

L O S A N G E L E S

Leadership Academy

The Voice



Volume 7 Edition 1

Newspaper serving the Lincoln Heights community since 2008

September 2014



New Executive Director

On September 15, Arina Goldring will take the position as Executive Director of Los Angeles Leadership Academy. Born in Ukraine, Arina has spent the past 18 years in education. As the executive director of Montague Charter Schools, Arina focused on improvement of academic programs for English Language Learners, Special Education and GATE students.



Teacher Defections

At least nine faculty members decided to leave L.A. Leadership Academy as a result of previous administrators' actions. Teacher names with years of service to the community are in parentheses: Cornell Stephenson (12), Sonia Martinez (9), Mark Campbell (7), Marissa Cowell (7), Nkechi Uchemefuna (3), Hala Dillsi (2), Kathleen Flores (1), Martin Barrera (1), Ebonye Batiste (1).

New College Counselor

Karla Marquez returns to L.A. Leadership Academy as the college counselor. Karla previously worked on faculty as a social science teacher from 2009-2012. She returns after receiving her counseling credential at Cal State L.A., and working with the nonprofit Fulfillment Fund at Hamilton and Crenshaw high schools.



Summer Finland Study

This past summer, 12th grader Jac Russell spent five weeks in Finland as part of the AFS Intercultural Program. He believes that the experience helped develop his tolerance for different cultures and international awareness.

Debate Camp Champs

Juniors Brenda Reyes and Vanessa Sanchez took first place in the novice division at the Los Angeles Metropolitan Debate League Summer Debate Institute held at the University of Southern California.



Fantasy Football

USA Today fantasy football experts give advice on who to choose in the first round of this year's fantasy football draft: Running backs. The following three will receive the most yards from scrimmage, both running and receiving, and they are always in the game when their team is near the goal line: 1) LeSean McCoy, Philadelphia Eagles 2) Jamaal Charles, Kansas City Chiefs 3) Adrian Peterson, Minnesota Vikings.

New Commish

On August 14, Major League Baseball owners voted for a new commissioner to oversee the 145 year-old league. Rob Manfred, who has worked for MLB for over 20 years, was chosen as the successor for the retiring Bud Selig.



School Board Ousts Embattled Administration

New Executive Director and High School Principal Take Helm

BY SANDRA SANCHEZ
Managing Editor

Los Angeles Leadership Academy yet again welcomes a new administration. This change in administration was made over the summer by the Board of Directors in order to best support students and staff.

Two key figures in LA Leadership's 2013-2014 administration - then-Principal, Richard Thomas and then-Executive Director, Michelle Tubbs - departed after an 8:30 AM emergency board meeting was called on June 13, 2014.

The founder of LA Leadership Academy, Roger Lowenstein had this to say about the change, "Well, very simply—the school wasn't a happy place and many teachers where upset enough that they decided to leave... school needs to be a positive place and this previous year was not."

As the year came to a close, many students had sent letters to the Board describing how they felt about the prior administration. Among them was senior (then junior) Diana Martinez.

She explained that after learning so many teachers where leaving, the students got together and wrote letters to bring attention to the problem, attended board meetings, and involved their parents.

In her own words she said, "I wrote a letter stating how our home was drastically changing ... I expressed my feelings and how the students felt that they couldn't complain because they were afraid of administration."

Now, LA Leadership Academy welcomes Cynthia Cuprill as the new principal, and as of September 15 will officially welcome Arina Goldring as the new Executive Director. With twenty-one years of experience in education under her belt, Ms. Cuprill has as her first priority raising student achievement.

When asked about her plans for the year at LA Leadership, she said, "After hearing all the rumors about last year, my second priority is to redevelop a sense of community, a part of your life you can leave to one day come back and give back to."

Los Angeles Leadership Academy has seen a high turnover in administration the past few years. It is common for there to be a high teacher turnover rate in the charter school world, but not as pronounced in administration. There are high expectations and hopes for LA Leadership's 2014-2015 administration from students and parents alike.



New Kid on the Block Cynthia Cuprill takes charge of HS

With the school year off the ground, The Voice - on behalf of all of the student body - formally welcomes new principal, Cynthia Cuprill, and new executive director, Arina Goldring.



New Wellness Center Opens in East L.A.

Historic General Hospital Renovated by USC Medical

BY IRANI MENDEZ
Staff Writer

After six years of nothing at the original LAC+USC Medical Center building in Lincoln Heights, the building went through a sponsored renovation to become the Wellness Center on March 15, 2014.

The reason the LAC+USC could no longer function as a hospital was because it did not meet the new earthquake and fire codes enacted in the aftermath of the 1994 Northridge earthquake. The Wellness Center was built to help people, just like the medical center once did.

The center uses 4200 square feet of the first floor of the building and consists of 16 nonprofit community agencies, such as the American Diabetes Society, the American Heart

Association, and the YMCA. The center's goal is "to serve all people of all ages". A participant of the YMCA, Donaldo Escobedo states, "these partnerships with other agencies give teenagers more opportunities because they can lead into internships and maybe future jobs."

About 5 years ago, Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina envisioned a new project. A project that would reuse the "iconic" building by "creating a place, like a mall, where people can get all they need in one visit. Just that in this place people can get different services a family may be seeking," said the director of the YMCA, David Valdez. Three years later, with financial support from the Keck Medical School at the USC the Wellness Center was created.



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Opinion & Editorial

Viewpoint

Cosmetics: Be Careful What You Ask For

BY NATALIE TORRES
Alumnus, Class of 2014

Cosmetics are known to improve our appearance, body smell and skin. They are now known to be a daily need in our modern society. The effects of these beauty products do have the ability to transform our looks into a better appearance. But, there are other effects as well. Every cosmetic product does have a negative impact to your body. This is known as the ugly side to every cosmetic and beauty product.



Cosmetics are provided all over the world and are a multi-billion dollar industry. It is this industry where cosmetics can lead to organ damage, aging, chronic diseases, skin cancer and infections.

One of the most used product for females is make-up, which is supposed to help women look their absolute best, but in reality it damages a woman's appearance beneath the coverage. Recent studies show that 98% of women believe they could not live without the appliance of make-up.

Do you know how many products a woman applies on a daily basis? An average woman uses about 5 to 12 products a day, which contains about 170 ingredients according to research done by the U.S non-profit organization, Skin Deep. Make-up is a popular cosmetic that comes with several products for each part of the face. Each product contains its own damage to the area of the skin where it is applied. For example, popular products like lipstick and foundation can lead to cancer, and blush can cause hormone disruption. Do you think it is worth damaging your body?

Every product contains health risks unless it is 100% natural. Be careful with companies that are adding a few natural ingredients and then stating that it is all-natural. Most people do not know the consequences of using chemical make-up, and continue to believe they are not putting their body in danger.

Most people do not know the consequences of using chemical make-up, and continue to believe they are not putting their body in danger. It doesn't stop there. The cosmetic products we use in the bathroom are also a great danger. Oils and bubble bath products like shower gels can affect your reproductive organs and lead to infertility. Hair products such as hair dyes contain toxic chemicals that thin the hair and cause hair loss. Hair products such as hair spray can cause scalp damage.

These products have been known to contain asbestos that can affect the menstrual cycle. Asbestos is a group of minerals that naturally occur in the environment and is widely used in the cosmetic industry. If you are exposed to asbestos, you increase the risk of lung cancer with pleural disease, which is related to the lungs and makes breathing difficult.

Every beauty product has harmful chemicals. Stay away from cosmetics that contain BHA, Barium, zinc oxide, or sulphate. These chemicals can cause organ failures to the liver and kidney. It is recommended that you should use organic all-natural products if you want to stay on the safe side.

Cosmetics are not just affecting and damaging to people, but also impacts our environment. Cosmetic companies have a lot of explaining to do, but the public that uses their products must be more active in asking the real questions that impact our health and beauty.

Natalie Torres is a graduate of Los Angeles Leadership Academy High School. This is an excerpted version of an Original Oratory speech.

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Publication Policies

The Voice is a student newspaper produced by students at L.A. Leadership Academy. This paper is published to inform, educate and entertain the student body, faculty and members of the community of Lincoln Heights.

Students, faculty and community members with strong opinions are highly encouraged to write a guest commentary or a letter to the editor, which may be published.

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The Voice is a proud member of the following:



National Scholastic Press Association

Staff Editorial "Let the Healing Begin"

We wish we could say that the 2013-2014 school year is one to forget. But, trying to forget what happened is not admitting to the mistakes that occurred through the hiring process of a team that spent an enormous amount of time demolishing the culture of our school.

The Voice believes that our school should reflect upon what occurred last year and move forward with a sense of healing. Understanding that as students of a social justice school, we must continue to speak with a sense of urgency when we believe we have been wronged, we must continue to speak truth to power.

Some students did just that. They organized other students and their parents to bring attention to the failures of the executive director and

principal of the high school. Some students spoke out by leaving the school which caused our enrollment to plummet. The Voice finds the process interesting that it was the students that had to bring this to the attention of the School Board of Directors.

The school board should take a more active role in governing the Los Angeles Leadership Academy school system. By the time the school board acted, it was too late. Numerous teachers who served the community had already found faculty positions elsewhere. The Voice will continue to stand watch over our beloved school, but we need the adults to do the same. Then and only then can we start the process of healing.



Upcoming Events

- 9/6 SAT Elite Meeting/Test
- 9/11 Picture Day
- 9/11 Study Abroad Meeting w/parents
- 9/12 5-week Grad Reports
- 9/15 Cal State Chico Rep @ High School
- 9/20 Speech Tournament @ Gabrielino H.S.
- 9/22-26 Spirit Week
- 9/26 Ohio Wesleyan University @ High School
- 9/30 Kenyon College Rep @ High School
- 10/1 LALA Board of Directors Meeting
- 10/4 Speech Tournament @ Treadia H.S.

The Voice Ch-Ch-Ch Challenge

September's Challenge

The first student to answer the clue will receive:
a secret prize + a copy of *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

Clue: el jefe; 49er, a bull's eye

The first student to tell Al the answer will receive the prizes





Ebola Virus Causes World-Wide Concern

Outbreak of Deadly Virus Spreads Throughout West Africa; U.S. Doctors Infected

By **SELENA AGUSTIN**
Staff Writer

As of now the Ebola virus in West Africa is the deadliest disease. "The numbers are terrifying: The Ebola outbreak could hit 10,000 cases by September, 24. They also predict that perhaps 100,000 cases by December."

On August 21st, two American missionaries, Dr. Kent Brantly and Nancy Writebol were released from their isolation unit. Although, the two missionaries are recovered, people should be aware because the Ebola outbreak is increasing as days go by.

It has spread throughout Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria. There have been about 3,000 cases of which approximately 1,500 people died.

In the evening of August 31st, young man from Sweden felt ill after visiting an area in Africa; his name has not yet been released. He was placed in a medical isolation in Stockholm after the conditions he had such as, high fever and stomach pains. He can still receive other symptoms for instance, sudden onset of fever, weakness/muscle pain, headaches and a sore throat. It can then lead to vomiting, diarrhea, impaired kidney and liver function and sometimes non-stop bleeding.

The Ebola outbreak in Sweden

is very low and people are hoping the young man gets well soon. A medical staff from the hospital has given the man a test and the results are going to be revealed Monday evening.

Likewise, on Monday September 1st, a 21 year old man traveled to Dakar, Senegal with three highly symptoms: fever, diarrhea, and vomiting- it was all symptoms of Ebola.

However, he was not being treated for Ebola, but treated for Malaria. Yet, people did not know that he had been in contact with infected people; with that being said he had three family members die of the disease. According WHO, he was staying with relatives on the outskirts of the city. The people he had been contact with before he got to the Dakar Hospital are being examined at least twice a day.

The outbreak is getting out of control and it may take about six months to get it under control. A few borders might want to shut down, and Senegal shut theirs down with Guinea a week ago because of fear that the Ebola outbreak spreads even more.

Meanwhile, they shut the borders down, they now have a case in their own country. According to, yahoo news the NIH is developing a vaccine with pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline. People can get to be treated with this vaccine for the Ebola. However, this vaccine has not yet been tested on humans.

Ebola outbreak
An outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus has killed at least 59 people in Guinea. Ebola is spread by close contact and kills between 25 and 90 percent of victims; there is no cure or vaccine.

Ebola virus' typical path through a human being

Day 7-9 Headache, fatigue, fever, muscle soreness	Day 10 Sudden high fever, vomiting blood, passive behavior	Day 11 Bruising, brain damage, bleeding from nose, mouth, eyes, anus	Day 12 Loss of consciousness, seizures, massive internal bleeding, death
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© 2014 MCT
Source: U.S. Centers for Disease and Control, BBC
Graphic: Melissa Yingling

Scientists Predict Stormy Weather

International Meteorologists Point to the "El Niño" Effect

By **KEVIN FERMAN**
Staff Writer

California is currently experiencing a historically devastating drought that has nearly caused some lakes and rivers to dry up. Forecasters believe that California can heal from the drought due to there being a high chance of heavy rain for the fall. This change in weather is all due to the return of El Niño, a powerful weather system that can help California come out of its water crises.

The El Niño effect occurs when surface water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean around the equatorial region become unusually warmer. This change in water temperatures can cause a huge change in the world's climate. El Niño occurs every two to seven years and can vary in strength.

The warmer waters tend to reach more towards South America, reach its warmest temperatures around fall time, and start to cool off again until the following year's winter and spring.

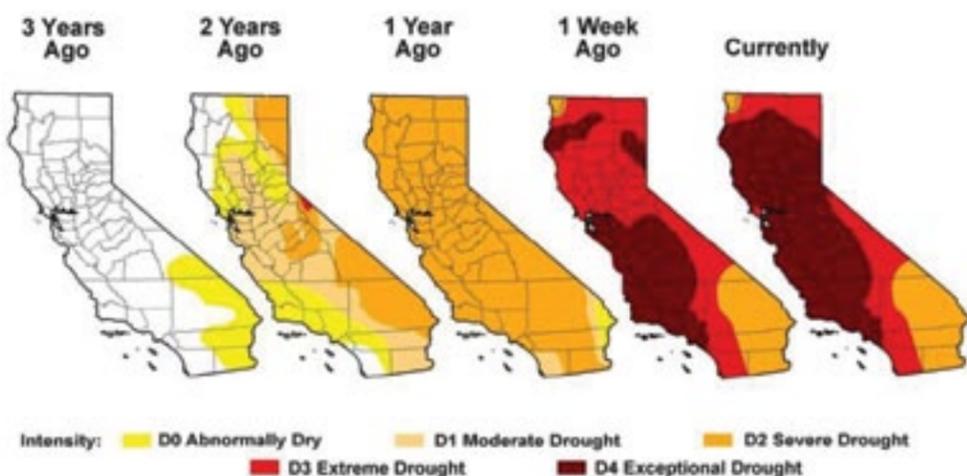
When El Niño occurs it greatly affects the world's climate. If a strong El Niño occurs it brings severe weather to the Eastern Pacific including California down to South America. Places like California would experience strong downpours and mudslides, while on the West Pacific; places like Australia, Indonesia and Af-

rica would experience some droughts. There are times when even hurricanes could occur around the south east side of the Pacific Ocean.

El Niño is forecasted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The NOAA measures the ocean's temperature and records the direction in which the wind are moving. With the data collected they determine whether or not El Niño will occur and for how long. According to the NOAA at this moment there is a 73% chance of El Niño occurring as early as November.

With California in a severe drought, any chance of El Niño coming to California can bring a huge difference. Though El Niño risks bringing mudslides and other dangerous weather affects it would still greatly benefit the state. According to the NOAA, if El Niño is to occur it can bring a cooler and wetter winter to not only California, but also the Pacific West Coast as a whole. It is also predicted that some mountain regions could even get double than their usual snowfall. With 60% of the state of California experiencing extreme drought conditions any news of El Niño occurring is a sign of hope. It is forecasted that if an El Niño were to occur in California its wet weather can last up until March.

The chances of El Niño occurring this year continue to change constantly but even if a weak El Niño were to occur it can bring relief to California.



Move Over Rover: Mars 2020

By **OSCAR ISEM**
Editor-in-Chief

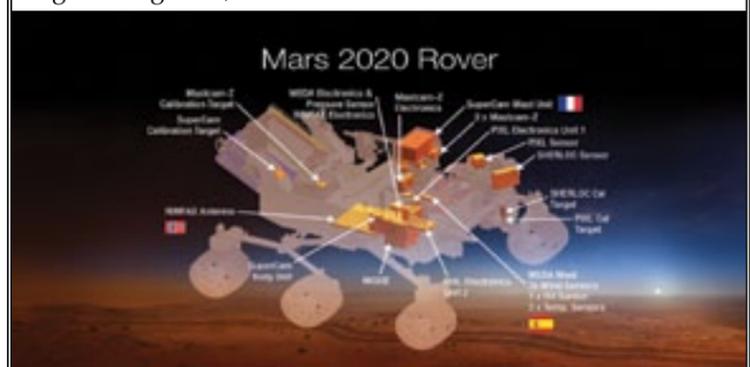
What may have been Earth's greatest moment in documented history happened right in our backyard on August 5, 2012.

That was the day Curiosity landed on Mars. Although it launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, the landing was supervised by NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL), which is located in Pasadena, less than a half hour's drive from Lincoln Heights. Since the landing, the JPL has stayed in control of Curiosity.

The Voice had the chance to talk with MRO HiRISE investigation scientist and 2020 Mars Rover science systems engineer Sarah Milkovich about her role in the 2012 landing and the new Rover set to join Curiosity in 2020.

As MRO HiRISE investigation scientist Milkovich was involved in some of Curiosity's most iconic moments. It was HiRISE, a specialized camera located on the orbiter MRO, that took the picture of the Mars Rover's landing.

The 2020 Rover may be years away, but preparation has already begun. Using HiRISE to identify promising landing sites, which are both safe and close to an area



(such as craters) where chemicals needed for life (carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and sulfur) are most likely to be found. The data collecting and logistics will take years, hence why it has begun now.

The goal of the 2020 Rover is similar to Curiosity's-to find evidence of past life. However, with the advances in technology made since Curiosity was launched, 2020 is much better prepared. These "weapons of research" make it easier to look for the clues needed to find (dead) life. In fact, the instruments 2020 will carry have already been chosen. When Milkovich revealed that the 2020 Rover will carry MOXIE, an experimental oxygen generator, she was asked whether NASA had any plans to terraform Mars. She was resolute in her denial, although to world colonizer hopefuls out there, she did say that perhaps one day Earth would have a human outpost on Mars.

"NASA is about understanding the Solar System, how it was formed, how did [humans] get here. [NASA is about] why things are the way they are, and what our place in the universe is," said Milkovich when asked what NASA was about.

NASA is also about the world. Just as its predecessor, odds are 2020 will also be named by a student. In 2009, then sixth grader Clara Ma won an essay contest on what to name the 2012 rover. According to Milkovich, expect to see a similar contest in the next few years.



Faster than a Speeding Bullet?

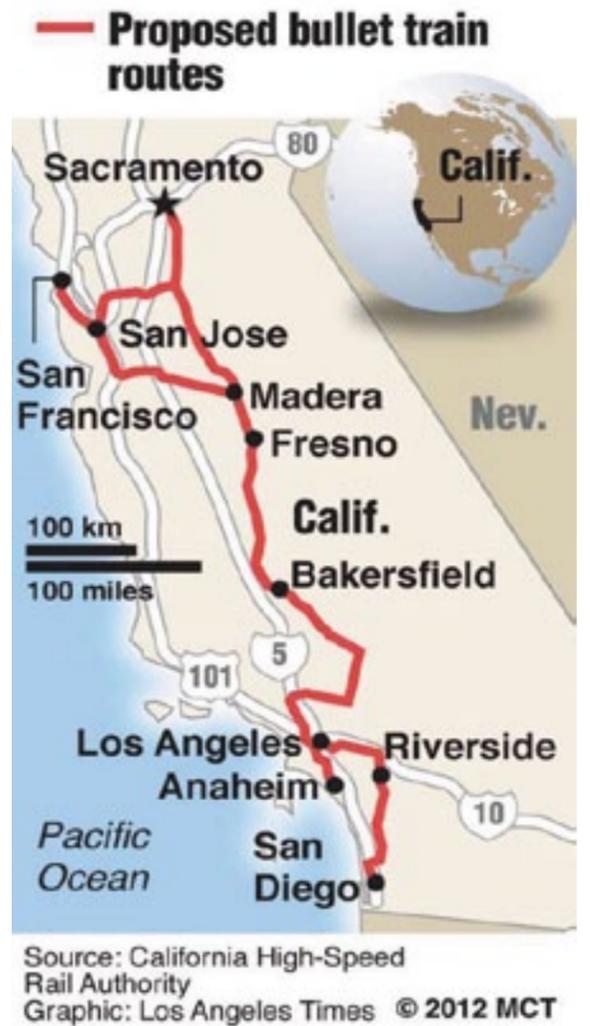
CA Bullet Train Proposal Inching Closer to Reality

BY MARIA RIVERA
Staff Writer

The bullet train is one of the fastest vehicles to be powered by an engine. It's no surprise that it is said to be faster than a speeding bullet. It got its nickname "faster than a speeding bullet" because it is a shiny bullet-like train. This train has the power and speed to take anyone to their destination in no time at all. Despite this time sparing miracle, many people including organizations such as the California Highschool

Rail Association (CHSRA), find it difficult to give their approval towards the bullet train project. According to Alejandro Lazo, a reporter from The Wall Street Journal stated that California's governor Jerry Brown has won more than billions in state funding in order to build the bullet train. This train is to travel from Los Angeles to San Francisco. The estimated price for this project is around sixty-eight billion. On November 2008, a proposition called 1a went out for the people to vote on.

Proposition 1a found and provided funds for the California High-Speed Rail Authority. According to, Citizens For California High Speed Rail Accountability, many people are not happy with Jerry Brown's decision to construct the Bullet Train. Many people were irresponsible when it came to voting and did not take the time to read carefully to what they were agreeing to. The High Speed Rail Authority is planning to take land that belongs to farmers and bisect the land. This is an obstacle and will disrupt the farmers from their work.



Gov't Changes Milk Requirements for Welfare Recipients

WIC Program Tells Mothers "Cut Down on Fatty Milk"

BY IRANI MENDEZ
Staff Writer

Got Milk? Starting September 29, 2014 WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) will be lessening milk options because the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) is concerned that the fat content in the milk the people drink contains unnecessary saturated fat and cholesterol, which can cause heart disease and obesity, according to research.

Therefore, after the USDA revision of the WIC food packages- published March 4, 2014- only 1% low fat and nonfat milk will be choices for women and children from ages 2 through 5.

It is suggested by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Academy of Nutrition and Diabetes that infants drink 2% and whole milk for the fat because "research shows that 2% and whole milk's extra fat is needed for brain development," according to Dietitian Terri Green. At this stage infants are not able to eat hard foods, so their fats comes from the milk they drink. Ms. Green also said, "after 2 years

of age children do not need the extra fat in milk because they are getting fat from other food sources and do not or should not rely on so much milk in their diet."

Many parents are concerned that low fat milk and nonfat milk is healthier than 2% or whole milk. But in reality it's the opposite. Nonfat and 1% milk contains "less fat, less calories and more calcium, protein, and vitamin," according to WIC's advertisement. Although some parents believe nonfat and low fat milk are watered down, they are not. The fat is simply removed from the contents.

In addition, the change of milk can have an impact to the children's liking of milk. The good news is that there are different ways as a parent to incorporate it into their diet. For example, mixing two different milks for about a week, then completely switching. This way the child won't reproach it right away. In the end, it may be a big change but it will help the children's health.

WIC advertisement regarding change in milk policy

Lincoln Heights MMA Gym Teaches the Art of Discipline

The Submission Factory wants more high school students to enroll

BY ARLENE GARCIA
Staff Writer

Submission- Not about Shurting, but learning to take control. Giving people another option.

Mike Baig, Certified Instructor and owner of The Submission Factory is willing to give discounts to LALA students. These discounts are given if student shows grades and letters of recommendations from teachers. Additionally, it does not matter

if the person is a boy or girl.

As a black belt in five mixed martial arts Baig states, "Everybody has a right to defend themselves and through strengthening your body and focusing your mind, it empowers your spirit to give you the strength and courage that life requires."

Originally the name, The Submission Factory was heard from his teacher twenty years ago,

thus dedicating The Submission Factory to his teacher.

Local LALA student and Submission Factory member Robert Vazquez had this to say, "I've gained discipline, respect to my partners and my sensei, lost weight, and done things that were difficult in the past, like to move better with my feet."

Primarily, Robert entered the Submission Fac-

tory to regain the abilities he had lost which was his confidence, health choices, and social life. Moreover, he feels like a brand new person after becoming a member.

With the support of his friends and family he was able to continue doing what he liked, martial arts. Stating, "It is worth it if you have your commitment."

To enter The Sub-

mission Factory, there is a monthly fee of approximately 80 to 125 dollars per month; however, it varies depending on the person and their goals.

The mixed martial arts that they teach is Kyokushin Karate, Tae Kwon Do, Tang Soo Do, Ninjitsu, Shamrock MMA, and Muay Thai. There are good outcomes such as self-control, self-confidence, self-defense, focus and a healthy body.



The Hunt for the Posse Scholarship

By **KAREN GOMEZ**
Staff Writer

Many of Los Angeles Leadership Academy's seniors took part in their first group interview for POSSE on the 19th of August.

POSSE is a college access program that selects students from public high schools to receive a full ride scholarship to some of the top colleges and universities of the country.

The following is a list of partnered schools; Kalamazoo College, Middlebury College, Tulane University, Bucknell University, Dickinson College, Hobart and William Smith College, Pepperdine University, Syracuse University, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Los Angeles, Northwestern University, and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Deborah Bail founded POSSE in 1989 because of one college student who said "I would have never dropped out of college if I had my posse with me." This inspiration sparked the beginning of an outstanding scholarship program for high school seniors to take advantage of.

From the approximate 2,000 students that are nominate, only 10 students are accept to each participating school. The POSSE Foundation focuses on a student's leadership skill which is why during the group interviews, the student's are asked to form groups and work together on tasks; such as building a solid structure made out of straws or making a commercial on worldwide issues.

Once a Scholar receives a Posse Scholarship they will commit to an eight-month Pre-Collegiate Training Program designed to build Posses. As part of the program when accepted to a college, there will be a group of students from the program who will attend that same school. This program is offered to students in there senior year, and is highly recommended.



The Vazquez Theory

VIDEO GAME CONTROVERSIES

By **ROBBY VAZQUEZ**
Staff Writer

With every violent videogame there comes a controversy to it. Since the start videogames have been evolving from their topic or setting, most have usually been violent games. Many of the games made are very violent and gory in their sequels, trilogies, and franchise. These videogames are often blamed for the acts of violence from young adults, teenagers, and small children. The games give out many concerns to the player's parents and the media.

The videogame "Mortal Kombat" is a fighting style game similar to street fighter and others since the 1990's. In the game you choose a character either by human, monster or gender and fight your adversaries till they die. That's what makes a difference from street fighter; you make a Fatality not a KO (knock out). The Fatality is a finishing move when your opponent is close to death. It can be from dismembering, eating, burning, decapitating, shredding, smashing, exploding, or skinning. Once you creatively killed your enemy in a gory way the game will shout "FATALITY!" for your success.

Another videogame the "DEAD SPACE" series is a 3rd person shooter where you can see your character while you play. In the game you start off as an engineer named "Isaac" where you are trying to escape an abandoned ship. In the abandoned ship there are these creatures called "Necromorphs" that are a species of alien who infect humans to become their species, the only way to kill them is by dismemberment. It's like zombies but with aliens and you don't kill them with headshots, although you can take their body parts and impale them with telekinesis. The game is so gory, dark, suspenseful, and scary it has been banned in the countries Germany, Japan, and China for that apparent reason.

If ever there was a game parents would ban their child from ever playing, it would be "Grand Theft Auto". A third person shooter game where you play as the villain by committing crimes in the city you live in. You have the ability to shoot at Police officers, prostitutes, pedestrians, civilians, rival gang members, vehicles, and animals. In the game you are able to use weapons such as machine guns, pistols, shotguns, rockets, grenades, and blades. That's not all, you can hijack cars, beat people up, invade and rob stores or homes, set things on fire, drive armed aircrafts, and cause graffiti. With all of these creative crimes players can virtually act out in the game. The public believes this will cause future vigilantes, criminals, and terrorists. This game has also been banned in several countries world wide because of the violence.

Many adults don't want young children to play violent videogames out of fear they will become chaotic. It's not just the games fault if children become hostile; it also falls on the parents who buy the games for them. Games also have a rating system. Just like movie have rated G to PG-13 to rated R, videogames have rated C for young children, E for 10+, T for teenagers, M for mature at 17+, A for Adults only 18+, and RP Rating Pending. If the player is mature they should have the right to play and they will be fine. I for example, play violent videogames and I'm not violent, aggressive, or hostile. Out of everything parents should keep track on their children before buying them a violent game.

SPIRIT WEEK

September 22-26



Hegemony at a Price? U.S. Engagement Full Speed Ahead

Regional Conflicts Draw President Obama's Attention, U.S. Military Intervention

BY **AHIESSER AGUILAR**
Staff Writer

An Eye For An Eye, was the result of murder and kidnapping of three Israeli teenagers by Two Hamas Activist in The West Bank, on June 12, 2014, due to anger of territory, and of "Activism".

The three young teens Naftali Frankel of 16 years old, Gilad Shaer of 16, and Eyal Yifrah of 19, were kidnapped and brutally murdered by 29 year old Hamas Activists Marwan Kawasmeh, and 32 year old Amar Abu-Isa in Gush Etzion, in the West Bank. The young teens were hitch-hiking back home when both Hamas Activists took them by surprise. In captivity, Gilad Shaer was able to call an emergency police hotline and say "HELP! They Have Kidnapped Me", followed by Arab yelling and automatic assault weapon fire, ended the call. Israeli investigators believed they were killed, especially since their whereabouts were unknown.

The call recording was immediately leaked to the public under a gag order, soon most of Israel knew. In frustration Israelis launched missiles, destroy tunnels, and trade anyone in who were known for successful Israeli kidnappings. The issue got out of hand and the Israel Defense Force (IDF) got involved and would not stop searching until finding the boys, dead or alive. In only 11 days, IDF arrested 350 Palestinians, including almost all Hamas West Bank leaders, and killing five Palestine militants.

On June 15, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said that the teens have been kidnapped by Hamas. Hamas quickly denied the act and said they have no knowledge of where the boys where. On August 5, Israel said it had arrested Hussam Qawasmeh on July 11, who is suspected of organizing the killings with the help and full support of Hamas. According to court documents, Qawasmeh stated that Hamas members in Gaza financed the recruitment and arming of the suspects. Qawasmeh's lawyer, who belonged to Hamas, tried covering up all that Qawasmeh said by stating "Hussam was obligated to say what he said by heavy torture, the reality is that the kidnappings was from him and only him"

Many Israelis were furious, saying the statement was clearly false. Regardless if Arab or Israeli, a lawyer is a lawyer, and a lawyer never gives up a client unless the lawyer himself has much greater things to lose. Newsmen later that day tried interviewing him by surprise, but he said he refused to answer any questions related to the case. Hamas leaders saw how big the situation was and swore that Hamas didn't have anything to do with the disappearances of the children.

On June 26, the Israel security agency released the identities of two Hamas suspects of kidnapping. The two men have been missing since the night of the kidnapping and was said that both were engaged in terrorism. These men were taken under Heavy interrogation. Finally, on June 30, search teams found the bodies of the three missing teens in a field northwest of Hebron.

Syria has an ongoing conflict that has lasted three years and shows no signs of ending. The conflict between the people who serve the president of Syria and those opposed of to his rule seems to get worse.

More than 100,000 Syrians have lost their lives in the escalating war, the war has destroyed neighborhoods and forced more than 9 million people from their homes says the middle east news.

A little refreshing of the war, its roots come from a protest that was going on in march 2011, in the southern city of Deraa but after they arrested and tortured some teenagers who sprayed revolutionary symbols and slogans, the war had began. After 3 years it was said by the UN in July 2013 more than 100,000 people had been killed because of the conflict. The UN has stopped the update on the death toll but activist say it has now exceeded to 140,000 deaths to this day.

Recently an American journalist was freed from captivity from an al-Qaida group that related to the Syrian uprising, the militant group going against Syria's government kept the journalist for almost two years

On August 22, 2014 U.S defense secretary stated that the U.S & international community would increase support for the peace and reform the government. But does that mean the U.S military is going to intervene with Syria's civil war?

Most recent news on ISIS, has been that the war in Iraq has cost the U.S over half a billion dollars says the pentagon estimates and this is all before Obama decides his strategy against ISIS. John Kirby, the pentagon press secretary told reporters that the white house informed congress that it had ordered up to 275 U.S troops to enforce embassy security in. other events have been that the militants have seized an airbase in Syria, also that rebels have surrounded the Filipino peacekeeper in Golan heights, says the guardian (news source).

The rebels demanded them to give up their firearms and hours after taking 43 Fijian soldiers hostage. Seventy-five Filipino members of the UN peace-keeping force was defending 2 posts in Golan Heights, their commander in manila said that prepared to fight back rather than surrender. The terrorist group ISIS has been spreading conflict with more countries every week.



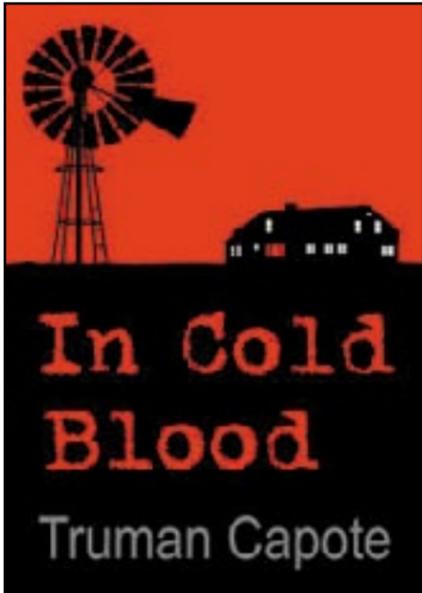
Deadliest Warrior

An American soldier from the War of 1812

- Hat**
Tall felt shako cap with decorated with cords, tassels, and a regimental plate. Light infantry caps were made of black felt or black leather.
- Coat**
Short, dark blue coats were worn and were decorated with white worsted tape.
- Bayonet**
Bayonets are long sharp dagger like tools which are attached to the muskets. They were made of iron and other metals.
- Musket**
Muskets were the standard weapons used in the war. The muskets were very long. It took a soldier approximately 15-30 seconds to reload and be able to shoot one bullet.
- Ranks**
Soldiers wear sashes and epaulettes to denote ranking. Epaulettes are ornamental shoulder pieces that symbolize rank.
- Shoes**
Soldiers wore very high boots called black gaiters. Wearing boots kept their feet warm and allowed them to travel to a variety of terrains.



Capote's Masterpiece



BY RANDY GUZMAN
Staff Writer

Callous murder and unconventional sympathy set the tone for Truman Capote's critically acclaimed book *In Cold Blood*.

The book is set in the lonesome community of Holcomb, Kansas where four members of the Clutter family are savagely murdered. Capote not only brings life to the agitated community of Holcomb after the killings, but in an enticing manner, Capote brings forth the perspective of the two killers.

Following their earlier release from prison, cellmates Perry Smith and Richard Hickock reunite to commit one of the bloodiest crimes in Holcomb's history. Though the reader from the beginning knows who the killers are, Capote nevertheless successfully manages to create suspense and excitement through the entirety of the investigation process.

The modus operandi brought on by Capote's writing captivates the reader. Constantly switching from the perspective of the murderers to the investigation, converts this book to a literal page-turner with ongoing action and uncertainty.

While Perry Smith and Richard Hickock endure an extravagant stay at the Alcapulcan beaches of Mexico, Detective Alvin Dewey skirmishes to put together a meager list of suspects for the killings of the Clutters.

Not only does Capote revitalize the lives of the Clutters in a way in which their emotions and circumstance transpires through the pages of the book, it also makes it inevitable for the reader to feel sympathy for the convicts.

Capote – with his reputed 8,000 pages of research notes – binds journalism with novelist ideals to galvanize the book like crime thrillers of the 21st century. In other words, the book is brought forth like a news report, yet is construed by the reader as an exhilarant novel.

Shortly after writing the \$2 million book, Capote lavished in the earnings making "In Cold Blood" his last meaningful masterpiece.

This literary classic can without a doubt easily become anyone's favorite piece of literature. With a wide variety of vocabulary, the book unveils the intellectual side of the mind while all the same maintaining suspense for the adventurous reader.

CHILI-CHEESE FRIES SMACKDOWN

BY ERIC GUZMAN & IVAN LINAN
Special Investigators

DINO'S VS. Cypress Best



Dino's and specifically Dino's Jr. on Broadway Avenue has long been a student hangout. They briefly closed last year for an extensive renovation. Lincoln Heights locals were concerned if the menu would change, but chili-cheese fries still make the list.

The presentation of the fries is a lot more "family style" as they are presented on a plate. We first noticed the large portion offered by Dino's. The fries are actually longer than other restaurants, and there is less cheese than at Cypress. Dino's chooses to use only one type of cheese, cheddar, and the cheese is thinner (as if they grinded it a lot more).

The eater also notices that the chili has a lot of meat and is thicker than can be found at other chili-cheese fries establishments. Because of this, Dino's chili is stronger to the tongue. The fries continue to have additional spices that give the fries a more developed taste.

Overall, Dino's Jr. continues to rule Lincoln Heights with their chili-cheese fries dominance. The presentation, spices, longer fries, and chili taste is what makes Dino's one of a kind.

This is our first time dining at Cypress Best, though we heard from several sources that the chili-cheese fries are worth a try. The first thing that one notices is the presentation. Presented in a styrofoam container, even though we ordered in, shows that this might be a "to go" thing.

The fries and chili are very presentable, yet the portion is smaller than we are used to seeing. Fries are a lot thinner and softer. There are two types of cheese, cheddar and jack, that are sprinkled on top, with some of the cheese melted onto the fries.

We like the variety of cheese flavors, and the fries are softer than other chili-cheese fries that we have tried at other restaurants. There are many more fries than chili, leaving the eater wanting more chili. Oddly enough, Cypress does not use spices on their fries which would help because the chili is bland and has little taste.

Overall, we like the use of multiple cheeses and the presentation. We feel that the fries are worth a try even though the portion is smaller and the chili meat is a little disappointing.



Character Continues to Count, and Count, and...

"Maturity of mind is the capacity to endure uncertainty."

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Your MAMA never talked about

- POSS EMPATHY**
The ability to understand what other people are feeling can go a long way in avoiding conflict
- RECOGNITION THAT YOUR ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES** -This understanding will enable you to make conscious choices in your life and to avoid unnecessary difficulties.
- PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**
When you hold yourself accountable and don't blame anyone else for your mistakes or misfortunes, you are empowered to change things for the better.
- MENTAL FLEXIBILITY**
Being able to change your mind or to see things from different points of view makes it possible for you to navigate all sorts of situations
- GOOD JUDGEMENT**
The gift of making well-thought-out decisions and seeing people for who they really are will maximize the possibilities of success
- INTEGRITY**
Following through on commitments and keeping your promises creates much good-will
- PERSISTENCE**
Sticking with something, especially when it's challenging allows you to see it through to completion and demonstrates that you are dependable
- CONTROLLING IMPULSE**
Thinking before speaking or acting gives you a chance to make deliberate, even sophisticated choices
- 9 SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL MATURITY**
"Maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had, and what you've learned from them, and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated."
- MASTERY OF YOUR NEEDS**
allows you to prioritize around life goals.

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