

CONTROVERSY OVER GAY RIGHTS IN RUSSIA; ENRAGES GLOBE

EMMA METOS

The Russian parliament passed a law this June outlawing "gay propaganda", spurring outrage amongst activist groups and widespread calls for boycotts of the upcoming Winter Olympic Games in Sochi. The legislation effectively outlaws the propagation of nonmainstream sexual orientation or expression, but the lack of a definition for "gay propaganda" means that even the act of "coming out of the closet" is punishable by the equivalent of a \$3,000 fine or fifteen days in a Russian prison.

When asked about the law, Russian President Vladimir Putin argued the law was passed "for the children", on the grounds that children should not be exposed to nonmainstream expressions of sexuality, that is to say any relationship not defined as a heterosexual, child producing partnership. The law is similar in nature to the American Defense of Marriage Act, enacted in 1996 under President Clinton and repealed by the Supreme Court earlier this summer. This shows that Russian public is far less progressive on the topic of Gay Rights than would be ideal.

An astounding 88% of Russians were reported to support the law by the All-Russian Public Opinion Center's survey. In addition to this, many Russians also reported they believe that someone who identifies as queer can be "fixed", demonstrating that

financial support for the LGBT community of Russia from all around the world.

Canada has since pointed out that they do extend asylum to members of the LGBT community, and will do their best to bring the gay refugees from Russia to the West.

However, in more oppressive cultures, such as Iraq and the Sudan, there are more LGBT refugees in dire need of asylum.

Other worldwide reactions include a call for a boycott of the Winter Olympic Games in 2014 and other successive international sporting events such as the World Cup in 2018. In response to such requests President Obama said, "I have no patience for countries that try to treat gays or lesbians or transgendered persons in the ways that intimidate them or are harmful to them," but he will not with-

draw the United States from the games on the grounds of Putin's reasoning: "The law does not in any way infringe on the rights of sexual minorities. They are full-fledged members of our society and are not being discriminated against in any way." Nonetheless, personal protests have been encouraged among those outraged by the law.



Courtesy of Google

the LGBT community of Russia is a very suppressed one. Hate crimes are also rampant. During a protest of this controversial law, Russian police officers stood by as a protestor was beaten to death by supporters of the law. The outrage incited by the passing of this law, and exposure of the extensive hate crimes present in Russia has led to

WEST HIGH HOSTED A BLOOD DRIVE ON SEPTEMBER 24TH

HUE TRAN

West High School's biannual blood drive was just the other day. The blood drive was hosted by Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) and was held on Tuesday, September 24th, 2013.

This year, the Mountain Star Blood Services organization was in Garth McFarland's classroom, room F112 in the field house, to

perform the venipuncture procedure. All students above the age of 16 were welcome to participate, however, piercings or tattoos and travel outside of the country, anytime within the last 12 months, may have caused them to be deferred.

Mr. McFarland, the advisor of HOSA, enunciated the importance of the blood

drive, noting the fact that, "When you donate blood, you are literally saving someone's life." He encouraged and was grateful to all students who signed up to donate blood and joined the cause. Those who signed up in Mr. McFarland's classroom to donate blood can gladly say that they saved a life!

WEST HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVES “F” GRADE SHOCKING STUDENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HUE TRAN

Earlier this year, a school-grading bill passed legislature and just recently the results of the evaluations of schools within Utah have been reported. West High School received an F grade due to the lack of students participating in CRT testing. A 95 percent participation rate was required to qualify for anything higher than an F, which West High did not attain, and therefore did not qualify to receive but an F. Aside from the automatic failure, the school would have received a D grade as a result of poor performance, alongside other SLCS schools East High School and Highland High School.

West High is known for its rigorous academic programs such as the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs. However, these AP and IB students were not included in

the evaluation. Instead, these students not were considered as students of West High.

Principal Parley Jacobs defends West High by emphasizing the fact that the school's academics are not based on tests, but on the students' learning. Many students expand their education by taking a variety of classes, not focusing solely on math, language arts, and science; the criteria of which the assessment is made. Subjects taught at West High are focused on student comprehension, which is excluded from the assessment. Student engagement and student climate are also not considered in the evaluation of the school. Regardless of the grade received, West is considered to be the top high school in the state.

NEW COMMON CORE CURRICULUM PROMISES TO MAKE CURRICULUM EASIER TO UNDERSTAND

ETHAN YOUNGBERG

The U.S has a new curriculum used to make learning and teaching for students and teachers simpler, by letting the students know what they are going to learn.

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is on a mission to help students, their parents and teachers know what they are teaching and learning. The Common Core is a national organization committed to give students a high quality education so they can graduate high school with the knowledge they need to help them get into college. This tactic allows teachers to focus on what their students need to be learning, while the students can find out what they need to know. They can also talk to their teacher and work together on a particular section of the standard. Mrs. Bach, one of the Language Arts teachers here at West High, says the Common Core for language arts, “increases the rigor for all students.” The challenge of the Common Core includes extensive writing and a more challenging test at the school end of year. Overall Mrs. Bach

thinks the Common Core is good for both students and teachers. The Common Core focuses on math, Language Arts, and science so students can use their skills from those classes and branch out to their other classes. All math and science curriculums are the same throughout the state of Utah.



Common Core was implemented in August 2010, along with forty-four other states, which helps students moving to other states pick up right where they left off when they move. The Common Core State Standards Initiative says on their website, “The Common Core State Standards will not prevent different levels of

achievement among students, but they will ensure more consistent exposure to materials and learning experiences through the curriculum.”

Utah's common core standard is in no way involved with the federal government. Though it is not yet completely initiated, they expect for the program to be completely in place by next year.

SCHOOL BOARD DECIDES LEGGINGS ARE INAPPROPRIATE FOR REGULAR DRESS

CHERI BRISENDINE

For a few years, the school has been debating on whether leggings should be against the rules to wear as pants; this year our school district has finally made the decision. The Student Handbook section of the West High Student Planner states on page 14 that, “clothing which calls attention to the body, including bike pants, spandex, unitard knit tights, body suits, sheer clothing or skin tight clothing” is in violation of the dress code. Therefore, leggings are no longer to be worn; This outlaws Morph Suits, see through shirts, or form-fitting clothing of any kind as well.

Students have mixed feelings about this rule. One student says,

“I don't necessarily like the new rule. I wore leggings all the time, not to call attention to my body but because they were comfortable and towards the end of the year; around AP/IB testing time, I am much more comfortable in leggings than in jeans.”

However, some students disagree. Another anonymous source commented, “I'm glad that leggings are banned. I don't need to see all that every day in the halls and in class.”

Whether you agree with the decision or not, there is no denying that the rules affect many West High School students, for better or worse.

Don't Step in the Shower

SCOUT ASAY

The lights dim, the film rolls, and a hush settles over the theater – you've experienced it a hundred times, surely, but this time it's different: the atmosphere is distinctively strained. The legendary score swells, and you feel the tension mount as the group anticipates the horrors of the thriller. Rain pounds on the roof above and the thunder crashes outside: even the weather attends when Alfred Hitchcock's around, and his presence has been felt in Salt Lake since Aug. 2 because of the "Master of Suspense" celebration organized by the Salt Lake Film Society.

Many claim that Alfred Hitchcock is the single greatest director of all time. While such bold statements may not be correct, Hitchcock is recognized as one of the greatest and most consistent directors in

film history, creating numerous films that charm – or rather, frighten – both critics and audiences. His renowned *Vertigo* was named the best movie of all time in 2012 by the most prominent film journal in the world, *Sight & Sound*. "With some great directors, you're looking at two or three masterpieces. With him, you're looking at 10 or 12," said Sacha Gervasi, who directed "Hitchcock", in an interview with The Salt Lake Tribune last year.

Utah's premier film society has secured film buffs and adventurous moviegoers the rare chance to see the best of Hitchcock on the big screen via a month-long retrospective that started Friday, Aug. 2, at the Broadway Centre Cinema, 111 E. 300 South. The five-week celebration features fifteen of Hitchcock's masterpieces, four of which

are part of the "Five Lost Hitchcock's", five Hitchcock masterpieces that Hitchcock bought the rights to and entrusted to his daughter in his will. Only in the last eight years have they become available, and even so they are not being circulated extensively, making the Broadway and Tower Theatres two among thousands.

The commemoration is on the brink of its closing week, showing three of Hitchcock's most acclaimed films from Aug. 29 to Sept. 5: "Vertigo", "North by Northwest", and "The Man Who Knew Too Much" will all be open for viewing at the Tower Theatre, 876 E 900 S, for the duration of the next week. So pick up some friends and head down to the Tower to be entertained for a couple of hours – just remember, it's only a movie.

Summer Fun: Museums

EMMA CULVER

Many West High students spend their free time enjoying trips to the mall, the movies, concerts, or sporting events. But there's another fun activity that many high school students might not be taking advantage of: museums! Salt Lake City has plenty of unique and fun museums for students to explore. And these museums are constantly changing. Most museums bring in special exhibits for a limited time. Checking out these special exhibits is a fun way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

One fun museum in close proximity to West High is the Leonardo, located right by the city library on 2nd East and 5th South. The Leonardo is a unique museum, with permanent displays about technology and science. The Leonardo has also hosted some of the most fascinating traveling exhibits in the country, such as "Body-Works", an exploration of how the human body functions; and "Mummies", which displayed real mummies from ancient Egypt and other places all over the world. The Leonardo is currently hosting "101 Inventions That Changed the World", a

multi-sensory exhibit that showcases humanity's most important inventions through film and other media. Upcoming exhibits at the Leonardo include "Dead Sea Scrolls", a collection of ancient Israeli artifacts; and a family Halloween exhibit, "Spooky Science".

Another Salt Lake museum often featuring special exhibits is the Utah Museum of Fine Arts- better known as UMFA- on the University of Utah's campus. The museum is currently displaying a printmaking collection, with prints from famous artists such as Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, and Roy Liechtenstein. Even if you aren't much interested in traditional art, these more exciting prints might strike your fancy. "Prints, in their very nature, are the most democratic of art forms," said Whitney Tassie, UMFA's curator of modern and contemporary art to the Salt Lake Tribune in a recent article. "A print by Jasper Johns is more accessible than a painting." UMFA is constantly bringing in new special exhibits, so this is a great museum to visit; you'll never have the same experience twice.

Summer Fun: Twilight Concerts

JACK BROWN

A weekly event bringing such famous artists from around the country: Kid Cudi, Empire of the Sun, Ludacris, MGMT, Grizzly Bear and many more. These are the Twilight Concerts.

The Twilight concerts are a great place for fun. Food carts, people from all around Utah and big name artists performing create a great atmosphere.

However, there are things you have to watch out for. "When you're in the crowd and you get close enough to the stage it's basically anything goes," said Mia Pottle (12). "I've walked into the mosh pit next to the stage and got knocked flat on my back." It's true the mosh pits at Twilight are obnoxiously persistent regardless of the mood of the music being played.

"There are always those drunk college kids that start pushing the people next to them to try to start a mosh pit, even when the band is playing something like, The Flaming Lips" said Gary Hafford (12). Luckily, however, security is pretty quick to stop the eager

moshers. Artists have stopped their songs in the middle of playing to call out roughnecks who ruin the mood of the show.

People have also gotten drugged by sharing drinks with people in the crowd. Getting drugged at a show is much less obvious than a 300 lbs college junior trying to ram into you, which makes it more dangerous. Alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco are frequently passed around the crowd during a show. Security is usually good at catching most illicit substances at the gate, but some do find their way in. If you keep your eye on your drink and don't accept anything from strangers at the concert then you're in the clear.

"I looked forward to the twilight concerts every week," said Hannah Arthur (12). "I went there every week and I see friends from East, Highland, even kids I haven't seen since sixth grade. We see each other, talk until the concert starts, it's always so much fun, I've had so many great memories at Twilight."

New Late Start schedule

CAIT IMHOFF

On Aug. 26, 2013, students were welcomed back to the first Monday of the 2013-2014 school year with a much-needed late start schedule. School began at 9:05 and classes lasted sixty-nine minutes as opposed to the regular eighty-nine. First and second lunches took place as usual in relation to class schedule and were just pushed back a little in the day. Students were still released at 2:30, as usual.

Late starts are not unheard of to the students of West High, but their increased frequency is certainly new. Instead of the late start schedule being the second Monday of every month, late starts will be in effect every Monday that school is in session this year apart from a couple of breaks.

The late start schedule will be effective from Aug. 26 until Nov. 25. For the rest of November and December Mondays will continue with the normal schedule. Late starts will resume second semester starting Jan. 27, 2014, and will finish April 7. The remaining Mondays until summer break will all return back to the normal schedule.

Last summer the superintendent of the Salt Lake City school district directed the decision to change the schedule for this school year. This schedule is in effect at "All three traditional high schools [West, East and Highland]," says assistant principal Mr. DeVries. All those schools have the same timing for classes and dates when the schedule is in effect.

Due to the change in scheduling on Mondays and the late arrivals of students, teachers are required to meet every Monday morning. They have discussions and lessons about how to improve our school, how to better teach the students, and more. So while students are at home catching up on sleep after a long weekend, teachers still come in to school bright and early on Monday mornings.

New science club strives for success

YUANHANG ZHAO

Trial and error is the key to success, some say.

Every year, students from all around the country flock together with poster boards displaying scientific information. Students have the chance to show their expertise to various judges in several different categories. They explain their research project, outlining the steps they took to reach a conclusion. Only a handful receive rewards for their hard work. Now, with the help of West High's new Science Fair Club, underclassmen have an opportunity to learn about how to set up an experiment and do the same things top students around the country have managed to accomplish.

"We hold the Science Fair Club to help the younger students at West like ELPers and freshmen to set up their project," says Jeanette Jiang (12). "After they set up their projects, we will have them present their boards [to us] and critique them to get prepared for science fair."

Jiang and Mirae Parker are co-presidents of the club. Their primary goal is giving amateurs lessons on what science fair is all about and getting them to participate in regional and state science fairs. The end goal is competing at ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair) or Broadcom Masters. ISEF is for high school stu-

Amigos de las Américas: A

CAIT IMHOFF



Jaclyn Tani with two children in her community

Photo courtesy of Jaclyn Tani

The typical summer of high school students include tanning, parties, pools and fireworks. But for select students across the nation their summer was far from that typical summer.

This past summer, like many before, high school and college students from around the country traveled to Latin America through the program known as Amigos de las Américas.

"Amigos focuses on youth empowerment and collaborative community development," says two-year volunteer Jaclyn Tani (12), "it allows high school and college students to spend six to eight weeks in Latin America and be a part of a cultural exchange."

With locations in Peru, Paraguay, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and more, there is no shortage of volunteer work, and no one is turned away. Participants in the program must go through a scheduled interview early in the school year and then attend a series of organized retreats to prepare for their trip. Though the program can be a bit pricey, Amigos offers many ways to fundraise, including selling grapefruit, poinsettias, and coffee.

"Regardless of the price, I would absolutely recommend Ami-

"...I would have to say the probably that there is so mu

dents with scientific potential, they were hand-picked from a state science fair. Broadcom Masters aims to reach out to scientists of elementary and middle school age.

The first meeting for Science Fair Club took place on Thursday, September 5th. Because this was Science Fair Club's very first year at West, the club is still seeking all kinds of people; anyone of any grade is welcome to participate. People who would like to join should go to a meeting and sign up in Ms. Thirlwell's room T230 in the new tech wing. The first meeting featured an in-depth explanation of future plans for the club and discussions of new ideas members may have in mind.

Although sophomores and upperclassmen usually have more experience than newcomers, Jiang says the club is not only for ELPers and freshmen, and "there are cash awards [at ISEF and Broadcom Masters], so it is a great experience for everyone."

A summer to never forget

IMHOFF

Photo courtesy of Erin Villareal



Erin Villareal hanging out with some kids in her community

biggest lesson I learned was
much happiness in simplicity."

gos to anyone and everyone," says Erin Villareal (12), a first-year volunteer who visited Paraguay for seven weeks. Erin, Jaclyn, and six other West high students joined countless others throughout the nation. They had the opportunity to not only visit another country, but become part of its culture. Volunteers live with host families and become leaders and friends of the community. They teach their community members about health, leadership, children's rights, education, and they dedicate themselves to a service project throughout the trip, such as planting trees or building stoves.

"I learned a lot about how other people live and other cultures," says Tani. "But I would have to say the biggest lesson I learned was probably that there is so much happiness in simplicity. That's what Amigos comes down to: simple living and helping others."

Amigos has been running for almost fifty years, and it is not about to stop. Information meetings for next summer's opportunities will be held on September 28, October 2, and October 5. For more information visit, www.amigoslink.org

Youthlinc: students volunteer abroad

ELLIOTT BURR

This past summer while most high schoolers were sleeping in, hanging out with friends, and enjoying the carelessness of summer, volunteers with the organization Youthlinc were hard at work in aloof countries. Of these volunteers were West High Students who felt the need to serve humanity.

The students interviewed went to a variety of locations including the Moken Village in Thailand and Song Cau, Vietnam. The volunteering missions generally last around two weeks.

The volunteers typically work 6-8 hours a day during their stay. Projects include, building houses or schools, teaching the locals a number of lessons ranging from hygiene to language, and playing games with the local kids.

"My favorite experience was building. In specific, a house we built," said Dylan Drescher (12), who volunteered in Thailand. "We put in a lot of hard work and seeing it pay off at the end was very rewarding," said Drescher.

The volunteers worked hard during their service, but they also took full advantage of their free time. Playing with the children in the village was said to be one of the most fun activities. They participated with the children in a number of sports and games while making unforgettable relationships.

"I relished getting to know and interacting with the village people," said Henry Munson (11), who volunteered in Vietnam. "Meeting people who are so exultant with only a small amount of material objects is extremely enlightening," said Munson.

"The local community was very welcoming, kind, and grateful," said Hannah Bruns (11), who volunteered in Vietnam. "I loved interacting with the people. They were very friendly," said Bruns.

The experiences gained from Youthlinc are very worthwhile and leave volunteers with a lifetime full of experiences.

"My service experience was rewarding and I would do it again if given the chance," remembered Bruns.

Those interested in joining Youthlinc, must submit an application. Applications, as well as other information, can be found online at youthlinc.org or at their office at 1140 E. Brickyard Road, Salt Lake City.

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CROSSING THE "RED LINE"

YUANHANG ZHAO

Controversy over Syria has mounted once more over the accusation Assad's regime has taken to the use of chemical weapons. Dozens of bodies wrapped in white sheets lined the ground as many others were scattered around twitching or motionless. A video which appeared overnight on YouTube revealed the scene as accusations that Bashar Al-Assad's regime has been using chemical weapons against Syrian civilians. However, allegations of the chemical attacks have sprung up on both sides as estimates from 100 to 1,400 people have been affected in Damascus by the attacks. Civilians claim this has not been "the first time" chemical weapons have been used.

The Syrian government has repeatedly denied the use of weapons since the topic was brought up in August 2012. Multiple countries and organizations have denounced the use of sarin gas, including

President Obama, who warned Syria would be crossing a "red line". On June 13th, the US announced there was proof sarin gas was used, but did not mention whether the "red line" was crossed. The UN has sent inspectors to Syria to analyze the scene, but has been delayed by unidentified snipers



Courtesy of Google

shooting at their vehicle. Russia's Foreign Ministry spokesman warned of "catastrophic consequences" if Britain and the

US were to intervene as warships were sent to Syria, putting emphasis of impact on the Middle East and North Africa.

Symptoms shown by victims of the chemical attack included convulsions, pinpoint pupils, blurred vision and difficulty breathing. News agency Argence France-Presse stated "1,300 killed in chemical attack" on social media website Twitter, while the Associated Press claimed "over 100 killed near capital in alleged toxic gas attack".

US and Russian findings contradicted each other as the US claimed evidence pointed to Assad's regime, while Russian sources claimed evidence pointed at the rebel forces. Secretary of State John Kerry has given multiple warning signs to Assad as a possible military strike on Syria could occur. The situation remains unclear as Bashar Assad says, "... [USA] can launch wars but they cannot win them."

SNOWDEN EVADES U.S

CHRIS CHEN

Granted asylum in Russia for one year, Edward Snowden is safe until August of 2014. Snowden, a former CIA and NSA computer specialist, was charged for espionage and theft of government property. His offence falls under the U.S. Espionage Act and carries penalties of fines and up to 10 years in prison.

Snowden has been called a hero, a whistleblower, a dissident, a traitor, and a patriot. He claims to have released many of the classified documents to inform the public what the U.S. is doing to monitor the web. Programs like Prism are now available to the public, revealing how closely the NSA monitors our Internet data.

President Obama and his intelligence chiefs are now defending their programs saying they are regulated by law and the administration notified congress. The Administration says the programs have been used to thwart militant plots and do not



Jackson West

target Americans' personal lives.

Snowden is still hiding in Russia. After trying to board a flight in Cuba, he was stopped and denied a flight after the US pressured Cuba to try Snowden for espionage charges. Another reason he was denied a flight was because if he landed in Cuba it could have damaged their relationship with the U.S.

ASSANGE ESCAPES CAPTURE

COLE HARTOG

Most of us know his story by now, Julian Assange released a few top secret documents online about the United States government. The government wasn't too particularly happy about having their secrets revealed. They prosecuted him and he was found not guilty. He fled the country and the search is on.

Assange is wanted by the United States government for illegally obtaining and sharing classified information that he posted online. This whole topic has sparked a great debate in America. Many people agree that we should always be aware what our government is doing, while others think everyone has the right to hold their secrets. The rest of us, just want this whole situation to pass quickly.

After becoming a national criminal, Julian Assange was forced to flee the U.S. He has taken refuge in Ecuador, where he has been granted political asylum. Assange's presence could potentially strain U.S. political relations with Ecuador.

Assange has done a television series in which he was interviewed. He describes his crime and his motives behind it, as well as how it has affected him personally.

No one knows when or if this manhunt will end. As it stands, the U.S. has continued to pursue Assange.

GOING TO WAR WITH SYRIA

MADISON COLLEGE

At the close of the Second World War, the United Nations formally introduced international laws. Among those laws was the chemical warfare and poison ban. A law is useless if not enforced, and the job of policeman seems to have fallen upon the United States. On Aug. 21, 2013, U.S. intelligence confirmed the Syrian government's use of chemical weapons on its own people. Killing 1400 citizens, 426 of them children. The U.S. now must determine what action it must take. Forced to choose between a bloody conflict or abandoning international law.

From the Obama administration's perspective, the idea of a new war is not welcome one. Obama was, in part, elected on promises to end the war in Iraq. For Obama to enter into a new seems to betray the people that elected him.



Courtesy of Google

However, the alternative is not wholly acceptable either. Obama, himself, made threats to the Syrian government, saying chemical attacks would "cross a red line". The empty threats take away U.S. credibility somewhat by making us all bark and no bite. On Sept. 4, 2013 congress gave approval for U.S. to have military presence in Syria. The Obama administration will try to avoid war and use the presence as a show of force maintaining the credibility of the U.S. and international law.

Other countries such as Russia and Brazil are tired of the U.S. stepping into international affairs, but the ethical task is determined that innocent people are dying and someone, whether or not it is the U.S. needs to step in.

LEGISLATURE'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADING LOOKS DOWN ON WEST

MIRANDA CANNON

Recently, the Utah State Legislature implemented a grading scale for Utah schools, and while not a bad idea in theory, the actual enactment of it seems to have fallen flat of the desired goal.

The Utah state legislature, following an idea based on Florida's school grading system, graded each Utah school's testing abilities and graduation rates to give schools a letter grade based on how well their school performed overall. West's score was shocking to many parents and students: an F because we did not meet the mandate that 95% of students take the CRTs at the end of each school year. Only 92% of our students were reported as having taken them.

The grading scale has only three areas available for students to earn points in: the percentage of students passing their CRTs in each of language arts, math, and science, the percentage of students whose progress was 40% higher than their scores from the previous year, and graduation rates. Though the legislature has insisted that they will add more categories to the grading scale next year (such as ACT scores) their main push is for standardized testing and graduation, and as many students and more teachers and parents can

tell you, there are better ways to measure students' abilities than through testing.

At the high end of the spectrum West is known for its academic honors programs such as AP and IB. The school is also renowned for its special needs programs.



Courtesy of Google

Neither of these amazing programs were acknowledged in any way through the use of this grading system.

Senate President Wayne Niederhauser, R-Sandy claims that "They're [West High is] failing a huge population of their students...The IB program is a beautiful paint job covering up some pretty big problems." It is clear that the senator really has no idea what he is talking about, and this statement and those like it from previous issues regarding education makes it clear

that the legislature dislikes West and especially the IB program, as well as inner city schools in general. It's not really a secret that West is a very diverse school, and where many of the students are from low-income backgrounds it is difficult to have beautiful, perfect numbers that the legislation wants. West has never used its IB World School status as a veneer or "paintjob" to try to make it look better, though it is no secret that because of the talented teachers of West, both regular students and those in the IB program benefit from the education they receive so long as they choose to use the resources available to them.

Other schools whose main focuses are to help failing students to receive the number of credits they need for graduation also are reported to have received an F, despite efforts by parents, teachers, and students to improve as much as is possible. One such school is Polaris High, which saw a 300% improvement from two years ago and still received an "F" grade overall.

"We're not an F school, we're an A school with all we're doing with kids," our principal, Dr. Jacobs told the Salt Lake Tribune.

THE ADVICE COLUMN: TAKING ON THE WORK LOAD

Dear Axiom Tropaeus,

It's the beginning of the year and I have decided to turn over a new leaf and am going to start trying to be more proactive with turning in my homework. However, I still want to have free time to spend with my friends and do fun things. What should I do?

-James B. Askin

Dear James,

I see you have wrestled with the most fickle of beasts and have been beaten. In order to overcome such an obstacle and start handing in your work on time, you must defeat the most ruthless of devils, the scourge of all students, the one who whispers, "Maybe after two more episodes of Breaking Bad," into your ear at every motivational thought. You must overcome your inherent desire to procrastinate. Your greatest tool for chipping away the steely grip of procrastination is time management.

Although difficult at first, it is mandatory that you manage the time allotted to complete any assignments. If you let the assignment wait, it will simply fade into the shadows and slowly stalk you through the days, tracking you as you take naps, play videogames, and watch tv, until it finally, silently, leaps forth and mauls you as you frantically try to keep it under control at 3am Sunday night. How to combat such an attack you need to take on the assignment in small increments. At first, as the year begins and the homework load is relatively low, you can be flexible with your time. Give yourself breaks, and small rewards. After all, writing your name, date, and answering the first question of your assignment grants you a 45 minute episode of your favorite tv show right? As the year progresses make sure to build your habits of getting things done incrementally and become more and more strict with yourself. Soon you will find yourself with top notch grades, happy parents, happy teachers, and a ton of free time to boot.

-Axiom Tropaeus

TEA FOR THE TILLERMAN

MILO MARSDEN

Looking back now, I can remember much more of my youth. Time seemed much longer then, perhaps because I had gone through so little of it. What I now perceive as a year, I then perceived only as the ten weeks of Summer Vacation. Of course, when you are truly small, there is no boredom. Between maturity and youth, though, in a phase I will call "Seventh Grade" nothing is interesting, or nothing was interesting to me. So, I began my quest to destroy the sleepy boredom of one thirty on a September Sunday.

Starry eyed and without purpose, I set off to study the greats who vanquished the Sunday afternoon boredom. Shakespeare, Williams, and Seinfeld tattooed my mind with selfish dreams of endless entertainment through their language. I sat on wastepaper baskets considering the deal with airplane food, and why they don't just make the airplane out of the food. I looked at blank ceilings contemplating why the Psychic Network needed a phone number. I leaned in the warmth over wicker chairs until the red marks on my chest resembled something like a cattle brand and found my way into "that part" of YouTube.

There I found the true warriors. The men I venerated were merely the generals in the battle against boredom. They became too separated from the fight to truly know its nature. These new warriors fight with weapons unknown to old ones in the smoky nightclubs of the past. No, the battle rages on in with the camcorders and webcams of today.

To become great today, one must risk life, limb, and self-respect. On that day, I found truth. The Gods of humor rewarded these men and women for their devotion. A devotion I knew I would never match. Always remember these new greats, never not. Perhaps they have nothing else in this world, but they can please the masses. A talent and a pleasure most will never know.

