



THE MAGNET TRIBUNE

A state- and nationally recognized student newspaper

Vol. 24, No. 1

<http://magnettribune.org>

January 13, 2017

Vidal M. Treviño School of Communications and Fine Arts, 2102 East Lyon St., Laredo, Texas 78043

Four new teachers join VMT



Pages 2-3

Color livens mood of the festival



Pages 6-7

Art teacher paints Cotulla mural



Page 11

The Magnet Tribune
E-mail
mt_writers@hotmail.com



Online
<http://magnettribune.org>



Twitter
[@Magnet_Tribune](https://twitter.com/Magnet_Tribune)



Facebook
[Facebook.com/MagnetTribune](https://www.facebook.com/MagnetTribune)

Apple News App



Search: Magnet Tribune

RSS Feed



<http://magnettribune.org>

Look for The Magnet Tribune's podcasts on iTunes

Vidal M. Treviño

<http://vmt.elisd.org>
The world's link to you

Facebook
[facebook.com/vmt_magnet_school](https://www.facebook.com/vmt_magnet_school)



Seniors recognized Two named National Hispanic Scholars

CAROLINA GAMEZ AND
LAUREN MELENDEZ
STAFF WRITERS

Seniors Ben Mora and Monika Rodriguez were recognized for their academic success. They are National Hispanic Scholars, which means they scored within the top 2.5 percent of test takers on both the Preliminary SAT as well as the SAT. The recognition speaks volumes of their academic achievement.

Rodriguez, whose fine arts area is dance, explained her reaction when she received the news.

"I was relieved because I took a lot of time to study for the test and it paid off," she said.

The PSAT serves as an initial screening for the competition's approximately 1.6 million entrants each year. Those who make it past this phase are considered semifinalists. Finalists are then selected based on SAT scores.

"I used a study guide. There are a lot of online practice tests that I took advantage of, and I simulated the exam and the testing process," Rodriguez said when asked what she did to prepare for the exam.

For many, the SAT means stress and worry. For Mora and Rodriguez, it was a chance to bring all their hard work to life. Becoming a National Merit Scholar is definitely something to strive for, as it can set one apart from other college applicants.

Because of this achievement, both Mora and Rodriguez are



Seniors Monika Rodriguez and Mora are recognized as National Hispanic Scholars for this school year.

recognized as exemplary figures for J.W. Nixon High School and VMT, thus maintaining the reputation for excellence the schools have set forth.

"I'm proud to represent VMT, I'm proud to represent Nixon and show that we have smart students that can excel in the world," Mora, who plays the trumpet, said.

When asked what advice she would give, Mora said "Study. Study as much as you can. The better prepared you are, the higher chance

you will have of actually getting a good score and being a National Merit Scholar."

He explained the role teachers played in his accomplishments.

"All my teachers have really been helpful in teaching me, and making sure that I was prepared," Mora stated.

Rodriguez said Mrs. Ashley Ramirez, a former VMT English teacher, contributed largely to her success.

"She taught me everything," Rodriguez said.

Colleges across the nation

have been aggressively admitting its members into their schools ever since the National Merit Scholarship Program was established in 1955.

Mora is contemplating attending The University of Texas at Austin, although he is still exploring other options. He plans to major in engineering.

Meanwhile, Rodriguez hopes to attend Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and major in Biology with a concentration in pre-dental studies.

Sophomore's art shown in NYC

AMERICA MORENO
STAFF WRITER

A sophomore art student had her work exhibited at the New York Comic Con and now at the United Nations building.

Jennifer Ramos submitted a painting for the Art of Wonder Fan Art website. Later, she received some of the greatest news any artist could get.

Her work would be shown at the New York Comic Con.

She described the day she found out her artwork was selected.

"The first email that I received was after school. I was just waiting for my sister and to go home. I received the email and I couldn't tell anyone since there was no one there, so I was just freaking out by myself," Ramos said.

Ramos was more than excited to have her artwork shown at the New York Comic Con since she has always wanted to go there one day. She also said that it was exciting that people who are going to the event are going to see her artwork.

Ramos, whose art instructor is Gilberto Rocha, said she is a big fanatic of Wonder Woman and that she admires her.

"She's a symbol of women empowerment. She has no sidekick or any help. She does it all by herself. She's a warrior and I feel like this time we kind of need that, especially with everything that is going



Sophomore Jennifer Ramos sits on the steps in A Building. An artwork she created was shown at locations in New York City.

More photos, audio interview online at
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=11144>

on right now because we just didn't elect a female for president. It's more meaningful now," Ramos said.

Later in October, Ramos received more fantastic news.

"I received another email stating that they also want for

my art work to be featured at the United Nations. Having my artwork displayed at the United Nations is an incredible feeling, especially since they have never heard of them displaying artwork before," Ramos said.

Ramos described her art-

work.

"It was the poster for the Wonder Woman movie, but I kind of made it look like more of a silhouette like. Just so when you see it you don't only see Wonder Woman, but maybe any woman that empowers you. Therefore so there won't be anything too specific, anyone can take it the way they want to see it," Ramos said.

Former Marine has seen world

SOFIA RAMOS

STAFF WRITER

Recently, VMT welcomed its newest teacher, Gilberto Hernandez, former Marine and Nixon graduate, is teaching world geography to freshman.

Hernandez served in the Marine Corps from 2008-2013.

Hernandez described his experiences serving and how it has made him the person he is today.

Hernandez was 12 years old when he first tried applying to the Marines.

"They sent a recruitment package to my brother when I was in 7th grade, and I tried applying but they said I was too young," he said.

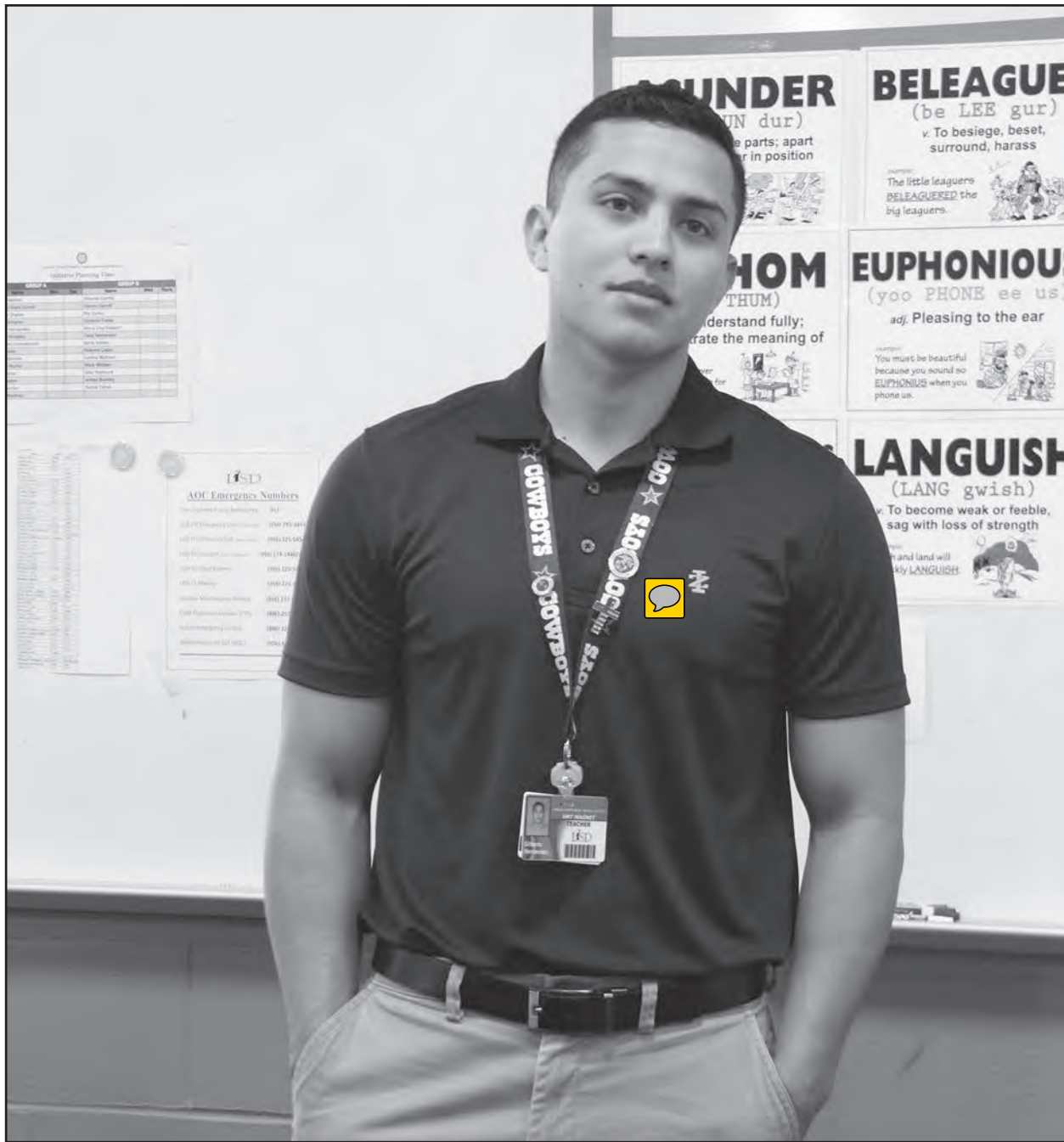
Hernandez said he wanted to join the Marine Corps because of financial reasons.

"I knew my mom couldn't afford to put me through college. Recruiters were always coming around and it's something I always had in the back of my head," Hernandez said. "Junior year came around and I said to myself that I was going to join the Marines so I could afford college and get out of Laredo."

"I joined to get my life started after high school," Hernandez added.

Although he had a great experience, Hernandez said it did come with challenges.

"Boot camp was easy, physically. I was in athletics so I was used to running around and working out. Emotionally and mentally, it was very tough because you're away from your family, and I had never been away from them for longer than 3 days. And I wasn't the only one that felt this way. We were all kids. We were all 17 or 18. Then we were thrust into this environment where we just have to grow up quickly, so it's tough," he said.



Gilberto Hernandez poses in his classroom during a recent first block.

MT photo by Sofia Ramos

Hernandez described his position and experience during the time he served.

"I went to a school house where you learn the occupation you're going to have. I was a flight technician. Pretty much my job was to sew. I can

sew curtains, book covers, and I can pack parachutes. I also worked with survival equipment that we used," he said.

"It was fun. I learned a lot in the Marine Corps. I got to travel around the world to places like Hong Kong, Singapore, Spain, the Philippines,

and other places I can't even remember. You get to meet a lot of different people, and different doesn't mean necessarily bad or good, but it's good to get to know different people. I have friends from all around the country," Hernandez said. Hernandez recommends

ed students join the Marine Corps.

"I would say everyone should join. You learn a lot and it's a good way to get started," he said.

Hernandez said that being in the Marines and being a teacher is somewhat similar.

"I see both as serving the community," he said.

Hernandez majored in history and attended TAMU from 2013-2016. He was inspired to teach by one of his college professors.

"One of the professors I had was so knowledgeable on the material he could talk about it for hours, and I just thought it was really cool and interesting," he said.

He said that despite not being a VMT student, he's very fortunate to be here now. He played basketball in high school, so he wasn't much involved in the fine arts area.

"I'm lucky to be at VMT. Most of the kids really want to be here and that's good. Other kids at other schools aren't as motivated," he said.

He explained his teaching philosophy.

"As a teacher, I have high expectations for my students. I don't let them slack off. I think I explain well and I learned that everybody takes a certain level of explaining," Hernandez said.

He said the military gave him the opportunity to experience something different.

"I grew up just like you guys," Hernandez said, referring to a reporter. "I'm an LISD kid. I have family in Nuevo Laredo. The only places I had actually seen were San Antonio and Nuevo Laredo so I really wanted to do something different."

Chaney enjoys students' talents

JUSTYNE BERNAL

STAFF WRITER

After 19 years of making an impact on students' education at J.W. Nixon High, Johanna Chaney is now a teacher at Vidal M. Trevino magnet school.

Before she became a teacher here, she never had the opportunity to experience all VMT has to offer. This includes performances, ceremonies, and much more.

"Today I attended the 16 de septiembre ceremony and I've never been to anything like that. I've had students from VMT at Nixon that would say 'ma'am you should go,' but since I was (a) tested area I was never able to attend anything," she said.

Chaney was impressed when she attended her first VMT celebration and how she was given the opportunity to watch her students' performances.

"...I actually enjoyed it. It was a good experience because I got to see the kids and their talents. I was very excited to say 'that's my student, that's my student' in the choir playing the accordion and then some of them were playing the violin and it was just amazing to see them doing their things. It was very nice."

Chaney believes that her former students at J.W. Nixon High School are not very different than students here at VMT.

"Students are students everywhere, but I do notice a slight difference. I can say. Not much of a difference," she opined.

Although she has not been here long, she has been able



Johanna Chaney, third from right, poses with her 6th block Pre-AP World History class.

MT photo by Justyne Bernal

to feel welcomed by everyone whom she has interacted with, allowing her to feel very welcome in her new campus.

"I think that here at VMT it's a new experience for me... It's a really good experience: I like the atmosphere, I like the administration, everybody is very helpful, all the teachers have been very supportive and the students are fantastic," she said.

Chaney mentioned she has been able to gain an advantage that she did not have at her previous campus. She hopes that having the support the fine art's teachers can help her keep the students on task all

semester.

"But that's the only advantage that I have here as compare to over there it would just be only the parents, they were the only support. I feel like I didn't have any other support like how am I gonna get these kids motivated, how am gonna get them to do and learn for what they need for them to learn so they could take this test and pass it," she said.

"I guess just the atmosphere here could get them motivated by telling them you know your fine arts teacher is gonna want you to succeed in my class as much as I do," she added.

Chaney feels that this has

been a drastic change in her life. Although it has not been easy, this change has allowed her to learn how to put important things first in order to be the effective teacher she has always been.

"...What has changed mostly in my life... so many things. But I think I just haven't gotten organized completely yet because when I first got here everything was just so quick. But I think it's made me have to. To learn and adapt to situations and prioritize. Like what's more important to decorate everything or get the lesson ready. That's what is it, prioritizing," she said.

Chaney has been teaching one particular subject her entire teaching career, trying to get prepared for exams. Now she is teaching Advanced Placement U.S. History and PAP World Geography.

"History is one of my favorite subjects and I think particularly for U.S. History it's important for the kids to know about their country," she said.

Although Chaney has opened a new chapter in her career, Chaney hopes to positively impact her students' outlook on their country's history.

"I'm a very patriotic person and I like to inspire my kids to be that way also," Chaney said.

English teacher loves Hello Kitty

EMILIA VELA
STAFF WRITER

Alma Valdez has learned patience during her 25 years of teaching.

"I've also learned that it's very easy for the kids to not believe in themselves if we as a teacher don't push them to believe in themselves. And I've also learned to truly believe in the fact that every day is a new day," Valdez said.

"I mean, I strongly believe that if we make a mistake, if a kid behaves badly, you know very rude one day; the next day is a new day," she said. "You know we take it as it comes. You can't stay angry, you can't stay mad or bothered by something. You have to move on."

The new freshman Pre-AP English I teacher came from Christian Middle after 24 years there and was full of life and energy during a recent interview.

She teaches and learns from the new incoming students, she said.

After her first few weeks at VMT Valdez described her experience and the students here in a very positive manner.

"Here at VMT it is my first year but so far so good. The students are willing to learn, they're motivating, they're kind, they're sweet, they're respectful," Valdez said.

This year is Valdez's first year of teaching. It is a mile-

stone that she is very happy to reach, she said, even as her retirement date approaches in just a few years.

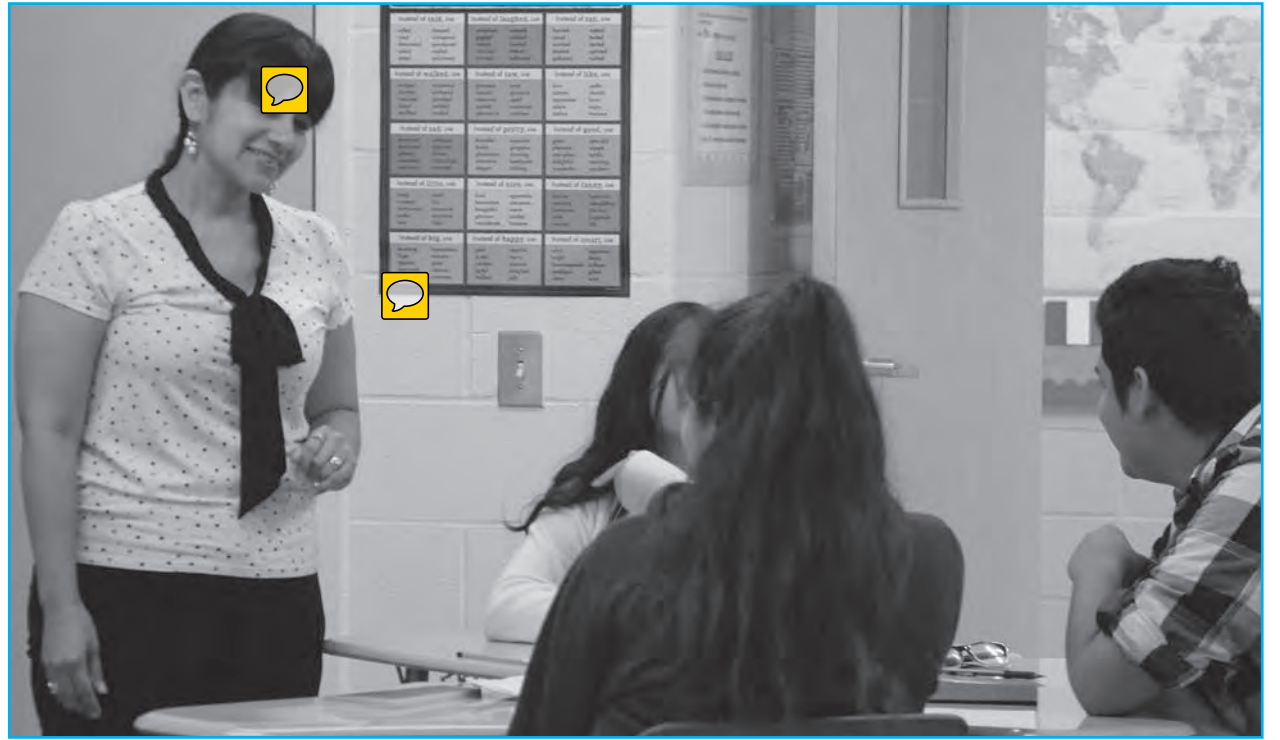
This is what she had to say about her overall teaching experience.

"The first year was challenging just like any new teacher's first year. But during the first years, you get to find out who you really are as a teacher and you learn a lot from your mistakes, but after that it's been pretty much a breeze," she said.

When Valdez chose to come to VMT she said she prayed a lot on the matter as it was her 25th year of teaching she felt she needed a change in scenery.

Ever since second grade Valdez has wanted to be a teacher. She said her interest was first piqued because she loved to write on chalkboards, but by the time she became a teacher chalkboards were obsolete.

"What I like most about my job is working with the students. That every day is something new, every day we have fresh experiences, we have eye opening experiences," she said. "There's no greater satisfaction than when you see your students actually learning something, and they show you that they understand what you're teaching, and that it means something to them. That's the best thing when it's meaningful



MT photo by Emilia Vela

Pre-AP English I teacher Alma Valdez speaks to students during second block.

to them."

Valdez said that during her teaching years there has been quite a few changes, technology-wise, to classrooms. When she was new to teaching there were no computers in the classrooms as well as no iPads. Now with the addition of iPads to teaching students are also used to using YouTube as well instead of the learning video channels on the news, she said.

In five years she hopes to see herself as retired and spending time with her mother and

hopefully as a grandmother herself well involved in her future grandchildren's lives.

Some of her interests include her vast collection of Hello Kitty memorabilia.

She said her collection started with a simple pencil when she was young. One of her cousins had also collected Hello Kitty items and Valdez said she had always found them cute. She never asked her parents to buy her a pencil because she felt it was too expensive during that time.

Her interest in Hello Kitty

items branches from how cute she finds them, she said. She feels that they are for people who feel young at heart and have an attachment to them.

Her collection is not just made up of dolls; she also has a Hello Kitty toaster, pillows, lamp, pajamas, coin banks, slippers, water dispenser, toilet paper, and more, she said.

Valdez also has personalized Converse shoes. She said she buys shoes and then takes those to a tattoo artist who she has painted them with certain Hello Kitty designs.

Vidaurri has taught range of students

EMILY GARZA
STAFF WRITER

"I like the sense of community," VMT's new senior English teacher said.

Alicia Cruz Vidaurri came into the 2016-2017 school year teaching English at the high school level for her first time.

Vidaurri has also taught at San Augustine Middle School and the local university.

"I also worked at TAMU teaching English 1301 and 1302," Vidaurri said. She taught at TAMU for 6 years.

Vidaurri also held another position in the past.

"I once had to teach a computer class for a few years, but it was a lot of writing projects so in a way it was relating to English," she said.

Vidaurri as well shared the reason why she became an English teacher.

"It's going to kind of sound cliché but (I have a) love for literature and wanting to share that with others," she said.

Vidaurri explained why she decided to come to VMT.

"I needed a change," she said. "It's different, definitely



MT photo by Emily Garza

AP English IV teacher Alicia Vidaurri, far right, poses with her 5th block class on the second floor of A Building.

different...because it's teaching a different grade level."

While Vidaurri has been teaching at VMT for almost two weeks, she already has great opinions of the school as well as of the students.

"The students are great here, very enthusiastic about being here; they're very creative," Vidaurri said.

Other than teaching, Vid-

aurri does other things in her free time.

Another thing Vidaurri likes to do is special effects makeup. Vidaurri has an art degree.

"I like all kinds of art. I graduated with a minor in art, in fact," Vidaurri said.

"I like reading American literature books, and for movies I like horror," Vidaurri said.

Vidaurri recently support-

ed some of her students by attending the play, "Mid-Summer Nights Dream on the Stage."

"I enjoy being able to see students showcase their talent," Vidaurri said.

Vidaurri mentioned how her students enjoy learning and what she has noticed is the best way for her students to learn.

"They do a lot of hands-on activities, as well as having them analyze and class discussions," Vidaurri said.

One of the main things Vidaurri is focusing on is "preparing students for their AP exam," Vidaurri said.

"I love teaching at VMT and hope to continue teaching," Vidaurri said.

Many lost items are waiting to be found

MAURO FLORES
STAFF WRITER

There's an iPod touch. A few hoodies and coats. Report cards. A pen drive. And some journals.

These are some of the things in the lost and found, located in the attendance office by the main entrance.

Laura Rios, attendance clerk who is in charge of the lost and found, said people are losing items all the time.

"Honestly," she said. "Anytime, all day."

"I'd like for the people to come and see or how can I get them to see the stuff that is here. I've got ear buds, lots of clothing, report cards, jour-



MT photo by Mauro Flores

Attendance Clerk Laura Rios shows a box full of lost items in her office next to the main entrance.

nals, glasses, and a necklace with an angel on it. Nobody

comes to claim this stuff," she added.

Rios said she dedicates part of her busy time at the lost and found in addition to answering calls and dealing with parents or visitors that enter the campus.

The lost and found is a fairly run system where if the students or staff encounter a lost item they can take it to the lost and found where hopefully it gets returned to its rightful owner.

"I'm glad someone is interested in finding their belongings. Some people just don't care if they've lost something," Rios said.

The few people that check in the lost and found for their lost belonging and find them feel "very relieved," especially when it's a cell phone. Very relieved

like, 'Oh My God thank you, thank you, thank you.' They say thanks all the time," Rios said.

Electronic items are sometimes brought to the lost and found, for example, pen drives. It doesn't matter even if a person loses a pencil, one can always check at the lost and found.

Recently the box also contained a black hoodie, a pair of headphones, and some sunglasses.

She said she donates the clothes that go unclaimed to Goodwill.

Although Rios has never lost anything of her own, she said she hopes that the system will help students and staff to regain their lost items.

Recruiting is scheduled for January 31 and February 1

Dancing marks 16 de sep. event

HOMERO AREVALO
STAFF WRITER

Students from the morning and afternoon perform for Mexican Independence Day on Sept. 16 in the auditorium.

Vidal M. Treviño celebrated El Día de la Independencia (Mexican Independence Day) for both morning and afternoon students on Sept. 16 with the traditional ringing of a bell and a number of student performances.

The students and teachers gathered in the auditorium and recital hall to watch dance and music students perform vivid and colorful performances. Those in the recital hall watched through a streaming video link.

This presentation was done to commemorate the Mexican independence from Spanish rule, celebrated every year by VMT students and by others throughout parts of the United States.

A highlight of the VMT event is el grito, or Grito de Dolores, honors the events that transpired on Sept. 16, 1810. Leading the event was dance instructor Alicia McKinnis with several other instructors and students.

They ended the grito with an enthusiastic “¡Viva Mexico! ¡Viva Mexico! ¡Viva Mexico!”

One student explained why observing 16 de septiembre is important to her.

“[The presentation] is important to me because I am Hispanic and this is Mexican Independence Day, and it’s important they celebrate it,” a junior, Alexandra Gomez, said.

Gomez said this is something that should be celebrated because “it should mean a great deal to us as Hispanics.”

Another explained how his family marks the occasion.

“My family celebrates this



MT photos by
Crystal Martinez

TOP:
Dance students perform a traditional dance during the afternoon 16 de septiembre event at the auditorium.

RIGHT:
Mariachi de Oro performs for dancer at the 16 de septiembre event on September 16.



event since we come from a Hispanic background. We usually set out a carne asada and play music,” a senior, Daniel Luna, said.



More photos and videos online at
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=10228>

<http://magnettribune.org/?p=10268>
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=10352>

Students see changes in their field

JESUS HERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

VMT broadcast, print journalism, and creative writing students saw a ribbon-cutting ceremony re-opening Texas State University’s Trinity Building that now houses the newly combined student radio station and newspaper during their 13th annual Mass Communication Week trip on Oct. 27.

VMT students were given a tour of the Trinity Building where they saw the combined KTSW-FM and The University Star.

When asked the advantages of combining the radio station and newspaper, Dr. Judy Oskam, the university’s director of journalism and mass communication, said the trend is to publish across media platforms.

“It really provides a lot of opportunities for collaboration. So I think what you’re going to do is see joint projects, joint concerts, and joint special events. So I think you’ll see more collaborate projects on both of their online properties,” Oskam said.

Combining the radio and newspaper will not only benefit the organizations themselves but also the students working and studying in these organizations, the newspaper’s editor said.

“Combining the newsrooms has really created an environment where of all of the dif-

ferent elements of news, from video to radio to print has all been able to come together and so we’ve been able to learn more about things that we wouldn’t be able to know about if we weren’t combined with them,” said Emily Sharp, editor in chief of The University Star.

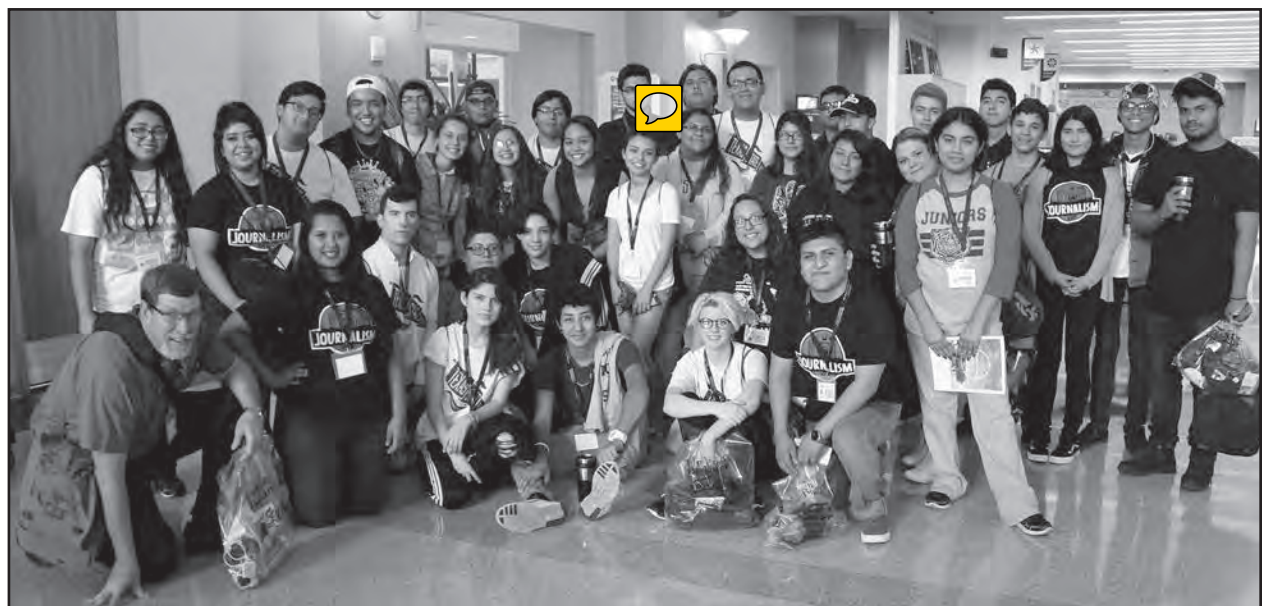
“It’s been able to give us all different type of people, and they all have different skills and being able to just have a bigger base and bigger support has really created a good environment to produce really quality news,” Sharp added.

Sharp has been at Texas State for two years. She transferred from the University of Oklahoma where she was a social media coordinator. At Texas State, she has been website editor, managing editor and finally editor in chief.

Early in the day, some students heard presentations at the Old Main building where presenter Gary Cooper of Univision in San Antonio talked about his experiences as a reporter. Other students heard from speaker Elaine Aradillas where she talked about her experiences working at People magazine.

Later, VMT students participated in a panel discussion with Laredo students now at Texas State where they gave advice and tips on college life and their experiences.

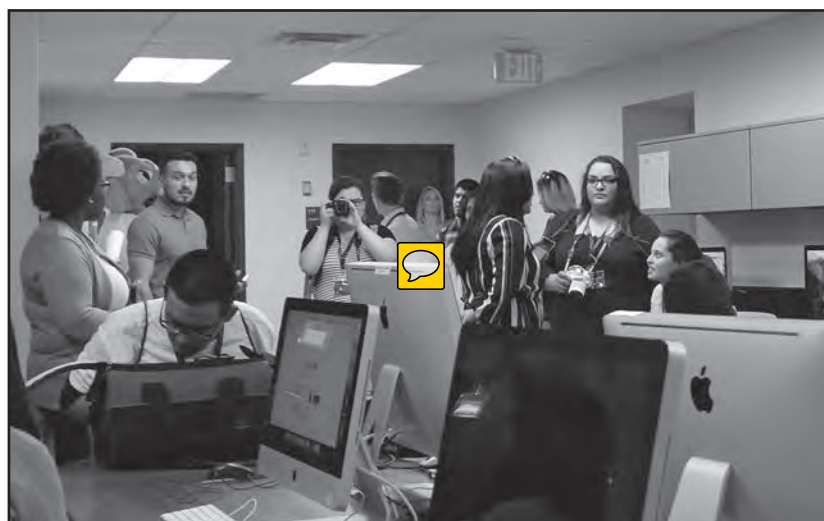
Students also visited a university residence hall where a student employee gave infor-



MT photos by
Karla Alvarez

TOP:
VMT communication students pose for a photo in the Recreation Center during their Mass Communication Week trip.

LEFT:
VMT and university students mingle in the Trinity Building during a tour of the radio station and newspaper.



More photos and video online at
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=10962>

mation as well as showed an example of a dormitory room.

One student said he enjoys going on these Texas State trips.

“Well, since I’m in interest-

ed in journalism as something I want to do in the future, I think it’s nice to see what view it has,” senior creative writing student Andrew Perez said.

Junior joint journalism

student Maddie Dion, who’s interested in attending Texas State and studying journalism, said she felt at peace when seeing the surroundings at the university.

“I like the environment. It’s very peaceful and welcoming,” Dion said.

Student holidays: Feb. 17-20, Spring Break: March 13-17, Easter: April 14-17, May 29

Students debate, vote at event

SABRINA SANCHEZ
STAFF WRITER

Two students portrayed presidential candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton at VMT's annual Rock the Vote on October 25.

"It's a tradition at VMT that has gone on for several years. It started when Dr. Martha Villarreal (school director) came to VMT, and it's become not only a campus tradition but a district tradition," Sean Gaynor, Social Studies instructor and one of the organizers of this debate, said.

The presidential candidates were played by seniors Marina Garza as Hillary Clinton and Michael Chavez as Donald Trump.

The students portraying the presidential candidates debated on issues that have been on the forefront of this presidential race such as immigration, education, the economy, and foreign policy.

"The purpose of Rock the Vote was to raise awareness amongst students at VMT and the other main campuses of Laredo ISD of the importance of voting, and also through the mock debate portion try to provide them a summary of the relevant issues and stances that both candidates took," Gaynor said.

Before the debate, the majority of students predicted that Clinton would be the winner based on the real presidential debates that had taken place.

"Her arguments are way better than Trump's, and Trump talks about things that don't make sense at all," Martin High student Jocavic Casaneva said.

The majority of the students either had a favorable opinion of Clinton, or believed that neither of them were fit to be president.

Ariel, a senior from Martin High School, said this when asked about the candidates.

"We've had better people. I think the point is to choose the lesser of the two who can cause the least amount of damage," she said.

After the debate, students headed to the voting booths outside near the VMT cafeteria to vote for the candidate they believed had best represented their thoughts and opinions on how the issues that the country is currently facing should be addressed.

VMT music teachers and students performed rock music while the voting was taking place. Clinton won the mock election by an 87 to 12 percent



MT photo by
Melissa Rendon

Participants at Rock the Vote from left are Lauren Melendez, Kendra Treviño, Marina Garza, Justice Patricia Alvarez, Justice Jason Pulliam, Micheal Chavez, and school Director Dr. Martha Villarreal.

MT photo by
Jodie Sanchez

Seniors vote at real voting booths on the cafeteria patio during Rock the Vote.



margin.

The guests of honor included Laredo Independent School District superintendent Dr. A. Marcus Nelson, and Jason Pullam and Justice Patricia Alvarez from the 4th Court of Appeals.

Gaynor believed the event went well. "It was very successful. I thought the guest speakers that came in, Judge Patricia Alvarez and Judge Jason Pul-

More stories, photos, video, and audio online:
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=11033>
<http://magnettribune.org > Politics>

lam, provided very interesting perspectives on the importance of voting and encouraged our students to go out and vote, those that are eligible already and those who will be eligible someday. It was a complete bipartisan attempt to inform voters of the relevant issues in

this election," Gaynor said. "We had two students presenting the summaries of the debate arguments of both candidates. We prepared really well for that. The students studied the candidate's policies, and from that generated a composite of what the two candidates' views were on the issues. So, I think overall we presented a detailed yet balanced account of both perspectives of this election."

Drive helps seniors register to vote

JESUS HERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

Seniors heard about the importance of voting during a voter registration drive on Sept. 19.

School director Dr. Martha Villarreal encouraged them to register and cast their vote for the upcoming election in November.

Villarreal, who said she has been registering students for over 15 years, said being able to vote is very important.

"It's very important for everyone to go out to vote because we represent a country that is governed by the people. What happens is that, if just a very few people go out to vote then it's not governed by the people, its governed by the

few people that went out to vote," Villarreal told seniors in the recital hall.

Villarreal said casting one's vote should be about the issues and values of each voter.

"When you cast your vote it's not because somebody told you who to vote for. That's very private; that's a very individual choice and it should always be based on issues and your values because the person you vote for should represent your values," Villarreal said.

Villarreal said that out of the 250,000 people living in Laredo, only 11 percent of the register voters voted in a previous election.

She would state politicians as discussing how they see people who don't participate in voting.

She said these politicians said, "Lar-

edo will never be anything until we as politicians see that the people of Laredo

"That is shameful," Villarreal said. Seniors who attended the presentation had different views toward the early registration.

"Well, I just think everyone should vote because one vote could make a difference," senior Martin Ramirez said.

A second student said he's not too happy about voting.

"I found it really boring but knowing that your future is on the line you have to push yourself whether you like it or not. Like they said, our votes are our future," senior Alfredo Hernandez said.

Another student said she's eager to vote.

"Well, I think it's important that we

get educated especially as youth, coming of age, voting age, so it's really good that we're getting educated," senior Monika Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez, who is planning on voting, said she had concerns for this election.

"I would say the immigration reform as well as the price of tuition for college and universities (is important)," Rodriguez said.

Early voting ran from Oct. 28 to Nov. 4. Election Day was Nov. 8.

"We are the people; we need to go out and voice our preferences. We need to make sure the candidates we vote for represent the values that we have as individuals," Villarreal said later in an interview in her office. "Your vote is your voice."



MT photo by Kayla Gonzalez

Tapestry magazine editor Briseyda Ortiz reacts after reading a poem at Fright Mic at the outdoor stage.

Fright Mic brings out the emotions in presenters

ANDREA GARCIA
STAFF WRITER

For young writers, emotions ran high during Tapestry's annual Fright Mic.

It featured stories as well as poems, which were read by magazine staff members and the audience.

Tapestry's creative writing magazine sponsors the annual event every year. It was held Oct. 17 at the outdoor stage.

At first, the writers seemed nervous, yet excited at the same time to go on stage to recite what they have been working on. Fright Mic seems to be

a very open environment with a pretty relaxed atmosphere from an audience viewpoint.

Reactions from people who attended the event often ranged from bored to invested in a matter of seconds.

Types of work that were mainly chosen consisted of mysteries, somber poems and random pieces.

One of the pieces that seemed to catch everyone's attention was by Mia Gomez, a sophomore from dance, who

wrote a poem titled, "To all the guys that message my mother on Facebook."

It was different because it was not Halloween themed, as were many other submissions.

The reason she wrote it, she told the audience, was because she said a lot of guys would often try to message her mom and bother her. Mia said she was just not for it, so she decided to write about it and how upset the messages truly were. **See FRIGHT MIC, page 10**

More photos and video online at
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=10898>

Color livens mood of festival

MARIENE SANCHEZ
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of colorful paper flowers bright with Mexican colors — red, green, and white — adorned the Hispanic Heritage Festival stage along with giant replicas of sugar skulls made by art/sculpture students.

The same colored paper flowers and streamers that were on the stage were also adorning the booths serving everything from raspas to Flaming Hots with cheese to fried Oreos.

The 24th annual Hispanic Festival on Nov. 2 was a lively event held by the students and teachers. A packed front parking lot held many parents, children, and students from other schools.

Each fine art area had its own col-

orful booth and each booth sold different things such as a variety of food and games.

Dance and music department groups performed 32 numbers over 4 ½ hours.

One student member felt great about the festival.

“Wow! So much fun. Just love it. Everybody’s so happy and having fun,” Jorge Gloria, VMT library aide, said. The smile on his face clearly showed that the festival wasn’t at all boring.

Many people were posting about the festival via Facebook and Twitter.

More photos, video online at
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=11157>
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=11152>
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=10968>

didn’t start coming until after 4. Since VMT is closer to Nixon High than any other school, students from Nixon began filling up the place early.

For seniors, it is hard to part with VMT and the events it holds.

“Being my last Hispanic Festival, I am truly going to miss this experience, an amazing festival,” Mario Valle, a senior in music, said.

Friends and family seemed to be having fun while walking around with both tickets and food in their hands, taking in the beautiful decorations everywhere.

“The Hispanic festival is a good time to hang out with loved ones,” Estela Melendez said.

Journalism and RTV students were taking photos and recording everything for publication.

Many people had positive things to say about the festival.

“Hispanic festival is amazing. It’s so lively and colorful. It smells like food which is always a plus,” Jasmine Hinds said.

For freshmen, this was their first Hispanic Festival actually participating in the event and helping out and performing with their group.

“I love the Hispanic festival. It was a great experience. The performances were so beautiful to watch. I’ll always love all the games,” Renee Sanchez, a freshman in Piano, said.

People who aren’t familiar with the Hispanic culture also had a great time and admired the culture.

“As an outsider to this culture, I find it so refreshing. It’s really amazing,” Vivian Coleman said.



ABOVE: Art Sculpture students dance with replicas of sugar skulls on their heads during a performance at the festival.

RIGHT: A group of dancers wait for their performance at the festival.



ABOVE: Students prepare fixings for the food they are selling in their booth.



LEFT: Dance students prepare for their performance at the Hispanic Heritage Festival.



LEFT: People wait for a performance to begin at the Hispanic Heritage Festival.

Photography and page design by Anna L. Davenport

See more photos and video online!

It's important to keep the river clean

EDITORIAL

The Magnet Tribune staff

This editorial represents The Magnet Tribune staff's position on the issue of a clean Rio Grande.

Pollution is everywhere. A polluted river close to home named the Rio Grande suffers from great damage from the pollutants it has had to endure throughout many years. Everything we do around the river can and will affect it. Something as simple as dropping a candy wrapper in or near the river will only feed to the already present pollution. Unfortunately, it's come to the point where there was a report stating the pollution in the river caused a fatal illness.

On July 23, 2016, a 13 year old died after swimming in the river with two of his friends. His friends became ill but they survived. The young boy died of meningoencephalitis caused by a deadly amoeba in the Rio Grande. Sometime later, The United States Environmental Protection Agency provided \$352,000 grant to study water and the fish in it. This unfortunate situation is not to

be taken lightly; the pollution has gotten so bad that a child died because of the pollution in the river. After the incident, swimming was completely and rightfully banned from the river.

Now, more than ever, we should push towards working for a cleaner future for our river.

Dangerously high levels of E. coli have been detected frequently in the river. E. coli is found when someone or something comes in contact either human or animal feces. Because we have

let our river suffer with as much pollution as it has throughout the years, its E. coli levels are higher than they've ever been. We must join our community together an act as quickly as possible so no more lives are lost.

In 2003, NADBank (North American Development Bank) provided \$42 million in loans and grants to improve the quality of the river water flowing by Matamoros. NADBank had previously funded over 100 projects that have helped prevent sewage water from

being dumped into rivers like the Rio Grande. Unfortunately, before the water treatment facility in Matamoros, Mexico, across from Brownsville, Texas, was completed in 2008, untreated sewage water would be dumped into the Rio Grande, flow through Matamoros and eventually end up in the Gulf of Mexico.

Not only is our river polluted but it's also a simple eye-sore. We need to strive to make Laredo as beautiful as possible and by cleaning it up we will be helping Laredo's aesthetic while simultaneously improving wildlife in or around the river. We have let far too much pollution contaminate our Rio Grande, which is where we happen to derive our drinking water from.

For the betterment of us all, let's create a cleaner environment for us and future generations to come.

--Written by Angie Bravo for the staff.

Resolutions help to organize 2017

The New Year is now here. In 2017 I have a few things that I would like to change and achieve.

I would also like to try new things. I want to have strength to overcome anything negative.

Now that it's January, I want to try new things such as a new hair style and to become more communicative and a little more organized. I have already gotten my new haircut to start the year fresh.

I'd like to be more communicative with people. I am a



OBSERVATIONS

By Delilah Gonzalez

really up-front friendly person, but I am shy with people I'm meeting for the first time. Being able to make an interesting conversation would be a great change.

I want to become more organized with school-related commitments by getting everything prepared on time, such as col-

lege admission applications and scholarships and getting my graduation stuff ready such as my cap and gown, yearbook etc. Becoming a little more organized helps.

A short-term goal I want to achieve is graduate from high school later this spring and attend college to finish my edu-

Read more The Bug columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/opinions/>

cation, and later begin my career.

This year I want to have the strength to overcome everything negative. I want to prove to people that I can accomplish any goal by putting all my effort.

Another thing I want to change about myself is to be more positive. I want to believe more in myself and to never

doubt my abilities and my talents. I want to think positive towards my accomplishments that will be achieved this year.

Starting now, I want to improve my skills in photography and journalism. I'm looking forward to change a few things about myself, achieve some goals and have more strength than this year. I am ready for 2017.

Social media's negatives impact lives

Social media is everywhere we turn. It's something that affects us each day even if we use our electronic devices or not. When we don't use social media our surroundings are still living on it. I feel as if we can never erase social media from our lives even if we make an effort to do so. It is simply everywhere.

We could talk about how fast social media has rapidly changed and spread over a short period of time but we would never finish. The truth is that social media changes each day and will continue to do so. Every day, more and more become reliant on these social media sites. In my perspective, social media distracts many people, especially students, from living up to their full potential.



THE BUG

By Justyne Bernal

Social media has become so powerful that it has made us feel that without it, we cannot survive. It is like an addictive drug to people of all ages. The question is: Is social media our friend or our greatest enemy?

I find that social media is not our friend, it is our enemy. However, I have come to realize that there is positivity in social media such as staying in touch with family, friends, getting information and more. But, there is not anything that social media can do that we cannot figure out ourselves in real life. We always seem

to feel that we cannot live our daily lives without social media when in reality everything that we are able to do in social media such as communicating can be done in other ways.

Many teenagers always think and wish that they would have lived in old times. Where social media was never an option. When being cool was not getting the most likes on a picture. When all you needed to do was go outside and call out all your neighborhood friends to have fun. There was never a cellphone to suck the things out of being a child.

Read more Observation columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/opinions/>



MT photo by Justyne Bernal

People using social media will often turn their backs on others. This photo shows how people do not interact because of social media.

Social media has the strong ability to control our lives. Not only how it handles us during certain times but rather how we are personally affected by social media during those moments.

We have come to rely on so-

cial media so much that every time a post or picture goes viral it's in our nature to believe it. The post can be ridiculous and many will still believe it. This is why I believe that it has become like a drug to people because no matter how bad it is for them, they will stop at nothing.

I find that the biggest reason why social media is our enemy is because it makes us into something we are not. Social media can easily create a certain image. Nowadays, it is so easy for other users to change who you are. Someone could put something on social media such as a popular fashion trend. If that person gets a lot of likes and shares, then everyone feels the need to fulfill the trend.

Each day we use social media, there will never be one where you don't see someone judge another person. It's like social media wants people to have a certain image. It allows others to quickly judge you if you don't have anything that is "in" at the time.

Social media in my perspective is a tool for bullies. Many bullies use Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, etc. to bash people. So many arguments go on each day on social media that you would never see happen in real life.

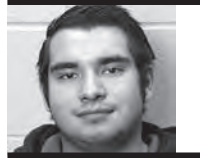
I think this falls into social media being able to put an image on you. You can pretend to **See THE BUG, page 10**

The Magnet Tribune
The Magnet Tribune is a publication produced by students in the Journalism, Newspaper Production, Photojournalism and CTE classes of the Vidal M. Treviño School of Communications and Fine Arts, Laredo Independent School District. This publication provides readers with information relating to the school and its students, provides students a lab for producing a newspaper using professional-level computer software and offers an open forum for student opinion. The Magnet Tribune is distributed free of charge.

Dr. Martha Villarreal
School director

Mark Webber
Journalism/online media instructor and adviser
 Magnet Tribune

Vol. 24, No. 1, January 13, 2017
co-Editors: Karla Alvarez and Madelyn Dion
Nameplate is a collaboration by journalism students.
Production is by VMT journalism/online media/CTE students using Adobe InDesign and Adobe Photoshop on HP computers.
Printed by Greater Dallas Press, Garland, Texas.
Copyright ©2017 Vidal M. Treviño School of Communications and Fine Arts and The Magnet Tribune.



WAFFLE IRON

By Edwin Villanueva

Someone! Please help me.	No one can hear you. You're on your own.	I don't think so, Evil Skull.	EV, I've been expecting you!	Let the citizen go, Evil Skull!
How about I let you have it?!	Evil Skull's fist misses his face!	My turn!		
Night night, Evil Skull!	Thanks, EV. Don't thank me. Now go home and be safe.	EV suddenly attacks the citizen!		

It is the policy of the Laredo Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, limited English proficiency, or handicapping condition in its programs.

NSRA First Class Award: 1996-97, 98-99, 99-00, 02-03 03-04, 04-05, 05-06, 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, 10-11, 11-12, 13-14 (online)
Second Class Award: 2000-01, 01-02, 10-11 (website), 11-12 (paper and website), 12-13 (paper), 13-14 (paper), 15-16 (paper)

ILPC Award of Distinguished Merit: 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010 (Star nomination), 2010 (online)
Award of Achievement: 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2008, 2011, 2011 (online), 2012 (online), 2013, 2014, 2015 (print and online), 2016 (print and online)
Award of Honor: 1998, 2004, 2005



Contact The Magnet Tribune

By e-mail: mt_writers@hotmail.com | On the Internet: <http://magnettribune.org> | Facebook | Twitter
Address: Vidal M. Treviño School of Communication and Fine Arts, The Magnet Tribune, 2102 East Lyon St., Laredo, Texas 78043
In person: Room A212 (Journalism classroom), or drop off items for Mark Webber in the school office.



Man seeks life in a virtual world

Where do you see yourself in the year 2044? In an office stacking endless papers in a 9 to 5 job? Or maybe off in Bora Bora with the money you saved up from working late night shifts?

Or how about a barren wasteland with filled with hunger, poverty and nothing but a (video game) to remember what humanity at its finest functions fruitfully in our favor.

In Ready Player One, written by Ernest Cline, he invokes a dystopian retro vibe into what could be the best fantasy novel you have ever read. Video games? Yeah, this book is filled with vintage video games as well as new ones. Romance? Heck yes, only the best romance in an apocalyptic fiction book could have. Action? Samurai brothers fighting alongside a giant robots and possibly Godzilla's ex-girlfriend. Comedy? Wade is full of sarcastic and witty comebacks that anyone of any age will enjoy.

The book begins with main



THE BOOK LOOK

By Belen Silva

Read more The Book Look columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/reviews/>

character Wade Watts, living with his not-so-great aunt after his parents died. The only place he really feels like home is real life virtual world called OASIS.

OASIS is a virtual live video game where people of any kind can log into and live their normal lives. OASIS was created many years ago by James Halliday who thought it would be a good idea to escape reality, even for a little while. Since OASIS became so popular, school was now held in the main sector of the game.

So basically OASIS was everyone's reality away from reality.

Wade, being Halliday's fan, sought to find 'Halliday's Easter

ter Egg." In his will, he announced that in his death, the player who would find his Easter egg would inherit his company OASIS and all his fortune. Of course, people spent years looking for the egg but after Halliday died, people acted like it was the last drop of water on this planet. And this was no exception to Wade, Halliday's fan.

Wade began his search looking for the egg under his avatar name, Parzival. He had researched everything under the sun about Halliday's past, present and future, anything that could get him closer to the egg. Halliday was a vintage video game, comic, music, and film fanatic and

most of his clues were based on his childhood, where he had a rough time. Much like Wade, he related to Halliday and found all this research to be more fascinating. After an epiphany during his class, he found a clue towards where the egg might be. He followed his hunch which led him to a cave, and eventually the great love of his life.

After entering the cave and defeating the first boss who holds the key to another clue on where to find the egg, he finds himself with Art3mis, a video game blogger and a "total babe" according to Wade. After their not so friendly encounter, a friendship begins to form. The team up with Aech, and Diato and Shoto, two Japanese brothers. They journey to find the egg until the Innovative Online Industries becomes aware of their success. Main official, Nolan Sorrento, wasn't going to let a multi-billion dollar fortune go to some undeserving teenagers. Death threats, battles as good as The



Battle of Hogwarts or maybe Star Wars are fought. Lives lost, lives reborn, you name it.

This book was a heck of a ride from start to finish, as well as some great lessons about bravery, friendship, sacrifice, not judging a book for its cover and a lot of 1980's pop culture trivia. A book to read time and time again to remind us how precious life is and that we shouldn't waste it.

Intense action marks movie-now-series

We all know and love the original slasher movie that Wes Craven directed. Scream, originally entitled Scary Movie, is a franchise that is still growing. It was a movie, but now is remade as a show.

The show stars Willa Fitzgerald (season 1-present), Bex Taylor-Klaus (season 1-present), Carlson Young (season 1-present), Amadeus Serafini (season 1-season 2), John Karna (season 1-present), Tracy Middendorf (season 1-present), Tom Maden (seasons 1-2), Connor Weil (season 1), Santiago Segura (season 2), Kiana Brown (season 2), and Jason Wiles (season 1).

The show has grown to become one of my favorites to sit down and watch. Most of the time, I have things to do and I just listen to the dialogue, but for this show I have to sit down because there are so many plot twists you would never have thought of. Season 1 was the



TV FANATIC

By Krysta Robles

Read more TV FANatic columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/reviews/>

starting point and season 2 was the pick up. There were more views and it's understandable: the show has grown and is one of the best I've ever seen.

I have yet to finish the second season, but from where I stand, it is the best season out of the two that there are. Halloween is still a memory and the show had a Halloween special which is great. I was super excited for that, to be quite honest. Anyways, as the show progresses, it gets more intense and when I say "intense" I mean INTENSE!

For the most part, Scream, the TV show, follows the storyline of the 1996 slasher mov-

ie. I love the slasher movie; I am a huge fan, so when I heard that there was going to be a show about it, I screamed. Yes, I screamed. It was amazing - even though it isn't revolving around Sydney Prescott, it does have the same storyline.

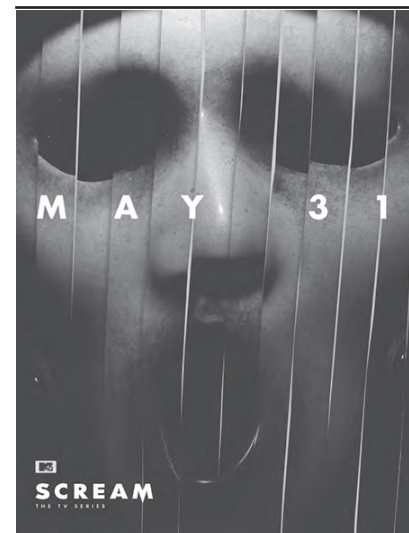
Emma Duval, played by Willa Fitzgerald, is an average teen whose father and mother were involved in a murder crisis in the past. Now, in season one, basically in the beginning, the murders started happening after a cyberbullying incident. It does get worse than that - the people that were involved in the cyberbullying incident start to get murdered.

There are so many dark twists and they're scary good.

I am on the second season and I haven't finished it yet, but what I have seen it has so many turns and twists and I am excited to see them. Honestly, all I want to do is find out who the murderer is because I have so many theories and it actually surprises me that I haven't spoiled for it myself.

I give this show a 10 out of 10. I would recommend if you're into remakes and like the "Scream" franchise. For myself, this is a great remake franchise.

The show has done great so far. As a whole, the show and the characters are so well put together and I'm very proud to say I was here since the beginning. As of right now, a couple of months after the season finale, MTV hasn't confirmed a third season. I am upset, very much so. However, there have been clues that the series is not over yet. But, then again,



this is a theory and the producers may just leave us on a cliffhanger. That upsets me, a little too much.

Nonetheless, the show is something everyone should give a chance - it's great and I would totally recommend it to everyone.

You can watch Scream on MTV at 9 p.m. Laredo time or on Netflix.

Pokemon series features two versions

Pokémon X and Y was revealed on January 8, 2013, during a worldwide live stream through a Nintendo Direct hosted by former Nintendo President and CEO Satoru Iwata. The game took 3.5 years according to the game's director Junichi Masuda and included more than 500 people.

Both versions were then released on October 12, 2013, worldwide making it the first in the series.

To celebrate the series' 20th anniversary of the franchise along with the release of newer titles Sun and Moon I present you with Pokémon X for the Nintendo 3DS.

Plot

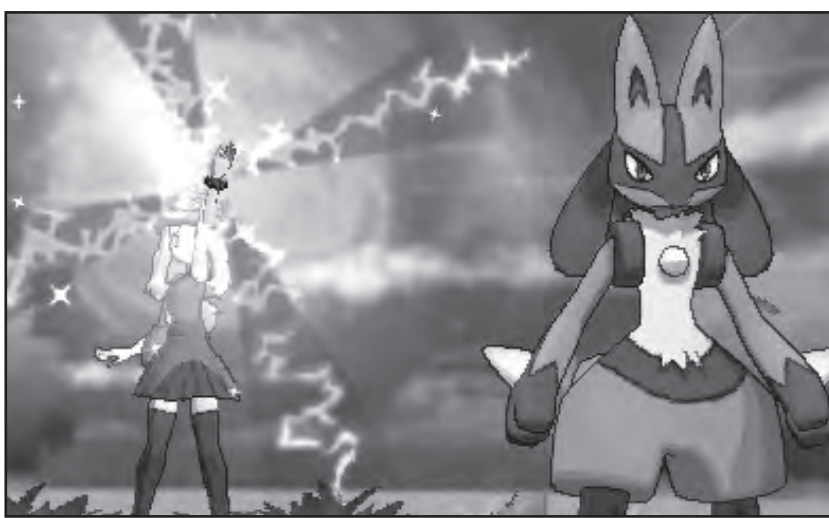
Pokémon X has a simple plot. The player is woken up by its mother Pokémon who encourages the player to meet its new neighbors. Players choosing a male avatar will meet Serena, and if players choosing a female avatar will meet Clem.

After arriving at Aquacorde town they are introduced to Tierno and Trevor who are also choosing to help with the research. The player then has to choose a Pokémon starter which are Fennekin a fire type, Froakie a water type, and Chespin a grass type. After choosing a starter the players are also giving a Pokedex to collect data of Pokémon the player encounters, and they are given a letter for the player's mother asking if they can



GAME CORNER

By Manuel Ruiz



Female avatar Cy-Serena, left, is about to use Mega Evolution on Lucario, her Pokemon.

go on the journey around the Kalos Region.

Gameplay

Pokémon X and Y are similar to each other, but each game has version exclusive Pokémon that the player needs to trade from a friend or online. For example, Pokémon X has the legendary Pokémon Xerneas that is only caught in X, and in Pokémon Y the legendary Pokémon Yveltal is only found in Y.

In Pokémon X and Y, both games have returning mechanics such as leveling up Pokémon by battling and

evolving Pokémon either by leveling up to a certain level or by trading with a friend. The Kalos region provides many previous Pokémon from older entries which are useful for a newcomer to the series since players can transfer Pokémon through Pokebank, an application that stores 3,000 Pokémon for a yearly \$5 fee.

Lastly Pokémon X difficulty can depend on the player's choices such as if they have the Exp share, a key item on since this item helps spread experience points to each Pokémon. It's also recommended that

Read more Game Corner columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/reviews/>
Pokemon details X, Y at magnettribune.org/?p=11137

the player plays on a "New" 3DS model to have fewer frame drops during doubles battles and with 3D on will cause more frames to drop.

New Features

In Pokémon X and Y, a brand new type was introduced: the Fairy type. This brand new typing was added as a way to add a weakness to Dragon-type Pokémon. Fairy type is very effective on Dragon, Fighting, and Dark types, but is weak to Poison and Steel types.

Players can now customize their trainer anyway they like to. Unlike previous titles, the player can customize their character with different types of clothing, hair color, and backpack/bag.

Pokémon-Amie is a brand new feature that helps players bond with their Pokémon such as feeding Pokepuffs which are treats the player can give to their Pokémon. This feature helps evolve certain Pokémon that requires a max bond with the player.

Lastly, a brand new online feature called the Player Search System helps players connect with people around the world as they can either battle or trade. This feature is useful for players who don't have friends that own the game.

Pros

Pokémon X is a great installment for newcomers and a great way for people to learn the basics of Pokémon such learning the weaknesses for each type, catching old, and new Pokémon and also having a way to catch older legendary Pokémon.

Cons

As great as Pokémon X is for newcomers it still has its issues. If the player is playing on an older model of the Nintendo 3DS the game will drop in frames during battles, and if the player uses 3D during battle it will also cause the frames to drop.

Lastly Pokémon X difficulty can be too easy for returning players which can cause people to lose interest in completing the game. An example would be this generations rivals which the player has 4 in X and Y but show no challenge to the player.

Final Thoughts

Pokémon X is a great way to start off for newcomers to the series but for returning fans may see this as a bad installment to return to. With the new features added there are also a few issues such as the game's difficulty, and frames issues. I give Pokémon X an 8/10.

Video clips give hints to new album

BTS has released its new album that fans have been anticipating ever since they released their first short film hinting a comeback.

It's a very confusing comeback as each short film has its own story, and there are 7 short films. Don't worry, they're at least 2-5 minutes long as if they were music videos.

The Blood Sweat Tears music video itself is very confusing as all their other music videos are but there are many theories. Honestly, I don't even bother with the theories for the group itself probably doesn't even know the true story behind their videos. And if they did, they won't be revealing their stories soon.

The choreography is amazing which is what I would expect from BTS, and they even released a practice video of it.

Since I haven't talked about BTS, the boy group consists of seven boys who are Jin, V, Suga, Jimin, J-Hope, Rap-Monster, and Jungkook. They are so popular in the kpop industry that their music videos have millions of views and their fan base is big and loyal to them, so if you're into kpop it'd be very surprising if you



MUSICAL SEOUL

By Mariene Sanchez

Read more Musical Seoul columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/reviews/>

didn't know who they were unless you're just barely getting into it.

Before I get to the music video, I'm going to be talking about the album. If you were to order the physical copy of the album you would have to choose between four versions. The track list is the same in each version; it's just the photobooks that are different.

There are versions W, I, N, and G. Version W consists of Jin and the rest of BTS. Version I consists of J-Hope and V. Version N consists of Jimin and Suga. Lastly, version G consists of Rap-Monster and Jungkook. You can get also get the bundle that includes all of the versions if you can't decide which to choose.

The track list has 15 songs; most of them being solos by each member. The short films were basically teasers for each

member and their own solos which are very amazing and different from each other. It really gives each of them a chance to express their talents by themselves in different songs.

In the short films and the music video, they recited and referenced the book of Demian. The music video was overall confusing to me. Why is V's wings cut off? Why is Jin's face cracking? Why did Jin kiss that statue? Who's the fallen angel?

At this point, theories are becoming so ridiculous that I don't bother trying to find out what's actually going on, but it's still very interesting that I loved the music so much. So much was happening and there many colors mixed in with an eerie white. I absolutely loved it. It was really pretty. So were the choreography and



BigHit Entertainment

BTS has released its new album that fans have been anticipating ever since they released their first short film hinting at a comeback.

vocals.

The album has lots to do with praising their parents, depression and self-love/hate and it's the first time I've seen a group personally sing about those for they do go through those things. They are only human.

This group is growing and will only continue to grow and beat records due to their hard work being recognized and loved by fans all around the world. It's basically every kpop

group's dream to be able to achieve that so I'm glad BTS is achieving that goal.

Aside from the group continuously getting fame, I always enjoy their music. I haven't really heard a song I've disliked from them yet and I don't think that'll happen soon, so I really do believe they're worth being a fan of and I recommend almost all of their music. They're all really cute and dorky so that's a bonus.

Baran is known for his YouTube videos

Jack Baran, known as thatsojack, born in Fairfield, Connecticut on January 13, 1997, is an icon to many. He has 1.2 million followers on Instagram, 1.1 million followers on Twitter, and 1.4 million subscribers on YouTube.

On YouTube, Jack has made 4 videos in a span of 4 years, meaning his first video was uploaded on June 29, 2010, but he created his channel on May 25, 2010.

Jack's first video was named "Could it be you-H*Wood," a music video for the song.

For a while he made music videos and the went into other types of videos, like question and answers and making videos with other YouTubers like Jenn Mcallister.

Baran is also known for his past obsession for One Direction; he would "stalk," as he would put it, Harry Styles and react to One Directions' albums when they first came out.

Jack has also been a fashion icon because of his style.

Jack was on a recent tour where I was thankful enough to meet him. This tour was

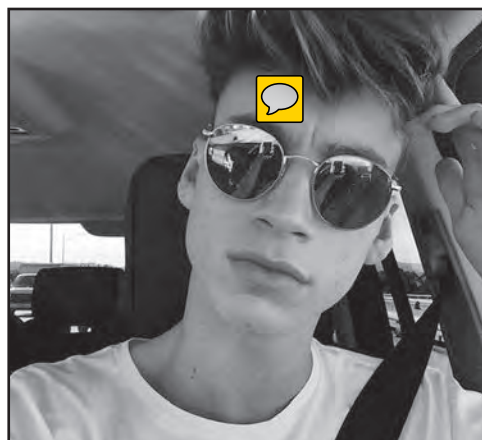


RISING STARS

By Madelyn Dion

Read more Rising Star columns at <http://magnettribune.org/category/reviews/>

Twitter photo



Jack Baran, known for his YouTube videos, has 1.1 million followers on Twitter.

called Drop the Mic presented by Fullscreenlive. The tour was from Nov. 30 to Dec. 22.

People on this tour with Jack were Ricky Dillon, The Gabbie Show, Andrew Lowe and hosted by Chachi Gonzales; it was the world's first lip sync tour.

When I met Jack and everyone on this tour he was so sweet and nice and tried his hardest to meet everyone after the show which was very nice of him because he nor any of the others had to do that.

I went over to Twitter and made a post saying, "If you went To a dtm, drop the mic, show and met Jack and would like to help me please dm, direct message, me I'm writing a column about Jack."

I had a few people describe how Jack was when they met him and what their opinion is of him.

Amilee, also known as varsitybaran, said "He was liter-

ally an angel. I don't think I've met anyone so happy to meet his fans he just seemed so excited to meet everyone... it's really obvious he cares about his fans because at the time, I hadn't been a Jack account for a couple months but he still knew who I was and stuff like that it was the best experience. My opinion on him I guess he's the best person ever and I really think he's underrated."

She met Jack on December 6, 2016, in Chicago, Illinois.

I also spoke with Maggie, also known as preciousbaran on Twitter, and she said, "He was so so sweet and I got to hug him a couple of times and he seemed very easy to talk to. I showed him the shirt I made him and he said he loved it and he'd follow me if I tweeted it to him. I love Jack so so much and I've been watching him for about three years now. I think he's hilarious and amazing

and a very wise person. He just makes me so happy. Whenever I'm upset, I always watch his videos and they always make me smile. He is the sweetest person and I just love him to pieces honestly."

She met him Dec. 22, 2016, in San Antonio, Texas.

Personally I love Jack so much and he's such a good person and he's so sweet and he makes me really happy. I found out he was going on tour and I asked my mom immediately because I have looked up to him for so long and he just

has a huge impact in my life.

I also met him the same day and in the same city. I drove 3 hours to get there but it was worth it and it was the best day of my life.

Through Jack I have made many new friends all over the country and it's a really cool thing.

Jack has come such a long way since his first video and it's so cute to see him grow like he has. All of his fans are so proud of him and thank him so much for what he has done for us, his fans.

FRIGHT MIC, FROM PAGE 5

made her feel.

Gomez said in her poem she disliked when guys decided to overstay their welcome. She also proceeded to talk about how guys would just go ahead and message her mom without knowing a single thing about her and think it was alright. That disgusted Gomez on many levels, she said.

"For the men who message my mother on Facebook, don't. Do not look at my mother's profile and nothing else. Do not look at the message button and click that instead of interests," she recited.

Abigail Salazar, a senior and editor for this year's Tapestry magazine, explained the purpose of Fright Mic.

"One of the most important reasons of making sure we follow through with one of these each year is to get submissions for the magazine, she said.

Why the name in particular, though? Salazar herself has wondered why the people who came before her decided to stick with the name Fright Mic.

Even though it has been around for a while it is October, she said.

"Throughout the years the Tapestry committee has always wanted to stick to the holiday feel," Salazar said.

Salazar explained since students are always eager to share their work, here is what the Tapestry staff looks for in submissions

"We don't really have any specific preferences, if anything we accept creative writing pieces, photos of all sorts and artwork," Salazar said.

Salazar thinks everyone who performed did really well.

"They are all very talented people," Salazar said.

Briseyda Ortiz, senior and a co-ed-

itor on the Tapestry staff, explained the purpose for Fright Mic is.

"In my opinion, I think the main purpose is to get submissions not only from our class but from people outside of it, too, as well as getting their pieces published," she said.

She was surprised by how well the event turned out.

"It was very good. I really enjoyed the fact the audience paid a lot of attention," she said.

She liked how the event went.

"I honestly feel like we all did a superior job because we have been doing it for three years in a row already," Ortiz said.

Ortiz said Fright Mic helps the magazine because the staff receives many submissions from a variety of people.

Due to this, Tapestry staff members get to see many ideas.

"Therefore, when Tapestry publish-

es pieces we like, they gain popularity for the magazine and the artist," Ortiz said.

The piece that she presented had a very ambiguous feel to it. It was titled, "From day to day," about living 365 days without knowing from day to day what was going to happen next.

"We don't know if we're going to lose someone or when our lives are going to end," she recited.

The reason why she started writing in the first place was that she liked not only to get into what she was writing, but to express how she felt in a way others will understand, Ortiz said.

"Some never really seem to interpret the meaning of the things I say," Ortiz added. So by writing it down, it gives me a chance to tell them what I really meant in a way that they would understand, too."

THE BUG, FROM PAGE 8

be anyone so easily. You can easily act different or be who you aren't. It is so easy to put a fake reputation of yourself on social media.

In addition, I have observed social media is very dangerous, especially for teenagers. You practically put all your information out into the open for the

world to see. You may have a majority of your things private but people always find ways to get the information they need. Nowadays, anything is possible.

Social media is such a huge distraction that I believe wastes a lot of time. When I'm at gatherings it isn't even

about speaking to each other and having actual conversations anymore. It is mainly everyone on their phone using social media, wasting valuable time that could be spent making memories with those around them.

I always think about how the people in our generation's lives have come

to revolve around social media. How so many moments are not cherished the way they should be but rather how some people have decided to base themselves off of what they see on social media.

Boy takes over CoverGirl world

LIZETH GUTIERREZ AND
CRYSTAL MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITERS

A male has taken over the female's world of makeup.

James Charles is the new coverboy for CoverGirl cosmetics.

It all started when he received a lot of attention for a picture he posted on Twitter using his own type of lighting on his senior pictures which have gone viral on social media.

He then got to represent CoverGirl in advertisements and social media, starting by making his first-ever commercial on November 2016, which is now on the CoverGirl YouTube channel.

Students around campus discussed their opinion about CoverGirl naming Charles the first-ever coverboy.

"I think it's good that they use a boy for their cover. I think it will attract more buyers," freshman Mauro Flores said.

Flores added that he sees the makeup community being ruled more by males in the future.

Sophomore Victoria Garcia explained how she did not see what the big deal was since men and women have been wearing make-up for a long time now.

"It doesn't affect me in any way so I don't really see why I should (give an) opinion on it," Garcia said.

She added that it was about time for a male to be the face of a makeup brand.



Screenshot from Twitter



Screenshot from Twitter

Related content online at
www.youtube.com
search for James Charles

"Anyone should be able to wear it," Garcia said.

Freshman Alexis Perez said that it's good that CoverGirl is using a male because they also have a right to use and represent makeup.

Perez said that he personally doesn't like the idea of using makeup but if other guys like it he doesn't have anything against it.

While some aren't bothered by CoverGirl using a male as a model, one person did share her opinion on how it just isn't fair.

"I think it's a very open minded idea, but also very controversial for those girls that believe makeup is a very feminine thing, even for gay

men," sophomore Sandra Martinez said.

Martinez added how she respects males wearing makeup but in a way she's against it, because she thinks they're striving too hard to get attention.

"I don't feel like it's very fair to woman. It is called CoverGirl and now a male being the face of the brand is very contradicting," Martinez said.

On the other hand, Sophomore Nayelli Fuentes had no problem with the decision CoverGirl made on choosing a male.

"I think it's good that CoverGirl chose a guy because it shows that they respect a boy's decision to wear makeup,"

Fuentes said.

Another junior male that agreed with the decision CoverGirl made was Joseph Inclan.

"I think makeup should be for everyone. When an eyeshadow or contour kit doesn't say only for women, it's like saying pink shirts are only for girls," Inclan said. "I think it's cool because some girls have no idea how to do makeup; meanwhile, guys are killing it."

According to high school students interviewed for this story, most of them are not bothered by CoverGirl using Charles as the face of the brand.

Up to this day Charles, who is also a singer in an acapella group called Encore, continues to be very controversial in the makeup community. His YouTube channel has been very active with him collaborat-

ing with other YouTubers like Ben J. Pierce, William, Joey Graceffa, RCL-beauty101, and his latest collab with Ricky Dillon.

In his collabs he teaches others how to do different makeup looks, tutorials and even a no-mirror makeup challenge which is a challenge where they try to do their makeup without a mirror.

He has starred on The Ellen Show and has made friends throughout his journey like Katy Perry and Sofia Vergara.

The Magnet Tribune tried reaching Charles, a 17-year-old high school student from Bethlehem, N.Y., for a personal interview several times but did not get a response back from him.

A magazine had this to say about James Charles.

"James Charles is no exception. One year ago, he boldly chose to launch his Instagram to the world, using transformative, dynamic makeup looks to showcase the many facets of his personality, serving as an inspiration to women, men, guys and girls who might have been afraid to do the same," according to OUT Magazine.



Art teacher's mural now in Cotulla

ARYANNA RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

Gilberto Rocha was very excited when he was hired by the manager of Cotulla Main Street organization to create the mural. He was not only excited when he was hired to create the mural but also during the year in which he was painting it.

"I felt excited because it was something that I had looked forward to making for years," Rocha said.

Rocha began painting the mural last school year and finished it in September. He found it challenging to fulfill his responsibilities for school and the project, but it is something that Rocha was determined to finish.

"This mural is something I really wanted to do not only for myself but for my students and for the city of Cotulla because it is a huge project that deals with its history," Rocha said.

A grand opening celebration to commemorate the mural took place in Cotulla, about 70 miles north of Laredo on Interstate Highway 35, on Oct. 12 at Veterans Park. The mural is located at 116 Center St., in front of the park.

There were many challenges that Rocha faced when he was in the process of painting the mural, but he was able to overcome them with his determination.

"I would go back and think to myself that this is what I wanted years ago, and now that it is here I have to face the challenge," Rocha said.

One of the challenges he faced was having to paint the mural in his studio in Laredo. It was hard for him to create it in his studio because the mural is about half a city block long. The mural is formed of 42 panels, and each of them is 4-by-8-feet so in total, it is 14-feet high and 96-feet wide.

"I never expected painting clouds to be so difficult. Clouds are just slapping on paint but when you're doing them at a scale where you have to be stepping away to see how they look it becomes very challenging," Rocha said.

Painting this mural not only took a lot of time but a lot of money as well. About \$20,000 was spent on paint. Paint is something that Rocha bought a lot of.

"It was the first time I had ordered paint by the gallon," he said.



MT photos by Mark Webber

TOP: Art instructor Gilberto Rocha's mural is seen in downtown Cotulla. The 96-foot-long mural takes up half of a city block. ABOVE: A closeup of a section of the mural, which tells the story of Cotulla's history.

Related story, photos, and video online at
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=10603>
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=9101>

According to an earlier Magnet Tribune story, the mural will cost the city of Cotulla about \$60,000.

The images that Rocha painted on the mural were given to him by the mural committee of the city of Cotulla.

"They all have to do with the history of Cotulla starting with the founder Joseph Cotulla," Rocha said.

During the year in which he was doing the mural, it was a little harder for him because

he had school work he had to do aside from the mural which was a challenge for him.

Though Rocha was very excited about creating the mural, he said he relaxed once the mural was completely finished.

"I felt relieved. It became like a full-time thing because even though I was at school teaching I would think about what I needed to do next when I wasn't teaching," he said.

Rocha said he is really

grateful to everyone who encouraged him during the time when he was creating the mural and to the city of Cotulla for giving him the opportunity.

He said he is especially grateful for his parents that believed in him and were there to support him.

Rocha said he learned a lot from painting the mural. The opportunity he was given not only impacted his life but helped his career in many ways, he said.

"Now I look forward to really planning things and writing them down," Rocha said. "I think the main thing is that I became more disciplined and structured."

9/11 ceremony honors vets



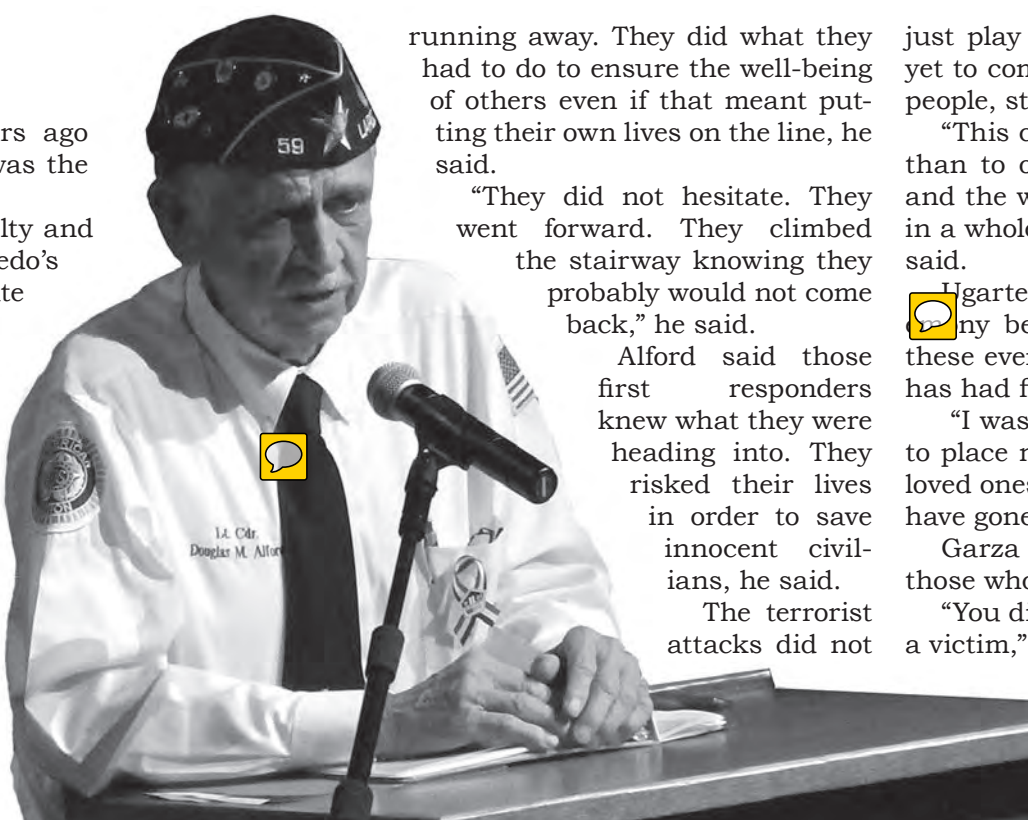
HOMERO AREVALO
STAFF WRITER

The September 11 attacks 15 years ago on the twin towers in New York City was the cause of many American deaths.

On Sept 12, Vidal M. Trevino's faculty and students, American veterans, and Laredo's first responders united to commemorate the 2,996 lives that were lost and the over 6,000 that were injured.

"The American men and women in New York City: firefighters, emergency personnel, private individuals, headed into the falling twin towers," guest speaker Navy Lt. Commander Douglass Alford said.

Alford talked about those brave first responders who ran head on to the towers to save others, instead of



running away. They did what they had to do to ensure the well-being of others even if that meant putting their own lives on the line, he said.

"They did not hesitate. They went forward. They climbed the stairway knowing they probably would not come back," he said.

Alford said those first responders knew what they were heading into. They risked their lives in order to save innocent civilians, he said.

The terrorist attacks did not

just play an important role in the wars that were yet to come, but it played a huge role in the lives of people, students said.

"This ceremony meant something different to me than to other people. My dad is an Army veteran and the way he talks about events places things in a whole other perspective," Jose Ugarte, a senior, said.

Ugarte said he has a close connection to this ceremony because his father was in the Army when these events took place. His father is a veteran and has had first-hand battle experience.

"I was too young when this happened but I tend to place myself in the shoes of the people who lose loved ones. I can hardly imagine the pain they must have gone through," Priscilla Garza, a senior, said.

Garza said that it must have been painful for those who lost people in the attacks.

"You did not need to suffer corporal damage to be a victim," she said.

See more 9/11 photos, video:
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=10380>
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=10407>

MT photo by Edward Barrera
Retired Navy Lieutenant Commander Douglass Alford speaks at the 9/11 ceremony.

Great memories left after tryout

CRYSTAL MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

Alexis Perez had a once in a lifetime chance by being in a Spanish-language television series where kids from all around the world go to share their talent of singing. The show is called La Voz Kids, which airs on Telemundo and is in its fourth season.

It all started when 14-year-old Perez went to San Antonio on September 30, 2015, as an eighth grader. He was told there was going to be castings near his hometown, Laredo, and he attended the casting.

"In order to go to the auditions we had to pass three rounds, and after we passed the three rounds we had to wait for the last two weeks of November or the first weeks of December for them to call us and tell us we had made it to the auditions in Orlando," Perez, whose fine art is Mariachi with instructor Billy Thatcher, said.

The people from the series called Perez to let him know he had made it to the auditions, which were going to take place in Orlando, Florida.

"I wanted to see how far I could get and what I could learn from the experience," Perez said when asked what was his inspiration to try out for La Voz Kids.

Once he got to the studio in Orlando, he said he was amazed and excited to be there.

"All the people were nice," said Perez after he got to meet new people from the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

When it was time to audition in front of three famous judges, he said he felt excited but scared at the same time because he didn't know how he was going to do.

At the end of the audition, when he sang "No Volvere" by Cristian Castro, he turned one chair around in the blind auditions, which was round one. Singer Pedro Fernandez was the person who turned his chair around. Perez said he felt he did well and was excited to have Fernandez as his coach.

There were three judges in the series, Daddy Yankee, Natalia Jimenez, and Fernandez, who are all well-known Spanish-language singers.

After the auditions were over the next round was "las batallas," which means battle in Spanish. Perez and two other teens had to practice and train with their coach, Fernandez, for the battle rounds. During the battle rounds, all three teens competed with each other with one song. At the end, the coach had to take one out and that was Perez.

The season he starred in began airing on April 17, 2016.

After he got back to Laredo a lot changed because fans were requesting him to sing and to sign autographs. Even at school, he would be recognized by students who asked to take a photo with him.

A few days later, a local Taco Palenque manager asked Perez to sign autographs. Outside the restaurant was a poster of him because it turned out the restaurant wanted to sponsor him.

A few months ago, Perez



La Voz Kids website, MT photo by Lizeth Gutierrez
ABOVE: Alexis Perez performs during his audition for Telemundo's La Voz Kids in Orlando, Florida, as an 8th grader. LEFT: Perez waits to perform at the 16 de septiembre event at VMT, in September.

More photos and video online at
<http://magnettribune.org/?p=10442>

had the chance to perform and open for El Poder Del Norte, a Spanish musical group, at ExpoMex, the Tamaulipas state fair, in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

Besides those performances, there have been a few more.

For example, one was at Laredo SOUP, which is an organization that helps people in need. Another one was at Miss Teen Laredo Latina, a teen pageant in Laredo.

Even out of town, he was

asked to perform at a benefit for children who are in need of wheelchairs and other items, in Houston.

After everything was over, Perez has good memories from trying out for La Voz Kids.

"I felt good because I gave it my all, made new friends, and learned a lot from it," Perez said.