

VANTAGE

Vol. 2 Issue 2

Ron Hockwalt Academies

Spring 2009

Out with
the Old



In with
the New



Graduation Issue

VANTAGE

Vol. 2, Issue 2

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Spring 2009

Out with
the Old

In with
the New

Ron Hockwalt Academies
467 So. Lemon Ave.
Walnut, CA 91789

To the oh so Fine... Class of 2009...

Congratulations to a wonderful Group of students

"Books alone are liberal and free. They give to all who ask.
They emancipate all who serve them faithfully."

with love and best wishes

Nan Rennie Kirkeby



WE SHALL REMEMBER YOU MARQUIS LEBLANC



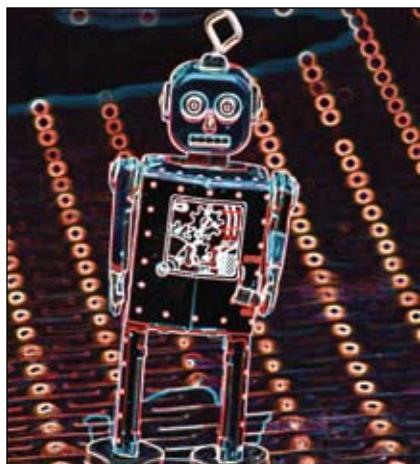
To my boy Marquis, this
has been a hard year for
me and a lot of people.
I just wanna let you
know that you will be
loved and missed.

-Dillion Nafarette

VANTAGE

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A rally cry for a new generation focused on change.



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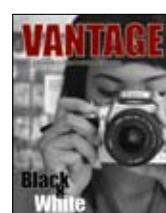
Chad Albers is "So Devout."

45 Games

BattleForge breaks through.

Back cover art by Parker Winans

Retraction: The cover photograph for our Winter 2009 issue was taken by Melissa Dorame



Letter From The Editor

The theme “Out with the old, in with the new” came from a song Fernando Islas was listening to, and we felt it fit in well with the transition into adulthood of our Senior students. We are just about ready to become the adults we need to become by leaving our high school days behind and entering a new world.

It is a process that we all have gone through, or are about to go through. Interesting enough, this was a rally cry a century ago, when revolutionary artists of what came to be known as the Modern Era changed the shape of art, writing, and all things creative, moving from realism to impressionism, from metered verse to free verse, etc.

Little did they know of the wars to come, the flapper 20's, the Great Depression, the Cold War, the Hippie 60's, disco, punk, heavy metal, the techno 80's, the rise of “the Woman” and Civil Rights, and the “all of the above” 90's to come. Today we seem to be repeating history at a higher level, moving in just the same revolutionary manner into a bold unknown future. We go with courage, both fearful and filled with hope. We are ready for the challenge, perhaps even more so than our shocked great grandparents could ever be. Whatever is to come. We are ready. And once again we usher in a dawning era with these urgent words on our tongues: “Out with the old, in with the new!”



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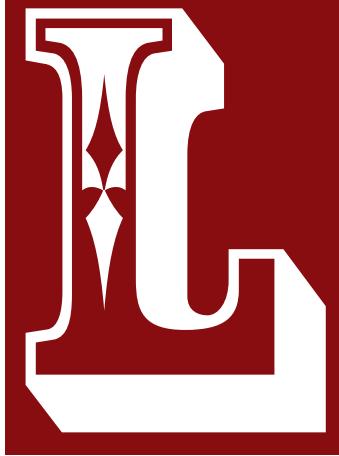
Richard Root

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LETTERS TO SENIORS



The Faculty and Staff at Ron Hockwalt Academies have written a few words of advice to Seniors as they ponder their future .

Sue McCracken

McCracken's Useful Tips

- The best things in life you have to work for.
- If you have the heart to persevere you can get through almost anything.
- Include friends in your life that bring out the best in you.
- A positive attitude is your best weapon in life.
- Faith can get you through some of your toughest times and will make you a stronger, better person.
- Don't forget RHA...we'd love to celebrate your future successes and help you if you need it. You'll be missed!

*Love,
Ms. McCracken*

Bill Foley

Two things I will remember most about this year are:

1. When Maira won the speech contest over students from all three WVUSD high schools.
2. When a new student asked me if our students took the pic-



tures on the walls in the photo lab. I told him they did. He said, "Those are pretty good pictures."

What I have learned from our students this year is that it is wonderful to see things from the perspective of students who have very few preconceived ideas about how things should look. They simply plow in and come up with a new way of seeing the same old stuff we see here everyday and make those things interesting, or, even beautiful.

My advise for the future is that students should find the one thing in life that makes life worth living and see if they can turn that into their career! (Find out what your talents are!)

Mister Foley

Nan Kirkeby

I was born five years after World War II ended. We were known as the "Baby Boomers." Many People reacted to the horrors of World War II by returning to the values of family and home. Millions of children were born as a result of a need for hope, a need for something to believe in.

I lived in New York and New Jersey where many of my neighbors were Jewish. Almost every family knew someone who had lost a family member in the war. Many had lost family mem-



bers in the concentration camps. I saw first hand the tattooed numbers on the forearms of survivors. I heard about the camps in whispers. Our parents thought it too terrible to talk about in front of children. It gave me nightmares to think about it. I can hardly imagine what it must have been like to live it. Even today, more than fifty years later, it makes

me sick to my stomach to see some of the photographs and hear some of the accounts. But I listen. I watch. I learn. I teach. I want to remember. I want my students to remember. I want us to be a better society.

Oprah's television interview of Elie Wiesel helped me remember and helped me define what I believe in. His Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech has a tremendous impact. "Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." If I touch on student with Wiesel's words, I have done my job. If one of my students connects to the world and begins to see his or her place in it, I have helped them start on their journey. As we end the 2008/2009 school year and I listen to their responses to *Night*, I feel tenderness for my students, hope for their future and hope for our world.

Nan Kirkeby

Jeff Nicoll

To the Class of 2009 I say this. Go for it! Whatever your dreams are, go for it with passion and determination. Confucius said "Do what you love, and you will never work a day in your life." Living this motto will help you feel the joy of being human; you will never have regrets of opportunities lost. Never let the fear of failed expectations hold you back. Go for it! Prove everyone who has ever doubted you wrong, and live your dream.

Jeff Nicoll

Kim Preble

Dear Graduating Seniors,

Well, can you believe this point in your life has finally come. I bet it seemed like you'd never get here, but suddenly it is happening all too quickly. I just wanted to wish you good luck and thank you for making life here at Ron Hockwalt fun and special. I've laughed and cried with many of you. We've been through it all - good and bad. I really got to know those Seniors who have been in Leadership. Thank you all for stepping up and helping out where needed. You made this school, and my days, so much better because of it. Don't be a stranger—you know where to find me.

*Much love and respect,
Kim Preble*

Adam Fujimoto

I Teach Seniors—or Do Seniors Teach Me?

Born and raised in sunny California, I developed this idea that everything comes easy to everyone. I had a dream, if you will, that by birth Californians get an added advantage over all other people across the globe to become whatever they would like to become and work in whatever industry they want to work. A quick glance around Los Angeles, I would see high-rise glass buildings filled with men in perfectly tailored suits, fire-engine red sports cars racing down the 5 freeway, and beautiful couples in elegant attire heading for a



night out on the town. It seemed true; Californians had it all.

Not too long after developing this idea—this dream of what California was—I decided to head down a path that would enable me to help young adults become this image of what I saw California to be. Why not try to help develop a perfect society where every student had a chance to become a suit-wearing, sports car driving adult who goes out in elegant attire on Friday nights? Why not become a teacher? In fact, why not choose a school that has students believing my idea is *only* a dream?

Yes, I made the decision to seek out Ron Hockwalt Academies and teach students who would fulfill my philosophical idea of society. However, my ideas of teaching were soon destroyed by screaming kids telling me I didn't belong here and that they wanted their old history teacher back. I wasn't yet anything to them; just another teacher to pass and move on. Not to be so easily discouraged, I continued on, hoping that with each passing day the students might grow to be more fond and kind.

Didn't happen. I discovered that my problems weren't coming from my students on a personal level. Problems arose from the atmosphere from which my students stemmed. Sometimes I handled this well; oftentimes, I could have done better. Problems: broken homes, broken families, broken relationships, broken I-pods, broken lives. Problems that grew into a crutch that made my students not care about school one way or another. Whether reaching for a pill or reaching for a pencil, it seemed to me that particular students I talked to had no direction. Yet, I have seen a change.

No matter what cards are dealt or how the ball is pitched, You, my students have seemed to come around. I see now, given the difficult situations, hard choices, and rough patches, all of you have come through. I see your smiles now. I see your potential that is beyond anything you can yet imagine. I see now that all of you are by far the greatest group of overachievers I have ever met. Why, you ask? You come to me with your problems—difficulties I could have never imagined trying to struggle with myself—and somehow you have overcome those obstacles and risen to be the better adults I see today—successful adults



that will lead this nation to amazing feats. I feel I have learned so much from you. The most amazing aspect of teaching wasn't about helping you solve your problems, but rather, watching you discover ways to overcome challenges and to realize that your potential is endless.

Perhaps I wasn't teaching all this time; perhaps I was being taught.

Mr. Fujimoto

Richard Root

Some quotes I live by, which you might like to live by, too.

- Your school has taught you how to learn - the rest is up to you.
- When the winter is the coldest, you know the next day will get warmer.
- When your hobby - or what you love to do - becomes your career, then you have found your ultimate job.
- Do not worry how far you must go; Take just one step after another a thousand times and you will arrive before you know it.
- Whatever falls the furthest will bounce the highest. Be resilient.
- The best way to fight fire is not with fire but with water.
- No one MAKES us do anything. We CHOOSE to do everything. Make good choices.
- It is better to be overdressed than underdressed.
- Rarely can you lose if you do too much.
- Take time outs.
- Anything can be done with a smile on your face.
- When you act with kindness even the smallest act can create palaces.
- Simply having patience will save you much frustration in your life, and make you very happy.

Richard Root

Remy Hitomi

Dearest Margaret, thank you for the hugs and your intelligence. Desiray, thank you for your passion and creativity. Belen, thank you for your stories and your nails. Sergio, thank you for giving me a reason to fight the good fight and for giving such respect. Rosa, thank you for the constant steadfast effort and for challenging me to be a better teacher. Charisma, thank you for your joyful smile and reminding me why I love my job. Leane, thank you for your strength and courage.

Tiyone, thank you for ROCKING the CAHSEE and for sharing the love. Nanci, thank you for your leadership and vulnerability. Vicente, thank you for your maturity and willingness to learn. Dylan, oh Dylan, thank you for your honesty and teaching me so much about life. Raquel, thank you for your perseverance and beauty. Sabrina, thank you for your patience and tender heart. Ria, thank you for being such an amazing TA! Matthew, thank you for being such a great eagle. Robert, thank you for your loyalty and dancing. Maria, thank you for always helping the staff at school and for your waves. Brittany, thank you for giving me

**...thank you all
for having such
an impact on
my life...**

something to cheer for and for inspiring me. Zach, thank you for your dreams and willingness to work for them. Parker, thank you for loving the Lakers and for your maturity. Coco, thanks for your joy. Austin, thank you for working so hard and for making me laugh. Jovon, thank you for giving me someone to talk sports with. Peter, thank you for your help as my TA. Maira, thank you for never giving up. And to all of the seniors, who I did not have the privilege to work with, thank you for making

Ron Hockwalt a better place. I sincerely thank you all for having such an impact on my life and for allowing me to learn the deeper meaning of teaching. Always remember, I believe and care about each one of you, dearly.

With Love, Mrs. Hitomi

"So, I learn from my mistakes. You miss a lot of opportunities by making mistakes, but that's part of it: knowing that you're not shut out forever, and that there's a goal you still can reach."

—Johnny Cash

CONGRATULATIONS, PARKER WINANS!

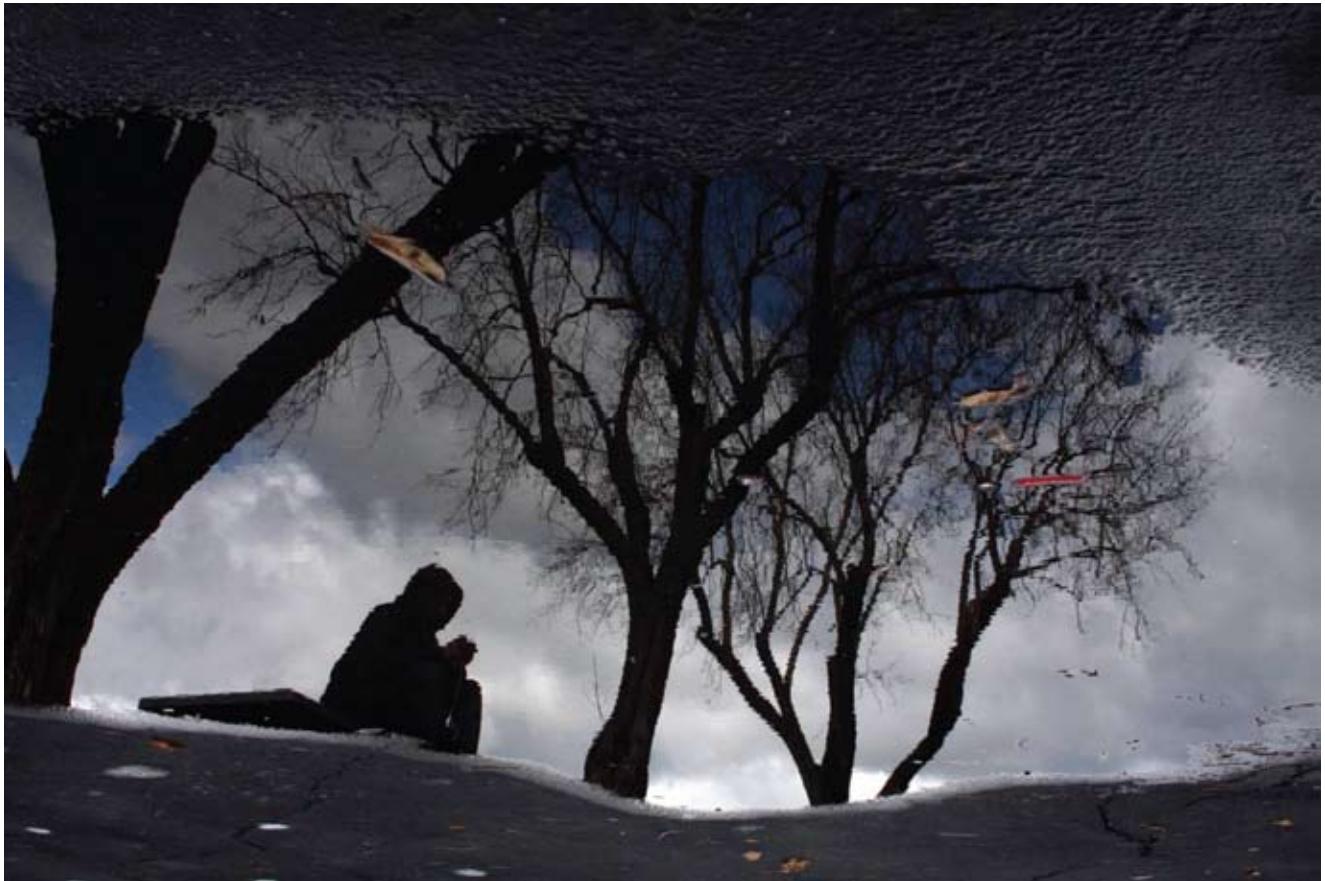
WE are so very proud of you! It seems like just yesterday that you were heading off to pre-school at the Discovery Center, and now it's time for you to graduate. You've done a great job, stuck to it, and now you're graduating. God has given you many talents, and you do so many things well. Keep working hard and you will go far. We love you, Parker!

YOU ROCK!

Love,

Mom, Dad, Hillary, RJ, Reid and your Grandparents

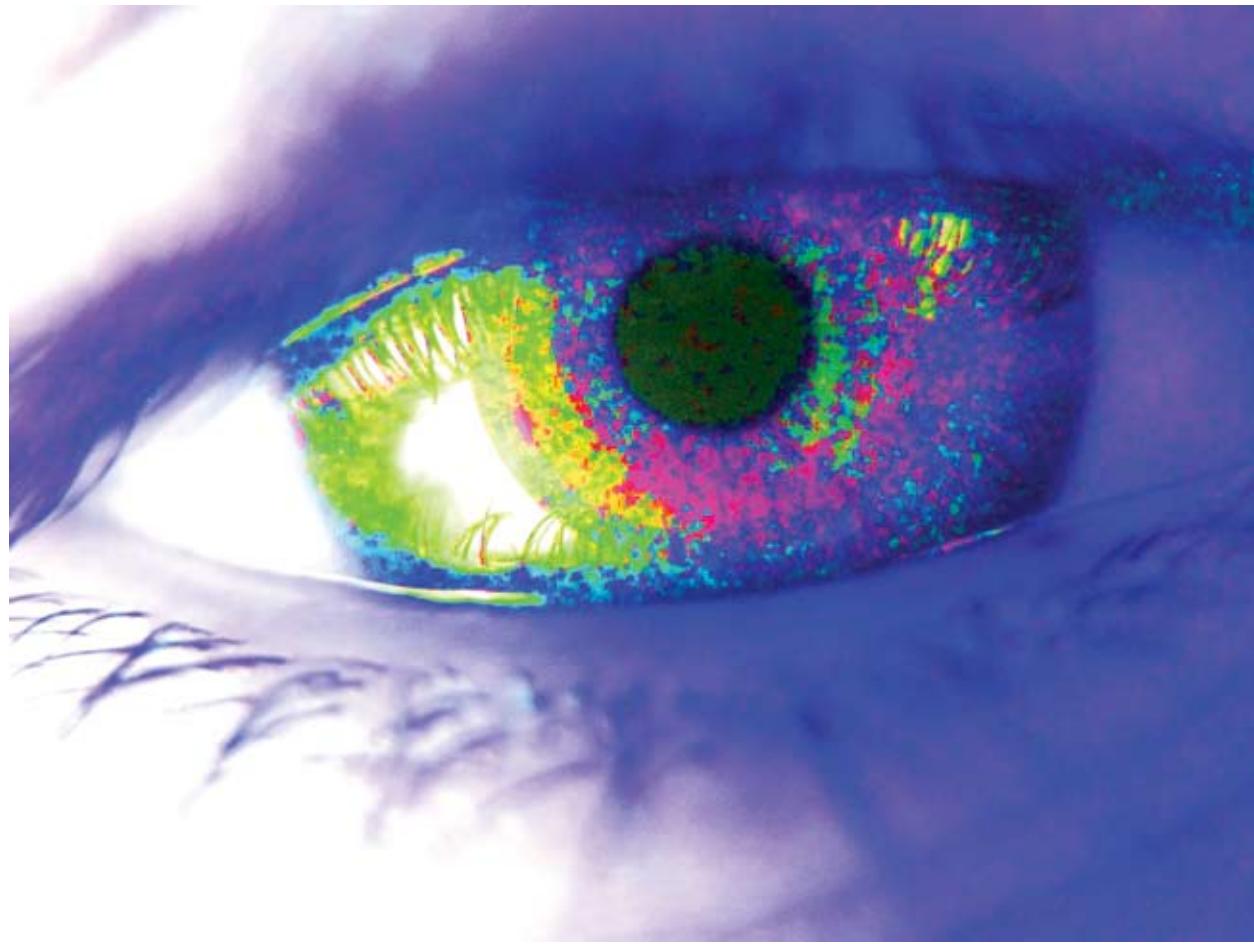




Photographer Above: Austin Hemming
Below: Maira Rodriguez



Photographer Above: Kyle Tassinari
Below: Leland Michaliszyn



Photographer Above: Brittany Godinez
Below: Garhett Johnson

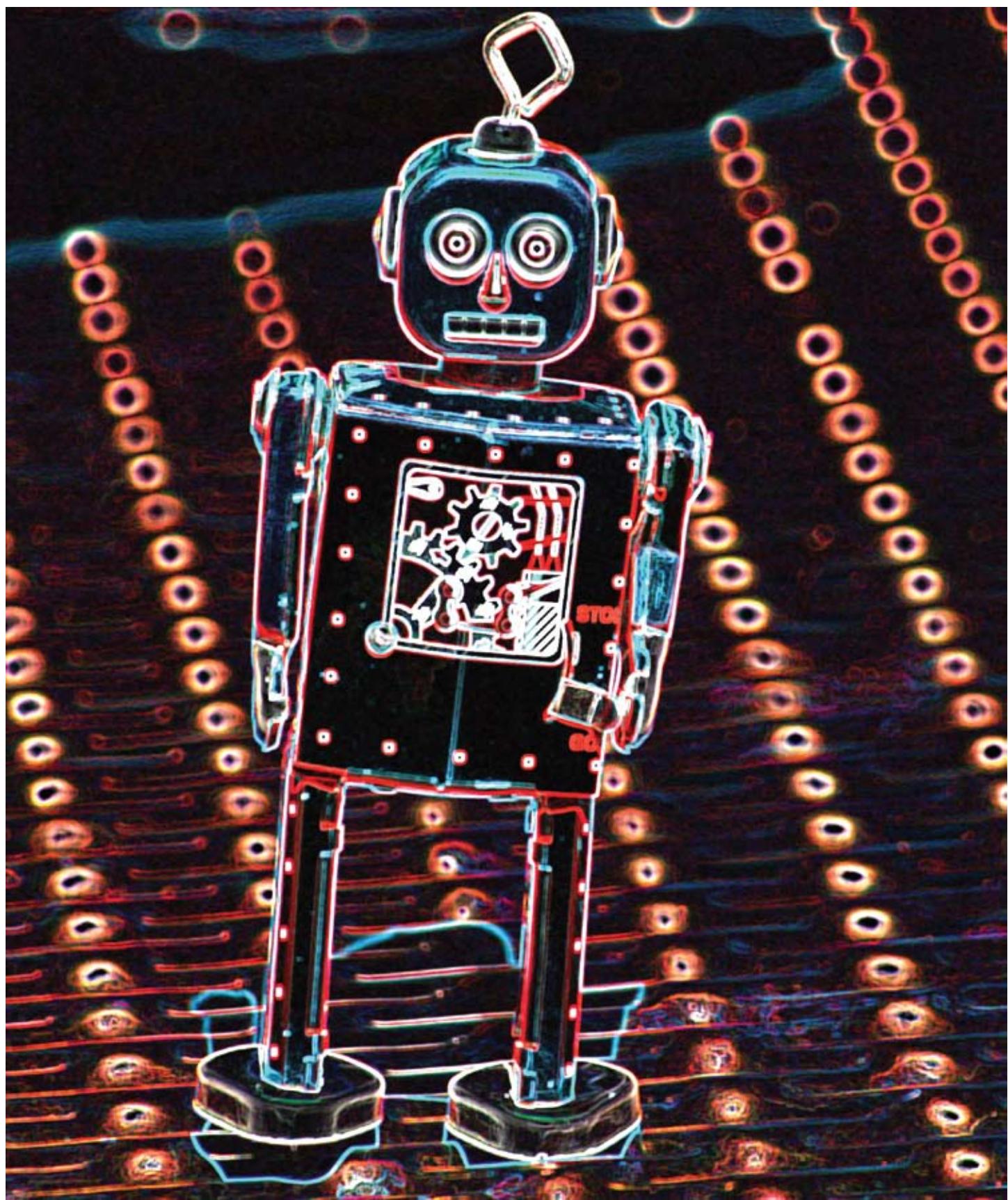
Photographer: Alicia Pizarro





Photographer Above: Ria Kim
Below:Pat Patterson

Photographer: Robert Dorame





SENIOR FINAL WORDS

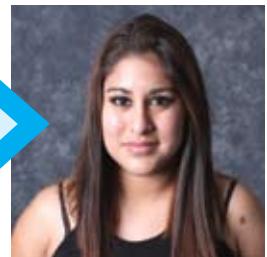
Graduation is always a bittersweet time of year. Losing our Seniors is almost a tiny death. Many Seniors have spent multiple years at Ron Hockwalt and have made the school what it is today. This group of Seniors, especially, have seen and participated in abundant change at our school, bringing RHA to the brink of true innovation and success. Below a few of these Seniors leave their final words for us to remember and build from. We will miss you greatly.



“I would consider myself a person stuck between being optimistic and pessimistic. When I was younger, I would always think negatively. I always thought everything was a bad idea, and I would always be too scared to try anything new. Now, I've learned to think positively and I try to get my friends to think more positively as well. I know now that if you think positive and have a good attitude towards things, then there's usually a good outcome in everything you do. My freshman and sophomore years were the worst. I hated school more than anything, and at the rate I was going I would've been lucky just to graduate from high school. During most of my junior and senior years, I turned everything around. I shocked my family and friends, but in a good way. Now I'm graduating with all the credits I need, and I also know what I want to go to college for. And to think I got all that from thinking positive.”

—Sabrina Thatcher

“When I first came to Ron Hockwalt I was upset. I remember Mrs. McCracken telling me that famous quote; “This is the best time of your life, and you don't even know it.” I thought to myself that she was just saying that to make me feel better. But the reason why she said that was because she found out that I love to draw. Ron Hockwalt is a way of expressing yourself through art. I've been through six high schools and none of them have helped me, but the Ron Hockwalt staff saw my motives for me ending up here. I told Mrs. McCracken “I want to go to college.” She knew I really wanted to pursue my dream to become someone important. She told me I was already important. She has also been helping me to get a \$500 scholarship. I am really thankful for all of Ron Hockwalt's staff who has helped me and really believed in me.”



—Marcy Jimenez



“High school was full of drama, fun, pressure, and pain. I've done a lot of things that I regret during my time in high school, but I've learned to live with it. I think that one of the biggest mistakes I made was the decision to go back to Diamond Bar High School. I wish I had listened to everyone that told me that I should just stay, but I saw myself going back to Diamond Bar as a goal I wanted to reach in life; I wanted to go back and prove to everybody that I was one of the smartest, but in the end I only hurt myself. Now, I really don't know what it is I have to do after high school. I'm lost, and I hope I find out soon.”

—Tiyone Jones

“Everyone in the world chooses what they do in life; everyone decides what path in life they want to follow, whether it be a good route or a bad one. People decide whether they want to be the type of person to just let things go, or be the type of person to just go out and do these things that people don't understand. Honestly, in my point of view, no one's a saint; everyone has a little bit of blood on their hands. But some people just go too far in life and choose those decisions. Moving out here, to the city of Walnut, is when I started to be more of a family and calm person.”



—Sergio Zavala



“In life, or in the journey of life, it seems the easier road is more convenient, but the harder road builds endurance, strength, and optimism.”

—Maya Angelou

“I think what Maya Angelou is saying about courage and decisions is to not be afraid to take a road that's difficult. If it turns out to be a bit much, don't be afraid to change your decision. It's a good way to look at life. You try something, and if you don't like it, try something else. When I moved to Diamond Bar from Los Angeles, I was supposed to go to Diamond Bar High School, but instead I came here, to Ron Hockwalt, due to my credits. When I had made up enough credits to go back, I thought about it, and decided I didn't want to. It was a big deal to my parents and me, but I made that decision and I don't intend on looking back on it.”

—Rosa Becerra

“Hello, my name is Robert Dorame. Well everybody who knows me know I sometimes follow the rules. My quote will be about what I accomplished and proud of what I am. When I started school, I hardly ever got good grades. Most of my grades were F's and U's for unsatisfactory. Now during my whole senior year, the best grades I had gotten so far were 4 A's and 2 B's YYYEEESSSS!!!! The reason why this was so big was because my dad never thought he would see this big of an accomplishment coming from ME. The day he had got my report card in the mail, he told me how proud he was of me and that it was the biggest accomplishment for me yet. So, for all seniors - just think - you're graduating and we are all making our families proud! CLASS OF '09 IS FINALLY DONE!”

— Robert Dorame



“Yes, I am looking forward to the end of my senior year. If I had all the money in the world to go somewhere, I would go somewhere really fun. I would go to my home country and see my aunt and my cousin. My cousin's really cool because he knows all of the things I like to do. He can drive and take me to buy whatever I want to buy. I would go to the mall occasionally to buy the things I want. An alternative place I'd want to go is Japan. I've seen so many great things that were made in Japan. I've been there before, too. Before getting to Thailand, we had to make a pit stop in Japan. It has things sold in Yen currency. In Thailand, the currency is called Baht, and it's approximately forty Baht to a dollar, and one-hundred Yen to a dollar.”

—Matthew Numavong

“Don't worry too much about what people think, for those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind.”

—Dr. Suess

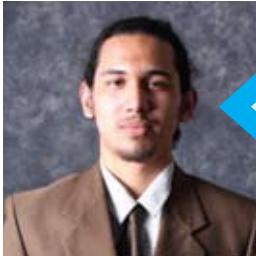
“As a young adult, I've experienced many things a person my age should never have to experience; but I have also had many beautiful experiences as well. When I was a kid, I was always happy and playful, often found running around my neighborhood with my best friend. As I grew up, though, I noticed the world wasn't such a happy-go-lucky place. It was a world filled with war, deceiving people, injustice, and poverty. Upon noticing this, my heart sank, but I knew what I had to do. I had to be optimistic, yet realistic. Of course there are troubles running amok in the world, but would you rather sit and mope around about it, or be happy, think positively, and try to change the things that make this world a bad place? So, I decided to be optimistic, and hope for the best, even through the darkest of times.”

— Maria Espana



All you need to do is gather up our courage and strive for what you believe in and what you want to achieve in the goals you set for your future. You need to just go ahead and endure all the new things that may come at you. The road behind is not looking so great, so instead of going back to make it easier, choose the road that seems dangerous and unsteady. It will probably be a lot harder to endure, and very painful, but definitely worth all the while in the end."

—Ria Kim

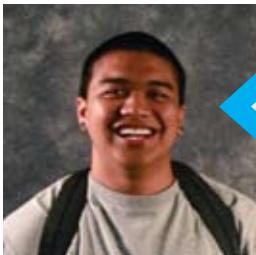
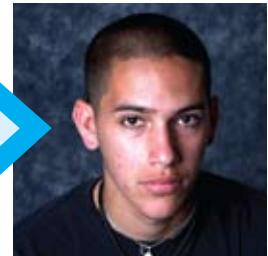


I see myself as an optimist who considers the negative but makes it positive. It's a strange view to explain, but, given the chance, it sparks some of the best conversations I've ever had. No matter what you are, whether it is optimistic or pessimistic, you have to consider why the negatives are bad and why the positives are good. For example, those who see a glass half full appreciate what they have and those who see it half empty savor what is left. So in a sense you're both the same. The point I'm trying to make is to realize everyone is equal no matter how they view something. You just have to open up to their ideas in order to understand."

—Matthew Cajas

After I graduate, I plan to get a job so I can start saving money, and I plan on playing music. I'm going to have an extra long summer because I'll be taking a whole year off of school to focus on my music, and to figure out what I really want to do. Hopefully my band gets signed before I start spending money on college, because I don't want to go to college. I would rather make music for a living; it's what I've always wanted to do."

—Dylan Miller



Many adults through the past couple of years have told me that these years are the very best and I should be holding on to them. I believe that my elders are right about thinking on how I should enjoy every minute that I am spending because I know when I am older I will not have as much time to do the things I want to do. Especially with all my friends, seniors as well, we will not all be around each other anymore, so life will not be the same at all. I am very happy and thankful for the life that I have now but I am ready to face the future."

—Dan Untalan

This is the best time of your life and you don't even know it." My grandmother always tells me, "Student life is the best life." My perspective of a good time in my life would be when all my dreams come true. I believe this period in my life is the most crucial and stressful time in my life. During my senior year I have been very stressed to get all of my credits and make sure that I graduate."

—Sonali



Thinking that the glass is empty leads to a negative world view. Thinking that everything is perfect leads to ignorance. No matter how you see the world, there is always someone there to tell you that the way you think is wrong. There is always someone to disagree and argue with your views and beliefs."

—Parker Winans

TEAMWORK

Team Four



Back Row: Nanci Lucio, Dylan Miller, Brittany Godinez Leane Granado, Raquel Rayas, Ria Kim, Vicente Martinez
Front: Daniel Untalan, Charisma Casteneda, Sabrina Thatcher, Robert Dorame, Rosa Becerra, Wendy Castillo

Team Six



Back Row: Marcy Jimenez, Sergio Zavala, Matthew Numavong, Patric Patterson

Front: Zach Herrera, Belen Soliz, Maria Espa a, Margaret Carol, Parker Winans, Desiray Ramirez, Matthew Cajas

SENIORS

JUNIORS

Team Two



Back Row: Jachin Yi, Fernando Islas, Trey York, David Rodriguez, Kristopher Ortega

Middle: James Rodriguez, Kevin Anderson, Tracy Barrera, Kyle Tassinari, Victor Caballero, Josiah Muniz

Front: Luigi Salazar, Ruben Ramirez, Sara Manuel, Alina Arias, James Castellanos, Dakota Marlow

Team Three



Back Row: Rosa Ramirez, Kaley Salazar, Rebecca Agunaga, Cinthia Perez, Sara Manuel, Sabrina Munoz, Griselda Chavez, Narmin Sawiris

Front: Chris Liu, Tion Chieng, Jin Li, Garrett Johnson, Mohammad Hedayati, Pedro Aldrete, George Alvarez, Ramon Mazon, Brandon Sinkfield, James Calise, Robert Garcia, Carlos Garcia

TEAMWORK

TEAMWORK

Team One



Back Row: Kaylene Oliveira, Leland Michaliszyn, Jordan Stringham, Fizzah Rizvi

Middle: Jazmin Sotelo, Melissa Dorame, Alex Coria, Alicia Pizarro

Front: Joshua Salazar, Maria Velez, Aubrey Coleman, Miguel Vazquez, Alfredo Estrada

Team Five

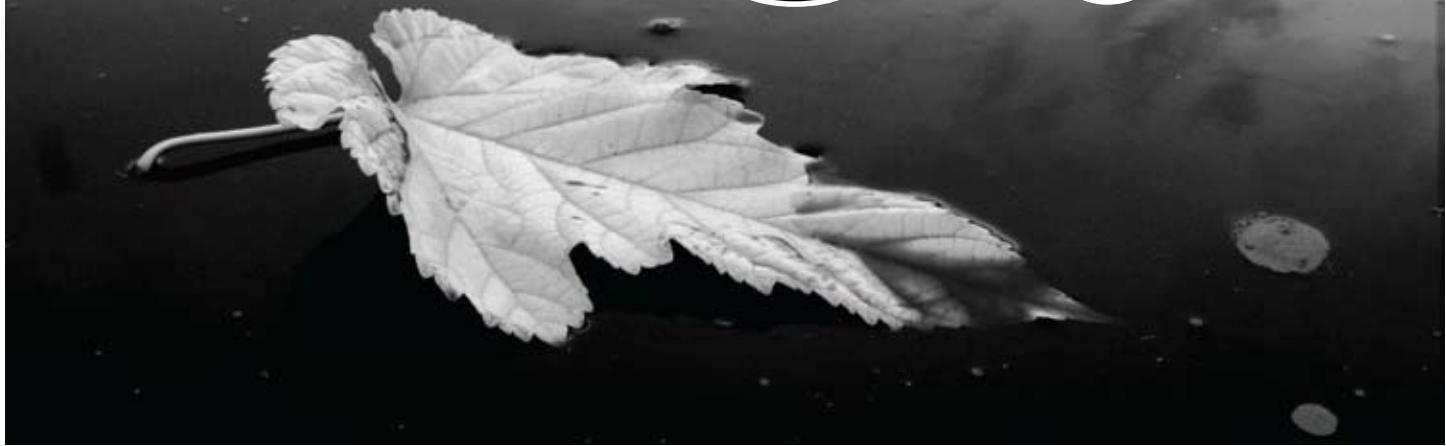


Back Row: Dominic Perez, Kevin Sarmiento, Jaymz Pouchelan, Amanda Centeno

Front: William Beacom, Sterling Lee Hart, Jason Garcia, Dylan Mujica, Melinda Lara

SOPHMORES

Out with the old



"Out with the old; in with the new" are words that not only derive from a contemporary song, but is the rally cry of the entire Modern Era movement that ushered in the 1900's. It is only fitting that in this new century the same rally cry should arise again. Our challenges are different. We are not coping with a new industrialized age, but a new technological age beneath the shadow of global warming. Change is occurring rapidly, and we must have the courage to shape that change and "do the right thing" for the earth and for mankind. Printed below are the personal testaments of some of Ron Hockwalt Academies most thoughtful students.

There are many things in my past that I would like to discard from my past that would help change myself. Some of the things I would discard are the people I thought were my friends. I have learned that many people act like they will always be there for you when you need them to be but when that time comes they leave you stranded in a heartbeat. Another thing I would like to discard from my past are all the fights I had with my sisters. Family is very important to me. There is someone very important to me coming this year. She is the reason I have grown up so much in such a short period of time.

- Anonymous

My biggest challenge this year is knowing that I won't be coming back to high school ever again. I know that right now I just can't wait to get out of here, but pretty soon it's going to be the

one thing I'll miss the most. My mind set isn't ready for college yet. The rest of my life is about to start whether I want it to or not. No matter how scared I am though, I'm excited at the same time. I love not knowing what my future holds for me. I can become anything I want as long as I'm driven enough to get there.

- Sabrina Thatcher

This year was an okay year. It wasn't the best, but I had some good times, I didn't really like sitting in one class for 90 minutes. I think sitting in a class for that long is so boring. I'd rather go 1-6 periods a day. The one good thing about this year was I met some cool new teachers.

- Dillion Nafarrete

What I did like about this school year was that we had block schedule where we had 3 classes a day. That's better than last year and we have grades now. That's better to see where your work stands instead of credit by credit. And I liked that we started later because I get more sleep. What I don't like—we should have an off-campus pass to go eat instead of eating in here at school.

- Brandon Sinkfield

Out with the old, in with the new! That's one thing I'm really looking forward to. One of the things I'm really leaving behind is my old unimportant memories. We all have memories worth remembering as well as some worth never remembering. With

In with the New

a new year about to begin I have many goals ready to achieve them as well. I have my true friends to help me achieve them as well. My school years at RHA has been great since day one of my sophomore years. Sure, not everyone is a great friend at first, but eventually you'll make great friends who you know will help you reach your goals. So, my friends are my "Zoro buddies" forever and ever even after my wedding. So, if my friends read this I hope they know they are my "in with the new," but never my "out with the old."

-Cynthia Perez

My worries for our present financial crisis

I worry that we might not make it out of our economic state because it'll be doing what we have every four years, making it go back up after four years and worsening it for four years. The problem is that when we make it worse, it gets much worse so we end up having to fix a lot more than we had to fix in the past. Our congress always consists of practically the same people because they can stay there re-running their whole lives with no term limits. There aren't many new ideas that come out of them since they're always the same people practically. So since we're not going to have new ideas and just keeping solving our problems the same old way, we just end up working harder every year. Not much progress is going be made doing the same old thing with the same people all the time. Plus, our ideas given to them could easily be rejected if they're new ideas from people who are younger than them. They usually tend to believe only the opinions of people who are older than them. At least that's what it usually seems like.

-Matt Numavong

Old things evolve from one thing to the next, this evolution may come quick or slow. Ideas once thought grand become dull. Lackluster morals once disregarded now shine in new glory. People shed skins of mentality and become new with perspective. Angles to view life become twisted with time and moved by thought and experience. When one comes out from their shell and revelations hit them like meteors from the sky they will not only know change, but feel it.

-Kevin Anderson

If I were to take out the old and bring in the new I would go back to Diamond Bar and get my high school diploma. I would also get rid of all the drama that happened this year. Next I would get rid of the teams and make it a regular high school. The new, I would like to get a good job with benefits and a high paying income. Anyway, I would make the best of the next school year.

-James Calise



Old things should be switched every once in a while to bring in the new every so often. Everything is great for a while but gets outplayed or outdated eventually. New things are there for a reason because something should not stay the same for too long. Change is good because it's gives things the chance to get a breath of fresh air. People's lives could be changed by different things and for the better because something changed instead of having too many of the same things.

-Fernando Islas

Poetry

Replace
by Jordan Stringham

Dirt, ash, dark
Water, fire, light

Not opposites but necessary replacements
So don't cling to your past
But create momentum with forward motion
Out with the old, in with the new



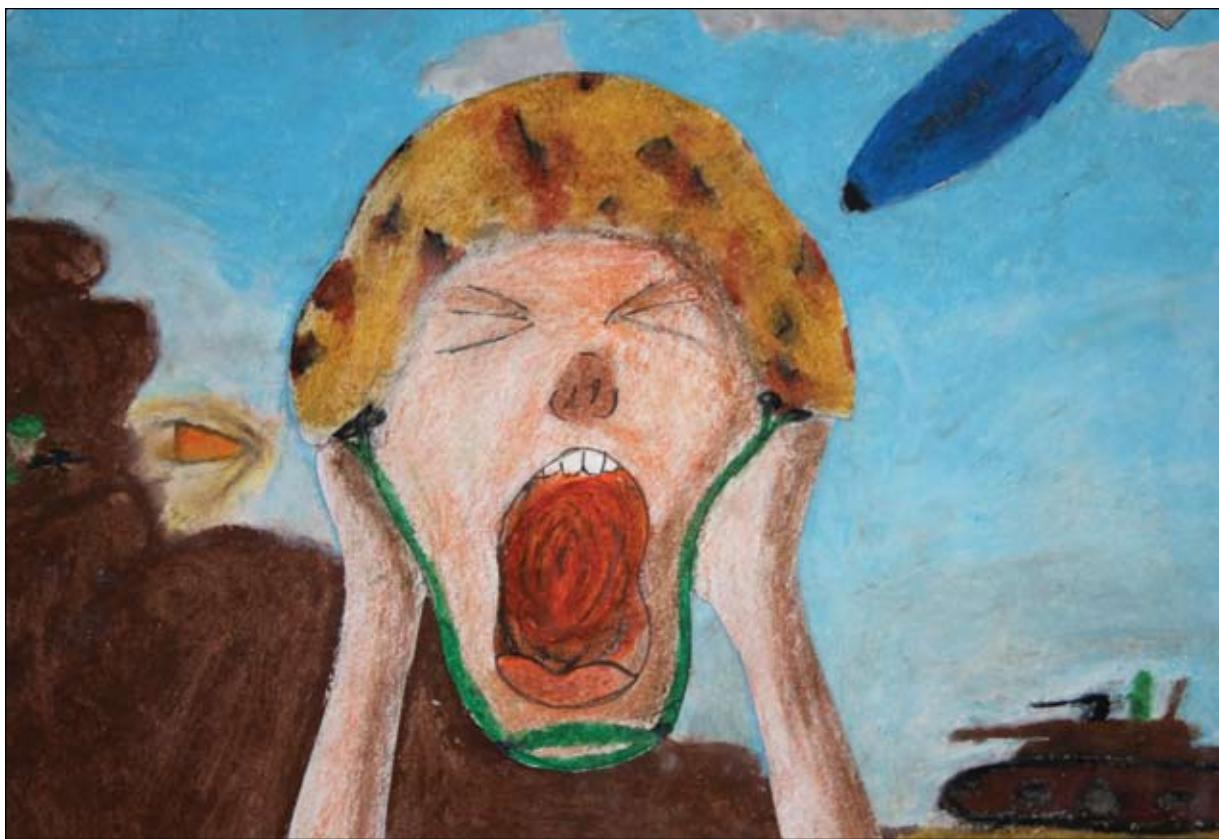
Artist Above: Parker Winans, pastel on paper
Below: Parker Winans, pastel on paper



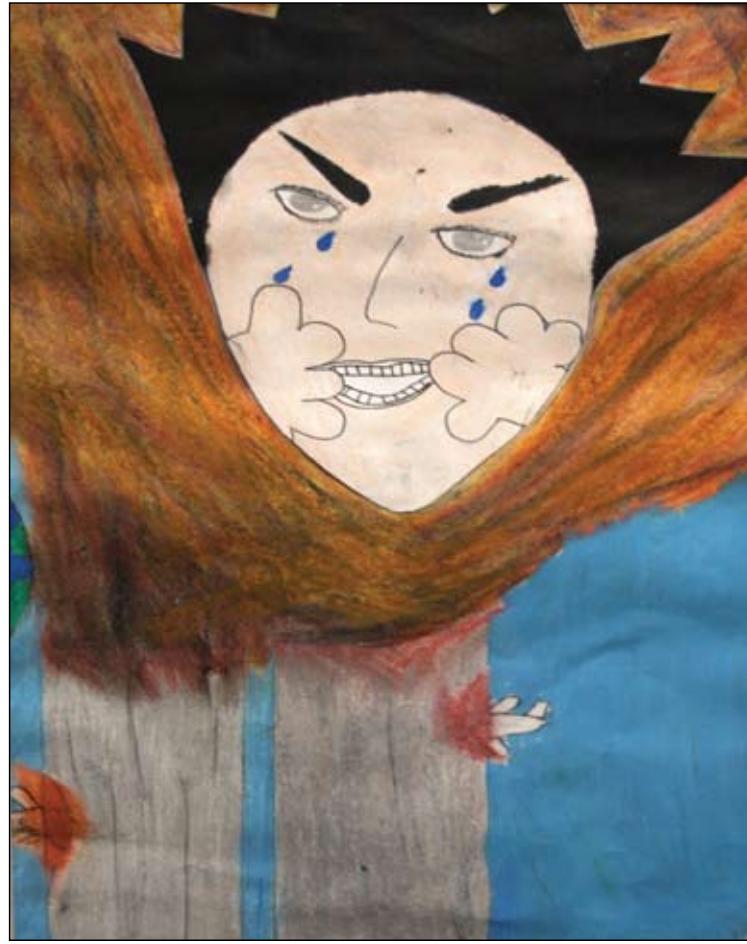


Artist Above: Kaylene Oliveira, pastel on paper
Below: Wayne Jen, pastel on paper





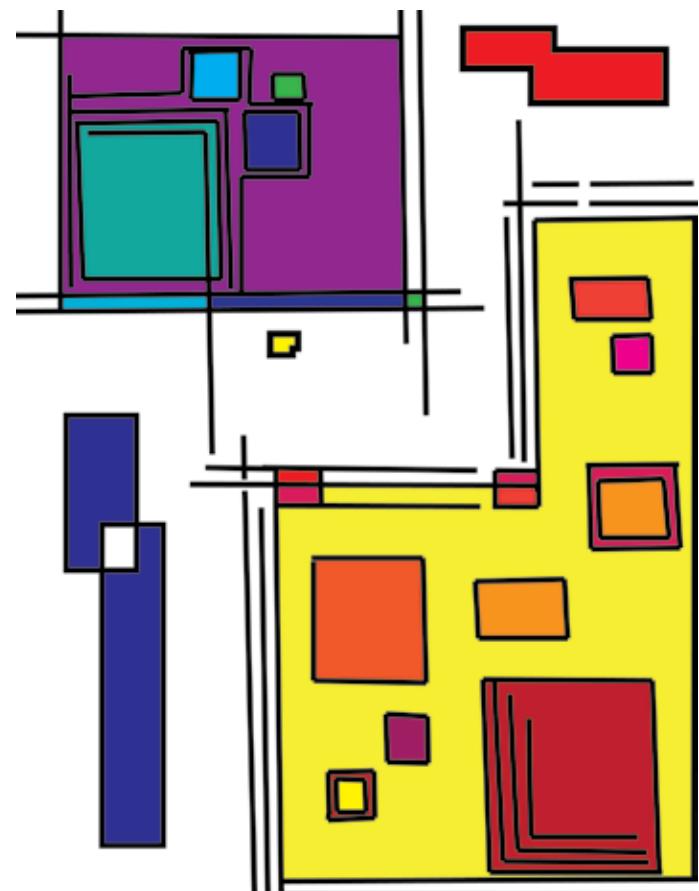
Artist Above: Zach Herrera, pastel on paper
Below: Melinda Lara, pastel on paper



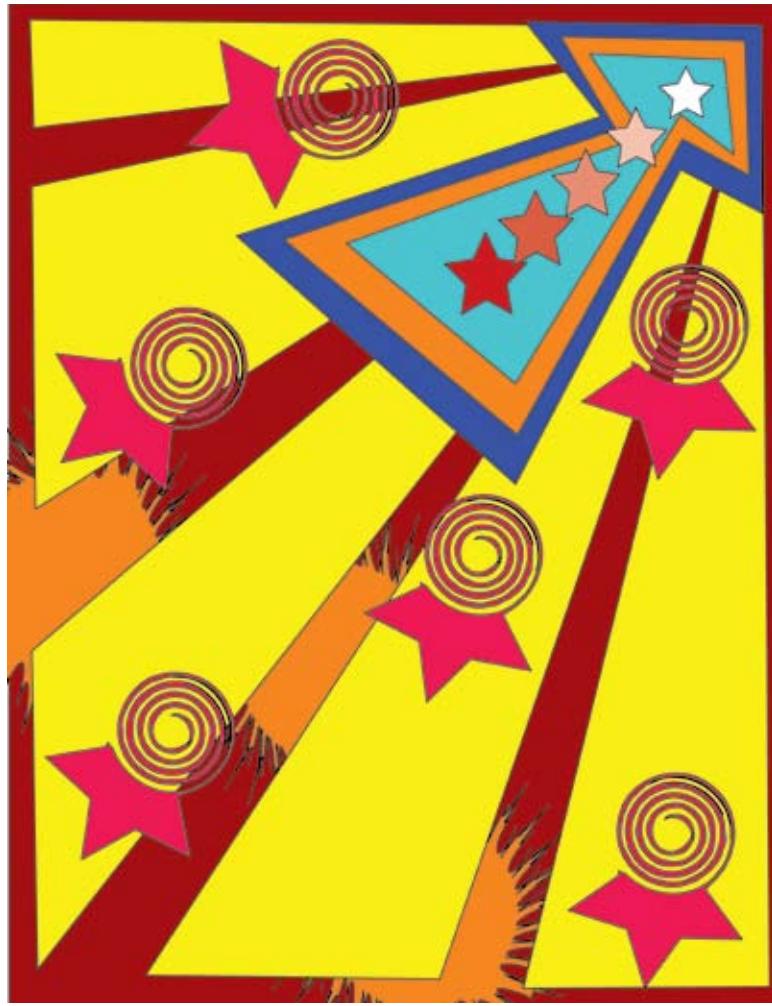


Artist Above: Vince Fernandez, pastel on paper
Below: Matthew Cajas, pencil on paper





Artist Above: Garhett Johnson, graphic design
Right: Ria Kim, graphic design



Artist Above: Garhett Johnson, graphic design
Left: Kaylene Oliveira, graphic design



Matthew Cajas

A little background on myself, My name is Matthew Brian Cajas. I have 4 siblings, an older half sister Corine, and older brother Andrew, a little brother Joseph, and a little sister Kaitlyn. I came here to Ron Hockwalt Academies when it was Del Paso halfway through my junior year because I was behind a few credits and I needed to make them up A.S.A.P. I was dead set on being able to graduate, so in odyssy lab I was really burning through both subjects being World History and English. What inspired me to write was just listening to music, Shakespeare, and reading the first book I ever actually liked. When I write I honestly never know what it will turn out to be about but I feel I get the words from the atmospheres around me or just songs that were in my head. I feel I write especially well when I just finished a book, song, or even a drawing. Its great to have something of reference that you can relate to. When you have that foundation for a poem or anything to be written off of it makes the rest so much easier then trying to actually think of a words to use. I feel everyone should express the way they feel through some artistic way, whether it be performing arts, music, writing, or drawing. It feels good to know you did something instead of just sitting around, eating, and sleeping.

"If you see it, draw it; If you read it, analyze it; If you hear it, interpret it; and prove them wrong"
--Matthew Cajas

"Always express yourself passively to enable others to not only respect it artistically but to let them literally see another perspective."



This is my political statement

This is not concrete

Lacking in foundation

Lacking in Authority

Those who stare and read this

May feel they understand

But I can tell you this

Wait a year, come back

Look at it again, its meaning changed

Yet it still fits any situation

Now why you may ask?

Because all you get

Is the feeling of the meaning

This picture is merely a representation
so when you feel you know my meaning

Remember, you'll never be right

Because your never wrong

Never seeing

Only feeling

Ticking Clock

Time, an everlasting element
 Determining what stays and what goes
 The heavy pendulum ticking away
 To the rhythm of a heart
 Hunting all that is odd
 Lifeless, and dusty
 And with a tick of the
 Clock brings both the death of one
 But the birth to a new future
 Its ever watchful eyes
 Hover over its creations
 Waiting for that next tick
 To begin yet again...

Child's Play

Isn't it funny
 On day one
 Playing with your first toy
 Your adrenaline rushing
 Hands not knowing what to do
 Running around everywhere
 And its time to put it away
 Yet you find your hands clenching
 Never to put it away
 Next day comes around
 Isn't it funny
 You want a brand new toy
 Same model
 Just one more decal
 Just one new part
 Just something new
 Because your "old toy" isn't great
 You had no memories with it
 You just want to get rid of the old
 And find something new.

Just

This is just a dream
 Nothings gonna happen
 Everything will be okay
 it should get better soon
 This is just a dream
 ever so slowly
 The darkness envelopes the sky
 Twisted visions appear
 Fears coming into focus

This is just a nightmare
 And I need help
 Help me break free
 Run away from it all
 This is just a nightmare
 This is just a dream
 This is just reality
 This is just
 Just in every way

Memories

Ain't it funny how time flies
 being able to finally say
 "remember when we"
 Wishing you were back to the good times
 Wishing you could stay young forever
 Forever to enjoy your time with your friends
 tearing up at the love that grew
 Amongst all your friends
 Feeling like Judgement Day is nearing
 hearing all the clocks ringing in your head
 The drums final beat
 The bass' Final note
 ...Now the last bell rings
 Ringing to the memories

Tears

The painful knowledge of a hurt friend
 Watching them cry and not knowing how to
 help
 So you sit and pretend everything will be
 alright
 knowing that you can't say for sure
 Knowing they know as well
 What's to do for a position like this
 Do you cry with them, show humility
 Do you lie, show an inhuman facade
 Or do you just offer that shoulder to cry on
 In all truth it seems like none of these work
 Whether it be for tears for fears
 Or tears for a lost toy
 They just don't seem to cut it
 So were left hoping what we do effects the
 other in a positive way
 And knowing later in our shelter
 We in turn cry out our little hearts

“WITHOUT A SINGLE WORD”



Maira Rodriguez was the winner of a district-wide speech contest. High School Students from across the Walnut Valley Unified School District participated. Her moving speech about her “hero” is here in its entirety.

Have you ever had a teacher open your eyes to something you could be destined to be? Well, that's what happened to me my freshman year here at Ron Hockwalt Academies when I was enrolled in photography with Mr. Foley. I came in thinking like an ignorant person. I said things to myself like, “WOW, big deal, what a dumb class. You pick up a camera and take a picture, right?” Later, I discovered that photography is one of my best subjects and something I want to pursue after high school. Mr. Foley has taught me through the years that photography isn't just taking pictures: it's life within your own vision.

Mr. Foley has taught me it's okay to be yourself and express what you feel in what you love the most. For me, he has taught me how to express my true feelings through the lens of a camera. And the beauty of it all is it's without a single word. Most people would say, “How do you express yourself through a picture?” And my answer to that is: you know when you yourself pick up a camera and make your own vision. I admire Mr. Foley's cour-



Photograph by Maira Rodriguez

age to come into a class everyday and teach students he doesn't know outside of class to make a picture into their own. He even has trust in us. The trust has been there the second we stepped into class. To know that a teacher has trust in you from day one is amazing to me. It's a feeling I can not explain. Its almost like when you have a baby, you automatically connect and trust it with all your heart not knowing how it will turn out in the end.

“IT'S LIFE WITHIN YOUR OWN VISION”

When I pick up a camera and capture pictures it's my way of blocking the world from taking a peek into my real life. It's someone else looking in. Instead of letting them know my true feelings I express it with a single picture. I can't explain how much I love when someone else looks at your picture and tilts their head to the side almost like a dog when they don't recognize a sound and try to understand what it is. It's the same for my pictures; someone else is thinking, “What could this girl be trying to explain to the world?” Mr. Foley has given me the courage and knowledge to want to be something bigger and better than most people expect me to be. And for that I say, Mr. Foley you are my hero. ■

Ready to be Successful



My goal is to major in Psychology and eventually become a counselor. I plan to go to college and I know I will succeed. I will not stop trying until I get the education I need to pursue my goals in life. I've been in the foster system since I was thirteen years old, and even that has not stopped me from getting to where I am now.

Being a foster youth taught me many things. One thing I learned throughout my years as a foster youth is, if you really want to succeed, you will succeed. A reality in this world from my point of view is that education alone is the key to success. I know for me to get where I want to be will be a difficult challenge, but I am willing to take that challenge. A month from now I will be on my own. I know that there will be difficult times ahead, but that is not going to stop me.

I used to be afraid of having to be on my own, but I am not anymore. I knew it was going to happen sooner or later. In the past I thought I was not going to be able to go to college. However, many teachers would keep telling me that I have a potential and could do it. They saw a capability in me that I could not see in myself. I have a father that does not believe in me. He always made me feel hopeless and useless, which is something I did not feel and see in myself.

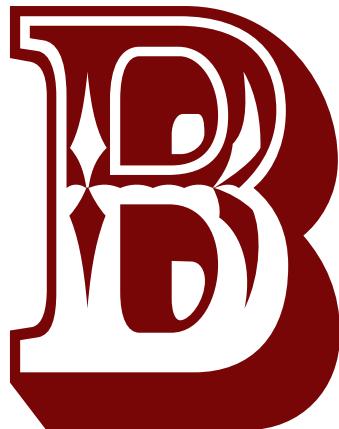
Maybe it was meant to be this way. I believe everything happens for a reason. All those moments I questioned make sense to me now. It was those moments that got me to where I am today. I am proud of how life is turning out for me. I want everyone who didn't believe in me to see me five years from now. In five years I see myself as a professional Psychologist.

While in the foster system, I was required to see a Psychologist for four years, but they did not do a very good job. The Psychologist just recommended medication and never tried to connect with me. I believe I need someone to talk to, someone to understand what I felt at

those times. They did not do that. I, in turn, want to be able to do that. I want to be that person to connect with children in need, to be someone to understand them, to listen to them, to care for them. I want them to see for themselves that everything is possible if you truly believe in yourself.

I might not be the smartest person, but I believe I am smart. I am smart to realize that education will help me change everything and help those I want to help. I may have lost my family, but I have not lost hope for myself. I still have dreams that I wish to chase. I am truly excited for the future ahead of me. I am ready to be successful.

“Everything happens for a reason.”



BEST OF THE BEST

The votes are in! Seniors chose who they thought were the "Best of the Best" in the class of 2009.

Best Smile



Charisma Casteneda

Best Dressed



Ria Kim

Biggest Flirt



Tiyone Jones

Class Clown



Dylan Miller

Most likely to Succeed



Vicente Martinez



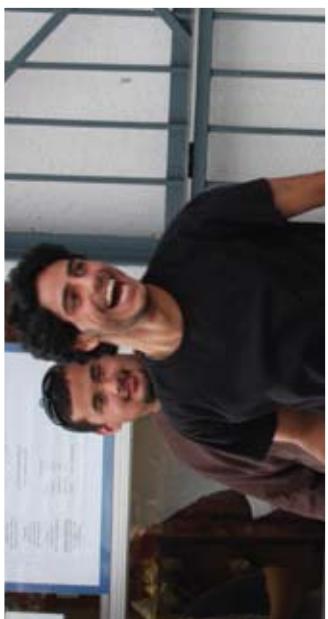
Rosa Becera

Cutest Couple

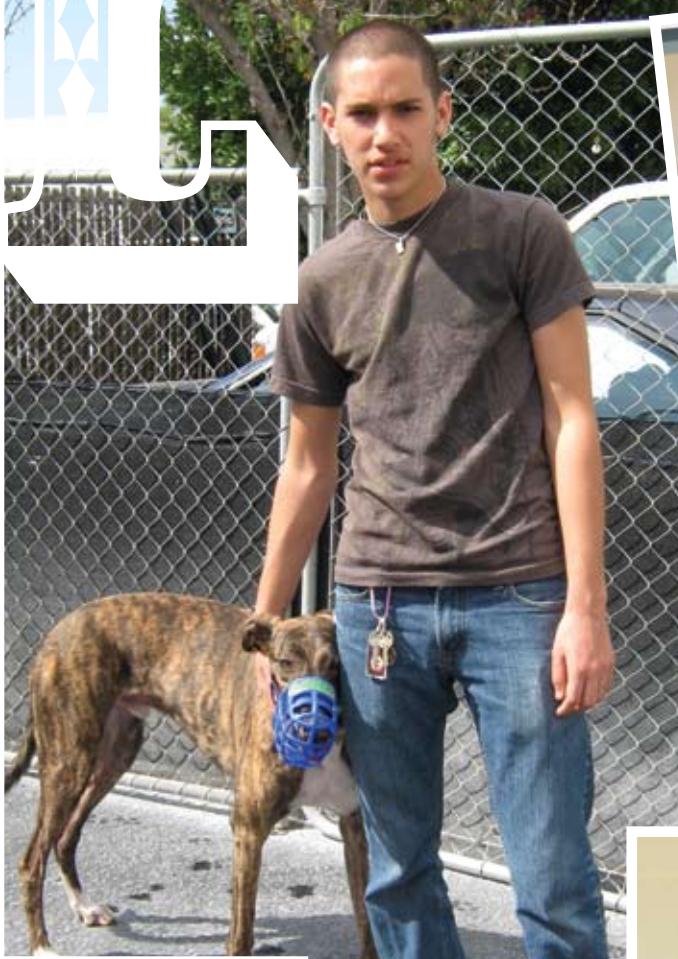


**Robert Dorame and
Brittany Godinez**

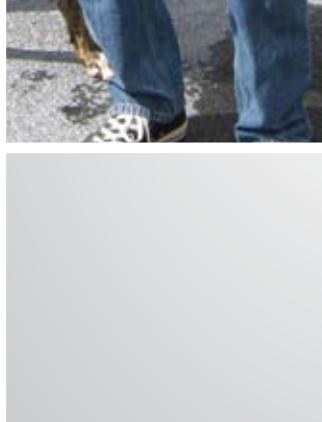
STAR TESTING BBQ



W LADERSHIP



Kayley Salazar, Brittany Godinez, Dylan Miller, Sara Manuel, Kim Preble, Maria España, Jose Hernandez



PUBLICATIONS



Richard Root, Kevin Anderson, Dorian Thais, Fernando Islas, Nanci Lucio, Jordan Stringham, Jeff Nicoll, Sabrina Thatcher, Patric Patterson, Matthew Cajas, Matthew Numavong





Steve Carr, Jim Talbert, Jeff Nicoll, Adam Fujimoto, Sue McCracken, Dan Priest, Chris Romaine, Chris Torres, Kim Preble, Paulette Feeney, Nan Kirkeby, Bill Foley, Connie Barros, Linda Armes, Richard Root, Beatrice Lomelli, Stacy Woodward, Becky Chavez, Remi Hitomi, Emma Correl, Bonnie Sprague, Lisa McIntire

ADRENALINE

Months of preparation, years of fine-tuning skills, and endless self discovery. That is how you prepare for a mixed martial arts fight. During your training you shed blood, sweat and tears (in the most literal sense of the cliché). You spend every waking moment contemplating the outcome of the upcoming competition. The day before you think, "Could I have done anything better, different or with more heart and passion? Did I do my BEST?" Then comes the defining moment: the day of the fight. You weigh in, you discuss the game-plan, warm-up and follow all of it with lots of stretching. Then the man in the cage announces in a booming voice, "IN THE BLUE CORNER, FIGHTING OUT OF MARTIAL ART INNOVATIONS, JORDAN MASSON", and I feel tired, weak, limp, and nervous as I approach

the cage. A wide spectrum of people are cheering for me, from my mom, dad, two brothers, and close friends to complete strangers having a good time, but I hear nothing more than a soft murmur, because my adrenaline has begun to kick in. I'm

**"I SEE MY OPPONENT
THROUGH WHAT I
CAN ONLY DESCRIBE
AS A TUNNEL."**

shaky, but no longer weak; I feel everything. Every bead of sweat, every difference in temperature as I enter a new pocket of air, every word my coaches say reverberates throughout my mind, like they are being spoken through a loud-

speaker. The referee goes through some quick rules, we touch gloves, and then FIGHT! My adrenaline has reached a height that I have not yet experienced. I see my opponent through what I can only describe as a tunnel, every brief pause is equivalent to a lifetime of suspense. We trade blows, but I don't feel a thing other than my fist meeting flesh.

By Jordan "Masson" Stringham





MMA

INTERVIEW: BRUCE BUFFER

Bruce Buffer is an announcer for the UFC. He gave an interview with Ron Hockwalt Independent Study student Morgan Masson. Bruce shares several insights on his career, the UFC and the future of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA).

Vantage: Where did you get your blackbelt from and where is it located?

Bruce: Actually, my black belt is located in my closet. Just kidding, when I was much younger, my black belt was awarded to me by Joey Escobar and his gym is located in Malibu.

How did you get into announcing for the UFC?

I was my brother Michael's manager while he was an announcer for the UFC and after his association with the UFC stopped I convinced them to make me the announcer. After I co-starred as myself in Friends I convinced them that I should be the permanent announcer.

Where do you see the future of MMA?

I see MMA becoming bigger than the NFL world-wide within about five years. But mainly because of the UFC. The UFC is the brand that everyone recognizes, just like when you refer to tissues you say Kleenex or when you make a copy you say Xerox, so UFC is kind of like a tissue or a copier as far as MMA is concerned.

What is your favorite thing to say when your announcing?

I love opening the show with "we are live!" But my favorite thing is when I'm introducing a champion of the world and I get to build up to where I say his name, such as saying, "the reigning, defending, welterweight champion of the world!" Up to a crescendo and than an explosion. That's pretty much my favorite.

What is Buffer Enterprises and how did it get started?

Buffer Enterprises is a company that I got started to run a few of my business endeavors, because I've been an entrepreneur my whole life. It was also mainly to handle the direction of my brother Michael's career. And also taking the five word phrase, "Lets get ready to rumble" to where it is today with all the video games, toys, and all the licensing and projects that have been built around it like the recent "ready to rumble game" that we came out with a month ago for the Nintendo Wii.

So do you have any advice for a young entrepreneur?

Basically, focus, believe in yourself, follow your dreams, but have a plan and write it down, and stick to it and don't let anybody tell you that you can't achieve what your setting out to achieve because you're the one who wants to do it.

How has martial arts had an impact on your life, like has it made you a better person?

Martial arts taught me self-discipline, physical conditioning, and a mind-set that taught me to stay calm in very violent and exciting situations. I would recommend martial-arts to everyone as a form of discipline, and it's not for beating people up; it's to learn how to defend yourself and be offensive as well as defensive.

Concerning the general public, do you think your voice is your identity?

I think that depends on the beholder. Obviously, yes, in my opinion, it is one of the ways to identify me. People recognize me by my voice and that means that they appreciate my voice and that's a major complement.

Is there anything you might want to say that I left out?

I just wish that all the young kids of America were all like you. As adventurous and industrious as you're showing me to be. Because if we had more kids like you then we would have a much better world.

SO DEVOUT

A Vantage interview with Chad Albers

Chad Michael Albers is the lead guitar and vocals in his band. In fact, he's his own band. It's just Chad and his guitar. Ever since March of 2005, Chad has been writing his own songs and music. He hasn't been wasting time either. Chad plays at a lot of shows and has actually sold some CD's. He calls his band "So Devout". The word "devout" means a person who is dedicated to their religion. In other words, he is a devout Christian.

Personally, I have always loved Chad's music. His song writing abilities are amazing. He also has done a few cover songs from Gym Class Heroes, Metro Station, Leona Lewis, Stevie Wonder, Mayday Parade, Akon, etc. I always end up preferring his version of the cover songs he does rather than the originals. He mainly writes songs that have to do with love. It's really easy to relate to his songs, and that's only one of the many reasons I listen to his music.

Q's and A's

*who influences you?

- Jesus Christ
- mayday Parade
- kellinquinn
- nevershoutnever!
- a rocket to the moon
- the scene aesthetic
- the maine
- acceptance
- forever the sickest kids
- paramore and so on...

*what about your major influences affect you?

- lyrical creativity, song writing ability as far as melodies, dynamics, musical difference/ability.

*what genre of music do you consider yours to be?

- acoustic.

*how long has so devout been around?

- since march of '05.

*what is your favorite song to play and why?

- "don't let this go". I feel like it shows my influences the most and is the easiest song to relate to out of the songs I've written.

*what's your favorite thing when you're performing in a show?

- attendance. The bigger the crowd the happier I am. the more people that haven't heard me the better, it spreads my music. And then hanging out after with everyone.

*do you ever plan on playing other types of music in the future?

- I have so many musical influences that certain songs convince me to pursue other types of music. I would like for all of my influences to be evident in my songs.

*where are you hoping your music will take you in the future?

- as far as I can go. I have high hopes but I like to stay realistic and enjoy playing music while I still have the opportunity.





Forging a new way to fight.

EA Phenomic A German EA studio division, BattleForge is a great new way to play a RTS (real time strategy) game. As gamerradar.com says "they've plucked the heart from Magic: The Gathering, stitched it into the muscular torso of Warcraft III, then attached the limbs and head of Warcraft."

If you have never played a game, don't worry. It also has a huge community meaning if your not a such a great strategist you can call upon other gamers in the community to help you finish the game and teach you new strategies. This is a game full of fun new ideas like playing with a "deck." You make your own deck or use what they give you and decide which cards you like better or which you could do with out. Its your choice, which means you need to build a good strategy and know which cards are good and which would make you lose the game. That still may be a down side for beginning players out there, but it's not all that hard to grasp once you're actually thrown into action.

The decks come in 4 different elements, such as Fire, Nature, Shadow, and Frost. Each have there own special attributes. For example, Frost is best for defense and can use spells to instantly heal towers and contains units



that bear shields to fend themselves from attacks. On the other hand, Fire is much more of an aggressive deck, using there spells to instantly make a hole in a wall to rush in and take control of the fight. You can also buy "BattleForge points" to buy booster packs or "tomes." Gold is used to mainly host auctions for cards you'd want to sell and upgrades on cards.

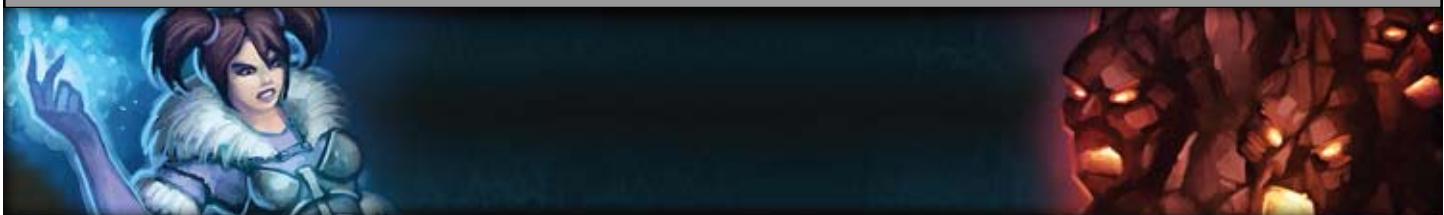
In this game you can also "level" your deck by upgrading cards by using gold and an upgrade card to enhance the cards abilities, or by having duplicates of the card to add to its "charges" (number of uses before it has to recharge.) Its a great feature, considering it provides a variety of game play styles other then having just one solid foundation which would eventually becoming boring.

The variety of this games Spells, Units, and Buildings is what makes BattleForge so interesting and fun.

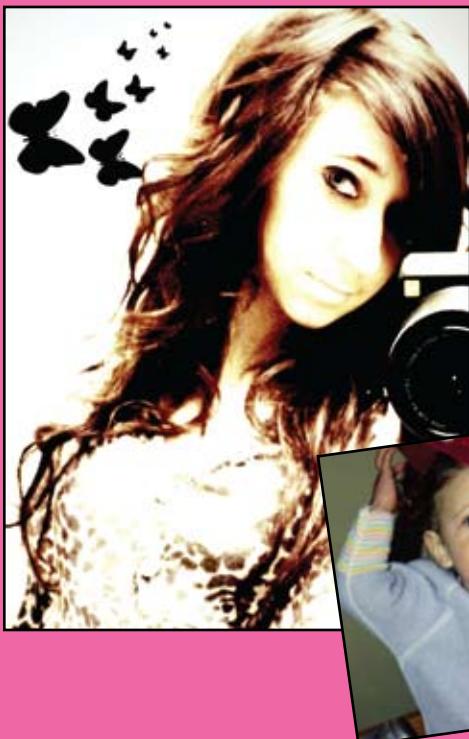
It is great to see other gamer's tactics and the freedom to use what you personally like.

In the end I give this game a 9.5 out of 10. Its a great game for RTS fans everywhere, but I feel if they really wanted more people to join and actually have fun, they should have made a few more tutorials for new-coming players. All in all, I feel its a great game. If you ever buy this game, feel more then welcome to ask me for help.

-Matthew Cajas



To Our Dear Daughter
Sabrina.



We know high school has been a challenge and you have worked really hard. You have accomplished quite a bit this year. I remember you in your bike helmet "head-butting" the sheep in the yard! Time has flown by and I have seen you change so much. The one thing that hasn't changed is you always wanting Ravioli for lunch! You have opened your heart and given your love to the children in the day-care. You have become a very good photographer and could take an awesome picture anywhere!

All joking aside, you have become a beautiful, talented, and loving human being. I truly enjoy the times we've sat and talked. I have learned a lot from you in the moments that we have shared. A few years ago, I almost lost the chance to see this day and I'm so grateful that I'm here. I know you will go far in life; just keep your goals in sight. We love you more than anything and couldn't be more proud! Happy Graduation Day YEAH 2009!!! We love you with all our hearts!

*Love you More,
Mom, Dad, And Gaby
oxoxox*

Matt Cajas : Artist Extraordinaire

The first words I head from Matt's mouth was "Cajas." I said "Excuse me?" He repeated again "Cajas." Then he let out a large laugh. I was asking each student their names for the first day of Publications. Matt had to be different. And he has always been. To the point of genius. One day I asked Matt if he could write a poem for the magazine. I continued speaking with Mr. Nicoll. Five minutes later I had a tap on my shoulder. I looked at Matt. He said, "Here it is." I said, a little puzzled, "Here is what?" "The poem." I thought, "No way can a person, let alone a student, write a poem worth anything in five minutes. I was stunned by the time I had reached the bottom of the page. Matt had done it. The poem was published with almost no edits. That was when I realized that Matt was an accomplished writer. Later, I would see his artwork, name unseen, and say "I like this piece the best." It was Matt's. Again and again. Our publication class meets at the end of the day. After the bell rang it was always Matt who lingered an hour longer to complete any task we asked of him. We save the hard stuff for Matt. He was a natural choice for our lead position: Managing Editor. Not only is he accomplished but his personality is one that appears to mesh with everyone. Everyone likes Matt. This is how I will always remember Matt. I hope this is how he remember himself, too, because if he does he will go a far way - gracefully.

--Richard Root, Publications Advisor



*Congrats from
Advanced Technical Institute*

Great work on the Magazine!

