



Students' reactions to Ms. Ramos' departure & Meeting the New Counselor

Erika Guzman & Maryam Sultan
—staff writers—



Ms. Bui, a new addition to the HMSA family.
Photo taken by Kristine Locsin.

After Ms. Ramos' unexpected departure, students were asking who the new counselor was going to be.

On Monday, September 22, rumors started about Ms. Ramos' leaving. After confirming she resigned, students, specifically the seniors, were surprised. Senior Jovanny De La Cueva says he "thought it was a bad rumor," then was "shocked and couldn't believe it." He added, saying that "[Ms. Ramos] was supposed to be there to guide [the seniors]." When Neemat Abdusemed was asked for her reaction, she said, "Didn't [Ms. Ramos] say she'd see us on Monday?"

Although all were left in shock, some seniors didn't worry as much about Ms. Ramos leaving. "I was not worried over Ms. Ramos' departure", says Senior Brianna Carlos, who was taken aback at the sudden occurrence, "I know that all the information [regard-

ing applications, scholarships, and college] can be found online."

Fortunately, we weren't left without a counselor for too long.

Ms. Bui was born in Vietnam and came to Southern California when she was 2 years old. When she started her college education, she first attended

"I'm not going to leave. I'm here to stay."

- Ms. Bui

UC Berkeley, but left as a single mother. She went on to a community college where she got her AA degree. She then attended CSU Long Beach where she got her Bachelor's in interpersonal communications and minored in comparative literature.

Before coming to HMSA, Ms. Bui was a high school counselor in Maryland High School, with roughly 2,100 students divided to 9 counselors. But

she wanted to move back near her family in Southern California, and decided to come to HMSA because of our high need and high achievement. She also noticed that 80 percent of the students receive a form of reduced payments. She reflected to the time when she was in similar conditions in her high school years and she felt a connection with the students. So far, she likes HMSA and the sweet and understanding students. She is particularly amazed by the after-school tutoring; teachers aren't paid, yet stay after school for their students, showing utmost dedication.

When asked for one thing she wants the students to know, Ms. Bui said, "I'm not going to leave. I'm here to stay." She abides by a Code of Ethics; she has a duty to her students.

Sweet Safety

Priscilla Araujo & Natalie Saldana
—staff writer &— copy editor—

Halloween is right around the corner and there are a number of ways to be safe while still enjoying the festivities. Everyone should exercise precautions in order to preserve their well-being. Certain ways you can still participate in the holiday while staying safe are: wear visible clothing/accessories, have a house party, and check the candies you receive.

Wearing visible clothing and accessories on Halloween is important. Neon colors are a great way to stand out in the dark if you go trick-or-treating. Carrying glow in the dark items, such as glow sticks or glow-in-the-dark makeup, is also especially useful, while sticking with the overall atmosphere of the night. These small items can be lifesavers because they will allow drivers to spot you against the darkness. Simply wrapping your trick-or-treat basket with bright colored tape is another method if carrying glow sticks isn't your style. Decorating your costumes with these methods can also be inexpensive and can bring out your artistic and creative skills.

Not being able to go out trick-or-treating doesn't mean the end of your Halloween fun. There are plenty of activities to do if you have, or prefer, to stay home. Organizing your own Halloween party is a great way to celebrate the occasion while staying in the comfort of your own home. For a more intimate get-together, organizing a small group of friends and having a slumber party on the night of Halloween is more appropriate. This can include Halloween related activities to do such as a scary movie marathon, telling scary stories, handing out candy to trick-or-treaters, and anything else that is related to the spooky occasion. Remember, if you plan on handing out

STAY SAFE!
Halloween Safety Tips



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candy to trick-or-treaters you should have a responsible adult with you and do not open the door to older and more suspicious-looking individuals.

Checking your Halloween candy before you eat it is a necessity to ensure your well-being. Some may think it is absurd but many reported incidents of injured children and adults come in every year, stemming from Halloween candy that had been tampered with. Don't eat any candy while outside, wait until you get home to finally lay them all out and check them under good lighting and scrutiny. Make sure the candy wrappers are not punctured or seem to have been opened. If you do not recognize a candy label, do not eat it or consult an adult before you do. Always check the expiration date on candies and do not consume any that smell strange.

Have fun on Halloween but keep in mind that there are dangers everywhere, so be especially vigilant on this night. Wear noticeable clothing, check your candy bags, and have your own party if you can't go trick-or-treating.



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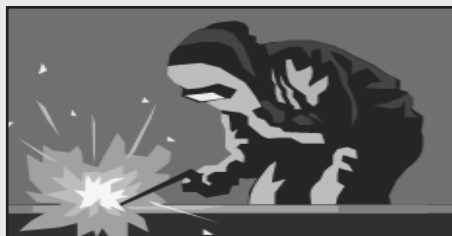
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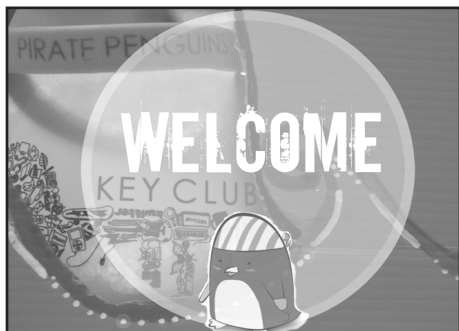


Aviaunce Lawson & Judith Martinez
—staff writers & co-layout editor—

When people think of Key Club, they think mainly of community service, but it is so much more than that. Although Key Club involves itself mostly in community service, it teaches its members the dynamic of true teamwork.

After speaking to Key Club members about why they joined, the most common response was: “to do all my volunteer hours, and a great way to get involved in the community.” However, what most don’t know is that it’s a great way to make friends. As freshman Stephanie Roblero told me, she joined because of the “diversity the club offers” and how “it enhances social skills.”

Not only does Key Club improve your teamwork skills but it can change the



way you see certain things. Stephanie Ibrahim said, “Key Club introduced me to people I probably wouldn’t have talked to. The meetings usually last about 15 minutes, but doing actual community service can last around 3 hours. I don’t consider it very time consuming and I like that it keeps me proactive.”

You can no longer join this semester, but at the beginning of second semester, you can speak to Ms.Mendoza or Kristine Locsin about your interest. Make sure you are eligible with a 2.0 or higher GPA and no failed classes (including CP’s). The membership fee is only fifteen dollars so think about joining Key Club, getting your hours done, and meeting new people.

Student Thoughts on the FallBack Dance

Kevin Candray & Aldo Montes
—staff writers—



Aviators “turning-up” at the FallBack Dance. Photo taken by Kevin Candray.

HMSA held its second annual FallBack Dance on campus on September 19, 2014. The dance boosted student morale and spirit while helping the students of the freshmen class get to know each other better. Attendees enjoyed the FallBack Dance very much, and they eagerly await next year’s dance.

Britany Lopez, a freshman, was asked what she thought of the dance. Her response was: “It was fun, I thought it was going to be ghetto and crappy.”

“I totally want to go [again] next year!” said sophomore Lesly Gonzalez. When asked what she liked the most, she responded, “I liked that it was dark”

Samantha Gutierrez, a junior, was asked if she enjoyed her time at the dance and she answered, “Yeah because there was loud music and I was with my friends”.

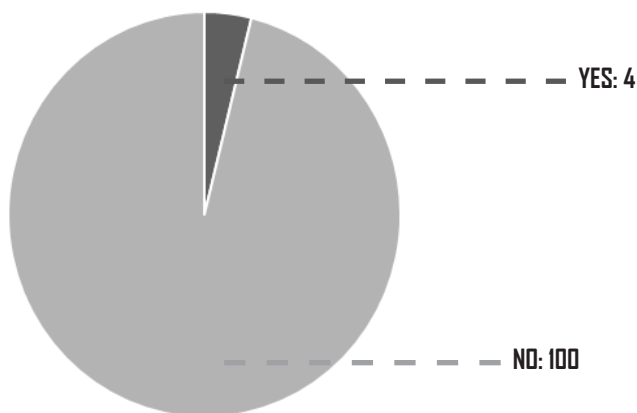
Senior Sergio Rizzo “[had] a great time, better than [he] expected. [And] recommends it!”

Do You Feel Threatened by Ebola?

Check any social networking sites like Facebook or Twitter, and an Ebola update is posted. Is there an overwhelming amount of media coverage on the Ebola outbreak, or is there not enough? Facts and opinions are pre-

sented to make you think twice (or ignore) the information, bringing anxiety or assurance about the outbreak. HMSA students (104 were asked) took part on a survey if they feel threatened by Ebola.

Do You Feel Threatened by Ebola?



*104 students were asked



From left to right: Orlando G. (9), Cassandra C. (vice-president, 12), and Linda R. (9) sold churros during Back to School Night to fundraise for Key Club. Photo taken by Kristine Locsin.



Jesse T. (vice-president, 12) speaks to Freshmen about Key Club at the CP Fair. Photo taken by Kristine Locsin.

Survey taken by Jesse Torres and Maria Heredia.

Clash Horror Mayhem: Universal Horror Nights or Knott’s Scary Farm

Leanette Estrada & Michael Salazar
—A&E editor –&– staff writer—

Halloween is around the corner and many famous theme parks, such as Universal Studios and Knott’s Berry Farm transform their locations and open the gates to people’s worst nightmares.

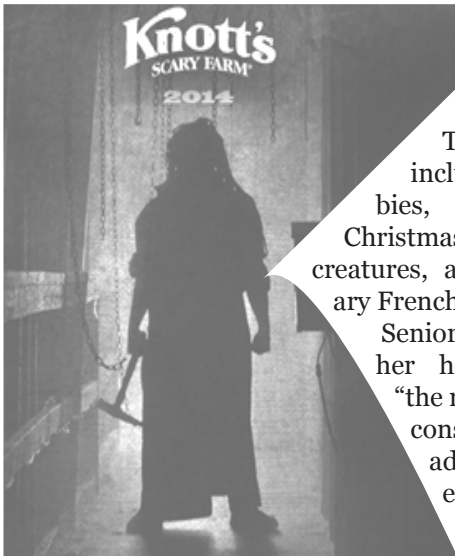
With the transformation of these two locations comes the controversial question of which theme park is better. There are many variables to consider when deciding.

Universal Studios’ Horror Nights is known for having incredibly realistic mazes. Every year, Universal portrays its mazes on the year’s hottest horror themes. This year’s attractions include: *Dracula*, *Alien vs Predator*, *Face Off*, *From Dusk Till Dawn*, *An American Werewolf in London*, *Clowns 3D* and the *Ter-*

ror Tram: Invaded by The Walking Dead. Not including the mazes, Horror Nights also includes several Scare

Zones, where guests have to cross in order to get to each maze. These Scare Zones include: walking zombies, Purge enthusiast, Christmas devils, giant skull creatures, and pre-revolutionary French cannibals.

Senior Lesley Luna mused her horrific experience: “the night was filled with constant fear and the advanced effects of each maze made the scary experience seem like reality.” Ticket prices vary depending on the day of the week. Universal Horror Nights occurs once a year and themes are constantly changing. Horror Nights is a great place to experience the spirit of Halloween with friends.

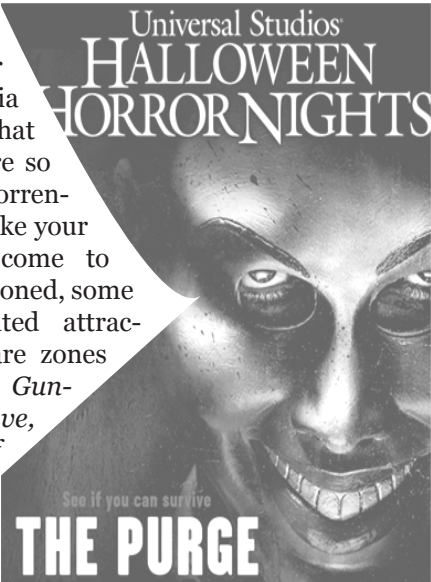


Now, if you prefer original, not famous-based shows and iconic horror movie character mazes, then Knott’s Scary Farm is your option. This year, Knott’s Scary Farm has eleven haunted attractions, six shows, four scare zones, and thirteen roller coasters. The haunted attractions and scare zones are what attract people to Knott’s Scary Farm.

For example, senior Dania Garcia exclaimed that “the mazes are so intense and horrendous, they make your worst fears come to life.” As mentioned, some of the haunted attractions and scare zones include: *The Gunslinger’s Grave*, *Dominion of the Dead*, *Voodoo*, and *Trick or Treat*.

Also, Knott’s introduces an exciting, but horrifying attraction: *Special Ops: Infected*. This creative and exciting attraction tests people’s capabilities in surviving a zombie apocalypse. However, this attraction does require an extra payment. If you’re into nonstop fear, monster chasing, and nerve-racking mazes, then Knott’s Scary Farm is the right option.

Every year, the stakes are higher for both theme parks. They want people to have a fun and unforgettable experience, which is why their mazes and scare zones are scarier and more realistic each year. Regardless of which theme park you choose, if you are seeking a great night filled with thrills and monsters at every corner, then either attraction will fulfill those desires.



Images taken from:
1. www.adventuresbydaddy.com 2. www.zap2it.com

Halloween for the Stay-at-Homes

Adriana Sandoval
—staff writer—

On October 31st, some people go out, some people stay home. This Halloween, if you finish your calculus homework early and are too misanthropic to leave your house (i.e. you weren’t invited anywhere), watch some films. Channel surf. AMC, FX, IFC, Sundance, Starz, Cinemax, etc. there’s bound to be a substantial horror flick. If not, watch *V/H/S* on Netflix or rent films.

Avoid any horror remake, avoid sequels (e.g. *Jason X*), and horror parodies (e.g. *Scary Movie* 1-5). Avoid such films unless you enjoy gratuitous qualities: excessive gore, profanity, zero character development, and vacuous dialogue.

Horror consists of many subcategories. There are the ghost horror films, such as *Poltergeist* and *The Sixth Sense*. There are horror films that focus on madness: *Psycho*, *The Silence*

of the Lambs, *Hour of the Wolf*, *Dead Ringers*, *Repulsion*, *The Shining* and *Jacob’s Ladder*. Madness-focused films are more mentally frightening than physically frightening. There are comedic horror films such as *Evil Dead* and *Evil Dead 2*. There are slasher horror films, consisting of excruciatingly slow walking and incredibly dramatic music. Films like *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, *Halloween*, *Scream*, *Friday the 13th* and *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. There are the horror films that make animals terrifying, including *Jaws* and *The Birds*. There are the demonic horror films: *Rosemary’s Baby*, *The Exorcist* and *The Omen*. Then, there are the “other” horror films: *Stephen King’s “It”*, *The Blob*, *Eraserhead*, *Carrie*, *The Wicker Man*, *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* (hag horror) and *The Bad Seed*.



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Student favorites:

-Brianna Carlos (Senior): *The Others*

- Yarikza Gonzalez (Senior): *The Exorcist*

- Yvonne Flores (Senior): *Saw* movies

-Nadesha (Sophomore): *Freddy vs. Jason*

-Amina (Sophomore): *The Grudge*

-Anonymous freshman male: *Harry Potter*

Others like Dylan Highducheck (sophomore) and Mayra Gomez (senior) don’t have a favorite horror film.

Teacher favorites:

-Ms. Sharpe: *The Entity*

-Mr. Jahnke: *The People Under the Stairs*

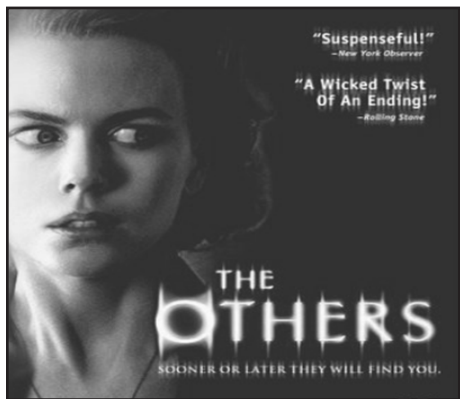
-Ms. Davis: “The one I don’t have to watch.”

At least watch the films for the legendary lines. Watch for Nicholson’s “Here’s Johnny!” Watch for Tony Perkins’ “A boy’s best friend is his mother.” Watch for Cole Sear’s “I see dead people.” Watch for Scheider’s “you’re gonna need a bigger boat.” Watch for Hopkins’ “I ate his liver with some fava beans and a nice Chianti.”

Watch for directorial bravura. Whether it’s from Kubrick, Hitchcock, Spielberg, Polanski, or Craven, watch it.



www.imdb.com



www.imdb.com

Must-See Movies This Fall

Giselle Vazquez
—staff writer—

1. **Gone Girl**— Starring Ben Affleck, Rosamund Pike, and Neil Patrick Harris and based on the bestselling novel by Gillian Flynn, tells the story of a man who is framed for his wife’s disappearance. Although rated R, this drama-filled flick is sure to be a must-see.
2. **Dracula, Untold**— Luke Evans, Dominic Cooper, and Sarah Gadon are the cast of the upcoming film which tells the story of Dracula’s origin.
3. **The Best of Me**—Based on the love story by Nicholas Sparks, two high school sweethearts reunite after 20 years of being apart.
4. **Fury**—This is an action movie starring Brad Pitt and Logan Lerman. Taking place during WWII, Pitt’s character is a general attempting to end the Nazi’s terror.
5. **Men, Women, and Children**— Following teenagers and their parents around to view how the internet has taken over their lives, this film takes on the social issue of overuse and dependence on the internet; featuring Adam Sandler, Ansel Elgort, and many more.
6. **Ouija**— This film is perfect for Halloween. Channeling ghosts with a Ouija Board, a group of friends experiences paranormal activity in the home where their friend died.
7. **Nightcrawler**— A young man (Jake Gyllenhaal) in L.A. becomes a part of underground crime journalism as an attempt to find work, but gets caught up in his work.
8. **Dumb and Dumber To**—If you’ve seen part one, you just might love part two. Taking place 20 years after their first adventure, the duo sets out on another adventure in search for a kidney. (Yes, a kidney). This film features Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels.
9. **Mockingjay**— The third and final part of *The Hunger Games* trilogy is finally coming. Katniss has to save Peeta from the horrible people containing him. Backed up by the nation, she sets out for her fight against President Snow.

U.S. and Canada Box Office Weekend of Oct. 24, 2014-Oct. 26, 2014		
	Title	Weekend Gross
1	Ouija	\$20,006,000
2	John Wick	\$14,150,000
3	Fury	\$13,000,000
4	Gone Girl	\$11,100,000
5	The Book of Life	\$9,800,000
6	St. Vincent	\$8,058,000
7	Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day	\$7,023,000
8	The Best of Me	\$4,736,000
9	The Judge	\$4,345,000
10	Dracula Untold	\$4,302,480

Source: The New York Times



www.wtfgamersonly.com



www.thebaynet.com

Paper Towns Casts Cara Delevingne

Zunera Akram
—staff writer—

Paper Towns has found its Margo. The 22 year old Victoria’s Secret model, Cara Delevingne, will play the female lead alongside Nat Wolff.

After casting, John Green announced his joy via Twitter: “Cara Delevingne’s audition blew everyone away (including me!) and she understands Margo profoundly. I am so excited!” According to *Teen Vogue*, Cara is serious about her acting career; she’s reportedly taken acting classes. However, the supermodel has received negative reviews for her acting in many short films.

Junior Malik Ogunlade claims that “her acting sucks, but I would watch the movie for her.”

“She should stick to her modeling career,” says senior Jamilia Berryman. “Choosing her for the leading role is like hiring a McDonald’s worker as an engineer. It doesn’t work.”

Although Cara is extremely success-



Image from teenvogue.com

ful in her modeling career, acting is her passion. Casting Cara Delevingne as one of the protagonist might be a wrong decision, but like senior Valeria Tomaylla stated, “Let’s not judge her until we see her performance.”

The Walking Dead

Sergio Rizzo & Danna Martin
—student contributors—



The Walking Dead, as most people know, is about a zombie apocalypse and the survival of the fittest. The newest season started about three weeks ago and the first episode was full of suspense and adrenaline. It was jam-packed with fighting, explosions, and the most important factor, walkers. The previous season left off with the protagonists meeting a group promising sanctuary. But this group wasn’t all that they seemed.

The Season 5 opener immediately opened off with action and suspense. The protagonists struggle to keep their lives and sanity in a world that isn’t as warm as it once was. New characters have been introduced and, sadly, some

may no longer live. Story lines have been resolved and some have become paradoxically more ambiguous as more details are added. [Spoiler Alert!] Will Rick and the gang successfully fight off Terminus, the sanctuary for all? Will Beth be found alive? Will Eugene arrive at Washington and create the cure? *Does* he have the cure? These questions will most likely be answered as the season progresses.

Art teacher, Ms. Kang, was filled with a “crazy mixture of emotions” about the first episode of the season. She added, “it was nonstop excitement, you felt justification, redemption, and sorrow.” While her favorite character is the samurai sword-wielding, Michonne, Ms. Kang hopes to see a conclusion in the next three seasons. She responds with, “I can’t live like this.”

Red Band Society

Tatiana Medrano
—staff writers—

Every fall, greatly-anticipated television shows are presented to us. *Red Band Society* was released on September 17 on FOX. The show, an adaptation from the Catalan version “Polseres Vermelles,” is based off Albert Espinosa’s experiences as a teen with cancer living in a hospital.

Red Band Society demonstrates teenagers struggling with a wide range of different illnesses (drug addictions, eating disorders, cancer, and more). They deal with the difficulty of recovery and inner turmoil, forming bonds with each other as they struggle, creat-

ing a family.

Audiences can connect with any character. Unlike what most people may believe, it is not a depressing show. It does take you on an emotional rollercoaster, but there are as many, if not more, joyful moments as there are gloomy. The insight given to the viewer in each episode is priceless; every important lesson or quote sticks with you for the long run. People that have seen the show have fallen in love with it.

When asked what was her thoughts on *Red Band Society*, Cassandra (a senior) answered, “After the first epi-

sode I wasn’t super into it because I thought the episode was kind of slow, but after watching the second episode my mind definitely changed. I plan to keep watching the season because I really want to see what happens between Leo and Emma. I love this show, it’s the only show I take time out of my week to watch. More people should tune in to watch.”

Red Band Society airs on FOX every Wednesday at 9pm. If you are a binge-watcher or don’t have enough time to watch it on the weekdays, it is available on Hulu for free.



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Who Runs the Court? Girls.

Brandon Azuoma
—assistant sports editor—



BETTY AINSWORTH— HMSA against Wildwood (23-19). Photo taken by Brandon Azuoma.

The girls varsity volleyball team is looking great during this new season. They have started strong and are looking to continue that level of play throughout the season and hopefully, the playoffs.

Varsity captain, senior Kimberly Ngo, believes that “[the team] is looking really good this year and we have a nice mix of veterans and rookies.” Their six-to-five record shows that they have a solid chance of making the playoffs. Varsity member, freshman Amelia Navarro, thinks that the team “could possibly make the playoffs if [they] buckle down and focus on [their] upcoming games.” With such optimistic members, the team has prospered and has been prepared for every game.

The girls junior varsity (JV) vol-

leyball team is also shows promise in their games. Although they struggle at times, the team is full of optimistic players who try their best on the court. The JV team captain, senior Nicole Truong, thinks that the team “can definitely improve and some of these [JV] players [will be] on the Varsity team next year.”

Both teams have grown together and are committed to playing to win and making Mr. Kircher proud. The players have great chemistry off and on the court, and senior varsity member, Brianna Carlos, believes that “being friends off the court, really does help on the court as well.” The teams continue to strive for success and everyone knows that they can do it.

The Aviators’ Undefeated Streak

Isaac Gorgy
—sports editor—



Image created by Zunera Akram

The Cross Country season has officially begun, and the Aviators are off to an excellent start. The boys’ team has won all five of their races with the most recent against CAMS this past Wednesday October 15th.

Last season, the boys’ team finished third in the league and the girls were just shy from qualifying for CIF Championships. This year the team has high expectations. The HMSA Cross Country Team is determined to advance to the Coastal League and eventually win it all. The Aviators understand the difficulty of such a task, but they are committed to working hard and

continuing to improve.

Sufyan Tootla, one of the new members of the cross country team, stated, “Spending time with the team has made them feel like a second family to me. That’s why we have great chemistry.”

Mr. Gullikson and Mrs. Bawaney, along with team captains Alejandra Vasquez and Alex Garcia, have contributed to the team’s excellent preparation. The team is constantly practicing for hours after school in the blistering sun and has maintained a strict diet to increase their fitness. Each individual is committed to the team and works hard to have the best possible result. Team captain Alejandra Vasquez commented, “The team is very devoted and every member always fights to pass the person in front of them.”

Team Coach, Mr. Gullikson, added “They are a good group of kids and are fun to work with.”

The extensive preparation has prompted the team to continue their success and win the Coastal League Championships on October 28.



KENNETH HAHN PARK— Boys cross country team won the Coastal League Championship. They were undefeated throughout the season winning 7 out of 7 races. From left to right: Ryan A. (12), Andrew T. (10), Jacob R. (11), Alex G. (11), Emilio De L. (10), Eduardo Gonzalez (10), and Dylan H. (10). Photo taken by Mr. Gullikson.

The MLB Postseason

Francisco Contreras
—staff writer—



www.insidesocal.com

October has come and that can only mean one thing. Postseason baseball. The 2014 MLB postseason is well underway, and the eight best teams remaining were pitted against each other in their quest for a World Series championship.

Among these teams were the Los Angeles Dodgers, who came into the playoffs trying to avenge a National League Championship Series (NLCS) loss to the St. Louis Cardinals from last year. These two teams faced off in a best-of-5 National League Division Series (NLDS) with the Dodgers holding

home-field advantage for the duration of the series. This, however, ended up not being a disadvantage for the Cardinals. They won the series three games to one, defeating perennial Cy Young award winner, an honor annually given to the league’s top pitcher, and MVP candidate Clayton Kershaw twice along the way. Their opponent was determined by the series between the San Francisco Giants and Washington Nationals. The Nationals came in off a season in which they won the Eastern division, had the best record in the National League and were tied for the

second best record overall. The Giants won this series three games to one.

Thus, the Giants and Cardinals squared off in this year’s NLCS. Although both teams played well and every game they played in was highly competitive and closely contested, the Giants won the series four games to one. Timely hitting and excellent pitching were the names of the game for the Giants. They will, obviously, hope to continue in this year’s World Series, their third trip in five years.

On the American League side, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim came into the playoffs as Southern California’s representative. They came into the playoffs owning the league’s best record. Despite losing their best pitcher

late in the season, according to ESPN, they were thought to be a considerable threat riding on the back of one of baseball’s best offensives. In their series, they went up against the Kansas City Royals in the American League Division Series (ALDS), who were fresh off of snapping a playoff drought that extended to the 1985 season. The Royals rode the hot streak they were on coming into the playoffs and used that to sweep the Angels in three games. In the ALCS, they matched up against the Baltimore Orioles. In the ALDS, they played the AL Central champion Detroit Tigers. The Orioles quickly dispatched the Tigers in three games, despite the fact that the Tigers started the last

See MLB on page 6

Goodell Is Up To No Good

Dion Bui
—staff writer—



Roger Goodell (left) and Ray Rice (right). Image from NY Post.

NFL teams are entering their ninth week of the season, but fans are still talking about the controversy circulating around the league. The scandals over the past few months have been the topics of discussion on SportsCent-

er and several news outlets. Of course, drastic times call for drastic measures.

The domestic violence charges against Ray Rice for knocking his wife unconscious resulted in his team, the Baltimore Ravens, releasing him. In addition, Adrian Peterson's child abuse

accusations led his team, the Minnesota Vikings, to bench him for just *one* game. However, the biggest controversy of the league is about the man who runs it: NFL commissioner Roger Goodell.

Despite the Ravens releasing Rice after the news broke out, Goodell failed to impose a serious consequence on him. Goodell has only recently taken action against Rice. As of right now, Rice is suspended indefinitely. According to ESPN, Rice is trying to appeal the suspension, stating that it is against the league's rules to impose two consequences for the same offense. But this isn't the reason for controversy. A surveillance video of the incident was released and seen by Goodell, leading to Rice's suspension. People criticized Goodell for his slow actions: "You can't wait months to make a decision when the evidence was right there." According to the Las Vegas Police Department, police officers sent the video to the NFL offices as early as April. Be-

cause of this, NFL owners are calling for Goodell's pay cut and want his role in the NFL reduced.

As you're reading this, Ray Rice is still suspended and Roger Goodell is still the commissioner of the NFL. According to an ESPN report, Goodell has apologized to the league's owners for his handling of the situation: "We allowed our standards to fall below where they should be and lost an important opportunity to emphasize our strong stance on a critical issue and the effective programs we have in place. My disciplinary decision led the public to question our sincerity, our commitment, and whether we understood the toll that domestic violence inflicts on so many families." Despite Goodell's apology, Ray Rice is still making an appeal to get his suspension overturned to return to the NFL. The hearing is scheduled for November, but even if he wins the case, it doesn't mean a team will sign him. Good luck, Ray Rice.

UEFA 2014-2015 Champions League

Richard Estrella & Mohamed Rahka
—staff writers—

The qualifications for the UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) Champions League started on the first of July and ended on August 27th. The draft for this year's UEFA Champions League took place on August 28th where the 32 teams were divided into eight groups of four teams. The official tournament began on September 16th and will end on June 6, 2015.

This is the 60th season of the Champions League organized by the UEFA. Over 70 teams have qualified for the Champions League and only less than 35 teams remain; the defending champion is Spanish club Real Madrid. The group stage of the tournament has begun and the best club teams throughout Europe all strive for the Champion-

ship.

This year, Group A of the tournament consists of Juventus, Atlético Madrid, Malmo FF, Olympiacos. Group B: Real Madrid, FC Basel, Liverpool, Ludogorets. Group C: Zenit, Monaco, Bayer Leverkusen, Benfica. Group D: Borussia Dortmund, Arsenal, Anderlecht, Galatasaray. Group E: Bayern Munich, Roma, Manchester City, CSKA Moscow. Group F: Paris Saint Germain, FC Barcelona, Ajax, APOEL. Group G: Chelsea, Maribor, Schalke 04, Sporting CP. Group H: Porto, BATE Borisov, Shakhtar Donetsk, Atletico Bilbao.

The top 3 teams with the highest probability to win the UEFA Champions League are Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and FC Barcelona. Real Madrid



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has a 7/2 chance to win, Munich has a 4/1 chance to win, and Barcelona has a 6/1 chance to win the tournament.

This tournament will show off the debut of their new forward, Javier "El Chicharito" Hernandez, who scored two spectacular goals for Real Madrid in their 8-2 victory over Deportivo la

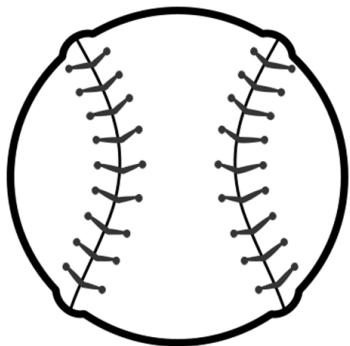
Coruna. Despite this feat, he will not be a first-choice forward for Real Madrid, instead, he will be a benchwarmer. There are many other new players who want to make their mark in European soccer history.

MLB continued from page 5

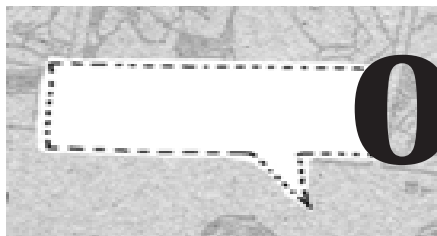
three recipients of the AL Cy Young Awards.

The Royals' torrid hot streak carried over into the ALCS. They swept the Orioles in four games to remain undefeat-

ed in the playoffs. Their style of play, highlighted by timely hitting, speed on the base paths, and superb relief pitching, looks to make this year's championship matchup a good one.



San Francisco Giants, Madison Bumgarner pitching in the World Series. Game 7 is Wednesday, October 29. Image from NY Post.



JESSE WHAT I DID THERE?

ISIS: Not America's Problem

Jesse Torres
—Op-Ed editor—

You may have heard of King Midas: everything he touched turned to gold. Every time he would come into contact with his surroundings, misfortune would follow. Too much of a good thing proved to be too much.

The United States is King Midas. The U.S. gets involved with foreign countries and disaster ensues and countries are worse than before. The U.S., for the most part, has withdrawn from a decade-long fight with an enemy that could not be defeated. But now, it seems as if war bells are ringing once again. A foreign threat by the name of ISIS or ISIL, or self declared as Islamic State has gained international notoriety for its merciless killings of minorities in Iraq and neighboring Syria. Now, before you start feeling that it's the United Police of America's job to step in again, you must know that unwanted U.S involvement is what created the unrest in the Middle East.

Following World War II, there were conflicting ideas about whether Communism or Democracy was the best political ideology. For about 40 years the whole world was involved in this conflict. Each side would help countries with their ideologies. The Soviet Union then decided they wanted to do what the U.S. loves to do: they invaded a country. This country is Afghanistan.

The Afghans were angered that these Russians from an unknown frozen wasteland were ruining their way of life. Some of the Afghans started a resistance and started receiving financial backing from Saudi Arabia and the United States and soon became known as the Taliban.

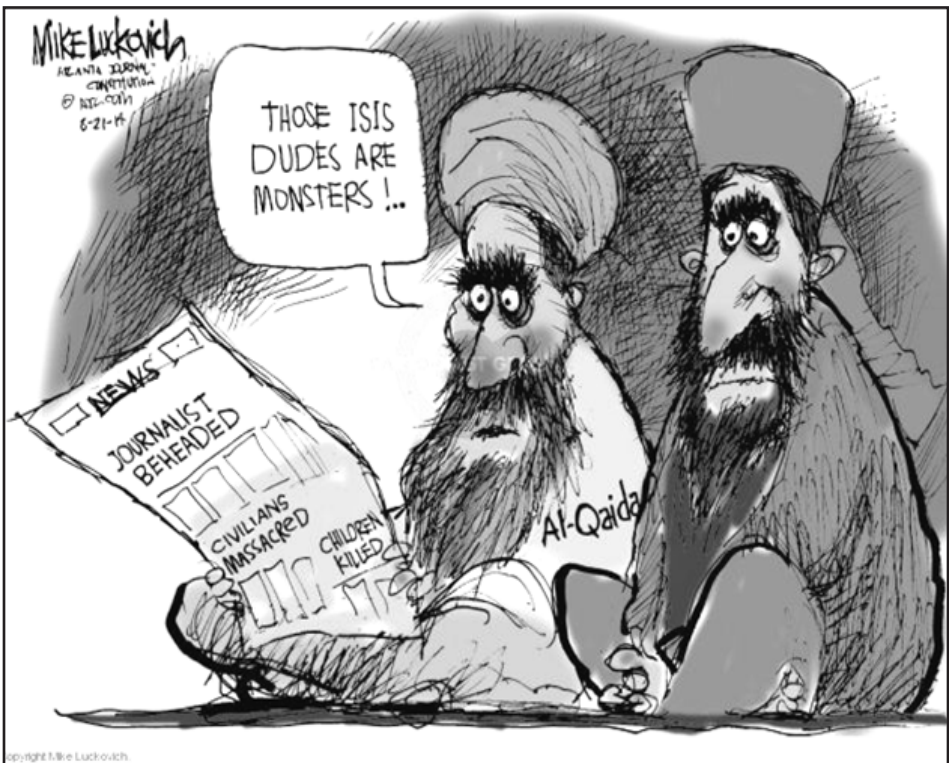
You've heard of the Taliban right? They trained and hid those who

planned the 9/11 attacks. Yup, our fault. Our CIA went over and radicalized and trained these freedom fighters. One of these men showed prominence. His name was Osama bin Laden. We continued to train him to expel the Russians. Our insistence that we must put Democracy into the trays of other countries was enough to make us spend millions of dollars to try to fix countries only to have it blow up in our face (no pun intended). But Afghanistan went in the opposite direction the U.S was hoping for and still had violence and unrest. We invaded in the early 2000s to get rid of the threat we made. But it wasn't until we pulled out of Afghanistan that it's seen an increase in peace.

But what does this have to do with ISIS? I'll get there. Osama bin Laden allied himself to Al Qaeda. With help of our generous funds, the idea of radicalism further spread. We decided to get involved with Iraq because "they had weapons of mass destruction." In reality, we just wanted to oust the secular leader Saddam Hussein. Of course, once we got to Iraq, the U.S decided to have oil company, Halliburton, be in charge of the oil fields. So while we decided to go over there to "fight against oppression," we got some nice fossil fuels.

The invasion of the Iraq and Afghanistan led to many living there to despise us. After all, what are we doing in their home? Al Qaeda and the Taliban spread the idea that the infidels must leave their land. Our involvement in the affairs of other nations helped the spread of radical groups. One of these groups was a branch of Al Qaeda: ISIS.

ISIS founders saw radical Muslim



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ideas as motivation to rid themselves of nosy Americans threatening their way of life. But freedom wasn't only on their mind - genocide also became an ingredient in their shopping list. They decided that they wanted to kill Christians, Kurds, and other Muslims (particularly Sunni). If the U.S hadn't decided to try to cram democracy down the throats of Afghanistan and Iraq, these radical groups wouldn't have existed and less carnage would have ensued.

There's another country on the news: Syria. Right now, the secular dictator is fighting a battle against the Free Syrian Army. Some of the FSA has aligned itself with ISIS and our congress has voted to send weapons to them. We are now directly arming radicals in an attempt to help them get rid of a leader we deem a dictator. Why do we care who's in charge of a country many Americans can't even find on a map?

We are trying to help rebels who have vowed to work with ISIS to establish a Muslim caliphate. We are arming the very enemy we have created and it will blow up in our faces. What happens if the FSA, along with ISIS, defeats Assad?

The loss of freedom will occur. We are paradoxically both helping and vowing to destroy ISIS; but we would help by saying we won't get involved altogether. Why make a mess bigger by spending more money and lives of American soldiers? Why must we police the world and look out for other countries when we can't even look after ourselves? You may be saying: but they have vowed to destroy the United States and they hate our freedom! Why do *you* think they hate us? Why don't they plan on attacking Mexico or Iceland? Probably because they mind their own business. Here's a nice moral: the more we touch, the more we destroy.

Sources: <http://www.cnn.com/2013/03/19/opinion/iraq-war-oil-juhasz/> AND <http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/how-washington-funded-taliban>

Bent on the question: Is the New iPhone 6 and iOS 8 any good?

Omar Amer
—staff writer—



www.officialpsds.com

An annual ritual has arrived once more. The iPhone 6 and iOS 8 have been released late in September. With it comes the onslaught of jokes for the internet, specs to criticize, and the big choice: am I gonna buy it or a Samsung? And honestly, I agree with the criticism. Yet, what people don't understand is that the new phone with a new operating system, high performance, and crisp camera will be a "slow" normal-sized phone with a mediocre camera next year.

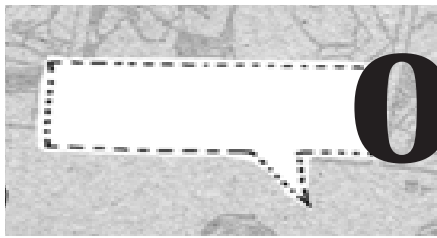
The iPhone is nothing new, yet Apple

claims it has composed a creative side to the generic layout. However, these "customizables" fuse into the original software. The originality and your custom interface is essentially lost. You are still doing the same old thing with your phone, except now, under different developers.

We've also been introduced to a new autocorrect program. It's a miracle (providing you with words before you even type them) and an annoyance: simply a limited dictionary. Whether or not you use it to its full power, it's

certainly limiting our urge or curiosity to search something up, be it a word, info on the web, news, or entertainment. Instant accessibility (in this case, to words) is not always bliss.

Now bring the two together: the iPhone 6 (or 6 plus) and iOS 8. Anyone could use it and it's pretty fast (if speed is even a concern). Any add-ons only fuse into the original software. You could say that originally the add-ons were not for customization, so there's nothing "new" in the iPhone 6 besides it's size. So overall, yeah, it's good.



Hawthorne Construction: Improvement or Destruction?

Elvia Ochoa
—staff writer—

With the recent SpaceX advertisements, the brand new SpaceX rocketship at the center of the city, and the boom of local gyms and discount stores, the city of Hawthorne has been active with construction.

According to www.cityofhawthorne.org, \$13 million dollars are being used for the construction in Hawthorne, “[including] repaving, restriping, addition of bike lanes, storm drain improvements, signal upgrades and construction of new left-turn pockets along Hawthorne Blvd. between El Segundo Blvd. and Rosecrans Avenue.” The sidewalks were also expanded in

order to make pedestrian walking distances shorter from one streetlight to the other; to accommodate this new improvement, new traffic signals were added.

Because of these changes, Hawthorne Blvd. has been closed from every angle imaginable. The construction is to expand the streets, especially those leading to HMSA. In the beginning, it seemed like a small city “tweak” on the local streets, but soon major streets were closed off, causing problems to both automobiles and citizens.

Ironically, sidewalks were destroyed into rock and dirt in order to make

them *wider* and *more comfortable*. As if that wasn’t aggravating enough, the Dollar Tree store was being simultaneously constructed. All of this construction poses a problem for pedestrians, vehicles, and local businesses.

However, why do we need to expand the roads? Is it *really* necessary? There’s no harm in building discount stores, but what about the SpaceX rocketship? With the money used to further sponsor SpaceX, countless other things could have been done for our community, like rebuilding the abandoned Broadway Mall. People have been commenting about the use of the mall into

a casino or an office, but Hawthorne hasn’t announced anything concrete. But what witnesses *have* seen is the filming of movies near the mall. Why not rebuild it to benefit our community?

Moreover, roads are being modified to make the city better for vehicles and pedestrians, but the negatives outweigh the positives of the project. The money could’ve been better spent than to add more traffic. Do *you* think the changes are improvements or destruction?

Is Technology Taking Over Our Lives Again?

Ame Negrete
—staff writer—



Galaxy Gear and Pebble Smartwatch. Image from www.digitaltrends.com

In an era of exponentially growing technology, the smartwatch trend has begun. Watches are no longer devices to measure time. Now, they’re an iPod touch strapped to your wrist.

Some of these new watches include the Pebble, Apple Watch, and Sony’s SmartWatch 2. There’s so much competition among these and many others. Even the Apple Watch, which is not going to be released until next year, is already in the big competition for this new technology.

SmartWatches have near-phone capabilities. Many are able to run applications and receive text message and incoming phone call notifications. They even come equipped with an app store of their own where watch “faces” and applications are available for download.

While they may have some advantages, like health tracking, that are better suited to be on watches, they’re riddled with superfluous features.

Watches like these are only making

people lazier. Why bother to take your phone out of your pocket when you can glance at your watch and see your notifications? Smart watches can control text messages, phone calls, music choices, and many other things meant for cellphones. People won’t even park anywhere that isn’t directly in front of a store. If we can’t bother to walk a few extra meters to a store entrance, then it’s no surprise people would rather look at their wrist than move their hand to look at their phone. These watches are simply iPods shrunk down *more* to fit on wrists. They’re as unnecessary as the iPhone 6 (really, the 5S was released only a year ago. iOS 8 was enough). They’re just products to burn money on, and people buy them anyway.

Technology like this isn’t necessary, but change is inevitable; even if it’s for the worst. One can only imagine what will come after this.

The New Way of Reading

Isabel Ramirez
—staff writer—

School’s back in session and we have experienced many changes, from our changing counselors to new items on the lunch menu. The best change, however, are the improvements to the AR Logs.

To get the ball rolling, our athletes will no longer have to worry about completing the required number of AR points in order to be eligible to participate in their desired sport. Their eligibility will now be determined by their grades.

The new AR system bestows rewards on those who actually take time to read (the rewards and their requirements are on the back of your AR log and on posters around the school). As much as we hate to admit it, when we do something that isn’t required we *do* expect some sort of reward. Now the new AR

system will provide us with that.

More than half the school can’t go without receiving a log entry for an *entire* month for whatever reason. As a result very few earn free dress and as much as we may *adore* wearing our uniforms, we need a day to demonstrate a little of our style and we can, by reading. Earning at least 15 points can grant you free dress, no matter how many log entries you have.

Although reading in itself is reward enough, some people need proof of the reward and that’s okay. This new AR log will hopefully motivate us to read a little more even if it is just for free dress. With time however, that little amount of reading will increase more and more and soon, reading will be acknowledged as the reward.

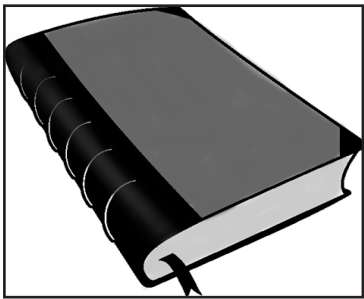


Image created by Zunera Akram

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GAME OF THRONES

—Brian Moncada—



The Game of Thrones series has been out for a few years now, quietly accruing a substantial fanbase through increased exposure.

The series is a refreshing departure from the standard, good guys win, happily-ever-after-the-end stories. The book is gruesome, but very realistic. It's alluring: the direction is unpredictable. No character is above death. This is what made me fall

in love with the series. I've read *Eragon*, *Harry Potter*, *The Hunger Games*, and countless other fad books, but this series stands alone. After rereading fad books in the recent months, they don't seem believable. Not in the sense of dragons and wizards, but in terms of development. The danger that each character has faced in the fad series is real, but something conveniently happens. In *The Game of Thrones* series, there's no magical elf warrior woman, no wise wizened wizard, no lovey baker boy. There is only the cold kiss of steel.

This series is a definite read, it offers what few books can: great prose, great story lines, refreshing events, and above all, *thisness* (curious about the word? Read *How Fiction Works* by James Woods). Did I mention this series has an insane amount of AR points? Because it does. 60+ per book. Can anyone say free dress for a week?

Oh, and part six, *The Winds of Winter* is coming out in 2015. Perfect time to catch up.

THE HOBBIT

—Saria Khan—



In *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien, Bilbo Baggins begins his journey to Misty Mountain for his share of gold. In the need of a burglar, Gandalf recruits Bilbo into the team. Initially, the dwarves he embarks with, referred to as "the company," think he is useless and belittle him. As the clan encounters their first hardship, they realize

Bilbo is not incompetent at all. He saves the company from being eaten by trolls. On his journey, the little hobbit discovers a divine ring that bequeaths him the power of invisibility. The ring helps Bilbo escape many dangers he and his company encounter, allows him to create a name for himself and proves he is worthy of his name. *The Hobbit* is a gripping tale that shows how overcoming obstacles can be gratifying, and giving up is never an option.

SUCH A PRETTY GIRL

—Monique Ejenuko—



They're very few books--- emphasis on few ---that cause me to reflect on the magnitude of their beauty. *Such a Pretty Girl* by Laura Weiss was a surprise that rattled my bones. In an ever-growing sea of generic dystopian (dystopia: place where everything is very bad: an imaginary place where everything is as bad as it possibly can be, i.e. *The Hunger Games*) and paranormal novels that plague

the young adult novel market, this was the diamond in the rough that I coveted.

The story follows emotionally scarred Meredith in the fictional Estertown, New Jersey. When she was nine, her father was arrested for molesting her and other local children. The courts promised her that he would remain in jail for nine years, to be released when she was eighteen, but he was released three years early. Now, she is left to face a father who took her innocence and her childhood. Weiss deals with the delicate subject matter of molestation through painting a realistic and gritty reality. Weiss's words ate me up, spit me out, and left me to relish in its splendor. Weiss sublimely portrayed the aftermath of such an intimate betrayal of a child by a parent. The intimate betrayal ripped me to shreds as I too tried to understand the twistedness of her father's love.

Weiss was able to create characters with depth. Meredith's sardonic humor resonated with me and made the novel light-hearted despite the gritty subject matter. She matures and develops a faux tough exterior after her father's return. Weiss presents the idea that one doesn't always learn from their mistakes. As soon as Meredith's father returned, he continued where he left off to the point where I marveled at the sheer shamelessness of his character. Weiss departs from the cliché abusive and drunkard image of molesters. She undermines that image to craft a "Golden Boy" character with a wholesome image, removing the mask of how a molester should look. Through all of this, Meredith's mother remained oblivious, choosing to repress the issue entirely. Repression and conscious ignorance were her evils. The twisted nature of Meredith's parents made them all the more real; they inspired pity and disgust.

You retract back to the court system who failed Meredith; there are Meredith's in the world. Weiss did not tell a story but exposed a piece in a series of devastating realities. The novel has a reading level of 4.9 and 6 A.R. points, but that is an irrelevant and absolutely minuscule detail to this resplendent novel. *Such a Pretty Girl* is *such* a sublime, *such* a raw, and *such* a glorious novel. Weiss has created a remarkable book that deserves to be read.

FALLEN FROM HEAVEN (A REVIEW ON FALLEN)

—Paulina Herrera—



Are you a romance lover? Do you love a good gothic love story? Then you should read *Fallen* by Lauren Kate.

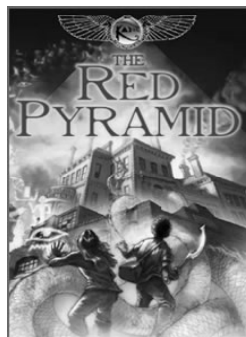
Fallen starts off with the main character, Lucinda Price, getting dropped off at her new reform school, Sword and Cross. There, she meets other teenagers with “problems” like herself, but she soon finds out there is more to

Sword and Cross than meets the eye. Lucinda seems to be a regular teenage girl, but she has a dark past that keeps you engaged in her story. When she first arrives she meets Daniel, who she feels an instant connection with, and Cam, a friendly but mysterious and attractive guy. Soon, she finds her torn between Cam and Daniel.

It seems like any regular old love story but you find yourself being sucked into the new world of Sword and Cross, angels and demons, and trying to figure out who Cam and Daniel are. *Fallen* keeps you entertained and waiting for more as you turn each page and learn more about the characters and Lucinda’s past. The dark, gothic mood is compelling and adds mystery to the unusual love story, a feel you simply can’t get from any other story. I recommend *Fallen* to any reader who wants to read a new, refreshing version of a romance story and with 16 AR points what is there to lose? *Fallen* is truly a book that fell from heaven.

A REVIEW ON THE “THE RED PYRAMID”

—Mina Beshay—



What do you do if your father blew up a priceless artifact, got trapped in a coffin, let loose ancient (and probably dangerous) gods, then learned about a secret society of magicians wearing linen pajamas who think you can’t be trusted? Well, if you are Carter and Sadie Kane, then you go on an adventure that stretches across the world and work with these

new acquaintances to stop a great threat to the world.

Sadie and Carter have been apart since their mother’s death and only get together for two days every year: one day on Christmas and another during the summer. This year, their father, Julius Kane, used his connections as an archeologist to take them to a museum where the real Rosetta Stone is on display. Once there, he ordered them to tie up the curator so he could be alone with the Rosetta Stone “to set things right.” While alone with the stone, Julius manages to blow it up and release five Ancient Egyptian gods, including the evil Set, who tries to turn half the world into a desert to rule over the other half. After this dangerous encounter, their father is buried alive in a coffin. From then on, Carter and Sadie are thrown into the secret world of magicians that considers them a threat. They make shaky alliances, mortal enemies, and godly friends as they travel across the world to defeat Set.

This book offers an extensive and highly entertaining plot filled with action and discovery with not one dull moment. It is written by Rick Riordan (the author of the Percy Jackson series), worth 18 AR points (enough for one reward and a little more), has a ZPD of 4.5, and is a great way to spend your free time.

Images taken from: 1. books.google.com 2. www.rickriordan.com



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