

*"When did your Halloween go awry?"*

*Interviewed by Brian Lu*

Dion Bui- Freshman

"I was on the beach with a couple of my friends. It was like 9pm, no one was trick-or-treating, and all the lights were out. I started hearing sounds and seeing things on the beach. I don't know if it was my imagination, but it was definitely scary."

Melissa Clarkson- Freshman

"My scariest Halloween moment was when I was 10, and I went to a haunted house at a fair. The actors would physically grab you. The cool thing was they were all bloody and freaky looking. It was pretty scary."

Lucy Herrera- Junior

"There was this cute family walking, and they were all dressed in penguin costumes. The costumes made them walk slowly, and they were behind me as I was coming into a house for candy. All of a sudden, this guy pops up with a chainsaw! So I ran, but the penguin family was in my way, so I pushed them and fell on the floor."

Alfonso Esquivel- Senior

"In 2002, I was trick-or-treating in Compton. Then, these tall guys were hiding and wearing scary costumes. They scared everybody who passed by and that included me and my friends."



## *The Black and White Dance*

*By Dax Capangpangan*

The Black and White Dance will be held at the Hawthorne Memorial Center from 7-11 PM, on November 2nd. Tickets will be sold for \$10 until October 26th during lunch and afterschool. If you are inviting a guest, you will have to have that guest interviewed. Interviews will be conducted until October 19th. The party will be teeming with energy and people, so don't miss out!

## **Spirit Week** *By Serratia Krank*

The first spirit week of this year starts on October 29th. Monday, as always, will be college day which means that you wear a shirt with any college on it. Tuesday is jersey day (this does not include sports uniforms from this school). Wednesday is animated shirt day and the animation must originate from the US. Thursday is music day and it must be an appropriate shirt. Friday, as always, is spirit shirt day which requires you to wear your class colored spirit shirt. For those who don't know what spirit week is, it is a week-long competition between all four classes that consists of one event each day during lunch. These competitions include obstacle courses, musical chairs, comic book trivia, and even a good old-fashioned card games. These events relate to what type of day it is; for example, superhero/villain day would have comic book trivia as an event, and music day may have musical chairs as an event. However, Fridays are always spirit shirt day and the event is always nation ball. The goal at the end of the week is to earn as many points as you can for your class to win. You can earn points by wearing the shirt that pertains to that day and by winning an event during lunch. The prizes for the winning class vary every time. One week it may be a day of free dress and another week might be a front-of-the-line pass. However, the ultimate prize is bragging rights until the next spirit week. Now before you get all excited, there are basic rules that need to be followed each spirit week:

- (1) Each day is a shirt day so your bottoms must be blue jeans. If one person decides to come to school in red or green jeans then spirit week is cancelled.
- (2) You must have 80 lunch detention words or less to participate in nation ball on Friday. Monday-Thursday words = no participation.
- (3) You must have class spirit. Spirit week is a chance to take a break from all the work and have fun with your classmates.

Lack of spirit, bad attitude, and poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated at all that week. The well-established hierarchy at almost every high school is seniors 1st, juniors 2nd, sophomores 3rd, and freshman last. But at this school that hasn't always been the case. Who knows who will end up victorious this semester? Remember to play fair, try hard, and have fun.

## **Improv Club**

*By Chris Gomez*

Improv is the newest club at HMSA. Mrs. Sharpe is in charge, and founding members include Kenberly Carranza, Rofida Rakha, Christian Gomez, Brian Lu, and Dax Capangpangan. Improv Club features two teams of improvisational performers competing in various games and performing scenes. The victor of the games and performances is decided by audience members who judge the results and award points by applause. On October 6, 2012, the HMSA Improv Club went to their first event, known as GameCon, to learn the basics from professionals. GameCon is an assembly of a. Improv Clubs with prior experience or b. groups from schools whose clubs are just starting up. The meeting started with the head of the LA division introducing himself and telling the crowd what Improv is really about, leading to a live performance by professionals from the group called Comedy Sportz. They explained many improv games: Expert Opinion, Continuation, Good Bad Worse, Dating Game, and Back in my Day, Typewriter, Late for Work, Beastie Rap, Emotional Party and other games. After the live performance, all the students in the audience were given tickets with a designated area to go get one-on-one advice and a chance to practice the games we all saw on stage. Overall, the club is for extrovert people and is also a great way to build confidence, help people venture out, explore new things, and meet new people.

## **Midterms** *By Nhi Nguyen*

With midterms fast approaching, you may feel worried and stressed, or completely dispassionate. Nonetheless, midterms are an important factor in your academic career, so take it seriously. Since you will have more than one test to take on a particular day, it will definitely interrupt your normal study habits, thus forcing you to split your time for each subject. But don't worry. There are many ways to calm your nerves; here are just a few:

- Be mindful; put your mind where you want it to be and focus.
- Find a place where you can actually study, somewhere quiet and not distracting.
- Take a break and eat a snack; set time aside when you can rejuvenate yourself.
- Have a small study group... or don't. Some students like studying alone, some think studying in groups is helpful.
- Figure out how you're going to study for a certain class; flashcards might not be helpful for a math test, but definitely for a vocabulary section for English.
- Try not to procrastinate.

# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



## What Happened to The Killers? By Elsa Ayala

The Killers' new album, *Battle Born*, was released September 18th and it was an utter disappointment. This album is unlike them in so many ways. It isn't catchy, energetic, or even memorable. The audience found themselves questioning whether they were listening to the same band that released *Hot Fuss* in 2004. That certain element of rock/pop mixed with an electronic sound went missing; this new album sounds like an extension of front man, Brandon Flowers's, solo album. This collection of songs sounded forced and strained, the pallid album could put any one to sleep with its one-note, slow melodies and ineffective lyrics. There's not much left to say other than true fans will always love The Killers, but they'll pretend this album didn't come out and listen to their old stuff because *Battle Born* is not worth listening to.

*Editor's note:* Elsa doesn't know what she is saying; *Glee* has impaired her musical taste and judgment.

## FOURTH TIME'S THE CHARM? BY BRIAN MONCADA



## KUROSHITSUJI BY VICTORIA ROSITO



A demon. A boy. A psychotic, transgender angel. A contract. *Black Butler* (or the Japanese name- *Kuroshitsuji*) includes these themes and more. This Anime (or Manga, if you prefer) takes place in the 1800's, during the rule of Queen Victoria in England.

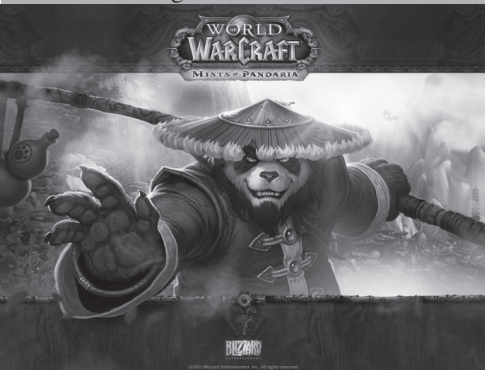
A 13-year-old boy named Ciel Phantomhive sells his soul to a demon named Sebastian Michaelis. The two met at a Satanic ritual where a cult sacrificed children to try and bring a demon who will grant whatever wishes they desire. The demon comes, but instead of going to the members, he saves Ciel and creates a contract with the young boy. The terms of the contract are that Sebastian (the demon) will follow any of Ciel's orders until Ciel kills either the person or the people who killed his parents and humiliated him.

However, this would be a pyrrhic victory. In exchange for his service, once the person or group is killed, Sebastian will take Ciel Phantomhive's soul. During the course of the Anime/Manga, other supernatural beings appear: Shinigamis (not like those in *Death Note*), angels, other demons, and hell hounds.

All in all, *Kuroshitsuji* won't disappoint its hardcore Anime/Manga fans.

Disclaimer: The editors of the Aviator News don't actually know what Brian is talking about in this article. If it's offensive, we apologize.

*World of Warcraft* came out in 2004 with expansions debuting in 2006, 2008, and 2010. The game is for the bellicose, the blood thirsty, and the strategist. The game revolves around killing, looting, and pillaging. Now the latest installment of the game, "*Mists of Pandaria*," has just hit retail stores. The new game changes many fundamental settings of the game such as a new agro meter, new nerfs (downgrades in damage, health, spells, etc.) to paladins and rogues, and last but certainly not least pandas. The expansion focuses on a mysterious race of beings (Pandas) who recently emerged in the wake of a cataclysmic event (As told in "*Cataclysm*." Shocker, right?). Many of the new changes were aimed at revitalizing the declining MMORPG, as Blizzard has lost more than 2 million subscribers in the past year alone. But enough of my rant; let's see what Juan Murillo, a member of the WoW community, thinks of these new changes.



What surprised you most about the expansion?

"The thing that got to me was the change in the talent system, which changes the whole concept of individualism. The huge 'DPS nerf of Protection pally tanks' was a stunner; as I was questing in MoP it changed the concept of being unique as your class."

What happened at the actual midnight release?

"As Blizzard was preparing for the spectacular event, major patch and expansion trailers were shown which brought back tons of memories from past expansions. The guild blood legion performed a live challenge mode run which is a new feature currently available in Mists. Although they wiped several times, it showed the potential of this expansion, I can't wait to gear up and perform a few wipes of my own."

What are some changes you like/dislike?

"Well, bubble and hearth out of any circumstance is back, just need the glyph. Alt leveling is also fantastic, easier to grind rep and gear. Questing in Mists is more fun, one of the best storylines yet. Dislikes: Leveling once again is a pain. Quests take a little longer."

Is WoW in decline?

"Of course not! According to a few sources I have read and heard, the sales of Mists have been enormous and the player count has also increased since *Cataclysm*. As mentioned in the midnight release, the development team has put a lot of heart into this expansion and it really is showing." There you have it; another craze with die-hard fans (like myself) enters the realm of existence. And of course, with more than 10 million subscribers, the game will flourish and Blizzard will take our money (or our parents' money). For the uninitiated here is the jargon:

**DPS-** Damage per second refers mainly to damage dealers.  
**BC-** Burning Crusade, first WoW expansion  
**WotLK-** Wrath of the Lich King, third WoW expansion  
**Cata-** *Cataclysm*- third WoW expansion  
**MoP-** *Mists of Pandaria*, fourth WoW expansion

**Protection pally-** A Paladin specing into the tanking tree.  
**Tanking-** The act of keeping the enemy focused on you, tanks usually have heaviest armor and highest health.  
**WoW-** *World of Warcraft*  
**Nerf-** A downgrade of sorts  
**Pandarian-** Pandas





# SPORTS

## 2012 MLB Postseason Overview By Enrique Ruvalcaba



## OCTOBER ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

By Marisela Gomez and  
Juan Dominguez

The MLB playoffs started off with a huge bang with one-game Wild-Card games. The defending champion St. Louis Cardinals took advantage of three throwing errors committed by Atlanta to win and advance to the NLDS, facing the Washington Nationals. In the other series, Baltimore took the first shocker of the postseason and held the Texas Rangers, arguably the best offensive lineup in MLB, to one run. Baltimore's 5-1 victory advanced them onto the ALDS and is facing their next opponents, the New York Yankees.

One of the teams followed most is the Oakland A's. At the All Star break, Oakland was as many as 13 games behind the Rangers and ended up clinching the AL West Division on the final day of regular season. Oakland faced off against Detroit who also dramatically won their division on the final week of regular season. Expect a lot of close games.

In another ALDS leg, Yankees squared off against the Baltimore Orioles. Pitching wasn't expected to be much of a factor as the offense. Overall, both teams have average pitchers pitching against elite-power hitters. Sports fans expected high-scoring games with many homeruns, especially at Yankee Stadium. Switching to NLDS, the Washington Nationals battled it out against the Cards. Both teams had dominant pitching rotations and bullpens going against elite batters. Nationals' manager Davey Johnson dominated in experience over Mike Matheny who's the youngest manager in Majors and is managing his first season of his career.

The Cincinnati Reds faced the San Francisco Giants in another close game. The Giants had the better rotation and bullpen but a weaker offense. The Reds possessed an elite offense and an above-average rotation. This series was expected to be close. All of this leads to the World Series, with the Tigers and Cardinals winning their respective leagues.

## The NBA Season Returns by Hassan Nadeem



For many NBA fans it takes a lot to impress, and well, last season did nothing short. Last season ended with much heartbreak, including the Bulls' loss of all-star Derrick Rose, who was injured in the first round. Another surprise was the LA Lakers who got swept by the Oklahoma City Thunder in the second round, and the Dallas Mavericks, the 2010-2011 champs, got swept by the Thunder.

The Miami Heat, still bruised and hurt from their own loss against the Mavs in 2011, were ready to impress. One factor that changed was that Dwayne Wade gave up his team, the team that he was the leader for 7 years, to all-star LeBron James. This move greatly improved LeBron's game, letting him conquer on the floor like he normally does, while at the same time leaving some room to fellow all-star teammates Bosh and Wade.

There are many reasons why this upcoming season may be even better than the last. James summed it up during Heat media day on September 28: "We have the potential to be better, we have the potential to be a lot better. And that's scary." To the other 29 teams this is a nightmare. LeBron being better than last season? Impossible, but we'll just take his word for it and wait.

In other news, unless you have been living in a cave or under the sea, you may not have heard the news of Dwight Howard and Steve Nash joining the LA Lakers, I won't talk any more about it for fear of boring readers, but there is one thing to be noted, 3 all-stars on the same team, hoping for a championship, sound familiar? After all the Miami Heat had the same problem the first year they were together. There is a high chance that the Lakers may experience the same lack of chemistry, too many players trying to put the load of getting a championship on one's shoulders. Trades only make the NBA and any sport more exiting and thrilling, there is no doubt that this season will be great, 30 teams all fighting for the spot on the NBA Finals and winning it all.

Kimberly Ngo (Bingo) was selected as Athlete of the Month because of her strong will to continue playing on the volleyball team, despite the amount of work she does outside of school. When asked how she felt about the team this year, Bingo replied "that [it] has really grown and improved since the start of the season." The reason for this is because she creates camaraderie and motivates the team to "practice [whenever they] can, by serving and passing [with each other] three times a week." She doesn't force her team to practice every day; she knows they need to rest and focus on schoolwork. Mr. Kircher pushes the girls by saying that the team "can and [has to] improve" more as the season progresses.

Bingo enjoys spending time with her team every day, whether it's at lunch or during a game. She describes the team as "serendipitous" because it was a happy surprise for her to join the volleyball team and learn so much about others and herself. Bingo says that she loves volleyball because anyone can just "grab a ball and start playing" without having to worry about losing because of how much "fun it is."

When asked about her most memorable game, she replied that it was the "season opener because that was when [the girls] bonded and proved that [they] wouldn't break apart as a team."

October's boy athlete of the month is none other but our new upcoming superstar, Manuel Ceballos (sophomore). According to Ms. Khan, "Manuel has motivation to do well and determination to excel. This is his first year in cross country and he has already won a medal for top JV runner." Ceballos' greatest attribute is being a contributor, Khan says, "he will always step up and participate, even if the workout or run [they] plan to do is extra hard. This encourages others to also participate."

Ceballos loves "running X-Country because it's a way to just unwind after a hard day. All [his] homework, tests, and quizzes are simply forgotten as [he runs]" and it also helps that he is an amazing runner. Ceballos tries to motivate his team "by cheering for them during the races and squirting water on them as they pass by. The water really helps [them] all out."

His most memorable race is "[his] first one. The day was hot, tensions were high, and [his] knee was killing [him] the entire day. Once [they] all warmed up (and [he] calmed down), [he] gave it [his] best shot. [Ceballos remembers] beating at least five people on Suicide Hill, a feat [he doesn't] think is too shabby." For him "there really isn't an experience comparable to running Kenneth Hahn's 'suicide hill' or finishing one of Ms. Khan's core workouts."

Ceballos' greatest motivators are Thomas Dagnachew (senior) and Christian Hernandez (senior). "Thomas, with his charisma and attitude can inspire anyone to do their best. And Christian, [formally our] JV captain, was great at making us all laugh, especially during a tense race. These guys are good leaders." Overall, Ceballos makes sure to always do a herculean effort and contribute to the X-Country team.

# Backpage

## What is the Winchester Mystery House?

By Abdul Zahid

Right turn. Faster this time, run quicker. Finally a door. Turn the knob. Open it and you see a brick wall in its place. Turn back and find a flight of stairs. Walk up and you see they lead to a ceiling. Turn back for another way out. One last door. Time to try your luck. Rush through it. You fall 4 stories to the floor outside. You lose.

Now what brilliant game is this and how soon can it be bought? Sorry gents, this isn't a game but an actual house. Yes sir, the Winchester Mystery House is a true marvel to behold and stands to be the ultimate testament to Victorian style craftsmanship: 160 rooms (two ballrooms included), 47 fireplaces, 10,000 window panes, 17 chimneys, 2 basements, and 3 elevators. This magnificent structure was an unfinished farmhouse, but when Sarah Winchester moved in 1884, she spent her vast fortune continuously expanding the house until her death in 1992. What would cause someone to build such a labyrinth? Well her reasons weren't for worldly aesthetics at all...at least not for this world.

Sarah Lockwood Pardee was born around 1840 into the affluent class in New Haven, Connecticut where she received a well-rounded education. In 1862 she married William Winchester, whose father was the creator of the Winchester repeating rifle, and gained an outstanding fortune with her husband along with a placid life. No one had the slightest idea about the bane that would soon strike the family. In 1866, Sarah's infant daughter, Annie, died of marasmus (severe malnutrition) despite there being no known cause for the deficiency. Sarah fell into a depression that soon consumed her when her husband died of tuberculosis in 1881, rendering her the sole heir of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company. With madness gripping at the folds of her sanity, she fled to the comfort of a medium (person with psychic abilities who normally attempt contact with the dead) where she learned that the cause of her misfortune was indeed because of her fortune. Sarah "learned" that the spirits of those killed by Winchester rifles were haunting her and her fortune; the same spirits were also attributed to the cause of her daughter's and husband's deaths, indirectly implying that she would be the next victim. The solution: move west and build a structure that would appease and hopefully exorcise the malicious entities.

With her \$7 million and little less than 50% share in Winchester Rifle's capital stock in hand, she moved to California where she purchased a broken farmhouse and began her supernatural project. Over 38 years she turned the old farmhouse into the majestic mansion that it is, but not by herself; Sarah held nightly séances to commune with the spirits and "learn" how they wanted the house to be built. As an added safety measure, she built the home in ways that would confuse spirits to keep them from harming her, unfortunately also confusing people and leading them into the traps meant for the spirits. Many doors don't open at all, some open to an empty room with no door-knob leading out, windows that are actually doors, rooms with no doors, trapdoors, false walls, and even a door that opens to a 4-story fall. A common motif that repeats throughout the house is the number 13: candle holders that accommodate 13 candles, 13 holes in the sink, 13 different colored gemstones in every window, and a bell that rings every Friday the 13th at 1 pm (13:00). 13 workers were always present during the building of the house, laboring till most of them were unable to move. During the great 1906 earthquake in San Francisco the house that was built to 7 stories crumbled to a still respectable 4 stories; naturally Mrs. Winchester saw this as a sign from the spirits to build the house in a smaller style. Upon her death in 1922, the house still had some broken areas where construction stopped. Today you can visit this house at 525 South Winchester Blvd. in San Jose, California, but don't expect to be alone. The energy created from constant construction and endless mazes has left the area viciously "haunted." Spirits of those killed by the rifles, the workers who built the house and even Sarah Winchester herself are (supposedly) all current residents of the mansion, which is now a tourist spot, and they don't take too kindly to guests. However if you still have the courage to enter their domain, take care not to get lost in the maze of doors, rooms, and hidden spaces, because few people go into the house and even fewer return. Happy Halloween!

## TO STRESS OR NOT TO STRESS

BY NARDEEN GORGY

All seniors share the common feeling of stress and anxiety during this time of the year. Students are overwhelmed with the long and tedious college application process. Their subliminal fears that were tucked away for most of high school are now exploding through the surface. HMSA seniors are thinking of the main factors that will either prove their worth as mavericks or reveal their weaknesses: D/F transcript grades, SAT scores, ACT scores, GPA, scholarships, and financial aid. The reality of college has become the process of actually completing applications. The thought of being rejected from the school of their dreams is adding to the pile of stress. Each senior is literally entering a competition with every student across the nation for acceptance letters. As a result, pressure is building. Feeling stressed isn't a bad thing; it simply means that you're aware that this college application process is important. Whenever you feel stressed and pressured just remember that the only difference between a diamond and a lump of coal is that the diamond had a little more pressure put on it. A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work. -Colin Powell



## PRESIDENTS AND POLICIES

BY MICHAEL CASTILLO



As this year's election reaches its peak, each candidate's political policies are finally being revealed, despite the large amounts of political aphasia. For those who paid close attention to the first presidential debate, one could easily see what each candidate's stance was on a particular topic as long as the viewer disregarded the constant bickering. Topics of discussion during the debate ranged from how the candidates would deal with the current deficit as well as their opinion on energy. Each candidate had two minutes to respond and argue their points using their potential policies as evidence. Though each response was usually filled with criticism for the opponent, one was able to see their opinions on tax breaks, energy alternatives, and ideas for improving the deficit. Keep these policies in mind because one day, you'll find similar ones which may lead you to think, "This did not end well the last time, better not vote for it." That is, if you do vote.

Barack Obama's "plan" (as far as I can tell):	Mitt Romney's "plan" (ditto):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the "Race to the Top" program, a \$4.35 billion program that improves education through a point system (the more points a school earns the more likely they are for increased funds).</li> <li>Lower the tax rate, particularly on manufacturing, to 25%.</li> <li>Reduce the deficit by 4 trillion dollars (involves various cuts in spending that would lower the deficit over the next 10 years).</li> <li>Eliminate tax breaks to companies who ship jobs overseas.</li> <li>Boost USA energy production as well as fund energy alternatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a rating system for schools thus allowing for parents to be more informed about the school they'll be sending their child to as well as alternatives.</li> <li>Provide tax cuts for the middle class but maintain the current tax rate for the upper class.</li> <li>Create a set of principles for lowering the deficit and balancing the budget over the next 8 to 10 years.</li> <li>Strengthen small businesses.</li> <li>Find energy alternatives, such as clean coal, and strengthen energy production.</li> </ul>

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