

Lemont High School
800 Porter Street
Lemont, IL 60439

Tom Tom

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Issue 4

What's Right to Write?

by Erin O'Connor
News Writer

With the feel of fall in the air, high school seniors have a vital subject on their minds – college application essays. The process has just become easier as The Bridge, Lemont High School's writing center, recently hosted its second annual "College Write Night."

On Thursday, September 16, LHS seniors gathered in "The Bridge" at 6:30p.m., to get help on college essays and personal statements. Center director, Patty Melei, and her staff were on hand to generate help and critique for the students.

"[The night] gave us a starting place, and somewhere to start our essays," student Paige Szymanski said about how the write night helped her become more confident on what to write her essays about.

The night began with Bridge director Patty Melei passing out handouts of what and what not to write in an essay. The essay needs to be a narrative, showing its reader who you are, many times in very few words.

An overall theme of the night was diversity. How are you, one of thousands of applicants different from the rest? What can you bring to their school? As easy as it seems to talk of oneself, the essay has to

be unique and not just a list. Finding patterns is key, the topic is a zoomed out picture, but what matters is once you, the writer zooms in on it.

As many students are in a frenzy trying to figure out what to write, a simple visit to the writing center can help them. When told to define talk about a community service that has influenced them, many students can look at this in utter confusion, but after last Thursday's write night, Szymanski said, "don't write about something generic...make it more personal to you."

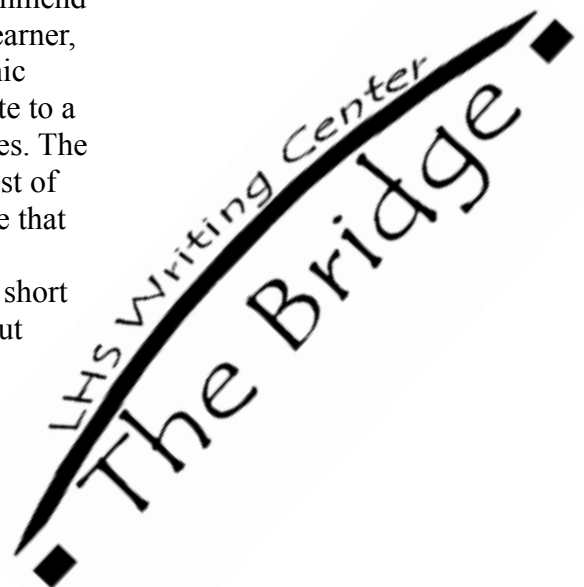
At the event, it was recommended to find your patterns as a learner, their connection to academic choices, and how they relate to a group of similar experiences. The schools don't just want a list of everything you do, they see that broadly in the application.

"[The essay] needs to be short enough to be interesting, but long enough to cover everything," said Melei when quoting Sister Cecilia, one of her own teachers when Melei was answering a question about essay

length.

Overall, Melei was happy with the events of the night, "Turnout was fantastic, I'm very happy...but I wish we could do more one on one [tutoring]," following with, "I feel the college acceptance environment is really competitive."

College entrance essays are what can make or break acceptance into a school as it has become more and more competitive. The student has to show all they can offer through so few words. So show how you can add to their university, because text matters.



News, p. 2

Homecoming Spirit Week: Showing School Generosity

by Morgan McPartland
News writer

For this year's Homecoming Spirit Week, Lemont High School will be raising money in more ways than one. From selling spirit links to the annual food drive, LHS plans to follow its tradition of helping others as much as possible.

Fundraisers for the week of Sept. 20 include the usual spirit links, sold to each class during Spirit Week. The color-coded strips of paper are sold throughout all lunch periods for \$.25 each or 5 for \$1. Each link is the color that corresponds with the class (freshmen-orange, sophomores-red, juniors-green, seniors-black) and during the last Homecoming assembly they're linked together to form a chain. According to LHS Student Council President, senior Jackie Kulis, "The money raised for spirit links goes to a great charity and it's always good competition."

All proceeds from selling the spirit links will be donated to Hope and Friendship Ministries of Lemont, an organization that helps families in financial need. "Many members of the faculty and Student Council suggested this charity, and we're really excited about it," said the Head Sponsor of LHS Student Council, Elizabeth Raimondi.

Thursday, Sept. 23, is the last day



that spirit links will be sold during lunches. On Friday, all points will be tallied up, and the class with the most spirit links will earn an additional 100 points. Second place will earn 75 spirit points, third will receive 50 and the class with the least amount of spirit links will gain 25 points.

Not only will LHS be raising money, but it will also be hosting the annual food drive during Spirit Week. Shopping carts will be located at the main entrance of the building, and students will have the opportunity to bring in canned goods every morning before school. Non-perishable items, such as boxed or canned goods, are

considered appropriate to donate.

All food collected will be donated to the local food pantry, and for every item of food donated, one point will be added to that grade's total amount of spirit points. Just as they are to be added with spirit links, the class that donates the most food items will receive 100 spirit points, second place will gain 75 points, etc.

All LHS students are being encouraged to bring in a food item or buy a spirit link, not only to help their class earn spirit points and potential bragging rights for the rest of the school year, but in the spirit of donating to a good cause.

News, p. 3

Blah, Blah, Blaha

What future world leaders need to know

It's All About the Bragging Rights

by Dylan Blaha

Any other time during the school year, men in tights and girls with full princess costumes would be met with a lot of apprehension. This week, however, Lemont High School students make the ridiculous seem normal.

The entire week before the homecoming dance, LHS holds its annual Spirit Week to raise both school spirit and charitable donations. Each class (freshman, sophomore, junior and senior) earns "Spirit Points" by showing generosity and dressing up as wacky as possible.

So far this week, cowboys roamed the halls on Western Day and a mix of babies and the elderly took the school by storm on Generation Day. With Medieval Times Day, Class Color Day and Blue and Gold Day coming next, the week promises to be exciting to the very end.

The Experience

Say what you want about dressing up in nonsense clothes, that's who I am. That's who a majority of us are.

In a way, participating in Spirit Week during my senior year is my last-ditch effort at maintaining my childhood. When this week ends, college applications, graduation and adulthood become more of a reality.

Why do I dress up, you ask? To me, the answer is simple. Picking an outfit that makes teachers and friends burst out laughing is an art, and over a thousand of us are trying to perfect it.

Creativity

Although I decided not to disclose my costumes/ideas for the rest of the week, I can give you a picture of the average spirit day at LHS.

Students pile into the commons (our fancy name for the lunchroom) on this day, far more than usual. Juniors dressed as working class adults mingle in corners about fake office discussions, while baby-faced freshman cry for their mothers.

Most students that place in the daily top-five dress in a group; therefore, it is not uncommon to find bunches of old grannies playing bingo on the tile floor. An LHS senior, Danny Banas, even thought of an idea involving a casket and an accompanying funeral procession, which won third place.

In first period, students actually listen to the announcements, waiting for the winners to be announced. The news, either good or not so good, makes or breaks some peoples' days.

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Spirit, cont. from p. 2

Competition Reigns Supreme

No one can deny what motivates our senior class. Last year, we upset the previous seniors in the closest Spirit Point differential in LHS history. Now, we don't want to meet the same fate.

Seeing the shock in their eyes, along with the elation felt by our entire class, made us the top story of homecoming weekend (until our football team lost, of course). Experiencing that ecstasy again would be priceless.

Even with a new class color (due to a little too much school spirit involving old ones), we're ready to take home another title. It's just a matter of time.



Editorials, p. 5

Sing it Loud, Sing it Proud

Unless you can't sing at all...

by Kelly Lyons

Editorials Editor

If you watched the 2010 Video Music Awards (VMAs), then you were lucky enough to catch Usher sing about a verse and a half of two entire songs during his performance. As a Grammy-winning singer, you'd expect him to put in a little more effort rather than make his audience listen to tracks playing in the background.

However, the sad truth is that a ridiculous amount of artists are getting paid to lip-sync and dance around onstage to a back-up track instead of utilizing any sort of talent.

Regardless of entertainers' inflated salaries, many of them don't put much effort into their careers. Instead of being known for having great voices, most singers seem to be more concerned with how much publicity they're making or the number of fans they have.

Take 16 year old newcomer Justin Bieber (whose voice coincidentally seemed rather auto-tuned during his recent VMA performance). Before even dropping a sophomore album, a book deal and movie are already in the works for the teen heartthrob. Let's just hope he still has his chops after puberty comes knocking on his door.



Although there are plenty of talented singers out there, it doesn't seem to take much more than decent looks and working vocal chords to get a record deal (see Miley Cyrus).

Artists really don't have to do much work in order to make a hit song. Give them a writer and the proper voice-synthesizing technology and they might end up with a gem that could rival Ke\$ha's classy chart-toppers. Even auto-tune abuser T-Pain told MTV.com that this type of technology is "grossly overused."

Senior Delia Ercoli agrees that, "it's ridiculous that [artists] can badly sing a song they probably didn't even write and make more money than the actual writer ever will."

Sadly, lack of talent in the music industry may never be completely eradicated. Because media is based on public demand, as long as the public wants to hear the Bieber-esque tunes currently on the radio, that's what they'll get. Unless people decide to refine their tastes in music anytime soon, the music industry probably isn't going to change.

Is talent fading as technology advances, or does the public generally prefer the clichéd, auto-tuned billboard hits polluting the radio? It's hard to say. But whatever the reason may be, lazy singers should start putting a little more effort into their craft. Or better yet, if you don't have the ability, stay out of the music business.

Features, p. 6

A Twilight Twist

by Lindsay Simonetta
Features writer

Television viewers have been disturbed by parodies of movies for years, including *Scary Movie*, *Epic Movie*, and *Space Balls*. This year, the World has been introduced to a new twisted movie *Vampires Suck*.

Vampires Suck premiered this past August, where *Twilight* fans, along with some *Twilight* haters, gathered at their local theaters. People can't seem to get enough of vampires right now, even though they are seen or talked about in almost everything that we watch.

The movie is a parody of the vampire and werewolf battle for Bella Swan. The movie is also known as *Twilight*- the teen heartthrob movie. The movie was originally a book series made up of four books, and the first three are already made into movies. However, only the first two, *Twilight* and *New Moon*, were referenced in *Vampires Suck*. The general story line stayed the same; there were just some added ideas, changes of names, and funny scenes or lines.



Vampires Suck takes place in a fictional town known as Sporks, Washington where Becca Krane, played by Jenn Proske, lives with her dad, the Sheriff. Proske did an awesome job mimicking Kristen Stewart's fidgeting, stammering and generally bad acting.

Not only was the casting fantastic, but so were the jokes and the strange situations along the way. References toward



"Jersey Shore," "Gossip Girl," Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift and *Dear John* will send you laughing off your seat. Some movie-goers thought this movie had no humor, but most agreed that the reference towards Jacob Black's (Taylor Lautner) bare chest throughout *New Moon* was

funny. In the scene, Jacob Black randomly takes off his shirt and says, "My contract says I have to every ten minutes of screen time," the crowd then burst into hysterics.

Vampires Suck was different from most parody movies because I feel like you truly would have needed to see the movies that it was based off of to have fully understood the humor. For instance, in the intense scene in the forest when Edward tells Bella that he is a vampire was very important. Only a true Twi-Hard would have caught the sense of humor when Becca Krane says "I know what you are. . . a Jonas brother."

Maybe the reason I loved the movie so much was because I myself am a big *Twilight* fan and just experiencing anything related to *Twilight* gives me the chills. I believe that watching the *Twilight Saga* before seeing *Vampires Suck*, will make the experience so much greater.



Features, p. 7

Homecoming dresses and trends

by Maribeth Van Hecke
Features Writer

Think about how much time you spend trying to be original. Many teens spend their time trying to stand out, while others do not pay much attention at all to originality. One of the best ways to stand out is to get all dolled up and attend school dances such as Homecoming, which is just around the corner. The Homecoming dance shows the obvious trends, styles and fads of the year.

Walking into the Homecoming Dance is already awkward, and seeing the girls with the same dress as you is even more awkward. For the rest of the night you are secretly hoping that no one notices. You know the feeling of hoping that no body will ever have the same dress as you. Junior, Kelli Ferraro, explains her close call on almost having the same dress as someone else, "I was going dress shopping and I tried on a dress and I really liked it, but then I remembered that I saw someone who already had it so I didn't buy it [because] I wanted to be unique and original." It's embarrassing loving something so much and then realizing that someone else has the same thing.

When it comes to dresses - especially of the Homecoming sort- you know that girls will put a little more effort into

their choices. Some girls will go straight for their favorite store, thinking they know exactly what they want, but the question is does everyone else run to the same store for their dress, too? However, others will be ready for the chance to try something new, and maybe wear something that no one has ever done before.

What is the easiest way to find a dress that you will be sure that no one else will have? Shop where no one else dares to shop! If you hunt for stores that not everyone runs to, then you are bound to have your own original look. Lemont has found itself lots of little boutiques that are great for original dresses and dresses that are not mass-produced. All you have to do is look around; you don't even need to bother with the trends.

In past years there have been some pretty obvious trends when it comes to getting fancy around Homecoming. Think back two years and one could probably remember how many blue dresses you saw on the dance floor. Blue was the color of 2008. Last year, our dance floor looked like a safari with all of the animal prints. From zebra to cheetah, there were animals everywhere. Sopho-



more, Ashley Murphy, predicts what she thinks this year's rage is going to be, "I think it's going to be slim dresses. Tight [at the top] and then puffy at the end and bright colors." What's your guess on what is going to take over this year's dance floor?

Trends are always easy to spot when groups of people get serious with their style and Homecoming is an excellent way of doing this. If you search around for a while maybe you will learn that you can create your own style. For this year's Homecoming will you be the duplicate dresser? Or will you be the trendsetter?

Features, p. 8

Enjoy comics? Manga club does

by Rene Tovar
Features Writer

Video games, comics, and cartoons aren't topics that most High School students associate themselves with, or at least talk about. Then again, no one really talks about how they still keep their Spider-man comics either.

Lemont High School started the year with the openings of many clubs. Some are old and some are new. One of the newer clubs to be introduced to LHS is Manga/Anime club.

Manga is the Japanese word for comics, and is used in the English speaking world as a term to define graphic novels and comic books that were originally published in Japan. Manga is considered artistic and original because of the time and work it takes to hand write and ink the panels and drawings of the comic.

Manga is very popular throughout the world, and it has many genres which appeal to both children and adults. Manga story lines are applauded for their depth and complexity throughout the novels.

Anime in English is usually referring to a style of animation that is originally from Japan,



and is heavily influenced by the manga style. This style has also been adopted by some artists in America and other countries.

The anime style for the most part is known for having a quality which far surpasses that of American cartoons, along with the distinct plots found and the depth of characterization. Anime pulls in many fans who enjoy more 'mature' cartoons.

Manga club was introduced by seniors Rene Tovar and Rebecca Nelson. The LRC directs this club, with librarian Cathy Mayer as the sponsor. Manga club incorporates group discussions about the latest Japanese manga, videogames, anime movies, shows, and conventions.

This is the club's second semester at LHS, and it is overflowing with many new faces. "We are trying to reach out to students who share the same interests," said Vice President Rebecca Nelson. "Many manga readers tend to be shy so manga club reaches out to those students and gives them a chance to find new friends."

The goal of the club is to promote diversity within the school to show similar interest to old and new members. The club is focusing on expanding the LRC's manga collection to give students more to read, but to also educate other students that manga and anime aren't just comics and cartoons, but that they are very intricate and involve many different styles, genres, and audiences.

(Disclaimer: Rene Tovar founded and is president of this club.)

Sports, p. 9

Lemont Beats Bremen in PK Thriller

By Kyle Griffin
Sports writer

The Lemont boys soccer team defeated conference rival, Bremen, on Tuesday, Sep. 14, 1-0 in a dramatic penalty kick shootout.

The whole game, both teams looked evenly matched. In the first half, few shots were taken and it was turning into a defensive game. The Lemont defense was giving a great effort and junior, Nick Tiedt, was having a great performance.

In the second half we saw much of the same action from the first half. The offensive sides of both teams were struggling to find the back of the net. The defensive sides of Bremen and Lemont continued to play outstanding soccer and at the end of regulation, there was no score and it was time for overtime.

The game went into four extra ten minute periods and each of the four periods were scoreless and the game would be decided in a classic shootout. Lemont took a 6-5 lead in the shootout. It came down to Bremen's last shooter and he had to make it to keep his team alive.

But his shot deflected off the post and Lemont won the

penalty shootout. The team ran onto the field to celebrate their big win after Bremen's player missed the shot. "I was pretty relaxed during the penalty kicks. I just wanted to see if we could step up and do it," said Lemont head coach Rick Prangen.

Prangen believes his team can place well in conference this year. "It's going to come down to us and Bremen would be my guess," said Prangen. And the victory over Bremen Tuesday will help the Indians a lot in the conference standings.

Last year, the boys soccer team made it all the way to super sectionals and were defeated by Peoria Notre Dame. "Last year when we lost, I thought we played well against a good team and I was okay with that," said Prangen. The team lost a lot of seniors from last year and there are a lot of young guys on the team including 5 underclassmen. The team would hope to go as far as last year. "I never go into the playoffs saying basically I want to go here. We will go into the playoffs saying let's have our last game be our best game," said Prangen.

A couple of weeks ago the Indians took second place in the Lemont Cup when they were defeated by East Aurora in the Championship game. "I was happy to get to the championship game. That was our goal and anytime you get to the championship game, you want to win it, but getting to the championship game is first and foremost," said Prangen. "I think it was great that we made it to the championship even though we lost. Next year I hope we can take the next step and get 1st place," said three year varsity player, Kyle Koehler.

Coach Prangen has been most impressed with junior fullback, Nick Tiedt and senior goalkeeper, Jonathan Remiasz this season. "They've been our most consistent guys," Prangen said. "Tiedt does a great job in the back for us. And J.C. [Remiasz] is a great guy to have in the goal," said Koehler.

The Indians' conference record is 3-2 and their overall record is 5-4-2. The Indians take on Oak Lawn on Thursday and play Downers Grove South on Saturday.



Sports, p. 10

Lemont Boys Golf Remains Undefeated in Conference Play

by Ryan Peraino
Sports writer



The Boys Golf team continued their undefeated streak in conference play with a recent victory over Tinley Park High School last Tuesday.

The boys won 153-197 and were lead by top scorers junior Shane Purtle, senior Nick Szerzinski and senior Jake Groselak who each shot a 38. "We all came out and shot well," said two year varsity player Purtle.

This continues the boys winning ways, as they have not lost a conference match since they entered the South Suburban Blue Conference in 2006.

Expect big things from the team this year as they look to improve on last year's fifth place finish at state. "We are right on pace with our goals. We knew we were one of the better teams in the area. So far this year Providence [Catholic High School] has been the only team to beat us," said Head Coach Mark Hollatz. "We hope to win regionals, sectionals, and finish top three in the state."

That is a hefty goal but with the players that this team has it is certainly possible. "Nick [Szerzinski] and Shane [Purtle] have been playing the best golf this year [both average 38.2 per nine holes]. Shane has a slight edge but both have been playing well. Jake [Groselak, 40.4 average per nine holes], senior Rob [Smierciak, 39.1 average per nine holes] and junior Kevin Kling [40 average per nine holes] have also been playing well too," said Hollatz.

Sophomore Ray Cepelle has been a pleasant surprise for the team this year. He started the season on the Junior Varsity team and is now pushing for a Varsity spot with a 41.8 average per nine holes.

The team looks to continue its success versus rival Providence on Friday in the Joliet Township Invitational. Lemont and Providence are two of the best teams from the Will County area and this match pits them head to head for the third time this year. Providence got the better of the Indians in the first two matches. Coach Hollatz believes that this match will be a good test. The key for the rest of the year he said is, "peaking at the right time."



Photos courtesy of Google

Sports, p. 11

Play Ball!

By Ian Stratta
Sports writer

Volleyball that is. The LHS girls volleyball team is finally back and ready to continue their winning ways. Lead by head coach, Chris Zogota, and assistant coach, Jessica Strama, the varsity girls volleyball squad is ready to get their season up and running. So far this season they have accumulated an 11-5 record.

The two team captains, seniors Courtney Keefe and Vicki Wrobel, have been very impressive as of late. Wrobel leads the team with an impressive 326 assists and 21 serving aces. Keefe has missed games this season because of a sprained ankle. She has an incredible 94 kills which leads the team with a 3.6 kill per game average. Other team leaders include senior Melissa Bograd who leads the team in serves received success (233) and digs (200). Senior Danielle Susz leads in total blocks (39).

Last season the team had a 30-5 record with a 13-0 conference record. They finished the season as Regional champions in the state play-offs. Their most significant losses from last year due to graduation were Lisa Donar, Danielle Maturro and Megan Millinowisch who were all starters. However, Zogota does not believe this will affect them down the road. She states,

"Everybody came back much better [from last year]."

Ms. Zogota is as excited as anyone about the upcoming season. She believes in her team and thinks they can win games and be the best. "We'd like to win conference." Bograd says, "We are going to win conference. Our most

challenging match of the conference is this Thursday [vs. Oak Forest]." Senior Becca Brabec adds, "There is a very good chance we will be winning conference." She continues, "Like Melissa said, our toughest match will be on Thursday against Oak Forest but we have been playing really hard during practices and preparing ourselves for these kind of games so I don't think it

will be a problem."

The varsity team's next match is a home game vs. Oak Forest who is 9-3 so far. If Lemont wins this match, they will likely win conference and it is off to the playoff race again!



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Stride By Stride

by Mary McKeivitt

Sports Writer

A thick, white line drawn against the grass was all that separated me from the possibilities of glory or devastation this past Saturday, 9-11-10 at the Peoria Woodruff Cross Country meet. A sudden hush composed the entire course, leaving every runner silent, balancing themselves on their starting stride in anticipation for their cue. My eyes scanned over the array of multicolored uniforms all blended together, and I could see in the distance the starting gun hovering in the air. With the pull of its trigger, a tide of runners poured into the starting straight-away, pumping their legs into a sprint towards the first visible turn.

Swerving my body around the nearest flag, I could feel a throb of momentum take over me, driving my legs into a steady pace. I could hear the sound of the nearest runner's feet strike the ground in a solid tempo, resonating itself into my mind. With this, my head began to pound and echo its shooting pain throughout every point in my brain. Thinking about the distance I had ahead of me only made the pain worse.

Droplets of sweat surfaced across my face, flooding into my eyes with a stinging sensation that forced me to look away from the course for a moment. Not seeing an upcoming divot, I suddenly felt a shift in my balance and my ankle curled against the ground. To other athletes, a twisted ankle is considered an injury, but to a cross country runner, it is considered to be only an obstacle. A quick throb from my ankle set off tightness in my calf, pulling my muscle into a tight knot of my right leg. Approaching a left turn, I could feel my leg go weak, but instead of giving into the pain, I decided to rebel against it and accelerate my pace to go even faster.

"Right here Mar, focus on your stride. Push yourself right here," I could hear Coach Plotke's voice buzzing through my head as I looked up at him leaning into the path from the sideline. My lungs rasped inside my chest, plunging a deep pulse throughout my entire body. Taking in his advice, I forced my arms into a jabbing motion, extending my stride in each movement. At this point, I could taste a salty residue gurgle in the back of my throat, drying out my entire mouth making it impossible for me to respond to him, so instead, I decided to focus on what was in front of me.

A distant crowd swarmed themselves around a single point of the course, cheering on the runners and becoming their mental support. Girls wedged themselves into tight spots among each other trying to beat whoever they could. Maneuvering myself through the packs of runners, I focused on what was ahead; a single white line resembling the one at the starting line. "6:25," a coach called out the time to us as we crossed it. One mile down, two more to go...