



Model UN Travels to *Chicago*

by Morgan McPartland
Head Editor

Lemont High School's Model United Nations club recently spent the weekend in Chicago for a conference with over 2,000 other students from across the globe. The conference, called the Model United Nations of the University of Chicago is basically an opportunity for students to work collaboratively with each other, according to Model UN co-sponsor Dan Priestley.

MUNUC took place from Thursday, Feb. 2 to Sunday, Feb. 5 at the Palmer House in downtown Chicago. The event began with an opening ceremony on Thursday night, then ended Sunday morning.

Priestley and co-sponsor Michael Pryor attended MUNUC with the students as well, and this was Priestley's first year at the conference. LHS' Model UN club has been annually attending MUNUC for at least the last ten years, and the club plans to continue the tradition in the years to come.

According to senior Model UN member Saeda Aljazara, the conference is split up into different committees. "Each committee has topics they're supposed to debate on. Ultimately, they [have to] come up with a resolution that the majority agrees on," said Aljazara. "I felt like my committee, which was the legal committee, did a really good job creating a resolution outlining the liability and prevention of man-made disasters."

The committees had to focus on solving problems concerning legal issues, agricultural issues, security concerns, etc. Within the committees, the overall goal was to pass documents and create resolutions by the end of the conference.

"The experience is good for [the students] because they get to work with students from around the world on a formal and professional level," said Priestley. For more information about MUNUC, visit www.munuc.org.



photos courtesy of WeHeartIt

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NEWS

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FBLA DOMINATES at Regionals

by Nicole McKeivitt
News writer

When hosting the Central Northern Area Conference regional on Jan. 21, Lemont High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) dominated the competition, taking first place in 15 of the 23 events they entered in.

Lemont had 30 top-three finishes in all, and is now looking forward to competing at the 2012 Illinois FBLA State Leadership Conference in Decatur, Illinois.

FBLA Regional Vice President Naem Mufarreh said, "I envision Lemont

doing very well at state. Last year we took a record number of first place finishes and state wins for Lemont, and I hope to exceed that number this year."

Lemont students placed first in 12 individual events and three team competitions. Seniors Brian McMahon and Shane Purtle won in the Emerging Business Issues category; seniors Matt Kowalczyk and Naem Mufarreh won the title in Management Decision Making; and senior Brandon White and junior Tadas Vildziunas won the Web Design competition.

Individual event winners include: seniors Nick Cottrell (Public Speaking 2), Derek Ratulowski (Cyber Security) and Nick Theodore (Sports Management); juniors Michael Krueger (Accounting 1), Michael Macek (Global Business), and Zack Reitz (Accounting 2); sophomores Rebeca Bagdocimo (Public Speaking 1), Nick Ciofalo (Business Procedures), Sarah Lillwitz (Job Interview) and Rachel Papiernik (Management Information Systems); and freshmen Simon Batistich (Introduction to Business Communication) and Michael Vitt (Economics).

Lemont also had nine event runner-up finishes. Juniors Nina Moeller, Justin Stanwyck and Dan Totura finished second in Business Ethics, while juniors Tom Griffin and Katelyn Koehler were the runner-ups in Entrepreneurship. Other second-place finishers include juniors Ryan Gaffney (Personal Finance), Conor Matthews (Public Speaking 2), Joe Paloian (Accounting 2) and Ethan Parafink (Business Communications); and sophomores Lucas Heatherington (Accounting 1), Lauren Kowalczyk (Business Procedures) and Margaret Rogers (Management Information Systems).

FBLA will be competing at the state competition on March 30-31.



photo by Brittany Glowa

4 NEWS

Engineering Success

by Marisa Mars
News writer

Robots are no longer mechanisms of the future—something Lemont’s robotics team is familiar with. On Jan. 27, four Lemont High School students competed at Joliet Junior College’s Robotic Engineering Challenge, falling just short of first place.

Lemont’s team is composed of seniors Travis Burke and Kyle Tulipano along with juniors Szymon Krzeptowki-Mucha and Brian Schamasko.

The team’s faculty sponsor, career and technical education teacher Scott Duensing “couldn’t be more proud of our students for working hard and constantly placing among the top teams at the competition.” He added the competition is “literally like running a marathon, both physically and mentally.”

Teams competing in the challenges are given a LEGO ROBOLAB™ kit on the day of the competition to use to build their robot. The teams have a series of challenges the robot needs to complete and they need to build their robots accordingly.

Tony Hamilton, communications director, said the competition is “intended to increase students’ interest in the fields of engineering, technology, and robotics.” The teams competing are scored based on their robot’s effectiveness and their answers to mathematics and physics questions relating to the competition.

Lemont’s team competed in the Expert Division since Burke had competed in 2011’s competition. Teams are placed in the Novice division if no team members have previously competed and in the Expert Division if at least one member has competed in the past. Their competitors included top teams from vocational centers and schools in the area.

This competition marks the third year in a row Lemont has placed in the top three teams at JJC’s competition. “We would’ve liked to win first this year as well, but second is pretty good,” Burke said. “Overall we did pretty well and even though I won’t be there next year I hope the team goes on to continue to place in the top three.”

Lemont congratulates the team on their accomplishments.



photo by Brittany Glowa

EDITORIALS 5

The Consumer Epidemic

Spreads

to Literature

by Ryan Kahle
Editorialist

TOPIC

A man kills his father and marries his mother. Acquaintances old and new go for a drive. A man hunts a whale. A poor family of sharecroppers moves to California in hopes of a better life. Pigs on a newly autonomous farm take too much control. A lawyer's daughter experiences the process of law. A tale of pirates and buried gold.

Recognize any? If not, it may be for the fact that most of these works were not based around an intricate plot. In many instances, plot may not have been considered, but simply used as a vehicle for meaning.

Oedipus Rex. The Great Gatsby. Moby Dick. The Grapes of Wrath. Animal Farm. To Kill A Mockingbird. Treasure Island.

Are bells ringing? Are neurons firing in recognition?

Granted, these works are more than their simple plotlines. Sweeping, grandiose universal truths and poignant social commentary serve to garner readers decades after a publication date

or author's death.

Successful literary works are those that mean more than they say.

Unfortunately, the consumer fiction publication sphere (many times not so) respectfully disagrees. An intricate plot with confusing twists and surprise endings sells more than the simple and truthful. It seems the public would rather be confused than enlightened (see sidebar).

Even if the twists are so violent and unexpected that they wear holes in the fabric of the plot, it doesn't appear to matter. If one cannot write well using complicated technique, he simply will not write anything greater than a hard-to-understand piece of dubious-quality consumer fiction.

The more focused a writer is on the complications of plot, the less attention he can allot towards universal truths and global moralistic statements. In all facets of writing, this holds true. Complicated syntax and structure in a single sentence can leave a reader confused and angry at the world.

If this is left to fester and eventually infects an entire work, the results can be terrifyingly frustrating. Overcomplicated topics lead to a narrow focus

and a grand total of zero universal truths. The very broad basis used in many of the great works of literary fiction provides the author with an opportunity to create meaning.

Plot is primary for consumer fiction. For literary fiction, it is wholly unimportant.

BLOB CHARACTERS

Ever been so in sync with a character that her/his emotions became incredibly personal and moving? Ever been able to empathize exactly with a fictional entity? Ever been emotionally traumatized by a book's ending? If so, one of the multifarious pitfalls woven into consumer fiction has succeeded in degrading literary composition.

Unrequited empathy spews from the jacket of any consumer fiction, offering the means for such degradation. Images of commonly accepted, usually androgynous "beauty," modified nearly beyond recognition and certainly beyond physical achievement, scream from the front of said jackets. The major character stares forward, seductively.

"BUY ME," the cover desperately screams, facial expression never shifting. "BUY ME AND I'LL LOVE YOU." Lurid colors assault the visual field; there are no apologies.

photos courtesy of WeHeartIt

6 EDITORIALS

Anything to sell a few books.

True, authors must make the characters in their works believable if they strive for success. There is a thin line however, between a well-crafted character and a blob character.

A **blob character** is one with a nondescript emotional set; the author usually prefers the reader to become intimately and illogically attached to this character. The blob character tends to be the crux of any consumer work, the single most important facet and/or the selling point, although not every instance of commercial fiction confines such a character in its pages.

The author essentially requires this character to be mentally removed from the story and replaced with an idealized version of the reader. Without that as a possibility, the book would quickly go downhill in regards to sales; not to mention, it would be termed “terrible.”

Readers would be unable to slake their desire for something better; their delusions would cease to be.

Most readers that consider themselves “avid” have a favorite character. More often than not, it is not the character itself that garners the title *favourite* but the story framing the character. During some point in a story, the characteristics that once defined this fictional entity are replaced with the reader’s desires and psychological needs.

The simple fact that this has and is being done speaks both to the wonder and horror of the human mind.

MONEY

Many writers took up their craft in response to a personal aversion to mathematics or other such subjects. Unfortu-

nately, in this day and age most publishers see writing as a numbers game.

With scores of subpar authors producing a staggering number of superfluous volumes (not to mention the plethora of laughable sequels), one has to ponder the motive behind such production. Societal betterment is out of the question; the verbiage littering the excessive pages produced by said authors is lacking in one or more (hint: it’s more) of the categories needed to promote fiction into the literary sphere.

As more individuals enter into writing as a “profession” the quality of the work produced by the literary community spirals downwards.

Greed is the main contributor to this basic devaluation of writing at large; sacrificing the quality of a work for the quantity of money obtained by publishing two instead is how many would-be greats operate. Money has become the primary result of writing for many authors. Good will and the betterment of society has fallen to the wayside.

Most generations can easily point to a few choice authors as “the best” of a generation. With the mainstreaming of consumer novels and the addition of countless forgettable writers to the archive, the present generation is mostly unable to define these individuals as anywhere close to “good” much less “the best.”

Today’s society, saturated with frivolous and unnecessary authors, is in quite the predicament. Moving away from cyclical publishing and quarterly profits and towards passion and universal truths is the only rectification the publishing world can hope for.

Sometimes the Mind Needs a Break, Right?

by Morgan McPartland
Head Editor

Harry Potter. Twilight. The Hunger Games. Chances are, at least one of these three series sounds familiar because of the phenomenon they have created over the last few years. Popular series like the three mentioned above have slowly taken over not only bookstores around the country, but movie theaters as well.

Consumer fiction is slowly but surely taking over the entertainment business, and many avid readers believe it’s unfortunately taking the place of classic literature too. But is it? Sure, countless books are now being made into complex movies filled with surprising twists and complex plotlines, but that’s not necessarily a bad thing.

Writing has always been a form of entertainment, after all. Why can’t there be both? People who want something short and fun to read can continue to indulge in novels that evoke a little too much emotion, and the more traditional readers can continue to analyze classics.

Not every novel needs to involve an underlying moral or life lesson. Classic literature will always be classic literature, but sometimes readers need to get completely lost in a far-fetched story, if only to temporarily escape from reality.

FEATURES 7

LASER TAGGING IT UP

by Sonia Vavra
Features writer

My friends and I sat around my kitchen table trying to think of something exciting to do for our Saturday night. It was already 7:00 and we were quickly running out of time. All of a sudden, an idea popped into my head: laser tag.

The words came out of my mouth almost impulsively, but this simple yet brilliant idea seemed to awe my friends. As they stared at me, I knew it was time to jump into the car and get going.

In no time we arrived at Chasers Laser Tag. As we walked through the doors, we took in the underwater theme and the sounds from the arcade games scattered all around.

When our turn was finally called to enter the laser tagging arena, my anticipation was reaching its highest point. As soon as my friends and I slapped on the blinking colored vests and broke into teams of two, we began.

My teammate and I were the first to enter. The thrill of it all was fascinating; from the glow of the black light, to the flashing lights, to the loud, booming music. The surroundings in the arena made us more excited than we already were to begin stalking each other down and shooting a laser gun at each of our chests.

Throughout the entire session, my teammate and I tracked down our opponents, attempting to aim our laser guns at their vests and quickly retreat away to safety. We continued to run around in the two-story glowing environment filled with obstacles to hide and duck behind. It was with great disappointment that we unwillingly left the arena to give up our guns and vests.

The entire car ride home was filled with conversations of the fun we had while my teammate and I bragged about our victory over the other team. My friends and I are already planning another trip back to Chasers, extremely eager to have another chance of victory.

Want to dominate at laser tagging? Find out which Chasers location is closest to you at <http://chasertag.com/>.



Photo courtesy of Google

8 FEATURES

Come Together Right Now *Over World Issues*

by Luke Whittingham
Features writer

Although the end of the world is drawing near, Lemont High School students are still solving its inhabitants' problems.

Model United Nations had its 24th annual munuc conference in Chicago last weekend. The conference consists of over 1,000 delegates debating world issues. The debates are held in the same manner as the actual United Nations. They involve world issues like man-made disasters and are resolved through hours of debate.

"It was a great experience which I am thrilled to be able to do again for two more years," said LHS sophomore Zoe Remiasz. The conference is held at the Palmer House Hotel in the Loop downtown Chicago. The debates are held in different ballrooms at the Palmer House and create conflict between different countries. The outcome, however, is a resolution that is agreed upon by all represented nations.

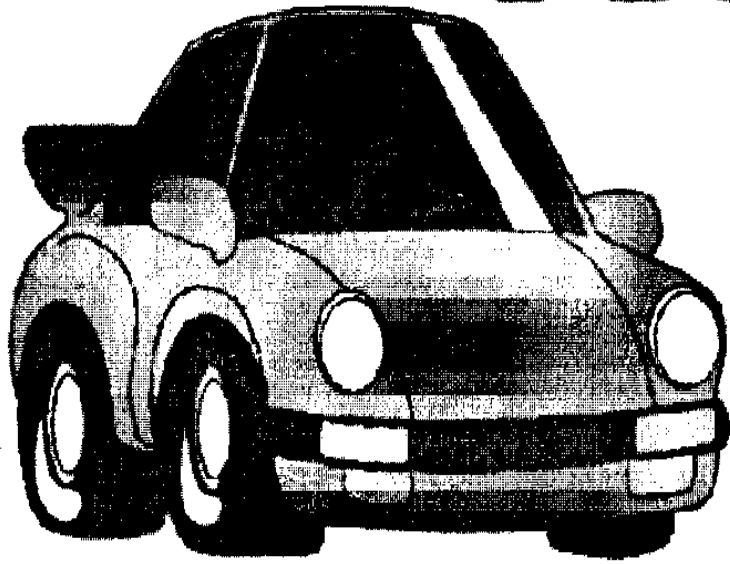
This year, social studies teachers Mike Pryor and Dan Priestley took the largest group of students in LHS history. The students learned about germane topics that strike our world and its people are peacefully resolved. "Now that I'm home, I'm in a reasonably deep state of sadness that I can't be at Munuc forever," said sophomore at Barrington High School and active delegate in Model United Nations Allie Vlk. "All of the interesting, smart, cultured, funny and fun-loving delegates there made it a weekend to remember." Change to times new roman

Being a representative for Syrian Arab Republic allowed me to see the United States from a different perspective and see the influence and impact my nation can have. Being able to see the proximity to which nations work gave me a new appreciation for the world that Model United Nations supplied.



Photo by Brittany Glowa

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SPORTS 11

Bears New GM

by Adrian Kalata
Sports writer

The Chicago Bears faced a challenging season this year after losing quarterback Jay Cutler and running back Matt Forte to injuries and backup receiver Sam Hurd due to a drug scandal.

The Bears started 7-3 before their season took a turn for the worse. They lost five consecutive games and, although winning their season finale, got eliminated from the NFL Playoffs.

Therefore, it is not surprising that George McCaskey, who has completed his first year as the Bear's chairman, decided to lay off eleven year general manager Jerry Angelo. Angelo will be replaced by Kansas City Chiefs Director of College Scouting Phil Emery.

After eleven years, Angelo has earned an 83-73 regular season record and a playoff record of 3-4. During this time, he led the Bears to win four division titles and an appearance at the 2007 Super Bowl.

This will not be Emery's first position with the Bears. Emery worked with the Bears as a scout from 1998-2004. He later went on as director of scouting for the Atlanta Falcons and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Before working with the Bears, Emery served as a strength and conditioning coach at many colleges, including Central Michigan University and Georgetown College.

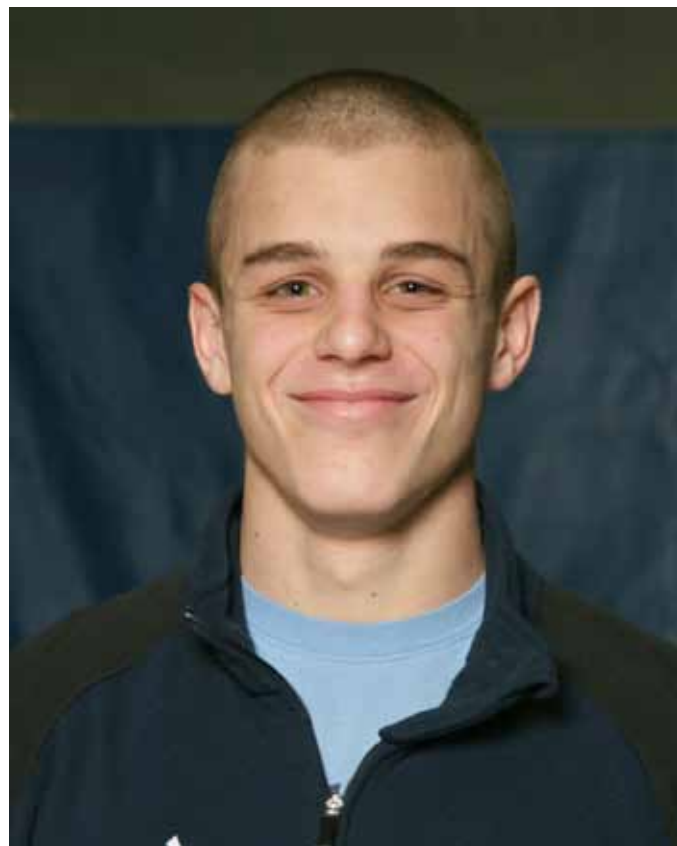
Hopefully having Emery in as GM will bring home a Super Bowl win and shake the 27-year-long drought the Bears have infamously earned.



Photo courtesy of Google

ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK:

Jake Kaminsky



The 152 pound wrestler won his Regional, pinning every opponent, and then won his Sectional, winning by Technical Fall in the finals. He will compete for the state title this weekend.

Photo by Tony Hamilton

SPORTS

12

THROUGH THE FIRE

by Eric Gruber
Sports writer

Defense wins championships. The Chicago Bulls of the 1990s would never have won all of their championships without lockdown defense. The defense is anchored from the big men, centers and forwards.

Matt Lipowski's dedication and hard work has finally paid off. Three years of tough losing seasons is finally over. "It means so much to be on a winning team this year. It's hard to describe it with words because it is not only for me; it is for most of the players in the Lemont basketball organization."

The entire team appreciates Lipowski's work ethic to the team, especially head coach Rick Runaas. "He brings great leadership; he leads by example in practice and in games. He sacrifices a lot of his offense to play on the defensive end."

Lipowski is just what the Indians need to push them over the edge for success. This is a team game but everybody has their individual roles. "For me it is all about defense. I often get matched up against the best scorer on the other team so I take pride in stepping up and locking him down."

Lipowski brings a little bit of everything to the floor but takes pride in his defense. "His best assets are definitely his determination, mental toughness, and he wants to guard the other team's best player," said Runaas.

The record breaking season continues for Lemont. This is a team game but each player needs to do their individual roles to eventually achieve the ultimate team goal. "At the beginning of the season my goal was to win 15 games. Now since we have already surpassed that, I just want to keep winning as many as we can."

Senior Joe O'Brien has been playing with Matt Lipowski since they were little kids and knows his game very well. "He is a great leader and the defense he brings to the team really helps us win."

All of the wins have surprised a lot of people because of the past teams. The team's senior leadership is a huge part of their success and Lipowski and brings that. "He's like a big brother to his teammates, he is very encouraging and listens to the coaches," said Runaas.

This season, the leading scorer Juozas Balciunas says, "Defense is just as important as scoring and Lipowski is a lockdown defender."

Anything is possible for this Lemont team. Playing defense can get you all the way; this is proven by Matt Lipowski's career.



Photo by Tony Hamilton

SPORTS 13

WESTERN ILLINOIS: BE PREPARED FOR LEMONT

by Effie Tounas
Sports writer

In the second month of the year, February to say, many students celebrate one of the most important days of their lives: National Signing Day. This holiday has been declared by the NCAA to be the day high school athletes officially commit to college sports; it falls on the first Wednesday of February.

After four years of dedication to the Lemont football program, linebackers Brad Uher and Kyle Krull officially signed to play for Western Illinois University next year. Both players had been in the starting varsity line-up for Lemont's team. Krull had spent three years with the varsity team while Uher spent two.

When asked about their past four years of their football career, the boys talked of their favorite plays and past experiences. But most of all, both boys kept mentioning what a great team they played with, and how much good teammates matter.

Q: How has the past four years of Lemont football shaped you into the person you are today?

Uher: It made me a much more dedicated person, not only to football, but to other things as well.

Krull: It made me into a man I didn't think I'd become; it helped make me more disciplined and taught me lifelong lessons I'll be able to use later in life.

Q: What do you expect to gain from playing for Western's football team?

Krull: Lifelong friends; it's been my dream since I was a little kid to play football in college and now I can follow in my father's footsteps.

Uher: I hope to meet new people and I'm given another chance to continue to play football after high school.

Q: What was your favorite experience from LHS football?

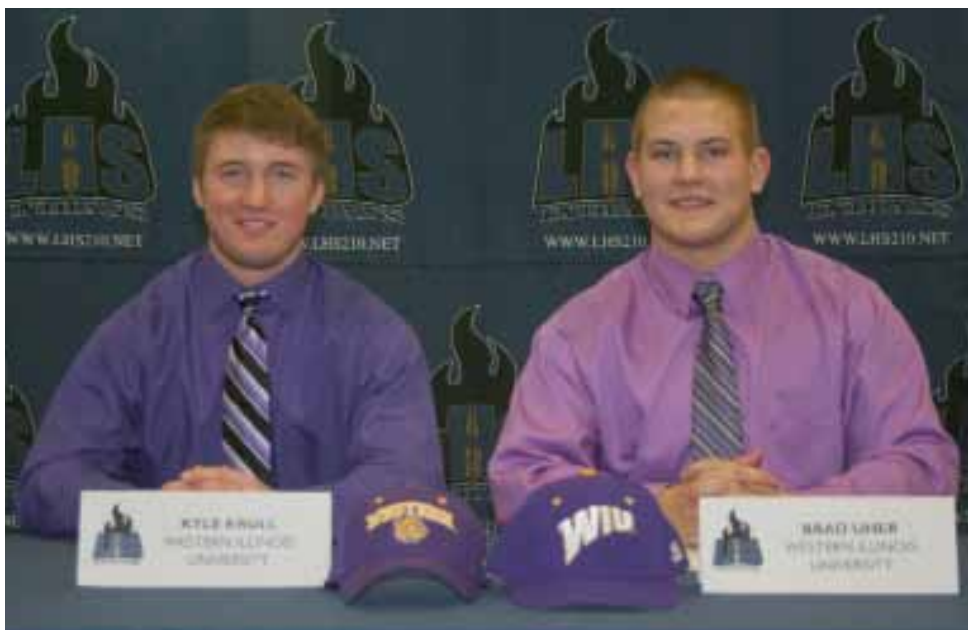
Krull: Hanging with my friends and teammates and making great memories we'll never forget.

Uher: The coin tosses before every game.

Q: What made you choose to play for Western?

Uher: I really liked the coaches and everyone was very welcoming.

"I thank all the coaches for getting me where I'm at, and good luck to everyone new to the varsity team next year," Uher reported of his final year. Krull also said, "I think I made a good last impression. I'll always remember the 2011 season as a great team, with great leaders, and one hell of a program."



Krull and Uher on National Signing Day

Photo by Tony Hamilton