

## REJOYCED

Joyce Tsui  
Editor in Chief



### 'Never Grow Up! Not Me!'

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" That was the question I'm sure all of us were asked countless of times when we were kids. It seems like a harmless question; whether we wanted to be a firefighter, a ballerina—or in my case, a teacher—our teachers just wanted to help us pave the way to our future, right? But how was I supposed to figure out what I wanted to do for the rest of my life when I didn't even know what I was going to eat the next day?

Granted, there are those few kids who believe they are destined for a certain career and aim to achieve that goal as they grow up. I commend them because I wish I had the same ambition they have, but unfortunately, I am not one of those lucky few. My dream of being a teacher fizzled away at a young age when I realized how much I feared public speaking.

Now that I'm in my senior year, that same question is brought up and it's now followed with, "Where do you want to go to college?" You'd think that after years of being asked what I wanted to do post-high school, I would have things figured out by now, but unfortunately, I am still waiting for that epiphany.

While I do know my interests and have an inkling of what I want to pursue as a career, I am still unsure of my future endeavors. Which college am I best for? Does this college have the best programs for my major? Is that even the major I want? My head is constantly swimming with these questions and I'm still searching for the answers.

I'll be the first to admit it; it's scary to go through this process and realize that I am only eight months away from graduating high school and six months away from turning the big one-eight. I'm nearly done with high school and I'm almost a legal adult? I still can't believe it.

Growing up is a huge step in anyone's life and now that I am finally facing it, it's terrifying. I didn't think this phase in my life would ever occur, nor did I think it would come so quickly. I may be stuck in a Peter-Pan complex, but alas, growing up is inevitable. I can only focus on the future ahead of me after high school.

My teachers, family and friends have provided me with the advice and support I need for this time in my life and I didn't realize how much I would appreciate it until now. I may not know where I'll be this time next year, but at least I know I'll be prepared for it.

## Rich Entrepreneur's Alternative to College

KATHERINE ONG  
Opinions Editor

Isn't college supposed to be where people go to achieve six-figure salaries in order to support a filet-mignon and Ferrari lifestyle? Not anymore, considering today's lacking job market. In fact, a good number of students are heading off to college, only to end up with a crushing debt and a degree that is virtually useless in landing a job in the current job market. The paradox is that people go to college in order to pay off college debt. So why even go to college if it is so counterintuitive? This is the exact question business entrepreneur Peter Thiel presents to several promising students when he offers them one hundred thousand dollars to drop out of college and to achieve their dreams with a more direct approach in lieu of getting a college degree.

Although this initially seems like an extreme case of instant gratification, Thiel makes some valid points. At the moment, college degrees are not the all-access magical doors to opportunities as they are touted to be by everyone who had been fortunate enough to attend colleges when the myth was true. The job market is slim-

ming down as of right now. Even highly prolific individuals with qualifications on par with men like Bill Gates are not unsusceptible to workforce downsizing. As a result, graduates everywhere are being disappointed by the lack of job offers after graduation.

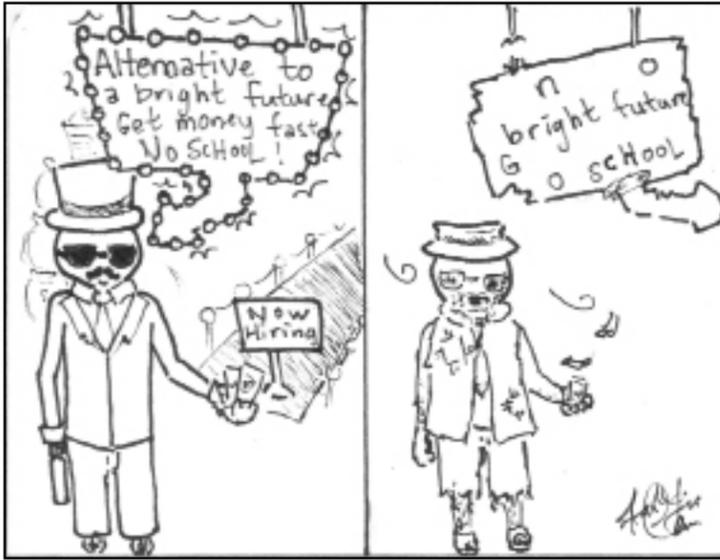
Something that college degrees

private schools. Sure you could get a loan from the bank but you see, the thing about loans is that you will eventually have to pay it all back...with interest. Consequently, the future of a college graduate, with a crushing debt and no way to pay it off, looks pretty darn bleak. Meanwhile the inter-

scot-free, with no debt to repay later on, and can be invested in job opportunities that require an input of money to get the ball rolling.

However, this route is not ideal for everyone. Money cannot buy knowledge. For students who take the Thiel route, their options are more limited in comparison to opportunities opened by college degrees. Most non-entry level jobs require certain qualifications; a college degree is one of them. Additionally, careers that do not require some sort of specialized education are also very limited, so simply handing students money to abandon the education offered by college is not going to do them much good since by doing so, their career opportunities may decrease. The method is also highly risky because, if business plans do not quickly gain revenue and the money runs out, then the plan may become a bust. Individuals must be able to survive in such precarious situations

Thus, the Thiel route has both advantages and disadvantages in comparison to a college degree. Whether it is the right one or not depends on the student's ambitions and own ability to achieve them.



do guarantee is debt. Unless you are fortunate or accomplished enough to receive a grant, it is very likely that you will end up with a massive debt that estimates a total of at least around one-hundred thousand dollars, two-hundred thousand if you prefer

est rate never ceases to continue compounding debt.

In theory, the Thiel method has advantages over a college degree. Instant access to funds allows students to immediately put it to use to achieve their career goals. Additionally, the money is given



## Spoken and Broken Silence from AMPS

JENNIFER THAI  
Staff Writer

With all the commotion of the new school year, we were able to get a taste of some of the many talented groups on campus in the Welcome Back assembly, including the Alhambra Moors Poets Society (AMPS). Their performance was both captivating and intriguing. Needless to say, their hard work paid off in the end.

Their performance displayed a lot of emotion and careful thought in every word they said and I was enjoyed it immensely. However, I was both shocked and delighted for them when I realized that although AMPS is traditionally acknowledged during spring-time assemblies towards the end of the year, this is one of the first times AMPS has been given the chance to perform during assemblies early on in the year.

Many people have recently acknowledged AMPS after their performance, with new faces showing up at their weekly meetings, according to AMPS President Melissa Maldonado.

Poetry is an opportunity for students to express their feelings without the fear of being ridiculed for who

they are. AMPS lets them have the chance to perform in a welcoming environment. In my experience Tri-City Orchestra is a platform similar to AMPS in which I can express myself through music. It is nice to see that others who have different interests but the same desire to display their creativity be able to do so as I have done in orchestra.

AMPS has flourished over the years, as a result of hard work and passion and the payoff is evident in their much-deserved success.

I am not the only Moor who shares this point of view. AMPS member Alberto Salazar was ecstatic as well to find that AMPS was being recognized in the Welcome Back assembly.

In conjunction with the events in store for the new school year, there's no doubt that others will realize that there are other in school that should and will be commended for their work and efforts. Everyone deserves a chance in the spotlight to be appreciated for what they stand for.

Listening to AMPS' performance gives people a different perspective. It made me want to "hear more of the philosophical lyrics that will bring the healing to the spirit," as mentioned in their poem, and I hope we will be able to in the near future.

## Sharing Is Caring: Fairness for All

SYLVIA WINSTON  
Staff Writer

Although AHS has attempted to portray every student as equals, the ugly truth is that, in regards to certain rights, we really aren't. Senior priority is the number one factor that divides us all, primarily regarding lockers.

As a sophomore, I can relate to the frustration and anger some feel when it comes to waiting for something that we truly crave: our own locker. Receiving the same treatment seniors obtain is something that could establish unity throughout the entire student body.

On the other hand, others may refer to this special treatment as "delayed gratification." Most seniors have undoubtedly worked hard throughout these four years and deserve compensation. However, besides tradition, there is nothing that makes the delayed aspect a necessity. Sharing "priority" is a great start towards change.

Now, are we willing to break out of the traditions that were established a long time ago and share not only as a school, but also, most importantly, as a family? Results are not instantaneous—it will take patience and dedication, but in time, perhaps we will become one big family.

