



Features



Opinions



Sports



A&E

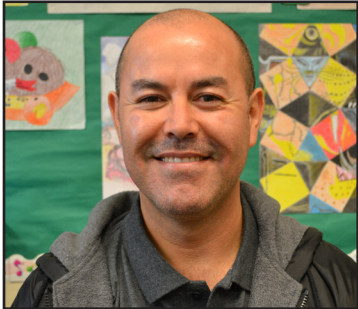
The SHAMROCK

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TEACHER of the YEAR NOMINEES



Jose Alvarez



Sarah Anderson



Christie Bettendorf



Steven Cini



Adrian Culciar



Catherine Fong



Julie Foy



Mark Plettinck



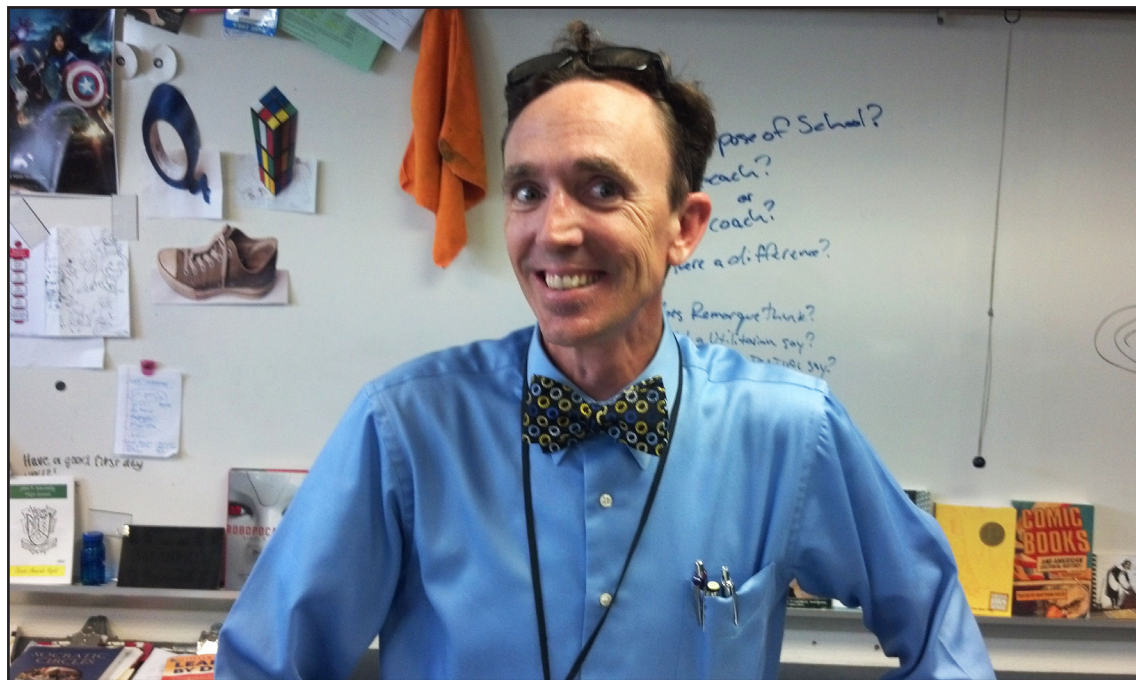
Joshua Parsons



Cristina Robitu



Travis Tisor



CAMRA HOPPER / *The Shamrock*

Mr. Pfeiffer is Teacher of the Year for his endless charm and dedication to his students for the past 14 years.

In the month of February, teachers at John F. Kennedy High School nominated their peers for Teacher of the Year. The 12 nominees were Jose Alvarez, Sarah Anderson, Christie Bettendorf, Steven Cini, Adrian Culciar, Catherine Fong, Julie Foy, Joshua Parsons, Sean Pfeiffer, Mark Plettinck, Cristina Robitu, and Travis Tisor.

In the nomination process, the school receives a notification from the district, allowing and opening the nominations to the faculty. Teachers are nominated by other teachers within or outside their departments.

"Teachers look around within their departments or outside their departments and see who has gone beyond expectations like things they do out of the classrooms, clubs they sponsor, personal growth, inspiring other teachers, and ultimately inspiring the students," person in charge of the nomination since 1988, Mr. Gallegos said.

After voting day, the teacher who receives the most votes will be the Teacher of the Year.

Students and teachers commented on the teachers who were nominated.

"Mr. Culciar is the best teacher because he is like a friend," senior Grace You said.

"Mr. Tisor is an understanding teacher who constantly seeks to engage students," junior Irene Sun said.

"Mrs. Anderson is one of those special teacher that kids will remember long after graduation. She nurtures and foster the talent that goes into her room each day" English teacher, Mrs. Tweed said.

"Mrs. Foy has always been supportive of me and has always helped me in and out of school," junior Stella Park said.

"Mrs. Bettendorf is inspirational. She is always looking for innovative ways to engage and teach her students. Her students always appreciate her hard work and selflessness," English teach-

er, Ms. Fong said.

"Mr. Pfeiffer uses technology to entertain as well as enhance our learning," senior Natalie Zavala said.

For 2014, Mr. Sean Pfeiffer was selected as Teacher of the Year to recognize his dedication and contributions to the school. Mr. Pfeiffer, who teaches Media Lit and English 4, gives all his students the opportunity to thrive and teaches them in an eclectic and contemporary fashion.

Enthusiastic and passionate, Mr. Pfeiffer inspires his students and colleagues to do their best.

"I'm trying to instill the excitement of learning. It's fun. If you're not learning, then you're not living. It's not about English, but it's about the habits of mind," Mr. Pfeiffer said.

Congratulations Mr. Sean Pfeiffer, Teacher of the Year!

To learn more about Mr. Pfeiffer, see FEATURES page 4.

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WARNING ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK

MARIA ETCHEVERRY
Features Editor

Toilet paper all over the floor, a smelly odor, and “oh great” no more usable paper because all the rolls are on the ground. John F. Kennedy High School has a bad reputation with its girls’ restrooms perhaps for the reason that girls are not careful when using paper, or maybe because the janitors are not doing their job. Either way, the image that comes to mind when people say “the girls’ restroom” is simply not a fantastic one.

It is agreed that no restroom will be completely clean once it has been used by thousands of girls a day, each with her own personal way of taking care of business. Many girls try to avoid using the restroom, but sometimes it is a necessity and simply cannot be avoided.

“During the day, it’s pretty dirty and you can see all the papers on the floor and awkward stains on the toilet, but I know that other schools have worse hygiene issues when it comes to their bathrooms.



MARIA ETCHEVERRY/ *The Shamrock*

From the morning until lunch time, the 1st court bathroom usually ends up really messy.

Sure, ours are somewhat messy but there are days when it looks clean,” senior Roxanna Silva says.

It is true that there are times when the bathrooms are clean, and depending on

where they are located, certain bathrooms seem to be cleaner than others.

Now, why is that? Perhaps because less girls use it, or maybe because they care about the appearance of the bathroom, so

they clean up after themselves. Other girls are having problems feeling comfortable in the bathroom. It’s undeniable that strange conversations and makeovers are often held in the bathroom, which makes it awkward for a girl who needs to use the bathroom to merely take care of business and leave.

“I think our girls’ bathrooms are very unclean. I don’t feel comfortable because there is always a group of girls that chat and do their makeup. Others seem to use their phone, and who knows what they could be doing with it while I’m trying to get some privacy,” junior Rebekah Hwang said.

You heard it here, Lady Irish; make sure to keep a clean bathroom. If you do your part, the janitors will too.

MEMBERS WANTED

AENAH RAMONES
News Editor



CAMRA HOPPER/ *The Shamrock*
Top: The club of LiNK poses for the camera after a n exciting day of recruiting potential members.

Bottom: Anime Club members pose with new manga series, which they donated to the library for students to read.

On Jan. 30 and 31, Kennedy hosted its second semester club rush in the Arts Quad. In this new semester, many new clubs opened their booths to the students.

The new semester also opened up the opportunity to freshmen who were too shy in the previous semester to sign up. Others were simply excited to socialize with new and diverse people.

“I like the feeling of signing up for clubs and meeting new people,” freshman Jenna Bantigue said.

On Thursday, the center of the arts quad featured the new club Model UN, which utilized a variety of props to attract students. Students were eager to learn more about the variety of new clubs. Other clubs like the Environmental Club looked to recruit new members as well.

“Our club promotes environmental awareness in our community in Gallegos’s room. We go to beach and city cleanups, and we do many other amazing activities, such as the milk carton contest,” senior President of the Environmental Club Suk Chung said.

On Friday, more students gathered in the Arts Quad looking to join new clubs. Some popular clubs that have been around for years, such as Key Club, CSF, and International Club, were also excited to recruit more members.

“International Club is all about unifying the student population through international

relief efforts, as well as expressing our cultures through means of cultural activities” senior President of the International Club Aditi Mayer said.

Clubs are a great way to reach out to the community and help others who are in need. Kennedy prides itself in having many clubs, which are attentive to the world around them and even address problems outside of the country.

“We are associated with the American Red Cross organization of Orange County, and we will provide disaster relief and help people prevent and prepare for disasters in ones’ community. Throughout the year, many fun volunteer opportunities will come forth which will help raise awareness of what is happening in the community,” senior Red Cross Club President Grace Ji said.

The Red Cross club has hosted many blood drives and even sponsored the \$5000 in Five Minutes for the Typhoon that hit the Philippines, the most any school in the surrounding area had given to the Philippines. In the end, they were able to raise \$5,241.96 for the people who had lost their homes to the disaster.

“Clubs are established to give out to the community. It’s great to see so many people eager to sign up for clubs; but at the end of the day, it’s all about wanting to helping those who need our support, no matter how old they are,” senior Jeanel Suarez said.

TIDBITS

Anime Club has donated two new manga series to the library on Feb. 13! We hope you check it out!

Choir will perform on Feb. 28 and Mar. 1. Be sure to check out their choir show, which has the theme of “Around the World.”

“Strike-a-Glow” Sadies is coming up on Feb. 22.

Pirates dinner and show junior night on March 3 at 5:30 p.m. We hope juniors will attend and enjoy the traditional pirate dinner!

Seniors, be sure to buy Medieval Times tickets for \$30! Or buy the senior for \$40, which includes a Medieval Times ticket, Mr. and Mrs. K ticket, and a second semester senior shirt!



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The Shamrock Connection, which is the online student publication, and The Shamrock, the print publication, is for the Kennedy High School students and their input is not only welcome, but also needed. The Shamrock will also willingly publish guest writer. Staff members will strive to publish all

articles free of error. Any errors found after publication will be corrected. If the editorial board decides a significant error has been made, a formal correction will be posted to the website. Our goal is to bring the students, parents, and staff of Kennedy High School, as well as the city and community of La Palma the most current and popular news from our city, state, and country. We encourage submissions and letters to the editor at all times, for any reason.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns for any story, photo, or column, please feel free to contact us at thejfkshamrock@gmail.com.

BEGINNING THE NEW YEAR WITH A UFO

JAMES WERRET
Staff Reporter



COURTESY OF GOOGLE
A flying saucer is what most people believe a UFO looks like.

Around midnight on New Year's Eve, there had been countless reports of people seeing what appeared to be a UFO throughout California. It was described as a bright orange light hovering in the sky, and then disappearing.

All spectators described the eerie light with the same characteristics and also reported seeing the light around midnight. Some said it was a single bright light, while others reported seeing multiple lights. All witnesses said the light disappeared soon after midnight.

"On New Year's Eve around 11:50 p.m., I saw five or six orange/yellowish lights in the sky and noticed they were moving strangely. Since I was driving at the moment I stopped looking at them to pay attention to the road and when I looked back up only two were left moving strangely," senior Phillip McSherry said.

Whether it was a UFO or not, it is still being debated, but every witness expressed the strangeness of the hovering lights.

"It was almost the New Year, and it was really weird when I saw that light in the

sky. I've never really seen anything like it before so I didn't know what to think of it," senior Erika Pedroza said.

Not only did people report seeing the UFO's in southern California but also throughout the entire state.

"I have seen like six bright orange colored lights. They were almost like in a diamond or triangle shape. It was weird. And so they started just separating," a resident of Stockton, Kaye Pinlac said in an ABC News 10 interview.

Other residents, living higher up in the state, reported seeing what appeared to be a UFO.

"Whatever it was moved up and to the left... It hovered there for probably about 60 seconds, then it took off," a resident of Sacramento, Steven Brown said in an ABC News 10 interview.

There have been reports of this bright light throughout the entire state of California. Many eye-witnesses captured video of this bright light and have posted it on social websites.

Smoking Water Vapor

CAMRA HOPPER
Photo Editor

The new trend among adults and young adults are vape pens. Vape pens are used similarly to an electronic cigarette, which requires a simple inhale and a push of a button. They are small and resemble the look of a fountain pen.

Originally, electronic cigarettes are used to help reduce the harmful effects of cigarettes. The only difference is that vape pens have the capability to change the flavor: snicker doodle, fruit loops, and many others. The smoke is then released as pure water vapor with no chemicals, and can adjust the amount of nicotine inhaled.

"For the vape pen to produce vapor that can be inhaled by a user of the vaporizer pen there has to be a product that is heated within its chamber. Some of the most common products used in a vapor pen are dry herbs, e-liquids, waxes and essential oils," Vaporizer Pen Guides said.

At John F. Kennedy High School, vape pens have been seen and used on campus. The pens only produce water vapor and are safe to use in doors and even around babies; some students thought that they could use them during lunch or even during class. As soon as the problem was met, AUHSD came to the conclusion that they are considered an electronic device and a drug, just like a cigarette, even without no nicotine.



"Vaporizers are told that were originally created to help people quit smoking, and now they are tools to help people smoke with less side effects. Students everywhere use them, including at Kennedy. There are only two reasons why students use them. One is to quit smoking and two, the main reason, is so that they can hop on the bandwagon and fit in with their friends," senior Jonathan Sipes said.

Although the vapes were also made to help make smoking easier indoors, many places where smoking is not allowed also banned the use of vapes.

"In the California Senate, lawmakers recently approved a bill that would ban vaping from every place smoking is already prohibited. The measure awaits discussion in the Assembly. UCLA has already taken that step, outlawing e-cigarettes on April 22, the same day it shut out their smoky cousins," LA Times reporter, Amber Dance said.

Without as many chemicals vaporizers are being treated as a regular cigarette, because smoking is still one of the hardest addictions to break. Nicotine is a stimulant drug that can damage one's health, especially after being used for a long period of time. Cancer.org reported that there are 228,190 newly reported cases of lung cancer due to smoking in 2013.

THE RACE TO VICTORY

STELLA PARK
Staff Reporter

The first day of competition for fellow Academic Decathlon members finally arrived on Jan. 25. Students woke up early in order to get to school by 8:00 a.m. and traveled to Tustin High school together. On the way to the high school, excited chatter of practicing speeches and friends asking each other potential interview questions filled the bus. The first day of competition is considered the most difficult since it has essay, interview, and the dreaded speech. However, each student dealt with the stresses regarding the speech and interview differently, depending on their past experiences.

"Getting to do an interview was really amazing. I've never really had a formal interview before Aca Deca so it was a totally new experience," sophomore Rylee Clark said.

The essay was first for Kennedy's Aca Deca team and students had 50 minutes to write an essay that could award them a medal from first to fifth place. Next, was either interview or speech, depending on each person's schedule. While some new members were nervously pacing the floor, others who have been a part of the team simply relaxed.

"My favorite part of the competition is the impromptu speech because it taught me to speak slowly and think quickly on the spot. It's a very useful tool in life because it sharpens your senses, forces you to have confidence and focuses your attention into making sure your speech is relevant, coherent and interesting—all while the speech is occurring," junior Emily Hsiao said.

The next, and last, competition day was Feb. 1, when this time, tensions were not as high as students quizzed themselves for the multiple choice tests. This time, they drove to Westminster High school. The atmosphere felt much more relaxed and the tests soon began. Students were tested in each of the seven subjects—art, math, literature, science, music, social science, and economics.

"This year, I tried to focus on the subjects that I'm better at and to learn the details from them instead of trying to absorb all of the information into broad categories," Emily said.

The day came to a close with a final test called the "Super Quiz" where the top nine students were split into three groups to compete for the last possible points. An immense amount of pressure was put on these chosen students but it was also an adrenaline pumping experience for many. The rest of the team sat in bleachers on the side and erupted in a roar of ecstasy whenever a member scored a point.

"It was so exhilarating to raise my paper up to say I got the answer right and hearing my team cheer in response! Go Team Hemingway!" senior alumni Ibrahim Bhar-mal said.

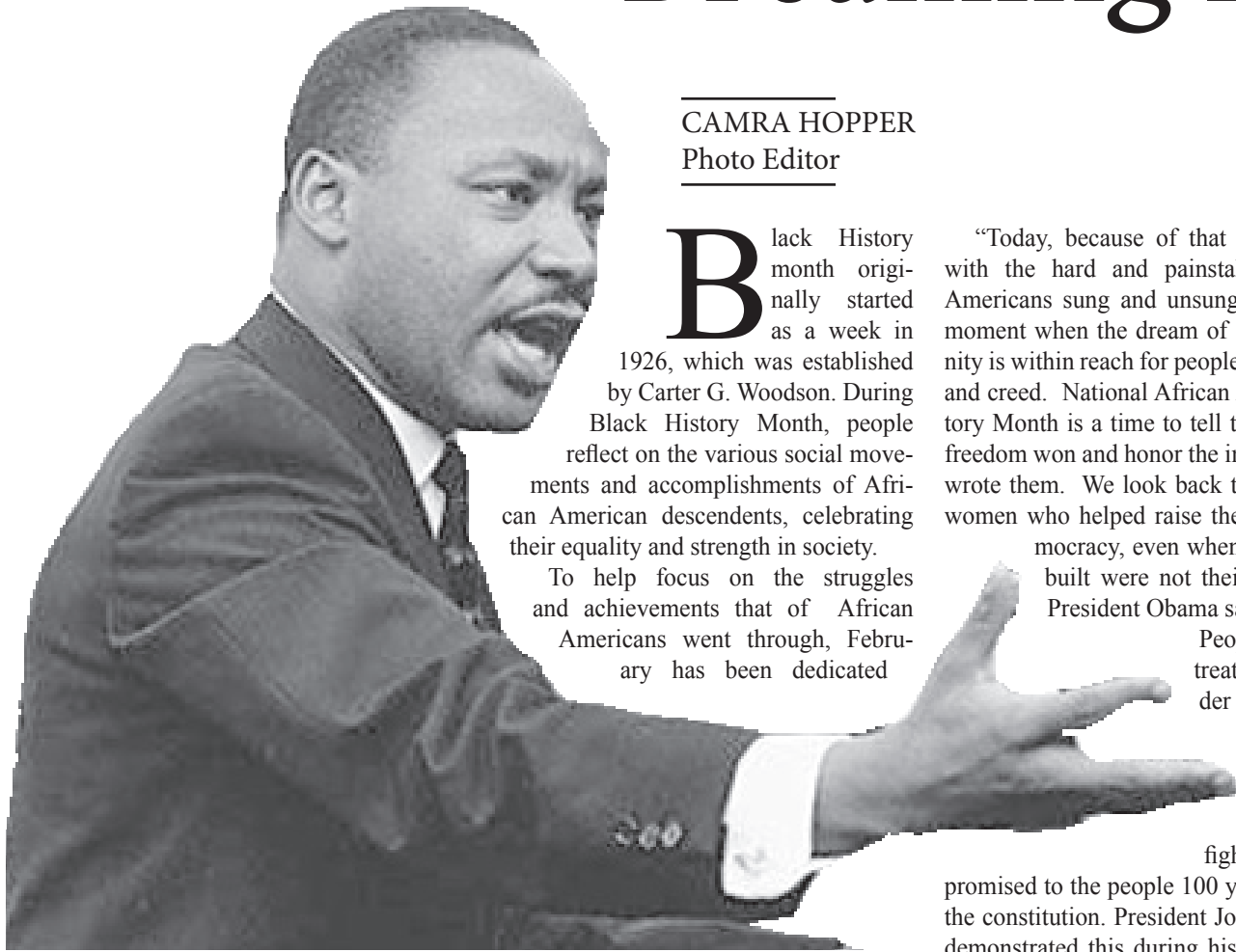
Many members believed this experience was a great one and one that should be shared to all the students at Kennedy.



COURTESY OF MRS. PAMELA GLASSELL
The team cheers for the camera after an exhausting day of multiple choice test.

FEATURES

Dreaming for the Future



CAMRA HOPPER
Photo Editor

Black History month originally started as a week in 1926, which was established by Carter G. Woodson. During Black History Month, people reflect on the various social movements and accomplishments of African American descendants, celebrating their equality and strength in society. To help focus on the struggles and achievements that of African Americans went through, February has been dedicated

“Today, because of that hope, coupled with the hard and painstaking labor of Americans sung and unsung, we live in a moment when the dream of equal opportunity is within reach for people of every color and creed. National African American History Month is a time to tell those stories of freedom won and honor the individuals who wrote them. We look back to the men and women who helped raise the pillars of democracy, even when the halls they built were not theirs to occupy,” President Obama said.

People should be treated equally under the law. In addition, People will stand up for the law and fight for what was promised to the people 100 years ago under the constitution. President John F. Kennedy demonstrated this during his presidency as he fought to stop discrimination.

“I was so influenced by Martin Luther King Jr. and President Kennedy words. President Kennedy had everything; captivating presence, wealthy background – to see him fight for injustice, it inspired me to

help. He could have been the most powerful man in the nation, instead he decided to help those under the law,” Economics and Principals of American Democracy teacher at John F. Kennedy High School, Patricia Rez said.

In the past, California has struggled with its own discrimination. Rancho Cucamonga High School, a prestigious school, forced many of the diverse students to leave the campus. The school pushed back the city boundaries, which separated a richer class of whites from other races. This created the new school, Pacifica High School. At the time, it was a place for the diverse students to attend. Today, a classroom consists of several diverse students, everyone in peace.

“I think our country has changed for the better for the most part. There are fewer judgments on racial issues now and we’re slowly working our way into treating everyone equally. I’m eternally grateful for those brave souls who stood up for their morals because without them, equality would cease to exist,” senior Kim Tran said.

Although, there is still discrimination happening everywhere, the world has tremendously improved in its ideology of equality than in the past. Let’s continue to join together to celebrate our differences.

COURTESY OF GOOGLE

Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered for his motivating speech that he said to millions of people that inspired everyone.

to acknowledge certain figures that helped shaped America throughout the years to this moment, as President Barack Obama stated in a proclamation made during Black History Month in 2013.

AND THE AWARD GOES TO....

CAMRA HOPPER
Photo Editor

John F. Kennedy High School has selected its Teacher of the Year for 2013. This honorable award was presented to the Media Literacy and English 4 teacher on campus, Mr. Sean Pfeiffer.

There were a total of 12 nominees: José Alvarez, Sarah Anderson, Christie Bettendorf, Steven Cini, Adrian Culciar, Catherine Fong, Julie Foy, Joshua Parsons, Mark Plettinck, Sean Pfeiffer, Cristina Robitu, and Travis Tisor.

“What got me into teaching is the building of knowledge together. I was always the storyteller, learning new things, and engaging my learning. I wasn’t the greatest student, but I had those teachers that influenced me and made me feel human, and I took it after them,” Mr. Pfeiffer said.

There are many different characteristics of people that are meant for different things, and Mr. Pfeiffer found his bliss.

“Mr. Pfeiffer is one of the most passionate, selfless, individuals I have worked with in my career. His enthusiasm for life, learning, community service and for his students is contagious. He is invigorating and is always looking for new ways to make content relevant and authentic for his students. I am honored to work with a person with such integrity and devotion. I am always excited to hear how he is engaging with his students in the classroom and in the community,” TOSA Hilda Vazquez said.

Mr. Pfeiffer has been teaching since



Mr. Pfeiffer is displaying an action figure of a teacher holding a “F” paper and saying, “That’s not writing; that’s just typing.”

2000. Throughout these years, there have been events that changed his ideals on learning and what it means to be a teacher.

“Becoming a teacher has shaped the way I preserve learning. Becoming a parent had the biggest impact on looking at students individually, rather than as a student in an academic course. They have their own triumphs, their own successes, their own failures, their own struggles,” Mr. Pfeiffer said.

Not only is he a leader and role model to his classes, but he is also a part of the Kennedy High School family.

“When I think of my friend and colleague, Mr. Pfeiffer, the words funny, fierce, fearless, feisty, and fantastic come to mind. He is a great teacher, father, husband and

friend,” English teacher, Ms. Fong said.

The students need to have a reason to process the information taught in school. Making everything worth only a grade will not encourage a student to achieve beyond their expectations.

“I try to model what I expect from my students, trying to create enthusiasm for learning. I’ve learned that you’ve got to make it matter for the student that asks, ‘Why are we reading this?’ it’s a legitimate question, coming from an honest place,” Mr. Pfeiffer said.

“Cut wood; carry water” is a philosophical story of a farmer, which Mr. Pfeiffer relates to. The farmer tries to find what “IT” is when a voice beckons him to “go find

IT,” while doing his daily routine, such as cutting wood and carrying water. The man goes on an adventure to find IT and once he is watching the sunset, a voice says, “You’ve got it; go home.” When he returns to his everyday routine, the next day, he stops and wonders what IT was that he had found. Mr. Pfeiffer has his own thoughts on the story’s meaning.

“To me, the “Cut wood; carry water” story has multiple interpretations - never stop searching (ultima thule), be vigilant, etc. The connection I made to my daily life is that, no matter what your talents, appetites, or passions, it is all meaningless unless you do the work - unless you cut the wood and carry the water. You must bring your talent to bear and you must continue despite obstacles, despite failures, and despite the dominant paradigms that would preclude you from participating fully,” Mr. Pfeiffer said.



FEATURES

No New-Message? Do Not Fear

JAMES WERRETT
Staff Reporter

Although applying to colleges and filling out applications are two of the most stressful parts of a student's senior year, another nail biting aspect is waiting to find out if one has been accepted.

"I feel a wide spectrum of emotions when I wait for acceptance letters. I feel ecstatic that my hard work paid off and that I am one step closer to finishing my high school career. I feel scared and nervous that I might not be admitted to the school of my choice. I feel pride that I am one step closer to being the first in my family to further my education in college," senior Michelle Lee said.

The date and the type of college admission a student receives depends on the type of application he/she fills out. There are four types of admissions, early action, single-choice early action, early decision, rolling admission, and open admission. For early action admission there is a higher chance of admission. If one is not admitted, one is still considered for regular admission, and once admitted one usually does not have to make the decision to attend until May 1. Admission is also non-binding, meaning students are not forced to attend the university if they are admitted.

Single-choice early action is also non-binding and students do not have to make



JAMES WERRETT/ *The Shamrock*
Acceptance letter envelope to Cal State Fullerton.

their decision until May 1. One can only apply to just one school through an early admission program, but one can apply to other schools through regular admission.

Early decision is binding, meaning students must attend the school if accepted. If they do not wish to attend the school, they must pay a penalty fee to revoke admittance. One can only apply to one college through early decision, and if accepted he/she must withdraw all other applications.

Rolling admission is a lot like regular admission but one may receive a decision long before regular admission. This is a good option for students who do not get accepted to any of their choices because some colleges accept applications right up until classes start.

"Decisions will be available for most freshmen applicants in late March, 2014," stated in an article of UCLA.edu.

Most colleges will send out acceptance letters in March, but other applications, like early action, single-choice early action, and early decision, will send out acceptance letters before then.

In today's day and age, colleges will contact students through many different ways, such as mail, text, email, and phone call. But no matter what one will receive some kind of contact, so seniors do not panic. Just because one has not heard anything yet, it does not mean he or she will not be admitted.

The Perfect Used Car: A Buying Guide

ADITI MAYER
Staff Reporter

Licensed, at last. Now, as a high school student, comes the next biggest challenge – a car. For many, the idea of a new car is a greatly far fetched with limited budgets and college imminent.

However, there is hope.

With our technology today, websites such as Craigslist and AutoTrader have made the used car buying process much easier than the days when one had to roam the streets looking for cars on sale. Nevertheless, there are many risks that come with used car buying; in my own ongoing car search, I have discovered many techniques to aid the grueling process. Let this be a guide to help you get the most out of your money:



ADITI MAYER/ *The Shamrock*
Craigslist, depicted above, is a great search engine for cars on sale in one's local area.

1. **USED CARS SOLD BY PRIVATE PARTIES ARE USUALLY CHEAPER THAN DEALERS.** As a result, these tips will generally focus on the used car by owner process.

2. **CREATE A LIST OF YOUR TOP CHOICES.** Try to have a general idea of what cars you are interested in. After making this list, utilize websites such as Edmunds.com to check the car's reliability, consume reviews, and true cost to own (TCO) adjusted with the mileage, options, color, and region.

3. **AVOID SALVAGE TITLE.** Consider these the mirages of the used car market; low miles, a newer model, clean interior! It's perfect, right? No! No matter how tempting, salvage title means that vehicle has been

wrecked or damaged to such an extent that is considered too expensive to repair. Even after repairs, a car may appear in great condition, but the internal reliability of the car is now questionable. Instead, opt for clean titles: cars with accident free records.

4. **CHECK THE VIN (VINDICATION) CODE.** The history of a used car can be traced easily with its vehicle identification number (VIN) and a vehicle history report. The VIN code is usually found at the corner of the dashboard where it meets the windshield. If not there, the VIN will then usually be inside the driver's side door in the door post.

5. **BE CRITICAL WHEN YOU TEST DRIVE.** Congratulations! Reaching the test drive stage has made you come that much closer to your potential new car. During the test-drive, be sure to evaluate the following points: acceleration from a stop, visibility, engine noise, braking, cornering, suspension, and cargo space.

6. **ARRANGE YOUR TEST DRIVE SO YOU START THE ENGINE WHEN IT COMPLETELY COLD.** Some cars are harder to start when they are dead cold; as a result, doing so will reveal chronic problems. Be sure to turn off the radio before you begin driving so you can hear the engine.

7. **NEGOTIATE!** Prices on used cars are always negotiable; start by making an opening offer that is low, but still acceptable. Decide ahead of time how high you will go- leave when your limit is reached. Stay assertive on your price; you'll be surprised how some sellers may give in.

So, fellow students, may the car gods be in your favor. Remember, you can get a car that's almost as good as a brand new one without paying for the depreciation that strikes buyers as soon as they drive the vehicle off the lot. Not only will a used car allow you to save money on insurance, generally less stressful within the negotiation process, but you'll be saving a bundle.



Love

Love in the Air

LOVE YOUR NATION

Love Orange County

Love Kennedy



Love Each Other

KRISTINE GALIGER
A&E Editor

The stories of Valentine's Day and St. Valentine remain a mystery. For many years, the month of February was viewed as the month of romance and love, but there is more to the story. Many people do not know why or how St. Valentine became associated with the ceremonial practice. It is said that there are three saints who go by the name Valentine or Valentinus.

One legend is during the third century, when a Roman emperor, Claudius II, decided that young single men made better soldiers than a man with a family, he outlawed marriage for young men. When Valentine got word, he defied the emperor and performed marriages in secret for young lovers. When Claudius found out what Valentine had been doing, he ordered Valentine to be executed immediately.

Another legend is that when Valentine was imprisoned, he was the first to send a Valentine card to a young girl who he had fallen in love with. She turned out to be his jailor's daughter who visited him quite often during his imprisonment. It is said he wrote her a letter signed, "From your Valentine," which is one of the leading expressions used today.

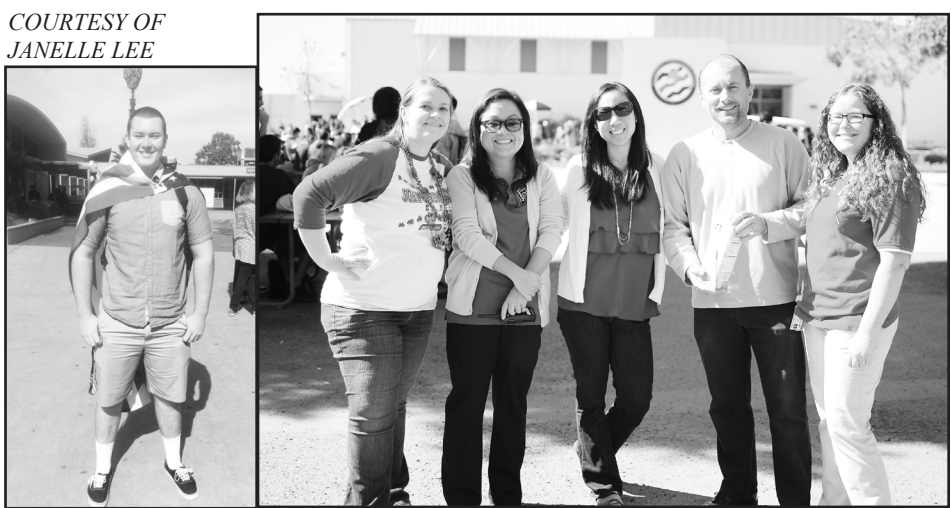
Although the true story is unclear, Valentine is still viewed as an extremely heroic, brave, and romantic who is a very well-known Saint in England and France.

At the end of the fifth century, Pope Gelasius declared Feb. 14 as St. Valentine's Day. However, it was not until later that the holiday was associated with love. The date was picked because it was said the middle of February is the beginning of bird mating season, adding to the idea that the middle of February is the time of true romance and love.

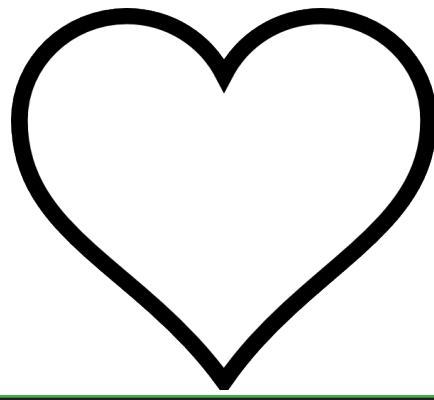
Mexico, United Kingdom, France, Australia, and United States acknowledge and celebrate Valentine's Day. A common tradition is sending Valentines cards and small tokens to show affection. Today, approximately one billion Valentine cards are sent each year.

And, in Kennedy High School, we celebrate Valentine's Day through spirit days. Spirit week, also known as "Love Week" this year, encouraged students to participate and enhance the Valentine's Day feeling. Love week began on February 11 and lasted until Feb. 14. Students wore red, white, or blue, Hawaiian attire, green and gold attire, and red, pink, and hearts to show off their loving spirit.

COURTESY OF JANELLE LEE



Week



Celebrating the Week of Love

JANE CHOI
Outside Reporter

During the week of Valentine's Day, Feb. 11 to Feb. 14, John F. Kennedy High School celebrated its annual Love Week. ASB, under the direction of Cindy Viveros, the Community Relations officer, designed the event for the students on campus to express their love for their country, community, school, family, and friends.

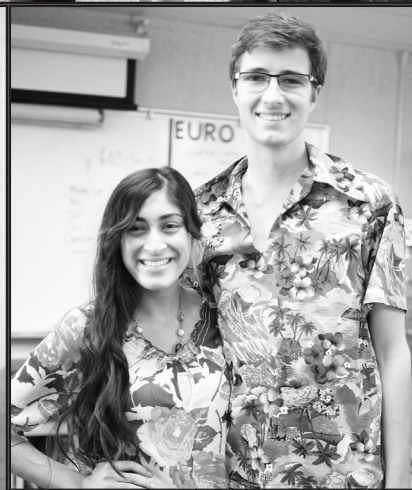
The idea of this year's Love Week was to start out big with loving the country and then minimizing the scope day by day as the week progresses.

The first day, Feb. 11, was "Love your Nation," students wore red, white, and blue. Students received an opportunity to recognize any of their family veterans or members who died fighting in wars. Wednesday, Feb. 12 was "Love Orange County" where students dressed in Hawaiian attire. Unfortunately, the noontime event was cancelled for this day. Feb. 13 was "Love Kennedy,"

in which students plastered themselves with the school colors green and gold. This day, students wrote cards to their teachers to show gratitude of learning in their classes. The final day, which was sprouting with red and pink all over campus from Valentine's Day, was "Love Each Other." Pink, red, and hearts were encouraged for students to wear not only to show school spirit but also to show their loving hearts for their friends.

"It was hard coming up with the theme and dress up days. But when I worked together with my committee, it went smoothly." Cindy said.

It never hurts to do something so little as recognizing one another or saying something kind to show that you love them. This is exactly what John F. Kennedy High students did during the past Love Week.



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SPORTS

Kennedy DUNKS Cypress

AENAH RAMONES & ADITI MAYER
News Editor & Staff Reporter



COURTESY OF GENE KUWAHARA
The Lady Irish rejoices upon their win against Cypress High School.

On Friday, Jan. 31, the Lady Irish won a close game against Cypress, the “school down the street.” Though it was a very low scoring game, the Lady Irish came out on top with the score 34-32. Junior Kylie Masumiya finished with 13 points with senior Rachel Caine as the second leading scorer, who finished with eight.

In their first league match-up, the Centurions had blown out the Lady Irish, 46-22. However, it

was a completely different story the second time around.

“In all of our minds, we remembered that game. That was our motivation. So it was natural on Friday to know that we were all fired up and ready to play. But this time we had home court advantage, and you could just see the fire in all of our eyes. We wanted revenge. We wanted to win,” senior Aenah Ramones said.

The first half was a battle on

both ends of the floor. The Centurion’s overpowering height against the Irish; however, it allowed them to score second chance points on multiple attempts. Kennedy trailed by five as they headed into the locker room to regroup.

In the third quarter, the Lady Irish intensified their defensive pressure. Forcing turnovers and grabbing every loose ball they could muster, Kennedy outscored

the Centurions by three to cut the lead down to two as they headed to the forth.

“This game meant the most to win. “It felt even better since it was our school rival and how all of our fans came to support us. Our fans and the fact that they killed us last time motivated me to want to beat them even more,” Masumiya said.

Seats filled with Kennedy students, family, and friends, and the fourth quarter was deafening, especially in the last few minutes. Cypress, however, did not back down, as they were able to hit a staggering three-pointer with just over three minutes left to play.

“We could have folded. But instead we dug deep and responded with a basket and stopped them the rest of the game from scoring,” head Coach Roland Preciado said.

Kennedy was not fazed at the least. With freshman Camryn Hamaguchi stepping up to score a twenty-foot jumper followed by Rachel Caine’s shot over Centurion’s senior Arin Perry, Kennedy held on to a one-point lead with less than a minute left in the quarter.

“I felt very nervous because I knew about the rivalry and how serious it was. As soon as he put me in, I was extremely nervous, but as I was playing I knew the team needed me to contribute and I just tried to play my hardest,” freshman Camryn Hamaguchi said, who had just come to

Kennedy this year after attending Walker across the street. She ended the night with seven points off the bench.

Everyone cheered and screamed in the last few seconds as Kylie brought up the ball with less than twenty seconds left. However, Masumiya’s speed proved to be superior as she evaded each Centurion player who looked to foul her. Wasting precious time off the clock, Cypress finally committed the foul with 3.1 seconds left, the score 34-32.

Though Masumiya missed both free throws, the Lady Irish were able to contest any last-minute attempts from Cypress to close the game. After committing a foul after Cypress’ freshman CC Hall grabbed the rebound, the Centurions only had 1.3 seconds to attempt a shot. The Centurion’s Perry missed the desperate half-court shot, and Kennedy celebrated their victory as the buzzer rang across the gym.

“The feelings after we won felt so unreal and it will definitely be a game that will be a memory forever,” Masumiya said.

The Lady Irish jumped for joy and embraced one another near the bench as the deafening audience cheered and clapped for the team. Each Kennedy player held big smiles as they headed back to the locker room.

Irish Battles Centurions

JAMES WERRETT
Staff Reporter

The home game of the season for Kennedy’s boys’ varsity soccer team did not disappoint. Facing Cypress, they tied with a 0-0 on Jan. 10, at the Kennedy High School varsity soccer field.

The beginning of the game was a back and forth battle with shots being taken by both teams. Our Fighting Irish goalie, Richard Corona, blocked multiple shots, which only built the tension during the game. Each time the Fighting Irish took a shot, one could hear the excitement in the crowds cheering. Each shot got closer and closer, and the crowd kept getting louder and louder, trying to pump up our boys’ soccer team.

“This is a really close game. It’s hard to tell who’s going to win. I just really want to beat our rival,” Kennedy High School spectator Napoleon Velasquez

said.

The battle continued through the second half and into overtime. Although the Fighting Irish dominated throughout, by keeping pressure on the Cypress defense and taking multiple shots, they were still unable to score.

“The boys played real hard, played real well, we just had a hard time scoring. But they played great defense and kept the ball moving up and down the field,” Boys’ Varsity Coach Link said.

Although our soccer team did not obtain a victory, they still did not lose, which helps their chances to make playoffs.

“We played hard, didn’t get that win, but we shut them out and that’s all that matters,” Fighting Irish soccer player and senior, Richard Sanchez said.



JAMES WERRETT/*The Shamrock*
Kennedy soccer player runs to steal the ball away from the opposing player of Cypress.

LOSE THE BATTLE, WIN THE WAR

GRACE PARK
Opinions Editor

Despite both teams' best efforts, Lady Irish's Varsity and JV Girls' Water Polo team were defeated at an away game by the Cypress Centurions on Jan. 16.

The Varsity match started propitiously as goalie Emily Allen successfully blocked an attempted Cypress shot in the first minute. While Kennedy's offense seemed to be struggling in the first and second quarter, the players picked up their game during the third quarter, with the first Kennedy goal scored by team captain and senior Athena Azeitia. Although they played valiantly, the Lady Irish could not make up the ground they lost in the earlier half of the game and concluded the match with the final score of 5-13. Despite this setback, the girls kept their positive attitude.

"Win or lose, I am very proud of every single girl in the team and we worked really hard to get where we are right now," second year Varsity player Michelle Benitez said.

JV's match started off more explosively, with set player Stephanie Diaz scoring the first goal of the game. During the first quarter, the game was evenly matched, with both sides failing to establish a definite lead. Diaz successfully scored a penalty shot, bringing the score to a tie of 2-2. Kennedy started to fall behind during the third quarter, ending the period with Cypress in the lead at 6-2. The Lady Irish came back with a more aggressive offense in the fourth quarter, losing by a narrow margin of two points in the finishing score of 7-5.

"I feel proud and I'm just happy that I have my team to



GRACE PARK/The Shamrock
Top: Varsity player and junior Michelle Benitez prepares for a difficult pass to a fellow teammate.
Bottom: Varsity player and senior Athena Azeitia aims to pass the ball to her teammate.

help me out. If it wasn't for them I wouldn't have made those goals," Diaz said.

Although these games are lost, the season is not. For the Varsity players, this season has seen commendable personal achievements. Allen is currently second in Orange County for the most number of blocked goals with 233 successful saves. Azeitia is first in the OC with 77 steals, and also holds first place for assists. The season was also deeply personal for the seniors on the Varsity team.

"It's my last season. I won't be continuing polo in college so it's my final year," Azeitia said. "Polo is more than just a sport; it's a family, it's a team."

This year also saw the growth of the JV team, with an almost unprecedented influx of freshmen strengthening and improving the program. Though the team as a whole was inexperienced at the beginning of the year, they progressed at a rate that was surprising to many.

"In my first game, I scored, like, three goals. I was like, 'Wow!', but it was hard learning the game," freshman Tabitha Taylor said.

As the water polo season draws to an end, the loss of a single game does not seem to dishearten the girls. On the contrary, many players are positive about what they accomplished during the season.

"We're growing and growing, and to me, that's an accomplishment," JV and Varsity coach Ashley Arambula said.

JFK Goes All the Way

MARIA ETCHEVERRY
Features Editor

On Thursday, Feb. 2, John F. Kennedy High School faced Tustin in their last home wrestling match. While Kennedy was off to a good start in the season, there were a few seniors who got to show off their skills at home.

For many seniors in the varsity team, this match would be their last for the entire year. Players such as Gil Cozine, Nikki Alviz and Martin Miramontes

each participated in the senior recognition night prior to the game. Before the first match, the Irish varsity team each came out running towards the mat to their rock Irish theme song. Each player warmed up to the music and created a rousing and pride-inducing atmosphere.

"It made me feel really sad knowing that this would be the last time I would ever wrestle here at Kennedy. Joining the

wrestling team was one of the best decisions I've made in my life because it has taught me discipline and to never give up. I felt my team gave it their all and we fought hard all the way down to the last match," senior Cozine said.

Whether one wins or loses, the important thing to keep in mind is the effort that the team makes together to encourage each other and help the sport

become fun. There was only one girl from the Kennedy team who was in a match, and although she lost, she still felt confident and proud.

"At first it was a bit nerve racking, since this is my first year wrestling but with the help of my coach I was able to overcome it. It's such a great honor to wrestle and practice with such great people. I wouldn't have gotten this far, if it wasn't for

my coach, family and friends," senior Alviz says.

It seems that the players respected each other greatly and have a true passion for the sport they are participating in. There were certain players who won by a greater amount than others. Overall, the Kennedy team did great and as individuals they all felt proud of the match they had played.

SPORTS



Just Keep Swimming

SAMANTHA LOPEZ
Sports Editor

This year, there are high hopes for the 2014 swim season as they prepare for their first League meet against Pacifica on Mar. 4. Last year, swimmers crushed Pacifica, encouraging athletes this year to feel confident about starting the season off strong.

Varsity swimmer junior Ryan Lin knows all about what it takes to win, as this is his third year in varsity swim.

"I think we are going to do well, and there is a lot of promise for our team this year," Lin said.

Coach Wang, who is one of the head coaches, has similar sentiments for the upcoming season.

"The girls are rebuilding; I think we'll be a little bit better than we were last year. For the boys, I lost a lot of good seniors. But the boys will still be competing for a league championship," Wang said.

When asked about their goals, the swimmers had similar answers.

"I have a goal to drop my

time to 30 seconds in the 50-free (style)," junior Nicole Godfrey said.

Other swimmers had more general goals to improve themselves this year.

"My goal is to improve my times in all competitions," junior Sarah Salazar said.

Coach Wang also has goals of his own for his athletes to improve and swim fast.

"For the girls, it's just to improve. CIF cut times are pretty quick, so I hope to qualify as many girls to CIF as possible. For the boys, it's to win league," Wang said.

With every new swim season, it comes with the issue of the team capacities. Some teams have too many athletes; while others, they do not have enough.

"I'll have a full girls varsity and an overfill of JV girls. I'll have a lot of JV girls. I'll have a full varsity boys team and maybe half of a JV boys team," Wang said.

The team's capacity issue does not seem to particularly concern Salazar, however.

"There's a lot of new people this year, and I think we're all going to really become another swim family," Salazar said.

With a new season and with new swimmers, they come with new star athletes. When asked if there were any particular swimmers that stood out, Coach Wang had a few people in mind.

"We have the fastest boy swimmer in the league. He got a full ride to the University of California, Berkeley. So for CIF, we're just seeing what events he could win in. For the girls there are a couple freshmen to watch. A lot of our strongest swimmers are freshmen and sophomores, so it's a really young team," Wang said.



SAMANTHA LOPEZ/ *The Shamrock*
The Kennedy pool deck is under construction, waiting for the new swimmers.

MARCH SPORTS CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 NO GAMES	4 3:15PM- Swimming, Boys (VR, JV)-Pacifica/Garden Grove Swimming, Girls (VR, JV)-Pacifica/Garden Grove 4:45PM- Volleyball, Boys (VR, JV)-San Gabriel	5 NO GAMES	6 3:00PM- Track & Field, Boys (VR, FS)-Pacifica/Garden Grove Track & Field, Girls (VR, FS)-Pacifica/Garden Grove Baseball (VR)-TBA- Loara Tournament Baseball (JV, FS)- St. John Bosco- Garden Grove Tournament 3:15PM- Softball (VR, JV)-Marina Volleyball, Boys (JV, VR)-Katella	7 3:00 PM- Baseball (VR)-TBA-Loara Tournament Swimming, Boys & Girls (VR)- Canyon/Anaheim Swimming, Boys & Girls (JV)-Canyon/Anaheim TBA-Softball (VR, JV)-TBA Cypress Tournament	8 11:00 AM- Baseball (VR)-TBA- Loara Tournament TBA- Swimming, Boys & Girls (VR)- TBA- Los Amigos Coed Relays TBA- Softball (JV, VR)-TBA- Cypress Tournament Baseball (JV, FS)- Milikan-Grove Tournament
10 NO GAMES	11 3:00 PM- Baseball (VR)-TBA- Loara Tournament Tennis, Boys (VR, JV)-Pacifica/Garden Grove Baseball (JV, FS)- Gahr-Garden Grove Tournament 3:15- Softball (VR, JV)-Villa Park Swimming, Boys (VR, JV)- Cypress Swimming Girls (JV, VR)-Cypress 4:30 PM- Volleyball, Boys (VR)-Pacifica/Garden Grove	12	13 3:00PM- Track & Field, Boys & Girls (VR, FS)-Cypress Golf, Boys (VR)- Yorba Linda Baseball (VR)-TBA- Loara Tournament Tennis,Boys(VR)-Cypress Volleyball, Boys (JV, JV)-Cypress Swimming, Boys & Girls (JV, VR)- Downey 3:15PM- Softball (JV, VR)- Warren Baseball (JV, FS)- Edison-Garden Grove Tournament	14 TBA- Volleyball, Boys (VR)- TBA- San Gabriel Varsity Tournament	15 11:00AM- Baseball (VR)-TBA- Loara Tournament 9:00AM- Swimming, Boys & Girls (VR)- TBA-Kennedy Varsity Invitatio TBA-Volleyball, Boys (VR)-TBA- San Gabriel Varsity Tournament 11:00AM- Baseball (FS, JV)- La Mirada- Garden Grove Tournament

OPINIONS

Should Marijuana Be Legalized?

Recent developments in Colorado and Washington have fanned the debate whether or not to make marijuana - recreational or otherwise- legal in the US.

PRO

KRISTINE GALIGER
A & E Editor

Prescription drugs kill about 100,000 people in each year. But what about marijuana? How many deaths a year are caused by the use of marijuana either medicinally or recreationally? The answer is none. In the 3,000 years of known use, there has yet to be a single death corresponding to marijuana use according to the Drug Enforcement Agency.

The use of marijuana has been used as a traditional antidote for several medical conditions for the last 3,000 years. The U.S. Congress categorized marijuana in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act in 1972, because it was considered to have no medical benefits.

Advocates of medical marijuana begged to differ and argued that it can be a secure and highly effective treatment for AIDS, pain, epilepsy, insomnia, anorexia, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, and many other conditions. As of today, 20 of the 50 states have legalized the medical use of marijuana.

"The evidence in this record [9-6-88 ruling] clearly shows that marijuana has been accepted as capable of relieving the distress of great numbers of very ill people, and doing so with safety under medical supervision.

It would be unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious for DEA to continue to stand between those sufferers and the benefits of this substance in light of the evidence in this record," DEA Administrative Law Judge, Judge Francis L. Young said.

To use marijuana, smoking is not the only option. THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) is the chemical most responsible for marijuana's psychological effects, can also be used in cooking, as an oil, tinctures, tonics, or vaporizers.

"I have found in my study of these patients that cannabis is really a safe, effective and non-toxic alternative to many standard medications. There is no such thing as an overdose. We have seen very minimal problems with abuse or dependence, which at worst are equivalent to dependence on caffeine. While a substance may have some potential for misuse, in my opinion, that's a poor excuse to deny its use and benefit to everyone else," Philip Denney, co-founder of a medical cannabis evaluation practice said.

Marijuana contains no chemicals that can cause a person to "black out" thus making it safer than alcohol. Marijuana contains no side effects at all like alcohol. Alcohol causes alcoholism and has corrupted the lives of many people. Marijuana on the other hand has no effect of depen-

dency on users.

"I grew up knowing that cannabis could be a medicine... I'm not aware of any proven long-term [harmful] effects from cannabis. People have been trying to find major risks [from marijuana], but I've never seen any documented. We know if you smoke cannabis your chances of getting lung cancer are less than if you don't smoke anything at all," Physician and medical marijuana expert, David L. Bearman said.

The legalization of medical marijuana has been a recent controversy, and marijuana will benefit patients as well as everyone else. Taxpayers are spending more than \$1 billion a year to imprison marijuana offenders. Without having to house inmates for

small offenses related to marijuana, this will be more money in the government's pockets to be put towards better things, such as putting it towards schools who could use a little extra help. Another pro of legalizing marijuana is if the government taxes it, our debt could be quickly paid off. There are over two million medical marijuana patients in the U.S. with this amount of users; taxing marijuana will greatly benefit the U.S.

Overall, marijuana is being overlooked and underestimated. It has mass amounts of medical and economic benefits. People will be allowed to retrieve the medicine that they desire, legally. The legalization is highly favorable, as many Americans will agree.

CON

GRACE PARK
Opinions Editor

Cannabis. Mary Jane. Weed. Whatever you call it, marijuana is literally a growing issue in the U.S. With the legalization of recreational marijuana in Colorado and Washington, other states and advocates of the drug question: "Will that work here?"

The answer, quite simply, is no. Allowing people to legally grow, sell, and buy marijuana is a disaster just waiting to happen. Legalization will neither boost the economy nor will it lower crime. In fact, widespread marijuana use will be detrimental not only to the user, but also to society as a whole.

Many pro-marijuana advocates argue that opening up a marijuana market in the U.S. will boost

to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the use of marijuana while driving more than doubles the driver's chance of getting into an accident. If the combination of alcohol and driving can be so deadly, how can we be sure that the same issue will not be magnified to a greater proportion when marijuana is legalized?

Opening up the recreational marijuana market will increase drug crimes in the U.S. Although, admittedly, a market operated in-country will reduce the threat of foreign drug cartels, the easy accessibility and the prevalence of the drug makes it easier for minors or unregistered users to abuse the system.

Though marijuana is not commonly associated with violence like cocaine or LSD, a study from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health suggests that using the drug increases violence between intimate partners in adolescents.

The ethical problems of legalization also should be considered; according to a Yale study in The Journal of Adolescent Health, marijuana is a gateway drug to other, harder drugs like heroin. Researchers found that of over 55,000 subjects, 12 per cent admitted to abusing drugs.

Of that 12 per cent, 34 per cent had used marijuana at a young age. Legalizing marijuana is advocating the use of hard drugs, drugs that are proven to be violent and deadly. It tells the youth of today that recreational drug use is acceptable, and is even legally sanctioned as a "First Amendment right".

According to the NIDA, prolonged marijuana use has the same long-term effects as smoking, like lung cancer and emphysema. Not only is marijuana more dangerous as drug than other medicinal painkillers, but it also has a greater potential to give the user unwanted side effects. Marijuana use will not solve medical problems; in fact, it may even cause more serious issues in the future.

Therefore, at a time when an increasing number of states are looking into marijuana legalization, the need for a radical crackdown on marijuana could not be more relevant. The prohibition on marijuana needs to be kept - if not for the prevention economic and social disasters that are sure to follow legalization, than for the ethical obligation to the preservation and value of human life.

"I'm split on the issue because it can go either way"

- Junior Nicole Godfrey



OPINIONS

The Epic Battle:



UCs VS CAL STATE



AENAH RAMONES
News Editor

It is around the time of year for senior to finally start making important decisions that will affect their lives forever. After months of eagerly waiting for responses from their favorite colleges, seniors are now faced with their most difficult decisions yet: "Which college should I attend?"

For students who are looking to attend a public college in California, many may probably be deciding between going to a UC or Cal State.

Normally, students who decide to attend Cal States are those who commute from their homes. In multiple instances, students always factor in Cal States as the cheaper and more affordable option for college, and it really is. There is almost an \$8000 difference in tuition alone between UCs and Cal States.

Education wise, all UCs and Cal States offer some sort of Bachelor and Master's degree. However, only some Cal States offer Doctorates, whereas all UCs do. Every college also has a unique selection of majors and minor; for example, students who are still undecided and unsure of what college to go to should choose one that has many options for them.

In terms of acceptance rates, UCs are undoubtedly more challenging than Cal States. However, Cal States are still popular within the state; though there are



AENAH RAMONES/ *The Shamrock*
Around this time, students received a multitude of acceptance and rejection letters.

very competitive UCs such as Berkley (22%) and UCLA (27%), Cal States also have their fair share of contending schools. For example, schools like Cal State Long Beach (30%) and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (37%) are known to be challenging as well.

For the best college experience in both education and entertainment, a college dorm life in a UC is definitely the way to go. But, for those who need to save money or cannot afford it, attending a Cal State over a UC is the recommended path. Attending Cal States is just as exciting,

and there are still a variety of options to choose from educationally. However, if you need a loan to get into a UC, it is better to simply choose the school that will help you save money in the end.



Struggle to Remain Tobacco Free



MIN JU CHUNG
Copy Editor

Taking a step toward the national trend this year, the UC campuses plan to implement a ban against the use of tobacco. However, there are a few students who resist abiding by the ban, believing tobacco is a necessity during stressful weeks. Although many could just simply smoke at nearby areas, tobacco-free campuses prove to decrease the amount of cigarettes found on the ground and aid those who wish to end the addicting, life-threatening use of cigarettes.

"In one area popular with smokers, the number of discarded cigarettes fell from 600 to 160 between cleanings," a UCLA professor at the school of nursing, Linda Sarna said in an LA Times interview.

Of many of the first universities to follow the nationwide trend, UC Irvine has spent close to \$50,000 on signs, posters, and events to give students and staff at campus a reminder of the new rules to follow. Removing 12 smoking areas has decreased the temptations to



COURTESY OF GOOGLE
The sign, like many others on UC campuses, remind students to stop smoking on campus

smoke. This ban seems to be effective to a certain extent. Although UCLA has also implemented the ban, administrators do not enforce disciplinary actions to those who neglect to follow such rules and rely on the honor code system.

"I think it is effective because banning tobacco would promote a safe and healthy environment for the students on campus. The air would no longer be polluted, and it would also serve to lower the issues dealing with drugs," junior Joshua Kim said.

Although the ban frees campuses from tobacco use, students at UCI are still allowed to use e-cigarettes and chewing tobacco. This can possibly lead to the new beginning of searching for alternatives to relieve the addiction from smoking. However, the drive to create a "smoke-free" environment is the initiative step towards resolving health concerns of the university students.

"It's pretty ridiculous-we're supposed to be the up-and coming, health-oriented UC. But I'm glad we have at least something to start with," public health sciences major Scott Ondap said in an Orange County Register interview.

The moving trend to create a tobacco free environment in universities increases as more schools are willing to follow the bandwagon. Although there may be alternatives to smoking, the ban proves to decrease the use of tobacco and aid students by emphasizing the hazards of continuous smoking. Furthermore, the ban should be regarded as an opportunity for other universities to change the world in a healthier way.

Love is Blind

MARIA ETCHEVERRY
Features Editor

My first encounter with gay and lesbian relationships was in freshman year at John F. Kennedy. During lunch, I would regularly scout around the school. I happened to glance over to one of the grass areas, and I saw two girls holding hands and kissing. It was the first time I had ever seen a lesbian relationship. Was that normal?

As the years went by, with more knowledge on what the real world was like, I began to realize that everybody has rights, regardless of their sexuality, religion or culture. With that being said, gays and lesbians should have equal rights because they are humans; whether or not they follow society's norms, they should not be denied of what belongs to them.

With a growing population of gays and lesbians, it was foretold that the uprising issues would affect state and federal laws in order to do what was right by the constitution and the people. On Jan. 21, the American Civil Liberties Union sued the state of Utah for not granting benefits to newly married same-sex couples.

According to Associated Press, "The lawsuit filed Tuesday says the state has put



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

Many same-sex marriages were put on hold as they waited for the final decision.

hundreds of gay and lesbian couples in legal limbo and prevented them from getting key protections for themselves and their children."

Many families are dealing with a serious economic and family issue due to Utah's sudden halt to their benefit, which has led to the complete stop of same sex

weddings. This damaged many families emotionally because of their inability to be seen the same way as opposite sex married couples.

"Well, I'm a Christian and I tend to believe that everyone deserves a chance to be with whoever they want. I support same sex marriage because like normal couples,

they are also two normal people who love each other and want to share their love with God's blessing and make it official," senior Ria Bote said.

There are many people who can look past the uniqueness in same sex marriage and simply believe that love is love and that no matter who you are you are allowed to have the feelings you have. Society should not deem an individual as "odd" or "strange" because they have different ideals than society.

"Same sex marriage is one of the most controversial topics with opinions from extreme ends. This controversy has led to political adjustments, which triggered even more topics to be discussed amongst people. The people who love their own gender should not be treated any different from other couples. As a matter of fact, people with different values should not be treated differently for it," senior Angela Jang said.

Everyone is allowed to have their own opinions and beliefs but we should always consider whether the ideals that what we try to enforce onto others is an experience that we would want to go through. People should not be put to shame due to their different tastes, opinions, and lifestyles.

MIRRORING REALITY

STEPHANIE NGUYEN & SAMANTHA LOPEZ
Staff Reporter & Sports Editor

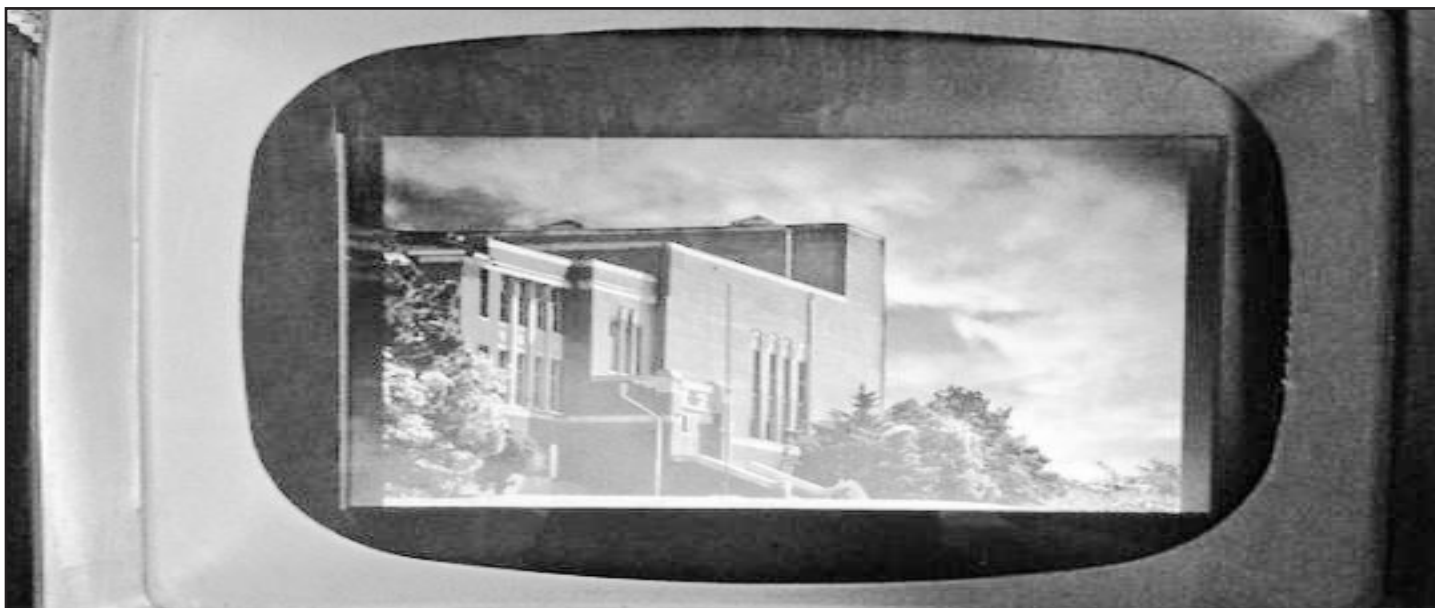
On an average Friday evening, channel-surfing is a tempting way to fill the hours. From network comedies to cable dramas, the vast variety of programs on television range greatly in genre variety. However, certain aspects of the programs themselves lack that same face-value variety.

Hollywood has long since been plagued by a severe lack of equal representation, especially in regards to racial diversity. Media is supposed to be a reflection of the real world, but the world that our media currently showcases does not correlate with the world outside the screen.

Equal representation in popular media is critical to its audiences. In order to prevent future, young generations from feeling excluded and marginalized, this pandemic of exclusionary media must be eliminated. The media, after all, shapes our opinions and beliefs—and ultimately, our decisions.

"You know, vampires have no reflections in a mirror? There's this idea that monsters don't have reflections in a mirror. And what I've always thought isn't that monsters don't have reflection in a mirror. It's that if you want to make a human being into a monster, deny them, at the cultural level, any reflection of themselves," Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor and Pulitzer-prize winning author Junot Diaz said.

Programs featuring more culturally diverse casts often fare better than their homogenous counterparts. A 2013 study done by the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA showed that shows featuring a more ethnically diverse lead cast as well as an ethnically diverse



COURTESY OF TINA MCNEILL

Media has the power to change and influence our thoughts, making it crucial for it to be the most accurate representation of the people as possible.

writing team attracted greater audience viewership than less diverse shows.

According to this study, cable television shows with casts that were 31 to 40 percent minority had the highest median household rating.

The drama/comedy show "90210," a recent revival of the 1990-2000 show "Beverly Hills, 90210," aired from 2008 – 2013. It's easy to note one key difference between the two: the diversity in casting. Where the older version featured an all-white cast, the newer revival had two people of color in their main cast: Michael Steger (of Ecuadorian, Austrian, and Norwegian descent) and Tristan Wilds (of African, Dominican, and Irish descent). The success of the show,

especially among young adults, proves the necessity behind a more diverse media, as well as its benefits for the studios that produce them.

Another successful drama with the right idea is the currently airing show, "Grey's Anatomy," which aired its pilot episode in 2005. The cast features Sandra Oh (of Korean descent) and James Pickens Jr. (of African descent). The show was created by Shonda Rhimes, a black woman, who provides a refreshing point of view in a world where television is mainly dominated by white men. Still airing even now after nine years, "Grey's Anatomy" proves that programs with more diverse teams—both onscreen and offscreen—are not only

beneficial to the studios that produce them, but beneficial for the audiences that view them.

Hollywood continues to change, and for the better. "Saturday Night Live" recently welcomed Sasheer Zamat, its first black female cast member in six years. New programs like "Sleepy Hollow," with Nicole Beharie, and "Elementary," with Lucy Liu, feature women of color as their female leads, and both shows were received positively by critics and audiences alike.

Remedy of the racial incongruity in our media progresses and continues to do so, as it should, but change needs to happen faster.

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The Future of Music



STEPHANIE NGUYEN
Staff Reporter



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

The 56th annual Grammy awards in Los Angeles were not only a celebration of the past in music, but in the future of music and life as well.

The 56th annual Grammy Awards, held on Jan. 26 at the StaplesCenter in Los Angeles, CA, was a big night for 2013's most successful artists. The show was hosted by LL Cool J, who hosted the Grammys for the previous two years.

Major winners of the night included Daft Punk, a French electronic duo, for the Album of the Year for "Random Access Memories" and for Record of the Year for "Get Lucky," which was shared with Pharrell Williams and Nile Rodgers. No one can forget the infectious song about getting lucky that happily blared from radio

stations all year long, especially after their performance, where they were joined by Pharrell Williams, Nile Rodgers, and Stevie Wonder.

Ella Yelich-O'Connor, more commonly known by her stage-name, Lorde, took home awards that night as well. The 17-year-old won the awards for Song of the Year for "Royals" and Best Pop Solo Performance, where she graciously thanked her fellow nominees – among them Katy Perry, Bruno Mars, Justin Timberlake, and Sara Bareilles – for inspiring her. Her stripped-down version of "Roy-

als," in which she performed on a raised platform in the audience, was sublime and haunting. Her dancing, though often criticized as being nothing more than erratic spasms for her lack of smooth, esthetic flow, fit the gritty message of the song perfectly.

The show kicked off with Beyoncé performing a steamy and sensual rendition of "Drunk in Love," where performed with her husband, nominee Jay-Z. Taylor Swift opted for a less extravagant performance, captivating the audience as she sang an emotional, raw performance of her song

"All Too Well" off of her 2013 "Red" album.

When the awards show went on commercial break and announced that Imagine Dragons and Kendrick Lamar would perform next, the collective reaction was, "Wait—what?" But the collaboration between the two, where they performed a remix of "m.a.a.dCity" and "Radioactive," proved to be adrenaline-filled and unexpectedly fantastic.

Katy Perry took the stage and sang "Dark Horse" with Juicy J rapping; the theme of her performance, gothic and mysterious, matched the song's lyrics and melody, but the overall performance seemed out of place among the other, less flashy performers.

A standout performance was "Same Love" by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis. The two rappers, who won the Grammy for Best New Artist, Best Rap Song for "Thrift Shop," and Best Rap Album for "The Heist" earlier that night, were joined by Mary Lambert. During the song, the audience was filled with 33 couples—including same sex couples—who recited their vows right at the show. Not only was this the most memorable moment of the night, but also their message of marriage equality rang clear that night in an ultimate show of popular support of civil rights for all citizens.

The Grammys for the 2013 year in music not only featured bare and raw performance from the year's biggest artists, but featured glimpses of the past and hopes for the future in music.

DISNEY ON ICE

ADITI MAYER
Staff Reporter

From Tuesday, Dec. 17 to Sunday, Dec. 22, Disney on Ice premiered locally at Anaheim's Honda Center. The show consisted of a musical showcase that featured tunes from multiple Disney Pixar films, such as "Brave," "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty and the Beast," and "Tangled."

Although it was an artful arrangement of skillful ice-skating, lights, and a pinch of acrobatics, the show was definitely suited for the age range of five to nine. The songs were enjoyable to sing along to, but the average high school student would definitely feel out of place in a sea of children.

Next, there was an ample amount of special effects, from fire erupting at certain scenes to lanterns occupying the roof during the "Tangled" portion.

One interesting aspect of the show was that it altered the original stories that were told in the movies. For example, Merida's story from the movie "Brave" particularly

strayed far from the original story as a result to shorten the story; Merida's mother had never even turned into a bear, and the story focused more on Merida's personal conflict of avoiding marriage. Nevertheless, these modifications within the stories are often overlooked for the premise of the show is to focus on the musical features for which the movies are well known.

In spite of the show, the Honda Center itself did not fulfill expectations. Although a majority of the seats provide acceptable visibility of the show, seat room was limited and crowded, often making navigating in and out of the rows a challenge.

Overall, the show is best suited for a younger age group that enjoys Disney music; as for Kennedy students, the show deserves a rating of three out of five clovers.



ADITI MAYER/ The Shamrock
The dashing Mickey Mouse and lovely Minnie Mouse smile to the audience.

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Golden Globe's Glory

STELLA PARK
Staff Reporter

"Because this is Hollywood and if something kind of works, they'll just keep doing it until everybody hates it," host Tina Fey said.

The 71st Golden Globes was another big hit. This year, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler hosted the 2014 Golden Globes yet again on Jan. 12. Great stars in both the television and film industries gathered together at the Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles to be awarded for their works in the past year. The two charming hosts began the anticipated night by cracking a few jokes about the famous stars, such as George Clooney. The second-time hosts increased the number of views for NBC, making the award ceremony a success.

According to Los Angeles Times, "Sunday's 71st Golden Globe Awards on NBC soared to the show's highest ratings in 10 years, with 20.9 million total viewers."

The evening's tension soon relaxed as Sandra Bullock and Tom Hanks awarded the first Golden Globe to the best supporting actress—Jennifer Lawrence—for her work in "American Hustle." Soon, the evening was filled with more and more actors and actresses receiving many well-deserved Golden Globes.

"Leonardo DiCaprio is one of my favorite actors, so when he won for best actor in a motion picture comedy, I was elated. I find it astounding that such a versatile actor has been nominated for a golden globe



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

The coveted golden globes are lined up to be awarded to successful actors and actresses.

ten times, yet has only won twice," junior Emily Moscoso said.

However, there were many shocking awards given out to some TV series that many believed was a bit of a stretch. When "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" won for Best TV series and best actor in a TV series, musical or comedy, even the actors were surprised.

According to New York Times, "Oh, no! I didn't prepare anything!" said a clearly flabbergasted Andy Samberg, a best comedic actor winner for the Fox series

"Brooklyn Nine-Nine."

One of the most memorable and anticipated awards was for best motion picture drama. The Hollywood Foreign Press nominated five critically acclaimed films—"12 Years a Slave," "Captain Philips," "Gravity," "Philomena," and "Rush"—from the past year, yet only one could be picked by Press. So, when Johnny Depp announced "12 Years A Slave," the crowd erupted into applause and the winners were shocked.

"I least expected '12 Years A Slave' to

win for best motion picture drama, given the snubs the film and its stellar cast received...However, the film's win during the last few minutes of the show was gratifying and most definitely well-deserved," Emily said.

Overall, even though the Golden Globes had its up and down moments, it succeeded in entertaining many.

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MURDER ON CAMPUS

GRACE PARK
Opinions Editor

Move over Kardashians! Kennedy theatre's murder-mystery production, "All in the Family," introduces the Randolphs, the epitome of wealthy dysfunction.

On Jan. 23, the play launched a successful opening night in the Performing Arts center.

The play starts with ailing billionaire William Randolph II, who invites the family to attend the grand unveiling of his will, the heir of which will inherit his fortune. When William Randolph is shot, strangled, and stabbed in his office, the bumbling Detective Granger, portrayed by Kennedy student Zachary Lewis, scrambles to unmask the evasive killer. As the plot continues, however, it becomes apparent that the Randolphs are more nefarious than they let on.

The play starts ominously – thunder and strains of Debussy's Clair de Lune fill the darkened set. Harold, the bitterly sarcastic butler of the Randolph family, is the first to be introduced in a long line of colorful characters. The dynamic duo: domineering Russian Natasha Pachakoff and her meek, yes-man husband William Randolph III contributes a comedic twist to the play. In addition, the love triangle between William Randolph's young trophy wife, Victoria Granger, and his son, Richard Randolph, bring more chaos.

"I love how all the characters are built on stereotypes. You should be able to go to the show and recognize a character from somewhere else, and because of that, be instantly involved with that person," writer, director, and producer John Hoganson said.

"All in the Family" is a blend of drama, murder-mystery, and dark comedy. The



GRACE PARK/ *The Shamrock*

Characters of the play look upon the white box where the will is stored

play brilliantly displayed characters who were willing to lie, steal, cheat, and even kill for the fortune and twisted them into admittedly flawed yet charming people. Humorous dialogue and tongue-in-cheek overacting lightened the mood and made the play extremely enjoyable.

"Hey, quit it; you sound like a bunch of emphysema patients," Lewis, as Detective Granger, said in one of the play's more comedic scenes.

Overall, both the dialogue and the plot of the play moved very quickly at a breakneck speed; however, seemingly unimportant plot details later had an important

impact on the play. This attention to detail made the audience engaged in the shenanigans of the Randolph family.

"The play's kind of fast-paced; that's what I like about it," actor Beth Callahan said.

As an extra twist, audience members were allowed to choose who they wanted the murderer to be just before the final scene of the play. The character, who had the most votes, admitted on stage to the murdering of William Randolph II. However, "All in the Family" delivered a surprising ending when William Randolph reveals that he was not dead and that the

murdered "body" was, in fact, a life-like dummy of him.

"The ending was very surprising. I thought they would end it when Natasha was known to be the murderer. I was wrong," audience member Hae Ri Kim said.

The production, as a whole, was very enjoyable and witty. Audience members became more and more emotionally invested in the characters; by the end of the play, it certainly felt that the whole cast of characters was "All in the Family."

Not Ordinary but *Extraordinary*

SUK CHUNG
Editor-In-Chief

Directed and written by Chris Miller and Phil Lord, *The Lego Movie* is a 2014 American computer-animated comedy film. Starring the voices of Morgan Freeman, Will Ferrell, Will Arnett, Elizabeth Banks, Nick Offerman, Charlie Day, Alison Brie, and Chris Pratt, the movie was distributed and released by Warner Bros. Pictures on Feb. 7.

In the beginning of the movie, a wizard named Vitruvius (Morgan Freeman) struggles to protect "Kragle," a potent superweapon that must be kept away from Lord Business (Will Ferrell). The wizard fails to protect the Kragle; however, Vitruvius forewarns Lord Business that a person named "Special" will stop the activation of Kragle. In the future, an ordinary construction worker named Emmet Brickowski (Chris Pratt) finds a woman, Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks), searching for something at the construction site. Emmet also investigates the site and falls into a hole, where he finds the Piece of Resistance, which is capable of stopping the Kragle. When Emmet touches the Piece of Resistance, he passes out, and when he wakes up, Emmet finds himself elsewhere, taking captive by

Bad Cop/Good Cop (Liam Neeson), who is Lord Business' lieutenant. When Lord Business reveals his plans of world domination with the help of the Kragle, Emmet realizes that he is the "Special," the one chosen to defeat Lord Business.

Although the movie may seem to be appealing to adolescents, *The Lego Movie* is actually very successful to young adults and adults as well. The movie is interesting and unique because of its captivating and heart-felt story. Additionally, *The Lego Movie* has memorable moments, such as when Emmet was interrogated by the Bad Cop/Good Cop. This scene boasted out many laughs. Furthermore, when one watches the movie, he or she might find that the making of the movie must have been strenuous, since all the buildings and designs look as if they were physically made by hand.

The Lego Movie ensembles a great storyline and an interesting physical appearance. From watching the film, children can experience their childhood toys come alive and adults can reminisce their childhood. By bringing in imagination and originality, Warner Bros. has created an incredible, boasting animation out of laughs and Legos.



SUK CHUNG/ *The Shamrock*

The Lego Movie debuts with \$69 million at the weekend box office.