

Lemont High School
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Tom Tom

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Issue 4

Need Money For College? LHS Can Help You Out

by Erin O'Connor
News writer

The economic downturn of the economy has had vast consequences, not only on adults, but also on today's future generation. On Oct. 14, Lemont High School will be able to answer questions and provide worthwhile information about financial aid along with information on the college application process.

These problems are greatly distressing tomorrow's future as the cost of college is ever increasing. Many are wondering how to pay for the next steps of their education.

The night will begin promptly at 7 p.m. in the school's Performing Arts Center. Guidance counselors will be present along with Ryan Cockerill from Lewis University. Students along with their parents are encouraged to come gain information no matter what grade the student is in.

During the presentation, a wide variety of topics will be covered including what is important when applying to a college, how a student can decide upon the right school for them, and the different types of financial aid. Along with these

topics, important information regarding FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will be disclosed.

"[By attending the night] I hope that my parents and I will get more information on the financial side of college, so we can understand the different kind of loans available," Senior Kristin LoBurgio said about what she wants to gain out of the night.

For many, it seems, as college may be unattainable now. With knowledge of the great variety of scholarship opportunities, however, they may take a second look at things they might not have before.

When thinking about how to be a strong candidate in an essay for a scholarship, senior Nicole Montalbano said, "I want to learn how to write them without sounding too cliché."

With so many different ways to pay for college, many may still be able to make it work. The economy is struggling, but what will the future hold if those who will live in it are uneducated?



News, p.2

Devaluing Downtime

by Dylan Blaha
Head Editor

It's getting more and more common these days. Because of elevated college entrance standards, countless students have started their own combatant: spreading themselves too thin.

Many colleges and universities, nowadays, judge their prospective pupils on more than mere academic achievement. Activities, awards/recognitions and even job experience are taken into account on applications.

To meet the ridiculous expectations their dream colleges present, some high school students join almost every club, sport and activity that comes their way. The ones that don't seek these opportunities, more often than not, take on jobs that ask for far too much commitment.

With the inflated daily schedules of the average LHS teen, downtime appears to be on the verge of extinction. However, it may be the one thing left to give us all a little sanity.

Feeling tired? Get in line

At Lemont High School, seniors are starting to feel the effects of sleep deprivation getting the best of them. Sadly, to most, the words "I'm tired" are no more than an overly used phrase.

Constantly, as if it's a competition, teens argue over who "deserves" to be tired. If you didn't stay up until two in the morning doing homework, after coming home from hockey practice at nine, you better shut your mouth. 'Cause somebody did, and there's



probably another poor soul who went through worse.

One such complainer, senior Molly Mazur, feels her activities put a damper on her free time. While also being involved in cross country, CSFE (Community Service For Everyone) and National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society President and the Student Council Vice President somehow finds downtime on weekends.

"It cuts into free time, but sometimes the extra activities are fun," Mazur stated, still half asleep. She also added that she spends some of that downtime on college applications. Yikes.

Eliminating downtime = one bad idea

Trust me, getting rid of rest and relaxation is the worst mistake a person can make. As a guy who recently quit his job, I realize now how much free time not having a 35-hour-a-week job clears.

Being able to kick back and "chill" for a while is not only stress-relieving, it's downright necessary. I can honestly say that without the first four seasons of *Dexter* at my disposal over the past month, I probably would've crossed the insanity barrier by now.

I understand completely that the ongoing cycle of school, activities and homework, with no play, brings even the calmest person to a breaking point. So please, allow yourself enough time to unwind. Your body will thank you someday.

News, p. 3

Cell Phones in School Zones

by Morgan McPartland
News writer

Talking or texting on cell phones while driving has become a common activity for Lemonters. Since Jan. 1, 2010, a person, regardless of age, may not use a wireless telephone at any time while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a school speed zone.

Senate Bill 72, titled "Vehicular Phone Use in School Zones," makes it illegal to compose, send, or read any text messages while driving, along with surfing the internet and making phone calls. Not only does this apply to those driving through school zones, but in construction zones as well.

With many rules, there are exceptions, and this law is no different from the rest. It doesn't apply to a highway construction or maintenance worker, or to someone making an emergency phone call.

These emergency purposes include a call to a law enforcement agency, health care provider, or fire department. Recently, the government has deemed it acceptable for one to use their cell phone in a school zone if it is in voice-activated mode.

"I think it will reduce accidents, but there are still people that aren't even aware of this law," said senior Courtney

Johnson.

This law is being strictly enforced in the community of Lemont, and even taught in the Driver's Education course offered at LHS. "I really stress not using phones while driving. The bottom line is that it's not safe," said Driver's Ed teacher Chris Traina. "If you're going to call or text somebody, at least try to pull over."

Distracted driving has become a serious problem in the entire country, and the government has finally decided to act on it. "I hope that everyone will follow [this law], not only the students but the faculty too," stated Traina.

With fines beginning at \$75, all LHS students and staff members are being strongly advised to follow this new law by the town of Lemont, in hopes of creating a safer environment for everyone.



Editorials, p.4

It Never Hurts to Grow Up

There's a fine line between being a kid and downright immaturity

by Kelly Lyons
Editorials Editor

After two grueling class periods, I'm counting down the seconds until lunch. It's nice to have a break and relax with friends after doing school work for over three hours. However, I would rather not spend those precious 27 minutes dodging bits of fries thrown by a select few juvenile underclassmen (you know who you are).

Maturity: it's a word we've all heard and learned the definition of. So why do so many teenagers insist on defying it? After over ten years of schooling, you'd expect high school students to take on "young adult" sort of mindsets.

However, in some cases it seems to be just the opposite. While some people may have always exhibited such sophomoric tendencies, it seems that they have carried these early developed traits into their later lives. As high school begins, a whole new world of school work and activities begins. Consequently, students typically don't have much time to themselves.

So why would you ever want to spend the hour a day you have away from school, homework and activities finishing chores and such when there's a *Degrassi* marathon to watch or a game of Call of Duty to play? After all, Mom and Dad are always there to compensate for you when you're too lazy to get anything done yourself.



Instead of breaking out of this childish mode of dependency, some teenagers delegate their responsibilities to others rather than learn to juggle their own busy new lives. So instead of growing as a person once high school begins, these students' maturity levels will dip rather than increase.

Education.com states that immaturity in children can stem from a broad range of characteristics such as "un-developed communication ability, childish social skills and other perfectly normal aspects of early childhood." If children hold onto these traits while growing up, there isn't much of a chance to emotionally mature and break away from the instinctive immaturity of childhood.

However, easing into the young adult roles of responsibility is something everyone must do during teenage years. Instead of shying away from such changes, people should embrace these new mature roles as they age rather than continue to promote immaturity.

But whether or not this lack of mature social skills is an early developed or learned trait, I would really enjoy attending a lunch period without the constant fear of projectile bits of someone's lunch.

Features, p.5

Homecoming Wraps Up

by Maribeth Van Hecke
Features writer

Homecoming week at LHS this year was full of new colors, new competition and new ideas. The week was full of spirit, crazy costumes and games, as well as lots of fundraising.

The competition was a little different this year. In previous years, Juniors and Seniors would be the ones to battle it out. Surprisingly enough, this year's Sophomore class stepped it up and beat the juniors in the epic spirit battle of the week with 1222 points. The Juniors received 1009 points. The Sophomores and Seniors were the ones going neck and neck when it came down to final totals, but the Seniors ended up taking the top with 1335 spirit points. The Freshmen were a little behind with 761 spirit points. But in the end, it's all about the spirit and not about the points.

Dean Dave Clark reflects on the week in his letter to the editor, "I am proud of the freshmen for showing the most school spirit of any incoming class to date. I am impressed by the strong showing of the sophomore class in being near the points lead all week. The athleticism and competitiveness demonstrated by the junior and senior classes made me smile thinking about our chances in sporting events for the remainder

of this year and beyond. Additionally, the generosity all students have shown in donating food and money confirms the fact that Lemont High School is a caring community school with great kids!" Overall, the week was a success.

Throughout the week, you could see everyone decked out in all of their spirit wear. From babies and old ladies, to dragons and knights, the beginning of spirit week was creative chaos and it only got more intense.

When Thursday rolled around class colors were a bit of a



change from past years. Juniors were transformed from pink to green, while the seniors took over in black. Maybe the juniors pride disappeared with their beloved color, too.

The first Homecoming assembly of the week was also on Thursday. Held in the gym, LHS students filed in and reported to their class' quarter of the gym for the games. Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors battled it out in games like relays, arm

wrestling matches and licorice eating contests. Juniors took the lead in the games as a result of the Seniors multiple disqualifications.

On Friday another assembly was held to announce the totals of spirit links, Homecoming court and the final totals of the week. There were also performances by each JV and Varsity Cheerleading and Poms.

Later Friday night in the brisk fall weather the Varsity football team won their game and many LHS students and alumni came to support the team. For the finale of Homecoming week, LHS held the Homecoming dance in the main gym. Walking in, you could see all of the tropical-themed decorations and students were ready to dance the night away.

Between the food drive and the spirit links sales LHS was able to raise awareness and help the food pantry and Hope and Friendship Ministries from Lemont. The food drive rounded up 900 items of food. The Seniors alone brought in almost half of the total with 411 items. LHS also raised \$1201.75 from spirit links. Seniors captured first place once again.

Homecoming week is always an exciting highlight to the beginning of the school year. It's a great way to raise the spirit of the school and encourage students to step out of their box and be a little crazy. Looking back almost a week later one might start to wonder if anything that crazy could have ever gone on in Lemont.

Features, P.6

Easy A is an A in My Book

by Michael Gaytan

Features writer

Easy A is a stunning new comedy that takes an angle on the classic novel and movie *The Scarlet Letter*. Emma Stone, the background girl of *Superbad* and *Zombieland*, is the star of the movie as Olive Penderghast. The movie is a reminder of how out of control a rumor and lie can get.

In an attempt to get her friend Rhiannon, played by Aly Michalka, off her back, Olive makes up a story about her promiscuity over a weekend that was actually spent with a birthday card and a dog. This is overheard by the pastor's daughter Marianne, played by Amanda Bynes, and spread through the entire school within 10 minutes.

While in detention she tells her homosexual friend Brandon, played by Dan Byrd, that she didn't do anything. He then asks her to pretend like they had a relationship so that he will stop

being tormented at school. He lets other students know she did this and they offer her money, gift cards and coupons to lie for them.

Kids throughout the school are paying her for her pretend favors to make themselves look better while she progressively looks worse. She thinks she can take control of the situation by embracing the false rumors. Unfortunately she becomes the outcast and can't seem to get out of the mess she started.

This comedy is full of witty humor and smart talk, but it is hard to understand at some points. Overall the storyline moves smoothly and is hilarious. The jokes and references to 80s movies make it great.

Though one may think that in such a scandalous movie there couldn't possibly be time for actual romance, they manage to toss it in very well. There are also a few other shockers that are sure to wow any audience.

In short, *Easy A*, with an all-star cast and a sweet plot, is the best teen comedy of the season and a crowd pleaser for sure.



Photos courtesy of Google



Sports, p. 7

Indians Stay Undefeated After Homecoming Win

by Kyle Griffin
Sportswriter

The Indians football team continued their great season on Friday after defeating conference foe TF South 23-17, to please the Lemont homecoming crowd.

Lemont senior quarterback Mike Medwed was injured on the Indians first possession. Junior, Mike Hall replaced Medwed and played the rest of the game. TF South was giving the Indians trouble in the first half, but Lemont got on track after a couple TF South mistakes.

A bad punt snap by TF South in the first half gave the ball to Lemont in great field position. Lemont junior, Mike Anzalone, scored one of his two touchdowns right after the bad snap to put Lemont back in the game right before halftime. Lemont went into halftime leading 13-10.

In the second half Anzalone scored his second touchdown of the night. And later Lemont senior kicker, Mike Orszulak kicked a field goal to give the Indians a 23-10 lead. However TF South was fighting their way back into the game.

Late in the game with 5 minutes left, the Rebels scored a touchdown to give themselves new life. Soon after the Rebels began moving down the field with little time left in the game, but the TF South quarterback, Kevin Hallberg had his pass intercepted by Lemont senior, Clayton Fejedelem.

After, Lemont was forced to punt the ball, TF South got the ball back again at the end of the game. The TF South quarterback threw up a hail mary hoping his prayers would be answered in the end zone, but on the receiving end of his pass was Lemont's Vincenzo Letizia. With the interception, the Indians secured another win to stay undefeated.

Offensive coordinator Brett Nelson has been pleased with the season so far but thinks the team has a lot of improvements to make. "We feel like we can a lot better than we actually are," said Nelson. Coach Nelson believes the team needs to get better if they are going to win conference and get into the playoffs.

The offensive line is very young and inexperienced this year with only one returning starter and with a couple of sophomores. "They've been pretty impressive," stated Nelson. "I think it has been a good year so far and I'm happy with how we've played," said junior Kyle Krull.

Senior Lee Taylor has been making it tough for defenses to guard him which Nelson believes has been an important weapon. "He catches a lot of passes and the defense has to figure out how to defend him," said Nelson. "He plays an important role," said Nelson.

Expect to see the team get into the playoffs and do well. "At this point we can actually say we would like to win a conference championship," stated Nelson. The win against TF South was a big step towards that goal.

It is very important to go into the playoffs with the best record possible because than you get better opportunities to go deep into the playoffs. With an undefeated record, the Indians are looking at great playoff spot. "We can only wait and see," said Nelson.

This Friday the Indians take on Bremen (2-4) at home. "It seems like every week our opponents are tough and if we don't prepare we're in trouble," stated Nelson. The Indians are currently 6-0 and will look to improve to 7-0 against Bremen.



Photos courtesy of Mr. Clark

Sports, p. 8

Girls Golf Takes Conference Title

by Ryan Peraino
Sports writer

The Lemont Indians Girls Golf team won the South Suburban Blue Conference title on Tuesday, Sept. 28. All six girls that participated in the event came in the top ten.

The Indians top golfer, junior Emily Lejman, won conference shooting an 85. Freshman Bridget Lynn was also impressive taking third in conference shooting a 95. Senior Lisa Paloian shot a 99, senior Samantha Reddy shot a 101, senior Meagan DeVries shot a 102, and sophomore Nadya Cortes shot a 106 (all scores for conference tournament were for 18 holes).

"I think that we all met our own goals with our scores. Some of us wanted to do better, but we were still able to pull out a win on an important tournament," said Lejman.

The Indians also received a big victory, Tuesday, Sept. 20, as they defeated Providence Catholic High School 181-184. Top scorers for the Indians were Lejman with a



41, Lynn and Paloian each with a 46, and Reddy with a 48 (scores were for nine holes).

This win just adds to the girls' great season as they improved to 10-1 with this victory. "This has been one of our best years," said Head Coach Bill Mondrella. Lejman has been leading the Indians with a 43 average per nine holes.

The Indians have already improved on last year's 7-5 record. That team made a run into the sectional tournament before being defeated in a tough sectional that featured state champions Homewood Flossmoor. The team would like nothing more than to get back to the sectional tournament. "We have more depth than last year. This year we have six to seven girls that can shoot in the forty's" stated Mondrella.

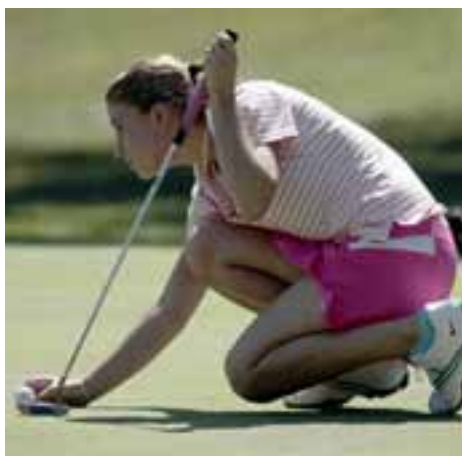
This program will be well off in the years to come. Right now their num-



ber three golfer is freshman Lynn who averages a 48 per nine holes and the JV Girls Golf team is 9-0. "We have had a number of girls that shot well with both Varsity and JV. This shows the depth we have," said Mondrella.

A tough matchup faces them on Saturday in the Rosary Invitational. Mondrella would like to see the team finish in the top five. "The team keeps getting better and is bringing in lower scores. I have some goals that I am still trying to work on to make myself better," stated Lejman.

This has been a great year for the girls and this conference championship is just another accomplishment that shows their hard work. No matter what happens in the post season, it has been a great season.



Photos courtesy of Google

Sports, p. 9

Cross Country Runs On

by Ian Stratta
Sports writer

Midway through the varsity boys' and girls' seasons, both teams are ready to show what they have in store. The girls cross country team is lead by assistant coach, Stefanie Baldauf and head coach, Tim Plotke while the boys team is coached by Jon DeGuzman.

Last season proved to be successful for both teams. The girls varsity team was dominant. They placed 1st in conference and finished 20th in state. The boys were impressive as well. They finished 3rd in conference and did not place in state.

DeGuzman believes in his boys as much as anyone. He says, "The team is doing fantastic this year, especially in these bigger meets. We are able to see what our younger guys are capable of." "With all the work we are putting in, I think we can [advance to state]" he says.

As for the girls, Plotke is just as confident. He states, "Win conference, win regionals and be one of the top five teams at sectionals to qualify for state." He goes on to say, "If we run the way we're capable of, yes [my goals for the team] would be attainable."

So far this season, both teams have improved. Junior Amber Trick and sophomore Wendy Mazur have been the most impressive. Trick has a team best 18:42 time in a single race. Mazur has a 19:21 time which is good for 2nd best on the girls team. The captains on the girls team are seniors Annie Forzley and Megan Flanagan. The boys team captain is senior Tom Hoster.

Most recently both squads traveled to Joliet for the Plainfield South meet. LHS, Plainfield South, Nequa Valley and other schools showed up. The girls team finished 4th overall in the meet with the best performer being Mazur finishing 4th with a 19:50 time. The boys team finished 6th while their best performer was Hoster with at 16:24 time and a 10th place finish.

Forzley, one of the girls team's captains, thinks her team is great this year. "I absolutely believe that we can win conference. This year our main competition is Hillcrest. They have a really fast group of varsity girls and our main focus now is to make the gap between our first runner and 7th runner as small as possible," she says. "My goal this season is to qualify for state, preferably as a team. Being my senior year, it would be awesome to run my last race at the state meet in Peoria. I am shooting for a 3 mile time of 15:45," Hoster states.

While the team seems to be rolling smoothly, the season is not over yet. Both the boys and the girls are ready to give it their all as the season progresses. The next meet is a freshman/sophomore meet this Thursday, October 7.



Photos courtesy of Google