

Lemont High School  
800 Porter Street  
Lemont, IL 60439

# TOM TOM

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Issue 8

## UNCHOSSEN

### Author Visits

## LHS

Erin O'Connor  
*News writer*

Author Erica O'Rourke will be speaking in the Learning Resource Center at Lemont High School on Oct. 20. The visit will be part of "Txt M@tters" week at the high school, in correspondence with the National Day of Writing.

O'Rourke will be talking about her soon-to-be published book *UNCHOSSEN*. The "dark, urban fantasy," is to publish sometime in 2011. The book is also the 2010 Golden Heart Winner for Best Young Adult Manuscript. Students will be able to listen to O'Rourke speak during all lunch periods on the 20. At this time, they will be able to talk and ask questions about reading, writing and publishing.

Learning Resource Center Director, Kathy Mayer, said, "Students are encouraged to bring their lunch to the LRC and talk with author Erica O'Rourke. Erica is prepared to speak about becoming

a published author - how she was discovered, the process of publishing, and more. The talk will be relatively informal with plenty of opportunities to ask questions of Erica!" about how the event will be run and, "Come to the event itself! There's not much more to be told about the event until it happens," about how students can gain information regarding how to attend the event.

Tickets will be available for the event up until the day it happens, and can be attained through The Writing Center, The Learning Resource Center, or any English teacher.

Although little is known about O'Rourke's book, it is about a girl named Mo who wakes up in the hospital to "the smell of Lysol and the end of the world," though she doesn't know it at the time. Mo assumes her friend Verity, the

last person she remembers before awakening in the ER, is in the hospital too, but she's not sure how they got there.

Mayer also spoke of how she feels the event will be of use to all levels of students stating, "Authors, like Erica, offer us a window into the competitive world of writing and publishing. They are able to communicate the value of being an effective writer, committed to crafting quality content. Moreover, an author excels in championing the value of reading because s/he writes for the sole purpose of sharing what s/he has created. If no one reads, then no one appreciates the story being offered.

In addition, the LRC will be hosting a "Shout Out" on Friday Oct. 22, along with numerous other events in relation to Txt M@tters week.



photo courtesy of Google



# News, p. 2

## News Briefs

by Morgan McPartland  
News writer

### Record Number of LHS Students Named as AP Scholars

The College Board has cited 31 LHS students with AP Scholar honors, based on their performance on the college-level Advanced Placement (AP) Program Exams. Taken in May 2010, these exams gave students an opportunity to take challenging courses while still in high school and receive college credit.

The mission of the College Board is to connect students to college success and opportunity, and it is a non-profit membership organization. The 31 students that were recognized, which include 10 current seniors, were honored with awards based on each student's performance.

While the College Board offers more than 30 AP exams, LHS currently offers 10 AP courses. All of the current seniors can still earn college-level credit this year, and are eligible to receive another AP Scholar Award next fall.

For more information, contact Director of School and Community Relations Tony Hamilton ([tonyh@lemont.k12.il.us](mailto:tonyh@lemont.k12.il.us)) at (630) 243-3280.



### New Grant Program at LHS

Cash grants as high as \$2,500 supporting a variety of journalism, multi-media and First Amendment projects are now available for LHS. The Illinois First Amendment Center, IFAC, is offering this mini-grant program to all public or private high schools in Illinois with existing media programs.

The IFAC will fund projects such as providing newsrooms with hardware and/or software needed to produce print or online newspaper, improving multimedia training programs for students and expanding photojournalism programs or training. Yearbooks will not be funded, and home schools are not eligible to apply for a grant.

However, this new program was not made to start a journalism program where none exists- only to help fund those that do. All grant proposals are due on or before January 15, 2011 and no late requests will be considered.

For information on how to apply for a grant or where to submit it, visit [www.ifac.us](http://www.ifac.us).

### Fields of Faith 2010

Since 2004, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has sponsored a

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program called Fields of Faith. More than 250,000 students have gathered to participate in the games, listen to guest speakers, and take advantage of the opportunity to meet fellow Christian students.

The FCA huddle from LHS decided to attend the event for the first time last Wednesday, Oct. 13. A worship band from Olivet's FCA played music for the students, leaders, and parents present, and former NFL player, Babatunde Oshinowo, was this year's guest speaker.

All students from nearby high schools were invited to attend Fields of Faith, which took place at Plainfield North High School on Wednesday night. Fields of Faith was outside in the football stadium, and a few FCA members from LHS traveled to PNHS to experience it for themselves. "I hope LHS will host the event next year on our own football field so that more students can attend," said Head Sponsor Jackie Brown.

To learn more about fields of faith, visit [www.fieldsofffaith.com](http://www.fieldsofffaith.com) or their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/fieldsofffaith](http://www.facebook.com/fieldsofffaith).



*Photos by Kaley Sullivan*

*Lemont's AP scholars.  
Not pictured: Jake Groselak*





# News, p. 4

## Blah, Blah, Blaha

### Senioritis: Now That's a Scary Thought

by Dylan Blaha  
Head Editor

As the second full month of school comes to a close, every hard-working student's worst nightmare starts to make an appearance. Many children get scared when something goes bump in the night; for LHS seniors, the prospect of catching a familiar sickness causes far more apprehension.

This lingering fear of failure has been provoked by a growing trend, or as some refer to it, a "disease." Parents, although it's non-fatal, the effects can be lethal, so be on the lookout.

The illness in question is, of course, senioritis.

According to UrbanDictionary.com, symptoms of senioritis include "laziness, [and] an over-excessive wearing of track pants, old athletic shirts, sweatpants, athletic shorts and sweatshirts." In addition, an onset of repeated absences, decreased studying and dismissive attitude tends to occur in severe cases.

Although many treatments have been tested (yelling, grounding and more yelling), the only cure for the senioritis bug is an event known as Graduation.

Perhaps some of you are saying, "Dear lord, that sounds a lot like me," or "My son has been playing *Killzone*: 2 a lot lately." Don't worry, the description matches me a little too closely as well.

Mentioning athletic shorts and track pants, a deadly combination I include in almost every outfit, makes me believe I already succumb to the disease. Honestly, if the definition included anything about a trashy beard I would have gone ahead and assumed that Urban Dictionary was simply describing "Dylan Blaha."

However, some skeptics believe senioritis to be nothing more than a made-up sickness. "I think it's stupid," senior Natalia Okon argued. "We have college ahead of us, and it's not going to allow slack. Why slip into a habit of not doing anything when we should be preparing for college work?"

"Senior year in the U.S. has been based on the 19th century premise that 80% of students will go back to the farm after graduation," Stanford University education professor Michael Kirst told *Time Magazine*. "In small ways, people are starting to reclaim senior year."

The "small ways" Kirst referred to are none other than Advanced Placement classes, dual-enrollment courses and internship programs. Like most area schools, LHS offers all three in some capacity.

I have only one thing to say to Mr. Kirst: just because I take an AP class and dual-enrollment course does not mean that I won't let the effects of senioritis get the best of me.

Those who fear the onset of senioritis and its many symptoms preach that getting accepted into college does not signal the end of all homework, essays and tests. Thanks Doctor Obvious.

Whether we accept it or not, the senioritis plague attacks both the strong-willed and faint of heart. And when it does, I'm sure I have a pair of athletic shorts I'll let you borrow, free of charge.

photos courtesy of Google



# Editorials, p. 5

## To Work or Not to Work? That is the question

by Kelly Lyons  
Editorials Editor

When I come home around 5 P.M. after hours of school, band and tennis, all I really want is some relaxation... not my mother nagging me once again about being an unemployed teenager. Sure, building a solid work ethic at an early age is never a bad thing. But when there never seems to be enough time in one day, how would I juggle a job as well?

For plenty of teenagers, high school is about paving a solid pathway to their choice colleges. This means most of their time is devoted to sports, clubs, homework, volunteer work... you name it. These factors build up and barely leave room for fun, or sleep for that matter, in students' schedules.

However beneficial having a job may be for young adults, there are many downsides for busy, involved students. For example, focusing on work-related aspects may take attention away from school work. After a long day of school and work, most teenagers barely have enough energy to check their Facebook.

However, Senior Dan Zmarzinski disagrees. He believes that, "high school jobs are a good thing because it teaches [students] to start learning the meaning of money. Also it prepares them for



the future [because] it starts exercising adult thinking which will be later valuable for balancing family and work."

Of course being employed and saving up for college and what not can always be positive... just not during periods when you find yourself at school for up to 12 hours a day and you're barely keeping up with your classes. When time allows, getting a job is a great idea. But I don't think it's smart to sacrifice academics and activities for work.

Kidshealth.org states, "high school is also not just about careers and getting a high paying job- it's a place for learning about yourself and the world." Jobs may hinder students from reaping all the benefits of a true "high school experience."

After all, I'm sure you've been told millions of times that "you have your whole life to work!" And it's true. Although getting a job may be beneficial to you at some point in your high school career, remember that there are so many more things to worry about other than working at this age.

photos courtesy of Google



# Features, p.6

## Have You Got Your Dose of Colorful Music?

by Maribeth Van Hecke

Features writer

Neon Trees' music catches listeners' attention with its colorful, catchy sound. It is clear how much they love their music.

You may not think you've heard of Neon Trees, but once their newest hit single "Animal" comes on the radio, you'll realize that you have. "Animal" has landed number fifteen on iTunes top songs as well as Billboard top 100 and 1st on the Alternative Rock Chart.

The pop rock or new wave band is composed of Tyler Glen (lead vocals), Chris Allen (guitar), Branden Campbell (bass) and Elaine Bradley (drums/vocals). Neon Trees was born in Southern California, but the band now calls Provo, Utah home.

As a group, they like to keep themselves grounded and continue to make music without their heads being



Photos courtesy of Google

wrapped up in showbiz. They know why they started in the first place.

Like any honest artist or group, their music is close to their hearts. Their lyrics are full of passion for life and music itself. It's quite obvious when you are listening to their songs such as "1983" or "Girls and Boys in School".

Neon Trees' sound is definitely unique and fun to listen to. Some similar artists would be the Killers, Paper Tongues and Civil Twilight, to name a few. They all deliver passion with their music.

Obviously, their passion for their music is what got Neon Trees this far, and will be what's guiding them in the future to more success. The colorful energy in their music will be what catches their listeners and will also be what keeps them there.

# Features, p.7

## "The Best is Yet to Come..."

by Michael Gaytan

Features writer

"Please welcome to the stage a true legend, Frank Sinatra!" As the announcer is introducing Sinatra, the crowd goes wild. This was a regular thing for Ol' Blue Eyes.

Francis Albert Sinatra is arguably the best entertainer to ever live. His shows were lively, he acts were comical and his voice was unforgettable.

He started singing at the age of eight for tips in a club and by age 20 he had joined a group known as the Hoboken Four. By 25, he moved on to record his first songs.

At the time, music was mainly recorded for adult entertainment, but Sinatra opened up the music world to a new audience: teenagers. As he started aging, his audience changed, but he never lost the charm that he had throughout his early years.

He recorded 59 studio albums, 8 compilation albums, 10 live albums and conducted 7 albums. He starred in 60 films, 31 documentaries and his own hit television show. He won countless awards for his contributions to many different causes, his wonderful music and his inspiring life.

Sinatra was also part of a singing and acting group called the Rat Pack along with Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Joey



Photos courtesy of Google

Bishop and Peter Lawford. Together, they made 13 films and 6 albums. Their comedy styling was original and their shows were hilarious.

The reason that I listen to Frank Sinatra is because he is a very inspiring person. He knew what he was talking about and it is amazing to be able to listen to his music for years and years

after his death.

The song 'That's Life' is essentially about how life gets you down sometimes, but you always need to keep a positive mindset. To me, that is one of the most important things in life because if you are happy then life is good and vice versa.

His timeless classics 'My Way,' 'This Town,' 'Come Fly with Me' and his takes on 'Fly Me to the Moon,' 'Chicago' and 'Softly as I Leave You' will be cherished forever.

Though he is still very popular throughout the world, his popularity is not as high as it once was. He is an artist whose legacy will live on forever, but as a young generation, the future, we are the ones that need to pass on the music to our next generation.

Don't pass up any opportunity to listen to or watch this magnificent artist. If you have never heard him, you will be amazed at what you've been missing. If you have, you will be amazed at what you have still yet to come across.

His career and life were inspirational and his name will live on. Frankie once said, "I would like to be remembered as a man who had a wonderful time living life, a man who had good friends, fine family - and I don't think I could ask for anything more than that, actually," and he did much more than that: he changed lives.



# Features, p.8

## “The 13 Nights” Are Back

by Lindsay Simonetta  
Features writer

October is the month of pumpkin carvings, trick-or-treating and most important, scary stories. But, if you're not creative enough, or if you want some entertainment, ABC Family has you covered. For 13 nights in October, Halloween movies will be played on ABC Family.

On Tuesday Oct. 19, the phenomenon known as *13 Nights of Halloween* will be returning to television for its yearly Halloween movie special. Every night between Oct. 19 and 31, there will be at least one Halloween program shown. Whether you like scary or comedic Halloween movies, this special is for you. This allows enjoyable viewings for all different types of individuals, along with different age groups.

The movies that are played are very diverse, but all have a common element: Halloween. The movies range from *Casper Meets Wendy*, *The Goonies* and *Willy Wonka* to movies like *The Mask*, *Hocus Pocus* and *Practical Magic*. Not only do they have the element of Halloween in common with each other, but they are all family friendly.

This year, some of the movies that will be played are repeats from the years previous, but there are a few new movies. For instance, the ABC Family Premiere of *Pirates of the Caribbean: the Curse of the Black Pearl* will appear on Oct. 22.

Not many people know about this interesting movie special, and the people that do know, do not really know where it originated from. *13 Nights of Halloween* began on Fox in 1998, but in late 2001, ABC purchased it and has been screening it every year since.

So take a break for a few hours each day to sit down with your Halloween candy and watch the spooky *13 Nights of Halloween*...you'll get the shivers!



Photos courtesy of Google

# SPORTS, P. 9

## Blackhawks Back in Action

by Ryan Peraino  
Sports writer

It seems like just yesterday that millions of people filled the streets of downtown Chicago to celebrate the Blackhawks' first championship in 49 years. Saturday, October 9 the Hawks raised their new banners and had their one last moment with the Stanley Cup before they gave it back to the NHL. That means a new season is underway and last year means nothing.

A new season means a new team and new faces. Eleven players from last year's Stanley Cup team, including key players like Anti Niemi, Dustin Byfuglien and Kris Versteeg, won't be back for the Hawks this year because of salary cap issues.

"We've got a great group of guys here, and a lot of the guys that everybody fell in love with are still here," said General Manager Stan Bowman.

There are eight new players on the team and fans expect to see promising things from them. To name a few, Marty Turco and Corey Crawford will replace Niemi in net. Turco is a 36 year old veteran who spent many years with the Dallas Stars before coming to Chicago. Crawford was with the Blackhawks' AHL affiliate, the Rockford Ice Hogs, before being promoted to the Hawks. Coming into the season, he had one NHL win under his belt.

Nick Leddy was planning on going back to the University of Wisconsin for his sophomore year, but after Brian Campbell got injured, the Hawks needed Leddy on the roster. "He's a solid young defenseman," said LHS junior and Hawks season ticket holder Kyle Millinowisch. "He's gonna be a stud for the Hawks." Leddy scored his first NHL goal on October 11 against the Buffalo Sabers.

Many people have been wondering how the Hawks would replace key role players like Brent Sopel and Dustin Byfuglien. When Brian Campbell comes back from his injury, it looks like he will take the place of Brent Sopel on the penalty kill. Dustin Byfuglien's big body in front of the net will be replaced by Tomas Koppecky.

The Hawks got out to a rough start when they lost their first two games to Colorado and Detroit. "They're just getting used to playing together. I think the Hawks will be a good team," said Millinowisch.

Besides getting used to playing together, the Hawks won't have star defensemen Campbell because of a knee injury. "This is a good test for us on the back end right at the start," said Head Coach Joel Quenneville. "We started [last] year without Hossa, and Bolland was hurt for a while. ... That's part of it. Our depth overall will get tested and challenged. Hopefully we get guys that are able to step in and provide quality play."

They bounced back, though, with their first win Monday, October 11 when they beat the Buffalo Sabers. They came back from a 2-0 deficit to win. Crawford got his first win of the year. Even with all the new faces, the Hawks still have their core players from last year and should be alright.



Photos courtesy of Google



# SPORTS, P. 10

## October Baseball is Finally Among Us

by Kyle Griffin  
*Sports writer*

The MLB post season is off to a great start with Roy Halladay throwing only the second no-hitter in post season history, but fans are still wondering who will be crowned the champs of October baseball.

It didn't take long for the Phillies to knock off the Reds in the NLDS. The Phillies swept the series 3-0 to advance to the NLCS. Roy Halladay set the tone for the Phillies by throwing a no-hitter in his first ever playoff appearance.

The Phillies finished as the best team in the MLB with an overall record of 97-65 and the Phillies are a serious contender to win the World Series.

On the other hand, the Giants did not have it so easy advancing the NLCS. The Giants won the NLDS against the Atlanta Braves 3-1. The Giants struggled to score runs in the series but had some great pitching performances to make up for it.

Tim Lincecum threw a 9-inning shutout in Game 1 for the Giants. But the Giants now have to concentrate on playing the Philadelphia Phillies in the NLCS.

The Phillies are trying to reach the World Series for the third year in a row. The expectations are high for the Phillies after sweeping the Reds in the NLDS. However, a concern for the Phillies going into the NLCS is they only hit .212 against the Reds.

But they will be facing the San

Francisco Giants, who also only hit .212 against the Braves in the NLDS. This is the Giants' first time back in the NLCS since 2002. The teams are both 3-3 against each other this season and this is the first time they have ever met in the post-season even though both teams are original National League teams.

The Phillies have more playoff experience than the Giants, so I expect the Phillies to win this series 4-2 and advance to the World Series.

In the American League, the Yankees knocked off the Minnesota Twins for the second straight season in a 3 game sweep. On Saturday night, the Yankees defeated the Twins 6-1 to advance to the NLCS. Phil Hughes pitched 7-shutout innings while Marcus Thames and Nick Swisher homered.

The Yankees also knocked off the Twins in the first round in 2003, 2004 and last season. But only part of the mission is complete for the Yankees; they still have to get through the Texas Rangers.

The Rangers defeated the Tampa Bay Rays 5-1 in the ALDS on Tuesday night to advance to the ALCS for the first time in franchise history. Cliff Lee was spectacular for the Rangers with 11 strikeouts in Game 5 and had a total of 21 strikeouts in the series, which is a postseason record.

Ian Kinsler also had a good series and hit his third homerun of the series in game 5. This was the first series in which the road team won every game. The Rangers will want to take advantage of their first-ever trip to the ALCS.

The Yankees want to repeat, but in order to do that, they're going to have to play their best baseball against the Rangers. After sweeping the Twins, the Yankees will come into this series well rested after a couple days off. The Rangers, on the other hand, couldn't even win a home game in the ALDS, which is not a good sign going into a series against the Yankees.

Both teams went 4-4 against each other in the regular season, so it will be interesting to see how this series plays out. I believe the Yankees will win the series in six games and go on to World Series for a chance to repeat against the Philadelphia Phillies.

Last year, the Yankees arose victorious against the Phillies in the World Series. But this year the Phillies will seek revenge in this exciting rematch. The Phillies went 2-1 against the Yankees in the regular season and the Phillies would have home-field advantage.

The pitching staff for the Phillies is very talented including Roy Halladay, Roy Oswalt, Cole Hamels and a great bullpen. The Yankees have a powerful offense who finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the league in runs scored (859) and on base percentage (.350). Yet I believe the Phillies incredible pitching will dominate the Yankees.

The Phillies will be the 2010 World Series Champions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the last 3 years. As for the Yankees, they will have to wait to get their 28<sup>th</sup> championship. Be sure to watch the rest of the exciting postseason action.

*[Photos courtesy of Google]*

# SPORTS, P. 11

## RUNNING OF THE BULLS

by Ian Stratta  
*Sports writer*

Another year has passed with the Chicago Bulls out of title contention. This may seem like an ongoing trend, but the team's woes may end this year.

It has been a very busy offseason for the Bulls. Out of the 16 players on their current roster, only five were on last year's roster: Loul Deng, Taj Gibson, James Johnson, Joakim Noah and Derrick Rose. The team picked up one of the most dominant forwards in the league in Carlos Boozer. Their other notable pickups of the offseason include Ronnie Brewer, Kyle Korver, Keith Bogans and Kurt Thomas.

Throughout the first games of the preseason, the team hasn't performed extremely well; however, they are playing without the low post threat of Boozer. There have been a few outstanding performances to note. Rose and Korver have been on fire with 48 and 49 points and Noah has 25 rebounds through 3 games. Noah was in the top ten in rebounds last year; he had 11 per game through only 64 games.

Lately, the Bulls have had to deal with a few injuries, most notably, Boozer. Boozer allegedly broke his right pinky after tripping over a gym bag in his hotel room. There have been reports from the NY Daily News that Boozer may have lied about the "fall" to cover something up and that the Bulls have been investigating the issue. Contrary to those earlier reports, the team is not looking into the story. Boozer has

also stated that he will likely take off the cast on his finger in two weeks. The original injury report stated that he would return in 4 to 6 weeks.

Bulls fans have been extremely loyal over the years through the good times and the bad. A local Bulls fan has high expectations for the team. Former LHS student and diehard Bulls fan Dorrdje Djuricic states, "They're going to win the central division." He also says, "I think they're going to make it to the Eastern Conference finals."

The team has very little competition in the Central division. Cleveland's best players are now Mo Williams and Antwan Jamison, a far cry from last year with LeBron James. Detroit has a young, promising team for the future. However, their most impressive player, Jonas Jerebko, was recently injured and had surgery, and he will be out for 5 to 6 months. Veterans Tayshaun Prince, Ben Gordon and Richard Hamilton will lead the team to a successful season but the Pistons are still a couple of years away from playoff contention. The

Milwaukee Bucks look like the same team as last year. Their only promising new player is Chris Douglas-Roberts from New Jersey. Michael Redd will never live up to the hype he once had. He has already been in the league for 10 years and is injury prone. The Bucks will finish last in the division. Look for the Pacers as a sleeper for the season. Darren Collison, Roy Hibbert and Danny Granger have all impressed the team greatly. If the team plays decent defense all season long, look for the team to give Chicago a run for its money. Nonetheless, Chicago should win the division without a problem.

As for the rest of the league, look for Boston to win the Atlantic division once again, Miami to win the Southeast division with Orlando close behind, Oklahoma City to win the Northwest division, the L.A. Lakers to win the Pacific division and Dallas winning the Southwest division with Memphis not far behind.

Expect the playoffs to be extremely exciting this year. My pick for the NBA championship is the Los Angeles Lakers over the Miami Heat in 5 games for the three-peat.

The Bulls look good for the future. Although they may not win the championship this season, look for them to be much better in the coming years when all the new teammates get used to their new system. Let the season begin!



*[Photos courtesy of Google]*