

## Lady Panthers kill it on the court

CAIT IMHOFF

On Tuesday, Oct. 24, your West High Lady Panthers took on the Cottonwood Colts in the last home match of the season, which is also known as Senior Night. Emotions were high and tears were flowing, but the team stayed strong and killed it on the court. The night was especially poignant for seniors Ritsuko Armington (12), Lupe Pulu (12), Nina Skipps (12), Hue Tran (12), Cait Imhoff (12), and Stephanie Mahina (12). The team had two commanding triple crown victories over Cottonwood, along with a record of 6-8, the girls looked forward to the last week of season with excitement and determination.

Unfortunately burdened with the setback of an incomplete varsity roster, which included the absences of Cait Imhoff (12), Lupe Pulu (12), Stephanie Mahina (12), Teu Vaitai (10), and

Aggie Stanley (10), both the last season and first playoff games were tough losses. Even with this disappointing end, the girls have no regrets about the season. "It was a great season with our new coaches and we all really grew as a team," says Nina Skipps (12). "As the years come, it's only going to get better!" she adds.

With a new coaching staff and an entirely new program this year, the season started out slowly, especially for the juniors and seniors who were used to the old system. Despite these issues, the Lady Panthers kept working hard. "It was tough at the beginning," says Hue Tran. "But we worked together to improve ourselves which resulted in an awesome season."

At the end of the season, the Lady Panthers said goodbye to six seniors, leaving a young team to fill their shoes. "Next year will be hard on the girls, but as long as they stay a team, they're going to go far no doubt," says Skipps. The girls are determined to work hard in the off-season to prepare themselves for next year, hoping to improve upon this year. Head coach Sabrina Kefu comments, "I'm proud about how we started and even more excited about our future." The girls show lots of promise and can't wait to keep playing for West High.



Photo by Ivan Aloha

## THE VICTIMS OF THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

DIEGO ALEMÁN

As conflicts rage throughout the world, outside observers of war often see only the two conflicting sides of the argument. However, it is vital to recognize the innocent bystanders and civilians who suffer as a result of the war raging around them.

Right now, countries around the world, including the U.S, are attempting to diffuse a very dangerous threat to the people of Syria with threats of more violence. While the U.S military strength may be considered the most formidable force on the planet, waging another war in the Middle East causes only more distress for the civilians of Syria who already fear for their lives. Due to a threatening environment that has no problems with the use of chemical

weapons on its own people, Syria has been driving members of its population away in fear of their lives.

Since the beginning of the Syrian civil war in March 2011, more than 2.5 million Syrians have been displaced from their homes, fleeing from the war torn zones of their home country. Estimates range from 600,000 to almost 1,200,000 refugees in the neighboring nations of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) only has about 600,000 registered Syrian refugees, but it does not take into consideration those who are not registered as official refugees. Due to the current growing rate of the refugee population, it is es-

timated that by the end of this year, over half of the Syrian population, a total of 3.4 million people, is going to be displaced or in need of humanitarian assistance. As of right now, about 75% of these refugees are women and children.

The civil war has affected those countries where Syrians have been fleeing since the beginning of the war in March 2011. In Lebanon alone, the overall population of the country will have increased by 25% by the beginning of 2014, due to the massive influx of people from Syria. The Zaarari refugee camp is now the fifth largest city in Jordan, and the second largest refugee camp in the world, housing roughly 120,000 Syrians.



# SLFS FUNDRAISES FOR EQUIPMENT

SCOUT ASAY

The Salt Lake Film Society (SLFS) raced against time to convert all seven of their 35mm projectors over to digital by the end of this year. The price? \$700,000, or \$100,000 per projector. Why is SLFS special? Simple answer: the Society runs the only two theaters in Utah that regularly bring independent, foreign, classic, and local films to Salt Lake Valley. Film patrons, art lovers, and local-junkies of West High, band together and let the community hear you roar. A contribution of \$10, \$15, \$25 showed your support for the arts. A donation of \$15 was roughly equivalent to the price of two movie tickets; paying the price for two movie tickets could keep the theater open for the viewing of more fantastic films. Just by visiting [sallakefilmsociety.org](http://sallakefilmsociety.org), art lovers were able to donate whatever amount they wanted to.

The question is why the Society is con-

verting all of their theaters over to digital and who has set the deadline for this project. The Film Industry of America has set the deadline, and the reason is unsurprising: to save money. The expenses might sound steep, but in time the switch to digital will save the industry a lot of money, particularly because the production of digital hard drives is less costly than the production of 35mm prints. Digital hard drives also carry the benefit of having remarkably vivid images and increased access to live productions and accumulating concourses of restored classic films and foreign films. The issue is not, then, the digital technology itself, but rather the looming deadline.

As the deadline rapidly approaches, SLFS is making every conceivable effort to raise the required funds, but the required funds happen to be exorbitant. Most are not aware of the threat to theaters across

the country. The Society is stuck between a rock and a hard place: they can either raise the money or not, and "not" means closing the doors to their theaters. This would be a tragedy for many reasons, not the least because the Broadway and Tower Theaters, SLFS's two venues, are unique in the state of Utah.

The Society has broken the fundraising up into portions to make the realization of their goal more feasible. The first of these parts ran through Kickstarter, a fundraising website, and the projected objective was to raise \$50,000 by October. As of Sept. 19 they had \$8150, far below their much-desired target. The Society won't come near the \$50k (and ultimately, the \$700k) if the current patterns hold, but this pattern is not concrete and there may yet be a redeeming light at the end of the pivotal tunnel.

# ACT VS. SAT: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

CAIT IMHOFF

With the stress of college applications looming over high school students, it's important for them to be prepared. Apart from recommendations, personal essays and transcripts, colleges also require test scores from either the ACT or the SAT, but most students don't know which one to take. The ACT and SAT tests have some components in common, but are set up in completely different ways. While looking at them can be stressful, here are a few things that can hopefully make it easier.

The ACT test is mostly focused on student achievement, testing what the student knows and not penalizing for wrong answers. The test is composed of four thir-

ty-five to sixty minute sections, one each for reading, writing, math and science, all scored from zero to thirty-six. ACT also offers an optional thirty minute writing section, which is graded from one to six by two readers and added for a total of twelve possible points. With all the sections added up the student receives a composite score ranging from zero to thirty-six as well.

The SAT test, on the other hand, is designed to test reasoning and does take off points for wrong answers. The test is composed of a required thirty minute writing section, six 25 minute sections, two 20 minute sections and one 10 minute section, all testing either critical reading, writing or

math. Unlike the ACT, the SAT takes away points for wrong answers. The student receives three separate scores for each section ranging from zero to 800, which combined equal a total possible score of 2400.

Most colleges accept either or both tests for applications and class placement, though because of the differing set ups, it is probably a good idea to take both anyway, and maybe more than once. Most students take the ACT and/or the SAT once during the spring of their junior year and again during the fall of their senior year. Also, many colleges require SAT subject tests along with the SAT. There are fees and deadlines for registration, so hurry up and get on it!

# CHEMICAL ATTACKS IN SYRIA

EMMA CULVER

Difficulty breathing, contracted pupils, foaming at the mouth, convulsions; these were the symptoms hundreds of Syrian civilians, lying in rows on the floors of local clinics, displayed after a chemical attack in Damascus and Eastern Ghouta on August 21.

At 2:45 the morning of August 21, reports first came in via Facebook that the suburb of Ein Tarma in Eastern Ghouta had been hit with chemical weapons. Only two minutes later, the suburb Zamalaka, on the western edge of the city of Damascus, was attacked with the same weapons, launched by Syrian army rockets into the heart of the city. Clinics were quickly set up in the surrounding areas to help the victims. While early death tolls calculated by Syrian officials claimed around 300 deaths, the total is now estimated to be upwards of 1,000.

Disturbing footage of the aftermath of the attacks was uploaded to Youtube. The video shows lifeless bodies on the street, and men, women and children of all ages being treated in clinics. The victims captured in the video showed disturbing side effects, convulsions and pinpoint pupils, typically associated with the nerve gas sarin.

Chemical weapons, usually dispersed through gas, are a device that uses chemical formulations to harm human beings, such as nerve gas or tear gas. Chemicals com-

monly used in chemical weapons include chlorine, hydrogen cyanide, Sarin and Tabun. International reports suspect that the Syrian chemical weapons contained Sarin, a nerve attacking agent, due to the symptoms the victims displayed. These dangerous chemical agents were launched from surface to surface rockets into the Syrian public, filled with toxic gasses. Small explosive charges detonate when the rocket impacts, and chemicals are released throughout the rocket's flight as the metal containing the gas begins to disintegrate, allowing the toxins to affect as large an area as possible and causing maximum damage on the intended targets; in this case, Syrian civilians.

Since 1925, most of the world has agreed that chemical weapons are "justly condemned by the general opinion of the civilised world." These words come from the Geneva Protocol, a worldwide contract that prohibited use of chemical weapons in international warfare- but said nothing about the storing and production of chemical weapons. The stockpiling issue was dealt with through the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), a world policy that required all those who joined to gradually destroy stockpiled chemical weapons. While Syria is party to the Geneva Protocol, it is one of only seven countries not party to the

CWC, meaning that the chemical weapon attack puts Syria in a world-policy grey area - especially since the attack was connected to the country's civil war, therefore not used in "international warfare".

What concerns many of the public now, especially since international intervention may be out of the picture, is the question of how Syria obtained these dangerous weapons, and whether they have or can obtain more. Independent assessments have gathered that Syria produces a few hundred tons of chemical weapons containing Sarin, Tabun, VX, and mustard gasses. Experts suspect that Syrians produce these weapons at five different sites throughout the country, and one military base. While these facts sound ominous, many experts have stated that Syria has probably used up all of their chemical arsenal throughout the civil war, and it is now nearly impossible for them to purchase chemical weapons from other countries since so much international attention has been brought to the issue.

After taking a look at the evidence - the videos, the international policies, the victims, the death toll- the world must make a decision; how we will react to Syria's use of these dangerous weapons. How much action will we take, and how can our actions help prevent the use of chemical weapons for generations to come.

# U.S. RESPONSE TO CONFLICT IN SYRIA

MATTHEW PARKER

After the June 13th revelation that Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad had been using chemical weapons against his own people in the ongoing Syrian Civil War; many groups around the world decided something needed to be done.

One of these groups is the United States government. Earlier President Barack Obama had told Al-Assad that he would not intervene in Syria unless Al-Assad crossed the "red line".

That "red line" was the use of chemical weapons, and now that there is proof that Al-Assad has indeed crossed the "red line", Obama has been forced to rethink his position on interfering in the Syrian Civil War.

The Syrian Civil War has been going on since March of 2011 and has claimed the lives of over 100,000 Syrians. The initial uprising was part of the Arab Spring, in which many Arabic countries (including Libya, Egypt and Tunisia)



overthrew many of their leaders, who were primarily dictators. However Syria has not been as successful as other countries in the Arab Spring, as Al-Assad has remained in power despite mounting opposition.

Throughout it all the US has watched the Syrian Civil War with disgust, but has been hesitant to intervene in part due to the US involvement in Iraq (at the time the war broke out) and Afghanistan. However now that there is proof of Al-Assad using chemical weapons on his own people Obama may have changed his mind. On August 31st Obama announced that he intended to intervene directly in the Syrian Civil War. On September 14th, the US and Russia announced that they had made paths for Obama to launch an attack in Syria as early as later in September.

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## WEST PUSHES FOR RECYCLING PROGRAM

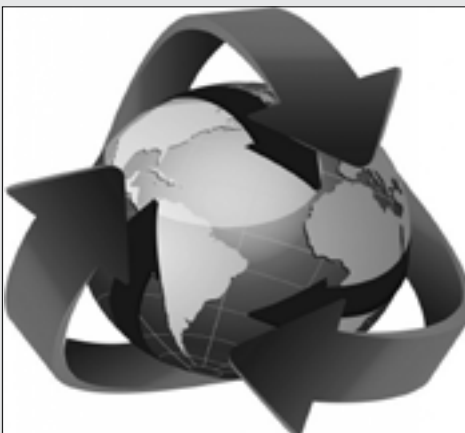
ELLIE FULLER

As far as colors go, West High is comfortable with red and black—it's green that is presenting the problem. This struggle for West to "Go Green" is not as simple as it may appear, and is not due to lack of effort. Students have noticed the little blue bins reserved especially for paper, but there is no other form of recycling at West; so aluminum and plastic are tossed in garbage cans.

Recycling seems like a no-brainer, but unfortunately it is not that simple. According to a West High environmental science teacher, Crystal King, "[there is] no place for another dumpster . . . but ideally we wouldn't need both dumpsters if we had recycling."

If West were able to establish a system to recycle materials in addition to paper, we would actually end up saving money. Recycling companies buy recycling, but we have to pay garbage companies to empty the dumpsters. It's just the risky, somewhat muddled transition that is keeping West stuck in wasteful habits. That and the fact that monitoring what actually goes into the recycling bins would be a hassle. After all, there is no preventing teenage hooligans from absent-mindedly chucking a half-eaten burger amongst plastic bottles and aluminum cans.

Until West is able to play nice with the environment, Mrs. King gathers recycling in her classroom and takes it home to properly dispose of it. She says it is important for students to "learn to conserve resources by recycling." It is undeniable that carrying recyclables home or to Mrs. King's room is an inconvenience, but then again, so is running out of natural resources.



Courtesy of Google

## PAINTINGS PROVOKE THOUGHT AND OUTRAGE ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY

EMMA METOS



"For the sake of the children," outraged museum goers cry at the sight of UMFA's new Salt 8 exhibit, containing works approaching the subject of gender-identity.

The Utah Museum of Fine Arts' (UMFA) new Salt 8 exhibit features a triptych by artist Shigeyuki Kihara titled: Fa'fafine; In a Manner of a Woman and deals with the controversial subject of gender identity and non-binary gender expression. The triptych is placed in the highly trafficked Oceania exhibit. Consisting of three photographs, taken in the same style as Victorian postcards depicting the "uncivilized" people of the newly founded colonies in Oceania, colonies such as New Zealand, Samoa and Polynesia. The first portraying Kihara topless and wearing a grass skirt, the second without the grass skirt and the last exposing the fact that she also possesses male genitalia.

The art itself is very powerful, defying Western Victorian notions of sexuality and gender expression, and the timing of the exhibit coincides

perfectly with the passing of the Russian "Gay Propaganda" law passed just a few months ago. Fa'fafine is a word that in Kihara's culture roughly translates to "possessing both male and female spirits" or what Western Society refers to as "transgender" or "gender-queer". The Fa'fafine was a highly revered member of society until Western Imperialism attached a stigma to anything out of gender binary.

Despite the antiquity of these ideas concerning gender and gender-identity the triptych still makes some squirm in their seats, even to a point of outrage. The triptych strips away the dehumanization of gender-queer individuals, requiring the viewer question preconceived notions of gender identity and Western Culture. The purpose of art is to incite a reaction, to call into question or to reinforce an idea. This triptych is, thus, particularly thought provoking or outraging depending upon the perspective of the viewer, and the reaction is further amplified by the fact that the works are placed in the field of vision of children touring the museum.

# BETRAYING BUGS BUNNY

SCOUT ASAY

They want you to wear Bugs Bunny; say what? Bugs Bunny, if not for his fictional nature, might very well be one of the 50 million animals slaughtered each year in the name of fashion. The fashion industry, despite a recent flux towards environmental consciousness, is currently advocating the use of leathers, furs, exotic skins, feather trim, and other animal hides and products, ignoring their short-lived ecofriendly approach.

This year, New York Fashion Week included an alarming number of pieces not only trimmed with bits of animal hide, but almost entirely made from animal hides. This look was seen by more than one designer. This trend is popular among many top designers, each hoping to sell their look and dress as many people possible in their "chic" leathers and furs.

Faux furs look more and more like the real deal and feeling every bit as silky as authentic animal furs. The cost of faux is so much lower, how could anyone resist purchasing a copy over the original? Faux fur and other false skins make the faux choice a no-brainer, yet fur farms exist and even boom all over the world. The luxury market made \$77 billion in 2012, according to Bloomberg Businessweek, and fur makes up approximately \$18 billion of that figure.

The unfortunate truth is that people want the prestige that comes from owning and wearing a luxury item. The issue is not rooted solely in furs, but carries over to reptilian hides and all animal products. Tens of thousands of crocodiles are killed every year for the manufacture of croc-skin handbags, suitcases, belts, and other accessories. The vast majority of the crocodiles, whose hides are harvested, live out their shortened lives on crocodile farms where they are grown until the age of three. They are then slaughtered and skinned. A freshwater Nile crocodile's hide sells for about \$600. A finished Birkin croc handbag from Hermès International is marketed at about \$50,000 with a five year wait, al-

though some have sold for upwards of \$200k. An animal luxury item is not ethical: it's an investment and a statement to be made at exceptional cost.

It can be difficult to conceal truths from the public in this age of new media, but fashion houses and designers are diligent. Recently, the fashion industry's newest promotion trick has been rebranding animal merchandise. For example, the fur industry has been dubbed "ethical fashion", due to a movement from the fur farm method to fur trapping. While the "new" method is different, it is certainly not ethical, as shown by several animal rights groups who have investigated the approach. Their investigations include footage showing fox, mink, raccoon, and other furry friends being caught in steel jaw leg-hold traps, strangled, beaten, drowned, and crushed by trappers who are struggling to keep up with the demands for fur. Fashion houses wish to render animal skins as "natural and bio-degradable" materials that are the responsible choice, but due to a lack of regulations, no one can know for certain where their animal accessory was procured.

Direct animal cruelty is not environmentalists' only concern. According to a study at the University of Michigan, the energy needed to produce a fur coat from farmed animals is 15 times greater than that required for a fake one, and the World Bank ranks fur processing as the world's fifth biggest toxic metal polluter.

It is an individual choice to purchase and wear animal hides, but when there are so many questions, why would anyone make that choice? There is no justification for buying a fur cape or a crocodile handbag; it is destructive to the environment, unethical, expensive, and lacks grace and style. Ironically these are the adjectives the fashion industry consistently strive for. Be tasteful and purchase the faux coat this winter.

## Elderidge Gerry is up to no good

EMMA CULVER

In the spring of 1812, Massachusetts governor Elbridge Gerry signed a bill that reorganized the voting districts in such a way that the Democratic-Republicans, Gerry's own party, would have a numbers advantage in all future elections. The bill worked like a charm; and the Boston Gazette coined the term "gerrymandering", a combination of Elbridge's last name and the salamander-like shape he had carved the districts into. Since Elbridge Gerry, politicians have manipulated rules and laws to take advantage of the population and keep themselves in office, and gerrymandering is still a serious problem today.

Gerrymandering is even an issue close to home, in our own state of Utah. Gerrymandering is a common practice in Utah; you might be living across the street from someone, and yet be in an entirely different voting district than him or her. For a more specific example- look at the 2012 election in Utah. Voting districts are reviewed after every census, and after the 2010 census Utah added a new district, and one more representative to the House of Representatives. Before 2012, Utah only had three representatives, and only one of those was a Democrat-Jim Matheson. The added zone, drawn by

Utah's mostly Republican leaders, split Salt Lake City, Utah's most liberal area, into three different districts to divide Democratic voters among districts and limit their voting strength. Looking at the map, one can see that someone who lives in Salt Lake might be in the same congressional district as someone who lives St. George. Despite this manipulative redistricting, Matheson kept his lone Democratic seat from Republican challenger Mia Love. Needless to say, Utah's new representative, Chris Stewart, is a Republican.

Taking power away from voters like this is a complete abuse of power, and something that should be abolished in the future. Our country's government is based on representing the all people equally, not just the supporters of the majority party. Taking advantage of your party's current power and using it to secure future power is completely slimy and underhanded. Politicians should base all their actions on what the people who elected them want, not on whatever they need to do to get re-elected. While there is no clear solution to gerrymandering, it is a serious problem that needs to be on the forefront of political debates in Utah and overall in the nation. People should be aware of this issue.





# West's most unique sport- Winter Guard

ELLIE FULLER

While West High School is home to many different types of sports, some of them are more traditional than others. One fairly understated sport is color or winter guard. The term "color guard" could summon an image of a team standing in front of paint buckets with their arms crossed. Unsurprisingly, this is not even close to what it actually is. Color or winter guard is not a group dedicated to protecting a season or vibrant hues. In actuality they are a team of skilled dancers that twirl flags, rifles, and sabers. These instruments bring a unique beauty to their routines, and enhance spe-



Courtesy of West High Website

cific themes. Each year the color guard dances to represent a different country or region, whether it is Spain, America, or The Middle East. This variation ensures an interesting and cultural performance.

Winter guard performs at half times, assemblies, and at several different competitions. In order to prepare, our winter guard works incredibly hard. Voluntarily, the team came in twice a week for three hours at a time in the summer. During the school year, they have an established elective class as well as practices Wednesdays and Fridays after school. One of the reasons our team works so hard is because many schools have marching bands with a season lasting the whole year. Marching bands are actually how winter/col-

or guard first started. The teams would dance with marching bands, but once winter hit the marching bands would turn into jazz bands and the color guard would have nowhere to go. So color guard took to performing indoors, becoming winter guard. The routines are done to contemporary music rather than with a marching band.

Being a part of color / winter guard will certainly make you deft at spinning flags and weapons, but there are many other benefits to being a part of the team. College scholarships are available for being a part of it, but beyond that our school's team has an incredible dynamic. Winter guard's director, Susan Raymond, describes her team passionately, saying she

loves "watching them become family." The unity the team gains is especially incredible due to many different cultures and backgrounds. Even more impressive is that there is no jealousy or competitiveness amongst the team according to Raymond. "You know what's so cool about them? They support each other . . . to them it really is about the team." So any solos the team members have are positive, not competitive. Raymond's enthusiasm for the team is undeniably contagious, "These kids need to be rewarded for their passion, dedication . . . and hard work." Beyond great performances, West High School's winter/color guard is made up of spectacular individuals, and they are always looking for more members.

# ULTIMATE FRISBEE AT WEST

JACK BROWN

How to play ultimate Frisbee: scramble to gain an opening away from everyone, wait for the saucer to hover into your reach, snatch it, come to a halt and repeat.

Ultimate Frisbee is a game where two opposing teams try to make it to the opposite side of the field by passing a Frisbee back and forth. Once you catch the Frisbee you're allotted only three steps. Possession turns over every time the Fris-

bee is intercepted, dropped, or a point is scored, which results in a throw off to the other team on the opposite side of the field.

Frisbee has been a growing part of West over the last few years, with last year seeing a game almost every lunch. This year, West introduces the Ultimate Frisbee club. The first meeting of which occurred on Wednesday, September 11th. "Games are

going to be every day during both lunches if there are enough people, otherwise we'll just pass around..." said Eric Anderson (12) founder of the Ultimate Frisbee club. "Anyone is welcome to play regardless of experience, talk to your class officer to get more involved. Seniors talk to me, juniors to Jack Brown, sophomores to Xavier Matheson, and a freshmen officer spot is still open to those interested."



# Science Olympiad: Golf Carts & Rube Golberg

YUANHANG ZHAO

On a particular Saturday morning in March, kids are dashing around the University of Utah campus. Golf carts driven by volunteers rush past, traveling from building to building. Some kids wear lab coats, safety glasses and others carry tubs of tools, catapults, helicopters, and Rube Goldberg machines.

The national Science Olympiad competition changes locations every year, and this year it is located at University of Central Florida. There are usually two types of events, one taking a test and the other building small inventions to compete with; some events may incorporate a little of both.

The first regionals in Utah will take place on Feb. 1 at Snow College; second regionals on Feb. 15 at Weber State University; third regionals on Mar. 1 at SUU, with the last regionals competition on Mar. 29 at Westminster College. Only the top 45 teams in



Courtesy of Google

Utah may compete at the state tournament, held at the University of Utah on Apr. 12. Tournament headquarters are at the Jon M. Huntsman Center, where teams will gather in designated areas to take breaks or study between events. Buses and golf carts provide transportation around the campus. After a long day of competing, students may head over to the Union building to relax and get to know people from other schools.

West has many students who have medaled multiple times at regionals and state. Returning contender Amanda Jiang (9) says, "Science Olympiad is really fun, but it takes time to actually place. [The] state competition is always exhilarating, because there are a lot of people and parents who enjoy being there." No matter how well the West teams do this year, Science Olympiad is sure to end with a bang.

# It's Elementary, my Dear Panthers

ELLIE FULLER

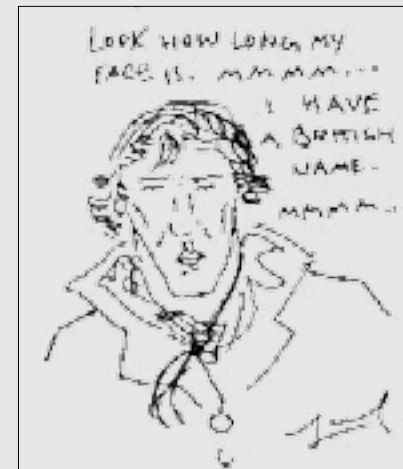
Though the Sherlock Club is new to West High as of this year, it does not take a detective to figure out what it is. As the name suggests, the Sherlock Club is a group of students interested in, and even dedicated to Sherlock Holmes. The club looks at different adaptations of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's mystery novels, but focuses mainly on the BBC television series. The show is a modern adaptation of Doyle's books, and often twists the stories to keep their audience guessing. The BBC adaptation has earned itself an enthusiastic following.

The president of the group, Scout Asay (11), has been a fan of Sherlock for some time. She tried to start the club last year, but unfortunately the teacher sponsor did not work out. This year Asay is determined and excited to make it happen. The club will have meetings once a month, with the first meeting on Oct. 24. The third season of the BBC Sherlock is coming out soon and the club plans to prepare

for it by re-watching the previous two seasons that each have three ninety minute episodes. Asay plans on having a meeting or "fiesta!" as she puts it, for each episode. Asay says re-watching the first two seasons will ensure the club has the "glow of Sherlock about [them]," so they will be ready for the new season.

Asay started reading Doyle's novels in about the fifth or sixth grade. She describes the stories as "legendary" and "classic" and is intrigued with Sherlock's character. According to Asay, "He's a socio-path—but he goes around solving mysteries, which is so cool!" Sherlock is loosely based on a real person, which is part of the appeal for Asay. She loves that it is plausible, that all the stories could logically happen.

There are many different reasons Sherlock has the dedicated following it does and if you love Sherlock, no matter what the reason, there is a club for you.



# Ski Season is coming to town

EMMA CULVER

As we go deeper into fall, the weather begins to cool, the leaves begin to fall, the holidays near, and a sense of anticipation begins to fill West High. Most students know what this means: ski season is approaching.

Winter might seem far away, but the beginning of ski season comes sooner than you think. Most Utah ski resorts open in mid-November to early December.

It is no wonder students can't wait. Utah is heralded as having "the greatest snow on earth." Many local residents are serious skiers who ski for both sport and leisure. It is a fun pastime that brings many different people together. Utah's signature powder draws visitors from all over the world. West High students can't resist the pull of Utah's famous winter pastime either.

"Skiing is the only thing I actually enjoy getting up for," says Marcelina Kubica (11). "I don't care that I'm in the car, driving up the mountain as the sun is barely rising. If it means I get fresh powder, I'm more than willing to do just that."

So West High, grab your gear and head to the mountains for some winter fun- ski season is just around the corner!





# Who is Doctor Who?

EMMA METOS

Who is your favorite Doctor? Is it Hartnell, Troughton, Pertwee, Tom Baker, Davidson, Colin Baker, McGann, Eccleston, Tennant or Smith, or do you speculate that Capaldi will be more your guy?

British science-fiction television series "Doctor Who" is approaching its 50th anniversary episode as well as the retirement of the 11th Doctor, played by Matt Smith, and the issuing in of the 12th Doctor, to be played by Peter Capaldi. The show, in its modern incarnation, is centered around "The Doctor", an alien "Time Lord" and lone Gallifreyan survivor of the "Time War". The Doctor travels through space and time in a TARDIS (Time And Relative Dimension In Space), which is disguised as a British police box. The Doctor picks up human companions, taking them on adventures, showing them the marvels of all space and time saving the universe and the human race.

The 75-minute episode will premiere in Utah for 3D screenings at the Cinemark-Bountiful, Layton Hills 9, Tinseltown, Tinseltown

Newgate and Cinemark 16 Provo theaters on November 25. The episode itself will bring feature the beloved 10th Doctor, played by David Tennant, Rose Tyler, the 10th Doctor's companion played by Billie Piper, and Clara Oswald, the 11th Doctor's second companion played by Jenna Louise Coleman. The story of the episode is centered on the secrets that the Doctor has kept about his treasonous actions during the Time War, and the introduction of the character John Hurt, who was hinted at the end of the previous season.

However, with the announcement of the reunion episode comes the announcement of Matt Smith's stepping down from his role as the Doctor, and Peter Capaldi's casting as the 12th Doctor. The original series states that each Time Lord only gets 12 regenerations, which is what happens to Time Lords instead of death. This serves as a problem for the head writer of the show, Steven Moffat, however, given Moffat's reputation, he will surely find a way around the regenerations limit.

# Golden Tickets at West High?

MARY PENG

It is time again for West High students to rehearse hours after hours for the school musical. This year the school will perform "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," based on the famous children's book, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, by Roald Dahl.

The musical revolves around a poor young boy, Charlie Bucket, who finds a golden ticket to visit the famous Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. Along with four other children, Charlie sees the oddest of things at the factory with things ranging from the Nut Room to the Oompa Loompas.

Directed by Mr. Rett Neale, the theater and drama teacher, the school musical started its rehearsals back in September. Joey McConkie (11) has been cast to play the title role, Willy Wonka. Along with McConkie is Hannah Stevenson (11), who has been cast to play Mrs. Bucket, Charlie's mother. This year will be Stevenson's fourth school production. "The musicals at West are put on by amazingly talented people and it doesn't even feel like work; everyone is friendly and it's so much fun to sing and dance with friends!" says Stevenson. She also hopes to continue being in musicals in the future: "Musicals are so much fun! I couldn't keep away even if I wanted to!" This year's school musical is definitely one everyone must see. Performances are from Nov. 21-23 at 7 pm so don't forget to attend!

# The Theater Drama of Christmas

SCOUT ASAY



# PIONEER THEATRE

Courtesy of Google

To every story, there is a season, and Pioneer Theatre Company is kicking off their 2013-2014 season with a spoof, a drama, and a cult classic, or in other words, three very distinct shows. This arrangement will provide something for everyone, so check out the shows, head up to the University, and decide which one is for you.

If you like murder, musicals, or whodunit spoofs, Pioneer Theatre Company planned its first show of the season just for you. "Something's Afoot" is a musical parody of detective stories, specifically a parody of Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None, which is also titled Ten Little Indians. The show was enormously popular on the West End back in '77, and it ought to evoke plenty of laughs in Utah as well. "Something's Afoot" will start showing Sept. 20 and will run until Oct. 5.

"Other Desert Cities" will run from Oct. 25 to Nov. 9. This first play by Jon Robin Baitz premiered on Broadway in early November of 2011. The play is a drama and deals with some fairly intense subject matter. The plot follows a family grappling with tumultuous politics and unaddressed family secrets. If you seek dark humor, exceptional amounts of tension, and contemporary theatre, "Other Desert Cities" will be well worth your time and energy.

Don't become entrenched in the deeper Christmas classics: "Elf the Musical" will run from Dec. 6 to Dec. 21 and will surely incite as much merriment as ever! A cult classic gone musical might sound a little, shall we say, vulgar, but it truly looks promising. Bob Martin and Thomas Meehan wrote the book, Matthew Sklar wrote the music, and Chad Beguelin wrote the lyrics. By way of explanation, Martin co-wrote and performed in "The Drowsy Chaperone" (fabulous, spoofy musical), Meehan wrote the books for several shows on Broadway, most notably "Hairspray", and Sklar and Beguelin collaborated for "The Wedding Singer". "Elf the Musical" will surely prove to be a raucous delight.

Advantageous to note, students can purchase tickets for half-price if they attend on a Monday or Tuesday, and we can attend student matinees for \$16 or less. Student Matinees are Wednesdays and begin at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online or over the phone; however, you must bring your student ID with you to the production if you would like to enter the theater. For more information, check out Pioneer Theatre Company's website, [www.pioneertheatre.org](http://www.pioneertheatre.org).

# Holiday Movie Season

CHERI BRISENDINE

Thanksgiving is the time to be grateful for what we have. This day is not always the center of attention come the holiday season, given that it lives in the shadow of Christmas, but there are certainly movies that emphasize the virtues that Thanksgiving is all about, such as giving, sharing, and being gracious. These are the Red & Black top four:

4. Alice's Restaurant:

If you like older movies, this one is for you. "Alice's Restaurant" hit the big screens in 1969 and is based off a popular song of the time by Arlo Guthrie, appropriately called, "Alice's Restaurant". Arlo Guthrie romps through 1960's pop culture comically and the film follows the song pretty closely

3. Pieces of April:

This movie is about a girl named April, played by Katie Holmes, trying to throw together the perfect Thanksgiving dinner in her cramped, dirty apartment in New York City. With snarky relatives and an emotionally satisfying conclusion, this film certainly is a hit.



Photo Courtesy of Google

2. A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving:

This is a classic, and definitely a movie that everyone should make an annual tradition to watch! Charlie Brown is sweet, innocent, and funny. In this great film, Charlie Brown and the gang make a delicious and adorable Thanksgiving dinner.

1. The Blind Side:

Starring Sandra Bullock, this movie was based off a true story and certainly contains traditions of Thanksgiving: love and football. Sandra Bullock plays a Southern mother, Leigh Anne Tuohy. Her no-nonsense attitude makes her performance impeccable. The Tuohy family takes in a homeless boy named Michael Oher, who turns out to be a football prodigy.

# First Annual SLC Comic Con!

CHERI BRISENDINE

This September, from the 5th to the 7th, Utah's capitol welcomed wookies, pirates, and zombies openly at the Salt Palace for the first annual Salt Lake City Comic Con. Over those three days, many attractions made Utahans flock to the Salt Palace and left their inner geek thoroughly satisfied. These attractions included costume contests, vendors and celebrities including, but not limited to, Stan Lee, Nicholas Brandon, Adam West and William Shatner.

Many excited students attended Comic Con. Chay Gathers (11) said, "I enjoyed the people who went all out. Most of the people's costumes were amazing! I just wore a Superman suit under a dress shirt like Clark Kent...other people had cool and terrifying zombie make up and other stuff. It was really cool,"

Chay continues.

One of the best costumed attendees was certainly Robert Burbridge, who was dressed as Jack Sparrow, from Pirates of the Caribbean. "I love being here," Burbridge said. "Every time I move someone stops me for a photo. It's been awesome."

Dan Farr, the event organizer, said that over the three days Comic Con was in Salt Lake, well over \$50,000 was collected from tickets alone. Additionally, Salt Lake's Comic Con was the largest, most successful first annual Comic Con in the nation, breaking records in all other states. Comic Con has signed a five-year contract, so if you missed going this year, don't worry about it; you have the opportunity to go for the next few years and experience a new side of Salt Lake!



Robert Bunbridge as Captain Jack Sparrow

Picture by Chay Gathers





# I've Been to the Year 3000

MAXIM NEBEKER

Our past is concrete, the present is fluid, and the future dissipates into the mysterious ether of the unknown. The future will remain steeped in uncertainty, as there is no earthly way to look beyond the borders of each passing second. However, we have come in contact with a man who claims he is from the future.

On October 17th, James B. Finding, who was returning home for lunch, heard a strange noise in his backyard. Thinking it could be a couple of delinquents, he decided to investigate. Much to his surprise, he discovered his neighbor standing next to a machine that resembled the Flux Capacitor from the *Back to the Future* franchise.

Upon questioning, his neighbor, who is to remain unnamed, claimed, "I've been to the year three thousand." According to him not much has changed except for humans now live underwater. Although Mr. Finding asked him many things about the future, the only piece of information that the enigmatic time traveler revealed was that Finding's "great-great-great granddaughter is doing fine." He then climbed back into his time machine and, in a flash of lightning, disappeared.

Rest assured, West High, we will wait and watch for our mysterious time traveler to return. His appearance has sparked many questions in our mind. His cryptic hints concerning the state of our race in the future suggest that something drastic must be done. We will eagerly await more news from the future. Meanwhile, we should start worrying about the ice caps melting.

# POST-THANKSGIVING WARZONE

CAIT IMHOFF

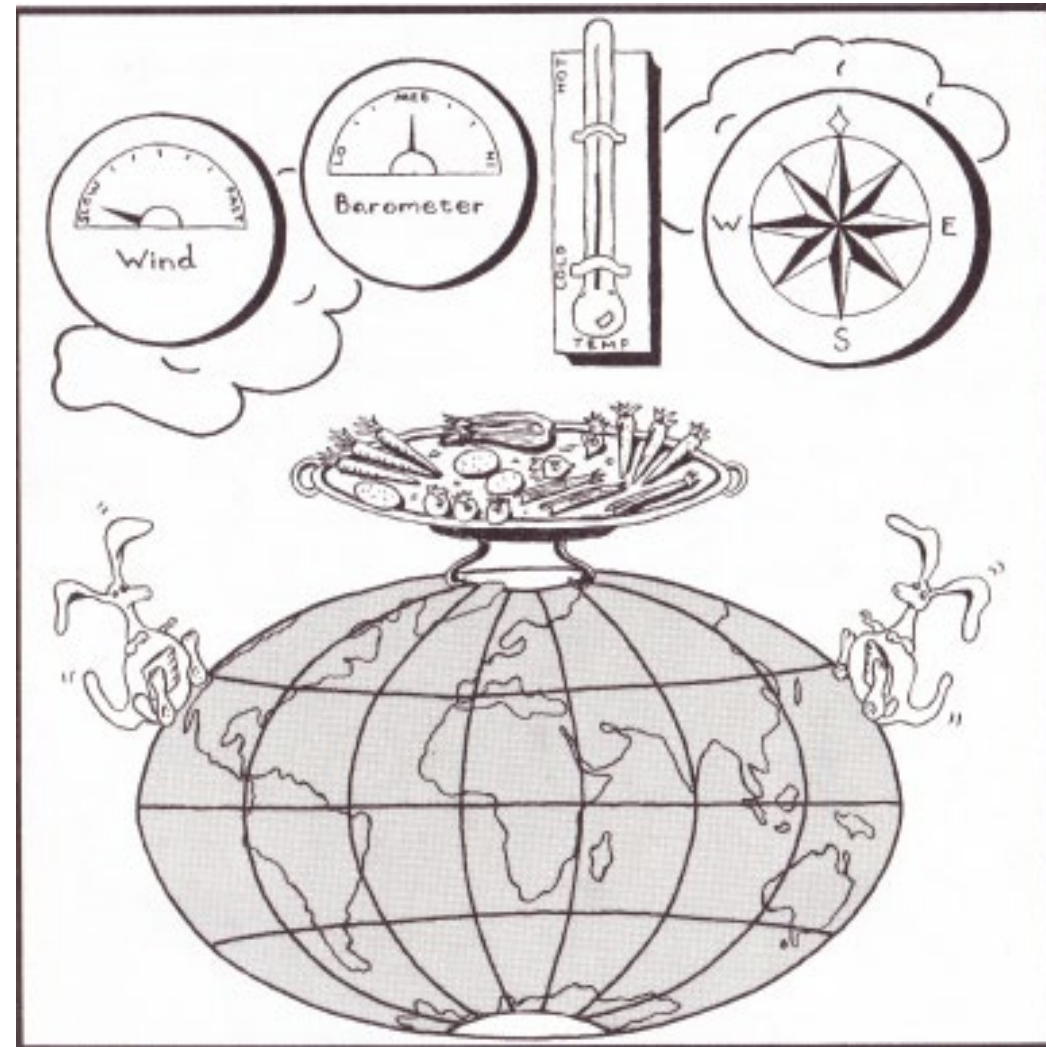
Your stomach is stuffed, your hair is a mess, and with all the Thanksgiving cleanup, you're running on two hours of sleep. You don't know how you're functioning, but you jump in your car and race to the store anyway, not caring about how you'll look to the hundreds of people you're going to run into. They're all dressed the same, feeling the same, doing the same, because it's finally that time of year: Black Friday shopping.

Honestly, for me, it's the most stressful time of year. Do I buy my sister the seventy-five new books she wants, or do I just give up and buy her a T-shirt that says, "Reading is for losers, find a new hobby, dork"? Does my brother want socks or should I buy him some new shirts? I mean his shirts are so old you could probably still smell the excitement from the Salt Lake Olympics, but his socks have so many holes you could call them Swiss. I could just buy him both, because we all know that I have so much money. But it's Black Friday, so I guess everything is on sale and I can buy it all, right?

I'll also get myself new shoes, because what girl doesn't want shoes, some random trinkets that look cute but I will never actually use, every single season of *Supernatural*, that new One Direction CD, and all the candy I can find. I might as well stock up for the long, cold winter ahead, because everything is cheap now. I can blow all my hard earned money on presents for my family so I won't have to worry about it later, and spend the rest on things I don't need to make me feel better about not having a life. It's a perfect plan!

So when it comes time for Black Friday shopping this year, just remember that however stressful it seems, just spend all your money on random things and everything will be okay.

# A PAIR OF ROOS



Courtesy of Crime and Puzzlement: My Cousin Phoebe

IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW THE ANSWER, COME TO RM. 428. THERE WILL BE ONE PRIZE AVAILABLE FOR EACH GRADE. PRIZE WILL GO TO THE FIRST STUDENT OF EACH GRADE TO HAVE THE CORRECT ANSWER, SO BRING YOUR STUDENT ID.

# LESSER KNOWN FACTS OF THANKSGIVING

JACK BROWN

Ben Franklin, as he campaigned for the turkey to be the national bird, once said, "The turkey is a bird of strong moral fiber and a proud symbol of American culture."

Thanksgiving is an American cultural history lesson, more than any other holiday. Thanksgiving is also one of our oldest holidays, dating back to the pilgrims' first celebration in 1621. This is all common knowledge, but what you might not know is the first Thanksgiving was only eaten with spoons and knives because the fork was not popularized until the 18th century. Here are some underground histories regarding Thanksgiving.

Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin, when debating the different symbols for America's national bird, got into a heated argument. Jefferson wanted the eagle to be the national bird because the eagle is a bird of prey. The eagle's connotation of strength was how Jefferson envisioned America.



Franklin thought the turkey would be more suiting because the bird was eaten at the first Thanksgiving meal. Franklin also argued against the eagle, stating the bird was of "bad moral character" as a bird of prey. The turkey failed to yield the American

vote and the eagle became our nation's bird. After losing the argument, Franklin began to nickname turkeys "Toms" in order to make fun of Thomas Jefferson.

There is a long standing tradition, dating back to President Truman in 1947, of presidents pardoning two turkeys every Thanksgiving. The pardon was created to put some good humor into the holiday. The American people vote on the name of the turkeys pardoned. President Barack Obama recently pardoned a turkey named Courage, and he now lives in Disneyland. Vote here for your favorite turkey names: [www.facebook.com/minnesotaturkey/](http://www.facebook.com/minnesotaturkey/)

Thanksgiving is a holiday where we reflect on what we are thankful for in life and in our history as Americans we have plenty of reasons to be thankful. Without Thanksgiving, there would not be a reason to sit down with your whole family for dinner, there would be no epic college football games, and without Thanksgiving there would be no microwavable T.V. dinners.

Daniel Micklemouse was having a soda in the Northwest Orient first-class lounge when a hoary stranger sat down next to him and said, "Hark unto me, O traveler."

Micklemouse said, "I'm harking."

"Well and good," said the Hoary stranger. "Suppose two kangaroos, opposite each other and each of them exactly two hundred yards away from a tray of succulent vegetables, start out for the tray at precisely the same instant. Each of them makes exactly ten yards per leap. If the atmospheric conditions and all other elements are identical, the only difference being that the kangaroo named Joseph travels from east to west, while the kangaroo named Josephine goes from west to east, who gets to the vegetables first?"

Micklemouse thought for a moment before asking, "Which way does the earth rotate?"

"West to east," the hoary stranger said

promptly.

Micklemouse took another sip of his drink before speaking. "The problem intrigues me," he said, "but I'm on my way to a wedding in Australia and my plane leaves shortly. I think I'd better go watch some kangaroos before answering your question. Would you mind waiting?"

"How long?" the stranger asked.

"Eighteen days."

"Fair enough. Here?"

"At this very spot."

Micklemouse went to Australia, attended the wedding, and fell in love with one of the bridesmaids, who accompanied him while he made an intensive study of kangaroos. She was still with him when he returned to the lounge on the eighteenth day and found the hoary stranger waiting for Micklemouse's answer.

What was it?

# NOAM CHOMSKY: LEGEND OF A LINGUIST

AXIOM TROPAEUS

12 November, 2068

Before the glorious colloquial revolution of our esteemed leader Noam Chomsky, the world was burdened with a tragic state of heretical polylinguism. In the year 2015, when gilded Lexicor Chomsky lead His brave Eloquitioners in the War of the Common Tongue against the coddled Patois. After 8 long years of verbal dispute, the War of the Common Tongue was over, and with it came the martyrdom of Grandmaster Linguist Chomsky. Some say He wove His words in ways that transcend human intellect or understanding. His story is compiled in the Holy Lexicon within the Temple of Divine Syntax, in the City of Brotherly Love. It is known as the Tale of Logos, Pathos, and Ethos.

In the first week of Logos our Rhetorical Savior battled the maelstrom of polylinguist pigs. He demonstrated to the Patois the enlightening articles of the Holy Language. Without pause, one week led to another and our Persuasive Leader found himself in the second week of Pathos. Throughout this week He stunned the Patois with



phrases so emotionally charged that tens of thousands of polylinguists converted on the spot. Thus began the third week of Ethos. Our Lord Chomsky's throat was

raw; every word was accompanied with a trickle of His divine blood upon the faces of the devoted. He preached the Three Tenants: Grammar, Syntax, and Universal Dialect. A hundred thousand Patois linguists fell prostrate and welcomed Unilinguism into their hearts and voices.

But for every man converted ten more took His place, and by the end of the third week Lexicor Chomsky was captured. They cut out His tongue and placed Him upon a pyre of Oxford Dictionaries, Second Compact Edition. As they lit the flame that would end His life, he raised His head to the heavens and, in a tempest of words smote down the nonbelievers. In the center of the storm Our Savior hung his head,

for he was weary. He whispered His final words "It is done". As the storm enveloped His tattered body, a flash of brilliant light illuminated the world and every man, woman, and child came to know the one Holy Language, as Chomsky became the God he didn't believe in. And it came to pass that He uttered His divine name, "Munkith".

Jackson West

## Fantasy Football: The only way you'll make it in the NFL

ELLIOTT BURR

Fantasy Football, you may think it is a game for no-life, die hard football fans. Fantasy Football is really made for universal football fans and it can get incredibly competitive. For those of you who don't know what fantasy football is, here is a short explanation: You draft a player from each offensive scoring position, quarterback, running back, wide receiver, tight end, and kicker, and an entire team's defense and special team. For example one might pick Tom Brady of the New England Patriots as their starting quarterback and pick AJ Green of the Cincinnati Bengals as their wide receiver and so on.

After your team is picked, watch every game that has one of your players in it. You gain points if one of your players, let's say your tight end, Julius Thomas of the Broncos, makes a catch, you would then earn points for your fantasy football team. Moreover, the same goes for all of your other players; if your quarterback throws the football and makes a touchdown then you would get more points.

The objective is to have the individual stats of your players be

good enough to out-score your opponent for the week.

Now, you might be thinking, "What does fantasy football have to do with West High?" Many students of West play in fantasy leagues.

"Fantasy is great," says Jacob Fang (11), "I love the prospects of being able to control those large, muscular men. I also love the competitive nature of the game."

"Football is a sport I really enjoy," says Jake Colangelo (10), "It gives me an excuse to watch football all day on Sundays."

Fantasy football is an excellent way to learn who your favorite professional football players are, and watch nearly all of the professional football games.

Some times leagues even have money pooled together by the members that goes towards a prize to the league champion.

Fantasy football is predominately played online and there are still leagues available to join. So if you are interested in joining this prestigious activity, go online and sign up, if you haven't already.