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## A Look Back: Ice Storm '09



Image courtesy of wpsdlocal6.com



Image courtesy of Google

**Ruth Wooten**  
Business Manager

Monday afternoon, January 26, 2009, as we endured another winter school day, a snow day or two was what occupied many of our thoughts. Statements from teachers like, "We will have a test the day we get back, whenever that will be," only served to heighten our hopes. That night we were hit with the first wave of the worst winter storm and natural disaster our state had ever seen. In the morning, we woke to a snow day, the first of many.

The night of January 27 was spent in the dark for most in our area. Over 700,000 homes and businesses were left without power across the state. Some of us were left without power for a day some for weeks. **Dane Myers (11)** recalls, "I was out of power for 23 days; it was a trying and soul-finding experience."

As we were glued to our radios, we heard this disaster being referred to as Winter Storm 09. What comes to your mind when you here that daunting and oh too familiar phrase? I can remember the first night with no power and not being able to fall asleep because all I could hear was the sound of trees splitting and branches falling to the ground that made me feel as if the Blair Witch Project had come to Paducah. On a more positive note, **Shelby Finley (12)** remembered "going sledding at the Board of Education." **Natalie Tavernaro (11)** reminisced on "being sheltered at Kylie's house and having intense bonding time with friends." **Susan Helmich**, who graciously hosted another LOHS staffer, **Stephanie Carter**, has the memories of "playing Uno about 5,000 times" and once power was restored, "Rocking out to Rockband!"

Winter Storm 09 was quite a journey, we witnessed damage and loss but everyone gained something as well. Whether it was a new generator or a greater appreciation of electricity, Winter Storm 09 did not leave us empty handed.

## Car Crash Catastrophes



Image courtesy of Google



Image courtesy of Google

**Seth Helton**  
Features Editor

Tragically, a small number of your classmates will not walk across the stage in that moment of great triumph which is high school graduation. These classmates did not drop out, get held back, or move to a far-away land. These classmates are torn away from us through tragedy. Each year, over 5,000 teenagers die in car accidents in the United States. Car accidents account for 36% of all teenage deaths nationwide. That may not sound like a large percent, but when human life is at stake, 36% is a very uncomfortable number to sit at. Even more uncomfortable is when a part of that 36% is made up of our friends, siblings, boyfriends, girlfriends, and teammates.

Sadly, some of us have already lost classmates to car accidents, or have had close calls ourselves. When these accidents happen, grief is the natural (and appropriate) reaction. What follows the grief though is often pushing these incidents out of our memories and resuming reckless behaviors behind the wheel. What needs to be done in order to avoid further tragedy is to learn from these mistakes. Keeping in mind the risks taken at the wheel could keep your funeral from being the next.

What exactly are these risks? Risks taken in vehicles range from the obviously dangerous to the surprisingly mundane. Driving at breakneck speeds on the narrow and often hilly roads that criss-cross Paducah is an easy way suffer an accident. Drive at a legal and comfortable speed. Being in control of the hundreds of pounds of metal wrapped around is crucial to keeping yourself safe and those around you safe. Fiddling with your brand-new Alpine stereo and checking your phone seem harmless, but could be potentially disastrous. All it takes is a momentary break in your focus on the road create the conditions for a crash. Also keep in mind that "Click-it-or-Ticket" programs are not another way for "The Man" to put you down, but a way to encourage (or frighten) drivers to wear their seat belts.

Drinking and driving is not just a serious and common cause of severe or fatal accidents among adults, it extends to teens as well. It would be naive to think that due to the legal age for purchasing alcohol being 21 that teenagers can't "stumble upon" alcoholic beverages. Due to teens being able to obtain alcohol (sometimes quite easily), the importance of abstaining from stepping behind the wheel while intoxicated must be stressed alongside abstaining from alcohol in general. Of drivers aged 15-20 who have died in car crashes, 23% had blood alcohol counts over 0.08 or higher. While not condoning underage drinking, if you plan on drinking at a party or other sketchy situation, plan to keep keys far away from ignitions.

Driving is a critical part of our social and (fledging) career lives. Without it, we couldn't get to work quickly or easily meet up with friends at our sub-par mall. It is our first sweet taste of freedom, and likely our first bitter taste of danger. Taking steps to minimize this danger leads us into a healthy relationship with the road and protects us from the bad aftertaste left by a wreck.

## Congratulations to Basketball Homecoming Queen Jordan Price and King Cameron Looper!

### Senior Queen and King Candidates:

**Wendy Anderson**  
**Molly Green**  
**Lauren Hendon**  
**Shelby Finley**  
**Jordan Price**

**Cameron Looper**  
**Jordan Ludovissie**  
**Ray Guthrie**  
**Michael Edwards**  
**Carson Beyer**

### Underclassmen Attendants:

**Junior - Christina DeRezza**  
**Sophomore - Shelby Schaefer**  
**Freshman - Enka Edwards**

## The Book vs. the Movie

**Rachel Sloan**  
Assistant Business Manager

I challenge you to think of a movie based on a book that has not received criticism for its differences from the original story. If something comes to mind, I think it's safe to say you're lying. Movies anywhere from *Harry Potter* to *A Walk to Remember* are still being judged based solely on the similarities and differences to the book. Although I admit that I tend to prefer my favorite books to the movies based on them, I am growing tired of the same old comparisons.

Recently, I watched the movie *My Sister's Keeper* after reading the book that had come first. I was shocked by the differences. Not only were there slight changes in the characters and the emphasis that was put on certain moments, but by the end, I felt like I had just observed a completely different story. Still, I processed the movie and concluded that I enjoyed what I had just seen. I found no problems with the movie plot or any other aspect of it, so I wasn't ready to criticize it simply because of the differences from the book. Had I seen the movie without reading the book, I know I would have loved it, so I left it at that.

Next time you walk into the movie theater, walk in with an open mind and without the ridiculous desire to criticize every difference you see between the movie and the book you once read. You might actually enjoy it.

## Let the Undead Die

**Ryan Steele**  
Staff Writer

2009 was the year for a large surge of "fads" or "trends" in pop culture. A few of which I wouldn't mind carrying over to 2010, although some could vanish into obscurity and I wouldn't lose a wink of sleep. I've picked the best of each to share with you: one good and one so bad that it actually got me ranting.

Environmentalism was a popular "fad" in 2009 with an army of celebrities waving the green banner. U2's *Bono* joined forces with artists such as *Willie Nelson* and *Pink Floyd* for *Farm Aid*, a charity set up to provide more money for American Farmers to help reduce our dependence on artificially grown foods. Although *Farm Aid* has been around for some years, their recent additions of artists such as *Jason Mraz* and the popular rock band *Pearl Jam* have completed somewhat of a "resurgence" for the organization in the past year pulling in more money than ever before. *Planet Green*, an organization famous for recruiting popular recording artists and even T.V. stations for contributions such as NBC's annual "green week." *Planet Green*, along with having their own T.V. station, and contributing to NBC, *Planet Green* sets up concerts with artists such as previously mentioned Jason Mraz and Pearl Jam along with regulars to the cause *Rise Against* in which all proceeds go to the efforts of recycling not only the usual plastic, paper, and soda cans but also technology to reduce the amount of energy our world would use. This is one trend we can't afford to let fade away in 2010. We clearly need to protect our environment for the sake of all Earth's inhabitants.

Now, to the trend of 2009 that couldn't slip into obscurity fast enough, Vampires. Seriously, why are people so obsessed with cold dead people with fangs? No phenomenon contributes more to the rising trend than the main offender and antagonist of the vampire trend, *Twilight*. Although I've never personally seen any movies or read any books of the tween sensation, I've heard enough of the cinema blasphemy to be able to give a plot summary. Pale girl falls in love with a really pale guy who has sharp teeth and sparkles in the sun; that's just great writing people. Not all the blame falls on *Twilight* though, such series as *True Blood* and the new show *Vampire Diaries* are doing nothing but contributing to trend. I can't describe to you how much I'd love to see *Blade* introduced into all of the recently popularized vampire films or maybe throw *Edward*, the vampire from *Twilight*, into a scene from the film *30 Days of Night* and see how long he lasts.

Let's just let this whole vampire phase of our species fade into obscurity to never see the light of day again. Unless that would kill them, then by all means throw them into the sunlight. Oh, but I forgot. They don't die in the sunlight anymore; they just sparkle!

## Raising the Terror Alert

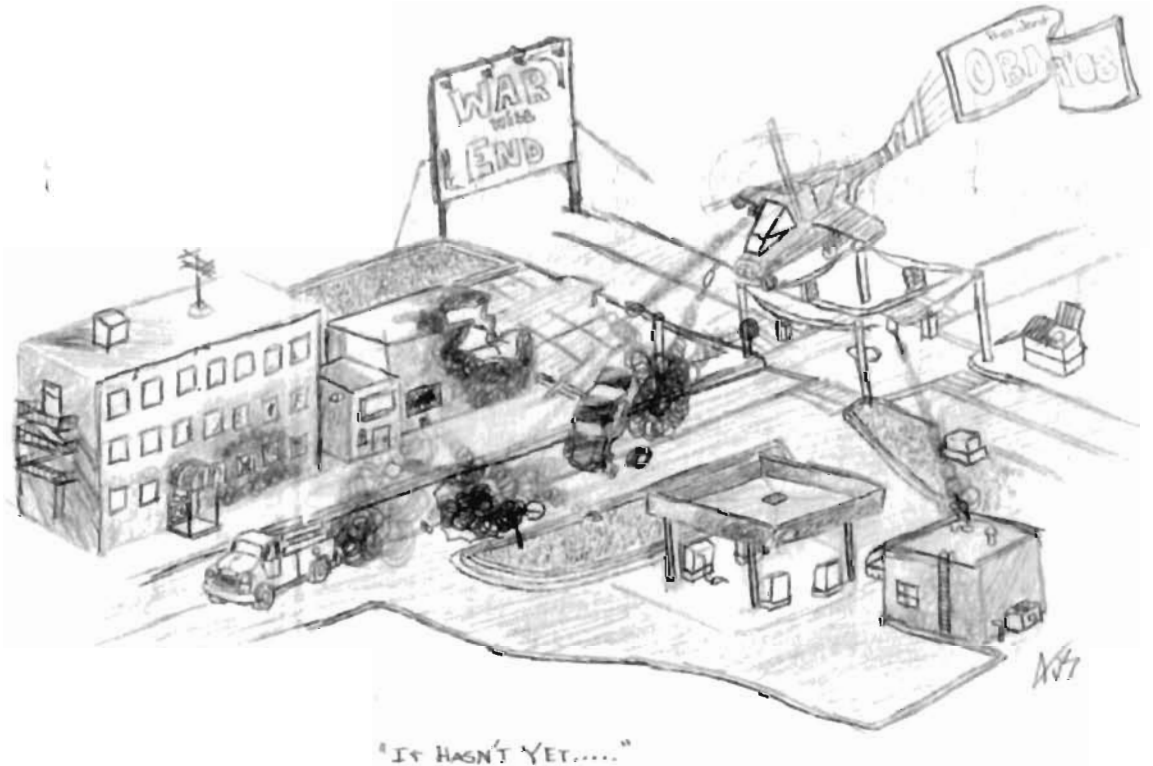
**Seth Helton**  
Features Editor

The attacks of September 11 marked the dawn of a new age in national security. The discussion between the sacrificing of privacy in favor of security was resumed for the first time since the era of Joseph McCarthy and Cold War hysteria. The number of air marshals riding unnoticed on flights was bumped up significantly; air port security could do more than pat you down if necessary; and the CIA and FBI began keeping detailed records of suspected terrorists. Over time, the threat of terrorism seemed to dwindle in the national consciousness, as our minds switched focus to economic crisis. While we worried about the security of our wallets, a new string of terrorist attacks were being planned. On Christmas Day 2009, Umar Farouk Abdul-Mutallab (aka the "Undie Bomber") failed in a suicide bombing attempt aboard Flight 253 en route to Detroit from Amsterdam. It became apparent that America had become too cozy under the illusion that precautions taken post-9/11 were still keeping us safe today.

The "Undie Bomber" was an amateur compared to the attack carried out on our CIA outpost in Afghanistan on December 30 by Humam Khalil Abu-Mulal al-Bawali. The suicide bombing resulted in the deaths of seven CIA agents and one Jordanian intelligence officer. This was the agency's worst incident since a truck bomb tore apart the U.S. embassy in Lebanon in 1983. It is reported that al-Bawali was a double agent, who had been providing information about al-Qaeda to the CIA. In a time when security is so tight that children and grandparents are strip-searched at airports, it's surprising that al-Bawali was brought into Forward Operating Base Chapman (our CIA outpost in Afghanistan) without so much as a pat-down. Al-Bawali had earned the trust of the CIA and its Jordanian counterpart, the General Intelligence Department, by providing valuable information about al-Qaeda over the course of a few years. It was hoped that al-Bawali would lead us to Ayman al-Zawahiri, al-Qaeda's second-in command, due to both men being physicians. The attack was highly sophisticated and well thought-out, taking years of building trust with the CIA before being carried out. Intelligence sources believe the operation was run from al-Qaeda's high command (Osama bin Laden's headquarters). Recently, al-Qaeda operations have been decentralized, such as the "Undie Bomber's" attack run from Yemen, making the attack against the CIA a departure from the trend.

The two attacks in the last weeks of December illustrate both what terrorist networks can and cannot accomplish. The "Undie Bomber" demonstrates the weakness that al-Qaeda is experiencing due to the U.S. tightening security globally. The tragedy on 9/11 deployed four groups of well-trained terrorists, so that if one group failed the entire operation would not be compromised. The 9/11 terrorists received extensive training on the behavior of flight crews and the design of airplanes. In contrast, Abdul-Mutallab attempted to detonate PETN (a difficult-to-ignite explosive) sewn into his skivvies. His only success was lighting his crotch on fire before being pummeled by civilian passengers on Flight 253. So why can al-Qaeda no longer pull off massively destructive operation, opting instead to use exploding underwear? The terrorist network is under greater pressure, being watched much more carefully. International counter-terrorism efforts scrutinize financial transactions, trace cell-phone calls, keep no-fly lists, and use drones to track al-Qaeda leaders around the globe. Al-Qaeda is not only under pressure from the West, but has lost much of its support from the Muslim community. A poll conducted by the Pew Research Center in Jordan after terrorists bombed a wedding in 2005 showed the percentage of Jordanians supporting Osama bin Laden (and his cause) shrunk from 25% to less than 1%. This lack of support is (thankfully) hurting their recruiting, thus al-Qaeda can no longer muster the numbers necessary to pull off large-scale attacks.

Despite the decrease in scale and finesse of terrorist attacks, the suicide bombing in Afghanistan proves that the war on terrorism is far from won. Intelligence agencies need be on their toes so that efforts of al-Qaeda and similar terrorist organizations may be thwarted before they get off the ground. The CIA and its foreign counterparts must work closely to ensure the safety and general welfare of people across the globe. The December attacks should serve as a wake up call telling us terrorism still has some support in places such as Yemen and Jordan, and the relative security this nation has experienced lately is never to be taken for granted.



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Mr. Woehlke!



Ms. Hopkins- Calculus and Geometry



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*The Oak "K"* is a publication of Lone Oak High School, distributed to students, faculty and the community. The newspaper is designed by staff members using Pages and is printed by *The Paducah Sun*, 408 Kentucky Ave., Paducah, KY 42003. Letters to the editor are to be under 250 words in length and signed by the writer. *The Oak "K"* reserves the right to edit all letters for placement as long as the meaning is not altered. *The Oak "K"* attempts to inform and entertain its readers in a broad, fair, and accurate manner on all subjects that affect the audience. Final authority for the content of *The Oak "K"* rests in the hands of the principal.

# SO HIGH IN DUBAI



Image courtesy of Google

**Andrew Harlan**  
Entertainment Editor

On January 4th the tallest man-made structure opened its doors. Dubai, a city-sized emirate of the United Arab Emirates on the Persian Gulf, is known for having some of the biggest and most luxurious structures in the world. They hold claim to the world's tallest hotel, largest shopping mall, largest indoor ski slope, and now they have claimed the new record on structure height. The Burj Khalifa did not just break the height of the former record holder, the KVLV-TV mast which was 2,063 feet, it shattered its size coming in almost five hundred feet taller at 2,717 feet. But the Burj Khalifa is no radio tower. It is a skyscraper comprised of a thirty-nine story Armani hotel, one hundred and eighteen stories of residential living areas, a restaurant, a broadcast station, and even a mosque. All together the Burj Khalifa is one hundred and sixty two stories tall and cost 1.5 billion dollars.

Dubai resides directly on the Persian Gulf making it an excellent sight for a port. Beginning in the early 1900's Dubai was important for its pearl and oil exports. Turbulent and violent outbreaks were common in this time due to land disputes somewhat caused by a heavy British presence. But in 1971 when the British left the Persian Gulf, Dubai, along with six other emirates formed the United Arab Emirates. Using their location, oil and their ideology on free trade allowed Dubai to become the primary economic region in the UAE. Between 1970 and 1975, the population of Dubai boomed three hundred percent. After the Persian Gulf War Dubai used tourism and increased oil prices to fund their metropolitan growth. Not to mention the three man-made islands in the design of a palm tree, a map of earth, and another that appears to be an extinct crustacean, that are all used for suburbs of the city.

With the funds to do just about whatever they please, it is not hard to believe they have built the largest man-made structure. Construction on the Burj Khalifa began on September 21, 2004. By April of 2008, it had broken the structure height record and still had over a fifth of height to be constructed. Its design was based off the Hymenocallis flower - three sections arranged around a central core. Its base is shaped in a triangular figure and it gradually stair steps itself inward every 30 floors or so until it reaches its pinnacle at its spire. The Burj Khalifa has over 1.5 million square feet of reflective glass that helps reflect the extreme heat of the Persian Gulf region. To wash the 24,348 individual window panes three automated window washing machines continuously clean the exterior of the building.

The Burj Khalifa currently holds 15 records, including world's tallest structure built, highest swimming pool, highest observation deck, and fastest elevators. The structure is the first tallest building in history to contain residential area. Over 35,000 people at any given time will be inside the Burj Khalifa - 10,000 more people than the population of Paducah.

The Burj Khalifa is to be the center piece of one of the most extensive development projects in the modern age. Surrounding the Burj Khalifa will be 30,000 homes, nineteen residential towers, nine hotels, a mall, and even a thirty acre man-made lake. This type of grandeur in scope and size is making Dubai a headlining name in innovation and in excess. This achievement is surely a sign of things to come from this region. Not since 1311 has the Middle East had the worlds tallest structure. It had lost this claim when the Lincoln Cathedral in England surpassed the height of the Great Pyramid of Giza. Dubai may just be the Middle East's next Babylon.

# ROCKING THE RICHTER SCALE

**Jordan Price**  
Editor-in-Chief

Tuesday the 12th brought agony and despair to the nine million habitants of the island nation of Haiti. The most current report indicates 70,000 Haitians were killed due to the devastating effects of the earthquake.

Although The United States, China, and France have sent aid to small island, help seems to be at arm's length for the Haitian people. Due to the ruin of the local airports aid isn't reaching the thousands of people in need of food, water, and shelter. The single airport in Port-au-Prince is strained and overused so two other airports in Haiti have been declared open and airports in the Dominican Republic are also being considered. The Haitian airports have limited the number of planes coming in and out of the island. As of now the only planes allowed to land are those that are bringing aid to the island while all private flights have temporarily been halted due to the lack of appropriate fuel supplies. Not only is air travel being limited, but vehicles are having trouble navigating the wreckage of the roads.

It is expected that 1/3 of the nine million Haitians are in need of help. The women that usually are found selling food and water out on the streets of Haiti are quickly running out of supplies. People are becoming more and more desperate. The looting of shops have become a frequent sight among the towns of Haiti. The U.N. is even suggesting that the vehicles bringing aid to the people add extra security. Obama has promised an initial 100 million dollars to aid in the bringing of food and clean water to Haiti. As of now, high energy biscuits, purified water, tents, and more are being delivered to the people in need.

Some of the most devastating images of the earthquake are those of single arms begging for help beneath piles of rubble. Although several people have been rescued, many more are still waiting to be found. Families are struggling to find lost loved ones and some people are even found dragging the bodies of relatives down the dusty roads to hospitals seeking aid. But even medical attention comes at a cost. At the same time that lives are being saved, death is an ominous presence. Piles of bodies are being stacked up in the parking lots of the hospitals as the odor wafts throughout the villages. Some people expect that the unclaimed bodies will be prepared for a mass burial. Former President Bill Clinton reported that surgeries were being performed using vodka to sterilize the equipment and without anesthesia. Some of the surgeries had to be done at night without any lights. It is truly and awful sight.

As donations come trickling in, celebrities, companies, and common folk are doing their share to get aid to the people of Haiti. Dwayne Wade, Alonzo Mourning, and Samuel Dalembert of the NBA have raised significant donations for the relief effort. George Clooney is planning to make a trip to the island and other celebrities such as Shakira, Alicia Keys, Stevie Wonder, Bono, and Jay-Z have raised awareness and money to send aid to the victims of the earthquake. American Express, Mastercard, and Visa are waving all transaction fees when credit cards are used to donate to the charities collecting for the aid of the Haitian people. Operation USA have donated two million water purification tablets and a few of the social networking sites are arranging donations to send to the effort. However people need to be wary and make sure the charity they chose is creditable because quite a few scams have begun to circulate.

The 7.0 magnitude earthquake certainly shook the lives and the homes of the Haitian people but it didn't shake the hearts and generosity of surrounding areas willing to aid in any way possible.

# On Capitol Hill

**Kelsey Smith**  
News Editor

With the new year comes new health care legislation, and while it is almost certain that a bill will pass, the biggest question is what that bill will include.

On December 24th, the Senate passed its version of the overhaul plan with a vote of 60-39. This draft has several provisions in common with its House counterpart (including the creation of insurance exchanges geared to help small businesses and restrictions on premium increases due to pre-existing conditions, gender, or medical history) but also, many glaring differences, the most substantial of which are: the exclusion of a public option, methods of financing the bill, and abortion coverage.

The public option present in the House legislation was replaced with a non-profit private alternative that must offer plans approved by the Office of Personnel Management (the agency that oversees health plans of federal employees). This change, along with abortion coverage, has caused division among moderate and liberal Democrats. Both versions of the bill ban the use of federal funds for an abortion, except in cases of rape, incest or danger to the mother's life, but the Senate bill allows those who receive federal subsidies to purchase abortion coverage separately. The House bill does not. And as far as funds are concerned, how this legislation will be funded is a key part of the debate. President Obama has stated the final bill will most likely contain a combination of measures proposed in each version. As it stands, the House bill will implement a 5.4% surcharge tax on Americans making over \$500,000 a year, families who earn more than one million and authorize a 2.5% excise tax on medical devices sold in the U.S. The Senate bill will increase the Medicare payroll tax by 0.9% for individuals earning more than \$200,000 and families with an income exceeding \$250,000. Additionally, insurance companies providing "Cadillac" plans (those that cost over \$13,000 for individuals and \$28,000 for families) would incur a tax and a 10% tax on indoor tanning salons would be enacted.

House and Senate Democrats have bypassed a formal committee conference with congressional Republicans, opting instead to participate in informal negotiations to produce a final bill. This revised bill must then pass through the House and the Senate before it can be signed into law.

And although that date is unknown, representatives are working as hard as possible to make it as soon as possible.

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### RIVENBARKS ALL THE RAGE

Jordan Price  
Editor-in-Chief

My latest read has been the surprisingly witty autobiography of Celia Rivenbark. "We're Just Like You Only Prettier" has certain connotations that lead one to believe that its manila pages are filled with some smart \*\*\* remarks of a trodden beauty queen. The picture on the cover is that of a so called "Tarnished" Southern Belle with perfectly coifed hair complete with tiara, rouge to the high heavens, and a hair-sprayed swimsuit that was, until now, only seen on Barbie. So naturally, when I found this book lying on my Nana's kitchen table, I flipped through the pages and decided that I could go for some down right good southern fun.

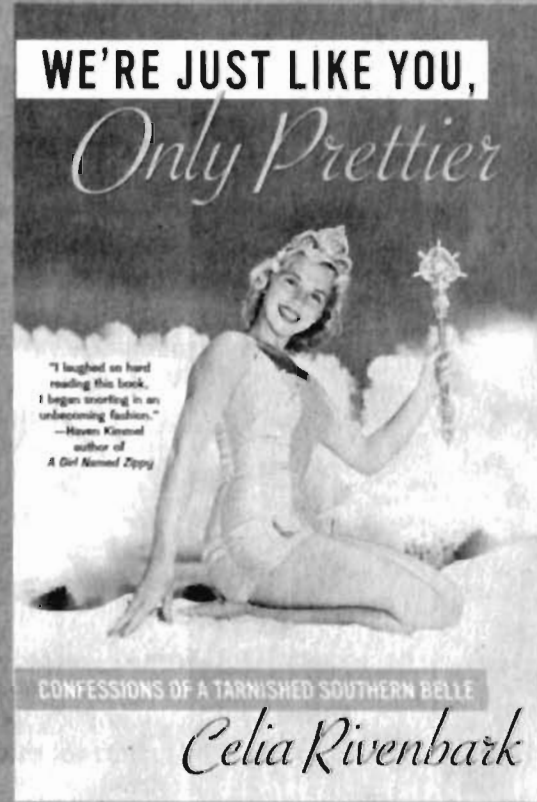
As I laid awake one night I opened its almost pin-up style cover and was immediately engaged in part one: "The Southern Family (And No We Don't Marry Our Cousins- Unless Of Course They Got Cable)". My first glance at the chapter's title caused me to question my selection. Surely some die-hard Yankee had written this book because no true Southerner would be cracking jokes about marrying direct relatives in exchange for channel 3. Being born in southern Texas (about as far south as you can go and still stay in the good ole U.S. of A), I was truly offended and so caught up in my rage that I found myself flipping to the next page to see what other kind of remarks this "Rivenbark" had to say about me. Obviously this was personal. Some how though, the red haze that had made its home in front of my eyes faded and a multitude of heavenly host descended singing the Hallelujah Chorus. I had been right...initially right that is.

This hilarious book made me double over with laughter. The first chapter was basically a manual on how to be "White Trash" because it is the "in" thing right now. I was riveted, hooked, lingering over every word that was printed in perfect Southern dialect. The religious use of "ya'll" instead of "you all" was refreshing and comforting. I almost could not put it down. In fact one night, when I had left it in the car, I braved the cold in my pajama's to retrieve it. Even the titles make me giggle, but when you see "Sorry I Can't Make It To The Recital (I'm Planning to Poke Myself in the Eye with a Sharp Stick That Night)" who wouldn't roll on the floor howling.

This fantastic story is told from a Southern Mother's point of view. She complains about having to watch her daughter's birthday party at Chuck E. Cheese be upstaged by some trust-fund child at the table next to them. She is down to earth but has enough sass to give Reba McEntire a run for her money. She is outspoken about what a bunch of crap it is that her daughter's elementary school makes its students become door to door salesmen by the age of five; all just to earn that pink furry keychain to tote around class on their backpacks. She gives her opinion on couple's baby showers, how to be a hands-on

parent, T.V., and a whole load of other questions that, deep down, you know you have been asking yourself. Her obsession with "Days of Our Lives" is oddly familiar and even though we wouldn't own up to it, we all know that we would be right there with her in supporting the finding of a "fat virus."

This book is amazingly relatable and is full of Southern words of comfort. I had such a good time reading this book that I find myself waiting to buy Rivenbark's other masterpieces. I can't wait to bask in the country humor of "Stop Dressing Your Six-Year-Old Like A Skank" and "Bless Your Heart, Tramp." So, if you find yourself in need of a great laugh accompanied by a snort here and there, then pick up one of Celia Rivenbark's remarkable books of life lessons learned or sometimes lessons ignored and substituted.



Courtesy of google.com

### KEEP YOUR EYES AHEAD

Kyle Fouse  
Staff Writer

I've never been much of a follower of music. Although I enjoy nearly all genres of music, I never really follow my ears, so to speak, and follow up any new artists or new songs that I find pleasing. For some time I've known this was something I should have done, having missed out on chances to become fans of artists such as "The Strokes" and "The Killers" long before their popularity reached the levels of today. For this very reason I decided to change my ways and give a small band called "The Helio Sequence" a chance. I discovered this band while in the Hard Rock Cafe in Louisville.



Courtesy of google.com

a singing voice slightly reminiscent of Bob Dylan (partly due to the fact that he lost his voice and had to relearn how to sing) and mixes it well with an original blend of background rhythms and eccentric drum beats.

While I personally have only downloaded and listened to their latest album *Keep Your Eyes Ahead*, having listened to the whole album several times repeatedly, I must say that many of their songs stay with me throughout the day. Their lyrics have a strange way of keeping me positive.

When it comes to songs I would recommend, I find myself thinking of "Hallelujah," the title track, "Keep Your Eyes Ahead," "Can't Say No," and "The Captive Mind." I would say that the first is my favorite, but it has almost an unnecessarily long instrumental ending that I feel would greatly benefit from the addition of more lyrics.

When it comes to the excitement of being the first to discover something, I'm sad that I could never be more open about this kind of thing a long time ago. By opening my horizons to a new selection of music, I feel as though if I open my horizons to everything else in life, I'll have nowhere to go but up. I can already feel myself beginning to expand and appreciate more fully (probably from the good mood the album has put me in).

I will be swift in downloading their previous work and hopefully it is as worthwhile as the one I already own. This will be a go-to band on my iTunes if I am ever in need of a pick-me-up or just get tired of listening to anything else I may come across. Maybe one day "The Helio Sequence" will reach a level of fame and popularity that does their newest album justice. If and when that happens, I'll be glad to know that I was one of the first ones to find and follow them on their ascent. I highly recommend that everyone come out of their shell and do a little bit more exploring in their lives. There's a wide, wide world out there, and if you look enough and in the right places, I guarantee you'll find beauty in the



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# THE DREAM BECOMES REAL

Spenser Price  
Illustrator

On December 18th, 2009, James Cameron's *Avatar*, starring Sam Worthington (*Terminator: Salvation*), Zoe Saldana (*Star Trek*), and Sigourney Weaver (*Aliens*), finally hit the big screen after four years of production. In it, Jake Sully, a paraplegic Marine, travels to the scenic planet Pandora to take his brother's place in the illustrious *Avatar* program, which involves a human being literally transferring their mentality to the body of a Pandora native, or Na'vi. Sully is sent to negotiate a truce with the natives, so the military may dig for natural resources. While there, he acquaints himself with the people, but begins to doubt the underlying motives and openly destructive nature of mankind.

idea grow until, ten years later, he developed the ideal technology to make his dream come to life. *Avatar* has quickly shot to the top of the list earning nearly one billion in under twenty days. Cameron has already set movie records with *Titanic*, which is still the highest grossing movie of all time having earned about 1.8 billion in 1998 worldwide.

Like many stories expressing conflict between man and nature, *Avatar*



Courtesy of google.com

expresses some environmental concern, but, in an interesting way. Though there is a strong message against the military's power, some military personnel are not too keen on wiping out the indigenous population of Pandora for profit. Corporate America is also indicted in the film as they attempt to push the Na'vi right out of their divine and cultural habitat. During the conflict, one native

even says of the humans, "They have destroyed their Mother." While the Na'vi plight bears a slight resemblance to those of African tribes, *Avatar* obviously pulls for underestimated and misunderstood native life. Cameron illustrates his personal beliefs in the film, but also manages to leave room for the story and not bear down on the audience.

Pandora is full of natural complexities that balance well and set the mood. The Na'vi even express strong belief in their Tree of Souls, or the spirit of their planet, much like the concept of "Mother Earth" which personifies the planet and makes it a character. Forests of lush, fluorescent, bioluminescence and dense layers of surreal atmosphere are visually impressive. The plot stirs one's emotions during exciting scenes of perilous suspense and action while man and Pandora each ultimately fights for survival and during mournful scenes as the military devastates the natives.

James Cameron's *Avatar* is an impressive production. Some audiences take issue with its nearly three hour duration and its somewhat predictable story-line, but it successfully manipulates the emotions of the audience and presents awe-inspiring

James Cameron, acclaimed director of *Titanic*, *Aliens*, *Terminator*, and *Terminator 2*, first conceived the thought of *Avatar* over fifteen years ago. Cameron postponed making the movie until the technology he wanted was available. Cameron apparently let the

# THE GAME IS AFOOT

Rachel Lundberg  
Editor-in-Chief

Great ideas are inevitably followed by imitation, so it's only natural that the greatest detective of all time has taken to the silver screen once again, with Guy Ritchie's 2009 adaptation placing *Guinness World Records*' "most portrayed movie character" well beyond the 200-film mark. I can assure you, however, that this *Sherlock Holmes* is far different from any you've seen before.

As far as pure entertainment value, *Sherlock Holmes* delivers, in no small amount. Conan Doyle fans know Holmes was a boxer and martial artist, but in the past the fights themselves were skimmed over, even in the original works. The film lays all that aside, relishing in detailing the scenes that show that the legendary detective's fists are just as powerful as his brain. The fight scenes, in fact, are where the script is truly creative, portraying Holmes' combat skills in combination with his intellect in a way that is both fascinating to the viewer and devastating to his opponent. The striking action was complemented by quick, fresh dialogue that serves to highlight the slightly antagonistic friendship between Holmes and Watson that was suggested but somewhat downplayed by the narration of the latter in the original stories. The humor was much in the same vein as Conan Doyle's own, and several lines are direct quotes from the canon.

It must not be easy to characterize one of literature's most iconic figures, but the film does as good a job as can be expected. Holmes' didactic, restless, bohemian nature comes across quite strongly, as a result of Robert Downey, Jr.'s conscious efforts to emphasize these particular traits. If Holmes' characterization was good, Dr. Watson's was absolutely brilliant. Gone was the exasperating bumbler of the '30s and '40s, to be replaced by the competent military surgeon that

readers remember. Watson was never meant to be the backdrop of stupidity with which to compare Holmes' intelligence, but a reliable companion and sharp foil to the eccentric detective. *Sherlock Holmes* accomplished this beautifully. Robert Downey, Jr. and Jude Law created a quite nearly perfect dynamic between the famous duo, and I see no way that their performances could have been matched by any other. Some of the minor characters, Irene Adler and Mary Morstan, for example, were not so well fleshed out. In fact, the presence in the film of those two, who appeared so infrequently in the canon, was baffling to me. They added very little of value to the story, apart from filling the unfortunately obligatory love interest roles.

Apart from all that was good in *Sherlock Holmes*, it had one particular failing--the plot. It's sad that it should be so, as plot was arguably the strongest element of the original works. The story lacked the cohesiveness that a solid mystery requires,



Illustration by Spenser Price

seeming to have filled in the plot to fit the action, rather than the reverse. It is, simply put, not your father's *Sherlock Holmes* story, and it's not Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* story, either. This, of course, is why traditional Holmesians will curse it up and down, but that's to be expected; it would likely be impossible to appease the fanbase of a series which commands its own field of study. While it's true that this adaptation is a bit too "Da Vinci Code" for the real deal, it's still enjoyable if you take it as it is and don't think

too hard about it. Anyone who says that this movie is not "real" *Holmes* is just elitist. There are already plenty of films that are exact reproductions of the books, and there's nothing wrong with doing things a bit differently for a modern audience.

Overall, *Sherlock Holmes* was very solid, though frustratingly less so than it could have been. Gorgeous screenplay, great acting, and a masterful soundtrack saved a plot that was muddled at best. Hopefully its box office success will help it to live up to its potential in the sequel. In the meantime, fans can attempt to deduce the answer to the mystery of who played Professor Moriarty. Perhaps the speculation that Brad Pitt will take the role of the master detective's nemesis in the tentatively named *Sherlock Holmes 2* is not too far off the mark.

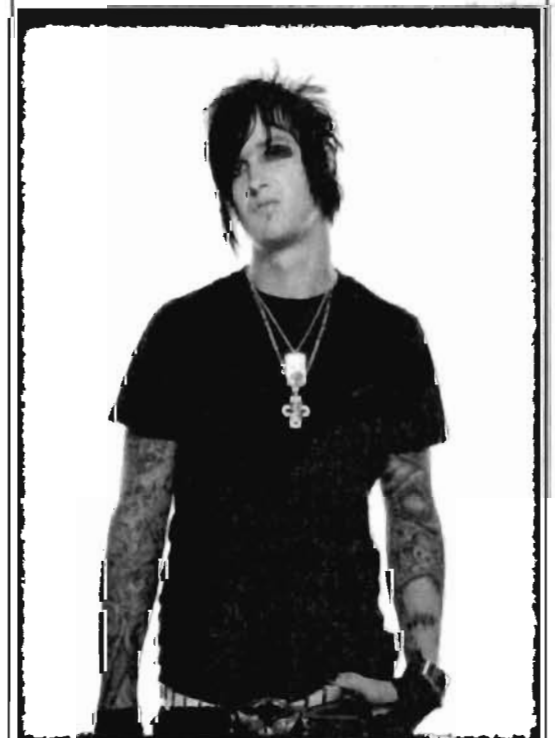
# "/EVERYBODY'S GOT TO DIE SOMETIME/"

Charis Gurrola  
Entertainment Editor

Metal heads mourn the loss of rhythmic genius, Jimmy "the Rev" Sullivan. Avenged Sevenfold's 28 year-old drummer was found dead in his Huntington Beach home December 29th, 2009. Although his autopsy has been inconclusive to this date, heavy speculation suggests that his early departure was caused by Sullivan's past heavy drug usage. Sullivan's fellow bandmates and family are asking for privacy during this difficult time giving only the simple statement of, "It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we tell you of the passing today of Jimmy "The Rev" Sullivan. Jimmy was not only one of the world's best drummers, but more importantly he was our best friend and brother. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jimmy's family and we hope that you will respect their privacy during this difficult time."

Sullivan's drumming was the pulse of Avenged Sevenfold. Without the Rev's intense drumming the sound of the band will forever be changed. He was the primary writer and also contributed vocals to songs like "Afterlife," "Almost easy," and the title track "A Little Piece of Heaven." The band was planning on recording, this year, what they believed to be their greatest album. Plans to continue or abandon the project have not been released yet.

Since the news of Sullivan's death, Avenged Sevenfold's Facebook and Myspace pages have received over 5,000 comments. With people writing messages like, "...continue even though nobody can replace the 1 and only Reverend Thomomew Plague! <3" and, "...he was the best, but you know this better than me..." Sullivan's loved ones should understand how much the Rev was appreciated and treasured for his contribution to metal and his musical genius.



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# Kapable Katie

**Kylie Tillett**  
Sports Editor

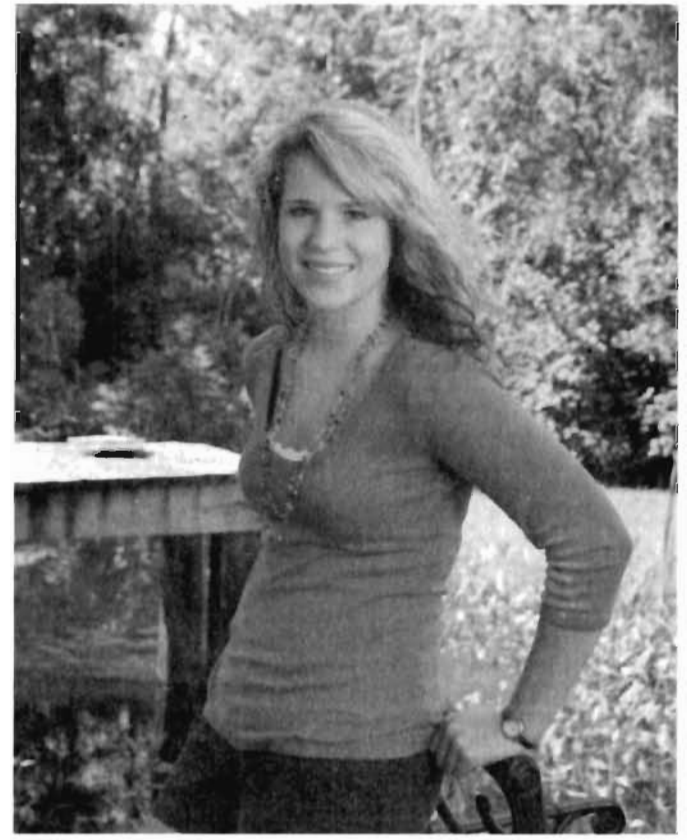
"Katie is my inspiration to be a good person," says her close friend and classmate, Mandy Jackson. Katie Clayton is the Junior Rotarian for the month of January. Mandy describes her friend perfectly, as she is a genuinely good person inside and out. She will do anything for anyone, and you never see her without a smile on her face. No wonder she was chosen to represent Lone Oak High School in this prestigious position.

Ms. Clayton has been challenging herself through her years of schooling. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA all four years of high school, even while taken numerous AP and enriched courses. As a senior, she has not backed down. She has taken on AP Calculus, AP Literature, Physics, and Anatomy. If her grades and difficult courses aren't enough to impress, take a look at her ACT score- a 32. Wow, outstanding!

Katie has been a part of the excellent LOHS Tennis Team for all 4 years, even playing some JV matches before she entered high school. She has won several USTA tournaments, including The Paducah Sun Mixed Doubles Championship with partner and former teammate, Cameron Tillett. And if you're thinking tennis is an easy game, think again. Katie trains year round. Even when it's not suitable to play outside, you can find her at Rowton's Indoor Tennis Center or Energy Fitness.

Katie doesn't stop at just academics and athletics though. She is an active member of the Beta Club, where she holds the office of Director of Public Relations. She is also a long time member of the Tennis Club and Math Club. Katie also works part-time at Gap in Kentucky Oaks Mall.

Ms. Clayton has her future pretty much planned out and is very determined to succeed. She is attending the University of Kentucky in the fall and plans to major in Chemical Engineering. After obtaining her bachelor's degree, she wants to go on to medical school and have an occupation in the medical field. Natalie Tavernaro is very confident in saying that "Katie will find a cure for cancer, all while snuggling with Hunter Rommelman."



| Sanjana Pampati<br><i>Asst. Editor</i> | Erica Rust (9) | Kevin Dunn (10)  | Mmuso Matsapola (11) | Clayton Isenberg (12) | Mr. Whitley                   |
|--|----------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Free Association                       |                |                  |                      |                       |                               |
| Martin Luther King                     | black          | noble            | holiday              | great man             | a guy who gives good speeches |
| UK2K                                   | Kentucky       | what?            | I K, you K, we all K | is terrible           | 2,000 UK's                    |
| Tiger Woods                            | golf ball      | African American | assault              | wife is gorgeous      | sadness                       |
| Santeria                               | an island      | is that a place? | The Eagles           | Sublime               | a town in Venezuela           |

| <i>People in the Halls</i><br>Kylie Tillett<br>Sports Editor | What are you going to try to do different in 2010? | What is your favorite snow day activity? | What show are you looking forward to watching this season? |
|--|--|--|--|
| <br>Eric Scelzi (9)  | Do better in school.                               | Making snow angels.                      | My dad cancelled the cable. :(                             |
| <br>Kelsey Collins (10)                                      | Nothing really.                                    | Playing in the snow.                     | Secret Life of an American Teenager!                       |
| <br>Ian Harris (11)  | Clean.   | Off roadin' in da humvee.                | UK Basketball.   |
| <br>Molly Green (12)   | Nothing.   | Snowball fight, duh.                     | Jersey Shore. Hahaha.                                      |
| <br>Mrs. Bowland   | Eat less.  | Watching soap operas.                    | Glee.  |

## Separated at Birth



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## Swimming Success

**Charis Gurrola**  
Entertainment Editor

Lone Oak High School's swim team attended the Murray Invitational meet Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. This was their second to last meet before regionals in Owensboro. The girls team, made up of **Tyler Fell(5)**, **Kelsey Stevens(6)**, **Milan Doan(7)**, **Kristen Evans(8)** (did not compete in this meet), **Oliver Fell(8)**, **Carson Oakley(9)**, **Eileen Doan(9)**, **Paige Kramer(9)**, **Sydney Spalding(10)**, **Ashleigh Harris(11)**, and **Mandy Jackson(12)** did an exceptional job. The girl's team came in first in the 200 yard Medley Relay, 200 yard Freestyle, 500 yard Freestyle, 100 yard Backstroke, 100 yard Breaststroke and the 400 yard Freestyle Relay. Eileen Doan, who beat her personal best in the 50 yard freestyle, attributes their teams success to their hard work. The girls made Second in the 200 yard Individual Medley, the 100 yard Butterfly, and 3rd in the 200



yard Freestyle Relay, and the 100 and 50 yard Freestyle. The girl's team won first place in their rankings.

The boys team, built of **Jacob Ferguson(6)**, **Jacob Petter(6)** (did not swim in this meet), **John Harris(8)** (did not swim in this meet), **Stephen Ashley(8)**, and **Carson Price(9)** earned second in the 100 yard Backstroke, 5th place in the 50 yard Freestyle, and sixth place in the 100 yard Backstroke. All the swimmers who competed beat their best times. Overall, Lone Oak's swim team earned second at the Murray Invitational.

The swim team preformed excellently at their final meet at The Paducah Athletic Club in the Paducah Tilghman Invitational Swim Meet on January 19<sup>th</sup> where they came in first. They competed against large teams like Marshall County, Graves County, and Heath. The team came in first in the 200 and 400 yard Medley Relay and the 400 yard Freestyle relay. They broke the school record for the 200 Medley Relay by 8 seconds. While to qualify for regionals, only requires competing in two meets, it takes placing 1st through 5th to

make it to state (at the University in Louisville on February 12 and 13.). "It's going to be exciting," says Mandy Jackson. Their performance at these last two meets will hopefully be a strong reflection of how they will do in Owensboro at regionals on February 5th and 6th.

## BOWL GAMES

**Kelsey Smith**  
News Editor

College bowl games are arguably the most confusing playoff system in American sports- collegiate or professional. Although number one always plays number two, three doesn't always play four, five doesn't always play six and from time to time, teams without losses do not receive spots in the most prestigious bowls (see: undefeated Tulane in '98 or 13-0 Boise State in 2006). And since the creation of the single, original East-West game, the total number of bowl games has grown to 34-that's a large amount of bad halftime shows to endure.

But as previously mentioned, collegiate football's postseason began with an East-West game in 1902. In the

20s, that game was renamed the Rose Bowl. Wanting to give teams in other regions an opportunity to participate in a postseason game, three additional bowls were introduced in the following decade: the Cotton, Orange, and Sugar Bowls. Conferences then began signing contracts to play in a specific bowl (today, this tradition still holds true). As the popularity of bowl games rose, more communities wanted to hold them.

Of the 34 bowl games that exist today, five are considered Bowl Championship Series games (the most prestigious): the Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, Orange Bowl, and the aptly titled, National Championship Game. The selection rules are as follows: the winners in BCS conferences (ACC, Big 12, Big East, Big Ten, Pac-10 and SEC) are guaranteed spots in a BCS bowl. The highest ranked champion of a conference outside of the six above can secure a spot in a BCS game if it is ranked in the top 12 or ranked in

the top 16 and higher than at least one of the BCS conference champions. The remaining spots are then chosen by individual bowl committees from any of the top 14 teams with at least nine wins. As for the other 29 bowls (non-BCS bowls), predetermined conferences compete in each bowl, but bowl sponsors decide which teams from those conferences play. As long as a team has six wins and a winning record, it is considered bowl-eligible.

The benefits of a bowl system: teams that play in the bowls, along with teams in their conference that *don't* play, receive payouts. The program also receives visibility, which can increase recruits while giving current players extra weeks of practice. The cities hosting the games gain revenue and exposure as well.

Those who support the bowl system or a more traditional playoff system recognize these benefits, but whether the system is fair is still debatable.

## Fightin' Lady Flash

**Kylie Tillett**  
Sports Editor

The Lady Flash got off to an "unstoppable" start, but lately has "struggled with the competition," says **Natalie Tavernaro (11)**. Earlier in the season, the girls beat Reidland and Hickman, both respectable teams. Although it has been tough to win lately, the girls have not lost confidence. The girls basketball team this year consists of two seniors, four juniors, and the rest are fairly young. **Macey Evans** and **Mary Riley** provide senior leadership for the young team. As of now, the ladies have a record of 4-9. They are looking forward to the upcoming games and think they have a shot at the District Finals. Up next, they are taking on the Graves County Eagles and Fulton County Pilots. In the words of junior **Chelsea Brantley**, "If we work together, we can accomplish anything."

## Prime Time To Peak

**Cody Waggoner**  
Sports Editor

This year's basketball season is well underway and the team has had its share of ups and downs. The boys' basketball team didn't have all of its players to begin the season because of the success of the football team. While the team has shown moments of success, like winning tournament games against teams such as Louisville Valley High School, they have also had many disappointments leading to a 4-13 record. Senior forward, **Ray Guthrie**, spoke on their struggles saying, "Missing **Clayton Isenberg (12)** to injury was difficult. He was our main ball handler and a senior leader, but other players on the team have started to step up and learn their roles."

Although the win-loss record isn't what they would like it to be, the team has benefitted from the difficulties. The teams' struggles have led to more chances for improvement; improvements that **Coach Poore** thinks seem evident, "We are just now starting to play close to our best basketball. Every week they continue to get better and as long as we peak at the end of the year, there is no limit to what we can accomplish in the post season."

The team attitude on this season is reflected in Ray Guthrie's statement, "It's not how you start, it's how you finish."

## Olympic Aspirations

**Charis Gurrola**  
Entertainment Editor

Comedian Kathleen Madigan once said, "I always think of Canada as our attic: you forget it's up there, and then you get up there, you're like, 'Wow, look at all this crap.'" When it comes down to it, all Canada has going for it is a nifty accent, maple leaves, and mounted police. But from February 12<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>, Canada will have something not even President Obama can get a hold of: the Olympics. From Algeria to Uzbekistan, countries will be competing in Vancouver, Canada in the 2010 Winter Olympics. In 2006's Torino Games, the United States came home with 25 medals; our best Winter Olympics away from home ever. This year holds just as much promise.

Several Olympic veterans are expected to be strong contenders. Skier Lindsey Vonn is expected to excel in her five events. While she crashed during the Torino Games, she is the leading down-hill and super-G champion. Although South Korea is expected to place gold in short distance speed skating, Apollo Ohno will be returning for his third consecutive Olympics and has already won five medals. American Favorite, Shaun "The Flying Tomato" White is expected to please American fans also.

First year Olympian J.R. Celski won 4 medals at the 2009 Worlds in Vienna. He is expected to turn Ohno's one man show into a two man show. As for long distance speed skating, newcomer Trevor Marsicano also won four medals at the 2009 Worlds and is expected to do just as well at the Olympics. Hopefully, new faces will become just as popular and promising as past veterans of the Olympics.

While our athletes represent America in the 2 degree weather of Vancouver, Canada, make sure to wrap up in a comforter in front of the TV and cheer for the USA.

## HARRISON SIGNS

**Ruth Wooten**  
Business Manager

On Thursday, January 14, **Drew Harrison (12)** signed with Mid-Continent University. Robinson has been a part of the Lone Oak High School baseball program all four years of his high school career, playing on the varsity team. Mid-Continent's head baseball coach **Shawn Yarbrough** said, "We are excited to have Drew with us." Yarbrough added, "He is one of several guys who we are very excited to sign on." Yarbrough described Harrison as a "good offensive player to build onto the program." Robinson already had experience with MCU's baseball program. "I played with them over the summer," says the senior. He feels that MCU has "a good team atmosphere and team chemistry."



## NFL PLAYOFFS

**Cody Waggoner**  
Sports Editor

This year's NFL playoffs have brought together perennial Super Bowl contenders, the Colts and Patriots, along with the usual underachievers, Chargers and Cowboys, mixed in with the usual losers, Saints and Bengals. The wild card round kicked off with a win for the New York Jets in which they capitalized on the turnovers of the Cincinnati Bengals. Later that night, the Cowboys won the battle on the ground leading to a 34-14 route of the Philadelphia Eagles in which the Eagles leading rusher only had 24 yards. The next day Baltimore dominated the Patriots, 33-14, in a game where the tone was set early by Ray Rice running 83 yards for a touchdown, the second longest in NFL postseason history. The last game of the wild card round brought one of the most exciting games of the playoffs so far. In this game between the Arizona Cardinals and the Green Bay Packers, the Cardinals jumped out to a comfortable lead, but cornerback Charles Woodson stripped the ball turning the momentum of the game at a critical moment. After the

Cardinal turnover, the Packers battled back to tie it up before the end of regulation. The Packers won the coin toss and things looked bleak for Arizona as they had not been able to stop the Packers offense since early in the game, but the Cardinals defense was able to sack Aaron Rodgers, causing a fumble. The fumble was picked up by Cardinal linebacker Karlos Dansby who returned it for the game winning touchdown.

The next round of playoffs involved the Indianapolis Colts manhandling the turnover plagued Baltimore Ravens. The Ravens only managed to get a field goal making the final score 20-3. The other game in the AFC was a match up between the high rolling San Diego Chargers and the hard-nosed, running-game charged New York Jets. This ended with only a field goal separating the two team with the Jets coming out on top, 17-14. In the NFC, the top seeds dominated the competition with both the Vikings and the Saints winning handily. The New Orleans Saints defeated the Arizona Cardinals 45-14 and the Minnesota Vikings massacred the Dallas Cowboys 34-3.

The rest of the playoff picture involves the New York Jets playing the Indianapolis Colts in a match up that the Colts are favored to win. There should be no ruling the

Jets out as Super Bowl contenders though as they have a strong running game and the Colts and Saints have the worst run defense of teams in the Playoffs. Unfortunately for the Jets, if a Super Bowl match up involves Minnesota they will have a tougher time, as Minnesota has the second best run defense this season in the league.

Minnesota also has a chance to beat the high flying Saints offense and make their own run to the Super Bowl on their run game. The Vikings have one of the most exciting backs in the league in Adrian Peterson and the Saints struggle on stopping the run. The Saints and the Vikings quarterbacks also ranked one and two in passer rating this season which brings promise for an exciting game. The Colts and Saints both have Super Bowl aspirations and great chances at achieving their goals. Both the Saints and the Colts had a run at perfection this year, both are lead by superstar, accurate quarterbacks who have plenty of experience.

All the teams left have a legitimate shot at being World Champions this year. The Super Bowl promises to be thrilling and exciting regardless of the actual match-up and should be more of a contest than any game in recent memory. Expect lots of points and lots of big plays as the season comes to an end with a big finish.



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