

AHS Takes Huge Leap Backward After Perez

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Many of you probably forgot about last year's ASB president, Anthony Perez. Perez was a rare case, because he was not Asian but was still elected as student body president. Many saw this change as a "leap for mankind" at AHS because a Latino president meant that we have somehow bridged the gap of leadership between the different races here at the home of the Moors. However, it is obvious that we still have a gross disparity in regards to the segregation of races.

Take the recent controversy with the re-election of our Executive board, for instance. The actions of our student body prove just how much we have improved and evolved since the ill treatment of African Americans during the Civil Rights Movement.

First of all, students insisted that the race card would be more effective in harvesting votes. I guess they were right. Voting this year churned out more ballots than AHS has seen in years. I suppose it was easier and faster to rally votes by exclaiming "Vote for the Asians!" or "Vote for the Mexicans!" which is what some students chose to do. Secondly, it was irrelevant to make a conscious decision based on the capability of the candidates to do what their titles entreated them with. It just involved too much thinking, too much energy and quite



frankly we are "far too educated" to have to deal with such challenges.

What obliterates any hope in creating any "positive change" on campus is our complete and utter hatred for one another. Look at the stereotypes we've created, cliques formed because of them and resentment towards one another because of these self-imposed boundaries.

Limited on space here, I can't state them all, but let's explore some of the

stereotypes that plague our campus. Stereotypically, Asians are always considered smart—whatever the subject, Asians have the capacity to harness every aspect of it. One would probably assume that the student goes home to be whipped by their parents, followed by hours of consuming rice with boba and driving dangerously with their little eyes. On the other end of the spectrum, Latinos are always considered "not as smart." Any Lati-

no with good grades is praised as if it was a result of some supernatural phenomenon, rather than hard work. One would then assume that they go home to great festive parties where they eat beans, get pregnant, and "lean, like a cholo," of course.

What I'd like to know is: Can we change the mentality that is so deeply anchored into the essence of our existence? Looking at the history of mankind, we are infamous for basing our innovation and growth off of anger, hatred and, of course, war. No nation has been able to grow without it. And if you haven't noticed, violence and hatred is the only way we can be successful in this world.

The grim reality we are faced with beats us down inspirationally and mentally. I would like to say that I believe in all this stuff, just to throw in the towel and give up because I know it's a difficult fight. Sometimes I say brutal things as well and find myself feeling guilty for it later. But the we have the ability to change.

Take Anthony Perez as an example to overcome the social norms and do something remarkable in a city so accustomed to stereotypes. I sincerely applaud you, Anthony Perez. You have made a difference, and I will try to be more than the color of my skin. Hopefully our community at AHS will follow suit and surmount the stereotypes we are plagued with.

'App'-Solution

Bless me, iPhone, for I have sinned.

The Sacrament of Penance, more commonly known as Confession, is the practice of acknowledging one's sinfulness in the presence of a priest and asking for absolution.

Now, this usually takes place in an ornate wooden confessional on a Sunday afternoon, but thanks to the penitent minds at Apple Inc. you can declare your sins anywhere! In the privacy of a bathroom stall, for example.

For only \$1.99 you too can spill your guts using *Confession: A Roman Catholic App*—without the whole scary, dark box thing. And then you can use the cell phone application to confess the fact that you just indulged in a \$2.00 app, for something that is normally free.

Although the Catholic Church has sanctioned this app, it's important to note that your eternal soul is not officially saved until you actually go to an honest-to-goodness priest.

This little app is only supposed to encourage the practice and make it much more... ummm, fun? I suppose it could be entertaining to recall last Saturday night, if you can manage to remember it.

Personally, I haven't been to confession in a while, and although this seems like an interesting step into the digital age for the Church, it kind of seems like a trivialization of the real deal.

As a child, going through my First Holy Communion, Confession was one of those things that struck fear into my soul. I imagined an abyss behind those heavy doors and, to be honest, it made the whole experience a bit more authentic. I would hate to think that people will now begin to miss out on all the anxiety and dread that comes along with confessing their not-so-holy moments in life.

I mean, I wouldn't want an examination of conscience from an LED screen that then proceeds to come up with sin-appropriate suggestions on how to repent. Next thing you know we'll be buying a Rosary app and dragging beads across the screen.

Besides, my sins are between me and my God—not me and the iTunes store.

Victoria Gavia,
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Moor vs. Moor: Is Divorce Acceptable?

In the days of King Henry VIII, divorce was a heretical idea. The right for a couple to separate their marital bond was worse than the "til death do you part" mentality. Though "death" would be a terrific reason to "part," it might as well be since divorce was not accepted.

There are many reasons why two people would want to divorce, and they should have the right to do so. Sure, it may cause conflicts and the need to readjust to lifestyle changes, but if done maturely, it could be for the better.

A marriage will only work if both people agree to make a commitment to one another, respect one another and uphold loyalty despite their circumstances. If those commitments are not met, no one should have to deal with that for the rest of their life. In a study at the University of Warwick, most people reported that they were unhappy during their separation phase, but felt better after a year of divorce.

Sometimes, the problem isn't just emotional, but full-on physical abuse. Divorce would deliver spousal abuse victims from their situations and give them the chance to continue on with the life they intend to have.

Not only is it a burden to oneself, but what if children are involved? Children living in broken families lack an opportunity to grow up in a functional environment. Having to witness constant verbal abuse may be detrimental to their social development.

Divorce can be an instrument for a better life, not just for oneself but everyone who is directly affected by the relationship. It may not be just the end of a relationship, but a renewal to find the right one.

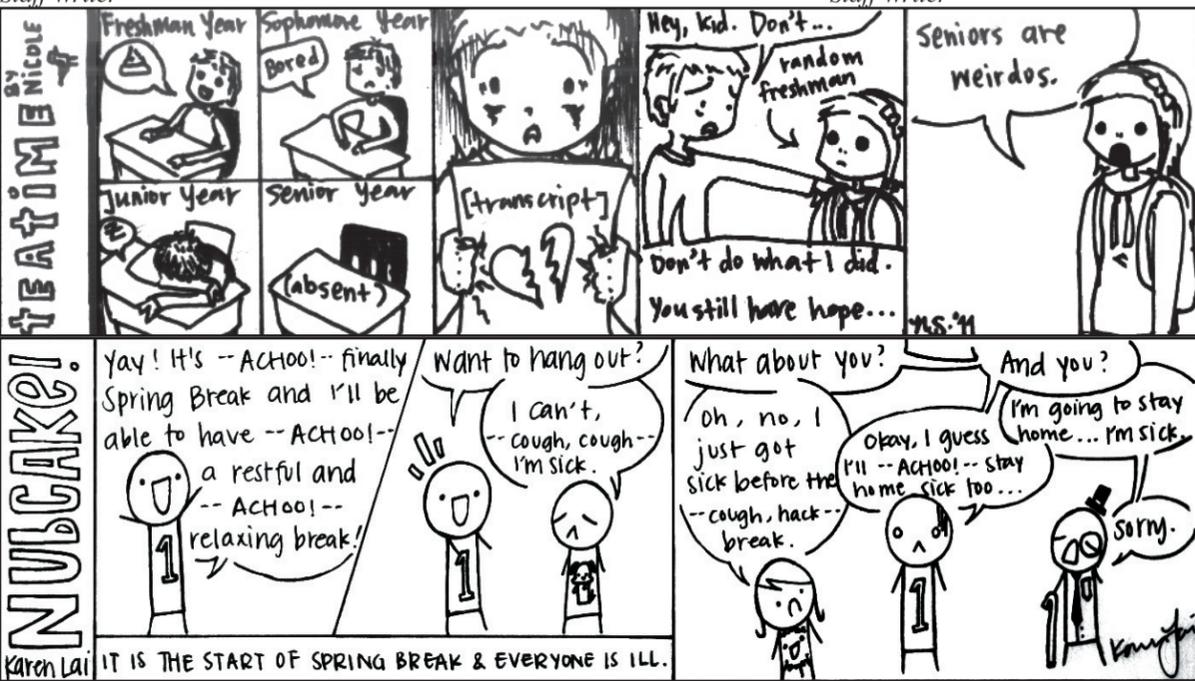
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Once upon a time, "till death do us part" meant being with your spouse for life. Today, that quote has been abused and wedding vows have lost their luster. With our country having a divorce rate of 50% for first marriages, it's obvious that there is something wrong with America's overall sense of commitment. The highest divorce rates are for those between the ages of 20-24, which isn't surprising when we realize that brains are done developing at the age of 25. Looking at the origins of divorce, I find that it is lack of maturity and a yearn for instant gratification that causes the high rates that haunt newlyweds.

America is defined by instant gratification. The fact is that we throw around wedding vows like we throw around an outdated magazine. The idea that marriage is disposable gives Americans the idea that in the midst of turmoil and lack of communication, they can easily opt for an easy way out.

Marriage is more of a quick fix than a life long commitment. In a situation involving infidelity or domestic violence, divorce is necessary. However, the main reasons for divorce include poor communication, a change in priorities and lack of commitment. This reflects our country's urge for instant gratification and the immaturity many newlyweds have that causes them to break up rather than adhere to the vows they originally undertook. So yes, sometimes a divorce is necessary but statistics prove that the inability to responsibly form a marriage union is the reason why half of the marriages in America consistently fail.

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If They Mustard, They Must

CATHERINE CHIANG
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We all have strange ways of saving money, from sample-hunting at Costco to furtively collecting empty soda cans for recycling. These strategies are commonly accepted or even encouraged in today's thrifty society, and we should honestly applaud our very own cafeteria staff for coming up with their own solution.

Well, unless that solution involves limiting the ketchup supply. Recently, students have been forced to cut down their condiment consumption to two packets of ketchup each. Cafeteria staff also swoop down on kids with too many utensils and napkins and students audacious enough to take more than one sandwich. I've seen the terrible consequences of these actions: students twitching from withdrawal symptoms and threatening their friends for extra ketchup.

The desperation is understandable, to a point. For many, the tater tots are only edible when dosed heavily in assorted sauces.

Yet these sacrifices pale in comparison to limiting maintenance, supplies and faculty. The cafeteria staff is on the right path—if we can save money on the little things, we can spend more on what matters: education.