

TOM-TOM



SPOTLIGHT:

THE MORGAN REX COMPLEX

*By Sarah Newton
News Writer*

‘Renewing Hope’ is not a task that many are willing to undertake especially when school, sports and clubs consume a majority of their time.

Life, at least at school, is not necessarily ‘easy’ for LHS senior Morgan Rex who has taken on four AP classes and two sports. Now Rex has added an additional task: pursuing her Girl Scout Gold Award, the equivalent of the Boy Scout’s Eagle Scout. The Gold Award requires a minimum of 60 hours of service that benefits the community.

“‘Renewing H.O.P.E.’ (Helping Other People Everyday) is a project where I rearrange the H.O.P.E. Closet (an organization which provides clothing for families financially unable to purchase new clothes themselves) by putting in new shelving and organizing clothing drives to restock the closet,” says Rex. The location of the closet is undisclosed to the public, making its use discrete for its customers.

Rex has been working with the H.O.P.E. Closet for close to six years with the Lemont Junioresettes Service Organization and when she noticed the closet needed repair the timing “fell in perfectly with [her pursuit of] the Gold Award.”

The Gold Award has also helped Rex in other areas. “It has prepared me to be proactive if I want to see results,” commented Rex. This proactivity Rex has learned from the Gold Award will lend a hand in college as Rex studies Biomedical Engineering.

“The Gold Award may seem like a daunting task, but if you find something you love to do, it is worth the reward,” concluded Rex.

In This Issue

P.3 12 Angry Jurors: Preview

P.4 It’s Elementary

**P.5 Top O’ The Mornin’ to Ye’,
Ireland**

P.6 Mid-Winter Motivation

**P.6 Forget about “Resolutions”
Let’s Make Real Goals**

**P.7 The Never-Ending BCS De-
bate**

P.8 Mark Hollatz Spotlight

**P.9 The Man. The Myth. The Leg-
end.**

**P.10 Athletic Performance of the
Week**

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12 Angry Jurors: Preview

by Laura Harding
News writer

While collaborating on a murder trial, 12 jurors must join together to decide a man's fate. The vote is unanimous, except for one. Can this juror change her peers' perspectives?

On Feb. 10 and 11, the LHS drama club will be performing its winter play, *12 Angry Jurors*. The play begins at seven p.m.

Based off the movie *12 Angry Men*, the script has been adapted to serve a gender-neutral cast. "[The play is about] a jury deliberating the fate of a young man accused of murdering his father," says Roy Nees, assistant director.

According to juror number eight, Kristen Molnar, the preparation for the play began around the middle of December. Usually, the cast and crew practice "most week days until about six," said Steve Henson, juror number nine. When opening night gets closer, most practices will end around nine p.m., "depending on tech difficulties," according to Nees.

Working with the cast and crew "has been great," says Henson. "When you spend every day with a group of people, you kind of have to get along or things will be miserable," says Molnar. According to both, getting along with their cast mates has helped the play come together.

Nees says the "actors have been working very, very hard." They hope to incorporate technical aspects within the next few weeks, according to Nees. "[So far,] things are coming together quite nicely."

Doors open to the public at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for *12 Angry Jurors* can be purchased at the door for \$5 with a student ID and \$7 without one.

Photo courtesy of Google

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1960





IT'S ELEMENTARY

by Sam Moffett
Features writer

Photo courtesy of Google

With the recent release of the sequel to *Sherlock Holmes*, critics and fans of the original Conan Doyle stories were left to deduce a question: How should we perceive the Sherlock Holmes character? Is he like the 1887 bohemian eccentric, or is he apt to being the explosion-loving, Call of Duty mystery man? Just what is *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*?

After the events of the 2009 smash hit, Sherlock Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.) and his trusty sidekick Dr. John Watson (Jude Law) are, - once again-, left to deduce and put an end to the terrorism of their greatest foe, Professor Moriarty (Jared Harris). They are assisted by a gypsy named Sizma (Noomi Rapace, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*) and several other characters, including Holmes's brother Mycroft (Stephen Fry).

A Game of Shadows, directed by Guy Ritchie, moves a lot faster than its predecessor, covering more story and inserting more action and witty dialogue. The cinematography is very sleek, letting you feel as though you're running beside the characters.

Sherlock is still his same kooky self and Watson becomes more developed and dignified, a strong "bro-mance" developing between them. The movie does overuse their special effects, especially with slow motion.

Even though there are several high points to *A Game of Shadows*, some critics feel as though it's too violent and that it disregards the classic Arthur Conan Doyle stories. Michael Philips of the Chicago Tribune stated in his review,

"Certainly Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's creations have suffered permanent damage thanks to Ritchie's films. They twist and turn Holmes and Watson into jokey slaughter machines, their coy, bickering "bro-mance" coming off even lamer this time around." He rated *A Game of Shadows* number four on the worst movies of 2011, giving it only one star.

But on the opposite side of the fence, Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times gives the movie three and a half stars out of four. "The thing to do, I suppose, is to set aside your memories of the Conan Doyle stories, save them to savor on a night this winter and enjoy this movie as a high-caliber entertainment."

To review this movie, one should be on the traditional side or on the nontraditional side. Though the sequel can be a bit confusing and can get carried away with its use of slow motion, *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* delivers to the audience fast-paced action and solid performances from the cast.

Rating: 2 ½ stars out of 4.



Top O' the Mornin' to Ye', Ireland

by Ashley Murphy
Features writer

Forty degrees with a one hundred percent chance of rain: that was the weather in Ireland over winter break. It was freezing and it was cold. On a rare day, the temperature reached fifty degrees with a few clouds in the sky, but one "good" day was it. Although the weather was cruddy, my trip to Ireland was one of the best I've had in years.

At nights, even though the weather was cold, I'd lay outside and stare at the stars because they're there were so many. In the morning, I'd wake up hearing the sheep baying, the cows mooing, and the horses neighing. My brother and I would walk up to the local shop called "Duffy's" and get crisps (potato chips). Everyone's so friendly. Here, you walk up the street and no one pays attention to you. Maybe that's a good thing, but there, everyone has a smile on their face and says hello and good morning. I love it.

I've been to Ireland too many times to count, but my trip was different this time. Three years ago when I went, I was too young to appreciate Ireland's beauty. Now that I'm 17, I am older and have the ability to do other activities there. I was able to travel on my own and go out without having to be home on time. I felt independent. I also got to see where I'd be living if I were to attend a university there.

As an everyday routine, it is essential to have a cup of tea at least three times a day with any kinds of biscuits or sweets. Nothing gets better than the Irish chocolate. As a meal the Irish bacon and cabbage is remarkable. You can't beat it. Ireland isn't known for its food, but the food is simple and delicious.

But in all seriousness, food is just only one of the many things I love about Ireland. I went to check out NUIG; National University of Ireland, Galway. It was a beautiful school and I was told many doctors and teachers have come out of that school for years. The school has even made extensions to bring in more students from around Europe. The oldest building is beautiful; it looks like a castle. Although college is a lot cheaper in Europe, it is much harder to get into.

I traveled a lot when I was there. I was always doing something everyday I was there. I was in Dublin for a little

bit and then came back to Galway. From there, I traveled to a few towns in Galway, one to visit my friend and meet a few of hers in the town of Gort. It was nice to meet some kids my age other than my family members. Living with her family for the weekend was fantastic. A Saturday night in Ireland is a lot different than in the U.S. I got a feel for an Irish night in town. When I was gone, my family went to Belfast to see where the famous ship "Titanic" set out located in Northern Ireland. Did you know most of Northern Ireland was British ruled?

I stayed with friends, went shopping, saw all of my family and beautiful scenery and felt Ireland the way it should be felt. I felt free and independent. Ireland is beautiful and the great thing is, is that you don't have to go far to see amazing sights. I get to see farm animals and amazing green fields right outside my window.

So why not visit? You can't say "kiss me I'm Irish," until you visit Ireland. Wake up, Americans. Top O' the mornin' to ye'!

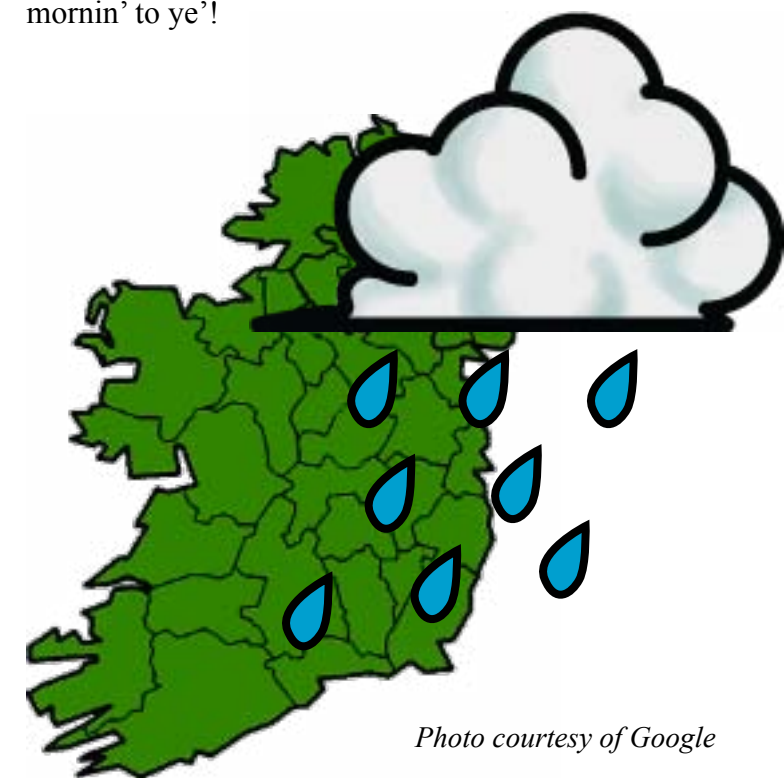


Photo courtesy of Google



6

Mid-Winter Motivation

by Maribeth Van Hecke
Editorials Editor

Nice and cozy in bed, your alarm clock goes off for the first day of second semester. Your heart drops.

Second semester is hard. It seems like it's all down hill, and many students lose motivation. But it's important to remember—even in the dead of winter we need to stay focused.

LHS student Ashley Barajaz agrees as a senior it's difficult this time of year. She says, "I've gotten accepted to my two top schools so I feel like I don't have to work hard."

Personally, I blame the cold. Even though we were pampered with the nice weather until a few weeks ago, it certainly makes it difficult to get anything done. When it's so cold, many of us just want to curl up in a blanket and fall asleep until spring.

Seasonal depression is a real disorder, though. It is categorized as a depression that affects someone in the late fall and winter. It affects almost six out of one hundred North Americans, according to www.emedicinehealth.com.

Even if we aren't all diagnosed with seasonal depression, it seems impossible to be unaffected by the brutal mid-winter in Chicagoland.

But, as always, spring is just around the corner. We just have to snuggle and drink gallons of hot chocolate until then.

Forget About "Resolutions" Let's Make Real Goals

It's that time of year again. To make a New Year's Resolution. And then break it.

Maybe it's just me, but I have never heard of anyone keeping a New Year's Resolution all year around. The problem is one whole year is a long time.

12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days of the same goal. For me, short-term resolutions or goals work much better; I think a month-by-month goal would be much more successful.

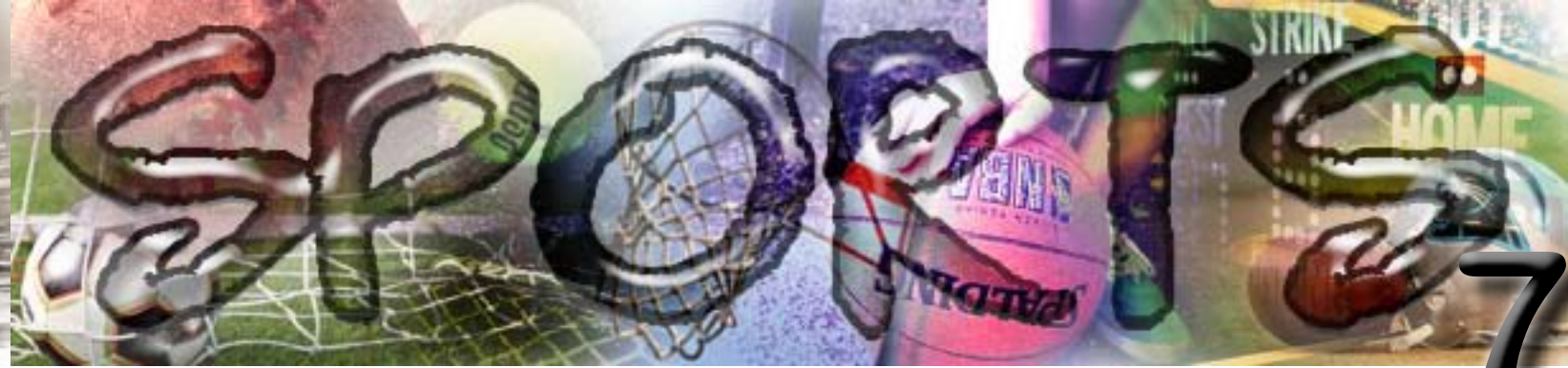
LHS seniors Alyssa Papiernik and Alyssa Stube both say they've never actually made a New Year's resolution. "I think they're stupid," Papiernik expresses. "I've thought of making one, but after the first week I would forget about it."

Stube agrees with the short-term goals. "It would be better; you would be more successful with that rather than the whole year. Within a month you can push yourself, because you only have two weeks yet."

I was inspired by the month-by-month goals by my uncle who created what he and his friends like to call the "Burpee Challenge." In this challenge, all participants must do 1500 Burpees, a full body aerobic exercise, within the month of January. (To learn more about Burpees visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burpee_\(exercise\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burpee_(exercise)).)

Giving yourself short-term goals will change things up once a month so you don't get bored, and give you more fulfillment because you will get quicker results.

How many times do you plan on doing something exactly the same from January to December besides breathing?



7

The Never-Ending BCS Debate

by Tom Folliard
Sports writer

NCAA Division 1-A football does something unique to any other sport, collegiate or professional, for its playoff system. Instead of having eight or sixteen teams enter a 'normal' bracket style playoff, they have the number one and number two seeds from the regular season battle it out in a title game.

The current BCS (Bowl Championship Series) began in 1998 and the debate has been never-ending since.

This current system has its benefits and detractors, as does any other system. For example, one bad week for a team in college football can put the title out of reach.

Whereas in a playoff system, some will argue that the 'true' number one team will come out on top. This way more top teams will get the same chance to be number one.

However, a playoff system will eliminate the importance of college football's regular season. Every game matters in college football, unlike the NFL. This draws fans every week to see the drama they can't experience each week elsewhere.

"I love turning on football every Saturday. One week can change the season, and sometimes even one game can collapse a team's dreams," said senior Matt Gondek.

Boise State can feel the pain of the current BCS bowl system. In 2007, they finished as the only undefeated team in college football, and were still left out of a title shot, which brings in the argument of the Big-6 conferences.

Boise State was in the WAC (Western Athletic Conference), which is not part of college football's famed Big-6. These conferences consist of the Big-10, Big-12, SEC (South East Conference), Big East, ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) and PAC-12 (Pacific Athletic Conference).

If a team is not in one of college football's 'powerhouse' conferences, they are seen as not having a team that is good enough to compete for a national title. Boise State has showed the biggest argument for a playoff system. They have showed for the past five years that they can hang with the Big-6.

How can this seem fair? If a team is in Division 1-A football, it should not matter what conference you are in. If all of the 'powerhouse' teams are in six conferences then why not have their own playoff?

The BCS also has other bowl games that seem to not make sense. The second biggest game in college football is the famed Rose Bowl. It began in 1902, and since 1945 has been the highest attended college football game. It is also the oldest college football game, which is how it got its nickname, "The Granddaddy of Them All."

These games are great for college football, and add even more to the drama of the regular season. Team's that are in The Mountain West, WAC, MAC (Mid America Conference) and The Big Sun will never have a shot to play in such a big bowl game.

The hot cities of the five BCS games earn an estimated \$1.2 billion per year. Money is what the BCS is looking for, and they are getting it. A playoff system could possibly take away from the revenue for college football.

Whichever way college football leans toward after the current deal is over, it's a lose-lose situation. Critics will be all over them, whether they keep the current system, or change to a playoff. There is no right answer.



8

9

Mark Hollatz

SPOTLIGHT

by Ian Stratta
Sports editor

Since taking over the girls bowling team in 2002, head coach Mark Hollatz has carried the team over to a winning program from a below average squad the previous two seasons.

During his tenure, the girls bowling team has been transformed from a sub-par unit (12-14 record previous two years before Hollatz arrived) into one of the top teams in the state (67-37 under Hollatz).

Now in his 10th year as head coach, Hollatz discusses the similarities between golf and bowling, becoming head coach and finishing third at State in 2004.

Tom Tom: Did you ever bowl in high school or college?

Mark Hollatz: No, I played baseball, basketball and golf in high school. I played four years of baseball in college [and] one year of golf. I only bowled recreationally.

TT: How did you get into coaching the girls bowling team?

MH: I went to a match and saw how competitive it is. The girls didn't get the credit like some of the other sports, and after watching their hard work and success, I felt they deserved it.

TT: As the head coach of boys golf as well, do you use any similar coaching strategies in both sports?

MH: They are both individual sports played on a team. [The athletes in each sport] both strive for their own score but also try to help the team as well. In both sports, it's very important that [the athletes] never give up because we may need their score even if it's bad. Both sports are so mental.

TT: How did it feel to get so close to the state championship yet fall just short in 2004?

MH: That was an exciting team. They didn't get much respect throughout the year but started getting hot halfway through the season and just got better and better. I would never consider that team "fallen short" of a state championship. We beat most of the best teams in the state, and to finish with a 3rd place state trophy was sensational. You have to remember, all the other sports have multiple classes to compete in...bowling has ONE. Football has 8 state champions each year, basketball 4, while bowling only one. I believe that makes it even more impressive.

TT: Any favorite memories over your last 10 years of coaching?

MH: Every season has special moments and funny stories, [though] nothing out of the ordinary. What is neat to hear is when someone goes to a bowling tournament and they can't believe the enthusiasm and emotion the girls have. It's nice to see them get credit for all the hard work they put in to it.

TT: What are your goals for the upcoming season and seasons yet to come?

MH: Every year the goals have to be challenging, yet realistic. Ultimately, we always strive to get downstate, but it's really important that we make major improvements throughout the season.

Photo Courtesy of Google

The Man. The Myth. The Legend.

by Ethan Parafink
Sports writer

He has become a staple of the Bulls bench and a symbol of blowout victories. He averages less than five minutes per game, yet when he enters the game in the fourth quarter he receives a cheer louder than the one heard when the face of the franchise, MVP Derrick Rose is introduced. This is the Brian Scalabrine phenomena.

To say Scalabrine is a fan favorite would be an understatement: he has a cult following of Bulls fans and his popularity stretches far beyond the United Center. In a rout of the Wizards last year in Washington, Scalabrine entered the game with about a minute left, scored on a fadeaway bank shot and received MVP chants from Wizards and Bulls fans alike.

Scalabrine often garners this kind of sarcastic response, probably because he just looks too goofy to be a professional basketball player, but the man actually has skill. As a three year starter at USC, Scalabrine finished sixth all-time in career points for the school and as a junior earned Honorable Mention All-America honors from The Sporting News, according to NBA.com.

Scalabrine is in his eleventh season in the NBA, and his second as a Chicago Bull. He only plays in blowouts nowadays, but was once a serviceable player for the New Jersey Nets and the Boston Celtics.

His teammates love him because he brings energy and always gives his best



Brian Scalabrine

effort, whether it is during a game or during practice. He acts almost like an assistant coach for the Bulls, helping players during practices, timeouts and last year he helped players adjust to the defensive system of head coach Tom Thibodeau, who Scalabrine played under with the Celtics.

In an article by ESPN Chicago's Nick Friedell, Scalabrine admitted he would one day like to coach or do TV, but right now his main focus is playing basketball. "There are a few things that are on my radar," he said. "I want to play for as long as I can. Eventually one day I probably won't be able to play in

the NBA. But I had a fun time playing in Europe (during the lockout). I was thinking about going back there."

Scalabrine has earned numerous nicknames throughout his career. He was dubbed the White Mamba by Bulls announcer Stacey King, in response to Kobe Bryant's nickname the Black Mamba and when he enters the game, King introduces him as The Man, The Myth, The Legend.

Scalabrine enjoys playing the role of the White Mamba. "I do become a little bit more aggressive to score, to give the fans what they want," he admits. "But on the other hand, I'm still going to try and play basketball the right way. And this thing is getting blown up to a higher level with SportsCenter playing every one of my buckets. No one wants to be the guy that the White Mamba scores on. So these guys are playing defense on me like it's Game 7 of the NBA Finals. It's something you've got to get used to."

On game day at the United Center, one will see plenty of King's Scalabrine catchphrases written on fan made signs and if the game is out of hand, you bet there will be chanting of his name by the fourth quarter. Although the game may be well decided by the time the White Mamba enters, opposing teams must watch out as he will deliver a deadly finishing blow.

Photo Courtesy of Google



NEW TOM-TOM FEATURE



FIND TOM-TOM

the thumb monkey

Be the first Tom-Tom reader to email Mr. Clark, with the page number and location, of our new mascot: Tom-Tom! He will be hiding in every issue, send emails to SEANC@lemont.k12.il.us to win a prize! GOOD LUCK!

[RULES] The following may not participate in the search: all the members of the Tom-Tom staff and their family members. The winner of an issue may not participate in "Find Tom-Tom" in the next two issues. Be very specific in terms of location of the thumb monkey.

Drawing by Charmaine Balisalisa

Athletic Performance of the Week

Winter Break Edition....

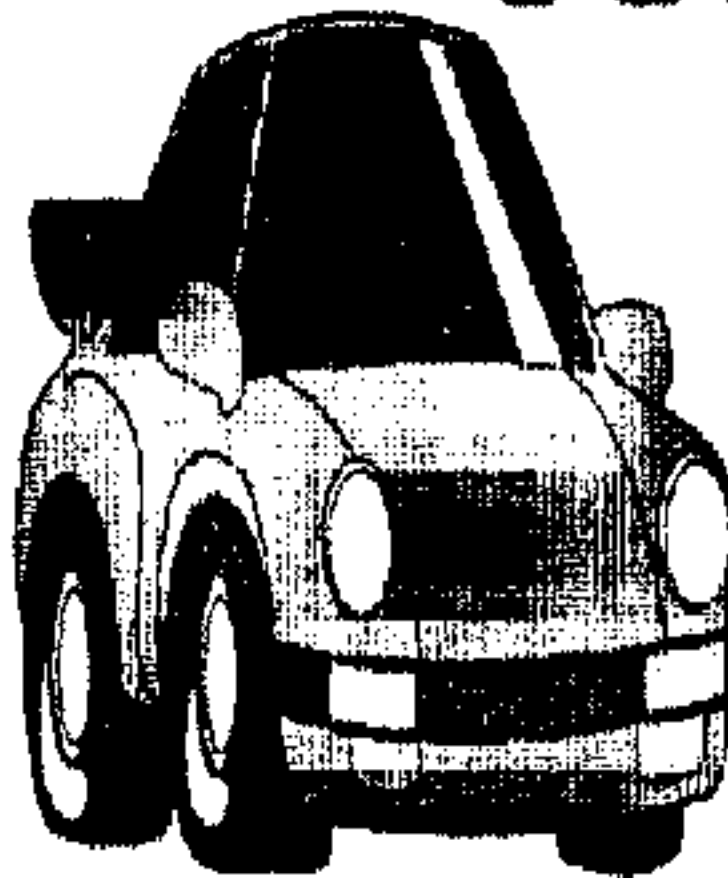
Girls Basketball: Kelsey Motto

In a matchup against Reavis on Jan. 10, Motto scored 29 points and broke the school record with seven three pointers made as the Indians beat the Rams 46-29.



Photo by Tony Hamilton

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