On the positive side kicker Jack Coorts (11) broke the state extra point record against Franklin-Simpson. On the negative side, the football team took a hit as senior wide receiver Clayton Isenberg broke his leg and is out for the season. His play will surely be missed as the team steadies their aim for their shot at a state championship on December 4th, at 11 a.m., at Western Kentucky's University.

### Green Machine

**Ruth Wooten**  
Business Manager

In the 1970's, Roller Derby was something you would watch on television. Leagues were coed or all female. They skated on banked tracks and got thrown off of those tracks by the brute force of the other athletes. Anyone who was alive in the seventies has seen roller derby, even your mother. Today's roller derby is a modern reflection of what used to be. The Radioactive City Roller Girls have exposed Paducah to this great sport.

RCRG (Radioactive City Roller Girls) are our city's one and only all-girl flat track roller derby league. The women who comprise the Atomics are not paid athletes; they have daytime jobs. Roller Derby is an alter ego from the wardrobe to the name you choose. Nurse Lithium, number 2.0 for the Atomics is, by day, Ashley Shewmaker, a nurse at Western Baptist Hospital. She and the team began touring bouts last year. This season, in 2009, they have been hosting bouts at the SportsPlex.

While I was skeptical of what this "sport" would really consist of, I decided to give it a shot. My first ever roller derby experience was last month on October 24th when the Atomics faced the Destruction Dames and went home with a victory of 71-56. The raw excitement of the atmosphere and the game was impressively compelling. By the end of the night, I wanted to be laced up and on the track.

A little explanation as to how Roller Derby is played might help: Each team has 5 members on the track at once, four blockers and one jammer. Blockers, four from each team in a pack, are the defensive members of their team, blocking the opposing team's jammer from getting through the pack and helping their own jammer along. Pivots, a designated blocker, are set apart from other blockers with a strip on their helmet and are the last line of defense against the opposing jammer. Jammers, the ones that score the points, are distinguished by a star on their helmets. They race each other to make it through the pack without accruing any penalties. A bout consists of two thirty minute periods. Each period is broken up into two minute jams with thirty seconds between each jam. A jam works like this: the pack takes off at the first whistle, while jammers take off at the second whistle. Once a jammer has made it through the pack, she can score points for each member of the opposing team that she passes in additional laps. The first jammer that makes it through the pack, the first go-around, is the lead jammer and can now call off the jam whenever she wants. If within that two minutes, there is no lead jammer, the jam continues until two minutes is up. Once a jam is over the roller girls line up and do it again. Penalties can be given for an array of infractions, including but not limited to using elbows, false starts, improper blocking, cutting the track, biting, tripping, choking with helmet straps and the list goes on. When a penalty is given, skaters have to wait time off of the track on a comfy couch.

This month on November 21st, the Atomics faced the Memphis Priskilla Prezleys. The Atomics vaporized the century mark with a 156 - 43 victory. The fast paced bout was attended by many students from LOHS including Leah Grace(11) who stated, "It was insane!" Katie England(12) who was also present exclaimed, "I love the Rollerderby!! Suicide seating is amazing; and go Miller the Killer!!" Evilyn A. Heathen, number 9 for the Atomics, went home with the MVP award for the mad jamming skills she displayed throughout the night.

The Radioactive City Rollergirls would love to have you join them on the team, you must be a female and at least eighteen years of age. If you are too young or don't want to become black and blue, you can visit their website <http://radioactivevrg.com/> and get involved in volunteering and publicity. The next bout will be an away bout on March 21st, 2010 against the Central Arkansas Roller Derby. From what I have seen of Rollerderby, I can say that it is a display of unrestrained athleticism, brutish fun, and one of the best ways to spend a Saturday night.



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