

Upcoming

Jamie's Elsewhere
Chain Reaction
Anaheim
6/13/10
\$10



COURTESY: VICTORYPRESSCENTER.COM



PHOTO COURTESY: LAST.FM

Taking Back Sunday
The Wilern
Los Angeles
6/29/10
\$25

MGMT
Greek Theatre
Los Angeles
7/16/10
\$35



PHOTO COURTESY: MELOPHOBE.COM



PHOTO COURTESY: SLIMSTICKETS.COM

The Devil Wears
Prada
Chain Reaction
Anaheim
7/25/10
\$15

Waking Ashland
Chain Reaction
Anaheim
8/14/10
\$12



PHOTO COURTESY: WWW.24UR.COM



PHOTO COURTESY: WWW.24UR.COM

Lady Gaga
STAPLES Center
Los Angeles
8/28/10
\$51

Muse
Honda Center
Anaheim
9/23/10
\$47



PHOTO COURTESY: ERATO1.COM



PHOTO COURTESY: TAGOK.HOTDOG.HU

Shakira
Honda Center
Anaheim
10/25/10
\$40

Concerts

TAKING BACK SUNDAY

By: **Dominique Riutort**
Editor

Just let me let the readers (about...5 of you?) know, I had some difficulty writing this article. Well, not so much in the actual writing, but in deciding what I was going to write about. So I've decided to share with my (few) readers some music that I will be enjoying over summer vacation.

(By the way, this article is technically classified as a "review.")

First off, let's start with the newest music: MGMT has recently released their second studio album entitled *Congratulations*. When asked about their new album, the group replied by saying that when creating *Congratulations*, they focused on not "selling out." Some found *Congratulations* to be a little less electric, not quite like

their first album *Oracular Spectacular*, while others say the opposite. Don't worry, though, you won't be disappointed. When you get sick and tired of the same old music on your iPod and you want to reach for something fresh and new, reach for *Congratulations*; like I said before, you won't be disappointed.

Some other music that I'll be listening this summer includes, of course, the *Glee* soundtrack. I

am so obsessed with that show and I love almost all the songs that they cover on the show. For example, just last week, they did a cover of Beck on the show! (For those of you who don't know who he is, don't waste any more time!) I love all the cover songs, especially the songs with the happy-go-lucky vibe, perfect feel-good summer tunes.

Recently, I have also discovered some great new bands; I feel like I have been enlightened.

The most recent bands that have been added onto my iPod include: A Day to Remember, Dance Gavin Dance, Four Year Strong, Silverstein, etc. In my case, I have always heard about these bands, but I just never got around to listening to them. Now that I know who they are, though, I am such a fan. Maybe I am late in discovering these bands, but

it's better late than never. I have to thank some great friends of mine for introducing me to this music. These "hardcore-emo" bands have added a sense of hard rock that my life was missing.

Of course, these are just my opinions (hence it being a "review"). I am sure that everyone will find their perfect tunes for the summer. "California Gurls" is kind of cute.

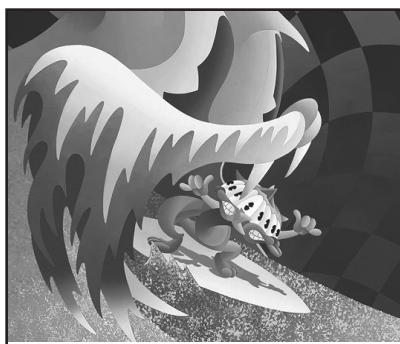


PHOTO COURTESY OF: LIST.CO.UK

REACH FOR A BOOK THIS SUMMER BREAK

By: **Reetu Inamdar**
Reporter

Summertime means fun, the beach, bonfires, parties, and most importantly freedom from homework. So, while you're soaking up the fun in the sun take time to check out the following books from your library or bookstore.

Girls, you're going to love *Perfect Chemistry!* It is perfect if you're in the mood for a nice bit of chick lit. It's a modern Romeo and Juliet story with many twists that will make you jump with excitement. When a "bad boy" and a "perfect" girl are forced to be chemistry partners it is explosive. Trust me, *Perfect Chemistry*, is the perfect summer read with intriguing turns that will keep you up all night.

Next up, *The Unwritten Rule* by Elizabeth Scott will challenge everything you believe to be true about friendship when Sarah's best friend hooks up with her crush.

What's a little forbidden love do to a friendship? Well, if it means that you're violating the "unwritten rule?" It's simple, you're going to lose your friend; besties never steal another bestie's boyfriend. It is black and white; there is no gray area with this rule.

Scott truly depicts the hardest parts of being a true best friend. She tackles these tough questions. What do you do when your best friend starts dating your crush? What happens if you find out he really likes you? What do you do if he kisses you? This book takes it to the limit.

For guys, try out *Homeboyz* by Alan Lawrence Sitomer and *Burn Journals* by Brent Runyon.

These are great books that push through boundaries and take on the messiness of life.

Homeboyz is Teddy's (aka: T-bear) story about life after his sister is killed in a wrong place/wrong time drive-by and his need to avenge her death. Teddy's life gets complicated after he gets caught and is forced to mentor a younger delinquent. Soon his family, who were ripped apart, come together. But what will happen to Teddy, to the delinquent Micah? Will T-bear get revenge? What will become of them?

The Burn Journals is the true story about a fourteen-year-old kid named Brent Runyon who went home from school one day, doused his bathrobe with gasoline, and lit a match. Brent suffered 85 percent of second and third degree burns and suffers through numerous surgeries. The suicide attempt grabs your attention but it is the other complications and emotions that surface that will keep you reading.

As part of Brent's recovery, he writes a journal to help him gain insight and healing while we as readers travel along with him. It's intriguing because the author undergoes life altering changes and the book journals his life, feelings, and recuperation. Reading the book is challenging at times; but it brings clarity and perspective. Somehow the stresses and troubles we have seem lessened as we read about Brent's recovery.

Summertime is fun; be sure to take a break between beach trips, movies, parties, and other summer fun activities and soak in these suggestions. Check out these books; they will take you on some great trips with homeboys, a suicidal teen, an unlikely couple, and forbidden love. Enjoy your freedom from summer and read some books for fun in the sun.

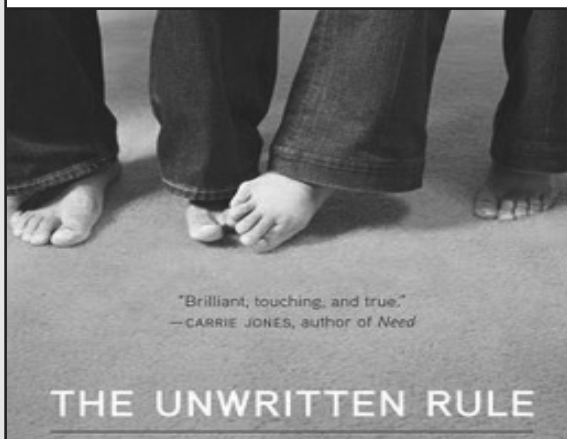


PHOTO COURTESY: JILLSORENSEN.COM

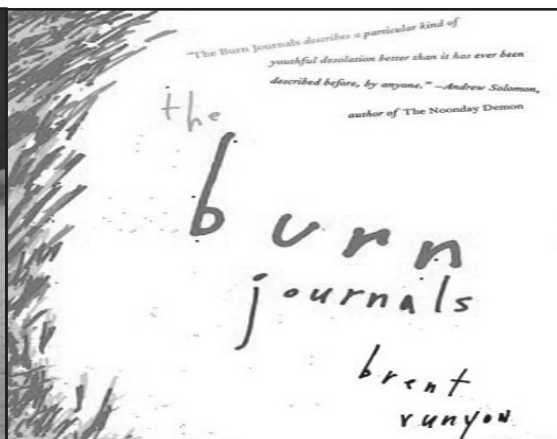


PHOTO COURTESY: COLUMBUSNH.ORG

AUDIENCE ENTRANCED BY COLORGUARD'S PERFORMANCE

By: Reetu Inamdar
Reporter

The Color Guard show was the 20th of May and it sent many thrills within the audience as the Valencia High School Color Guard Show presented their talent with great enthusiasm and energy. The crowd was riled by the great performance as the teams showed their amazing talent and synchronized dancing. The color guard showcased a plethora of performances and ended the year with a great slam as many seniors, as well as many other team members, choreographed different types of sequences. After the competition the team separated into different groups and started choreographing their own routines to entertain the audience.

Each class had presented their own routine to the crowd. Senior Lisa Vuong commented, "It was a great experience to get together and choreograph something that we all made together. The best part was presenting it to the people who showed up at the Color Guard show." Lisa Vuong has been on the Color Guard team for four years and has been a great contributor to the team. The entire squad presented a complete routine together with an opening and closing of the show.

After preparing for the intense competitions, they had a great time bonding and forming a routine so the school would enjoy it. Although it may seem easy to throw

the flag in the air and try to do tricks, it actually takes a great deal of courage and skill. Another hard aspect is synchronizing when and where the flag is supposed to be is also very difficult. Allison Veno, a senior said, "It was a fun experience. These past four years have been really fun and I was really excited to show the dances that we worked really hard on to everybody else." As the year is coming to an end, many of the team members are enjoying the moments left with some of the seniors on the team, who will be leaving this year. The Color Guard performed at the Assembly and showed the school their true talent, before they presented it at the

show. The audience truly entranced, continues to look forward to many newcomers. Tryouts have been held and the students who will be on the next years Valencia High School Color Guard team has been chosen and are truly excited to come out next year and embrace the true spirit. Although the seniors are now leaving, many new talented people are getting prepped up for next year, hoping to have the same energetic spirit as the Color Guard team this year. We can't wait to see what you come up with next year! Great Job to the Color Guard team who have been working hard, not only for the Color Guard Show but also the competition, prior to the show!



SELF-CREATED ROUTINES WERE SHOWED OFF AT THE COLORGUARDS FINAL PERFORMANCE. IN THIS PHOTO: DANIELLE SCHARFF (12). PHOTO BY: BEN CERCEA

"I AM IRON MAN"

By: Boyoung Kim
Reporter

Iron Man returns to the big screen in the sequel that left the audience craving more. Tony Stark, played by Robert Downey Jr., returns in Iron Man 2 to re-institute the Stark Industries as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in order to continue his father's amazing legacy. However, the government has its own plans for using Stark's innovations for military reasons that could potentially lead to nuclear destruction. Stark fears that his technology will fall in the wrong hands and induce turmoil, which leads to his rejection of the government's proposal.

Meanwhile, Stark is gradually poisoned by the element palladium con-

Iron Man 2, as widely known, was the highly anticipated sequel of Iron Man. The sequel proved to be a rather developed plot. It contained some tritely conventional concepts, such as the unexpected—almost random—emergence of an evil force, but still offered an energizing visual and mental journey. Each scene was left the audience wanting more. However, the movie did come with its flaws. The sequel lacked the "being new" factor of its predecessor and therefore didn't awe the audience as much as the first. Nonetheless its tense conflicts kept the audience on the edge

of their seats and thirsting for more. One of the most engaging aspects of the film was the impressive technological effects that gave the movie a risk factor. Also, Robert Downey Jr.'s suave, nonchalant charm yielded several hearty chuckles from the audience.

The movie was additionally enhanced



PHOTO COURTESY: DJDESIGNERLAB.COM

with the introduction of Scarlett Johansson's role as a fierce double agent. There were heartthrob lust factors for both the men and women in the audience. The themes of destructively large egos, enduring loyalty, and finding the strength to stand up for what you believe are personally right, continued in this dense film. The film did a great job in bringing the question of ethics, morals, and human behavior into the public eye. The unexpected ending after the credits had the audience filled with excited apprehension for the third.

SOUNDS OF STRINGS

By: Madison Tang
Reporter

On Wednesday, June 2nd, Valencia's orchestra gathered in the school auditorium to put on their final performance of the year. This concert was the culmination of the diligence and dedication the students put in throughout the year. Among the nearly full auditorium's audience were proud parents, teachers, and fellow students who came to listen in on the beautiful music.

Valencia's Concert Orchestra performed first, with challenging pieces, followed by the Sinfonia and Symphony Orchestras. The songs played during the course of the night included traditional classical pieces, as well as modern theme music and upbeat polkas. The theme music, such as selections from James Bond, The Pink Panther, and Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, was particularly enjoyable for the audience, as it was so easily recognizable.

During Sinfonia's performance, Rachel Pham (9) played a breathtaking harp solo. Additionally, Ashleigh Davis (12) exhibited her tremendous talent with a viola solo.

"As a whole, the concert went very well, and it showed that our hard work up until that point paid off greatly," says Amber Kazalbash (11), violinist. "We have a lot of talented students within our different orchestras."

The musicians have practiced consistently before school during zero period, as

well as on Mondays after school for rehearsals since mid-April. Their highly devoted teacher and conductor, Mr. Topping, was an essential aspect of the orchestra's overwhelming brilliance. He committed himself to an incredible extent, putting in hundreds of hours at school in order to aid the students in their musical pursuits. A great deal of cooperative learning can be seen in any one of the numerous practices the orchestra holds. Sectionals with specific instruments occur regularly, in which section leaders and the musicians work on their individual parts together, resulting in a more coherent musical piece on the final day of performance.

Kazalbash remarked on the outcome of the event, "It took a lot of time and practice to get to where we are today, but it was definitely worth it, as anyone in the audience would most definitely agree." The audience was extremely pleased by the vast display of talent and musicality shown through the spectacular performances of Valencia's orchestra.

To top that performance off, the orchestra also participated in the annual Music in the Park concert at the local Knott's Berry Farm theme park. The students traveled to the theme park early in the morning in order to prepare for the performance, which was similar to the one at Valencia's auditorium. There they played for those of the community, who were treated to a lovely performance on the outdoor pavilion of the amusement park. Another year of outstanding musical performance was exhibited through these two wonderful events.

VALENCIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PLAYED THEIR LAST SONG AND SHARED ITS MUSIC WITH OTHER SCHOOLS AT VHS MUSIC FESTIVAL NIGHT. PHOTO BY: WAN PO

