

Thespians Throw a Ball at 2015 Spring Musical

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On April 9, the Thespian Honors Society performed their version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," capturing the talent of our fellow Moors in a collaboration of the visual and performing arts.

The play maintains many beloved iconic elements of the classic tale, from the voluminous blue dress to the shiny glass slipper, as well as the overall optimistic message of good karma. However, many characters have been further developed in the Thespians' performance and the addition of multiple archetypal characters contributed to the light-hearted, comedic atmosphere. Seniors Lulu Illingworth and Alejandro Covarrubias were especially impressive in their portrayals of Queen Constantina and King

Maximillion as an overbearing mother and a slightly harassed, although loving father. The tyranny of Cinderella's family was also



BELLE OF THE BALL Thespians sing and dance as they showcase their hard work.

Cinderella herself, played by the talented senior Brianna Sandoval, was very much the Cinderella we are all well-acquainted with—dreamy, inexplicably kind-hearted and full of love.

Junior William Martinez also showcased his talent as the familiar, lovable prince and an excellent co-star to Sandoval.

The magical quality of the play was only enhanced by beautifully crafted sets and costumes. From village to castle, the set pieces all had tremendous detail with the backdrop fitting in perfectly with the era in which the musical took place. The costumes were also very well designed to fit the characters—the step-

sisters with tacky and brightly colored dresses and Cinderella with a simple and elegant dress.

One of the musical's unique features was the live musical accompaniment. Played by musicians from band and orchestra, live music fit well to the Thespians' singing. Although they started off sounding somewhat flat and disjointed, they continued to improve throughout the performance. The chiming of the clock striking midnight was particularly noteworthy.

Ultimately, the hard work and dedication put in by Thespian adviser and drama teacher Jennifer Nitschke, AHS Visual and Performing Arts Director Mark Trulson, choir teacher Samuel Chen and dance teacher Sarah Fong, as well as the student artists involved, paid off. Drama, music and dance intertwined to replicate the magic of "Cinderella" and add a humorous twist to the classic tale.

MOOR photo by YIBEI LIU



CROSSING THE CAROLINE

Breathe Before Diving

CAROLINE REN
Editor in Chief

Some of us spend so much time slacking off that finishing an assignment punctually becomes an accomplishment; conversely, some of us work ourselves to the point that we are almost always physically, emotionally and mentally exhausted, too drained to enjoy hobbies and simple pleasures we once did. I've been all over this spectrum, but I realize now that stress is created by individual mindset.

Whenever I spend time on a leisure activity, I inevitably feel guilty that I am not instead working or actively improving myself, even though it is implausible that I spend every waking minute engaged in relentless exertion. I always feel like I could be doing more, or when looking back at failures, that I could have done more. Yet we are human, prone to all kinds of errors, emergencies and unpredictabilities that algorithm-driven machines are not. We are very much imperfect—and that's okay.

I created an ideal in my head that I could never reach: one that never made mistakes, perfectly balanced work and play and achieved every goal. While it's great to set high expectations, we hurt ourselves by looking toward impossible ones, the kind we push for when we forget our own limits. Whether or not each one of us will be returning to school this fall, by all means, seek out challenging and fulfilling activities—but for those of us who too often bite off a bit more than we can chew, remember to take time to relax. If you're feeling overwhelmed, take a break before you break yourself.

Mandatory Voting: Our Responsibilities as Citizens

JOSEPH NEY-JUN
Staff Writer

The U.S. Constitution outlines the rights of its citizens, but it also outlines their duties and responsibilities. One of them is to participate in the democratic process; however, according to the Washington Post, in 2014 the U.S. saw its lowest voter turnout rate since 1942. If instead the U.S. had a system of mandatory voting, then the results would more accurately represent the people's interests.

Other countries have already implemented mandatory voting, the most effective case being Australia. According to the Australian Electoral Commission, in 1924 mandatory voting was instituted and their voter turnout rate has not dropped below 90 percent since.

One of the main goals of political campaigns is to simply get people to the polls and vote, but if voting were mandatory then candidates could focus more on telling people about their policies. This would serve two purposes: it would free up the funds normally

spent on campaigning and instead be used to help facilitate the voting process while also giving politicians more time to explain their goals and educate voters.

The means to enforce the policy already exist. There are already records of every person eligible to vote, thanks to the census. Not voting in America could have similar consequences to not attending jury duty, which is a sizeable fine or even imprisonment upon consecutive offenses. Jury duty also happens to be one of the responsibilities outlined in the Constitution and participation in the democratic process should be enforced in the same way.

Most of the students in the class of 2015 and a portion of the students in the class of 2016 will be eligible to vote in the next presidential election. Voting for the right candidates determines all of our futures in this country.

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Church Approval of Same Sex Marriage Advances LGBT Equality

AMBER LI
Staff Writer

On March 18, the Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A. recognized gay marriage as part of the Christian constitution. According to Yahoo News, the church became the largest Protestant group to authorize gay weddings, take effective June 21. When a large and influential Christian church accepts same-sex marriage as part of their Christian constitution (the Book of Order), not only can it potentially persuade other religious communities to follow in its steps, but it can also help create more comfortable environments for LGBT families, even in a religious setting.

According to the Huffington Post, the Presbyterian Book of Order will now describe marriage as being "between two people" rather than something

that "traditionally occurs between a man and woman." Not only will this help bring in new waves of LGBT marriages, but this could possibly cease the disdain of those marriages among followers of the Christian faith. In doing so, LGBT families can become more comfortable and free to express themselves fully rather than having to alienate their identity from their beliefs.

If other large religious communities, such as the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Jewish movement and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, were to agree with the Presbyterian Church and accept same-sex marriage as part of their constitution, then it would allow more people of the Christian faith to gain a better tolerance of these marriages and take a step toward LGBT equality.

