

# TOM-TOM

## Kim Gannon Wins Second Place in American Islamic Congress Essay Contest

by Carly Tucker  
News writer

Lemont High School senior Kim Gannon has earned a second place title from the American Islamic Congress for her essay on civil rights in the Middle East. Gannon was one of more than 700 entries submitted across the world.

"I wrote about civil rights in the Middle East after a Muslim friend of mine directed me to the prompt, I saw the contest and I knew I could do it." Gannon said. According to AIC's contest website, Gannon's essay, *Who Am I to Speak Out?*, embodied "a vision of a practical solidarity campaign" for Iranian women speaking out against the forced hijab--the traditional dress code of Muslim women, calling for the covering of the entire body except the face, hands, and feet.

Not only did she have an interest in the topic but Gannon also entered the contest because she wanted to "explore and pick apart the campaign". Winning second place in the contest came as a shock to Gannon. "Not being Muslim, I felt I didn't have a good chance of winning." Gannon said. Middle Eastern and American youth were the contest contributors with the AIC awarding \$10,000 to the winners. First place winners received \$2,000. Gannon received a \$1,500 prize.

"From this experience I gained a lot." Gannon said "I saw how complex these movements can be and how much diversity there is in the world."

The winning essays of *The Deferred Dream Essay Contest* will be published in the upcoming book, *The Arab Spring Dreams*. A link to Gannon's essay is available on Lemont High School's website: [lhs210.net](http://lhs210.net).



Kim Gannon

Photo courtesy of Tony Hamilton

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## Top Five Best Zombie Movies

by Sam Moffett  
Features writer

With the return of AMC's *The Walking Dead* fast approaching, fans can't wait to sink their teeth into the zombified drama. But still there are so many weeks left and the need for zombie action is too much to handle. Have no fear because flesh eating monsters are here to quench the need for lumbering gore fests. These movies are sure to satisfy any zombie fan.

5. *Return of the Living Dead* (1985): Not to be confused to the sequel with George Romero's *Night of the Living Dead*, *Return of the Living Dead* is one of the best black comedy and horror films out there. When a warehouse worker accidentally releases the gas that made the zombies from *Night of the Living Dead*, an unsuspecting town of punk rockers has to fight off the brain hungry zombies. Full of good ol' violence and a rockin' soundtrack *Return of the Living Dead* is a good time.

4. *Shaun of the Dead* (2004): *Shaun of the Dead* is British zombie comedy starring comedy duo Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. As Shaun tries to get his life together his plans are interrupted by the zombie apocalypse. He is forced to become a hero and lead his friends to safety. Every scene is laced with enough comedy, but not much that it takes away from the zombie action. A gut-busting good time that is sure to make anyone laugh at a zombie outbreak.

3. *The Evil Dead Trilogy* (1981, 1987, 1992): The movies that helped define horror films. Full of carnage, zombies, zombies and more zombies, The *Evil Dead* Trilogy are fast paced gore fests. The *Evil Dead* movies contain all elements of a good movie: action, romance, comedy, horror. This perfect blend helps make the *Evil Dead* movies a smash hit.

2. *28 Days Later* (2002): This super low budget horror film skyrocketed to one of the best zombie films of all time. It's the usual premise, a virus breaks out and turns people into rage driven zombies and a group of survivors need to find sanctuary. But what makes *28 Days Later* the electrifying tour de force that it is is the political allegory and the humanist drama. It shows humans in a raw primal state and that's what makes it so remarkably fantastic.

1. *Night of the Living Dead* (1968): The movie that put zombies on the map. George Romero's first film was the one that made zombies the smash hit they are today. When zombies are running amuck a group of survivors hide in a farmhouse and try to stay alive. Besides dealing with zombies, the film tackles the issues of racism, humanism and what it takes to survive. Like *28 Days Later*, it shows the viewer's humans in their survival state and it shows just how much it takes to stay alive.

These five movies help define the zombie genre and prove that the undead are never going leave the screen anytime soon.



Photo courtesy of Google



# The Perks of being a Wallflower Movie Anticipation Spreads like Wildfire

by Michelle Awad  
Features writer



## the perks of being a wallflower

The Perks of being a Wallflower is one of the few novels voluntarily held in millions of teenager's hands across America since its publication in 1999. A New York Times best selling novel, the anticipation of this movie is spreading across the country and stakes are high.

"The Perks of being a Wallflower is my favorite book of all time," said senior Amanda Kolar. "I'm so incredibly excited to see the movie."

The excitement is also due to the fact that author of the novel, Stephen Chbosky, directed the movie. "I can't wait to see the character development throughout the movie," said junior Kelly Ferguson. "I feel like he would be the only one to fully envision them since he's the one that gave them life."

The good news is that the movie was released early in New York and Los Angeles and fans raved about the film. Fans on twitter say that the movie was "perfect" and "exactly the way I imagined the story while reading the book."

Fans also recommend reading the book before seeing the movie. "The writing style of the book is very different from any other book I've read, especially because its all from the perspective of a high schooler. It's incredible seeing everything executed on the big screen through Charlie's eyes," said Twitter fan, Liz Han.

"The movie just felt so real. It was so easy to relate to so many different parts," said junior Anne Marie Alwan. For the novel's biggest fan, Amanda Kolar, the movie was more than just sufficient. "It was so much better than I expected," she said.

The movie is an independent film and has a limited release. If one were to be interested in seeing it, the theater in the Yorktown mall would be the nearest location with it playing, but act fast! Tickets are selling quickly.



Photos courtesy of Google

stephen chbosky

# Weapon of Mass Distraction

by Jordan Gembara  
Editorialist

It's that drug people just can't stop going back to. They claim they're over it and yet they can't fight the overbearing urge to come crawling back with their tails between their legs. It's so simple, yet so incredibly addicting. It's Facebook.

According to the creators of Facebook, this social networking site gives people "the power to share" and to make the world "more open and connected." But does Facebook take things one step too far? Is this website actually just one big distraction?

This popular site especially affects students. Senior Allie Kirkolis said, "I'm a severe procrastinator—I do anything to put off tasks like homework." Facebook is the perfect solution. What could be more entertaining than an endless supply of updates, photos and drama?

Most people who don't see the appeal often ask: why is the website such a big deal—what's the attraction?

Though a student could easily answer such a question, a working citizen could be a much better representative for the public. Delia's manager Jill Donahue gave some insight on the large fascination. "You get caught up in creeping on everything "exciting" people are doing with their lives." With Facebook, users can post anything they choose. It could be something of actual importance, or it could be something quite simple.

However, sometimes there actually isn't a valid reason to check one's Facebook—some people aren't attracted to it for the constant updates. Sophomore Kristin Washagan is someone who often finds herself checking this social media site for no reason at all.

"It just becomes kind of routine to check Facebook," said Washagan. "I don't even think about it anymore—I just kind of do it." Students try to argue that it's purely natural to check Facebook so often. After all, "everybody" does.

Yet some students have managed to fight the Facebook charm. Senior Claire O'Leary is one of many who don't find such enjoyment with the website.

"I wouldn't say it's a distraction," said O'Leary. "I can easily turn it off when I really need to get something done." If Facebook is really so impossible to resist, how are other people avoiding it so easily?

Senior Angela Ridgway said, "I rarely ever go on. I figure it really doesn't matter what everybody is doing." Many people are able to fight the Facebook urge, but it is still a huge problem for other people all over the world.

High school students aren't the only people influenced so strongly by this Internet phenomenon. Illinois Institute of Technology sophomore Andrew Arvans is affected just as greatly as the kids at Lemont High School.

"If I have plans of some sort I sometimes show up a little late," said Arvans. "I would be scrolling through the newsfeed or talking to friends and not realize where the time went."

Facebook is addicting. People everywhere find it irresistible and entertaining. Yet there are those who don't see the worth of the website. They find Facebook boring and pointless.

High school students are not the only ones who find Facebook so appealing; college students and other hard-working adults find this website just as distracting.

What determines how the Facebook disease spreads is not the website itself, but the person. How each user enjoys and sees the website determines how much the website affects them.

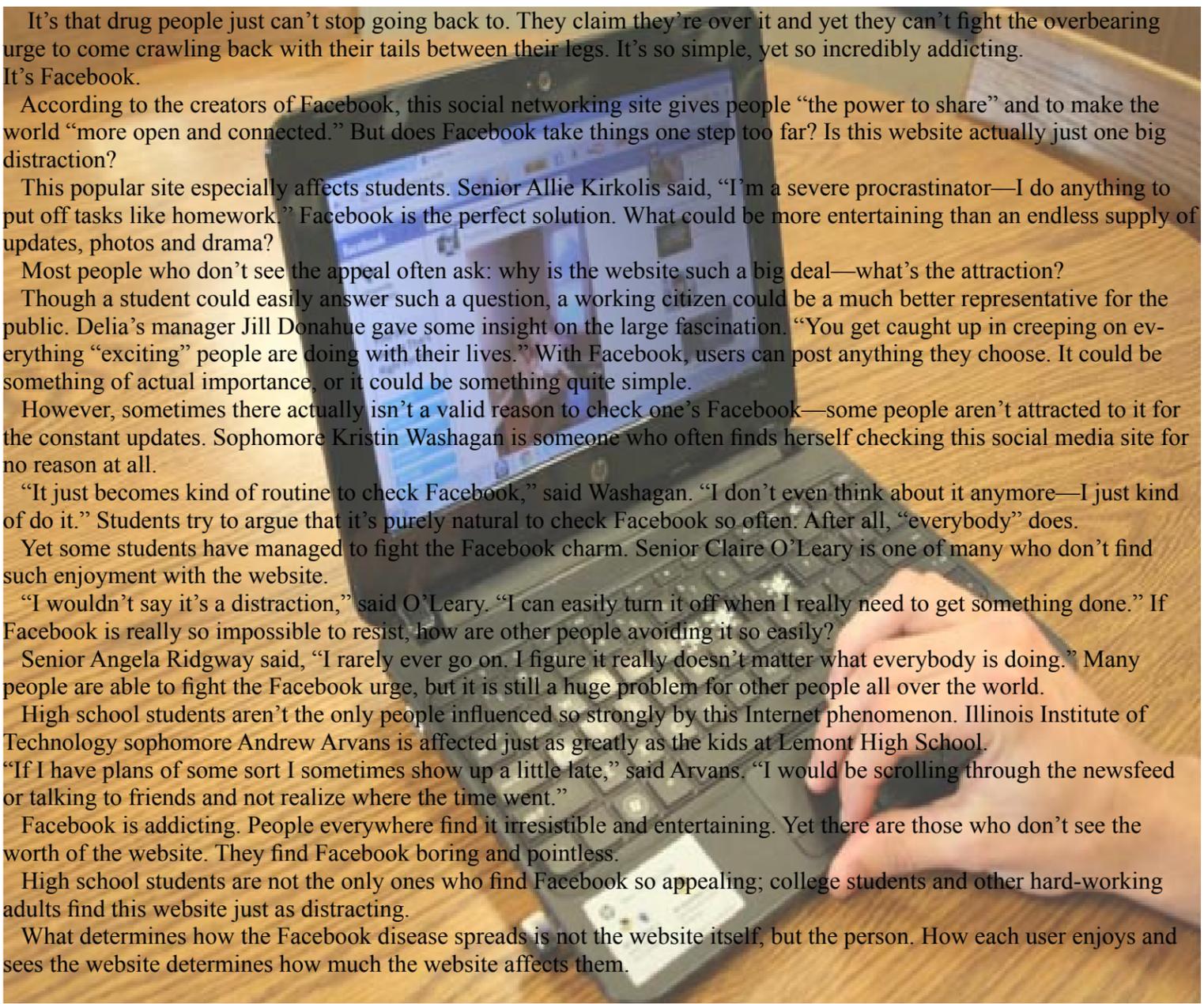


Photo courtesy of Ashley Murphy



# Fall Trends

Mackenzie O'Shea  
Editorialist

With fall having just begun and the weather starting to get chilly, it's the perfect time for sweatshirts and jackets. New trends are starting to appear around the high school.

Junior Betty Czerwien said, "Jean jackets have become one of my new obsessions for fall this year." For this season jean jackets are starting to slowly starting to make a comeback. They offer an alternative option to the typical zip up hoodies.

Canvas backpacks offer a different way to carry your books rather than the classic backpack. Freshmen Kennedy Pawell said, "At first it was hard to find a canvas backpack, and now I notice more stores selling them." These backpacks were commonly used for military purposes and have now made their way into schools.

Scarves are a trend that seems to be coming back from last fall. Scarves can add a little extra to an outfit while still keeping warm. With multiple ways of tying them, they can be found in a large variety of prints and colors that are sure to go with almost any outfit.

Junior Sarah Malley said, "If you were to walk into my closet right now you would see more colored denim than regular denim." Colored denim is becoming popular for this season, it allows for a variety of options when putting together an outfit.

These new trends are just a few of the many trends for this fall season, offering new options to add to your closet or to change up your everyday outfit. Just because these trends are becoming popular it doesn't mean you have to strictly follow them, it is important to wear what suits your sense of style.



Photos courtesy of Google



# Banned Books: Sounds Like Something Out of a Book

by Laura Harding  
Head Editor

In 1998, Ray Bradbury's book *Fahrenheit 451* was removed from the required reading list at West Marion High School in Foxworth, Mississippi due to explicit diction. For those that haven't read Bradbury's 1953 classic, this seems less than note-worthy. For those that have, the irony is worth a chuckle at the very least.

*Fahrenheit 451* paints a post-intellectual world in which reading has not only been outlawed, but anybody possessing books risks having their house burned down by the "firemen." Bradbury's novel is interpreted as a criticism of book burning, a practice used to stifle content deemed as "inappropriate."



photos courtesy of Google

*Fahrenheit 451* is neither the first nor last book to be put on a banned or challenged list, but it surely is one of many books wrongfully considered to be too inappropriate for young adults because of its suggestive language and perhaps slightly mature content.

Classics such as *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain, *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, *Catch 22* by Joseph Heller, *Howl* by Allen Ginsberg and *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding join Bradbury's work in the world of banned/challenged books.

Of course, students are able to read banned titles on their own time. However, they are deprived of reading and digesting these works with their peers. Classroom interaction with a text can help build a deeper understanding of the piece; this understanding is taken from them when books are banned from school curriculum.

An attempt to shelter students from racial slurs and sexual content hinders their opportunity to explore underlying themes within each text.

While Mark David Chapman, the gunman that shot and killed John Lennon in 1980, saw Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* as a murderer's security blanket, this is certainly not the norm. Many students can relate to Holden Caulfield's balancing act on the line between youth and adulthood in a world that's urging him to grow up much too fast.

By forbidding schools from including certain texts in their curriculum, students are denied the opportunity to indulge in great literature and experience varying time periods and perspectives.

Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* fuels controversy because of its extensive use of a particular racial slur. Many school administrations fear creating an uncomfortable environment for students of that race.

However, what the school administrations don't realize is, Twain uses specific dialogue to depict the time period and the setting of the story: The South in the late 1800s.

Many schools continue to assign banned and challenged books to students regardless of the controversy it creates. Lemont High School incorporates *Catcher in the Rye*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Fahrenheit 451* and *Lord of the Flies* in its English III/Honors and IV/Honors courses.

Putting books on a banned list does more harm than good. Cutting students off from Twain, Salinger and Bradbury serves only to dull the importance of the notable works these authors created.

It may be put best by Bradbury: "You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them."



# One Big Journey LHS Hall of Fame Class of 2012

Paul Grossi  
Sports writer

by Cody Caballero  
Sports writer

Boom, Notre Dame Football is 4-0. The team opened up their season against Navy, pulling off a big win in Dublin Ireland; the next week they took the field at home against Purdue, just pulling away with a last minute field goal. Then were tested as they went on the road to take on #10 Michigan State, and the most recent win came at home against #18 Michigan.

In regards to which season he likes coaching, Coach Brian Kelly said, "I'm thinking this year because we all know what we're doing, we've all worked so hard, I don't know that I'll have much to yell about" according to an article on ESPN.com. Kelly in his third year is currently 20-10.



photo courtesy of Google

Kelly had a lot of thinking to do during the off season, after finding out the starting quarterback Tommy Rees had a run in with the law, Rees pleaded not guilty to a DUI charge.

A young star name Everett Golson, a freshman, took charge to insure he would be the one to take over the vacant quarterback position. Golson has started in all four games, but was taken out early in the Michigan game due to a lack of experience.

Golson still has a lot to offer including his speed, and his arm. Golson will still start for the Irish but won't see as much playing time as Rees. His skills will come in handy in the future for the Irish football program.

The football team had a bye last week, and are preparing for the Shamrock series at Soldier field against the Miami Hurricanes. The Irish will be tested once again, especially their defense. The Hurricanes are mainly a speedy team, but don't be shocked to see long passes being thrown by the Hurricanes.

The Irish look to improve to 5-0 this season, and hope to continue their winning season. They have the Hurricanes this weekend and then take on Stanford in two weeks.

Once the first members of the LHS Hall of Fame were inducted in 2004, the Hall of Fame committee has been busy nominating athletes, coaches, and community members that have helped Lemont move forward and show off the great talent that has been brought to Lemont.

Kevin Earnest Class of '02, Anthony Jordan Class of '91, and Suzette (Lesnieski) Sniegowski Class of '76 are this year's 2012 Lemont High School Hall of Fame inductees. Their induction ceremony took place on Sept. 30 at Cog Hill Golf Course.

Introduced by head coach Rick Prangen at the induction ceremony, Kevin Earnest was a four year varsity soccer player during his time at Lemont. From 1998-2001 Earnest was able to use his talents to help the soccer program achieve a 63-15-6 record. Earnest was an All-State, All-Sectional, and conference MVP player as a junior. He was the first athlete from the soccer program to play division one soccer at Northwestern University. Prangen in his introduction speech said "Kevin fulfills the definition of a student athlete." Earnest grew up in Lemont and has been playing soccer since he was five years old. In his speech, Earnest said he looks up to Prangen and respects him as a coach and friend. Earnest also said looking back at his time at Lemont made him proud.

Anthony Jordan was a three sport athlete at Lemont and participated in baseball, basketball, and golf. He is also one of the top amateur bowlers in the state. During Jordan's time at Lemont bowling was not a sport, so Anthony found time on his own to play the game he loved. Tammy Jordan, Anthony's sister, introduced him at the induction ceremony. She said "After long days at school Tony would come home and head straight for the bowling alley to practice." Jordan in his speech said, "It is a great honor and never thought he would be inducted because bowling was not a sport when he was in high school." Keep first person if in quotes He was also awarded the Athlete pride of Lemont award and finished off by saying, "it is a great privilege to be a part of this class."

Suzette (Lesnieski) Sniegowski was a member of the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) for four years. In 1972 title nine was enforced and prohibited discrimination from high school sports. In 1974 girls sports began at Lemont. Girls could participate in volleyball and track (40 members). Also if a girl was in GAA she was able to participate either on the cheerleading team or poms team. During her speech she thanked the committee and was thrilled and shocked. She also received an email from Athletic Director John Young saying she was also going to receive the Pioneer award. Young gave the award to Sniegowski at the ceremony and said, "Sniegowski is the pioneer for girls' sports at Lemont High School."

Earnest, Jordan, and Sniegowski have been recognized as Hall of Fame worthy and will always be remembered as extraordinary people that came from LHS.



Photos courtesy of Tony Hamilton



# Volley for the Cure

by Ethan Parafink  
Sports writer



photo courtesy of Chris Zogata



Photos courtesy of Google

The LHS Volley for the Cure alone, raised \$4,200, and they are waiting on a check from Oak Forest that will also be contributed.

The girl's volleyball program hosted Oak Forest on Oct. 2 in a key match not only for the South Suburban Conference title, but for those suffering from breast cancer.

Lemont and head coach Chris Zogata hosted an event called "Volley for the Cure", which was to help raise awareness of breast cancer and to raise money for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation. All levels of the volleyball program participated by collecting pledges based on the number of kills that the varsity team had for its match, and by collecting donations at the door.

Zogata's idea for hosting the event was simple. "As female athletes we want to bring awareness to the fight women are facing against breast cancer".

Lemont's varsity team won its match 25-14, 25-18 to improve its record to 17-9, 8-1 in conference, and both the freshman and sophomore teams also won their respective matches.

In the varsity game, Oak Forest wore pink jerseys, with the libero, the defensive specialist, in white, while Lemont wore white jerseys with the libero in pink, to show support for those affected by breast cancer. Oak Forest also collected pledges in advance in the event and presented a check of its donations to Lemont so both could contribute.

The team was excited to host the event and seemed to really enjoy it. "The players love hosting the event", said Zogata. "They like all the pink, the decorations and getting involved in a good cause."

With less than two weeks left in the regular season, Lemont will look to finish strong and make a run for the playoffs.

# BABY NEWS



photo courtesy of the Kemp family

Anna Kemp and husband welcomed baby girl Dawn Marie on the morning Sept. 27.

Rick and Mary Lou Prangen welcomed baby boy Jacob Alexander on the morning of Oct. 10.

Babies, moms and dads are all doing well!





# What's Your Next Step?

Are you ready for life after high school? Now is the time to start planning. Attend JJC's annual College Fair and find the college that's right for you!

- Talk with representatives from more than 100 colleges and universities, all in one place.
- Understand your financial aid options at a free seminar, available in English and Spanish.
- Attend as a group; bring your family and friends along!

## College Fair

**Tuesday, October 9**

**5:30 - 8 p.m.**

Joliet Junior College Main Campus  
1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet, IL 60431



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