

Rampage

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL

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Elective fair recruits student body



PHOTO/ Gracie Chen

Several clubs and organizations on campus came out to the quad during lunchtime on Feb. 23 to take part in the elective fair. The giant Jenga set made by Woods attracted the attention of several students.

Coach Estrada hits the track

By Aaron Ding
Staff Writer

The recent arrival of Assistant Coach Erik Estrada shifted the momentum in track, but fortunately, he is adapting quickly to his new position.

Coach Estrada is a volunteer coach, meaning he coaches only for a few days a week for free. Regardless, he is enthusiastic about being a part of the team and aspires to help and guide track members so that they can improve and excel.

"These kids are humble, respectful, and hard-working," Coach Estrada said. "It is a pleasure to work with them."

Estrada coached Cross Country and basketball at San Dimas High School in the past, and the track team is looking forward to seeing what he brings to TCHS and planning to go the long distance with him.

"I feel that Coach Tomasulo and Coach Estrada make a dream team," Head Track Coach Jose Marquez said. "They're both really calm, very respectful, and have lots of insight. Their different skill sets complement each other as well."

Rumor has it:

With the arrival of Coach Estrada, rumors about Coach Mike Tomasulo have been spreading: **Is he on the verge of retirement?**

NO

Coach Tomasulo said, "He's the new assistant coach, yes. However, I'm still a coach and not retiring."

RAMS adopts new system

By Katie Burke
Staff Writer

The RAMS program, which is a system controlled by a committee of counselors and teachers, and implemented back in 2009 to help failing or struggling students, has experienced some major changes this semester.

Students can now earn their way out of Rams, thanks to the California Department of Education mandating that Response to Intervention programs, like RAMS, should be updated to improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

Students now have the ability to petition to get out of RAMS if they raise their grade before the full six weeks. Originally, if a student had a D or an F at the end of the six weeks grading period, administration would automatically place the student in RAMS so that he could use the next six weeks to improve his grades.

"We needed to make bigger, broader and bolder changes to RAMS instead of small slight changes," Earth Science and Anatomy teacher Mr. Evan Dagger said. "Small changes confuse both staff and

students because they are more vague - and for that reason it is harder to gather data for these changes."

The ability to get out of Rams early also benefits those students who were placed in RAMS because they got a bad grade in a class due to absences and they need to make up work, not because they are truly struggling in a class.

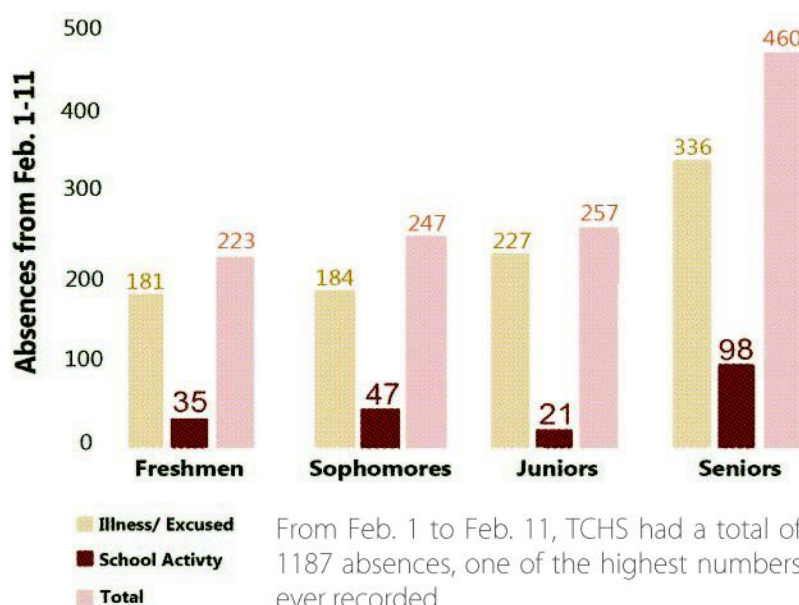
Once a request to transfer out of RAMS is made, a committee of teachers and counselors will come together and do a screening of the student to ultimately decide the student's fate in RAMS.

February/March Ram Calendar

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
28	29	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- Feb. 29: Rampage Workshops
- March 3: Rampage Tryout
- March 4: End of grading period
- March 6-11: No RAMS week
- March 11-13: The Music Man
- March 13: Daylight Savings begins
- March 14: Staff Development Day (No School)
- March 22: SCSBOA Festival

Absences shake up campus



INFOGRAPHIC/ Gracie Chen

NEWS BRIEFS

By Jason Xie
Staff Writer

TCUSD's New Logo

The Temple City Unified School District recently adopted a new logo. The design consists of a blue coat of arms and a shield with four elements outlined in white: Books, to represent the district's history in education; beakers, which symbolize the district's future perspective on science; theatre masks, representing TCUSD's history and tradition in the performing arts and an athletic wingfoot icon to symbolize the district's heavy involvement within the field of sports athletics.



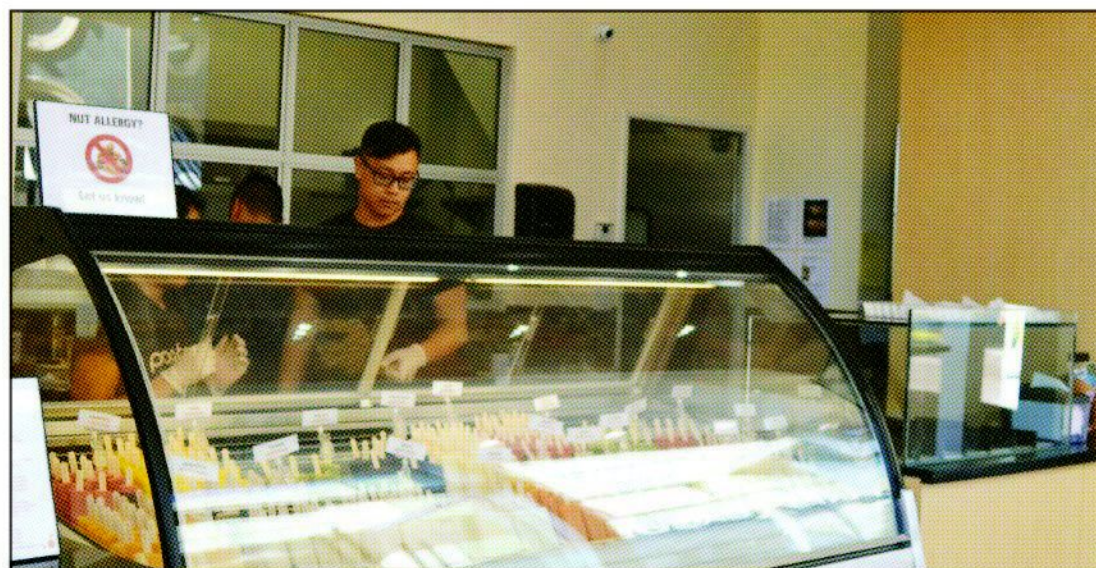


PHOTO / Elizabeth Liu

Popbar offers popsicles made out of all natural ingredients. Popsicles can be dipped in either white or milk chocolate and sprinkled with various toppings such as coconut, crushed almonds and pistachios.

Pop! Goes your budget

By Elizabeth Liu
Staff Writer

I am sure you have all seen pictures on social media of the up and coming Popbar, whose popsicles can be customized with a chocolate coating and a large variety of toppings.

I visited the new store located at the Westfield Santa Anita Mall in Arcadia near the entrance of the food court.

The inside of the store had a modern, sophisticated look but still had a fun and playful vibe to it. The white walls and wooden details led my attention towards the counter that was filled with colorful popsicles.

Popbar has three different basic choices: popSorbetto, popGelato and YogurtPop. They had around 30 flavors to choose from and each popsicle is made daily from fresh ingredients in the popLab.

Customers design their popsicles by choosing from a variety of toppings and chocolate dippings. Popbar does offer choices for those who have food allergies or other diet restrictions. The popsicles are also completely gluten free.

If you do have any concerns about food allergies, especially with nuts, the servers encourage you to tell them so they can cater to your needs.

I was surprised by the large variety of flavors and customizing options available. I could not decide which combination I wanted to try but the servers were extremely patient and they even offered popular combinations along with their personal recommendations. I ended up purchasing a Strawberry popSorbetto with milk chocolate half drizzle at the price of \$4.90.

Since I visited on a warm day, I noticed that the popsicle melted rather quickly and it was slightly messy for my taste but delicious nonetheless.

When I first took a bite out of the popsicle, I could tell that they had used strawberries instead of using artificial flavors.

I definitely recommend taking the unlimited toppings to your advantage and trying out many combinations.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the flavors at Popbar. While I found the popsicles were a little on the pricey side, the experience is definitely it. With options ranging from \$3.49 for a popSorbetto to \$22.00 for a variety six pack, Popbar allows you to fully customize your popsicle to fit whatever your taste is. Popbar is definitely the perfect place if you are looking for an ice cold treat to cool down or if you are simply looking for a quick dessert item to treat yourself.



Tranwreck
Pride Doesn't Equal Prejudice
Jacob Tran
Entertainment Editor

On Feb. 6, a day before the Super Bowl, Beyoncé released a new song, accompanied by a heavily symbolic music video titled "Formation." In the song, Beyoncé embraces her African American heritage with lyrics such as "I like my baby hair with baby hair and afros" and "I like my negro nose with Jackson Five nostrils."

The next day, however, after her polarizing performance at the halftime show, she was slammed by countless angry critics saying that she was misusing her fame and influence and attacking police officers with her performance.

There are even police unions that are now planning to boycott her upcoming world tour, refusing to provide escorts and other off-duty security services because they feel that her video attacked and portrayed law enforcement in a negative way.

The video itself is rather heavy-handed in its use of symbolism. One scene depicted a squad of officers in riot gear assembled in a line in front of a single dancing unarmed child with the words "Stop shooting us" painted behind him. Though the symbolism is unmistakable, to call a request for law enforcement agents to stop shooting unarmed children an attack on all police officers is one hell of a stretch, even for radicals.

Another scene features a sinking police squad car. Though this scene is often used in critics' arguments to accuse Beyoncé of hating the police and promoting the killing of officers, they often conveniently forget to mention that she is shown drowning along with it, gripping tightly as it drags her deeper and deeper, representing the turmoil African Americans face as a result of racism in law enforcement. This message isn't an anti-police message, but rather, an anti-racism message.

The majority of the video had a more positive tone to it. Beyoncé, a black woman (a surprise to many fans, apparently), is seen in the deep south, on a plantation, flaunting her success and preaching about the positive results of hard work.

For her to include black people in power on a plantation, which has been a symbol of oppression for hundreds of years, is extremely empowering. "Formation" is purely about black pride and loving one's heritage. Despite the hard-hitting lyrics filled with profanity, the message of the video and song is one of love and pride.

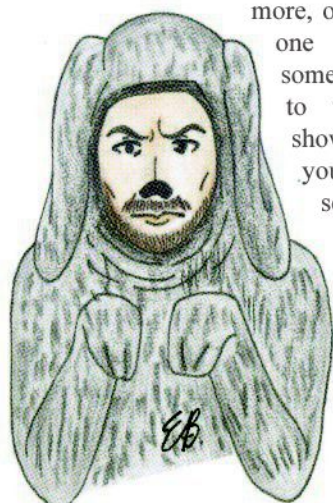
Generally speaking, the majority of criticism of Beyoncé's song and video is misinformed and rather whiny. If you have a problem with a proud and powerful black woman flaunting her success and embracing her heritage, then the issue lies with you.

Shows you should watch while you're bingeing Netflix

By Samuel Kim
Staff Writer

Wilfred

After Ryan, a struggling adult who has no job, fails to commit suicide, manages to make friends with his neighbor's dog, and the two take off in all sorts of crazy adventures together. From raiding people's houses to aiding the elderly in a hospice, these two never fail to have a great time. This TV show is sort of an allegory; it has a deeper meaning than what's shown on the surface. This show is intended for more mature audiences, as there are many references to sex, mental health issues, drugs, and swearing. Whether you're the philosophical type looking for a show with something more, or just someone looking for something funny to watch, this show is just for you. Each episode is about 20 minutes long, and there are four seasons currently available on Netflix.



The Code

This fast-paced Australian crime thriller had me on the edge of my seat during every second of the ride. Even the beginning was full of suspense, and the script was beautifully written; the ending was unpredictable, which made the series all the more enjoyable.

The cast, including the antagonists, is stunning. The characters are portrayed skillfully, and there is definitely a character that you will become attached to as you continue to watch the series. This show also incorporates many aspects of modern technology in a realistic way that is easy to enjoy.

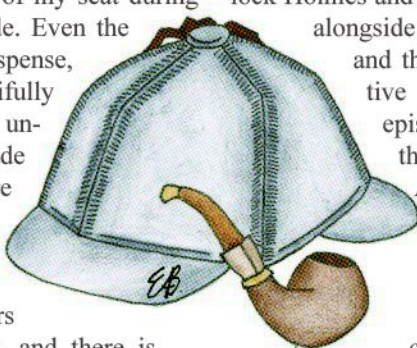
There is only one season available on Netflix, with each episode lasting about an hour, and is also for more mature audiences, with an age recommendation of 17+ on Netflix.

Sherlock

Overall, it is a really well-written show, but the episodes are about an hour and twenty minutes long and is better suited for the

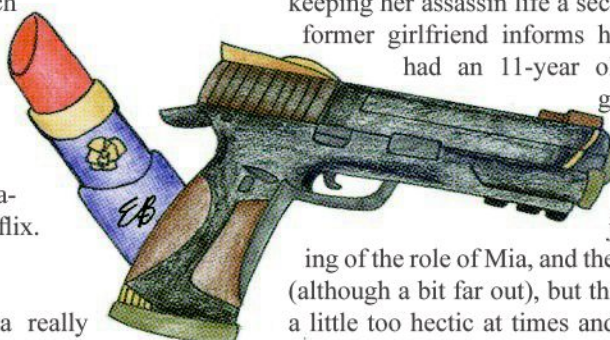
hardcore binge watchers.

Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Sherlock Holmes and Martin Freeman features alongside him as John Watson, and the duo play their respective roles wonderfully. The episodes are taken from the written stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and they consistently play along with the storylines with a 21st century twist. There are currently three seasons available on Netflix.



Hit and Miss

Mia, a transgender contract killer, has been thrust into the world of parenthood and now has to take care of four kids while keeping her assassin life a secret when her former girlfriend informs her that they had an 11-year old child together. Chloe Sevigny does an amazing job of pulling off the role of Mia, and the plot is great (although a bit far out), but things become a little too hectic at times and are hard to keep track of. There is only one season currently on Netflix, with each episode being about forty minutes long.



Luther

This show is one of the greatest detective thrillers I have ever watched. John Luther, a passionate urban detective, constantly struggles to balance his personal and social life. To top it all off, he has to deal with the mental stresses of the crimes he tries to solve.

Although I think the show starts to run out of ideas in Season 3, and the episodes are not always realistic, the acting is great, and the shows deliver a Batman-style experience.

This show, like Sherlock, is more suited for the people that tend to have lots of free time and like to binge television shows in their free time.

Each episode is about an hour long, and there are currently three seasons available to watch on Netflix.

ILLUSTRATIONS/ Eva Baulder

Want to write for the rampage? Make sure you come to the tryouts on Feb. 29 and Mar. 2 in the media center.

Let's talk about unbiased and medically accurate sex ed, baby



By Charlie Dodge
Staff Writer

If you walked out of the TCHS Health and Safety class thinking you know all there is to know about sex, think again.

Our school would benefit from taking a close look at a case out of the Clovis Unified School District where, in 2012, the district was sued over their sex education policies. Clovis was eventually held liable for legal fees due to misinformation and biased information taught in its sex ed course. Unfortunately, our Health and Safety class shares quite a few characteristics with Clovis Unified's.

Among the problems with Clovis' curriculum were videos which plaintiffs claimed to be "egregiously inaccurate and biased." The California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act states, of course, that biased information is a big no-no. As written in the Act, "all factual information presented shall be medically accurate and objective" (Cal. Educ. Code § 51933, subd. (b)).

In May of 2015, an order from the Fresno Superior Court awarded \$467,433.07 to the American Academy of Pediatrics, California District IX, Gay-Straight Alliance Network, Aubree Smith and Mica Ghimenti in a lawsuit against the Clovis Unified School District. The court order shed light on whether sex ed curricula in California high schools, which includes TCHS, meet the standards under the California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act.

One of the videos shown in the Clovis classrooms compared a woman who was not a virgin to a dirty shoe. Another video that CUSD featured in their curriculum was Kirk Cameron's "Sex Lies and the Truth."

Interestingly enough, while Clovis has since stopped showing the Kirk Cameron video due to its biased nature, TCHS continues to feature this video prominently. In my class, it was our introduction to sex ed. I distinctly remember one of the speakers in the film telling the audience that she will remain a virgin so that she can wear a white wedding dress and mean it. Biased statements like that and those made in the other Clovis video place unfair moral pressures on girls.

In addition to unbiased information, the Act requires that students be taught how to protect themselves from

STDs and unintended pregnancy. While students did learn this in the class, it came off as an afterthought to the abstinence education.

The Act, which has the purpose of "providing a pupil with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect his or her sexual and reproductive health from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases" (Cal. Educ. Code § 51930) sets out specific requirements that must be followed by school districts seeking to provide sex ed in the classroom.

"He was pushing so hard for abstinence that he failed to teach us how to have sex in a healthy way. We never learned about no means no," Senior Daniel Berry, a student who recently completed the class, said. "I didn't feel that the class prepared us for the world in that regard."

"Sex Lies and the Truth" obfuscated the teaching of contraception with claims that safe-sex does not work, and that birth control is not reliable. The lessons taught to my class about contraceptives and safe-sex were not only undermined by videos seen in class, but by a guest speaker as well. The Act permits guest speakers provided they are qualified, unbiased and accurate.

Our speaker, Godfrey Moye, did not appear to be any of those things. He is not a medically trained professional. Instead he is a self-described actor who also speaks at high schools, youth groups, churches among others, about the "power of choice." That "choice" clearly being abstinence. Moye's presentation was also peppered with references of morality and medically inaccurate information, including his claim that women "always" bleed when having sex for the first time.

Though the Act's purpose includes education on the topic of sexual orientation, the current curriculum contains little to no information about LGBTQ+ issues.

"In the past it's really been more or less a majority rules education," Health and Safety teacher Lyle Takeshita said. "But I believe we do have more of an openness to LGBTQ and that's something I need to explore in terms of education."

Having the benefit of hindsight, if I had to do it all again, I would have opted out of the sex ed parts of Health and Safety--not because I'm a prude who can't handle this kind of mature topic, -but because the information is outdated. Instead, I'd be better off going to sources such as plannedparenthood.com, which offers objective and medically accurate sexual health information for teens, parents and educators.



CARTOON/ Eva Baudler

For The Record:

Sports: In an article last issue covering the Boy's Soccer team, we erroneously stated in the beginning of the article that the team won against Monrovia. Later on in the article, we correctly reported that the Rams suffered a 1-5 loss.

R doesn't stand for: really fun kid's movie!



By Eva Baudler
Staff Writer

After surviving the ID verification process at Santa Anita's AMC, I entered the theater of the long-anticipated "Deadpool" over the four-day break. However, imagine my surprise and discomfort finding myself sharing the sensual, violent experience with as many youngsters as adults.

It's no secret that parents are allowed to bring their children to R-rated films. In fact, according to the scientific journal Pediatrics, over 2.5 million kids between the ages of 10 and 14 have access to graphic movies, and of those children, nearly 30 percent gain admission to the theaters through their parents.

This is incredibly disconcerting, considering

that those my age, who have recently hit adulthood or own a driver's license, had a harder time gaining entry to "Deadpool" than smaller Marvel fans who barely grasped the concepts of sex and torture. Anyone who is 21-and-up can bring a toddler to view body parts, so it's absurd that I was sold a ticket only after the staff repeatedly verified my age anyway.

So what exactly are we sacrificing by taking children to these films? The obvious problems involve giving them nightmares and stunting concentration skills, according to the Children's Physician Network. But what people additionally need to be wary of is how violent entertainment influences long-term habits. In 2010, Prevention Science published a study that closely associated adolescent alcoholism to childhood viewings of rated-R movies. "Deadpool" contained several casual jokes about drug addiction and severe

mental illness, which is likely to contribute to the societal stunting of youths uneducated about these serious topics.

Now, this social issue might not be due to poor supervision as much as underestimation. I witnessed adults covering their youngsters' eyes in horror, which led me to believe that parents saw the words "Marvel" and "superhero" and bought tickets before the phrase "R rating" even entered their minds. More often than not, these films have warnings for a reason. To take them with so many grains of salt is simply ignorance.

As Uncle Ben said to Peter Parker, with great power comes great responsibility and it goes without saying that it's older siblings and parents' obligation to watch out for the young and innocent.

Exercising good judgment when it comes to who you take to the theaters just might fit Colossus' definition of a moment of heroism.

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL
Rampage

9501 E. Lemon Ave
Temple City, CA 91780

Editors-in-Chief
Brittany Hsu
Alex Liu

Adviser
Wendy Van Thiel

News Editor
Stephanie Shih

Entertainment Editor
Jacob Tran

Opinion Editor
David Brackbill

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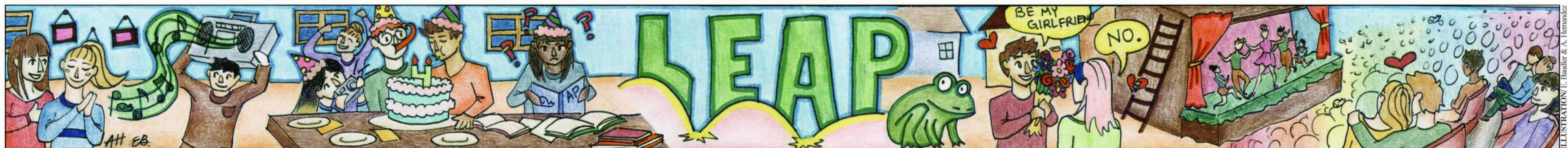
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The articles published on the Opinion page reflect only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They may also be edited in regard to space.



Leaplings celebrate rare birthday

By Michelle Zhang
Staff Writer

After waiting four long years, the leap year has finally returned, and Junior Sanya Mital and Sophomore Nash Russak finally have the opportunity to celebrate their actual birthday—Feb. 29. They are two out of the four million who share the same unique birthday.

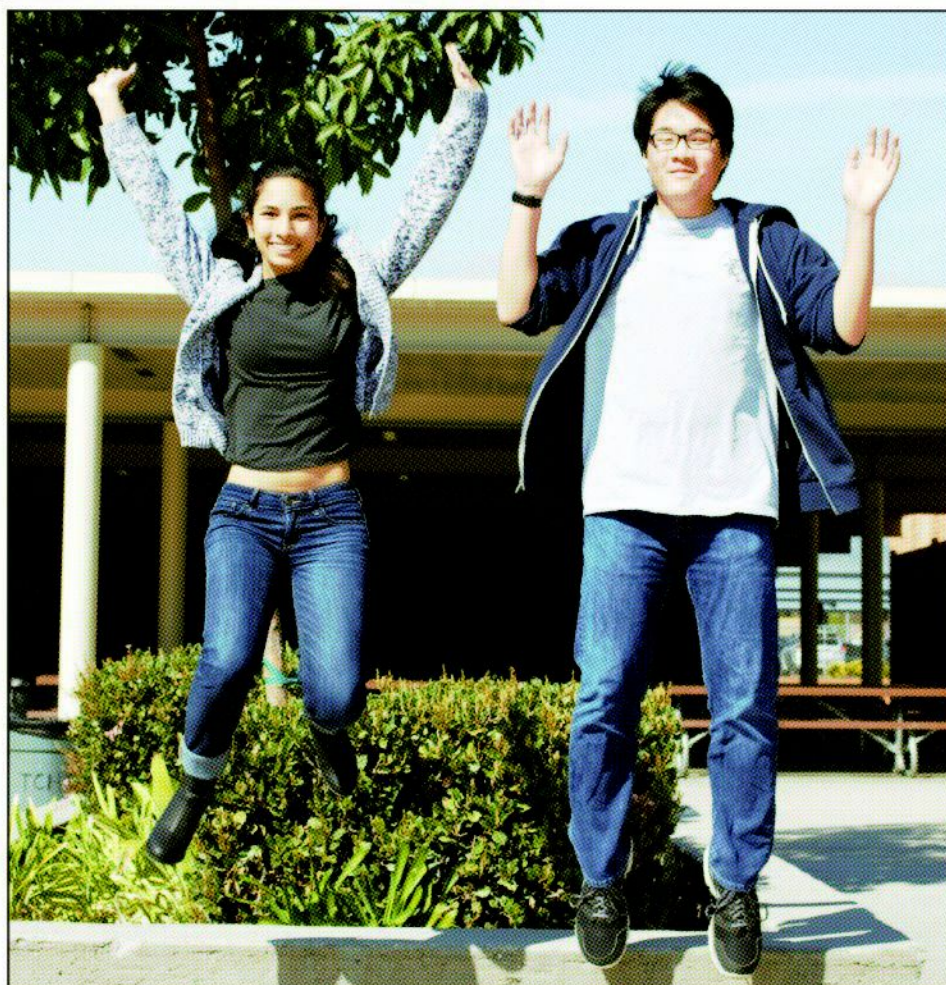
“When I was younger, I would feel angry since my birthday only comes once every four years and would envy others who had a birthday every year,” Mital said. “However, I’ve come to realize that being born on leap day sets me apart from others and makes me unique.”

For leaplings, birthday parties are of huge significance because their birthdays only arrive every four years.

Each time a leap year comes around the corner, Mital’s parents arrange an enormous party, inviting all her close friends and relatives.

This year, Mital’s parents will be throwing a sweet 16 for her at a banquet hall in an Indian restaurant located in Diamond Bar.

“When it is a leap year, I usually celebrate with a big party rather than a small one with my close friends,” Mital said. “I remember last leap year, 2012, my parents threw me a huge surprise party and had invited around 60 people, mostly my family friends and relatives.”



PHOTO/Michelle Zhang

Junior Sanya Mital and Sophomore Nash Russak are proud of their age and often boast about how they are technically four times younger than everyone else.

For Russak, many characteristics and traits that he possesses set him apart from his friends, and he personally thinks being born on leap day is one of them.

Instead of mourning over the lack of attention he could have on annual birthdays, he is thankful that he is a part of a family of leaplings.

“It’s a special day to be born on, even though others often tease me about how I am technically younger,” Russak said. “But it isn’t something shameful or embarrassing, instead I feel lucky about it because I stand out from everyone else.”

Russak prefers to stay simple by celebrating amongst his parents and closest relatives.

“It’s a tradition for my family members to make my favorite meals such as barbecue ribs and they usually buy a cake the size of a student’s table,” Russak said. “We spend most of the day hanging out, talking and eating together.”

On Russak’s first leap year birthday, he recalls his mother and his preschool teacher getting together to throw him a surprise party. For his second birthday, he invited all his fellow classmates to his house instead of celebrating at school. His parents rented a jumper for him and his friends, and they also made pastries for them.

Now that Mital and Russak’s fourth birthdays are here, they are happy to be one year closer to their friends’ ages.

Leap to new season beats with cool music playlists

By Johnson Pham
Photo Editor



Leap to Spring Break

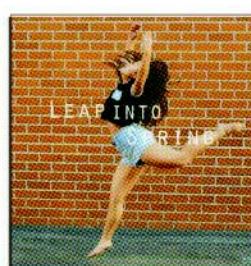
Don’t worry, friends. Spring break will arrive before you know it. For now, party in your room with your stuffed animals.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. “Don’t Let Me Down” by The Chainsmokers | 4. “White Iverson” by Post Malone |
| 2. “Runaway” by Galantis | 5. “L.A. Story” by Sammy Adams ft. Mike Posner |
| 3. “In the Night” by The Weeknd | 6. “Lush Life” by Zara Larsson |

Leap into AP Season

These songs will get you in the mood to study for upcoming AP exams. The soft vocals are the perfect way to get you going without distracting you from studying.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. “Give Me Love” by Ed Sheeran | 5. “Motel Pool” by Travis Garland |
| 2. “Moondust” by Jaymes Young | 6. “No 1 Party Anthem” by Arctic Monkeys |
| 3. “Oblivion” by Bastille | 7. “Paris” by Magic Man |
| 4. “Grace” by Blue Hamilton | |



Leap into Spring

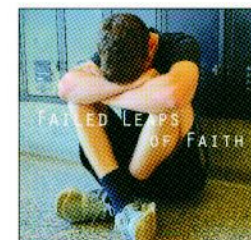
Spring time is coming, so you know what that means: more sun, heat and sweat. So cool off while jamming to these songs!

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. “PILLOWTALK” by Zayn Malik | 4. “Life In Color” by One Republic |
| 2. “Something New” by Zendaya | 5. “Neverland” by VanLadyLove |
| 3. “Best Day Of My Life” by American Authors | 6. “Over” by GOLDHOUSE |
| | 7. “Pharaohs” by Audien |

Failed Leaps of Faith: College Rejection

Got rejected by colleges? Rampage is here for you. Bawl your eyes out with these tunes.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. “Hello” by Adele | 5. “Anaesthetic” by Thomston |
| 2. “Skinny Love” by Birdy | 6. “Blood Stutter” by Handsome Ghost |
| 3. “Gravity” by Sara Bareilles | |
| 4. “Fix You” by Coldplay | PHOTOS/ Johnson Pham & Catherine Tran |



Brit’s Bit
Leap into adventure
Brittany Hsu
Editor-in-Chief



There’s this one test called International Personality Item Pool that gives you a bunch of numbers, ranging from 1-100 about certain aspects of your personality. I got results like 92 for anger and 24 for gregariousness. I can’t argue with those results, but only one number stood out to me. Adventurousness: 1.

Was this quiz wrong? Of the 100 numbers it could have given me, did I really deserve the lowest score? I calculate every decision and hiss at spontaneity. I can’t even be sure of my order at Ajsen until my sister tells me to just hurry up already, and I freak out when a waiter tells me they ran out of something, because I didn’t plan for that to happen. Maybe I really did deserve a 1.

I wish I was capable of taking that leap, capable of not having to compute my decisions to just do something. I’ve been actively telling myself to not be so uptight, that everything will be okay. What’s the worst that can happen anyway?

I went to Yosemite just a few weeks ago, and it was the perfect place to try to be a little more adventurous. We were in the woods for hours at a time. If people had to pee, they either held it or used facilitrees—a cute term for pissing in the woods. Needless to say, I held it every time. I was afraid that I’d tinkle on my shoes, which in fact, weren’t even mine. Even when our instructors taught us how to properly relieve ourselves in the woods without dirtying our shoes, I was too scared. UTIs aren’t that bad, right?

Plus, I wasn’t about to pull my pants down when I was a short distance away from 14 other hikers. What if people saw? My little butt cheeks and chamber of secrets would be out in the open, and this moment would be ingrained into my memory, and worse, their memories, forever.

But then, I remembered Adventure: 1. To most, peeing in the woods isn’t an adventure at all, but recall that I won’t even take the slightest chance with ramen. So I just did it. I was nervously laughing the entire time, but I did it. I was so proud of myself, I ran back and told Rachel, “I did it!” with a giant smile on my face. I also got to try other adventurous things, from squeezing through pitch black spider caves to cross country skiing, but peeing in the woods is like a milestone for my life. I think my adventure score is a solid 4 now.

Someday, after I learn to order ramen without having to plan for half an hour, I’ll be jetpacking over Niagara Falls. I don’t like the Niagara; I can’t swim and I don’t want to die by crashing down 100 feet into the rocks and drowning. But I’ll be jetpacking over the Niagara anyway.

“Leap Year” jump starts hearts

By Kimberly Calderon
Staff Writer

If you’re looking for a way to celebrate the leap year, the 2010 “Leap Year” film is the perfect blend between comedy, romance and seriousness for you.

The rom-com centers on Anna, a very scheduled and precise woman, who visits Ireland to meet with her boyfriend, who’s on a business trip in Dublin.

After many years of wanting to get engaged, she learned an Irish tradition that says a woman can propose to a man on Feb. 29, also known as leap day.

Her plane going directly to the Dublin airport, however, was cut short as there was a massive storm closing all the airports. Having to get there by herself, she stumbles upon a small, dull pub where she asks for a ride and the owner agrees, but for a price.

She accepts the deal and along the way, they cannot stand each other. They bicker and face many complications, before ultimately realizing they cannot live without one another.

Although some years old, the film proves to be entertaining through a variety of wild and comical experiences as the two rush to Dublin. The impossible

situations and the snarky comments between them give the film an interesting and unique touch, different from the standard boy-meets-girl and love at first sight scenario.

Only a few romantic comedies I’ve seen have been as silly or creative as this one. Other films can feel very generic and plain leaving you to think, “Oh it’s just this again, they’re gonna start falling in love right off the bat,” but “Leap Year” does a great job at creating these ridiculous situations that make the storyline more entertaining.

On account of cinematography, it was clear that the producers had a bit of fun experimenting. Each scene is loaded with unique camera angles and panoramic shots. It was obvious while shooting there that they tried to get in some great views in the background to show off the beauty of the country. To a lover of natural environments, like I am myself, I appreciated how the film shows off all these beautiful scenic sights.

I also noted that the music would always fit the mood. Most of the background music would be very upbeat and happy at a high key on either piano or a string instrument—especially when the jokes would settle in.

The movie knew just how to entertain their audience and I loved it. “Leap Year” is available on Netflix.



ILLUSTRATION/Pamela Pan

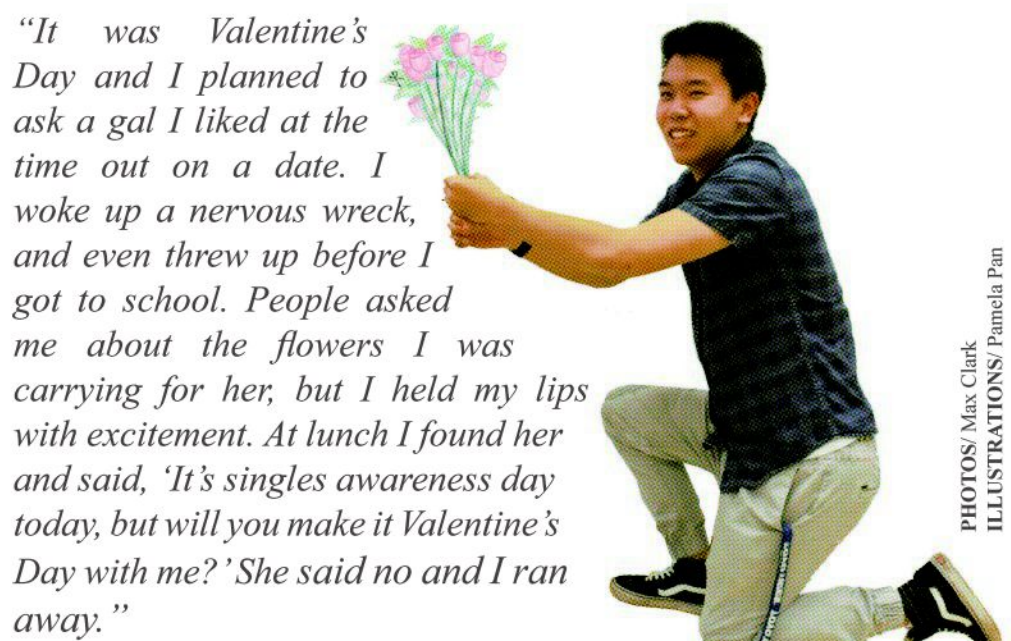
Rams take leaps of faith

By Max Clark
Exchange Editor

“Not too long ago, I decided to be a part of Winter Formal Committee. I was kind of skeptical to be on the committee because of the time commitment it requires and having to plan a highly anticipated dance. In the end joining was worth it knowing the sophomore class profited a record amount of money, and Winter Formal was a huge success.”



— Sophomore Hillary Si



PHOTOS/Max Clark
ILLUSTRATIONS/Pamela Pan

— Senior Edward Chou

Lee leaps into spotlight with Li’s Ballet Studio

By Janeth Inatomi
Staff Writer

As she laces up her pointe shoes, Freshman Brandey Lee takes a deep breath and prepares to leap into center stage to begin her performance.

At Youth America Grand Prix on Jan. 24, Lee competed with a group of girls from her studio. Together they made it all the way to finals and landed in the top ten. Lee competed as a soloist at Showstoppers, where she won double platinum and third place overall on Feb. 13.

“I hope with some extra practice and training I will be able to move up levels,” Lee said. “I want to give a performance at showcase that I can be truly proud of.”

Lee is part of Li’s Ballet Studio, an establishment aiming to boost self confidence and training in classical ballet.

Her passion for dance began as soon as she was six. By the age of eight, she had already taken both dance and gymnastics classes before enrolling into ballet. Thanks to this prior experience, she excelled easily in her new classes.

“I love the fact that dance is an active way to express myself and be unique,” Lee said. “The other dancers there are like another family to me.”

To stay in shape, Lee practices three days a week, two hours each day. Her favorite ballet performance was La Esmeralda, her most recent competition piece. Her favorite lyrical performance was a solo named Hindsight, which she believes had beautiful choreography.

Lee’s favorite styles of dance include lyrical and jazz choreography. Being a part of the modern dance and ballet programs at her studio have allowed her to learn to incorporate techniques such as weight transference, isolations, fall and recovery as well as slow and fast paced movements.

The jazz portion of the modern dance program allows her to express her inner energy and vitality. The contemporary portion focuses on helping students create an emotional connection to their dances for personal creativity.

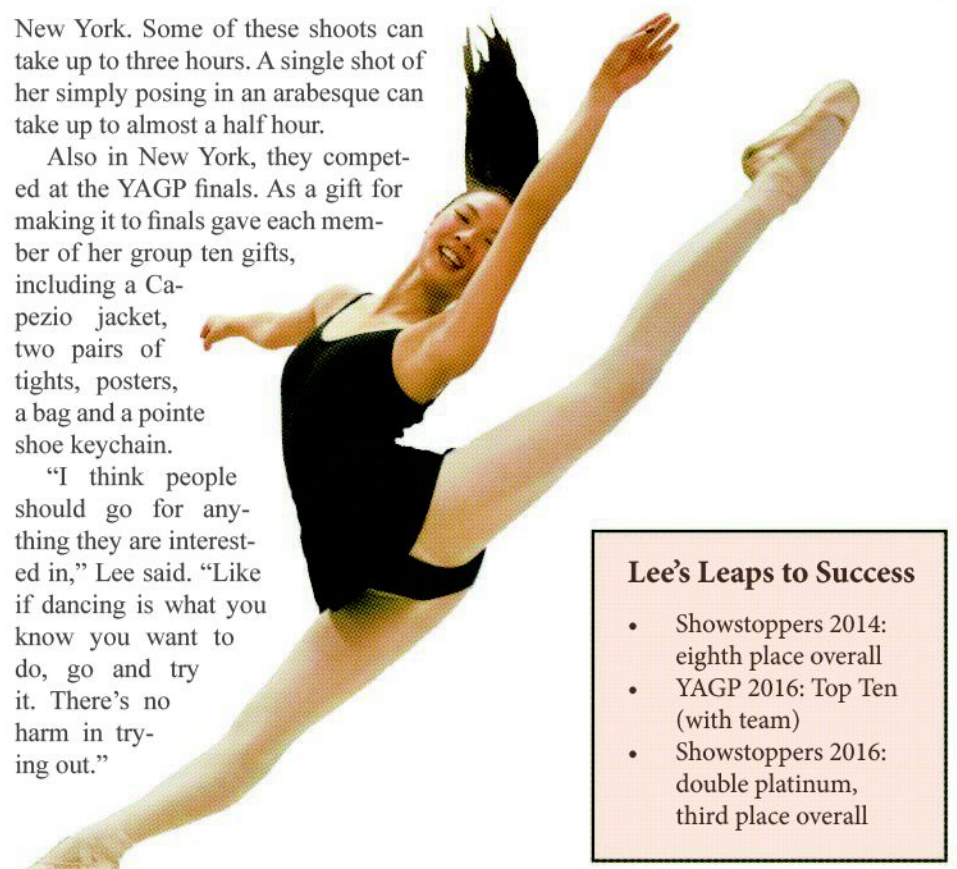
“At times, balancing school work, ASBL and dance can be a bit hard to balance,” Lee said. “But it’s what I love to do so it’s worth it.”

Every year, her studio has an annual photoshoot for their personal yearbooks. In addition to this, they had a chance to take part in photoshoot during their trip to

New York. Some of these shoots can take up to three hours. A single shot of her simply posing in an arabesque can take up to almost a half hour.

Also in New York, they competed at the YAGP finals. As a gift for making it to finals gave each member of her group ten gifts, including a Capzio jacket, two pairs of tights, posters, a bag and a pointe shoe keychain.

“I think people should go for anything they are interested in,” Lee said. “Like if dancing is what you know you want to do, go and try it. There’s no harm in trying out.”



Lee’s Leaps to Success

- Showstoppers 2014: eighth place overall
- YAGP 2016: Top Ten (with team)
- Showstoppers 2016: double platinum, third place overall

PHOTO/Janeth Inatomi

Meet the leads of "The Music Man"

By Jennifer Siu
Staff Writer

If you were to wander into the grand scopes of the San Gabriel Mission playhouse, you would find Brighter Side Singers, Senior Daniel Betts and Junior Talia Saldana, rehearsing center-stage as the leads for this year's musical, "The Music Man."

Senior Daniel Betts plays Harold Hill, a successful con man who roves around America aimlessly swindling unsuspecting towns.

"Being able to play such a fun and intricate character is an absolute honor," Betts said. "It's my senior year and I couldn't be more thrilled to end high school as Harold Hill."

Betts began his involvement in musicals in 2014 starring in "Beauty and the Beast" as Cogsworth and has fallen in love with performing arts ever since. Through his years of casting and allotted time during rehearsals, Betts created lasting friendships and has seen the growth of talent among his fellow cast mates.

"This year I put a lot of work into the audition and

a lot of work into the show," Betts said. "There's a lot of talent in this group and I think we'll see some pretty impressive performances out of everyone."

Junior Talia Saldana will play Harold Hill's love interest, Marian Paroo, a strong, educated and independent young

woman who strays from society's norms.

This will be Saldana's first year attending TCHS and debuting as one of the lead roles was both unexpected and all surreal for her.

"Getting the lead and having the opportunity to perform with all of my friends on such an extravagant stage is a dream come true," Saldana said. "With a cast of around 150 people, it's no doubt going to be an amazing and unforgettable experience."

Prior to Saldana's transfer to TCHS, her acting experiences have stemmed from when she was four years old. Performing has been a consistent hobby for Saldana and her interest in theater prodded her to study musical theater for two years in Los Angeles County High School for the Arts before attending TCHS.

Saldana admits to having some nervous tension from the pressure of starring as one of the leads, but is de-

termined to seize her moments on-stage and make her first year in TCHS an extraordinary one.

"It's definitely a little tough to fill the shoes of being a main in my first year here," Saldana said. "Everyone has been extremely welcoming and supportive so it's easy to be at my best when my cast mates are so encouraging."

Though the "Music Man" features a love story between two distant strangers, Betts and Saldana have been close family-friends since they were both nine years old and their friendship has only grown since working together for this year's musical.

"I've known Talia for years now," Betts said. "She's definitely one of the most talented people I know and it's been a lot of fun working alongside her."

"The Music Man" will grace the stage of the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse on March 11. This year marks the 52nd anniversary of the annual musicals and the cast has aimed at nothing but showcasing a flawless performance.

"I'm anticipating the audience to respond positively as it's a really upbeat show," Producer and director Mr. Matt Byers said. "Not many people always expect a lot from a high school show but I think they'll be pleasantly surprised and really uplifted from the dances and spontaneous characters."



PHOTO/ Jennifer Siu

Alumni Watch: Judge Quiroga aces as Magistrate

By Pamela Pan
Staff Writer

On a typical day for TCHS alumna Judge Diana Song Quiroga, testimonies for a drug dealer proceed in a case hearing, as she calmly awaits for a turnabout to finalize her judgement.

After a year of clerking at the district court, Judge Quiroga worked for seven years as Assistant Attorney General of Texas. By conscientiously gathering information for cases and presenting evidence before the accused defendants, she earned not only experience but also a profound perception of the law, further acquainting herself with the federal system. In 2011, Southern District of Texas selected her as the United States Magistrate Judge for the district. She has been on the bench ever since.

"Being a clerk was the best behind-the-scene experience for a newly minted lawyer because I saw the care and attention that go into managing the process and proceedings of the court," Judge Quiroga said. "As a lawyer and now a judge, I have always been concerned with upholding the rule of law, as well as promoting the efficient and fair administration of justice in our courts."

Sailing off from Argentina, Quiroga's other homeland besides Taiwan, she started as a sophomore in TCHS in 1990. Besides little unease, Quiroga felt greatly energized by a swirl of student activities in TC, as well as amazement when seeing facilities like swimming pools, tennis courts and band rooms. For Ms. Quiroga, TC teachers were important navigators of her high school life in a new country, while setting her on the right course for college.

"My AP Literature teacher challenged us to think about what we were studying and how those topics resonated with our personal lives and the world around us," Quiroga said. "Since English was still a new language for me, I was grateful that he had a lot of patience in correcting me and nurturing my budding language skills, when perhaps it would have been easier for him to send me to ESL."

Quiroga decided to pursue the study of civics and entered UC Berkeley's Political Economy Program. She spent her junior year studying abroad in the UK,

but returned stateside for an extra senior year afterwards. Harvard Law School was Quiroga's last stop before launching her career in the field of law.

"I wanted to pursue a career that would let me use my language skills, learn about different cultures, and understand the human mind and how we operate as a society," Ms. Quiroga said. "Looking back, I think that my career in the law has allowed me to pursue all those interests."

On Feb. 10, Quiroga returned to campus for the first time in 23 years. Peer Listener Program invited Quiroga, who was a former Peer, to join the meeting as a guest speaker. Narrating her own high school experiences and life stories, Ms. Quiroga thrilled everyone with inspiration and encouragement.

"Seize the present, grow with your friends, and feed your intellectual curiosity. Good grades will naturally follow from your motivations," Ms. Quiroga said. "I tend to forget the pressures and insecurities of high school but instead remember with fondness the friendships and adventures I had."



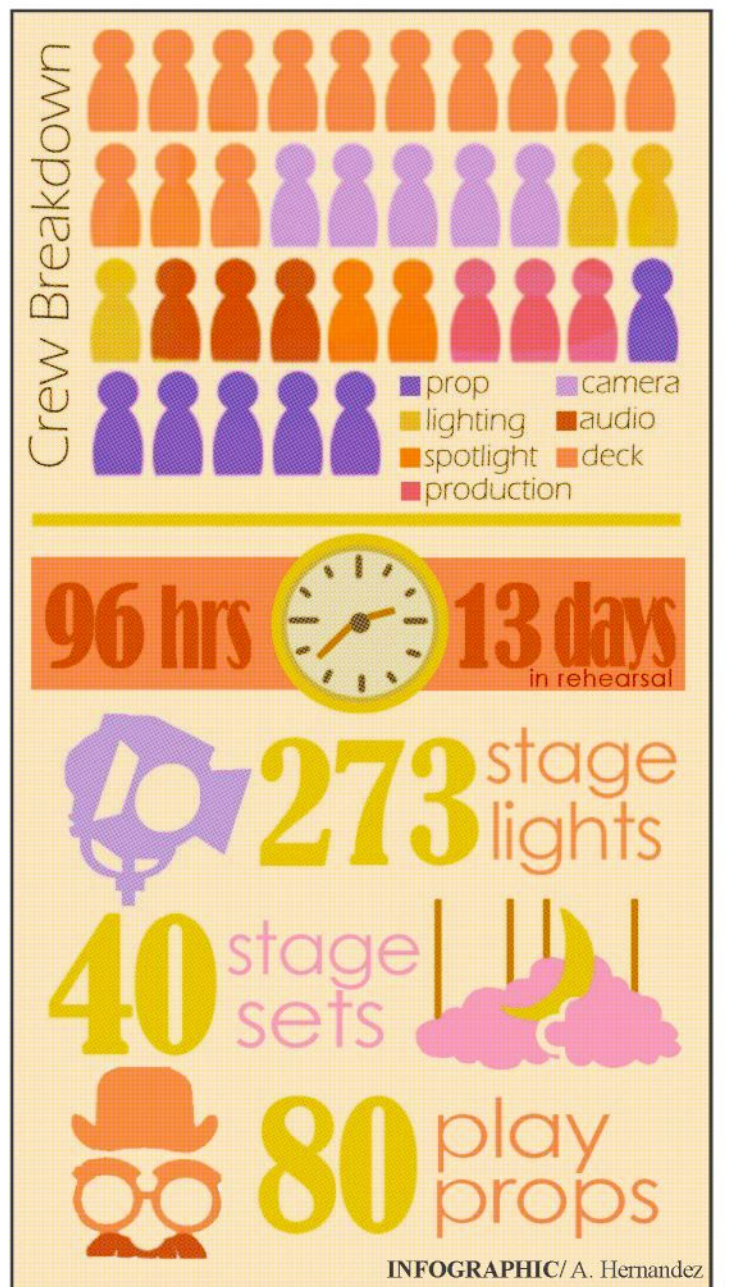
PHOTO COURTESY/ Michelle Valdez

"I live in South Texas," Quiroga said. "My fluency in Spanish lets me experience all the richness of my community."

Behind the Scenes: Data on Dragonflicks

By Alisha Hernandez
Photo Editor

From lights to camera and set creation, Dragonflicks controls it all. Here are some interesting numbers on the management behind the upcoming musical.





2016 v. 1957

2016 v. 1957

2016 v. 1957

2016 v. 1957

2016 v. 1957

SOURCE/ 1957 TCHS Yearbook ILLUSTRATION/ Alisha Hernandez

Changing uniforms: from past to present

By Alisha Hernandez
Photo Editor

It is common in sports to see players come and go, but not so much the uniforms. Over the years, changes in fashion and sportswear technology reflect in the designs of the uniforms.

The main differences are that teams have adopted clothing with more lightweight fabric, modern styles and sweat-absorbent material. However, their attire isn't changed on a whim. Oftentimes, the change is born from necessity, such as when a designer stops making a particular uniform.

Both football and softball have been planning to alter their uniforms since Nov. 2014. Team colors will change from forest green and vegas

gold to forest green and yellow gold, so players will look more in line with other high schools.

The football team will purchase new uniforms at around \$350 each player for the entire team. Aside from the coloring change, helmets should don a more matte finish, although designs are not finalized yet.

Softball players will continue to have the option of embroidering their name on the back if they decide to purchase their own uniform.

"This is the first uniform change for us in a number of years," Coach Mr. Bob Ellingsworth said. "With this system our uniforms look better as each player takes more pride in their uniform."

Track is fundraising to get new uniforms for the first time in a decade. The team's yard sale, two movie nights and jog-a-thon raised about \$4,000.

However, the team is still \$6,000 short of purchasing uniforms at \$90 each for every athlete, and it still requires funds to afford bus rides and pay for meets. Coach Mr. José Marquez hopes that by the start of the Spring season, the team will have a design picked out, but acknowledges that they are still in need of funds to support the change.

"I've always been a true believer in having a uniform our students can be proud to wear," Marquez said. "If we don't have pride in the uniform, how we can have pride for the team?"

Call foul on bias



By Andrew Rhee
Staff Writer

A recent study conducted by Bucknell University found that coaches in the NBA have a tendency to give more playing time to athletes of their own race. Though it may not apply racially, coach bias is an issue in sports that spreads from the professional levels all the way down to the high school level.

The relationship between coaches and their players can make or break the season. Coach bias can hurt the confidence of players and cause them to feel isolated from their team. However, what may seem like a biased decision on the coaches' part may not be without reason.

"It is inevitable given the situation," Athletics Director Mr. Ralph Fick said. "Athletes often have a different perception of their skills than that of their coach so a logical, yet incorrect, assumption is that the coach favors the other athlete."

Coaches have different reasons for giving more playing time to others based on criterias such as matchups on the court, knowledge of the game and the current score and situation of a game. Distributing playing time is a hard task for many coaches and it is hard to satisfy every player. In the end, coaches will make decisions that benefit the team over decisions that benefit a single player.

"We are working on making sure that all of our players understand that everyone has a role on the team and that they have a significant effect on their own playing time," Coach Mr. Marc Shettleroe said. "More importantly the team is greater than the individual."

Although coach bias seems like a complicated issue, simple communication can help mend the relationship between coach and player. Athletes should be willing to talk to their coaches about their problems. Coaches are usually willing to listen to the complaints. Both parties must come to an understanding for the better of the team. Players must realize that coaches make decisions that they believe is best for both the player and the team.

"The coach has to make that decision and often, there is someone on the other end who isn't always in agreement with the coach's decision," Coach Mr. Lyle Takeshita said. "Players and parents don't always agree with the coach to what's best for the team, and often it's because they want what is best for themselves and their children."

Coach bias may seem like a complicated issue, but it has a simple solution: communication.

SEASON RESULTS

By Catherine Tran
Web Editor

Girls Water Polo

The Girls Varsity Water Polo team finished league play this year in second place after La Cañada with a record of 7-1, despite missing almost half their teammates from sickness in three of their games.

The Lady Rams made it to the semi-finals after their C.I.F. win against Redlands with a score of 13-5 on Feb. 17. The team also defeated San Marino with a score of 17-7 on Feb. 10.



PHOTO/ Joy Hsu

Junior Tyler Api dribbles the ball down the court after making a steal from Simi Valley.

"I think we're doing pretty great," Senior Katrina Chang said. "The hardest thing this season was the loss against La Cañada by one point. I feel like that should've been our win."

After their 12-6 win against Los Altos on Feb. 24, the team faced off against Palm Desert on Feb. 27 for C.I.F. finals.

Boys Basketball

The Boys Varsity Basketball team qualified for the C.I.F. playoffs this year, finishing second in the Rio Hondo League with an overall record of 6-4. After winning their first C.I.F. matchup against Simi Valley with a score of 65-62, they lost their second C.I.F. game against Lawndale with a score of 56-51.

"I believe that it was one of our most successful seasons since coming to the high school," Senior Jeremy Wong said. "This year we played more team basketball. Everyone contributed equally in helping us win whereas last year we relied on Ali Elhawary to do everything."

Although the team encountered hardships this summer with struggling to play with intensity and lacking effort, as the off-season came, the boys began to show improvement and demonstrated more teamwork.

Boys Soccer

The Boys Varsity Soccer team finished this season with an overall record of 3-7, placing fifth in the Rio Hondo League.

"I think it was a good season for soccer," Senior Brandon Chuck said. "We won some games and had an opportunity to get into C.I.F., which was farther than we had gotten in the last four years."

Throughout the season, the team encountered hardships trying to overcome their attitude and reputation of losing so that they could advance.

In the last game of the season on Feb. 10, they lost to San Marino with a score of 6-2.

Girls Basketball

Finishing the season third in the Rio Hondo League with a record of 6-4, Girls Basketball lost 49-26 to Tustin on Feb. 18 at their first C.I.F. game.

"Everyone has their off days," Senior Tiffany Chan said. "The pressure of our C.I.F. game got to us, but we worked together as through every game. Despite the losses, we stuck together like family, which is why I think we had a great season."

The Lady Rams won their final league game against San Marino at home with a score of 58-46 on Feb. 11.



PHOTO/ Andrew Rhee

The Lady Rams lost 1-0 against La Cañada on Jan. 29, but won 10-0 against Blair on Feb. 5.

Girls Soccer

The Girls Varsity Soccer team ended the season with a record of 4-5-1. The team missed the C.I.F. playoffs, finishing fourth in the Rio Hondo league after a 3-2 defeat by San Marino on Feb. 10.

"This year it was anyone's game," Junior Amber Greene said. "It didn't matter which school it was, everyone had a shot at C.I.F. One minute you're in first place and the next you could be in last."

Throughout the season, the team struggled with losing their players to injuries. Although they had around 7 subs at the beginning of their season, only two were left by the last game.

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