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Issue 17

Lemont FBLA

Takes the Lead

by Brittany Baldwin
News writer

On Saturday, Jan. 22, the Lemont chapter of FBLA attended the Northern Area Conference Regional Competition at Warren Township High School. Of the 50 FBLA members that competed in various categories, 28 will be advancing to the State Leadership Conference on Feb. 25-26 in Decatur, Illinois.

Lemont FBLA competitors took first place in Management Information Systems, Management Decision Making and Battle of the Chapters.

FBLA advisor, Bill Mondrella attributes "hard work and preparing" to the success achieved in the competition. Mondrella added, "The kids who prepare do well, and the kids who don't [prepare] don't do so well... it's all about what kind of time they put in."

Co-FBLA advisor, John Aspel finds "having a good leadership team" to be equally beneficial when it comes to doing well in competition. Aspel strives to motivate members before competition by letting them know "they are

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Seniors Krystian Paszek (left), Will Collins (middle), and Dylan Matthews (right) placed first in Management Decision Making in Saturday's competition.

photo courtesy of Michael Gayton and Maddie George

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here to represent LHS.”

In addition to the individual work that FBLA members put into preparing for competition, Mondrella and Aspel prepare members by providing them with judge’s evaluations of their presentations, so that members can learn from these critiques.

As the State Leadership Conference approaches, Mondrella looks forward to the festivities that accompany the competition, including a “dance and talent contest.” Mondrella stated, “There [are] close to 800 kids [at the State Competition], so it’s a big thing, and it’s enjoyable.”

Aspel, on the other hand, looks forward to winning at the State Competition. Aspel added, “I want the students to do well and have a good time.”

FBLA President, Danny Banas has found this organization to be very beneficial. Banas stated, “[FBLA] definitely helps getting into college...depending on how you do in the State or National Competition, you can get up to \$1000 in scholarships.”

Although FBLA Vice President, Dylan Matthews, also found FBLA to be beneficial when applying to colleges, Matthews mostly enjoys “the people in FBLA.”

Both Banas and Matthews strongly encourage those individuals interested in joining FBLA next year to do so. Banas recommends, “Try it out. If it’s not for you, you can always leave later...but I really think a lot of people can benefit from [FBLA].”

For more information about the Lemont chapter of FBLA, please log onto www.lemontfbla.com.

Here Comes

DECISION

by Dylan Blaha
Head Editor

Time

It’s the beginning of February, which means many seniors have already made their college choice or are very close to doing so. For those who accepted their admission to a school prior to this moment, I applaud you.

Life-changing decisions – that’s all senior year seems to be about now. First, you pick where to apply, then wait for acceptance letters; finally, when they arrive, you must decide on only one.

But wait, there’s more! Envelopes flood your kitchen table, each full of information on meal plans and housing options; scholarship and honor program applications, with at least two essays each, become the new stressor.

“Will it ever end?!” you scream, as tears take form.

I often deal with far too many stressed-out teenagers in my profession (probably because I’m still in high school). Sadly, the scenario above is not so far from the truth.

Those who have already made the big decision, I hope you stopped reading by now, at least for informative reasons. Those who haven’t, take a deep breath and chill; college will be the best four years of your life, no matter where you go.

Recently, after lots and lots (and lots) of thinking, I narrowed my college list from four to one. While I will not mention my personal decision at this time, I will share a couple reasons behind it.

Obviously, money weighs on the mind in any decision, especially when it involves college. I checked all scholarships the schools offered and already received two presidential scholarships, with another pending. I bet I’m not the only one who likes to save a little cash, so do yourself a favor and find some money-savers.

Program quality also factored into the entire ordeal. Since I plan to major in nursing, it makes sense to research whether or not each college’s nursing programs are above average before jumping in.

Unlike taking a test, the answer may seem unclear. Hard decisions never come easy, but you’ll never know if you made the right one if you never try.

photos courtesy of Google

Monkey See, Monkey Do TV’S EFFECT ON TEENAGERS

by Kelly Lyons
Editorials Editor

After school, all most teenagers really want to do is crash on the couch and watch some trashy reality television. Some popular choices are *16 and Pregnant*, *Teen Mom*, *Jersey Shore* and other equally as classy MTV programs.

Some people think teens should be introduced to pressing matters such as sex, pregnancy and drugs in order to understand the consequences, but could these shows be having the opposite intended effect?

It isn’t uncommon for the cast of such shows to be seen on entertainment news or on the cover of tabloids. These small screen reality show stars are commonly glamorized. But for what? Having a baby before taking the ACT? Drinking more than their bodyweights? Or contracting an ungodly amount of diseases while shacking up during the never-ending series *The Real World*?

Granted, teenagers are obviously mature enough to make decisions for themselves, whether these choices are good or bad. But what some of them don’t realize is exactly how impressionable their young minds really are.

The reason today’s teen television programming is so negative is because the stars make it seem like there are never any consequences for their actions. Whether or not they realize it, many teens absorb and imitate this warped reality. If “the Situation” can go out and drink to his heart’s content and get with as many girls as he pleases, it must be okay, right?

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Wrong. In society, we have “norms.” According the dictionary.com, norms are “a standard, model or pattern” for a specific group of people. And in the media age we’re living in, who sets the norm? That would be none other than the disgraceful, shameless television stars who seem to be taking over your television screens.

Writer David R. Smith of thesource4ym.com states that according to the nonprofit research institution the RAND Corporation, “adolescents with ‘high levels of exposure to television shows containing sexual content are twice as likely to be involved with a pregnancy as those with less exposure.’”

Although most teens can easily admit the careless, partying ways of their favorite reality stars are borderline ridiculous, the mere sight of such behavior desensitizes people to such inappropriate behavior. After watching hours upon hours of television shows exhibiting vulgar behavior, the shock value dramatically decreases.

Soon enough, the behavior seems almost normal; in other words, it’s been done before. And since teenage years tend to result in peers racing to be just as “experienced” as one another, this type of situation never really ends well.

Of course, it’s impossible to avoid the clutches of today’s media. And truthfully, teenagers should be aware of the social pretenses they may face. But for god’s sake, do we really need any more of the population striving to be the next Snooki?

From Your Valentine

by Annie Lillwitz
Editorials writer

Valentine’s Day, also known as Single Awareness Day, is often referred to as a “Hallmark holiday.” In other words, a commercial holiday invented to sell cards and other Hallmark products.

This is a common misconception. As a matter of fact, Valentine’s Day has many legends behind how it came about.

One particularly romantic tale, found on stvalentinesday.org, tells of a Christian man, named Valentine, who was thrown in prison as a punishment for his religion because Romans did not approve of Christianity at the time.

Valentine was loved by all the town’s children. They were so fond of him they even threw flowers and notes between the bars of his cell; perhaps the reason we exchange flowers and notes today.

Some also believe Valentine may have had feelings for the jailer’s blind daughter, who often delivered notes to him. Days before his execution, Valentine prayed that she would regain her sight, and his prayer was answered.

Before he was finally executed on February 14 he left the girl a note signed “from your Valentine;” a signature that stuck.

Whether or not the legend is true, the holiday has substance behind it, unlike other token “Hallmark holiday.”

Father’s Day and Sweetest Day are some examples. Although Mother’s Day is also often thought of as Hallmark, it’s said to have originally dated back to an annual festival held by the Greek, in honor of a Goddess named Rhea.

Father’s Day, however, was invented solely to compliment Mother’s Day. As for the history of Sweetest Day, it can be found on the Hallmark website.

According to hallmark.com, Sweetest Day was created by a man who worked in a candy company and wished to bring happiness to the lives of the lonely or forgotten, but the idea eventually expanded to include others, such as lovers and co-workers... a knock-off of Valentine’s Day if you ask me.

Valentine’s Day is the one day of the year we really take to appreciate our significant other, or, if you’re anything like me, celebrate our freedom.

Valentine’s Day may be all about sharing the love with your sweetheart, but for all the single pringles out there, it should be about celebrating love in general; love for your friends, family, maybe even your pets.

So whether you’re celebrating alone, with friends or with your special someone, remember to share the love this Valentine’s day.

Have a happy Valentine’s Day, LHS.

photos courtesy of Google

FEATURES

IT’S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...

by Andrea Earnest
Features Editor

Americans have always had a fascination with award shows. Is it the fashion? I always like to see my favorite stars shine on the red carpet...or flop. Is it the embarrassing speeches? The proof that celebrities are just like us; they trip on stage, stutter and can’t even make eye contact with the camera (see Kristen Stewart.)

Whatever the reason, awards shows always kill it in the ratings. The awkward moments, long speeches and angry actors seem to keep Americans entertained for the duration of the ceremonies. I don’t know why the rest of America watches, but maybe I can shed some light on the situation by telling you why I tune in.

Fashion. As always, there are the stars that work it on the red carpet, and some just crash and burn. Stars like Anne Hathaway and Angelina Jolie were favorites at the Golden Globes this year. Jolie broke out of her trademark black dress routine and wore a green dress. Ground-breaking, right?

Nude colored dresses seem to be a popular choice among actresses this year. But here’s a little tip: if you wear a color dress that is similar to the color of your skin, it doesn’t look flattering. It looks like you’re wearing nothing at all, which is just kind of creepy.

Now I’m not a fashion expert by any means, but even I can tell that some of these stars need to fire their stylists. One actress who stood out on the red carpet, for the good or the bad, was Helena Bonham Carter.

The eccentric actress usually shocks critics with her fashion choices, and this year was no exception. She donned some curly hair extensions, put on a dress that was an interesting combination of rainbow and tulle and called it a day.

Oh, and she also put on two different colored shoes. Critics were shocked, but most of the audience was not. We have just come to expect this from Helena Bonham Carter.

My favorite moment of Golden Globes was when Chris Colfer won Best Supporting Actor in a TV series, miniseries or television film for his portrayal of Kurt Hummel on *Glee*. The *Glee* sweetheart took the stage in tears, appearing both humble and grateful for the cameras. Being a Gleek myself, I was extremely happy to see the actor awarded for his fantastic performance.

Award seasons will continue with the Grammy awards on Feb. 13, and then the Oscars on Feb. 27. The Red Carpet usually airs on E! an hour or so before the award show starts. Prepare for some laughs, awkwardness and cheering on your favorite celebrities.

Award Season 2011



Photos Courtesy of Google

FEATURES

FEATURES

Slopes vs. Trails

by Bridget Carr
Features writer

While some people complain non-stop about snow, others are eager to take advantage of the recreation it offers. Skiing has become a much-loved winter attraction, whether you prefer hitting the slopes or venturing down a wooded trail.

Cross-country and downhill skiing both provide fun exercise, new challenges and a perfect chance to enjoy the winter weather before the snow melts away.

I have always liked cross-country skiing best, but I find downhill skiing to be exhilarating and equally enjoyable.

Given the proximity of ski trails and the major cost differences, cross-country skiing is much more convenient in this area. I find cross-country skiing to be fairly relaxing and it feels more like an adventure than a sport, while still attaining a decent workout.

If you're thinking in terms of practicality, it would be cheaper to rent a pair of skis and poles and head to a

nearby golf-course or forest preserve than to make the long drive to a downhill skiing resort.

However, for those who prefer less of an endurance workout and more of a thrill, finding a downhill skiing resort isn't too much of a hassle. There are several resorts within a few hours distance that provide rentals, lessons and an abundance of multi-level slopes.

Not to mention, snowboarding is always an additional option available on the slopes, for those looking to engage in a different and possibly more challenging winter sport.

Nearby cross-country ski attractions include Camp Sagawau in Lemont, Arrowhead golf course in Wheaton and Woodruff golf course in Joliet. Skiing is allowed at most forest preserves as well, although they don't provide rental services.

As for downhill resorts, there are many in Wisconsin and Michigan that have gained popularity in recent years. To name a few: Boyne Mountain and Nub's Nob in Michigan, and Cascade Mountain and Devils Head in Wisconsin.

So LHS, grab your skis and hit the slopes!



Photos Courtesy of Google

The Top 10 Movies of 2010



Many people have debated over the quality of films made in 2010 and the public has chosen its response to the question: what were the best movies in 2010? Here are my top picks for 2010.

10. Easy A

Easy A is a sassy film that tells a story which is comedic but also shows the real and secret lives of teenagers. The film was a break-out role for actress Emma Stone.

9. How to Train your Dragon

How to Train your Dragon is a heartwarming story which teaches the moral that you can't judge a book by its cover. It incorporates the right amount of action and adventure, and is fun for all ages.

8. Alice in Wonderland

Tim Burton's twist on the classic *Alice in Wonderland* is evil and dark, but it also contains a good amount of comedy. I applaud the film for a wonderful cast and great storyline that kept viewers entertained.

7. Iron Man 2

Iron Man 2 did not disappoint me. It was action packed and the story was very interesting. There was something always going on, which kept me engaged and on the edge of my seat.



Photos Courtesy of Google

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6. *R.E.D*

Who wouldn't enjoy watching a film about retired C.I.A agents? I know I wouldn't be able to give it up. *R.E.D* had an amazing cast with actors like Bruce Willis and Morgan Freeman. All actors gave an amazing performance in the film.

5. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part I*

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows is number five on my list. It had, as always, a great cast and a good storyline. I haven't read the series, but I thought the film was fantastic.

4. *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*

My love for movies, videogames and comics was all mashed up into this film. It was hilarious! It was very awkward, in a funny way, and always kept my attention.

3. *Toy Story 3*

Ok, let's face it. I think teenagers were more interested to see this than kids. I grew up with *Toy Story*! It was nice to relive old memories through the new film.

2. *True Grit*

I had high expectations for this film. The original starred John Wayne, and I was hoping *True Grit* would not disappoint. Jeff Bridges had a great performance, and the film was almost exactly like the original.

1. *Tron: Legacy*

Tron: Legacy was an amazing movie and a great sequel to the original, which starred Jeff Bridges. The music, the scenes and everything else in the film was so futuristic!

Although there were many great flicks that were released in 2010, these are my favorites. Head to the nearest video store and rent these movies. You won't regret it!



SPORTS



PERFECTION

by Kyle Griffin
Sports writer

On Saturday Jan. 15, LHS junior Brandon Jarboe bowled a perfect game as the crowd watched in awe. With this accomplishment, Brandon became one of the elite bowlers in the state and he hopes to be able to step up again at state.

Brandon, and the team, recently qualified for state on Jan. 22 at the Hinsdale South Sectional with the help of some outstanding bowling from junior Justin Knoelk. This is the first time Lemont has ever qualified for state in bowling.

Jarboe and Knoelk have been very important attributes to the team lately. Jarboe placed 2nd overall when he bowled a 300, while Knoelk became the first bowler in school history to win an IHSA sectional individual title.

The team has been doing exceptionally well and hopes they can carry the momentum into the state finals at the St. Claire bowl on Jan. 28-29.

The Tom-Tom recently chatted with the excellent bowler, Jarboe, after his great accomplishment. This is how it went:

TomTom: Are you the best bowler on the team, be honest?

Brandon Jarboe: No, I believe that Justin Knoelk is a more consistent bowler. He leads us and definitely keeps us on track.



TT: How nervous were you when you were about to throw your last ball when you bowled a 300?

BJ: Well, I wasn't that nervous to be honest. I figured that I already threw 11 strikes in a row so why shouldn't I be able to throw 12.

TT: Do you think you can pull off another 300 at state?

BJ: I don't know. It all depends on the lane conditions there.

TT: What professional athlete is most similar to you?

BJ: I don't know any professional bowlers, but if I had to choose an athlete it would be White Sox's catcher A.J. Pierzynski because we have similar personalities.

TT: What is the best thing about being on the bowling team?

BJ: You get to know a lot of people and make a lot of friends.

TT: Do you guys have any team rituals?

BJ: We don't do anything fancy. Before we start a match or a tournament we do a Lemont break on three.

TT: If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

BJ: It would have to be to the Bahamas because I have always wanted to go there.

Brandon Jarboe bowled a perfect game on Saturday Jan. 15.



Photos Courtesy of Google

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TOP 10

SPORTS MOMENTS OF 2010

by Ryan Peraino
Sports writer

2010 was another great year in sports. It featured special events that only happen every four years, like the Winter Olympics, the World Cup and many memorable games and plays. Here is what the LHS Tom-Tom believes are the top sports moments of 2010.

#10- Miami Heat land LeBron James, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade off of free agency

The NBA's three most "big ticket" free agents were James, Bosh and Wade. The biggest free agent was James who was being sought after by the Knicks, Bulls, Cavaliers, Mavericks, Nets, Clippers and Heat. On July 7, 2010 Wade and Bosh announced that they would be playing together with the Miami Heat. A day later, in a one hour ESPN special called *The Decision*, James an-



UCONN Women Basketball team

nounced that he would be "taking his talents to South Beach and join the Miami Heat."

#9- UCONN Women Basketball Wins 90 Games in a Row

The UCONN Women's Basketball team beat the record for most consecutive wins in college basketball when they defeated Florida State University on Dec. 21, 2010 by a score of 93-62. They beat UCLA's old record of 88 consecutive wins. On Dec. 30, 2010 UCONN lost their streak with a loss to Stanford, 71-59.

#8- Isner beats Mahut in 11 Hour Match (June 23-24, 2010)

John Isner beat Nick Mahut in the longest tennis match in tennis history. The Wimbledon match took 11 hours and 5 minutes. The sets were 6-4, 3-6, 6-7 (7), 7-6 (3) and 70-68.

#7- Mark Buerhle Makes Play of the Year on Opening Day (April 5, 2010)

On Opening Day, Mark Buerhle made the MLB play of the year. In the top of the 5th inning, with one out, and a 2-2 count on Lou Marson, Marson hit a line drive right back at Buerhle. It hit him in the foot and deflected into foul territory down the first base line. He then ran over to the ball and used his glove to flip it between his legs to Paul Konerko. Marson was called out to the amazement of the crowd.

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Mark Buerhle being congratulated after making the play of the year on opening day for the Chicago White Sox

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#6- Hester breaks Punt/Kick Return Record (Dec. 20, 2010)

On Monday Night Football, at the University of Minnesota, Devin Hester broke the NFL Return record with his 14th kick/punt return for 63 yards to break the record.

#5- Two Perfect Games

On May 9, 2010 Dallas Braden threw a perfect game in a 4-0 A's win over the Rays. Days later on May 29 Roy Halladay threw a perfect game in a 1-0 win over the Marlins.

#4- Brett Favre Consecutive Games Streak Ends (Dec. 13, 2010)

Brett Favre didn't start for the first time in 297 games and ended his consecutive games streak.

#3- Patrick Kane's goal vs. Nashville (April 24, 2010)

With the first round series tied 2-2 and the Hawks down by a goal with less than a minute to play, things didn't look promising. Then to add insult to injury Marian Hossa went to the penalty box for a five minute major. It looked as if the Hawks were going to go into Nashville down 3-2. But Patrick Kane scored a shorthanded goal with 13 seconds to send the game into overtime. After Hossa finished his penalty, he ended up scoring the game winning goal.

#2- Landon Donovan Scores in Extra Time to Advance The USA out of Group Stage (June 23, 2010)

In stoppage time Donovan got the ball in his own half and brought the ball up the pitch. He found Clint Dempsey in the middle of the field and Dempsey had a shot. The Algeria keeper made a great save but Donovan was there for the rebound. This goal advanced the United States out of Group Stage.

#1- Chicago Blackhawks win the Stanley Cup (June 9, 2010)

The Chicago Blackhawks beat the Philadelphia Flyers in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Finals by a score of 4-3. Patrick Kane scored the game-winning goal in overtime and from there the party began.



Chicago Bears, Hester, running back a touchdown



Chicago Blackhawk, Patrick Kane, scoring the final goal in the Stanley Cup