



## Senioritis

Saria Khan  
—News Editor—

Senioritis has hit. The disease is highly contagious. Most HMSA students look forward to the next break, spring break. Yay. The students who suffer the most are seniors. We know there are only five months left until graduation and there's a countdown on every senior's calendar. They feel entitled to take school more leniently because they've been at it for twelve years. Brian Moncada says, "We feel done with life." We anticipate what happens next; we are ready to move on.

There are four stages of senioritis: extreme excitement, complacency, revulsion and nostalgic reflection. The first stage starts anytime during the first semester or before the year begins. This stage is marked by long periods of extreme happiness. The second stage, complacency, sets in after the first two weeks of school; this stage can last up to the last month of school. The senior usually feels stuck; they are excited for college but the thought of leaving their

niche at high school frightens them. The third stage, revulsion, sets in any time after complacency. This is marked by a severe drop in grades. During this period, students develop a severe dislike for school and become unmotivated to do anything. In some extreme cases, seniors be-

gin skipping school. The last stage is marked by nostalgia. This is when seniors begin to look back at their experiences and feel old. They begin reminiscing about all the happy moments they shared with friends. They think of all the friends they made,

and if they will ever meet them again after graduation. The languid feeling exists because the pressure is gone. Seniors have nothing else but graduation and acceptance letters to look forward to; they have completed high school.

Senioritis is a confusion of excitement, anticipation and fear of the unknown. The transition to adulthood is the component that contributes the most. The fear of being independent. We have been living with our parents for 18 years, and the thought of being on our own is intimidating to most.

The transition to adulthood is a scary journey. What seniors fear most is leaving behind family, friends and their comfort zone. They look at college with a glass half empty. College shouldn't be feared. It is a chance to begin again and marks the start of a new era.

Senioritis naturally occurs and happens to everyone. The only cure is graduation.



www.collegeadmissionshible.com/

## CAHSEE and AP Exams

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



www.theprospect.net

Important exams like the CAHSEE and AP exams are approaching. The CAHSEE determines whether you graduate or not and you benefit from the AP exams by getting college credits if you pass them.

Although AP courses may seem

frightening, appropriate study habits and great procrastination skills get you through.

Senior Andrea Quinto mentioned that "taking an AP class is good and it looks good in college applications."

When it is time to take the CAHSEE or AP exams, you should make sure to relax and be well-rested.

Freshman Kathleen Catamisan explained, "I'm nervous about taking the CAHSEE and its math component. If I keep working on my math, I'm pretty sure I'll pass it." It is important to know your strengths and weaknesses before a test; this helps you isolate problem areas that you can set aside more time to study.

The best tip is to stay calm and try not to worry. During these stressful moments you feel like cramming information in the last possible moments, but you have to remember

that worrying will only limit the intake of information.

Most of the time this feeling of apprehension comes from taking a test for the first time and being afraid of failing. Sophomore Erick Pech stated, "I'm actually feeling kind of nervous for the AP test because this is my first time taking one. The CAHSEE, I feel pretty comfortable with because it's pretty easy. I plan to study by looking over my previous tests and essays."

Once you accept that the CAHSEE and AP Exams are for your own benefit and aren't designed to fail anyone, you can begin to feel less intimidated by them. These tests are made to help you achieve success.

## Winter Formal

Aldo Montes & Mina Beshay  
—staff writers—

Winter Formal is a dance hosted by ASB every winter to raise money for other events, especially senior activities. This year, it was held on January 31st at the Hawthorne Memorial Center.

Most people went to the dance with friends or met them there. For many, the dance was a way to spend time with friends in a new place. Sophomore Katheryne Marquez said she

would come again next year "to be with [her] friends." A boon for the dance was its location: it was accessible to most people. Freshman Ashley Santoyo said, "[Memorial Center was] a great location since it was close."

However, there was a general outcry against the initial pricing. The initial price was \$35 for one ticket and \$60 for two. Later on, the prices fell

to \$30 for one ticket and \$50 for two tickets. Sophomore Muhammad Ali Fazal said the price should have been lower. Another outcry was against the quality of the music. Senior Yroll Sison commented that the music "was the same as the black and white dance."

Present issues aside, there was a lot of constructive feedback for future

*\*See Winter Formal on page 2\**

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## Tips on How to Handle Stress

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



www.kevinstirtz.com

Stress happens to everyone. This detrimental symptom originates from self-created pressure. Although it may seem impossible to pull yourself out of the dark tunnel that is stress, there are ways in which you can limit the overwhelming feelings you may experience because of it.

Start with physical activities. Join a yoga class to relax tense muscles brought on by constant stress; yoga also clears cluttered minds. A simple jog takes your mind away from the overwhelming work that awaits and helps loosen your limbs and prepare for more work ahead. Other activities include joining a sport of your preference such as soccer, basketball, base-

ball, volleyball, etc. Sports are fun activities; they're enjoyable and are a great way to spend a carefree evening.

Most importantly, give yourself pep talks and have someone help you as you try to get through these difficult moments. Talk to any trustworthy adult such as a parent, teacher or counselor about any feelings of stress and fatigue you have. Maintain a positive mindset as best as you can. Stress usually stems from excessive amounts of work and feelings of doubt; try to surround yourself with positive people.

Developing new habits helps decrease your stress levels. Drinking tea is a custom to many on stressful days. The antioxidants and caffeine found naturally in some teas give you an extra kick for the rest of the day, while the soothing aromas and flavors of tea lull you into your own personal nirvana for as long as a cup of tea can be savored.

The most simple and effective stress-relief method by far is to close your eyes for a moment and count to ten as you slowly inhale deeply through your nose and then exhale slowly from your mouth. In those moments, try to clear your mind of any and all outside thoughts you may have and live in the moment.

## Why Do We Celebrate Valentine's Day?

Maryam Sultan  
—staff writer—

On February 14th, people all around the world celebrate Valentine's Day. This day of romance has its origins in the Christian faith.

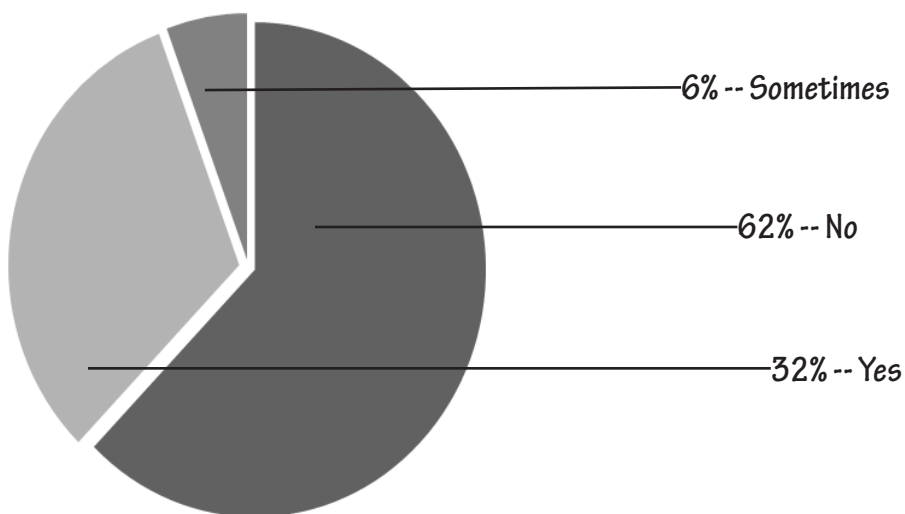
The name of the holiday comes from Saint Valentine, a martyr recognized by the Catholic Church. There are three main legends that narrate what Saint Valentine was martyred for; and although there is no clear distinction as to which legend is true, according to History.com, "all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure."

Surprisingly, when Valentine's Day was first declared by Pope Gelasius in the fifth century, it was not a holiday

of romance and love. It was simply a day to honor the anniversary of Saint Valentine's death. As years passed, it became a celebration where valentines are written to one's lover. It is now a day where people send their love, buy chocolate and stuffed animals and watch classic Valentine Day movies.

HMSA students, as usual, always do things differently (we're just unique that way). For example, senior Judith Martinez enjoys a shared meal with her family on Valentine's Day. Sophomore Mifrah Khan celebrates "by sleeping, eating chocolates, watching movies and texting someone special."

Do you do something special on Valentine's Day?



\*Graph based on 53 students

## Obama DOES Care

Nishrat Khan & Judith Martinez  
—Business Manager & Layout Co-Editor—



mlive.com

President Barack Obama proposed his Two-Year College Plan, allowing students to attend two free years in community college. According to The Northwestern News, President Obama's plan benefits many students, especially those that need to pay for their education. Although this sounds great, it will further increase the national

debt. Congress has the difficult task of finding a way to help students pay for college and at the same time decrease the national debt. The approval of this plan is pending and the will most likely not affect us this year or next year. What do you think about the Two-Year College Plan?

### Student Thoughts:

#### Albert Rivera, 12th grade:

"Obama's new plan for community colleges doesn't affect me because I'm planning to go to a four year university, but it is useful for people who can't go because they can't afford to go to four year universities."

#### Erika Guzman, 10th grade:

"I would take advantage of that opportunity because the first two years of college is all basic classes so might as well go to a community college to take those classes for free."

#### Kathleen Catamisan, 9th grade:

"I wouldn't go to a community college because my plan is to go to a four year university."

#### Sufyan Tootla, 11th grade:

"If it's free, sign me up!"

### \*Winter Formal continued from page 1\*

dances. Sophomore Brian Pham suggested the music be more formal, as the name suggests. Similarly, junior Gerardo Sanchez criticized the music, saying that it "cut off too quickly." Freshman Kathleen Catamisan added, "There could be a photo booth

next year."

Winter Formal was overall well-received. ASB members take note of what they did right and what can be improved to make future events continuously better, and therefore more profitable.



HAWTHORNE MEMORIAL CENTER—  
From left to right: Nicole T. (12), Neemat A. (12), Joshua C. (11), Brianna C. (12), Rebecca N. (11), Christian C. (12), and Daniel F. (12) take a break from dancing to take pictures.  
Photo from Nicole Truong.



**MUSIC** Fall Out Boy  
American Beauty/American Psycho album review

Leanne Estrada  
—A&E Editor—



www.directlyrics.com

right,” but never completely relenting. Each track serves as a vibrant, brilliant hook to draw fans, new and old, into the rest of the album. *American Beauty/American Psycho* hypnotizes the listener into sitting still and listening passively. It dares the listener to grab a pencil and emulate the swift drum beats with the track’s almost frantic cadence.

Fall Out Boy has proven the band and the members have matured musically. Patrick Stump, lead vocalist and songwriter, explained, “the reality is we’re different people than we were on [2008’s] *Folie [à Deux]*. We seem to have a better handle on how and when to say no” (Alternative Press).

*American Beauty/American Psycho* is hype power from the first trumpet blast to the final story of dying in the last track, “Twin Skeleton’s (Hotel in NYC).” *Save Rock and Roll* lit the fire of a lost, depressed band; *American Beauty/American Psycho* drives home the point: *Save Rock and Roll* was not only a fire starter but the beginning of a new era in their career. Gone are the days of the teen, punk rock angst music prevalent in their early records, such as *Infinity on High* and *Take This to Your Grave*, but is now replaced by an impressively mature, eclectic sound that solidifies Fall Out Boy’s place in modern music history.

A crisp, new edgy tune has come through the door and announced that music aficionados are in for a ride with the latest offering from Fall Out Boy. *American Beauty/American Psycho*, released on January 20, 2015 is a follow-up to 2013’s “indefinite hiatus” album, *Save Rock and Roll*.

If fans expected Fall Out Boy to go on another break following *Save Rock and Roll* and if they expected *American Beauty/American Psycho* to be slow, light pop punk, they were in for a jaw-dropping surprise within the first few notes. A fast paced-intensity is present in the first track of the album, “Irresistible,” and continues through the album’s eleven tracks, only waning briefly through a softer (but still not “soft” enough) “The Kids Aren’t Al-



Personal Favorite: Entire album

**Track listing:**

1. Irresistible
2. American Beauty/ American Psycho
3. Centuries
4. The Kids Aren’t Alright
5. Uma Thurman
6. Jet Pack Blues
7. Novocaine
8. Fourth of July
9. Favorite Record
10. Immortals
11. Twin Skeleton’s (Hotel in NYC)

**T V** Goodbye, Parks and Rec...

Giselle Vazquez & Susan Reyes  
—staff writers—

*Parks and Recreation* has been on the air since 2009 and it is coming to an end after seven successful seasons. According to IMDB, *Parks and Rec* revolves around the “antics of Indiana town’s public officials as they pursue sundry projects to make their city a better place.” However, *Parks and Rec* lovers were shocked when NBC officials announced that the show would come to an end on February 24, 2015.

Sophomore Jocelyne Ramos is “sad because it’s [her] favorite show and the actors make the show so funny.”

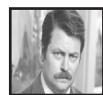
Since the announcement, there have been double episodes every Tuesday

night for this last season. It seems like NBC is in a hurry to get rid of this amazing show and fans aren’t happy.

Junior Ajaratu Hamid says, “[she’s] so upset that they are trying to end the season so quickly.”

Junior Samantha Meja’s favorite character is Andy Dwyer, also known as Chris Pratt or Starlord (for all the GOTG fans): “He’s so funny and cute and his character always makes people happier.”

If you haven’t been watching since day one, seasons 1-6 are available to watch on Netflix (or anywhere else on the internet).



buzzfeed.com

“When people get a little too chummy with me, I like to call them by the wrong name to let them know I don’t really care about them.”

Ron Swanson

**MUSIC** Why Be a King When You Can Be a ... Fraud?

Ogechi Okafor  
—staff writer—



www.amazon.co.uk

Hot Stylz, an untalented washed-out hip hop group, posted a music video on YouTube, in 2008, called “Lookin Boy” and immediately got attention for their funny lyrics. Soon enough, their media attention died down and they went back to being amateur rappers in Chicago. Raymond Jones, a member of Hot Stylz, now wants to sue the hip hop legend and lyrically-talented rapper, Eminem, for about 8 million dollars because of his song, “Rap God.”

Eminem has been topping the music industry since his song “My Name Is” came out in 1999. According to celebritynetworth.com, Eminem is worth about 170 million dollars and as a “solo artist, he has sold over 45 million records and 40 million digital downloads.” It was no surprise to find out that a no-longer-relevant group like Hot Stylz would try to make their own profit from Eminem’s success.

In 2013, Eminem released his song “Rap God” and immediately received attention for his fast internal rhyming. According to ax.com, Eminem received awards left and right; he “now officially has the title for the ‘most words in a hit record’ in the Guinness Book of World Records, he won Artist of the Year” and won the Global Icon

Award during the 2013 MTV Awards. Hot Stylz didn’t know that Eminem would be receiving this much attention and making a ridiculous amount of profit from the song. When they found out that some beats from Eminem’s song resembled their beats from “Lookin Boy,” the leader of Hot Stylz immediately jumped at the chance to make a lawsuit against him.

Hip hop and rap songs weren’t created out of thin air; they have evolved by people using, taking, changing what came before them and making it into their own style by using their own experiences and creativity.

The people who don’t understand the history of hip hop and rap feel as if these two genres have been watered down by the constant use of inspiration. Senior Edwin Osorio claims that “when people use other people for inspiration, there’s always a chance of crossing the fine line between inspiration and plagiarism.”

In an old interview, Ice-T revealed that “Rap is rock and roll...whether it’s done with guitars or done with beats [because] it’s a real voice uncensored, and you will hear anger when you uncensor the voice.” According to an mtv.com article, rapper Q-Tip, like Ice-T, feels that hip hop and rap artists “[take] from whatever [is] available to [them] and create something mighty and special.”

Eminem used “Rap God” as a way to express his thoughts about the music industry; he talks about things he has personally experienced. Eminem has connected with people across the world on a level no one could have imagined. Does Hot Stylz have the right to sue Eminem because he used the words “lookin’ boy” for a few seconds? I don’t think so.

**GAMING**

Legend Of Zelda: Majora’s Mask

Manuel Ceballos & Alexander Muñoz  
—staff writers—



dorkshelf.com

“You’ve met with a terrible fate, haven’t you?”

Often overlooked by its predecessor *The Ocarina of Time*, *The Legend of Zelda: Majora’s Mask* is a hidden gem that doesn’t get the credit it deserves. *Majora’s Mask* is a game that lurks in the shadows of *Ocarina of Time*, often considered to be one of the best games

ever created. In reality, this game does a phenomenal job in character development and a sense of impending doom.

This game lacked handholding; the player was left to explore the world mindlessly, trying to get different objectives done. Unfortunately, the newer generation is used to having every-

\*See LOZMM on page 4\*



**\*LOZMM continued from page 3\***

thing handed to them and receiving rewards for getting simple tasks done (the achievement system in a number of systems). The 3DS update attempts to remedy these problems. On the other hand, this remake does fix a few issues that proved to be annoying in the original iteration.

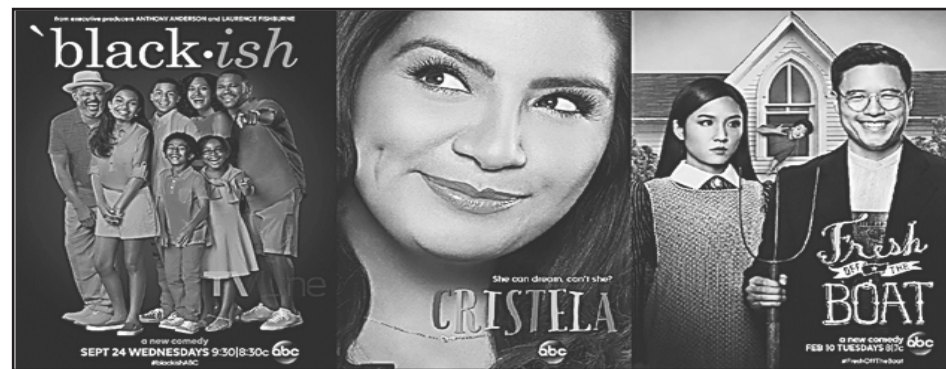
This updated version of the Nintendo 64 classic contains features that make the interface more user-friendly, such as the improved Bomber's Notebook, which alerts the player about the various side quests in the world of Termina. The player can also set an alarm to know when certain events will take place. In addition, *Majora's Mask 3D* features an improved save-system that is not as inconvenient as its older counterpart. Sadly, the iconic clock on

the bottom of the screen in the N64 version was replaced by a simplistic timer bar to compromise for the smaller screen in the newer version but this can help younger players who could not understand the stylistic clock.

But the most suspenseful feature is that by simply looking up at any time in the game, players see the terrifying face of the moon slowly hurdling down. The mood is a prominent feature, with depressing side quests and many "feels." You will grow attached to characters. You will feel the pressure of the world depending on you. This game will make you feel as if ninjas are cutting onions. If you are faint of heart, then prepare yourself before you embark on this journey.

## ABC Featuring Minorities: Refreshing or Offensive?

Zunera Akram, Monique Ejenuko & Tatiana Medrano  
—staff writers—



From Left to Right: TVLine.com, TVMediaInsights.com, and RenewCancelTV.com

In an attempt to appeal to a greater audience, ABC released comedy shows starring minority families. It was an honorable decision; there is no doubt that TV shows and movies need more diversity. However, the execution of the project is going downhill.

*Black-ish* protagonist Anthony Anderson of *Scream 4* stars as a family man trying to retain "black cultural identity" while raising his children in a predominately white, upper-class neighborhood. The show touches on classism, mixed-privilege and colorism. Tracee Ellis Ross stars alongside Anderson as his wife, along with Laurence Fishburne as the head of the supporting cast.

Tracee Ellis Ross previously starred on a family sitcom *Reed Between the Lines*, centered around an African-American family, but it didn't focus on the race of the characters because the show aired on BET (Black Entertainment Network). Peddling black stereotypes on a network targeted at an African-American audience would be an unwise pursuit.

ABC is using the same formula they used with *Cristela* under the guise of diversifying television; the fact that race carries the comedy makes the cast comedically hollow. We laugh because they are African-American, but is that the rest of the joke?

However, *Black-ish* does succeed at comedy. It touches on racial identity in a serious yet comedic manner. *Black-ish* isn't a racist show and doesn't tarnish the perceptions of African-Americans. Shows like *Love and Hip* do enough of that. It's a marvel, though, when minorities are placed in primetime, racial issues *must* define their situation. ABC's "diversifying" television is a hash of racial issues for laughs. Unfortunately, *human* situations can't be deemed as funny as racial situations.

*Cristela* features the famous comedian Cristela Alonzo portraying Cristela,

a Mexican American woman interning at a firm, balancing between her traditional family and the corporate world. It features the famous comedian Gabriel Iglesias and Andrew Leeds (better known as Pelant in *Bones*) as Cristela's love interests. Cristela uses humor and witty comebacks to deal with the sexism, racism and pressure thrown her way. The surface of the idea seems wonderful; ABC brought in a show that has a diverse cast, using comedy to bring social issues to light.

The show is entertaining; however, there are problems with the execution. The show relies too heavily on Cristela and her family being Latino, usually cracking jokes that make the family seem idiotic and ignorant. The show is riddled with stereotypes and sexist comments, making viewers uncomfortable. Instead of liberating people from stereotypes, the show confines them and hinders the show's ability to become something more than a stupid sitcom. The public needs a sitcom with a main character who happens to be a minority, not a show with race or ethnicity defining the main character.

*Fresh off the Boat* follows the story of author Eddie Huang and his Taiwanese family as they move from Washington, D.C. to Orlando, Florida to open up a country-themed steak restaurant during the mid-1990s. The mother struggles with the cultural clash, while the father embraces the "American Dream." The show uses typical Asian stereotypes as humor to attract viewers. The show is interesting but it focuses on the family's race rather than their adjustment to American culture.

ABC featuring minorities could increase the amount of viewers, but ABC will not be able to keep viewers if they do not stop using race as a source of comedy. They rely too heavily on jokes based on stereotypes and not on quality comedy.

## First Latina Disney Princess

Lorena Guerrero & Natasha Ruiz  
—staff writers—

Since 1937, Disney has created ageless princesses: Snow White, Cinderella, Aurora, Belle, Ariel and Jasmine. The most recent Disney princesses include Rapunzel from *Tangled* and Elsa and Anna from *Frozen*. Each and every one of these princesses is diverse in her own way, not only personality-wise but also in their heritage. It seems almost as if all races and ethnicities have been represented by these princesses, except for the Hispanic culture.

People wondered when Disney would create a Hispanic princess, but no one knew the definite answer. On Friday, January 30th, Disney announced "that its newest princess will be Elena of Avalor" (CNN). Elena comes from a world "influenced by culture and traditions that are familiar to the worldwide population of Hispanic and Latino families" (CNN).

Elena will have similar physical attributes as other princesses including voluminous hair, rosy cheeks, almond shaped eyes and a thin figure. Although these appearances are similar to princesses of the

past, the striking difference that makes Elena stand out is her darker skin tone, which has been celebrated and criticized.

Since most Latinas have a darker skin color, many have welcomed Elena because they have a princess they can identify with. However, many other Mexican American Disney fans believe that Elena's olive-toned skin isn't enough to create a strong bond. Her incredibly thin princess figure (big eyes, small waist) does not correctly represent most Latinas.

Many critics are against young girls looking up to these princesses because of their unrealistic physical appearances. Despite that, many people are excited about the changes Disney plans to make. Deputy Editor of Latina.com, Samantha Leal, strongly believes in the benefit of race variety: "seeing diversity in the princess movies is a great way to teach girls that we're all beautiful and worthy of a crown—no matter what you look like or where you come from."

## Oscars 2015

Adriana Sandoval  
—staff writer—

Timed speeches, golden envelopes and envious losers smiling and clapping for the people they lost to (i.e. people doing what they do best: acting). Clara Bow lips, Veronica Lake hair and Clark Gable mustaches combined with Mark Ruffalo winks, Clint Eastwood bemusement and Patricia Arquette feminism.

And the Oscar goes to...the astrophysicist, the ruthless instructor, the disillusioned mother and the linguistics professor diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Neil Patrick Harris hosted the 87th Academy Awards (i.e. the Oscars) at the Dolby Theater in Hollywood, California on February 22, 2015. The award show included 24 awards, ranging from best costume design to best picture.

"What a year!" exclaimed senior Brianna Carlos. Richard Linklater went from "alright, alright, alright" McConaughey (*Dazed and Confused*) to empathetic Patricia Arquette (*Boyhood*). Rosamund Pike went from Jane Bennet (*Pride and Prejudice*) to psychotic wife (*Gone Girl*). Michael Keaton went from Batman to Birdman. Clark Gable abolished the white t-shirt in 1934, Marlon Brando brought it back in 1951. Common sense abolished tightly whities in the 90s, Michael Keaton brought them back in 2014.

For the 84th time, no film won the "Big Five" awards: Best Picture, Best Actor (Leading Role), Best Actress (Leading Role), Best Directing and Best Screenplay. Only three films have the distinction of winning the Big Five: *It Happened One Night*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *The Silence of the Lambs*. The Big

Five winners benefited from one of three things: Claudette Colbert's hitchhiking, Nurse Ratched's malice or Hannibal Lecter's diet. *Birdman* won three of the Big Five: Best Picture, Best Directing and Best Screenplay. Best Actor and Best Actress (i.e. the other 2/5) went to Eddie Redmayne (*The Theory of Everything*) and Julianne Moore (*Still Alice*).

"I knew Eddie Redmayne would win Best Actor; I couldn't even recognize him," enthused senior Jennice Gomez. The Academy relishes the unrecognizable; the Academy relishes bulked up Robert De Niro in *Raging Bull* and trimmed down Matthew McConaughey in *Dallas Buyers Club*.

"I wanted quirky Wes Anderson to win best directing," commented senior Valeria Tomaylla. Wes lost to Alejandro G. Iñárritu (*Birdman*) but there is some consolation; the most revered directors never won Oscars (for directing), including Stanley Kubrick, Alfred Hitchcock, Orson Welles, Howard Hawks and Federico Fellini.

*Birdman* will end up in one of two Best Picture categories: the bona fide classics category or the "I can't believe that won" category. Wait a few years and see if you categorize *Birdman* with the likes of *Casablanca*, *The Godfather* (I and II), *The Sting*, *Schindler's List* and *The Best Years of Our Lives* or with the likes of *Crash*, *Cimarron*, *How Green Was My Valley* (i.e. the film that beat out *Citizen Kane* and *The Maltese Falcon*) and *Shakespeare in Love* (i.e. the film that beat out *Saving Private Ryan* and *The Thin Red Line*).

Teacher Predictions	Student Predictions
<b>Best Picture</b> <i>American Sniper</i> : 20% <i>The Imitation Game</i> : 0% <i>Selma</i> : 10% <i>Boyhood</i> : 40% <i>The Theory of Everything</i> : 20% <i>*Birdman</i> : 10% <i>Whiplash</i> : 0% <i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i> : 0%	<b>Best Picture</b> <i>American Sniper</i> : 20% <i>The Imitation Game</i> : 5% <i>Selma</i> : 15% <i>Boyhood</i> : 25% <i>The Theory of Everything</i> : 15% <i>*Birdman</i> : 10% <i>Whiplash</i> : 0% <i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i> : 10% *Oscar winner

**\*See more Oscar Predictions on page 5\***



## Aiming for Success

Richard Estrella & Miguel Sanchez  
—staff writers—



JANUARY. PASADENA—  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Tournament, Winner League. Lady A's won two games that day during their off-season. Photo taken by Yolanda Palma.

It's that time of the year again: the Lady A's began their training for the upcoming softball season.

Judging by the early start in training, the Lady A's are prepared for the season-opener and hope to improve from last season. Returning player and sophomore Erika Guzman explains, "[the team] started training during the summer to get as close to perfection as possible, but [the training] is rigorous." The Aviators usually train for three hours on weekdays and much more on the weekends. Returning sophomore Kimberly Gonzalez has a different view on the team's training and says, "It isn't so demanding on the body to make you say 'I'm dying.'"

Coach Dura set high goals for this season and expects the team to "get back in the playoffs" and "improve the skills of the new players." According to Coach Dura, the Lady A's must "improve their batting, pitching, defense and running skills" in order to duplicate last year's success.

Coach Dura believes this early training will most definitely help them reach the playoffs. During the off-season, the Lady A's went to "instructional leagues

and winter ball season" in preparation for the actual season. Coach Dura considers the training of the Lady A's to be rigorous but "the intensity of the training also depends on the skill being trained." The Lady A's primary focus is running and pitching.

The Lady A's have six seniors returning from last year, but the coach primarily wants to focus on the newcomers and so "the starting team will almost always have a freshman playing on the field." Coach Dura is very pleased with the team's performance, but explains that finding a good pitcher is always difficult because "it's hard to find someone that knows how to throw a ball properly and hard enough so the opposing team doesn't get hits." Coaching a team changes a person and Coach Dura is no exception. He commented, "I have learned a lot from the team and the team has learned a lot from me."

The Lady A's are excited to start the season and hope their training and hard work pay off. The entire team has one goal in mind: reach the playoffs and bring a nice shiny trophy back to HMSA.

## Can You Dig It?

Francisco Contreras  
—staff writer—

The HMSA boys volleyball team doesn't start its season until March 3rd, but there is still much anticipation. They hope to set the tone for the season in their first game against Da Vinci.

The boys are coming off a season in which they won just three of fifteen games. However, the team is aspiring for greater things this year: "My expectations are to have the team play as a team and win more games than last year," junior Nathan Le remarked.

Mr. Severns, the team's coach, has set an even higher goal for the team: make the playoffs. He remarked on this year's team: "We have a lot of seniors returning so I think we're going to get much better. They have some really good team chemistry already and I think I expect the seniors to lead by example and the underclassman to step it up too."

For the team, the high expectations

are expected. The boys are extremely confident in their ability to play at a high level. Some of this can be attributed to the team's hard work and dedication. Senior Ryan Aquinde provided some insight on the team's preparation: "We like to prepare on Fridays where we all go to the gym together and just play volleyball. We get used to how we all play and our chemistry improves." The team's increased sense of camaraderie figures to play a key role this season, as Ryan added that last season allowed them to "[get] a feel for the game" and provided valuable experience for returning players.

With much of last year's team intact, the excitement for the upcoming season is seemingly justified. They will work together to make the playoffs; however, the team realizes that in the end, it's all about having fun.



BETTY AINSWORTH GYM—  
The HMSA boys volleyball team preparing for their upcoming season in March. They're working on fundamentals and game situations during practices. The team has a mix of new players and veterans to the sport; everyone is excited for the season ahead. Caption and photo by Kimberly Ngo.

## Batter Up!

Isaac Gorgy  
—Sports Editor—

As spring inches closer, so does baseball season. The Aviators have been practicing since October in preparation for the season opener against Pacifica Christian on March 3rd.

Last year, the team had a disappointing season, winning only one game. Junior catcher Hector Lozy admitted, "We honestly played horribly. We weren't playing as a team, we played as individuals." Although the Aviators haven't exactly had the best record, they're confident about this season. Junior Erico Bayani provided some insight: "I expect our team to do extremely well this season. I know it."

Coach Hurwitz and team captain Dennis Toledo contributed to the team's excellent preparation in the off-season. Erico Bayani explained, "The coach intensified our practices to include significantly more conditioning

as well as competitive practice regimens." The team practices on a weekly basis and each member practices individually. First baseman and senior Dennis Toledo added, "I go to the batting cages as often as I can."

Team members enjoy playing together and help each other improve individually. Henry Lozy commented, "I get to play with players that make me find the game fun again, players like Markus Cooper, Anthony Hernandez and Dennis Toledo. We all connect on different levels that allow us to all enjoy playing together."

The HMSA baseball team is focused this season more than ever. The Aviators are confident that their excellent preparation and leadership will help them move past last year's losing record and start the season with a win.

### \*Oscar Predictions continued from page 4\*

\*Oscar winner

Teacher Predictions	Student Predictions
<b>Best Directing</b> *Alejandro G. Inárritu ( <i>Birdman</i> ): 20% Richard Linklater ( <i>Boyhood</i> ): 40% Bennett Miller ( <i>Foxcatcher</i> ): 10% Wes Anderson ( <i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i> ): 30% Morten Tyldum ( <i>The Imitation Game</i> ): 0%	<b>Best Directing</b> *Alejandro G. Inárritu ( <i>Birdman</i> ): 20% Richard Linklater ( <i>Boyhood</i> ): 50% Bennett Miller ( <i>Foxcatcher</i> ): 5% Wes Anderson ( <i>The Grand Budapest Hotel</i> ): 5% Morten Tyldum ( <i>The Imitation Game</i> ): 20%
<b>Best Actor (Leading Role)</b> Steve Carell ( <i>Foxcatcher</i> ): 20% Bradley Cooper ( <i>American Sniper</i> ): 10% Benedict Cumberbatch ( <i>The Imitation Game</i> ): 10% Michael Keaton ( <i>Birdman</i> ): 40% *Eddie Redmayne ( <i>The Theory of Everything</i> ): 20%	<b>Best Actor (Leading Role)</b> Steve Carell ( <i>Foxcatcher</i> ): 5% Bradley Cooper ( <i>American Sniper</i> ): 50% Benedict Cumberbatch ( <i>The Imitation Game</i> ): 15% Michael Keaton ( <i>Birdman</i> ): 20% *Eddie Redmayne ( <i>The Theory of Everything</i> ): 10%
<b>Best Actress (Leading Role)</b> Marion Cotillard ( <i>Two Days, One Night</i> ): 0% Felicity Jones ( <i>The Theory of Everything</i> ): 10% *Julianne Moore ( <i>Still Alice</i> ): 40% Rosamund Pike ( <i>Gone Girl</i> ): 50% Reese Witherspoon ( <i>Wild</i> ): 0%	<b>Best Actress (Leading Role)</b> Marion Cotillard ( <i>Two Days, One Night</i> ): 5% Felicity Jones ( <i>The Theory of Everything</i> ): 10% *Julianne Moore ( <i>Still Alice</i> ): 10% Rosamund Pike ( <i>Gone Girl</i> ): 50% Reese Witherspoon ( <i>Wild</i> ): 25%

Image from thecreativesideofthings.wordpress.com



## All-Stars In New York

Brandon Azuoma & Dion Bui  
—Assistant Sports Editor &— staff writer—



s3.amazonaws.com

Valentine's Day weekend was filled with tons of candy, flowers, and emotions, but instead of snuggling up with their loved ones, basketball fans across the nation were turning their attention to the NBA All-Star events in Brooklyn. The events took place between February 13th and 15th and featured the league's best players.

The league's players weren't the only ones participating in the events; celebrities and other professional athletes also traveled to Brooklyn to play in the Sprint NBA All-Star Celebrity Game on Friday the 13th. Skylar Diggins, a WNBA player, led the West. Although the West beat the East with a score of 57-51, the East's Kevin Hart took home

the MVP Award for the fourth time. Unfortunately for fans, Hart announced his retirement after the game: "It's my fourth MVP. I can't do no more."

The Rising Stars Challenge also took place on Friday. However, the Rising Stars Challenge had a twist this year. The matchup was between rookies from the United States and sophomores from everywhere else in the world. Andrew Wiggins, the 2015 NBA Draft's first overall pick from Canada, led the World team over the U.S. team with 22 points in a 121-112 victory. He was also awarded the MVP Award.

All-Star Saturday Night is always considered the best night of All-Star Weekend and surely this year did not disappoint. Starting with the Shooting Stars event, Chris Bosh and his team took home the trophy for the third consecutive year. The event was followed by the Skills Challenge in which the Houston Rockets' Patrick Beverley pulled an upset over other league stars: last year's winner Trey Burke, Brandon Knight, Jeff Teague, and Kyle Lowry. The Three-Point Shooting Contest followed the Skills Challenge with many of the best three-point shooters: Ste-

phen Curry, Klay Thompson, James Harden, Kyle Korver, Kyrie Irving and more. The Splash Brothers [Curry and Thompson] and Irving blazed through the first round to get into the finals of the contest. It was in the finals where Curry caught on fire and nailed 13 three-pointers to win the Three-Point Shooting Contest.

The night ended with the infamous Sprite Dunk Contest with contestants Zach LaVine, Victor Oladipo, Mason Plumlee and Giannis Antetokounmpo. Oladipo and Lavine amazed the crowd with their first round dunks, but Zach LaVine stole the show. With a throwback to the old days, Minnesota Timberwolves guard Zach LaVine put on a Space Jam jersey with Michael Jordan's name and number on the back. He put up two amazing dunks and won the dunk contest with no problem.

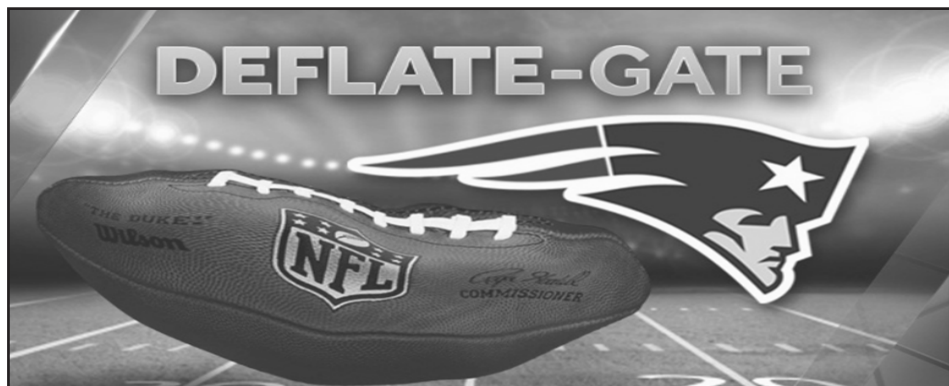
The end of the All-Star Weekend was the All-Star game itself. Stephen Curry, James Harden, Klay Thompson, Lamarcus Aldridge and Marc Gasol started for the West. Kyle Lowry, John Wall, LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony and Pau Gasol started for the East. According to NBA Events, this was the first time in NBA history where

two brothers (Marc and Pau Gasol) started for opposing teams. The game was filled with an immense amount of dunks, three-pointers, turnovers and fancy plays. The two teams broke the record for most points scored in All-Star game history and for most threes attempted in one game. Everyone in the game played great but there was one man destined to shine, and that was Russell Westbrook from the Oklahoma City Thunder. Westbrook broke an All-Star game record by scoring 27 points in the first half and almost broke the overall scoring record of 42 points in an All-Star game with 41 points. This scoring output led the West to a 163 to 158 victory over the East.

All-Star Weekend was a huge success. It was the first time featured in two cities (Brooklyn and New York City). Next year, it will be held in Toronto; it seems as though Raptors fans have a lot to look forward to. Unfortunately, this year's All-Star Weekend is probably the only thing Nets and Knicks fans have to celebrate.

## Deflate the Hate

Dion Bui  
—staff writer—



www.wmtw.com

"Malcolm Butler and Julian Edelman, you and the New England Patriots just won the Super Bowl. What are you going to do next?"

"We're going to Disney World!"

That's right. The New England Patriots won Super Bowl XLIX and the way they did it is unbelievable. After heading into the fourth quarter trailing by ten points, the New England Patriots came back to score two touchdowns to overcome the biggest deficit in Super Bowl history and win with a score of 28-24.

However, things weren't so simple. The Patriots' defense gave the Seahawks a hard time. However, with one of the most memorable catches in Super Bowl history, Jermaine Kearse completed a 38-yard reception with a pass from the Seahawks' quarterback, Russell Wilson. The play brought the ball up to the Patriots' five-yard line with 1:09 left to play in the game. Why was the catch so memorable? It's important to mention Kearse fell down as the ball bounced off his knee once, off his hands twice and finally into his grasp. He even managed to get back up

and get a few more yards before being brought down. The Patriots were in trouble. The Seahawks had four chances, two time-outs, five yards and 1:09 to score a touchdown to win the game.

With their first chance, the Seahawks gave the ball to Marshawn Lynch, their star running back. He gained four yards to advance the ball up to the one-yard line with 26 seconds left to play. With their first chance, the Seahawks went with a passing play, which is now considered "the worst play call in Super Bowl history" according to Emmitt Smith, the former Cowboys running back. Russell Wilson threw an interception that cemented the game for the Patriots. The Seahawks failed to hand the ball to their star running back, Marshawn Lynch, who led the league in touchdowns.

Now, almost a month after the game, football fans are still talking about the final seconds of the game and they will continue to talk about it until the 2015 season starts in September. Tom Brady isn't even mad. Seahawks fans need to deflate the hate.

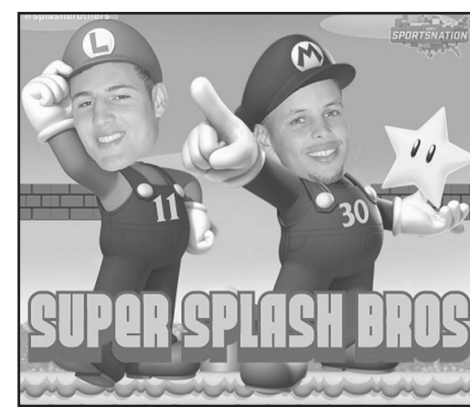
## Super Splash Bros™

Brandon Azuoma & Michael Salazar  
—Assistant Sports Editor &— staff writer—

The NBA's western conference, the stronger conference of the two, is as competitive as it has been in years and leading the western conference is the Golden State Warriors under the team superstars, Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson.

This season, Curry has dominated his opponents with his clutch three-pointers and his ability to facilitate the ball when needed. Curry led the Warriors to the best record in the league, and also the best home record at 22-2 (nba.com). Throughout the course of this season, teams have had little luck trying to find a way to prevent Curry from dominating the court. Senior Anthony Gonzalez believes that "Steph Curry has a great shot and great basketball IQ." With his amazing highlight threes, one of a kind passes and great ball handling Stephen Curry has proven to be one of the best point guard in the NBA. Looking solely at his stats, 23 points and 8 assists a game, Curry isn't giving the world a reason to doubt his tremendous skill set.

However, the Warriors would not be where they are today without the sometimes-forgotten splash brother: Klay Thompson. Thompson is averaging an amazing 45% three-point percentage and 23 points per game. The reason he dominates so easily, according to sophomore Kevyn McCurchin is because he "is basically a younger Ray Allen," one of the best three-point shooters in NBA history. Thompson caused an uproar in the NBA season by starting the season with a career high in points against the Los Angeles Lak-

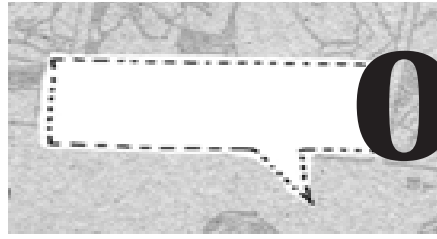


thenlookpass.com

ers. Later in the season, he set an all-time record for the most points scored in a quarter when he scored 37 points against the Sacramento Kings. While accomplishing this record, he also went nine for nine from the three-point line in one quarter. Thompson used to be the forgotten splash brother, but now both Curry and Thompson are right on par.

The splash brothers are undoubtedly in their prime and are arguably the best backcourt the NBA has to offer. They may have doubters like senior Ryan Aquinde who says, "they can't do it alone" and that "they can't carry the team to a championship," but the Splash Brothers are here to prove the doubters wrong. If the Curry and Thompson duo continues what they've been doing through the first half of the season, then the Golden State Warriors will be among the top favorites to win the playoffs and take home the Larry O'Brien trophy in June.





## JESSE WHAT I DID THERE?

# Take a Shot at Good Health

Jesse Torres  
—Op-Ed Editor—

The measles are hitting the Southland hard. One of the culprits for this is the happiest place on Earth: Disneyland—or just uninformed parents.

In late 2014, cases of the measles were reported in California. Cases have now been reported in Utah, Oregon, Colorado, and even south in Mexico. But where did the measles come from?

Kids as young as a year old were exposed to the measles while vacationing in Disneyland. The source of this illness was an unvaccinated child who caught the measles and gave the illness to another unvaccinated child while in Anaheim, California last year.

This could have all been prevented if parents allowed their kids to be vaccinated. Personally, I feel parents should be able to decide whether or not to vaccinate their kids. I understand parents may feel uneasy about “injecting their kids with dead stuff” but the things the

“dead stuff” protect you from are far more dangerous.

Vaccines have been able to remove the threat of polio, influenza and smallpox—just to name a few. According to the Polio Eradication Initiative’s website “after the introduction of effective vaccines in the 1950s and 1960s, polio was brought under control and practically eliminated as a public health problem.”

And for the record, there is no link between vaccines and autism. Countless studies have refuted these claims. Let me name one. According to creators.com, a study involving half a million kids in Denmark and another two million in Sweden. This study concluded that “there was no higher incidence of autism among children who had been vaccinated than among children [who hadn’t].” Original claims claiming a link between vaccines and autism were based on just twelve children.



Cartoon by David Fitzsimmons. Image from www.cagle.com

Comedy duo Penn & Teller showed that fear-mongers, who are convinced kids develop autism after getting vaccinated, like to point out to events that happen before something happens and blame it.

It’s sad that something as prevent-

able as measles is still a problem, especially in a country as developed as the United States. Parents should research all the benefits of vaccines and decide for themselves if they want to remove the risk of their kids catching a harmful—and easily preventable—disease.

# Valentine’s Day Gifts Decoded

Elvia Ochoa  
—staff writer—

Have you ever wondered how much your loved one loves you? Now, with this list of gifts decoded, you can see what the gift you received for Valentine’s Day *really* means! Here are some of the top gifts (given on Valentine’s Day) decoded:



**Chocolates-** Ah, the good ol’ box of chocolates. Sure, if you love chocolates, you wouldn’t mind receiving this as a gift. After all, who doesn’t like chocolate? But this is also the “perfect gift” if you’re running out of time.

**Teddy bears-** The only thing more common than chocolates on Valentine’s Day are teddy bears and stuffed frogs. Nothing like one more of the millions of abandoned, dusty teddy bears in the corner of your closet to complete that lovely Valentine’s Day collection.

**Roses-** Are you a nature-lover? Flowers smell great and look beautiful. Although they don’t last forever (as I’m sure the love between you and whoever else lasts), they are slightly better than diabetic-inducing chocolates and creepy teddy bears. Red roses, of course, signify love. Pink and yellow roses are given to friends.

**Letter/Card-** As long as it’s not a card that already has the message written for you, writing a few thoughts goes a long way. Handmade cards are best and show that some (although little) effort was put into giving you a gift.

**Singing a Song-** Face it, you can’t sing. Not being able to sing and as well as humiliating yourself in front of someone are two tasks of equal embarrassment. If your loved one sung for you this Valentine’s Day, they clearly went through a great deal of humiliation to make you happy. Props to them.

**Cookies/Cupcakes/Brownies etc. -** If your received any sweets or anything edible, it’s obvious they want to make you—one, diabetic—or two, obese. But in all seriousness, everyone loves food, and as the saying goes: “the way to someone’s

heart is through their stomach”. At least they went out of their way to make you something by hand (unless, of course, they walked over to the nearest grocery store to buy ready-made desserts).

**Picture collage-** A collage is not as common as the first few gift items. If you thought of this classic idea for a gift, congratulations! You have just accomplished a new level of uniqueness, considering no one makes picture collages anymore, probably due to the spooky factor in owning a picture and staring at it every day for the rest of your life.

**Sweetheart conversation hearts-** You probably haven’t seen these since elementary. There is always *someone* who decides to bring them and you probably don’t like these candy hearts either. These medicine-tasting conversation hearts are definitely conversation starters. Hey, at least they brought back elementary school memories, right?

**Heart-shaped lollipops-** Another trip down elementary lane. Cute to look at and fun to eat when you’re bored or otherwise hungry. Better than conversation hearts.

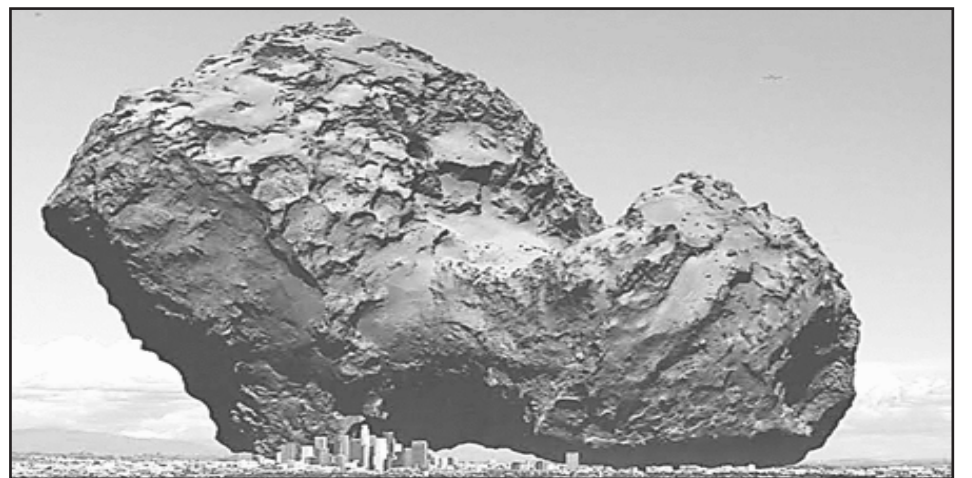
**Jewelry-** Last but not least, jewelry. If you’re a girl, this is probably something you like but won’t use. In that case, you should still give your boyfriend points for trying to get you something you can actually use.



www.scienceofrelationships.com

# Comet 6.4 Billion Kilometers Away and New Space Endeavors for the New Year

Omar Amer  
—staff writer—



Size comparison of comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko to the city of Los Angeles. Image from www.dailymail.uk.co

Ten years. That’s how long the European Space Agency had to wait for the Philae lander to touch down on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. The anticipation must’ve been outta this world. Heh.

Mission Rosetta, named after the slab inscribed with three different languages, has been the most complex space mission. As the stone revolutionized our understanding of ancient cultures and civilizations, this space mission has revolutionized our apprehension of the oldest parts of the solar system.

Approved back in November 1993 and launched in 2004, the mission was part of a long-term program. The objective of the mission was to observe and conduct experiments on the comet’s composition for evidence of organic molecules and surface properties. Essentially, the comet is the earliest recorded material from the sun’s nebula.

The probe, Philae, after two attempts, touched down on a city-large comet. According to space.com, landing the probe was like landing on a spinning ice mountain—moving at 135,000 kilometers per hour, that is. After the tremendous achievement, the explorer, equipped with solar panels, drill equipment, cameras and sensors immediately began its comprehensive

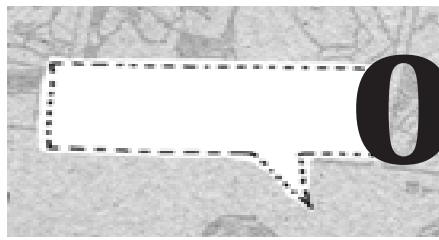
study of the comet. No other study has ever looked at the “infant solar system” as will Rosetta.

Challenges, however, still surfaced. Expected time for activity was estimated around seven to eight hours, yet the probe received a mere hour and a half worth of battery power, before it “went to sleep.” The only way it could recharge was if its solar panels faced the sun; however, there’s the tremendous risk that the probe could get too hot and malfunction or shut down.

Recent announcements have revealed that Philae may be out of reach after several attempts to reactivate it. Yet projects and discoveries continue to surge as the year progresses. With the comet that’ll fly near Earth and newly discovered Earth-like planets, discoveries are still popping up.

Many, despite the astronomical magnitude of acquirable knowledge from such a study, ask, “What’s the big deal? It’s just a hunk of dirty ice in space. We’ve landed on stuff before, so what’s the difference?” Experiments and endeavors of and into our solar system and outer cosmos have only provided a sliver of insight of the cosmos; the universe is far more significant than our own self-centered world and “landing on stuff” contributes to our ever growing knowledge of science.





## Valentine's Day's Younger Sibling?

Kimberly Rivera  
—staff writer—

**“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”**  
—Aesop

February is mostly known for Valentine's Day on the 14th, but surprisingly, there is another special day just like Valentine's Day. Even more surprising, it's three days after Valentine's Day. Any guesses? That special day is Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17th.

Random Acts of Kindness Day is similar to Valentine's Day. The only difference is that instead of pouring kindness onto people you know, you sprinkle dashes of it onto people you *don't* know. It's all about putting a



### Muhammad Fazal, 12th grade

•“Yes, I do. [When] someone does acts of kindness without [expecting] anything in return people notice. Some people become inspired to do acts of kindness themselves. It's what helps us get through the day at the end.”

•“The little things. Giving someone a compliment or picking up after others. The things that go unnoticed are usually the biggest acts of kindness.”

### Stephanie Tran, 12th grade

•“No. It can't be one day of kindness. For a truly peaceful world, everyone should be kind to one another every day. Unfortunately, sometimes you have to be cruel to be kind.”

### Asif Showrov, 12th grade

•“Yes, because without it, people tend to become colder and more selfish.”

•“Simply holding the door for someone or helping someone pick up their books if they dropped them.”

### Yasmine Lara, 12th grade

•“Yes, because it reminds people there are other people in this world besides themselves.”



### Brice Capangpangan, 11th grade

•“It is important because things like the media heavily focus on the negative aspects of life so that many often forget that people can be kind also.”

•“Paying for coffee for the next customer. Anything that benefits someone else, with no personal benefit besides the feeling of helping others.”

### Maria Silva, 11th grade

•“Of course; it's always important to show and do acts of kindness towards others no matter what day it is.”

### Einstein Lopez, 11th grade

•“I'd say yes because it psychologically affects the people you act kindly to and as a result, they in some way go on to perform their own acts of kindness. The chain goes on and so by performing an act of kindness, you contribute to much more than what you initially thought.”

### Kelly Diana, 11th grade

•“Yes because it shows others the kind of person you really are. It should be an everyday thing not just one day.”

smile on their faces. The simplicity of these random acts of kindness is what makes this day meaningful. These acts can be anything you want. You can give someone a flower, tell them an inspiring message or simply wave and say “hi.” The list can go on forever.

Random Acts of Kindness Day spreads kindness and happiness to those in need. You can make a difference in someone else's life. Do you think Random Acts of Kindness Day is important? What would you consider as a random act of kindness?



### Gabriel Gomez, 10th grade

•“Yes because someone might feel a bit depressed or lonely and a random act of kindness might cheer them up.”

•“Giving someone a thumbs-up or a smile. Anything that helps a person out.”

### Mifrah Khan, 10th grade

•“Yes because afterwards it makes me feel better about myself.”

•“When I saw a driver's license on the ground, picked it up and I gave it to the counter.” #mifrahtotherescue

### Walter May, 10th grade

•“I think it is important because you're able to help another person and it helps you feel better about yourself because you're helping another person feel better. Not only do you help another person; you help yourself.”

### Leslie Cifuentes, 10th grade

•“I think it can go both ways when it comes to importance in a day like that. Without a doubt, it's a great thing to have a day that'll better us as people but then again, random acts of kindness should be an everyday thing.”

### Sharleen Bagcat, 9th grade

•“I think it's really nice for others to do kind things for people, so I consider it important.”

•“Well, it could be almost anything. You could help someone pay for something that they didn't have enough money for.”

### Jordy Reyes, 9th grade

•“Yes, it makes you feel good at heart.”

•“Giving anything you have. For example, love. I give you love, you give me love. Doing so can put you in a good part in society. People will realize that you gave to them when they were in need, so they'll do the same for you.”

### Stephanie Roblero, 9th grade

•“Yes because it helps our society trust each another.”

•“Like something as simple as helping a person who is struggling to hold heavy textbooks.”

### Briana Coleman, 9th grade

•“Yes because it makes people feel good.”

•“Giving someone a compliment or giving someone who's hungry food.”

## The Big Valentine's Day Question: Will you b...uy me stuff?

Ame Negrete & Isabel Ramirez  
—staff writers—

With Valentine's Day approaching and stores displaying the goodies they sell for anyone looking to get their special someone (or themselves) something, we simply had to ask *our* special someone what *they* wanted. They said they didn't want anything and we couldn't help but smile.

To many, if not all, Valentine's Day is about love. However, what we love isn't always another human and when it is, we're a little selfish. When we ask the masked question (which comes in different forms) “Will you be my valentine?” we're really only asking if they'd like to buy us something. Don't believe us? How many Valentines have you had and NOT expected them to buy you something? Pretend like you care and you'll be rewarded.

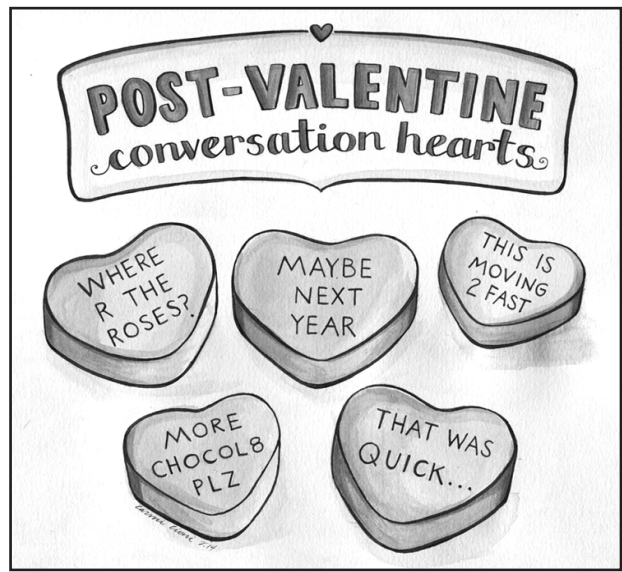
Just about every couple participates in this holiday and those who don't are given a look of disapproval, even within the couples themselves. If your special someone buys you something and you don't buy *them* anything, it's over. He/she will hold

that over your head for the rest of your life. Every time they see you, it'll be with disapproval and maybe even disgust. Lovers be warned.

This holiday isn't *really* about love, but for some couples that are Valentines and not one-day-only duos, February 14th really is about expressing love to each other (well, in theory). But a question arises: why do we need just *one* day to demonstrate our affections?

Expressing love is a year round thing and it's—hopefully—not something you do just because it's a holiday. It should be something you naturally want to do because you care enough about someone and you want them to know. But if you're only being affectionate once a year, then your special somebody is guaranteed to not be yours forever.

But then again, what do two high school girls, both in separate, happy relationships, know about the holiday that is now dedicated to the love of objects?



Cartoon by Carmi Cioni. Image from www.studlife.com

SKETCH by King



Cartoon taken from compmus.ime.usp.br/pt-br/humor

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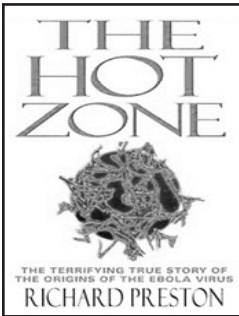
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# BOOK REVIEWS

## Page Turners



***The Hot Zone* by Richard Preston**  
Saria Khan, news editor

*The Hot Zone* by Richard Preston has everybody burning up a fever; it is a grisly macabre.

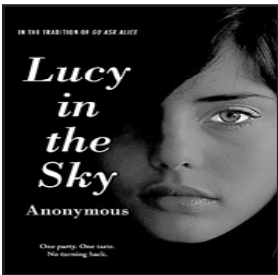
It successfully reveals the journey of the cane-like mutation and its strains. The gruesome descriptions of the hemorrhagic fever are equivocal to thisness. People simply turn into zombies, “spontaneous rips appear in the skin, and hemorrhagic blood pours from the rips,” (Preston 106). They deteriorate until they become nothing more than a host.

Green monkeys imported from Africa are locked into a monkey house in Reston, Virginia for research. The virus is a living nightmare. Causing damage beyond measure, it infects the monkey population already living there, and results in human casualties.

*The Hot Zone* captures every aspect of Ebola. The outbreak simulates the bubonic plague, except the effects are far worse; the body deteriorates quicker, and much more painfully. The book shows the virus is ubiquitous, spontaneous, and mutates easily. There is no way of knowing who has it. Incubation period is two weeks to 20 days. After symptoms are revealed, suspects are incubated and prepared for death. The book does only focus on Ebola, it discusses its sister virus, also easily attainable, Marburg. Preston focuses on the Army’s Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Reston, Virginia, where research is done on the origins of such lethal diseases. He shows how researchers, and scientists dedicate their lives as sacrifice to probe deadly viruses. Researchers wear heavy space suits to prevent infection while dissecting Green Monkey organs. Preston narrows on the mutation Ebola Reston spread within the Monkey house in Reston, Virginia.

Richard Preston successfully captures the scientific macabre of Ebola by channeling the styles of other famous authors like Stephen King. Even Stephen King claims it is “one of the most horrifying things he has ever read,” (Preston). *The Hot Zone* is a non-fiction, page turning and compelling novel.

## Page Burner

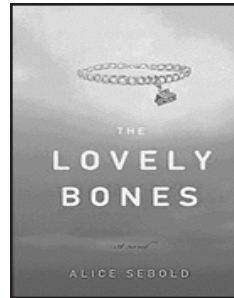


***Lucy in the Sky* by Anonymous**  
Linda Desrosiers, staff writer

*Another thrilling journal by Anonymous* is what wasn’t in my mind after reading *Lucy in the Sky*. After hearing many great reviews about *Go Ask Alice*, I thought to myself, well, I should try the other books by Anonymous. I’m a sucker for dairy/journal-style books.

It’s about a good girl, living a good life but one party changed everything. One party where she took one taste—and liked it. She convinced herself she was no different from others who liked to party. Her actions indicate otherwise: she was hanging out with an edgy crowd, blowing off school and everything she used to care about, all to find her next high.

At the end of the book I found myself yelling in frustration, I felt like the one person yelling during a horror film. I found myself stressed out over this ridiculously stupid girl who does not know how to do the right thing, *ever*. It’s a good read for those curious about the effects of drugs, but Lucy’s nonsensical actions definitely ruin some of the appeal.

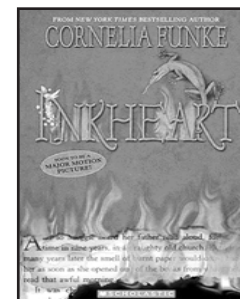


***The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold**  
Victoria Herrera, staff writer

I looked across the shelves, attracted by shades of blue. I always had a rule against reading books I’ve seen as movies, but *The Lovely Bones* was the exception. I was immediately drawn to the cover with the picture of the bracelet I recognized from the movie. I’m glad that I broke my rule because I got to experience such a deep book.

Alice Sebold perfectly describes everything Susie goes through. In fact, there are times the book gave me the chills because I felt like one of the characters. Although sometimes brutal, the descriptions are well thought out. Before reading it, I was warned parts of the book are disturbing. I had no problem with the “graphic” parts because it allowed me to gain a better understanding of what the characters went through. All the characters’ thoughts and feelings were clearly expressed.

I actually felt as if I was going through a journey through heaven with Susie. I felt empathy for her and her family as she talked about watching them from “the inbetween” (between earth and heaven). Throughout the book, you feel like you’ve grown with her and realized that once you’re dead, you’re gone forever. By the end of the book, Sebold does a good job leaving the reader at peace and explaining everything that happens to each character. Typically, I dislike the thought that everything ends positively, but this book has the perfect balance of a happy ending while still being realistic.



***Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke**  
Paulina Herrera, staff writer

Good books *show* you great adventures, great books *take* you on great adventures and *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke is a great book.

The plot is simple: Meggie (the main character) and Mo (her father) travel, hunting a book Mo has desperately searched for years. Meggie doesn’t know why it’s so important to Mo and how it is connected to her mom’s disappearance

when she was a toddler. However, she soon learns the book and her mother are part of the same mystery. A mystery where characters from the book come to life, including evil villains, flying monkeys, the Forty Thieves gold and a thief from *One Thousand and One Nights*.

The characters are relatable and memorable. The story itself is refreshing and unique compared to repetitive and cliché stories. It keeps you turning the pages with new twists and turns until the very end. It’s hard to believe that you’re only reading and not a part of the story. I would recommend *Inkheart* to anyone who wants a unique story but maybe 23m AR points will convince cliché lovers.