

Lemont High School
800 Porter Street
Lemont, IL 60439

Tom Tom

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Issue 2



Photo by Kaley Sullivan

A solitary bagpiper plays at the August 27 home football game to honor fallen firefighter, alumnus Chris Wheatley during the annual Hometown Heroes event.

Blah, Blah, Blaha

What every cool high schooler needs to know

by Dylan Blaha
Head Editor

College Applications: Your Madness Starts Here

For the past three years, everyone (parents, counselors, peers, family friends) has been asking you, "Where do you want to go to college?" Well, my friend, the moment of truth finally awaits.

Whether you like it or not, those college applications won't fill out themselves. Many colleges, such as Illinois State University, DePaul University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, accept applications as early as August.

My advice to you: get started early, because deadlines sneak up fast. ISU's preferred filing period, Nov. 15, may seem far away now. But when November rolls around and you still haven't glanced at your dream college's admission requirements, you'll be kicking yourself.

Can't think of any awards or recognitions?

Well, that's probably because you, like the rest of teenage America, sit on the couch all day, watching television or playing Call of Duty on XBOX Live. Or, perhaps, you just have a memory block due to anxiety.

In my case, I'd like to think it was the latter. I stared at my computer screen for a good five minutes before dejectedly mumbling, "Next question," and clicked on another information box.

Sometimes, although teens hate to admit it, parents are a good source of random knowledge about their children. "Do you remember

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Cash or Credit?

Parents now have the choice

by Brittany Baldwin
News writer

Lemont High School took a step towards the future as it began offering parents the opportunity to make school related payments online. With the help of Rev Track, parents are

now able to pay off their child's student fees and lunch expenses using a credit or debit card. The new automated system promises to make this area of life much easier for parents and the school.

According to Tony Hamilton, LHS Position, Community Relations, this new system provides parents more flexibility and control by allowing parents to payoff credit card transactions at their leisure. Despite the 4% increase in student

fees prompted by this new system, Hamilton sees nothing but potential gain for all parties.

However, Hamilton makes it known that the District was not looking at this new system as a money making opportunity. The system was simply created to make paying school expenses more convenient for parents by offering the same methods of payment that have become "Standard" in American life.

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when you won that Creative Writing contest sophomore year?" inquired my mother, knowing very well I did but failed to find its significance. "You should put that down."

My friend Matt Lithgow, an LHS senior, won a fourth grade handwriting contest that might make the cut of "special recognitions." I hope, for his sake, it doesn't crack the top five.

Wanna Go Far Away? Think Twice

I know going to the University of Hawaii and basking in the sun every day sounds appealing, but what about the nine-hour flight to visit the folks? You may want to get away from them now, probably because "they're too strict," but be real. That's their job.

When you have a bad week at school, or you want to bring that wrecking ball of what used to be designer clothes home for the weekend, it's a comfort to know that "home" is within driving distance. Otherwise, you might have to deal with that roommate you think has foot fungus every weekend (I don't

know if it's contagious).

Trust me, I know Lemont doesn't provide the most exciting choices in entertainment. The short list includes seeing a movie at Loews Theater (actually in Woodridge), bowling at Strike n' Spare (actually in Lockport) or lounging in a McDonald's booth with a bunch of people who also couldn't find anything to do that night.

However, Lemont is home to many of your grade school and high school friends, and you'll most likely want to see them when you visit on holidays. Obviously, it's far easier to return to your humble abode if you turn down the University of Maine and go to the University of Iowa (not that I have anything against the Black Bears).

"Fallback" Schools

According to the Urban Dictionary, a Fallback School is "a college or university that one applies to in case they are not accepted to the school of their primary interest."

You may think you're a genius, but, as it is often said, it's better to be safe than sorry. If you're planning on applying to Yale or Harvard, let's be

realistic for a minute: Can you really afford over \$50,000 a year for four years? And do you really have what it takes to get accepted?

I'm not saying you're not smart, I'm just saying... Be careful. Making sure you're accepted by at least one school takes a lot of pressure off you (unless you want to go to Joliet Junior College or the College of DuPage for the next two years, which is a great way to save money and put off the anxiety that surrounds questions like, "What am I going to do with the rest of my life?").

Whatever you do, DO NOT tell your friend which school you picked as a "fallback," because that may be his or her dream university. Awkward.

Stretch a Little

On the flip side of the college application craziness, some students fail to realize their full academic potential. I mean, come on, you got a 35 on your ACT and you're going where? The University of Bridgeport? What state is that even in?

I understand that some students want/need to save money, which is why junior colleges are great; they allow pupils to live at home, pay less for tuition and work on the side.

But, if you put in so much time and effort to achieve those grades and test scores, why not reap the benefits? Every public school in Illinois attempts to be affordable to every state resident (apparently \$13,000 a year is affordable), so give them a look.

No matter how the upcoming, college-search-packed months go, try to keep your sanity. Your anxiety, if you have any, will subside in time. Just remember, the best four years of your life start next fall.

In case you need something to give you a little perspective, look at the college application deadline dates to the left.

College Ap Deadlines

School	Priority Deadline	Regular Deadline	Student Notification
ISU	November 15	March 1	Starts September 1
U of I at Urbana-Champaign	November 1	January 2	By February 19
U of I at Chicago	None	January 15	Starts November 30
U of I Springfield	March 15	No closing date	Starts September 15
FIU			
NIU			
WIU			
SIU			
Northwestern			
DePaul	November 15	February 1	By March 15
Notre Dame		December 1	By April 10

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Rev Track uses encrypted software to protect credit and debit card transactions, guaranteeing safety for parents and efficiency for the school. Hamilton explained a few of the many benefits of using the automated system by adding, "The less the school can work with cash, the better. [This system] makes it more expedient for everyone involved."

However, despite Hamilton's views, some students who use the new Rev Track system regularly seem to disagree. Senior, Jared Bruns, believes, "If you're going to pay in cash anyway does it really matter? [The system] makes things more complicated than it has to be." Other students, like junior Charmaine Balisalisa, have feelings of indifference towards the new system and simply reply, "I don't mind it."

Although the response to this new system varies considerably, the fact that it has impacted LHS remains certain. At the end of the school year, the District plans to evaluate customer and school satisfaction with the new system and decide where changes must be implemented. However, Hamilton appeared to have a great deal of confidence in the new system when he said, "I honestly only see this going further. I only see it moving forward."

The Fame Monster

Consuming our lives one tabloid at a time

by Kelly Lyons
Editorials writer

Every morning, I like to start the day by checking my internet homepage for tidbits on daily news. I may not be an avid newspaper reader, but I like to know at least somewhat about what's going on in the world around me.

So when the only new articles are about Britney's new beau or Lindsey's umpteenth stint in rehab, I start to feel a little frustrated. I won't lie; I enjoy hearing clever new celeb couple names or new developments about whatever Tiger Wood has gotten himself into now. However, hearing these stories over and over again doesn't exactly make them hard-hitting news.

Pop culture is and always will be a prominent source of content in journalism. But when there are 33 Chilean miners stuck thousands of meters under the Chilean terrain, who is really concerned with the fact that Heidi Klum "turned heads in a daring black mini[dress]," while January Jones "flopped in a blue prom bomb," at this year's Emmy awards?.. thank you, yahoo.com.

Although picking up a tabloid every now and then isn't exactly a sin, the emphasis put on celebrity culture is absolutely revolting.

Even so, I'm not going to bore you about what an unhealthy image starlets project to America's young minds (even though it's true). But an unhealthy obsession with celebrities doesn't do much good to anyone in

the long run.

The fact that sleazy tabloid writers and paparazzi are often praised over actual hard-working journalists makes somewhat of a mockery of real news pieces. And the fact that these shady people's work is in more demand than ever makes this situation even more unsettling.

Senior Lindsey Dolezal agrees that after a while, "[obsession] over pop culture gets boring. It's fun to keep up with the latest trends and celebrities, but it get's old fast."

However, just like sweets and bad reality T.V., there's nothing wrong with pop culture in moderation. But if people indulge in the lives of their favorite celebs too often, nothing will come out of this obsession but wasted time.

Everywhere from the school to the office, America likes to fit in their entertainment fix at the most inconvenient times. When is real work going to happen if people are avoiding it by checking Perez Hilton's latest catty comments rather than getting something substantial accomplished?

As Jim Taylor of the Psychology Today blog states, "We must start by regaining perspective on the role that popular culture plays in our lives. Our worship of popular culture has caused many in America to search for meaning and connectedness in all the wrong

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Photos by Kaley Sullivan

places.”

Not to say that there are “right” places to search for these connections, but it’s unhealthy for people to foster obsessions with celebrities instead of paying attention to real relationships.

This being said, this fascination does nothing repel legitimate news sources. If people are too caught up in who wore what couture gown best and whose dating who in the celebrity world, this leave much less room to grow intellectually.

Instead of being too invested in the vapid, and sometimes obnoxious, realm of pop culture, people should check out some legitimate newspapers or read an article online that doesn’t even mention Kate Gosselin. Because let’s face it: too much Britney Spears on the brain makes people a lot less interesting to talk to.



The family of Christopher Wheatley accept tokens of appreciation from Lemont High School Assistant Principal of Athletics, Mr. John Young.



Old Glory waves proudly at the annual Hometown Heroes event



Players look on during the sophomore game