

TOM - TOM

LHS completes 2009 Blood Drive

by Maggie Fransisco

Guest News Writer

Tuesday Oct. 27, Lemont High School completed their annual blood drive. "52 units of blood were collected, [one for every donor]. There were six people declined because of things such as low iron, cough or allergies," states Mrs. Elizabeth Raimondi, co-director of student council and the blood drive.

Although LHS was just one donor away from their goal, Raimondi states the day was an over-all success.

"It was good. It was super organized this year. People weren't waiting as long as last year. Some people didn't show because they were sick that's why we didn't reach our goal."

The whole process of giving blood takes about 45 minutes, according to the Heartland Blood Center.

Senior Susan Newton describes the process, "You sign in and get your papers. Next, you sit in a waiting area filling out those papers until your name is called. Once your name is called you go get some general tests done . . . when a table opens up you lay down and the nurses ask you some questions about how you're feeling. Then the nurse disinfects your arm with iodine. Then they find a vein and stick the needle in.

"Before they actually start taking a bag of blood they take a few viles for general testing for STDs and stuff like that. They then start taking your blood while you're opening and closing your fist the whole time. When you're finished they take the needle out and you have to hold your arm in the air . . . they make sure that you are feeling okay, then you go to the refreshment table and eat and drink foods with lots of sugar and sodium to help regulate your body."

Blood cannot be manufactured so the only way for hospitals and other organizations to receive blood is through donations. Only five percent of the eligible population donates blood. Despite this low number, Heartland reports that they receive about 4,000 units of blood each week, which is 160,000 units every year to be donated to hospitals throughout Illinois and Indiana.

Women have an average of 10 pints of blood in their bodies, while men have about 12 pints. When donating blood, a single donor can save the lives of at least three people with just one pint of blood.

"I just keep thinking about the lives I saved and I will defiantly donate again in the future," says LHS junior, Taylor Dvorak. Junior Amy Skorwonski agrees, "Donating blood was a good experience. It was rewarding to know that you were helping save lives."

Raimondi would like to encourage all students to donate blood in the future, "Students should consider donating. It helps a lot of people. If you just get over the fear you feel really good about yourself when you're done."

A person can donate blood every 56 days. "Every 3 seconds someone needs blood. More than 500 blood donations are needed daily," according to the Heartland Blood Center website. If you are interested in donating blood, check out the 17 Chicago-land area Heartland Blood Centers or visit the website,

<http://www.heartlandbc.org/>.

G Day Staff

Head Editor:

David Timm

Design Editors:

Emma Cunningham

Brittany Madsen

News Editor:

Dylan Blaha

Editorials Editor:

David Timm

Features Editor:

Christine Alwan

Sports Editor:

Danny McKevitt

Buisness Mangager:

Nick Celis

Editorials:

Arlene Bozich

Katie Callaghan

Features:

Alyssa Busse

Kathleen Clark

Rachel Colant

Dale Erdmier

Janelle Fennessy

Carolynn Micetic

Sports:

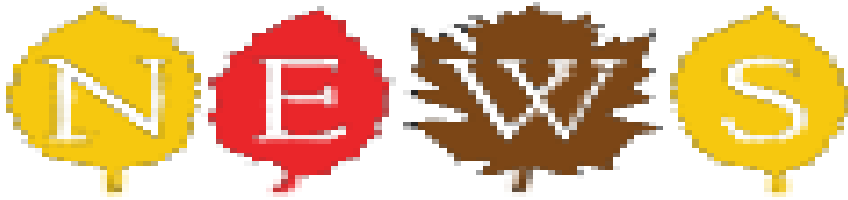
Nick Celis

Stephanie D'Amato

Photographers:

Stephanie D'Amato

Annette Dzielski



Lemont Police

Awarded Traffic Safety Grant

by Dylan Blaha

News Writer

The Lemont Police Department (LPD) announced that it will conduct Occupant Protection Enforcement Zones from Nov. 13 to 29 to coincide with the National and State “Click It or Ticket” Thanksgiving holiday mobilization. The special enforcement period, funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation, goes along with the state’s annual effort to increase occupant protection through a combination of highly visible and aggressive enforcement, advertising and public awareness campaigns.

LPD Sgt. Joseph Miller stated that during the day, officers “can easily see into cars to check for seatbelts.” At night, the LPD “will have spotters to stop people.” Drivers who fail to properly restrain child passengers are also subject to a penalty. Tickets for violations range from \$50 to \$750.

Last year, incorporated Lemont was home to two vehicular deaths, while four occurred in unincorporated Lemont. “We’re not just doing this to write tickets,” said Miller. “We want to motivate drivers to wear their seatbelts. We can’t be everywhere.”

LPD officers will set up the eight zones near “hot spots” and “high-profile” areas, four in the day and four at night. Along with ticketing violators, they will hand out bags with informational literature to further educate the public.

LHS junior, Becky Jozefiak, believes there should be a better description of the fines. “... that [is] a big range in money,” she said. “If it’s a person’s first offense, then the fine will most likely be \$50,” said Mr. Dan Dykshorn, LHS Police Liaison Officer. “However, if that person happens to go before a judge, you never know. There is a potential to lose your license, especially for students in the Graduated Driver Licensing Program.”

Regarding the necessity of the zones, senior Joey Pedzolt said, “People need to play it safe and buckle up. In my opinion, [the zones are] a good idea.” Jozefiak stated that “wearing a seatbelt is obviously important” but she doesn’t understand “why they have to go all out” to enforce it.

A primary seat belt law in Illinois requires every occupant of a vehicle to be properly restrained at all times. The “Click It or Ticket” mobilization aims to influence people to buckle up to prevent injuries and fatalities, not to give out tickets. “[People] feel like we harass them,” said Miller. “We just want to motivate.”

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and disability for Americans between ages 4 and 34. In 2007, 1,248 people died in 1,129 fatal crashes on Illinois roads. The average cost for a critically injured crash survivor is estimated at \$1.1 million over a lifetime.

The percentage of safety belt users in Lemont grew from 88.1% in 2007 to 92% in October 2008. “We’ve done a couple [safety belt enforcement zones] before, such as near the high school, and they seemed to be effective,” Dykshorn said.

Regarding future special enforcement periods, Miller stated, “The state granted us \$30,000 to do major holidays like Memorial Day, Labor Day and the 4th of July. Plus, we’ll have DUI checkpoints during the Super Bowl. The number of crashes in Lemont is decreasing every year, and we want to keep that going.”

If there are any questions regarding the Occupant Protection Enforcement Zones, please feel free to contact Sgt. Miller at jmiller@lemont.il.us.

Photo Courtesy of Google

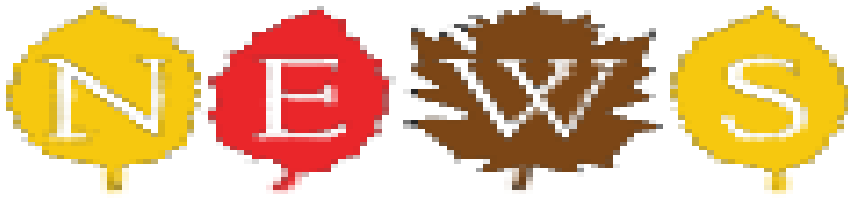


photo courtesy of Google

Movember:



by Rachel Colant
Guest News Writer

A Growing Foundation

November is dedicated to raising awareness of many health problems: Pancreatic cancer, epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, and lung cancer are all nationally acknowledged during this month. An organization that works to increase understanding of health issues in November is the Movember Foundation.

Founded in 1999 by a group of Australian men, the Movember (in Australia, "mo" is slang for mustache) Foundation's goal is to increase awareness to men's health issues, particularly cancers that affect men, by challenging males to grow their mustaches for the entire month of November. The men are also encouraged to collect donations throughout the month.



In the United States, Movember is more commonly recognized as "No Shave November" and men are encouraged to not only grow their mustaches, but also their beards. During the month of November, Movember raises money that is donated to the Lance Armstrong Foundation and the Prostate Cancer Foundation. The Lance Armstrong Foundation is used to fund the LIVESTRONG Young Adult Alliance program and further researching of adolescent and young adult cancers. The money donated to the Prostate Cancer Foundation is used to fund researching for a cure and better treatments. "Men deserve a month like this. We need time to

let loose and show our manliness, and if it's for a good cause, that's even better," said LHS junior Josh Weck who is participating in No Shave November.

Though females cannot typically grow facial hair, the Movember Foundation view the women involved in this movement equal to the males that participate. Women are encouraged to donate and spread the word about No Shave November.

"I think guys should participate in [No Shave November] because hopefully it will make them more aware of cancers that can affect them. This will help them look out for themselves. Even if you can't grow facial hair I think you should tell people about Movember," responded freshman Sonia Vavra.

According to the Movember Foundation's website, \$47 million has been raised globally since 2003 for men's health. To learn more about the Mo Movement, visit the Movember Foundation's website:

<http://www.movember.com>

Photo Courtesy of Stephanie D'amato

SHHH...

The silent Battle for Free Speech in the Classroom

by Arlene Bozich

Editorialist

Hypothetical situation; your house is burning down. You're safe outside, along with the rest of your family and whatever pets you have.

However, no one has called the fire department or the police. You're freaking out, waiting for someone to do or at least say something.

But everyone is just watching the fire, not talking. What do you do?

Okay, maybe this isn't quite as drastic as your house slowly smoldering into a heap of ashes. But it's pretty close.

Say the house is a topic; religion, politics, whatever. And say that a conflict, or a fire, starts between two opposing sides in a debate. Do the people, the school, just watch the debate take place without any dialogue? Or do they do something about it?

Mr. Roy Nees, Drama club sponsor and German teacher, took time out of his busy schedule to talk with me on the subject of open communication in the classroom.

As far as Nees knows, there is not a policy regarding the discussion of political and religious topics in the classroom. But he believes that discussions on these and other subjects (race, social issues, etc.) should be "curbed".

Does this mean that first amendment rights mean nil in the classroom? After further inquiry, Nees revealed his reasoning. "Discussions should be open and general in the [public] classroom," said Nees. He then gave me an example.

Say there's a religious debate taking place in a public classroom. As a strong believer in the separation of church and state, Nees wants to avoid a situation where individuals might "proselytize" other students taking part in the debate. Proselytize, for our non-vocabulary savvy readers, is "To convert [a person] from one belief, doctrine, cause, or faith to another."

"As long as [the discussion] is open and frank, it's fine," continued Nees.

And Nees' view makes perfect sense. Lemont High School is a public high school and should not be governed by one set of beliefs or ideals.

In fact, public school teachers are trained to not promote one opinion or point of view over another. They are, after all, employed by the state.

As long as discussions are "open and frank" as Nees said, I see no reason why students shouldn't take part in classroom discussions about religion and world affairs throughout all four years of their education.

"We have debates in some classes," said LHS sophomore Natalie Kostrubala. "If teachers related [world affairs and discussions topics] to kids, I think we'd get more involved."

But if teachers opened touchier debate topics, like questions about race and religion, to students, would they get involved? "It depends if [the students] felt strongly about [the subject]," said Natalie.

Open debate and discussion on touchy topics should be an integral part of our curriculum. Sure, seniors are required to take American Problems one semester, but this isn't enough. If students were engaged in discussion and debate as early as freshman year in a controlled classroom environment, it could be used as a vital learning experience.

EDITORIALS

5

If students can analyze topics in a lively discussion, they will most likely be more interested in world affairs. This heightened awareness will lead to greater thought and, eventually, intelligent ideas and solutions.

“Once [people] are in high school,” commented Nees, “most have opinions [on world affairs]. They should be free to express, and listen to [these opinions].”

It’s time for students to take part in discussions. Teachers aren’t trying to silence students; if anything, discussions would be welcome in the classroom. This open door should be used as much as possible by students and teachers alike.

So, students, it’s time to debate.

Bring on the matches.

Photo Courtesy of Google

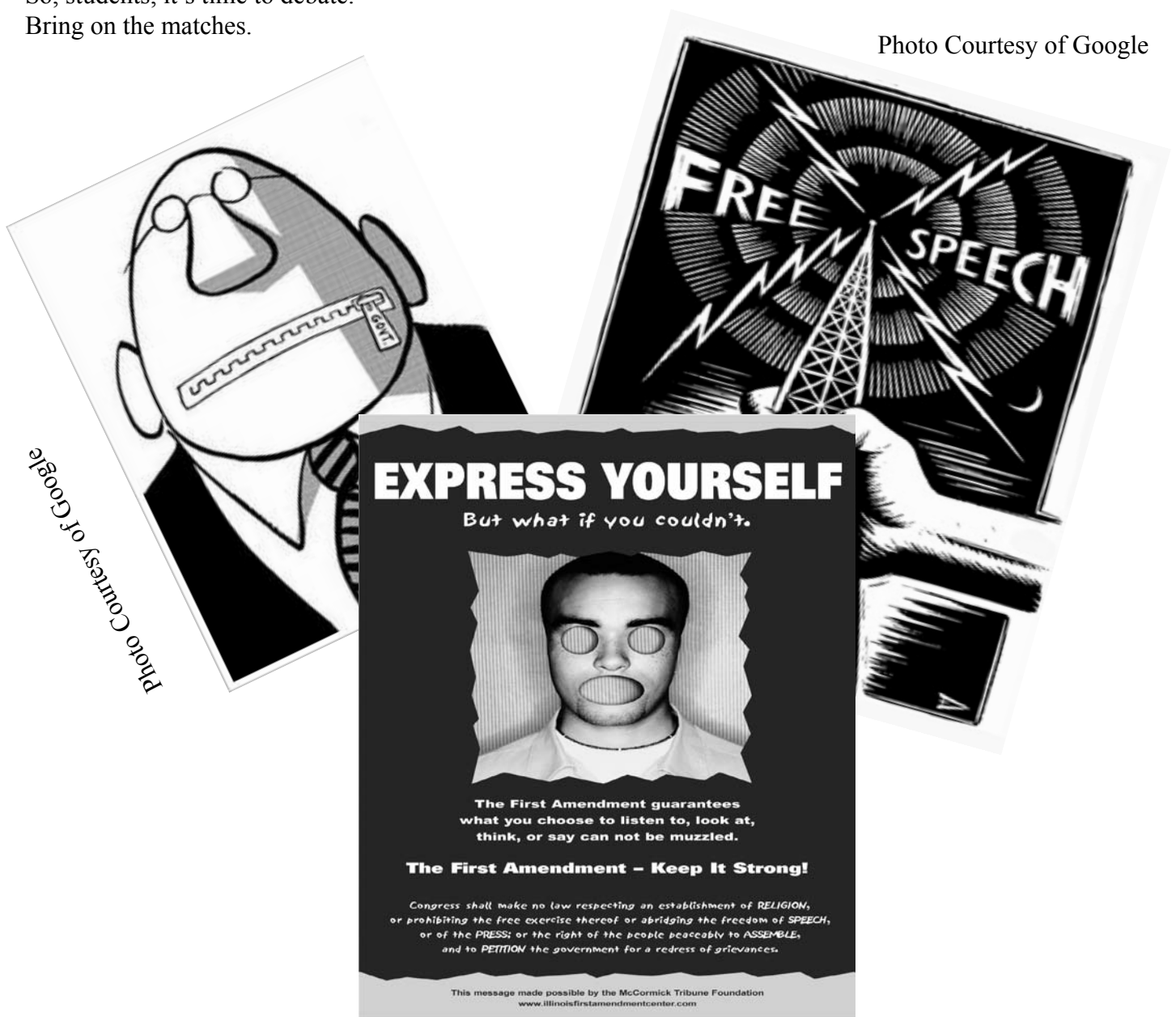


Photo Courtesy of Google

Photo Courtesy of Google

What is our culture anyway?



pt.2

David Timm
Head Editor

In my previous article, I explored one of the biggest elements of American culture: the unifying factor. I wrote about the lack of a “bogey man,” or external motivation, for the U.S to come together culturally. I also showed that some people, like seniors Josh Eby and Mark Kaminski, think that although Americans have lots of culture, none of it is unique to our generation.

LHS history teacher Mr. Michael Pryor brought up another idea about change in American culture, the social networking craze. It’s everywhere: Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, YouTube and countless other online social networks have created their own little facets of American culture and made it extremely easy to be connected to others in order to develop cultural identity.

So what is the big deal? Obviously, these social networks only have the potential to unify American culture and can only help our idea of culture come together to unite our country...right?

There is just one problem. How many of these social networkers share cultural interests with those outside of their age group? 18 year-olds in Alaska likely have more in common with another 18 year old in Nebraska than someone who is 5 years older living next door.

This has some pretty hefty implications, and not just because hefty is an awesome word. The previous statement shows that culture has changed into something no longer contained by region or even country, but by a simple thing like age or social group.

“Who watches the world news?” asked Pryor. The answer: in most cases those who watched the news nightly since their childhood, certainly not the youth of our generation. I can find all of the news I need to know or want to know in less than 5 minutes online. This further



Photo Courtesy of Google

EDITORIALS

7

divides people of different ages within the same country.

I don't know about you but I certainly don't have much in common with my parent's friends, who are only about 15 years older than me. Imagine how little my generation has in common with those 25 or 30 years older than them. It's common sense, but extremely important to comprehend, and even more important to realize the consequences: I might (I do) have more in common with an 18 year old in Italy, or Canada, than with my 35 year-old neighbor.

Whether or not the evolution of American culture is good or bad is not my call, however, I would like to direct your minds to the fact that change isn't anything new. This is how history has gone, and this will continue to prove true in the future: Humans innovate, things change, humans adapt to the change. It's never failed us yet.

This brings me to my final point. I believe American culture is alive and well, but it's living in so many more categories than country or region now. There are now completely separate cultures for people 20 years old and those who are 15 years old. It's just entirely different from our normal perception of culture, confined to a country, region, particular belief or association.

Before writing this article, I have to confess I never imagined I would come to these conclusions. Based on what I'd seen and previously thought about culture, I guessed I would come to the conclusion that American culture is eroding into a mass of multi-cultural mishaps. I certainly did not expect to see our culture morphing from something previously confined to a country, to only being confined by the limits of our imagination and technology.

So what do we do about it? To tell you the truth, I don't think anything really needs to be done. I don't see a way to get back to the way things were, and I don't see a need to go back. Although problems may arise from this new idea of culture, I'm not really worried about American culture disappearing anytime soon. So don't get all worked up about our "lack of culture." It's there; it's just in a bunch of different places that it's never been before.



Photo Courtesy of Google

FEATURES

8

ONE TREE HILL be- season 7

by Dale Erdmier
Features writer

The hit CW show One Tree Hill started the season with a shocker. On Sept. 14, at 7 pm the season premiere surprised viewers when they learned two main characters, Lucas Scott and Peyton Sawyer, wouldn't be returning for the seventh season. This dramatic change after six seasons of consistency might not go over as well as writer Mark Schwahn hopes.

As season six ended, Scott and Sawyer drove into the distance with their new child and the credits rolled. Now with season seven beginning, no mention of Scott or Sawyer is given and all other characters are carrying on as if nothing has changed. Schwahn stated that this new season will have "the same heart as previous seasons", but will be influenced by new characters.

Audrey Gamble, LHS junior, said, "I like the new season even

though it's like a whole new show. It is still good because the new characters make it interesting."

Joining the cast for season seven is Robert Buckley and Shantel VanSanten. They've been brought in to stir up drama in Tree Hill. This addition of characters is meant to draw the attention away from the departure of Scott and Sawyer.

When asked about the new season James Lafferty (Nathan Scott) told the CW, "This season the show feels like a completely different show, but that could be just what it needed." He also added that he looks forward to the new plot twists and drama unfolding with his character.

Focus will also be put on Brooke and Julian as the new "hot couple". Both told the CW that fans should be excited to see the relationship between them grow as the season progresses.

"I really hope they last because they're so cute, especially him," said Jen Doornbos, LHS junior.

With all of these changes in store Schwahn says it could be one of the "most exciting seasons yet" and that fans should tune in every Monday night at 7 to see the drama unfold.



Photos courtesy of Google

FEATURES

9

by Janelle Fennesy
Features writer



Lemont High School's Mission Possible club kicked off its annual "Red Ribbon Week" Oct. 19-23 to encourage LHS students to lead drug free lives. "Red Ribbon Week's goal is to increase awareness about the danger of drug abuse and have students think about the choices they make," said Mr. David Clark, LHS Assistant Principal for Staff and Student Services and Mission Possible Club Sponsor. Throughout Red Ribbon Week approximately 900 students signed a drug free pledge and board set up in the cafeteria. The names of those who signed were sent to the local newspaper for possible publication. Clark plans to display the signed drug free pledge board at upcoming events such as games, plays and school

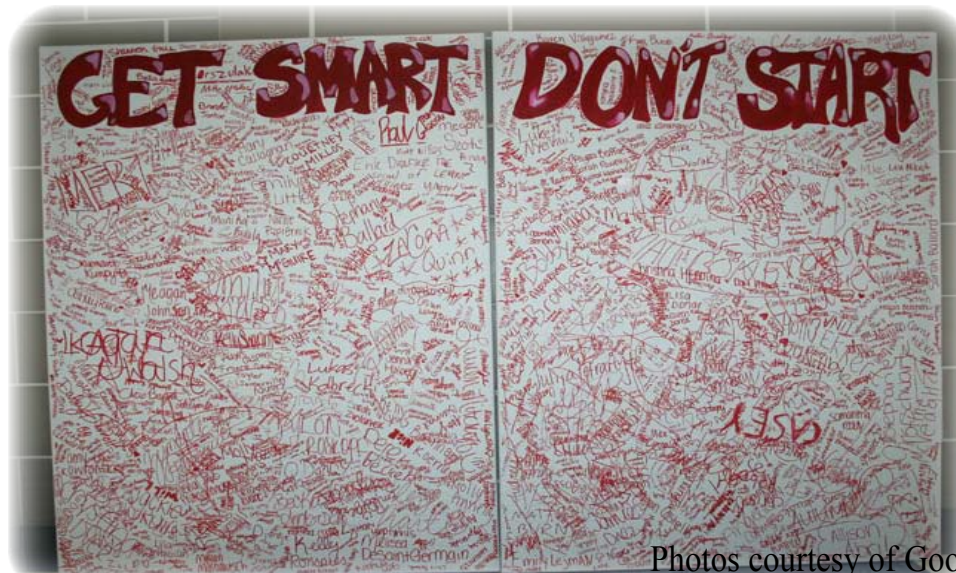
board meetings.

Much speculation has risen about what may happen to the students who chose not to sign the drug free pledge. Regarding the various suppositions Clark said, "There is no negative consequence [for signing the pledge] and no checking who hasn't signed. We are not calling parents. We are not targeting anyone. Red Ribbon Week is about promoting positive choices."

Many students felt Mission Possible's positive choice efforts and goals were accomplished. "I think Red Ribbon Week is an awesome week. It shows students that they need to think about the choices they make. If they want to get more students involved, though, they should have an assembly," said junior Brianne Baffoe.

However, not all students thought Red Ribbon Week was a success. Junior Catherine Armbruster said, "I think [Red Ribbon Week] is a joke. We all know people are signing the board regardless if they do drugs or not. I don't think [Red Ribbon Week] helps students."

However opinionated the students are, Clark feels Mission Possible and Red Ribbon Week fulfilled the goal of promoting drug awareness. "We are not naïve; we know that even the students that sign make poor choices. At least we make [students] think about [their choices] and hopefully they will make better ones later on. In that way, Red Ribbon Week was successful."



Photos courtesy of Google and Sephanie D'Amato

FEATURES 10

The Tale of Two

FLAMES

by Christine Alwan
Features Editor

Burning The Candle At Both Ends

It's Thursday morning at 5:30. Senior Mariah Balinski wakes up, gets dressed, and makes her way to Mrs. Doornbos's classroom for her AP Chemistry lab. After the lab is over, she goes straight to her regular classes: AP Calculus BC, Anatomy and Physiology and, of course, AP Chemistry. After school, she goes to cross country until 5, followed by dinner and homework until she finally crashes at 11 pm. But Friday is a good day; she gets to sleep in until 6:30.

The schedule sounds grueling, but this rigorous lifestyle is becoming more popular with LHS students. From a myriad of volunteer work activities, sports and AP and honors classes, students are pushing themselves to new extremes and higher stress levels. Is it pressure from parents? Or is it the fear of not being good enough for that dream school?

In some cases like Balinski's, it is to prepare for the challenges of college academia ahead. Balinski, who aspires to be a physical therapist, says, "It's to prepare myself for college, not so much for the [college] application. I get bored very easily. I don't watch TV because I can't just sit and do nothing." For her, academic challenges are a boredom diversion and a self-improvement opportunity all in one.

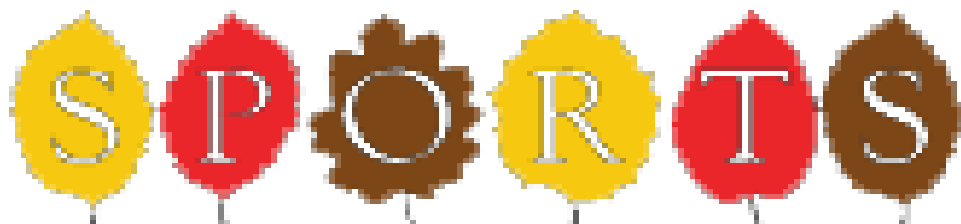
But for junior Arthur Laciak, there are other reasons behind taking AP classes while being involved in extra-curricular activities. "I knew I was capable of taking [AP classes], and I wanted the challenge," says Laciak, who is currently enrolled in AP U.S. History, AP Calculus BC, and AP Statistics. He also plans on taking the AP Language and Composition exam in May through his Honors English class. "I want the credits so I don't have to take [those classes] in college."

This challenging academic career does come at a high price. Laciak is currently involved in Chess Club, Mathletes and Yearbook. He also plans on joining WYSE and volleyball in the spring. When asked about his stress level, he says, "It's high, especially when there is the wrong combination of extracurriculars and homework."

It's that combination that has a lot of LHS students sacrificing sleep, as well as time with family and friends. These sacrifices, however, are often counterproductive. Lack of sleep is a major cause of poor academic performance and inattentiveness. The lack of balance between school and a social life is also said to lead to depression, increased stress levels and "family strife," according to cqpress.com.

Balance is vital to success. Students who continue to challenge themselves should also be cautious to not overextend themselves. They can create this balance by making a weekly schedule, taking 15 minutes to relax at the end of the day, and getting as much sleep as possible. By learning their own limitations, students will be able to create balance and achieve success both in and out of the classroom. Perhaps finding this balance is the most important lesson of all.

Photos courtesy of Google



11

Running Over the Competition

by Danny McKevitt
Sports Editor

The girls' cross country team placed fourth at the Jones Prep Sectional, advancing to IHSA Class 2A State Finals for the third consecutive year under Coach Tim Plotke. The team scored 106 points and finished behind U-High which posted 85 points, Lansing (Illiana Christian) 88 points and sectionals host Jones Prep 104 points.

The team was lead by sophomore Amber Trick, who had placed 8th finishing at 20:41.79. She was followed by senior Meagan Johnson who placed 13th and finished at 20:44.50. Rounding up the top five runners were freshman Wendy Mazur who placed 18th at 21:02.84, sophomore Mary McKevitt who placed 32nd at 21:45.34 and senior Mariah Balinski who placed 35th at 21:52.76.

"For not being 100% at sectionals, many of the girls on the team had been battling illness throughout the week; they had run a great race. All of the girls had just run a phenomenal 3rd mile. They all just passed a ton of girls which allowed us to qualify for state" said Plotke.

The girls will be working to improve on their 16th place finish last year at state at Detweiller Park in Peoria. The team is returning all but one runner from their top 6 runners from last year's state qualifying team. By adding promising freshman Mazur, improving on their 2008 finish looks very probable.

Balinski said, "I am really happy with my performance at sectionals. However, I think that we can do better as a team and I hope that we really can step it up for the state competition."

If you are interested in finding out more information about the girl's competition at state or if you want to find out more general information, then click the following link: <http://www.ihsa.org/activity/ccg/2009-10/2qual.htm>



Photo courtesy of Tony Hamilton

S P O R T S

12

What the Heck Is Cricket?

by Nick Celis
Sports writer

It's like baseball. Only there are no foul balls, 2 people can bat at one time, there are eleven players per team, and a formal game can last days on end. Don't see the relations? Well for starters, it's a bat and ball game, just like ours. In fact, it is the most popular bat and ball game in the world and the number two overall sport in the world (behind soccer).

The basic concept of the game is for the

bowler (pitcher) to prevent the batsmen (batters) from scoring any runs, while trying get out of the inning to get his/her team up to bat. The only way that the bowler can do this is by "dismissing" all eleven of the batsmen on the opposing team.

In order to dismiss a batter, the defense can do one of two things. If the batter strikes a ball that flies up into the air, all fielders are able to catch it for an out. The other way to get an out is for the bowler to knock down the "wicket"

The wicket is one of the main things that sets cricket apart from baseball. A wicket is a series of 3 sticks lodged into the ground with two small wooden pieces resting in the gaps; there are a total of two wickets on the field (directly across from each other). The bowler is to throw the ball, making sure it bounces once, in the direction of the wicket. If the bowler finds some way to bowl the ball past the batsmen and strike the wicket, the batter is out automatically.

Here's the confusing part; the field. Like I said, there are absolutely no foul balls: that means anything that comes in contact with the bat is fair play for the fielders. The field itself is a giant oval shape where the defensive fielders fill the voids.

In order for the team to score runs, the batsmen must run back and forth between the two wickets until the ball is returned to the bowler. Depending on how many times they are able to run back and forth, is the exact number of runs that is tallied to the offensive score.

Cricket is widely accepted as the "Game of kings" throughout most of the world. Even in the U.S. this game is becoming more popular through privately owned programs and even some high schools. So don't be surprised when you look out in your backyard one day to see the neighborhood kids' carving wickets, rather than sketching base paths.

Writer's Note: Please remember this is a very broad explanation of the game of Cricket, I apologize if I have left out any major rules/aspects of the game (which most likely will be the case). Expect to see a follow up article later in the year with a more in depth explanation.

Thirsty for more? <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cricket>



Photo courtesy of Google



13

INDIANS BREEZE THROUGH PLAYOFFS

by: Stephanie D'Amato
Sports Writer



BOYS SOCCER

This past weekend, the varsity boys' soccer team defeated Bremen with an overtime victory, by penalty kicks. The game was scoreless despite four overtimes. Lemont was able to win four penalty kicks to three. The boys will be playing Class 2A Champions Notre Dame (Peoria). If the boys win this game, they will advance to the state finals which take place at North Central College on Friday Nov. 6 and Saturday Nov. 7.



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The girls volleyball team won their 4th straight IHSA Regional by beating Montini Catholic Academy. If Lemont is able to beat host Wheaton St. Francis on Tuesday Nov. 3, they will advance to IHSA Sectional Finals on Nov. 5 and face-off against the winner of the Joliet Catholic Academy-Rosary game.



FOOTBALL

The varsity football team cruised past Lincoln Way North this past Friday with a score of 37-0. The Lemont offense relied heavily on their running game with senior fullback Cody Kamberos rushing over 100 yards with only five carries. The team will be playing Chicago Public League Team Morgan Park on Saturday Nov 7 at 6pm at home.

INDIANS