

## A MUSING

### To Barbie: Sorry, There is No Ken

“Kiss her in the rain” and “tell her you love her randomly so she always knows,” are just two tokens of advice on a list called “Things Guys Should Do” posted on a popular blogging site I frequent. Being a hormonal female teenager, I think I’m supposed to agree wholeheartedly and then proceed to complain incessantly about the lack of quality guys out there because no one has ever done that to me.

Instead of the jealousy I’m expected to feel, I feel a familiar churning in my stomach at the thought of such an effusive display of affection. After the churning subsides, the pity sinks in. It’s the pity for all the guys out there who are supposed to be measured by the strict, media-imposed standard of what the “perfect guy” is. It’s a shame that Mr. Perfect is expected to enact elaborate gestures just to reassure his girlfriend of his unwavering affections. Like most girls, I like my fair share of extravagant romantic notions but I also realize that these wildly amorous gestures are about as realistic as a neon pink unicorn.

The effects of what I call the “Nicholas Sparks” complex, created by the author of “The Notebook” and “A Walk to Remember,” are evident not just in actual relationships but every time a dance is announced. Asking a girl out to a social function with sincerity and a bouquet of her favorite flowers is unheard of these days. The idea that you have to rally up an entire brigade of friends who are then designated very important tasks in a very elaborate plan is the most accepted one.

The media sets an unbelievably high standard of how a girl should appear: flawlessly made up and groomed at all times. Girls understand how unattainable and unrealistic these expectations are. (I am sorry, shaving every other day in the winter just does not make sense). We shouldn’t compare ourselves to the people on the covers of magazines so we should stop comparing our guys to them too. Besides, kissing in the rain just seems like a recipe for pneumonia and random, multiple ‘I love you’ calls seem infinitely more annoying than romantic.

Yvonne Lee,  
Editor in Chief

### I’m a Let You Finish, But...

Shannon Ho  
Staff Writer

I don’t like Taylor Swift. Now, before you write me off as jealous or bitter or ugly or fat or whatever, just hear me out. My dislike for Swift has little to do with her annoying voice and inability to take a joke. Instead, my real problem with Swift lies in the fact that the influence her music has on young girls may potentially lead to a bout of anti-feminism in our younger generation.

Of all the songs I’ve heard from Swift, not one of them contains lyrics about being secure in yourself as a woman and being happy without a boyfriend. She laments constantly about her broken heart (“he’s the reason for the teardrops on my guitar”) and even insults the guy’s new girlfriend (“she’s an actress/she’s better known for things she does on that mattress”). It shocks me that Swift thinks she can go around calling girls sluts in order to make a hit song.

Looking at record sales, it’s obvious that the Swift juggernaut will not be ceasing any time soon, and I’m fine with that. All I ask is that Swift grow up a little and start focusing on delivering songs that talk about confidence and happiness in being a single, strong woman and about having great friendships, strong bonds to family and pursuing dreams. Also Taylor, if your boyfriends keep leaving you for other girls, maybe the problem is you. Just sayin’.

## Staff Editorial: Vote for the Somalians!

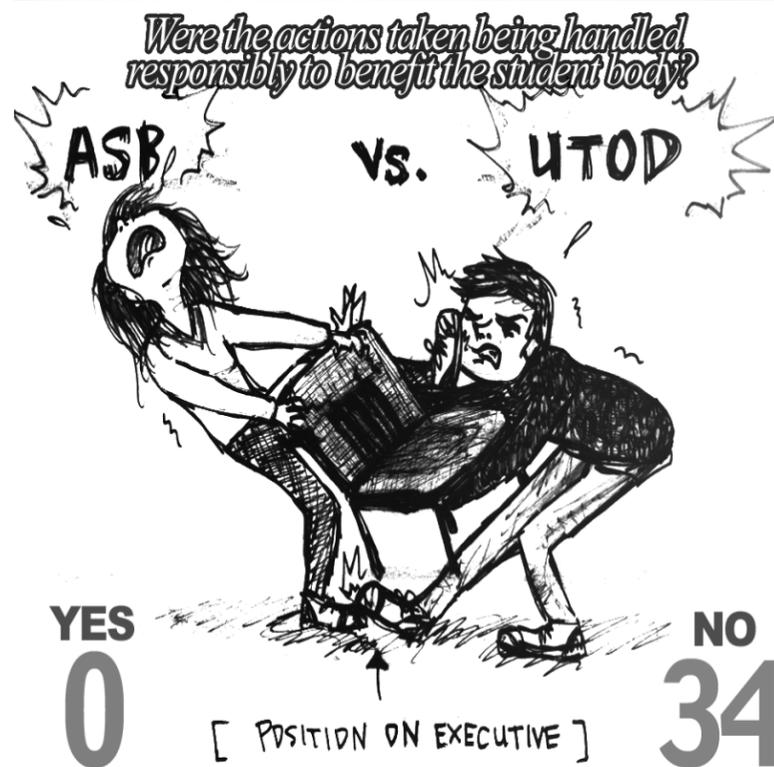
The 2011 Executive Spring Election created a disturbing controversy over race. Contrary to previous years, there were many new challengers running for office. Unfortunately, this exploded into an issue of race despite the best intentions.

With urges of “Vote for the Hispanics,” or “Vote for the Asians,” the voting tables were a confusing place to be. Previous years only averaged a 50 to 150 voter count to this year’s 550. Something significant has changed, and it’s impossible to ignore the contributing factors toward this year’s momentous showdown.

What was supposed to be a friendly competition turned into a threatening conflict between the two groups running for positions: United Through Our Diversity (UTOD) and the Fall Executive group running for reelection. What we’re thinking is that the gravity of this situation was not handled in the most conscientious manner possible.

UTOD is a group that formed early in the school year hoping to display their belief in proper representation of the diverse student body that they might improve Executive, and in turn, the school, according to Roman Jaramillo, a candidate for ASB President. The opposing group of candidates who did not run in an official group were the current Executive members, hoping to win with their promise of experience. Good intentions are always the start.

Clashes between the two groups began when the current Exec President Oscar Wong chose to campaign on Facebook, seeking permission from the campaign manager, Ms. Diaz. Though they were approved, miscommunication



tion occurred, because this counted as illegal campaigning outside of the school. This is where it gets messy; someone reported Exec as cheaters, resulting in the punishment of Facebook campaigners—they were not allowed to put posters up and had to stay in the Student Government Room for two days.

Then came the posters displaying the slogan, “United Through Our Di-

versity.” Just this slogan would surely draw attention; had these individuals chosen to run individually, there may not have been as much of a fuss. It’s not even clear whether this is an illegal group on campus—official groups are not allowed to campaign together. Gray areas such as these allow for the freedom of bending rules that are not quite set. Both groups immediately became hostile toward each other,

fueling the flame for a melodramatic high school election.

Amidst the tension, crowds formed in the Quad, mostly voting for their corresponding ethnicity, turning the race into a thing of well, race. However, focusing only on skin tone just scratches the surface of the issue. How many of us can say that we knew exactly what these candidates planned to do for our school? Mudslinging and racial wars are a dirty part of American politics and culture. When we were voting for these people, we had almost no information except their last names and the good word of acquaintances. Whether any of the candidates were qualified to run our school did not necessarily factor into our decision-making.

Call us crazy, but maybe that’s what posters are for, not just to show off eye-catching handwriting. Unclear motives and causes along with an assumption that the audience is uninterested led to an ill-informed student body. When we don’t know what our leaders are up to, we tend to assume they do nothing at all, making us less proud as a school. What we need to do is to fix this system of vague candidates and blurry bylaws. We need to ask for information and plans instead of relying on weak promises and first impressions.

It’s up to us, the student body, to ask for more from our elected leaders, and it’s about time we did so.

## Letter to the Editor: Moor Feedback

Dear Editors:

I am Christopher Loya, a senior Latino student at Alhambra High School. In my recent years as a Moor, I have strived for academic success and have contributed to the school community through sports, a special interest club and legislature.

I very much enjoy reading the school newspaper, however I find fault in the October 21, 2010 issue. The lead article “AHS... Designated PI School” rang my attention. As I read on, I was disappointed to learn that Alhambra High School failed to meet CAHSEE standards. Several graphs on lower page two illustrated this. I studied the chart and I was disturbed by the darkened and completely illegible information in the “Hispanic” columns. Contrastingly, identical information of the three subgroups were clearly distinct. Hispanics who received proficient scores on their 2010

CAHSEE are being deprived of recognition for their accomplishment: they are a minority who excel in test performance.

I appreciate the industry of the newspaper staff. I am troubled, however, by this article’s diagram and its ill representation of Hispanic scores alone. I respectfully ask this be brought to the attention of your editors. Furthermore, I ask that future graphics be more carefully inspected before publishing. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Christopher Loya

If you have any concerns or comments, we’d like to hear your feedback. Submit your letters to Room C225.

