

the ECHO

MORRISON ACADEMY, TAICHUNG

In This Month's Echo:



**MR. HSU'S CORNER:
LOOKING AHEAD TO
SUMMER**



**DORM NIGHT
TO REMEMBER**



Sports

2013 BANQUET

Florence Davidson



Another banquet has come and gone, and Echo is here to help you take your mind off the questions that follow. (Question number 1: Why was I so stressed about it? Answer: 42) In our banquet recap, we'd also like to hand out several awards to different people of the night. Every one of you who showed up gets a gold star, but there are some photos which require ... more.

2013

February

Chinese New Year!



(1) Runway Award Winners: Whether it was Gangnam Style or leapfrogging your date, these two brought style to the catwalk. Have you gotten that cash prize yet?



(2) Couple That Belongs on the Red Carpet Award: Because really, how much closer can you get to perfection?



(3) Best Photobomb Award: This goes not only to the photobomber, but to the couple who managed to pose as if he wasn't there.



(4) The “Don’t Worry, I Got This” Award: Our esteemed faculty gaze fondly at a device that would allow them to escape should the banquet get too wild.

February

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(5) Most Scared Banquet Audience Ever Award: Those are faces of excitement, shock, and yes, pure terror. Kudos to that guy who is second on the right, though. Should there be a zombie apocalypse, stick with him.



(6) Redneck Emcees Award: With funny commercials and odd slideshows, these emcees taught the most important lesson of the night: Morrison does not approve of renting horses.



(7) Most Suspicious Drink Award: Well, someone started the celebrations early. Exactly what is in that glass, pray tell?



(8) The Making Your Dates Jealous Award: You thought flowers were the key to a girl's heart? WRONG. Balloons. Girls want balloons.



(9) Killer Shoes Award: We don't know who wore this, but we would like to congratulate their foresight and fashion sense for bringing footwear that can double as a medieval weapon. This is the mace you want, ladies.

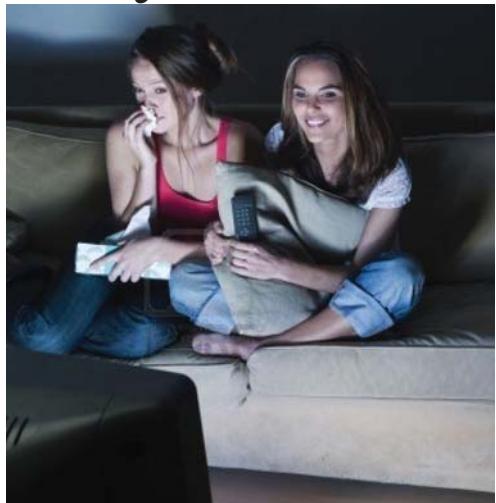
February



(10) Awesome Planners Award: For a meticulously planned and beautifully executed Banquet, we would like to honor the people who made it possible. Thank you, STUCO!

ADVERSE EFFECTS OF TV

Mary Liu



It is common for people to find TV shows very, very entertaining. So entertaining to the point it has the potential to override everything else, and even take control of our lives.

According to a study from the University of Pittsburgh, the

more TV you watch, the more likely you are to get depressed. Sure, getting all caught up in the lives of fictional characters can be fun, but you are also getting unrealistic messages from the programs. Television sends subliminal messages, including what defines beauty and what you need to be happy.

A former youth leader of mine once talked to us about being mindful when we put other things at a higher priority than God. If you find yourself staring at a screen way more than spending time praying, doing devotions, hanging out with friends and family, then you should re-examine your life. I believe we have all fallen victim to that. If you notice the biting sarcasm from your favorite sitcom is finding its way into your speech, it may be time to take a break from that show. Teenagers are not only sleep-deprived, but also alarming pro-

crastinators. "Just one more episode," we say over and over until we are up to date or finished. What does one do after finishing a series? Get involved in another fandom? I spent one summer watching Friends. After I was done, I rewatched the whole thing. Honestly, and shamefully, I had no idea what to do after that. I was so caught up in the Central Perk I didn't know where else to go.

For those sucked into the world of dramas such as Gossip Girl, 90210, etc., you may feel entangled in their messed up world. "WHY DID YOU CHEAT ON HER?" you ask. "WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT TO HIM?" you wonder. Well, news flash, the writers made those things happen. Shocking, right? See how shrewd they are, toying with your little minds and giving you this false need to know what happens next? How I Met Your Mother fans suffer from this. The writers are taking their time with progressing the show. I mean, they are really taking their time. Everybody loves a good story, but do give a good ending! Why else do you think everyone was pissed at Lost's finale?

On the flipside, watching television can be educational. Personally, I find the Mythbusters much more entertaining than Rachel Berry of Glee singing. Good producers with good ideas can come up with great programs that are entertaining yet concurrently teaching you new things. Elmo's World, my favorite segment from Sesame Street taught me so much as a kid. If you are broke, please do not resort to making and selling meth like Walter White of Breaking Bad. Don't. I do suppose The Walking Dead teaches us how to survive in a post-apocalyptic world, though, yeah?

Now, watching television is not wrong. Nonetheless, how you manage your time is important. The showbiz makes so much money off of us you have no idea. All in all, resting our eyes and focusing on more important things first will make a difference; then, when you have time, click that remote and escape out of reality for a little while.

February

Chinese New Year!

MR. HSU'S CORNER: LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER



They are slowly starting to fill Mrs. Craker's desk... summer school applications. EPGY at Stanford or Harvard Summer School? What about taking Algebra II over the summer so that I can get ahead? In a competitive academic environment such

as Morrison, I feel like we all need to pause for a moment and ask ourselves why. Why are you making the decisions you are making regarding your summer? For some of you, summer isn't even on your radar yet. You're still trying to figure out how to pass Mr. Gulliver's Chemistry class. For others of you, you have the coursework and summers for the rest of your high school years all planned out. Well, let me ask you this? How does taking an academic class during the summer add to your overall resume for applying to college? Do you not already spend 9 months out of the year demonstrating your academic ability? Does a college really want to see that you can take a college-level course as a sophomore? And what purpose does jumping ahead by taking classes over the summer accomplish? Will you be able to take more AP classes because of it? At this point I need to make one thing clear...I am not discouraging you from aiming high, stretching yourself, and pushing yourself academically. I am merely encouraging you to be honest with yourself and reflect on why you are doing what you are doing. Ask God what He thinks. Plus, there are tons of other ways to use your summer with the goal of improving your student profile for college. Here are some ideas:

1) Find a job. You accomplish two things here: you make some money and you gain real world experience. Heck, find 2 jobs! Find out what you like and don't like to do. Find a job in a field that interests you. A Yale representative told me a couple of years ago that one of the best essays she had read was an

DORM NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Alex Finch

The night was full of excitement and wonder with many crazy and colorful costumes. The first event was an introduction to the night and a show of all the costumes. There was everything from corpse bride to cat in the hat, and even people dressed up as headless experiments. There was a large following for the blues brothers with four different people dressing up as a member. One of the most shocking was the costume for Psy who is most famous for his single “Gangnam Style.” Alex Conn’s punk outfit and Anna Yeo’s Fiona(Adventure Time) costume were some of the favorites of a few Bugler dorm juniors.

The next event was an assortment of competitive group games. Everyone was split up into a mix of teams from each dorm. Each team was competing for prizes and the title

applicant talking about his work experiences at McDonalds. You never know what you'll learn about yourself when you're put into a new environment. There are also camps that you can work at where you can gain valuable and meaningful experience.

2) If you do take an academic course...take a writing or literature course. Looking at recent standardized test scores (not officially, just my own observations) writing is definitely a weaker area for many of our students. The only way to address that is to keep writing. Don't take a math course if you are already a strong math student. Work on creative writing and take a literature course where you are forced to read more and think critically and analytically about what you read. That's an entire section on the SAT! In college, you'll be inundated with reading. When you start working, you have to read. So keep reading!

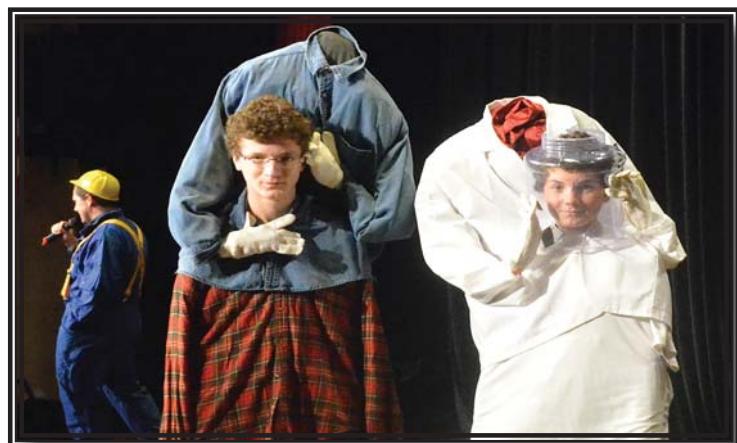
3) Go on a service/missions trip. Yes, most juniors go on a missions trip during spring break but going on one where you've sought it out further shows your desire to serve. There are so many different types of trips you can go on for varying lengths that there is sure to be one that suits your interests. Talk to some of our students that have done this and see what advice they give you. It could change your life (just ask Frank Chiu)!

4) Relax. Rest. Recharge. This does not mean sit at your computer all day on FB or LOL. It means be purposeful about doing things that are relaxing to you and that recharge your batteries. You work hard enough and are busy enough during the school year you don't need to jam-pack your summer with stuff to do. Be intentional about taking time during the summer to restore your mental and emotional health. This could be exercising regularly, reading, artwork, or picking up a new hobby. Whatever it is you do with your summer, do it for the right reasons. Developing this habit of reflection and self-checking your motives will then carry over to your other life choices so that you are paving your own path and not running a rat race. God has a unique and specific call for your life. Ask Him what it is and follow it!

of champion. There was a tie for 3rd place and the tie breaker started off as a challenge to get as many cotton balls from one bowl to another using petroleum jelly on the tip of the nose. The tie breaker also ended in a tie and there was the need for a tie breaker dance off. In the end team nine took the 3rd place position and award. The prizes for the winners included gift cards to Chili's, Starbucks, and 7-11. The points were kept secret from the contestants so it was fairly uncompetitive, but each team wanted to win the individual rounds so with a few competitive students the events became filled with excitement. Conrad Noble of the Brugler dorm said, "watching the dance-off was his favorite part of the games." By the end of the night the whole event was remembered as enjoyable and even exciting at times.

February

Chinese New Year!



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Chinese New Year!

The Art of Conversation

Heleen Hsu

Does your agenda consist of never ending scribbles of assignments due this week? Does your heart pound each time you check Powerschool for your test grade? The overload of school work and the anxiety that a student has can pile up in a way that can be almost unbearable.

To escape this kind of stress, one should call up a friend and schedule a time to just meet up. Why not try the nearest Starbucks? The coziness and delightful scent of coffee beans in the room makes it a great place for meeting up. This would be exactly what you need to relieve all the stress that is ruining your time from socializing with people. After ordering your favorite beverage, pick a comfy couch! While you are there with your friend, now is a great time to pour out to them the events that you encountered throughout the week. Bottling things up and allowing the stress to control you is the worst thing that you can possibly do. The stress will continue to build up no matter what.

Often times, we avoid sharing our problems with others thinking that we've revealed our weaknesses. This is however, the wrong way to think because talking it out shows

that you want to find sensible solutions and that you are open to all options and opinions.

It is said that talking out problems is a great and simple remedy for relieving stress. Sharing your opinions and burden can usually lighten the heavy load. After bonding with your friend, you will experience a more positive feeling that you did not have at first.



Most Popular and Least Popular Cafeteria Foods

Heleen Hsu

Caitlin Bridges (senior) = "I dislike the beef stromboli because I DISPISE BEEF."

Emily Shen (sophomore)= "I don't like the mu shu pork. It tastes weird."

Anonymous 1 = " Oh! I dislike mu shu pork. I don't think a lot people eat it anyways."

Kate Yen (junior) = " I like the breakfast.. if that counts.. Croissants and cereals are so good!"

Howard Chang (freshman) = " It has to be taco salad.. because I like Mexican food!"

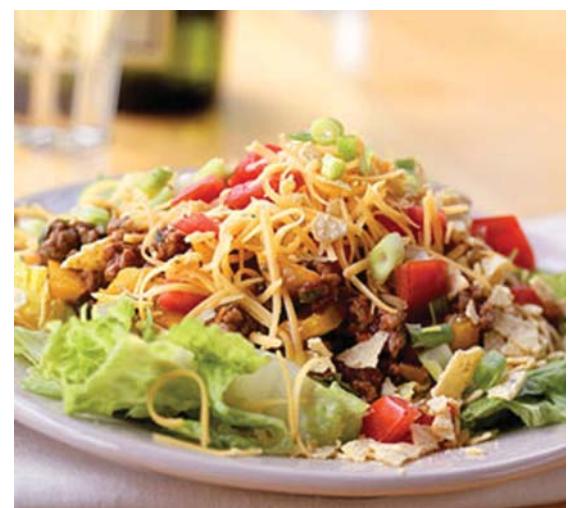
Mary Liu (junior) = " I quite like the burger and the fries were good and not soggy!"

Anonymous 2 = " I think they did a good job with the fried food like the chicken and the fish. "

Yen Jin Pui (senior) = " Sweedish meatballs because they're creamy.. "

Serena Mui (sophomore) = " For dessert I've gotta say the carrot cake because I actually don't really like carrots.. but the cake is really sweet and it has all the nutrition that a carrot has in it! (giggles) "

In general, the food at the cafeteria is really good. No real complaints, just smiles and a full stomach seem to pervade the responses by Morrison students.



February

Chinese New Year!

It's So Cliché to Hate Valentine's Day

Florence Davidson

Long ago, before you were born, hating Valentine's Day was cool. It was new and revolutionary to call out Valentine's Day for being sickeningly-sweet, trite, and pointless. But, it's 2013. (Sadly. Worst apocalypse ever.) And we all know which holiday we like best, but before you can get into green finery for St. Paddy's Day, you have to deal with the most commercialized holiday in the history of ever. The worst part? It's so pre-2000s to hate it. We've had article after article (trustworthy source: Google) about why Valentine's Day sucks, naming reason after reason: It's not a real holiday! Schools/banks/workplaces don't close! It's a conspiracy by Hallmark and florists to get us to pay extra! All the pink is hurting my eyes! Love should be shown on every day, not just Valentine's!

The bad news is, these are all pretty good reasons to hate Valentine's Day. The cards are usually cheesy, unless your significant other is hand-making them, (spoiler: they're not) you don't get the day off, and some of the Valentine's gifts I've seen do have alarming shades of pink. So, yes, V-Day is pretty much a farce to make you think that if you are dating someone, you need to buy them expensive things, and if you're not, you should cry into your giant tub of ice cream that you're eating to numb the pain of being single. But instead of giving you another cliché-riddled article complaining, or one about the historical significance – there is none, by the way, unless you count Hallmark's annual Thanksgiving where the CEO offers sacrifices to Valentine's Day for helping them earn more money—here instead are five reasons why you can appreciate Valentine's Day, be you single or in a relationship. (Also, if you're attached, why are you reading this?)

1. Cheap candy! This is the best reason. On the glorious day of February 15th, or, if you're in Taiwan, the eighth day of the lunar month, the shops open and candy, including chocolate, is marked down to get rid of all the candy that hasn't been bought by the poor suckers who had to get some for their sweethearts for crazy prices the day before. If you detest romance but love chocolate, you can say a special thank-you to Valentine's Day for giving you Cheap Candy Day.

2. Valentine's Day is wonderful ... if you're single. If you're single, revel in it. Contrary to what romantic comedies try to tell you at least several times a year, being single is awesome. It really is! Think about it for a second. You get to spend the day with not only one special person, but with multiple



friends. You don't have to be anyone but yourself. You don't have to gel your hair or put on makeup unless you want to. There's no pressure on you to plan something special or worry that you're going to mess something up. You can go out with friends and have a great time, or you can stay home and not have to watch stuff just to please another person.

3. Anti-Valentines are a thing. They really are. You can Google it. Anti-Valentine's Day presents, cards, mottos, etc., they all exist and they are witty, hilarious, and sometimes a little weird. Whether you're seeking to send a plastic, anatomically correct beating heart to the jerk who broke it or if you just want to celebrate the fact that you aren't entrapped, (with some kind of rhyming couplet with an annoyingly witty one-liner) you too can join in the wondrous joy and deep, profound fulfillment that is normally only associated with deep spiritual awakenings. How? Why, by mocking Valentine's Day and all it stands for, of course. In words better than your own, too – Anti-Valentines are aided by some of the most clever minds and writers on the planet, all poking gentle or harsh fun at the subject of romantic love.

4. If you're in a relationship, you have the upper hand. If you are with someone special to you, let me first congratulate you, and apologize for ragging on your special day. I'm sorry. (No, I'm not. Your special day is your birthday.) Anyway, on February 14th, emotional blackmail is the most amazing thing in the world. You can bully your significant other into practically everything with the magical whine of, "But today is Valentine's Day!" Try it and watch impossibilities fade. That really great dress in the shop window? Done. That shiny watch? Sure. You want to watch The Notebook for the millionth time? No problem! Sloppy makeouts? Eh, don't push your luck.

5. Love is in the air. Despite my consistent ragging, I think love is great. I think couples are cute. And yes, I admit to watching a rom-com every now and again. Usually it's followed by violent puking, but still. And I bet most of you do too, secretly or not. So I'm saying it: Love it great, and when it's in the air, being shared by couples, friends, or family, it's even better.

So The Fourteenth of February is cheesy, sure. But if you're single, you get to spend time with your friends, ignoring (or mocking) the mushy stuff. If you're in a relationship, you're primed to get what you want AND have an enjoyable time flaunting your romance in everyone's face. (You might as well, it's the one day of the year you can do that and be forgiven for your obnoxious behavior.) It's a win-win. Happy Valentine's Day!

VALENTINE'S DAY



BECAUSE LOVE ISN'T QUITE COMPLICATED ENOUGH AS IT IS.

February

Chinese New Year!

The Hobbit Review Caleb Strange



"In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit...", thus begins the greatest story in the world. No doubt, everyone has seen or heard of the new film series of "the Hobbit". The first part of the series, "An Unexpected Journey", has recently come out and there hasn't been much positive talk about it. Being a diehard Middle-Earth fan, I was psyched out of my mind to go see the first in this upcoming series, and I was not disappointed. This movie had it all. It stuck to the book, the acting was incredible, and the sheer presentation of it all, from the time we first see all the dwarves together singing of their long lost home to the scene where they're climbing the Misty Mountains, it was enough to move me to tears. Sure there were a couple of hiccups here and there, but I've yet to see a book-made-movie that has been perfect. You can imagine my surprise when I heard nothing but negative remarks from the others who had seen it. "It added so much to it, it's not at all the Hobbit!" or "The singing was so dumb, why'd they have to add the singing?", critiques of all sorts, if you could call them that, things that just don't make sense.

Yes, the added information or characters are not all

Jack Reacher Movie Review

Heleen Hsu

Firstly, taking the role of a buff, 6' 5" tall man with sandy blonde hair, Tom Cruise looks nothing like Young Child's description of Jack Reacher. Cruise, often been starred as a daring, clever and a down-to-earth character as seen in movies such as Mission Impossible, Top Gun and so forth, has decided to accept a different challenge this time

This time however, he is called in by the suspect, James Barr after a crime when a sniper situates himself at a car park and targets five "random" people at a park beside a river. Cruise then decides to take part in the investigation to find out who the sniper was. At first, the detectives were unable to find Reacher (Tom Cruise) because he was someone with no identification, past history, passport, noth-



from "the Hobbit", but they are definitely from the mind of author J.R.R. Tolkien. The plot is primarily based in "the Hobbit", but the majority of side-plots come from Tolkien's book "The Silmarillion" (great read for my fellow Middle-earth fans), and pretty accurate too. If you are one of those sticklers who can't stand to have any improvisation or any change made at all to any book turned movie, I'm sorry, but the movie industry doesn't work that way. To include **every** detail would be bordering on a Transformer's style never ending movie. "An Unexpected Journey" takes the difficult and complex world that Tolkien created and puts it in a format that everyone can appreciate, not just the fanatics of the Shire. They also put in details that will make fans of the books gasp in appreciation, like when Bilbo finds the one ring in Gollum's cave and the riddle contest. The CGI that went into the portrayal of Gollum was divine, and the interaction between him and Bilbo was brilliant.

All in all, who can say that this movie was no good? Maybe I pictured a few of the dwarves looking a little different, and the movie does start out a little slow, but when it started to pick up momentum in the plot, it really got going. The movie itself was built up quite a bit before release, and people were expecting another Lord of the Rings, when really, The Hobbit is a different animal entirely, filled with light-hearted humor and an interesting storyline, though not as dark as the Lord of the Rings. This movie is a great return back to Middle-earth with new characters, weird places, and amazing visual presentation, and I highly recommend it for anyone looking for a good trip to the theater.



ing, not knowing that Reacher comes to you out of nowhere, unexpectedly.

There was too much talk at the start, however, the plot does gradually spice up with Cruise participating in a car chase, dodging police cars with his fast, vintage vehicle as well as fighting a gang in a pub, clearly being plotted by someone else.

Not much of a character, Cruise pulls it off with an aloof personality for 130 minutes. There were some thriller scenes, however, overall the movie was too long. The introduction was cliché: an unknown sniper killing five people. To those who are Tom Cruise fans, please feel free to watch this movie, but I assure you that it will not be as fascinating as his previous ones, so don't expect too much!

February

Morrison Jiu-Jitsu

Caleb Strange



Like A Boss

born out of having a group of like minded seniors that wanted an alternative way to workout after school. We weren't sure what kind of response and support we would get but so far its been amazing." The target audience for this club is primarily high school students but the instructor of this club, well known

Morrison Academy is home to many sports, as well as many clubs. There has been Korean club, Chess club, even a school spirit club, and now it is home to the Morrison Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club. This is a fairly new club, but starting strong. It all started with an idea from Eighth Grade Teacher Dave Freeman. "I've always been interested in wrestling and mixed martial arts. It wasn't until I tried some of the workouts that I realized how great it was for physical fitness. The idea for this club was

Jiu-Jitsu instructor and mixed martial artist Dmitri Telfair, has big plans for this club. The Taiwan government has recently made a deal with the organization that Dmitri works with, Taiwan BJJ, and is now funding the organization. There will be a series of international Jiu-Jitsu tournaments to be held in Taiwan.

Jiu-Jitsu, in and of itself, is not all go and take the other guy down. It's focused more on the flow of things, and not only initiating with your opponent, but countering his take-down moves and knowing what to do when he's got you in a certain submission. This club will help you push your physical limits as well as your mental limits, enduring an amount of pain you never thought you could, hopefully instilling in its participants an attitude of confidence and humility. "Come out and watch a class and you will be amazed with what the students have learned in such a small amount of time." Dmitri says to those considering joining the club, "Learning martial arts is a great outlet for all people because not only do you learn to defend yourself and get a great session of exercise in, but you will also meet new people and gain a new found level of confidence that perfectly translates to everyday life." The club holds promise for those who wish to better their self-defense but also for those who want to boost their confidence in themselves. The club meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:30 to 4:30 in the third floor gym room.

THE END

Maria Huang

When walking around school as a freshman, I used to turn my head towards the jokes or stories from other people's Far East tournament experiences. Upon hearing those stories, my eyes would grow larger and my mouth would drop from amazement. Because sports players always seemed to have an amazing time at Far East, the tournaments became something I worked for. Those who intend to participate in sports next year, you will be looking forward to a whole different tournament. The 2012-2013 school year signals the ending of Morrison's participation in the DODDS-pacific Far East Tournaments. Starting from the fall of 2013, Morrison sports players will participate in a new conference of eight schools called the Asian Christian School Conference (ACSC). Therefore, on the first week after break cheer the teams on as they compete in Morrison's last DODDS-pacific Far East Tournaments.



February

Chinese New Year!

11

VARSITY MEN

Interview with Mr. Robinson,

Q: What insights did you gain about your team from the TAS exchange?

A: We can play tough defense in segments of the game - need to increase that. We are too dependent on shooting percentage (which left us) and need to be more dependent on consistent, determined defense. Another insight - this team takes adversity well. They don't turn on each other or their coach. They stay together and avoid negativity. They are good guys.

Q: Judging from where your team is at right now, how prepared are they for the Far East?

A: If we can develop a stronger team defensive identity (which is quite possible) running up to the tourney, we can be quite competitive and have a good showing.

Q: What expectations/predictions do you have for the tournament?

A: We'll do our best and be satisfied with that.

Q: What are your thoughts on the changes (reduced players and shortened tournament) for the Far East? Will it bring about a significant impact to your guys? How

A: Those things and housing problems we're having seem to confirm our decision to form the new conference of 8 schools (ACSC) was a wise one. Pool play certainly helps since we have a lot of inexperienced players, but we'll just have to do our best. Morrison teams usually do!

Mustang Men Scores:

Morrison v. TAS 39-59 L

Morrison v. TES 65-53 W

Morrison v. Fu Chiang High School 62-72 L



VARSITY GIRLS

All Morrison high schoolers have one way or another learned about the different stages of plot, either through Sparrow, Dwight, or Lawson. A sport season is very much like a story. You have the exposition: the tryouts and the first practices; rising action: the first wins and first losses; climax: the Far East Tournament; falling action: team dinner, and finally the resolution: the awards ceremony. Then there are events that bring about a change in characters or groups of people turning them into very dynamic individuals. One such event for the varsity girls' basketball team was their two-day basketball exchange up in TAS.

This exchange was initiated some ten years ago by TAS to help their basketball teams get ready for their big end-of-the-season tournament. After the chopsticks and bowls trophy games ended, this tournament has become one of the few chances Morrison teams get to compete with TAS teams. On January 11, a bus filled with varsity basketball players headed up to Taipei. Over two days time, the Mustang women earned two victories and lost the championship to Keelung High School after a tough

fight. A shiny piece of metal now stands in the office but "the emphasis should be on the note: 'We BEAT TAS'! at the base of the trophy" said Mrs. Heinsman.

Mustang women's victory over TAS was very happily received, but to the coaches and the team, it was also a tough game that taught the girls a lesson. The team played a strong first half and had a lead of ten points at halftime, but in the final minutes of the game, TAS pulled together and minimized the lead. Morrison had to a mere three points resulting in the increase of pressure on Morrison's players. Coach Turner said, "Our games at TAS were the beginning stages in an important mental change for us. In a couple of our early losses we tightened up at the end of the game and played a little scared. We showed some signs of that in our game with TAS, but recovered well and finished with a good win. In the final game we tightened up and ended up losing by four points. Since then we have played two really tight games and the team has finished with composure. I think that they have decided that it is a lot more fun to play strong in games, rather than scared and that shows on the court."

February

Chinese New Year!

When asked how the tournament changes will affect their Far East Tournament performance, Team Captain Karen Yates said, "Since Selina can't make it on the trip because of her knee injury we haven't had to face the issue of cutting someone from going on Far East. It's bittersweet." Concerning the elimination of pool play, Coach Turner added, "Jumping right into bracket play will be an adjustment from the past, but I don't think that it will cause any greater impact to us as it will to any other team there. It could have even less of an impact on us as seven of our nine players have Far East experience so they know how bracket play works."

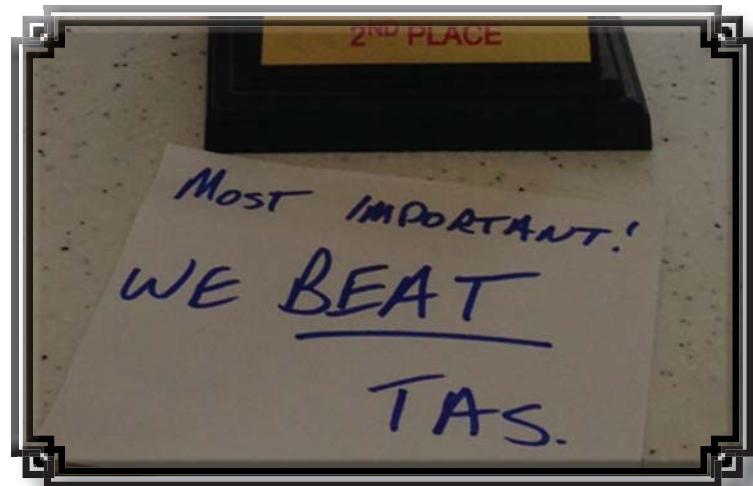
As the season winds down and the excitement of Far East builds up, Mr. Sparrow voices what many people think, "Don't tell the girls, but I think they will win it all..." We look forward to cheering the girls on as they fight to bring back the championship.

Mustang Women Scores:

Tai Bei High School vs Morrison 35-55 W

TAS vs Morrison 52-55 W

Keelung High School vs Morrison 44-40 L



February

Unexpected Changes

Maria Huang

On Thursday January 10, 2013, twenty-four mustang men and women stepped to the free-throw line to earn money for their upcoming trip to Japan for their Far East Tournament. Not only do both teams need support financially, they will also need the Morrison community's support through prayers as they adjust to a few changes.

This year, the tournaments will be held in the same places as the previous year: varsity men at the Zama Army Base and varsity women at the Misawa Air Base, but rules have changed. According to the Stars and Stripes, an American newspaper for the military community, the length of the DODDS Division II basketball tournaments will be shortened from five days to three by eliminating pool play, which "has been used, since 1987, to help seed teams into the elimination-playoff rounds that followed." This results in the tournaments changing into a double elimination format. How the teams will be seeded in this tournament has yet to be determined. Not only did the number of days change, the number of players each team can

bring to the tournament has also reduced from ten players to nine.

The reason for these changes is because of "normal budgeting pressures" said Don Hobbs, the DODDS-Pacific Far East athletics coordinator. One of their other reasons for the shortened days are due to academic concerns. DODDS-Pacific spokesman Charly Hoff said, "If we can shave off a day or two, students can be in class more often." For teams like Morrison coming from overseas, this reason for change is fairly weak as the trips are only shortened by a day. These alterations to the tournaments hopefully will bring about a minimal impact for the Mustang men and women as they head off to bring back the victory. Lady Mustangs team captain Karen Yates said: "I predict the tournament having a way different feel this year because it [goes] directly into double elimination. There will be a little more pressure, but I think our coaches have prepared us well."

Lady Mustangs

1. Nicole Turner 81
2. Hanna Kim 80

Mustang Men

1. Grant Robinson 90
2. Stephen Tong 87

Divergent- Book Review

Mary Liu

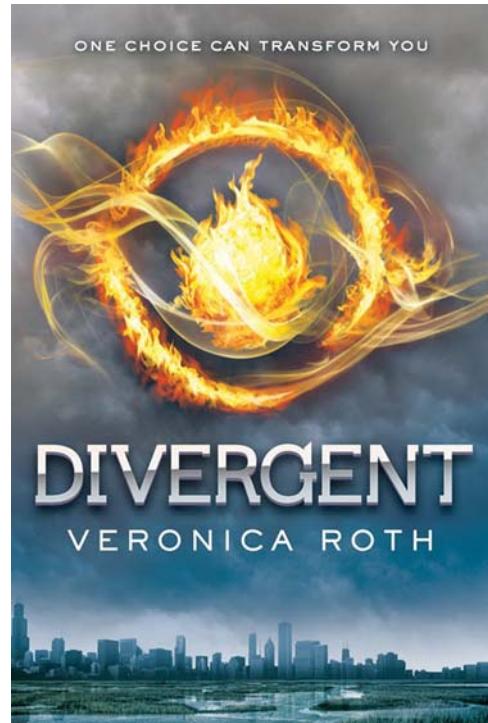
Five years ago, while a young girl was in college studying treatment of phobias, she came up with an idea. An idea of a world where people do crazy things for pure joy. She went on to further develop this idea, adding other traits for other "factions." Veronica Roth became a New York Times best-selling author for her first book Divergent.

This fast-paced novel became an instant hit after it was released in April 2011. In this dystopian setting, Chicago has broken into five societies, each with its own values and social structure. Protagonist Beatrice "Tris" Prior belongs to the Abnegation, which puts serving others above everything else. Fed up with her selfless life, Beatrice looks forward to taking the aptitude test, followed by the Choosing Ceremony. The test will determine which of the five factions she belongs in to help her make her decision.

Veronica Roth has an intriguing style of writing that literally had me biting my nails. Tris is strong-willed, determined, and will not back down on anything she signs up for. While reading Divergent, I was met with plenty of intense action that drove me nuts. Unfortunately (for some readers), the inevitable theme of love came into play as well. This was probably the part that disappointed me the most. There was a love interest for almost every character, and the ways they interacted were unoriginal and sappy. In spite of the superfluous romance side-plot, I loved the vehement fights throughout the book. The alluring dialogue made it near impossible to put the book down.

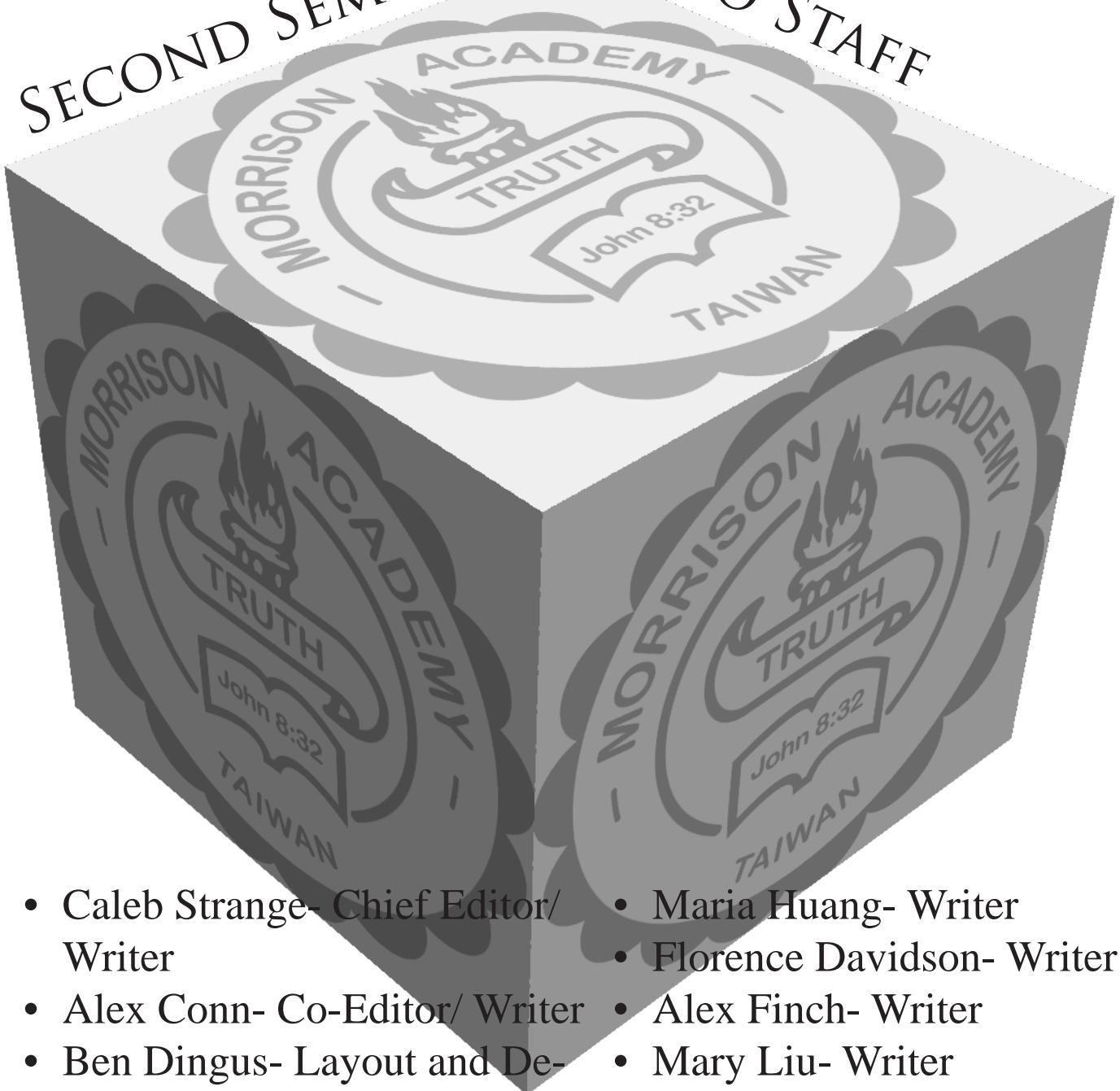
The second book from the planned trilogy, Insurgent, which came out May last year, wasted no time in picking up

right where its predecessor left off. A movie is in production, with Shailene Woodley cast as lead role. Veronica Roth is still in the process of writing the final book, which is due to be released fall this year. She is a believer, constantly citing God as her inspiration. Despite the ingenuity of the storyline and characterization, the book was altogether too predictable for many surprises. Nevertheless, not bad at all for a college student.



February

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