



Multicultural: Expectations and Preparations

Mina Beshay & Aldo Montes
—staff writers—

Multicultural is this Friday. And while many reminisce about their memories from the last Multicultural, others look forward to this year's event with open minds and eager hearts.

For most freshmen and many other upperclassmen, this will be their first year actually attending the Multicultural event. For example, freshman Brenda Gutierrez wishes to attend "just for fun" with either family or by herself and will participate in the art section. Another freshman, Marco Garcia, intends to participate in the fashion show and plans on attending with friends.

Many students plan on attending simply to work, such as sophomores Isaac Libramonte and Beza Ayalew, who will work as a Director of Booths and a Director of the Fashion Show, respectively. Similarly, some students plan on performing specific tasks, such as junior

Heidi Castro who plans to help set up. Other students, such as junior Alejandra Santoyo and senior Mayra Hernandez, plan on going to volunteer in general.

Although many plan on working to get Multicultural running smoothly, others plan on being a part of the events themselves. For example, sophomore Abdulk-erim Musanar is going to be working on an art piece. On a similar note, senior Maria Heredia plans on dancing during the performances. Meanwhile, there are some, such as sophomore Angelina Vasquez, who are still undecided. There's no real rush to decide on what one decides to do for Multicultural yet, but the decision should be made soon.

No matter the reason for attending, many students eagerly await the Multicultural event at HMSA. Be it for work or for fun, this year's Multicultural will definitely be an unforgettable event.



The Filipino Dance Group before practice with one of their instructors, Ms. Bayani.

Photo source: Aldo Montes

See Ame Negrete's opinion article on page 8 for more about Multicultural

Spring Break

Priscilla Araujo & Natalie Saldana
—Assistant Layout Editor &— Copy Editor—

During the long over due break, some would say, students looked forward to their activities. The break gave them a chance to hang out with friends and family, visit museums or touristic areas, or simply enjoy the comfort of their home. Other students found themselves buried under a pile of "Spring break Homework". But no matter what the case was, we can safely say that everyone appreciated the temporary relief from having to wake up early and get to school on time.

The break was finally a rest from school work but for some it was not a time off their daily active routines. Some students remained physically active and spent the time conditioning and getting their bodies in shape. Sophomore Mifrah Khan says she "went to Hawthorne Memorial Park for a health fair and worked out by dancing." Maintaining healthy diets by eating balanced meals also became essential for the students who exercised. Along with diets, other students tried staying active for school-related responsibilities, such as preparing for upcoming P.E. assignments. Sophomore Katheryne Marquez "ran at the beach to prepare [herself] for marathon unit."

As many were waiting on the Spring

break to sleep and relax, others couldn't wait to spend it with friends and family. Some students took the opportunity to reconnect with friends they hadn't seen in a while and got to go to the mall or movie theaters with their loved ones. Junior Paul Reyna "played baseball and most importantly hung out with [his] friends." Similarly, freshman Oscar Rosas "played videos games with friends and spent some time at the park."

Students also visited touristic places and observed the beauties of nature, while others stayed home to watch Netflix. Senior Brianna Carlos couldn't spend her time better than "taking the time to go whale watching." Other students preferred the cozy atmosphere of watching movies at home while eating snacks or simply just laying down and listening to music. Freshman Kathleen Catamisan spent her time off "watching Netflix and catching up on shows [she] yearned to finish but had to neglect because of little time."

Spring break overall was enjoyed by the students whether they did any luxury trips or if they just stayed home. The students were able to take a week off school to use for their interest.

See Spring Break photo on page 2

ACO vs. CO

Saria Khan
—News Editor—

Environmental science classes period 5 and period 3 are both advocating water conservation. Both of the periods have formed their own groups, period 3 as the *Aqua Conservation Organization* (ACO), and period 5, the *Conserve Organization* (CO). The teams share a similar goal: to educate people about conserving water.

Jordan Robinson from ACO states that her team "promotes water conservation awareness;" Brianna Carlos, the president of the *Conserve Organization* made a similar statement: the goal of her organization is to "promote the conservation of water." They share the same tactics: pep rallies, school presentations and attaining sponsors.

Brianna's *Conserve Organization* strategized and conducted a pep rally to raise awareness of California's drought. Students received rally prizes (water bottles from sponsors) in exchange for correctly answering trivia on California's current water conditions. Similarly, ACO executed a pep rally during lunchtime, kindling the crowd with prizes, they also were able to educate the HMSA community on the drought and its detrimental effects. The *Aqua Conservation Organization* conducted several presentations in Hawthorne schools such as Ramona Elementary and

York Elementary. They bolstered the kids with an informational Prezi and a fun game of water conservation trivia.

As can be seen, ACO and the *Conserve Organization* share similar tactics and similar goals. By the end of the year, Brianna's team strives "to teach elementary school kids about the importance of not wasting water," and Jordan's team aspires to "educate people within the community about the drought in California." Both groups pursue an end to the water crisis in California.

California's drought is so severe that even El Niño cannot reverse its impending detrimental effects. The drought roots in multiple causes: California's prolonged low precipitation levels, high atmospheric pressure, global warming, and prolonged dry weather. ACO and CO pursue water conservation to counter the drought.



Tourists on Campus

Maryam Sultan
—staff writer—

Last month, students were walking into school looking like tourists. To many students' surprise, ASB modified the last Spirit Week for this year.

To refresh your memory, Monday was the traditional College Day, Tuesday was Twin/Triple Day, Wednesday was Animation Day, Thursday was Tacky Tourist Day and Friday was the customary Spirit Shirt Day.

Not only did ASB change the themes, they also changed the activities. Monday was a lively game of volleyball, Tuesday was a word game, Wednesday was an entertaining game of Guess the Disney Song, Thursday was a Name the

Place game and Friday, of course, was a classic Nation Ball tournament.

Students reacted differently to these changes.

Senior Lesley Luna said, "My favorite day was Spirit Shirt Day," and her least favorite day was "the one [she] couldn't find clothes for, Animation Day." When asked for any changes or suggestions, Lesley said that ASB "should ask for [students'] opinions."

When junior Bryanna Magallones was asked how she felt about the changes to this Spirit Week, she said she "really liked it and it was fun seeing the whole school coming together

and doing something different instead of the same thing over and over." Her favorite day was Animation Day, while her least favorite day was Tacky Tourist Day. When asked for any feedback she could give, Bryanna said, "The rally took too much time."

While some students appreciate the changes, others do not. However, what we can take from this is that students would like to be surveyed to see what days they would like in the future. And even if no surveys are conducted, students can always talk to an ASB member and share their ideas.



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Aviator News

Happy Reading.

Have a happy summer.

Summer Vacation Plans

Priscilla Araujo & Natalie Saldana
—Assistant Layout Editor &— Copy Editor—

It’s that time of the school year once more, when the countdown for summer break begins. That fateful day everyone awaits is near and summer plans are being arranged. Here are some tips and a few activities to make the most of your summer vacation.

First things first, the only black cloud looming over every student’s summer vacation is the summer homework they are assigned. Instead of letting your homework fester and build up until the day before school starts again, get it out of the way at the start of the summer or complete it over the course of the whole summer to make it easier. If you have your homework finished from the beginning, you can enjoy the rest of the summer without worrying and you’ll enjoy your summer all the more.

Every summer vacation plan usually involves the image of a day at the beach where the sun shines brightly and the water is perfect for swimming. There are plenty of beaches to choose from to have an afternoon bonfire, beach bash, or even a simple, calm day to read and tan at one of our many spectacular beaches. The beach is also a perfect place to meet up with friends and play a game of beach volleyball, grab some ice cream or ride bikes along the paths with perfect views of the mesmerizing ocean.

If the beach doesn’t suit you for socializing, there are plenty of other places to hang out with friends, from watching a film in the movie theaters,

to bowling with your friends at the bowling alley. Great landmarks and museums are found all throughout California, which you can go and visit with friends to make your visits all the more memorable. To name a few: hiking to the Hollywood sign, looking at Jupiter from the Griffith Observatory, visiting the Natural History Museum and many more entertaining locations.

Some students may be tired of California, and so they travel to different places in the world seeking out adventures. Whether it’s traveling to visit family or simply to make unforgettable summer memories in a new place, traveling during the summer break is a life-changing experience that helps broaden your understanding of the diversity of people and their cultures.

An increasingly large amount of students are choosing to have much less adventurous, but still entertaining, summer plans. This includes staying home and sleeping in, and even livening up their reclusion by catching up on their favorite TV shows and movies they haven’t been able to keep up with because of school. Catching up on Netflix sounds just as exciting to some as jet setting around the globe does to others.

No matter what excites you and makes you look forward to the summer vacation, remember to enjoy your vacation while it lasts and get your homework done early, so you can start the next school year off ready and rested.

Goals for the End of the Year and Beyond

Mina Beshay & Aldo Montes
—staff writers—

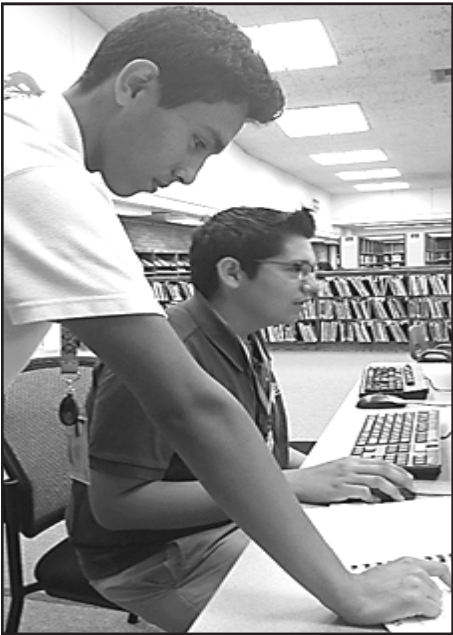
As the 2014-2015 school year comes to a close, many students have recollected on what their goals are so far, whether academic or personal. And unsurprisingly, 66% of the students we interviewed declared that they aim to raise or at least maintain their current grades.

While some of the goals we heard deal with the current year, some extend even beyond high school. For instance Alejandra Vasquez, a junior, aspires to achieve more than 1750 on her SAT; likewise, sophomores Beza Ayalew and Abdulkarim Alamad both aim to go to UC Berkeley.

One common theme among the students was traveling. Seniors Maria Heredia and Gema Martin want to go to Brazil and Germany, respectively. Similarly, freshmen Mallorie Desrosiers wishes to visit Japan and Brenda Gutierrez wishes to travel the whole world.

Many of the personal goals the students have are concerned with their personal hobbies. Gerardo Sanchez, a junior, endeavors “to master the guitar,” much like sophomore Muhammad Ali Fazal who aims to be a musician.

Whether personal or academic, people begin to re-evaluate their goals as



Sophomores Victor Ramirez and Bryan Hamden hard at work. Photo source: Mina Beshay

they realize how soon the year is coming to an end. The new time constraint and pressure forces some to abandon their goals while giving some hope that their hard work will at last come to fruition.

Goals for the end of the year and beyond.



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Spring Break continued from page 1



HAWTHORNE MEMORIAL PARK—Mifrah Khan (10), Kimberly Ngo (12), and Justin Le (12) dancing at the health fair.

Photo source: Mifrah Khan

Op-Ed

Opinion Editorials

PREVIEW

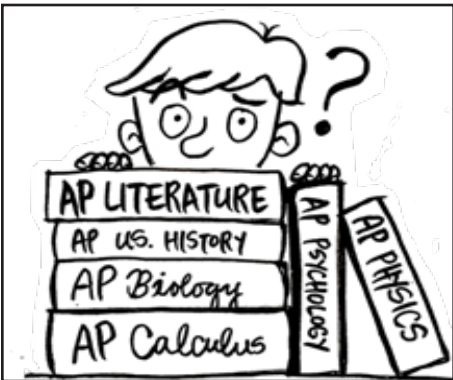
Ready For AP Next Year?

Elvia Ochoa
—staff writer—

Everyone always hears the importance of taking AP classes, whether it’s from teachers or parents. However, is it really worth the extra effort? Yes, definitely. AP classes benefit in the long run, for a variety of reasons.

College readiness is one of them. Most students fear taking an AP class because of all the work it requires. However, all that work prepares you for college and facilitates the work you do in future classes. Of course, sleep deprivation is a major complaint as well. Although the work is time-consuming, it shouldn’t be enough to deprive you of basic necessities. Rumors like these should also not discourage you from challenging yourself, as sleep-deprivation is mostly caused by procrastination. If you do your homework with little distractions, it shouldn’t take you long to finish. In terms of short term and long term benefits, the college-rigor work is beneficial in both the present and future.

College credits are a must. AP courses are a good way to earn the credits while making you stand out amongst hundreds of college applications. In addition, according to collegeboard.org, these college credits allow you to



successbeginsathome.org

save on expenses in college (tuitions, scholarships, etc).

The fact that you challenge yourself by taking an AP course shows colleges you are willing to push yourself to achieve success, and work hard. Challenging yourself is something people are afraid to do, but in the end it is worth the extra effort.

Introductory courses in college are taken at a more than common rate. Of course, no one wants to waste their time with basic classes when you could start off college with advanced courses. This gives you a head start and even lets you get to your major a lot quicker, saving you A LOT more time than you can count. Even more of a reason to take as many AP courses as you can, as early as you can!

music

Tidal

Susan Reyes
—staff writer—

There are many ways to listen to music; it's all up to a person's preference. There are old-fashioned CDs, music downloads and music-streaming services. Jay-Z recently introduced his streaming service, TIDAL.

Jay-Z wants artists to have a say in how their music is distributed. He wants artists to "take back what they own." Many artists such as Coldplay, Rihanna, Nicki Minaj and Beyoncé, just to name a few, backed Jay-Z up and expressed their support on social media. To bring attention to TIDAL, artists turned their twitter pictures to a baby blue color.

However, not all artists agree with the concept. In an interview with the Daily Beast, Mumford and Sons' lead singer, Marcus Mumford, says he doesn't agree with the concept: "when they say it's artist-owned, it's owned by

those rich, wealthy artists." Death Cab for Cutie singer, Ben Gibbard, told the Daily Beast that it's pathetic how millionaires are "complaining about not being paid" what they deserve.

TIDAL's price is something that people don't agree with. They offer a one-week free trial but after that, the fee is ten dollars a month for standard sound quality, and twenty dollars for high-fidelity audio. Spotify also gives a one-week free trial of their premium subscription. Their fee is ten dollars per month. Spotify even offers college students their premium subscription for just five dollars per month. Junior Ajaratu Hamid says she is going to "keep her Spotify account" and not switch to TIDAL.

TIDAL offers twenty-five million songs to stream and seventy-five thousand videos to see.



Images: d.h.wahlrifi.com

So Help Us Yeezus

Michael Salazar
—staff writer—

Kanye West has caused a frenzy with the announcement of his new album *So Help Me God*. Although there has been speculation that the album might be released on his birthday, there is no confirmed release date.

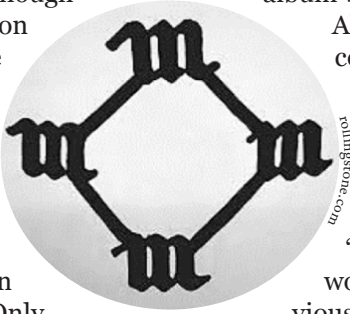
After months of hearing nothing of Kanye West, Yeezy released two songs in collaboration with Paul McCartney: "Only One" and "Four Five Seconds." Kanye West also featured in Big Sean's "All Your Fault" and Vic Mensa's "U Mad." It seems as if it is finally Yeezus season.

With the release of his new song "All Day," Kanye has many fans excited for what his new album has in store. Senior Ryan Aquinde believes, "Kanye

will out do himself like always." Junior David Cifuentes thinks, "Kanye's new album will be one to remember."

Although many fans are confident that *So Help Me God* will top the charts, not everyone is optimistic that it will be a success. Sophomore Emilio Deleon believes, "Kanye's new album won't be as good as his previous projects."

The debate continues on whether Kanye West's new album will live up to its potential. With Kanye constantly experimenting with new artists and new music, fans are worried about which direction Kanye will take his new album. Fans will have to wait to see if Kanye's new album will deliver.



rollingstone.com

K-Pop Concerts

Zunera Akram
—staff writer—

There's no doubt that Korean pop culture (affectionately called K-pop) has become an international phenomenon. It's gaining popularity in American pop culture, with enthusiastic fans such as Perez Hilton. For Asian American teens, the luring quality of K-pop runs a little deeper. As Tumblr and Twitter feeds run rampant with the

latest buzz on SNSD, EXO or SHINee, Korean music and all the culture that accompanies it, has traveled at lightning speed across the Pacific to influence both Korean and non-Korean American teens alike. What sets K-pop apart from the rest is the fact that it is able to attract a substantial non-Korean following, as well.

List of K-Pop Concerts in the summer

Dates	Artist	Venue
May 6-8	Got 7	TBA
TBA	Eric Nam	Nokia
July 16, 18, 24, 26	Bangtan Boys	TBA
TBA	K-Con	Staples Center

Movies

Aloha



latinpost.com

Adriana Sandoval
—staff writer—

Cameron Crowe, director, former *Rolling Stone* journalist (one of the few people who scored an interview with Jimmy Page), author and Billy Wilder enthusiast, is releasing a new film: *Aloha*.

Aloha stars Bradley Cooper, Emma Stone, Bill Murray, Alec Baldwin, Rachel McAdams and Danny McBride. The film, surprisingly, takes place in Hawaii. The film is about a military contractor (Bradley Cooper) who "returns to the site of his greatest career triumphs and re-connects with a long-ago love (Rachel McAdams) while unexpectedly falling for the hard-charging Air Force watchdog (Emma Stone) assigned to him" (imdb.com). The film will open in theatres on May 29th.

"I'll watch anything with Bradley Cooper in it," confessed senior Brianna Carlos.

For those unfamiliar with Crowe, his filmography includes *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* (i.e. the movie with Sean Penn as a surfer), *Say Anything* (i.e. the movie with John Cusack holding a boombox), *Jerry Maguire* (i.e. the "show me the money" movie), *Almost Famous* (i.e. the film, alongside American Graffiti, Animal House, Dazed & Confused, Easy Rider, Stand By Me and The Big Chill, that's the topic of conversation when discussing greatest film soundtracks) and *Pearl Jam Twenty* (i.e. the movie you'll watch in Anthropology with Mr. Launius). Also, several of Crowe's articles are on rollingstone.com, including his Fleetwood Mac, Joni Mitchell and Peter Frampton articles.

Senior Jennice Gomez enthused, "well, he's written memorable lines." Crowe's written everything from "hey bud, let's party" (*Fast Times at Ridgemont High*) to the infinitely quoted "you had me at hello" (*Jerry Maguire*).

Even if the film tanks, the soundtrack won't. Expect anything ranging from Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, Led Zeppelin, The Who, Bob Dylan, Elvis Presley and Neil Young to Jackson Browne, Brenton Wood, Elton John, The Temptations, Cat Stevens and Nancy Wilson (Crowe's wife).

Furious 7

"Ride or die, remember?"

- Dominic Toretto

Alexander Muñoz
—staff writer—

A greatly-crafted movie—yet very expensive—*Furious Seven* is the next blockbuster that did not hide behind its enormous budget. Roughly budgeted at \$190 million and then swelled to nearly \$250 million, this movie was one of the most expensive ever; with explosions and huge stunts happening throughout the entire movie according to Box Office Mojo on May 7th. From one action sequence to another, this movie will keep you at the edge of your seat.

Opening weekend was a ridiculous sight, with lines that revolved around the theatre multiple times. In my personal experience, I bought my tickets early and the room already had limited seats. This turnout was apparent with the film's exceptional trailers as well as promotions. This film grossed as of April 19th worldwide at an impressive \$1,152,368,622. It also broke the record for fastest movie to hit \$1 billion in just 17 days, and for good reason, according to Box Office Mojo on May 7th.

What was believed to be the final movie in the timeline, turned out not to be. For some reason, there was an eighth movie announced recently, which appears to be a cash grab due to an unasked-for sequel. If you are a bit confused from the timeline for this movie, here is a small timeline to understand the movie's chronological order: 1) *Fast and Furious* 2) *2 Fast 2 Furious* 3) *The Fast and Furious: Tokyo Drift* 4) *Fast and Furious 4* 5) *Fast Five* 6) *Fast and Furious 6* and 7) *Furious 7*. The unnecessarily convoluted timeline is my only gripe with the series as a whole; creating unnecessary ties with what was originally a spin off movie (Tokyo Drift) just to keep a series flow.

At the end of the great experience, there is a beautiful tribute to the actor Paul Walker, who unfortunately died in a tragic car accident during the filming. It has flashbacks from the previous films as Paul Walker drives off in the distance and caused many manly men to cry. It was an emotional experience. It is a must-see.



furious7.com

Read more A&E articles on page 6

Arts & Entertainment CONTINUED

- ↳ Throwback Thursday Themed Summer Movie Night
- ↳ The Netflix Disappearance

Movies

Cinderella: New vs. Old

Tatiana Medrano
—staff writer—



When a person hears the word Cinderella, they often think of a princess with a big blue dress and blond hair, an image provided by Walt Disney since February 15, 1950. It is a character from childhood that many still endear. Its charm and classic “good defeats evil” plotline made a legacy out of the 1950’s film. Disney decided to revamp Cinderella into a live-action film and release it on March 13, 2015. This forces some of us to wonder how the film has changed.

The stepmother in the 1950’s version of *Cinderella* is depicted as a woman who married Cinderella’s father to take advantages of the luxuries he had. The new film brings light to the situation, proving that Lady Tremaine (the stepmother) is a complex and sympathetic character. Not only did Lady Tremaine lose both husbands, she lost a child. Cinderella, in her eyes, is forced onto her as a replacement to that child. The situation forces her to set her resentment on Cinderella, who is treated as a second-class citizen. Disney makes it clear that Lady Tremaine’s sadness does not stop her plans to become rich; it fuels her even more. She is a force to be reckoned with.

In the original movie, Prince Charming was used as a prop to propel the plotline further. There is no background story to him; all we know is that he is looking for a wife to take his father’s crown. The Prince in the recent movie is given more depth and allows viewers to broaden their atten-

tion outside of the servant girl. First off, the Prince is given a more humanizing name, Kit. We learn that the King is dying and the Prince must take over the kingdom. The 1950’s version clearly demonstrates that the Prince fell in love with Cinderella’s beauty, but the modern version revises the storyline and, ultimately, personality will be the driving factor of love.

The backgrounds are shown and clarified for most of the characters. Cinderella’s mother is shown in loving and sweet memories, making the viewer understand where Cinderella’s strength and sugar sweet personality comes from. The Prince is shown to be loving and not taking Cinderella for face value alone, while his father (the King) is seen as a dying man desperate to find a wife for his son, who is destined to be the next in line. The Fairy Godmother is, of course, seen as extravagant and Cinderella’s hero. Unlike the classic movie, where the character is almost homey and a comforting grandmother, she is a young, flighty woman.

The trailer for the live-action is slightly deceiving, portraying the film as having an unexpected twist. Unfortunately, if you were looking for a dark turn, you will be highly disappointed. Other than the few upgrades made to clarify the storyline, it is very much like the original. This is Disney after all, they will make a friendly, lovable movie out of any Grimm Brothers’ tale.

iPhone 7 in 2015

Natasha Ruiz
—staff writer—

In September 2014, Apple released the iPhone 6. Its features include a much bigger screen, a noticeable increase in picture quality and a lightweight design. Chaotic scenes to buy the glorious new iPhone broke out the moment Apple’s new device was neatly stacked across millions of stores around the world. After a while, the hype and awe of the iPhone 6 died down. In other words, people’s enthusiasm plummeted.

Throughout the company’s history, Apple usually creates an “S” version of every device they design. So, it is only natural to assume that the iPhone 6S is on its way to consumer’s hands. However, rumors of the iPhone 7 are already being spread through social media. Due to the significant differences when compared to the iPhone 6, this product could potentially be named the iPhone 7, according to Apple. Key new features of the new device include: waterproof casing, sapphire crystal display, 3-D camera and an aluminum frame.

According to AppleInsider, Apple planned to incorporate a Force Touch on the iPhone 6 but was not included due to technical problems. Various individuals from The Week suggest that when Force Touch is programed to the new iPhone



macworld.co.uk

model, it “may be significant enough for Apple to call its next iPhone the iPhone 7.” Expert Reviews don’t necessarily agree that the Force Touch is the reason for the name change. Instead, they conclude that Apple may drop the iPhone 6S “because the company has decided that the ‘S’ range of phones is a bit confusing and clear model numbers make more sense.”

Whichever the reason for the name change, customers will be eager to get a grip on this extravagant new iPhone.

Marvel and DC:
The Dawn of a Superhero Era

Leannette Estrada
—A&E Editor—

Before the hilarious banter and the Tony snark or the gritty darkness of Christopher Nolan’s Batman appeared on the big screen, superhero movies were known to be only ordinary films and not summer-box-office, explosive movies. The abundance of superhero films that now appear didn’t exist, with few films released that disillusioned comic book fans because of poor character development. However, these films served the purpose in laying the groundwork for Marvel and DC’s empire.

Marvel wasn’t always the famous, economic powerhouse it is today. Although the X-Men and Spider-Man films were successful in the box office and satisfied fans and newcomers (with Sam Raimi’s *Spider-Man 3*, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, and *X-Men: Last Stand* as exceptions), superhero movies were struggling to win audiences and critics.

Many critics and die-hard fans agree that Marvel’s reign started with *Iron Man*. *Iron Man* was a major gamble for Marvel because they couldn’t predict if audiences were interested in watching the film. Many critics were skeptical with this big-budget film, since previous attempts bombed the box office. However, *Iron Man* went against the odds and demonstrated that a man in a super-advanced iron suit is much more than special effects.

Even the master movie critic, Roger Ebert, mused that “[*Iron Man*] has a plot so ingenious it continues to function no matter how loud the impacts, how enormous the explosions.”

As Marvel saw the success of the film, the decision to make a Marvel Universe was inevitable. Known as Phase 1, each Marvel film released intertwined with each other; each of the film’s events affected the outcome of the other movies. Six films constructed the Phase 1 era: *Iron Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Iron Man 2*, *Thor*, *Captain America: First Avenger* and of course, *The Avengers*.

Currently reaching the end of Phase 2 with *Ant-Man* (release date: July 17, 2015), Marvel released its Phase 3 movie agenda: *Thor: Ragnarok*, *Captain Marvel*, *Black Panther*, the highly-anticipated *Captain America: Civil War*, *Inhumans*, *Guardians of the Galaxy 2*, *Doctor Strange*, and lastly, *Avengers: Infinity War Part 1 and 2*.

Besides the Marvel Universe, there are

also other films with high anticipation: *The Merc with a Mouth*, A.K.A. *Deadpool*, *X-Men: Apocalypse*, and the *X-Men spin-off, Gambit*.

Now, as for DC, the only successes have been *Batman* and *Superman*, with *Green Lantern*, *Jonah Hex* and *Watchmen* disappointing DC fans.

However, DC has found its success on the smaller screen, with *Smallville*, *Arrow*, *The Flash* and the popular *Batman: The Animated Series* and *The Justice League*. Even though Constantine is also a show based off the popular DC character, it didn’t receive the same acceptance as *The Flash* or *Arrow*.

Christopher Nolan’s version of Batman demonstrates that comedy and loads of CGI aren’t necessary to make a successful superhero movie.

Even legendary comic book writer, Grant Morrison, expressed his appraisal for Christopher Nolan: “I loved the recent Christopher Nolan stuff. For me that was the best distillation of Batman: it incorporated a lot of stuff that Denny and Neal had done so well, which was nice to see” (ScreenRant).

With Marvel dominating the box office, DC decided it was time to change the tides and in a flash, announced their own movie dynasty. Zack Snyder’s highly debated *Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice*, *Wonder Woman*, *Suicide Squad*, *Shazam*, *Green Lantern* remake, *Justice League part 1 and 2*, *The Flash*, *Cyborg*, *Aquaman*, *Sandman*, *Dark Universe* or *Justice League Dark*, a possible new Batman solo film with Ben Affleck (Battleck), *Legion of Super-heroes*, and *Metal Men*.

The rivalry between DC and Marvel has existed long before big-budget movies entered the scene. For newcomers, or those who don’t read comics because they find it too nerdish, will find the films more interesting.

Of course, who wouldn’t want to see *Batman v. Superman* on the big screen, finally getting to watch *Deadpool*, after the disastrous *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* version, or *Captain America: Civil War*, where Spider-Man might appear. How lovely is it to be a comic book fan and be mesmerized to see your favorite superheroes on the big screen.

GAMING Mortal Kombat X

Helen Tran
—staff writer—

Mortal Kombat will be 23 years old with *Mortal Kombat X*, released on April 14, 2015, as said by IGN. *Mortal Kombat X* comes from the *Mortal Kombat* game franchise developed by Midway Games, then taken over by NetherRealm Studios. It takes on the aspects of science, fantasy and fighting; also, it has been created into a long line of games with films, a television series and comic book series.

According to Did You Know Gaming, *Mortal Kombat* is known for its trademark finishing move, “Fatality,” which allows the victor to finish off their opponent in a violent way unique to the character. Throughout the series other finishing moves were created: Animalities, Brutality, Hara-Kiri, friendship, Babality and Mercy.

As said in Mike McWhertor’s article, *Mortal Kombat X* is similar to *Mortal Kombat 9* with one-on-one fighting, blocking abilities and x-ray

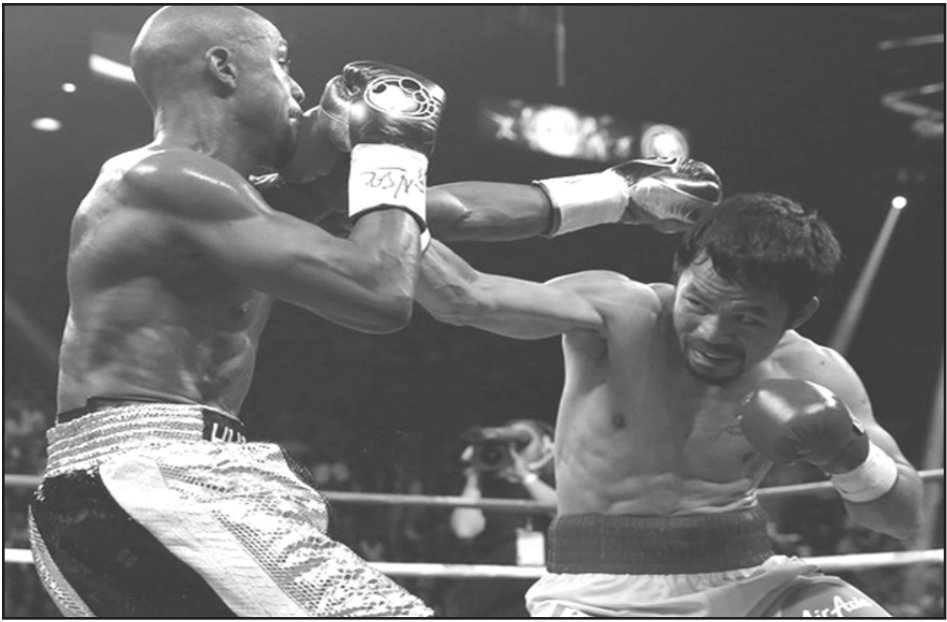
bone-crushing moves. The difference revolves in the characters’ special moves, their three variations. Other changes include players jumping off their surroundings, like a tree stump; players can also grab and toss objects at opponents. A stamina meter has been implemented to stop the overuse environment interaction.

The roster has a clean slate with the exception of Sub-Zero and Scorpion; these new characters were made for the new generation players as the franchise goes to use next-gen consoles.

Anyone, new or pro, can come, with bone-chilling excitement to destroy their opponents with skill and wisdom for bragging rights. With simple but elegant backgrounds, players can enjoy and battle to the death on iOS, Microsoft Windows, Android, Xbox One, Playstation 3, Xbox 360 and Playstation 4.

Fight of the Century: Mayweather vs. Pacquiao

Dion Bui
—staff writer—



online.com

After years of teasing the public, Floyd “Money” Mayweather Jr. finally entered the boxing ring and fought Manny “Pac-Man” Pacquiao. The fight, which took place on May 2nd in the MGM Grand Garden Arena, shattered several records. Aside from the fight itself, the events that led up to the fight and followed it have plagued sports broadcasts for hours.

When a photo of Mayweather and Pacquiao talking at an NBA game emerged online, fans were speculating that fight negotiations were underway. They were right. On February 21st, 2015, Mayweather announced on Shots, a mobile app, that the fight was set for May 2nd. The two fighters met in LA for their one and only pre-bout press conference. In terms of the money, Mayweather took in 60% of the profit, while Pacquiao took in 40%. Only 500 tickets were put on sale for the public. They ranged from \$1,500 to \$7,500 and sold out in seconds. According to Forbes.com, tickets were put on secondary markets and ranged from \$4,000 to a whopping \$100,000. In addition to ticket sales, Pay-Per-View costed \$100. Although the numbers have not yet been released, Yahoo.com estimates that the fight is expected to have taken in more than \$400 million. The negotiations came down to whose name would go first on the fight

card, what gloves would be used, and how much money each fighter would take home. The World Boxing Council even allowed fans to pick between two special championships belt for the special fight.

After 12 rounds in the ring, Mayweather remained undefeated and improved to a record of 48-0. When asked what was next, Mayweather said he would fight again in September and then retire. However, the fight was very controversial and was evident on social media. Memes were made to mock Mayweather’s defensive fighting style, while stories of Pacquiao’s right shoulder injury made headlines. Apparently, Pacquiao had torn his right rotator cuff prior to the fight, but was denied medication before the fight since he failed to notify any officials the day before. It most likely could have affected Pacquiao’s performance, but either way, Mayweather still won and is still undefeated. At this point, Mayweather announced that he’s relinquishing his title belts to give other boxers a chance. When asked why he wanted to do so, he said it’s because he’s not greedy. However, his obsession with money proves otherwise. Pacquiao has also been sued for his failure to notify officials for his injury. For now, both fighters are taking breaks, but they have also expressed interest in a rematch.

Stanley Cup Playoffs 2015

Francisco Contreras
—staff writer—

The matchups for the 2015 Stanley Cup Playoffs are set. NHL fans may notice the familiar faces of this year’s playoff constituents, as many teams have established themselves as playoff regulars. While the Chicago Blackhawks, the fourth seed in the West, look to cement their place in history as a dynasty by winning their third cup in six years, the New York Rangers, who locked up the season’s best record, look to avenge last season’s loss in the Final.

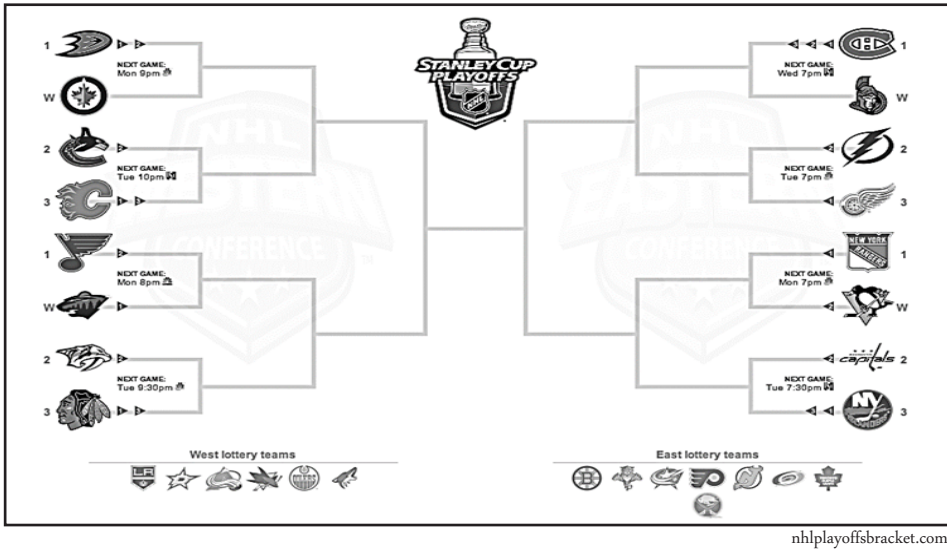
One substantial disparity in this year’s playoffs is the absence of the defending champion Los Angeles Kings. The Kings’ season, marked by an assortment of various injuries, suspensions, and disappointing performances, ended unfortunately, despite the team’s best efforts up until the very end. The team played sluggishly to start the season and, even with a late season push, was never able to regain its championship form. The team obviously felt the effects of five straight postseason appearances, including two deep runs that culminated in two championships. During the season’s final press conference, Dean Lombardi, the team’s president and general manager, remarked, “because they care so much in their loyalty to each other, we can fix this and become stronger” (lakingsinsider.com).

While the Kings players have had to watch the playoffs from their homes, these playoffs have definitely not lacked in excitement. The New York Rangers, who took on the Pittsburgh Penguins in the first round, opened up the tournament as the heavy favorites in the East, with 5:2 odds to emerge from the East, according to vegasinsider.com. They also opened up with 6:1 odds to win it

all. Led by forwards Martin St. Louis and Rick Nash, as well as goaltender Henrik Lundqvist, they captured the league’s President’s Trophy by obtaining the most points with 113 during the regular season. Their first round matchup lasted only five games, as they took the series four games to one. Elsewhere in the East, the Montreal Canadiens, who finished second to Rangers in the Eastern conference, took on the seventh-seeded Ottawa Senators. The heavily favored Canadiens defeated the Senators in six games. Wrapping up the East, the third-seeded Tampa Bay Lightning squared off against the number six tea Detroit Red Wings, and the number for Washington Capitals faced the number five New York Islanders. The higher seeded team prevailed in each series, as the Lightning went on to match up against the Canadiens in a highly anticipated series, and the Capitals headed up north to play against the number one-seeded Rangers.

In the second round on the Eastern side, one team in each series stormed out to commanding series leads. The Tampa Bay Lightning took the first three games of its series in dominant fashion; in these three games, the Canadiens went without scoring a single goal. After giving up games four and five, the Lightning closed out the Canadiens in game number six at home. In the Capitals and Rangers series started out in a somewhat similar manner. The Capitals started the series off winning three of the first four games, but were unable to close the Rangers out and lost in seven games, setting the stage for a conference final between the Lightning

See Stanley Cup Playoffs on page 6



nhlplayoffsbracket.com

Sweet Sixteen

Brandon Azuoma
—staff writer—

As April turns into May, there are two words that cross through every NBA players’ and every NBA fans’ mind: ‘Playoffs, baby.’ The NBA playoffs consists of 16 teams: the 8 best teams from each respective conference. The Eastern Conference has the Atlanta Hawks, Cleveland Cavaliers, Chicago Bulls, Toronto Raptors, Washington Wizards, Milwaukee Bucks, Boston Celtics, and the Brooklyn Nets. The Western Conference has the Golden State Warriors, Houston Rockets, Los Angeles Clippers, Portland Trailblazers, Memphis Grizzlies, San Antonio Spurs, Dallas Mavericks, and the New Orleans Pelicans.

Each playoff round is a best of seven, and the winner of each series advances to the Conference semifinals, then Conference finals, then to the NBA finals. There

were many surprises this year with the teams who made it to the playoffs and where they landed in the rankings. The reigning champions, the Spurs, ended up in sixth place; however, they lost in a hard fought 7 game series against the Clippers in the first round. The New Orleans Pelicans and the Boston Celtics were the biggest surprises, considering that everyone counted them out. They both have relatively young teams, so for a lot of the players on each team, they will have their first playoff experience in these playoffs.

There were many entertaining first round series between teams, including the Wizards dominating the Raptors, and the Los Angeles Clippers beating the defending champions by 2 points in a Game 7 matchup. However, only eight teams

were allowed to advance to the Conference Semifinals, and for the most part, the teams in the Conference Semifinals were the teams the majority of people predicted to win.

The four matchups that were left are the series with the Warriors and Grizzlies, Clippers and Rockets, Cavaliers and Bulls, and the Wizards and Hawks. The Conference Semifinals were filled with many spectacular plays including three buzzer-beater, game-winning shots from Paul Pierce, Derrick Rose, and LeBron James. The Warriors took out the Grizzlies in 6 games, the Cavaliers took out the Bulls in 6 games, the Hawks took out the Wizards in 6 games, and the Rockets beat the Clippers in an anti-climactic game 7. Despite having the best team in their franchise history, the

Clippers weren’t able to advance to the Western Conference Finals, which they have never done in their team history. However, the playoffs should still be interesting with the teams left.

The Conference Finals has two matchups between the Warriors and Rockets, and the Hawks and Cavaliers. Both series should be great to watch as they both have the number 1 and 2 seed from each conference. This is the first time the Warriors and Hawks have been in the conference finals in over 20 years, and they are both ready to get to the finals.

The playoffs is the best time of the year for the NBA. The best teams in the NBA showcase their talent for fans across the world to see. It’s time to see what these players are made of. It’s playoffs, baby.

Copa América

Miguel Sanchez Ramirez & Richard Estrella
—staff writers—

The Copa América, the oldest foot- ball competition in the world, is right around the corner. All South American teams are automatically in the tourna- ment, with at least two invited teams from a different confederation. This year’s invited teams are México and Jamaica.

The competition will begin on June 11, 2015 and end on July 4, 2015 in Chile. The Copa América began in 1916 in South America, when the first team to win the competition was none oth- er than Uruguay. However, only four teams played in this edition: Brazil, Ar- gentina, Uruguay and Chile.

This year’s Copa América appears to be one of the best ones to date, as the participating teams have some of the best players in the world. For example,

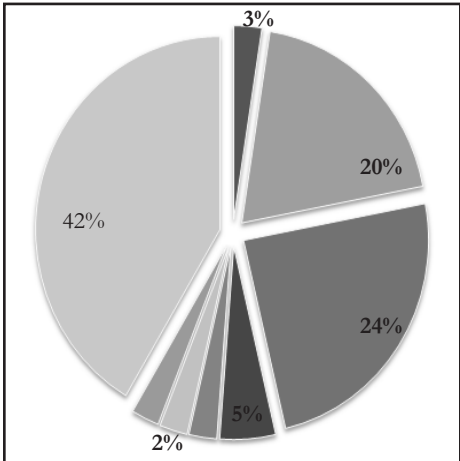
Argentina has El Kun Agüero (For- ward), Carlos Tevez (Forward), Angel DiMaria (Midfielder), and the god of soccer himself, Lionel Messi (Center Forward). Brazil has players such as Neymar (Left Winger), Hulk (Right Winger), David Luiz (Defender), and Thiago Silva (Defender). Next is Uru- guay, the defending champions, whose star players are Luis Suarez (Forward), Diego Godin (Defender), and Edin- son Cavani (Forward). Another team that has a high chance of winning the tournament is Colombia. The only one player that can possibly help lead them to victory is James Rodriguez (Mid- fielder). Falcao (Forward), a Colombi- an player who is usually a prolific goal- scorer, has not been in top form only scoring 4 goals in 21 games for Man-

chester United, according to *espnfc.us*.

But an interesting point for the Uru- guayan team is that their star striker, Luis Suarez, will not be participating in the competition at all due to the inci- dent that happened during last year’s World Cup match against Italy. The striker bit Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini in the shoulder and was sen- tenced to a nine match ban according to *fifa.com*. Thanks to this incident, Uruguay will need to pick their game up if they want to keep their title.

The next Copa América will be in 2016, but the competition is normally held every four years. The reason be- hind this is because next year will be the 100th anniversary of the Copa América and it will be held here in the United States.

Copa América Winner Predictions



*Based on 41 students

42%--Argentina

24%--Mexico

20%--Brazil

5%---Ecuador

3%---Chile

2%---Colombia, Uruguay, Paraguay

Duke Wins More than the Championship

Isaac Gorgy & Victoria Herrera
—Sports Editor –&– staff writer—

As March approached, so did the annual NCAA basketball tournament. It was a big time in the year for college basketball fans many of whom filled out online brackets and watched the games religiously. The games got more intense as teams were eliminated. The final four consisted of the Kentucky Wildcats, Wisconsin Badgers, Michigan State Spartans and Duke Blue Devils.

These teams played blood boiling games. Wisconsin made it to the cham- pionship game after beating Kentucky. Many believed Kentucky would win due to their perfect season and high ranking. According to Fox Sports, Wisconsin used their assets, such as Frank Kaminsky who was said to “use his height to his advan- tage” by Kentucky forward, Karl-Anthony Towns. Duke also made it to the final game by beating Michigan State. The Spartans

started off strong with an eight-point lead. Eventually, the Blue Devils caught up and with the help of their many dunks, won the game with a twenty-point lead.

Duke and Wisconsin faced off in the Championship game on April 6th. The first half of the game had fans at the edge of their seats as nothing seemed to sepa- rate the two teams. At the beginning of the second half, Blue Devil fans were si- lenced as Wisconsin had a nine-point lead. Then, Duke caught up as Grayson Allen (Freshman guard) and Tyus Jones (Freshman guard) were unstoppable. This year’s Duke Squad was freshman-oriented as the first-timers scored 60 out of the 68 points in the championship game (The Big Lead). The game ended with a score of 68 to 60 in Duke’s favor.

After winning the NCAA championship, some of the Blue Devils had the oppor-

tunity to declare for the NBA draft. Tyus Jones along with teammates Jahlil Okafor and Justise Winslow are set for the up- coming draft (CBS Sports). Jones aver- aged 11.8 points, 5.6 assists, and 3.8 re- bounds as a freshman, while being named Final Four’s Most Outstanding Player.

“This year at Duke University, my dreams and aspirations have literally come true,” Winston said in an interview with USA Today. Winston averaged 12.6 points and 6.5 rebounds (USA today).

The 6-foot-11 All American, Jahlil Oka- for noted, “As early as I can remember I’ve fantasized and dreamed of the day that I could play professional basketball.” Coach Mike Krzyzewski called Okafor’s choice a “good decision.”

Duke’s success this year has propelled many of its players to excel and potential- ly join the NBA.

Stanley Cup continued from page 5

and Rangers.

Out West, the fourth-seeded Chicago Blackhawks started out with the best odds of winning at 7:2. Their arduous journey began with a matchup against the Nashville Predators, who finished with better a record, and won in six games. The Ducks, who finished with 109 points and the number one seed, began the play- offs against the Winnipeg Jets, who they defeated quickly in just four games. The Blues, who also finished with 109 points, played against the Minnesota Wild, and were upset in a six game series. And fi- nally, the Vancouver Canucks faced off against the Calgary Flames, which the Flames also won in six games.

The second round was of little drama, as the Ducks dispelled of the Flames in five games and the Blackhawks swept the Wild in four games to set up a matchup between the Ducks and Blackhawks for a trip to the Stanley Cup Final.

Arts & Entertainment CONTINUED

Throwback Thursday Themed Summer Movie Night

Lorena Guerrero
—staff writer—

Summer is just around the corner, which means that it’s time to get out the sunscreen and go outdoors! Time to get eaten alive by pesky mosquitoes while trying to endure the intense California heat! Instead of torturing yourself, why not stay indoors with the AC on and have a throwback Thursday themed movie night? All you need are snacks, friends and great movies.

You can embrace your teenage years with movies like *Sixteen Candles*, *The Breakfast Club*, *Pretty in Pink*, *Clue- less* and everybody’s favorite musical, *Grease*. These teen films are sure to take you on an emotional roller coaster. You’ll find yourself laughing at characters in all their awkwardness and won’t be able to do anything but smile at the happy end- ings.

Do you want a good scare? *Child’s Play* can make you think of throwing away any dolls you might have. The story is about a man who commits a crime and becomes re-incarnated in a doll, which is then giv- en to a young boy. Talk about bad gifts, right? Now, the young boy has to try to escape Chucky to save his life. *Jeepers*

Creepers is also another great movie if you want to get scared. Two siblings re- turn home from Spring Break and recall a horrifying story about the ultimate fate of two high school students. As the plot continues, the siblings realize that their life is in danger and have to escape a mysterious creature who does not want to make friends. Another great movie has to be *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. This movie is classic and will make you doubt taking naps or going to sleep. A group of teenagers are tormented by a man who haunts their dreams and makes them lose their sanity. These are only some of the many movies that you can watch to get a good scare.

Hosting a throwback Thursday movie night is a fun thing that can be done dur- ing the summer. The good thing about these classic movies is that most of them are on Netflix so it’s basically free sum- mer fun. Besides, if they aren’t on Net- flix, they can be easily found in any movie rental store. This summer, mix things up and host a throwback Thursday themed movie night.

Arts & Entertainment CONTINUED

The Netflix Disappearance

Giselle Vazquez
—staff writer—

A few months ago, everyone panicked because Netflix announced that shows were going to be removed.

Truth is, the contracts needed to be renewed for many shows, including the popular British show, *Dr. Who*.

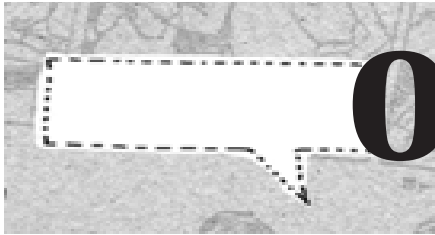
Luckily for all the fans, the contracts were renewed for many BBC shows, in- cluding, *Classic Doctor Who*, *18 Collec- tions*, *Doctor Who*, Seasons 1-7, *House of Cards Trilogy*, *Keeping Up Appearances*, Season 1, *Luther*, Seasons 1-3, *Monarch of the Glen*, Seasons 1-6, *The Buccaneers*, *The Office* (U.K.), Seasons 1-2. However, not all BBC programs made the renewal list.

Unfortunately, as of April, many classic movies (that you probably never thought of watching) were removed from Netflix. According to PCMag.com, *Annie* (1982), *Clue* (1985), *Coneheads* (1993), *Friday the 13th* (All Parts) (1980), *Get Shorty* (1995), *Good Morning, Vietnam* (1987), *Inventing the Abbotts* (1997), *Jane Eyre* (1944), *Jeepers Creepers* (2001), *Jeep- ers Creepers 2* (2003), *Les Misérables* (1935), *Madeline* (1989), *Sense and Sen-*

sibility (1995), *The Karate Kid* (I, II, III) (1984-1989), among many others were removed. Probably a sad moment for the older audience, who pay for Netflix to watch their favorite films.

It is also reported by ScreenRant that many TV shows are also disappearing. For instance, *Criminal Minds* was re- cently removed, as well as *Mythbusters*. Also on the list: *Bizarre Foods with An- drew Zimmern* Collection (2008), *Blue Mountain State* Seasons 1-3 (2010-2011), *Astonishing X--Men* Sets 2-4 (2011- 2012), *The Dead Files* Seasons 1-2 (2011- 2012), *Restaurant: Impossible* Collection (2012), *Hotel Impossible* Seasons 1-2 (2012-2013), *Cutthroat Kitchen* Season 1 (2013), *The Inexplicable Universe with Neil deGrasse Tyson* (2013) and *The Bri- an Boitano Project* Season 1 (2014).

Another truth, Hulu is loading up their big guns and adding newer, updated shows. With Disney invested into their service, there is no way Hulu could lose this battle. Could Netflix be slowly losing their crown? Is Hulu taking over the TV/ movie watching world? Possibly.



Op-Ed

Opinion-Editorials

Who's Next?

Ogechi Okafor & Mayra Gomez
—staff writers—

If you claim that police brutality in the United States isn't a problem, then you need to wake up and smell the roses. Police brutality is more common than most people expect. Every single month, citizens die by the hands of the police—innocent or not.

Everyone has heard about the Trayvon and Michael Brown cases but what about recent ones? When a camera is not trained on an officer, policemen commit murder however and whenever they wish. Police officers believe that they have great control over society—and the reality is that they do but they take advantage of how much power they truly have.

Two significant cases of police brutality occurred in April. According to CNN, Robert Bates, a volunteer officer, shot Eric Harris in Tulsa on April 2nd, and “was charged with second-degree manslaughter.” Reporters say that Harris sold an illegal firearm to an undercover officer and ran away. An officer in pursuit then tackled Harris while wearing a body camera, recording the ensuing altercation. As Harris struggled on the ground, Bates claimed that he accidentally pulled the trigger on his gun instead of his taser. He immediately apologized but another officer, kneeling on Harris' head, cursed at Harris and refused to let Harris move to a position in which he could breathe. Harris passed away within an hour of the incident.

The second case involved Walter Scott

and Michael Slager, a police officer. A bystander recorded the incident with a cell phone. The Daily Mail published an article stating that on April 4th, Walter Scott was running errands with a friend when Slager pulled them over for a broken tail light. In CNN's recent report, Slager claims that “he felt threatened” as Scott fled the scene, so he “[fired] eight shots at [him].” Slager has been charged with the murder of Walter Scott but the FBI is still conducting investigations.

Many police officers serve honorably and follow police regulations but there are always a few members that ruin the reputation of the rest. Some police officers do not “serve and protect the people”; instead, they abuse their power. Police are inherently powerful. When officers use their powers to advance their ideology, they damage the reputation of the other officers who do strive to “serve and protect” by enforcing the law.

The Michael Slager and Robert Bates case shed some light on the need for body cameras. As recent events have shown, body cameras or any camera is a key factor in exposing police brutality. When asked about these two cases, senior Nicole Ninapaytan said that they were “eye openers to young adults.” We are raised to think that “the police are on our side and are here to lend a helping hand but when you think about these cases, it's a harsh reality. I don't feel safe at all.”

Senior Tatiana Medrano claims that body cameras are essential and should



Image from www.eurweb.com

be used in every police department: “It is very important for body cameras to be a part of a police officer's daily uniform. I think it's necessary because policemen can't make up lies in their police reports. Think about what would have been of these cases if video evidence was unavailable.”

Police officers should be wearing body cameras at all times. Filming police brutalities is the best evidence against the assailant. If the transgressions are not recorded, who knows whose side the judge

will take in court? If it wasn't for a camera recording Robert Bates and Michael Slager, both officers wouldn't have any charges against them, and two families would have mourned the injustice. With all of these cases coming out, it makes us wonder whose camera will capture the next killing. Filming the incident will not put an end to police brutality, but some police officers will think twice before acting on the impulse to use unnecessary violence against a defiant.

Two Direction

Nishrat Khan
—Business Manager—



March 25, 2015 is a day that will live in infamy...well for 11-16 year old girls. Many mouths dropped when news of Zayn Malik leaving One Direction surfaced the internet. Girls all over the world crossed their fingers, wishing for the news to be merely a hoax or a figment of some One Direction hater's imagination. However, all of their wishes crumbled down when the One Direction website released an official statement regarding the departure of the famous 22-year-old from the British boyband who decided to quit the band due to stress and the urge to live a normal life.

One Direction quickly rose to fame after being grouped together on *The X Factor* in 2010 by Simon Cowell. Although they did not win the competition, they acquired a fan base of millions of people. Not only do they have an abundance of fans, they won many awards in their years and were named top artist of the year by *Billboard* in 2014.

But what exactly are we losing from Zayn's exit from the band? Many would argue—including myself—that his vocals are something extraordinary and totally something we haven't heard before which means this absence in One Direction's future albums will be dearly missed. Another question that has been on everyone's mind is the future of One Direction.

The remaining boys (Harry, Louis, Liam and Niall) have decided to continue their world tour and have also started recording their new album, due to be released later this year. Although Zayn's absence will be something many people struggle to overcome, One Direction's fans should be looking forward to what this band has to offer in the near future.

Going on a Trip through Summer Memories and Dreams

Kimberly Rivera
—staff writer—

Summer break is approaching faster than you think. In less than two months, the 2014-2015 school year will be over and summer break will begin. Why is summer break such a big deal? People greatly anticipate summer each year because of several reasons.

Summer is a well-deserved break. After ten months of working diligently, summer break is like a soothing body massage. 11th grade US History and AP US History teacher Mr. Highducheck looks forward to “ [being] able to spend time with [his] family. The school year is so hectic and so much is going on, it is nice to just sit back, relax and enjoy the time with family.”

The summer season brings back memories. You'll never forget that special road trip with your family or that particular bonfire with your friends. Those kinds of memories are meant to stay. Last summer, Native Spanish Speakers I & II teacher Ms. Garcia “visited Chichén Itzá, Tulum and other ruins in Cancún.” Physical education teacher Mr. Kircher “spent a lot of time relaxing at the beach and went on vacation to Bass Lake. [He] also managed [his] son's baseball in the playoffs. [He] did work at school by helping with the Summer Bridge program.”

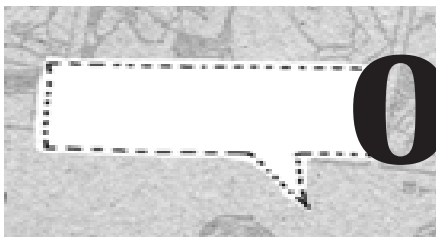
Summer is an open door to new discoveries and adventures. What better time of the year to have new experiences than during the summer? This summer, Geometry and Algebra II teacher Ms. Latigay “[plans] to do some island hopping, snorkeling, and diving in the Philippines.” Counselor Ms. Bui “plans on going on vacation in the Caribbean...and [is] leaning towards Puerto Plata in the



Dominican Republic which has a mixture of sandy beaches and rainforest where you can go ziplining.” Mr. Launius, the Anthropology, U.S. Government, AP U.S. Government and Economics teacher, “will relax at home and play with [his] son.”

Summer is open to dreams of all shapes and sizes. The summer months makes that seven-day cruise or trip to Europe possible. Eleventh grade art teacher Ms. Kang dreams of “[visiting] all the UNESCO World Heritage Sites while lodging in a nice resort.” Health, Drivers Ed, Economics and Entrepreneurship teacher Mr. Dura dreams of going on “[a] trip to Norway, Sweden and Germany to see [his] ancestral home and sightsee, finishing with a three-day cruise down the Danube River through the heart of southern Germany touring castles and vineyards.”

All of these heartwarming stories are what make up the love for summer. Always look forward to summer break, even if school will resume shortly after. Summer only comes once a year, so make it unforgettable.



Op-Ed*Senior Reflections*

JESSE WHAT I DID THERE?

Freshman Year vs Senior Year: The Journey

Jesse Torres
—staff writer—

I reflect on my life and sometimes wish I could’ve done things in high school differently. But then I decide that’s probably all the cookies n’ cream talking.

I remember coming into high school as a five foot four kid thinking HMSA would be my eternal fortress. Now I’m six foot two, less than forty days away from receiving my diploma and four months away from heading to Concordia University of Irvine (CUI) to begin my adult life.

Now, aside from the haircut and the growth spurt, how have I really changed?

I remember entering freshman year terrified of all of the administrators. They’ve become instrumental in my high school career and now I can joke around with Dr. Smith and get away with accidentally calling Mr. Berumen (who actually still kinda scares) “ma’am.”

Which reminds me: freshman year, I was shy and didn’t participate in any school activities or clubs. After, I got involved in a lot of clubs and grew in position and character. For example, I became Vice President of Key Club and the executive publicist of ASB. I also started playing music with friends. These activities have helped me become more open and I feel very comfortable speaking to anyone.

This is the part where I remember all the teachers and the memories in their classes or how they’ve affected me. Ms. Bayani was the very first teacher I had before ninth grade officially started. Your dedication to the HMSA student body is one to be thankful for. Thank you so much for giving us opportunities after school to raise our calculus grades and I don’t want to let you down when I take the AP test. Okay. Pre-freshman year teacher. Check.

Ms. Siegler introduced me to George Orwell. Ms. Pereira drilled Algebra 2 into my head and for that I thank her. Mr. Gullikson taught me a few computer tricks and guess what: I can type way faster than freshman year. Mrs. Bawaney, you made Bio really easy to understand. Mr. Kircher, thanks for sticking by me since eighth grade and

watching out for me as I was recuperating from injury at the beginning of freshman year. Mr. Severns, your life lessons work as instrumental advice.

Ms. Enger introduced me to the marvels of John Green and his vlogs and the importance of stopping literary censorship. My writing has significantly improved and I credit Mr. Jahnke who has worked with me for the past two years. I’ve learned to include a bit of my personality into my handwriting and what better way to practice that than by writing Op-Eds? Ms. Sharpe taught me about the great Rasputin. Mr. Highducheck convinced me to become a History major and I hope my professors are as enthusiastic about teaching as he is. Mr. Flint taught me science is easy if you practice enough. Mr. Atanga, I maybe wasn’t the best in Chemistry but thanks for not giving up on me. Ms. Davis, thank you for showing us the importance of caring for our wonderful planet Earth. Mr. Launius, thank you for teaching me about the government and stocks.

Maybe it is the cookies n’ cream talking but now it’s come to me: if I were to say anything to myself freshman year it’d be “get off Facebook and Instagram until after homework. All those people you’re talking to won’t stick around for another year. Do Mr. Maddox’s homework. Do your AP World homework at home, not lunch; every homework point counts. Procrastination does not help anyone and in two years no one will even care about Facebook except to read news articles.

Even though there are things I wish I could’ve done differently, I have no regrets (“nam sayin’ ?). Freshman, you may not realize this now but time goes by super fast; you’ll be applying to college before you know it. Sophomores, you are now going to be upperclassmen! Juniors, it’s your last year of having summer homework, go out with a bang! Now to my seniors: I wish all of you good luck in your future endeavors and I’ll see you all for our class reunion.

Save the Date!

Ame Negrete
—staff writer—

Multicultural is approaching and will take place at HMSA on May 22nd. For many, it’s highly anticipated. I know I’m excited for the date to arrive.

For those who don’t know, Multicultural is exactly what it sounds like: an event celebrating multiple cultures. It’s a beautiful thing, as the United States is really a melting pot of other cultures. The American identity is a combination of so many others, making it truly unique. It’s great to see people from different parts of the world come together to honor their own cultures, and Multicultural gives me a great opportunity to do so.

One of my favorite parts about Multicultural is the food parents donate. Let’s face it, who isn’t up for trying delicious, unknown food? It’s an easy way to try distinct foods without traveling across the globe.

The fashion show is a very close runner-up. Students display traditional wear from countries all around. It’s fascinating to see what other cultures dress like, because Americans don’t have traditional clothing. Unless you can call a T-Shirt and jeans traditional



Giselle G. presented Mexico during 2014 Multicultural fashion show. Photo source: Ms. Garcia

wear. Or in California’s case, a tank top and shorts, because that’s about all we seem to wear. There is no traditional “American dress,” but if there was, I imagine it would include stars and stripes. If that’s not incentive enough, you also become more aware of the people surrounding you on a daily basis. That’s why it’s so intriguing to attend the fashion show.

If you’ve never attended Multicultural before, be sure to give it a chance this year! I promise you won’t regret it. Enjoy Multicultural with your family, and if you don’t get along with them, bring your friends.

A Little HMSA Never Hurt Nobody

Isabel Ramirez
—Op-Ed Editor—

Before school started, my aunt, an HMSA alumni, said I’d bleed, sweat and cry at HMSA. I’ve sweat one too many times, I’ve bled a couple of times and I’ve cried more times than I’d like to admit but I never expected to let HMSA grow on me.

I hated HMSA during my freshman year, hated it so much I was ready to transfer on the first day. The log entries, the homework, the lectures on discipline and all that HMSA’s known for overwhelmed me but, truth be told, I’m going to miss it all.

It must be weird for an underclassmen

to read this because they all probably still hate HMSA when it isn’t as bad as everyone thinks. Yes, we wear uniform; yes, it looks like a prison; and yes, we do call home for just about every little thing but it’s HMSA, that’s why we do it.

Whether you’re forced to come here or you want to be ready for college and the working world, you’ll miss HMSA. How do I know? Because I was once the typical “I hate HMSA!” freshman once as well as the overachieving sophomore, the lazy junior and now the aged senior.

A little bit of HMSA in my life didn’t hurt, it’s actually helped, a lot.

The Last Slice of Senior Year and Beyond

Omar Amer
—staff writer—

The beginning of senior year starts off as any other year: with the hassle of new schedules, new classes and the slow ease into a year’s weekly routine.

Here is a list of how a slice of senior year tasted from the whole high school cake.

↪Senior year is a time for reminiscence. We look back at what we could have done differently or wish we had done earlier. For others, that’s behind us and we don’t want to look back. We don’t care and it’s only a foot in front of another from here on out.

↪Most prominently, college applications come to mind to most who think of senior year. Looking back, the college application process began so quickly and frighteningly, suddenly ended. If there is one thing I learned from the whole college process, it’s that it’s never too early to start.

↪Senioritis is real. This is coming from someone who strongly believed it to be a dramatic excuse to lazily complain. It can

Only, as a senior, subconsciously, the nagging conclusion to four years is a few months away, and the push into a new chapter is a few pages away.

come in small pangs or a full blown illness of not wanting to do anything, at all. Yet, the possibility of colleges rescinding acceptances tends to pull seniors back on track. It’s a cut that eventually heals, but for some, it seems they’ve made a show of squeezing lemon juice on their open wounds.

↪Follow your talent, rather than your passion. I was once told by an older friend that passion changes, but when you have a knack of doing something above the level of proficiency, it’ll stick with you. This doesn’t mean don’t do what you like. Passion and talent are more often than not, two of the same. What we’re good at eventually becomes what we want to do, for college and our future jobs.

Ultimately, we young adults try to slither into the world, believing that we’re confident, knowledgeable individuals, ready to take on what’s thrown at us. And ultimately, the realization that we know nothing (Game of Thrones reference not intended) will creep on each of us. And the process starts anew. Going out in the “big world” doesn’t work so smoothly

because what we’ve learned so far is merely a foundation. We must be brave enough to admit we still have questions and that’s the only way anyone can reach anything. As Ayn Rand once said, “[Everyone] is free to rise as far as [they] are able or willing, but it’s only the degree to which [they] think that determines the degree to which [they’ll] rise.”

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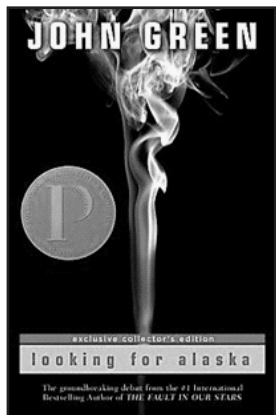
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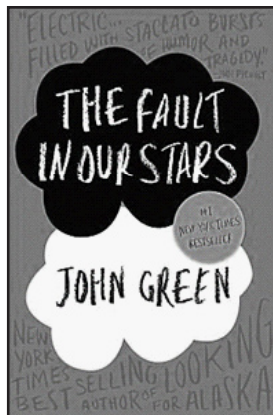
👍 Page Turners 👍

Looking for Alaska by John Green
Linda Desrosiers, Staff Writer

Looking for Alaska cannot be merely written off as a cliché boy-meets-girl love story, because it isn't. It's more of a tale of how love isn't as comprehensible as it seems in most movies and books. The book starts off with Miles Halter or "Pudge," as he is referred to, leaving Florida to attend a school in Alabama. He's introduced by his roommates to beautiful, mysterious and emotionally confused Alaska Young, and the story progresses, mostly centered on Miles' life at Culver Creek and his growing attachment to Alaska. There are also parts of teenage life thrown in casually into the story, such as pranks, bets and horrible parties. The beauty of the book is that it doesn't hide anything. It showcases what young love and growing up really are in a brutal and honest light. How the characters communicate, their relationships with each other, their pasts and the pleasure that comes with being a bad kid shine through the pages. Warning, there is a small section of some sexual content but I like how it's more realistic and not romanticized like other YA books. You might not weep buckets like most people did at the end of *The Fault in Our Stars*, but you'll get attached to Miles and Alaska, just as they do to each other.



Reading Level: 5.8
AR Points: 11.0



Reading Level: 5.5
AR Points: 10.0

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The Fault in Our Stars
Monique Ejenuko, Staff Writer
—THE FAULT IN THIS BOOK—

If you haven't heard of *The Fault in Our Stars*, then you must be living in a bomb shelter located under an abandoned coal mine located in the core of the earth. The fault, dear reader, is not in our stars, but in this book. The hype for this book was better than the book. I wasn't crying on my bathroom floor or going into the woods to contemplate life. I did figure one thing from this and that is John Green is the Nicholas Sparks (author of *The Notebook*), but for teens and that is never a good thing.

Hazel and Augustus were two of the most confused and dull characters I have seen thus far. They switched from teenage colloquialisms to intellectuals who made nonsensical metaphors *about everything*. Both were pseudo-intellectual, cardboard-cutout cancer victims. John Green couldn't make his dialog realistic if he tried. Augustus is repeatedly called the "manic pixie dream boy" ---a quirky boy with a cheery outlook on life who transforms a cynical girl into person who lives life to the fullest. John Green says it was supposed to come across as a "rehearsed charisma." Well, all I received was a pretentious fool hell-bent on trying to sound philosophical on *everything*. Exhibit a) "I'm awash in the metaphorical resonance of the empty playground in the hospital courtyard" (173).

Hazel Graze was the female version of Augustus. Equally as pretentious, if not more. Oh, wait I was right, but that's not a surprise: "we live in a universe devoted to the creation, and eradication, of awareness... a victim—as you will be—of the universe's need to make and unmake all that is possible" (266). I'm sure Green had to verbally pat himself on the back for those lines. They weren't real people in my eyes. They didn't embody real teenagers I knew. But overcompensating for the dumb teenager cliché. Now, I'm not claiming to know the intellectual levels of teens, but why, oh why, does he need to saturate every page with filler metaphors?

Aside from the wonky characterization, the romance aspect is garbage personified. The "complexity" of the romance feeds off of the cancer. If you removed the cancer, all you would have is two self-congratulatory hipsters who prided themselves on using SAT vocab words on a daily basis. Hazel and Augustus met each other for less than the length of a vine and I'm supposed to readily accept that they now have this love that transcends through infinities? Why is it so beautiful and what makes it so incredibly different from all the love-at-first-sight stories? I must have missed the amazing moments when they were together between poetically romanticizing their cancer through useless metaphors and raving about a fictional book about---you guessed it---cancer. Green offered no grit to battling cancer, only romanticized tragedy. I felt offended that all his teenage audience deserved was cheesy and hollow romantic lines that teenage girls can use to decorate their notebooks.

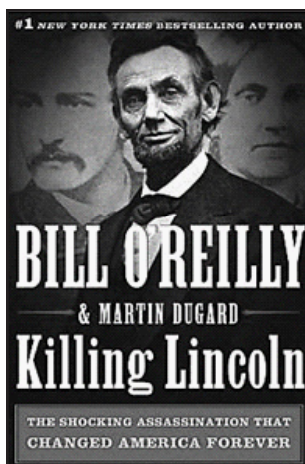
The cigarette metaphor gets its own paragraph. Why you ask? Because it's that illogical! Augustus buys a pack of cigarettes regularly so he can put one in his mouth to spew more useless trite like, "It's a metaphor. You keep the killing thing between your teeth but don't give it the power to kill you" (17). Funny that he won't kill himself, but will regularly give money to an industry that is the largest cause of cancer thus, indirectly killing others. And my favorite quote, "And I wondered if hurdlers ever thought, you know, 'This would go faster if we just got rid of the hurdles'" (11). I don't know maybe because it is THE WHOLE IDEA OF THE SPORT. I swear the genius of this kid amazes me because that's the thing about stupidity---it demands to be heard. These are the people sitting around analyzing life? Go figure.

I was completely done with the plot by the end of the book, which I got to because of my need to finish a book I start. To his credit, John Green seems like a pretty outstanding person and the polar opposite of Van Houten, the recluse and bitter author in the book. I would have much rather have read Van Houten's book than Green's. You know the writing's bad when a *fictional* author has more potential than Green. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to hide out in that bomb shelter before hardcore followers of the John Greene fan club attack.

👍 Page Turners 👍

Killing Lincoln

Brian Moncada, Book Review Editor



Sounds ominous, right? Devious, suspenseful, evil. It is, but not for the reasons you might think.

Killing Lincoln is the first installation of Bill O'Reilly's killing series where he follows a certain person of interest a few months before their death. The book reads like a thriller novel rather than a nonfiction piece. Everyone knows John Wilkes Booth killed Lincoln, but how many people know the scale of the murderous plot? How many people know Lincoln wasn't the sole target? How many people know anything about Booth's past? This book is a great, easy read for anyone who wants to both learn history and earn AR points.

This book is a measly 300 pages, with a 16-point test. The content is historical and fact-based, so you don't have to worry about odd details being quizzed.

This book was a quick, great read for me, I recommend it for anyone who wants to pursue historical knowledge and learn more about the assassination plot.

Hush Hush by Becca Fitzpatrick

Melanie Cervantes, Staff Writer



Hush Hush, by Becca Fitzpatrick, is the first book in the series. It contains mystery, suspense and romance. It contains many plot twists you won't expect. It is both captivating and irritating for it keeps you wanting more. The characters are well thought out, enriched with personality and uniqueness.

You have the mysterious boy and the not-so-popular girl who fall in love, like you can't see that coming. It is a series about fallen angels and Nephilim. A story between two lovers who will go to the ends of the earth to be together. It has passion, it has heartache and it has hope. The characters make you feel what they feel and the story spills from the pages and drip into your

imagination. It allows you to escape your world and join one that fills you with adrenaline and chaos.

There is death, life, sacrifice, LOVE. *Hush Hush* is a book many girls would love and some boys as well. There are times when you are reading that the story builds up slowly but it never fails to end with a bang. Every ending, you end with your mouth open not understanding what just occurred and you are left needing to know more. There is magic, devil craft, betrayal, there is depression and confusion. You can read *Hush Hush* for your own pleasure and get 12 easy points for AR, the BL is 4.5.

👎 PAGE BURNERS 👎

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Paulina Herrera, Staff Writer



When I first opened the book *Uglies*, I was excited and ready to give a great book my full attention. Unfortunately, *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld was anything but. The book begins with the protagonist Tally Youngblood telling the reader about not being pretty and missing her now pretty friend, Perry. I soon came to realize that the story took place in a futuristic utopia where everything revolves around being pretty. At first I was quite interested, until the complaining started.

Tally complained a lot about how she couldn't wait till her sixteenth birthday (that was only a few months away) to become pretty and how it was unfair. Soon Tally began risking her chance to be pretty (which was her biggest desire) to see her friend, Perry, who she would see in a few months when she became pretty. As the story progressed Tally's existence seems to revolve around complaining and dwelling on her desire to be pretty.

Overall, I got that Tally wanted to be pretty (like her friend) but she was too impatient, therefore deciding to risk her chance to be pretty. *Uglies* makes you want to never see the book again: it tires you with the endless complaining and irritates you with a protagonist who has no self-confidence and is willing to do anything to become pretty. Basically, the book revolves around Tally's obsession of becoming pretty. Only until the very end of the book does she finally realize being pretty is not the most important thing in the world. If you want to hear endless complaining on being ugly and wanting to be pretty then *Uglies* is the book for you. *Uglies* has 13 AR points.

