

RAMPAGE

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL Volume 58 Issue 01 Thursday, June 07, 2012 tchsrampage.com

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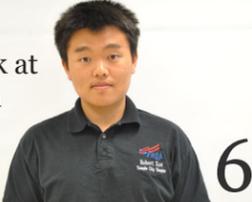
PHOTOS/ C. Lim, B. Wu, A. Dang



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Boys baseball makes school history

By Justin Ulley
Sports Editor

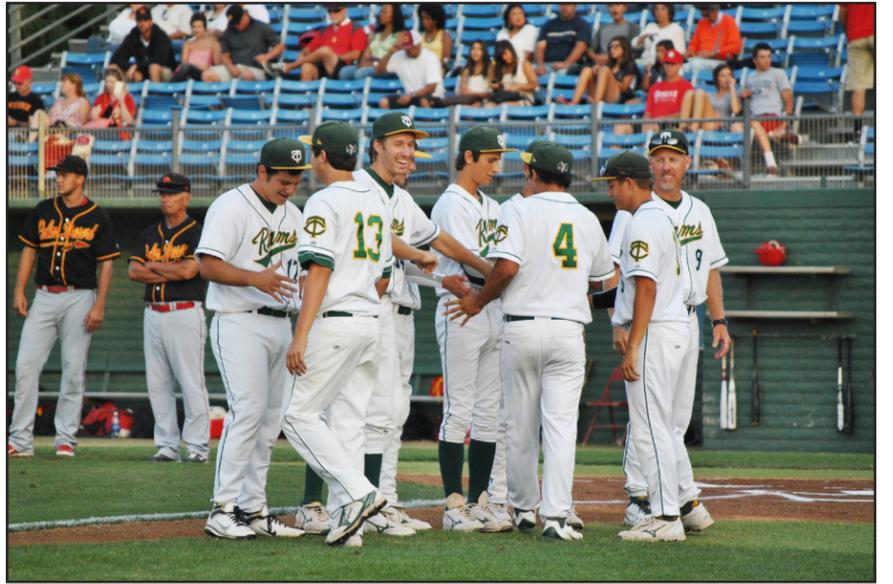
The Varsity Baseball team finished its season with an appearance at the C.I.F. Division 4 Southern Section Championship game and made school history in the process.

The Rams played against the Palm Desert Aztecs for the Southern Section Championship at the University of California at Riverside on June 2. Temple City started off weak, allowing Palm Desert to score four runs in the first inning. The boys came out after the first inning, keeping the Aztecs away from home base the rest of the game. Although TC played a hard-fought game, the boys could not get any runs, and ultimately lost 0-4.

Baseball made school history by going to the C.I.F. Southern Section Championship game. This is the furthest any Temple City team has ever gone in the playoff season.

"It was pretty cool [making it to the championship game]," Senior Corey Copping said. "Whenever people look at it [school history], they'll see our names there."

TC placed first in Rio Hondo League, sending the team to the first round of C.I.F. The team beat four other schools in play-offs before finishing the season with the C.I.F. championship game.



PHOTO/ Justin Ulley

Boys Baseball ended the season with a league record of 10-2, an overall record of 24-4-1, and ended the season with a C.I.F. Sectional Championship game.

June Ram Calendar						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June 8: Cap & gown distribution

June 8-11: Senior Finals

June 10: Senior Reflections

June 12: Senior Picnic

June 12-14: Finals, minimum day

June 14: Last day

June 15: Graduation @ 7 p.m., Grad Nite @ 10 p.m.-6 a.m.

June 17: Father's Day

June 18: Summer school begins

June 20: First day of Summer

Chevron shows staff and students how solar panels work

By Kyle Evanko
Editor-in-Chief

Representatives from Chevron Energy Solutions hosted a solar energy education workshop at TCHS on May 23 to explain the function of the new solar panels in the student parking lot.

Energy education specialist Dawn Johnson led the workshop, beginning with explaining the fundamentals of energy and electricity and leading into how solar panels capture sunlight and convert it into usable energy. Science teachers and students in attendance participated in the discussion, giving the workshop a class room setting.

After the brief explanations, Johnson took the group outside for a hands-on lab experiment. Split into groups of four, staff and students used solar panel kits from Chev-



PHOTO COURTESY/ Chevron Corporation
Project Development Manager Anthony Lumino teaches Juniors Derrick Lee and Amanda Wan how to use the solar kits.

ron to capture sunlight with small scale solar panels and analyze its output. Chevron donated the kits to the school for future use.

Generating energy since April 13, the solar panels in the student parking lot are projected to save 10,925 trees in its first year of use, and the estimated savings of the first year is \$106,120.

The construction of the solar panels took about seven months, from the initial steps to becoming fully operational.

You can see the progress of energy created from the solar panels at http://live.deckmonitoring.com/?id=temple_city_usd, which provides information like graphs of energy creation and how many tons of carbon dioxide we prevent from entering the atmosphere each year.

NEWS BRIEFS

By Jessie Chen
Senior Goodbye Editor



PHOTO/ Jessie Chen

Mayor Vincent Yu awarded Junior Brittany Bravo as she was crowned Miss TC 2012.

Miss Temple City Pageant

Miss Temple City Pageant contestants showcased their talent and speaking skills under the spotlight on May 29. Junior Brittany Bravo won first place followed by first runner up Junior Vivian Ka and second

runner up Sophomore Staci Lu Nguyen. Participants performed a dance routine, answered questions and presented their skills such as filming, dancing and playing the clarinet. The contestants have been training and practicing every Wednesday for this competition since Jan. 1 of this year.

Huntington's Fairchild Challenge

Once again, TCHS has successfully taken first place for the Huntington's Fairchild Challenge. The award for winning was \$1,200. For all three years that the Huntington museum has put on this contest, TCHS has continuously won year after year. The main goal of the competition is to spark students' interest in the environment and encourage them to appreciate nature.

The competition consisted of several challenges like drawing an editorial cartoon, writing a short story, updating the school garden and many more. Several students such as Senior David Krbachian,

Sophomore Tori Duong and Sophomore Ashley Huang landed top spots in various categories.

CIF Temple City Athletes

Senior Lestter Yeh was in the Final 20 and advanced to the CIF-Southern Section. He played on May 24 at Whittier Narrows Tennis Center. Senior Philippe Ueng pole vaulted at the CIF-SS Masters Meet and placed 5th on May 25. He then competed at CIF State Meet Qualifying on June 1 where he came in tenth place.

APES Field Trip

AP Environmental Science students hiked across and camped under the stars on Santa Cruz Island from June 1 to June 3. They completed multiple activities such as kayaking, learning about native plants, and animal spotting. APES teacher Mr. Scott Randles and AP Physics teacher Mr. Kevin Slattery chaperoned this trip.

Ms. Oberholtz's Retirement

Ms. Gladys Oberholtz, who has been teaching at TCHS for nine years and a total of 28 years in the district, is retiring after this school year. She currently works with the visually impaired students. Mr. Nathan Slaymaker will be taking her place full time. Ms. Oberholtz plans on spending more time with her family.



PHOTO/ Wendy Van Thiel

Ms. Mary Jo King was one of the many who honored Ms. Oberholtz on June 6.

Not your ordinary Senior Film exposes religious conflict in Middle East

By Elliot Wu
Graduating Senior

High school is probably the most confusing time of a person's life.

You're stuck in that no man's land between childhood and adulthood. It always seems that everybody else is having a good time while you're sitting at home wondering what you're doing wrong. Most of your life consists of waiting, whether it is for the end of class, the weekend, the next vacation or the very end of high school. The rest is purgatory.

That being said, high school still only happens once. To some that may sound like a blessing, and to others a hindrance. I myself have always been in a dead heat sprint to growing up, but I've finally screeched myself to a halt in the rat race and took a look around. I have found out why I didn't like high school, especially my senior year, so much.

Some people say that high school is going to be the best time of your life. I say something is seriously wrong with your life if that's the case. One of the main reasons is the feeling that you lack control over your life. As a teenager, you're expected to act like an adult without gaining the benefits of one.

You have to balance school-work, a social life, maybe a relationship or two and family affairs, all while having those nasty hormones coursing through your body for the very first time.

However, you aren't allowed to get your wits together over a cold beer or with a cigarette. You have to come back home before curfew, work with a budget that entirely depends on your parents' mood and follow all of their rules. You can't even start driving yourself to school, SAT classes and other arrangements

you made under your parents' influence until you're halfway done with high school.

Another reason high school is so difficult is because it always seems like someone wants you to be something. Your parents want you to be a clean, hardworking A-student. Your friends want you to be interesting and tolerable to be around. We have also been told that we should be living our lives to the fullest and have wild parties the moment our parents step out of the house for an extended period of time, or risk being labeled "boring" or "lame." This mess of expectations and priorities can drive many a student mad, leading them astray to a path of teen pregnancy, social anxiety, superiority and inferiority complexes, substance abuse and the occasional suicide or shooting. Fun.

I think one of the greatest achievements in life is realizing that you are your own person. When you know that you can take risks and accept the consequences or reap the rewards. When you can choose to either learn the smart way or the hard way. The rewards as well as the mistakes are your God-given right. You can choose to hold back or let loose, and to hell with what anyone else says.

Conformity is necessary to a degree but you can't let others control you. Guys shouldn't be dominated by their significant others while girls shouldn't compromise their values if their boyfriends threaten to break up with them.

Live up to your expectations, not someone else's. Take time in this sheltered institution called high school to do something just because you want to do it. There are going to be consequences, let me make that perfectly clear. But teenager shouldn't act like a holier-than-thou bore, he should act like a dumbass once in awhile. Do it while you can't be put in big boy jail yet. Be reckless for your own sake. Most of all, when life gets hard, just keep living.

PHOTO/ Caroline Sun



By Kelley Yao
Graduating Senior

Across the dusty field, a group of women clad in black sway to an internal beat. There are flowers and photographs in hand, and then the camera pulls back to show a sad, forlorn little cemetery. The road which leads into the cemetery divide it in two; one side for the Christians, one for the Muslims. The women separate from the group to clean the tombs of their loved ones, and to mourn again.

Directed by Nadine Labaki, the film "Where Do We Go Now?" is staunchly anti-war, suggesting perhaps that if negotiations were to be led by the women of the community, there would be a lasting peace between the Christians and Muslims. How are they to feel and react to the ongoing war when their sons and husbands are dead?

As the movie goes on, we see that the people of the village have managed to develop a peace while they are so isolated from the outside world. Yet events begin happening, in which goats wander in and then defile the mosque, and the holy water used to baptize is replaced with chicken blood. These transgressions stir up the men of the town, until they begin to mutter of guns and violence again.

The women of the town, unwilling to lose any more of their men, concoct ridiculous plans to divert the men's attention, among which is a fake trance, paying Ukrainian strippers to strand themselves in the town and putting drugs into the food while they go dig up

the buried weapons.

The film mixes comedic and poignant moments, which can really get confusing at times. You're not sure whether to laugh or cry, while the plot moves so quickly that it's difficult to remember the names of the characters. Honestly, not all of them are fleshed out or even that memorable. It focuses more on what happens rather than character development and relationships.

The plot moved quickly from one gimmick to another, which ended up sacrificing any in-depth development that may have occurred. It's interesting to see how none of the plans really work out—they only serve to delay the violence for a little while, before the men revert to their bloodthirstiness—but I suppose it parallels the actual situation in the Middle East.

It is often difficult to realize that behind the stereotypes that pervade the American consciousness, there exist real people. What we as Americans see is senseless violence, perpetuated by idiots clad in turbans and Afghans, willing to die for their religion and their cause. How surprising, is it then, that the people there feel the same way?

"Where Do We Go Now?" could be better. It doesn't quite capture hearts with the awkward transitioning from comedy to drama, but considering the subject matter at hand, it's a good portal to understanding religious conflict in the Middle East. I wouldn't recommend it to any who isn't able to stomach the terror and reality of the violence occurring between these factions.

"Where Do We Go Now?" now playing at Laemmle's Playhouse 7

Located on 673 East Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena

General Admission: \$11

Student Admission with ID card

Bargain Price (Mon.- Fri. before 6 p.m.): \$8

(Sun. after 6 p.m.): \$7

Student ID cards open the door to summer savings

By Chloe Lin
Graduating Senior

There are two things that make the world go 'round: gravity and money. As students, we could all use a little more of the latter. If you're tempted to chuck your student identification card the moment school lets out for summer, don't. One great way to save cash is by taking advantage of discounts by using your student ID.

Museums

If fossils and extinct animals are your thing, you may want to give the La Brea Tar Pits a visit this summer. Located in the heart of Los Angeles, the George C. Page Museum has a small but impressive collection of ancient mammals like saber-toothed cats, mammoths and dire wolves. They also have a laboratory where visitors can observe paleontologists working on various projects. Museum admission with student ID is \$8. Regular admission is \$11.

Located directly next to the La Brea Tar Pits is another museum that goes easy on student's wallets, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, also known as LACMA. Unlike the cozier Norton Simon, LACMA's collection fills several buildings, spans more genres and continents and hosts more changing exhibitions. It's free for students under the age of 18.

The Huntington, located nearby in San Marino, is a paradise for any one who loves art or plants. One can spend countless hours devoted to exploring its extensive themed gardens, walking paths and large art galleries. After July 1st, student weekend tickets go from \$10 to \$13, but those prices are still a steal compared to paying \$23 for an adult ticket.

The Norton Simon, located close by at 411 West Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, is a quiet gem of an art museum. They have paintings spanning from the early 16th century "Madonna and Child with Book" by Raphael to the 20th century "Woman with a Book" by Pablo Picasso. However, their particular strengths lie in their large collection of work by Edward Degas and their display of South and Southeast Asian art. Students under 18 or with student IDs get in for free, for a savings of \$10.



PHOTO/ Chloe Lin

An ancient statue of Shiva as the Lord of Dance stands in front of Buddha Shakyamuni at the Norton Simon.

Movies

For those movie buffs who prefer moving pictures to stationary paintings, never fear. Watching movies on the big screen can quickly drain one's pocket, especially on a student budget. If you're in the mood to see the latest blockbuster, the AMC 16 at the Santa Anita Mall has student discounts every Thursday. Tickets are \$9 instead of

\$12, although choices are slightly limited to films that are not IMAX or in 3D. The Alhambra Renaissance Stadium 14 theater offers student discounts Sunday through Thursday at \$11 a ticket, and 3-D movies at \$15 a ticket.

Food

There's only one thing students love more than entertainment or money: food. Plenty of local tea houses have student discounts. For example, Arcadia's Tea Bar Starry has a daily student special slush and boba milk tea, both \$2 for a small and \$3 for a large. Bun Bun Tea House gives students a free drink if they order a burger, AU79 gives students 10% when they show an ID card, and Tea Station upgrades drinks to a large without charge for students. There are plenty of places that offer savings like these, so don't be afraid to ask about any student discounts.



PHOTO/ Elliot Wu

Tea Bar Starry offers snacks such as a crispy chicken sandwich with fries and strawberry mango shaved ice.

High school: don't be afraid to miss it

By Jessica Meza
Graduating Senior

Chances are, you've heard one of your friends groan, "I can't wait for high school to be over."

Ever since the first month of my freshman year, I've been looking forward to the day when it would all end: June 15, 2012. As that day has grown closer, I've begun to realize that maybe I shouldn't have spent my days wishing it was all over, wishing I was all grown up and out of high school.

Now that senior year is finally winding down, I'm finally beginning to appreciate all my memories and beginning to look forward to the future—without wishing that I was already there.

Sure, I've definitely had my fair share of moments where I longed for the last day of high school: waking up early to finish last minute essays and homework, breakups, fall-outs with friends, recovering after all-nighters, almost failing a class.

At the same time, I've learned that your four years in high school aren't meant to be perfect; it's the gaffes and less-than-good decisions that end up making these times memorable and meaningful in your life beyond high school.

At the same time, I've had made so many great memories these past four years: joining Rampage, meeting people who changed my outlook on life, getting that A second

semester in Mr. Lieu's Honors English class, being on Homecoming court, traveling to Spain, laughing so hard tears streamed down my face.

Sometimes, it's hard to remember the good things that



PHOTO COURTESY/ Ann Lin

Jessica Meza and her best friend Tiffany Wong will be attending the University of California, Santa Barbara in the fall.

are happening in your life when you're too busy focusing on the bad. And, as cliché as that sounds, you might not realize it until your time in high school is almost over.

Regardless of what you're into, I know that having a close group of friends with similar interests has made my time here worthwhile.

Being on Rampage has introduced me to people I probably would have otherwise never met and given me skills I will never take for granted. Although there were plenty of times in my last three years on staff where I stressed over not meeting a deadline, having writer's block, or staffers printing on the wrong side of the paper, I wouldn't trade the memories I made for anything else.

Your time here is too short to spend it constantly sweating the small stuff, killing yourself by trying to get that A in AP whatever-it-may-be or hoping that the next school year'll end just as fast as the last one did. Even if things aren't always perfect, you've got to take it all in stride and keep pushing through until you learn to make the most of it, no matter how awful things may seem at the time.

Wherever you are in life, you should relish the time you're having and the memories you're making; don't wish to be anywhere but where you are, because believe me, you're going to miss it one day.

Maybe high school shouldn't be the absolute best four years of your life, but it should be something that you can look back on without having the regret of having wished it all away while you were there.



Collins' Corner

Laying off Howie would ruin the music department

By Michael Collins
Opinion Editor

The Temple City School Board is continuously reconsidering eliminating the position of district accompanist, thus laying off the indispensable Jon Howie. This would be a catastrophic mistake as Mr. Howie has not only been vital to the music department for over twenty years, but the alumnus accommodates to every single school throughout the entire district. His expertise has contributed to nearly every performing group, and he's done an exceptional job.

Try asking any musician or performer whether or not he or she is familiar with Mr. Howie. This would be a futile task as Howie has made such a profound impact on our district. Let's disregard the fact that he helps compose many of the arrangements for groups such as Brighter Side Singers, and the orchestra and band groups. The fact that one pianist is able to tend to every musician in the district is amazing.

Would Temple City's award winning musical productions not suffer greatly? And wouldn't students, faculty and rest of the community miss his other contributions as well? Of course they would, because this sort of well-respected and crucial job is unimaginable to be missing. Even if you can imagine the annual Brighter Side Extravaganza without any music, and you still think this job is expendable, it really isn't. These illustrious programs wouldn't be the same without him.

Because of this, it would be better to reconsider depleting our somehow renowned music and performing arts departments by leaving this position intact, secure, and not scrutinized by school board members who have little realization of what harm a firing like this would cause to programs throughout the district.

After a roller coaster ride of pink slips, rescinding those pink slips, temporary lay offs, and canceling those lay offs, the school board's decision should be apparent. Mr. Howie is essential to the music department, and the fact that it's still in contention to fire Mr. Howie and Mr. Bailey as well is unfair to the students and the teacher who'd be held accountable. Mr. Ferntheil already has a large enough of a responsibility as it is and shouldn't have to supervise the entire band and orchestra without Mr. Howie's and Mr. Bailey's aid.

This situation of not knowing what you have until it's gone applies here entirely. As much of a cliché as it is, you don't realize such an impact until the famed "Arranged by Jon Howie" is missing from students' sheet music. Having played cello and witnessed his commitment, I ask that the school board does not deprive other kids of that experience, as the position deserves to stay as much as the man with that job does.

Students react to Lauren Studios

Compiled by Justin Ulley
Sports Editor

The recent switch from Sports Fan Photography to Lauren Studios for senior portraits brought along a few changes, many of which that have been stirring up controversy amongst the class of 2013.

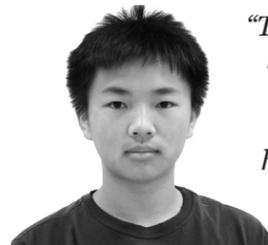


"I feel like having everyone wear the same thing makes the yearbook more uniform. Also, the distance from [Temple City High School] to the studio is about 2.1 miles, so that shouldn't be that big of a deal."

~ Junior Rachel Guo

"It's definitely a change, and I think they have a good reason to do it, but I feel like they should have had more student input on it. More student input on the decision would have been fair, but I'm still excited to see the next yearbook."

~ Junior Samantha Chen



"The \$20-40 sitting fee is excessive and we should be able to be featured in the yearbook without paying these fees. I have nothing against matching in the yearbook, but what irks me is having to pay to be in the yearbook."

~ Junior James Fanchiang

"I'm angry because [taking a picture during the summer] means I have to schedule an appointment that takes up my free time, one that I couldn't care less about. I'm also upset that I have to compete with other schools for a time."

~ Junior Matthew Sherman



PHOTOS/ Justin Ulley

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Gilbert Ongkoyaluyo

Allen Wang
Chen Jon Wei
HaoBo Steven Wen
Ivan Woo
Kevin Wu
Darren Yang
Paula Yim
Daphnee Young
Shili Zhang
Fenny Zhu



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UC Berkeley

Alice Cai
Austin Chen
Hannah Diep
Felix Liu
Rebecca Pharaon
Eric Quach

Carrington Taylor
Brian Truong
Lucy Ye

St. Mary's Univ. of San Antonio

Jessica Gutierrez

Univ. of Southern California

Tiffany Gong

Stanford University

Justin Lin Mark Soendjojo

Syracuse University

David Anderson Losa Meru
Claudia Chen

University of La Verne

Gabriela Garcia Hernandez
Cody Luk

Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa

David Emerson

UC Davis

Andrea Cruz	Jessica Ho	Roger Tsung	Elliot Wu
Winnie Goh	Jonathan Luu	Shi Qi Emily Wang	John Wu

University of Oklahoma

Corey Copping

University of Oregon

Marie Gomez Philippe Ueng

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Transition Programs

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Zachary Acosta
Morgan Chaputa
Joshua Erstad
Matthew McNeil

Military

Army

Daniel Ounchareonpornpat

Marines

Dakota Erickson
Gabriel Herrera
Wesley Tsai

Navy

Shane Robertson
Blake Wigley
Missy Ziegler

University of Texas Dallas

Yvonne Tan

Virginia Tech

Tara Siyu Zhang

West Coast University

Clarisa Torres

West LA College

Meng Fan

Yale University

Nicole Feng



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Pasadena City College

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Lezly Ayala
Brandon Ballat
Brandon Barudi
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Michelle Burton
Renee Burton
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Ted Chang
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Andy Chow
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Cathy Dong
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Denise Gen
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Meng Yu Hua
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Gonzalo Palafox
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Natalie Poon
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Nuoni Qin
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Evan Smalley
Nicole Soetanto
Hua Wei Sun
Salar Taghizadeh
Teresa Tang
Tiffany Tang
Ge Tian
Kareem Tobgy
Joseph Torres
Van Tran
Miguel Trejo
Yukiyo Ueda
Julian Valderrama
Xue Wang
John Wardlaw
Joshua Wibisono
Benny Wong
Bryan Wong
Chris Wong
Judy Wong
Rosalie Wong
Sheng Quan Xuan
Shaw Yang
Alexis Yeh
Paulina Younger
Ellen Zheng

Life is a Game of Thrones Xue receives highest honor

By Hugo Wong
Graduating Senior

War, deception and intrigue. With multiple players battling for the Iron Throne, "Game of Thrones" unravels the fabric of humanity by revealing the consuming thirst for power. Those who gain power look for ways to further expand it, while those who don't crave it.

The whole premise of "Game of Thrones" derives from the innate desire for power that serves as humanity's main impetus. Just like the people of the world of Westeros, in high school, we also want to be high achievers, seeking respect and leadership positions in order to distinguish ourselves from the crowd.

The game itself can adapt to different circumstances and environments, changing as players enter and leave the Game. On the other hand, everything that you have accomplished can also turn into ashes at the slightest mistake or twist of fate.

All of those AP classes and club positions will mean very little or virtually nothing as soon as we graduate. With that said, it seems as if I was a freshman just yesterday.

Four years ago, I stepped onto Temple City High School, which seemed like such a strange and foreign place, and now, suddenly, I must bid adieu to it, a place I learned to cherish very quickly. Leaving behind the reputation and positions of leadership that I carefully cultivated and stepping out into the world to play a new, more challenging game will be a fresh, new experience.

For me, this new game will take place at

UC San Diego, where I will study economics. At the same time, I will learn the new rules of this game of life. It doesn't matter if you are the smartest person in the world or not, all that matters is how you learn to play the game, adapt to whatever situations life throws at you and win.

We are incapable of running an entire kingdom by ourselves, which is why we need others to help us. Don't be afraid to reach out to your family and friends, your only allies in the fickle game that is life, for assistance, or even moral support. After all, even the most powerful and intelligent of warriors cannot become a king without fighting alongside loyal soldiers.

The idea behind "Game of Thrones" is that no one is truly above the Game, and those who say otherwise are either lying or oblivious to this idea. Play the Game for the enjoyment and purpose of learning, but don't play to the point of downfall and ruin.

Strive to be the person you want be and never let others obstruct the path that you choose. Never second-guess the decisions you make and learn to win the Game.

After all, high school is only a small part of life, and in the long run, if you decide to take just one day off from the "Game of Thrones" that is high school, it does not determine whether "you win or you die."~ Cersei Lannister

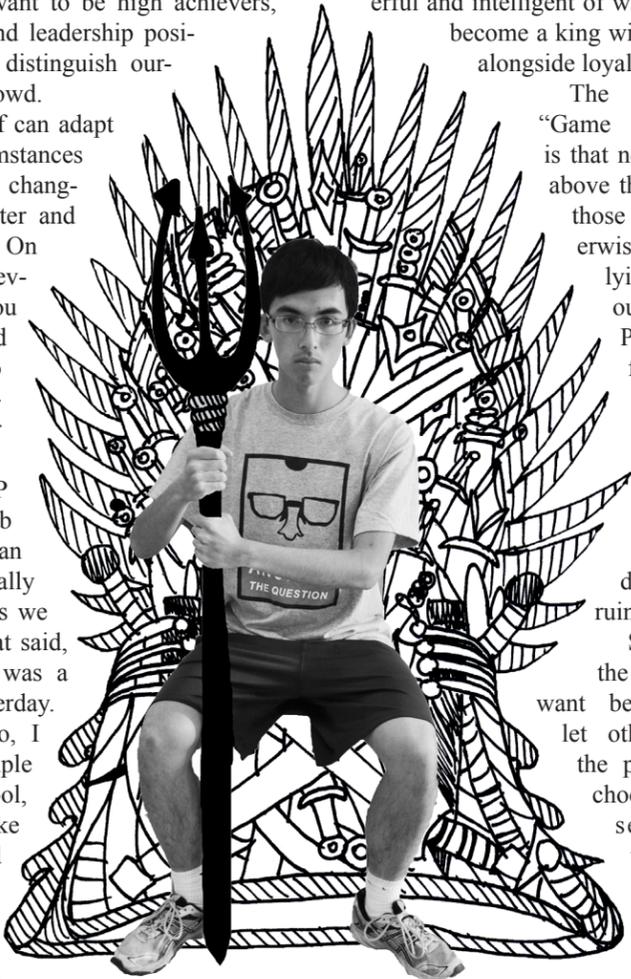


PHOTO & ILLUSTRATION/Cynthia Lee

By Humphrey Lin
Graduating Senior

The Senior Awards Breakfast is coming to an end, and students and parents alike wait with bated breath as Principal Ms. King announces in a calm voice, "And the Valedictorian for the class of 2012 is... Robert Xue." With a modest expression, Senior Robert Xue slowly walks to the front of the gymnasium amid deafening chants and applause.

With an overall weighted Grade Point Average of 4.67 and the distinctions of National Honors Society, California Scholarship Federation and AP Scholar, Xue received the highest honor at Temple City High School.

During his four years in high school, Xue has taken a total of 11 AP classes, 13 AP tests, and seven Honors classes. Among his other accomplishments are his contributions to the Temple City Chess Club, which, with his help, claimed three consecutive state cham-



PHOTO/ Janelle Capwell
Xue will deliver a speech at graduation alongside his other distinguished peers.

pionships and an eighth place national title. As an individual chess player, he is currently ranked among the top 30 in the nation in his age group. He is also a three-year member of Honors Orchestra, a current officer at Future Business Leaders of America and helped start the Temple City History Club.

Xue will be attending Cornell University next year and plans to major in Economics.

Feng awarded Salutatorian

By Jacqueline Wong
Entertainment Editor

As student after student rose from the stands cheering and clapping furiously in a roaring standing ovation, Senior Nicole Feng made her way to the podium with a soft smile touching her lips as she received the honor of Salutatorian during the Renaissance Assembly.

"I thought that a lot of people were definitely deserving of [being Salutatorian] so I guess it makes it an even greater of an honor," Feng said. "But ultimately, I'm really blessed to be able to represent the school and our student body."

Involved in an abundance of clubs and extracurriculars ranging from Quantum Physics Club, Rubix Cube Club, Choreo, Fusion, Song, Girls State, Link Crew and Rams Academic Crew, Feng also volunteered at retirement homes, health clinics, Arcadia Methodist Hospital and LA County Hospital. Further-

more in pursuit of her personal interests, Feng carried out her own research on brain cancer at University of Southern California (USC) the summer before her junior year. She also completed 450 hours of community service.

Feng plans to attend Yale University the coming school year and applied with a major in Neurobiology.



PHOTO/ Janelle Capwell
Feng took a total of 11 AP classes, 12 AP exams and achieved a final GPA of 4.63.

To Massachusetts, higher education and beyond!

By Chloe Lin
Graduating Senior

I've waited all my life for this very moment. I'm on the verge of leaving my home here to live miles and miles away from all I've known, pursue a degree and discover what kind of person I really am. This time next year, I'll be studying at Smith College, in a state I've yet to even set foot in. Words can hardly express my emotions, from the doubt and fear in leaving for lands unknown to the sadness at saying goodbye to little Temple City and the person I've become here.

In the midst of all those mixed emotions, however, is excitement of the flail-your-arms-madly, speak-too-quickly-to-be-understood, dance-wildly-in-your-living-room variety. I've worked to achieve my dreams, and lo and behold, there they are ahead of me, tangible and waiting.

All I have to do is step into my TARDIS (the Time and Relative Dimension in Space time machine for the uninitiated) and be whisked off to the magical, far off land of Western Massachusetts, where leaves change colors in the autumn, seasons are distinct, and snow periodically falls from the sky. I can hardly wait. This is the end of our road, ladies and gentlemen. It has been an incredible pleasure spending the last four years of my life in this place, and now I'm off to reach for my dreams.

Those dreams include geeking out over amazing course descriptions about museum studies, Cleopatra and 18th century novels, surviving colder temperatures than I've ever faced before, making snow angels and challenging myself to make a home out of a place all the way on the other side of the country.

It's not that I don't love Temple City, because I really do. This place is my home, from the abundance of bridal

shops down Temple City Boulevard to the way the mountains disappear into the fog on early winter mornings. I've met some absolutely amazing people here. All the same, I want to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art, American Museum of Natural History, Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the countless historical sites of the East Coast. I want to see the Atlantic Ocean and study abroad in Europe. I want to make friends with people from all over the United States and the world.

Of course, the road ahead of me won't be easy. I know that there will be days when the weather is under 30 degrees and snowing and I'm cursing my life and wondering why I never applied to UC Santa Barbara. There may be stretches of time where I'm holed up in a library, too busy working to eat or breathe fresh air. I'll miss my mother terribly.

It'll be worth it, though. I've been given a tremendous opportunity, and I am over the moon with gladness. I've finally made it. I am more than ready to meet any challenges head on, with all the enthusiasm and bad-living-room-dancing I can possibly muster.

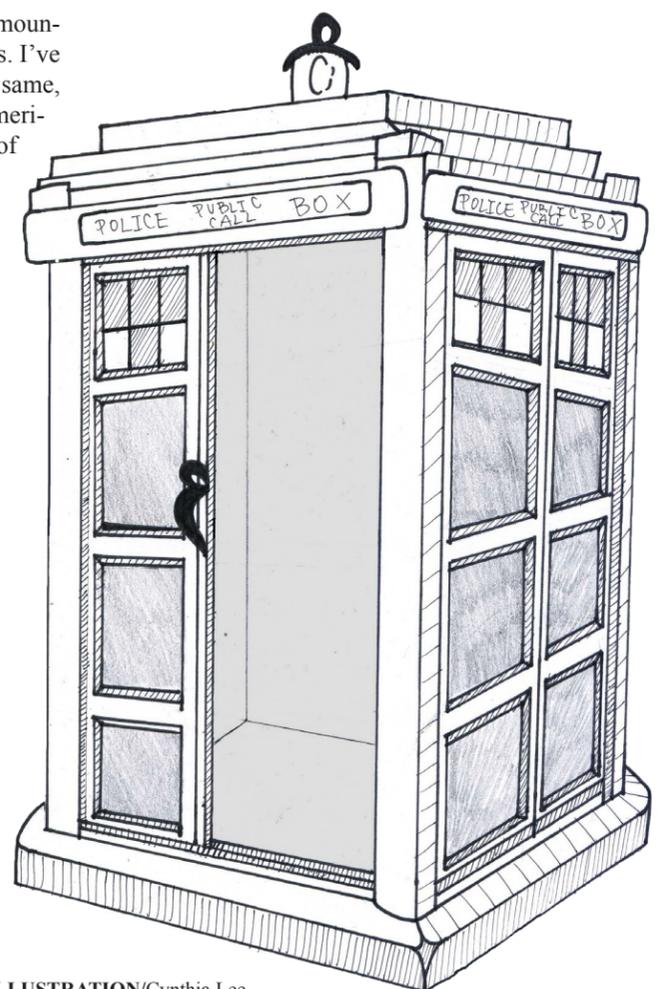


PHOTO & ILLUSTRATION/Cynthia Lee

Graduation means time for a shopping spree Don't simply repeat it, "YOLO" like you mean it

By Maggie Liu
Graduating Senior

As the reality of graduating high school draws near, the question that never fails to pop up in my head is "What am I going to wear in college?" A shallow question, no?

Around this time, seniors usually concern themselves with surviving the next four years at college, keeping in touch with friends despite long distances or living without their parents' protection from *gasp* the Real World.

But I, my dear reader, am not your typical graduating senior. I relish the thought of leaving on an exciting adventure to a new world of learning and making new life-long friends. I comfort myself with the fact that if I do get homesick, I can get myself home from college and eat my mom's cooking within an hour. Pretty convenient, if I may say so myself.

So, going back to the main issue; my friends can assure you that my sense of fashion is laughable, even non-existent. In terms of clothing, class and club t-shirts have marked these past four years. Shirts from Rampage, French Club, Key Club, AP Calculus BC, Link Crew...if you think about it, that's already enough shirts to last me an entire school week.

Thinking back on it now, if I were to define my high school career based on my outerwear, I would be known as the Girl-With-Nothing-But-School-Shirts. Sad life, indeed. There's no way I'm going to go through that again in college.

Just like how you're not supposed to use roller backpacks past elementary school, you're not supposed to wear high school clothes in college.

Is this a sign? Is college an opportunity sent down from the Heavens, an opportunity where I can radically cure my distorted fashion sense without my friends eyeing me weirdly? I've heard of people visiting from college, unrecognizable by their friends, old teachers and perhaps even their parents.

Maybe I should come back wearing Gilly Hicks and Forever 21 apparel and have short hair, pierced ears and a tattoo on my ankle.

Despite my wanting to change, I am grateful that high school was not the cutthroat, dog-eat-dog world of "Mean Girls." Perhaps some people judged me based on these superficial criteria, but I didn't make the friends that I have now these past four years based on how I dressed.

Being well-dressed is always important to make a good first impression, but beyond that, it's always one's personality, charisma and kindness that draws people in.

Know that high school is an amazing place where you can be yourself without needing to compromise. For me, it was for what I wore. Fashion never came first to me in high school. Release your inhibitions. Don't be afraid to share your interests, ideas or, in my case, lack of fashion sense with the world. Only when you feel comfortable to try something new, should you begin your transformation.

By Debra Ma
Graduating Senior

GOODBYE HIGH SCHOOL.

You cannot imagine how glad I am to be able to say that. My life in the past four years has been full of drama: boy troubles, backstabbing, body issues, deaths, drugs, and pregnancies. It's a miracle I was even able to make it through all four years. I feel like I'll need therapy to fix all the psychological scars I've collected.

Just kidding. The past four years have actually been rather good to me. During my freshman year, I didn't do much. I joined but didn't participate in any club, wasn't in a sport, didn't go to any activities. I thought spirit weeks were stupid and forgot about cheering at assemblies. By the end of the year, I realized one important thing: going through freshman year like that was utterly and hopelessly boring.

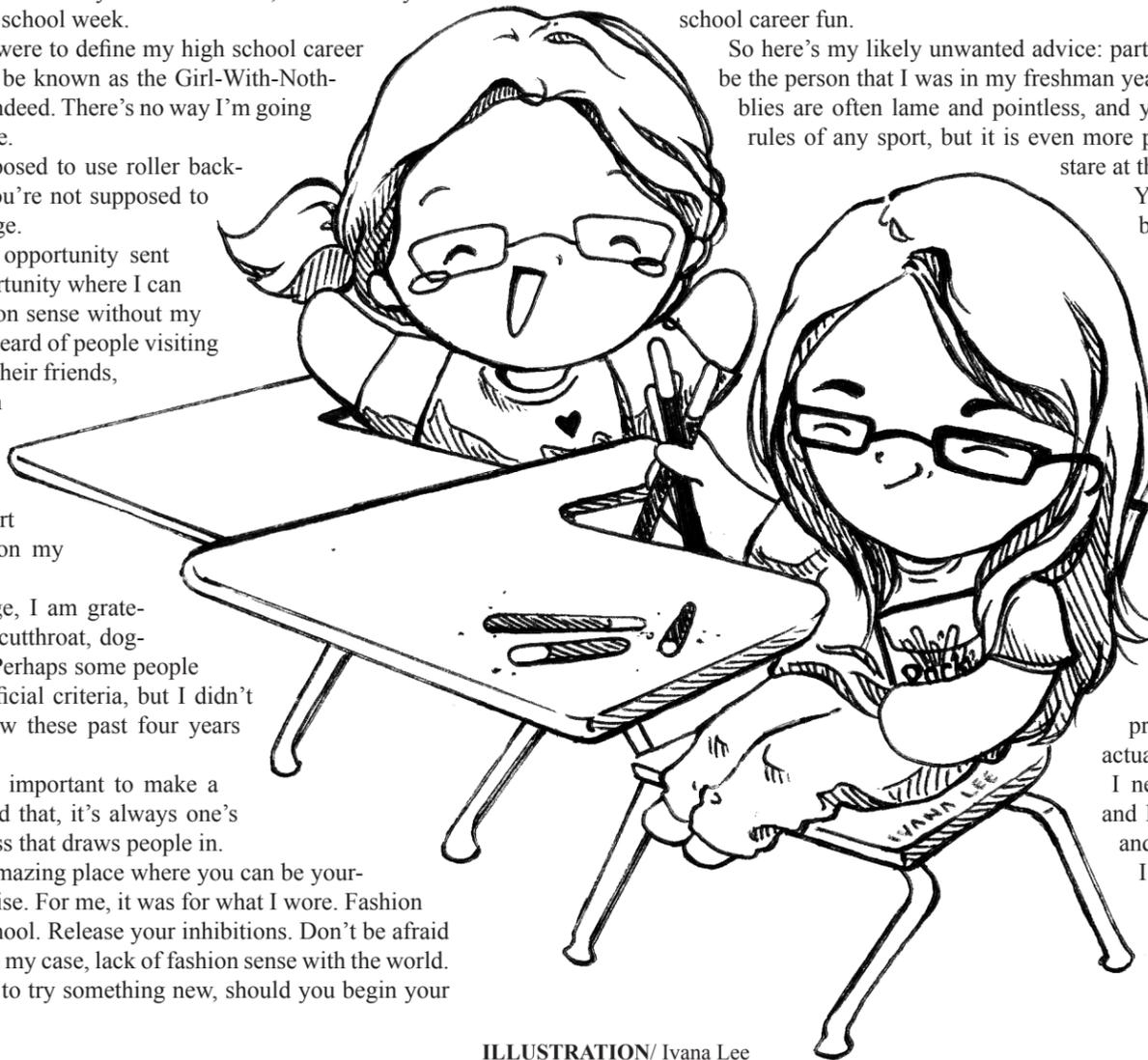
So in the next three years, I join tennis and Rampage. I go to football games, basketball games, and nearly every Choreo performance. I participate in the games and cheer for my class during spirit checks. As an extension of joining these activities, I get to experience Occupy L.A. firsthand and participate in a protest at the school district building. I also made new friends, many of whom

I would have never talked to otherwise. I made the last three years of my high school career fun.

So here's my likely unwanted advice: participate and be spirited. Don't be the person that I was in my freshman year. Yes, the games and assemblies are often lame and pointless, and you might not understand the rules of any sport, but it is even more pointless to stay at home and stare at the wall.

You can play MapleStory, Diablo 3 or League of Legends later in life, when you actually don't have anything else to do, but you only get to go through high school once. You don't want to get out of it just to say that you hated it and it sucked. If it sucked then it was likely your own fault because you didn't do anything. Four years, while not all of it, is a good chunk of your life. Make it worth something. If you are going to use the overused expression "YOLO," I hope you actually mean it.

I never did anything too crazy, and I am not advocating drinking and partying every weekend. I'll just look back and think fondly of smashing people's faces in whipped cream, painting people blue and that one time I ran away from the cops. Stupid Pedro.



ILLUSTRATION/ Ivana Lee

If you can't carpe diem, carpe noctum

By Kelley Yao
Graduating Senior

I spent much of my freshman year lying on my back, on the couch, staring at the ceiling. Now, it may seem like an idealistic, beautiful moment for those of you who were tortured by APs, but believe me, developing a committed relationship with one's couch is not all that it's cracked up to be. It takes effort and long bouts of silence, in order to gain that perfect imprint of your head in the couch cushion.

Sometimes I would drift off to sleep. More often than not, however, I'd continue staring, sleepless. I pondered my existence in those times, wondering why exactly I continued to play the system of grades and behavior when I could obviously spend my time doing more exciting things? I imagined myself riding elephants through the Sahara, bearing milk and honey for the starving African orphans. Perhaps I'd learn the fine art of woodcarving or finally hit the gym and lose 300 pounds. Anything was better than playing the game teachers and parents had set us.

I once had a long conversation with a friend about expectations. When you lower other people's expectations of you, it's easier to impress

them. I remember back in elementary school, I would come home and troll my mom, telling her that I'd failed ... then showing her my A+++.

What did you expect? I was the quintessential, perfect Asian child.

Then somewhere along the line I realized that by being the perfect Asian child, I was playing the system. My first act of rebellion? I walked a 17 minute mile in freshman year for my PE final. Needless to say, that wasn't exactly the bombshell I'd hoped to drop on my family.

To this day, I still don't know. What I do realize, though, is that once I began to occupy my time with classes and

friends, the time I had left to ponder was severely diminished. Live your high school life. Break free of that distinctive apathy and the little "what if" that sits on the crux between your shoulder and neck, whispering unceasing doubt into your mind. Take a risk; take ten risks. Ditch school and go ninja training for a week in the mountains.

It really isn't important whether or not you become that perfect ideal others have of you. Honestly, I despise the phrase "living up to your potential". It tries its best to sound like it cares for you, with that neat little touch of condescension that says, "I know what's best for you."

At the same time, I'm not advocating you to "YOLO" everything, as my good friend up there suggests. That phrase is just an excuse for you to be illogical, stupid and act like a jerk. Please remember, most importantly out of all the things that you take away from reading this piece, there is no excuse for being a jerk.

As one last digression, I'd like to point out that in the wonderful caricature of me you see to the left(?), I have never worn heart boxers nor stood menacingly in a field of flowers and butterflies. I'm sure, however, that one day I will do both. They are almost unthinkable to me at this moment—I don't even know where to get heart shaped boxers. But I'm totally down and open to the idea, just as you should be about everything. Carpe your every diem.

But since you're all high school students, I'm sure it'll be carpe noctem instead. ILLUSTRATION/ Ivana Lee



Words of Wisdom for high school and more

By **Humphrey Lin**
Graduating Senior

I know that many of my peers, in their senior goodbyes, will leave behind them a legacy of wise high school advice and deep proverbs worthy of the Confucius' diary. I will do no such thing, instead I will provide a list of seemingly mundane advice which, nevertheless, has helped me the most through these nightmarish days commonly known as high school.

Tip #1: Never try to lift too much

Those who know me well know that I spend a good chunk of my free time in the gym, a crowded basement filled with sweaty, grunting men, lifting things that don't go anywhere. I've learned many life lessons there, and among them, one of the most important tenets of my life.

It was a Thursday night, and my buddy Richard and I walked smoothly and confidently toward the incline bench press. Feeling pumped up from the protein shake that I had consumed half an hour ago, I calmly put on more than I've ever benched, sat down, gripped the bar and mustering all my strength, lifted it out of its rack. Right away, I knew something was wrong. My left elbow refused to cooperate and before long, the weights slid down the lop-sided bar and made a deafening crash on the gym floor. Everyone stopped in their tracks, and every pair of eyes was fixed upon the idiot who tried to lift too much.

Not only does it make you look like a



PHOTO/ Cody Luk

Throughout the year, Humphrey Lin has formed strong friendships with Rampage staff members, including his broskies, Adrian Dang, Justin Ulley and Jonathan Aguilar.

total idiot when you fail, you also risk injuring yourself. Folks, don't lift too much, and I don't just mean in the gym.

Tip #2: Don't be cheap

It was 5 a.m. on the first day of spring break, and my friends and I were on our way to Marina del Rey to go deep sea fishing. We had half an hour to kill, and some genius proposed that we go to Denny's for

a quick breakfast before we headed off into the waters. First bad idea. When the half-awake waiter brought us our menus, I, hungry, eagerly flipped through the menu and finally, my eyes landed on an apparent paradise: the value menu. When the waiter waddled over again, being cheap, I told him with a smile, that I'd like to have the \$2 pancakes. Second bad idea. The boat set

off into the distant sunrise, and everything was perfect...for a while at least. Without warning, I felt my stomach bubble. I walked out onto the deck for some fresh air, my stomach abruptly decided to regurgitate those pancakes. I watched, as, one by one, my friends leaned out across the deck and emptied their Denny's meals into the clear, blue waters.

Tip #3 Think before you speak

My girlfriend has beautiful green eyes. One day, when we were out at lunch with a friend, I took a long look at them, and puzzled, I looked up and asked "Why are your eyelids purple?" Rolling her eyes at my obvious ignorance about makeup, she said, calmly, "It makes the green stand out." I thought for a moment, and as if my mental word filter decided to take a temporary vacation, I blurted out, "You look like Barney." I could tell at once something was wrong, as she looked at me sternly, and her friend face-palmed in my direction.

As a boy, I can say that among the bits of dust and dead flies, stupid, yet hilarious comebacks occupy a significant portion of the male brain. But no matter how hilarious the remark, we sometimes need to install a filter between our mouths and our heads, because quite frequently, our idea of "oh man that's funny!" is a girl's idea of "no wonder you're single." My mouth earned me a couple of dirty looks this time, but in the future it may cost you a job opportunity, a date or even an entire relationship.

Turning the focus on your high school perspective

By **Cody Luk**
Graduating Senior

High school. Before I took my first step, I thought it would be the most important and best chapter of my life. In many ways, I was probably right. Now that reality is sinking in and I'm finally graduating, I realize that how you view these four years really depends on your perspective.

All my high school experiences played a significant role in the person I am today. If I were to do it again, I wouldn't leave any part out. It's sad that too many people spend their whole high school career joining activities and taking classes they despise just to beautify their college applications. I'm glad that I didn't because at the end, all you really have are the memories (and a lot of rejections.)

When I look back, I want to remember cutting articles and editing photos during Rampage late nights, strolling around the Beverly Hills streets after the AIDS Walk and decorating rose floats with my Brightening the World members. I also hope to remember networking with students all across the state with the same mindset as me and walking to the stage and at Future Business Leaders of America competitions, going to never-ending rehearsals as a Dragonflicks crew member and spending long summer nights at the Arboretum working for Cal Phil concerts.

And who can forget those long nights of memorizing hundreds of art history works of art or attempting to teach myself statistics and waking up the next morning at 6 a.m., running on two or three hours of sleep. It is things like these that make high school unforgettable and, well, high school.

These four years have been a period full of a lot of firsts. The sweaty-hands-and-shaky legs experience of the first AP exam, to the first time



getting ready for a school dance and the first time going out with my newly-licensed friends in their cars, were all part of the rollercoaster ride to the ultimate destination: graduation.

It took long, but the Class of 2012 has finally grown up from the awkward freshmen, fumbling through our inexpressible words, to the beautiful seniors we are today. We are now willing to be daring and to step out of our comfort zone.

However, with a week left, we often look past the fact that senior year is also a time for a lot of lasts. It's the last time we would all be together before we accelerate with our lives in different parts of the world and the last chance to leave some type of legacy behind. This is the end of our adolescence and the start of a new era.

Over a dozen of honors and AP courses later, two inches taller and four years older, I realized that many things that happened were heartbreaking, terrifying and unfair and I learned enough life lessons to last a lifetime. There were moments that would tear me apart, classes that I often wish I didn't take and people that I feel inclined to erase. But one thing is that I have no regrets.

Now that the bittersweet chocolate bar of high school is melting like the pocket watch in Dali's "The Persistence of Memory," all I have to say is with everything you do, make sure you will take pride in it or else your dignity will suffer a scar. Don't forget to take that camera, turn the focus and adjust it only on the things and the ones that will matter in ten years. No one knows the ending, and knowing you survived through every obstacle along the way is enough to make the journey worthwhile.

Here's to never finding the answers to all those, what-if's, could-have-been's and should-have-been's.

PHOTO/ Adrian Dang

Practical minded imagination

By **Benjamin Chan**
Graduating Senior

Throughout my years as a high school student I asked myself the same question countless times: Was it worth it?

After freshman and sophomore year, I wondered if my laziness and apathy towards school was worth it. After spending a night alone instead of going to that party I heard was rampant with booze and drugs, I wondered if it was worth it. After trying again at the SATs for a better score and coming up short, I wondered, was it worth it? After losing faith in God and finding it again, I wondered, was it worth it? After joining clubs, being involved in extra-curricular activities and aiming for high grades to finally be accepted into a college, I wondered, was it worth it?

From my travels I've come to acknowledge that life is crazy, confusing, chaotic, busy, and yet overall wonderful. Remembering that last part is true was often tough having extra things like clubs, music, and entertainment on top of school work that often clouded my senses.

The question "was it worth it" may seem like one a pessimist or a realist might ask, but on the contrary, though, I consider myself to be a dreamer. Although I believe I am a practical minded person, I find value

in holding a fantasy. Imagination is a wonderful thing which gave me an element that was paramount to my surviving high school: hope.

Without hope I could not have gotten past all those sleepless nights, cramming sessions, fits of rage, marathon periods of procrastination, irritating writer's block (including the one that I had to break to write this) etc.



Hoping for a better tomorrow let my imagination run wild with dreams of a lavish and successful life with a dream job as a spaceman, a beautiful super-model wife, a giant house on top of a volcano, ponies readily available for me to ride, chocolate fountains to gorge on, studio audiences to laugh at all my jokes and anything and everything to satisfy me to my heart's desire.

On the inside I know that ponies and volcano houses are probably beyond reach, but I am certain I can hope for more satisfying experiences with nature, friends, life and God. No one knows what the future may hold in its inathomable and intriguing depths, but I'll be damned if I'm not looking forward to it.

As for all my dreaming: Ludicrous? Perhaps. Foolish? Maybe. Worth it? Absolutely.

PHOTO/ Adrian Dang
ILLUSTRATION COURTESY/ Benjamin Tong

