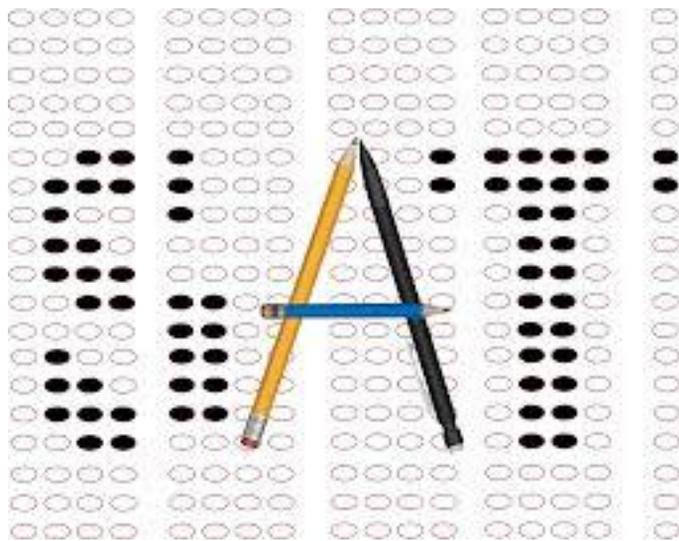


The Teen Excalibur

The Online Nazareth RHS Student Newspaper



Should the SAT Be a Major Factor in College Admissions?

By: Yadiry Lagombra

The SAT is currently an influential factor in determining a student's status for college admissions. Last year, almost half of the students who applied to Vanderbilt University were denied acceptance to the school because their combined reading and math scores didn't round off to a 1400 or higher (Grove, 2013). I believe that the SAT shouldn't be a major factor in college admissions because in no way does it predict the knowledge of an individual or how likely they are to succeed in college. When applying to colleges, taking the SAT should be an option for those who go through anxiety and score

low in the classroom. It shouldn't be considered the main factor that is most likely to shape a person's future.

Recent statistics show that SAT scores were slightly higher for higher income families whose parents both attended college (Weiss, 2012). Since both families attended college, they had a positive perspective about higher education and spent millions of dollars so their child could get the best tutoring and prep classes (Hewit, 2012). On the other hand, low-income families are at a disadvantage compared to high-income families.

November 2013, Issue 1

Have a Happy Holidays
from The Excalibur staff!



- Upcoming 2013 Events -

Sophomore Service Day 12/4
Board of Trustees Meeting 12/5
Christmas Show 12/20
Winter Ball 12/20

Should the SAT Be a Major Factor in College Admissions?

The SAT should not play a huge role on what college an individual goes to because it often causes anxiety and pressure, thus resulting in lower scores. Are you aware that many students have high GPA scores, but low SAT scores because of this particular reason? Some individuals go through anxiety when taking these biased exams because they often think about how a four-hour test could possibly determine where they will be going to college for the next few years. While taking the test, many students get pressured on time, thus resulting in incompleteness of various answers or guessing. Do colleges even think about these factors? It's enough that the test is already biased, but those who don't do well on standardized exams will feel like failures among their peers. "The test does more harm than good; the stress and anxiety it causes does permanent psychological damage to the nation's students. Finding a college should be a happy and exciting time in a teenager's life, not something they dread because of the SAT's" (Dobler, 2012).

The SAT shouldn't be a factor of college admission because it produces pressure among students to feel that if they don't earn a particular score of 2000 or above, then they will end up in a community college. "A student's academic intelligence should not be summed up in a four-hour test" (Martin, 2011). A test should not determine anyone's ability to excel and they most definitely should not determine entrance to colleges.



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http://www.edline.net/pages/Nazareth_Regional_HS



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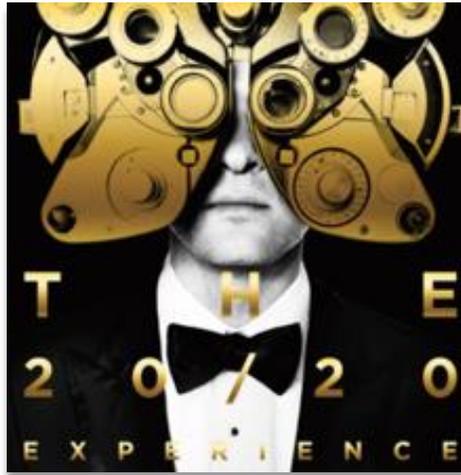
Album Review: The 20/20 Experience – 2 of 2

By: Jahmela Joseph

When it was released in March, Justin Timberlake shocked the music world by releasing the first part of his album *The 20/20 Experience*. It was refreshing to hear the singer put out some fresh music after a long hiatus (his last album at the time was *FutureSex/LoveSounds* in 2006) where he focused on movies such as *The Social Network* and *Friends With Benefits*. The first part of the album received critical praise from most listeners and fans. However, it was mildly criticized for its lack in variety and long length.

Although not as exciting as its prequel album, *The 20/20 Experience – 2 of 2* does have some amazing aspects. For instance, the songs “TKO”, “Gimme What I Don’t Know (I Want)”, and “Take Back The Night”

are the kinds of songs that any fan of JT would expect to hear. “Only When I Walk Away” is reminiscent of an ‘80s classic



rock-era song, and “You Got It On” has a Marvin Gaye appeal to it. “Amnesia”, “Drink You Away”, and “Only When I Walk Away” really shows Timberlake’s rather impressive vocal capabilities and production skills (along with the help of his long-time friend and collaborator Timberland).

However, like the previous album, the album length is ridiculously long. If the album was a country, it would be as big as Russia. The entire 11-song album spans for 74 minutes, and one song – “Not A Bad Thing” – is 11 and a half minutes long. Perhaps this was made to prepare people for upcoming concerts (which may be even longer than the actual album) but it’s still a bit ridiculous. In spite of that, I would give this album 3.5 out of 5 stars because of album length and amazing production.



Visit our newly redesigned website!
<http://www.nazarethrhs.org>

5 THINGS TO DO JUNIOR YEAR

By: Joey Frederic

As I sit in my room on my bed thinking, something occurs to me; I'm a junior and I only have two years left in high school. It won't be long until I will have to start thinking about my future. Let's face it, college is around the corner, and I have so many things to do this year. I find myself receiving countless emails from colleges reminding me to do well in my junior year, and that this is the year that decides everything. Unfortunately, some students see it as just another year until you graduate high school. The plain fact is that this year is no joke. This year can decide the direction your life can go in the future.

An article on by Randall S. Hansen (quintcareers.com) states that junior year is one of those years that are in the middle years of high school; not as fearful as your freshman year, and not as exciting as your senior. There are still five things that need to be your priority this year. First of all is the importance of classes and grades. Remember, your selection of classes, and the grades you receive in them are essential to your college admittance. This is a very important time to prove that your academic skills are prepared for college level work. Second would be standardized tests. Junior year, from start to finish, is filled with standardized tests. Early in the year, you'll take the PSAT which will show what you need to improve on when taking the SAT.

It can also qualify you for scholarship opportunities. Third is college planning. Your junior is the year where you start deciding where you want to go to college, what schools you can get into, and what schools will suit you best. Although stressful, remember to take your time to learn about schools that will help you. Remember, you should have a list of at least 10 colleges to choose from by senior year.

Fourth would be career choice. The dreaded, "what do you want to do after high school?" Your career choice will play a big role in deciding what your major is in college, and your potential college list. Lastly is your portfolio. It is important that you start documenting all your high school achievements, as it will help many colleges in deciding your acceptance. You want to portray why they should want you at their school. Although it is another year of high school, junior year is still a very pivotal year in your life. It is not something that should be taken lightly because you get no second chances to do this year over again.

Nazareth RHS Guidance Department is available to offer:

- Personal Counseling
- Career Counseling
- Academic Counseling
- College Advisement to Both Students and Parents

College fairs, visits from college admissions personnel, college brochures and catalogues, scholarship information, and individual meetings with juniors and seniors are all part of the services provided to the students.



To speak with a guidance counselor, please call (718) 763-1100 Ext. 246 or 248.

Movie Review: The Conjuring by: Yajá Mulcare

What is seen as the "scariest movie ever" by many, The Conjuring is indeed great, but it is definitely not the scary movie it was hyped up to be.

The Conjuring, on my part, was a bit difficult to understand - whether it was about the demon in the doll, the girl who committed suicide, or the family's curse. But, when you actually look at it, it talks about all three. Of course a conjuring has something to do with a demonic entity or an evil curse placed upon anyone.

Certainly this family has failed to realize the dangers of the house when they moved in. This movie had a crazy start, a disturbing middle, but a kind of

weak ending. The end just seemed like any other scene from The Last Exorcism or The Devil Inside. It was pretty cliché and it was just a boring end to the film. I wished there was something more horrifying.



Compared to the actual story, it's pretty accurate on account of the "spooky tales and legends". Yet, the movie kind of messed up the premise of the main characters. The family was pretty necessary, and the two investigators were extremely needed. However, I would've loved to learn more about the man and woman, rather than the family members.

Story: 7/10



Characters: 8/10



Effects: 6/10



Overall: 7/10



Poetry Corner

"Little Flower" by Karen Rodriguez

Little Flower, are you
So delicate and sweet
So fragile and small
Such a blessing to me

Adorned and beautiful
You glisten and shine
But your mask of purity
Is worse than that of mine

Perfection is not you
Little flower of mine
An illusion is all you are
Casted in others minds

Your petals are falling
And are tinting quite gray
Your flaws are apparent
And have met your fate

In your heart, you will last
And fascinate and intrigue
In your fantasies you will be
The little flower I used to see

But reality has knocked
And is trading your grounds
It has warned me
Of what you are now

No longer are you a flower
No longer are you shining
No longer are you beautiful
No longer are you mine

Album Review: Magna Carta Holy Grail

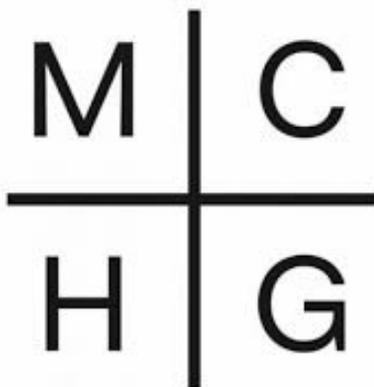
By: J'Nique Williams

Allow him to reintroduce himself, his name is HOV! Shawn Carter a.k.a. Jay-Z has released a brand new album, featuring great artists such as Justin Timberlake, old time "friend" and "enemy" Nas, Rick Ross, Frank Ocean and his wife Beyoncé Knowles. Magna Carta Holy Grail was first released on July 4th 2013, for the first million Samsung users and it was free of charge. As for the late bloomers, which included me, the album was released July 8th 2013 and sold more than 528,000 its first week.



What Twitter says:

- "Thank you Jay-Z for making consistently good hip hop for over 2 decades."
- "It's Hov. He does things that people tend to think he would not, but little do they know he loves it all."
- "One of those albums you can play through without skipping a track"



What the media says:

- **USA Today:** "The breadth of his subject matter – which also touches on family, loyalty, spirituality and fame – is matched by his lyrical acuity. His perspective is that of someone who has achieved much but hasn't lost sight of what brought him to this point."
- **The New York Times:** Often, Jay-Z's boasts are contested by tracks with their own stubborn agendas: minor keys, empty spaces, unyielding arrangements that make his rhymes dodge and weave around them. ... Though Timbaland's productions always hold some sly surprises, 'Magna Carta ... Holy Grail' comes across largely as a transitional album, as if Jay-Z has tired of pop but hasn't found a reliable alternative.

What I say: Jay-Z's album centered around the truth of fame, class, deepest wounds, confidence, and success. For those of you who did not know, Jay-Z named his album Magna Carta to rewrite the rules of the music industry and its control over artists. Magna Carta, for me, was different than any other album. He promoted and expanded the album into something bigger than it really was; ART. Jay-Z performed "Picasso Baby" for six-hours at a New York art gallery which made its debut on HBO. He was quoted saying "when art becomes part of the galleries what became a separation between cultures and even in hip hop, people were like artists to bougoir. We're artists, we're alike, and we're cousins. And that's what's really exciting. For me, it's like bringing the worlds back together," Need I say more?

Understanding the Government Shutdown

By: Stevenson Delorme

So you want to know about the government shutdown? It has been all over the news, newspapers, and televisions as one of the most controversial things to occur in government within Obama's second term as President. But how much do you really know about the government shutdown? For some, the highly publicized incident used a lot of jargon and political lingo that may be hard to understand, but here are the basics on the shutdown.

For one, a government shutdown is the result of law makers' inability to pass the necessary funding measures in time, which leads to a temporary halt in government services.



The main issue leading to the "Government Shutdown of 2013" was an intense dispute between the Republican-controlled House of Representatives and the Democratic Senate.

The reason for this dispute was that the House of Representatives wanted to delay or even stop the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" or "Obamacare" which was signed into law in 2010. Recently, Congress hasn't agreed on how to fund the government which as led to a lot of arguments, disagreements, and ultimately the shutdown of the government in order for an agreement to be made by both the Republican and Democratic sides. On October 16, 2013, Congress passed the Continuing Appropriations Act and the President signed it shortly after midnight on October 17, ending the government shutdown and suspending the debt limit until February 7, 2014.

WORK HARD FOR U! - by Ojee Voltaire

WWW.TOONDOO.COM



eSports: Competitive Call of Duty

By: Larry Castin

eSports is a short abbreviation for Electronic Sports or Competitive Gaming. Competitive Gaming branches over many genres of games but in particular, my favorite, is Call of Duty. In Competitive Call of Duty there are four members of a team that compete at LAN tournaments throughout the states, outside the U.S. and can even be in your own community. LAN stands for local area network, which means that everyone is playing on the same connection unlike when you play Call of Duty online, everyone has their own personal internet speed. For those of you who have not heard of Call of Duty, it's a first person shooter (FPS) that can be played on most major consoles such as the Xbox 360 and the Playstation 3. It was the most sold game for a first person shooter title in the previous years and it's almost a tradition for gamers to buy the new Call of Duty yearly.

What makes Competitive Call of Duty different from other games competing related is that with hours of dedication you can be on the same playing level of professional gamers. Competitive Call of Duty is appealing because even if you don't have the money to take flights and book hotels for events, you can experience what it would be like to play at a major tournament from your very home. You can watch events online from live streams or you can play scrimmages with your three other teammates you have a chemistry with to see if it's a goal to win a major event or go to a local LAN tournament where you play for cash prizes that stretch out to \$400,000.

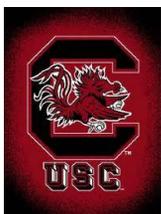
A prime example of a successful Competitive Call of Duty professional team would have to be OpTic Gaming. For those of you who haven't heard of them, they are the largest fan-based competitive Call of Duty organization existing today. The team won the 400,000\$ tournament "Cod XP" for Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3. Success stories can originate from competitive Call of Duty and competitive gaming in general! Matt Hagg became a sponsor of Red Bull because of his touch with his fans and the vast majority of people who would attend his live streams on the major live streaming website Twitch TV.

Even if competitive Call of Duty isn't that appealing to you, you should try to experience what it would be like. Experiencing the atmosphere by being a spectator of an event and witnessing the mindsets of the professionals.



The Excalibur staff would like to congratulate our Division 1 student athletes!

➤ Bianca Cuevas



➤ Yazmine Belk



➤ Sofia Roma



➤ Jennifer Fay



➤ Samson Akilo



➤ Samson Usilo



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