

Tom-Tom

Lemont High School

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Issue 17

LHS to Perform Shakespearian Comedy

by Carly Tucker
News writer



A poster for *The Comedy of Errors*

On Feb. 7-9 the winter play cast will perform its version of William Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*.

This year the Lemont High School Drama Club decided to add something new into one of its plays: masks. The entire performance will be done with the cast wearing masks, which many of the members found difficult. Drama club member Liam Purtle said "It is challenging to act in masks because it is hard to see and portray facial emotions."

Created in the early 17th century, the comedic play sets a story of two sets of identical twins that were separated at birth. One set of twins, Dromio of Ephesus and Dromio of Syracuse, played by Purtle and Ryan Luzzo, are the slaves of the other set of twins, Antipholus of Ephesus and Antipholus of Syracuse, played by Mike Spell and Marty Snarskis. The twin

brothers wind up encountering one another which leads to mistaken identities, wrongful beatings, theft and demonic possession— among other things.

Among the rest of the play's lead cast are Sara Van Hecke playing Adriana, Cassie Liliwitz starring as Luciana, and Robert Rigler as Solinus.

While acting in masks was a challenge Van Hecke found that "Memorizing Shakespeare was the hardest obstacle to overcome." Despite all of the challenges that this play holds the cast members are confident that they will perform a successful show. Rigler said "I think in the end we'll pull it all together," while Luzzo added "We are just looking forward to seeing the audience's reaction to the performance."

The Comedy of Errors will be performed under the direction of Roy Nees and assistant director David Lindley, with senior Andy Marquez serving as the student director and freshman Jacob Caponigro as the stage manager.

The play will begin at 8 p.m. on Feb. 7-9 in the Performing Arts Center and will cost \$10 for regular admission and \$7 for children, students and senior citizens with valid identification.

"The entire performance will be done with the cast wearing masks, which many of the members found difficult."

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Three LHS Students Participate in IMEA All- State Performance

by Nicole McKeivitt
News Editor

Seniors Maggie Brown (BBb contra bass clarinet), Vince Dory (Bb bass clarinet), and Nick Dory (composition) participated in the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) All-State Conference on Jan. 23-26 at the Peoria Civic Center.

Brown earned Honors Band first chair recognition - the top high school concert band in Illinois - for the second straight year and played in the Honors Concert. In addition, Vince was named first chair in the All-State Band for the Bb Bass Clarinet, and Nick tied as a state runner-up in the Arranging category of the All-State Composition contest with his submission, *Swinging Pete and the Wolf*.

The IMEA All-State Conference attracts the top performers from across the state, and includes guest conductors, seminars and a number of concert performances. This year included performances from recording artist Theresa Anderson, the DePaul University Symphony Orchestra, the Millikin University Jazz Band and One Voice Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and the Wheaton College Symphonic Band.

Brown recalls the intense, amazing experience, "On Thursday night we had a 4 hour rehearsal, on Friday we had an 8 hour rehearsal and then on Saturday we performed a concert."

Vince had an amazing experience: "IMEA was awesome, and it was the crowning achievement of my high school band career. I did well in an event that had the best band students in the whole state, that says something."

Brown's best high school memories are from band. "I can't recall anything that doesn't involve a band person in it. Band has become a 'pseudo' family for me and just about everyone else in the program."

As a senior, Vince reflects on his time at Lemont. "LHS was a grand old time. Band in particular was the best part. I don't think there's anything else in my life that has changed my life for the better as much as band. I'm going to miss band the most.

The three seniors all advanced to the IMEA All-District Festival after IMEA auditions, among 2,000 other students, at Sandburg High School last fall. All three are members of the school's defending state champion Honors Symphonic Band, while the Dorys also



(Left to right) Seniors Vincent Dory, Maggie Brown and Nick Dory.

Photo by Laura Harding

On Gun Control

by Laura Harding
Head Editor

223 years ago, the First Congress of the United States ratified articles three to twelve of the Constitution. These ten amendments are known as the Bill of Rights.

While these ten liberties have served as the very fibers of our democracy for two-plus centuries, one is called into question after the massacre of 26 innocent victims at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut:

A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

The tragedy at Sandy Hook called for immediate action. That call was answered by a house divided among opposing interpretations of the second amendment.

While gun-rights advocate groups such as the National Rifle Association (NRA) urge for armed security in schools, many support stricter gun control laws in the United States.

In favor of gun control, President Barack Obama proposed a raft for stricter laws including a ban on military-grade assault weapons and a cap on ammunition magazines.

Though the proposal is supported widely, those extremely opposed have gone as far as to call Obama the "new Hitler" and charge the proposal with being the first step to a dictatorship.

Not only are these accusations rash, they are wholly incorrect. Granted, Hitler did take away the personal weapons of his citizens, but Obama's proposal in no way suggests across-the-board confiscation of all weapons.

Obama's proposal suggests a ban on military-grade assault weapons.

Assault weapons.

The second amendment gives each American citizen the right to bear arms. For protection. It seems unlikely that our founding fathers would have ratified the second amendment so crazed psychopaths could target schools with registered weapons.

The weapons being banned are weapons designed with one purpose in mind: The ability to harm as many as possible, as quickly as possible. The only defense they are used for is the defense of our country in war.

Military-style semiautomatic weapons do not belong in schools. They do not belong in movie theatres. Their bullets do not belong in the innocent victims of a killer with a sick mind.

While stricter laws on gun violence will not curb the problem altogether, efforts still must be made to create new legislation regarding gun control. Some argue "Why bother?" Just because there's a ban on those weapons doesn't mean that people won't be able to get their hands on them.

Sure, not everybody will follow gun control laws. Not everybody follows the laws stating that drugs and the selling of drugs are illegal, but those laws aren't nullified as a result. So should be the approach with gun control.

If there's a chance that having these laws in place will make a classroom full of students safer, we take it. If limiting magazine capacity will curtail the body count in a mass killing-spree, we take it.

When the Bill of Rights was ratified, we as Americans entered into a social contract with our fellow Americans and government. Repeatedly, this social contract has been broken by murderous minds. Because of this, we must create stricter laws in order to optimize the safety of those in accord with the contract; if that means laws banning certain weapons, that is a step that must be taken.

To Read or Not to Read

by Jordan Gembara
Editorialist

A beautiful, young maiden perched on her balcony, speaking of her one true love as he hides listening in the bushes below. A corrupt, wrongly appointed king screaming at the unseen ghost of his late friend. A power-hungry ruler bewildered as he is betrayed by a resistance led by his one trusted friend.

All the scenes are quite different, but very familiar. Whether it be *Romeo & Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar* or any of the other classics, nearly everyone has read a piece of Shakespeare at least at some point in his or her life.

While schools all over the country have many different selections of required reading for their students, this author has always stayed consistent. But opinions on Shakespeare vary

widely—each person has his or her own preference.

Some people reject the classic literature altogether. Junior Alexandria McAdam found her Shakespearean experience to be a “long and confusing journey.” After reading both *Romeo & Juliet* and *Julius Caesar*, McAdam has had enough of the famous author.

“It’s not very relatable,” said McAdam. “It’s hard to connect and really get into the stories.” Students tend to see the sophisticated language as a burden and dislike Shakespeare completely.

But if so many students can’t stand the reading, why do schools keep including the literature in the curriculum?

English teacher Sara Armbricht helped to shed some light on

the situation. “Reading [Shakespeare] is important because it keeps the culture alive,” said Armbricht. Though some vocabulary may be difficult, the challenging text makes for a better reader.

Also in favor of Shakespeare, English teacher Kurt Wilamowski believes the classic tales need to stay put. While the stories may not seem so appealing at first, there’s much more than meets the eye.

“There’s so many connections [Shakespeare] has with modern sayings and events that people don’t realize,” said Wilamowski. “Understanding the hard storylines is key.”

While many students may be slow to warm up to the complex writing, many others are becoming quite fond of Shakespeare. Sophomore Margo Burke isn’t ready to proclaim her love for Shakespeare just yet, but she definitely does not hate him in the slightest.

“It’s important to learn about one of the world’s best writers,” said Burke. “It’s part of history—you shouldn’t avoid Shakespeare just because the stories are a little hard.”

Students should approach Shakespeare with an open mind. Shakespeare is important for developing language and keeping the culture alive.

So always remember: don’t judge a book by its cover. Literally.



(Left to right) *Romeo & Juliet*, *Julius Caesar* and *Macbeth*. (Center) Shakespeare writing.

5 Dollars Won't Cover

by Paige Buschman
Freelance writer

Subway's "Footlong" Problem

According to CBS News, there’s another fast-food lawsuit on the way. Surprisingly this time it doesn’t deal with people’s burning stupidity. It deals with false advertising of a certain Phelps-endorsed sandwich.

Subway pumps out ad after ad glorifying the fabulous “Five Dollar Footlong”. Everyone knows the jingle. But one Chicago citizen is taking Subway to court after one too many of these subs came up short.

The ad does not currently suggest that “actual size of the sub may vary,” or include any kind of similar disclaimer, a fact that the prosecutor believes is essential if there is even a chance Subway

won’t deliver the full 12 inches.

Some people claim that losing a few inches of bread doesn’t warrant a lawsuit. But Subway should have learned from similar lawsuits—especially those coffee scandals that put McDonald’s and Starbucks in the hot seat. Regardless of how obvious the variation on bread size may be to corporate, they ought to have seen this coming.

After some investigation, Wal-Mart’s Subway in Lockport actually over-achieved the “Footlong” standard by a half inch on three occasions. So, customers in the area seem to be safe from the scandal.

Anyone who’s ever worked



The footlong comes up an inch short at the Subway in Lemont.

in retail would know that the customer is always right. And if Subway sticks to that motto, one consumer may walk away from this law-suit 5 million dollars



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The Beast Within

by Sam Moffett

Features writer

With the Academy Awards just around the corner, Oscar buzz is all the rage. What will be the Best Picture? *Les Misérables*? *Zero Dark Thirty*? *Argo*? Such big names... But hidden behind them is a beast that's hungry for victory. Though it's a small creature, it's stronger than it looks.

Beasts of the Southern Wild is the first feature film directed by newcomer Benh Zeitlin and starring Quvenzhané Wallis. Based on Lucy Alibar's one act play *Juicy and Delicious*, the story about a five year old and her dying father trying to survive in their storm ravaged town has captivated audiences and critics over.

Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times placed the movie at number eight on his top movies of 2012 list, calling it a "remarkable creation".

The film is nominated for four Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Actress for nine year old Quvenzhané Wallis, the youngest nominee for the Best Actress category.

Wallis plays the role of Hushpuppy, a fierce girl with a wild imagination who lives with her father Wink (Dwight Henry) in an isolated town called the Bathtub. When a storm devastates their town, the unstable duo finds survivors.

One survivor is the town's

teacher, Miss Bathsheba. She tells young Hushpuppy about the release of the ancient Aurochs from the melting ice caps. The Aurochs were large pigs that roamed the Earth during prehistoric times, and Hushpuppy often daydreams of them.

While they try to survive, Hushpuppy searches for her lost mother to bring home as her father's health starts to deteriorate.

The movie is a beast itself. Never has a movie been so ugly, so uncomfortable and yet so beautiful and perfect. The Bathtub is a very uneven place full of rickety people and buildings, but through the ruins lies true heart and passion between the survivors. Though Hushpuppy and Wink's relationship can be hard to watch, their love for one another shines through the rough times and gives the viewers something happy to watch.

Wallis delivers a fierce performance as Hushpuppy, an unbreakable character. Her stern face and aggressive line delivery gives the movie more emotion and depth. Her look at the world adds more wonder to the movie, especially when she thinks of the Auroch's approaching, the violent creatures that grow closer and closer throughout the film.

But not everything is perfect. Michael Phillips of the Chicago Tribune called *Beasts of the*

Southern Wild "the most divisive film of 2012." The movie is at times unpleasant and pitiless. The relentless onslaught of brutality and danger can make the viewer incredibly uncomfortable, but that's what makes it special.

When watching something so gloomy one doesn't expect the movie to have the warmth and passion that it does. Through all the dark and dust stands something as great as the Aurochs, a creature that's ready to take what's his.

On a scale of 1 to 10, *Beasts of the Southern Wild* gets an 8.5.



Artwork of *Beasts of the Southern Wild*.

Artwork by Sam Moffett

Tom-Tom FEATURES Music and Lyrics by LHS

by Alyssa Cinatl

Features writer

When people hear "It's Friday, Friday gotta get down on Friday" they wonder "who wrote this?" Many singers today can make a catchy tune, but their songs lack content. However, many talented students of LHS write their own inspiring music-just for the fun of it.

Seniors Jessica Halper, Sandra Ivanoska, Connor Tomaka and Aubree Tally, juniors Sara Van Hecke, Joe Padilla, Elijah Delosreyes and Ed O'Malley and sophomore Brittney Mikrut are some of these talented students. They all have a passion for creating original songs. They make their own music, lyrics and vocals.

Halper and Ivanoska form the acoustic duo *Find Tonight*. They do cover songs and make their own compositions. Halper said, "Sandra and I don't play a specific genre, but I guess a lot of it is pop music." And some of their original songs are *Her Song*, *Boy Next Door*, *Fuel* and *Tell Me Why*. They both play the guitar and the ukulele. Ivanoska also plays "a tad bit" of the piano, and Halper plays bass.

Tomaka, Padilla, Delosreyes and O'Malley are in a band called *The Breaks* composed of guitars, drums, piano and vocals. Their genre is funk, alternative or rock. Some of their original songs are *Paintings in the Ceiling*, *Left Me As You Found Me*, *Hot Number*, and *Strange Place*.

Mikrut's genre is Country, with some pop songs. Though she has composed songs she hasn't named any of them yet. She also does cover songs. Mikrut loves to make music because, "I think music is one of the world's most powerful means of communication and I like to be a part of that."

Van Hecke composes soft rock and soulful music on the piano, guitar or ukulele. She's currently learning how to play the violin.

Many of the musicians perform at Faculty Idol at LHS, Open Mic Night at Front Street Cantina, charity events or any other gigs they can find.

When it comes to the content of their music they write about issues they face, love songs, daily life, or things that inspire them. Halper said, "Music helps me get my feelings out, and I want to make music that helps others do the same." O'Malley also commented, "I have written about things people could relate to, or an experience of mine that I felt should be shared." They can all agree that making music is an outlet and a great way to express feelings.

They're inspired by musicians like Ed Sheeran, Carrie Underwood, One Direction, The Black Keys and many more.

Each of them see music in their future, whether it be performing, producing, or creating music. Van Hecke said that making music has become a part of her life. Mikrut said, "I will continue to work hard at it and see where it takes me." And O'Malley said, "I'm going to ride this train as far as it takes me. However, even if it's not my main focus, it's something I will always take with me."



Find Tonight performs with teacher Ashley Goode at Faculty Idol 2012.

Photo courtesy of *Find Tonight's* Facebook fan page

Photo courtesy of Sara Van Hecke



Sara Van Hecke sings at Faculty Idol 2012.



The Breaks performs for local fans.

Photo courtesy of *The Breaks's* Facebook fan page

Embrace Your Inner Awkward

by Sonia Vavra
Features Editor

Throughout my high school career I have heard endless variations of the following: “That’s so awkward.” “I’m too awkward!” “He/she is so awkward.” “That awkward moment when…”

That awkward moment when the moment a person has just described wasn’t really that awkward in the first place…
Awkward.

Countless teens cannot seem to get this word out of their vocabulary. Senior Stephen Tuscher stated his opinion on this overused word: “It’s kind of like a scapegoat phrase instead of admitting that you are nervous or uncomfortable… ‘Awkward’ is used in funny, strange, unfortunate or uncomfortable situations. So really, ‘awkward’ has become a saying that does very little justice describing anything.”

So, the next time this dreaded word begins to leave your mouth, consider this: is what you’re about to describe really *that* awkward?

Most of the time the answer is probably no. It is not awkward. The only reason you believe something to be awkward is because a little voice inside your head is telling you that a situation is uncomfortable when it really isn’t.

So you asked somebody a question and he or she didn’t hear you. Before blurting out “Okay, never mind… *Awkward*…” stop and think: maybe the person you asked was listening to music, or maybe you just didn’t speak loudly enough.

Just because a minor misunderstanding prevented the person from hearing your question does not mean the situation just became awkward. (Also, there is a simple solution for this situation: tap the person on the shoulder, or call out his or her name, and ask again. Problem solved.)

Tuscher also comments, “Now the word itself has many connotations that never existed a few years ago. The word is used in [several different] situations. Are the situations actually awkward? I wouldn’t think so, but that isn’t going to keep people from saying otherwise.”

“The only reason you believe something to be awkward is because a little voice inside your head is telling you that a situation is uncomfortable when it really isn’t.”



(Left to right) Juniors Sara Van Hecke, Liam Purtle and Ryan Luzzo get caught in an “awkward” situation.

Photo courtesy of lhs210.net

SPORTS



by Adrian Kalata
Sports Editor

There is no better way than to finish your high school career as conference champions. And that is exactly what the girls’ bowling team earned this year.

The girls’ bowling team won conference during their undefeated season on Tuesday, Jan. 22. Many of the team members had little experience joining the team. But now, four years later, they have progressed toward conference champions.

The bowling team invites all students to come and join the bowling team without any tryouts or previous experience. Seniors Nina Moeller and Rachel Margalus are just some of the members who were recruited into the sport. Others, like se-

nior Amanda Kolar, have always had a knack for bowling.

“I was in [Coach Mark Holatz’s] BTC class and he was recruiting people. Me, being a typical freshmen, tried it and I loved it,” said Margalus. Margalus said she had no official bowling experience prior to joining the team. “I just kept working on it more and more with the help of my friends and family,” she explained.

Senior Nina Moeller said the team she was asked to join has become more like a family; “I started bowling freshman year because I thought it would be fun. Throughout high school we have grown not only as a team, but also as a family. I consider

the girls on the bowling team to be some of my closest friends.”

But sometimes bowling is a family tradition. Kolar explained that bowling has been “something I’ve always loved spending my time doing with my family.” Kolar said bowling is a tradition that goes back to her grandma. Joining the team allowed Kolar to continue her family’s tradition. Kolar said the school team was a perfect way to “become involved with school activities. I knew some of the kids, so I decided to join.”

The team practiced at Strike N’ Spare II in Joliet alongside the boys team. The team says practicing was never a burden. “We practiced with the boys and just hung out together,” said Kolar.

The bowling team is a great school sport with the opportunity to meet new students and gain knowledge of a common American pastime. Current athletes encourage all curious athletes to join next year and give bowling a chance.

Lemont girls’ bowling team celebrates after winning conference.



The Beginning and End

by Cody Caballero

Sports writer

The Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers each have a superstar who has kept their teams rolling throughout the NFL playoffs.

Colin Kaepernick, quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, started this season as a backup for Alex Smith, but worked his way up to the starting spot and led the 49ers to Super Bowl XLVII.

Kaepernick was only offered one football scholarship from the University of Nevada when he was in high school. He was recruited by many schools to play baseball.

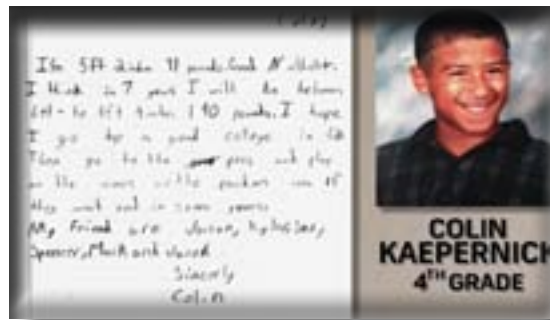
Ray Lewis, middle linebacker for the Baltimore Ravens, announced that he would retire at the end of this season.

Lewis had a rough 2012 due to a tricep injury that he received during an October game against the Dallas Cowboy. He was sidelined for much of the remaining year because of it the injury.

The city of Baltimore put up a billboard with a countdown for Lewis's retirement party that will begin after Superbowl XLVII.

Lewis, who has played 17 seasons in the NFL, said in an ESPN interview: "It is time for me to create a new legacy."

Inside the Superdome in New Orleans on Feb. 3 Lewis will have his final pre-game dance.



49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick dreamt of playing professional football as a child.



Ravens middle linebacker Ray Lewis wins his second Superbowl ring at Superbowl XLVII.

The Superbaugh

by Ethan Parafink
Sports writer

Two head coaches who grew up sharing a room together shared the field on Sunday as their teams squared off in the Super Bowl XLVII.

John Harbaugh, head coach of the Baltimore Ravens, and younger brother Jim of the San Francisco 49ers matched up against each other in the biggest game of the season, with the Ravens pulling out a 34-31 win after a second half comeback by the 49ers.

The older Harbaugh has been a head coach since 2008 and has had one of the most dominant defenses in the NFL in his five seasons with the Ravens, while leading his team to the playoffs all five years.

Jim, a former NFL quarterback and offensive mastermind, came into the league two seasons ago as coach of the 49ers after having collegiate success at Stanford. He has led San Francisco to two consecutive first-place finishes in the NFC West. He was named the 2011 AP Coach of the Year after taking a losing team and going 13-3 in his first season.

Their father Jack must have done something right raising them because John and Jim Harbaugh are two of the most successful coaches in recent history. Only one could win on Sunday but it was already a win-win for Jack.



Brothers John and Jim Harbaugh meet on the field at Superbowl XLVII.

Bring It On

by Kieran Ruane

Sports writer

The LHS competitive cheer team has been a powerhouse in the state of Illinois over the past ten years. With three state championships in the team's cabinet already, the girls were looking to seal their fourth state title in five years at the IHSA Medium Division State Competition on Feb. 1 and 2. Could they possibly do it?

In 2009, the LHS competitive cheer team won their first ever state championship. Along with it being the cheer team's first title, it was also the first ever-state championship won by any sports team at LHS. Since then the team has won 2 state championships and placed third at last year's competition.

This year, the girls have been on a mission-- not only to reclaim the state championship that slipped through their fingers last year, but to prove that even with such a young team they are still a dominant force in the state.

"I think we've really progressed as team over the season," said junior and three year varsity cheerleader Maddy Detres. "We have really bonded as a group over the course of the season. And even though we're a young team, I think we are going to prove a lot of people wrong come state time."

"State is always on our mind, the girls' minds, and the parents' minds," said assistant cheer coach Jenna Bumber. "It is really no secret. Everyone works like crazy for it all season long to get there, for the two minutes and thirty seconds to leave it all on the floor. The main goal is to throw the routine to the best of everyone's abilities with no regrets, try to make it to day two of state finals, and make the podium. However, all the girls have gold in their eyes. We will see what happens."

The team headed up to Bloomington, Illinois on Friday, Feb. 1 to compete at the IHSA Medium Division State Competition at Illinois State University. With their performance, the Indians placed first overall for the first day of competition.

After the second round of competition, the girls finished with a total score of 90.80. This result was enough to score them second place overall at the 2013 state competition. After their performance, Detres had this to say about the team:

"We really put our heart and soul into both performances. And even though we didn't take first, the fact that we have been on the podium at state for eight straight years is amazing. There's really no one else that I would rather share that podium with than my teammates. We truly are a family."

So after another successful season, the girls from the Lemont cheer team proved that they had what it takes to be successful even with such a young squad. And with many cheerleaders returning to next year's team, the pressure is on to preform even better next year. Are the girls up to the task?



Lemont girls' varsity cheerleading team is all smiles at the state competition.