

# *The* PANTHER *press*

Volume 100, Issue 3

Modesto High School

February 2013



# The Panther Press

18 H Street  
Modesto, CA 95351

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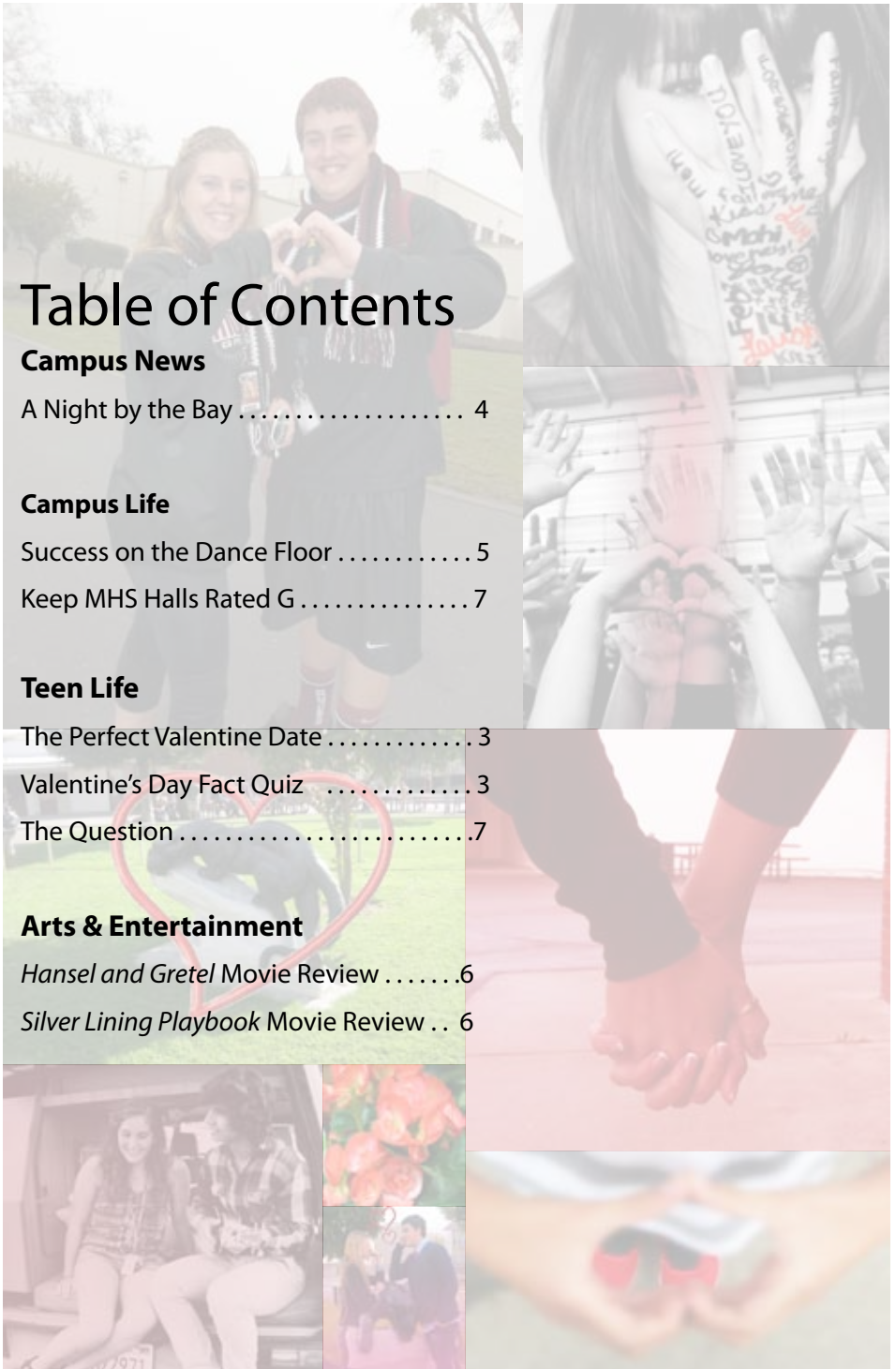
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Cover banner designed by Scott Mitchell.  
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The Panther Press is created for and by students of Modesto High School. The goal is to bring news to MHS and acknowledge ideas, events, and individuals on campus in an unbiased and professional manner. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the journalism staff and not of Modesto High School or Modesto City Schools. This publication can also be accessed at <http://modesto.monet.k12.ca.us>. Letters may be mailed to MHS or submitted to Kerrie Glenn's mailbox in the main office.



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Cartoon by: Eric Noeun

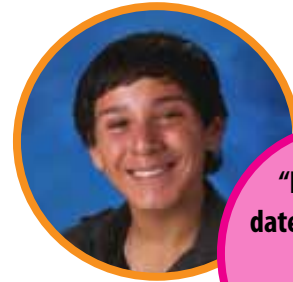
# The *Perfect* Valentine Date



"I'd go to a restaurant and have a nice meal."  
Ruobing Zhu, 9th



"Chaperone my sister and her beau so there is no funny business."  
John Souza, 10th



"I'd go on a date with Emma Stone."  
Jonathan Cabello, 9th



"Go to Disneyland with a guy friend."  
Emma Austin, 10th



"I'd probably stay home, watch chick flicks and eat chocolate."  
Aileen Hinh, 12th



"I would like a lot of chocolate."  
Natella Baliaouri, 11th

## Valentine's Day Fact Quiz

**1**

How many cards are exchanged on Valentine's Day?

- A. 900 thousand
- B. 100 million
- C. 150 million
- D. 1 billion

**3**

Which country has *two* holidays similar to Valentine's Day?

- A. Jordan
- B. Japan
- C. Oman
- D. Finland

**5**

What is the ratio of single men to single women who are in the same age group?

- A. 119:100
- B. 0:200
- C. 100:150
- D. 50:55

**2**

How big was the largest chocolate bar mosaic, made in Switzerland?

- A. 9 ft., made with 500 chocolate bars
- B. 16 ft., with 1500 chocolate bars
- C. 100 feet, made with 30,000 chocolate bars

**4**

Different colored roses have different meanings. What do yellow, pink, and red mean respectively?

- A. sweetheart, love, and friendship
- B. friendship, sweetheart, and love
- C. love, friendship, and sweetheart

**6**

In Germany, what vegetable is used to determine one's possible future spouse?

- A. Onion
- B. Okra
- C. Broccoli
- D. Tomato

ANSWERS: 1.C 2.B 3.B 4.A 5.A 6.B



# A Night by the Bay

## Formal is Fantastic, Timing Could Be Better

By Samuel Lee

This year's Modesto High winter formal was held Saturday January 12. The theme, "A Night by the Bay" was inspired by the city of San Francisco. The leadership class worked hard to recreate a San Francisco feel within the boys' gym with decorations such as the Golden Gate Bridge made out of balloons.

According to the leadership class, 271 students attended this year's winter formal. Attendance has dropped off in the last two years. Last year's formal, "Cirque de La Danz," sold over 300 tickets. Two years ago, a total of about 370 tickets were sold.

While the timing is not the only factor in attendance shifts, some students feel it played a role. Junior Gabby Brow said, "I think attendance this year has dropped because the timing was bad. It was the Saturday after we got back from break. The permission slips were also due before break, so if you forgot to turn one in, then you just couldn't go, which I think was the problem for a lot of people."

Despite the lower attendance, a total of about \$8,000 of revenue was brought in with a total of about \$3,000 in costs.

Historically, winter formal has been held around November. However, this year, formal was pushed back until after winter break exchanging dates with the Sadie Hawkins Dance, which. This was the first year permission slips were due for formal before break.

The student body generally did not received the date change and permission slip deadline positively.

Senior Kyle Klein said, "The fact that it was after break was extremely annoying because of the rush for permission slips and then the rush to prepare when you finally got back to school."

Junior Jeanah Kim said, "Since it was planned for the weekend back from break, it made it feel like everything was rushed."

Junior Austin Mendes said, "I think the timing could be better. I mean seriously, you just spent the last three weeks hanging out with your friends and now they throw winter formal on right after it ends. I think it would have been better if it was in November because let's be honest, November sucks."

Ultimately, formal was a smashing success despite the awkward timing.

# Success on the Dance Floor By Noelle Souza

The girls' hairdos were perfectly styled and the men's suits were appropriately worn. The MHS Winter Formal 2013, A Night by the Bay, occurred on January 12 and, according to the various students in attendance, was a complete success.

The decorations were representative of the Golden Gate Bridge and included draperies and lights strung from the ceiling.

Junior Kelly Wesley said, "I absolutely loved the decorations! I felt like I was actually walking across the bridge as I entered the dance. I

**"Leadership did a great job..."**  
-Kelly Wesley, 11

also loved the cutout of the city on the wall by the snacks. Leadership did a great job!"

Senior Alek Pedron said, "The

atmosphere was awesome. This was the best formal I've been to."

Many students took pictures with the ABC photographers. The background for the pictures was a purple color with the Golden Gate Bridge as the focal point.

Overall the dance was very successful, but students also had some complaints as well, particularly with the music selection.

Sophomore John Souza said, "The music was kind of lame. The bass was too strong and loud and the music was just terrible in general. I was really disappointed with the quality. I wished that they would play more current music without the

bass so that we would be able to thoroughly enjoy it to the best of our ability."

**"This was the best formal I've been to..."**  
-Alek Pedron, 12

Sophomore Ally Munson said, "I wish that the DJ would just play one song all the way through without constantly interrupting it. It really took away from the fun of dancing to the song."

The MHS Winter Formal was a dance that will be remembered by all who attended. It's decorations were particularly memorable.

Despite the fact that there were a few minor complaints about the music selection, overall, it was apparent that the students had a great time, and it is certain that they will participate in and be a part of many more formals to come in the future.



**John Souza and Aly Munson**



**Kelsi Brink, Tryn Brown, Gianna Cipponeri, Reese Dorrepaal, Gabby Brow, Jeanah Kim, Morgan Negele, and Maeve Derouin**



## HANSEL AND GRETEL, NEW TWIST ON A CLASSIC

by Shelby Willis

Putting a twist on a classic children's story to make a movie can be quite a challenging task, especially with today's standards of action-packed movies based on beloved comic book heroes to actual people.

In this version of the classical tale of two children, Hansel and Gretel are forced to leave their cabin in the middle of the night due to flee a mysterious danger. Their father guides them through the forest and tells them to wait for him to return soon. The children wait for hours, and to their disbelief, they realize that he has abandoned them in the forest. Hungry, the children go searching for food when they stumble upon a house made of

candy and sweets. Much like the classic tale, a witch lures them into the house and forces Hansel to eat while Gretel becomes a slave to the witch.

The movie then departs from the original plot line. Gretel attacks the witch after she tries to cook Hansel in her stove. Gretel frees Hansel and they kill the witch. The movie then flashes forward, showing the journey the siblings take as witch hunters. After about 20 years, the siblings are hired to find 11 children that have been kidnapped but soon realize that they are on the greatest quest of their lives. A powerful witch,

"Viewers will be at the edge of their seats..."

in her endeavor to acquire immortality, seeks to tell the children of their family secret. It will take the siblings, a young fan named Benjamin, a troll named Edward, and a good witch to defeat the dark witch and her followers.

Be warned, this movie contains a lot of blood and guts, in addition to copious amounts of obscene language. Otherwise, viewers will be at the edge of their seats, except when Jeremy Renner's character gives comic relief, making this movie very entertaining and thrilling with well placed funny moments to give the audience a break from gripping the edge of their seats.

## Silver Lining Playbook FOR ACADEMY AWARDS

by Kevin Nguyen

*Silver Linings Playbook* has been nominated for eight Academy Awards this year. Four of them include the four major actor/actress categories. A lot of Oscar buzz has been coming from this small film with a limited re-release. In addition, the film received various other big award nods, including best picture, director, and screenplay. All of the accolades it has received are very well deserved.

Strip the film down to its core, and it is essentially a "chick-flick". There is such a simple surface and premise, but the picture is much deeper than it appears. David O. Russell's direction

to the film takes it in a very different path. He keeps it well-paced and entertains the audience from beginning to end. This makes it appealing to a great span of audiences. The characters are solid and deep. The film

exhibits the imperfections that are present in everyone, and it touches upon varying degrees of imperfections, from

extremes to those who would often be regarded as normal.

The standout aspect of the film hands-down is the acting. Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro, and Jacki Weaver, all of which again are nominated for an Oscars for each of their respective catego-

ries, gave brilliant performances and perhaps can be considered the best ensemble cast of 2012. Bradley Cooper makes it truly believable that he is a man dealing with the troubles of the bipolar mental illness. Jennifer Lawrence never lets up and shows her development into a star. She was previously nominated for another Oscar for *Winter's Bone*, but after two years, she has truly grown as an actress. Di Niro was simply fantastic. Weaver played the role of "the enabler" so well that it makes this family of misfits believable.

This movie lives up to the hype and all the buzz it has been receiving. *Silver Linings Playbook* is definitely is one of the best films of last year.

"Best ensemble cast of 2012..."



Cartoon by: Angelica Garcia

# KEEP MHS HALLS RATED G

by Prudence Halmonitor

Once upon a time, teenage couples hung out solely for the purpose of camaraderie and friendship, having nothing else in mind. Or did they? In reality, this scenario is as fictitious as most fairy tales.

Unfortunately, many teenagers have other, less innocent desires. However, expressing such desires while at school is a terrible idea. PDA (public display of affection) can cause many students, not just couples, to be late to class.

The more offensive consequence

of PDA is the irreparable damage it does to the morally pure and unsuspecting passersby. More simply put: think of the children! There's a time and place for everything, but there is never an appropriate time for tonsil hockey in the MHS halls.

To remedy this social ill, imagine MHS to be a church, synagogue, mosque or other sacred place. One should make an effort to conduct oneself accordingly.

School exists for the purpose of furthering a student's educa-

tion. While this may come as a surprise to some students, believe me; it's true.

Sex education coincidentally is not an offered course in the halls and lonely corners of MHS.

Singer Marvin Gaye understands the natural urge for physical affection. "I need some lovin', and baby, I can't hold it much longer." Unfortunately Romeo, that's against school behavioral policy, so "it" will have to be held for a little while longer.

"They went to high school together at Downey. They then went to the same college."  
- Kelsi Brink, 10th

## The Question

*How did your parents meet?*

"My parents met at my cousin's wedding."  
-Lucas Phillips, 12th

"My dad and mom were kind of like pen pals. Dad studied in Canada. Mom was in UCLA. Then Dad came back to California and sort of dated with her a bit."  
- Fiona McBride-Luman, 9th

"They met through their work. My Dad was the principal at the school my Mom worked at."  
-Tryn Brown, 11th

"My parents met at MoHi and at first my dad really disliked my mom but as time grew they got to know each other and they started to date."  
- Freddy Batt, 9th



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