



Make the Infinite Internship Cycle Finite

Pass on the Prom

OLIVIA CHEUNG
Editor in Chief

Excuse me if I seem to lack the enthusiasm that prom typically elicits from most seniors. It's not that I think prom is overrated, but—

Actually, wait. It's exactly that.

Prom, to me, is just another socializing opportunity. Granted, it's a social scene that exceeds all others—in terms of costs and the stress behind "promposals" and a laundry list of other to-dos—but it isn't the defining moment of one's high school life that others depict it as.

We've had four memorable years of high school, endowed with moments that truly sum up our adolescence. Prom is but one night.

However, it's the one night that I'd only want to spend with you.

It's undoubtedly been a rough two years, but you've consistently been there for me as a wonderful friend. You're the first person I think of when something embarrassing happens to me. You're the only person whose messiness doesn't drive me insane. You're the only one worth power walking in between classes for.

So, will you take a chance with me at prom?

Whatever your answer is, we'll still always have our 17 commonalities. I do hope you know who you are though, otherwise... this just got awkward.

MOOR graphic by SYDNEY LI

CINDY LUO
JOSEPH NEY-JUN
Staff Writers

Unfortunately for the majority of recent college graduates, their achievements typically entail a degree but rarely a job.

Due to the moribund economy after the Great Recession, graduates are confronted with the worst and most competitive job market in decades. Businesses are reluctant to hire fresh graduates, so some take on internships, which prepare them for fully-paying jobs—or at least they are supposed to.

In order to get the internship among the increasing number of competitors, grads are forced to lower their standards or settle for less or even no salary. Meanwhile, employers take advantage of interns' eagerness by assigning them basic tasks such as filing but refuse to pay them minimum wage. On many occasions, the in-

tern becomes fed up with menial tasks and quits or gets fired while the company just shuffles them off. Now

the intern who has not learned anything starts looking for another internship but once again has to go through the whole process because no company wants a worker with no experience, thus gaining nothing and continuing the permanent intern life.

Dissatisfaction with a steady job is also a factor that starts this endless cycle. Instead of a paycheck, many recent grads want to be dedicated to something they are truly passionate about. While

they would rather take the risk of being treated poorly than give up a chance to learn more about their interests, they are setting themselves up to be played.

Some interns have already started fighting back against companies who abuse their initiative.

According to the New York Times, two interns who worked on the movie "Black Swan," sued the Fox Entertainment Group for paying them nothing for their work. However, many employers' attitudes still remain indifferent to the interns.

The Internship Programs Un-

der The Fair Labor Standards Act clearly states that profit-making companies must foster an educational environment if they do not pay their interns, with exceptions for nonprofit and governmental agencies. This federal law must be more strictly enforced to support these faithful young adults. Provisions must be made by the government, encouraging employers to recruit more inexperienced graduates. Paying interns, or at least providing them with real, useful vocational education, will bring more active response and create a more enriching internship experience.

A stricter set of regulations with greater repercussions for companies will lessen the cost of pursuing one's dream. With the current level of protection for interns, it is not worth the risk of new knowledge to be tossed around by businesses with no regard for an intern's future.



Academy Awards: Diversity Yet to Come in Hollywood

DEBORAH CHEN
Copy Editor

This year's Academy Awards included some historic firsts, such as "12 Years a Slave" winning Best Picture, the first win for a director or screenwriter of African descent as well as Alfonso Cuarón winning Best Director as the first Mexican director to win in this category. However, this is not an accurate depiction of the roles artists receive in Hollywood.

A 2014 report conducted by the Women's Media Center shows that race and gender disparities still occur within the film industry. For example, only 33 of the 500 top-grossing films between 2007 and 2012 were directed

by black men and only two were directed by black women. The numbers for Hispanic actors were a mere 4.2 percent. A study conducted by the University of Southern California found that, of all directors across the 180 films in the sample, only 7 percent were Asian.

The numbers of minorities represented in the film industry are ridiculously low. The industry needs to be more diverse, and Hollywood should be a stronger advocate of such diversity. There are several articles praising the Academy for showing more diversity this year, but the reality is that there needs to be more of this same change in Hollywood.

In addition, women also account for a very small percentage of the film indus-

try. Only 16.7 percent of the 1,228 directors, producers and writers that were a part of the 100 top films of 2012 were women.

Throughout the years, women have continually gained more rights and opportunities. So women should also be given more chances in the film industry. Women can be just as competent as men, but they have very few opportunities to showcase their talent.

There should not be a lack of diversity in the film industry. The success of minorities in the film industry is amazing, but it would be foolish to think that just because a few have obtained success at the Academy Awards that Hollywood has suddenly come around.

MOOR graphic by GEN THIPATIMA

Prevalence of Lack of Respect Continues in the Form of a 'Dark Horse'

ANGELA YANG
Opinions Editor

A "dark horse" refers to something that seems unlikely to succeed, but ultimately prevails. Ironically, this wasn't the case for Katy Perry's song of the same name.

However, songs can often become popular for the wrong reasons. While Dark Horse is catchy, it drew attention from the Muslim community. The original music video featured Perry incinerating a man

wearing a pendant spelling out "Allah" in Arabic, which many Muslims viewed as blasphemous. A Change.org petition with over 65,000 signatures led to the digital removal of the pendant from the video.

It took the attention of thousands for Perry and her producers to see what was wrong. It had to be pointed out, then protested for them to change it. Perhaps it was an oversight or it was meant to be harmless, but the fact of the matter was that it was not. It was rude and offensive to Muslims, especially in a religion

that believes the point of existence is to worship God.

Unfortunately, it seems that a lack of respect has become extremely prevalent in our society. While Perry may not have meant anything by incinerating the man (given that she incinerates all of her suitors in the video or turns them into puppies), she deeply insulted many people. It is imperative that we remember how our actions affect others and to treat everyone with respect. Music artists and other influential people aren't the only people who should be respectful about other cultures and religions; everyone should.

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Alhambra
Garfield & Valley

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11th & Central

Monterey Park
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CARTOONS

doodles

Dunrobin Break

School is tomorrow,
so go to sleep
earlier.

O.K.

corner

I have a meeting
today. Can I miss
practice?

SURE.
ONLY
this
time
though

store