

# Why Guns Should Be Allowed

By Eddie Arevalo

The recent shooting in Newtown, Connecticut has reawakened people's interest in making tougher gun control laws. These laws should not be passed. Guns keep people safe.

Although they sometimes do fall into the wrong hands, people are safer with them. On average of 100 mass shootouts, only 2.33 people died when armed civilians ended it, but 14.29 were killed when authorities stopped it (Barker). The number is almost seven times greater when law enforcement stepped in than when armed average citizens took over.

Almost 16 years ago, a 16-year-old named Luke Woodham opened fire on his schoolmates in Pearl, Mississippi. He wounded seven and killed two before being subdued by Joel Myrick (assistant principal), who was armed with a .45-cal. pistol. If not for Myrick, Woodham would have surely killed and injured more teens.

Anti-guns activists will quickly dismiss this triumph for armed civilians by saying that guns don't save people, people save people. But by that same logic, guns don't kill people, people kill people. Before going to school that day, Woodham stabbed his mother to death and lit his dog on fire, subsequently killing it (Mannis). These are not the actions of a sane human being, rather of a psychopath. Similarly, someone who shoots and kills his own mother and then eighteen young children cannot be assumed to have a healthy mind.

Stricter gun laws should not be passed since guns keep people safe. It is people that kill each other, not hunks of metal.

## Works Cited

Barker, Davi. "Auditing Shooting Rampage Statistics." Daily Anarchist. N.p., 31 July 2012. Web. 07 Jan. 2013. <<http://dailyanarchist.com/2012/07/31/auditing-shooting-rampage-statistics/>>.

Mannis, T. H. "How an Armed Assistant Principal Stopped a School Shooter." Chicago News Bench. Blogger, 17 Dec. 2012. Web. 07 Jan. 2013. <<http://rogersparkbench.blogspot>>.

# Winter Formal

By Serratia Krank

It's that time of year ladies and gentlemen. The Winter Formal venue has been changed this year to the Double-Tree which will be a

step up from last year's overcrowded room and broken air conditioner. The room will be bigger, the food better and the music louder (not too loud). Overall ASB is working to make this year's winter formal a hit. The theme will be "Winter Wonderland." This theme was chosen because of the many requests for a Narnia-styled dance. Go with your friends or that special someone. Hopefully you didn't miss out on this enchanted evening.



# INTERVIEWS

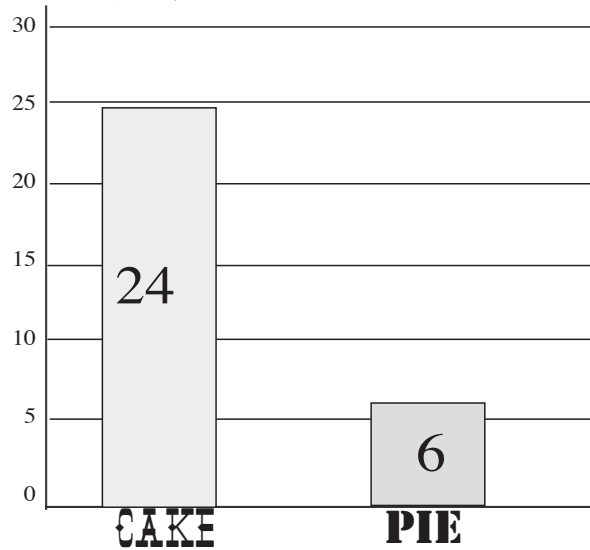
BY NHI NGUYEN

What are your New Year's Resolutions?

- ∞ "To make better decisions" Jonathan Flores
- ∞ "To get over my fear of college" Jessica Vergara
- ∞ "To learn how to drive!" Melissa Muro
- ∞ "To not get that freshman 15 when I'm in college... or if I do get it, then not to turn into a freshman 50" Bryan Oyan
- ∞ "To try to get all A's or close to that" Vishali Kapoor

## CAKE vs PIE:

HMSA's Favorite Dessert



## Interviews

By Kenia Espinoza

What were your thoughts on the senior sweaters?

- "Honestly I don't like them, like I get that they tried to be different and what not but they took it a bit too far and I wasn't so happy about them." Alejandra Zurita
- "The back seems last-minute; it could've been better." Hector Torres
- "I think the design is classy." Akber Noorali
- "They're not what I expected. When we had the class meeting they looked better then than they do now but it's better than having ghetto writing like the previous years." Vanessa Silva
- "I really liked the front of the sweater but the back looked too simple, as if they didn't know what to put on it." Carlos Gutierrez

# GUN LAWS: THE RIGHT TO MASSACRE

BY DAX CAPANGPANGAN

Ever since the Constitution was approved, owning a gun has been one of our basic rights, but are guns a sense of security or just further endangerment? Guns are the fastest killing weapon that people can easily get their hands on. Is it really okay to let almost anyone grab a hold of a gun? Should we let them carry something that can kill someone instantly? Many people think that just owning a gun will protect them, but in an instance where they are in danger, will they be able to use it? Can they take another person's life?

Recently, there have been many incidents where many people have been killed because of easy access to guns. There was the Colorado movie theater shooting, where a man armed with a rifle, a shotgun, and two handguns killed 12 people and wounded 50. What's surprising is how he was able to have all of these guns without a problem. There is no reason for a person to keep so many guns.

Another incident was the recent school shooting in Connecticut where a high-school student, Adam Lanza, went into an elementary school equipped with two semiautomatic pistols and a rifle. He killed 27 people (including children, teachers, and his own mother) and then himself. It's just despicable that he did something like this, but he wouldn't have been able to if gun laws were more strict. He was mentally unstable, and his mother was actually a gun collector (this is where Adam Lanza got the guns). Some people abide by the credo: "Guns don't kill people. People kill people." Although this does have some truth to it, is it not also true that if they didn't have guns in the first place, there wouldn't be killings? Also, since shootings have been increasing in frequency lately, people who are mentally unstable may be more motivated to get their hands on guns.

Although our 2nd amendment rights would be denied if we prohibit owning guns, we are not entitled to those rights until we act like humans. Anyone who kills another for no reason cannot possibly be considered part of our species.

## The Host Movie

### Anticipation

By Yasmine Gutierrez

When your life has been uprooted by outsiders, how hard would you fight to keep what was yours?

Wanderer lived many lives on other planets (the Snow Beasts of the Ice World, the Bats of the Dark World, and so on), but nothing could have prepared her for the bombardment of senses and emotion that came with being a human.

Antebellum Earth was fine before the Souls decided to make it their home. Souls are everything good- understanding, trusting, and compassionate- but their invasion left very few “rogue” humans in hiding, aside from Melanie Stryder and her family. The only way to tell a Soul apart from a human is the iridescent silver ring around their pupil. After Melanie is captured and Wanderer, a Soul, is inserted, it's Wanderer's job to look into

her memories and find her family's hide-out. Usually, it isn't hard for a Soul to tap into their host's mind, but this time is different- Melanie is still very much alive and refuses to give up control. Wanderer is able to gather a few memories, some of which are about Jared and Jamie, Melanie's boyfriend and brother who are also in hiding. Sharing a body also means sharing emotions, so Wanderer decides to look for her family and protect them, but this means leaving the society of Souls, the only way of life she knew.

Although the name Stephanie Meyer leaves a bad taste in many mouths, she really hit it home with this one: it's an action-packed and suspenseful novel that doesn't target any one kind of person, but younger readers as a whole. Do I suggest it to other readers? Highly. Do I think turning it into a movie will kill it completely? 100%.

When I first saw the movie preview a few months ago, I couldn't believe it. I already thought that they were biting off more than they could chew; how would they show the internal dialogue between Melanie and Wanderer? How would they show the memories? There is so much going on in the novel that it's almost a guarantee that director Andrew Niccol missed something; this isn't meant to degrade Niccol's style, only to show how powerful and intimidating the novel is, especially when it comes to on-screen adaptation.

One of my biggest worries is the relationship between Melanie/Wanderer, Jared, and Ian, another character that develops feelings for Wanderer. Would this turn into a bad love triangle like in another one of Meyer's novels? You know the one. Yes, these relationships are key points in the plot, but they are not the entire plot. A sci-fi novel does not need danger, aliens, and petty jealousy.

What do I suggest? Definitely read the book, it's worth the 619 pages (the fact that it's 29 AR points doesn't hurt either). If you like what you read, then watch the movie on March 29th and hope for the best. I know I will.



## KPOP OVERVIEW

BY VICTORIA ROSITO

Many people have heard PSY's “Gangnam Style” and have also started claiming to be Kpop fans. However, if you ask for names of other Kpop groups/singers/songs, most of them will know nothing. Here, I will introduce some other prominent Kpop artists who are less famous than PSY.

There are some special groups that have made Kpop into what it is today: Busker Busker, H.O.T, Brown Eyed Girls, Super Junior, SHINee, TVXQ, 2PM, 2AM, Wonder Girls, Big Bang, 2NE1, JYJ, Girls Generation, and U-Kiss.

- Busker Busker- Indie group, well respected in Korea, street performer group, known for “Cherry Blossom.”
- H.O.T.- Late 90's pop group, well-respected in Korea, disbanded around 2001, known for “We are the Future” and “Candy.”
- Brown Eyed Girls- Adult female group, gifted voices, symbolic videos that are every English teacher's dream, know for “Abracadabra.”
- Super Junior- 13-member group with the first Chinese member in Kpop, very dedicated fanbase- Everlasting Friends (ELFs) debuted in 2005, known for “Sorry, Sorry.”
- SHINee- Best Korean male dance group, debuted in 2008 with the romantic song “Replay,” choreographies are the most difficult to master (a good way to lose weight), known for “Ring, Ding Dong.”
- TVXQ- Debuted in 2005, 3 members sued their company and left to form JYJ, only two members remain, strong fanbase, known for (before) “Mirotic” and (after) “Keep Your Head Down.”
- 2PM and 2AM and One Day- JYP wanted to copy Super Junior so he created One Day and separated them into 2PM and 2AM. 2PM is the dance group, 2AM is the ballad, One Day is both groups together, 2PM known for “Again, Again,” 2AM known for “One Day Known For.”
- Wonder Girls- Under JYP, debuted in the US with Akon in “Like Money,” known for “Tell Me.”
- Big Bang- Internationally known, hip pop, brother group of 2NE1, known for “Fantastic Baby.”
- 2NE1- First to break the boundaries of being a typical girl group in Korea (sweet and innocent), tomboys who have an in-your-face style, sister group of Big Bang, known for “I Am the Best.”
- JYJ- Members who broke from TVXQ, under a different company, internationally known, known for “Ay Girl” with Kanye West.
- Girls Generation- Beauties of Korea, 9 member female group, known for “Gee.”
- U-Kiss- Underrated group that has much talent to give, release the most videos and songs in one year, known to be fluent in many languages, friendliest group, internationally known for “Man Man Hi.”

## RECAP OF MUSIC FROM 2012

BY TIFFANY GUTIERREZ

In 2012, it seemed nothing could slow music down (except maybe a soulful Frank Ocean ballad), and as the year ended and the new one began, we're reminded that, yes, “We Are Young.” The year was full of infectious hits that caught on quick, like Carly Rae Jepsen's “Call Me Maybe.” With the beginning of the new year, we can't wait to hear more from these artists:

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| ◇ PSY              | ◇ 2Chainz        |
| ◇ Carly Rae Jepsen | ◇ Atlas Genius   |
| ◇ Lana Del Rey     | ◇ Fun.           |
| ◇ The Xx           | ◇ Mumford & Sons |
| ◇ The Lumineers    | ◇ Frank Ocean    |

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# 2012 NFL Player of the Year

By Enrique Ruvalcaba

The 2012 NFL MVP deserves to go to running back Adrian Peterson. There were doubts on whether or not Peterson could have played the first few weeks of season or perform at an elite level after having an ACL tear that sidelined him for 8 months.

He started week 1 and performed like his old self. At the end of season, Peterson came 9 yards short of tying the record for most rushing yards in a single season in NFL history. He also carried his team to the postseason after the only other effective offensive weapon on his team (Percy Harvin) went down midway through the season with an injury. The case being made by Denver Broncos' quarterback Peyton Manning is understandable after he threw for 4659 yards with 37 touchdowns. He's improved the Broncos' offense by 179 points. The difference between Manning and Peterson is that Manning has useful talent around him. Peterson doesn't with the exception of Harvin. Peterson was more valuable to his team than Manning was to Denver.

Peterson and Manning both deserve the MVP award. It's understandable if Manning wins it since it's the era of the quarterback. That's what makes Peterson's candidacy more valuable. Over the years, the running back position has been slowly fading. It's more often that teams now use two running backs or perform more throwing plays. Peterson is one of the most superior running back ever. He took his team to playoffs and almost broke the record for most yards in a single season, and all this 9 months after a serious injury. It'll be an ignominy if the greatest running back of our era didn't win an MVP award.

# 2012 Soccer Player of the Year

By Enrique Ruvalcaba

The 2012 soccer player of the year is Lionel Messi. He led his club, Barcelona, to the Spanish King's Cup. His performance for the Argentina national team placed them on top of the South American standings for the World Cup qualifiers. His record, scoring 91 goals in one calendar year, shows he hasn't slowed down after a busy 2011. At the end of 2012, Messi was awarded with the 2012 FIFA Ballon d'Or, awarded to the best player of 2012. This was the fourth year in a row Messi has won the award, making him the first person to have won the award four times in a row.

The closest player to come behind Messi was Real Madrid's forward Cristiano Ronaldo, just 18% behind in the voting. The case he presented is understandable. Ronaldo achieved the Spanish La Liga title, a more prestigious title than the King's Cup Messi and Barcelona won. Determining who was of more value to their team is almost impossible. Both players lead their team in appearances, goals scored, and assists. Messi earned the award over Ronaldo because his stats were better than Ronaldo's by a landslide.

There isn't much left to say about Messi. The only thing missing on his phenomenal career is a World Cup title. It's surprising how Messi has proven to be durable and consistent over the years. Not only that, he's becoming better every year. If he maintains his elite level for another five years and wins the World Cup at Brazil or Russia, it'll be safe to bet that he'll be the greatest soccer player ever.

# SPORTS

## THE LEGENDARY BOXER

BY JUAN DOMINGUEZ

Who's the first person that comes to mind when you hear "legendary boxer"? Muhammad Ali? Rocky Marciano? Joe Frazier? Although these three are the most prominent figures in boxing history, there is one man working his way up to become the next legendary boxer: Manny Pacquiao.

Pacquiao is widely recognized as a professional boxer and politician. He was born in Kibawe, Philippines, and raised in a family of 8: 6 siblings and 2 parents. Pacquiao lived in poverty; he completed his elementary education, but had to drop out of high school due to his parents' financial instability. Nevertheless, in 2007, he took and passed a high school equivalency exam for college education, making him eligible to enroll for a degree in business management. In 2009, Pacquiao was bestowed the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities by Southwestern University in recognition of his boxing achievements and humanitarian work. He also enrolled in law school to prepare for his career as a lawmaker in the House of Representatives. Despite financial struggles, Pacquiao endured the hardships of obtaining his degree, and ended up being more successful than he could imagine.

Pacquiao started boxing when he was 14; he made the Philippine National Amateur Boxing Team with a total record of 64 fights (60-4). He started his professional boxing career at the age of 16, where he stood at 4'11 and weighed 98 pounds (7 pounds under the minimum weight requirements). He secretly put weights in his pocket to pass the requirements; he ended up weighing 106 pounds. His early light flyweight division was a struggle because he didn't meet the weight requirements, forcing him to use heavier gloves, thus putting him at a huge disadvantage. His flyweight division brought more success: he continued undefeated for 15 fights that led to a match against a more experienced boxer, Chockchai Chockvivat. Chockvivat was knocked out, resulting in Pacquiao's Flyweight title and opportunity to fight for a world title. Pacquiao continued fighting in many divisions: Super Bantamweight, Featherweight – where he fought Juan Marquez for the first time- Super Featherweight, Lightweight and Welterweight.

Pacquiao's career was defined by his victory against Marco Antonio Barrera; Barrera never lost by knockout until Pacquiao stepped up. This made Pacquiao the first Filipino and Asian to become a three-division world champion. Several months after his fight with Barrera, Pacquiao fought Marquez. The fight was an even match, with both throwing aggressive punches and countering quickly. It was a close fight, but judges made a split decision in favor of Pacquiao. Pacquiao and Marquez fought a second time, and the result was in Pacquiao's favor again: he won the Super Featherweight and Ring Super Featherweight titles, making him the first Filipino and Asian to win a four-division world championship. Pacquiao and Marquez always have close fights, and it's up to the judges' decision to determine the winner. Recently, Marquez defeated Pacquiao, making the rivalry between the two escalate—including rivalry among fans.

Manny Pacquiao has a total record of 54 wins (38 were KO), 5 losses, and 2 draws. Pacquiao is working his way up to being called a legendary boxer; there's no doubt he's the greatest boxer of the decade.

# 2012 NBA Player of the Year:

## Kevin Durant

By Anthuan Cruz

Kevin Durant (Oklahoma City Thunder) is one of the most versatile players to play in the NBA.

Just like Magic Johnson, Kevin Durant can play all five positions because of his dribbling ability and his 6'10 height. Even for his skinny stature, he is still a threat at the power forward and center positions. His seven-foot wingspan intimidates players when he is on defense and allows his range to be extended past the three-point line. His athleticism and shooting ability makes him very difficult to guard. His ability to make clutch shots makes him the perfect player to give the ball to when the game is tied at end of the game.

His abilities also open up many offensive opportunities for the other players on the team. When Kevin Durant is on the court, other teams often try to double team him. This opens up opportunities for his teammates, such as an open drive or shot for Russell Westbrook, an open shot by Kevin Martin, or an open mid-range shot by Serge Ibaka.

Just as Michael Jordan needed Pippen, Durant would not be as successful without the other star on his team, Russell Westbrook. Together, they can be an unstoppable force because both players encompass incredible speed and scoring ability. On a fast break, it is difficult to decide whom to guard because both Westbrook and Durant would have no problems finishing the fast break with a bucket. Their chemistry leads to many pick-and-roll, alley-oop, and catch-and-shoot plays. Both players are very young (both are 23) so this is only the start of a successful career.

People often compare Durant to other players at his position. People suggest that other small forwards are more skilled than he is, such as LeBron James but LeBron lacks consistency in multiple fields that Durant strives in such as 3-point shots and free throws. LeBron does not possess the ability to play the center position. His temper gets the best of him and often leads to poor judgment. In addition, LeBron is not the guy to give it to in late-game situations because he does not have offensive clutch. When Durant cannot score, he tries playmaking, while LeBron often continues to force shots even in a shooting slump.

Overall, Durant is the perfect player to have on the team. He can shoot from anywhere, he can make plays, and he can shoot buzzer beaters. He is great on defense and can play any position. Durant knows when he is doing poorly and will share the ball when he needs to. His remarkable height and wingspan intimidate other players and they realize he will not be an easy guy to guard. His potential is still increasing and we can expect even more great things from him.

# BACK PAGE

## Log Entries By Nengel Torres

The dreaded log entry is notorious among HMSA students for causing paranoia. All students fear getting one and will do whatever it takes to avoid it. Although teachers and parents see log entries as a good way to get students to do their work, it does more harm than good. Since students want to avoid getting one, they will do anything it takes to complete their work; even if it's done insincerely. Log entries encourage copying and result in loss of class time. They may seem like a solution to making students complete their work but the negative effects outweigh the positive ones.

If a student didn't complete their homework, he or she will most likely borrow their friend's homework and copy it. The main reason that a student is copying the work is not because they fear their grade will drop, but because they don't want to disappoint or bother their parents. The consequence for cheating is five days of lunch detention, a zero on the assignment, and a log entry. If there were no log entries, then students would simply get a zero on the assignment instead of risking their academic record on one insignificant homework assignment. The pressure that emits from the thought of getting a log entry is enough to convince a student to finish their work despite the dangers of completing it dishonestly.

When a student is sent out to receive a log entry, he or she must walk to the security office or Ramos' office. From there they must call their parents and have their log entry sheet signed. This process can take less than five minutes if there are no other students in the log entry line. If there are students, then the whole process can take longer, depending on the size of the line. This waste of class time prevents the student from learning any new material that the teacher is giving a lesson on. This means that the student must catch up on their own time, when they might not understand the lesson that was given. Of course they can go after-school to ask questions, but they wouldn't even have to do that if there were no log entries.

Log entries affect students who are striving to do better in school. They could discourage them from doing better, but any setback, such as a log entry, could reduce their morale. These students are brought down by log entries and are discouraged by faculty for not bringing minor things, like an ID that only works on this campus anyway. On top of all this, the student faces multiple lectures: from the teacher, the log-in attendant, and whomever else might be walking through the halls from the administration.

Another negative effect is that it wastes the time of the faculty who give the log entries. For seniors, it is difficult to find time to talk to their college counselor, Mrs. Ramos, because she is busy most of the time. Now that she must give log entries to freshmen (who are frightened anyway), she has less time to focus on seniors. Of course, she doesn't do it deliberately. Mrs. Ramos is a hard-working woman who has a busy schedule that would frustrate anyone. Dealing with freshmen only makes her job more frustrating. HMSA's security guard is also caught up with log entries. Instead of patrolling the school like a security guard should, he can't because he has to deal with students. Last year, some thieves stole multiple students' bikes. Incidents such as this one could be prevented if the security guard didn't have to deal with log entries.

Most HMSA students fear getting a log entry when they really shouldn't; but the parental consequences vary significantly, depending on the parent. It's a student's decision to either get one or not, but if there were no log entries then there would be less copying and dishonesty. Students wouldn't worry as much and would be less stressed out about completing their work. If a student doesn't learn to do their work alone, then the student has only him or herself to blame for it. Self-sufficiency will teach them that college will not be the same as high school and that nobody will care about a student's grade except the student who is receiving it.

## An Admin Weighs In By Mrs. Smith

The log entry system is a unique multi-functional tool that should be avoided but not feared. Log entries are designed to help students improve their work habits, study skills, time management, and organization by creating accountability between the home and school. The belief is that informing parents of missing or incomplete homework and failed quizzes or tests will result in positive changes in students' academic behaviors. Parents expect their children to be responsible for being fully prepared for school each day because they are in high school. Unfortunately, not all HMSA students are ready for this responsibility, although most develop the skills by senior year. Take a look around lunch detention and you will see far fewer twelfth graders compared to ninth and tenth graders.

The log entry system has proven to be an effective tool for improving academic behaviors. Results of an online survey conducted last fall showed that the majority of HMSA students "Strongly agree" or "Agree" that log entries have improved their work habits and study skills. Furthermore, about half of the students "Strongly agree" or "Agree" that log entries have improved their time management and organizational skills. The survey also showed that 90 percent of HMSA students always or usually complete their homework to avoid log entries. Two-thirds reported always or usually studying for quizzes and tests to avoid log entries. Learning still occurs even if these actions are taken solely to avoid a log entry.

The log entry system is an effective communication tool. Student analysis of and reflection on log entries allows teachers, the counselor, and administrators to provide targeted assistance. Discussion of log entries during parent conferences helps build the connection between home and school. Parents are asked what they are doing differently at home when their children continue to receive log entries for the same issue. The open dialogue gives staff the opportunity to provide share available resources and support with families.

A common misperception is that a log entry is the consequence for not completing homework or failing a quiz or test. However, consequences for log entries should and often do take place at home. According to the fall survey, the most frequent consequence is a lecture from parents, especially for tenth and eleventh graders. Other consequences for ninth and tenth graders included having their phone, iPod, or game system taken away and being grounded. Some students reported receiving no consequences while others said the consequences depended on the nature of the log entry.

Some students do resort to dishonesty, academic or otherwise, to avoid log entries, but most are mature enough to accept responsibility for their missteps. A few students cite the fear of a log entry as the reason behind their decision to copy or cheat, but the underlying causes are usually poor work habits and time management. HMSA teachers work extremely hard to provide a quality college-preparatory education for all students. Teachers choose assignments based on lesson goals and objectives. Students also have a choice when it comes to copying and cheating. Making the wrong choice in college will likely result in expulsion; therefore, it is important that students learn how to effectively manage their time and how not to procrastinate.

HMSA's program is designed to prepare students for success at a four-year university. It is not uncommon to hear alumni speak about the urgency of completing course assignments to avoid a log entry. Of course, no college student would actually receive a log entry, but the system does help HMSA graduates succeed in college. Data from both the class of 2009 and 2010 showed that HMSA graduates who matriculated to a CSU actually had a higher GPA at the end of the first year compared to their overall high school GPA. The first year college GPA of graduates from other local high schools, including Lawndale, Animo, CAMS, and Bishop Montgomery, was lower than their high school GPA. This indicates that HMSA graduates are indeed prepared to handle the responsibilities of college-level courses, which is due in part to the log entry system.