



Aviator News

HAWTHORNE, CA

HAWTHORNE MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

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Adolescence or Adulthood? That is the Question

BY SHAMERA JOHNSON
-Staff Writer-

There's just not enough time! Between school grades, extracurricular activities, AR points, and attempting to have an *existent* social life, HMSA's seniors have also been juggling college applications. Within the first semester, California State University (CSU), University of California (UC) applications, and the Common Application (CommonApp) were due. Although not all universities have responded yet, those acceptance letters are slowly trickling in. Here are a few senior takes on the college process and where they have been accepted to so far.

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Where have you been accepted to so far?

Phebe Boye: "Northern Arizona, Fullerton, Northridge, Riverside, Notre Dame de Namur, St. John's, and Hampton"

Angelie Tuazon: "Mount St. Mary's College and CSU Long Beach"

Marc Ninapaytan: "I've been accepted to CSU Northridge, CSU Dominguez Hills, and Concordia University of Irvine"

Jasmine Mendez: "So far I've been accepted to CSU Northridge"

Alan Cifuentes: "Dominguez Hills and Northridge"

Rofida Rakha: "CSUs: Sacramento, San Diego, Long Beach; UC Riverside; Mount St. Mary's college"

Alexa Vasquez: "[CSU] Northridge, [CSU] Dominguez, [and] NAU [Northern Arizona University]"

Makayla Richards: "CSULB [Cal State Long Beach], CSULA [Cal State Los Angeles], UCR [University of California, Riverside], [and] Mount St. Mary's College"

Chijioke Akunwafo: "UCR [University of California, Riverside], Cal State Fullerton, and Cal State Northridge"

How do you feel about the transition from high school to college?

PB: "I feel like it's not happening fast enough"

AT: "Although it's nerve-racking not knowing what to expect, I feel motivated to take on a new set of challenges"

MN: "I feel both academically and emotionally prepared for the transition from high school to college"

JM: "I feel like the transition from high school to college is going to be exciting. New people and different classes will be awesome"

AC: "I'm excited for the change, but I'm also scared because I don't know how to do laundry or cook. I'm going to be kind of screwed unless I learn how to over summer"

RR: "I feel content and excited. The HMSA life has become monotonous and ehh...senioritis is kicking in as well. I AM READY FOR THIS"

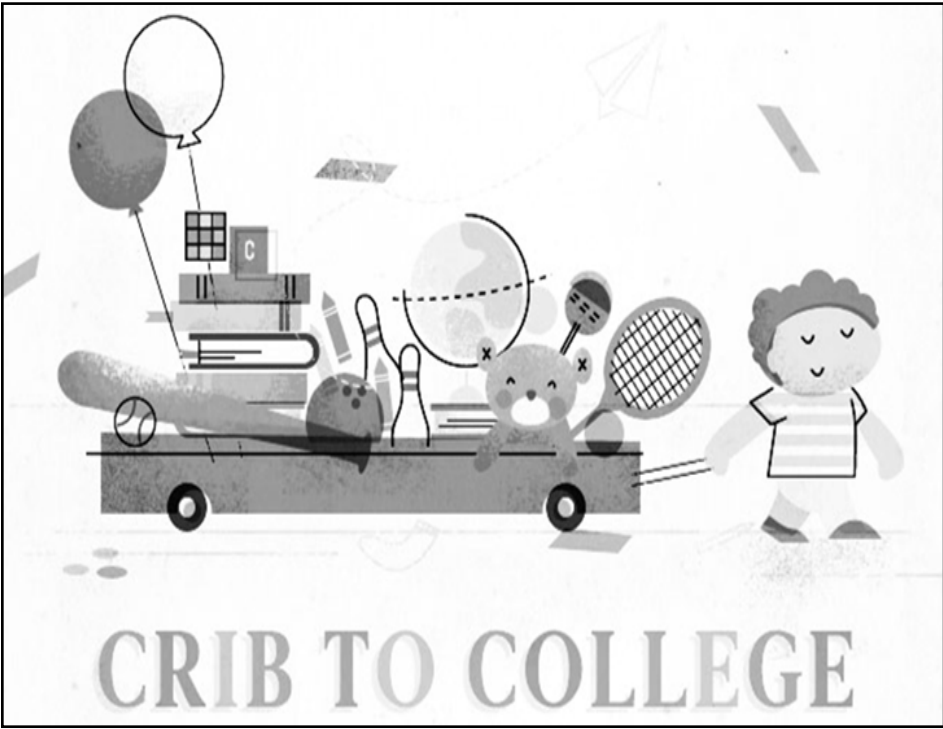
AV: "Scared for the transition"

MR: "I think transitioning from high school to college will definitely be when I evolve as a person and socially. I would say the hardest part about transitioning would be disciplining myself to not procrastinate"

CA: "The transition is pretty shocking. I swear just yesterday I was a sophomore. Regardless, I think HMSA has prepared me well enough for university"

What is one thing you'll miss about high school?

PB: "Mr. Jahnke's AP Lit class and the amaz-



visualoop.tumblr.com

ing few I can call my friends"

AT: "The comfortable routine of seeing my friends"

MN: "As cliché as it may sound, I'll miss all the memories and accomplishments that were made here at HMSA"

JM: "One thing I'll miss about high school is wearing uniform. I seriously love wearing uniform. I don't have to struggle with picking 7 different outfits a week"

AC: "All my homies! I love my friends. How can I annoy them with bad puns if we're at different schools? Also my fan-club in the class of 2016. They adore me. I'll miss them almost as much as they'll miss me"

RR: "Mr. Atanga. Is there another Mr. Atanga out there? I think not"

AV: "I'll miss the feeling of knowing and freely talking to teachers"

MR: "I will miss the camaraderie with the teachers and students in each class"

CA: "The lack of responsibility. In high school there's a lot you don't have to worry about. College is when you're making decisions that really will affect your life for the long run"

What is one thing you are excited about for college?

PB: "Not being at home"

AT: "Exploring a new, bigger campus"

MN: "I'm super excited to get involved, once again. I will create more memories and will accomplish much more! It's time to actually meet [people] and have some sort of relationship."

JM: "I'm excited about college in general but one thing that I'm really, really excited for are the theatre classes that colleges offer and also meeting new people"

AC: "I can't wait for a change of scenery. Also, I can finally order things off the internet and have them delivered straight to me. My parents won't have to constantly question me"

RR: "TIME"

AV: "Excited to be independent"

MR: "I am looking forward to living on my own"

CA: "The freedom of course"

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GOOD LUCK and CONGRATS to all of our 2014 HMSA Seniors [after all, we are the best graduating class EVER]!

On the Way to Broadway

BY SAMIRA MUNA
-News Editor-

HMSA's annual Talent Show is quickly approaching. This year it will be taking place on April 4 on the blacktop with a Broadway theme. Snacks and drinks will be sold during the event. Hurry, though, because tickets will be sold for only \$5 to the first fifty people. As the date gets closer to the event, prices will increase to \$10.

Senior Nasima Khan is excited about this year's Talent Show because she feels that "it's great finding out how talented your peers are. Everyone is so focused and stressed with school and this will be a great way to put all that aside. [She's] excited to take part in organizing the Talent Show. [She thinks] it's crazy that everything is moving so fast and hopes this is an event that can bring the school together and that students from every class attend."

For those of you who don't know, Talent Show is an event that is meant for students to take a break from the work at school and enjoy themselves along with their peers. To be a performer, auditions must be made. From there, a group of students

are chosen to perform where three judges (usually teachers and/or someone from the school district) will, in the end, choose a first place, second place, and third place winner.

Phebe Boye says that the last year of Talent Show for her as a senior will be "exciting because of the things [she] has planned." She says, "This year should be memorable, fun, and a great time to make some memories with my closest friends. It's not getting any less stressful, but this is something I always looked forward to along with Multicultural. I'm in my element and I hope a lot of

people buy their tickets and come to show support to the seniors and underclassmen."

This event will include performers from every grade level. It is a great way to raise money for the school class and to get to know the students we see on a daily basis better. If you're planning to go to simply hang out with friends or help with your class funds, you will still enjoy your Friday night with the performances to come.



Marc Ninapaytan/ Image

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CAMPUS NEWS

Golf Course Clubbing

BY KARLA GUARDADO
-Staff Writer-



Marc Ninapaytan/ Photo

Seniors celebrate their last Winter Formal on January 25 at the Chester Washington Golf Course.

Did you go to Winter Formal? Well, if you didn't, here's a little recap.

HMSA's Winter Formal Dance took place at the Chester Washington Golf Course. The Golden Greece theme fit adequately with the venue, which was a pleasant, secluded getaway from our daily lives as HMSA students, especially since the dance was after Finals Week.

Junior Brianna Carlos thought "Winter Formal was a night filled with joyous celebration, commemorating the end of finals. The function was totes popping."

Although students initially thought the food wasn't going to be appetizing, they rushed to the food line to get small finger foods, such as turkey sandwiches, hot wings, veggie eggrolls, and taquitos.

The night was filled with excitement and diversion. Even though we had student DJs, juniors Erick Ballesteros and Jose Martinez, the dance floor was on fire. Even some teachers were spotted boogying to the beat of the music. The dance floor was steaming – literally. Students quickly packed the dance floor making the windows in the place fog up.

Many students loved the music,

more specifically sophomore Treazure Haynes: "The turn up was really good because it was a lot better than last year."

Suspense and anticipation was rising as the ballot winners were about to be announced. The drumroll was beating in everyone's head as each name was beginning to be called out. Seniors Ivan Herrera and Erika Aban were crowned King and Queen. The Prince and Princess titles were bestowed to juniors Christian Contreras and Neemat Abdusemed. The sweet sophomore couple, Kevin Locsin and Mutiara Sukantri, was awarded the title of Duke and Duchess. Count Juan Barajas and Countess Gisselle Vera were titled freshmen royalty. The cute, darling couples slow-danced to *You and Me* by Lifehouse.

Attending the dance was a perfect way to celebrate the end of finals. If you didn't get a chance to attend this year's Winter Formal, next year is your opportunity to join the fun and enjoy the few dances HMSA has to offer.

Phebe Boye recapped what several other seniors were thinking: "Winter Formal was fun. It was really memorable because it was the last one."

HMSA Alumnus Spotlight



DEANNA ROMERO

Graduated from HMSA: 2013
School: MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE
Planned Major: Biology

BY JESSE TORRES
-Staff Writer-

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I interviewed Class of 2013 alumna Deanna Romero. Deanna and I became friends last school year, and she was kind enough to let me interview her through Facebook. She is attending Mount St. Mary's College, a liberal private arts school located in Los Angeles, and her planned major is in Biology. When I started interviewing her, two statistics stood out: about 60 percent of the students are first-generation students and 95% of the undergraduate students are females (Jesse's note: gentlemen, maybe now would be the time to include MSMC into your college list). Her school also ranks among the top 20 in the Western United States according *U.S. News & World Report*.

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Jesse Torres (JT): What about HMSA do you miss now that you're in college and have more "freedom?" Basically, what do you miss about HMSA?

Deanna Romero (DR): I miss how teachers made sure their students understood what they were teaching and would try to explain more if they didn't. In college it's really fast-paced and if you don't get it you need to go to the teacher's office hours and most of the time you aren't able to go.

So I also miss having the teacher available to help if you need it.

JT: How has going to HMSA prepared you and what would you say to those who want to transfer due to "not having a life" or enough sleep?

DR: Writing tons of essays helped me ace my English classes. I can write an essay in thirty minutes and I can get an A+ on it. Everything that I learned at HMSA has prepared me a lot. I know how to manage my time with all the classes and homework.

The log entries disciplined me to do all my homework.

For those that want to transfer, I

would like to say if you think you don't have a life at HMSA, college is ten times worse. You can have up to 3 tests in one day and you have to pull all-nighters. Many assignments are due back-to-back. For the test and quizzes you need to study for many hours to ace it. HMSA does prepare you for college and makes it 100% easier. Hard work always pays off and sticking with HMSA is the best decision because you'll be ready for college and won't freak out with all the assignments every week.

JT: English class seems to be an easy class for you. What are your favorite classes right now?

DR: My favorite classes as of now are Biology and Chemistry. Mr. Atanga's class prepared me immensely for college and I'm really having a blast in my chemistry class. I really miss his positive attitude and how he really worked to make sure his students understood the lesson. (Mr. Atanga, if you're reading this: Hi!!!!!!)

JT: How would you compare yourself to your peers in college? Do they struggle more than you? Do you feel more prepared than them?

DR: My peers need to work harder. [They are] bad at grammar and essays. They get overwhelmed with all the work. I feel very prepared for college [compared to them].

JT: What are your plans once you finish college?

DR: Well, I would first like to go on to medical school and study to become a cardiothoracic surgeon. I'm really fascinated with the lungs and heart, so being able to study and work with those two organs as a profession is really neat.

JT: The end of the school year is approaching fast; any advice or encouraging words for our seniors reading the paper?

DR: Hard work pays off. Nothing is impossible. If you set your mind to it then you'll do great. Just keep a positive mind and go to a college that you know will benefit you in the long run and not go just because of the school name.

HMSA STUDENT PICKS: OSCARS

Best Picture

American Hustle	40%
Captain Philips	5%
Dallas Buyers Club	5%
Her	0%
Nebraska	0%
Philomena	0%
Gravity	15%
12 Years a Slave	15%
Wolf of Wall Street	5%

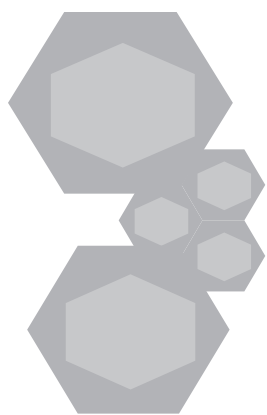
Best Director

12 Years a Slave (Steve McQueen)	20%
The Wolf of Wall Street (Martin Scorsese)	30%
Nebraska (Alexander Payne)	0%
Gravity (Alfonso Cuarón)	30%
Americna Hustle (David O. Russell)	20%

86th Academy Awards Winners

Best Picture	12 Years a Slave
Best Actor in a Leading Role	Matthew McConaughey (Dallas Buyers Club)
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Cate Blanchett (Blue Jasmine)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Jared Leto (Dallas Buyers Club)
Best Actress in a Supporting Role	Lupita Nyong'o (12 Years a Slave)
Best Animated Feature	Frozen (Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee, Peter Del Vecho)
Best Adapted Screenplay	12 Years a Slave (John Ridley)
Best Original Screenplay	Her (Spike Jonze)

*Based on 20 students that completed the poll



X MUSIC

Diving into the Night

BY YASMINE GUTIERREZ
-Arts & Entertainment Editor-

Winning the “Best Rock Performance” Grammy was the perfect catalyst to prepare people all over the country for Imagine Dragon’s *Into the Night* tour.

Despite their drive and energy, the Las Vegas-based rock group didn’t dive straight into making a full length album: vocalist Dan Reynolds explained in an interview with YouTube personality Claudio Rodriguez, “We took a while to put out that first album; we just released short EPs because we wanted to make sure that we were ready” and were comfortable with the sound that would leave an impression on fans everywhere. After releasing their first EPs, *Imagine Dragons* (2010), *Hell and Silence* (2010), and *It’s Time* (2011), they signed a record deal with Interscope Records and started working on their first studio album, *Night Visions*, with Grammy-winning producer Alex da Kid.

Alex da Kid has a history of working with big pop, hip-hop, and mainstream artists like Dr. Dre and Eminem, so it’s easy to see where trouble would lie with him working with an alternative-rock band, but everyone had the same vision of combining the band’s love of

electric pop and 60’s rock with new-school hip-hop rhythm. After a year of hard work, *Night Visions* was released on Valentine’s Day 2012 and picked up speed when their track *It’s Time* was released as a single and played on a variety of radio stations. Their second single was, and still is, their most notable and acclaimed: Rolling Stone called “*Radioactive*... the biggest rock hit of the year.” The band saw this and took it as the opportunity to make it the final song on their track list for many concerts to keep the fans in anticipation for the big finale.

Imagine Dragons traveled Europe for their *Night Visions* 2013 tour and sold out most of their venues. They came back to the U.S. for a short break before embarking on their *Into the Night* 2014 tour on February 13 in San Jose, California. The following night, Valentine’s Day, they performed at the re-opened Forum in Inglewood and drew in a full house.

Nico Vega and The Naked & Famous opened the first two hours of the concert to prepare the crowd with their alternative-pop. When Imagine Dragons took the stage, the Forum was filled with roaring cheers as they played into

the night. According to Philiana Ng of *The Hollywood Reporter*, “[It] would be *On Top of the World*, the bubbly pop-rock gem... that would awaken the 18,000-strong,” and she was absolutely right: the crowd at the base of the stage was bombarded with giant balloons filled with confetti that Reynolds, while singing, popped to cover the stage in color, and this brought everyone in the crowd to a standing cheer. The stage lighting changed to fit the scene of each song: a deep purple and blue lighting often accompanied somber, dramatic ballads while bright greens and flashing strobe lights were meant to get the crowd screaming. They played a tribute to Rush by covering *Tom Sawyer*, a favorite among the group: Ng notes, “Reynolds admitted that it was a song they were ‘very intimidated’ to do... their version wasn’t perfect, but certainly the intention was there.”

As the familiar chords that everyone in the crowd was waiting for began to play, the slow cheering grew thunderous and Reynolds began singing their final song and acclaimed single *Radioactive*. The crowd sang along with the chorus and when the lyrical part of the song was over, guitarist Wayne Sermon, bassist Ben McKee, and



Reynolds took to the drums and made a theatrical ending to their Valentine’s Day set. Flashing lights and violins accentuated their dedication to make their trip to L.A. a memorable one.

The crowd wouldn’t let Imagine Dragons off that easily: ten minutes after they left the stage, the deafening synchronized “Encore!” from the crowd brought them on back to perform *Nothing Left to Say*, and Reynolds had the audience help him with the background singing for the chorus.

Reynolds told the audience that they wouldn’t be back to L.A. for a while (which led to an expected, playful booing), but he then said it was because they would be too busy writing a new electric album for everyone, and with that, they left the stage and set out for the rest of the country.

Hollywood's Top Fashion Night

BY AUJENE BUTLER
-Staff Writer-

On January 26th, 2014 Hollywood’s biggest fashion night was in full effect: the 56th Annual Grammy Awards had stars shining from left to right. Paris Hilton’s white sheer-striped dress was definitely a head-turner as well as the beautiful couple Robin Thicke and Paula Patton, who showed the world that their love was unbreakable as they walked down the red carpet. With her in a white and black tiger-embellished dress and Robin in a classic black and white tuxedo, the two together looked fabulous.

“Robin Thicke looked so cute with Paula Patton, they are absolutely adorable together,” commented senior Saira Bolanos. “Too bad they are getting a divorce,” added senior Alexis Martin.

Beyoncé was another show stopper at this year’s award ceremony. She strutted the Red Carpet wearing a Roberto Cavalli patterned gown; with the singer’s new short hair cut and daring makeup, she made an unforgettable appearance.

Alexis definitely knew what her favorite performance was: “Beyoncé! Her and Jay-Z were amazing, their performance was so bomb.” Saira agreed and exclaimed, “Yeeeeeeeees! The Queen B did it again but I wasn’t surprised about that one. It was actually Lorde. She’s younger than us and has made it to The Grammys.”

Let’s not forget the amazing Katy Perry who dared to be different and rocked a white chiffon gown that was embellished with music notes from the waist down. These are just a few of the top dressed celebrities who made the 56th Annual Grammy Awards all the better. There were others such as Taylor Swift, John Legend, Christine Teigen, Natasha Bedingfield, Kelly Osbourne, Miranda Lambert, and Blake Shelton who dressed not only to impress but to be remembered.

This star-glammed night was the night for not only celebrities but designers as well. Top designers like Valentino, Michael Costello, Alex Perry, and even Marie Claire got the chance to have their fabulous surprise creations presented to the public. Host LL Cool J looked dashing in his Barney’s Original Tuxedo. There were Louboutins, Oxfords, and Giuseppe Zanotti shoes from left to right. This year’s Grammy Awards fashion was definitely one for the books.

Image taken from style.uk.msn.com

FASHION

Gel Manicures 101

BY SARIA KHAN
-Staff Writer-

The gel mani has got everybody talking. Its polished slick effect is its main attraction. A special formula nail polish is baked on natural nails under a UV based lamp for a long-lasting manicure that could potentially leave drastic effects on nails. There are many cons to the new fashion (and maybe a few pros).

Even though the gel manicure looks tempting, it can leave harsh effects on the natural nail itself. In a gel mani, UV light is applied on the polish until it dries and hardens. The amount of UV light required to dry the manicure is at least 3-5 times stronger than a tanning bed itself. This amount of UV may lead to health-related problems such as skin cancer.

Furthermore, gel nails are far more time consuming than the regular mani. Unlike the normal five to ten minute drying time, the gel can take up to 20-30 minutes to dry.

The process of taking off the cure is also damaging. To remove a gel manicure, nails must be soaked into strong acetone until the nail gel softens. Cleaning older nail polish potentially weakens the nail plate over time. The longer a nail polish is kept on a nail, the harder it is to remove; the nail also becomes discolored. After a gel manicure is removed, the nail may look fragile and chipped because the long wear has weakened the

nail. Furthermore, why stick to the same nail color for three weeks?

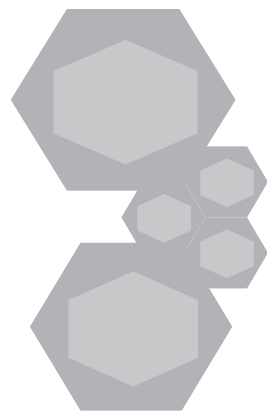
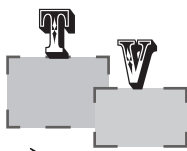
Junior Stephanie Cruz gives her insight on the gel: “I got the gel, and it felt uncomfortable; I don’t exactly recommend it for anyone. It’s not really good for your nails in the long run.”

Pros of the gel are that it comes in any color like normal nail polish, but the con is that it is two to three times more expensive. Furthermore, gel manis can be achieved at home, but with a pricey cost. It can cost \$20 to \$30 and the UV light costs at least \$60 for a total of \$90. For this lofty price, a better alternative would be getting the normal manicure.

Depending on your nail type, the gel can either be long lasting, or can chip away within one day. If your nail is flimsy to begin with, the gel manicure is not for you; it will only weaken it further and cause extensive chipping.

Another junior, Yarikza Gonzalez is also victim of the gel manicure, exclaiming, “Never again, gel manicures, never again.”

The gel manicure has proven far more cons than pros. Other than being long-lasting, and having off a plastic-like texture, it has no auxiliary benefits.



12 Years an Oscar... (Not Really)



poptechjam.com

BY GISELLE VAZQUEZ & ADRIANA SANDOVAL
-Staff Writers-

The Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars, took place March 2, 2014, and were held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California. Ellen DeGeneres was a vivacious host, leaving the crowd laughing from her crazy antics, such as being the first host to order pizza for the actors and actresses at the theatre.

According to *Deadline*, last year 40.3 million people tuned in to watch the Oscars unfold. The Academy Awards first started in May 16, 1929, in front of two hundred seventy people (Oscars.com). The award show gives 24 awards ranging from Best Costume Design to Best Picture.

"I'm excited for Leonardo DiCaprio to finally win an award," said junior Susan Reyes. "It's about time."

Unfortunately, DiCaprio didn't triumph yet again, 21 years after his first nomination for Best Supporting Actor in *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*. Instead, Matthew McConaughey took home the Best Actor Award for his memorable role in *Dallas Buyer's Club*.

Along with Leo, many other astounding films and directors were nominated for an Oscar this year.

Although *The Wolf of Wall Street* was critically acclaimed, it is "good but not great Scorsese," according to critic Richard Roeper. It didn't win anything, but it still has its "exhilarating story of decadence and debauchery, made the more thrilling by DiCaprio's charismatic and physical lead performance" (Radio Times).

Jennifer Lawrence is the one to save

your admiration for, because according to *Globe and Mail* she "is now Hollywood's most important presence in front of the camera." Thus it was a shock to many HMSA students that she lost for the Best Supporting Actress award for her performance in *American Hustle*. Lupita Nyong'o topped Lawrence in this category, winning an Oscar the first time she was nominated, for her remarkable performance in *12 Years a Slave*.

The Best Costume crowd favorite was *The Great Gatsby* because designer Catherine Martin sought to help create "an environment that the audience will be subconsciously familiar with, yet separated from (*LA Times*)". The movie included "luscious and ultra-luxe costumes... a stellar fusion of past, present, and future" (*LA Times*). Martin did end up taking home the Oscar.

Most of the films were nominated for multiple awards: *American Hustle* received a total of 10 nominations; however, it did not win a single award. *Gravity* was also nominated for 10 awards and won a total of seven.

And of course, the most raved about category, the Best Picture. *12 Years a Slave* took home the Oscar for Best Picture, which was a surprise to many HMSA students who favored *American Hustle*. It was a victorious event for director Steve McQueen, producer Brad Pitt, and all actors in *12 Years a Slave*.

Hey, is the New Guy Ready for *THE TONIGHT SHOW*?

BY KRISTINE LOCSIN
-Layout Editor-



After a long running 22 years as the *Tonight Show* host, Jay Leno finally handed off the reigns to a much younger, impressionable Jimmy Fallon. With much controversy over who will be the right candidate (Conan O'Brien, *Tonight Show* host for about 7 months, was a bust), NBC has come to terms and is glad for Fallon (former *Late Night* host) to take over. Nonetheless, critics are appalled by Fallon's new step, after being the *Late Night* host for only five years and having the not so punchy monologues. Leno receives higher ratings, but who can blame Fallon for having a show at 12:30 a.m.? People were saddened for Leno's series finale, but more expect Fallon to have great success and hopefully this time, a longer standing as the *Tonight Show* host (preferably more than 7 months.)

According to an interview by Scott Collins (*LA Times*), Jay Leno has high regards for Fallon. "When I see him do his musical numbers and stuff, I say, 'I can't do that. That music is not my music,'" Leno exclaims. *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* is surrounded with pop culture that attracts many people's attention. He constantly uses social media like Tumblr and incorporates Twitter as one of his segments called *Late Night #Hashtags*. Fallon was able to produce an array of comedic sketches, dances, impressions, and singing night after night that is much expected in *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon (TTSSJF)*. *TTSSJF* on NBC will have to fight for viewer ratings competing for the 11:35 p.m. time slot against David Letterman on CBS and Jimmy Kimmel on ABC.

It won't be too much of a problem since he differentiates himself with his on-point impressions (he was a former *Saturday Night Live* member) and along with his house band The Roots. He plays along with his band members, and viewers are able to see that the band is not used as a

regular talk show background "tool;" they are part of his sketches too. They work together creating catchy tunes for music sketches such as Justin Timberlake's collaboration of *History of Rap* with millions of views on YouTube, Selena Gomez singing *Mario Kart Love Song*, and the most popular, classroom instrument performances of *Blurred Lines* and *Call Me Maybe* (some instruments used are spoons, banana shakers, and kazoos).

Commenting on why *Tonight Show* needs to come back to New York City (where it originated in 1954), Fallon said in a *Vulture.com* interview with Jada Yuan, "I really didn't want to go to L.A. It just doesn't fit me, you know? I love [New York], and when I think of nighttime, I think of more New York than I do L.A. I always think of L.A. as, like, sunshine and palm trees and healthy people." Jimmy Fallon embodies New York City. Fallon makes his guests comfortable. He watches their movies or listens to their music. Fallon "geeks out/fangirls" over them, a response similar to our own, and he's not embarrassed by it.

TTSSJF premiered on February 17 (with a much larger studio and a new opening directed by Spike Lee) racked up an average of 11.3 million viewers. Having a demeanor much similar to a new kid in school, Fallon's monologue began with: "I'm 39 years old, I live in New York City with my beautiful wife, Nancy, and my daughter, Winnie, and she's 6 months old." He didn't worry about making fun of world news but focused on introducing himself, first, to his newer audience. How can you have a show without a celebrity guest? Not only did Fallon have Will Smith as his main celebrity guest and U2 as his musical guest, but he showed up with 14 celebrities in his arsenal. They did a little segment where each "paid" him \$100 for believing that Fallon couldn't be the *Tonight Show* host. The audience adored it, seeing Robert De Niro, Tina Fey, Seth Rogen, and even Lindsay Lohan come up for a short bit.

Seth Meyers (another *SNL* alum) continues Fallon's path as the new *Late Night* host; watch his show right after *TTSSJF*. As for Jay Leno, he is excited to go on the road doing what he loved and missed: stand-up comedy. Set your DVRs at 11:35 pm because Fallon is in his element and is ready to take over *The Tonight Show*.

"... And That, Kids, is How I Met Your Mother."

spoilersguide.com



SPOILERS SHOWN AS FOOTNOTES SEEN ON PAGE 8

The CBS sitcom *How I Met Your Mother* is coming to a close after going for nine years strong. After the revelation of who the mother actually is in season eight, season nine will be tying up all loose ends. Finally, we'll find out how Ted's everlasting story actually ends.

"This show is so different from all the other sitcoms out there. I've been trying to keep up

BY ERIKA GUZMAN CORNEJO
-Staff writer-

with the series to watch how it will end," says senior Lucy Herrera.

It all began when Ted decided to tell the story of – what the title implies – he met his children's mother, opening his story with "Kids, I'm going to tell you an incredible story, the story of how I met your mother." Ted takes us through nine years of his life, eight of which he has not quite met, The Mother, but fools us into thinking the woman he is with could be The Mother. Ted purposely spends a majority of the entire series telling his children of the faults and mistakes he committed during the eight years prior to meeting The Mother, but let's not forget all the things he did right.

The entire series revolves around Ted and his four best friends: Lily Aldrin, Marshall Er-

ickson, Barney Stinson and Robin Scherbatsky (Ted's former love interest). The final season has left off with Lily and Marshall, who have been together since college, with the idea of possibly moving to Italy, to pursue Lily's dream job opportunity in mind. Meanwhile, *Spoiler Alert.* I'm sure all HIMYM fans have been at the edge of their seats with their own theories to how it all ends since the reveal of The Mother. Now that she has been shown, the time has finally come for Ted to wrap up the story and tell where they all end up in life. "It's indescrib-

able; you have to watch [the series]. I heard the finale was going to be entirely bittersweet. I've been waiting for it to air for the longest while," explains freshman Cesar Navarez.

Episodes that include cliffhangers and false perceptions by Future Ted's narration have led us all to this moment: *Spoiler Alert.* A mystery still lies in how the gang spends the rest of their lives. The finale of this series must be worth watching. Fans, don't forget to tune in Monday, March 31st.

SPORTS

#1 Defense vs. #1 Offense

BY DION BUI
-Staff Writer-

Endless hype, tons of food, and great commercials are just some things we look forward to on Super Bowl Sunday. However, some people forget about the actual game itself. This year, the Denver Broncos faced off against the Seattle Seahawks in MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Before the game even started, both teams were already receiving lots of media attention. Little did we know that this game would be one for the record books.

Super Bowl XLVIII was definitely very anticipated. The possible snow that would fall on game day got a lot of attention from both teams and the media. The Broncos, being the number one offense in the league, played the Seahawks, who happened to be the number 1 defense. This was a dream come true for football fans across the nation. However, it was also a nightmare waiting to happen for Broncos fans. Past Super Bowls show the number one defense always wins. However, this did not slow down the league's MVP. Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning was about to play his third Super Bowl match, and he didn't want to lose again. It could be his last chance at the championship before retirement.

When the match finally began, the Broncos had possession. Unfortunately, they did not start off on the right foot. On the first play of the game, Denver fumbled the ball and got a safety. The score was now 2-0 and 20 seconds hadn't even passed. After the safety, the Seahawks had possession. On their first drive of the game, they made a 31 yard field goal to make the score 5-0. They also made another field goal in the first quarter, while the Broncos remained scoreless, making the score 8-0. Peyton Manning also threw his first interception of the game. Momentum was definitely on the Seahawks' side.

In the second quarter of Super Bowl XLVIII, the Seahawks scored their first touchdown, making the score 15-0. On the next Broncos' possession, Manning threw another interception to Seahawks linebacker Malcolm Smith. Not only did Smith intercept it, but he returned it for a 69 yard touchdown! The score was now 22-0. Unfortunately, the Broncos remained scoreless and the half ended with a score of 22-0.

In the third quarter, the Broncos kicked the ball off to the Seahawks. Percy Harvin received the kickoff and

returned it for an 87 yard touchdown. The score was now 29-0. Things were starting to look bad for the Broncos. About 8 minutes later, Manning threw a pass to Demaryius Thomas, which was fumbled and recovered by the Seahawks. On that drive, the Seahawks scored again. The score was now 36-0. The next possession was the Broncos' first scoring drive. Peyton Manning threw a 14-yard touchdown to Demaryius Thomas. Peyton Manning also completed a 2-point conversion. That marked the end of the quarter, and the two teams continued to the fourth quarter with a score of 36-8.

In the fourth quarter, the Seahawks opened with another scoring drive. Russell Wilson threw a 10-yard touchdown to wide receiver Doug Baldwin. The score was now 43-8. Both teams remained scoreless until the game ended. The Seattle Seahawks won Super Bowl XLVIII and were NFL Champions. The MVP was Seattle's Malcolm Smith. When asked what he was going to do next, he said, "I'm going to Disney World!" Luckily for fans, he also visited the amusement park the next day.

Football history was also made



in this game. According to ESPN's SportsCenter, if Peyton Manning had won the game, he would have been the first starting quarterback to win the Super Bowl with two different teams. However, since he lost, he made history by becoming the starting quarterback with the most playoff losses. Russell Wilson also became one of the first quarterbacks to win a Super Bowl in his first two years in the league. Several other records were set, but they did not compare to the defeat the Broncos suffered. The Broncos were favorites, but the Super Bowl is now over. The future awaits and there is much more to come. Better luck next year, Peyton; at least you won league MVP.

Stepping up to the Plate

BY NISHRAT KHAN & MELISSA MARTINEZ
-Staff Writer - -Lady A team player-

HMSA's softball team, the Lady A's, this year is preparing for a rigorous season. They are at the lowest number of players they've ever had. There are twelve girls on the team when nine are already needed to be on the field and one to keep score. Therefore, Mr. Dura, the team's coach, is training the team harder than ever before to enable them to go for the full seven innings of the game. The girls have to know how to play at least two new positions and be ready to play them at any time, so the pressure is on this season. It is going to be hard for the team to whip into shape so fast but they have started in the right direction.

Fellow Lady A player, Alesi Monteroso, commented on their coach, Mr. Dura. "[Dura] is like a father figure because he works with the concept of 'tough love' to get us to become stronger. Without a doubt, he is a determined and dedicated coach we all love."

Softball has been one of our many great sports provided here at HMSA, so of course our fellow Lady A's are doing all they can to win as many games as possible. This includes weekend and late after school practices.

"Well, we are getting ready to go to

the playoffs this year. We work on our basic fundamentals to master them. Most importantly, we are getting ready so we are capable of winning both the physical and mental aspects of each game," said Alesi about their daily practices.

As always, the greatest asset of the team is the camaraderie. The girls on the team are constantly supporting each other and cheering each other on. Dura also continues to stress that the teams do so all the time. They've always had a strong bond as teammates, even with the new girls. Softball will continue to work hard for the season ahead of and keep coming together as a team.

When asked about how the team works together, Alesi responded, "When we are on the field, we cheer each other on. We help motivate one another to do better and overcome any error that was made. We are together at most six days a week so we learned to trust each other both on and off the field and work well together."

As one can see, the Lady A's have been working extremely hard for their upcoming season and the whole school will support them on their road to the playoffs.

Aviators Bringing the Gold to Home Base

BY ISAAC LIBRAMONTE & ABDULKARIM ALAMAD
-Staff Writers-

As spring inches closer every day, so is the baseball season. Coach Hurwitz has been preparing the baseball team since October for the start of the season, March 11. They practice by stretching, running, catching, batting, and pitching.

"We might do [well] because this is the seniors last year and we're going to go out with a bang. We have potential if we give it our all," asserted Cesar Nevarez, a freshman on the team.

Antonio Navarro, a senior who has been in baseball since he was a freshman, feels that the team will make it to playoffs even though the team lost two players due to ineligibility.

There are currently thirteen players on the team: two freshmen, three sophomores, three juniors, and five seniors. Antonio said, "We can't expect much from [the new players on the team], but they will develop into great players one day. They are a great bunch of kids and very enthusiastic, but they can give more effort."

The baseball team seems to be very focused and prepared this season more than ever. The team is determined to improve and, of course, the Aviators are aiming at a great, winning season. The Aviators are always shooting for the stars.



As the Aviators begin their spring season, the Los Angeles Dodgers also begin to gear up for Opening Day at The Ravine. Here, "Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw pitches against the Arizona Diamondbacks on Wednesday in Scottsdale, Ariz." during MLB Spring Training (latimes.com).

SPORTS

All-Star Weekend

BY MICHAEL SALAZAR AND BRANDON AZUOMA
-Staff Writers-



In one exciting night, the world’s most talented basketball players come together for a night of competition to not only battle it out and be the best but also to entertain the fans and enjoy the game of basketball. This year, All-Star weekend took place in New Orleans, home of the New Orleans Pelicans. All-Star Weekend was separated into three different nights each consisting of its own special events. Friday consisted of the All-Star Celebrity Game and the Rising Stars Challenge. Saturday consisted

of the Sears Shooting Challenge, the Taco Bell Skills Challenge, the Foot Locker Three-Point Contest, and the Sprite Slam Dunk Contest. Sunday, the biggest night of All-Star Weekend, had the All-Star game showcasing the best players in the NBA. The NBA Stars ended up tying in every event throughout the weekend until it came to All-Star Sunday; the most anticipated game of the year. It was time to see which coast reigned — East or West? The Western and Eastern conference teams faced off; there was plenty of talent, amazing plays and amazing chemistry between the All-Stars. Although the All-Star game determines which conference is the best, it is also a game where viewers and the players get to enjoy the game of basketball and get together and share a night of common love for the game. One fan of the game from HMSA, sophomore Sufyan Tootla, expressed

his views on the game: “That All-Star Game was amazing in my opinion. The run-and-gun style of both teams led to awesome dunks by LeBron [of the Miami Heat] and Blake Griffin [of the Los Angeles Clippers], and made the game end in the 150s-160s. Yeah, the West lost, but I think losing only motivates people to do better.” Yes, the All Star game was filled with fun and excitement with all the spectacular dunks from LeBron James, Kevin Durant, and Blake Griffin, but in the end it was a great way to showcase the league’s talent. Although the East won this year, All-Star weekend was a victory for all basketball fans. The All-Star weekend was not only filled with excitement, competition and a night of world class basketball but also was a weekend for fans of the game all over the world to come together and enjoy the love for the game.



Images from: iriefm.net

FIFA World Cup: “Groups of Death”

BY ISAAC GORGY & JESSE TORRES
-Sports Editor- -Staff Writer-

The widely anticipated FIFA World Cup will begin this June in Brazil. The World Cup is perhaps the most widely viewed sporting event: 32 national teams will go head to head to become world champions. After the recent final draw, the eight groups in the world cup have been decided. Among these groups, the most notable or challenging group will be Group G. This “group of death,” as nicknamed by American Midfielder Sacha Klestjan, will be a challenge for the United States as they prepare to go against the formidable Germany, Portugal, and Ghana. “I think it’s an extremely tough group, which we expected, but the fact that it’s tough does not mean that we can’t advance through the group,” commented American goalkeeper Tim Howard in an interview reported on us-soccer.com. The US National Soccer Team will start the World Cup the same way they

ended in 2010: facing Ghana. The 2010 World Cup left a bitter taste in the players’ mouths after their loss to Ghana in the Round 16. However, the team is extremely focused and will use their prior World Cup loss as fuel this summer. While the US Men National Team (USMNT) may not have gone as far as fans would have liked and didn’t seem as dominant in the knock-off stages, the U.S will have some recent help thanks to the addition of new head coach Jürgen Klinsmann. After a 2011 disappointing year USMNT loss to Mexico in the CONCACAF Gold Cup Final, head coach Bob Bradley was replaced by German superstar, Jürgen Klinsmann, and since then, the United States has appeared into a dominant force unlike anything in its history. On February 29, 2012 the team won 1-0 against Italy (a first ever for the USMNT) as reported on ESPN. The U.S also saw a surprising victory against Klinnsmann’s number 2 ranked native

Germany. The US also won the 2013 CONCACAF World Cup. Since then, the U.S has become ranked fourteenth in the world, according to Fifa.com, much to the chagrin of soccer fans all over the U.S. Another intriguing group in the World Cup will reunite the 2010 World Cup finalists as Spain, the defending champion, will be matched up against the Netherlands in Group B. Although the Spanish seem like the favorite to advance, Chile, Netherlands, and Australia are all determined to come up on top. “Nobody said it would be easy,” tweeted Spanish defender Gerard Pique briefly after the draw. We cannot forget about the host team. Brazil is probably the most successful team in World Cup history and is considered one of the favorites to win it all. Their incredible offense, led by Neymar da Silva Santos Junior and Givanildo Viera de Souza (commonly

known as Hulk), is almost unstoppable and will definitely be a strong force against their competition. It is safe to say that the World Cup will be a clash between the best of the best. Junior Javier Guevara was eager to give his opinion on who will come out victorious in this anticipated tournament: “I have to say Colombia has a pretty good shot. But a close second would be Brazil or maybe Germany.” This is true. According to the most recent standings on FIFA’s website, Colombia is ranked 5th in the world rankings. Germany and Brazil are ranked 2nd and 9th respectively. This summer the 2014 World Cup will definitely be one to remember with many strong contenders for the title. As the anticipation builds, many of us look forward to an enjoyable and competitive World Cup.

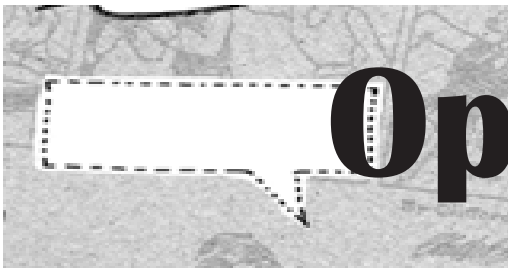
❄️ SOCHI 2014 Winter Games ❄️



In men’s slopestyle skiing, Americans Joss Christensen, Gus Kenworthy and Nick Goepfer swept the podium.

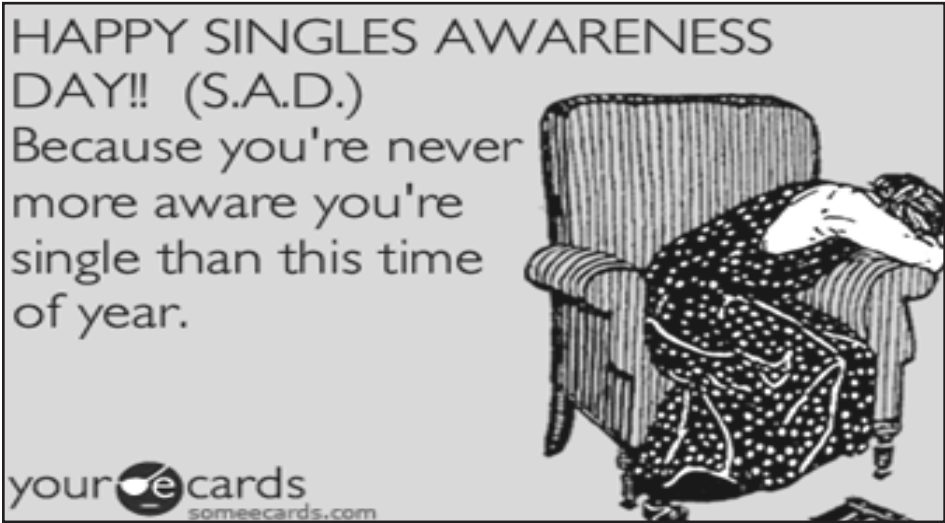
MEDAL COUNT

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Russian Fed.	13	11	9	33
United States	9	7	12	28
Norway	11	5	10	26
Canada	10	10	5	25
Netherlands	8	7	9	24



Singles Appreciation Day

BY VISHALI KAPOOR
-Staff Writer-



Happy Valentine’s Day, or a slightly enhanced version of it...Singles Appreciation Day. Valentine’s Day is theoretically a holiday for you to finally show the love you have for your significant other. Of course, who has the time to do that every day? Valentine’s Day is merely an acute reminder for single people to be grateful for their lonely condition. For couples, it’s a reminder that your loved one is eagerly waiting for you to fulfill his or her expectations to confirm that you *actually* cherish him/her.

In reality, it’s a day that is delicately concealed by consumerism, which is *totally* about love...we can tell by the sudden increase in prices for hearts and roses. It’s about the money. A few months ago, you expressed your devotion to your partner at Christmas (or other holiday), and now you have to repeat that tradition but with something much more expensive? Absolutely. It becomes an obligation to buy something to save oneself from the unnecessary trouble instead of buying the gift as an act of love. Usually, boys are the ones who end up spending money on chocolate or teddy bears (that symbolize their *love*) to surprise their partner. As the girl is presented with the gift, she gazes at him with adoring eyes, pleased with the adoration she received. It’s very clear – if boys do not give their girls something (even it’s a small box of candy), she will most likely be disappointed. Girls, if you don’t receive a gift, you’re definitely not loved – or at least that’s how advertisements and nearby happy couples want you to feel. Guys, your significant other may try to play the “I don’t want anything” trick on you, but do not fall for it because as soon as her friend receives flowers or

chocolate, she will give you that look (you know the one). Most likely you will be considered a bad boyfriend and be punished with the silent treatment and guilt-trips for a few days. All these gifts contribute to the hierarchy of who is loved the most, based on the size and expense of the gift.

You are, of course, still naïve when it comes to love, but you should know that love is constant. It definitely cannot be bought or sold through chocolates, flowers, or cute little teddy bears; that’s only for flirting. It is not a competition of who received the best gift – for the most part – and it certainly does not arise in only a day. It shouldn’t be sugar coated or sparkled to convey real feelings. Recall elementary school: everyone exchanged cards and happily ate the candy they received instead of worrying about their love title; love wasn’t really on your mind as much as candy was. Those were the days. There were no expectations; it was just a day about enjoying yourself, until you grew up and realized candy can’t eliminate the loneliness in your heart.

Valentine’s Day isn’t a horrific idea, but as Mr. Highducheck said, “The message seems to get lost in all the consumerism of the day.” Let those consumer ideas go and enjoy your day without overdoing it. If it’s possible, make your significant other something they can keep instead of just buying them diabetes-inducing chocolate or roses that don’t last...like most relationships. Of course, not everyone is creative, so get your significant other something sweet and simple. Don’t worry though, if all else fails, just remember that tomorrow is the 15th and you’ll have next year to try not to screw up...again.

Was Valentine’s Day a Holiday for You?

DANIELA MEJIA & PRISCILLA ARAUJO
-Staff Writers-



Valentine’s Day has passed and you were probably excited, annoyed, or apathetic.

February 14 was a great opportunity to show your love to your boyfriend/girlfriend, family, or friends. Some wrote a letter to a loved one or gave him/her the classic flowers and choco-

late. Some spent the holiday at a romantic dinner or spent the evening watching movies with loved ones. However, several HMSA students thought Valentine’s Day was a waste of time and simply a holiday that shouldn’t exist.

Freshman Natalie Saldana believes “Valentine’s Day is pretty boring and it lost its *See V-Day Holiday on page 8*

Is it a Good Idea to be in a Relationship during High School?

BY KIMBERLY RIVERA
-Staff Writer-



PROS of High School Relationships



CONS of High School Relationships

MOTIVATOR: A boyfriend/girlfriend could help motivate you to keep working and trying hard in school. Working on homework and being study buddies can help both of you enjoy doing homework more. You would actually want to start on your homework earlier.

FRIEND: A boyfriend/girlfriend can make you feel cared about and as though you are never alone. Each of you would be there for each other whenever you need help or feel like talking to someone. You would each try to make each other happy and positive about life. He/she would help you stay strong throughout high school.

SUPPORT: A boyfriend/girlfriend can help you learn how to confront and cope with problems. Arguments between both of you can help you mature and learn how to prevent mistakes in the future. He/she can help you learn what to do and not to do to keep a durable relationship.

ROLE MODEL: A boyfriend/girlfriend can open your eyes and mind to new ways of seeing life and those around you. He/she can be a positive influence in your life and can serve as a role model. Having someone to look up to can make you realize what aspects of your personality or life you need to change in order to live healthier and happier.

LIFE LESSON: A boyfriend/girlfriend can make you wiser, even *after* breaking up. You can find out what characteristics and traits you are and are not compatible with. This can serve as an example for the both of you in future relationships. Not all relationships have to end as something you regret.

“I think it’s just fine to be in a relationship with one’s significant other. Just don’t lose focus on the relationship with your grades; everybody should try to get a 4.20 GPA.”

–Sufyan Tootla, 10th grade student

DISTRACTION: A boyfriend/girlfriend can take time away from your studies. You would be dedicating all your time to him/her instead of studying for important tests or working on homework. This would cause your grades to significantly suffer.

ENEMY: A boyfriend/girlfriend can make you have to give up many friendships. You would only want to be with them instead of spending time with those who have been there for you longer. It would be very difficult to have to choose between being with your friends or your boyfriend/girlfriend.

FRUSTRATION: A boyfriend/girlfriend would cause you to have to deal with many relationship problems. A fight between you and your boyfriend/girlfriend would keep you from focusing on other important aspects of your life, like paying attention to a teacher during a lesson or while taking an important test.

BAD INFLUENCE: A boyfriend/girlfriend can negatively influence your ideas and emotions. You will want to be exactly like him/her, even in the bad qualities, like sarcasm. You would start to see your friends and family the way your boyfriend/girlfriend *wants* you to see them. The original and independent you would disappear.

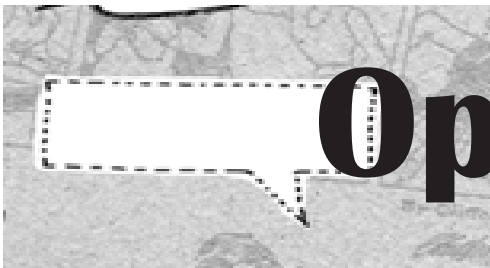
EMOTIONAL PAIN: A boyfriend/girlfriend can cause you to suffer even *after* the relationship has ended. It would hurt to continue having to see him/her every day at school, especially if he/she is in a new relationship. Depression shouldn’t be something that teens should have to deal with so early in their lives.

“I think high school relationships are generally a bad idea because students often times lose sight on the importance of their grades. But there are some exceptions, so I guess they aren’t all that bad.”

–Francisco Contreras, 10th grade student

So, are high school relationships really worth it?

High school relationships can make you feel like the happiest person on earth, but sadly they can also make you feel that love wasn’t made for you after all. It all depends on you and the person you have feelings for. Only you can decide whether being in a relationship is the best for you. Always list out the pros and cons of any decision you plan on taking before deciding to take it. If you know that a relationship would only pull you away from your success in school, then you should probably consider holding back on the idea for now. Not all relationships end the same way, but they usually end up hurting you in the end. Don’t decide to be in a relationship if you know from the start that it won’t be worth it.



Celebrating Celebrities: Silly or Sympathetic?

BY NISHRAT KHAN & KRISTINE LOCSIN
-Staff Writer- -Layout Editor-

No matter what decade you belong to, celebrity influences will always be part of pop culture. Varying from the Justin’s – Bieber or Timberlake – they have been introduced to you in some way. They have come to your attention by breaking national headlines or simply by being part of your youth.

They leave the showbiz industry with lasting impressions through wrecking balls, the “baby’s,” or the “bye bye byes.” It suffices to say they will be forgotten, but can we really un-see Bieber’s egotistical mug shot or Miley Cyrus’ scandalous performances? Smoking. Drinking. Partying. Negative celebrity acts always outweigh the good and have a much greater response to the media, and most of all, to their fans. What comes to mind when you think of Miley Cyrus? Is it her singing

The Climb or *Party in the USA*? Probably not. Scandalous acts, mostly negative representations, are more memorable than what we like them to be.

Celebrities often go by unnoticed by their good deeds. While you’re watching Bieber’s arrest on *TMZ*, Demi Lovato is reaching out to her fans to help them go through the many struggles she, as a teen, has been through. With each celebrity, we are introduced to their story, but sometimes we are more interested in the bad ones over the good ones. Why? Because Miley Cyrus’s music video, filled with nudity and viewed over 500 million times, is more “entertaining” than Selena Gomez’s donation of over \$250,000 to UNICEF.

...

Each celebrity has a power to control millions of people, some do it better than others (negatively or positively), with the help of their publicists, managers, and fans, of course.

What celebrity has a **NEGATIVE** influence?

“Justin Bieber is a bad person. Nobody likes him because he is a punk. He’s leading a bad example for us; he is committing felonies. Sometimes our age follows in the footsteps of celebrities. I follow Kanye West because of his ego. I’m a great person.”
–*Kevyn McCurchin*, 9th grade.

(Writer’s note: McCurchin stated his response with all seriousness.)

“Kanye West. Recently, after having his child, he became aggressive to the media. He’s in the news because he assaulted someone. He needs to control his anger.”
–*Francisco Requena*, 12th grade.

What celebrity has a **POSITIVE** influence?

“I think Ben Affleck is a really positive influence because of his humanitarian works.”
–*Sophia Campos*, 10th grade.
(Note: The interviewer had no idea about Affleck’s humanitarian works. This shows how a celebrity’s good deeds often go unnoticed.)

“Demi Lovato is someone everyone looks up to; she really helps connects with her fans and she is so open about her past experiences. All those experiences help other people and that makes her a positive influence to the society.”
–*Cassandra Cervantes*, 11th grade.

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~Welcome to the DAX Side~

AP: Advanced Preparation

BY DAX CAPANGPANGAN
-Op-ed Editor-

I know I’m probably the last person you wanna hear this from, but preparation is a key part to being successful at anything that you’re serious about *cough* AP Testing *cough.* If you still think that I’m an unreliable source for this topic, I’d like to quote Mr. Jahnke: “Good advice is good advice, even if it’s from someone untrustworthy.”

When you prepare for something you want to make sure that you know what you’re preparing for. What do I mean? Well, first you need to recognize what it is you’re aiming for. What do you want to get out of this? Keep that in mind: motivation is vital in keeping concentration (a 5 on the AP test so colleges love us). Now, what is in the way of you getting that? Or what would be a big problem? Basically, what are your weaknesses? I know from personal experience that it’s hard to accept your weaknesses, but everyone has one, it’s the ability to overcome them that make us strong. Now that you know your weaknesses (be it free-response, multiple choice, or just not falling asleep during tests), figure out how you’ll prepare for it.

V-Day Holiday continued from page 7

original meaning.” Natalie also mentioned that if someone asked her to be her Valentine, she would “think they are lying, but it would also depend on how the person asked [her].” She described her perfect Valentine’s Day as one spent “[eating] desserts, [cuddling] with [her] cat, and [watching] British shows.”

Freshman Richard Estrella felt Valentine’s Day “is a day to be with the person you hold most dear, but not just on this day. If you love a person, you show that you love that person every day, not in this one day.” His perfect Valentine’s Day plans “would be doing what [his] date would want to do.” He would “take her to her favorite places and do the best to make her happy.”

Sophomore Kathy Maximo’s thinks Valentine’s Day “is where single people get to feel lonely and couples show love to each other.” Kathy said that the

What do I mean by prepare? (By the way, I’m glad you’re so curious, disembodied voice) I mean preparing more for your weaknesses than your strengths. You won’t get any better flaunting your strengths to yourself, so why do it? Help yourself by letting yourself help yourself.

Now, how can you prepare for your AP test? You can study daily: doing practice tests, creating study groups with friends, looking at past AP tests, etc. Research shows that when you study and practice over and over, you gain at least two IQ points per day, showing you’re learning and getting smarter (and thus more prepared) when you study daily (Jaeggi et al.). When sticking to a self-scheduled study program, stay motivated and stay focused. Once again, friends can be a great help to you. They can help study, motivate, or keep you in check. Keep in mind when your test is, and make sure you’re well-rested for that day as well as ready. Remember, you, essentially, only get one chance to take the AP test, so make sure you prepare for it, and you prepare for it well. Good luck, and may you score as high as you can, *high five.*

perfect Valentine’s Day date would be “spending the day with Hollister models!”

Sophomore Juan Villa said Valentine’s Day is “a time for two things to happen: [first] people [get to show] others that they care about them and/or [are] attracted to them, and two [it is] sort of a ‘singles awareness day,’ but overall, it brings people together.” Juan has never asked anyone to be his Valentine, because “it’s just too cheesy.” Although Juan has never asked anyone to be his Valentine, he mentions the perfect Valentine’s Day date would be “a date at McDonalds,” and the table would have a tablecloth and a candle in the center.”

It seems everyone has his or her own perspective on Valentine’s Day. It could be positive or negative; it all depends on the person.

HIMYM SPOILERS FROM PAGE 4

“YOU CAN FINALLY SEE HOW THEY MET WITHOUT HAVING TO WAIT NINE YEARS.”
“TED’S WIFE IS REVEALED IN THE SERIES. SHE IS HIRED TO PLAY AT THE WEDDING AND IS LATER INTRODUCED TO TED.”
“(*SPOILER ALERT ANSWER*) MEANWHILE, BARNEY AND ROBIN ARE CLOSE TO GETTING MARRIED, WHICH IN FACT, IS HOW

Citation for Capangpangan’s article:
Jaeggi S. M., Buschkuhl M., Jonides J., Perrig W. J. (2008). Improving fluid intelligence with training on working memory. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 105, 6829 – 6833



BOOK REVIEWS



👉 Page Turners 👈

An Unexpected Journey

By Leanette Estrada, Staff Writer



Always wondered what is it like to go on a quest with dwarves, hobbits, and even a wizard? Well, J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, a fantasy novel and the prequel to *The Lord of the Rings*, now recognized as a timeless classic, is an introduction to the Hobbit Bilbo Baggins, the wizard Gandalf, the Misty Mountains, and the spectacular world of Middle-Earth. It recounts of the adventures of a reluctant hero, Gollum; his precious, powerful, dangerous Ring; and the cruel, heinous dragon, Smaug the Magnificent.

The hero quest begins with the Hobbit Bilbo Baggins, who professes to dislike adventures (they do make you late for supper, after all), but who secretly harbors a love for things like maps and

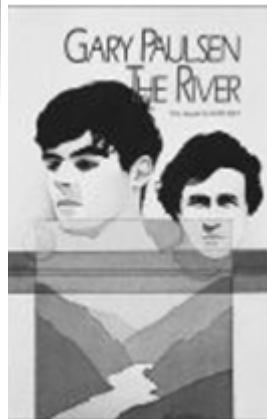
stories. He's a wonderfully simple, even innocent character. Bilbo's love for simple things evokes a similar pull in many of us – that longing for an adventure. And it's not the way things are in Bilbo's simple world. *The Hobbit*, then, is about how Bilbo goes out into the wild world of Middle Earth and discovers something about himself – a self-realization essential to his hero quest journey. It is an adventure that is filled with wonder, magic, action and vividly memorable characters. Considering the fact that *The Hobbit* was originally intended to be a simple children's tale, the success of the book is all the more pronounced.

Those who are interested in the entire *The Lord of the Rings* saga would do well to begin their journey with *The Hobbit*. Although *The Lord of the Rings* books loosely follows the overall structure of *The Hobbit*, there is a distinct difference in tone, mood and accessibility. *The Hobbit* is a simpler tale than *The Lord of the Rings*. It isn't nearly as epic. But it is a more efficient, more humorous, more pleasing story.

💣 Page Burner 💣

The River, or Rather, the Bog

By Nishrat Khan, Staff Writer



If you are looking for an easy, simple read for a small amount of 4 AR points then, please go right ahead, read *The River* by Gary Paulsen. This book will fill your mind with ridiculous, time boggling details. Every single page is filled with excessive details on every single item in this book, but hey, doesn't everyone love reading 4 long pages about a green leaf? Not only is this book extremely over analytical, but its content will also have you question the main character's sanity.

The River is the second book in the series of *Hatchet* books. This second installment goes into the adventure of the main character, Brian, who is risking his own life for the second time to help the studies of survival. First of all, this whole study of survival seems implausible, and second of all, who in their right mind would risk their life again after surviving the pits of hell? Every part of the book seems to be fabricated with illogical details and situations. Brian, who is risking his life, is only a regular 14-year-old boy, which adds to the ridiculous lack of logic in this terrible book. The pain one can endure in reading this book would very much be accepted if they can receive a reward for it, but who gives out rewards for people reading imprudent and foolish books?

Going Solo and Into an Extraordinary Life

By Omar Amer, Staff Writer



Nonfiction is not usually the genre that has students jumping up and down. So it doesn't come as a surprise when I honestly say that I picked this book up, not because it interested me, but because I needed a nonfiction book to meet the requirements for AR points. Now that I've read *Going Solo* by Roald Dahl, my prior take on the novel is completely in the wrong; everyone should pick up this book to enjoy the work of a famous author.

A fairly short and easy to read book, it tells the reader of Dahl's experiences delivering oil in Africa for the Shell Company and flying in the Royal Air Force. He teaches himself Swahili, which helps him fit right in with the indigenous people. His work, simply delivering oil, does not seem so simple with the danger he constantly faces. Unbelievable tales of fighting off snakes, chasing down lions, and fighting in battalions made me forget this was an autobiographical narrative and I actually read it out for pure enjoyment. My mindset was not just to pass my AR points anymore and so I finished the next half of the book content

with myself.

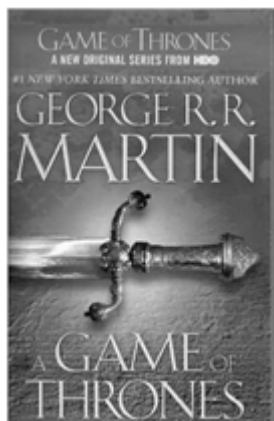
The last half of the book is Dahl's experience in the Royal Air Force. He learns to fly a plane and fly against German fighters but unfortunately crashes and suffers a serious injury. He recovers within a few months and continues to fly until he returns to his mother in London.

The overall book is sanguine and makes you smile at the oddities and adventure that Roald Dahl gets himself into. I can say that (and excuse the cliché), Dahl really does takes us on a rollercoaster; we, as the readers, also are jealous that one person can have such an over-the-top kind of life. Roald Dahl shares that excitement and hands a piece of it to our own lives in this remarkable book.

Book Level: 6.1
AR Points: 9.0

Get Your Keys and Wallet, You're Going to Barnes and Nobles

By Brian Moncada, Book Review Editor



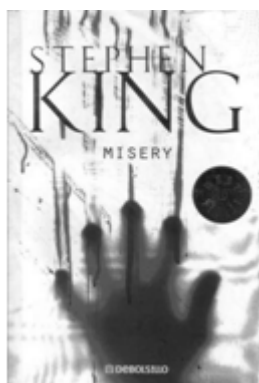
Those of you who have read my book reviews over the past two years know that I am hard to please and that no book has had the same effect on me as Christopher Paolini's *Eragon*. Until now. I picked up *A Game of Thrones* for myriad reasons – everything from my love of medieval times and books pertaining to it, to seeing Ms. Enger read it, enjoy it, and nearly, *nearly* being the key word, beating me in total AR points – yet I was apprehensive. I was scared of being disappointed again, of wasting my time, my money, and for what? 1000 pages of dry, pointless banter? Good thing my parents got it for me.

A Game of Thrones is the first in an ongoing series by George R. R. Martin and is the beginning (no pun intended) of a new love. The point of view is the most captivating and frustrating part. Unlike traditional novels that stay in the point of view of one person, this novel makes use of the vast world and the abundance of characters so that each chapter is told from the perspective of a new character. Martin switches between five to seven characters per novel, and each character is a key figure, everyone from Prince Joffrey to King Stannis. The real reason why the main characters switch every novel is because there are a lot of deaths. A character is lucky if they make it through a book. The book is called *A Game of Thrones* because that's what it really is, a complex power struggle whose players are never defined, always changing and full of surprises. The best thing about this book is that it makes you pay attention to details: an event on page 1 could be key in page 500, and so on. This makes you really pay attention, not that you need more incentives.

This massive book at more than 1000 pages (depending on the copy) is worth an equally massive amount of points, 45 to be exact. It's a fairly low reading level, guaranteeing that anyone can enjoy it to the fullest. I give it the best recommendation I can. The best way to sum up this novel is as an adult version of *Eragon* without the disappointing ending. With added features. Like luxury car expensive features. That actually do something.

Misery

By Kamera Ford, Staff Writer



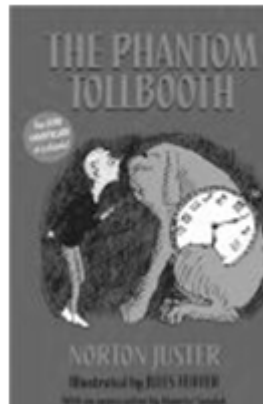
Imagine: you've just finished writing the manuscript of your new book, and now you're ready to drive back home. Suddenly, a snowstorm appears, you've crashed your car, you're saved by a mysterious lady, and now your only concern is to escape this crazy woman's house. This is exactly what happens to Paul Sheldon, the main character in the novel *Misery* by Stephen King.

King brilliantly packs horror, suspense, and gruesomeness into this eerie novel, frequently making the reader excited to find out what will take place next. We get to experience Paul's life as he is trapped inside the guest room of Annie Wilkes' home. Annie, being Paul's number one fan, will do anything it takes to make sure he writes another one of his *Misery* novels, bringing the main character, Misery Chastain, back to life. King also makes us believe that we are somehow connected to Paul: we feel the pain that Annie brings upon him, yearn for the freedom of Paul as he does himself, and fear, alongside him, the horrible future events that may possibly prevent Paul from ever escaping Annie's clutches.

Although this novel presents Annie and Paul as the only two central characters, it is still as riveting and attention-grabbing as any horror novel,

The Phantom Tollbooth

By Aldo Montes, Staff Writer



The Phantom Tollbooth is a classic by Norton Juster, and it is one of the greatest stories ever written. It uses a vast array of puns and literal humor to teach readers about how amazing and wonderful the world and life truly are. At an AR level of 6.7 and with a decent reward of 7 points, *The Phantom Tollbooth* is definitely worth the read for these benefits alone. However, you'll soon forget the importance of the rewards once you become entranced by this capti-

ivating tale.

The story revolves around a young boy named Milo, who believes that the world is dull and boring. However, upon returning home one day, he finds a mysterious package in his room. After unpacking the contents (a tollbooth, a car, and fare for the booth), he drives past the booth and enters the Kingdom of Wisdom. After meeting the Watchdog and the Humbug, Milo begins a quest with his newfound companions to return the twin princesses Rhyme and Reason to the Kingdom of Wisdom. The three must journey through locations such as Dictionopolis (the kingdom of words), Digitopolis (the kingdom of numbers), the Island of Conclusions (which is only accessible by jumping), and the Mountains of Ignorance, home to the native demons of Ignorance. Along the way, Milo encounters a large variety of characters such as the Spelling Bee, the Lethargarians, the Senses Taker, and the Gross Exaggeration. At the end of the book, Milo realizes that life is in fact exciting, and he gains a new, positive outlook on life.

The Phantom Tollbooth is an incredible story that I recommend to everyone. Maybe it's because of my fondness for puns, or maybe it's because I connected personally to Milo's original dull view on life, but *The Phantom Tollbooth* is one of my favorite stories of all time. I couldn't help but have a smile on my face at all times as Milo ran into humorous conflicts, such as becoming hungrier the more he ate "subtraction stew," and he was not content with having to "eat his words" at the Royal Banquet. This tale has taught me so much on how unpredictable life is that it changed my perspective on life. If you do decide to read this fantastic novel, I'm certain it'll change your view on the world as well.

and maybe even more.

Still not interested in reading this novel for the amazing plot it contains? No worries, the 18 AR points and 6.2 reading level should, alone, be enough to make you want to read this book. You will enjoy this amazing and jaw-dropping novel.