Is Cheating Ever Justified?

by Dylan Blaha
Head Editor

About a month ago, just before most of us got around to basting turkeys, about 215 University of Central Florida students feared much worse than the potential dinner table catastrophes the Thanksgiving holiday brings. These senior-level business pupils faced expulsion after their instructor, Richard Quinn, accused over one-third of the class of cheating.

Of the 600 students enrolled in the course, 200 acknowledged their deceit before the "make-up" midterm and are allowed to stay in the class, as well as have the cheating allegations wiped from their records, as long as they partake in a business ethics course. Those who remain quiet, allegedly 15 people, face fierce sanctions (failing the class or expulsion).

Normally, I tend to agree with the majority of persons who believe it fair to punish these "cheaters." Cheating stems from problems in today's schools and has no place in our society.

Many students protest that they had no intention of cheating; they admit to accessing a test bank, maintained by their textbook publisher, and distributing the test to other students. Some recipients said they thought the test was merely a study guide.

They must be lying… Right?

Further investigation revealed that the students' actions may not have been dishonest, after all. In a clip from his first lecture, posted by aggravated students, Quinn stated that he alone creates his tests. In that case, the only logical reason the students visited the test bank was, in fact, to study.

In this instance, Quinn is as much at fault as his students (if not more). A professor of 20-plus years resorts to giving an online practice test from the publisher? Is the money these students are spending (or, more commonly, their parents' money) really worth this man's teachings?

Cyber-dictionaries commonly define cheating as "an act of lying, deception, fraud, trickery, imposture or imposition." Nowhere in that definition does it list "using an online practice test to study for the actual one."

This unfortunate case brings up an even more unfortunate question: is cheating ever justified?

The answer: NO. Lets face it, advocating cheating is just about as bad of an idea as eating McDonalds for 30 days straight (I don't know how you did it, Morgan Spurlock). However, the line between honest behavior and cheating must be defined more clearly before someone gets hurt.

For more information on the original story, please visit http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2010/11/17/cheating.

Photos courtesy of Google

LHS Students take Restaurateurs Ball by Storm

by Morgan McPartland
News writer

Wilco Career Centers were designed to offer students the opportunity to take upper-level training through career-based courses. LHS seniors Alan Lynn and Shawn Nienhouse are students in the Culinary Arts program at the Wilco Area Career Center in Romeoville.

Both Lynn and Nienhouse participated in the 2010 Illinois Restaurant Association Restaurateurs Ball on Friday, Nov. 5. The IRA Restaurateurs Ball, which took place at the Hilton Towers in downtown Chicago, features some of Chicago's top restaurants and executive chefs.

Nienhouse, along with two other students, competed in a mystery basket competition. Each student was given 45 minutes to produce four identical plates, and they were judged on their use of ingredients, sanitation, skill, taste and creativity. "I was scared when I found out that this was the first competition either of my teammates had competed in," said Nienhouse.

However, Nienhouse feels that his leadership boosted the team's confidence, and the other two participants performed very well. The students were rewarded with Mercer knife kits after placing first in the competition.

Lynn assisted a chef at Riva Crabhouse, which is located at Navy Pier, in serving over 1,000 guests who attended the Restaurateurs Ball. In response to all of the time and effort he put into volunteering, Lynn was offered an internship at Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse in Chicago.

"I didn't expect it all to happen so quickly," Lynn said about the internship. He will soon start his internship downtown, and he appeared very excited about the opportunity.

He also explained that it is very difficult for culinary students to earn scholarships, since it's such a small industry. "[These competitions] give us many opportunities to gain experience and money."

The IRA Restaurateurs Ball's proceeds benefit the Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundations Scholarship Initiative and ProStart Program. For more information, visit www.illinoisrestaurants.org.

Photos by Tony Hamilton

Spinning in a new direction

by Erin O'Connor
News writer

While attending one of those classic Friday night football games here at LHS, you hear the announcer welcoming this year's marching band. Great, it's half time. As the drum majors step forward and the band begins to play this year's piece, the array of flags and mock riffles catch your eye: Color Guard.

On Saturday, Dec. 11, the Lemont High School Color Guard will host a fundraiser for the program. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the band room, students in grades 5-12 can attend the workshop and learn about Color Guard.

Color Guard advisor, Ashley Clark thinks the event will "benefit the [incoming] members." The event will include multiple demonstrations and help participants learn the basics.

The Color Guard performs with the marching band in the fall and individually in the winter season. Clark was in color guard in high school and began coaching at age 19. She stated that her favorite part of coaching is to see how they grow and how their hard work pays off.

Students are encouraged to attend so that, "[They can] learn the basics and have an idea before they start," said Clark.

The Lemont Color guard is always encouraging new members to join, so why not go and see what LHS Color Guard is all about?

Photos courtesy of Google

Have Some Respect for Retail

by Kelly Lyons
Editorials Editor

You know how it is during the holidays. Walk into a store, find a few great presents, then change your mind and throw them aside randomly as you stroll to your next destination. Well I've got news for you pesky holiday shoppers: you turn me into the Scrooge of retail.

I've only been working at a toy store for about a month, but I've already dealt with my fair share of crazy holiday shoppers. Yes, I know, "the customer is always right." I would never call out a rude shopper, but these small irritations annoy me to no end.

Maybe it's easier and less time-consuming to treat a store like your home. But really, that's no excuse to mess up displays and put products in the wrong places. I'm not your mother so frankly, I do not want to clean up after you. And let's get real; even your mother doesn't deserve that kind of treatment during the holidays.

By no means am I ranting for the sake of complaint. Shoppers seem to have become increasingly more annoying these days. Quite honestly, working five hour shifts four days a week isn't my favorite thing in the world. Sure, it's money, but I'm a high school student; I do have a life.

So, contrary to however peppy I seem while working, understand that it's probably a façade. In other words, please be kind, or civil at the very least, when I'm interacting with you. Yes, it's my job. And yes, I'm paid to respect you. However, the nerve of some customers is astounding.

And honestly, before I had a job I was probably the most annoying customer out there. Until I was the person who was staying late to reorganize tattered displays and clean up garbage strewn across the floor, I had no problem being that obnoxious shopper.

And whether it's the holiday spirit or the spirit of a working woman of America, retail abomination is at the top of my list of pet peeves.

So next time you're out shopping, please take pity on my fellow retail workers. Long hours of taking inventory, restocking and ringing up customer after customer sure aren't very entertaining.. trust me. And there are always going to be customers who make shifts seem that much longer. So please; don't be that customer.

Photos courtesy of Google

Billy? Billy Elliot?

by Maribeth Van Hecke
Features writer

Sitting in the theatre, a small voice floats over the audience. You cannot help but notice the strong British accent, and a sudden wave of excitement comes over you. The show is starting.

The excitement of Chicago's version of "Billy Elliot" has been stirring up the atmosphere for months. Highlighting in tap, contemporary, ballet, gymnastics and musical talent, the audience will walk away impressed. This musical debuted in Chicago back in April and just closed on Nov. 28. As "Billy Elliot" says goodbye to Chicago the show says hello to Toronto.

Once the scene is set, the audience realizes that Billy lives in a Northern England town that is struggling with the mining industry. The workers, including Billy's father and brother, are about to go on strike. When Billy gets stuck in Mrs. Wilkinson's ballet class he realizes that he doesn't want to follow the boxing, mining and working-class lifestyle of his family; he wants to be a "bally" dancer!

The audience is pulled in all kinds of directions. The musical is full of songs that tug on the heartstrings: happiness, sadness, anger and most importantly, passion.

With a score by Elton John, the music does an excellent job of tying the plot together. Songs such as "Electricity" and "Expressing Yourself" show the importance of being you and living life passionately. Other songs such as "Angry Dance", where Billy expresses his frustrations, and "The Letter", about a letter from Billy's mother who had passed away, carry a lot more weight emotionally.

TIME magazine labels "Billy Elliot" as "the best musical of the decade!" and *The New York Times* says it's "the best gift from Britain since *Harry Potter*". "Billy Elliot" also won 10 Tony awards including Best Musical.

"Billy Elliot" was for sure worth the trip downtown. It is an outstanding performance full of passion. When it comes to music, dancing and the overall message "Billy Elliot" has got it down. "Billy Elliot" is definitely, as *The Chicago Tribune* says, "Chicago's kind of show!"

Photos courtesy of Google

NEED ADVICE?

He Said/She Said can help you out!

A box can be found in the commons and you will be able to email us at GAYTAMIC000@smail.lemont.k12.il.us. Ask us advice on anything from boyfriend/girlfriend issues to school problems. We will give you two different perspectives to help you try to solve any problems you have! Submissions can be anonymous. Please have the format of your submission as follows:

Dear He Said, She said,

(Your advice needed)

Signed,

Your anonymous nickname

Be sure to send in your submissions over winter break; we will be answering when we come back in January. You should know that your question may or may not be published in the Tom-Tom.

Thanks! We're looking forward to helping you out!

Signed,

He Said/She Said

Photos courtesy of Google

Another Vampire Book?

by Lindsay Simonetta
Features writer

Teenagers today waste the majority of their time watching television, playing X-Box, or stalking people on Facebook. It may come as a surprise, but reading used to be a popular thing. The Internet and different types of social media has changed that.

Some teenagers read every day, but most cry in agony anytime they are forced to pick up a book. Maybe the reason teens don't read is because they haven't found the right book. Well, the wait is over; *The House of Night* series by P.C. Cast and Kristen Cast is the perfect book to start on the path to reading.

The House of Night series is a mix of the *Twilight* series and the *Harry Potter* series. The book takes place at a vampire school, and just like in *Harry Potter*, the students go to classes to learn more about themselves. However, instead of learning about wizardry, they learn about vampire history. And like *Twilight,* this book series deals with forbidden love and teenage angst.

Photos courtesy of Google

The first book, *Marked*, begins with the main character, Zoey Redbird, being marked as a new vampire fledgling. The series carries on with Zoey slowly making her 4 year change into an adult vampire. Within the schools walls, Zoey meets new friends, new loves, along with new battles that she must fight with her new powers.

So far there are seven books out and the latest one, *Awakened*, will hit stores shortly. *The Fledgling Handbook 101* has recently been released. The handbook gives readers the chance to follow the lessons that the House of Night vampires are taught.

Junior, Katie Zabinski says, "It's a very interesting book that makes you want to keep reading, it's very catchy".

So instead of wasting your intelligence away, pick up *Marked,* the first book in the series, and a comfy snuggie and you will be set for a night at *The House of Night.*

TRON: The Computerized World

by Rene Tovar
Features writer

Disney's new film *Tron: Legacy,* which hits theatres on Dec. 17, is filled with high-tech gadgets, digital landscapes and programs that contain almost human-like personalities.

Based off of *Tron*, which was released on July 9, 1982, *Tron: Legacy* was born. The original *Tron* by director Stephen Lisbergers was sparked by his love of computers. The original starred Jeff Bridges, who is seen as an important character in the new addition of the *Tron* enterprise.

The main character Sam Flynn, Born in 1983 of Kevin Flynn (Bridges) and Jordan Canas, plays a stubborn, rebellious man. Deeply affected by the loss of his mother and the strange disappearance of his father, Sam finds himself in isolation, only focusing his time on daring feats and dangerous sports.

Sam, played by Garrett Hedlung, refuses to have anything to do with ENCOM, the computer company once headed by his father. He also believes ENCOM is the reason that his father vanished. Despite his hatred for the company, Sam finds himself looking into his father's disappearance and is transported into the computer world his dad created which was to be "A digital frontier that will reshape the human condition".

Bridges, who plays Kevin, was the world's greatest video game developer of his time before he disappeared mysteriously in 1989. Bridges plays the ally of his son Sam in the virtual world, but ironically is the antagonist in reality.

Both father and son must embark on a life or death journey in a cyber filled universe that has become more advanced and dangerous than either could imagine.

The running time for this action film is 126 minutes, and introduces Olivia Wilde as a minor but important character.

The movie was filmed in 3D and will be released in many theatres including IMAX 3D. *Tron: Legacy* will be digitally remastered with unparalleled imaging and remarkable sound quality.

The film is also set to hit theatres in regular 2D, but this might be a movie viewers would want to see in 3D. *Tron: Legacy* in 3D could be a real treat for the viewers. The amazing visual effects and the director's use of technology will provide for explosive visual effects.

Overall, viewers should expect great effects, an awesome cast and a very complex story that involves one man and his fight for freedom.

by Ryan Peraino
Sports writer

Girls Basketball Defeats Oak Lawn

The joy of winning; that is what the girls basketball team felt as they walked off the court on Friday, Dec. 3.The team defeated Oak Lawn 49-41 to improve to 4-3 on the year and get their first conference win.

Lemont scored the first basket of the game and never looked back from there. The Indians held the lead for most of the game even though the score was close throughout the game.

It was a fairly quiet game during the first half, and as the half ended the score was 21-19 Lemont.

To start the second half, the Oak Lawn fans came out excited and loud. Their thunderous chants filled the gym. The Indians responded well, keeping the lead the entire half.

After the third quarter, the score was 35-33 Lemont. Oak Lawn had a chance to tie the score late in the game. Solid defense by the Indians forced a miss. On the other end of the floor, the Indians came down and got three offensive rebounds before junior Maggie Hodurek scored. Hodurek came off the bench and tied for a team-high 14 points. "She did a great job of coming into the game and filling in for Amy (Skowronski, the senior captain who was in foul trouble)," said junior Gabby Hunt.

Photos by Ryan Peraino

Senior captain Brenna Koerner hit key free throws in the fourth quarter, to put the game out of reach. These were some of her 14 points.

Expect great things from the Indians as they look to improve on their 19-8 record from last year. The team is run by LHS Hall of Famer Bill Bozue, who is in his 33rd year coaching the team.

"He is a great coach. He is considerate and gets us to work hard," said senior captain Annie Forzley.

Lemont is also lead by their three captains Forzley, Skowronnski, and Koerner. "They play smart and aggressive," said Bozue. "They're examples of how the game should be played."

The team's goals are to have twenty wins and to go as far in the playoffs as possible. That will be tough because of lack of height and experience. "We need to keep working hard and because we are smaller we have to capitalize on our opportunities," said Skowronski.

As long as the team keeps playing solid defense and getting rebounds, they should be fine.

Their next game is Dec. 10 at Eisenhower.

by Kyle Griffin
Sports writer

Boys Bowling off to Rough Start

The Lemont boys bowling team came up short against a tough Argo (3-2) team on Tuesday, Nov. 30 at Strike and Spare bowling alley. Their rough start continued, with their record now sitting at 0-5.

It seemed every time Argo threw the ball, they got a strike, or knocked down almost all the pins. Lemont answered back most of the time, but ultimately failed to contest, losing by 62 pins. Despite Argo's domination in the matches, Lemont bowlers still managed to stand out.

Junior Justin Knoelk put up some inspiring numbers including 12 strikes. He finished with an average score of 221 over the course of three games. "I just stayed relaxed and threw the best I could," said Knoelk.

Lemont is still looking for their first win but they are staying positive. "We just have to keep working hard and we'll win sooner or later," stated LHS junior Jake Markley.

In previous seasons the team has started off slow, but they usually step it up. "Once we settle in as a team, we start bowling better," said Knoelk. There are still a lot of matches left this season, so the team has plenty of opportunities to improve.

Defeating conference teams is going to be important for Lemont in January. Lemont can really prove themselves in conference matches. "We just need to focus on throwing one ball at a time, and if we don't get strikes, we have to make sure we're getting spares," stated Knoelk.

Lemont's next match is at the Lincoln Way East Invitational on Dec. 14.

Photos courtesy of Google