

# Tom-Tom

Lemont High School

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Issue 27

## Walking with Andrew

By Carly Tucker  
News writer

After experiencing a life threatening accident last summer, sophomore Andrew Podczerwinski has rallied the support of the Lemont community in order to raise funds for his rehabilitation. On Sunday, Apr. 28 Lemont High School will host the "Walk with Andrew" 5K, with all proceeds going towards Andrew's fight to walk again.

While vacationing at a friend's lake house, there was a terrible storm and Andrew and his friend were racing inside for cover. A tree fell on Andrew crushing his lungs and part of his vertebrae. He endured life-saving procedures but was left paralyzed from the waist down.

Almost ten months since the accident and Andrew is more determined than ever to pursue his rehabilitation. Andrew said "I am very ecstatic about the walk. I feel so lucky to have all of this support behind me and it's definitely motivating me to work harder towards achieving my goal of walking again."

Lemont High School's Wellness Committee has organized the "Walk with Andrew" 5K. The committee encourages teachers, students, and the Lemont community as a whole to participate in the event.

Andrew said "These fundraisers mean the world to me because, not only do they help me and my family, but I also love seeing people have a fun time while supporting me." Andrew's brother, John Podczerwinski added "These fundraisers mean everything to our family. It's really amazing to see how much support Andy has."

The registration form may be downloaded from the Lemont High School website. The registration fee is 20 dollars, which includes a "Walk with Andrew" t-shirt. Registration must have been completed by Friday, Apr. 19 in order to be guaranteed a shirt.

Walk-up Registration for the walk will take place that same day at 9 a.m. and the 5K is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. The walk will begin at the LHS football field and will continue on through the neighborhood surrounding the school before winding back to the finish line at the football field.

Regarding those who participate in the walk, Andrew said "I want to thank everyone who is there to support me," while John added "I'd like to thank the Student Council and the other committees that have made this possible."



Andrew Podczerwinski and Kyle McCaffrey at a benefit for Podczerwinski

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## Earth Day

by Monique Devitt  
News writer

As a community, Lemont is taking advantage of Earth day as a time to do mother earth a couple favors. Students, teachers and the average Joe can choose any of the various clean-up events that the Lemont community offers, to lend a hand.

On Apr. 27, members of the LHS National Honor Society will work alongside ACME Refining employees to provide the community a safe and convenient way to dispose of unwanted electronics. NHS will host this Electronic waste drive from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the main entrance of LHS. Junior Maggie Ernst said, "I think it's awesome that our school is involved in this event because we rely so greatly on technology and many people within our community are unaware that unwanted electronics can be recycled."

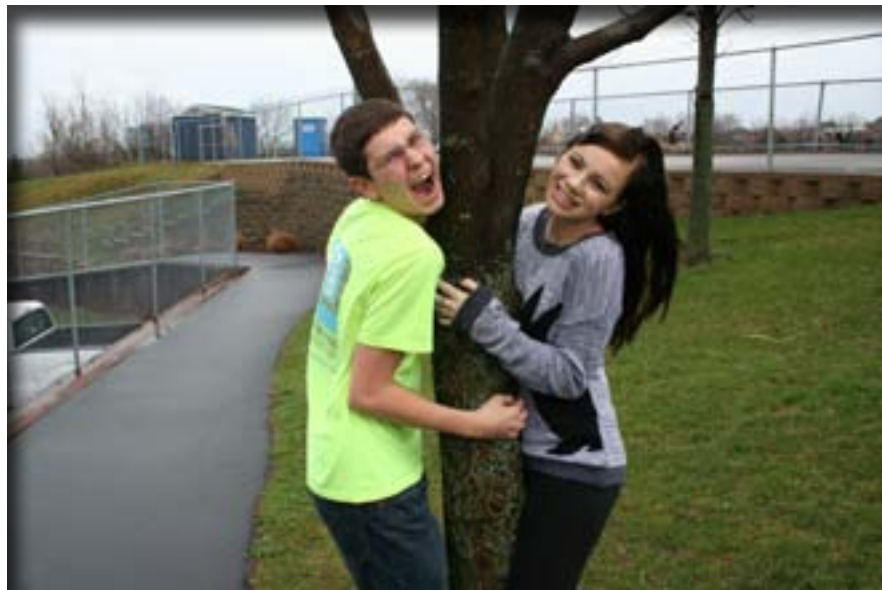
Most electronics will be accepted, including computers, phone chargers, televisions and small kitchen appliances. However, all items must fit in a 4 feet x 4 feet box, and CRT monitors will only be accepted with a \$10 donation.

Anyone interested in getting their hands a little dirty this Saturday can participate in the canal clean-up. On Ap. 27, the Lemont Heritage Committee will be hosting the annual canal clean-up, where anyone can join the festivities by meeting at the Lemont quarries from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

"It's important people get involved and come out to the canal clean-up because it's beneficial to the community and it brings us together as a community." said junior Tess Moeller.

Others have chosen to celebrate Earth day in a less formal manner. Senior Zach Taylor said, "I enjoyed Earth day, and the beautiful weather that came along with it, by doing my homework outside."

Junior Sophie Lichlyter summed it up by saying, "Earth day is a time for us to plant a tree, or go on a nature walk and just enjoy life."



Robet Rigler and Paige Gawrys hug a tree to celebrate Earth Day.

Photo by Alyssa Cinatl

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## Thumbs Up

by Sam Moffett  
Guest editorialist

In Journalism, our teacher made as choose a writer to analyze and dissect their articles; we had to find what made them great writers and what they did that made them so great. I chose Roger Ebert.

At that time I hadn't really read Ebert's work that much – I was much more engrossed with Michael Phillips and Doug Walker's work to pay any attention to Ebert. When I read his review on *This Must Be the Place*, I realized that I had no idea what I was missing.

The way he described movies... it blew me right out of the water. I never saw the movie, but just by the way Ebert described an aging rock star on a search for a Nazi soldier, it made me feel sympathy for the character. Just through his words; there wasn't a trailer to see the emotions on the actors, no music to fill the silence, just words.

I read another article and another and another, each time gaining more appreciation for Ebert and his work. On my Facebook page, alongside Hunter S. Thompson and Quentin Tarantino, I placed Roger Ebert there, knowing that his work could inspire my own critiquing and further my writing to another level.

On April 4, 2013, Roger Ebert passed away from a long battle with thyroid cancer.

I'll say one thing: I never saw this coming. I was just minding my own business, reading the Tomato-meter for *Trance* and

then it popped up in its own little box: Roger Ebert dead at 70. My mouth dropped open and before I knew it I was calling my mom over.

She was equally shocked, but she took it better than I did. She explained to me that his fight with thyroid cancer had taken a lot out of him and that it was his time.

I said no. It wasn't his time. He had been reviewing movies almost fifty years; he had so much more time to keep doing what he loved, more time to continue his passion. But I guess even the best people have to walk away sometimes.

What was so great about Roger Ebert was this passion that he had. Film critic Doug Walker, known for his internet character "The Nostalgia Critic," had released a video describing Roger Ebert. While I watching it, I agreed more and more with what he was saying. He said what Roger Ebert had – along with his partner Gene Siskel, Ebert's partner in crime who died fourteen years ago – was this passion for movies. This undying passion kept everything he did fresh and entertaining.

To make something constantly entertaining was a feat in itself and so many hats have been tipped off to Ebert, who's been named the world's greatest critic by websites such as forbes.com and sfgate.com.

Roger Ebert didn't just take us to the movies, he *was* the movies. He didn't just write about

them; he took you by the hand to the front row and sat with you through the worst and best of cinema, talking in your ear, whispering about the right and wrong.

When I was finishing up this article, I found a quote that made me smile. Two days before his death, Ebert posted on his blog: "So on this day of reflection I say again, thank you for going on this journey with me. I'll see you at the movies."

Even though the movies won't quite be the same, I know that somewhere Roger is looking down at the silver screen, his thumb raised upwards as he watches the films that fill the theatres.

A true man till the end.



Artwork by Sam Moffett



# Boston Tragedy

by Kim Gannon  
Freelance editorialist  
Written on 4/16/13

About twenty-two hours ago, sources began to confirm that the second suspect in the Boston Marathon bombing, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, entered police custody after a day-long civilian standstill. Within minutes, residents of Watertown, Boston, and nearby suburbs flooded the streets in a rare moment of unity that made every one of us proud to be American.

It reminded me of a hazy evening two years ago in May, when every major news channel in America proclaimed the death of Osama Bin-Laden, long time head of Al Qaeda who orchestrated the most solemn attack on American conscience in recent history. Like now, the media flashed names like «Seal Team Six»

And «Abbottabad» that we'd never heard of before. Like now, there were detractors--those who believed we had no reason to celebrate, given the grave consequences our nation had faced and continued to face. And like now, crowds gathered and flags unfurled in cities across the nation, celebrating our nation's heroism and crooning our national anthem in unison.

I was fifteen back then, and I can't say I'm much older now. I was six years old when the first four planes shocked the nation and scarred all those directly or indirectly involved. I walked into my first grade classrooms

with the lights dimmed, the blinds closed, and the television lit with smoke and sirens blaring over the reporter's voice. Nobody fully understood what happened, and we still don't to this day.

Fact is, my classmates and I were born into this war. We drowned in the headlines and we learned to look left again. We went to church every year on the 9/11 anniversary. We grew up with the legislation that declares the United States a constant warzone--with phone and video surveillance, with security restrictions at airports that made us question if we were terrorists ourselves, with xenophobia and Islamophobia at the expense of some of my best friends. This intangible, ever-present war comes at the expense of a generation turned inward and fearing the unknown. And through every repeated act of hatred, every school shooting and death of a faceless kid on the street, now I know why I was uneasy when they found Bin Laden-- the war was never over.

But that's where Boston was different. People responded proactively-- in ways that empowered our nation and addressed the crisis, rather than exclusively in ways that protected themselves from it in fear. Boston took control of its own fate. We've yet to understand this event in a larger context, and

maybe that's for the better; no more questions, real or imagined, can be answered at this point. The skirmish concluded in four days and, from what we've observed, the city of Boston picked itself up again. People died, yes, and some lifelong marathoners will never run again, yes: but Boston never *became* the crisis. Their resilience offers people like my first-grade class a glimmer of hope--that someday this War on Terror will end, that someday a generation crippled beneath it can walk again.

To the victims and their loved ones: We cannot possibly imagine what you're going through. For you, the battle may never end; for you, these two twisted men took something that you'll never get back. Perhaps it's wrong for us to congratulate Boston in light of you; perhaps one death by senseless terror should compel us never to forget the power of ideology and a culture of death. If this is the case, please accept my sincerest apologies, and let your voices be heard. But as Boston rebuilds, we will all rebuild--and we'll rebuild with you.

Congratulations Boston; you've won.

You've won for all of us.

by Sonia Vavra  
Features Editor

When I read the book, people in school would glance at the cover, see the name Stephenie Meyer, and look at me with bewilderment in their eyes. “Are you seriously reading a Stephenie Meyer book?” their expressions would read. Yes, I was (partially because I hadn't read anything in a long time, and partially because the movie was coming out and I might have wanted to see it). And it wasn't half bad.

The movie, to my surprise, wasn't terrible either.

*The Host* takes place in the future, when the earth has been inhabited by aliens – called souls – who use our human bodies as ‘hosts’ to survive in. The story immediately starts off with a soul called Wanderer – later nicknamed Wanda – being inserted into a human body. To Wanda's surprise, her new host – previously Melanie – isn't ready to give up her body just yet.

Throughout the story, Melanie and Wanda become, in a way, partners in crime. Melanie shows Wanda her memories in order to find their loved ones. With Melanie's aid and the few memories she allows Wanda to see, the two in one body set off in search of humans in an alien-inhabited world.

Although the plotline was generally similar, the book was (as per usual) better than the movie. The character development could have been more thorough, and the rest of the story seemed rushed (although it is hard to fit one 600+ page book into one



Artwork by Sam Moffett

movie). There was also a scene missing in which Wanda aids a dying man which, in my opinion, helped show how she had the same feelings as humans, and was more than just a parasitic alien.

The end of the movie gives the viewer a “warm-fuzzy” feeling that the world isn't all that bad and that there is so much potential for humans to do good. And although it was rather cheesy in the romantic scenes (along with a love triangle, but what else can you expect from a Stephenie Meyer story?), I enjoyed the futuristic viewpoint of the world and the classic good triumphing over evil the movie had to offer.

Rating: 3 out of 5 stars.

“I enjoyed the futuristic viewpoint of the world and the classic good triumphing over evil the movie had to offer.”



## Jackie Robinson Day

by Cody Caballero  
Sports writer

Jackie Robinson, one of baseball's all-time greats, will be remembered for the fifth year in a row on Apr. 15, 2013.

Every player and coach who steps onto a baseball field will wear the No. 42 on his back.

The Los Angeles Dodgers coaches and players feel like the number means more to them.

In an article posted on MLB.com, Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said, "Obviously, we're his team, you know? I know everybody wears 42, but when we're wearing it, it's even more significant. He played for this organization. It just seems like we're the one tied to him. It's pretty cool, actually."

For the readers who don't know the game of baseball, on Apr. 15 1947 Jackie Robinson was the first African American baseball player to step foot onto a Major league baseball field.

Junior Brett Twohill said "Jackie Robinson day shows how far our country has come. It remembers one of baseball's all-time greats, who broke the color barrier in baseball, and which helped contribute to the African American race gaining more equality."

Robinson played for the Brooklyn Dodgers (or "dem Bums" as they were called back in the day).

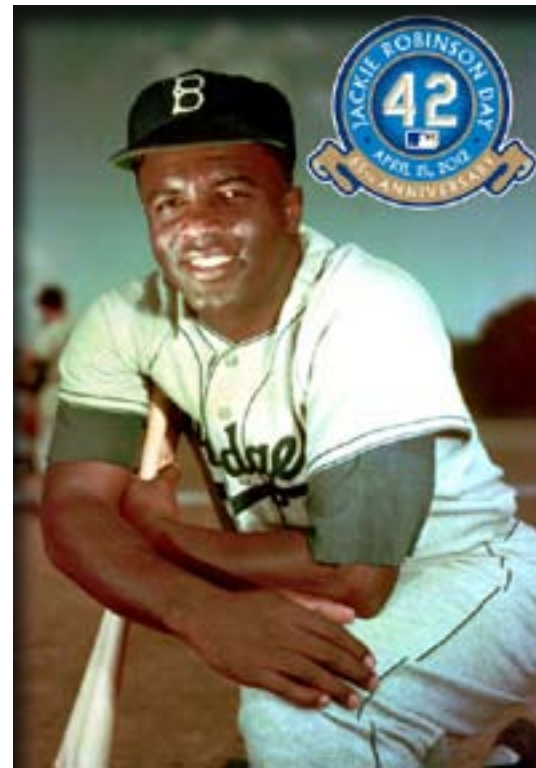
Mariano Rivera closing pitcher for the New York Yankees is the only active player in baseball who is allowed to wear the number 42.

Rivera was grandfathered in which allows him to wear "42." When Rivera retires at the end of this season "42" will no longer be worn on a day to day basis.

On Apr. 12, Jackie Robinson's legacy hit the big screen in the movie "42".

Starring Chadwick Boseman and Harrison Ford, "42" highlights Robinson's greatest moments on the field but also shows his hard times off the field.

**"In a game divided by color, he made us see greatness."**



Baseball hall of famer Jackie Robinson.



Poster advertising "42", a movie about Jackie Robinson.

Photos courtesy of Google

## Bulls Playoffs

by Ethan Parafink  
Sports writer

As the Bulls' star and league MVP lay on the floor cringing in pain, the whole stadium went silent. Just one game into the playoffs, the Bulls' chances at a title already were already doomed.

They won the game and made the first series against the Philadelphia 76ers competitive, but without their star player, Derrick Rose, and after another key injury to Joakim Noah, the best team in the league couldn't make it past the first round last year.

Now, a year later, the Bulls are again hobbled by injuries and unsure of their chances in the playoffs. Rose missed the entire regular season with the ACL injury from last year's playoffs, Noah was on and off the injury list all season and aging guard Richard Hamilton couldn't stay healthy either. The Bulls entered the last week of the season with five key players injured, but still are hopeful of a long playoff run.

Entering the playoffs, all but Rose have returned from injuries to join the Bulls rotation. The team, seeded fifth in the East, is facing the Brooklyn Nets in the first round. The Bulls lead the regular season series against the Nets 3-1. The winner advances to play the winner of the Miami Heat and Milwaukee

Bucks.

The Nets dominated the first game of the playoff series, winning 106-89, as Noah struggled to make an impact with his plantar fasciitis injury and Nets center Brook Lopez controlled the paint. Carlos Boozer led the Bulls with 25 points as the team's lone offensive threat in the game.

The series was evened Monday night, as the Bulls played the great team defense that fans are used to seeing. Joakim Noah's injury seemed nonexistent as energized the team and recorded a double-double.

The Bulls players, staff and front office are all still hopeful for a return from their franchise player before the playoffs end, but that end could seemingly come very soon and Rose has said he is most likely not com-

ing back this year. Coach Tom Thibodeau and management have left it up to Rose to decide when to come back, and although he was cleared by doctors to play almost two months ago, he still insists he is not mentally ready to play.

Needless to say, fans and most likely players are getting anxious and upset that Rose is yet to return. Footage of him practicing fully and dunking off both feet shows he really is physically ready to play. Hopefully for the other players, they aren't affected by the distraction he is causing.

For right now though, the Bulls are focused on their first round series and hoping to pull off an upset win.



The 2012-2013 Chicago Bulls basketball team heading into the playoffs.

Photo courtesy of Google