

# Tom-Tom

Lemont High School

Wednesday, DATE, 2013

Issue

## Up Close and Personal with Jay and Shelly

by Monique Devitt  
*News writer*

For most students, a school day consists of sitting in class listening to a person significantly older and hopefully smarter, talk at students for about seven hours with periodic breaks consisting of consuming nutrients and relieving one's self. But for Sonia Vavra, Alyssa Cinatl and myself, on Mon. March 18, we broke that mold with journalism's aid and efforts of the LHS community.

By winning Goodwill's Fall Haul, LHS earned a concert from pop singer Cher Lloyd, a show by DJ Flipside and the presence of Jay Niice and Showbiz Shelly of B96. This allowed us the opportunity to interview Jay and Shelly and learn a bit about their experiences with fame and their rise to success.

Jamar Mcneil (Jay Niice) was more interested in the music industry but opportunities opened for him at radio stations and he quickly came to realize that working in a radio station allowed him to be constantly surrounded by music.

Michelle Menaker (Showbiz Shelly)

majored in broadcast television and at 18 she interned at B96 in the promotions department. During the last week of her internship, they allotted her a portion of time on the show to give an entertainment and pop culture news brief. "It was sort of like a test and I guess I passed because after my internship ended, B96 offered me a job on the morning show," said Shelly.

Jay had been working in Miami when he was offered a job in Chicago to work for the pop station B96. "Working in Chicago had always been a dream of mine, so when this opportunity arose there was no chance I was going let it pass by," said Jay.

When asked to give advice to aspiring journalists, Jay quickly replied, "Find and create opportunities. Make connections and don't limit yourself to only what you think you can do". Shelly said, "Internships are a great way to find a job. That's how I started and that's how 98% currently working in broadcast journalism started"

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# Don't go Bacon my Heart

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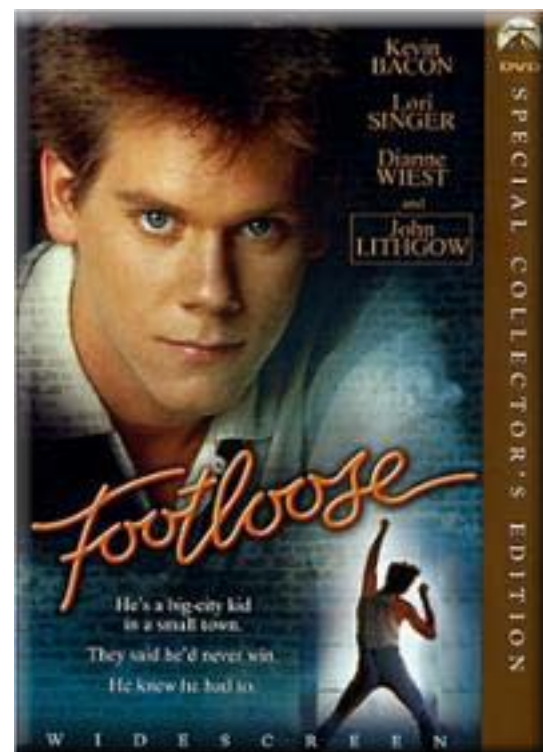
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"I wanted life, man, the real thing." Such a simple phrase, yet one so full of promise. And how promising it was—these were words spoken by the well-known actor Kevin Bacon.

Bacon is a man of many talents; from movies to music, he seems to have done it all. While some actors struggle just to land roles, Bacon seems to be swimming in the offers. Bacon is estimated to have starred in around 60 films throughout his career so far—and this number is still growing.

He and his brother Michael also formed a band called The Bacon Brothers; they have released six albums. And, while we're at it, let's not forget the fact that he won a Golden Globe in the past and is constantly being nominated for other various awards for his roles in his films.



This popular actor is often considered the "Center of the Hollywood Universe" because of all the films he has starred in. Most actors can be connected back to Bacon, and a game has even been created to honor these connections.

To some, Bacon could be considered a God. To Bacon, he's just a man how followed his dreams and made a difference.

## Makin' Bacon

A Few Good Men? Apollo 13? Tremors? Kevin Bacon truly has done it all.

Bacon landed several some roles in films like Friday the 13th in his early years. However, it wasn't until Bacon starred in Barry Levinson's Diner that he sparked an interest with the directors of Hollywood.

From that moment on it seemed that Bacon's fate to become the God of all Hollywood Actors was sealed. After landing several more roles as leads, Bacon decided to change things up. In an interview with The New York Times Bacon revealed that he wasn't looking for main roles anymore. "The only way I was going to be able to work on 'A' projects with really 'A' directors was if I wasn't

the guy who was starring," said Bacon. "You can't afford to set up a \$40 million movie if you don't have your star."

Unlike many, Bacon is not afraid to take on the more unusual characters. In the 1991 film JFK, Bacon played Willie O'Keefe—a gay prostitute. Later in 2004, he played an offending pedophile on parole in The Woodsman.

## Cutting Bacon- I mean, Loose.

Okay, okay, I've stalled it for as long as I could. Let's talk about Footloose.

But where to start?

In this acclaimed 1984 film, Bacon plays Ren McCormack—a teen from Chicago who rebels against a "no dancing" rule. In order to prepare for his role as a 17-year-old teen, Bacon was enrolled in a local high school.

"I was kind of like, 'Wow, I don't know if I'm gonna be able to pull off actually being 17. Like, 'Do I look 17? Can I be 17?' I was very concerned about that," said Bacon.

Bacon was committed to his role as Ren. On the day of the scene where Ren had to address the town council, Bacon broke out into hives from his nerves for the scene. He even ended up getting rushed to the hospital.

Despite all the notable accomplishments, Bacon is never happy to admit he had several stunt doubles. Although Bacon

did do most of his stunts and did a lot of his dancing, he still had a "dance double" for more intricate parts like the prom scene. He also had a gymnast double for the warehouse scene.

"I was furious," said Bacon. "It's like a starting pitcher getting taken out of a game. No one wants to be told they can't get the guy out."

Regardless of the doubles, Bacon still received many notable awards for his success in Footloose. But let's be honest here, none of us really care whether he had doubles or not—we all still know he's still as amazing as can be.

## Six Degrees just isn't Enough Bacon

Kevin Bacon is the center of the universe. Okay, I know I may be a bit biased here, but he really is!

Well, the Hollywood universe, that is.

This popular game involving Bacon was created in 1994. According to the game, every actor or actress can be linked back to Bacon. The concept of the game is simple. Similar to the six degrees of separation, it is believed that any celebrity is six stars (or lower) away from Kevin Bacon.

There have been several board games and trivia-related activities that have been modeled after this game. Several other actors have also parodied

this game in commercials and other shows.

The process is simple: an actor or actress's Bacon Number is determined by the number of degrees of separation he or she has from Kevin Bacon. The higher the Bacon Number, the farther away the person is from Bacon.

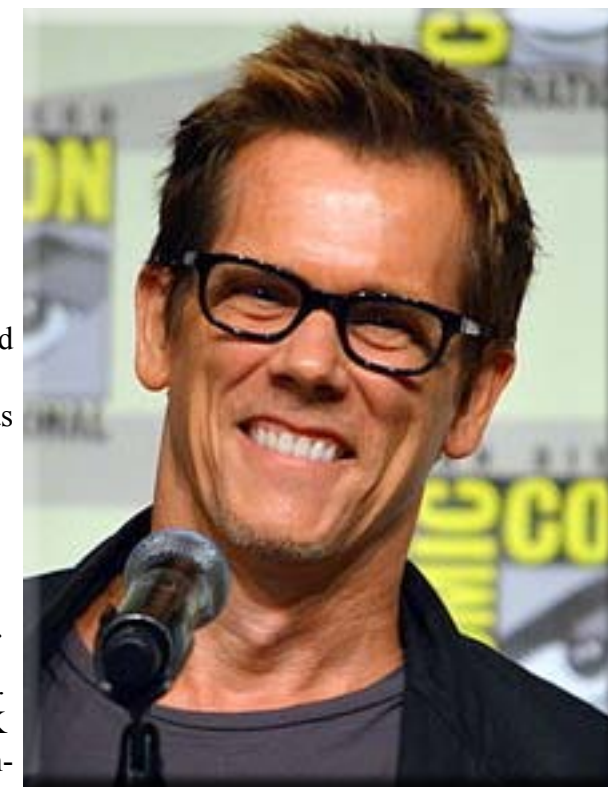
For example: Elvis Presley was in Change of Habit with Edward Asner. Edward Asner was in JFK with Kevin Bacon. In conclusion, Elvis Presley's Bacon Number is two.

The highest finite Bacon Number is said to be nine. A small group of celebrities have what is called an "undefined Bacon Number". This means they cannot be linked to Bacon in any number of connections at all. However, some claim this is incorrect and the truth remains unknown. (Let's be real for a second—we all know this isn't true.)

## Smokin' Bacon

But to Bacon, the jokes are getting old. "Every time one of my films comes out, I have to read 'sizzling bacon' or 'he's sure bringing home the bacon'," said Bacon. "People come up to me and ask me if I made up my last name. Believe me, I would have never made up my last name."

...Sorry, Kevin. I couldn't help myself.



Whether you're a vegetarian or carnivore, no one can resist the goodness that is Kevin Bacon. Be he man or God, Bacon has changed lives everywhere with his career and accomplishments—this cannot be denied.





## Old McDonald Had a Factory? Time to Meat Your Maker

by Laura Harding  
Head Editor

Amidst the “pink slime” and horsemeat scandals bouncing from fast food chain to fast food chain, it’s becoming more and more difficult to know what’s being consumed upon ordering a double cheeseburger.

The meat industry, like agriculture, has moved away from the pleasant pastoral scenes of cows grazing and chickens pruning their feathers to meat-processing companies with large feedlots and packaging plants. This industrialization slashed beef prices in half since 1970, but at what expense? Health Risks

Critics argue that this mass-producing system carries with it more health risks. While former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman refutes the cause of food-safety risks, he also believes the “risks are probably greater as well,” because of the rapid spread of disease in today’s world.

However, with huge feedlots and hundreds of livestock, the spread of pathogens from one animal to another increases. Robert Tauxe, chief of the food-borne and diarrheal diseases in the Center for Disease Control believes “the industrialization of our

meat supply opened up a conduit for salmonella, for campylobacter, and for E. coli O157 infections to pass through to the consumer.”

One USDA study found that 50 percent of feedlot cattle carried the E. coli O157:H7 bacterium in their intestines during the summer. Furthermore, due to the grinding together of hundreds of different animal parts, not only can one hamburger include more than one animal, the spread of contamination is much wider.

Animal Treatment and the Slaughterhouse

The feedlot leaves much to be desired.

Up to 100,000 cows are confined to only a few hundred acres of land. The land is covered with manure—so much manure that it cakes the hides of the cows. A feedmill stands as a beacon in the center of the feedlot.

Here, the cow is fattened until it is amply obese—ready for slaughter.

It leaves the feedlot.

It boards a truck and travels to the slaughterhouse. Upon arrival, the cow is unloaded and set to wait in a single-file line for the slaughter. The cow will pass through a conveyor belt over which a worker is standing with a stunner. The stunner

plunges a pencil-sized metal rod between the eyes of the cow. This should make the cow unconscious.

From there, the cow will be chained and lifted by its hind legs and bled. A worker will slice the cow’s aorta with a knife and bleed him. The cow is dead.

Sanitation stations will be careful to clean the manure-caked hide before removing it. A cow enters the slaughterhouse and beef exits.

CEO of Kansas City’s National Farms Bill Haw says the “first and foremost impression of at least the initial stages of the packing house are a very violent, very dehumanizing sort of thing.”

Worker Welfare

The meat industry is notorious for having the largest employee turnover rates with 75 to 100 percent per year. The job is dangerously fast-paced as well as difficult.

While the ideal system would house skilled workers – experts, even – the worker turnover rates nurture under-trained and underpaid employees holding important jobs such as evisceration and intestine-tying. This allows for a larger margin of error and in turn a larger probability of contamination.

Dangers of the job stem

from the fast-paced nature of the packing house. Faster pace equals more production. However, faster paced also means workers moving faster with large knives and sawing devices. While protective equipment is worn, worker fatigue creates a more dangerous environment.

The Trade-Off

Many advocate for the return to small business production of meat. They romanticize about small country farms and a happy Bessie grazing in the field. While this seems ideal and certainly more humane, the trade-off is this: Small farm production warrants expensive meat and less of it, large-scale production warrants a cheaper product and more of it.

Americans spend the lowest percent of their income on food compared to other countries. This is thanks to the mass-production of grocery-store staples. Once again, the question becomes this: Which do we value more? Value or values? Do we close slaughterhouse doors for \$2.95 a pound?

## So Long and Goodnight

by Sonia Vavra  
Features Editor

Tragic news was released on March 22 for My Chemical Romance fans. Instead of the first day of Spring Break being filled with happiness and excitement, MCR fans felt nothing but remorse.

My Chemical Romance, after being in the music industry for 12 years, has broken up.

It was completely unexpected and rather shocking to see what MCR posted on their website, saying: “Being in this band for the past 12 years has been a true blessing. We’ve gotten to go places we never knew we would. We’ve been able to see and experience things we never imagined possible... And now, like all great things, it has come time for it to end.”

Junior Jonathan Stutz, fellow My Chemical Romance fan, shared his thoughts on the band’s breakup, “The breakup was interesting to me because I saw it coming,” said Stutz, “but didn’t at the same time. MCR had four critically and commercially successful albums, so I’m happy they went out with a bang.”

The band prospered for the past 12 years with their fans loving them with each step of the way. They had four studio albums: *I Brought You My Bullets, You Brought Me Your Love* (2002), *Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge* (2004), *The Black Parade* (2006) and *Danger Days: The True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys* (2010).

Like the rest of their fans, Stutz is still sad to see the band go. “As a band they meant everything to me,” said Stutz. “I was 7 when *Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge* came out, and for the next 10 years I grew up as the band went on. Truly they were the soundtrack [of] my maturity.”

The band finished their abrupt goodbye by saying “Thanks for all of your support, and for being part of the adventure. –My Chemical Romance.” Although the band now ceases to exist, their legacy will live on in the hearts of their fans for years to come.



My Chemical Romance recently broke up after twelve years in the band.

## Divorce: A Poem

Anonymous

There once was a sapling  
All pretty and young  
That was watered with love  
And grew tall and strong  
The tree just kept growing  
Love was its source of strength  
Then one day the winter came  
And all the love went away  
Chopped off at its roots  
The tree could no longer grow  
So it began to slowly vanish  
It’s roots began to wither  
Fall away, rot, and die  
And one day the tree was no more  
Taken in the night, by the winter



## Stamping Away Misconceptions: Part 3 Experience is Key

by Michelle Awad  
Features writer

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or more commonly known as Food Stamps, gives recipients 31.50 a week for groceries. That's 4.50 a day, 1.50 a meal. So who cares? Money is money right? It's better than nothing.

That's what I thought at first. But is it enough? The last two parts of this series take account of experiences of various people in the program and people who take decided to take the Food Stamp Challenge. However, I decided to take a look for myself.

I decided to spend just 4.50 a day on food for three days (mostly because my mother wouldn't let me go a whole week without eating dinner with my family). At first, I didn't think it could be that hard, but soon enough my opinion took a different turn.

On Monday I went grocery shopping for enough food to last me three days and soon discovered I barely had enough money to cover the basics. 13.50 is not enough money to go grocery shopping, even if it's only for 72 hours.

As I wandered through Aldi, I realized I could not buy the normal granola bars and trail mixes that usually get me through the day. The average box of snacks cost at least 2.50 and with my frugal budget, I had to keep

walking past the snack aisle. There would be no chewy bars for this girl.

If there's one food I could restrain from for the rest of my life, it would be rice because of the massive amount of it I had eaten. It was the most affordable thing I could buy in bulk, costing only about 3.50 for a little over a pound. I figured the complex carbs would suffice for energy but soon learned (the hard way) that my body desperately needed protein. The milk I bought for 2.64 and beans for 3.00 just weren't enough.

Perhaps the hardest part was opening my brown bag at lunch to pull out my Tupperware of rice and beans and seeing my friends whip out their whole grain bread with Sara Lee smoked turkey.

Even worse than that is the fact that kids and adults everywhere struggle with this. The stomach growling and envy of friends' lunches was worse than the breakfast, lunch and dinner rice. Apparently, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program did not take this into consideration. And while I cannot force the government to reconsider, perhaps I can get one person to at least admit that "hey, 'Food Stamps' is not exactly what I thought it was."

## Spring Breakers Breaking Out

by Rachel Bogo  
Features writer

Spring break is a time when hardworking students let loose and bring out their inner party. Harmony Korine, the director and writer of the anticipated movie *Spring Breakers*, has done just that.

Starring Selena Gomez, Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Benson, Rachel Korine, and James Franco, *Spring Breakers* is filled with thrill, drugs and excitement. For those 17 and older it brings a raw reality to the spring break experience. Senior Amanda Ruban thought, "There were some parts of the movie that kids would do on spring break but the movie took it to the extreme."

The story brings the viewer into the lives of four best friends and their desire for a spring break adventure. To fund their trip they rob a restaurant which lands them in the slammer, and that's only the beginning of their troubles for their trip. Before seeing the movie senior Grace Pender explained, "I thought it was going to be funny and a good movie that teenagers would

enjoy." Pender continued, "It was a waste of \$10 and there was no storyline."

Selena Gomez plays the character Faith and in doing so hopes to show her fans her more mature acting side, but also warns her younger fans not to see this movie because of the adult content.

After watching spring breakers it was nothing that viewers might expect. First of all Selena Gomez is only in half the movie and when asked what it was about a reviewer may be confused on exactly what to say because of the storyline.

At first glance the movie seemed to be about four girls and their spring break in Florida, but little do anticipated viewers know that they will be shocked by how much of the movie is around guns and drugs. For those who thought to go see it as a family, think again.

Vanessa Hudges is definitely grown up and James Franco will forever have the phrase spring break, spring break forever stuck in my head when I think of him.



Artwork by Sam Moffett

## Beauty and Brains

by Sam Moffett  
Features writer

With *Twilight* gone, where will teens get their supernatural love fixing? Well, there's zombies or witches. For those completely uninterested in a zombie love story, they're stuck with witches. And thankfully it doesn't disappoint.

*Beautiful Creatures* is a fantasy romance based off the novel, *Beautiful Creatures* by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl. In a small town in the middle of the Southern nowhere, young Ethan meets Lena, a "caster", who must discover if she is meant to belong to the good side of magic or the dark. But their romance is interrupted when Lena's mother steps in to try to make her daughter see her true nature as a dark caster.

The mythology of the casters is really enthralling. Their spells can range from simple snowfalls to whirling tornados to shape shifting. The special effects are very sharp and make the spells look even more alive: it's easy to feel the claustrophobia when the vines wrap around Ethan or the gusto when the tornados come.

But what really steals the show is the acting. Each actor did their job very well. Alden Ehrenreich as Ethan and Alice Englert as Lena make a very believable couple. Ethan is optimistic and supportive while Lena is witty and kind. They laugh, the ylove, they fight,

just like any other couple. They make a good team and you find yourself rooting for them as the battle escalates.

But what really makes the movie is Jeremy Irons as Lena's overprotective Uncle Macon. He's like this Dracula-esque character, very suave and with thick accent. He looks like something that stepped out of an antebellum painting or something. What also adds to his character is that he's actually a dark caster but turned to the light in order to protect his niece from her mother Sarafine, played by Emma Thompson.

The dark casters are very strange characters. Emmy Rossum plays Lena's estranged cousin Ridley. She wasn't particularly interesting, just a typical siren going around making out with whoever she wanted.

Emma Thompson is a cheery villain who always had a smile on her face, but her constant mood swings and body motions rendered her performance a bit off. While on the subject of strange things, the town they live in is crazy.

The townsfolk try to go on a witch hunt against Lena, but luckily good ol' Jeremy Irons steps on in. The townsfolk are just too weird: they act too over the top and you don't know if you should be laughing or be freaked out by them.

Most of them are just cruel bullies, but what saves the town from being completely over run with them is Amma, played by Viola Davis. She's a very no sass woman and has a friendship with Macon. She acts as the mother figure to Ethan and helps bring out some of the goodness within him and Lena.

*Beautiful Creatures* is a teen romance done right. It isn't hollow like *Twilight* or too weird like *Warm Bodies*. While it can be a bit unbalanced, it's very enjoyable and can entertain anyone willing to watch.

On a scale of 1 to 10, *Beautiful Creatures* gets a 7.



Artwork by Sam Moffett



## No. 1 from Start to Finish

by Adrian Kalata  
*Sports Editor*



The NCAA March Madness tournament finished with Louisville as the champions.

This year's March Madness tournament has been filled with gruesome injuries and unforeseen upsets, but in the end the Louisville Cardinals pulled through Monday night after a 12 point deficit to win 82-76 against Michigan in a nail-biting finish.

Only a handful of individuals handpicked the final four, and foreseeing the entire bracket was almost impossible. #1 seed Louisville won the tournament, but many unpredictable upsets occurred over the

"Louisville played a great game. They struggled in the first half with being down but came back to secure the win," said senior Ray Stieber. Luke Hancock kept Louisville in the game for the first half before Peyton Siva and Chane Behanan did the heavy lifting to become the National Champions.

The 2013 March Madness tournament was packed with upsets starting from the first games. Harvard beating New Mexico Lobos, Oregon over Oklahoma State, and California topping UNLV were a few of the well noted upsets during the tournament. Senior Nick Bonner said, "the upsets make following March Madness fun. A lot of my friends enter pools and compare brackets to see who's is more accurate."

Lemont basketball coach Rick Runaas also took part in this year's tournament, saying he "filled out a bracket but didn't enter any pools." Runaas said there is more than just entertainment from March Madness. Runaas stated that while he is watching the NCAA or the NBA, he is "always looking for ways to improve our programs [at Lemont High School]."

Sophomore basketball player Jack Valone said, "I watch the game but try to learn from it too. It helps me grow as a player off the court."

"As much as people want to look for genius coaching or inventive strategy the games usually come down to the simple matter of players continually making shots," explained Runaas. And Louisville made plenty of shots Monday night.

**"Louisville played a great game. They struggled in the first half with being down but came back to secure the win."**

-senior Ray Stieber

Photo courtesy of Google

## Boys' Tennis

by Ethan Parafink  
*Sports writer*

After six straight conference crowns, the boys tennis team is off to another great start.

With a record of 7-2, the team has started off well and hopes to continue its domination of the South Suburban Blue conference. Still early in the season, many members have high hopes, including qualifying for state.

"My goals are to qualify for state again, and go even farther," said senior Alex Vasic, "as well as to improve my game for college and have fun." Vasic and sophomore Nick Urban qualified last year and return with experience at the state level.

"It was a great and inspirational experience," said Vasic. "It has given me even greater motivation to qualify again this year." He has a combined singles and doubles record of 10-0 so far this season.

In sight of another conference title, the team was preparing long before the actual start of the season. "We had been conditioning for a month before actually playing tennis, and the top players have been playing in the offseason as well," said senior Jake Smagacz.

It is this dedication and practice that the team hopes will pay off as it tries to continue its success at the conference level and ultimately at the state level. With an experienced and talented team, led by a number of seniors and two returning state qualifiers, they certainly have a shot to accomplish their goals.



Lemont Boys' Tennis team.

Photo courtesy of Tony Hamilton