

STUDENTS RESPOND:

"Should doctors have to be physically fit to keep their license?"

By CHRIS GOMEZ

Yes

Adam Sanchez: What's the point of saying 'be fit & healthy' when you aren't fit & healthy yourself?

Bryan Rojas: Doctors should be required to pass a physical exam to keep their license because patients would be more likely to work out or eat healthier if a doctor is fit.

Amy Garcia: Because people should know if [the doctor] is healthy and nothing is wrong with them.

Chris Moreno: To be a credible doctor they should.

No

Anthony Waters: No of course not. Their job is to make sure other people are healthy. It's their decision whether they want to stay in shape or not, and the occupation shouldn't have anything to do with personal business.

Mesalina Siuane: Well no because [the doctor] doesn't need to be athletic to be a doctor. They [only] have to be smart to be a doctor.

Joseph Wallo: I don't see why they should be forced to. So no.

Christian Rivera: Well, being a doctor requires science, meaning that the doctor should be knowledgeable about whatever their field is. It does not require extensive physical movement, so there is no need for a physical test.

WHAT IS THE SAT?

By Nhi Nguyen

The SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) is a standardized exam that most college and university programs require students to take. It is designed by the College Board and determines whether or not an individual has the basic knowledge needed in order to succeed in a college-level program. The SAT is composed of three primary sections: critical reading, mathematics, and writing. The critical reading section consists of multiple-choice questions that relate to reading comprehension and vocabulary. The mathematics section includes a series of multiple-choice questions and a group of fill-in or "grid-in" questions that relate to basic mathematical concepts. The writing section contains multiple-choice questions related to grammar and sentence structure, and an essay question.

Even though the SAT is one of the most commonly used exams for college admissions, some schools do not require it. Certain programs and universities may require other admission tests for acceptance instead of, or in addition to, the SAT such the ACT or the SAT subject tests. The exact score that an individual must achieve on the SAT in order to gain acceptance varies from program to program and from college to college. Universities do not use the SAT as the only factor for admission. So do not worry if your SAT score isn't so hot; it's not the only factor colleges look at. Most universities consider personal statements, GPA, and other related aspects. However, SAT preparation is always recommended, especially if you are applying for scholarships or looking into competitive schools.



Volunteering

By Jennifer Camacho

As students know, a hundred volunteer hours are required to graduate from HMSA. However, many students have not actually started. Some students don't know where to do their hours, or they think it's impossible to complete them. There are many places students can do their hours. For instance, they can volunteer at local parks, like Eucalyptus Park. If a student is part of a church, he or she can ask to volunteer for church events in exchange for HMSA hours. Students can also volunteer at local clinics or hospitals. These are great ways to volunteer out in the community. Students can also join clubs at HMSA such as Key Club, or Environmental Club. Key Club has numerous weekly events that give community service hours. Key Club also provides a chance to work with other students. Environmental Club gives each member an hour for every meeting they attend; it gives students the chance to have fun as they recycle to help the environment. If a student doesn't want to look throughout their community, or at HMSA, they can also look on websites. Gotfriends.com is a website of Friendship Circle in which students get hours by helping kids with special needs. It is a great way to make friends, and have amazing experiences. The main purpose of community service is to help the community, but indirectly students are helping themselves and growing as people.



Spring Break Interviews

By Kenia Espinoza

Q: What are your plans for this upcoming spring break?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My plan for this spring break is to go to Ecuador for my 18th birthday and go crazy. Woohoo! -Emma Mino Go to the drag races. -Elmer Quezada 	Seniors	Juniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spend time with family and friends, probably to go to Texas and of course spring break homework. -Sandra Gutierrez Eat for sure! -Alfonso Esquivel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My [plan is] to hang out with family. -Yosemite Cala Eat food and watch Cartoon Network. -Christopher Jovel 	Sophomores	Freshmen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm going on a date with a beautiful girl. -Javier Gallegos I'm going to spend time with my girlfriend and work on my sexy body. -Christian Contreras

Be Inspired

By Shamera Johnson

Do you ever get as bored as I do? I'm here to let you know that there's a way to get rid of it; it's called "inspiration." The denotation of inspiration is to stimulate to action; motivate. Allow the things you love to determine your priorities. For instance, if painting is your favorite pastime, use it to make possible connections to your homework or different tasks at work. If the previous statement doesn't seem possible, let your hobby inspire you to finish your work, in a timely manner, so that you can spend more of your time doing what you love to do. Doing the things you enjoy and excelling in school will make you an overall better person. Balancing both school and other activities teaches time management and increases social intelligence. Instead of talking about the three hours of sleep you got from pulling an all-nighter for an AP class, you can talk about how much fun you had playing your guitar with your friends or having game-night with your family. A survey conducted by the Minnesota State High School League in 2007 showed that students who participated in athletics perform better in school than other students. The athletes had an average grade point average of 2.84 compared to 2.68 for students not participating in sports. This proves that when students are inspired or motivated by something they enjoy, they do better academically, even if it is because they have to. The survey also showed that when the activity is important to the student, [they are] more likely to be successful in school so that [they] can remain part of that activity. The National Federation of High School Activities reported that students who participate in extracurricular activities have higher GPAs, better attendance, lower dropout rates, and overall fewer discipline problems. All your bad energy from stress and peer pressure can be put to good use doing something that inspires you. Get out and do something-be inspired!



CHRONICLE

BY TIFFANY GUTIERREZ

Spiderman (and a former president) said, “With great power comes great responsibility.” This is sound advice for the telekinetic teens at the center of Chronicle. This mind-and-fork-bending sci-fi comes from the mind of director Josh Trank. Chronicle ultimately explores the old question - if you had superpowers, would you be good or evil? Andrew (Dane Dehaan) has no idea he’ll have to answer such a pretentious question. He’s just trying to survive high school with his more-popular cousin Matt (Alex Russell). There’s a party Matt convinces Andrew to go to that will be life-changing for him but little do they know we get all this information from the video diary Andrew is keeping. Their lives are changed when they go down a mysterious hole in the ground, find a glowing crystal, and obtain powers. As their superpowers grow, so do the tests of their moral centers. One of the cleverest things is the way the shots are framed so that it really does seem as if we’re seeing things through Andrew’s lens. Chronicle maintains a kind of integrity, where at the end it’s a movie about the joys and dangers of finally having some power over our fate.

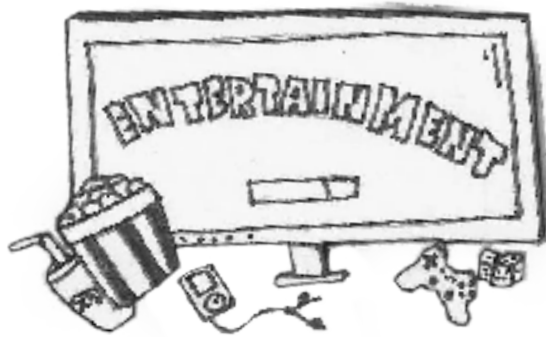
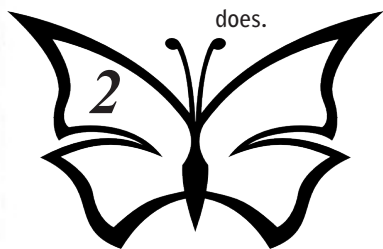


SPOTLIGHT: DAVID RAMOS

BY VICTORIA ROSITO

David Ramos is widely known as an ocarina player, but he still plays many other instruments. He has more than one channel on Youtube: docjazz4, docjazz5, and docjazz6. Docjazz4 is his main channel where he puts reviews, tutorials, and his own music videos. Docjazz5 is his behind-the-scenes and random videos. Docjazz6 is where he uploads 7 videos every week. He has done many covers on the ocarina and has done videos of songs that many people will know. He is well-known in many places and has even had some live concerts. He has started something new where every Wednesday, he will open any mail addressed to him and will read it out loud to his viewers. So far, he has only received a book about ocarina history from a friend in Italy. This is his fifth year of uploading videos. The first video on which he played music was the “Song of Time on Ocarina” from the Legend of Zelda. He recreates music from many games and many of other songs. He also helps the people who want to start playing the ocarina by giving them tips. He even has a website where he gives more information about himself and more about his life as an ocarina player. He can also give lessons to those who wish to be able to play as good as he

does.



RISE AGAINST

By Yasmine Gutierrez

Listening to their catchy songs on the radio is how many fans got addicted to Rise Against in the first place, but there’s so much more to them besides witty lyrics and attractive guitar riffs. Since their first studio album release in 2001, “The Unraveling,” up to their most recent in 2011 with “Endgame,” they’ve never failed to please the audience and move with the ever-changing wave of rock. Though this doesn’t sound like an easy task, Rise Against keeps cranking out the amazing songs like clockwork, never skipping a beat, but this also raises the question: Who is Rise Against?

Whether or not they agree with the title, Rise Against is viewed as one of the most politically-involved bands in the current wave of punk rock. When asked about his view of this, vocalist Tim McIlrath stated that “if caring about what happens in the world we have to live in makes us political, then so be it!” There are many radio singles that even the occasional listener has heard, such as “Satellite,” “Make It Stop,” and “Hero of War,” and they all hold deeper meanings that close-listeners will understand right off the bat: We need a change in this world, and fast. Whether their songs have to do with politics (corruption of powers) or society in general (racism, homophobia, etc), they’ve covered every base imaginable. They begin one of their music videos with a John F. Kennedy quote: “Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.” If that doesn’t grab attention and raise awareness, then nothing will, and they do it without coming across as self-righteous or condescending. Their caring and understanding of what goes on in this generation’s lifetime makes them one of the few artists now-a-days that want something more than just money and attention from their fans, making them true heroes in disguise. At the beginning of every show, Rise Against has the audience raise their fists with McIlrath and chant: “Rise! Rise! Rise!” If they truly believe that their fans are the ones to make the difference, is letting them down really an option?

Rise Against’s music is a sort of sanctuary for those who don’t relate to the rest of society, and when everyone decides to open their ears, eyes, and hearts, that’s when the real change will happen.

“Revolution starts at learning. If you’re not angry, you’re not paying attention.”

~Tim McIlrath

THE HUNGER GAMES

BY AZUCENA CASTILLO

As a fan of The Hunger Games trilogy, I have high hopes for the film. However, this is not to say that I expect the movie to be great. I do think there’s a possibility



that it’ll be a flop. Generally, movies that are based on books tend to rely on the already established fan base of the books, which often results in a bad movie.

After growing used to the fans’ cast selection in fan-made Hunger Games-inspired trailers and music

videos, I was initially displeased when I saw the official cast list. I gradually got used to associating the actors with the characters and was pleased upon seeing that Foxface, a minor character, had not been cut from the movie because as small as her role was in the book, Foxface was an interesting character. So, that is one of the things to look forward to in the movie. Many fans envisioned Cinna as a white male, leading to much shock when it was revealed that Lenny Kravitz was cast as Cinna, Katniss’ stylist. I was shocked as well, but I applaud the casting directors for their choice and look forward to seeing Kravitz’s portrayal of Cinna. So, already there’s two things that make me think of the movie in a positive light: the inclusion of Foxface and the casting of Kravitz.

Movies like Eragon and Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events (disappointing movies if you’ve read the books) both failed to leave the endings open for possible sequels. I fear that the same thing will happen with The Hunger Games. Regardless of how closely the movie sticks to the book and how well the actors present the plot, I don’t think I could consider the movie to be any good if the story is closed off. Even if the movie does not do the book justice, I still hope that film adaptations will be made for Catching Fire and Mockingjay (the second and third legs of the Hunger Games trilogy). It would give the series the opportunity to redeem itself.

The Lorax

By Elsa Oyala

The Lorax opened March 2nd, which was also Dr. Suess’ birthday. Every one of Dr. Suess’ books has a message and this one is no different. This story revolves around a boy, Ted, and his desire to get a real tree to impress the girl of his dreams, Audrey. As he learns more about the disappearance of trees from the Once-ler, the man who cut them all down, he begins to actually care about trees and wants to show his town the importance of planting them. Even though most of the theater was filled with little kids, the entire audience found themselves laughing and enjoying the film. This heart-warming film is perfect for the whole family and makes you want to go plant a tree somewhere.

THE BOYS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM

BY TEMERA EVANS

The boys' volleyball team is electrified for another exhilarating season. Mr. Severns returns as their coach. The team intends to work together and work extremely hard for the upcoming season. Jumping right back into action the team had their first official practice on February 1st, beginning with "conditioning, which included "suicides," pushups, sit-ups, approaches (practice jumps), block jumps (highest jumps), and sprints, all of which happened in forty-five minutes! Clearly, these boys are preparing for the start of the season. One player says, "first practice was [hard]. I'm still a little sore but I love volleyball and this is just a transition from [me] not practicing." "Take hope from the heart of man, and you make him a beast of prey," a quote from Marie Louise De La Ramee Quida is a direct reflection of the team's expectations. Jamal Neal (Junior) and Emanuel Loera (Junior) are both "optimistic [and] hoping for the best." Neal wants to turn the team's weaknesses into their strength. These players are skeptical about this season because experienced talent graduated last year, leaving only two returning players, Neal and Danny Gonzalez (Senior), which leaves the players skeptical about how successful the season will be.

Although some players are uncertain of the team's success they have plenty of motivation to work to their greatest potential to beat extremely-disliked rivals Milken Community High, Pacific Lutheran High, and Firebaugh High. At the mention of these names some players became heated. With enough effort, these players will channel their animosity toward the strength of the team. As a result of Mr. Severns becoming a father (WOOOOO CONGRATULATIONS!), the team is adjusting to the assistant coach Mr. Hazen. The players are expected to work as a team and intend for the best. Their captain, Danny Gonzalez, will be there to keep them motivated and lead them to victory.

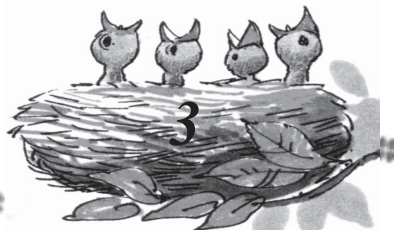
You can support the team by:

- Helping the team while fund raising
 - Joining the team. They are looking for new recruits (especially over six feet tall)
 - Attending their games.
- Support HMSA's Aviators!

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Break down of 2011-2012 UEFA Champions League

By Enrique Ruvalcaba

The 2011-2012 UEFA Champions League is already three-fourths of the way through and it has staged the biggest upsets in the past decades. With the surprise eliminations of English giants, Manchester United and Manchester City, one would think the competition would lack seriousness. Swiss club Basel and Cyprus club APOEL proved to be more austere in performance. While Basel conceded the most goals from all the remaining teams, they managed to get a 1-0 victory in the first leg against German giants and 09-10 UEFA Champions League finalists Bayern Munich. Thus, proving that Basel eliminating Manchester United in group stage was no fluke, it's time that these clubs should be taken more seriously. Continuing their unpredictable run, Bayern will be determined to eliminate Basel since the final will be hosted in Bayern's stadium, Allianz Arena. Cyprus scored the lowest amount of goals out of all the remaining teams, but managed a somewhat positive one-goal loss against the sleeping French giant, Lyon.

This year's Champions League has to go down as one of the worst years for EPL teams. Manchester United being embarrassingly eliminated in the last crucial game of the group stage by a virtually unknown team like Basel adds more to the fire of insults from journalists and fans. EPL suffered another blow when Italian clubs Milan and Napoli both laid their own debacles on English teams. Milan smashed four goals on Arsenal, who were unresponsive. Napoli's Cinderella story continued when they made a remarkable comeback against Chelsea by responding to a one-goal deficit with three of their own. The only Italian disappointment was Inter who lost to French club Marseille 1-0 with a last minute goal by the African wunderkind Andre Ayew.

On to the Spanish clubs, nothing unexpected happened. Obviously Barcelona defeated Bayer Leverkusen so we'll move on with Real Madrid's 1-1 draw with CSKA Moscow, who probably has the coolest name in the competition. It was a decent result for Jose Mourinho's side, since they managed an away goal in Russia, but the 1-1 draw tasted like a bitter loss after CSKA managed a last minute goal to prevent a Madrid win. Continuing with Russian teams, Zenit managed a 3-2 victory against the only Portuguese team remaining in the competition, Benfica.

In the second leg, Benfica won 2-0 and advanced.

Switching back to EPL teams, specifically Arsenal and Chelsea, how much have they regressed from last year? After getting torn apart by Italian teams like zombies, the EPL is basically below Italian Serie A level. Disagree? Well too bad because it will be tough with arguing against England's best two clubs being eliminated in group stages with one of them being eliminated in the most crucial game by a Swiss club! The complete elimination of EPL teams early could be positive for fans as a whole. We won't be seeing the same old English/Spanish teams' dominance over the Champions League. Needed variety will be added on in the quarterfinals and onward. Semifinals with four different teams, each from different countries playing at their top level will add spice to the competition.

With EPL being a complete slob in European competition, could this make Barcelona's run easier to manage the Champions League title? In the long run it will be interesting to see how the Champions League unfolds. The likelihood is that we won't see Basel or APOEL pulling upsets we want to see. Upsets are what make a tournament, competition, or sport more thrilling. Who wouldn't want to see Basel knock off Barcelona or Real Madrid in the quarterfinals or semi-finals? The bottom line is that reality will give us a Spanish-Italian final at Allianz Arena. Whichever Italian team Barcelona faces, it will go down as one of the most exciting finals ever, unlike 09-10's final.

BOY ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

BY MARISELA GOMEZ

The boy athlete of the month for March is a dedicated soccer player, Belmez Reyes (senior). He is happy to be nominated as HMSA's athlete of the month "because



it's the first time [he] got nominated."

Soccer has been part of Reyes' life for an extremely long time, his first soccer game was "with a group of little kids, in a park league."

There is no question as to why he was nominated by

his coach, Mr. Launius. After all, true dedication like Reyes' is not that easy to come by. Even though he has suffered some injuries, such as getting his wrist broken by his uncle during a pickup game, he still loves playing it. "It's a sport that requires a lot of endurance and skill to play."

Although he has a passion for soccer he does not intend to pursue it as a career, but that does not mean that he will give it up. He is dedicated to his sport, and plans on trying out for his college team in the fall. Seeing as how this is Reyes' last year at HMSA he would like to tell his teammates "to keep [their] heads in the game, to not lose confidence even if [they] are losing, and to keep talking on the field."

Girl Athlete of the Month

By Kristine Locsin

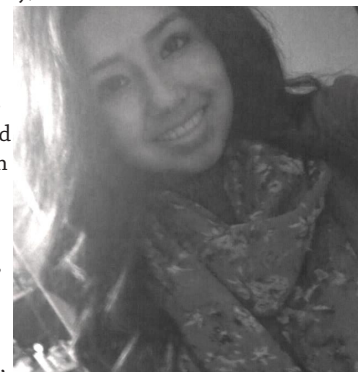
Jessica Vergara, a junior on the girls' soccer team, is the girl athlete of the month for March. She loves to play soccer because it simply makes her happy, which is her attitude during games. Vergara represents a positive energy which is "contagious to the other players on the team and raises their level of play," Mr. Kircher said. She is versatile

on the field; one of her strongest suits is defense, but she also plays very well in the midfielder and forward positions. With this in mind, "she'll be part of a very good core of players returning for next year's team," Kircher said.

To have the passion for a sport takes time, effort, and inspira-

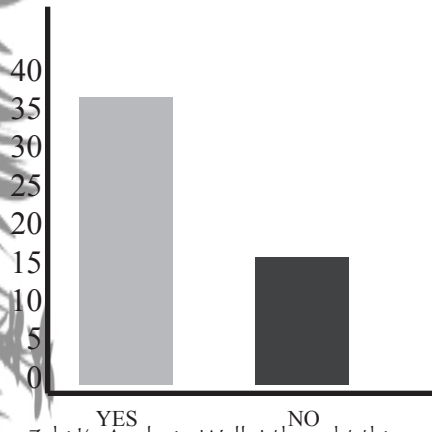
tion. When Jessica was little she did not intend on joining soccer because "it was such a guy's sport." What she had in mind, and still thinks about, is "cheerleading, volleyball, and softball. They've always just seemed so interesting to me," Vergara said. With any sport she has in mind, she has many skills to offer to the team. Her inspiration she said "has always been my dad." She adds, "I've always enjoyed [playing soccer], but I think seeing him so happy is what inspires me to continue playing."

Vergara would like to thank her parents, especially her father who taught her everything she knows; her coach, Mr. Kircher for taking the time to coach them; and her team members, who "did very well and everyone improved so much."



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

All right boys and girls, let's start to get your brains going with the main problem you will never shut up about: relationships. Now, no matter how many solutions you're given, all teenagers will wine and moan about their new "boos." Regardless, let's try to create a miracle and solve one issue: Is it right for one person to change another in a relationship?



Zahid's Analysis: Well, I thought this was another 50/50 question with no real preference. Many people said "yes" and their viewpoint can be understood. When we think of change in a relationship, people assume that it is change for the better. Now this may be the case sometimes, but it is NOT the case all the times. Most people in a relationship want power and so they try to get it by changing another member. This helps to feed their ego and ultimately gives your identity to them, as if it were a mere toy. If the change is something such as making the person quit smoking or leaving the toilet seat up, by all means go ahead, but if it is changing who they are friends with or who they talk to, then it's time to end that relationship. In a true loving relationship we accept the other person with all their faults and qualities. Change is best taken in small quantities and sparingly as too much can trip you out. If one person tries to change another in a relationship, then it is not love...it is marriage.

HEAVEN and Hell

By Matt Dumas

Two roads lie in front of me one to heaven, one to hell
And to each rode the pros and cons I know so well
Heaven is a blissful event I'm always happy when I'm here
Even when I'm troubled I can come and never fear
The perfect place heaven presents to be
Though many of the hell dwellers say I should flee
Next in my dilemma is the complicated hell
Though often burning and seething I take my hazing of a pain I can never tell
A lovely hell I'm in so tempting to figure out
Such a painful ordeal to keep but more hellish to be without
Both lovely and painful I cherish both routes
Though my decision may seem simple you'll never know what I'm about
See I love both but love is ignorance
So as I sit and think my paths have me in a trance
My lovely hell and my heavenly bliss
One will sharpen my wit and one will leave me worry less
So now I must choose which perilous path to walk
So if you would please excuse me I have no time to talk



Where are they now?

1. WHAT COLLEGE DO YOU CURRENTLY ATTEND AND WHAT'S YOUR MAJOR?
2. WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT HMSA?
3. DO YOU BELIEVE HMSA PREPARED YOU WELL FOR COLLEGE? IF SO, HOW?
4. WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE ASPIRATIONS?
5. 5WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT HAD YOU ATTENDED A DIFFERENT SCHOOL?
6. WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT COLLEGE?
7. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE CURRENT HMSA STUDENTS?

Fazila Ma'ije, Class of 2007	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I currently attend UC Irvine and my major is civil engineering.2. I miss being on the softball team and I miss all of my friends.3. Yes, I was more prepared for college in the sense that I knew what levels to study for my various vigorous courses.4. My future aspirations are to become one of the most famous engineers and to have my own company.5. If I had gone to another school, I wouldn't have gotten good grades, I wouldn't have been on the right track, and I wouldn't have had gotten into a good college.6. The best thing about college is learning, going to lectures, and forming life-long relationships.7. If you work hard, anything is possible!	Chiamake Okeke, Class of 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. University of Sussex (England) – Psychology with Neuroscience2. I miss my old friends.3. Yes, easy homework assignments.4. I want to get a PhD and become a psychologist or psychiatrist.5. I think I would have had higher grades and been less stressed out.6. Days with no classes and being in another country.7. Don't let anything stop you from doing what/going where you want in life. Only you can make things happen. If you want to go to a massage school in Alaska, make it happen. Do whatever is going to make you happiest in life.
Leslie Mendez, Class of 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. California State University, Fullerton. My major is business administration; I haven't picked a concentration yet.2. I think the thing I miss most about HMSA is the close, intimate relationships you have with everyone on campus.3. The best thing I learned while at HMSA was time management. With work and school, time management is crucial.4. Eventually, I want to work in health care administration.5. If I hadn't gone to HMSA, I think I would be way more stressed out now.6. The best thing about college is that I guess you get to be an "adult?" It's not as fun as it sounds though, it gets expensive!7. Scholarships, scholarships, scholarships! They always come in handy. Enjoy your time because before you know it, you'll be out!	Edwin Vergara, Class of 2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I attend El Camino and my major is computer engineering.2. Not having to decide what to wear in the morning.3. Yes, because in the long run all the forced homework assignments and studying pays off when you're in class. The things I've learned have put me far ahead from other students in my classes.4. I hope to finish my coursework successfully and see the beginning of my career.5. I probably would have hung out with the wrong crowd and gotten into loads of trouble.6. I go to school for only a few hours a day and that excludes Fridays.7. Don't make the same mistakes you made in high school; as you get older the consequences have tremendous effects.

Human Nature

By Elizabeth Arguellez

Human nature is how a person feels, thinks, and acts. Why is it that certain people cross the road without the green signal or a person persistently avoids conversations with others? Why is it that a single subject can create a conversation among two people who don't even know each other and find something in common in one another? It's human nature for people to turn to a higher deity in times of struggle. Accidental gestures can reveal the emotions of a person unintentionally and students tend to get socially awkward.

Examples of Social Awkwardness at HMSA:

- Need to ask your teacher a question? Stand beside them awkwardly for 10 minutes while they finish a conversation with someone else.
- Finished you exam at the same time as the person next to you? Remain seated for a minute so the teacher doesn't think you cheated.
- Walk into a Michael's Arts and Craft's store... and realize you're wearing a black collared shirt and khakis.
- Tissues in front of the class? Just wipe your nose on your sleeve until the end of class.
- Raise your hand in class due to pure adrenaline.

American Ignorance

By Nardeen Gorgy

It's alarming to find out how ignorant American citizens are. From the results of the poll I conducted, I found out many Americans have trouble answering simple questions like, "who is our vice president?" Almost 33% of adults didn't know who our vice president is and 40% of American teenagers didn't know either. We are living in an age where technology is accelerating, which gives the general impression that people must be knowledgeable. Yet we don't know who our vice president is. The results from the poll also proved that Christina Aguilera wasn't the only one who forgot the words to the national anthem. Surprisingly, 73% of adults and 60% of teenagers didn't even know the name of the national anthem. Questions like "how many senators do we have?" and "what type of economic system do we fall under?" stumped Americans. Many blame this failure on the complexity of the U.S. political system. Is it just us? Are we the only people ignorant of our political system? Research answered these questions. In March 2009, the European Journal of Communication asked citizens of Britain, Denmark, Finland, and the U.S. to answer questions on international affairs. The Europeans vanquished us. Only 58% of Americans could identify the Taliban. On the other hand, 68% of Danes, 75% of Brits, and 76% of Finns could identify the Taliban. Even though we've led the charge in Afghanistan, we couldn't recognize the Taliban. Not only are Americans unaware of international events and problems, they're unaware of their own struggles. I guess Plato was right when he said, "Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber."

