

# The Teen Excalibur

The Online Nazareth RHS Student Newspaper



## Washington DC Trip - Gettysburg Address Anniversary

By: Larry Castin

The trip to Washington DC was a trip like no other that I have experienced in my years at Nazareth. Taking two coach buses filled with my peers and classmates, we took a five hour trip down to the capital city. I was going to visit Abraham Lincoln's cottage! His cottage was where he would go to during vacation and whenever he wanted to be away from politics for awhile. Also, Lincoln's son died during his time in office, so the cottage was an escape from the daily life of a President.

Whilst in Washington D.C. my peers and I were able to meet with the Congresswoman that represented Brooklyn and she

told us where the meetings were where she would meet with all the members of Congress to come up with new reforms. She mentioned how paperwork is something that has to be done frequently.

While in Washington, we all were given Abraham Lincoln's typical breakfast and lunch. The breakfast included two hard boiled eggs for the most part and the lunch, on the way back to Brooklyn, included a chicken sandwich. We also received a tour of the capital and we were able to observe the admirable architecture. Famous figures such as Martin Luther King Jr and

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**Have a Happy Spring  
from The Excalibur staff!**



## - Upcoming 2014 Events -

Spring Break 4/14 - 4/23  
SAT Exam @ Naz 5/3  
Board of Trustees Meeting 5/8  
Last Day of Classes for Seniors 5/20

## Washington D.C. trip continued...

Rosa Parks were inducted into a circulatory room that had people who were known to have made a difference in this country.

The Gettysburg Address speech was spoken by everyone who was on the trip and it was recorded for the news/radio. We all stood on the steps of Lincoln's cottage and we even met Navy Seals who were there as well. In the cottage, there is still a piece of floor that Abraham himself walked upon and was one of the only pieces of the cottage that wasn't renovated.

I recommend that all my fellow students attend the Gettysburg address trip if it is scheduled in the next year. This trip was only for Juniors and Seniors, so don't get discouraged if you aren't one yet, your time will come. Long bus rides with your friends, a personal tour of the capital and a tour of the cottage were all highlights of the trip. It was an experience like no other and my American Government teacher Mr. Paul was the best guide to have ever been directing us.

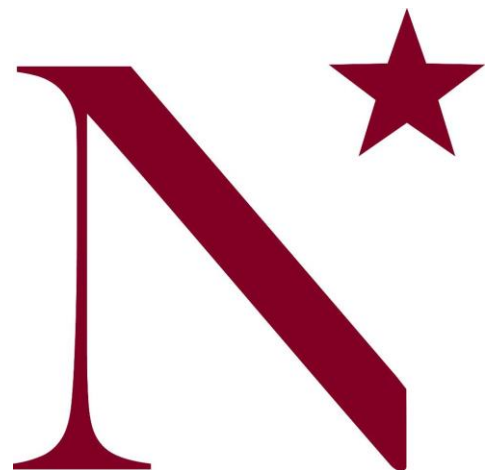


Abraham Lincoln's cottage. Present day.

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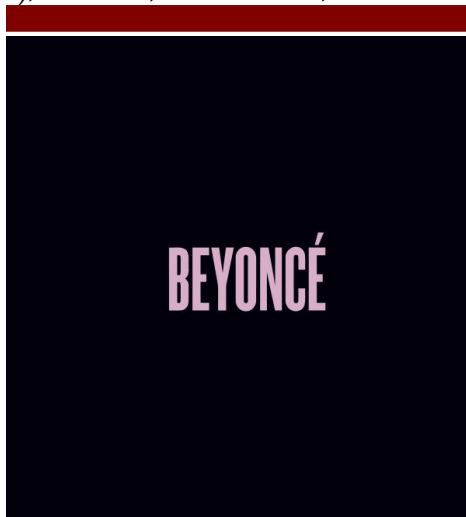
## Album Review: Beyoncé

By: Jahmela Joseph

Beyoncé Knowles-Carter returns to the music world with a vengeance. After literally dropping the album out of nowhere on iTunes without any form of promotion, or even an announcement on Twitter, the self-titled album managed to debut at the top of the Billboard 200 chart—making her the first female artist to have five No. 1 albums on the chart. Considered as a visual album, BEYONCÉ also has 17 music videos—a video for each song that really complement the bold atmosphere that the songs give.

The album starts off with “Pretty Hurts” a self-empowering song that criticizes the stereotypes of a woman’s beauty. Knowles boldly expresses how there is nothing wrong with being

“intimate” with the person you love with songs like “Drunk in Love” (featuring her husband Jay Z), “Blow”, “Partition”, and



“Rocket”. I personally think that the best song of the album is “Flawless” because the dirty beat and lyrics show that sometimes you lose, but it’s okay as long as you embrace these losses.

I really think that the sample from a speech by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie will inspire this generation on how to be a feminist, even if

you aren’t a female. “Mine” featuring Drake reveals the hidden insecurities that anybody would feel in a relationship, which is also complemented with a futuristic African beat. Beyoncé dedicated a song to her daughter in the slow and sweet “Blue”, and even had her perform some vocals at the end. The lead single “XO” was a lovely ballad that makes you want to hug all of your family and friends as if you wouldn’t see them again.

I would give this album five out of five stars not only because I am part of the Beyhive, but also because I didn’t have any issues with any of the songs’ content. I also thought that the video portion of the album was a major treat for both diehard and regular fans.



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By Yadiry Lagombra

The Affordable Care and Patient Protection Act, otherwise known as “Obamacare”, is currently a federal law that will ensure that all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care and will create a major improvement among the health-care system. Currently, this law has produced a significant amount of controversy mainly because of its goals and effect upon our economy in the nearby future. Many citizens are against the law due to the fact that taxes are being raised and many Americans are at risk of losing their jobs. On the other hand, many citizens support the law because it provides a system of affordable healthcare to individuals and benefits young people as well. Based on my knowledge and perception on this law, I’m in support of the Affordable Care and Patient Protection Act.

The Affordable Care Act offers universal health care coverage to every citizen regardless of income, age, condition, or gender. “Over 32 million United States citizens and legal residents who are not covered by health insurance currently will either have coverage or will get the coverage they need starting in 2014” (Obama, 2013). This will be beneficial because now everyone will have insurance and will get treated rapidly for their medical conditions. Patients will no longer be discriminated against or denied

coverage due to pre-existing conditions such as having a disease or simply, being pregnant. In addition, “Health insurance companies will no longer be able to drop plan members once they develop a chronic condition” (Louis, 2013). This will assure that every patient gets treated before the disease spread and handled under the proper care of their medical doctors. Even though our economy is currently not the best, Obamacare ensures that every citizen is protected regardless of money or others factors that may interfere with one’s ability to get medical attention.

America needs the Affordable Care Act, our old health care system is broken and this law will allow us to rebuild what started a few years ago. The old health care system in the United States sends out a confusing market system that separates health care expenses between the government and private businesses. It does not provide universal health care among citizens and is alone among developed nations. The old health care system does not provide coverage for pre-existing conditions, doesn’t provide free preventative care and removes children from their parents plan upon reaching the age of 21. On the other hand, the well-known Affordable Care Act reduces the cost of health care for individuals, offers access to affordable health care, contains coverage for pre-existing conditions, allows children to stay on their parent’s plan up to the age of 26 and provides preventative/contraception care. One day, we hope that Obamacare will be as successful as the universal health care systems in France and England whose citizens are also protected by the government. As of now, Obamacare will serve to help America’s citizens and improve the health care crisis of our nation.

Thanks to Obamacare, nearly  
**6 IN 10**  
**AMERICANS**  
 without health insurance  
 could get coverage for  
**\$100 A MONTH**  
**OR LESS** in 2014.

# The Top 10 Movies of 2013 by: Yajá Mulcare

10) **Mama** (Genre: Horror) - This film not only had good scares, but was very suspenseful to the end. The only reason it's at number 10, is because the story was quite mediocre and was poorly told.

9) **Identity Thief** (Genre: Comedy) - This was film was a fun and hilarious experience. The actors were great, the jokes were funny, and the ending was very short and sweet. All I have to say is that I wished the movie didn't have to drag on at times.



8) **Evil Dead** (Genre: Horror) - Although it was not as good as it's original, **Evil Dead** was still a nice experience. The gore, of course, was disgusting (yet cool) as it should be. It was a good, and goofy, film, and it showed that it wasn't meant to be serious.

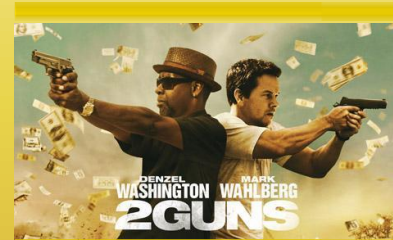
7) **Olympus Has Fallen** (Genre: Action) - This movie was much better than its predecessor, **White House Down**, due to its drama, intense action, amazing visuals, and suspense. While **White House Down** was goofy sometimes, and tried to throw jokes in at the wrong times, **Olympus Has Fallen** stayed serious and straight to the point. It gave a great perspective on what could happen to the country



6) **Parker** (Genre: Action) - Another great action film, filled with assassinations, death threats, kidnappings, murders, and so on. **Parker** is a film that gives the perspective of the antagonist, which is a great idea in my book.

5) **Gravity** (Genre: Sci-Fi) - **Gravity** is a film that cannot be spoiled. It gives a sense of dread, anxiety, and fear for the main character, and takes you on an unbelievable journey outside of Earth. It shows that we are unknown to the dangers outside of our planet.

4) **2 Guns** (Genre: Action) - A fun-filled action movie that keeps your heart pumping each scene. The comedy thrown in keeps you laughing and the action keeps you on the edge of your seat.



3) **Side Effects** (Genre: Suspense, Horror) - I feel this movie deserves a lot more attention. It gives you a strong fear of what you trust in your prescriptions. It shows the viewer the idea that "you must take heed of what your doctor gives you".

2) **The Call** (Genre: Action Suspense, Mystery) - **The Call** is a film that makes you anxious and scared to be alone. Definitely worth watching. You'll be on edge of your seat for the whole movie.

And the #1 movie of 2013 is...

## Top 10 Movies of 2013 continued

1) **The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (Genre: Action, Suspense, Drama) - Most of the time, movie sequels are never as good as the first. However, when it came to *Catching Fire*, not only was it good, it was way better than the first. The plot twists came (nonstop), the drama kept getting more and more insane, and the build up was extremely suspenseful. Throughout the whole movie, you can't help but side with the main character. Every single moment she goes through, it's as if you're going through it with her. It's definitely worth watching. You will be so glad you saw it. This film receives a 4.5/5 from me.



## Game of Thrones: Successful? Or a Flop? By J'Nique Williams

Throughout the history of television and film, directors and producers have either failed or succeeded to create an efficacious movie or show based on written work. There were failures such as **Twilight: New Moon**, **The Golden Compass**, **Pet Cemetery**, **Beloved**, and **Alex Cross** (Why Tyler Perry?). However, there were also successful movies such as **The Hunger Games**, **Lord of the Rings**, **The Notebook**, **Forrest Gump**,



**Interview with a Vampire**, and the Marvel films that overcame the disappointment of those failed movies. Despite some successes and failures, *Game of Thrones* became another significant and successful series that was based on written work. This is why....

1. The plot of the books and the series are relatively the same, despite minor changes.
2. The actors played the role of the characters quite well. In fact, Peter Dinklage won an Emmy Award for his portrayal of Tyrion Lannister in the show.
3. George R.R. Martin, the author of the books, is one of the major producers of the show.
4. The book and series aren't afraid to disappoint the audience. In other words, *Game of Thrones* held all the traits of a successful screenplay based on the books. The characters and the storyline remained virtually unaltered, the story was consistently exciting, and it ultimately belonged to the author.



## Artists Corner - "Presenting in Global" by Rhea Frederick



# The Excalibur staff would like to congratulate Bianca Cuevas on being selected a 2014 McDonalds High School All American!



## The Excalibur Staff



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