

The Lance



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Livingston High School

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Livingston High School Named Highest-Performing Reward School



Image Credit: Carly Abenstein
Mr. Trad teaches sophomore honors English.
By Emily BAE '13

Livingston High School was one of 112 New Jersey schools named a "highest-performing reward school" by Governor Chris

Christie and his administration last month. Selection to this prestigious group was based on a wide and rigorous range of criteria, including student achievement, standardized test scores (exclusively the HSPA and NJASK), school wide and subgroup proficiency, and graduation rates, as stated by the New Jersey Department of Education. Livingston was one of only 67 public schools and 21 "Title I" schools considered a high-performing school, according to a Livingston District press release.

Many have expressed their pride in the school's achievements. Dr. Brad Draeger, Superintendent of Livingston Public Schools, commented, "The State's recent identification of Livingston High School as a highest-performing reward school is an additional and

welcomed recognition of the school's academic successes."

Staff and teachers are also excited about the award. "All of the teachers' and students' hard work is paying off," said Mr. Trad, a sophomore and senior English teacher. "I'm glad that we are being recognized for our accomplishments."

In addition, Livingston has been chosen to be a part of the College Board's 2012 AP Honor Roll. The College Board selects schools to its Honor Roll based on a school's maintaining or increasing the percentage of students who achieve a score of three or higher on AP exams. Livingston's open enrollment policy is also consistent with the College Board's requirement of schools increasing student access to AP classes.

Inner Circle's *Almost, Maine* is Almost Here!

By Jillian GAIER '13

Inner Circle, the student-run theater group at Livingston High School, will put on its production of *Almost, Maine* on May 18th and May 19th. In the renowned romantic comedy written by John Ciarani, set in the fictitious town of Almost, Maine, nine different couples fall in and out of love in poignant, unexpected ways at nine o'clock on a certain Friday night.

The actors have been rehearsing diligently for a few weeks now, making the most of the small window of opportunity given.

"We have a much shorter rehearsal period than the drama or the musical, as well as limited rehearsal space, but we find ways to practice our scenes outside the auditorium as often as we can," said junior Scarlett Ferman. She has assumed the position of Assistant Director this year, while senior Rachel Fuerstman is taking the reins as Director.

While a handful of the actors in *Almost, Maine* have had the pleasure of being a part of LHS theatre before, they claim that Inner Circle provides them with a completely different experience than the productions led by the adult staff.

"It's more laid back and you can form different relationships with people," sophomore Jared Goldsmith said. "For exam-



Image Credit: Emily Bae
Sofia Soroka and Brett Wagner play lovers Pete and Ginette in the romantic comedy *Almost, Maine*.

ple, many of us know our two co-directors as friends, but now we have to interact with them differently."

Even as high school teenagers, the directors have always been able to pull off an impressive display of artistry. Fuerstman commented on the driving force behind the success of Inner Circle, "Our goal is to make theatre accessible to the student body and the community, and we are thrilled to have a lot of new faces in the cast this year."

As rewarding as the experience will be for those in the cast, it should be just as enjoyable for those viewing the show,

the actors say. "I think with hard work and dedication, this show will entertain a lot of people," said Anthony Vecchio, a sophomore who is making his Inner Circle debut this year.

Fuerstman, as well as other members of the Inner Circle, hopes the performance will leave a lasting impact on the audience: "We hope that when people see this show they find bits of themselves in these honest, universal characters and are transported into the magical world of *Almost, Maine*." *Almost, Maine* plays at 7:00 PM in the auditorium. Admission is free, and donations are encouraged.

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Joseph Trad
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From the Desk of the Editors-in-Chief



CONGRATS!

The Lance Staff would like to congratulate the editors for the 2012-2013 school year.

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Lance News



LHS *Lance* News Headlines Throughout the Years

<p><i>"LHS Likes Carter"</i> OCT 1976</p>	<p><i>"The Knicks—Worst Team in Basketball?"</i> DEC 1982</p>	<p><i>"More Prom Troubles for Seniors"</i> OCT 1990</p>	<p><i>"Clinton Visits LHS"</i> JUNE 1992</p>
<p>JAN 1980 <i>"Drug Smuggling: A Dangerous Situation"</i></p>	<p>DEC 1984 <i>"LHS Teachers Compete for NASA Program"</i></p>	<p>JUNE 1991 <i>"Channel One: TV for Students Comes to LHS"</i></p>	<p>JUNE 1997 <i>"Two Tuskegee Airmen Visit LHS"</i></p>

Color Change of Girls' Gowns Generates Discussion

By Marlena IDROBO '12

As a result of a new change by Principal Stern and other school administrators, all seniors will don green gowns at the upcoming graduation ceremony next month. In past years, girls have worn white gowns, while boys wore green.

The main reason this measure was put in place was for the student body to be unified, explained Principal Stern. "This is a great senior class," he said. "They have been an inclusive and unified group all year, and that will be demonstrated at graduation. Here is an opportunity to begin a new tradition for the next generation of classes to follow."

In response to concerns about aesthetics, Mrs. Franchino (Administrative Assistant to the Principal) assured that the

gowns will "look very nice. There will be green turf, a white tent, and green bodies sitting on white chairs." Also, wearing green would eliminate the inconvenience faced by girls in the past who had to wear a white outfit under their gowns because the fabric was see-through.

A large number of senior girls, however, strongly oppose the change.

"[Wearing white] has always been a tradition, and all of the girls looked so nice in white. Also, a lot of people paid for senior portraits that they took in white gowns, and now they'll be graduating in green," said Brooke Poznak.

Carly Heller, another senior, added, "My mom graduated in '85 and wore a white gown. It feels like a really important privilege to us was taken away."

Heller created a petition for girls to sign via Facebook stating their preference for white gowns. The petition, which has over 130 girls' responses, was delivered to Principal Stern in hopes that he would reconsider the decision, but so far no modifications have been made.

"Here is an opportunity to begin a new tradition for the next generation of classes to follow." - Mr. Stern

However, not all seniors are in agreement over preserving the tradition of wearing white. "Why not fight to let everyone individually pick between green and white?" Alexa Spear proposed.

She continued, "It's hypocritical to want to force everyone who is female to wear white again. Some people are upset over a decision made for them and not being provided a choice, however it's fine to enforce the same thing on everyone else, as long as it's what they want."

In fact, Spear felt "attacked" by other girls' comments on the Facebook petition for her differing view on the matter. "It really says a lot about our priorities when instead of welcoming a change towards gender equality, we get upset over not getting to wear the 'prettier' color," Spear said.

"I know that change is not always easy or welcomed," Stern acknowledged. "Now on graduation day, rather than looking at themselves as females and males, seniors can look at themselves as seniors."

Parents, Students, and Administration Voice Concerns over Underage Drinking

By Rebecca MYERS '13 and Crystal SONG '14

Recent events have brought the issue of underage drinking to light, and now the school administration is poised to take action. Twenty-five Livingston teenagers from two separate parties, on March 10th, were arrested for underage drinking. Nearly two months later, on May 1st, an open forum was held at Mt. Pleasant Middle School between parents, administrators, and the HSA to discuss the problem and possible solutions.

Livingston High School principal Mark Stern reaffirmed the district's "zero-tolerance policy for substance abuse," and went into detail about how the school itself would respond to such a situation. "If we are concerned that a student is under the influence in the building, we bring them



Image Source: NJ.com

down, we have them checked out by the nurse, we will call the parent and tell them that they have to come and pick up their child and have them drug tested in the next two hours because we need to make sure that the student is okay."

LHS Student Assistance Counselor Ann DeGennaro encouraged parents to instill "healthy fear" of the perils of drugs and

alcohol in their children.

Superintendent Dr. Brad Draeger proclaimed that "it's not time to be [your child's] friend in high school."

A letter was sent to all high school students' parents addressing the arrests and school policy on substance abuse.

LHS students' reactions were mixed. An anonymous student said that "the

school and community share in the responsibility of out-of-school activities as well. The main concern and priority of the administration is the safety of students, so it is important that the administration reminds students that they should be making the right decisions."

Many students, however, disagreed. "I don't think it's the school's business, to be quite honest," said sophomore Francesca Agnello. "We go to school to learn academics, not morals." In addition, senior Louis Rosenberg said the letter "accomplishes nothing."

The LHS administration will continue to strengthen its disciplinary action on substance abuse, which could cause a greater rift between the students and staff in the future.

TAP Fights Poverty Through Empowerment



Image Source: WomensTrust.org

By Vidita GAWADE '13

Teens Against Poverty, also known as T.A.P., is a new club at LHS with a mission to help people in less developed countries escape poverty through innovative methods such as microfinance, education, and empowerment.

The club raises awareness and funds by teaming with outside charities, such as the WomensTrust Foundation and Grameen Bank.

Both organizations practice microfinance, providing loans to women in Ghana and Bangladesh to better their socioeconomic condition and access to education and healthcare.

In an attempt to reach out to the average teenager, T.A.P recently held a screening of the documentary *A Small Act*, which, as the title denotes, was to demonstrate how one small act of kindness can have a ripple effect and change a person's life.

T.A.P. Co-Presidents Rebecca and Erik Katcher also organized a fundraising event with California Pizza Kitchen at the Short Hills Mall this year and raised \$375, enough to send three Ghanaian girls to school through WomensTrust. T.A.P. member Dan Mazour and his fellow club members were overjoyed.

"When we saw how many of our classmates and Livingston residents came to the fundraiser, we realized that we'd made a fundamental impact on our school and community and not only fueled change, but also promoted awareness."

"Poverty stems from a lack of education, and this lack of education is especially seen among young girls who are often taken out of school to help with chores and family life," said Mazour.

"Our club realized that if we could send even one girl to school, we will have made an irrefutable difference for her, her family, and even her community."

The concerned members believe that the average student can make a huge impact on the millions of people living in poverty around the world by using the resources available at home to empower those who can permanently benefit from education and financial credit.

For more information, visit their website at www.taplhs.blogspot.com.

Double the Trouble, Double the Fun: Twins Reveal All

By Carly ABENSTEIN '12

You were separated at birth from your identical twin sister. You develop separate lives, grow up on opposite sides of the world, and then, by pure coincidence, end up at the same summer camp. You are both thrown into the "Isolation Cabin" for misbehaving where you discover you were split at birth by your divorced parents. Together, you decide to switch places and go home with the other parent, with plans to get the two back together and become a family.

Not only is that the plotline of the classic Disney movie, *The Parent Trap*, but real twins have been reunited after living totally disconnected lives for many years. There are numerous accounts of twin siblings like Mary Black and Elaine Allin, who were adopted by different families at birth but only grew up 20 miles apart during their childhood.

Mary had always felt like a part of her was missing, and she had been mistaken for Elaine in doctor's offices and around town, but she was not informed of her twin until she was nearly 30 years old.

"We lost 30 years of our lives together, but we have certainly made the most of the rest so far," said Mary on their 30th anniversary of their first reunion. They had officially spent the same amount of time separated as they had together. By then, their bond was completely rekindled and it was almost as if they had never lost each other.

Although situations like Mary and Elaine's do occur, most twins grow up with their best friend by their side from the start. Twins spend nine months together in the womb and are raised simultaneously with the same values and ethics by their



LHS seniors Jared and Shira Gelman

Image Credit: Wendy Gelman

parents. Twin siblings at Livingston High School were eager to share their personal experiences and disclose details about their close bond.

Josh Berliner, 2011 LHS grad and identical twin, joked around about the benefits of being a twin -- "you can always see what you look like without a mirror."

Last year, the two played a school-wide April Fool's joke on their teachers by switching places for the day and attending each other's classes. They revealed their true identities at the end of the period and

tried to see which teachers could recognize one from the other.

Although others may assume that twins are tremendously competitive with each other and participate in the same activities, that is far from the norm.

"Shira and I are completely unique and different people," commented Jared Gelman, to which his twin sister, Shira Gelman, replied, "I'm into field hockey, while Jared focuses on music. People tend to assume we'd like the same things, but we really don't."

Dubstep: Music That's Making a Bang

By Jana RUTHBERG '13

Having made a huge boom (literally) in recent months, Dubstep has become a throbbing (pun intended) sensation amongst teens, sweeping over college campuses and the club scene. Dubstep, according to an online dictionary, is defined as a genre of electronic music with prominent bass lines and repetitive drum patterns.

While the Dubstep craze seems to have dropped overnight for some, in reality, it has been evolving for years. Its origins can be traced to the 1990s in South London, originating as an underground rave genre known as "DnB" or "Drum and Bass." "DnB" spread throughout the club scene in the United Kingdom, and soon evolved when producers such as Skream, Doorly, Benga, and Caspa in the early 2000s helped create the familiar Dubstep sound.

Currently, artists such as Skrillex, 12th Planet, Datsik, and Flux Pavillion dominate what is technically considered a sub-genre of Dubstep called "Brostep," and have become mainstream producers. Over the past year, Skrillex, the producer



Skrillex at the 2012 Grammy Awards.

Image Source: justdohits.com

of the popular track "Scary Monsters and Nice Sprites," has completely blown up the "Brostep" scene after being nominated for five Grammy's and winning three.

Angelo D'Ecclessis, senior at LHS emphasizes that "[w]hile Skrillex is one of the most mainstream Dubstep producers, there are a bunch of other guys who everyone should listen to. Others like Rusko, Excision, and Bassnectar are huge producers who should be recognized."

These artists mentioned have gone on to influence popular house and dance DJs to make tracks with Dubstep touches.

Deadmau5's "Raise Your Weapon," and Steve Aoki's "Ladi Dadi" are only a few examples of the mix. Even pop artists have started including Dubstep influenced beats in their songs such as the wobble bass dropped in Britney Spears' "Hold It Against Me."

Dubstep seems to appear all over, and are attracting all sorts of fans; however, there are many who are reluctant to embrace these crazy beats. Jillian Gaier, a junior at LHS, jokingly states that for her "Dubstep was an acquired taste. At first, it kind of sounded like the dial-up sound that AOL used to make when you logged on. But after awhile, [she] actually kind of liked it!" For some however, Dubstep is not their cup of tea! Lexi Lurie, a junior at Solon High School in Ohio insists that "Dubstep is ridiculous. It's a bunch of beeps and bangs. It's not music at all."

While Dubstep may not sound like what many people are used to, its heavy beats and harsh bass is becoming impossible to ignore as it is changing and influencing modern dance music and recognizably influencing current pop tunes.

Should Teachers Have the Right to Strike?

By Samantha SILVERMAN '13

Did you know that only 13 states give teachers the right to strike? As evident by the picketing and polo t-shirts that you saw weekly thanks to the Livingston Education Association (LEA), New Jersey is not one of these 13 states. Last March, Wisconsin teachers refused to attend schools as a result of changes in their contracts that removed a large portion of their bargaining rights. Are these strikes necessary for teachers to achieve their goals? Should New Jersey give teachers and other public workers the right to strike?

Mr. Rosamilia, an LHS history teacher who is also Vice President of the LEA and an Essex County Education Association presidential candidate, works hard to ensure that both Livingston and New Jersey teachers alike receive the benefits that they deserve. Also a member of the negotiations committee, Rosamilia works with the Livingston Township Board of Education to write a contract for the teachers. When asked how he felt about this situation, Rosamilia responded, "I personally think teachers should have the right to strike, but I do respect the fact that legislatures have the right to pass laws that forbid that, which is the case in New Jersey." This controversial topic is debated nationwide, yet opinions differ even amongst co-workers.



Image Source: leanj.org

Livingston District teachers protest expired contracts.

Jenn Wu, LHS Student Government Board of Education Representative, listens to the ongoing debate over contracts every other Monday at the Board of Education meetings.

"It is essential for people to understand what teachers are going through. If teachers were allowed to strike, students and parents would become more involved and this whole issue would be resolved much sooner," Wu said. In the West Essex Tribune on April 5, Livingston resident Dan Kaplan wrote a letter to the editor discussing the Board of Ed. meeting from the prior week. He had presented 10 questions in his allotted three minutes, and wrote, "The superintendent complimented the thoroughness of the questions, but provided

no answers." These questions can be found on the Livingston Township website along with the answers that were given. All answers were either a single word or that the board could not disclose any further information at this time.

Mr. Rosamilia explained that "in any labor negotiations, there are only so many ways for the workers to exert leverage to obtain a fair settlement, and a strike is one of these ways." Presently, the LEA stands up for itself by educating the public. They explain what they do and why it is important—for the community as a whole—to have good working conditions.

Mrs. Gelman, another member of the negotiations committee, understands that striking is against the law, but recognizes

its importance in some situations: "If people belong to a union and the union decides to strike, I think people should be allowed. However, I do believe in the law, which exists to benefit all. The law says we cannot strike as a teacher and so therefore we can't, and it is off the table."

Yet, are the detrimental effects that such strikes have on students' learning atmospheres necessary? Mrs. Gelman responded, "The effects are awful. The effect of any strike is awful which is why we aim to develop working conditions and contracts that work for everybody." Jenn Wu felt that while there are negative effects of allowing teachers to strike, in the long run, these effects would be minimal because the conflict would be resolved at a more rapid pace.

While strikes may resolve a conflict faster, the effects of a teachers' union strike would be detrimental. Students would run the risk of not being able to submit college recommendations on time, get extra help, or complete a full year's curriculum.

Fortunately, striking is not a legal possibility in New Jersey, and students can proceed to learn from the devoted teachers who continue their hard work and dedication, despite their tremendous struggles with negotiations.

Controversies over Women's Reproductive Rights Re-Emerge

Arizona Birth Control Bill (March 2012)

By Katherine LEE '13

For ages, women have fought for their rights in society. Among the many developments that stemmed from this ongoing battle was birth control, which allowed women to hold jurisdiction over their own lives to a greater extent. Despite the fact that birth control was invented as a liberating measure, it has been under constant scrutiny and debate since its appearance, resulting in controversies such as Arizona's birth control bill. This piece of legislation was passed in the House but defeated in the Arizona state Senate; however, at least one senator plans to revive it at a later date.

The bill states that employers who provide health insurance may demand proof that women taking birth control do so for medical reasons – not to prevent pregnancy – in order to be reimbursed for the drugs. This bill responds to the Obama administration's new mandate that includes coverage of contraception under federal health care by employers.

The introduction of the birth control bill has sparked a tumultuous debate. On one hand, some employers feel that their rights to their religious and moral beliefs are being violated if they are required to provide contraception insurance under the employee health care law. Republican Representative Debbie Lesko compares the situation

to the Soviet Union where "the government [tells] employers, Catholic organizations and mom and pop [businesses] to do something against their moral beliefs." The main issue that plagues such employers, and has haunted American society for years, is the morality of birth control. While it was indeed introduced to allow women to prevent unwanted pregnancy (a

Many believe birth control has evolved into a tool that encourages immoral behavior.

dilemma obviously inapplicable to men, thus creating the sense of inequality among disgruntled women), many believe that birth control is unnatural, anti-life, and has evolved into a convenient tool that encourages immoral behavior.

Many women who oppose the bill feel that their right to privacy is not respected if they are required to show the pertinent medical records to employers. Chief among their stance is the belief that their private lives should remain private and that society has no right to such medical records. As a resident of Arizona stated, "I wouldn't mind showing my employer my medical records, but there are women behind me that would be ashamed to do so."

There is no easy solution to this problem. Both sides have justifiable reasons behind their stances, and when the bill is reintroduced, it only depends on whose voice can carry the majority.

Texas Abortion Law (October 2011)



Image Source: Associated Press

Governor Rick Perry, Representative Sid Miller, Senator Dan Patrick sign abortion bill.

By Shivangi KHANNA '13

A similar debate arose last year regarding Texas' new abortion bill. The bill, which became law in September 2011 and took effect one month later, requires women to visit their specialist 24 hours before their abortion to undergo a sonogram which creates an ultrasound image of the fetus.

Although women may decline both viewing the image or listening to the heartbeat, doctors are required to describe the image including any instances of organs and limbs, in cases other than rape, incest, or abnormalities.

The Abortion Law is supported by a

Supreme Court ruling in which U.S. Circuit Judge Patrick Higginbotham wrote the majority opinion, "The fact that such truthful, accurate information may cause

a woman to choose not to abort her pregnancy only reinforces its relevance to an informed decision."

The law has since sparked controversy in Texas and in the nation. Last August, about a month before the law came into effect, the Wall Street Journal reported that Texas Federal Judge Sam Sparks "granted a temporary injunction to block the law."

Sparks claimed that the law violated the rights to free speech of the doctors and their patients. Roe v. Wade may have protected women's rights to a certain extent, but it did not stop Governor Rick Perry from signing into law a bill that makes the process more difficult for women.



Opinion



#Problems, #Tweets, #Compliments, and #InternetFame

By Morgan LEVY '15

Every time I take out my iPhone to check Twitter, I have come to expect an overflow of one type of tweet in particular. Not tweets about One Direction, the latest Kardashian scandal, or even the 5,000 pictures of frozen yogurt that Red Mango likes to bombard their followers with. The tweets I find flooding my newsfeed are “problems” tweets. Each account highlights the issues of a different group who feels that they have complaints that need to be aired to the world.

The underlying question here is, do we really have more problems than ever? Or is everyone just looking for their “15 minutes of fame?” Ever since the pioneers of “problems” accounts became active, sending these tweets has grown in popularity. But why are they becoming so popular? People have always had problems; now they are just looking to use these “problems” (and non-problems) in order to be acknowledged. The people of today’s society crave attention more than ever; consequently, these anonymous accounts

provide our fame-loving society a chance to grab the attention they desire.

One account that enjoys the mystery of their anonymous identity is @LTownProblems. This page highlights the ups, downs, ins, and outs of Livingston--mostly the high school. The first tweets were sent in

*“The world revolves around me
#getusedtoit #LTownProblems.”*

October of 2011, and those first seemingly innocent tweets made it clear that LTownProblems was a phenomenon that was here to stay. Everybody wanted to know who LTownProblems was, as LTownProblems was snarky and pessimistic about our town. The mysterious tweeter revealed in his or her new fame and tweeted, “The world revolves around me #getusedtoit #LTownProblems.”

The mystery and intrigue of knowing that the person tweeting attends our school adds to the notoriety of this person. The real question is, why was this started? There is

obviously an LHS senior who either hates Livingston, or wants people to pay attention to them without having to reveal their identity. LTownProblems is most likely the latter. What has our society come to, that in order to be heard you need to have a controversial, notorious Twitter account?

Every owner of a “problems” account has one common characteristic: they desire attention. The people running these accounts get satisfaction out of gaining a type of cult following. Their followers tend to get addicted to these interesting tweets, and before long, there are thousands of loyal followers. The account that just chronicles Livingston (LTownProblems) has 600 followers. Considering that the majority of LTownProblems’ followers go to LHS, 600 followers is an extremely high percentage of the school. Astronomical amounts of followers like this are the reason why these

anonymous tweeters are so satisfied by this validation.

The fame gained by this validation should be used in a positive way--to unite those with the same conflicts and interests, with the hope of acting as a catalyst for meaningful change. One social media account that does exactly this is a Tumblr called L-Town Anonymous, which seems to have been created in response to @LTownProblems.

The brainchild of yet another anonymous student at LHS, the site allows visitors to submit compliments of other students at the school. Though the use of anonymity might foster the same type of attention-seeking as seen on “problems” accounts (i.e. submitting compliments about oneself), L-Town Anonymous is, on the whole, a breath of fresh air.

L-Town Anonymous demonstrates that using social media accounts in a less destructive way will benefit society as a whole. If we are going to have to get our “15 minutes of fame,” then we should have it for the right reasons.

Rampant Teen Drinking: Parents, Peers, or Society?

Addressing the Escalating Problem of Teen Drinking in Livingston



Image Source: mamarazziknowsbest.com

By Annie RISHTY '14

It’s always nice, after a stressful week of school, to relax and enjoy the weekend. Many teenagers today, however, believe that “enjoying themselves” translates to binge drinking. But the real, debatable question is: does the blame fall on the kids who sneak a bottle of vodka from their wine cellar, or on the parents who want their children to be “cool” and “have fun” by giving them bottles of alcohol, or on pop culture for convincing teens to live their life to the fullest (in an illegal manner)?

We would assume that parents of teenagers would make their children aware

of the short-term and long-term dangers of underage drinking, which include the risk of being arrested, alcohol poisoning, a lack of inhibition which may lead to sexual activity, damage to the brain, and even addiction. According to a report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 45% of teenagers easily obtain the alcohol in their houses, and 16% of teenagers are given the alcohol from a parent or guardian. Even 6% of middle-school students from ages 12 to 14 drank alcohol within the past month. This report was not limited to the state of New Jersey, but reflected nationwide trends, showing that the 6% of middle-school students who drink amounts to nearly 700,000 children.

Parents today can expect that teenagers will experiment with alcohol before the legal age of 21; the abstinence of drinking for teenagers is hopeless because teenagers claim that drinking is “cool.” The real question arises: how can drinking a beverage make you cooler than your original self? Due to media and ads, advertisers make teens believe that if they drink, they’ll have hoards of friends. Kids see their parents and young adults sipping glasses of wine as a way of “being social.” As a result, kids believe that they can achieve the same result when drinking alcohol. What teens

don’t realize is that a sip of champagne and eleven shots of vodka can make a huge difference in their B.A.C. (blood alcohol content); sometimes, teens just don’t know when enough is enough. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 86% of teenagers have used alcohol before turning 21, and 50% of those teenagers binge drink.

MTV’s Jersey Shore is viewed by, and influences many LHS students. The characters portrayed on the reality TV show are friends “living their life like there is no tomorrow,” down at the Jersey Shore during the summer. The producers make it seem as if the characters, go to a club every night, sexually dance with strangers as the girls wear revealing dresses or tops, and drink the night away. Although the cast may be having fun doing their “Jersey Shore Fist-Pump,” they clearly aren’t role models for anyone at any age. Teens should not be copying the behavior of the Jersey Shore characters; Snooki can’t even walk into the house without someone dragging her! So maybe it isn’t just the parents or just teens’ friends pressuring them, but also today’s pop culture that influences teens to drink and engage in other illegal activity. If “The Situation” does it, teens may think that they should too.

A majority of today’s society listens

to the latest music whether it be pop, rap, rock, jazz or R&B. I’m sure we’ve all listened to Snoop Dogg and Wiz Khalifa’s “Young, Wild & Free.” The song opens with, “So what we get drunk/ so what we smoke weed/ we’re just having fun/ we don’t care who sees/ so what we go out/ that’s how it’s supposed to be/ living young and wild and free.” Clearly these aren’t the ideal lyrics teens should be listening to. I would agree: it’s a great song with its relaxed hip-hop and rap vibes, but the lyrics give teens the idea that drinking and smoking are fun and chill.

Teen drinking is not something that should be taken passively, but as a population, we must do something to prevent this. The Livingston Board of Education is concerned with students’ behavior in the town; they are aware of what goes on at people’s houses and at parties, whether it is through the newspaper or by word of mouth. They want teens to be aware of the dangers of alcohol in the body; they want teen drinking to stop, be abolished; they want it to end now. Be that one person in your group of friends who will say, “No, I don’t drink alcohol.” You can be the one who makes a difference. Who knows? Maybe that one word of “No!” will convince your friends that drinking is not a healthy choice. *Be* the difference, and say *no* to teen drinking.



Lance Lite



Sophomore Perspective

By Rebecca POPPER '14



Interesting May Holidays

By The Lance STAFF

People take pride in their own obscure observances. Take a look at some of the random, wacky, and just plain odd holidays that are celebrated in May!

Better Sleep Month

Correct Posture Month

National Barbecue Month

National Egg Month

National Smile Month

May 1st - 7th: Bread Pudding Recipe Exchange Week

May 25th - 28th: Old-Time Player Piano Week

May 16th: National Sea Monkey Day

May 19th: O. Henry Pun-Off Day

May 24th: International Tiara Day

May 31st: Hug Your Cat Day

A Bad Case of Senioritis:

Exclusive Interview with LHS's Most Talented Napper, Eric Kang

By Tiffany HONG '13

When asked to interview for this article, senior Eric Kang simply replied, "Eh, might be too much work." His reply revealed not only an apathy for certain tasks, but also an utterly lazy attitude toward all school-related work. What had caused such a student to become this way? One word: senioritis. The infamous disease has long occupied the classrooms of LHS, infecting not only its common target, the senior, but also unfortunately (perhaps) the lowerclassmen. Even after extensive research on senioritis, there was still a dearth of personal accounts. And what better way is there to identify a living example of "senioritis" than looking further into the life of Eric Kang (winner of the 2012 Senior Superlative "Most Affected by Senioritis")? That's right. There is none.

When were you "diagnosed" with senioritis? How did you know you had it?

Or did you not know at all?

Probably in Mr. Cuneo's APUS class, sophomore year. It's highly infectious, you know. Though I wasn't "officially" diagnosed, those early symptoms were definitely signs that my case would be especially bad during senior year. (P.S. Cuneo is an amazing teacher; it's your loss if you don't listen in his class.)



Eric Kang taking one of his many classtime naps. Image Credit: George Wang

How do you define senioritis?

Zzzz. This is boring.

How did your teachers react to your "symptoms?"

My teachers have had many theories regarding my condition. Among them are that I do drugs, stay up too late facebook-ing, and, my personal favorite: studying too hard. As far as stories go, I was asleep through most of it, so I don't remember much...but I remember times when other people around me would get in trouble for talking, texting, and even sleeping, while I was completely knocked out and dreaming of...you don't wanna know.

Do you take pride in being awarded the title "Most Affected by Senioritis"?

It's...an interesting superlative.

Do you have any advice for those unaffected?

Yeah, don't get infected. But if you do, know that you can still pass school. Barely. **What do you do in the time you're sup-**



As classmates have documented through photos, Kang regularly dozes off in AP Physics.

Image Credit: George Wang

posed to be working?

I mostly just chill, stare at the wall for hours, eat, sleep, and drink...milk. What most normal people do, I think.

Lance Sportlight: Nick Fogarty

On Art, Running, and the Art of Running



Image Credit: Shannon Kelly

By The Lance Staff

Throughout his high school career, Nick Fogarty has broken school records in both winter and spring track. In 2010, he participated in a record-shattering 4x800, with a group time of 8:03. In 2011, Fogarty ran as part of a Distance Medley relay team that set a record of 10:16. Below, the Lance gets the inside scoop!

Lance: What were you hoping to accomplish most in the Essex County Relays?

Nick Fogarty: I really wanted to see our 4x1600 meter relay get first place, and it was such a thrill to win it. Our group's relay time was 18:06 which was fast enough to break the school record in that event! I also had high expectations for this year's hurdle crew, and they really impressed me with their perseverance and selflessness.

L: What is your biggest motivator for success?

NF: I would have to say my first motivator for success, and my guiding light is Kris Jenner. I often find myself thinking during a race, WWKJD? Probably my second biggest motivator, especially for relay races, is inspiring performances by my teammates. Honestly speaking, when the other legs on my race run with outstanding courage and heart, it motivates me to really run my hardest (but mostly it's Kris Jenner).

L: What will you miss most about LHS track?

NF: You could ask anyone on the track team and they will tell you the best part of the sport is certainly the people. First, we

have such a great group of coaches that really know how to inspire and support their athletes. I mean, I don't think any of us LOVE running, save for the masochists on the team.



Image Credit: Barry Schwartz

L: When did you first start running?

NF: Actually, an Easter egg hunt brought

me to running. There were giant gold eggs stationed at one end of a field and I ran as fast as I could to get one. I beat all of the other kids, grabbed mine and held it up in celebration. Then, a slower and much larger child came up to me and ripped it from my clutch and pushed me to the ground. I guess that would be my third biggest motivator?

L: What are your college plans?

In the fall, I will be attending MICA, the Maryland Institute College of Art (not to be confused with the Michigan Instate Clown Academy). Sadly, there are no athletics there, but I hope to show my Narwhal pride by participating in some kind running club because running is one of the only ways to keep my stress eczema under control.

L: In which areas do you feel you've improved the most during your four years of running?

NF: I think I've improved in my racing strategy. After four years of racing experience, I'd like to think I know how to run smarter now.

2012 Major League Baseball Preview

By Dan GREENSTONE '13

A.L. East

This is one of the most competitive divisions in baseball, featuring four teams that will fight to make the playoffs. The Rays boast a strong starting rotation in James Shields, David Price, Matt Moore, Jeremy Hellickson, and Jeff Neumann. These arms, along with the hitting of 3B Evan Longoria, 1B, Carlos Pena and young OF Desmond Jennings could put them over the top in the East. New York's offense in 2012 will be led by 2B Robinson Cano and CF Curtis Granderson (4th in AL MVP voting in 2011). If they can continue piling up runs and have quality pitching from all five starters, the Yankees could very likely repeat as division champs. Toronto has three players- pitcher Ricky Romero, future star 3B Brett Lawrie, and MVP candidate Jose Bautista, who can help this team make the post season for the first time since 1993. Boston will try and push last season's crushing collapse out of their minds. Their work will be cut out for them with a strengthened division, a new manager in Bobby Valentine, and a bullpen deficiency. In this strong division the Orioles should finish in last, but they continue to improve under manager Buck Showalter.

Winner- Tampa Bay Rays

A.L. Central

The Central is a division with one clear winner, while the rest of the teams are bound to finish with records hovering around or below 0.500. The Twins and White Sox both have veteran teams, but with average talent. Both will compete for most of the season but will fail to make the playoffs as was the case in 2011. The Royals have an abundance of young talent in DH Billy Butler and 1B Eric Hosmer, but due to a sub-par rotation are still a year or two away from serious contention. The Indians stormed out of the gate last season before cooling off after the All-Star break. Led by young stars in catcher Carlos

Santana, SS Asdrubal Cabrera, and pitcher Justin Masterson.. Detroit not only boasts baseball's best 3-4 tandem in 1B Prince Fielder and 3B Miguel Cabrera, but every fifth day they bring out the best pitcher in baseball, Justin Verlander (the reigning MVP and Cy Young winner).

Winner- Detroit Tigers

A.L. West



Japanese phenomenon Yu Darvish

Image Source: Wikipedia

This division is a two team race between the Angels and the Rangers, with the loser likely coming away with one of the two wild card spots. In addition to acquiring Pujols, Los Angeles also signed former Ranger All-Star pitcher CJ Wilson. The Angels bring back key contributors from last year in Howie Kendrick, Erick Aybar, Torrie Hunter and staff ace, Jered Weaver. The Rangers twice were one strike away from winning the World Series last year, but failed and now have a legitimate threat in the Angels to dethrone them as division champions. Texas's offense is the best hitting in baseball with Josh Hamilton, Mike Napoli, Michael Young, Adrian Beltre,

and Ian Kinsler all capable of hitting for .300 and knocking 25 or more home runs. The Seattle Mariners and Oakland Athletics both are still mediocre teams and will be forced to play from behind all season long.

Winner- Texas Rangers

N.L. East

The East will be highly contested all season long. The Phillies still have their three all star pitchers in Cliff Lee, Roy Halladay, and Cole Hamels which will help the team overcome an offense that is less strong than in years past. Washington is going to be this year's surprise story. Steven Strasburg is a pure number one starter and the offense, which features 3B Ryan Zimmerman and SS Ian Desmond could have this team in the playoffs for the first time in National's team history. The Marlins, in the offseason signed veteran stars Jose Reyes, Mark Buerle, Heath Bell, and Carlos Zambrano while also opening a new ball park that should draw many fans (unlike their old stadium). With this new start and star power, Miami is many people's pick to win the division. The Mets are a team that is not as bad as some experts think and can be competitive in 2012. The Braves had a monumental collapse last year blowing a 9.5 game lead and it may carry over again to this year.

Winner- Philadelphia Phillies

N.L. Central

The Central houses the defending World Series champions, the St. Louis Cardinals. Even though the Cardinals lost superstar 1B, Albert Pujols and longtime manager Tony La Russa they still have a very talented line up with 1B Lance Berkman and outfielder Carlos Beltran. The Reds, anchored by former MVP 1B Joey Votto should have a bounce-back year in 2012 after having a disappointing season in 2011 (Cincinnati won the division in 2010). After losing All Star 1B Prince Fielder in the offseason to the Detroit Tigers

and with offseason controversy surrounding LF Ryan Braun, the Brewers will most likely find it hard to match last season's success (Milwaukee won NL Central in 2011), but should be able to battle St. Louis and Cincinnati down the stretch. At the bottom of the division should fall the Cubs, Pirates, and the Astros. The Cubs, with young stars-in-the-making in Darwin Barney and Starlin Castro, will provide glimpses of excitement for fans this season, but Chicago will not be a contender. The Pirates and the Astros (MLB worst 56-106 record in 2011) will round out the bottom.

Winner- St. Louis Cardinals

N.L. West

The West has only two real contenders in the Diamondbacks and the Dodgers. The Giants, though boasting an elite 1-2 punch in Tim Lincecum and Matt Cain, and a strong 2 and 3 in Madison Bumgarner and Ryan Vogelsong are too inconsistent in hitting to be real contenders. The Rockies pitching is very weak even though their offense, led by franchise player, Troy Tulowitzki, is potent. The Padres are a rebuilding ball club and will not be competitive in 2012. The Diamondbacks, the defending division champs have young stars in Justin Upton and former Yankee castoff turned 20-game winner Ian Kennedy. It is very likely that they can replicate their 2011 success. The Dodgers, in a move that involved selling the team to Magic Johnson, has put new life and excitement into the franchise. Los Angeles has MVP candidate Matt Kemp and Cy Young winner Clayton Kershaw leading the way.

Winner- Arizona Diamondbacks

A.L. Wild Cards-Yankees, Angels

N.L. Wild Cards-Nationals, Marlins

World Series- Cardinals Vs. Tigers- Tigers in 6
MVP- N.L. Matt Kemp & A.L. Josh Hamilton
Cy Young- N.L. Roy Halladay & A.L. Justin Verlander