

Tom-Tom

Lemont High School

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Issue 22

Dance Team Finishes 4th at State

by Nicole McKeivitt
News Editor

Lemont High School competed in the Illinois State Dance Competition on March 2-3. They finished 4th out of 8 teams in the



Lemont High School dance team performs at the Illinois State Dance Competition.

Open Dance 2A division, Lemont's highest finish at state since 1996.

Lemont beat Geneva High School by .3 points to capture 4th place. Batavia High School took 3rd place by only .4 points. Larkin High School finished 2nd, and Triad High School were the Champions.

Dance Captain Rachel Bogo relives dancing in her last competition: "It was really sad because we were all so close and we don't know what college dance will be like. There is no team like the team we had this year, they're my family."

Dance Captain Dianne Etrata is very proud of her team. "It was our best performance ever, and I could tell at the end of it that every girl put everything out there. The end was the most painful and incredible experience I've ever had."

Dance Coach Stephenie Campanile is "Unbelievably proud of all that they [dance team] accomplished this year. They faced challenges head on and pushed themselves harder every week to accomplish more than any other season."

"But even more importantly," says Campanile, "They are quality individuals who care about their team, promoted school spirit, and had the privilege of being 1 of 23 teams (out of over 200) that were nominated for the TDI True Blue Sportsmanship Award at state for displaying exemplary character during the season."

To prepare for next season, Campanile is starting clinics and conditioning in April. "We will be attending new workshops with state winning choreographers and taking additional technique classes during the spring, in addition to regular summer practices and a 4 day UDA camp," says Campanile. "I want to build on the momentum that started this year, and have an even more successful state run next year."

"It was our best performance ever, and I could tell at the end of it that every girl put everything out there."

-Captain Dianne Etrata

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Sparks Flying

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Hot guys, pretty girls and a romance that can last a life time-- plus a plot line that can make anyone feel nauseous. Romance novelist Nicholas Sparks has sold around 80 million copies of his books worldwide according to www.nicholas-sparks.com and 8 out of his 17 books have been turned into movies.

Sparks newest movie, *Safe Haven*, came out this year and I wanted to know why people wanted to see it so badly. Maggie Ernst, junior, said "It's a love that every girl wants. All of his movies are." The movie seems to create an epic love that sets high expectations for some.

His movies are the typical cliché of guy saves girl and they live happily ever after. In between all of that, some epic mishap has to happen to create drama. In *The Notebook* Ali's parents won't let her see him, and in *A Walk to Remember* Jamie dies of cancer making the viewer want the love to last even longer.

The question now is, do girls really expect this to happen? According to junior Mary Vermejan, "No, but that is the point of a movie. To create something you want to happen, instead of it actually happening."

In Sparks' movies and books, he also always seems to have one corny moment apparent that most girls would describe as cute such as a promise not to fall in love. Naturally the feeling is too strong and the promise is broken, making every love-sick teen go "aww." Ernst told "Yeah it is corny and a little too lovey dovey, but what's so wrong with that?"

According to *Abilene Reporter-News*, Sparks' books "Capture love's unimaginable strength." Unimaginable can quite literally mean not going to happen. What's the point of pursuing something that isn't going happen in real life, a love that seems so far-fetched you have to pay to see it?

Wouldn't you rather create your own romance than watch a hardly plausible lovefest?



Nicholas Sparks novels appeal to many teenage girls, but are they realistic?

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Photo by Alyssa Cinatl

The Henna Craze

by Sonia Vavra
Features Editor

There has been a recent craze at LHS – a craze that lets a person express his or her artistic ability through something called henna tattoos.

Henna tattoos originate from the Middle East and play an important role in the Muslim religion, often used for various different types of celebrations such as weddings.

The most appealing part to students here at LHS: they last 2-3 weeks. This allows a person to express his or her creativity and enjoy the tattoo without making the commitment to a real one, or the hole in his or her wallet.

A frequent henna self-tattoo artist, junior Anne Marie Alwan, expressed her interest in henna tattoos: "I like henna because it is a really cool form of expression and you can do so much with it. It can really be art." She adds, "The appeal for me is that it doesn't last forever."



Henna can be applied in a few different ways, but the two most common are with a kit that provides a squeeze bottle, and pre-made Mylar cones. These can be purchased in local convenience stores, but the more reliable places to buy henna are at Indian or Middle Eastern grocery stores. Kits and cones can also be purchased online for a relatively inexpensive price.

"I like to use henna to express something in the moment, whether it be an inspiring quote or just a design I created. I know I probably won't get a real tattoo because I like switching it up. Henna gives me the art and expression without the long-term commitment," said Alwan.



Henna art is a popular form of temporary body tattooing.

Photos by Sonia Vavra

Bet You Can't Come Up With a Better Headline

by Michelle Awad
Features writer

Cut throat competition is everywhere, all the time. Students are always competing, whether it's in academics or sports – there must be a loser and a winner.

Is competition always a good thing though? What if the winners are perpetually winning? What happens to the second-placers, the first outs, or the ones who almost always end up in last place?

In their book *Top Dog: The Science of Winning*

and *Losing*, authors Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman write, "Competition make the world go 'round.'"

To second this opinion, junior Joseph Padilla says, "A healthy dose of competition definitely makes students perform better but too much of it can make them crack. The key is moderation."

Competition makes people strive, providing motivation even when things seem bleak. However, sometimes the very

concept of competition can make some people queasy.

"I've seen both cases of people who perpetually perform poorly," said sophomore Maria Castrogiovanni. "There are those who don't do well and are apathetic about it so they just continuously perform badly but then there are those people who make the decision to do better from their rock bottom. They get motivation or inspiration and decide to get better. Ultimately, it depends on the person and their per-

sonality."

Whether it's a race to get the passenger seat of a best friend's car or a scholarship to the best university in the state, competition is everywhere. Moderation, concentration, and maybe even a little inspiration will ease the way, though.

We're Going Streaking!

by Ethan Parafink
Sports writer



The Chicago Blackhawks broke an NHL record with their 24-game winning streak.

there. With 17 straight, they broke the NHL record for the most consecutive games to begin the season without a loss in the first 60 minutes.

After beating the Colorado Avalanche on Mar. 6, the Hawks extended their record streak to 24 straight, 30 dating back to the end of last season. They needed only six more to break the longest point streak ever, held by the 1978-79 Philadelphia Flyers.

Unfortunately; however, they lost their next game and are now on a different kind of streak with two losses in a row after going half the season without a regulation loss. But it is not the latest streak that is important.

The Hawks' winning streak got attention across the country. They were compared to the Miami Heat, which also has long win streak, but almost everybody, besides ESPN's Stephen A. Smith, thinks the Blackhawks' streak was more impressive, at least at the time.

"Excuse me ... it wasn't 21 games," said Stephen A., referring to the streak. "It was really an eight game streak. There are three ties. I'm sorry, that doesn't count."

Normally an NBA analyst, Stephen A. is a little biased, but even the Heat's own LeBron James can recognize the greatness of the Blackhawks this season.

"Hey Chicago Blackhawks, u guys are AWESOME!! #streaking", James wrote on his Twitter account on Mar. 7.

Now the Blackhawks must regroup for the second half of the season and try to finish how they started the season. With star winger Patrick Sharp expected to be out with injury for 3-4 weeks, it will be tough, but if any team has the depth to make up for it this year, it is the Hawks.

"A lot of people might think we're pulling that game out of you know where, but really we're working for it," captain Jonathon Toews told reporters, after their win against the Avalanche. "There's no special equation. There's no magic going on. It's just work ethic, the depth of our team kicking in."

"There's no special equation. There's no magic going on. It's just work ethic, the depth of our team kicking in."
-captain Jonathon Toews

In a shortened NHL season, most teams had tempered their expectations. There was no training camp, no time for new players to familiarize themselves with their new teams and the shortened 48-game schedule meant anything could happen.

But the Chicago Blackhawks came out blazing from the start. Winning their first game of the season was pretty cool. The team hadn't done that since 2006 and managed to do it this year on national TV against the defending champs, the Los Angeles Kings.

Then they just started winning— 12 in a row without a loss in regulation, with ten of those games on the road. But they didn't stop