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A&E

The SHAMROCK

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The Battle Between Red and Blue

ALEXIS LUJAN
Copy Editor

Voters will decide on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 whether President Barack Obama will have a second term or GOP candidate Mitt Romney will be the next President of the United States. Since the beginning, attacks have come from both sides of the race while each party tries to round up more voters so they can win the election.

As the Presidential race continues, Obama is currently leading in the electoral polls. According to the Real Clear Politics website, Obama has come to a total of 288 votes thus far while Romney remains at 191 votes. Though Romney still has a chance to win, his chances are becoming slimmer as Obama continues to lead in the majority of the ten swing states, which are Colorado, Florida, Iowa, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

According to an article found on the CBS News website, "Mr. Obama leads 53 percent in Ohio, 54 percent in Pennsylvania, and 53 percent in Florida."

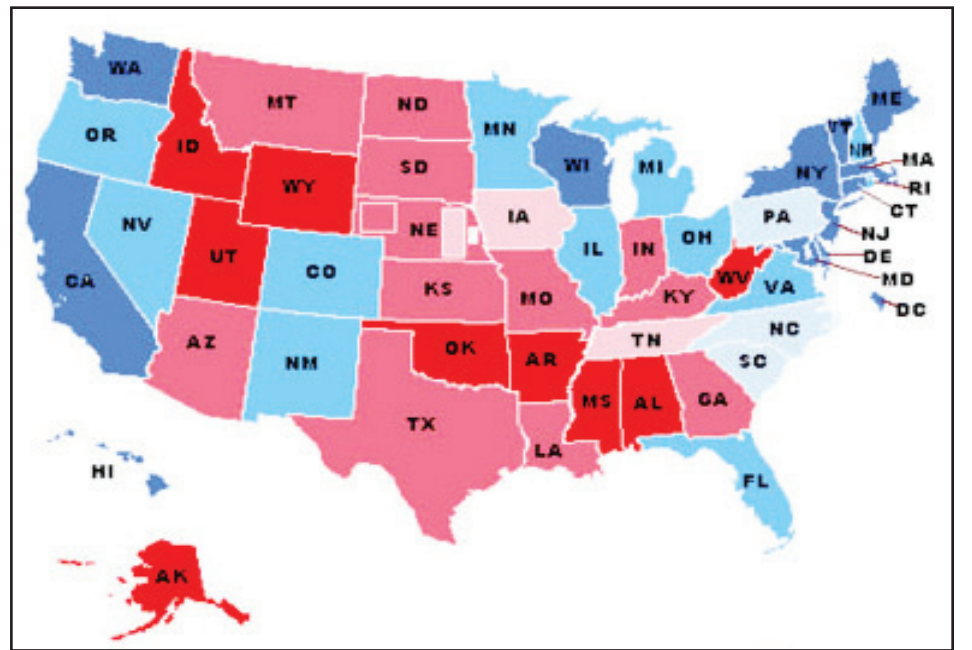
Ever since Romney's "47 percent" comment leaked over the Internet, where he said that those who pay no income tax are dependent of the government and are overall lazy, he has lost votes in Ohio,

which he had a lead in earlier in the race. Now Obama leads in not only Ohio, but also Pennsylvania and Florida. These three states are key states in any presidential election, mainly due to their amount of votes on the electoral board.

In order to build up on votes in the key swing states, Romney tries to appeal to the middle and lower classes by telling them that he plans to help the economy get back on its feet so that they can not only have more money, but invest it so that they can have even more for the future. In addition, he is trying to connect to the minorities, mainly the Hispanic voters, by saying he lived in Mexico.

On the Democratic side of the campaign, Obama is slowly working his way through the middle and poor class as well, women especially. As the abortion argument is still a major and hot topic, Obama is reaching out to women by attacking Romney's stance on making it illegal and by stating that an abortion is the choice of the woman, not the government. Like Romney, Obama is also reaching out to the Hispanic community by saying how important they are to America and the economy and are just as equal as they are.

Though the polls say Obama is the



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

One of the electoral polls shows the tight race between Obama and Romney.

lead now, they can change at any time. After the debate on Oct. 3, Romney arguably won as Obama appeared to be unsure and lost within the discussion. With less than a month left and not too far from Obama's lead, Romney still has time to cover the distance and possibly win the election. In

fact, some reports say that Romney is leading by four points in the polls.

Romney could very well become president if Obama gives another poor performance at the next presidential debate. It is simply a matter of how he does in the final weeks of the Presidential race.

MEET AND GREET

BRITTNEY MCCLENDON
Editor-In-Chief



MIRAL PATEL/ The Shamrock
AP Government and Economics teacher, Mr. Howe welcomes the parents.

On September 18, 2012, John F. Kennedy High School hosted Back to School Night where parents came to the school and were able to meet their children's new teachers. With the new school year just beginning, this was the time to listen in on the different teachers' teaching methods, curriculum, and what is to come during the school year.

Not only were there classroom visits,

but there were also meetings and activities that parents had the opportunity to attend. The Kennedy Singers provided a taco meal that began at 5:30 p.m. There was also an informational meeting for any freshman that wanted to talk to their counselor. For parents of English Learners, there was a meeting in the Counseling Center. In addition, there was a PTSA meeting where members spoke to those interested in join-

ing PTSA. Then, the classroom visitations commenced at 7:00 p.m. and ended at 8:30 p.m.

"During Back to School Night, ASB was responsible for directing parents to their child's classrooms and helping them find their way around the campus," ASB Activities Commissioner Brenda Panuco said.

Some teachers may not show up to Back to School Night for one reason or another; however, there seemed to be a different turnout this year as a large amount of teachers showed up.

"I definitely think that not only Back to School Night is important but also any given time of the month because the parent and teacher should bond because they have the same interest, the child," Spanish teacher Mr. Gallegos said.

Back to School Night is an opportunity to meet the teachers and get a better understanding of what one's child is doing for seven hours. To some, Back to School Night needs to be looked at as an important event that parents and teachers should be a part of.

"I learned that all of the classes my daughter is taking are exciting and the teachers are well prepared. It was quite beneficial for me to attend Back to School Night. I got good information talking to the

teachers," parent Nitin Patel said.

If parents show up, there may be fewer questions about what the teachers' curriculums consist of. It would just be an easier year for the teachers, students, and parents if they know from the beginning what is expected from their children.

"My primary focus for the night was to let the parents know that I am here for the child and to get an idea of what parents should expect from me. I let them know about the curriculum, textbook, discipline, and homework," Gallegos said.

Kennedy's Back to School Night seemed to be a success with the participation of Principal Earnest, ASB, teachers, PTSA, and ultimately the parents that showed up with an open mind and ready to learn about Kennedy High School.

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Prestigious Harvard and Its Natural Enemy: Cheating

SUK CHUNG
Layout Editor

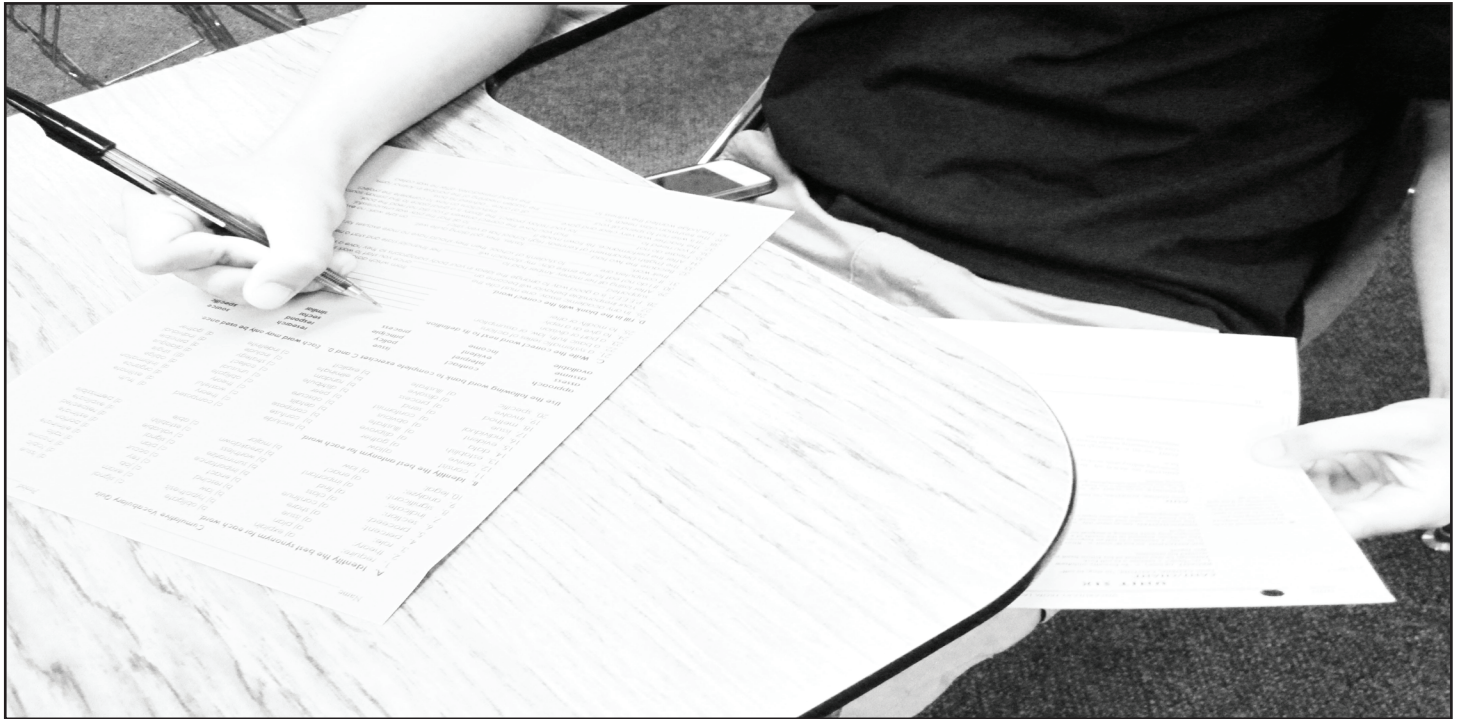
On Thursday, August 30, 2012, Harvard University revealed that the cheating that took place was the largest scandal that they ever had. In Cambridge, Massachusetts, 125 Harvard students were accused of cheating on a take-home final exam when they were specifically told to work by themselves. The students are under investigation of whether or not they have cheated or were involved in the scandal. Harvard's student newspaper, The Harvard Crimson, revealed that the cheating took place in Professor Matthew B. Platt's government class.

Officials of the Harvard College Administrative Board told the suspected students that if they cheated, they could be suspended for a year. In the future, the university plans to be strict on their rules and teach students the unethical morals and values of cheating.

"I think students cheat for two major reasons: laziness and to copy homework. Students cheat because of competition. Students want to earn those grades and cannot afford to have a missing assignment in their grade, so in the last minute, they do is cheat," junior Angela Jang said.

Students, who are enrolled in a university like Harvard, cheated because they wanted to receive a good grade in the class. Students want to be able to get good grades in the class because of their challenging environment.

"Students cheat because they did not do their homework or assignment and need



CAMRA HOPPER/ *The Shamrock*

For some people, their grades are more important than their integrity.

a good grade. They also might think that cheating is an easier way to get a "good" grade on the test or quiz," sophomore Helen Kim said.

Students are expected to be role models, leaders, and influential rather than being vulnerable and dishonest. They are vulnerable to plagiarize, knowing that cheating and plagiarizing are unethical.

"Students cheat due to the fact that they

are unprepared for the test. Another reason would be that they feel insecure about their answer and are tempted to look at another person's to verify," sophomore Joshua Kim said.

Harvard students have been accused of cheating because they feel the need to receive better grades. However, they must comply with the rules of Harvard in order to be successful rather than being sus-

pending. In the Harvard's student handbook, it states that students must follow "the policy on collaboration established for each course."

Seniors Go To Hawaii

MEHA MARATHE
Outside Reporter



COURTESY OF MEHA MARATHE
Seniors express their excitement at the first senior event.

On September 10, 2012, from 6:30 p.m till 8:00 p.m, the Senior Cabinet held its second successful senior event, Senior Luau. With over 300 seniors attending, this event was a triumph. There was much to do at the Luau, and, most importantly, attendees enjoyed spending a Monday evening with their friends.

Like every other year, entertainment was provided and booked months prior to the events. The company brought performers and a Hawaiian dinner to transform the event's setting. There were three women and one man putting on a Tahitian performance, while there were many elderly singing traditional Hawaiian songs and pumping up the crowd. Along with entertainment, many fell in love with the food.

"Everything about it was amazing- from the food to the entertainment to the activities. Definitely, senior year is going to be a memorable one," senior Jane Choe said.

This year, ASB and the Senior Cabinet tried a new setting due to the planters that were taken out the past summer. Instead of putting a limited amount of chairs in front of the stage, about 35 tables were ordered to fit the entire court. This way, seniors were able to sit, eat, and watch the entertainment instead of juggling to do all three activities.

"I thought the luau was an interesting

and cute gathering. I liked the entertainment and the fact that students were allowed to participate! However, I didn't like how there were not enough tables and how it started so late - there wasn't enough time at all. On the contrary, I liked how we were allowed to dress up; it made it more official and made me feel like I was a part of something," senior Angela Choi said.

On the lockers of the first court, there were background pictures for attendees to take pictures with. Students were appreciative knowing that there was something other to do rather than just watching the entertainment. They loved the fact how there were tables to sit down on.

The event was definitely an accomplishment. It has pumped up the senior class of 2013 for the socials that are coming up. Many seniors are excited to see what is coming next.

"The seniors are in for a treat this year," senior Class President Sarah You said.



School News Brief

First Choir Show of the year on October 19 and 20 in Performing Art Center, at 7pm. Come and support the Kennedy Singers

Hey Students! Junior Class is Selling Boo Grams, caramel apples from October 15 to 26, for \$2 each. They will be passing them out on Halloween.

Red Ribbon Week from October 22 to 26.

End of Quarter Dance: ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE on Wednesday October 24 from 6 to 8 p.m in first court. Ticket Sales from October 9 to 19, \$5 with ASB, \$8 without ASB, and \$10 at the door.

Hey Seniors! There is a Drive-In Theater on November 2 from 6:30 to 9 p.m, in the softball field. Come and enjoy a movie with your friends and eat free snacks!

Can Food Drive Competition from November 5 to 14. Bring food cans and help the less fortunate people.

THE CRIMSON CRUSADE

ROBERT MOSER
Opinions Editor



ROBERT MOSER/ *The Shamrock*
Red Ribbon Week sign, drawing attention to drug abuse.

Every October brings about the week in which we celebrate in red. Posters are taped on the wall, advocating the crusade to keep teens off drugs. It is the week where our teachers and administrators preach to students

the terrors and consequences of drug use. Though Red Ribbon Week seems repetitive and unnecessary, its goal is something to respect, and each year, the purpose and need grows.

The general thought of the

purpose behind Red Ribbon Week is to tell students, "Drugs are bad." The rest we tune out. What students are missing are the facts, the reason why our teachers and administrators preach to us for a week about why drugs

are bad. We all have a general understanding that drugs have harmful side effects. Though, even as we learn of these harmful consequences, the number of teens using drugs is still rising.

In 2007, the leading cause of deaths among teens was vehicle accidents. Of the 7,650 deaths that occurred, 57 percent of the victims had measureable blood alcohol levels. In 2009, 14.7 percent of teens were said to drink alcohol while 1/3 show signs of addiction.

That number is slowly rising. As we become more knowledgeable about drug use and its harmful effects, the number of deaths of teens using alcohol and other drugs still rises. This does not mean Red Ribbon Week is not working; it means that students are not listening. Hence why there is always a need for this crimson crusade to save teens. So, students, pay attention when Red Ribbon Week comes around, which is October 22 to October 26. It might just save your life.

Letter From the Editor

BRITTNEY MCCLENDON
Editor-In-Chief

Dear Shamrock Readers,

As your Editor-In-Chief, I would like to thank the student body and staff for all of your support with the relaunch of John F. Kennedy's student publication, *The Shamrock*. I would also like to thank our newspaper adviser,



Ms. Fong, for providing us with an outlet to express our thoughts and opinions.

I am proud to say that this is our second year publishing *The Shamrock*, and we hope to continue providing the latest information about school wide news, events, and developments. The staff and I work really hard in trying to assemble an entertaining and informative publication,

so everyone has access to the most current school happenings. We also hope to enlighten our fellow students on the importance of this media outlet at our school. With our publication, we have gotten the opportunity to acknowledge some of the accomplishments of our student body.

The *Shamrock* staff is up to date on upcoming events and

covers anything that is relevant to our school, community, and society. Our online publication *The Shamrock Connection* will be available once a month, and *The Shamrock* will be released every two months. In each of these issues, we will feature the best in news, entertainment, sports, opinions, and features. We highly encourage others students participation. If you have

an idea for a story, or would like to have your artwork published in our newspaper, we always welcome new suggestions or ideas.

Once again, thank you in advance for all of your support and this would not be possible without the commitment of the faculty and student body.



All of our content is written/produced by our *Shamrock* Staff and outside Kennedy Reporters. Editorials, columns, and reviews that appear with a byline are solely the opinions of the writer and not those of the entire staff, adviser, or the administration. Not all of our stories reflect the opinions of all Kennedy High School students.

The Shamrock is for the JFKHS students and their input is not only welcomed, but also needed. Any and all students at JFKHS are welcome to apply for a position in *The Shamrock*. Applications are reviewed by the editors-in-chief for the qualifications and experience the applicant possesses. *The Shamrock* will also willingly publish guest writers.

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. *The Shamrock* news room is located in room 106 on 8281 Walker Street La Palma, CA 90623.

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FEATURES

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Two Tasks, One Big Responsibility

DANIEL COOPER & VICTORIA MANCINI

Sports Editor & Staff Reporter

Managing time as a student is difficult, but managing time as a student and employee is double the amount of work and difficulty.

Students by day and employees by night, students that have jobs must stay on top of their homework and work schedule all while trying to be careful not to fall behind in either area. Despite their busy schedules, students with jobs are still able to manage both parts of required work. Much of their success has come from cooperation between their supervisors, themselves, and their teachers.

"My boss is very understanding; he wants me to be involved senior year," senior and Ralphs employee Katie Padilla said.

Students who try to take on the extra responsibility of working a job may actually find it is easier than many would think. AP US History and World History teacher Mr. Cornforth held a job at Sammy's Wood-fired Pizza while he was in high school; he was in AP Calculus, AP United States History, AP English, AP Government, AP Bio, and APR History at the time.

"As long as one schedule does not conflict with the other, and you can keep them separate, it's not really an issue," Cornforth said.

It is possible to succeed in both school and work. However, there can be times when the two schedules conflict with one another. Katie has had trouble with conflicting schedules, as she sometimes has to work Wednesday nights, which is when she has color guard rehearsal. Still, she is able to work around this because she has an understanding with her supervisors. They let her off work for those days that



DANIEL COOPER/ The Shamrock

Senior Kate Padilla bags groceries at her job at Ralphs.

she cannot miss alate night school event.

"It's easier to please supervisors; they are mostly young with kids, so they are more understanding," Katie said.

Any students that are looking for a job should know what they are getting themselves into. They should know exactly how a job will affect their schedule and if they will be able to handle it or not.

"Students that want to work have to know their schedule and know if their classes are hard; it's either studying more or working more, so they need to know how

they are going to plan," senior and Pirate's Dinner Adventure employee Fay Min said.

Having a job in high school can be a good experience for a student, and it will often times make students more responsible and better prepared for life after high school. Fay was able to buckle down and manage her time well, and is on track for a more fulfilling high school experience.

"She really watches her time like when she has to get to work and is more organized and better with communicating with different people," Fay's mother Joyce Min said.

Cornforth believes that if you wish to take on the task of going to school and work, you must have certain qualities that define you.

"Good time management, organization, responsibility, and drive and motivation to do both well, instead of both half-heartedly," Cornforth said.

When faced with the decision of going to school, and working, students need to consider the consequences and understand what they are getting into. They must know what will be best for them in the long run.

FROM EARLY TO LATE RISE

ROBERT MOSER

Opinions Editor

This school year was the start of some ground breaking changes. Along with the new policy of cell phones at lunch, this year has also brought back late start. The extra hour of sleep sounds great, but to students with zero period, and to teachers, the extra hour is just a mirage in the desert.

As the sun slowly rises on Thursday mornings, and most students are sleeping, junior Thomas Quillier makes his way to zero period marching band practice. With zero period starting at regular time, there is around an hour gap in between the end of zero period and the start of first period on late start days. On Thursday mornings, the marching band practice is extended by an hour, requiring the students to practice for even longer.

"From the time that we don't get after Wednesday rehearsal, we get home tired, and they just bring us back the next morning, and they expect so much out of us after we just got home and still have homework and lost so much sleep.

It does affect me and my work that I can do in other classes, because I'm just super tired those two days," Thomas said.

For students like Thomas with a zero period, Thursday mornings involve waking up at normal time to get to school. However, for students like senior Ryan Pangan, Thursday mornings involve getting that extra hour of sleep.

"I have no complaints about late start. It has helped a lot with my sleep schedule. I enjoy having an extra hour of sleep on Thursdays," Ryan said.

For Principal Earnest, late start is an oasis in a dry desert. Each morning, Mr. Earnest arrives to school at the same time, regardless of late start. Due to this, many have questions as to why Kennedy went from early release to late start.

"Coaches weren't able to meet with other teachers because they had prior commitment to their teams. With late start, coaches can meet with their fellow teachers in the morning without it conflicting



ROBERT MOSER/ The Shamrock

A wrist watch displays the time 8:58 am. The start of school on Thursday mornings.

with their sport schedules," Earnest said.

To zero period students, this time for teachers to meet may go unappreciated, but, to Mr. Earnest, this time to meet is healthy.

"Teaching is a profession. Too often teachers teach in isolation. Just like with

my doctor, I would want him to talk to other doctors. The meeting time just means that teachers are able to collaborate and discuss their profession," Earnest said.

What Sipes Has To Say On 2012 Flag Day

SARA TAKETA
Staff Reporter

When Flag Day makes an annual appearance on June 14, many American citizens are oblivious of its undeniable importance. But on Tuesday, Sept. 25, Kennedy's very own junior Jonathan Sipes was recognized by the Anaheim City Hall for his first place winning essay "What the American Flag Means to Me."

Flag Day is an occasion of honoring the American flag, established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30, 1916, and officially established by President Truman on August 3, 1949. Following Jonathan's win, he attended a city council meeting, where he was applauded by the mayor of Anaheim and other city council members, who were enlightened by his exemplification of gratitude toward the country.

"To be honest I had no idea that I would win the contest. I was actually quite surprised that I had won. I have learned that when I try to apply myself I can accomplish great things," Jonathan said.

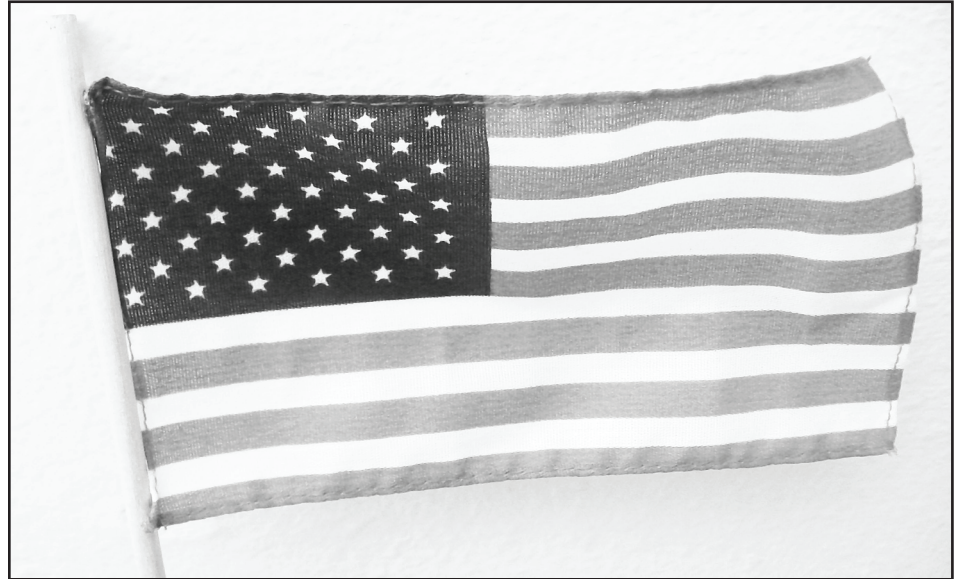
In his essay, Jonathan highlights the true meaning of the American flag, and the liberties it represents due to the courageous soldiers who sacrificed so much for our country.

"My motive for doing the essay was my love for the country. All of my male ancestors were fighting for our freedom all the way back to the revolution," Jonathan said.

Sponsored by the Anaheim 2012 Flag Day Celebration, the essay contest was designed to raise awareness for the importance of the occasion, as well as urge students to get involved in community competitions.

"I am very proud of him. [His essay] was very heartfelt. It will give him a sense of accomplishment and pride in a job well done. I think [the contest] gives students a chance to really think about the flag and the respect it deserves. For Jon I think it fulfilled its purpose," Jonathan's mother Lynn Sipes said.

Sixty-three years after the official



SARA TAKETA/ *The Shamrock*

In his essay, Jonathan Sipes says the American flag symbolizes freedom, pride, and justice.

establishment of Flag Day nationwide, many United States citizens are forgetting to show their patriotism and pride in their country by honoring the American flag. Thus, we must applaud those who do not cease to demonstrate their respect, devo-

tion, and gratitude for our country. The next time June 14 approaches, remember to appreciate the endless freedom and opportunity represented by the American flag.

The Students of Yesterday

COURTNEY BANKHEAD
Photo Editor

We all know that teachers were once high school students but did you know that some of our teachers were once Kennedy students not that long ago? Although there are a handful of teachers that were once Kennedy High students, below are brief high school bios of three teachers: Football coach and history teacher Mr. Brit Johnson, English and film teacher Mrs. Christie Bettendorf, and English teacher Ms. Katrina McNeil.



Christie Bettendorf
Graduating year: 1989
Band, Softball, *The Shamrock*

Favorite class:

"Band-Most of my friends were in band and we went to Ireland!"

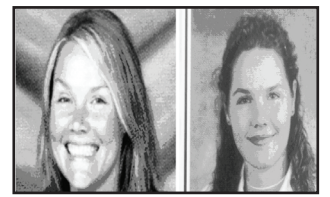
What drove you to comeback to Kennedy?
The great staff and high expectations for students."



Brit Johnson
Graduating year: 1988
Football

What drove you to comeback to Kennedy?

"I had volunteered to coach at a different school, and came to love teaching and coaching. I realized I wanted to give back my time and energy to my Alma Mater and work with Coach Olson, who taught me so much when I was a senior here."



Katrina McNeil
Graduating year: 1999
Softball, Volleyball

Most embarrassing moment:

"My freshman year I was walking through the middle of campus to go to where I eat lunch. There used to be a whole bunch of benches that went along the grassy area. I was so focused on who knows what, that when I went to step over the bench I tripped and ended up going head over heels in the grass...in front of a group of seniors."

The La Palma Pageant, a Mission of Integrity

LENY BIALA
Staff Reporter

LA PALMA-All nine contestants are aligned and crouched down waiting for their cue. The play button is clicked. On the count of "five! six! seven! eight!" in pairs they spring into action. Moving in unison, they create a picture in each time frame. Bodies moves identically by the lines of their arms, legs and poses. Now it is each individual's time to shine. Who will win the title of the 2012-2013 La Palma Ambassador?

The La Palma pageant contestants are going on stage with a cause! This year's theme is "We Salute You!" Each contestant will advocate their cause-how they will contribute to their city. The winning members of the court will be able to con-



MARINA RABINOVICH/ Former La Palma Recreation Coordinator
The contestants gather in their business wear on the second rehearsal day.

tinue their mission throughout the year.

"Each rehearsal builds on a skill to help the contestants for the pageant as well as future life skills," La Palma Pageant Committee member, Kaiti Childers said.

Every Sunday the La Palma ladies meet for a three-hour long workshop. Each week

they cover a specific skill that will help them for the pageant as well as their professions in the future. These skills include building resumes, interview skills, speech presentations, and performance techniques.

"My goal in helping out the La Palma Pageant is to turn it into a leader-

ship program," Kaiti Childers said.

As the weeks pass by, each young contestant is sculpted into a leader of La Palma. Contestants have been given the opportunity to be acquainted with the businesses, community groups, and residents of La Palma. While dedicating their time to meetings with the La Palma City Council, Kiwanis, and Toastmasters, they have a better grasp of what it's like to speak in public and with professional attitudes.

"I'm a mom of 2011-2012 Miss Buena Park. From watching her journey and what she got to do, I hope to pass that on to these nine girls," Lynn Sipes said.

As an experience pageantry mom, Sipes and the La Palma Pageant Committee have gone through every detail to create the perfect picture. The contestants are working together and growing off of each other as they rehearse consistently from mock interviews and speeches to eveningwear and talent.

There's more to come with these young ladies. Come see the final framing on November 4th 2012. Doors open at 4:30 pm at the District Auditorium, located here on campus.

A WEEK OF GREEK

MIRAL PATEL
Staff Reporter

The Greek gods came to Kennedy to shower their styles on the students.

Spirit weeks are designed to pump up student spirit for the school and is way to connect with the school. Kennedy's ASB picked a Greek god theme for this year's Homecoming week from Sept. 17 to Sept. 21. It was something different from everything else they picked in previous years. The spirit week was planned by the Spirit Commissioners senior Jasmine Taylor and senior Alisha Conover.

"The theme gives people a chance to embrace their inner god or goddess and be able to wear togas to the homecoming dance," Alisha said.

ASB wanted to incorporate a god into each of the days of the week leading up to homecoming. They represent the school and a part of a students every day lives. Also, the dress up days went along with the name of the gods and the goddesses while advertising for homecoming.

"I think Spirit Week went great this year. The Greek themes were appealing to a majority of the students. There was a lot of participation, which raised the excitement for homecoming," junior Aditi Mayer said.

The first day of the spirit week was dedicated to Eros, god of love, and Kennedy students represented the god by wearing pink, red, or hearts. On the second day, Kennedy students dressed up in their favorite band t-shirts in honor of Apollo, god of music. The following day was Morpheus, god of dreams, and students wore



LENY BIALA/ *The Shamrock*
(Clockwise from top left) Seniors Kenna Johnson, Haram Kim, Madison Solem-Kuehl, Stephen Edwards, Meha Marathe, Saral Patel, and Neha Modha dress in their different attire to show the school spirit.

pajamas. On Thursday, students portrayed Hermes, god of sports, and Kennedy students came in sports attire. On the last day, it was Irishious, god of Kennedy. Kennedy students wore green and gold.

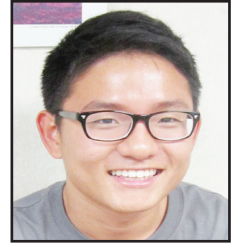
"The homecoming assembly was a great way to start the year and connect as a student body. It was preppy, especially seeing everyone with so much spirit and enthusiasm," freshman Bhavisha Tailor said.

Some Kennedy students dressed up for

spirit week to be engaged in school. Some teachers wanted to bring out students spirit for school so they gave extra credit. The little incentive got students to dress up for the week. Then there were the students who just dressed up for personal reasons.

"I participated in the Spirit week because I wanted to show my love for the school. Also it is a way to respect for your school and to engage in school activities," senior Ghorashka Tuhki said.

Homecoming King Eddie Eun



Q: How did you feel when you were crowned Homecoming King?

A: I felt loved and appreciated because I am not a special, nor talented individual. The fact that people chose me encourages me to become a more devoted Kennedy student.

Q: What are some qualities or personality traits that you possess?

A: I am very easy going, relaxed person. I believe that I am a very social-loving person who loves to meet new people and hang out with my peers. Also, I am passionate to help out others whenever they need me. These traits, I believe are necessary to become the Homecoming King.

Q: What does being crowned Homecoming King mean to you?

A: Being crowned as the Homecoming King means that I have served others well. It means a lot to me because just 5 years ago, I knew nobody around Kennedy High School. I am honored. Also, it means that I can live my senior year to the fullest.

Q: What do you like to do during your free time?

A: I love to exercise while listening to music. I love to sleep or play guitar. Even though I enjoy solitary time, I hang out with my friends most of the time.

Homecoming Queen Kareena Bahillo



Q: What words would you use to describe yourself?

A: Dedicated, fun-loving, determined, and humble.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: Some of my hobbies include dancing, watching "Iron Chef America," laughing, eating, studying the Bible, planning events, and hanging out with family and friends.

Q: What extracurricular activities are you involved in?

A: I am highly involved in many things here at Kennedy. I am involved in ASB, wrestling, cheer, RESET club, Make-a-Wish club, and choir. I also highly support the JROTC program.

Q: What was going through your head when you heard your name announced for homecoming queen?

A: When I saw my name being revealed as homecoming queen, I was honestly so shocked because I was so sure that I wasn't going to get such a title. I was thinking, "this isn't real life.." But, I am honestly so honored that my peers would vote me as their homecoming queen.

KENNEDY'S GREEK HOMECOMING

COURTNEY BANKHEAD
Photo Editor

On Friday, September 21, the Kennedy Associated Student Body ended the Greek-themed spirit week with a Homecoming dance to remember. ASB event leaders, Amanda Carnes and Brenda Panuco, assisted in setting up the gym as a replica of the Parthenon. Publicizing the event from the start of the school year, students from all graduating classes came out and danced the night away under the Greek sky.

During registration and the beginning of the school year, ASB had announcements, posters, and even scan-barcodes accustomed to the Iphone that gave students information about the Homecoming dance. ASB adviser Mrs. Anderson notes the positive turnout of students.

"It was great. We had about 900 to 950 plus students attend the dance. It was really good," Anderson said.

Amanda commends ASB on their hard work in making the dance a hallmark memory for many students.

"I think ASB did a really good job. We did have some complications but overall they did a good job of listening and getting things done. Everyone seemed to enjoy the dance and that is all that really matters," Amanda said.

When asked about the set-up of the gym into a Greek "Parthenon", se-



COURTNEY BANKHEAD/ *The Shamrock*
The almighty God of Irish stands fearless before his fellow Fighting Irish peers, a day before the Greek-themed Homecoming dance.

nior Emran Ekong was very pleased.

"To be honest I didn't expect it to look that nice. When I went inside the gym, it didn't look like it was a school gym. It was pretty sick, the set-up was really cool. The columns were really nice. This year, ASB really stepped it up," Emran said.

To freshmen, this was their first high school dance, and for the most part, they enjoyed it more than previous dances. Freshman Skye Whitebear definitely had a memorable Greek experience.

"For this being my first dance, I like the dances a lot better here because there's a lot

more people and I can meet new students here, whereas at junior high dances you just know the same people and it's not as creative as it is here. ASB did a great job with the decorations and the music and everything. It definitely makes me look forward to the end-of-the-quarter dance," Skye said.

With that said, the Homecoming dance was a Greek success, and thanks to ASB, many students look forward to future KHS dances to come.

No Gold at the End of the Rainbow

BRITTNEY MCCLENDON & SARA TAKETA
Editor-In-Chief & Staff Reporter

What seemed to be a night to remember for Homecoming King Eddie Eun and Queen Karena Bahillo was unfortunately not equally memorable for the Kennedy Football team.

Kennedy Fighting Irish played their Homecoming game against the Valencia Tigers at Handel Stadium on September 22, 2012. Going into their first league game, Kennedy had 1 win and 3 losses while Valencia had 2 wins and 2 losses. This was a much needed win for the Fighting Irish, who hoped to improve their record with this game.

At the start of the first quarter, Kennedy's defense looked promising with commendable stops by defensive linemen senior Eugene Lee and junior Nathan Trent. Momentum turned in the green and gold's favor as Valencia needed 3 more yards for a first down, but the pass was intercepted by senior Philip Anderson. With the blocked field goal kick, the score for the end of the first quarter read 7-6 Valencia. The Fighting Irish continued their steady pace with senior quarterback Taylor Elliott running the ball into the end zone and racking up seven more points.

After the first half, the boys triumphantly headed into the locker room with a 13 to 10 lead. The third and fourth quarters took a turn for the worst as the Fighting Irish were shut out and the Tigers scored 14 more points, putting the final score at 24-13 Valencia. Still commendable for their efforts, senior Darius Miles had a total of 100 rushing yards, Philip Anderson had a total of 56 receiving yards, and Taylor Elliott had a total of 126 passing yards. This loss brings Kennedy's record to 1 win and 4 losses and no wins and 1 loss in Empire



MIRAL PATEL/The Shamrock

Charging through the banner, the Fighting Irish are eager to start the 2012 Homecoming game against the Valencia Tigers.

league.

"[We are hoping to improve on] the little things. We seem to have had a couple breakdowns a game and it has cost us a couple of victories," Coach Johnson said.

The Homecoming game is important to the players because of all the hype it gets during the week high expectations are placed on the Fighting Irish, increasing the pressure even more for them to win.

"This was a big game because it was our very first league game and we really wanted to make a statement to the league and also to our school and show that we are better than what our record has shown. Also every year we make it our goal to win the league championship and the best way to do that is to win every league game,"

Eugene said.

Even though this may have seemed like one of the biggest games in the football season, the players want to treat it as if it were any other game.

"Playing in my last homecoming game felt as if it were any other ordinary league game. I mean don't get me wrong, as a team we love getting involved during homecoming week and we love seeing the fans, the band, and the cheerleaders but when game time comes we just want to focus on the game and leave all distractions behind. We played hard and just wanted to win, unfortunately we fell short at the end," Eugene said.

After an impressive first half for the Fighting Irish, Kennedy's ASB held a half-

time presentation to announce the long-awaited Homecoming Queen. Nominees Michelle Furuya, Courtney Bankhead, Karena Bahillo, and Katie To, rode in exquisite cars around the stadium before waiting anxiously to be crowned. The crowd cheered as Karena Bahillo's name was announced and accepted the Homecoming title.

"A lot of work went into the half time show presentation. We planned out every single detail from the dance, to the script and even the stage decorations," ASB Commissioner Brenda Panuco said.

WATER POLO BLOWOUT

DANIEL COOPER
Sports Editor

Varsity Boys Water Polo crushed Whitney High School at Kennedy in a 15-4 victory on Thursday, Sept. 20.

The first half of the game was a slow start. The team only scored four points. However, during the second half, Kennedy made a tremendous run on Whitney, scoring eleven goals. The team dialed in, and dominated the rest of the game.

Sophomore Zachary Minott was a key player in the game, scoring 5 of the 15 goals. He made shot after shot after shot, never letting up on the other team.

"I feel pretty good; we've been working really hard to get the win," Zachary said.

The team has been training hard daily to get wins like this one on a regular basis. They may struggle at times, but the team has the ability to overcome any obstacles that hold them back.

"We have been struggling, but we have been getting a lot better. We will end the season well, and do really well during

League and hopefully make CIF," Zachary said.

Everyone contributed to the game. The win was a team effort and everyone was passing the ball well, shooting great, and defending strongly. The guys rarely allowed Whitney to go on offense. If they did get through the defense, senior captain Robert Moser was right there in the goal blocking shot after shot.

"I feel like it was one of our best wins in a while, because we were focused and we really played like a team," senior captain Hung Nguyen said.

The team was pushing hard on offense, getting the ball down to Whitney's side as much as they possibly could.

"We run a drive and try to work as a team, we try to get everyone to score," Zachary said.

Coach Corona pushes his team to the limit every day, making them play to the best of their abilities. The hard work shows as the boys take a victory.

"They practice two to three hours a day, sometimes twice a day. They swam four and a half miles during the summer to prepare for the season," Corona said.



VICTORIA MANCINI/The Shamrock

Senior captain Hung Nguyen takes a shot at the goal

The team will continue to come out as strong as ever day in and day out. The victory gained is a reflection of all the heart and soul the boys put into what they do.

Watch for more wins in the future, as this team is likely to exceed expectations this season, as they hope to defeat rival schools in the pursuit to win League.

GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS TAKES ON PACIFICA

MIKAYLA KHRAMOV
Features Editor



MIKAYLA KHRAMOV/ *The Shamrock*
Girls Varsity Tennis team gathers at the end of a game for a team cheer.

On Tuesday Oct. 2, Kennedy Girls Varsity Tennis challenged Pacifica in a tough loss for the team. The game, promptly starting at 3:15 p.m., lasted until around 5:30 p.m., and even though it was a tough blow, the girls held their heads high with a positive stance on the overall turn out of the season.

This was the first time Kennedy played Pacifica this year. Pacifica was a strong team, but Kennedy came out stronger. Even with the loss, they are ready to take on the next school. Teammates senior Meha Marate and senior Alicia Conover played exceptionally well in a doubles match, splitting the court in half as they shared returning hits from the other side. After each game, they came together for a high five, displaying the sportsmanship Irish athletes share on campus.

Sophomore Paris Lee's singles match was full of energy and determination, as she raced up and down the court, return-

ing each hit with a harder smack right over the net.

Girls Tennis has eight returning players and three new from Junior Varsity. They are a group of dedicated and high-spirited individuals looking forward to a progressive season.

"The team is getting better and we have jelled as a unit," Coach Sara Mesa said.

Mesa, the Kennedy Girls Softball coach, is a first time coach for Girls Tennis here at Kennedy. She is doing a great job at keeping the team on their toes, ready to play their hearts out each match.

"The season is great and the team is full of memorable people that will stay in my heart for the rest of my life," senior Natalie Escudero said.

A tough loss will not keep the team. Come out and support the girls at their next game and watch as they take on their opponents with a smile and a wave.

THE BATTLE GOES ON

VICTORIA MANCINI
Staff Reporter

Football is well under way. Fighting Irish Football team keeps pushing through the season, but has come up short so far. The Fighting Irish have 7 losses and 1 win so far this season. In the league standings, they have lost 3 games and won 0.

"We haven't won too many, but we are playing pretty good. We are just making these little mistakes that cost us the game" senior Philip Anderson said.

The Fighting Irish have only a handful of seniors on the team this year, and some say this is a disadvantage. The lack of seniors is not a handicap however as the team also has some great junior players.

"It's not really a disadvantage. I want as many players as I can get. I love senior leadership and senior experience, and young guys who are enthusiastic and hard working, and we have that," varsity football Coach Johnson said.

On top of the lack of seniors on the team this year, many of the first string players are getting injured. This is somewhat of a disadvantage to the team as well as upsetting to the individual players. It is the highest number of injuries in the 18 years Johnson has been coaching football.

"It's pretty upsetting [being injured]. I've never played Cypress on the varsity level, and I think we have a pretty good chance against them and it should be a good game. I just wish I could be out there with my teammates," Philip said.

Not only does the team have injuries,



VICTORIA MANCINI/ *The Shamrock*
Mascot Senior Meagan Giovannetti strikes a pose while cheering for the football team coming on for the second half.

but it also needs to stay together and play as a team. That is not the only thing the team needs to improve on.

"Discipline. Discipline, some of us go 100%, but most of us are just whatever about it," senior Darius Miles said.

Players need to listen to what their coaches and fellow players are telling them, and they must be completely focused going into every game, as well as

every practice.

"You're always gonna need personal discipline, and I never want to seem overbearing, because too much discipline can seem that way, but there have to be rules and things the players have to abide by," Johnson said.

The Fighting Irish hoped to beat the Centurions, and had a good chance if they stick together as a team.

"If we do our jobs, execute and have no mistakes, we'll do pretty good and will definitely have a chance of winning," Darius said.

The Fighting Irish put up a strong fight, the team played well and never gave up, but in the end the Centurions defeated the Fighting Irish. The team is playing well this year and is looking forward to the rest of the season.

The Battle is Lost but Not the War

DANIEL COOPER & VICTORIA MANCINI
Sports Editor & Staff Reporter

The Varsity Girls Volleyball team suffered a tough 2-3 loss against Cypress on Tuesday, September 25, 2012.

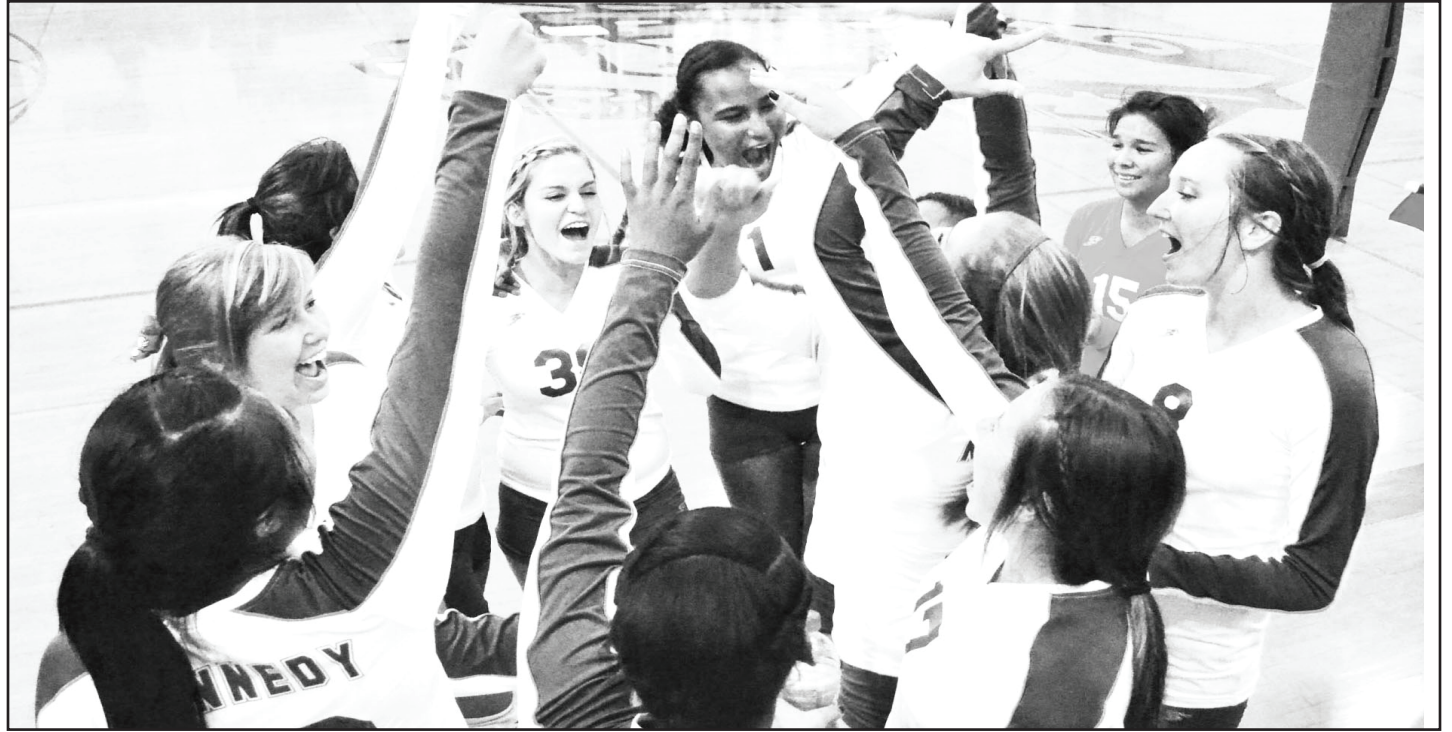
The volleyball team played a good game but came up short. They played five sets against Cypress, winning the first 25-21, losing the second 22-25, losing the third 21-25, winning the fourth 25-22, and ultimately losing the fifth set 12-15. The girls battled to the end, making digs left and right, and got kills when the opportunity rose. There were high hopes going into the match from Rachele Vargas, mother of volleyball senior team member Marissa Vargas.

"I'm hoping it is going to be a close game, and that Kennedy will win. The rivalry is huge. It's even bigger than before. We have to beat 'The School Down the Street' now more than ever," Vargas said.

Going into the match, the team knew it would be a very tough game; Cypress has shown that they are worthy competitors time and time again, but that would not stop the Kennedy girls from putting 110 percent into the game.

"It's going to be an extremely tough match. Both teams are extremely skilled and passionate," Coach Bixby said.

Senior Lexi Brown led the team with 18 kills, 6 digs, and 2 aces, senior Saipele Sala had 1 kill and 2 aces, senior Sarah Rodriguez had 1 dig, sophomore Molly Killen had 4 kills, junior Heather Huynh had



VICTORIA MANCINI/ *The Shamrock*
Girls Volleyball team keeping high hopes during the game against Cypress.

9 digs, sophomore Nicole Mankey had 1 kill, and sophomore Jordan Adamson had 6 kills. Overall the entire team played very well and put up a strong fight. The team never gave up and continued to push through all 5 sets, just missing the victory.

"We stayed in it no matter what the score was, we never gave up and I'm proud of my teammates for that. We played hard

and so did they," Lexi said.

The team is looking forward to facing Cypress again Thursday, October 18, 2012 and hopefully defeating them. They will come back stronger than ever, and with even more determination to gain a win against their rivals. The hard work and dedication the team has put in will pay off in the long run, and win games in the future.

"The players did awesome, just awesome. Now we'll just have to beat them on their court," Vargas said.

The girls are amped up and ready to face their next challengers, the most important thing for them to do now, is to put this game behind them, and take down the next team.

Sprint to the Finish

BROOKE MONTGOMERY
Outside Reporter

The Cross Country team started off their season the right way on Wednesday, October 3, 2012.

At the Empire League Challenge, both the girls and the boys varsity teams managed to put themselves in the top spots. The Varsity girls made their way to the top by placing number one in the Empire League. The girls had four runners in the top eight places in the race, Freshman Emily Park, the leader of the Kennedy girls pack, came in third place, Senior Brooke Montgomery came in fifth place, Freshman Kaitlin Matsuguma came in sixth, Junior Amber Perez finished in eighth place and Junior Olivia Castrejon helped contribute to their victory. After the team finished their race they celebrated with their vic-



COURTESY OF LORI SEEBECK
Girls Cross Country jumps off the line to start their long run.

tory over the other schools. The boys also pushed themselves into the second spot in the league with Junior Martin Miramontes leading the Kennedy boys, and coming in second place overall, Junior Alec Mamrot,



COURTESY OF ROCHELLE MARTIN
Boys Cross Country warms up before their big run.

not too far behind, finished in sixth place, Junior Patrick Martin came in 11th, Sophomore Danny Lee in 15th, and Senior Kyle Calderon completed their impressive race.

The two teams will enter the Empire

League Finals on Tuesday, October 30. They look forward to having another great finish.

UPCOMING GAMES

Football:

- October 18; 7 p.m. @ Western
- October 25; 7 p.m. vs. Yorba Linda @ Western
- November 1; 7 p.m. @ Tustin

Boys Water Polo:

- October 25; 4:15 p.m. @ Western
- October 30; 4:15 p.m. vs. Yorba Linda @ Kennedy
- November 1; 4:15 p.m. @ Tustin

Girls Volleyball:

- October 18; 3:15 p.m. @ Cypress
- October 24; 3:15 p.m. vs. Western @ Kennedy
- October 26 & 27; 3:15 p.m. & 8 a.m. Kennedy Tournament
- October 29; 3:15 p.m. @ Yorba Linda
- October 31; 3:15 p.m. vs. Tustin @ Kennedy

Cross Country:

- October 20; 8 a.m. @ Mt. San Antonio College
- October 30; 1 p.m. Empire League Finals Meet @ Craig Park

OPINIONS

Questionable Key to Success

DIANA DOMINGO
News Editor

The idea of college is found to not be the only path students can take to be successful.

College is portrayed to be a guarantee for success in one's life. At least that is what many people believe. An exception to that belief is Peter Thiel who argues that college is not worth it like many people in our society think. Peter Thiel is an entrepreneur, venture capitalist, and a hedge fund manager. Thiel co-founded PayPal, serving as its CEO and also serves as president of Clarium Capital.



"Today, everybody believes that we need to go to college, and people will pay—whatever it takes," Thiel said.

There are many sacrifices that people make in order to go to the school that they want to attend. Many people take out loans that later leave them in great debt. Once they graduate from college, they are not guaranteed a job and the loans may not get paid, creating only more problems rather than ease in their lives.

"One of the concerns that I've had about the educational system is that the enormous amounts of debt it's putting on

people is actually constraining people's ability to do things that are not as remunerate," Thiel said.

So what Thiel suggests is that students should drop out of school altogether. The problem is that society goes straight to the assumption that everyone has to go to college. College is believed to be the factor in the success of individuals and this is what Thiel argues to be wrong. This is why Thiel has funded a project called "The 20 Under 20 Fellowship" where 20 students were asked to not attend school while they received a mentorship and \$100,000.

"I think a program like this would have been unthinkable in 2007, but I think you increasingly have people who are graduating from college, not being able to get good jobs, and moving back home with their parents," Thiel said.

With seniors facing the idea of college soon, the topic of Peter Thiel's program was brought out to them.

"I would definitely consider taking that offer. You get money and you have to not go to school for two years," senior Vihang Patel said.

Senior Brenda Panuco is faced with the decision of what the rest of her life



DIANA DOMINGO /The Shamrock

College mail that students at Kennedy High school receive as their next step to college approaches.

will consist of. Seniors should begin to consider what schools they will apply to and also consider what they want to major in.

"I wouldn't do it because although the money is given up front, in the long run, going to college will help you financially and mentally," Brenda said.

Unlike Thiel has believed, Brenda believes that college is not going to cause financial issues that cannot be solved. Additionally, going to school and getting prepared in an area that interests you will only let you be satisfied with how much you have accomplished. Likewise, senior Olivia Gabehart, agrees that going to college is the better option.

"I would never drop out. My education is everything to me. Science is what I live for, I love learning everything that I can," Olivia said.

Like Thiel has said, society does pressure students to believe that college is what is best for their future. Despite the financial issues, college is not much of a choice for many students. Whether it is their teachers, parents, or both, students may be influenced to make a choice about what path they will take in college, and choosing a school that will offer them what they need to be successful. There are also those students, like Olivia, that believe college is what will create satisfaction and fulfillment.

Colors of Expression

CAMRA HOPPER
Staff Reporter

A look into why students at Kennedy High School dye their hair.

People tend to dye their hair for several different reasons, maybe for fashion, or maybe they are trying to make a statement about society or themselves.



Junior Heather Pearson originally had dirty blonde colored hair, but then over the summer, before her freshman year of high school Heather bleached her hair blonde while dyeing the underneath purple. Once she got bored of that she dyed it a turquoise green, and then finally purple.

"Purple is the best color ever. Everyone does red, so I wanted to be unique," Heather said.

Purple is Heather's favorite color, which is why she first dyed the under part of her hair purple. She was afraid of dyeing the whole thing, but now that she's over that fear of ruining her hair she has repeatedly dyed all her hair a deep purple since last year.

"I dye it purple because I like being different," said Heather.

Being different is something most teens wish to accomplish. High school is a time when teenagers are trying to find out who they want to be, and how they wish to present themselves to the world. It is also a time to experience new things, and dyeing hair unnatural colors is one of those experiences that is not accepted everywhere in today's work place because it is considered unprofessional.

Sometimes it is not about trying to make a statement about one's self, but being fashionable. Junior Karlie Brodhagen

dyed her hair because she was not happy with her natural hair color.

"I started dyeing my hair because I didn't like my hair color. It was too boring, too bland of a blonde for me," Karlie said.

Karlie first started adding more highlights as well as low lights to her already natural highlights. When she realized that was not enough change she then dyed the entire top portion of her hair brown, while bleaching the bottom blonde. After that she dyed everything brown and then let it fade back as well as grow out to it's natural color. She still can't help but dye a strip of her hair pink and purple.

"I would dye all my hair pink or purple, but that would just be too expensive," Karlie said.

There are also those who dye their hair for both reasons; fashion and expression.

"My natural hair color is brown and because I didn't like it, I decided to begin dyeing my hair colors that stand out," ju-

nior Nick said.

Nick has had his hair many different colors such as: blue, red, pink, black, blonde, white, purple, green, and red and blue mixed. Out of all of those his favorite was either red or blue. He currently has half his hair pink and on the other side black. Next time he plans to dye the base purple, the tips red, and the sides blue.

"I dye my hair as a way to express myself as well as stretch my freedom as much as I can," Nick said.

Some teenagers feel as though they are chained to their parents' rules. So, instead of completely rebelling and going against their will, they do something, such as dyeing their hair, to help express who they are in a still slightly rebellious, yet understanding way.

ENTERTAINMENT 11

Hello!

ALEXIS LUJAN
Copy Editor

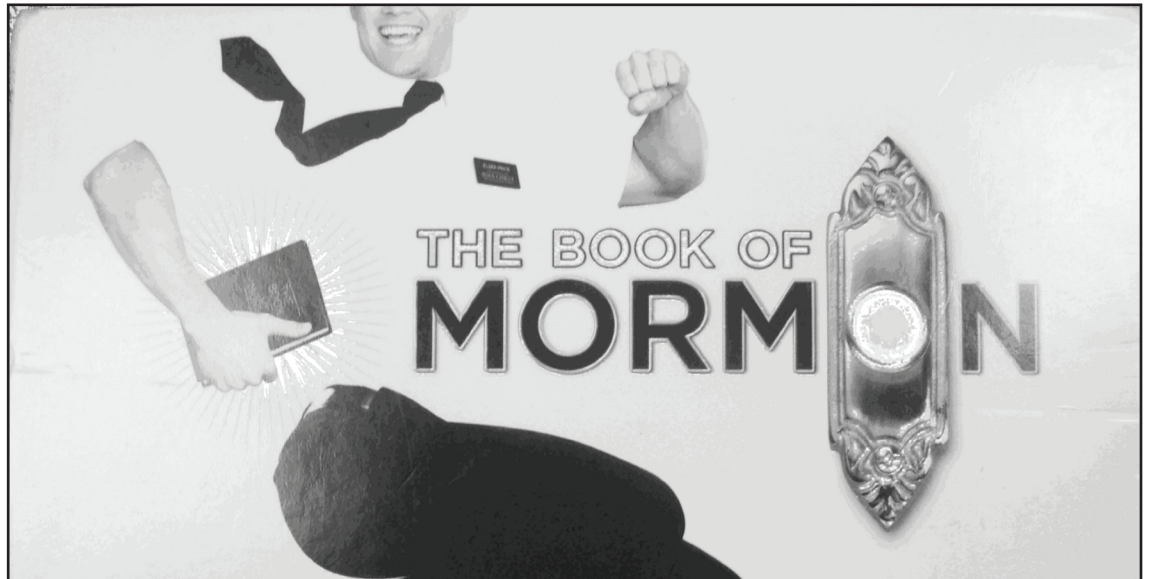
The Tony Award winning musical *The Book of Mormon* is currently playing at the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles, California from Sept. 5 to Nov. 25. It is a religious satire written by the creators of the popular Comedy Central television show *South Park*, Trey Parker and Matt Stone, as well as Robert Lopez, who co-wrote and co-composed another satirical musical titled *Avenue Q*.

The musical tells the story of two young Mormon missionaries, the somewhat self-absorbed but hard-working Elder Price and the low self-esteemed but friendly Elder Cunningham (who has never actually read the book of Mormon), who are sent off to Uganda to convert the local village. However, Mafala Hatimbi, the head of the village, expresses how the people are resentful of God and are more concerned over the General who is going around the Ugandan villages and circumcising young girls like Mafala's daughter, Nabulungi, who becomes interested in the Mormon religion when hearing of an earthly paradise.

The play is a complete satire

of the Mormon religion, but it also tells a serious understory as well. While making fun of the beliefs and issues of Mormonism, *The Book of Mormon* shines light on how some people are truly suffering and see religion in general as a chance for a happy life and having an eternal paradise, despite the issues they suffer in their daily lives. However, the understory is outshined by the overall satirical message of the play: Anyone will believe anything just so long as they are promised happiness.

Jonathan Cullen, who is the standby for Elder Price, had an excellent performance as one of the leading characters. He was funny as he portrayed Price as being quirky, naïve, and overly optimistic – a hysterical yet perfect example of a stereotypical Mormon. Along side Cullen, Jared Gernter was amazing as Elder Cunningham, his booming and somewhat obnoxious voice causing laughter throughout the audience. He truly portrayed Cunningham's low self esteem and desire to be Price's friend in a way that seemed believable and not overdone. However, Samantha Marie Ware, who played



KARINNA URIBE/ *The Shamrock*

Get a copy of *The Book of Mormon* soundtrack after the show.

Nabulungi, stole the show. She was witty and hyper, expressing Nabulungi's free spirit and eagerness for a better place with ease. Her "African" accent also brought the audience to laughter as she had trouble saying some of the name, pronouncing "Salt Lake City" as "Sal Tlay Ka Siti."

The setting throughout the play is fantastically detailed. At the beginning, it's a simple setting with the Elders at mission training camp with a big close up of the Mormon Church and Salt Lake City in the background. When the main characters are sent to Uganda, the setting is a stereotypical poverty-stricken area where everyone is hungry and has AIDS, which is revealed in one of the songs. Despite the stereotype for comedic purposes,

it illustrates how places in Africa are truly poverty-stricken and brings light to an issue that has a tendency to be ignored.

All the songs are completely original and equally hilarious, even if you simply listen to them without knowing the play. They tell the story on their own, though the play adds to the humor to the songs. One of the most comical songs was "Hasa Diga Eebowai," the song the Ugandans sing to the Elders and how they feel about God. In addition to the entertaining music, the play itself is one of the funniest to have hit the stage in a long time.

The humor, however, is completely inappropriate and not suitable for anyone under the age of fifteen or at least not for

anyone who hasn't been desensitized to that kind of graphic humor and language. It is to be expected, though, as the play is written by the creators of *South Park*, which is known to have great amounts of adult humor in its show.

The Book of Mormon is a fantastic musical with hysterical songs and great performance that any person who enjoys *South Park* or that kind of humor should see. Even if a person does not know about *South Park* or is not used to that kind of humor should still go see it because it is down right hilarious and enjoyable. It is definitely not a forgettable play and it is definitely one person should not miss.

THE NEW FACE OF FICTION

BRITTNEY MCCLENDON
Editor-In-Chief

"Fear doesn't shut you down; it wakes you up."

American author Veronica Roth took the fictional world by storm with her debut novel *Divergent*, the first book in a long awaited trilogy. Based in a dystopian society within Chicago, Illinois and just turning sixteen years old, Beatrice Prior is coming of age and must decide what her future will be like. She must go through what is known as the Choosing Ceremony and decide what faction she wants to live in. Each faction focuses on a specific value within society. She may choose Candor (the honest), Erudite (the intelligent), Amity (the peaceful), Dauntless (the brave), or Abnegation (the selfless). Having parents that are Abnegation puts pressure on Beatrice to either choose the same faction as her parents or choose to go down a different path and risk not being able to see her family again.

The start of Beatrice's new life begins by going through a rough initiation which leads her to change her name to Tris and push the boundaries a bit more. Along the way, Tris meets and makes new friends and questions what seems like a start of relationship with one of her fellow faction members. Four, a boy that Tris meets within the faction she chose, very much grabs Tris' attention and makes a big impact on the way Tris views her future.

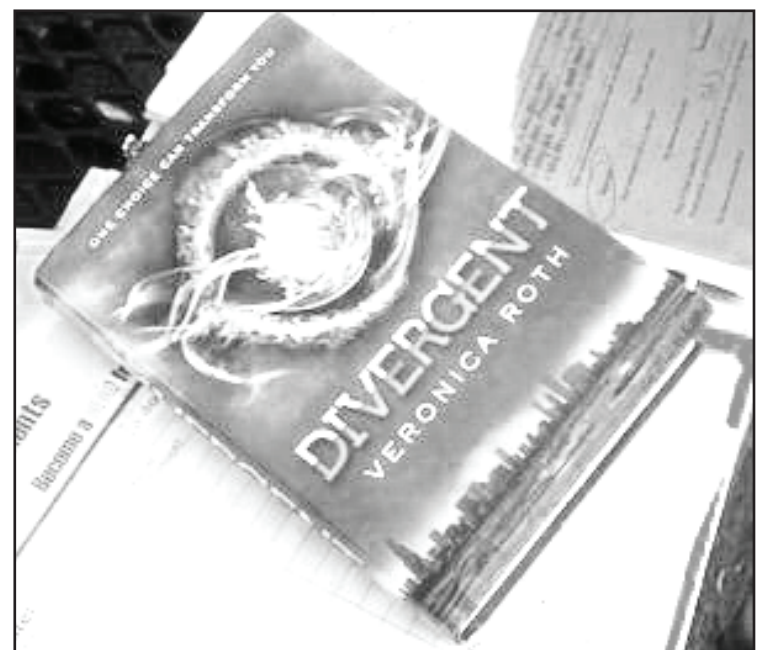
While trying to live her new life as perfectly as possible, Tris cannot get over the fact that a secret that she has been hiding can destroy all of her new ambitions and desires. This one secret lies in her hands and she must make the right decision on whether to expose it or not, while still being able to live this new, promising life.

For anyone who loves fictional dystopian novels, this

book is a must read. With all of the twists and turns, this book will be hard to put down. Roth does an excellent job in playing with that fine line of young adult fictional stories. The main character in the novel is really easy to relate to due to all of the decisions she has to make while becoming a young adult.

Not only is it a coming of age story but it also focuses on adventure and romance. Beatrice is forced to choose between right and wrong and that's just how we live our lives today. Roth does a very good job in getting ones adrenaline pumping with all of the detailed fight scenes that Tris has to go through in order to be accepted within her faction. One may want to reach out a hand to Tris when she's feeling down and you want to scream at her when she says the wrong things to Four.

There was always a feeling of wanting more while reading this



BRITTNEY MCCLENDON/ *The Shamrock*

Veronica Roth entices her readers with a coming of age story about romance, adventure, and life threatening secrets.

book and like all great books, *Divergent* is no different, however, you do get more with the second book *Insurgent*.

Roth continues to supply thrill and exhilaration within *Insurgent*. Tris is transformed into a new character while embrac-

ing her secret, and is affected by wars, romance, heartbreak, and new life changing discoveries.

12 ENTERTAINMENT

Struggle for Support

DIANA DOMINGO
News Editor

Since the 2011-2012 school year, the want for a student cheering section at John F. Kennedy High School has been present. There was a group last year called “Gang Green” that would sit in a specific place at home games and could cheer for their fellow students on the field. This year two ASB members, junior Hailey Dominguez and senior Courtney Hansen, began by having a tailgate at the first football game of the year. When the school year began, during Club Rush, Hailey Dominguez and Courtney Hansen had their spot where they recruited students to form a new club, Lucky Charms.

Lucky Charms was formed this year to replace Gang Green and be the new student cheering section at all home games, not just football games. During Club Rush many students signed up to be a part of it. However, there has not been much action because there are no advisers to be in charge of the club. Therefore Lucky Charms is at a standstill.

“We are striving to be a club. We have been struggling however and we haven’t been able to accomplish anything that we had planned,” senior Courtney Hansen said.

During Club Rush, several students applied for a representative role in the club. Conse-

quently, no club means no opportunity for students to have that job in the club. Many students were looking forward to this opportunity to show school spirit at sporting events but the club is not official until it has advisers.

“I applied for a representative role and I was looking forward to it. I think the students need something like this group to increase the school spirit. It would have brought us all together in support for our fellow students who are playing. It sucks that it won’t be happening anymore and I was really looking forward to being involved in it,” senior Tiffani Carter said.

Lucky Charms is now in search of an adviser so that they will still be able to show extra support for their fellow students at any sports event. With the continuance of the club, there will be fundraising to offer students prizes and always have people at the home games. For example, there can be shirts, foam fingers, pom poms and several other incentives given to those who come out and cheer for our teams.

“I think that it’s not fair to the students because they want to show school spirit and support their school. Their opportunity has been taken away,” junior



VICTORIA MANCINI/ *The Shamrock*
Kennedy Varsity Song and Cheer support the Fighting Irish Football team at the Pacifica game.

Asia Scott said.

During games, the students on our team will surely be appreciative of the effort our school has in showing support for them.

“I believe Lucky Charms would help the atmosphere of the games,” junior James Hansberry said.

That is why the success of the club is important and the need for advisers is necessary. When explaining the situation to a student that signed up for the club, she explained her concern for getting the opportunity to

show even more support for her school taken away.

“I think that it is poor planning on our student advisers because they should not get students excited. They say that us students should be more supportive of our sporting events here at school but they are taking away our opportunities,” senior Tayler Jerrick said.

There were several students excited about the club and realizing that it might not happen does upset them. At Kennedy there has not been a club like the

Lucky Charms and something new and different is always interesting to students. The continuance of the club should be of importance because students sometimes need an excuse to go out and be more involved with their school and Lucky Charms offers that.

THE KILLERS (1946)

MIKAYLA KHRAMOV
Features Editor

Regret, suspense, love, betrayal. Ernest Hemingway has done it again, releasing one KILLER story to rattle your television set!

Welcome to the world of Film Noir- a world of Hollywood crime drama. This 1946 adaptation of a story by Ernest Hemingway grasps the very essence of the mystery and suspense of a movie of this genre. Burt Lancaster (Pete Lund/Ole “Swede” Anderson), and Ava Gardner (Kitty Collins), play two classic characters recreated to this day for their depth and intricate personalities, on a dark adventure.

The opening scene depict Max and Al, two hit men, killing Ole Swede (Burt Lancaster). From that point, the plot is built off offlash-back memories of how and why Ole Swede



COURTESY OF GOOGLE
This was Burt Lancaster’s big Hollywood debut, co-starring Ava Gardner, a glamor queen of the 1940s.

was murdered. It is a game of money, as most film noirs are. However, Kitty Collins (Ava Gardner) takes on the role of the turn-coat, jumping back and

forth from friend to foe.

The screenwriting is loaded with character-defining dialogue. This is screenwriter Anthony Veller’s artform perfected.

“Maybe because I hate him. I’m poison, Swede, to myself and everybody around me! I’d be afraid to go with anyone I love for the harm I do to them!”

Kitty Collins (Ava Gardner) said.

This is the kind of movie that will bring you in, tie you down, and let you pray for a happy ending. It’s a classic to be remembered, as many of the classics are. Most of the story lines of films today are adaptations of films from the past. This is pure vintage, the root of roots.

Most story lines of films today are adaptations of films from the past. The classics are never too old to be cool. Black and white, with a hint of red for the blood that was shed, if you are up for a night of suspense, mystery, and romantic betrayal, check out *The Killers*.