



Extra-Curricular Participation Fees, Continued

by Morgan McPartland
Head Editor

At the start of the 2011-2012 school year, the District 210 school board was looking for ways to reduce the overall costs of athletic and extra-curricular fees at LHS. By introducing the Extra-Curricular Activity Participation fees, the district now hopes to reduce the overall financial deficit.

According to Athletic Director John Young, this extra revenue “does not eliminate the deficit, but it definitely helps.” These fees were only assessed to LHS athletics and official extra-curricular activities/clubs.

There are fees for all LHS athletics except cheerleading, poms and band because those particular groups require the students to pay for the necessary materials out of their pockets. As for extra-curricular activities, most clubs and societies (i.e. NEHS or NHS) have a \$25 fee.

The financial issues within District 210 depend on many factors, from state to federal funding. “Schools have to find another way to raise revenue,” said American Government teacher Rick Prangen. “I think our school has been very fortunate because we were one of the last schools to implement [these fees].”

Young anticipates that the school will continue with these fees in the coming years, but the district will assess the financial situation each year and make a decision from there.

“I understand the economic side of it,” said Prangen. “But from the educational side, I have a problem with it. I have a problem with anything that limits a child’s opportunities.”

Senior Diane Szaflarski said her parents “weren’t happy” when they had to pay for her to play tennis, especially because they didn’t have to pay for it the last three years.

“It’s an additional burden on some families,” said Prangen. “I understand, but as a society and community, we have to think about what we want our students to do.”

photos courtesy of Google

IN THIS ISSUE

P. 2 REMEMBER 9/11;

A REAL LABOR DAY

P. 3 COMING SOON:

ANIMAL TESTING

P. 4 FROM FUR TO FAC-

ES, PART ONE: KEPT IN

THE DARK

P. 5 LEMONT GOLF TEES

IT OFF

P. 6 GIRL’S CROSS

COUNTRY RUNS INTO

THE NEW YEAR



Remember 9/11

by Morgan McPartland
Head Editor

Although the students of LHS were relatively young on September 11, 2001, the LHS Tom-Tom encourages all students and faculty members to commemorate the events that took place on this historically significant day.

As we honor the ten year anniversary, the events of 9/11 still affect our nation today. The Tom-Tom will honor those who lost and risked their lives and all families that were impacted by 9/11.

All are encouraged to recognize the courageous men and women who served the country before, during and after 9/11.



photos courtesy of Google

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A Real Labor Day

by Morgan McPartland
Head Editor

Congratulations to LHS English teacher Kathryn Kupchek and husband Mike on the birth of their son Michael.

Ironically, Michael was born on Labor Day, weighing in at 7 pounds and 15 ounces. He measured 21 inches long. Mother and baby are healthy and all is well with the Kupchek family.



photo by Mrs. Kupchek



Coming Soon: Animal Testing

by Maribeth Van Hecke
Editorials Editor

How would you like to wake up, go to work and be force-fed chemicals, given electric shocks to your eyeballs or starved and forced to run for miles? Millions of animals wake up with this horror every day.

Today, big companies are all hiding the fact that they are using cruel, unnecessary tests on animals. Even though some may argue that animal tests are crucial to saving someone's life, it is not always the case. No one is going to die because they don't have no-smudge mascara.

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) is the largest animal rights organization in the world. One of their major focuses is on animal testing. According to PETA, "there are now cheaper, faster and better non-animal tests that can replace them."

What should we be doing and how much should we be involved? Keep reading the Tom-Tom for the uncovering of a hushed social problem.



photos courtesy of Google



FROM FUR TO FACES, PART ONE: Kept in the Dark

Mallory Christine
Features writer

When deciding which brand of lotion to buy, what may not cross your mind is if you’re deciding on an animal’s life or death. But, ultimately, that’s what you might be doing.

Animal testing in today’s media isn’t always prominent, so it can’t be that bad, right? Or, is the controversial concept being kept under wraps for a reason? Before investigating the truth of such an intriguing question, the Tom-Tom tested the initial knowledge of 30 Lemont High School students on the subject, particularly in an area more likely to involve us all— cosmetics. Here are their thoughts prior to being given any information on animal testing.

Moral and factual accuracy aside, would anyone’s answer change if they were more informed about animal testing?

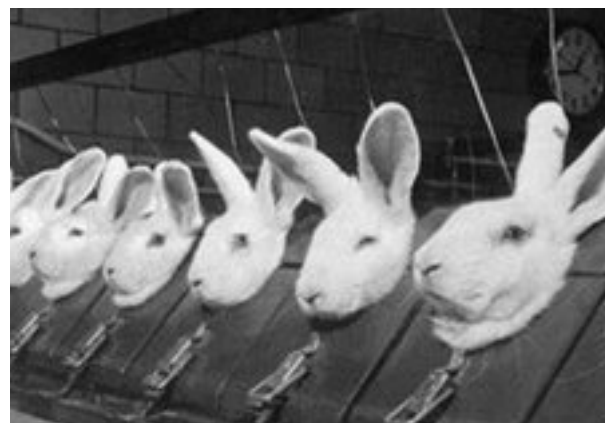
Oftentimes, the more heartrending it is to see an issue in its true light, the easier it is to turn off the light switch— leaving many people, by choice or through no fault of their own, in the dark. But how much are we sacrificing by staying there? Especially under potentially crucial circumstances, one must go beyond expecting the truth and push themselves to find it. And that’s exactly what the Tom-Tom is doing— in Part Two.

Q: How often do you believe animal testing is used in the present-day making of cosmetics?

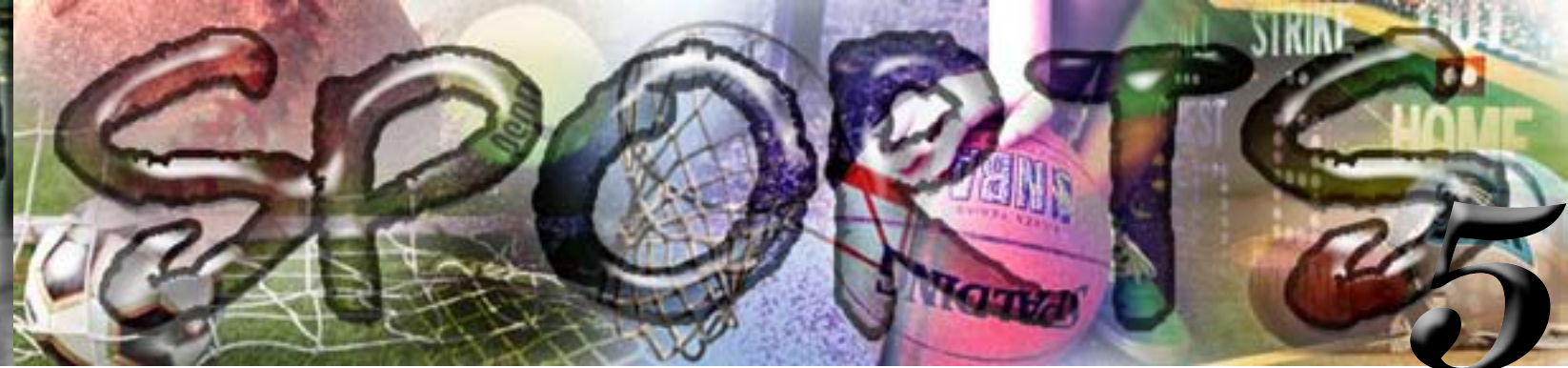
Barely	10%
Sometimes	40%
Often	50%

Q: If I told you the company of your favorite shampoo, lotion, toothpaste or other cosmetic product tests on animals, would you stop using that product?

Yes	10%
No	30%
Possibly	60%



Photos courtesy of Google



Lemont Golf Tees it Off

by Kyle Griffin
Sports writer



Kevin Kling (left) and Shane Purtle (right) at the course

The LHS boys’ golf team improved to a perfect 10-0 on Thursday, Sept. 1 after defeating Oak Forest at George Dunne Golf Course with junior Raymond Cepele leading the field.

Head coach Mark Hollatz was not happy with the team’s performance as they failed to play well against their rival. Lemont only won by three strokes and it is not normal for them to win by so little.

Lemont’s boys’ golf program has been very successful. They have only lost one conference match in the last six years and have been fortunate to have had many skilled golfers.

The team suffers from losing three top golfers from last year including Nick Szerzinski, Rob Smierciak and Jake Groselak. “Three of the best I’ve ever had, they’re going to be tough to replace,” said Hollatz.

However, the team has hope with their three top returning starters: Shane Purtle, Kevin Kling and Eric Gruber. Purtle is Lemont’s top golfer and has been a top performer for the last few years and “is very consistent” according to Hollatz.

Purtle is a very experienced player who has golfed down state in the past with the team. “His best attribute is his calmness on the course which is hard to do,” stated Hollatz.

Keeping your cool and not becoming frustrated can often be one of the biggest challenges of golf. “You need to stay calm to play well. That’s easier said than done but if you just take the round one shot at a time, you won’t get too worked up,” stated Purtle.

The team has made it to state in past years and they’re working hard to go back. Hollatz is expecting to finish a minimum top ten at the state finals.

“I definitely hope to make it down state as a team and I think we are capable of doing so,” said Purtle. However, Purtle also has “high hopes of competing as an individual down state.”

Although Purtle would be competing among the best golfers in the state, he believes he has “what it takes to finish inside of the top ten and make it to all state team.” Last year when the team competed at state, they placed 7th overall.

With all this hype comes a lot of preparation before matches. Lemont usually goes out and dominates but they never take any opponents for granted. “We prepare the same for all matches. It’s a routine to get ready the same every single match,” said senior Brian McMahon.

This season, the team won’t always have to rely on seniors as they have many underclassmen that can step up and play when called upon. “Deepest I’ve ever had as quality goes,” stated Hollatz.

Junior Joe Poloian is one of Lemont’s top five golfers and one of the best underclassmen on varsity. Poloian was cut as a freshman from the team but has proven himself recently.

The team’s next match is on Saturday Sept. 10 at the Providence Catholic Invitational.

Photos courtesy of Google



Girls Cross Country Runs Into the New Year

by Ryan Peraino
Sports Editor

The Lemont Indians girls Cross Country team got a great start to their 2011 season as they came in first in their meet on Tuesday August 30 against Richards and Eisenhower.

The Indians had 18 girls finish in the top 20, which is a very impressive feat.

“It went well for the first meet,” said senior captain Amber Trick. “The girls ran as a pack which intimidates other teams.”

The girls look to continue their winning ways and hope to make it back to state for the 5th year in a row and improve on their 16 place finish.

Top returners for the Indians like, Trick, senior captain Mary McKeivitt, senior Morgan Rex, junior Wendy Mazur, and sophomore Nicole Balinski, are trying to make their state goal possible.

“The top returners from last year are strong and there are some freshman that will greatly help the team,” said Rex.

With all the youth on the team, some teams would have a hard time bonding together, but these girls say that the team is really close.

Maybe they stay so close because of the great leadership of captains McKeivitt and Trick.

“As hard as it is (to be captain), Mary and I try not to complain and lead however Coach Plotke tells us to,” said Trick.

The girls will continue to practice hard and attempt to reach their goals. Until then, the girls will keep on running.



Photos courtesy of Tony Hamilton

Girls Cross Country team running during meet

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