

Inside the Oak "K":

Burqa Bill Pg. 2



Super Bowl Sexism Pg. 3



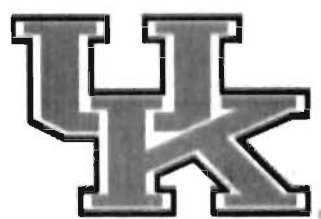
Jonas Brothers Break Up Pg. 4



Mystery Stars! Pg. 6:



Fall From #1 Pg. 7



GSP Hopefuls

Ruth Wooten
Business Manager

This month 18 students were chosen from McCracken County to move on to the state level of consideration for the Governor's Scholars Program. Nine of these students were from Lone Oak High School. **Sanjana Pampati (11), Jordan Potter(11), Kendra Sanders(11), Matthew Dolan(11), Nolan Brelsford(11), Chasity McIntyre(11), Ruth Wooten(11), Nicholas Dean(11), and Mason English(11)** were the LOHS students chosen by the District Selection Committee.

You may ask: What is the Governor's Scholars Program, or GSP? The Governor's Scholars Program is a summer residential program for outstanding high school students in Kentucky who are rising seniors. Students who are selected, attend the program free of charge at one of three college campuses around the state. The Program's mission is to enhance Kentucky's next generation of civic and economic leaders. The first class numbered 230 and was housed on one college campus. Since then, the Program has enjoyed excellent support and grown to over 1,000 students on three campuses.

Each of these students went through a very extensive application process that entailed recommendation letters, an essay, and additional writing portions. These students were excited to get the news that they had made it past the district selection committee earlier this month. Now they must wait until April to hear final news on if they were accepted to the program. The scholars will be assigned to one of three campuses, Murray State University, Bellarmine University, and Centre College. Last year, Lone Oak High School was represented by five scholars and we expect to be represented just as well this summer.

Color Craze

Kylie Tillett
Sports Editor

New school, new mascot, and now NEW colors. All these important decisions are controversial. First, a decision had to be made about whether a new consolidated school should even exist. While some individuals are celebrating, others are mourning. Once the new school had been decided on, the questions "What will be our new mascot?" and "What colors will we be wearing?" arose. The final three choices for the new mascot were the cougar, mustang, and panther. In a close race, mustang won the hearts of stakeholders in our district.

In the lives of students, the school colors are important. The dominate colors in the closet are the school's colors. The colors represent the school when it comes to sports, clubs, and other school activities. Cheerleaders build chants around the colors. So when it came to the new school, the colors were crucial. Voting boxes with ballots were distributed throughout the district - in schools, banks, offices, and shops. A trip to Supervalu meant a chance to vote on the future colors for McCracken County High School. The final four choices were crimson, black, and white; navy, scarlett, and silver; seahawk blue, navy, and bright green; and navy and vegas gold.

As of the final vote at a board meeting on February 17, the official colors are crimson, black, and white. These colors will serve the new McCracken County High School and its supporters well!

Honor Roll:

3.5-4.0

8th:

Asbury, Katie
Bell, Andrew
Bender, David
Blackburn, Baylee
Boyd, Haley
Buell, Curtis
Burton, Katherine
Byassee, Sarah
Calhoun, Justin
Carper, Lexie
Cash, Gunner
Collier, Derek
Cox, Nicholas
Cursey, Chase
Davis, Audra
Dennison-Jordan, Ryanne
Doan, Eileen
Dollins, Abigail
Drake, Austin
Durbin, Alyssa
Edwards, Erika
Elias, Nicholas
Englert, Lucas
English, Seth
Farmer, Ashton
Franklin, Cogle
Gass, Dylan
Gordon, Emily
Hannan, Emily
Hawkins, Jeremy
Headrick, Jacqueline
Heath, Ashleigh
Johnson, Shelby
Jones, Alexander
Jones, Arelle
Jones, Mckenzi
Joelyn, Keegan
Kollenberg, Theodore
Kreuter, Sarah
Lance, Mckenzie
Latham, Ashley
Lawson, Jessica
Lawson, Samantha
Looney, Lauren
Lundberg, Joshua
Marshall, Collin
Mason, Linda
McIntyre, Erin
McKendree, Nathaniel
Murphy, Sean
Murt, Ryan
Nettles, Aubree
Parker, Kalen
Paxton, Joseph
Pfeifer, Jordyn
Pfeiffer, Brian
Prescott, Lauren
Price, Carson
Riley, Tanner
Roberts, Jennifer
Roethemeyer, Zachary
Rogers, Lacey
Rudolph, Caitlin
Rust, Erica
Scheer, Kayla
Schmitt, Andrew
Schnuck, Anna
Seitzinger, Jonathan
Shelton, Alexis
Sikes, Victoria
Snelling, Kaitlyn
Sohl, Anna
Sorensen, Amy
Summerlin, Jenna

Swadley, Christina
Tillotson, Nathan
Tippin, Stacey
Turnbow, Brittany
Upshaw, Mary
Wheat, Ezekiel
Whitaker, Eric
Willey, Kaila
Wilkinson, Sarah
Williams, Emily
Williams, Veronica
Windhorst, Lydia
Wooten, Steven

10th:

Aitken, Caitlyn
Anderson, Nicolas
Aspery, Whitney
Bell, Jamie
Bullmer, Christianna
Byrd, Cameron
Caronongan, Brenden
Carrell, Jessica
Caturano, Nicole
Clapp, Michal
Clarke, Justin
Coleman, Jackson
Collins, Kelsey
Colon Felix
Edem, Rashmitha
Englert, Rachel
English, Connor
Estes, Derek
Farthing, Dean
Floyd, Kristen
Followell, Emily
Fountain, Emily
Fountain, Rebecca
Graves, William
Grewelle, Richard
Hagan, Aaron
Hamlin, Sylvia
Hendon, Laken
Holland, Sydney
Jacoba, Mitchell
Jones, Austin
Kaier, Allison
Kaltenbach, Robert
King, Natalie
King, Tiffany
Loredo, Vanessa
McNail, Robert
Miller, Maria
More, Cydney
Morris, Kelsey
Myers, John
Olberding, Andrew
Osborne, Brittany
Pierce, Kent
Randolph, Kayiynn
Reinhardt, Victoria
Seelzi, John
Schaefer, Shelby
Seilheimer, Micah
Senn, Savannah
Sohl, Caroline
Spalding, Sydney
Spears, Hailee
Throgmorton, Parker
Tucker, Kelsey
Walker, Nicole
Wallace, Tyler
Warren, Shelby
Williams, Caroline
Willis, Brandi
Wines, Alec

11th:

Alexander, Maegan
Bagby, James
Bechtold, Ashlyn
Bennett, Ryan

Bowman, Shannon
Boyarski, Zachary
Brantley, Chelsea
Brelsford, Nolan
Brinly, Micheal
Ciallella, Ashley
Clark, Brittany
Clark, Neal
Clayton, Dylan
Coorts, Jack
Dennison-Jordan, Taylor
Derezza, Christina
Dolan, Matthew
Dollins, Nathan
Durrett, Dakota
English, Mason
Ezell, Stacy
Grace, Leah
Housman, Rebecca
Jones, Analiese
Jones, Keziah
Kaufman, Katelyn
Lawson, Jacob
Ligon, Madison
Longworth, Cody
Matsapola, Mmuso
McIntyre, Chasity
Miller, Kathryn
Myers, William
Nail, Gavin
Neihoff, Alex
Overby, Kassandra
Palmer, Kaylie
Pampati, Sanjana
Parker, Madeline
Pfeiffer, Jack
Ponting, Jacqueline
Pope, Cullen
Potter, Jordan
Price, Spenser
Reineking, Amy
Rich, Amber
Sanders, Kendra
Sawyer, Lydia
Scourick, Gary
Shaver, Ashely
Sloan, Rachel
Smith, Callie
Smith, Macey
Smithson, Zane
Stricklin, Andrew
Tavernaro, Natalie
Tillet, Kylie
Wilcox, Elizabeth
Wooten, Ruth
York, Kyla
York, Shelby

12th:

Adams, Bethany
Anderson, Wendy
Aponie, Jaysa
Arreaza, Roberto
Atkins, Nathan
Baird, Devon
Baillard, Mary
Bender, Zachary
Bennett, Ashlee
Beyer, Carson
Blackburn, Leigh
Boone, Chelsea
Bresford, Natalie
Brickeen, Ilyssa
Champion, Kelsey
Clayton, Katherine
Compton, Clairissa
Croft, Andrew
Dapp, Lee
Davis, Alyssa
Davis, Candace

Edwards, Michael
Escamilla, Michelle
Estes, Chynna
Finley, Shelby
Fondaw, Alexa
Forsythe, Kayla
Fouse, Kyle
Freeman, Ryan
Green, Molly
Greene, Kelsey
Gurrola, Charis
Gurrola, Ellexis
Guthrie, Ray
Haase, Brian
Hagan, Katherine
Hall, William
Harbin, Cody
Harris, Ashley
Harrison, Wesley
Helton, Seth
Hendon, Lauren
Hill, Cecilia
Hopper, Houston
Isenberg, Clayton
Jackson, Amanda
Jarrett, Olivia
Jarvis, Timothy
Jewell, Zachary
Jones, Jamie
Jones, Randa
Kames, Jacob
Kaufman, Kaitlyn
Lambert, Alex
Langston, Amber
Looper, Cameron
Lundberg, Cameron
Mason, Jacob
Masse, Taylor
Mathis, Erica
Mayfield, Joshua
McGinness, Ashley
McKinney, Jonathan
Miller, Stephen
Parker, Larry
Pierce, Patricia
Porter, Jacob
Price, Jordan
Riley, Mary
Roach, Alyssa
Roberts, Nicholas
Rodabaugh, Mark
Rolens, Nicholas
Senn, Sierra
Shuemaker, Audrey
Sikes, Allain
Sikes, Coty
Simmons, Shanden
Smith, Kelsey
Speer, Lyndsey
Starks, Matthew
Stricklin, Allison
Thompson, Jami
Wadlington, Christopher
Waggoner, Cody
Wallace, Olivia
Walter, Rebecca
Warren, Alyssa
Weber, McKinley
Yates, Katie

3.0-3.5

9th:

Blair, Haley
Brickeen, Jantzen
Brown, Cody
Carrioo, Daniel
Chambers, Sydney
Clark, David
Dalton, Cody

Draffen, Cody
Ellermann, Alex
Farthing, Miranda
Feldner, Nolan
Gayles, Tatianna
Gonzalez, Carlos
Goode, Samuel
Green, Tallon
Grief, Brooke
Huber, Brennan
Jameson, Charles
Jett, Brady
Kester, Shelby
Kramer, Paige
Luter, Josh
McKinney, Zachary
McNabb, Forrest
Miller, Abigail
Mills, Victoria
Mitchell, Brent
Montgomery, Bret
Murray, Michael
Neihoff, Austin
Odonley, Preston
Perry, Zachary
Reed, Joshua
Rouse, Alexis
Simmons, Andrew
Sims, Emma
Smith, Jason
Tracy, Clayton
Vandenbrook, Kortney
Vaughn, Victoria
Wilson, Victoria
Wright, Bryce

10th:

Adams, Corey
Anderson, Austin
Barrow, Christopher
Bechtold, Cody
Bell, Daniel
Box, Dakota
Boyd, Joshalyn
Cain, Clayton
Carter, Regan
Chestnut, Matthew
Clark, Morgan
Comwell, Alexa
Cranor, Hayes
Crowell, Alyssa
Eddings, Noah
Eggemeyer, Alexis
Farrar, James
Ferrell, Amanda
Isenberg, Carson
Jones, Kayla
Jones, Kyle
Kiser, Adam
Knight, Aymee
Knight, Jaquisia
Lawrence, James
Lin, Shan
McAfee, James
McKendree, Brittany
McManus, Linsey
Meadows, Kayla
Milam, Jarron
Milles, Collin
Murray, Meagan
Orr, James
Sharma, Parjat
Skuchko, Nicholas
Static, Tyler
Sparks, Caroline
Swenney, Nickolis
Thomas, Andrew
Traugher, Erin
Wilson, Dana
Wring, Chelsea
Yopp, Nicholas

11th:

Bickerstaff, Blake
Blake, Donald
Botts, Bradley
Brantner, Zelanda
Burton, Emily
Byrd, Dylan
Canestrini, Dean
Caturano, Anthony
Culp, Kristen
Davidson, Korina
Dennison-Jordan, Tyler
Downs, Jessica
Fitch, Sean
Harris, Ashleigh
Hicks, Dalton
Hoff, Reece
Kaufman, Haley
Lester, Elizabeth
Ludovissie, Alexis
Marshall, Robert
Martin, Christopher
Martin, Danielle
McKinney, Austin
Mickiff, Audrey
Moore, Taylor
Parker, Jeffrey
Puckett, Aaron
Rodgers, Drew
Rorer, Madelyn
Tracy, Clayton
Vandenbrook, Kortney
Vaughn, Victoria
Wilson, Victoria
Wright, Bryce

12th:

Asbury, Amanda
Ballard, Kaci
Bowman, Barbara
Brookshire, Jake
Cavanaugh, Cody
Clark, Austin
Clark, Joseph
Comwell, Elizabeth
Draffen, Burt
England, Katie
Evans, Macey
Flynn, Chelsea
Goodmon, Whyntie
Hill, Michelle
HoganCamp, Jordan
Holler, Nicolas
Jackson, Nicole
Jones, Brittany
Kauffmann, Kyle
Kemper, Tyler
Klutts, Elizabeth
Kollenberg, Johnny
Loe, Brooke
Ludovessie, Jordan
May, Audrey
Pierce, Nathan
Ramey, Katelyn
Scott, Preston
Shortridge, Paris
Sin, Megan
Skuchko, Justin
Stones, Lauren
Sutton, Betty
Tilley, Rachel
Tran, Khanh
Traugher, Aubrey
Vowell, Nathaniel
Watson, Garrett
Welch, Shaniqua
Wiggins, Jacob
Witt, Cody

Kelsey's Kvetch

Kelsey Smith
News Editor

The product most consistently advertised during Super Bowl commercials is sexism. Not beer, not electronics but sexism. On behalf of Motorola, we see Megan Fox in the bathtub, contemplating "What would happen if..." she took pictures of herself and sent them out via text message. godaddy.com features women ripping off one layer of clothing and promising to continue the story with "unrated" web content. Flo TV shows a couple at a lingerie store while a commentator proclaims, "His girlfriend has removed his spine" and E-Trade even has a female baby (because, you know, these are qualities men and women are *born* with) whining about her boyfriend (a male infant) not calling her. But what is overlooked concerning sexism is this: it affects men.

Maybe it doesn't show up in the paycheck (I'm happy to report men are *still* making a full dollar to every woman's 78 cents), but it occurs more frequently in a day-to-day thing called behavior. Sexism is why you are called a "faggot" for displaying any trace of "femininity"; sexism is why you are labeled "whipped" instead of "committed"; sexism might be why you watch basketball instead of ballet. Men are pigeonholed into filling certain roles just as women are, and not just in Super Bowl commercials, but in the majority of *all* commercials, *all* television shows and *all* movies. Do men like being portrayed as sex-crazed, insensitive, and immature aliens? Do men like when Lady Gaga reduces "American male culture" to "beer, bars, and muscle cars"?

These advertising firms perpetuate stereotypes instead of portraying men as who they really are- that is, individual human beings with individual personalities, feelings and interests. Generations of men have allowed these social constructs to define who they are, instead of defining themselves.

So men, when you see media that represents only one, outdated and ill-conceived type of "man," or one, outdated and ill-conceived type of "woman," be vocal. Refusing to allow asinine stereotypes of either gender to be a part of our society is every man's responsibility.

Lundberg Cays It On Ya

Rachel Lundberg
Editor-in-Chief

People, on the whole, are very opinionated. That's why newspapers have opinion columns, I suppose. People are opinionated, and they don't need help forming their opinions. So why do we have critics? In some cases, such as with art, critics are useful because they know more about the subject. However, regardless of how many they've seen or read, movie and book critics don't deserve any more authority than the ordinary analytical observer. Very few movies are such that the average person couldn't fully understand and be able to systematically categorize them.

If people want to know if a movie is good before they go see it, they can ask a friend or look up a casual review online; they don't need a critic's complete analysis. In fact, what does it matter to the average viewer or reader what the critics thought of the stylistic techniques or dialogue pacing? It will not likely change their opinion. To the general public, critics serve no purpose.

Critical acclaim is entirely different from popular acclaim. Popular acclaim brings in the money, but the other brings in the awards. That isn't to say that critics hold any power here, however. The Oscars will be given out according to the committee's own agenda, independent of either low or high critical opinion. Except for the very few who actually make the decisions, critics have no place in the distribution of commendations.

Critics, then, matter only to themselves. They consider their work to be a type of art in itself, and believe it to be both aesthetic and well-appreciated. They seem not to realize that they have sacrificed the potential usefulness of their writing in favor of their own catharsis and ego. For surely, the critic thinks, the reader must admire my apparent intelligence and discerning taste. This ego is what makes critics critical. To show disdain for a work implies that they feel themselves to be above it. To say that the execution of a certain piece was poor suggests that they themselves could do better. It has always been easier to critique than to do. Further, if a critic expresses enjoyment where another expresses derision, it appears that he is less evaluating and judicious than the second. Hence it is safer to dislike. The exception to this is when admiration sets a critic apart as one who can understand "true art," such as with Indie and other non-mainstream works. In this case, critics fall all over themselves to praise the book or movie or album in question, until everyone has done so and it is no longer fashionable.

Though critics do not fill a particular need of society, they do not cause much damage by themselves, and their articles can be entertaining reads. However, keep in mind that critics are no sort of authority on the subject. They often know no more than you or I, and readers should not allow critics' opinions to color their own.

Boos for Taboos

Seth Helton
Features Editor

Why are certain words banned (or censored) on TV? Why is it considered inappropriate for a gay couple to hold hands in a public place? What logic stands behind how offensive a raised middle finger is? There is an invisible social code sewn throughout American and international life. The code of social taboos varies from locale to locale, and the rules are hardly universal. I'll tackle two of the big taboos, picking them apart in an attempt to understand them.

Marriage has birthed numerous social taboos. The question of "who can marry whom" has proven difficult to answer for decades. The earliest marital problems in American history arose in Quakers in New England. Quakers were only permitted to marry within their own faith. Interfaith marriage is taboo in many cultures. Muslim men are to take Muslim brides, or convert them to Islam. The Bible commands believers not to "be yoked with non-believers" (2 Corinthians 6:14 NKJV). Marriages between sects or other faiths is considered unpleasant, dangerous to doctrine and is best avoided.

Fastforward to the ratification of the 13th Amendment and interracial unions are at the top of the taboo totem. It was deemed wrong and unacceptable for a black man to be attracted to a white woman. The taboo was especially prevalent in the South. Ironically, it was acceptable for a white man to be attracted to a black woman, just google Rick Santorum for a fine example of double standards. The disdain for interracial couples and the poorly hidden racism that fueled it frequently lead to violence. Emmet Till was a young black man who was brutally murdered by southern bigots for the "high crime" of whistling at a white woman. The death of Till was shocking, but illustrated the dangers taboos present, but more on that later.

The present-day issue revolves around gay marriage. It has been called out by its opponents as an "abomination." Gay marriage is contested to the point that the union of a same-sex couple is not recognized by most states. In days past, displays of affection in public (between a heterosexual couple) were considered unsightly and lewd. Nowadays a kiss on a park bench wouldn't even turn a head. Yet people break their necks when a homosexual couple dares to even hold hands in public. Why hold same-sex couples to a different standard? Is their love any less genuine than that of a heterosexual couple? Of course not, it is only taboo, and is frowned upon solely for that purpose.

Have you ever wondered why words such as s**t, p**s, and g**j are distasteful and censored? There are around 200,000 words in the English language according to Oxford, the people behind the Oxford Dictionary. However, it isn't even possible to count the number of words in the English lexicon due to slang, outdated words and words carried over from other languages such as the French "viola." Oxford can only predict the number of words based off entries printed in their dictionaries. Carlin's guess of 400,000 may be closer to the truth after all. So what makes these "dirty" words so offensive? Have any of us ever been given a reason other than being told they are "bad" and "dirty"? Is it the thought, intention, and context that make words "bad"? Well, let's pick this apart a little.

Let's start with thought. Is the thought behind "s**t" and "poop" really so different? Is one more severe or messy than the other? For the janitor's sake, let's hope not. Maybe the intent behind the word is what makes it bad? If this is true, why is "kill" not a bad word. "I'm gonna kill you" certainly carries a malicious tone, more malicious than most curse words (if "kill" were to be bleeped out though, it would certainly give a different impression of that phrase).

Intent is not even dependent on the words used. An angry intent doesn't need a specific set of words to convey anger; the hostility lies more in the tone of voice used.

The context is then the last suspect in the mystery of taboo words. This is the strongest case against certain words. Cussing like a sailor while giving your grandmother's eulogy is not proper or respectful (unless Granny was a trash-talking biker babe). Talking about how nasty those onions made you feel during the funeral is also improper and disrespectful (unless Granny was Shrek). With context, the words themselves are not the issue, just the circumstances in which they were used. The idea that an individual word is so bad that it shouldn't be said is just silly and attaches stigma needlessly to words that can't even fight back.

Taboos range between the dangerous, ostracizing whole groups of people, to the juvenile, like "dirty" words. There are definitely more layers of the taboo totem to be peeled back than I have hit upon here. Taboos victimize any ideas or people whom do not conform to what is perceived as the "norms" of society. They have left many casualties in their wake, from Emmet Till to censored art and song lyrics. The best fate for taboos is to eliminate them and the divides they cause. Taboos have often put people into an us-versus-them mentality, drawing lines between groups of people. We all know that the last thing we need on this planet is more division; taboos reinforce the idea that people can be intolerably different, and that is the true danger they represent.

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Features Editor Seth Helton	Advisor Stephanie Carter

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.

AND THE WINNER IS... Taylor Swift?

Kendra Sanders
Photographer

Since 1991, Dave Matthews Band has fused different genres of music to create the ultimate jam band. The talent of Dave Matthews Band is unbelievable. The band originally included five members (before LeRo's death in 2008), but utilizes approximately ten musicians while the band is on tour. The multi-instrumentalist, Tim Reynolds, and Grammy winner, Jeff Collins, are two musicians associated with Dave Matthews Band. Which brings me to the topic at hand... The Grammys.

I watched the entire Grammys impatiently waiting for Dave Matthews Band to perform and win Best Album of The Year. Well, they performed, but somehow didn't win Best Album. Taylor Swift did. If her five performance that night told you anything, it should have been that she did NOT deserve to win that award.

Taylor is hardly an original; tons of Taylor Swifts sing about the same needs and have the same needy country voice. There's nothing original or extraordinary about her. Sure, all of America felt bad for her after Kanye West embarrassed her, but that doesn't mean it's America's job to boost her self-esteem and make her feel better by handing her a Grammy that there's no way she deserved. Her simplistic lyrics and themes portray her for the mediocre and typical artist that she is.

Big Whiskey and the Groo Grux King was one of the most anticipated albums in decades and in no way did it disappoint. The amount of passion, emotion, and love can be felt as DMB's melodies play through your ears and straight to your soul. "I'm just speechless," explains Ian Harris (11) when asked about the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Album. "It just shows how America's music is based strictly on what's popular on the radio, which is Taylor Swift, not the quality of the music, which is Dave... it's ridiculous." I rest my case. Anyone who knows good music, anyone who listens to anything besides what's on the radio, anyone with any sense knows that Dave Matthews Band deserved to win Best Album at the 2010 Grammy Awards. Not Taylor Swift.

What Is It? Answer:

1. Sprinkler head in the hallway across from the cafeteria.
2. Light switch.
3. Coke machine.
4. Water fountain nozzle.

Mystery Stars Answers:

Arella Jones (9), Austin Jones (10), Jeran Swift (11), Alexa Fondaw (12)

The State of Our Union



Photo courtesy of whitehouse.gov

Kelsey Smith
News Editor

January 27th marked President Obama's first State of the Union address, and in the midst of recession, reform and raging war, it is perhaps the most important speech he's made while in office.

After an introduction recalling divisions and struggles that America has faced and overcome, Obama addressed the primary struggle American citizens face today: a tattered economy. The President stated that the economy has slowly begun to grow again and in order to maintain that growth, financial reform must be implemented. This financial reform will focus on creating jobs, helping small businesses and the middle class while reducing the federal deficit. The House has already passed a Jobs Bill (which the Senate is currently discussing) that will give tax breaks to employers hiring those who have been unemployed for over 60 days and will extend unemployment payments for those who are still without a job. Small businesses will also receive tax benefits when they hire or raise wages, along with having more opportunities to receive tax credit. For the middle class, Obama aims to improve home values while lowering mortgage rates and providing more financial information to help families make sound decisions. And as for the government's financial decisions, in 2011, government spending will be frozen for three years- National Security, Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare, however, will not be affected. In addition, the administration plans to cut all programs that have not been effective.

Obama's next topic (and one he emphasized throughout the address) was rebuilding America's infrastructure, citing clean energy and higher education at the most integral parts of this endeavor. A Comprehensive Energy and Climate Bill must be passed; research in clean coal and biofuel technologies must continue; and families who make their homes "greener" will earn larger rebates. Similarly, families who send their children to college for four years will receive a \$10,000 tax credit. Obama also plans to lower taxes on student loans, expand Pell Grants and introduce debt forgiveness to students after 20 years.

Now entering the seventh year of the war in Iraq and number nine in Afghanistan, troop withdrawal has been a particularly heated issue. But, in his speech, Obama set a date of withdrawal from both nations: Iraq, this August; Afghanistan, July 2011. Along with bringing the troops home from Iraq before the year's end, the President also announced his intention to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the measure that bans gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military. Other defense goals include tightening airport security (in lieu of the failed attack in December) and securing vulnerable nuclear materials around the world, while strengthening punishment for nations who choose to violate international arms agreements.

Obama ended by saying, "We don't quit. I don't quit." And although this speech clocked in at just under 70 minutes, it will take the rest of the President's term to see if he delivers.

Pulling Away the Veil



Photo courtesy of biogcdn.com

Seth Helton
Features Editor

A recent commission has been proposed that received little press but carries grand implications for the future of religious freedom. France has been struggling to restrict the wearing of burqas in public. Burqas are the face coverings worn by Islamic women when outside the home. They are worn to preserve a Muslim woman's modesty when she is in public. The president of France, Nicholas Sarkozy, said in June of last year that burqas were "not welcome" in the country. They have been barred from being worn in public schools since 2004, upholding the separation of church and state, but the new commission bars it from being worn in any public place in France. This is a violation of the freedom of religion that stands in all western nations, but can it be justified?

The argument against wearing burqas is that they are dehumanizing to the women forced to cover their faces. Post 9/11, Islam has become much less alien to the western world. As a result, more critical attention has been paid to its traditions and customs. Outside of the Islamic faith, burqas are seen as actively oppressing women, using religion as a way to retard the social progress being made in the field of equality between the sexes. Burqas are seen by the mostly liberal Europe as a step backward in leveling the playing field that has kept women from leading successful and fulfilling personal and professional lives.

The problem with restricting burqa use is that it violates the freedom of people to worship freely and follow whatever religion they choose. People do not like to give up the traditions and norms that are so closely tied to their religious identity. A public opinion poll in London showed that 75 percent of its residents support "the right of all persons to dress in accordance with their religious beliefs." There are fears that restrictions on religious displays in public could lead to invasive religious banning in the private lives of worshippers (if they are deemed inappropriate or dangerous to the state).

The French National Assembly appointed 32 lawmakers, the far-right and far-left represented equally, to examine for six months the repercussions a ban could cause and how best to deal with the problem. The questions before the lawmakers: "Where do we draw the line when religious practice is degrading or oppressive? And how?" On January 26th, the lawmakers reported that access to public services (including transportation) should be barred to those wearing burqas. It's hard to see what this could mean for civil liberties in the future; the French legislature is walking a fine line between limiting freedom of religion and strengthening the place of women in the world, and all we can hope is that this balancing act won't end in a tragic fall.

I.S.S. Completion



Photo courtesy of dailymail.co.uk

Jordan Price
Editor-in-Chief

This past week, according to nasa.gov, the space shuttle Endeavor took off on a 13 day mission from Cape Canaveral, Florida. While in the past, missions have been scheduled to launch before dawn. NASA has planned to launch future shuttles in the daytime hours. Endeavor which would have been the last pre-dawn launch was postponed due to low-lying clouds. The crew consisted of six members, including George Zamka, Terry Virts, Kathryn Hire, Stephen Robinson, Robert Behnken, and Nicholas Patrick. These brave souls awoke at 4:19 eastern time to their "theme song," "Also Sprach Zarathustra" by Richard Strauss. They chose this song for the Mission Specialist, Nicholas Patrick, who remembered the song from the film *2001: A Space Odyssey* made in 1968.

A focused inspection was said to be unnecessary before liftoff and when the Endeavor was safely in orbit, preparation for spacewalks and water recovery began. The crew of the space mission began transferring supplies such as spacewalking equipment from the middeck to the space station. Also, Bob Behnken and Nicholas Patrick participated in a procedure that requires them to spend the night in the Quest airlock. This purges nitrogen from the bloodstream, preventing decompression sickness after moving into the vacuum of space. This procedure took place the night before the first space walk and will take place the night before the next two space walks. The last space walk will take place the 16th of February.

However, the ride has not been a completely smooth one. Bob Behnken has already experienced problems with his suit after the power harness on his original suit failed. He has been sized with a spare suit by fellow crew members George Zamka (Shuttle Commander) and Soichi Noguchi (Station Flight Engineer).

A big goal of the crew is to re-equip the International Space Station with a new Distillation Assembly and Control Pump Assembly in the station's Water Recovery System (used to process urine into clean drinking water). This, and the spacewalk preparations filled up most of the first day that the shuttle was docked with the Space Station. The Endeavor also delivered the Tranquility module and cupola to the ISS. This module is a step towards completing the space system. It has a utility room, a gym, and a picture window. The cupola is a dome-shaped extension that is made up entirely of seven windows. The main purpose of the Tranquility dome is to be a home for the station's environmental control equipment that removes carbon dioxide from the air within the station as well as make a little room for the station's treadmill and weight machine, which is calibrated to take into account the microgravity of space.

If the weather permits and does not call for an abortion of the mission and emergency landing and abortion, the crew of the Endeavor will be home Saturday the 20th. And let's hope that the landing isn't delayed like the takeoff was so that these American heroes can return safely to their family and friends as soon as possible.




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Jonas Brothers: "Goodnight and Goodbye"?

Charis Gurrola
Entertainment Editor

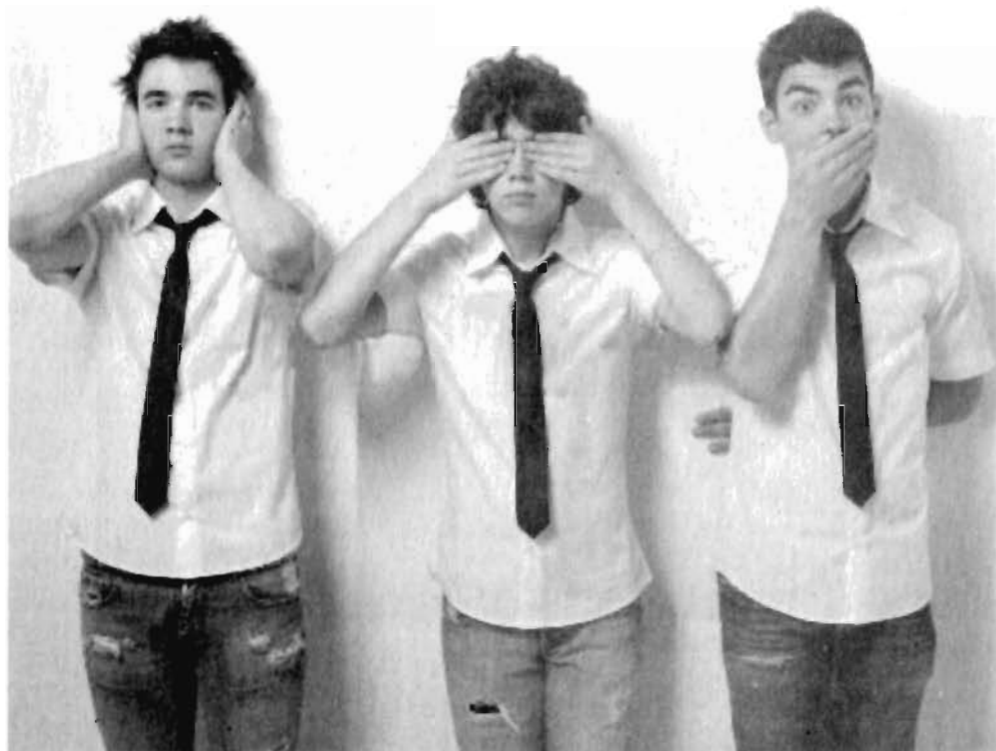


Photo Courtesy of yorkblog.com

Hearts were shattered and diaries were shredded when Kevin Jonas got married. Women wept and girls mourned that one of their darling Jonases had been taken off the market. Then, Nick Jonas started a new band, Nick Jonas & the Administration, and the world was completely thrown off its axis. Was this the end of the Jonas Brothers? Ladies and gentlemen of Lone Oak High School, put down your paper bags and crawl out from under your desks. Everything is A-OK.

The Jonas Brothers have released a comment on their Myspace page denying any possibilities of a breakup. Nick Jonas wrote that the Jonas Brothers "plan to make music together for as long as we (they) can," because "you can't break up brothers." Nick Jonas & the Administration, just like any other project any of the brothers might ever be involved in, is just a side project. Both Kevin and Joe Jonas are very proud of Nick and are happy that he will be able to share the songs "that were in his heart."

So, rumor dispelled. Throw away your tissue boxes or turn those sorrowful tears into tears of joy. The earth is still orbiting the sun correctly, and Jonas will stay strong.

Keeping It Emotional

Andrew Harlan
Entertainment Editor

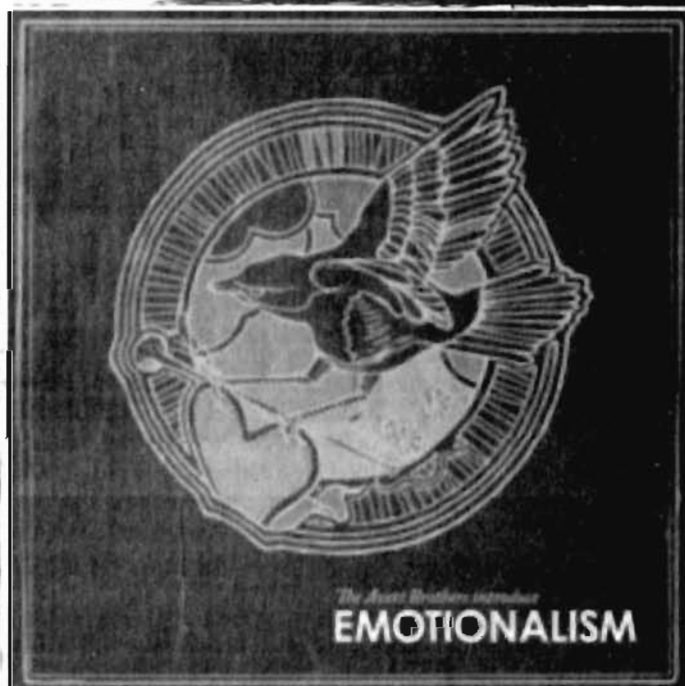


Photo Courtesy of p.dada.net

Together, a guitar, banjo, upright bass, cello, and piano create a sound that only the Avett Brothers can provide. From humble roots in the hills on North Carolina, the Avett Brothers began playing around ten years ago. The band is composed of the two brothers, Scott Avett, who plays banjo, and Seth Avett, who plays guitar and piano. Along with the brothers are Bob Crawford on upright bass and Joe Kwon on cello. The band has produced six studio albums in the ten years they have been together.

Emotionalism, the band's fifth studio album, was released in May of 2007. The album contains fourteen tracks, each with a sound of its own. The overall feel of this album is similar to other Avett Brothers albums, heartfelt, meaningful messages put in a variety of slow, somber songs and fast-paced ones. The general writing style of the band is to create a heavy feeling of either love or sadness, often mixing the two together.

In this album the Avett Brothers start out with the song "Die Die Die," a fast tempo to catch the listeners' attention. Following that comes a series of slower, more despondent tunes and then picking back up with upbeat, less sensitive ones. *Emotionalism* takes a musical and poetic journey that is very heavy and can be heard while listening to it. With many so-called "sad love songs," it is an album that is about just that - love. Covering ideas from loneliness and acceptance to spontaneity and freedom it is all based around emotions.

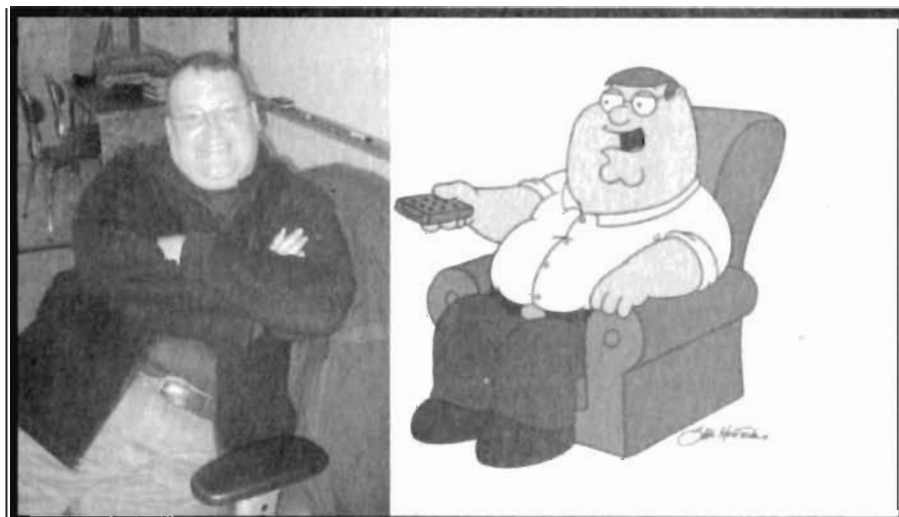
The Avett Brothers use a hardline folk sound with a bluegrass backing. It makes an Indi folk sound that is very original. They have made this sound trademark and have become successful with it. The Avett brothers can be found somewhere between lines of genre and they seem happy to keep it that way.

Separated At Birth



Mr. Neel

The Hulk

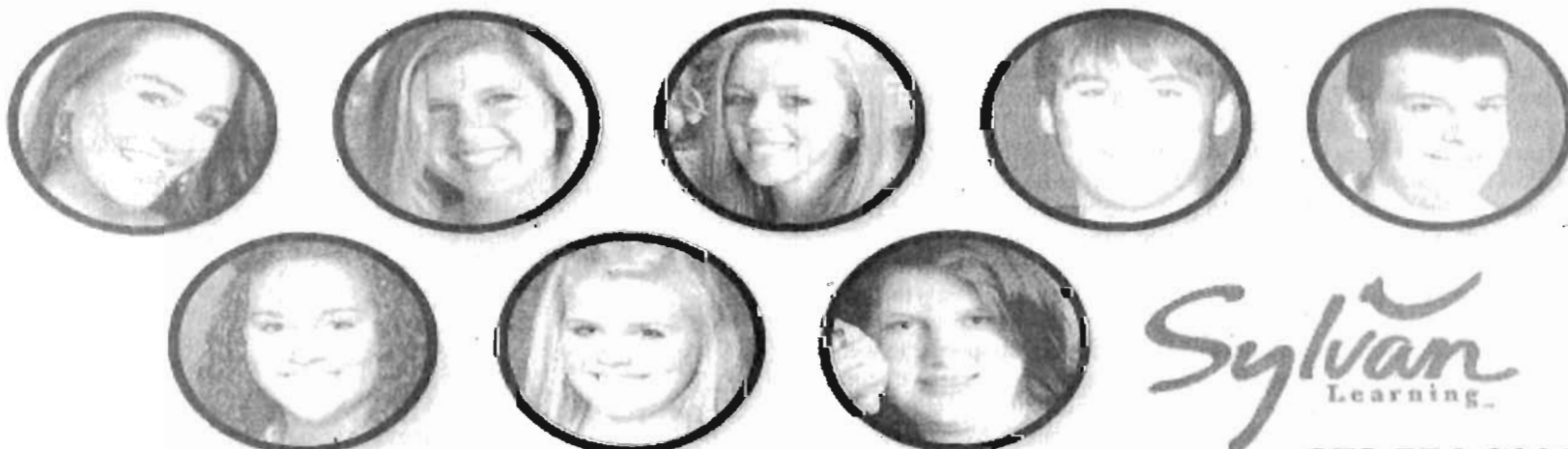


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Dear John . . .

Rachel Sloan
Assistant Business Manager

Having just finishing the book *Dear John*, I was looking forward to seeing the movie adaptation. I have always been one to go into movies with an open mind, no matter what was added to or cut from the original story. I will admit that in this book/movie pair, there were more than just a handful of changes in the characters, details, and even the ending, but I tried to base my opinion on more than just those things.

Dear John is a romantic film based on a book by Nicholas Sparks about a young couple, John and Savannah, who fall quickly in love and struggle to stay together after John leaves for the Army. The couple meet when John is on leave for two weeks and visiting his quiet, awkward father in North Carolina. After falling in love, the idea of John



Image courtesy of www.whynotcoconut.com

leaving seems like nothing to worry about, but they find that the letters and phone calls may not always be enough.

Amanda Seyfried is an actress I admire. I was excited to see her playing Savannah, a kind, quiet girl who spends her free time doing community service, since I knew it would be very different than her role as a dumb blonde in *Mean Girls*. I wasn't sure what to expect from actor Channing Tatum starring as John, but I knew that he fit the part physically--tall, muscular, and intimidating. I was very impressed with both performances, and

surprised to see how well Seyfried portrayed the different emotions Savannah felt throughout the movie, from the joy she felt after her innocent meeting with John on the beach to the severe sadness she felt when John was gone for months at a time. Tatum did an job making John originally appear tough and showing how John becomes more emotional and how much he changes from his experiences with Savannah as the movie progresses. I couldn't have picked an actor better than Richard Jenkins to play John's strange father. While he appears to be a minor character in the beginning, he turns out to be an very important character not only in John's life, but in Savannah's.

One of the reasons I was so impressed with this movie was because it brought out strong emotions--mostly tears--from everybody in the theater. Any film that can get so many viewers so emotionally involved in the story deserves some credit. The story line (disregarding the changes from the book) and acting were all powerful and worth remembering. All in all, I would give *Dear John* a high rating, and I would recommend it to anyone--even the boys that think they're too manly to watch a romantic movie.

Raving Review

Charis Gurrola
Entertainment Editor

When I first moved to Paducah, Kentucky, I was told that there were four things to do here: eat, go to the mall, go to the movies, and throw rocks in the river.

Now teens between the ages of 14 and 18 can add a fifth item to that list: The Remix Teen Nightclub. Located on the South-side next to the bingo hall,

The Remix is a casual-wear club that can only be described as classic. The main room is a wide area with two pool tables in one corner. Current pop and hip-hop blasts and epileptic lights dance just as much as the teens in the room. If you aren't feeling the dance floor, there's a neon glowing arcade. The club features junkfood and soda. It reminded me of 1990's television shows where all the kids hang out at "the" place.

As I walked into the nightclub I experienced deja vu. I was reminded of our school's basketball homecoming dance and it wasn't just because the owners of The Remix are the same people who deejayed our dance. Just like homecoming, no one was dancing. Everyone was standing around, a little unsure of themselves, as if saying, "Well, we have a place to

hang out... now what?" Happily, like our school dances, this was only the mood at the very beginning of the night. Eventually a group of girls decided to jump up on the unused stage and start dancing and almost instantly everyone else started dancing to Lady Gaga.

It is noticeable at The Remix that safety is a top priority. Right outside the building is a list of what is not tolerated--alcohol, weapons, smoking indoors, etc. Before you can truly enter the establishment, you are searched for anything dangerous. The dance floor is constantly being circled by adults making sure everything is okay. Any parent would approve of The Remix as a place for their son or daughter to hang out with a group of friends.

Before I went to The Remix, several people shrugged off the idea of going, saying things like, "It's just a giant room." Well, I hate to break it to you, but that's pretty much what a nightclub is: it's an open space where people can hang out and dance. I

went with two of my good friends and spent the entire night cracking up about who in the crowd may or may not be a vampire. I don't think you are meant to go there and expect them to serve you a great experience. They provide you the music, the nifty lighting and the fog machine, but it's the people you go with and the fun you choose to make that will make it a great experience.

The Remix is open from 8:00pm-1:00am on weekends. There is a five dollar entrance fee. The Remix can be found on Twitter, Facebook, and Myspace.



Photo taken by Elizabeth Conkwright

Mass Affection

Ryan Steele
Staff Writer

"Fight for the Lost" is the slogan attached to Bioware's new sci-fi epic, *Mass Effect 2*. When fans last saw the series' hero, Commander Shepherd, the universe had just been saved from the ancient threat of the "Reapers," an inorganic species bent on continuing the extinction cycle of all great civilizations.

Enter the latest version in which players will be pleased to find that if they kept their save file from the first *Mass Effect*, they will have the option of importing their character to the new story. In the sequel, Shepherd is once again faced with the task of defending not only humanity, but all species from total annihilation. Literally brought back from the dead, (I'll leave it to you to see how), Shepherd is contacted by the mysterious leader of an organization who boasts that they have humanity's best interests at heart. To save the world, Shepherd must assemble a team of the highest trained assassins, mercenaries, and scientists. Those familiar with

the original *Mass Effect* will be saddened to know that not all of your original team is in the running, although highly interesting characters packing their own story quickly take the place of old favorites and the old crew will make cameo appearances throughout the game.

Once assembled Shepherd must gain the loyalty of his crew, which is optional but highly recommended because they go to extreme lengths to return any favors done on their behalf. Once you've decided whether or not it's worth risking your life to gain the trust of your team, there lies only one more thing. Shepherd must undertake a mission that can only be described as a suicide mission, marching straight to the enemy and wiping them out. Unlike most games out today, *Mass Effect 2* never lets you leave it to the game because every single decision you make will change the outcome. From start to finish, *Mass Effect 2* is filled with breathtaking graphics that rival anything on the market, not to mention having rights to the best story ever seen in a video game. Filled with intense action, arousing intrigue, and difficult decisions, *Mass Effect 2* is hands down the game to have of the early 2010 season and probably the entire year. Oh, and a word of advice, make the wrong decision and Shepherd will die. So be careful out there.



Image courtesy of www.GAME.co.uk

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RAD RACHEL

Charis Gurrola
Entertainment Editor

It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's February's Junior Rotarian, **Rachel Lundberg!** She's witty (bordering on genius), whimsical, and a credit to her species and school.

Lone Oak knows Lundberg for her academic achievements. She recently represented LOHS in the Governor's Cup and placed third in language arts. She is in the running for Valedictorian. In class, she's always ready with a pithy interjection. As her AP Literature teacher **Adam Pitman** says, "Rachel always brings insight and random pop-culture references to any classroom or project."

Lundberg isn't only recognized for her academics. She has been on Lone Oak's tennis team since her freshmen year. She's ranked third on the varsity team. Her hard work and determination have her poised to compete at state this year. That same effort and drive virtually guarantees Rachel will survive any zombie apocalypse. She's a force to be reckoned with, physically and mentally.

The Senior body voted her "Most Likely to Change the World" but did you know that her dream in life is to have the most impressive action figure collection on the planet? She has collected action figures from Marvel and DC comics, the figures that come in Happy Meals, and the occasional anime character. If she is going to change the world, it may be by using plastic men.

Lundberg has been accepted to Vanderbilt University and plans on studying Chemistry and English, although her dream job is being a secret-agent race-car driver like her idol, Racer X. "I'm going to need both those things if I'm going to be a secret-agent race-car driver. . . It's part of the 'create your own major thing,'" says Lundberg. Lundberg's imagination blends with her reality making her one of the most beloved representatives of Lone Oak High School.



MYSTERY STARS

Sanjana Pampati
Asst. Editor






This senior's favorite dessert is peanut butter and cool whip. You can find her watching *Spongebob Squarepants*, singing Jason Mraz songs, and working at Parker's. She was named after Billy Joel's daughter.

This junior recently got a major haircut for a new look--a non-ponytail look. He's a talented artist and even draws some of the comics for our newspaper. If you haven't figured it out yet, two words: Duran Duran.

This red-headed sophomore loves to play the guitar and writes his own music. He is often referred to as just "AJ." He's favorite band is Oasis. He isn't a fan of *Twilight* or the Jonas Brothers. He enjoys eating fast food and watching *The Office* whenever he can.

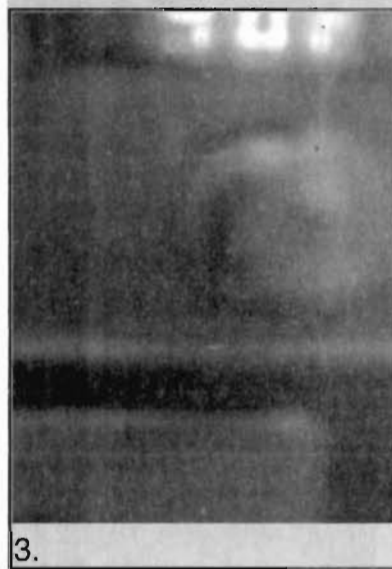
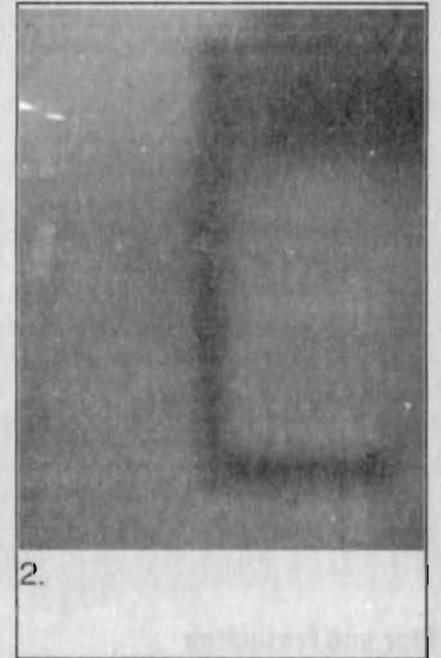
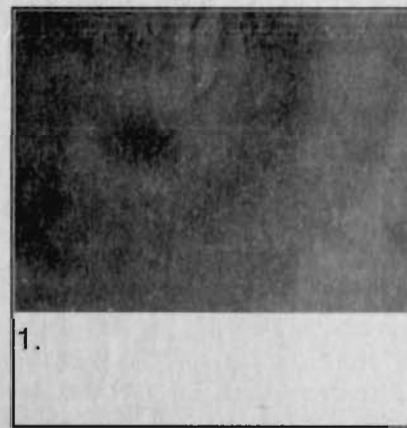
This freshmen is described by her sister as a "saxophone playing, iPhone loving, crazy, fun, freshman." She's a fan of sappy romance films, especially *The Notebook*. She has an unnatural hatred for people who chew with their mouths open. Her favorite band is Maroon 5.

For the answers look on page 2!

People in the Halls	What's your favorite thing to give/receive on Valentine's Day?	If you could paint trees any color, what would it be and why?	How would you feel if tacos were illegal?	What do you think Mr. Jarvis would look like without a goatee?
 Shelby Kester (9)	Lots of chocolate :)	Teal, because there is never anything negative that comes from the color teal.	I would go into major depression mode and probably struggle with happiness for the rest of my life.	Big time stud. Maybe a mix between like heaven and Orlando Bloom.
 Craig Green (10)	Chocolate	White, and I don't why.	I would be sad because they taste really good.	I don't really know what he looks like, so I don't really know.
 Jackie Ponting (11)	Lotssssss of chocolate. LOTS. Lots and lots and lots...of chocolate.	Uhm, I would paint them...who made these questions?	I would be depressed. Extremely depressed. Taco Bell is me fave.	Like Reed! His little boy :)
 Carson Beyer (12)	Haiti Roses.	Magenta, because of Barney.	I would confront Christian Valdez.	Naked.
 Mr. Jarvis	Uhm...candy.	Camo, so you couldn't see them. It would be awesome.	I would start a march on Washington..	I would look like the definition of weird.

What is it?

(answers on page 2)



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Just Keep Swimming

Jordan Price
Editor-in-Chief

The Lone Oak High School Swim Team was a force to be reckoned with at the Regional Competition in Owensboro the weekend of February fifth and sixth. Team members **Mandy Jackson** (12), **Ashleigh Harris** (11), **Sydney Spalding** (10), **Eileen Doan** (9), **Carson Price** (9), **Carson Oakley** (9), **Kelsey Stevens** (6), **Milan Doan** (7), and **Oliver Fell** (8) were in the water Friday morning to represent the Purple Flash. The qualifying meet on Friday proved to be a success and showed that most of the team members had what it took to swim in Regionals the following day. Regionals serve as the qualifying round for the State Competition.

The results of the regional competition follow: In the girls competition: in the 200 yard Medley Relay, Mandy Jackson, Eileen Doan, Carson Oakley, and Sydney Spalding placed sixth. Milan Doan placed sixth in the 200 yard Freestyle. Sydney Spalding placed eighth and Oliver Fell placed twelfth in the 200 yard Individual Medley. In the 100 yard Butterfly, Eileen Doan placed fifth. In the 100 yard Freestyle, Eileen Doan nabbed third place and Milan Doan placed ninth. In the 200 yard Freestyle Relay, Mandy Jackson, Ashleigh Harris, Milan Doan, and Kelsey Stevens swam to eleventh place. Mandy Jackson placed seventh in the 100 yard Backstroke. Milan Doan, Eileen Doan, Carson Oakley, and Sydney Spalding took fourth place in the 400 yard Freestyle Relay.

In the boys competition: Carson Price place ninth in both the 100 yard Butterfly and the 100 yard Backstroke.

Although no members of the team placed high enough to be able to go to the State Competition, the girls 400 Free Relay did qualify as a first alternative. The State Competition was held Valentine's weekend in Louisville.

Coach **Joanie Harris** said, "We had a great season. We were able to win some of the local meets against teams like Murray, Tilghman, and even Owensboro. Our team is very young this year, with seven high schoolers and nine swimmers from the 5th-8th grade. Over the next few years I expect to be regular attendees at the State meet. We have a couple of swimmers that are fairly new to the sport that have dropped significant amounts of time and qualified for the finals of the Regional meet. This is a great group of kids. I started out doing this only because they needed a coach, but I have really enjoyed getting to know the kids and sharing in their excitement."

Now that the swimming season is over, most of the athletes on the team are also member of the Paducah Swim Team and will continue to practice and compete with that team. If you are interested in swimming with either the Lone Oak High School Swim Team or the Paducah Swim Team then stop by the P.A.C. and talk to either Coach Harris or **Coach Greg** about starting with the team.



Photo Courtesy of Joanie Harris

Amazement at All Star Weekend

Kelsey Smith
News Editor

Unlike most professional leagues, The NBA features a multitude of All-Star events: a celebrity game, a rookie challenge, a three-point shootout, a skills competition, a round of H-O-R-S-E, and most famously, a slam dunk contest and a high-flying traditional East-West game.

All-Star Weekend began on Friday, February 12th in Dallas, Texas with two games and two upsets, as the West knocked off the East in the celebrity game with a score of 41 to 37 and the Rookies defeated the Sophomores 140-128.

Saturday was the day of the H-O-R-S-E and skills competition (in the skills competition, players must move through obstacles, making specific shots and passes), along with the three-point shootout and the dunk contest. Kevin Durant of the Oklahoma City Thunder took first in H-O-R-S-E after a tight shootout with the Celtics' Rajon Rondo that ran over TNT's allotted time slot for the contest. In the skills competition, the Phoenix Suns' Steve Nash performed with his usual finesse and came out ahead; likewise, Paul Pierce of the Boston Celtics showed his consistency and won the three-point shootout. At the end of the night came the much anticipated dunk contest, in which two-time champ Nate Robinson (New York Knicks), Shannon Brown (Los Angeles Lakers), Gerald Wallace (Charlotte Bobcats) and rookie DeMar

DeRozan (Toronto Raptors) participated. After lackluster jams in the first round, Brown and Wallace were eliminated. DeRozan brought the heat in the second round, catching the ball off the side of the backboard and slamming it in, but it wasn't enough to stave off Nate Robinson, who won his third dunk trophy by catching the ball off the backboard and throwing it in backwards. Oh, and with both hands.

And if the dunk contest was spectacular, the All-Star game on Sunday was, well, indescribable. 108,713 people were in attendance, making this the largest crowd in history to ever watch a basketball game. Although the lineups were shaken up (Dirk Nowitzki started for the injured Kobe Bryant; Jason Kidd took Bryant's place on the roster; Joe Johnson filled in for Allen Iverson; David Lee then replaced Iverson...and the list goes on), the level of play was anything but shaky. The game was filled with acrobatic shots, passes and full of stellar dunks; players like LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony and Dwayne Wade (who had ten dunks and took home the MVP award with 28 points and 11 rebounds) put on a show. The East led every quarter (and throughout most of the third, by double digits), but the West gradually pulled closer in the fourth, tying the game 137-137 with a minute left. The East held on to win it 141-139 after sinking a couple of free throws and forcing an errant three-point attempt.

A record amount of snow fell in Dallas during All-Star Weekend, but it didn't keep things from heating up.

WILD IN WILDCAT NATION

Cody Waggoner
Sports Editor

The University of Kentucky Wildcats, a historically prestigious basketball school, has faced extreme disappointment in their past few seasons. This disappointment peaked last year when the Wildcats failed to qualify for the NCAA tournament for the first time in 18 years. This failure brought about the coaching change that brought in former Memphis and University of Massachusetts head coach, John Calipari. While Kentucky brought in Calipari, Calipari brought in recruits. These recruits gave Wildcat faithful something to hope for as they headed into the start of this season with a preseason rank of 4.

Led by impressive freshman talent, John Wall, and junior power, Patrick Patterson, the Cats came out with a strong showing against Morehead State. In the next game, the blue and white displayed their lack of experience by squeaking out a win against University of Miami of Ohio. After that short stumble Kentucky started rolling, moving

up in the ranks when teams between them and the top spot started losing. Michigan State, ranked number 3 at the time, was the first team ahead of them to lose, in their fifth game. Shortly there after both Texas and Kansas lost, leaving the Wildcats to become the number one team in the nation at 19-0. On December 21, while still undefeated, the Cats managed to be the first team to reach the 2,000 win milestone in a 88-44 romp against Drexel. The return to number one and history making brought pure jubilation to Kentucky fans but unfortunately for the Wildcat faithful was short lived. The day after the Wildcats were placed atop the NCAA rankings, they suffered a defeat at the hands of the South Carolina Gamecocks and their emerging star, Devan Downey.

The loss knocked Kentucky back down to number 3. They now ranked behind Kansas and Syracuse in the polls. Now the University of Kentucky rank number 2 at the midway point through conference with a 23-1 record. Left on the Wildcats' schedule is a much anticipated rematch against the Gamecocks. They finish up their season before the SEC tournament on March 7. The Cats will look to have a strong showing in the start of the post season by winning the SEC tournament. After this, the Cats will aim their sites on winning the big dance and becoming national champions for the first time since '98.

Legendary Ludovisse

Rachel Lundberg
Editor-in-Chief

It all started with a boy and a dream. And now, that boy, **Jordan Ludovissie** (12), the much-beloved starting offensive lineman, has signed a letter of intent to play for Morehead State University. He will continue as an offensive lineman at MSU and expects to play on the third string team or better as Morehead lost several seniors last year. It's no surprise that colleges have been keeping an eye on Jordan; his performance at State certainly drew their attention. "I played my game and they noticed," he says. A self-proclaimed beast, this fan-favorite is "every nose-guard's worst nightmare," and his athletic skill makes him a formidable force on the basketball court as well as on the football field. The opportunity to play for Morehead has Jordan excited beyond words. "We're tickled to death," says Coach Jack Haskins. "I know Jordan's going to be a very good player at Morehead, just like he was here."



Photo courtesy of Alexis Ludovisse

Fightin' Flash

Cody Waggoner
Sports Editor

The boys basketball team has had its share of struggles this year. Struggling with injuries and finding it difficult to secure wins, the team now has a 6-17 record. They are mending their wounds as **Clayton Isenberg** (12) is battling his way back into shape after being out from a broken leg. The Flash also suffered from the short absence of **Cameron Looper** (12) who is back on the court. The Flash have also put a hard fought win on their resume as they defeated Murray High School in a thrilling overtime game. The Flash managed to pull out a two point win as **Jordan Ludovisse** (12) made a beautiful pass to **Chayton Thacker** (12) for the game winning lay-up. "I was going to J a three. I wanted to be the hero, but I saw Chayton, so I dished him the rock."

On the heels of the overtime win, more good news for the Flash is, once the district tournament starts, record means nothing. They have a chance to keep going as long as they keep winning.

Resilient Rebounding

Cody Waggoner
Sports Editor

The Lady Flash basketball team has experienced plenty of ups and downs this season. With a 7-13 record, the team has had its share of convincing wins and heartbreaking losses. Recently, the Lady Flash beat the St. Mary Vikings 49-40. This win definitely gives them momentum heading into the most important part of the season, districts. The team is just now starting to play their best basketball and individual players continue to step up. Senior Leader, **Macey Evans**, says that efforts, like **Tiffany Brown's** (11) 19 rebound performance against St. Mary, "really give the team that extra push needed for us to win in districts."

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