

Tom-Tom

Lemont High School

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Issue 18

Ultimate Frisbee Club

by Monique Devitt
News writer

When most students think of gym class they can't get past the idea of a bunch of sweaty teenagers thrown together and forced to participate in physical activity, but for three LHS students it was the birthplace of a now very popular club at LHS.

Last September Peter Gianakakis, Alec Chialdikas and Jonny Dzielski were inspired during gym class to create their own ultimate Frisbee team. "At first it was just an idea but we had so much support from fellow students and love for the sport, we decided to follow through with it," said Gianakakis.

On Jan 24, Ultimate Frisbee club held its first game day in the field house. There were seven teams total with 8-10 players per team. Three games were played at a time while one team would sit out; each team played a total of three games.

"Our first game day was definitely a success and we can't wait till the next game day on Feb 14" said Chialdikas. Anyone interested in joining Ultimate Frisbee club just needs to gather a team of 8-10 players and pay a \$10 fee that goes toward equipment for the club.

Tomorrow, Feb 14, Ultimate Frisbee club will be hosting its second game day in the field house. "We're really looking forward to it as a chance to just hang out and have a good time," said member Jesse Garza.



(Left to right) Juniors Jonny Dzielski, Peter Gianakakis and Alec Chialdikas founded the Ultimate Frisbee Club at Lemont High School.

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NEWS

Jazzy McPhondert

by Jonathon Clark
Columnist

Jazz is unique. Although you probably weren’t born in the roaring 20’s, you still frequently hear the names of the greats. Herbie Hancock, Miles Davis, Mary Lou Williams and Ronald Burgundy all should either sound familiar or make their way into your top ten coolest people list. I mean Ronald Burgundy revolutionized the jazz flute at the turn of the millennium, while Miles Davis is referred to as one cool cat in “*Billy Madison*.”

The art of jazz is far from dead, and you can help support a local resurgence by attending the Lemont High School Jazz Dinner Dance on Mar. 2. The dance is a prime opportunity to take time to appreciate the local greats, such as senior Nick “Jazzy Mcphondert” Dory on saxophone, or senior Connor “The Slapada” Tomaka on bass.

Held annually on first Saturday in March, this will be LHS’s 24th Jazz Dinner Dance. Hosted at the historic Willowbrook Ballroom, the festivities will include great music and an opportunity to Charleston like it’s 1920 while winning raffle prizes.

The dinner dance will run from 6-12 p.m., the dance portion beginning at 9. Admission is \$55 and all proceeds go to the Lemont High School Band. For those interested in the dancing, admission is \$10.

Here’s what Dory has to say about jazz: “The power of jazz saved my life, it’s the hippest thing around.” Dory’s consistent melodic performances have landed him a top spot in the band.

“I’m the lead tenor while other great musicians such as Barbra ‘Soul Sista’ Koszarek, Phil ‘Lasso Whip’ Zukowski, and Rita ‘Karate Chop’ Cardela will be leading their instrumental sections,” said Dory.

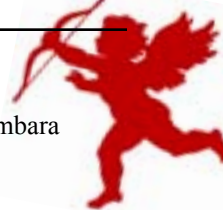
Dory explains that the jazz dance is “honestly, more fun than prom!” This is an opportunity to dance, eat and listen to Lemont’s own jazz ensembles. It sounds like you’d be missing the note if you didn’t attend Lemont High School’s Jazz Dinner Dance on Mar. 2.

“The art of jazz is far from dead, and you can help support a local resurgence by attending the Lemont High School Jazz Dinner Dance on Mar. 2.”

EDITORIALS

The Game of Love

by Jordan Gembara
Editorialist



One is the loneliest number that you’ll ever do. At least, that’s what Harry Nilsson’s song *One* tells us. However, he also tells us that two can be just as bad as one—after all, it’s the loneliest number since the number one.

Despite the fact that Nilsson’s song is both confusing and depressing, he does raise a good question: should one stay single, or search hard for that special someone?

While the answer may be much more apparent to an adult, it could go either way for a high school student.

Dating in high school has often received mixed views. While some see the interactions as pointless things with little worth, others believe these relationships really do hold value.

Senior Alyssa Fitzgerald sees dating as “a learning experience” for a high school student’s life. “It’s important to learn what works and what doesn’t in relationships,” said Fitzgerald. “Exploring the basics will help teens in future relationships.”

The act of finding a suitable partner is a difficult one. Finding someone who has the same interests, desires and overall compatibility as you isn’t an easy task. But through dating, teens can use a trial and error method to discover what appeals to them.

On the other hand, what about all the kids who

jump from relationship to relationship? This sporadic dating style is what gives young relationships such a bad reputation. Many peers look at these “relationships” and automatically assume that all teen couples don’t value their bonds as much as an adult would.

Junior Kristin Washagan agrees that while “dating can be fun,” people will “benefit more from being alone for a while.” High school is an unforgettable, sometimes crucial time in a teenager’s life where he or she makes major decisions. “[High school relationships] are meant more for fun. They shouldn’t get too serious too fast,” said Washagan. “You have so many years to date, why speed things up?”

While high school is a time to test the waters and have fun with dating, it could also be the time to meet your life partner. While many young relationships tend to fall apart over time, junior Nick Brown agrees some do last a lifetime. “Actually, one of my friends just proposed to his high school girlfriend,” said Brown. “Most [high school relationships] don’t have a lot of worth, but some definitely still can.”

Senior Rachel Margalus agrees having that special someone around is never anything to complain about. “It’s nice to always have someone who is going to

be there to support and care about you.”

So now you may be thinking, “Well shoot, I’m obviously missing out because I’m not currently in a relationship”. However, teenagers don’t have to be part of a couple in order to be happy. Single teens have an equal amount of advantages they can benefit from during high school as well.

“Being single is very empowering,” said Washagan. “You get to learn how to feel beautiful on your own and how to love yourself.”

Senior Sarah Cash agrees that single students gain just as much as those in relationships. “Single kids have more time for themselves, friends and family—and even more flexibility with their choices,” said Cash.

Having a partner for support is always a welcomed opportunity. But the independence a single teen develops only builds their confidence, courage and motivation.

Whether a teen chooses to date or wait, it’s ultimately up to them. Single or taken, success or failure, everyone benefits in some shape or form. “Even someone who has experienced a failed relationship has an advantage,” said Fitzgerald. “From it that person has started to understand what they like or don’t like in a

partner.”

The game of love is a tricky one—but in the end it is your game to play. Whether you choose to start early or wait awhile, you aren’t missing out on any special advantages in life. As long as you are happy and follow your desired path, everything else will fall into place.



Bowie’s Next Day

by Bridget Lynn
Features writer

23 released albums, a staggering 560 written songs, 2 U.S. chart-topping songs: One artist. Yes, David Bowie.

Bowie’s latest project – in the works for 2 years now – is his album *The Next Day*.

Bowie’s music is often esteemed by other musicians who see him as a role model. Such musicians include junior Joey Padilla (vocalist for *The Breaks*), who sees Bowie’s music as “iconic, musical intelligence,” and Bowie himself as a, “genius and inspiration to music.”

Others, like junior Mary Sahs, are simply huge fans

of Bowie’s music and have been for quite some time. To Sahs, Bowie’s music is unsurpassable. “It is hard to find musicians that can incorporate true thought into catchy pop songs.... it’s pop, but it’s real& thoughtful, which I think is what makes him such a musical success,” stated Sahs.

Since his last album *Reality* in 2003, Bowie has taken minimal time off in the studio. Although he kept much of his writing under wraps until this point, Bowie finally revealed his compositions to his fellow band-mates. In a

recent interview with *Rolling Stone Magazine*, Tony Visconti (producer of Bowie’s new album), says that listeners can expect a “funky, sleazy sound,” along with songs that will make you, “rock out.”

The Next Day is speculated to release in March and has already topped iTunes charts in over 10 countries including the United States, United Kingdom, France and Germany. At the wise age of 66, David Bowie and his music have shown no signs of coming to an end.



David Bowie’s latest project, *The Next Day* is expected to be released in March.

“Iconic, musical intelligence,”

“A genius and inspiration to music.”

-Junior Joey Padilla

The Carrie Diaries: Part II

by Rachel Bogo
Features writer

Picture it: you’re in a sweaty English class when your teacher, a middle aged husband or wife, says the words: "We are starting our 2nd semester book today." Every students’ face sours.

On top of assigning an uninteresting book, teachers assign how many chapters to read, not noticing if some students read at a much slower pace, I being one of them.

Being in this situation for the past four years makes a student start to dislike reading, but when I opened The Carrie Diaries all the boredom

and the "I don't want to read this" mentality vanished. In actuality the experience was the total opposite. I found myself reading the book before going to school and reading around 50 pages a day (which is a lot for me).

While reading The Carrie Diaries I was so intrigued with Carrie Bradshaw and how the book relates to what a high school student goes through: peer pressure, love and deciding what to do for your future. While watching the show and comparing the book there was no competition. The book won

in a landslide. However, the characters in the show were similar to how I pictured them while reading. Now, on the sixth episode, I have come to realize that I cannot compare the two. The book brings a reality-based approach, while the show makes me feel that the events that happen to Carrie could only happen to a one-in-a-million girl. Nevertheless, I will still be watching the show, but with the realization that the book and the show are two different things.

Stamping Away Misconceptions

by Michelle Awad
Features writer

Many people are quick to judge those on the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), more commonly known as Food Stamps, as “living easy.” However, some misconceptions need to be cleared as to just how much a food stamps recipient receives per week.

When asked if she would guess how much someone on food stamps receives on a weekly basis, junior Bethany Timm estimated “around one hundred dollars, maybe a little less.” When she found out the average person on the program actually receives \$32. 59 a week, she responded with: “I think that is completely

unrealistic, and especially considering most of the people I have met on food stamps have at least one child.”

\$32.59 a week for one person. That’s \$4.65 a day— \$1.55 per meal.

Former Lemont High School student and attendee at Coe College, Rachel Hunter seconds Bethany’s opinion. “When I go to this little café at my school I pay around five dollars for just a sandwich. There’s no way \$1.55 could buy you a substantial meal unless it’s from McDonald’s,” she said. “It would be much more difficult to eat healthier with that amount. I got organic spinach the other day and it costs me \$3! I am in shock.”

To sum it up, junior Matt Hackiwicz states, “If there were no variables set for

accommodations, I believe \$1.55 is not enough money to fulfill basic needs.”

Democrats in Congress were on this same side of the argument, and advocated a social experiment for politicians to see what it was like living day to day with just \$4.65 allowed for food.

According to the blog she kept during this experiment, Congresswoman Jackie Speier says, “I really feel that unless we walk in the shoes of someone on food stamps, we have no idea what they face,” she said. “I had no idea. I really didn’t.”

Republicans and Democrats alike agreed to take a closer look at funding for the Food Stamps program after just four weeks of experiencing what it would be like to solely rely on less than five dollars a day for food.

SPORTS

The Stars Shine in Houston



Erika Truschke
Sports writer

The league's best competing against each other on one court, for one night, every year. The 62nd Annual NBA All-Star Game will be played at the Toyota Center in Houston, TX on Sun. Feb. 17. The game will tip-off at 7 p.m. central time.

The top active NBA players have been selected by the fans, via online voting, to participate in the game. The players are then divided up into the Eastern and Western Conference teams; separations according to which conference their team belongs to during the regular season.

Players with the most votes included: LeBron James with 1,583,646 votes (MIA), Kobe Bryant with 1,591,437 (LAL), Carmelo Anthony with

1,460,950 (NYK), and Kevin Durant with 1,504,047 (OKC). These recognizable names to basketball attracted the attention of NBA fans.

With a 26.5% PPG (points per game) average, LeBron's offensive game helped earn him a spot on the NBA All-Star team. Senior Erick Rydberg said, "I look forward to watching LeBron play in the game because his style of play brings a great sense of excitement to the court."

Throughout the All-Star three day weekend, the event expects to draw 20,000 fans making around \$80 million in the process. Between the Celebrity Game, Shooting Stars Contest, Skills Challenge, three-point Shooting Contest, and Slam

Dunk Contest, the amount of entertainment in one weekend is jammed with excitement.

"I love watching the skills competition because I take what they perform and try and incorporate it into my game. It helps me improve my game to the highest potential by watching the best players execute it," said LHS senior basketball player Nicole Krol.

Although the NBA All-Star Weekend is centralized around skill and talent, the main focus is fun. It's a time for the players to take a break from their competitive lives to show off their skills in a positive matter. After the 2013 All-Star Weekend concludes, teams are back to work on Feb. 19.



Lebron James



Kobe Bryant



Carmelo Anthony



Kevin Durant