



Model UN

Travels to Wisconsin

by Laura Harding
News writer

On Nov. 4, the student group Model United Nations (Model UN) traveled to Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin for a Model United Nations conference.

Model UN is a “club that advances understanding of the United Nations and existing global issues,” according to club co-sponsor Dan Priestley. “To do this successfully, students must know some international current events and world geography,” said other co-sponsor Michael Pryor.

According to co-president Nick Cottrell, the club allows for its members to prepare for future careers. “Many of the club’s members wish to pursue college education in law, history, political science and international affairs; these trips help to give the members a feel for something they’ll be doing their whole lives,” said Cottrell.

Generally, the group attends two conferences a year. In the past, as many as four conferences per year have been attended, but due to budget constraints the amount has been cut to one each semester.

Individuals within the club are expected to prepare a “position paper” for the conference by researching the topic the host college has assigned. According to Pryor, the club meets after school for short periods of time, but “most of the burden is on the individual student.”

At the conference, the club “represented a variety of countries and simulated the United Nations process in trying to resolve issues of nuclear non-proliferation and sovereignty,” said Priestley. According to Cottrell, “this year the group made school history by being the first to ever represent the United States.”

Three LHS students, Nick Cottrell, Peter Gianakakis and Naem Mufarreh won awards for their representation of the United States. Anna Zechel was also given an honorable mention for her work on a general assembly resolution as a representative of Mozambique.

In addition to the educational benefits of attending the conference, Cottrell also commented on the opportunity to meet new people. When asked what he enjoyed about going to conferences, Cottrell said, “[I like] the networking and relationship opportunities.”

Model UN’s next conference will be hosted by University of Chicago from Feb. 2-5. High schools from Europe, the United States and Asia will be attending.

photos courtesy of Google

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Kyle Griffin

Eric Gruber

NEWS WRITERS

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DESIGN ASSISTANT

Alexis Caspers



Sarah Smierciak Named Rhodes Scholar

by Morgan McPartland
Head Editor

LHS alumna Sarah Smierciak was recently selected as one of just 80 students worldwide to be a 2012 Rhodes Scholar and study at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. All recipients were selected from a pool of 830 candidates who had been nominated by their colleges and universities and they will begin their studies at Oxford in October 2012.

The Rhodes Scholarships are the world's oldest and most respected and celebrated international awards. Rhodes Scholars are chosen for their exceptional academic achievements, character, commitment to others and to the common good and for their leadership potential.

Smierciak was rewarded for all of these accomplishments and The Rhodes Trust, the British charity where the scholarships originated, will provide full financial support for her to pursue a degree or degrees at Oxford. Smierciak plans to pursue development studies at Oxford then use her expertise to conduct research on development in the Middle East.

She graduated summa cum laude from Northwestern University last spring, where she majored in history and Middle East language and civilization. Smierciak currently lives in Cairo, Egypt where she works at Markaz Al-Salam (Center of Peace) and develops the special school's curriculum for orphans and street children.

Through an immersion language grant, Smierciak also studied at the University of Damascus in Syria and speaks Arabic fluently. She has published articles on social justice and is a published photographer. "She was interested in government," said Rob Hammerschmidt, who had Smierciak for AP government during her senior year.

"But it's hard for students to tap into their potential during high school," he said. "It is hard for [students] to get worldly experience. I believe this is why [Smierciak] was so heavily involved in Model UN."

During her time at LHS, Smierciak was extremely involved. She served as the president of the National Honor Society and Model UN, head editor of the Tom-Tom, captain of the Scholastic Bowl and captain of the girls swim team. She was a Mathletes state qualifier and was named MVP of both the swim team and the speech team.

On top of all that, she ranked among the top two percent of her class and was a Prairie State Scholar and a National Merit Commended Scholar. "She was a very intellectual student and she had a world view," said Hammerschmidt.

LHS' Class of 2007 voted Smierciak as the student who was "most likely to succeed" from her class, and boy were they correct.



photo by Tony Hamilton



99 Problems? That's Nothing!

by Ryan Kahle
News writer

Where can one wear a good luck poncho and not be judged? Nowhere. But it happens on mathletes.

Flawed logic aside, the LHS Mathletes are an established team with a long history. According to Carol Nenne, who coached the team for over 30 years before her retirement, mathletes has its roots in the 70s. It had already been an organized and moderately successful team when Nenne began teaching at LHS in 1979, and she estimates the first meeting of the group took place sometime in the mid-70s.

The team has participated every year in the ICTM State Math Competition since its inception in 1981, and LHS qualifies students/teams for the state finals every year according to current coach Erin Hitchcock. Last year the LHS Mathletes won regionals and the entire team qualified for state.

Sophomore team member Jarrod Hanson believes the practices aren't that eventful. "We get packets of event-specific math problems, compare answers and work through errors on the board," he said. The team usually practices twice a week, once before school and once after.

Why would one join the mathletes if the practices are uneventful? As Hanson put it, "Why not, yo?"



National Honor Society

by Gina Koziel
News writer

National Honor Society (NHS) is a non-competitive extra-curricular activity here at LHS, co-advised by English teachers Anna Kemp and Marek Dron.

NHS is a nation-wide organization that honors students who excel in school and show great leadership skills and character. The four main purposes of NHS are "to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership and to develop character in the students of secondary schools," according to www.nhs.us.

According to Dron, "Our members embody those four pillars and it shows through their hard work ... Our members aim to serve the Lemont community; last year, our membership was responsible for 3,870 hours of community service."

Each year juniors and seniors with a minimum 3.5 GPA are invited to apply for NHS membership. All members must do 18 hours of community service during the year, including an hour of tutoring.

In the past, NHS has been involved with the Indonesia Volcano relief, Treasure Chest Foundation Toy Drive, Hoops for Haiti, Jump for Japan and the St. Baldrick's Day fundraiser.

"Over the past few years, NHS has typically adopted one 'cause' each semester; the causes are left up to our members," stated Dron. "Second semester, we are looking at sponsoring an E-Waste Drive in March as well as conducting a St. Baldrick's Day fundraiser."

For more information involving NHS, LHS students are advised to speak with either Kemp or Dron.



photos courtesy of Google



Recap of Liverpool Legends

by Sarah Newton
News writer

This past Friday, in the PAC, Lemont was able to see the Beatles come to life through the tremendous performance from the Liverpool Legends.

The Liverpool Legends are a Beatles tribute band that was hand-picked by Louise Harrison, older sister of the late George Harrison. This was their third performance for the Help Keep Music Alive program. All the extra revenue that the band makes will go towards high school and college music programs.

The Liverpool Legends concert started with an introduction from Harrison. The show continued with news clips of crazed Beatles fans. The Liverpool Legends opened by reenacting the Beatles' first appearance on the Ed Sullivan show, their days playing in the underground club, the Cavern and the Beatles' first concert on the U.S. tour in the Mets stadium.

Tom Michael, resident of Lemont said he "liked the news clips; it really pulled [the show] together."

Before the second half of the show continued, Harrison came on stage again to share untold stories of the Beatles.

The second half opened with the choir and band on stage with the Liverpool Legends singing along to the songs "Hey Jude," "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and "With a Little Help from my Friends".

"Being on stage with the Liverpool Legends was such a fun experience. They looked and sounded just like the Beatles," commented senior choir member Rebecca Rachan. "It definitely made me appreciate the Beatles more than I did before."

The show ended with the Beatles most popular songs from the *White Album* and *Abbey Road*.

Each decade contained costumes and instruments that were similar to the ones worn by the Beatles. The Liverpool Legends even went as far as to act like the Beatles would have on stage.

The Liverpool Legends did an excellent job of bringing the Beatles back to life and are proof that the Beatles will never die, but live on through their fans.



photos courtesy of Google



robotics club: zero robotics



by Scott Salvatore
News writer

The Robotics Club consists of LHS students who are interested in robotics and robotic engineering. The club gets together and works on both building and programming robots. Robotics also participates in various robotics competitions throughout the year.

The main competition has typically been the Robotic Engineering Challenge at Joliet Junior College. LHS has done very well at this event over the years and last year the team, consisting of Travis Burke, Matt McKenna, Nick Strouss and Brandon White, won the top award in first place of the Expert Division. This event is held in the spring and features numerous local schools.

This fall, the club has decided to enter a new challenge: the Zero Robotics Competition. This competition is very different from the Robotic Engineering Challenge. Senior Tyler Zaremski says, "Writing actual computer code to control SPHERE satellites is done virtually through the internet."

The competition was developed by NASA and MIT and this was the first year of the competition that featured 149 teams from across the U.S. The goal is to write a program that would control a SPHERE robot that would operate in space (zero gravity), hence the name "Zero Robotics."

In order to accomplish this, robotics needs to find a technical mentor with knowledge of the "C" computer programming language. Robotics club was able to get Dan Armbrecht (husband of LHS English teacher Sara Armbrecht) who is a computer programmer for U.S. Cellular to be the technical mentor.

Club manager Scott Duensing says, "The finals of this competition will be held on board the International Space Station with actual student code running on real SPHERE satellites created by MIT."

Although the club did not make the finals and will not see the LHS code run on the satellites, Robotics was very successful in its first attempt and finished in 64th place, just ten places short of the 54 team finalists. More info can be found at www.zerorobotics.org.



photos courtesy of Google

The Ladies Room Conspiracy

by Cara Dohse
Editorialist

When I walk into the ladies room after lunch to take care of my business, it is as if there is a party. The bathroom reeks of hairspray, there is loads of make-up all over the sinks and it's time for girls to gossip. It's an obstacle to get the soap dispenser to finish washing my hands and get back to class.

Is it that difficult for girls to not be in the bathroom at the same time as their "BFF?" Is it her job to make sure your mascara isn't smeared all over your face? Let's be real here. The bathroom is supposed to be used for people to take care of their business; it shouldn't be a social event.

"There are always lines

in the girls bathroom and there's never a line for the boys bathroom. No one really cares about your makeup, just save it for after school to fix it then," said senior Danny Desmond. Even the boys agree that the ladies room conspiracy is a little ridiculous.

Junior Stephanie Eggers said, "When I go to the bathroom, it's really overwhelming and crowded, and it really isn't a place for you to bring your friends. It makes other people who have to go to the bathroom feel awkward. It's not a beauty pageant either. Nobody cares about what you look like at school."

Ladies, the day you got potty-trained was the day your parents knew you could go alone for the rest of your life. Let's see if you can do it. I believe in you. Beautiful.

photos courtesy of Google





SKYRIM

Game Glitches

John Brennan
Editorialist

I threw down sixty bucks for this Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim, shouldn't I be able to play the game in its entirety?
Bethesda has a history with the games they release having problems with data corruption. Once a save file goes over a certain megabyte count as the game is played, the frame rate goes, there are frequent glitches and chance of file corruption. It's a problem with the engine. Bethesda had outsourced the Gamebryo engine since 2002 with Elder Scrolls III: Morrowind, but problems with file sizes didn't appear until the 2008 release of Fallout 3. Then the problem persisted into Fallout: New Vegas. For Skyrim, Bethesda is using the new Creation Engine, which is actually just a modified Gamebryo. Do you think that could potentially create some problems?
Now, in a game as open and vast as Skyrim, it's understandable if it has a few problems with failure to load textures, or a bugged quest, but not as game-breaking as this. Bethesda supposedly did extensive quality assurance and somehow managed to miss it.
Owners of the game who experience these issues are bringing them up in various gaming-related forums. While the majority may not have these problems, the people that do are being stifled by other forum users who either believe that since it isn't happening to them, the problem doesn't exist. Or they are die-hard fanboys who can't comprehend their game having any flaws.
That's not right. Everyone who paid delicious freedom dollars they worked for (some might have had to push carts in the freezing cold) should be able to play the game without fear of file corruption.
There are ways to help prevent issues with the game, but they require going outside of the game. They are out of the way, and shouldn't even have to be used, on a problem that should've been worked out years ago.
Bethesda's VP of Marketing, Pete Hines made a comment on Twitter in response to people complaining about these problems saying "Patches/updates take a little time. We can't turn it around quite that fast. It's been three days. Calm down. We're working on it."
Correction, Mr. Hines— it's been three years.

cartoon created by Joshua Shubert



Ed.: Throughout the year, the Tom-Tom will occasionally publish letters to the editor discussing issues of concern for the reading public. These letters may be edited for content, grammar and style, and do not necessarily reflect the views of LHS or of the Tom-Tom. Thanks for the submissions and keep them coming!



Have you ever asked yourself why you weren't able to bring a laptop to school and make your life so much easier? Well I ask myself that same question almost every week when I'm dragging all of my books around in my backpack and when I am taking notes during class. Having a laptop in school would make my life a whole heck of a lot easier. The rule that is stated in the handbooks says that students are not allowed to use personal devices such as cellphones, iPods, and laptops, during class. Cellphones and laptops are our most resourceful objects in today's society.
I believe that if laptops were allowed in school, students' grades would increase. This may not sound logical, but I think that people would much rather type out notes and record the teacher's lecture than have to complain about writing a lot in a notebook. Being able to type would be faster and not as pain-staking as writing notes, and being able to record the teacher talking would allow the student to go back home and re-listen to what was being discussed in case anything was missed while typing the notes. I personally have a first-hand experience of using a laptop during a college class over the summer. I took notes on my laptop while I recorded my teacher talking. When there was extra time before the class ended, I was able to start my homework and work on class projects with my group.
Now if the administration were to even consider allowing laptops to be used in school, they'd probably try to argue that not all students have the money to purchase a laptop. Not all students have the money to buy their own car either, but the school sells expensive parking passes to the ones that have a car and want to drive to school. Laptops are cheaper than cars and students could rent a laptop from an electronic store that has that option. If a student feels that he needs a laptop to make his grades better, let him purchase one.
In conclusion, I believe that I have made some excellent points in stating why students should be allowed to bring laptops to school and use them during class. Some students will actually use the laptops the proper way for taking notes while others would play games and not pay any attention in class. If colleges allow laptop usage during class, why can't high schools do the same?

- Vince Zygmuntowicz

photos courtesy of Google

10 THOUGHTS

Joe Pa Deserved Better

by Ryan Peraino
Guest editorialist

On Nov. 10, in College Station, Pennsylvania, Penn State students began to riot over the firing of Joe Paterno because of the child sex scandal that occurred in his program.

We've all heard about the terrible things that went on in that Penn St. shower and we all have our own opinions on what should happen to this program moving forward.

On the night Joe Pa got fired, I was disappointed in the school's decision to fire this man. He was always a man of good character and his program exhibited that also. He was a legacy on campus and he did so much for the school. I believed that this was the wrong decision and that he should have stayed on as a coach.

Since then my opinion has changed drastically. I've heard countless interviews and reports that have suggested that Joe Pa had a slight idea of what was going on and chose to ignore it. In these new reports that have come out, it sounds like Joe Pa didn't have much control over his program anymore and they needed a change.

By law Paterno did what he was supposed to do, but morally did he do the right thing? If this was you being abused wouldn't you want somebody to step up and fight for you? Instead of doing the hard thing and telling authorities on his friend, he took the easy way out and just told the Athletic Director. This was a move that eventually cost him his job and reputation.

Even with these recent allegations, Joe Pa has still done many great things for the university. He has donated millions of dollars to the school, won many football games for them and graduated many of his student-athletes (which is a rarity these days).

My point in this is that he deserved to be fired in a better way. What they did was, a man showed up at his door telling Paterno to call a number where he was told that he wasn't the coach of the football team anymore. A man that has done as much as he has for this university deserves to be told in person that he is being fired, not on the phone.

Paterno is taking a lot of heat for this whole situation but the man who really needs to be fired is Mike McQueary. He is the man that saw Sandusky acting inappropriately with a little boy in the showers and all he did was tell Paterno. If Paterno is going to get fired for only telling the man above him, then McQueary should be fired for doing the same. McQueary also lied to reporters saying that he did report the incident to the police when there is no police record of him doing so.

This whole situation is a sad thing that I hope we can all learn a lesson from. The main point of emphasis in this situation is getting the victims help and making sure that nothing like this happens again. The whole sports situation has taken over this story and that isn't the real problem here. I hope that Penn St. gets this situation sorted out and that something like this will never happen again.

photos courtesy of Google



10 THOUGHTS

Gobble, Gobble Up Your Blessings

by Mallory Christine
Features Editor

You might find something a little sweeter than cranberry sauce in your Thanksgiving.

Whether the festive holiday means lots of food, the massacring of Native Americans, or nothing to you, one thing you might be forgetting about is the name of the game—actual thanks. To make sure Lemont High School has not forgotten, I had to ask: what are our students thankful for?

Expectedly, many students were thankful for their families, friends, and necessities above all. “[I’m thankful] to have food,” said senior Erica Segerberg. “I’d rather have a turkey than nothing.”

Freshmen Brielle Christopherson and Kayla Schmitt also included their simplicities, being thankful for their families, houses, food, water and money.

Fittingly, sophomore Alec Lachappell stated, “Family, shelter, food, clothing and friends.” Like Lachappell, it (happily) didn’t take these students long to count their blessings.

Seniors Chris Jackson and Meg Pecora stayed consistent with other students.

“[I’m thankful for] all my family and friends, and all the support I get from them,” said Jackson. “Also that I have such a healthy family, a healthy environment.”

“I’m thankful for my friends because they are my rock and have been there for me,” said Pecora. “I’m also thankful for my family because they do all they can for me, and help me try and succeed in life.”

Aside from the basics, other students express their fondness for their own actions and experiences. Said junior Bill Millard, “[I’m thankful for] the great football season I had this year. Straight from the heart.”

Another blessing Pecora counts? “The volume button.”

Along with these pleased pupils, Lemont High School staff members are just as sentimental this Thanksgiving.

“[I’m thankful] for health,” said LHS assistant intervention advocate Bob Maciulis. “You don’t realize how wonderful life is when you’re healthy. It’s the anchor.” And, as if he hadn’t melted my heart enough, Maciulis’ list goes on. “I love being here. What a wonderful place this little farm town built us,” Maciulis said.

The theme for LHS’ thanks is keeping it close to heart. “[I’m thankful for] my family,” concludes senior Becky Navratil.

From the smallest things in life to life itself, one can satisfactorily smile learning the sweeter-than-your-pumpkin-pie sentiment of their fellow Lemont High School students and staff.

So, like your fellow classmates, dig through something a little deeper than your heap of stuffing this Thanksgiving to find what *you’re* thankful for.



Photo courtesy of Google



JEGGINGS, JEANS, AND LEGGINGS:

OH MY!

by Ashley Murphy
Features writer

Are they jeans, or are they leggings? The new trendy clothing is jeggings. While looking like jeans, these pants are as comfortable as leggings. I have about 5 pairs of jeggings, and they fit me great. All of them cling to my legs and look fantastic.

Why wear a pair of boring black leggings? Why wear super uncomfortable jeans? Instead, slip on the clothing that takes the denim look out of jeans and into super-comfy leggings—jeggings.

The biggest debate over jeggings is whether or not they are real pants. Parents think that leggings are inappropriate. However, many high school students disagree: jeggings are stylish, yet comfortable.

Homeschooled high school student Julie Mrozak states, “I think whoever invented jeggings is a genius. No one ever wants to wear jeans to school, but jeans are very fashionable. So why not jeggings? It’s a great idea.”

On the other hand, some parents don’t approve. “My daughter wears jeggings all the time,” said local Jewel customer/mom. “I think they look inappropriate and racy.”

Some agree, some disagree, but jeggings have been the new hype for quite a bit of time now. When I started wearing them a couple years ago, jeggings started getting more popular. Now they are a trend.

Want jeggings, the clothing that provides fashion with comfort? You can find great quality jeggings at Hollister Co. for about \$50.

Want cheap? You can also find great jeggings at local stores like Target and Kohl’s. Jeggings would be a perfect Christmas present for any daughter, friend or sister.

Happy jeggings!



Photos courtesy of Google



Gotta Get Some nutella-ella-ella-ay-ay-ay

by Luke Whittingham
Features writer

The chocolate-hazelnut dream is sweeping through Lemont.

Lemont High School students frantically look for the product in whatever form they can obtain the spread.

According to nutellausa.com, “Nutella spread, in its earliest form, was created in the 1940s by Mr. Pietro Ferrero, a pastry maker and founder of the Ferrero Company.” Because of World War II rationing, Mr. Ferrero used hazelnuts, and voila—Nutella was born.

What draws students to Nutella? Is it the smooth spread?

“[Nutella is] the most amazingest thing ever in the whole wide world,” said freshman Toni Polino. “I have it for lunch every day.”

A student eating the spread every day truly evokes the notion of a fad. But the true way to recognize a fad is to first recognize the anti-fad.

“Nutella is good, but people need to calm down about it,” said senior Caroline Jachec. “It’s chocolate peanut butter people.”

Having traveled to Europe over the years, I’ve seen the large role Nutella plays in a European household. But the trend here is recent and growing.

Food fads have been ever present at LHS, from the BOSCO stick fad of 2009 to the lollipop fad of 2010. It’s uncertain as to how long the Nutella fad will stay “in fashion,” but today, the product continues to grow in popularity among LHS students.

“The dear cousin of peanut butter, and heaven in a tub: yum,” said sophomore Sara Van Hecke. “Can’t go wrong with Nutella.”

The dip-able, spreadable treat is often sold out in some stores (Celina’s Polish Deli and Target to name a few). But there’s a solution—students seek Nutella’s newest invention of individually wrapped cookie sticks with Nutella.

For now, the fad continues to grow at LHS, and the options are endless—however you Nutella.



Photos courtesy of Google



The Wizarding World of Harry Potter

by Sonia Vavra
Features writer

The *Harry Potter* movies may have ended, but the magic is still alive for Potterheads like me.

A Potterhead is a die-hard Harry Potter fan. They know all the stories, all the characters and all of the events that take place. Potterheads can often be seen sporting some kind of article of Harry Potter clothing or anything Potter-related. They know all there is to know about Harry Potter.

The Wizarding World of Harry Potter™ opened in Universal Orlando® in 2010. There, you can walk through the gates to Hogsmeade, roam through Honeydukes for delicious wizard sweets, and even have dinner in The Three Broomsticks. These places may not ever be seen throughout the muggle world, but for those who are fans of the Harry Potter series, these are all familiar sites to see.

“[The Wizarding World of Harry Potter] is my childhood fantasies brought to life,” said junior Jordan Gembara. “They took everything right from the pages and made it a reality. It was probably one of the coolest places I’ve ever been.”

I was clearly not the only Potterhead excited to experience the wonders that The Wizarding World of Harry Potter had to offer. It was thrilling being able to walk through Hogsmeade, taking in all the curved chimneys on the snow-covered rooftops and walking from shop to shop filled with Harry Potter-related goodies.

Like Gembara, senior Brianne Cody was also thrilled about The Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

“It was a fantastic experience. I had the opportunity of going last summer, and, being an avid Harry Potter fan, I absolutely loved it,” said Cody. “My

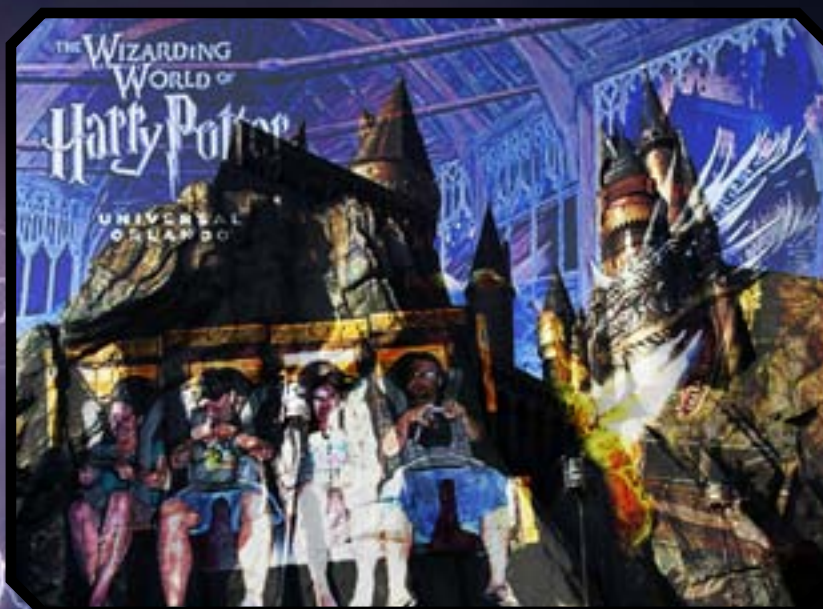
favorite part of the day was hanging out in Hogsmeade sipping on Butterbeer. It was pretty amazing to go into all the shops that exist in the Harry Potter books.”

The crowd of people roaming the streets of Hogsmeade seemed to agree. Everyone’s eyes seemed to light up as they took in each incredible sight there was to see.

“It was probably one of my favorite vacations ever,” said Gembara. “Everything there was just phenomenal, and I’d go back in a heartbeat.”

It was incredible what The Wizarding World of Harry Potter had to offer. It gives each and every Potterhead the opportunity to experience the magic of all the stories that they have loved for so long.

“Everything there was amazing,” said Cody. “[The Wizarding World of Harry Potter] is surely an experience that I will never forget.”



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TYLER JAY SIGNS BASEBALL INTENT TO U OF I

by Adrian Kalata
Sports writer

Senior Tyler Jay signed a letter of intent to play baseball for the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign on Nov 11. He is the fourth LHS student in the past two years to receive a NCAA Division I scholarship for baseball.

Over two varsity seasons, Jay has a combined record of 49-18 and has won two IHSA Regional and SSC Blue Division titles. Coach Joe Rodeghero stated that Jay has improved tremendously over his last two years on varsity. He is the type of pitcher that gives you a great chance to win every time he goes to the mound.”

Jay began his varsity career sophomore year with a 3.03 ERA. He averaged nearly 6.5 strikeouts/7 innings. In 2011, he improved to 12.25/ 7 innings. Off the mound, Jay also batted a .371 and had 14 runs batted in.

Jay is the seventh student from LHS to play baseball in college and will be joining Josh Ferry on the Illinois roster, who graduated in '11. Rodeghero included that “Tyler will be a great asset to the Illinois program if he keeps working hard at his game.”

Senior Fred Schuett, another pitcher for the varsity team, described Jay as, “a great team member who puts the team in front of himself. He’s been a great leader of the varsity team during these past couple years.”

“He will do anything it takes to win. He is a great teammate. His work ethic is an example to the young players on the team,” stated Rodeghero.

Jay was also the leading wide receiver on the varsity football team with 22 receptions, 500 yards receiving and 10 touchdown catches. He also played as the punter and the main return man on kickoffs and punts.

The U of I baseball team has a 181-154 record over the last six seasons with coach Dan Hartleb. In the spring of 2010, Illinois had its best season with a 30-27 record. It earned both the Big Ten’s regular-season and tournament crowns, and split four games in the NCAA Tournament. Jay will be attributing to the team during its next season.



Senior Tyler Jay at signing

Photo by Tony Hamilton

PENN STATE

by John Fiori
Sports writer

A series of sexual scandals has overwhelmed the defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky and the community of Penn State. Joe Paterno, head coach for 46 years, planned on retiring after the season ended and was evidently fired, because of his involvement with the scandal. More than five Penn State coaches and officials have been linked to the allegations and two are on trial for perjury.

Jerry Sandusky led a Second Mile organization for under-privileged kids teaching them the game of football. This is where he became close to the boys and evidently the beginning of a horrible act. The scandal began, when recruiting coach Mike McQueary spotted Sandusky abusing a child in the shower of a Penn state locker room in 2002. The next day McQueary reported the abuse to his father. It then went up the chain of command starting with Paterno, the athletic director, then the vice president. The courts ruled McQueary a “consistent” and “credible” source.

Sandusky started getting close to the kids by spoiling them. He brought them to Philadelphia Eagles games and numerous sporting events. He later would invite them over to his house for meals. According to the reports they would sleep over. There have been eight victims dating back to as early as the 1990’s. Grand Jury reports state vulgar and offensive acts on these children. Sandusky has been charged with 40 counts of child abuse. On an interview with NBC reporter Bob Costas Sandusky says, “I say that I am innocent of those charges”. With multiple eye witnesses and accusations he says, “Mike McQueary falsely accused me.”

Sandusky is not the only one going on trial, athletic director Tim Curly and vice president Gary Schultz are being charged with perjury. After Paterno contacted the higher chain of command it was never reported to police officials. Pennsylvania law only accuses two highest in command. Therefore Paterno and McQueary are not being charged. Penn State officials were afraid of giving Penn State the bad name with these allegations. Curly and Schultz statements to the courts were ruled “inconsistent” and “not credible”

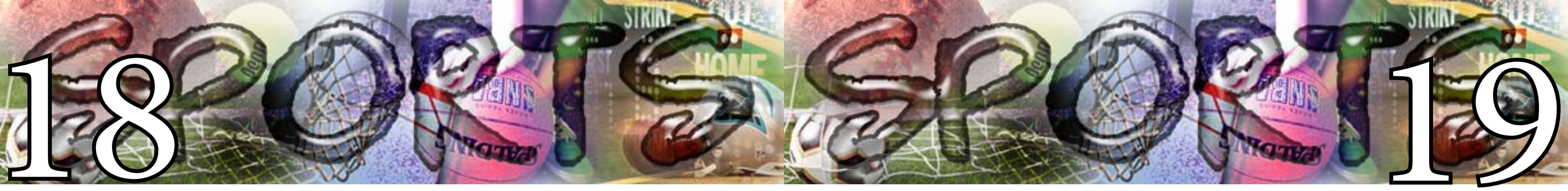
The news came to the Penn state community with a shock and has impacted them drastically. Riots occurred on campus regarding the firing of Paterno. Sandusky was a part of Penn State’s greatest reign as one of the best teams in the nation. He was regarded as a defensive mastermind as a coach and is now known as a child abuser at the end of his career. Paterno holds the record for the most wins in Division 1 football as a coach. Penn State will have to continue the season after these offensive acts with new interim coaches.

SCANDAL



A cutout image of former Penn State football coach is raised in the air as students react off campus, Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2011, in State College, Pa.

Photos courtesy of Google



Cubs, White Sox: Who Goes Where?

by Kurran Buck
Sports writer

Both the Chicago White Sox and the Chicago Cubs had slumbering seasons, coming in third and fifth in their respective divisions. So what could they do to improve for next year?

White Sox

The White Sox could be losing their ace southpaw or left-handed pitcher in Mark Buehrle due to his contract with the Sox ending, thus becoming a free agent. To `keep him would be a good investment, even with last year’s club-record salary of \$127 million. He has also been with the team for 11 years, which is his entire career.

Former third baseman and new manager Robin Ventura, as any manager should, will be looking for improvement from his team, and the Sox need that – especially in the offensive area.

With Adam Dunn and Alex Rios both struggling in the offensive category, first baseman Paul Konerko and right fielder Carlos Quentin could use some help. They could trade second baseman Gordon Beckham and/or third baseman/outfielder Dayan Viciedo to get a prolific leadoff hitter like Jacoby Ellsbury of the Boston Red Sox or Hunter Pence of the Philadelphia Phillies.



Cubs

The Cubs lost Aramis Ramirez, but that still doesn’t take much of a dent out of their salary either. Although he made \$14.6 million, there were two people who made more than him.

Alfonso Soriano, Kosuke Fukudome, and Carlos Zambrano, made up about a quarter of the Cubs’ total salary for the 2011 season. So what they need to do is subtract faltering players such as Marlon Byrd and Blake DeWitt.

If they are to improve from their fifth place, 71 win and 91 loss 2011 season, then there needs to be trades and resignings in order for an improvement in the standings. With new manager Dale Sveum in charge for the 2012 season, Cubs fans can have hope that he will advance them further than the Cubs have been in a few years. The last time the Cubs were in the playoffs was in 2008.

Both teams have room for an upturn in the standings and in offensive improvement. It comes down to who does it the best.

Photos courtesy of Google

GONDEK TAKES ON RUGBY

by Kyle Griffin
Sports writer

One of the great things about going to high school is being able to play the sport you love for the school team. However, senior Matt Gondek, does not have that option when it comes to playing his sport of choice: rugby.

Gondek plays for the U-18 Downers Grove Rugby Club and is currently going into his second year with the team. Although rugby is a spring sport, the team has already started practicing in preparation for the new season.

Right now, the team’s practices consist of a lot of fitness training because it is important to be in good shape for 7 on 7 rugby, which is the style of play Gondek and his team play.

7 on 7 is a style of rugby when each team has seven players on the field that play two seven minute halves. It may seem short to a spectator but take it from a players point of view.

“After being out there for 14 minutes, everyone is completely exhausted. It’s a lot of hard work,” said Gondek.

Gondek was encouraged by his friends to take up the sport and after only playing one season, he says, “it was one of the best decisions I made to play.”

Rugby is certainly not one of the most popular sports among Americans and that is why high schools do not have teams. However, it is gaining popularity.

This year the team has significantly more players on the team than last year and interest is growing in the sport, even among kids at LHS.

“I’ve seen some rugby games on TV and I think it would be a great game to play,” said junior Tom Griffin.

So even if your school does not offer the activity you love and have a passion for, do not let that discourage you from participating in it.



Senior Matt Gondek

Photo by Tony Hamilton