

The Current

The Official Newspaper of Malibu High School
Volume XXVI, Issue 6

JUNE 2015
www.mhscurrent.com

30215 Morning View Dr. Malibu, CA 90265
Published Since 1995

THE AGE OF JACKSON



Natasha Rothenbucher & Kai Brady

STAFF WRITER & NEWS EDITOR
As the 2014-15 school year comes to a close, Principal Dave Jackson, who is leaving Malibu High School after this year, took some time to reflect on his own experiences and memories at MHS.

Jackson arrived at MHS at the beginning of this school year. He had previously served as principal for Calabasas High School, earning a National Blue Ribbon Award and a six-year accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Prior to these accomplishments, Jackson had served as principal or assistant principal at Agou-

ra High School, Royal High School, and other local schools. On July 16, 2014, the SMMUSD board unanimously named Mr. Jackson as interim principal.

"When people ask me how many children I have, I say 1,150 because that is really how I feel," said Mr. Jackson.

"Mr. Jackson is so awesome," MHS senior Caroline Pietrzyk said. "He is so supportive and he really cares about every individual and their success. Once, Mr. Jackson got on the track team's bus to wish them good luck at an away meet."

Mr. Jackson is known for caring about his students, knowing every student's name, and greeting them in the hallway. He tries to attend all school sporting events.

Once, when a softball game and a baseball game occurred at the same time, Mr. Jackson stood in between the two fields to watch both.

Mr. Jackson said that one of his favorite moments was during Halloween, when a student dressed up as the principal himself. Mr. Jackson said that the student yelled "cut that out" at some students in the hallway, to which they replied, "No problem Mr. Jackson." Jackson said, "They didn't even know it wasn't me!"

"I loved high fiving and low fiving the kids and leading a cheer at the basketball game," Jackson said. "It really has been a unique and fun time."

Mr. Jackson also commented on

his relationship with the faculty at MHS. "The faculty is great; we are having a great time," he said. "I respect our faculty very much."

Many faculty members shared mutual opinions with Mr. Jackson. MHS English teacher Mrs. Thoreson said, "Mr. Jackson has taken a staff that was divided and demoralized and really unified and brought us up."

"It's been a real pleasure to work with Mr. Jackson," said math and science teacher Mr. Corrigan. "What I have noticed about him is that he is a real problem solver. When he sees something broken he takes it on, head on, and does not wait to fix problems."

Mrs. Thoreson calls Mr. Jack-

son "Action Jackson" due to his problem-solving reputation. He recently implemented a new schedule system for the upcoming 2015-16 school year, one that designates Monday, Tuesday, and Friday as normal days and Wednesday and Thursday as block schedule days.

Mr. Jackson, his care for Malibu High School, and all the memories he, the students, and faculty have shared will truly be missed.

Next year's principal is yet to be decided. "I hope the new principal will listen to the kids," Jackson said. "That's one thing I've done all year long."

"Make sure you give the new principal a chance," Mr. Jackson said. "Nobody is as crazy as I am."

Obama Attempts to Improve Relations with Cuba



HANDSHAKE: President Obama meets with Castro. Photo by Reuters.

Parker Bowling
STAFF WRITER

On April 11, President Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro met at the Summit of the Americas in Panama in hopes of restoring diplomatic ties between the two nations.

This is not the first time President Obama worked to solve problems with Cuba. On Dec. 17, 2014 Obama and Castro made it public that America and Cuba would be restoring full diplomatic ties. In January, Obama lifted restrictions on traveling to Cuba, now allowing Americans to go without first applying for and receiving a government license.

The meeting was the first formal dialogue between the United States and Cuba since the countries severed diplomatic ties in 1961, followed by “The Bay of Pigs” invasion, a U.S. plan that failed to stop Fidel Castro’s communist regime. The years surrounding and following “The Bay

of Pigs” invasion consisted of much hostility between the countries, which only worsened when Cuba worked with Russia against the United States during the “Cuban Missile Crisis.”

As reported by Fox News, Obama said, in regards to Castro and himself, “What we both concluded is that we can disagree with a spirit of respect and civility. And overtime, it is possible for us to turn the page and develop a new relationship between our new countries.”

The United States and Cuba’s last meeting being in 1958, this encounter was said to be a success and a step forward in America’s diplomacy with foreign nations.

Fox News states, “Obama thanked Castro ‘for the spirit of openness and courtesy that he has shown during our interactions’ and pledged to do whatever he could to ‘make sure that the people of Cuba are able to prosper and live in freedom and security.’”

New Apple Products Unveiled



APPLE WATCH: Apple’s first endeavor into the smartwatch field. Photo by CNET.

Kai Brady
NEWS EDITOR

On March 9, Apple Computer Inc. announced two new products: the new MacBook and the heavily anticipated Apple Watch. Pre-orders for both devices began on April 10, and the digital commerce website Slice Intelligence estimated that 957,000 people ordered the Watch alone on the first day it was available.

The Apple Watch is Apple’s first foray into the “smartwatch” field, joining the likes of companies such as Samsung and Pebble. Along with the typical functions of a watch, the Apple Watch can receive and send messages, make calls, track the user’s steps and heartbeat, and play music. It is also compatible with the latest Apple software, including the

digital payment system Apple Pay. Most features require an iPhone, which can be connected over Bluetooth or WiFi.

The Watch comes in three models: the standard Apple Watch, the more durable Sport, and the elegant and expensive Edition. The Sport starts at \$349, the standard Watch starts at \$549, and the Edition starts at \$10,000 due to an 18-karat gold plating. All models feature a Retina display touch screen and come with a variety of watch bands.

MHS sophomore **Micah Semler** said he did not expect the Watch to become a popular seller. He thought the standard and Sport models were reasonably priced, but also said, “I wouldn’t pay \$10,000 for a gold Apple Watch.”

The new MacBook features a 12-inch screen and measures only

0.14 inches at its thinnest point. Despite this, it can run for nine hours on a single battery charge according to Apple. The technology review website CNET said that it reached “11 hours in [their] video playback test.”

Most unique about the new MacBook is its single port for both input and output, known as USB-C. This replaces the various ports found on the sides of most laptops, although adapters are available if needed. Another feature is the laptop’s new “force touch” trackpad, which allows users to click anywhere on the trackpad rather than only in a certain area. The new MacBook’s price starts at \$1299.

According to Forbes, both products are expected to sell well and thus far both have been awarded favorable reviews.

Printing Taken to a New Dimension

Ashley Wallach
STAFF WRITER

3D printing went from being theoretical to a reality in 1984, and in recent years 3D printers have become cheaper to produce. Several models are now available for sale, as well as printable designs for products. 3D printer expert Dr. Phil Reeves predicted that 3D printers will be common in homes in coming years. 3D printing can create a range of commercial and manufacturing products.

The technology holds promise for bioprinting human parts for medical purposes. In 1983, Hull invented the 3D printer in Valencia, California in order to create things that many thought were impossible to replicate.

Miami Children’s Hospital used 3D printing to print a replica of four-year-old Adaenelie Gonzalez’s heart so they could plan for a complicated surgery to save her life. Gonzalez suffers from a vein pumping blood to the wrong place in her heart. It was estimated she would only live for a few more weeks. Using the 3D model, the cardiovascular surgeons were able to preform a surgery using parts from a donor heart. The surgery was successful and she is currently recovering in the hospital.

In Japan, scientists have made progress towards using a 3D printer to fabricate custom-made skin, bones, and joints. Dentists can create stone

models, orthodontic appliances, delivery and positioning trays, retainers, and surgical guides at an affordable cost and in almost any size lab.

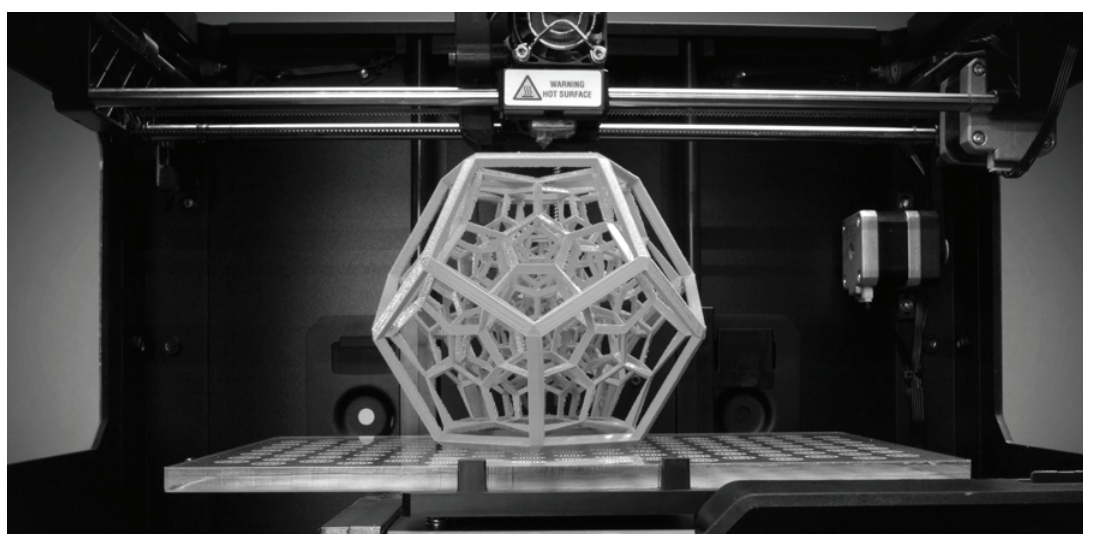
A specialized 3D printing style was developed by Tanner Carden, a sophomore at University of Alabama that uses lattices made of sugar that mimics blood vessels, allowing cells to grow around the sugar structure.

Unlike flat cellular samples, 3D-printed cells resemble cells in their natural environment and are fed by vessel-supplied nutrients to maintain vitality. In the next 20 years, it will become an every day event to actually print a liver or a heart.

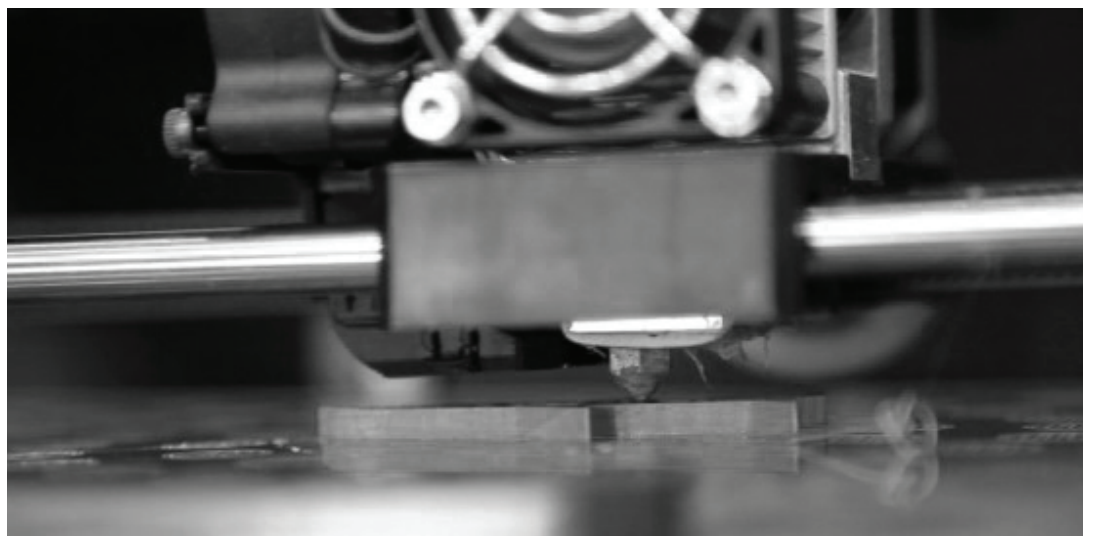
In 2013, Obama said in his State of the Union address, “3D printing has the potential to revolutionize the way we make almost everything.” From medical supplies to larger projects in industrial design and engineering, technology in the printing field is advancing rapidly.

3D printing is plays a role in the manufacturing industry by eliminating waste from traditional manufacturing. A company called Airbus that creates aircraft designed to carry a large number of passengers economically, especially over relatively short routes has announced that by the year 2050, they hope to print their entire aircraft.

With one more dimension added to the printer, a life-printing generation has just begun.



3D PRINTING: The MakerBot Replicator, a popular 3D printer. Photo by CNN.



ON THE JOB: A 3D printer begins to create an object. Photo by IB Times.

Teachers' Summer Plans



Photos by Nolan Webster and from Lagoon Sensation

Cubbie Kile
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

With the school year coming to an end, students are not the only ones anticipating the beginning of summer. Malibu High teachers have already planned how they are going to spend their time away from the classroom.

Some MHS teachers are using their time off to be with their family. **Mr. Ervin** is planning to go on day trips down to San Diego and up to the Bay area because his upcoming wedding will soon require the vast majority of his time.

Ervin said "We are going on no big trips this summer. Instead, I will finish planning for my wedding in October. Some wedding

meetings and all that fun stuff."

Mr. Carrier is preparing for a new addition to his family. Carrier is looking forward to being home with his expecting wife and is excited for the arrival of his daughter.

Carrier said, "Hopefully, we can go on a few little trips to celebrate our one-year anniversary. There is something called a babymoon, which is like a honeymoon where you go on a trip to celebrate the imminent birth of your child. So, we will maybe go to Hawaii for our babymoon and one year anniversary."

Mr. Mayle has three trips planned for his summer break and is looking forward to good times with family and friends.

Mayle said, "Right after school ends, my wife's cousin is getting

married in Spain. In July, I am going to Michigan because my parents live there, and I am going to vacation there for a week. Then in late July I am going to Squirrel Island, Maine, which is where I got married and my wife and I go every year."

A few teachers have more adventurous plans. **Mr. Wadsworth** is going to spend a lot of time on the east coast this summer. He will also be attending a friend's wedding in Massachusetts, and while in New England, he is going to Maine to camp and rock climb.

Wadsworth said, "I am going to Acadia National Park over the summer to go camping and rock climbing."

Mr. Corrigan has many road trips planned for this summer. He

is going on a baseball road trip where he will see six games over the course of a week. Then, he begins his west coast road trip by catching up with his dad, who will also be road tripping with a friend. Together they will see Denver and Seattle.

Additionally, Corrigan said "I am joining my college friends for a four day canoe trip in the boundary waters of Minnesota. Then after the road trips, I am going to come back and hike in the Sierras."

MHS teachers are just as ready to leave this campus for the year as you, so make sure to wish them a good summer before you run out their doors on the last day of school.

A Mission for Nutrition



Ashley Wallach
STAFF WRITER

At Malibu High School, there are foods and drinks being sold at the campus cafeteria that break Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District nutrition policies and regulations. A majority of the foods in violation are served through the vending machine, such as Gatorade, Sconza Sour Worms, and Minute Maid Pink Lemonade.

According to the California Department of Education, snacks are not allowed to have more than 35 percent of its total weight composed of sugar, including naturally occurring and added sugar. The added sugar content of Sconza Sour Worms is 79 percent, 44 percent over the requirement. The State of California's beverage policy indicates that no added sweeteners are allowed in drinks, but Gatorade contains high fructose corn syrup, sucrose syrup, sucralose, and acesulfame potassium, all of which are artificial sweeteners. Minute Maid Pink

Lemonade's added sugar content is 77 percent higher than the state's policy, at 112 percent.

"I think there are many different ways we could be doing things and no one wants to bother to change it," said Freshman Seminar teacher, **Sarah Ryan**. "I've tried contacting the director of food services, Orlando Griego, who said that 'Kids like to buy churros and cookies and they are not going to want to buy healthy food.' We tried to get healthy food but he didn't let anyone know that healthy food was available, so no one bought it."

Freshman **Annie Armitage** said, "The cafeteria doesn't give students enough healthy options for their lunch. They are selling only unhealthy foods like churros, chips, and cookies. Students who are not able to bring their own lunch have no other option than to buy these foods. The only way we can get this to change is with support for both students and faculty."

With these arising concerns

about nutrition at MHS, progress is being made. In 2011, Malibu parents started to notice the lack of nutrition in the cafeteria's flavored milk. SMMUSD parents and nutritional experts argued that the extra two teaspoons of sugar in chocolate milk were a needless contribution to the growing childhood obesity epidemic. However, a majority of the board, as well as district staff and other parents said, "Chocolate milk is needed to entice children to drink milk in order to combat calcium deficiency. Without the sugar, students would not be encouraged to get the calcium they need."

Dr. Mayer Davidson, former president of the American Diabetes Association said, "Chocolate milk is not the cause of childhood obesity and children needed the calcium in milk to prevent osteoporosis later in life."

"Sugar does not cause diabetes [and] chocolate milk does not cause obesity," Mayer said. "We have enough Vitamin D and calcium deficiencies in low-income kids. Don't make their risk factors

worse."

As stated in the Malibu Times article "Divided School Board Votes Against Chocolate Milk Ban," Dr. Fred Zimmerman, a professor of public health at UCLA and parent of two children in the district, disagreed. "Lower-income parents are just as dedicated to their children's wellbeing as parents of upper income," Zimmerman said. "Give them the information and they'll make the correct decision."

As part of the district staff's recommendation against the ban, District Chief Financial Officer, Jan Maez promised that a comprehensive review of all foods served in district schools would soon be underway. The parents' concerns on unhealthy milk was relieved when the district banned flavored milk in schools.

As for what students can do, demanding healthier foods from the district could lead to a cleaner diet at MHS.

the current

VOLUME XXVI, ISSUE III
WWW.MHSCURRENT.COM
PUBLISHED SINCE 1995

Special thanks to the MHS PTSA, the Shark Fund, Yanete Morales, Joe DiMercurio, and most of all Rachel Stowell

Editors

Editors-in-Chief:
Olivia Cerio
Emma Kelly

Managing Editor:
Sakura Smith

News Editor:
Kai Brady

Campus Life Editor:
Cubbie Kile

Features Editor:
Olivia Cerio

A&E Editor:
Zoe Detweiler

Opinion Editor:
Caitlin Myers

Sports Editor:
Nicholas Kianpoor

Humor Editor:
Emma Kelly

Graphics Editor:
Olivia Cerio

Staff Writers

Parker Bowling
Alec Rascoe
Natasha Rothenbutcher
Erik Vargas
Ashley Wallach

First Place with Special Merit:
American Scholastic Press Association
2005, 2004

Outstanding Investigative Reporting:
American Scholastic Press Association 2005

Outstanding Photography:
American Scholastic Press Association
2004

Best Staff Editorial, First Place:
L.A. Times Student Journalism Awards 2004

Best News Story, Second Place:
L.A. Times Student Journalism Awards 2003

Best Sport Photo, Second Place:
L.A. Times Student Journalism Awards 2003

Outstanding Sports Reporting:
Quill and Scroll Society, 2005

SUBMIT TO THE NEW LITERARY MAGAZINE

Send short stories, poetry, photography, artwork, and more to

malibulitmag@gmail.com

CONTACT US

For Advertisement Inquiries at:
current.info.mhs@gmail.com
or submit

GUEST COLUMNS to:
current.editor.mhs@gmail.com



Check out our website:
www.mhscurrent.com

AMPS

ADVOCATES FOR MALIBU PUBLIC SCHOOL

**Our Mission: To create an independent
Malibu School District
dedicated to excellence in education
for the Malibu Community.**

Visit Our Website and Endorse Our Cause - www.ampsmalibu.org
AMPS is a 501c(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible

HUMANS OF MALIBU



“It’s so hard to say that one or a few certain things shaped me to be who I am today because I think every relationship and everyday events shaped me to be who I am today. I think a lot of change in a person is very gradual and one doesn’t notice it until they look back and see how far they have come.” -**Izzie Hack**, junior



“Don’t ask me my key to happiness because I don’t know that one.” -**Dillion Orian**, senior



“Don’t take in people’s personal opinions because they affect how you want to live your life, and I feel like that will bring you down the most because you’re always trying to be that perfect Barbie doll or something. Now I don’t care.” -**Micole Nuñez**, sophomore



“I like my music, I pray a lot, and I try to look out for other people if I can.” - **Donald Myles**, custodian

AMPS

ADVOCATES FOR MALIBU PUBLIC SCHOOLS

It's Clear...!

... Independent Santa Monica and Malibu school districts are better for the children and residents of *both* communities.

We're Endorsed By:

- Boys & Girls Club of Malibu
- Malibu Special Education Foundation
- All Four Malibu PTAs
- Malibu Association of Realtors
- All Five City Council Members
- Malibu Chamber of Commerce

.....and more to come

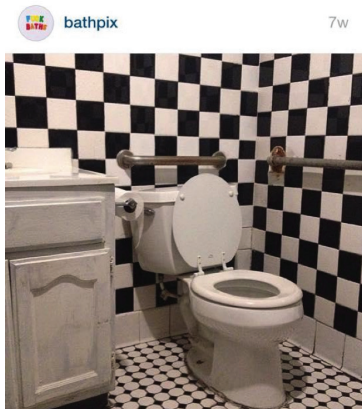


It's Feasible

- We have two research studies that confirm separation is feasible and outlines the pathway to separation.

www.AMPSmalibu.org
amps@ampsmalibu.org
 (310) 734-2021

Instagrams You Should Follow



Zoe Detweiler
A&E EDITOR

Scrolling through Instagram often gets mundane. The endless stream of pictures of the beach, selfies, food, sunsets, dogs (just kidding, why would anyone complain about pictures of dogs?), inspirational quotes, hiking, and more pictures of the beach begins to remind you of the unstoppable repetition of your daily life, the humdrum nature of the pattern you are trapped in.

Instagram has 200 million users, so discovering new accounts to follow can be overwhelming. It's easy to miss accounts that provide humor, fun facts, cute animals, or cool looking pictures. Here are some accounts to enrich your Instagram experience:

Accounts such as **@heads.n.stuff**, **@legwatch**, **@neonnewyorkcity**, and **@bathpix** consist of submissions from users of photos with a specific concentration such as heads with stuff on them, legs, bathrooms that are pleasing to the eye, and neon signs, respectively. These accounts are particularly entertaining because users can participate by submitting their own photos, and allow for newfound appreciation for things that might be otherwise overlooked.

Other submission based accounts, such as **@aesthetic.archive**, **@snazzyplatez**, and **@emotionalfaces** provide unique

insight to how instagram users see the world. **@aesthetic.archive** is submissions of photos that the user considers aesthetically pleasing. From pictures of playgrounds to linoleum floors, **@aesthetic.archive** has something for everyone that is "so your aesthetic". **@snazzyplatez** is a collection of "snazzy" license plates seen while on the road. **@emotionalfaces** includes submitted photos of "found" faces, or faces seen in everyday life, such as in signs, machines, clothing, and buildings.

@litterati is dedicated to cleaning the planet one piece of litter at a time. The idea behind the account with more than 17.5 thousand followers, is that people find a piece of litter, post a photo of it on Instagram with #litterati, and then throw out the piece of litter out. The account recently posted that over 125,000 photos have been posted with the hashtag litterati, so the account's impact is growing larger everyday.

Food accounts are often difficult to find variety in. However, **@challahhub** is an exception. Challah Hub posts recipes and photos of the "best and craziest Challah creations" and is a manifestation of heaven for Challah enthusiasts such as myself. Daily challah pictures are a welcome surprise (except during passover they only post pictures of matzah).

@shrams, while not strictly being a food account, is absolute-

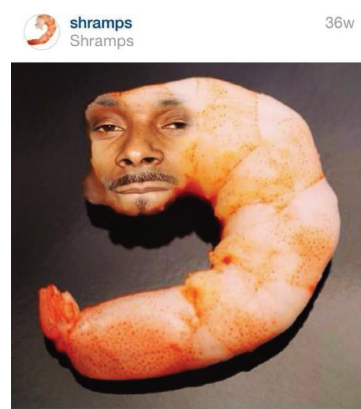
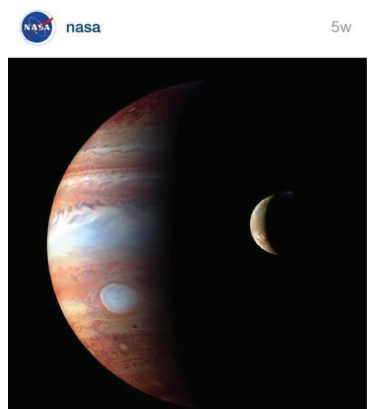
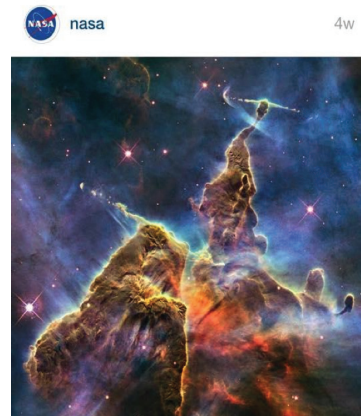
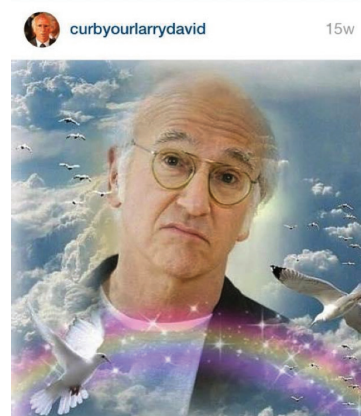
ly worth following for its poorly photoshopped pictures of celebrities faces' onto shrimp. Highlights include "Shrampi Minaj", "Barack Shrampama", "Shramp DeMarco", and "Snoop Shramp".

If I had to give out MVP awards to Instagram accounts, it would be a tie between three: **@pamlovesferrariboys**, **@nasa**, and **@curbyourlarrydavid**.

@pamlovesferrariboys is a chronicle of the daily life of Pam, the baddest bulldog on the block. Her self-proclaimed motto is "LIVE FAST DIE YOUNG BULLDOGS DO IT WELL", typed just like that in all caps. Pam works hard and plays hard, as evidenced by her posts professing her love of sunglasses, toddler sized Jeeps, and tiny dog shoes.

@nasa is the verified account of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The account posts photos from the hubble space telescope or the International Space Station, often along with facts about the planet, nebula, or galaxy shown. The photographs are absolutely out of this world.

@curbyourlarrydavid is a novelty account that provides your daily dose of Larry David. Videos and photos of the Seinfeld co-creator are posted each day, eliminating that slightly uneasy feeling that you're missing something out of life. I am here to tell you: **@curbyourlarrydavid** is what you've been missing.



All Subjects Tutoring Service

Excellent Rates! We Come To You!

President
Randy Stover

5800 Kanan Rd #150
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

(818) 645-8685
allsubjectstutoring@yahoo.com
www.allsubjectstutoring.net

SPRUZZO

Restaurant & Bar

Organic - Fresh - Sustainable

29575 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY
MALIBU, CALIFORNIA 90265
310.457.8282
OPEN DAILY FROM 11 AM

Cannes Has Is-shoes

Zoe Detweiler
A&E EDITOR

The 68th annual Cannes Film Festival came to a close after its 11-day run last week in Cannes, France, and contained conflicted messages about the future of women in film. The internationally acclaimed festival featured 19 features in competition, and while not entered in competition, the opening film of the festival was a French language film *Standing Tall*, directed by Emmanuelle Bercot. It was only the second time a woman had directed the opening film, which was screened during the opening ceremony.

The film's themes were a response to the Charlie Hebdo shooting that occurred in France earlier this year, where Muslim extremists killed 17 people in response to the satirical magazine portraying images of the prophet Muhammed. The shooting led

to increased precaution and security at the festival, reported The New York Times. People around the world saw the shooting as a threat to freedom of speech around the world, as many celebrities displayed their support of the people of France and Charlie Hebdo, such as George Clooney did at this year's Oscars by wearing a Je Suis Charlie pin.

Gender barriers were also broken down when French director Agnès Varda became the first female to be presented with the an honorary Palme d'Or, the highest award given at the festival. Varda has over 50 directing credits, ranging from full-length feature films to documentary shorts. According to an interview with Variety, Varda has "never wanted to be labeled a feminist filmmaker",



Photo from Getty Images

however, she does call herself a feminist.

Themes of female empowerment carried on throughout the festival, as the official poster contained a photograph of famous Swedish actress Ingrid Bergman, best known for her roles in *Casablanca* (1942), *Notorious* (1946), and

For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943). She is widely considered one of the greatest Hollywood actresses. The Swedish documentary about her, Ingrid Bergman: In Her Own Words, was screened at the festival as part of the tribute in her honor.

However, the festival came under scrutiny after multiple women were turned away from screenings for not wearing high heels on the red carpet. The festival maintains a formal dress code, which

includes tuxedos and black shoes for men and expects formal dresses with heels for women. The women were turned away by the "hosts" of the festival, or people who act as security guards to the entrance of screenings. It has also been reported that a few men were told that they must change

out of their brown shoes in order to match the black-shoe dress code of the red carpet. Many women are physically unable to wear high heels and could therefore not attend premieres of the films. Asif Kapadia, director of the new Amy Winehouse documentary *Amy*, said that his wife was at first not allowed to enter his film's premiere because of her flat footwear, although was eventually let in after explaining who she was. The festival director, Thierry Fremaux, said on Twitter that the reason for turning away the women was "baseless" and that there was no such rule, and that the hosts will be reminded of the

Although significant advancements have been recently made by women in the film industry, events such as Cannes present evidence that equality has yet to be gained.

Explore Your City This Summer

Zoe Detweiler
A&E EDITOR

Summer in Malibu can sometimes feel repetitive and full of tourists. Luckily, Los Angeles is just a quick car or bus ride away with an infinite amount of things to do!

1. Museum of Jurassic Technology

Culver City (\$5 for students)

A tiny museum full of bizarre articles and information that may or may not be made up. Has a tea room and a rooftop courtyard where you can hang out with white doves. If you feel like pondering the mysteries of the world that you never knew existed, this museum is the perfect place.

2. Hollywood Forever Movie Nights

Hollywood Forever Cemetery (\$12)

Movies ranging from Dazed and Confused to Vertigo are showing throughout the summer in the same cemetery where George Harrison, DeeDee and Johnny Ramone, Hattie McDaniel, and the dog who played Toto in The Wizard of Oz have graves.

3. Griffith Park Hikes

Griffith Park (Free)
You can hike to the Hollywood Sign, the abandoned LA Zoo, and the cave used

as the Batcave in the 1960s Batman TV series. Perfect for some outdoor exercise while sightseeing.

4. The Getty

Bel Air (Admission Free, Parking 15\$) Besides the world-renowned collection of both modern and ancient art, the Getty has lovely gardens with the best view of Los Angeles you can find. Idea for a long afternoon or day out with friends.

5. The Chandelier Tree

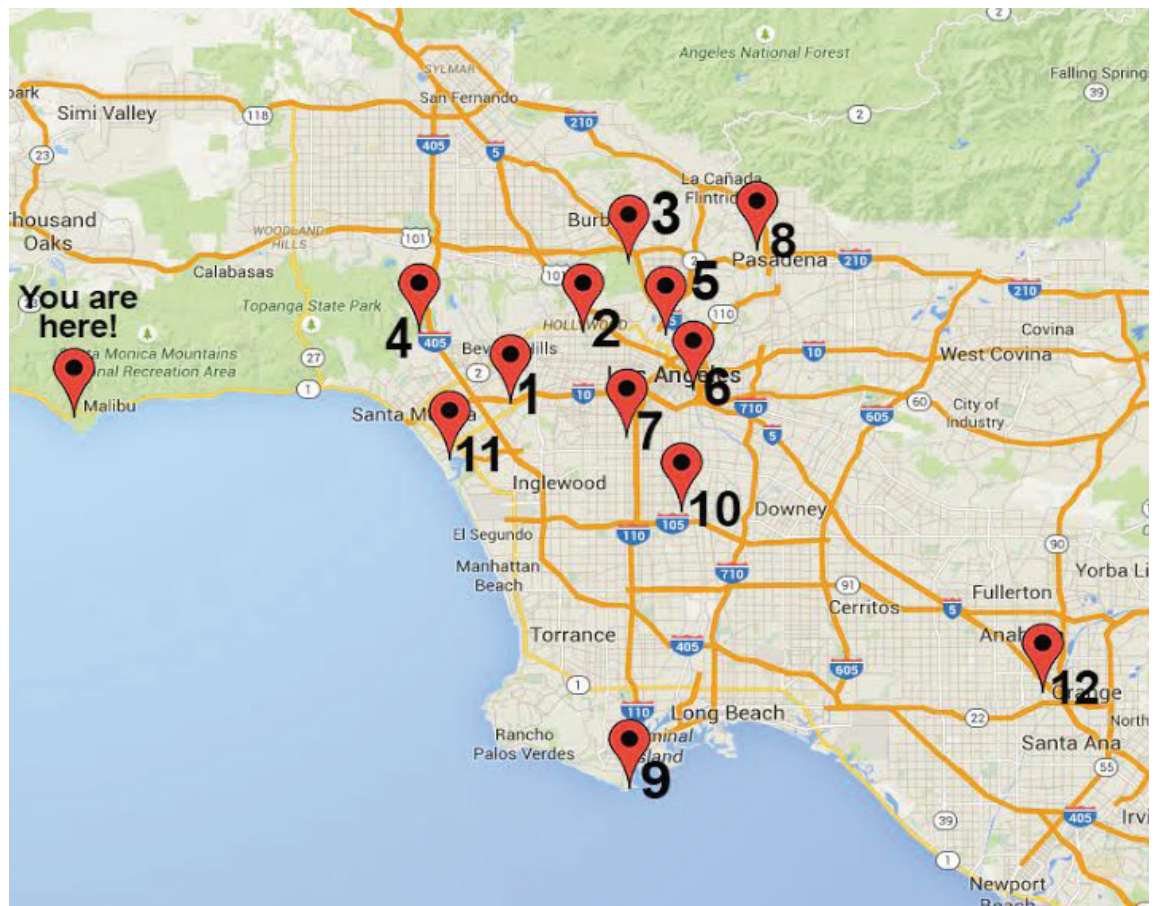
Silverlake (Free)
Explore Silverlake while searching for this famous tree decorated with chandeliers by artist Adam Tenenbaum. It was featured in its own documentary and enchants anyone who visits it.

6. The Last Bookstore

Downtown LA (Admission Free, Books cost money)
Amazing large bookstore in a former bank. Has art installations, secret rooms, sculptures made out of books, and both used and new books. Perfect addition to a day exploring downtown.

7. Butterfly Pavilion and the Natural History Museum

LA (\$14, or free for members of the Museum)
Visit butterflies throughout the summer at the Natural



History Museum in Exposition Park. Perfect for a fun day outside, appreciating nature.

8. Gamble House

Pasadena (\$12.50 for students, \$8 on Tuesdays)
One of the best examples of the Arts and Crafts architectural style in the nation, this National Historic Landmark is open for tours. Used as Doc Brown's house in the Back to the Future Trilogy, this Japanese-inspired house is a recognizable Los Angeles landmark.

9. Korean Friendship Bell and Park

San Pedro (Free)
This large bell that was

gifted to the United States from Korea, and is located in Angel's Gate Park, overlooking the ocean. The park is a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument and is perfect for a picnic, flying a kite, or just a casual day outdoors.

10. Watts Towers

Watts (\$3 for under age 18)
Giant spires made of concrete over rebar and decorated with a mosaic are squeezed into a corner of the Watts Neighborhood. Built by an Italian immigrant and designated as a National Historic Landmark, a tour of the towers is great if you are looking to immerse yourself in Los Angeles history.

11. Great Wall of Los Angeles

San Fernando Valley (Free)
One of the longest murals in the world (over 6 city blocks) is painted on part of the drainage system of the Valley. It chronicles the history of LA and is amongst the best public art the city has to offer.

12. Crystal Cathedral

Garden Grove (Free)
An incredible feat of architecture, this church in Orange County is the largest glass building in the world, with a large, reflective surface covering the sanctuary and a prayer spire that is well known in Southern California architecture.

Superheroes and Sexism: *Age of Ultron* disappoints

Sonny Thatcher
STAFF WRITER

As the school year comes to a close, the Summer Movie Season is already well under way, with movies such as *Mad Max: Fury Road* and *Tomorrowland* currently gracing the screens with many more to come. A market dominated primarily by Marvel Studios, the superhero movie has grown so much in popularity it has become its own genre. Audiences can't seem to get enough of the viewing experience that comes with watching men in spandex somewhat ironically destroying the large cities they are attempting to protect, with superhero movies making over three million dollars in box-office earnings each. Audiences are not burned out and won't be any time soon.

Superheroes are the pinnacle of modern popular culture. *The Avengers* made \$623,357,910, making it the second highest grossing film of all time, according to box-office.com. So while superhero movies are often viewed as fun, mindless popcorn flicks, their status in pop culture gives them the unusual weight of also being a reflection of modern American culture. In many ways superheroes are the myths of modern-day America, and these films contain the ideals of the society they are created within.

Of course, with the positive aspects of modern culture seen in superhero movies, the negative aspects are also evident.

The most prominent of these is the misogynistic portrayal of female characters. This was carried over into Marvel's most recent picture, *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, released in May. While it received a 75% on Rotten Tomatoes, it has already grossed higher than any other film this summer at over 400 million dollars.

Age of Ultron has received serious backlash from fans disappointed by the portrayal of characters in the film. Joss Whedon, the writer and director of the movie, was flooded with hate-tweets on his twitter page. The resentment received was primarily related to the portrayal of one of the few prominent female characters in the movie being wasted.

Black Widow, a spy and agent of government organization S.H.I.E.L.D. has been a member of the Marvel cinematic universe since her introduction in *Iron Man 2*. While she is often portrayed as strong and able to hold her own, her flat character development has been the primary topic of criticism pointed in Black Widow's direction. Throughout the more recent films such as *The Avengers* and *Captain America: the Winter Soldier*, however, she has become more and more relevant in the expansion of the universe. So one can imagine the shock and disappointment that audiences felt when the film was released and had Black Widow playing the role of the damsel in distress in the film's third act, leaving her to be saved by

her love interest Bruce Banner. To the great dismay of many, this was not the only sexist moment in the film (spoilers ahead).

At one point towards the movie's halfway mark, Black Widow explains to Bruce that as part of her training to become a spy she was made infertile and calls herself a "monster". The concept of a woman becoming a monster because of her inability to carry children portrays the message

der role, then that is a reflection of how women are viewed by large in current American culture.

While the misogyny claims affiliated with *Age of Ultron* have caused a significant stir, the film is far from the first sexist superhero movie.

Actually, compared to other superhero movies that have been released over the years, the film's sexism is relatively tame. Casual misogyny has been

into superhero movies.

When *Catwoman* was released in 2004, it would have been easy for audiences to expect an empowering feminist film to stand proudly along the other superhero films coming out at the time.

Warner Brothers delivered an underdeveloped superheroine whose character was reliant entirely on the physical attraction of star Halle Berry rather than any personality traits the character may have possessed. Instead of making an effort to create a developed, interesting female superhero, they are instead por-

to men, even in a modern context.

This inequality between men and women is a major issue today, but also one that is more often than not swept under the rug or laughed off. Despite the casualness that people treat it with, it is a serious concern.

For example, a white woman will only receive seventy seven cents to every man's dollar, with women of color making significantly less. Feminists have been attempting to rectify such social injustices for years, but casual sexism continues to be a primary issue. The sexism in *Age of Ultron* did not go over quietly. Whereas many films in the past have supplied nonchalant misogyny in heavy doses to audiences with their wallets wide open, a large portion of the internet expressed a distaste for the fa-

voritism the film held for men.

If people are becoming more aware of sexism in modern culture and its portrayal in modern film, that leaves room for change in both realms.

Recently the blockbuster film *Mad Max: Fury Road* was released to adoring audiences

with the film grossing over 90 million dollars in Box-Office returns. During pre-production director George Miller consulted writer and feminist Eve Ensler (of *The Vagina Monologues*) to enhance this portrayal of the female characters. As a result of this, the film has received high praise for both being a well-crafted action spectacle as well as its portrayal of nonchalant feminism.

If audiences continue the path set by the criticism against sexism in *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, it is very possible that soon superhero films will reflect a totally different cultural viewpoint on women, one that is equal and progressive rather than sexist and reeking of the mindset of the 1950s.



MODERN HEROES? Center: *Age of Ultron*, Clockwise from left: Scarlett Johansson as Black Widow, Halle Berry as Cat Woman, Charlize Theron as Furiosa, Joss Whedon on the *Age of Ultron* set

that the only use of a woman is to carry children, and if she is unable to do so, then she is a monster.

Many audience members were angered by this, especially among the previously developed fan base of Joss Whedon, who was renowned for his strong female characters in cult shows such as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Firefly*.

During the press tour surrounding the film, actors Chris Evans (Captain America) and Jeremy Renner (Hawkeye) jokingly referred to Black Widow as a "slut". While Evans later apologized, blaming his immaturity on fatigue from the many interviews the cast had endured, Renner did not show any regrets for his comments.

"Mind you, I'm talking about a fictional character and fictional behavior," said Renner in an interview with Conan O'Brian.

Even Whedon, who is often lauded as a feminist, did not escape the film without controversy.

When asked by BuzzFeed about the disdain he had been treated with on social media, he replied with "When you declare yourself politically, you destroy yourself artistically. If you don't live up to the litmus test of feminism in this one instance, then you're a misogynist. It circles directly back upon you."

Both statements neglect the cultural impact held by the film itself. How the characters are viewed reflects how people are actually viewed. If Black Widow is thought of as a "slut" because of the ramifications of her gen-

a problem in comic book movies since their conception. In the 70's, when the first *Superman* movie was released, Clark Kent's love interest Lois Lane was portrayed as practically useless. Her pres-

ence never makes a significant contribution to the story of the film unless she dies, which leads Superman to fly around the planet in an effort to turn back time so he can save her.

The worst part of this is, even when Lane's presence does become relevant to the plot past her role as the love interest, how she contributes to the story has absolutely nothing to do with her character, but rather how her character relates to a man (technically an alien, but an exceedingly masculine alien). In the movie, she was a plot device rather than an actual thinking, feeling human being.

Even in films centering on female protagonists, misogynistic undertones often manage to make their way

Photos from IMDB

trayed as weak and useless.

These viewpoints even carry over to the merchandising. Recently, two sets of shirts for boys and girls were released by Marvel; the boys shirt read "Be a Hero", while the girls shirt read "I Need a Hero." Considering the impact superhero movies have on society, the implications made by the continuously sexist portrayal of females is disturbing. Because popular culture reflects real culture, women are viewed as inferior



Iran Deal: An Important First Step

Kai Brady
NEWS EDITOR

On April 2, negotiators from Iran and the United States reached a preliminary agreement which would curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for relief from previous sanctions issued by the US and other world powers starting in 2006. The negotiations, which lasted eight days, were made possible in part by President Barack Obama, who has continually stressed the importance of a diplomatic solution for Iran. In my opinion, this interim deal is a major diplomatic achievement and the world powers should strive for a finalized agreement by the June 30 deadline.

The basic provisions of the agreement include a rapid downsizing in Iran's nuclear production, effectively halting any progress toward a nuclear weapon in Iran for at least ten years. In return, the US and its key allies would lift many of the severe trade restrictions and economic embargoes that were placed on Iran in response to its planned nuclear program.

The deal represents the end of a 12-year period of military brinkmanship and diplomatic isolation between the American and Iranian governments, finally opening the door for cooperation towards achieving peace in the Middle East. The deal is even more impressive considering the attempts by several Republican members of Congress to undermine peaceful diplomacy in Iran, including Arkansas Senator Tom Cotton's inflammatory letter undermining the authority of the President in international situations and letting ideological divides get in the way of the negotiation process. Thankfully, the Iranian government was willing to cooperate despite these obstacles, and the landmark agreement was reached.

Let it be known that I do not, in any way, condone the oppressive actions of Iran's theocratic government. The phrase "death to America" still prevails in Iran, and there is no denying the human rights violations committed by the government. However, Iran is a relatively stable country in an unstable region, and it is necessary to put aside our differences when faced with threats

such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) as well as other terrorist groups.

In fact, Iran and the United States both are opposed to the threat of ISIS, and both nations have bombed ISIS targets. Iran has the potential to act strategically against greater threats in the region. This is just one of the reasons why the reestablishment of peaceful negotiations with Iran is a ground breaking achievement.

It is also important to take into account the prevention of the further development of Iran's nuclear program. Given the historically erratic actions of the Iranian government, it is clearly within the interests of the U.S. to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. In my opinion, a peaceful solution based on mutual cooperation is much more likely to achieve a lasting goal as opposed to further sanctions and threats of war. There is no need for further hostility or war with Iran, so the fact that this deal was able to offer a peaceful solution to the nuclear question is beneficial to both nations.

In addition to criticism from some politicians at home, Presi-

dent Obama and the Western side of negotiations have also faced backlash from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other members of the Israeli government who are fearful that lifting sanctions might allow Iran to further develop nuclear weapons. I do understand the concerns of Israel and other voices of opposition: given the temporary nature of the agreement and the historic behavior of the Iranian government, it is not hard to see why a deal such as this can cause some uneasiness. However, I believe that a peaceful diplomatic solution without further hostility or sanctions is the best possible outcome for all nations and entities involved. Iran would be foolish not to decrease nuclear output should they agree to the final deal, as specific provisions are included in the deal to prevent further nuclear development. I also believe that if both Israel and Iran can come to terms with an agreement, it will only help to improve relations between the two historically hostile nations and usher in a new era of cooperation in the Middle East.

Finally, I believe that a peaceful

agreement can eventually foster freedom and democracy in Iran itself. Following the announcement of the interim deal on April 2, pictures and videos circulated around the internet showing Iranians celebrating the achievement. The younger generations in Iran are less opposed to the West as previous generations, and if we continue to compromise and work together, these people might usher in democratic reforms in Iran once their generation takes power.

It is clear that peaceful negotiations will best represent the interests of both Iran, the United States, and other relevant nations. Iran will not develop a nuclear weapon, and the U.S. will have a military ally to combat ISIS and other terrorist groups. The deal also opens the door for greater freedom in Iran and peace in the Middle East. Therefore, I applaud President Obama and the U.S. negotiators on this agreement, and I continue to hope that a finalized treaty will be reached this summer.

Presidency to the Highest Bidder

Nick Kianpoor
SPORTS EDITOR

With the presidential election a year and a half away, there is much speculation as to which candidate will succeed in their bid for the presidency. However, if Americans were to look closely, they could identify one sure winner in the upcoming election: money.

We need to come to terms with the fact that money in American politics is a danger to our democracy. In 2012, Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama raised over 2 billion dollars for their campaigns, and if the aggressive fund raising schedules of the candidates of this election cycle are any indication, even more money will be flowing into the 2016 election. Republican candidate Jeb Bush has set a campaign goal of raising nearly 100 million dollars in the first 3 months of 2016, according to Bloomberg, although Bush's campaign has denied that. On both sides of the aisle, money is already flowing into the election cycle at astounding rates, with the Super PAC (an intermediary organization that funds between candidates and donors). "Ready for Hillary" already raised nearly 9 million dollars in 2015.

Money in American politics has always been a problem. Since the 1970s, the amount of lobbyists and money circulating into American politics has greatly increased. However, the Citizens United case of 2010 allowed corporations to donate unlimited amounts of money to campaigning politicians. Although corporations are not allowed to donate directly to candidates, the use of Super PAC allows for candidates and companies to bypass those restrictions. Super PACs are organizations that cannot donate



THE RAT PAC: Clinton, Bush, and other candidates have used greed to increase their power and popularity. Photo by Olivia Cerio

directly to a campaign but may allocate funds to aid certain candidates. The court has justified corporations donating millions of dollars to politicians seeking office as those corporations exercising their right to free speech. In effect, corporations now donate millions of dollars each election cycle to Super PACs, which then advocate for a certain politician, who then, if elected, will advance the agenda of the special interest groups that donated money to get him or her elected.

If the theory sounds corrupt, the actual implementation of the campaign finance system is borderline ridiculous. The whole

election process is regulated by the Federal Electoral Commission. This government agency was established after the President Nixon's Watergate scandal in 1975 and was meant to regulate campaign finance abuses by politicians. However, there were a few key design flaws in the Federal Election Campaign Act, which outlined the creation of the FEC. Among these was the fact that the FEC is comprised of six commissioners that are appointed by the President, and only half of the commissioners may be from the same political party. Therefore, as with the Federal Government, the FEC itself is trapped in political

gridlock, with 3 commissioners being Democrats and 3 being Republicans. Of course, these two parties do not agree on anything, and the FEC had totalled nearly 200 tie votes from 2008 through August of 2014. The situation has become so absurd that some of the commissioners are not on speaking terms with each other.

But wait, there's more. Due to the design of the organization, the FEC cannot function without the commissioner's orders, which are issued through majority rule of the commissioners. Thus, the only institution that can regulate the already corrupt election process is useless. As a matter of fact, the situation has become so defunct that Ann M. Ravel, a Democratic commissioner from California who was appointed to try and refurbish the inoperative FEC, said in an interview with the New York Times, "The likelihood of the laws being enforced is slim... I never want to give up, but I'm not under any illusions. People think the F.E.C. is dysfunctional. It's worse than dysfunctional". So as the next election cycle approaches, our republic is left defenseless in the

face of money. The laws we have passed and the organizations we have created in order to make our electoral process as fair and just as possible have served no other purpose than to institutionalize corruption. Abuses that only decades ago would have been outrageous have now become commonplace in our democratic system. The most tragic aspect of this degeneration of the democratic system is that it is truly our fault. By not recognizing the danger that it poses and not confronting and regulating the abuses of electoral finance, US citizens have created an atmosphere ideal for corruption. And whether it be in 2016, 2040, or 2084, if the US public refuses to take action to restrict and end campaign finance abuses, it will lead to the collapse of our democracy.

Come November, Americans will take to the polls to elect a new President and new members of Congress, they will not only be electing to office one triumphant candidate, but also the millions upon millions of dollars and special interest groups that got them there.

visioncomputerworks
your success is our focus

Visit us for all tech-related products!

- Desktop Computers
- Tablets
- Printers
- Home Audio
- Televisions
- Office Machines
- Software
- Storage Devices
- Video Game Consoles
- Cameras
- Network Devices
- MUCH MORE!

www.visioncomputerworks.com

(310) 314-8600

Athletes of the Year

CUBBIE KYLE, Campus Life Editor



Lyla Masterson, freshman

What is a typical day at practice like?

“A typical day at practice would start with a warm up lap and dynamic warm ups. Then we either do sets of sprints which include 100 meters, 200 meters ect. Sometimes we work on getting out of our blocks which is what you start out of for races.”

What is your favorite event to run?

“My favorite race to run would be a sprint of 200 meters which is a curve and a straight of the track. I like it because you have enough time to get your momentum and it is really fast.”

What has been your most memorable meet this year and why?

“The most memorable meet would be the meet in Santa Paula when it was raining. Everyone was soaking wet and cold but it was super fun. Everyone there was super nice too.”

Abigail Blackwood, sophomore

How do you think you have improved as a soccer player this season?

“I think one of the main ways that I have improved as a soccer player is gaining confidence while on the field. During freshman year I was always really nervous that I would make a mistake while playing and it caused me to not play to my full potential. At the beginning of last season I was much more confident with the decisions I was making on and off the field and felt much more comfortable playing with the team. Once I was made team captain during pre-season I was able to help lead the team along with the other team captains, which also helped improve my playing because being a leader on the team I always needed to put out my full effort and play to the best of my ability. I became much more aware with how I was playing on the field which also allowed me to have confidence in my decisions.”



Hans Cole, junior

What do you think makes a good water polo player?

“You have to be able to know and see what is going on around you.”

Describe how you felt when you won the CIF Championship.

“I was extremely relieved and glad that Mr. Mulligan finally got a ring.”

If you have free time, what do you like to do?

“I like to spend my free time with all my friends no matter what we are doing.”

Noah Gorelick, senior

How did you become interested in joining the Lacrosse team and what age did you start playing?

“I joined the middle school lacrosse team in 7th grade because Winston and Kerns Churchill, two of my best friends, were playing and I was looking for a sport to play.”

What do you feel was your greatest achievement this year?

“My greatest achievement this year was being able to keep up with some of the best teams in the league with only 16 players.”

Are you going to continue with Lacrosse in college?

“Yes, I will be continuing lacrosse at USC next year.”



BLACK COFFEE, ANGST, AND THE TEENAGE SOUL

Emma Kelly
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My friend and beloved colleague, **Cole Murphy**, allegedly drinks 5-7 cups of black coffee every day. For one week in May, I attempted to do the same. The following is a day-by-day, hour-by-hour account of my struggle. After completing this challenge, I have a newfound respect for young Murphy. But also a newfound disgust.

Monday
8:00 pm
1 cup

First coffee of the challenge. I chose to commemorate this special occasion by using my favorite NASA mug that I bought from Goodwill. As someone who prefers coffee-flavored beverages (i.e. frappuccinos and anything from Starbucks with a fake italian name) over coffee, I won't lie and say I wasn't the least bit daunted by the liquid abyss inside my cup. However, after a few sips, I felt better than I had the entire day. The headache that had caused me to put off starting the challenge dissipated with every sip of the potent bean juice until I felt restored to perfect health. The taste wasn't so bad either, kind of like if you poured a full ashtray into Earl Grey tea. With one cup down, I had utmost confidence in myself that I could make it through this whole ordeal unscathed.

Monday
9:54 pm
4 cups

Drinking four cups of coffee in a little less than two hours is either the greatest idea or the worst idea I have ever had. I felt all powerful, like a lady Poseidon lording over her steaming brown ocean. I realized that I am actually super good at math. If only Segesman could see me now, tearing through his tedious work-

sheet at an astonishing speed. I am operating at my intellectual peak. My senses have been heightened to those of a jungle cat. I am uberEmma. Emma 2.0. Megaforce Kelly. Hear me roar. Since starting my journey, I have received a barrage of texts from those who care about me. Some are wishing me luck, but a disquieting amount seem to be worried about my health, going so far as referring to the challenge as "Cole's Coffee Death Experiment," something I find to be facetious and also makes him sound a bit like a Nazi. I am euphoric and depressed and hyper and exhausted, which is basically how Cole seems to be most of the time.

Tuesday
4:30 pm
3 cups

A Starbucks venti is 26 ounces, which is about three cups. How efficient is that? Now I only need to drink two of those every day plus one additional cup. At Starbucks, my sister buys some sort of delicious syrupy concoction with whipped cream and hazelnut extract. My venti iced coffee comes in a cup that is nearly the size of my forearm and is black as a moonless night. It tastes the way burnt toast smells. I finish it and fall asleep on the couch.

Tuesday
10:30 pm
5 cups

I woke up from my nap and proceeded to watch old episodes of Vice for the next four hours. I was too nauseous and groggy to do anything else. It felt as if there was a tiny angry man in my stomach playing vigorous jump rope with my intestines. But on the brightside, I am now very informed on the ongoing conflict in Syria. The fourth cup of coffee really did it for me. I drank it around 7:00 p.m. and finally mustered enough strength to

take a shower and shovel the remains of a chicken enchilada into my mouth. It didn't taste as delicious as chicken enchiladas usually do. I'm also weirdly sweaty, but only in one armpit (the left) and on my upper lip. I'm on my fifth cup right now and have returned to the couch and quality HBO programming. Harboring general malaise/



ill-will towards all people/things.

Wednesday
4:00 pm
4 cups

Nothing better than pounding a couple brews with your bros on a Wednesday afternoon. Or so I tell myself. I guess it doesn't so much count as pounding brews if I was the only one drinking coffee and trying to take the tiniest sips possible as my friends/enablers looked on with disgusted expressions. Then I went home and drank more coffee. Positive side effects of my increased caffeine intake include increased physical prowess, as evident by my impeccable aim when I threw my empty venti cup at innocent passerby across the high school quad in a gesture of hope-

less frustration. Negative side effects are increased aggression and inability to control the volume of my own voice. I have also developed a twitch in both of my lower eyelids, but luckily not at the same time.

Wednesday
12:00 am
6 cups

I held the cart of 1% of milk in my quivering hand,

my shoes still on. Stomach is bloated and hard to the touch, as if I am pregnant with a basketball. I stare up at the ceiling and remember a time in fourth grade when someone was mean to me and I cry a little bit as the early morning light filters through my blinds. Then I cry about the fleeting beauty of it all. Then I cry about AP tests. The whole reason I woke up in the first place was because I had this horrible nightmare where I had to ask Segesman to prom during a pep rally but I forgot everything I planned on saying so I just started apologizing but then a bat flew out of my mouth and began to fly out of everyone's mouths.

Thursday
9:49 am

1 and ½ cups (?)

So I caved and asked my sister to buy me a caramel macchiato. It was heavenly. My eyeballs are still throbbing though.

Thursday
11:44 am

1 and ½ cups

My nightmare was mere foreshadowing to the agony that was to come. An hour into Segesman's class, the worst thing that could possibly happen happened: I had to pee. Having to pee doesn't even come close to describing the excruciating sensation I felt for a solid hour and a half (even though, in that moment of dire suffering, it seemed to last an eternity). This wasn't a "oh, I guess I have to pee" kind of pee. This felt like someone was trying to fill up a water balloon with a fire hose and the water balloon was my bladder. Scientists say that the human body is about 60% water, but mine was somewhere around the 99.999999% mark then. I seriously considered throwing myself to the ground and crawling out of the room army-style like Sandra Bullock in the final scene of Gravity as to keep from draw-

ing attention to myself, but I couldn't risk the extra movement as it might've triggered an internal rupture of my insides. I didn't even feel satisfied when I finally got to the nearest socially acceptable place to excrete liquid waste. There was still too much adrenaline pumping through my veins. How can I possibly be expected to learn when I'm preoccupied with not wetting my pants in front of the entire class? Obviously this experience has caused irreversible damage to my urinary tract, which will probably manifest itself later in my life. I can't wait to be the only college freshman wearing adult diapers. Whatever the case, you can be sure that the district will be accountable for all my medical expenses.

Friday
3:00(ish) pm
6 cups

I decided to finish up the week with a bang. I sat at the Point Dume Plaza and drank two venti iced coffees at the same time as my peers frolicked all around me. Let them enjoy the springtime of their youth. That time is over for me now.

"Dude, isn't that like ... unhealthy?" Someone asks me.

The human condition is to seek excess. Still, black coffee is the worst and I'm never drinking it again after today.

Friday
3:32 pm
7 cups

Another cup at home. Cole informs me that he's been trying to cut down on coffee this week. Is that ironic?

Friday
6:00(ish) pm
7 and ½ cups (???)

does hazelnut ice blend have coffee in it? ha ha I don't really care I hate myself lol



Rhodes Educational Consulting

Maximizing options while minimizing anxiety.

Calling all Malibu High juniors!

**If you apply to eight colleges,
you may have to write 15+ essays.**

Most students will wait until late summer or fall to get started.

But not you. You're smart.

College Application JUMPSTART™: The April Edge

Your personalized admissions strategy begins

April 19, 2015

www.RhodesEducationalConsulting.com

Sign up Now!
Space is very limited!

310-866-9373

HOROSCOPES

ARIES ♈

March 21 - April 19

Sign characteristics: enthusiastic, impulsive, thinks *The Big Bang Theory* is funny

The stars have a message for you. Blink once if you are ready to receive the message. Blink twice if you are not ready to receive the message. You will receive the message regardless. Blink three times if you are frightened of the message. You will receive the message regardless. The message is one word. The word is "pecan." You have received the message. The stars have been dead for billions of years.

TAURUS ♉

April 20 - May 20

Sign characteristics: patient, resentful, wants you to know he/she is a vegan

The answers to the first math section of the SAT are as follows: A, A, A, D, C, A, B, B, D, A, C, B, D, D, A, C, C, C, A, B, B. Aren't you glad that your future rests entirely on an arbitrary and seemingly random order of letters? Isn't it nice to know that your intelligence is measured by a series of meaningless hypothetical abstractions with no real world application? Here's hoping that you get into a good college -- a "good college" in this instance being defined as one with rich alumni, reinforcing the influence of the hierarchy of wealth in all aspects of society.

GEMINI ♊

May 21 - June 20

Sign characteristics: intelligent, cunning, owns an insulated lunchbox

Home is where the soggy-bottomed cardboard box hidden in the corner of your parents' closet is.

CANCER ♋

June 21 - July 22

Sign characteristics: passionate, jealous, practices wrestling moves on strangers

Something went wrong at work today. You walked in and there was a feeling in your gut like something was wrong and also like something was trying to claw its way out of your small intestine. The receptionist smiles at the empty space just above your right shoulder. Her teeth are yellow. Her eyes are also yellow. The office smells like burning hair and a febreze plugin. Where your cubicle was, there is now only a potted fern and a framed photograph of a cloud on the wall behind it. There is something sinister about the cloud. Someone has moved your stapler and all the strawberry yogurt in the break room now has "Larry" written on it.

LEO ♌

July 23 - August 22

Sign characteristics: generous, bossy, believes in a vast government conspiracy

Like a lone drifter who rolls into town after dark, goes through your garbage, and crawls into your home through the dog door, new opportunities are waiting for you today.

VIRGO ♍

August 23 - September 22

Sign characteristics: diligent, over-critical, that kid in elementary school who always got nosebleeds

Did you know that the average person unknowingly swallows 13 spiders every day?

Well, it's true and, in your case, they're starting to add up.

LIBRA ♎

September 23 - October 22

Sign characteristics: loyal, indecisive, uses nineties slang unironically

Your entire life up to this point has been a performance art piece on the corruption and inevitable loss of self in the digital age. Everything around you is a metaphor for capitalist greed and/or the tragic futility of the American Dream. You represent the youth of the nation as a whole adrift in this tumultuous sea of superficial desire and thwarted individuality.

SCORPIO ♏

October 23 - November 21

Sign characteristics: magnetic, secretive, literally a venomous six-legged insect

So, I noticed you haven't been returning my calls. I get why you're angry. I mean, whatever, it's not like I sold a lot of very rare collectible Pokemon cards to rent that confetti cannon. And it's not like I spent three months planning the perfect prom proposal down to every last teensy microscopic detail. But it's fine. I'm sorry your lawn caught on fire (even though that totally wasn't my fault at all). Next time I won't even bother with the fireworks. Or the basket of puppies. Or the melted chocolate slip-n-slide. I just wish you had the common decency to tell me if we're still on for prom. I'm sure your eyebrows will grow back by then (again, sorry).

SAGITTARIUS ♐

November 22 - December 21

Sign characteristics: optimistic, careless, probably wearing a velour tracksuit right now

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE WON A BRAND NEW CAR! To claim your prize, please find a secluded spot in your nearest enchanted forest and complete the obligatory blood rite. Terms and conditions (such as the relinquishment of your soul to Dark Lord Cthulhu) may apply.

CAPRICORN ♑

December 22 - January 19

Sign characteristics: practical, neurotic, still isn't over Zayn Malik leaving One Direction

Take some me-time to think about and appreciate your own unique youthness. Get a pedicure! Write a poem! Set something on fire! There is only one you, and that's you. Soon the you as you know it will be gone. You are you for an infinitesimally finite amount of time on this planet before you are something else, like dirt or grass or food for the worms.

AQUARIUS ♒

January 20 - February 18

Sign characteristics: friendly, unpredictable, has a Snapchat story that is more than 100 seconds long

'Tis better to have loved and lost. No, really. It's the best. 4.5 out of 5 stars, would recommend.

PISCES ♓

February 19 - March 20

Sign characteristics: creative, weak-willed, lets dogs lick his/her mouth

"What's humanity but a random experiment in cruelty?" you wonder, walking alone in a crowded hallway. "Is my consciousness truly my own?" you ask the hushed darkness of your childhood bedroom. "Where does the sky end?" you whisper into the receiver of a broken payphone. "What season of Iron Chef is this?" you say aloud to a stranger you have know for years.

Style Advice for Boys of Summer

All clothes modeled by mensweardog

Summer can be a tricky season for even the most fashionable of men. Whereas women have an array of clothing options to choose from as the weather warms up, guys might find it harder to break out of their jeans-and-a-shirt or shorts-and-a-shirt style rut. Luckily, we at *The Current* have taken the liberty of compiling some great outfits for our male peers that will keep them looking sharp in the months to come. And, for everyone's viewing pleasure, they all just so happen to be modeled by an adorable Shiba Inu.



The perfect blend of rustic and contemporary. I could see a fellow wearing this to an art gallery opening or a romantic outing in the city. The embellishment on the shirt pockets is truly divine. The only bone I have to pick with this look is that I can't wear it myself.

The pop of color adds a fresh twist to the traditional sport coat without seeming overly flamboyant. The hat is light while still offering protection on a sunny day and lends an air of sophistication to the outfit.

How fetching!



This is the perfect ensemble for skating with ya boizz or simply chilling in a shadowy corner of the Pavilion's parking lot. Notice that the addition of an extra layer, a paisley button-down, keeps the look structured instead of sloppy.

A fun pattern can liven up the most basic outfits. This bird print brings a touch of whimsy that most females (human and dog alike) cannot resist. It says, "hey, I know how to have a good time." Rolled up sleeves are also a nice way to accentuate your beach bod. A round of applause for this look. Or, shall I say, a round of ap-paws!



Who let the dogs out indeed. The vintage shades give off a Don Draper vibe and are essential to every working man's wardrobe. I'm loving the mix of fabric textures here.