

Tom-Tom

Lemont High School

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Issue 12

On Nov. 15, LHS hosted a Mask Workshop to prepare the Drama Club for the winter play, "A Comedy of Errors," which will be performed in masks.



Speech Team and Drama Club members helped demonstrate how to effectively act in masks.



N64-EVER

A comparison of the classic Nintendo 64 and the modern Xbox.

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SPARKS FLY

An evaluation of author Nicholas Sparks' books and movies.

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TURKEY ANYONE?

The LHS girls bowling team defeats Oak Lawn at their opening match.

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EDITORIALS

NINTENDO⁶⁴



-ever

by Paige Buschman
Editorialist

And after everyone stopped counting the days, God created the N64 so that gamers could live in euphoria. No other system could compare.

Except not really. The Nintendo 64 was actually created in 1996 as Nintendo's third international gaming system. It experienced great sales in its early years even though it stuck to a cartridge system rather than using CDs as everyone predicted it would. The console cost \$200 when it came out and 32.93 million units have been sold as of December 2009 according to data released by Nintendo.

Then there's the modern day system of choice: Xbox. Released in 2000, Xbox has sold 66 million units, 18 million Kinect sensors and has more than 40 million Xbox live users according to an Xbox 2011 recap commercial.

With the release of *Assassin's Creed 3* and *Halo 4* getting so much hype, it's about time someone says what a lot of people are thinking: the video games of today aren't as great as every high school boy likes to pretend they are. Old school is where it's at.

Junior gamer Phoebe Newton, after much contemplation, agrees. She says, "With newer games I often feel the creators rely too much on the graphics and don't put as much effort into the rest of the game." She also added that simplicity and the addiction factor of old games is a strength.

Senior Marcus Westbrook made similar comments saying, "[The] largest part in what makes them so great that we call them classics, is their simplicity..." Westbrook also explains that new games are getting boring. That is evident as new sequels fly off the shelves appealing to players' hope to get find the same love in them as they found in the originals. But, like movie sequels, there's hardly ever an improvement.

Many gamers prefer the "classic" games such as Mario Kart to the new games.

But there is no denying the awesome power in the new age of graphics. That's what sells these days. It's a new level of entertainment where watching a movie and playing a game become the same thing. That's exciting. That's fun. That's the future.

It doesn't have to be, though. There is nothing like bad 64 bit graphics. They make it better. Those catchy bad theme songs that were somewhere between 80's pop and hard core electronica are a part of childhood that kids are missing out on these days.

Classic gamer Newton commented that when it comes to newer games, "eight year olds who were excited for *Halo 4* are definitely missing out on games... that really aren't that old yet... Today people just want the game with the best graphics."

That's when it becomes a downfall. If all a system has to show for itself is the fact that it's hip, it has amazing audio, picture, etc... then there's something wrong.

Plot, imagination and those classic games like Mario Kart, Mario Party and Donkey Kong that Nintendo created are irreplaceable. They're better than the fancy new age consoles. As Westbrook says, "That's why we call them classics."



Photo courtesy of Google

The YouTube Battle

by Madelyn Kulis
Editorialist

Subscribe, subscribe, subscribe. It seems like that is all anyone ever hears as they finish a YouTube video. Who is really worth subscribing to though? YouTube is a website for people to listen to music without having to buy it, but more recently it became a place for unknowns to make videos about almost anything. A few of those unknown artists are what some consider “YouTube famous” including, Kingsley, Tyler Oakley, Jenna Marbles, Jacksgap and Sam Pepper to name a few, but who is the best of the best? Kingsley, Tyler Oakley and Jenna Marbles are YouTube stars from America, while Jacksgap and Sam Pepper are both from Great Britain. Both Jacksgap and Sam Pepper are not only funny, but they never stereotype and rarely – if ever – swear, making it appropriate for most ages.

The videos by Sam Pepper and Jacksgap can be completely random and take the viewer by surprise, creating a good video. The creativeness they put into their videos shows as soon as one watches it, unlike Kingsley who has been doing the same thing over and over, each week. For many viewers, the predictability gets boring. Also, Sam Pepper and Jacksgap collaborate with each other and other British YouTube stars; the YouTubers bring different ideas together to create the ultimate video.

“When I go onto both channels and see a new video, I get excited,” said junior, Alyssa Minnicino, “The great thing about both British YouTubers is that they have new video concepts all the time. Not like Kingsley where he does the same thing on certain days.”

By changing it up all the time, Jacksgap and Sam Pepper pull their viewers in. Many times they go out in public doing very random things, one being “inappropriate unicycling,” where both YouTube ride around London on unicycles in random places and getting in trouble making the viewers laugh.

Another reason the British stars prevail is because of the random places they go, unlike the bedrooms one usually sees in videos like Jenna Marbles and Tyler Oakley. One never really knows where the video will take them. Jessica Halper, senior, stated “I like the spontaneity, I think it’s more entertaining...” which many viewers would agree with.

When deciding which YouTuber to watch, think about if you would rather watch something similar to the week before, or get an exciting new video from Jacksgap and Sam Pepper. Perhaps even a video together.



YouTube artists Sam Pepper and Jacksgap’s videos are rapidly attracting views.

Screen-shot by Lauren Kowalczyk

FEATURES

There Are Fish Among Us

by Jonathon Clark
Guest features writer

When describing to a foreigner what Lemont, Illinois offers to modern day America, many citizens would allude to our small tight knit community containing churches and a successful high school. What these people forget are the fishes. Lemont is located near a canal, river and several man-made quarries containing a variety of aquatic life, unheard of in many surrounding cities. Fish are a vital part of a local ecosystem. Don’t you think it’s peculiar that *The Little Mermaid* was filmed “under the sea?”

We have blue gill, cat fish, pike, you name it. Our surroundings have prompted the creation of a bass fishing club at LHS. Some of Lemont’s greatest anglers are stunned with the little recognition Lemont receives for its marine life. Found on *chicagolandfishing.com* is a blog specifically dealing with Lemont and local anglers often raving about the availability of the quarries. The common comments are summarized by cosigod who shared “don’t doubt Lemont” or even “all in all it’s always a fantastic outing” in his comment entitled “Lemont quarries.”

The compliments rave about the man-made bodies of water. This being said, don’t think the quarries are free from common fishing troubles. Also included on the blog are bug complaints and difficulty in reaching fishing locations through thick brush.

Not only do Lemont’s bodies of water entice fisherman but also fascinate animal lovers alike. Raymond Stieber, a Lemont High School senior, hopes to have a future with working with animals. Stieber explains that living in Lemont has helped “propel his career choice with animals which may include fish.”

Lemont, Illinois is a community that has so much to offer through aquatic life. One day when asked what Lemont has to offer citizens may allude to our aquatic life.



Fish are food, not friends.

“Lemont is located near a canal, river and several man-made quarries containing a variety of aquatic life, unheard of in many surrounding cities.”

Photo by Lauren Kowalczyk

Sparks Fly

by Chanelle Fortier
Features writer

Nicholas Sparks may be considered one of the greatest romance novel writers of this age. His words and stories of hearts ripped apart and love's greatest tragedies, leave souls aching, and hearts crying. However, with many of his books being made into movies, the question arises: "Do the movies provoke more emotion than the books?"

Nicholas Spark's novel "The Notebook" is a story about a love forgotten. As two lovers grow old together, the wife forgets the story of how it all began.

Senior Lisa Melville said, "The Notebook is one of my favorite Nicholas Spark movies. The ending gets me every time." The story has a bittersweet ending that leaves the viewers in tears.

But with more movies coming out, people are failing to read the books and instead are opting to just see the movies. Sophomore Laura Ringo said, "I haven't actually read one of Nicholas Spark's books, I usually just wait until the movies come out."

Senior Patrick Koscielniak said, "I was forced to watch 'Dear John' and I thought

that I would end up shutting it off but I actually enjoyed it." Although some people think reading the love stories are more favorable, but seeing them seems to be more popular.

Teaser trailers have been released for the new movie 'Safe Haven,' based on the book by Sparks. Senior Courtney Toth said, "After seeing the coming attractions for 'Safe Haven', I might actually give the book a try before it comes out in February."



Popular books written by Nicholas Sparks Photo courtesy of Google

Gravel & Wine: An Odd Combination

by Alyssa Cinatl
Features writer

The young and soulful singer from New Zealand, Gin Wigmore, released her newest album *Gravel & Wine* on iTunes on Oct 30.

Wigmore isn't hugely popular, but some of her songs were featured in MTV's *Teen Wolf*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Revenge*, a Target and a Lowe's commercial and more. Her current singles are *Black Sheep* and *Man Like That*. Wigmore performed her song *Man Like That* on *The Tonight Show* on Nov. 13, 2012.

On iTunes, she is placed under the alternative or pop genre but Wigmore would call her sound blues. She uniquely describes her songs having, "the love of a cowboy, bathe in a little lonesome blues, dance to a touch of rock 'n' and have the swagger of a woman past midnight." The songs are different and many people say they're catchy when they hear them on TV.

She started her music career in Sydney, Australia. When she won an International Songwriting Contest in New York she got a record deal with Universal Music Australia and moved to America to expand on her career.

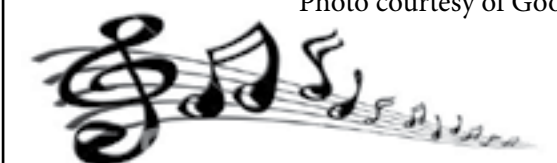
Her other albums found on iTunes are *Holy Smoke* and her debut album *Extended Play-EP*. Her albums are rated 5 out of 5 stars on iTunes. All her songs are priced at \$0.99 but *Man Like That* is her first full priced song at \$1.29.

Wigmore travels around New Zealand, the UK, and the USA working her way to bigger success with her one of a kind style and songs.



Singer, Gin Wigmore, and her new album *Gravel and Wine*. Released on iTunes on Oct 30.

Photo courtesy of Google



Photos by Lauren Kowalczyk

Tom-Tom Talks

by Sonia Vavra
Features Editor

Tom-Tom Talks is back! LHS students, did you miss the random question of the month? This month's question: What is your Thanksgiving tradition?



"Usually we go to our grandparents' farm and eat a lot of food."
—Olivia Hetrick, freshman



"I get together with my family to eat. This year it's at my house."
— Liam Purtle, junior



"We stay home, my mom and dad cook dinner, and then we go to my aunt's house. We have immediate family for dinner, then get together with the rest of the family."
— Carly Jaworski, senior



"We go to my grandma's house and eat turkey and stuffing together at the table."
— Grace Berta, sophomore



"We go to my cousin's house for dinner and we have cheese-cake for dessert."
— Michael Macek, senior



"We have family over and eat turkey, vegetables, stuffing, and mashed potatoes."
— Noelle Hehir, freshman

THE WRESTLING TEAM HITS THE MATS

by Kieran Ruane
Sports writer

With the wrestling team coming off the back of a season that was highly successful last year, expectations are high and the competition will be fierce.

The wrestling team at LHS has seen great success over the years. Lemont has had the likes of state champions Angel Cabral and Matt Leibforth train through the program, which is a continuing reminder of the success that is expected of the team each year.

“The coaches expect a lot from us,” said junior Adam Strube, a two year varsity letterman for head coach John St. Clair’s team. “But each year those expectations drive and push us to get better, and that is the kind of help we all need to improve ourselves as the season goes on.”

Senior Chris Giatras has experience at state level, qualifying for the competition as a sophomore in 2011 and placing 5th as a junior in 2012. He knows exactly what it takes to compete at that level, and against that kind of competition.

“It takes a lack of a social life,” said Giatras, “and definitely a lot of hard work. It takes never being happy with where you are at, and always trying to get better than you were the day before; also excellent coaching.”

Sophomore Jim Brennan, who qualified for the state competition as a freshman in 2012, also knows how to prepare during the offseason, so that the team can be successful when it counts.

“We practice and condition hard during the offseason.” said Brennan. “Coach St. Clair and Murray pretty much do the preparing for us. They prepare us better than any other coaches out there.”

With a roster full of talent ranging from the newcomers to the experienced, the wrestling team is looking to make this a season to remember here at LHS.



Head wrestling coach John St. Clair



Eric Kirkman wrestling at the state competition last year.

“... Each year those expectations drive and push us to get better”

Photos courtesy of Tony Hamilton

TURKEY ANYONE?

by Erika Truschke
Sports writer

Although Thanksgiving season has passed, thoughts of turkeys still linger in the minds of the athletes on the girls’ bowling team. They aren’t thinking about the turkey they just feasted on for Thanksgiving dinner, but the term “turkey” for three strikes in three consecutive frames.

The girls opened their season on Nov. 20 with a home meet against Oak Lawn. Home meets are at Strike n’ Spare II in Lockport. Lemont defeated Oak Lawn with a total pin count of 1666 to Oak Lawn’s 1580. Contributing to the win was Lizzy Melvin, Kyra Udziela, Nora Collins, Amanda Kolar, Rachel Margalus and Alex Wyatt.



Bowling ball hits into bowling pins

Coach Mark Hollatz is “happy for the season to begin” because it gives him a better perspective on how the season will play out. “We as a team have high hopes for a successful year like last with a 10-2 record.”

This year’s team consists of six seniors: Collins, Margalus, Kolar, Tanya Sheppard, Melvin and Nina Moeller. “With a deep roster of seniors this year, they will all be starters at meets with occasional subs,” said Hollatz.

Collins said, “I’ve been on the bowling team for four years now. Every year is a better experience because it opens so many new doors with meeting new people, making memories, and even getting scholarships at the collegiate level.”

Being a student athlete can become over-whelming and Margalus said, “Time management is hard to balance when getting back into the season.” The team practices five times a week along with matches and tournaments on weekends. “Bringing homework to our matches and practices helps equal school and sports.”

The bowlers look to qualify for state. With 350 schools combined into one class, unlike football, “it’s very difficult to compete for the state title with so few players and experience,” said Hollatz.

The bowling team takes on Tinley Park at home on Nov. 29.



LHS bowling team members compete at Strike & Spare II.

Photos courtesy of Nina Moller

LET IT SNOW

by Adrian Kalata
Sports Editor

Many people seek refuge in the warm comfort of their homes as the temperature drops and the days get shorter during the upcoming winter months. But a select group of enthusiasts brave the cold temperatures to obtain the dose of adrenaline rush they've waited three seasons for.

Snow and cold temperatures mean a long season of plowing driveways, layering clothing and bumper to bumper driving. However, it also offers the necessary setting for snowboarding, a sport that makes many adrenaline junkies excited for winter.

Many athletes participate in sports that require warm settings and grassy fields, unlike the frigid wind and steep slopes of snowboarding. Freshman Matthew Dunne explained "people may think you're crazy when you tell them you've snowboarded in negative temperature." The cold weather becomes irrelevant after seasons of exposure on the slopes.

Snowboarding is an individual sport, offering self improvement for anyone who partakes. Senior John Bakovich said he looks "forward to perfecting what I already know and learning new things this season." Individual sports like snowboarding give room to build upon what you know.

Snowboarding does not come cheap though. The proper gear averages \$300, not including the outerwear and the \$40-50 lift tickets. The cost of transportation adds to the bill of snowboarding, especially in the Midwest, where many resorts are hours away. The cost of snowboarding adds to the reasons why some people stay away from snowboarding.

It might be a while until we see snow in Lemont although the cold weather is already here. Until then, snowboarders continue to prepare themselves and their boards.



"Snowboarding is an individual sport, offering self improvement for anyone who partakes."

While not easy, snowboarding gives many athletes a chance to stay fit during the winter season. Photo courtesy of Google