



LHS' Do-Gooders: **JETS**

by Morgan McPartland
News writer

Roughly three weeks ago, four members of the Junior Engineering Technology Society (JETS) team were asked to help out a fellow LHS student. Junior Matt Cummings was having difficulties in the cafeteria when trying to eat lunch because of his limited mobility and confinement to a wheelchair.

With the assistance of Scott Duensing and Ken Ferry, the team worked with Cummings to create a customized device that attaches to the end of the lunch table. Now, the device is user-friendly for anyone who might be assisting him during lunch.

It is simply slid into place without any additional clamping or securing, and although it's not complex, the device serves its purpose. "I've



already used [the table extension], and it's very cool and helpful," said Cummings.

"The main goal was to give [Matt] the freedom to eat without assistance from other people," explained Duensing. A CAD software was used to design a

basic outline, and a prototype was constructed.

After many meetings with Cummings, adjustments were made and the final project was presented to him on Nov. 10. The table extension took a mere three weeks to create, and, according to Duensing, "it turned out to be a lot easier than we thought it'd be".

Brandon White, Brian Shamasko, Nick Strouss and Matt McKenna were the four students asked to create the device. "I believe it was a positive experience for us all," said White. "We were able to significantly help someone out using the engineering skills that we have learned over the years."



NEWS, P.2

National Honor Society Induction

by Caroline Celis
News writer

On Dec. 2 at 7 pm, the National Honors Society will be inducting its new members in an induction ceremony.

The National Honors Society is a student run organization within LHS. Members are admitted only if accepted after applying to the organization.

The group focuses on community improvement; all members are required to participate in a minimum amount of community service per semester including tutoring hours.

NHS vice president, senior Dylan Matthews, explained that the VAST tutoring program through NHS matches high school tutors with middle school students. The program's biggest impact is, "providing Old Quarry students with the personal learning experiences no longer available to them", said Matthews.

Along with community service work, NHS also picks causes each year to which they dedicate some of their time and fund raising. This year's causes focus on Support our troops and Lyme disease. Members have spent time stuffing stockings to send to troops as gifts this Christmas,



and later in the year will work on raising funds and awareness for Lyme disease in honor of Lemont resident Matt Parker.

NHS president senior Mike Hayes is planning various events this school year in order to raise money for this year's causes. He is currently pushing for a Mr.LHS pageant, which would take place second semester. Hayes said that the "exciting fundraiser" and "more student involvement" are the biggest changes this year. So far, the organization has had a successful year and "raised more money than ever before and collected 300 pounds of canned foods".

The organization is open to Junior and Senior applicants who have past community service and leadership experience.

LHS junior Ankit Amlani was recently accepted into the new wave of NHS members. Amlani is most excited about "making a difference" through his work with the organization. Amlani explained that his "want to be a part of the prestige that is The National Honors Society" fueled his motivation for applying.



NEWS, P.3

Stranger Danger

by Brittany Baldwin
News writer

In light of the investigation of the recent attempted abduction of a LHS student, many citizens are left with concerns over what possible measures can be taken to increase safety and prevent future abductions from taking place.

In attempts to address these safety concerns, LHS, in combination with the Lemont Police Department, has made announcements, phone calls, and sent out emails to the Lemont community in order to raise awareness about this abduction attempt. Lemont Police Detective, Officer Daniel Dykshorn believes, "Information is key.... We are trying to make sure that citizens know what to look for."

The Lemont Police Department has also increased the amount of marked and unmarked patrols on duty to look for cars fitting the description of the vehicle in question. By working in conjunction with the Will County, Cook County, and Lockport Police Departments, the Lemont Police Department hopes to come closer to locating the individuals in question for this abduction attempt.

However, to truly increase safety and lower the risk of abduction, Detective Dykshorn recommended that students abide by the basic "stranger danger" safety tips taught years ago. Dykshorn advised, "Walk in groups, have your cell phones available, and do not talk to strangers. If somebody does try to abduct you, scream, yell and run as fast as you can." Dykshorn also encouraged, "If you see any suspicious activity, don't be afraid to call 911."

More Lemont Police patrols have also been stationed around LHS to enhance school safety. LHS Campus Supervisor, Vince Garofalo suggested by "becoming more aware of their surroundings," students can minimize their risk of being in potentially harmful situations and possible abductions.

Although this attempted abduction has greatly affected citizens of Lemont and surrounding communities, the seriousness of this attempt resonated closer to home for the parents of this area.

As a mother of two sons, LHS Social Studies teacher, Jodi Nye felt "deeply concerned" after hearing the reports of the abduction attempt. However, Nye added, "If I were a parent of a girl, I think I'd be even more afraid. I know it's irrational, but people often think that girls are abducted more than boys." In order to ensure the safety of their children, Nye recommended that parents "know where their children are going, how long it takes to get there, and expect a call when they arrive."

A strong believer that "when you're alone, you're most vulnerable," Nye makes sure that her children travel together in order to increase safety.

When asked what concerns the attempted abduction arose, LHS Social Studies teacher, Rick Runaas replied, "Your biggest nightmare, as a parent, is somebody taking your kid... [The abduction attempt] made me think about my own kids, and wonder if they are safe enough at all times."

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Safety First

by Annie Lillwitz
Editorials writer

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Runaas feels that it is important for parents to let their children know “who they can and cannot trust,” and continue to reinforce these teachings as their children become teenagers. Runaas added, “Sometimes teenagers get a false sense that they are automatically safe because they are a little bigger now... [Teens] just need to be made aware that things can happen to them, too.”

After hearing of this abduction attempt, LHS Writing Center Director, Patty Melei felt “pretty shocked that even an adolescent-teenager is at risk [of abduction] in a community like Lemont... It was a strong wakeup call.” As a parent of two, Melei sees her children “daily at risk to be abducted” and constantly stresses the importance of safety to them.

Melei attributes much of the safety that Lemont has experienced thus far to “strong community support and a strong sense of connection.” Melei also feels fortunate to know “people are watching out for each other.”

Despite how “concerning” Melei found this abduction attempt, she remains “thankful for the reminder to be more cautious.”

To report any suspicious activity or details regarding this attempted abduction, please contact the Lemont Police Department at (630) 257- 2226.

Halloween is over but unfortunately some things are still going “bump” in the night.

You’ve probably heard of the recent safety scare, where one LHS student was physically assaulted by an older man, after ignoring his request for directions. Luckily, she was able to safely get away and contact an authority.

LHS notified parents as soon as possible, and announced to the students exactly what had happened. As a safety precaution LHS officials advised walking to and from school with a companion. It was also advised students don’t walk anywhere alone at night.

Was all of this an unfortunate coincidence or should students start taking more steps toward safety?

I’ve lived in Lemont my whole life, and I’ve come to realize it’s a relatively “safe” town. No drive-by shootings, no serious break-ins, none of that.

So, when something like this happens, a lot of people don’t know how to react.

“I am a little nervous to be walking around town now, with all these attempted abductions,” says freshman Lauren Kowalczyk, “but I am also more aware of the things I can do to keep myself and others safe.”

Some may blame the schools –After all, there’s no class that teaches us how to be safe in any and every situation, but parents are the first teachers.

LHS Social Studies teacher, and responsible parent, Rick Runaas told a fellow reporter that parents shouldn’t assume nothing will happen to their children, and it’s never too late to talk to them about issues like safety.

Parents should be talking to their children about staying safe from day one. It’s a parent’s responsibility to keep their children safe. I think the key to doing so is in staying informed and abiding by basic safety rules, like staying two broom sticks away from strangers.

So next time you find yourself in a potentially harmful situation remember to put safety first. You could be putting your life on the line, and it’s not worth the risk.



EDITORIALS, P.5

Ho, Ho, Hallmark? HOLIDAYS TAKEN OVER BY COMMERCIALIZATION

by Kelly Lyons
Editorials Editor

When Halloween has barely passed and Thanksgiving is still weeks away, all I really want is.. Christmas music? It’s nice to look forward to more exciting times of the year, but the commercial aspect of holidays has truly become overwhelming.

I’m talking to you, holiday skippers. I’m no Scrooge, but I don’t need to be blinded by glittering ornaments and cheery yuletide decorations when I walk into Jewel Osco on a late October afternoon.

In order to hemorrhage money from a mass body of people, America in particular, big corporations take advantage of traditionally meaningful holidays. I’m sure you’ve heard of “Hallmark holidays,” which are relatively meaningless days celebrated only to rake in more money via cards and gimmicks.

However, big-time holidays such as Halloween and Christmas have lost an immense amount of traditional value because of these industries’ exploitation. I’m sure there are people who never even realized Halloween was once celebrated as a religious holiday by Roman Catholics, Episcopalians and Lutherans alike.

Pre-Christianity, pagan priests called Druids celebrated a festival called Samhain on Oct. 31. According to the-holidayspot.com, this festival was recognized so people could pray for the dead in preparation for their version of All Saints Day on Nov. 1. In traditional Scottish customs, Samhain was known as Hallowe’en, thus today’s nearly identically named celebration.

But really, who would’ve known? I’d be very surprised if someone could honestly tell me they think of prayer rather than ghosts and witches when Halloween is mentioned. Despite the lack of historic record of the evolution of the old pagan ritual, it’s astounding how commercialized holidays such as this have become. The greed and gluttony associated with Halloween seems a bit disrespectful in terms of how the holiday was traditionally commemorated.

Though Halloween has turned into somewhat of a Hallmark spectacle, today’s meaning of Christmas may be even more altered. Although there are several guesses as to where and when the Christmas spirit began, ancient Rome began celebrating perhaps earlier than most countries.

The ancient Romans recognized a festival called Saturnalia, which lasted from mid-December until January. During this festival, Romans honored their god of Saturn by decorating their homes with trees laden with small candles and modern yuletide staples like garland. During December, Romans would engage in grand feasts and exchange gifts with family and neighbors to promote good spirits and good luck.

Years later, Santa would make his way into history in order to promote these values. However, corporations took advantage of this marketable holiday by endorsing pretty decorations and corny television specials rather than concrete values. These days, the holiday is more about getting gifts than anything else. Of course it’s fun to get wrapped up in these big business money traps- ahem, the Christmas spirit- but it’s sad to think that such important holidays have lost the majority of their meanings.

Although the commercialized versions of holidays may seem more fun, people should realize that there was a real reason these traditions began in the first place.. other than eating tons of candy and receiving countless gifts. So next time you’re chowing down on Halloween candy or opening yet another Christmas present, try to remember why you’re actually celebrating.



FEATURES, P. 6

"BREAKING NEWS"

: THE DEBUT OF MICHAEL JACKSON'S NEW ALBUM!

by Michael Gaytan
Features writer

Michael Jackson may have died last year, but his legacy and music are living on. His Estate, along with Sony Music and Epic Records, is set to debut an album of his unreleased music, *Michael*, this December.

The album features songs that Jackson recorded prior to his death, as well as more recent collaborations with Akon, Lenny Kravitz and 50 Cent.

This is the first album in 9 years to be released with Jackson's new music. The songs "Breaking News" and "Hold My Hand" have already premiered and, of course, stirred up some controversy.

Many people don't believe that it is really Jackson singing in "Breaking News" because in the song he sings in a much deeper voice than people are accustomed to. This can be argued against by the simple visit to one of Jackson's earlier albums, *Invincible*. He sings in the same voice in the song "2000 Watts" and, contrary to public belief, it is his natural voice.

The first single off *Michael* is "Hold My Hand," his duet with Akon. People complain about how present Akon is in the song. The song was actually set to be on Akon's 2008 album *Freedom*, but after it was leaked, he and Jackson pulled the track to perfect it. Akon finished the song this month and, at a request by Jackson, it was released first.

The album has 10 of the most recent tracks recorded by Jackson. The cover art is an oil painting by Kadir Nelson. "Michael wears a golden suit of armor and stares at the viewer as he is crowned by cupids," Nelson said in an MTV News interview. "He places his hand over his heart and looks directly at the viewer, a symbol of Jackson's big heart and strong connection to his fans and music. A monarch butterfly sits on his shoulder, another symbol of Jackson's metamorphosis as a singer and entertainer, as well as a symbol of royalty. His musical history unfolds behind him."

Many people are against the release of this album. His father and Will.i.am think it is "disrespectful" because Jackson didn't finish it himself or give permission for it to be released. His mother, children and sister aren't completely convinced that it is Jackson in the songs, so they aren't promoting the release either. Despite the unpopularity within his family, the album will be released Dec. 14.

A DVD music video set entitled *Michael Jackson's Vision* will be released this month. It features 4.5 hours of video content on 3 discs with over 40 videos. Similar to *Visionary: The Video Singles*, this set will bring back the videos that made Jackson the phenomenon he is.

Those who say "he's dead: get over it" don't understand that Jackson truly is a legend, who will live on forever through his music, his videos and his humanitarian work.

Be sure to look forward to future albums and works to be released by The Estate of Michael Jackson and pick up *Michael* and *Vision* this holiday season.

Photos courtesy of Google

FEATURES, P. 7



A+ for Allstar

by Andrea Earnest
Features Editor

If you haven't heard of Allstar Weekend, you probably think they're just another Disney boy band. This is actually not the case; Allstar Weekend manages to appeal to teenagers while keeping their lyrics appropriate for a younger audience.

Bassist Cameron Quiseng says, "We like to have fun. At all times. That's our mission statement." The band has done a pretty good job so far; making it to number one on *Radio Disney* and selling out multiple concerts. Their most recent performance was at the tree-lighting ceremony in downtown Chicago.

The band consists of four members: Cameron Quiseng, Zach Porter, Nathan Darmody and Michael Martinez. All the boys are in their twenties and have been pursuing music for most of their lives.

Their new CD, *Suddenly Yours*, has been a huge hit with their fan base. It features 11 different songs, ranging from fan favorites to some new songs.

"The general theme, besides the weekend, is that whether or not you like what you're doing in school or like your job, there are always going to be times where you can be yourself," says Zach Porter, lead vocalist. "And it may not be in your job, but there will be moments in life where you can shine as the person you really are. I think people maybe forget that or don't even know that."

"Hey, Princess," one of the songs on the album, tells a love story between a "princess" and a normal guy. The album's first single, "Come Down With Love," allows listeners to take a little dance break.

Unlike other artists attached to the Disney label, Allstar Weekend has no plans for any TV or movie deals. They are one of the few bands, not solo artists, signed to the label.

The band continues to meet success, and their fans' enthusiasm will continue to propel them to stardom. If you're interested in learning more about Allstar Weekend, check out their website: allstarweekendrocks.com



Photos courtesy of Google

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RETIRED PEOPLE CAN'T SCARE ME.

by Rene Tovar
Features writer

Well, maybe...

Based off of DC Comics Graphic Novels by Cully Hamner and Warren Ellis, *R.E.D* is a fiery combination of action and comedy that stars Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, Helen Mirran and John Malkovich.

R.E.D, directed by Robert Shwentke, is about a retired man named Frank who is played by Willis. He is restless, bored, and spends his days talking on the phone with a pension associate. Freeman plays Joe, Malkovich plays Marvin, and Mirran plays Victoria, all who are old friends and enemies of Frank.

The film gets its title from the status of the agents. *R.E.D*, which stands for Retired Extremely Dangerous, offers a humorous response to the viewers.

Frank, Joe, Marvin and Victoria all have one thing in common: They are all retired CIA top agents. The story revolves around these characters and their abilities and because of their secrets they are made the CIAs top objective.

The characters go on a cross country mission to break into the CIA headquarters and use their cunning, knowledge and teamwork to stay one step ahead. They uncover one of the biggest schemes in government history, which leads the focus of the last half of the film.

Most of the credit for the movie goes to its powerful cast. The characters play off each other well and give terrific performances. Malkovich is the most vivid character of the group playing a highly paranoid individual.

Mirran also showed a powerful performance in the film, presenting a classy yet youthful personality. Unfortunately, Freeman comes up short in this film, only being used as a plot device to help move the film along. Even though his screen time was short, Freeman did deliver with his comedic and heartfelt lines.

Shwentke directed a great film, but it could have been better. Sure, there is plenty of action and hilarious lines, but the pace of the film could have been faster.

The movie is certainly one to see because of the chemistry of the characters. Watching the actors have an enjoyable time throughout the film does make the movie more amusing.

With stronger direction, and a more refined script, *R.E.D* could have been one of the better films of the year because of its strong cast. All in all, the film does get the job done, but could offer a bit more to the viewers.

Rating: B. See it, enjoy it, tell your friends, but you might only want to see it because of the cast.



Photos courtesy of Google

THE IMAGINARY INVALID

by Maribeth Van Hecke
Features writer

This year's fall play The Imaginary Invalid, performed by LHS's Drama Club on Nov. 5 and 6, was entertaining as the actors and actresses parade their characters around the stage to shower the audience with their over-dramatic personalities.

The play's main character, Argon, was a hypochondriac (an individual who constantly worries about being very sick). As the play progresses, you learn that he enjoys to be the center of attention and to be every one's concern, but he is actually very healthy.

Although Argon definitely has the strongest need to be dramatic, all the characters in the play have dramatic personalities. Characters felt the need to exaggerate their reactions and positions, just like Argon.

Drama Club actors and actresses reflected Argon's characteristics well as they showed they could make their own dramatic statements and situations. Whether it is getting excited about love, arguing the responsibilities in the household or "doing the best" for one another, each character had his or her dramatic moment.

The LHS version of The Imaginary Invalid was entertaining, funny and most definitely not a waste of time. Preparation for the play started back in September, so the cast has worked endless hours to bring the play to LHS.

During the year Drama Club performs the fall play, children's play and winter play. The Children's play is a production Drama performs for the elementary schools in December. This year's winter play is called "Our Town" and tryouts will be held next week.

Drama Club works long and hard to bring theatre to LHS.



Photos courtesy of Tony Hamilton



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CONAN IS BACK!

by Gabbi Polino
Features writer

Conan O’Brien made his highly anticipated return to TV on Mon., Nov. 8. Although his self-titled show takes place in a new studio with a new band, it still has the familiar feel of *Late Night* and *The Tonight Show*.

After last year’s fiasco with NBC, O’Brien naturally took the opportunity to poke fun at the network he once called home. He opened the show with a skit detailing his life without a talk show, followed by a few monologue jokes at NBC’s expense. He described his move to basic cable by saying, “It’s not easy doing a late-night show on a channel without a lot of money and that viewers have trouble finding...so that’s why I left NBC.”

O’Brien spent the remainder of the premiere expressing his excitement to be back on late-night TV and his gratitude to the fans who supported him after his loss of *The Tonight Show*. With longtime sidekick Andy Richter at his side, he jumped comfortably back into the routine of interviewing celebrities and welcoming musical guests. In the show’s first two weeks, O’Brien held hilarious conversations with A-listers Tom Hanks, Lea Michele and Russell Brand.

One thing that sets *Conan* apart from *The Tonight Show* is the amount of crowd interaction. The new studio does not include a barrier between the stage and the audience, so O’Brien has the chance to display his warm personality. Every night so far, he has greeted audience members with hugs.

O’Brien also announced that he would like to give back to his fans by holding a contest. Weekdays from Nov. 16 to Dec. 21, viewers can enter the “20 Pine Tree Air Fresheners in 20 Nights Giveaway Spectacular” for their chance to win a pine-scented air freshener, plus a convenient “carrying case”: a 2011 Chevrolet Cruze.

The next time you’re looking for a break from homework or a good laugh before bed, remember that *Conan* airs Mon. through Thurs. at 10 PM on TBS.



Photos courtesy of Google

Unwinding *Unwind*

by: Maddy George
Features Writer

The premise of the book *Unwind* is based on a future where certain sets of humans are bred as organ donors for the bulk of society.

This chilling dystopian novel by Neal Shusterman portrays a future where parents can have their children “unwound” after the age of thirteen.

The book’s definition of being unwound is having the donor

(willing or unwilling) have his or her organs harvested and donated to recipients across the country. The choice of being unwound is ultimately decided by the parents of the troubled teens.

Shusterman creates a realistic sci-fi novel that is a breath of fresh air after all the fantasy vampire stories that teenage girls are addicted to lately.

There is actually a deeper meaning to the book, which the author lightly hints at. *Unwinding* began as a result of the “Heartland War” in which the opposing armies were pro-choice and pro-life. *Unwinding* is essentially the peace agreement between the two sides. Parents can get rid of their pesky teenagers and parts of them will go to a “good” cause. The catch is that the child is still technically alive, just alive in hundreds of different places (here is where the sci-fi bit comes in).

The other form of unwounds are called “tithes”. Tithes are

literally bred to be harvested. The parents believe it is God’s will that they have a tithe child to show what they are willing to sacrifice for their religion.

The book follows the journey of three unwinds; Conner, Risa and Lev. Each of their circumstances for being sent to be unwound is different, but they all have the same goal: escape. The three stories connect in impossible ways and lead you through cliff-hanger after cliff-hanger, all while touching your heart.

Protagonists and antagonists alike, this story has plenty of life-altering characters and the shocking end to each of their adventures will leave you gasping and questioning, could this really happen?

So even if you’re not a science-fiction lover, *Unwind* has something for you. It takes science-fiction, romance and adventure, and rolls them into one smooth story. And it makes you think; what would *your* parents do?

Photos courtesy of Google





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Coming Soon...

COUTURE CORNER

by Erin O'Connor & Caroline Celis
Fashion columnists

So you read fashion magazines, but those \$700 Jimmy Choo pumps aren't realistic for a girl in high school.

Our mutual love of fashion and all things girly inspired us to start a column devoted to sparking the interests of our fellow and future fashionistas. Covering: clothes, shoes, accessories along with trends of the moment within school and on the runway, we hope to provide a resource for you to look great on a realistic budget.

Incorporating timeless yet trendy looks and deriving inspiration from our peers, we aim to provide a sense of frugal fashion within the walls of LHS.

Stay tuned for peer interviews, holiday gift ideas and all things style.

As Yves Saint Laurent said, "Fashion Fades-Style is eternal."



CATCHING

ENOUGH

Z z z's?

by Bridget Carr
Features writer

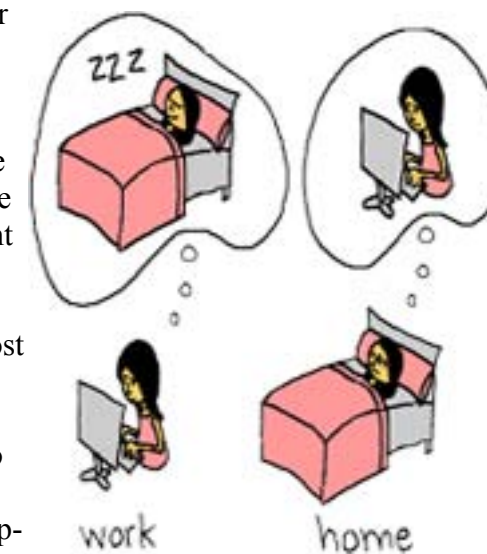
Lack of sufficient sleep is a common plague among today's teenage population that many of us can relate to. According to the American Sleep Disorders Association, the average teenager needs around 9.5 hours of sleep per night.

I know what you're thinking: the mere idea sounds impossible and just plain ridiculous, particularly on school nights. And yes, while in high school, there are plenty of things that seem much more important.

While teens juggle their extra-curricular activities; school, work, friends, family, television and facebook, sleep is often a last priority. However, all of us have a tendency to forget that putting aside more time to sleep would greatly alleviate some of the stress resulting from these abundant concerns.

Statistics show that as many as 30% of teens suffer from a sleep disorder; the most common being sleep deprivation. Symptoms that may indicate this issue include trouble waking up, irritability, inability to concentrate, impaired memory, tendency to fall asleep during the day and oversleeping on weekends.

Are any of these sounding familiar to your daily struggles? Speaking from per-



sonal experience, I've dealt with plenty of these side effects and I'll be the first to admit that my sleeping patterns are far from healthy.

Many teenagers, including myself, don't find themselves crashing until midnight or even later. With all the distractions around us, how could we put everything else aside to just lie in bed?

Awareness of the risks may cause you to reconsider your "bedtime". Sleep deprivation is a leading cause of severe moodiness, a weakened immune system, poor performance in school, and even depression. Not to mention that it can also increase risk of car accidents by falling asleep at the wheel.

Who knows, maybe a few extra hours of sleep could improve your test scores, put you in a better mood and even make you feel healthier. Consider giving your brain a bit more rest; we all know these teenage years can put it into constant overdrive.

Interested in learning more? Consider visiting sleepdeprivation.com or parentingteens.about.com/cs/teensandsleep/a/teenssleepwell.htm.

Photos courtesy of Google



SPORTS, P. 14

SPOTLIGHT: *Mikey Hayes*

PROVING EVERY DAY THAT FOOTBALL PLAYERS CAN BE NICE

by Dylan Blaha
Head Editor

We see it everywhere. Students all over the school constantly label football players’ jocular attitudes as immature and juvenile; however, come game day, these fans praise these men like a second family (only a much larger, scarier family).

Well, guess what? Some of these young men are the nicest people you will ever meet. Case in point: Mike Hayes.

Mr. Hayes, an LHS senior and defensive starter, continuously shines on and off the football field. Although he has a difficult course load, Hayes finds time to be National Honor Society President and a star on the football team. That’s right, he’s kind of a big deal (sorry ladies, he’s taken).

Recently, the Tom-Tom sat down with the famed athlete and superhero (one of those is only a rumor, however) for a one-on-one chat. What happened next is, let’s just say, something for the history books.

Tom-Tom: How did the team improve from last season? What were the key changes from last year?

Mike Hayes: The team improved nicely. We figured out early that we weren’t going to be the biggest kids playing on Friday nights. So we had to become a big family to work together and succeed.

TT: Now that you’re a senior, did you feel any added pressure to succeed?

MH: I have definitely felt some pressure. As a senior on our football team, you have one job: to lead. You need to keep your teammates calm, cool and collected in times of adversity. You need to keep everyone from being immature and maybe most importantly, get on kids who aren’t keeping their grades up, which sometimes hinders their playing time at the end of the week.

TT: What will you remember most about playing on the LHS football team?

MH: My teammates and coaches. Not only coming out with the drumline every home game, but the off the field things. The funny stories we all hear at thursday night practices or the constant jokes being made during films. The little things.

TT: If you were an animal, what kind of animal would you be and why?

MH: Hmm, that’s a tough question. I would say a lion cause they’re big, fast and the king of the jungle. [They’re] pretty much the studs of the animal kingdom.

TT: If you could be a new member on the cast of any television series, what show would you be on and why?

MH: *It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, without a doubt. It is THE best show on [television] right now, in my opinion.

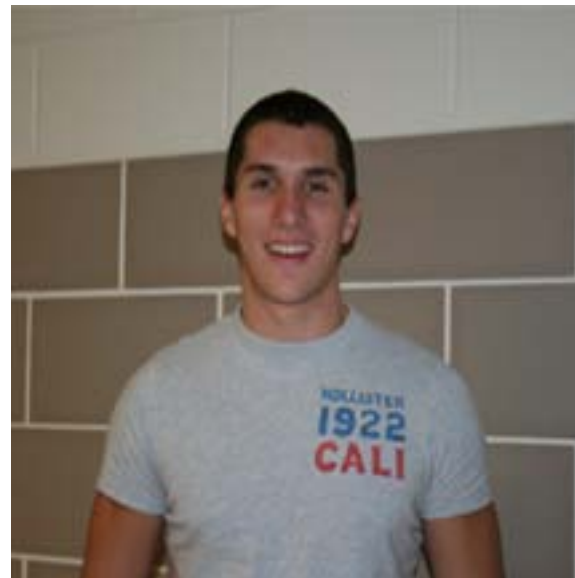


Photo by Annie Lillwitz



SPORTS, P. 15

SPOTLIGHT: *Jared Bruns*

APPRECIATING THE MEN IN THE TRENCHES

by Dylan Blaha
Head Editor

Quite often, during a football game, the most important players on the field are forgotten (and when they are recognized, it’s usually in a negative light). However, an offensive lineman’s skill-set determines whether the quarterback will get the pass away, or end up flat on his back.

Jared Bruns, a standout senior lineman, started the season at center before injuries sidelined him for a few games. Even from the bench, Bruns attempts to lead and motivate the Indians as they forge on through the playoffs.

The Tom-Tom recently sat down with Jared to talk about the team’s success. It went something like this:

Tom-Tom: How has the team improved from last season?

Jared Bruns: I feel that the biggest difference this year is the offense. For the past few years, the defense has kept our team going in the playoffs. This year, the offense has done its part in winning games. The two sides are now working together as one unit instead of two.

TT: Now that you’re a senior, have you felt any added pressure to succeed?

JB: I have definitely felt added pressure due to me being a senior. With this being my last season, each game could be my last. Since my knee injury, I have felt a great increase in pressure to get better, just so I can play in my last game. Hopefully, that’s state.

TT: What will you remember most about playing on the LHS football team?

JB: I will always remember the times that [the offensive line] would joke around with each other. The “O-line” has made this season so enjoyable for me.

TT: If you were an animal, what kind of animal would you be and why?

JB: I would want to be a bear; they’re very strong, elegant creatures, but greatly misunderstood. I don’t know why, but that’s why I like them.

TT: If you could be on the cast of any television series, what show would you be on and why?

JB: I would want to be MacGyver because it does not matter what happens, he can always figure out a way to get out of a sticky situation.



Photo by Annie Lillwitz