

# Staff Profile: 24 Years with Pete Meyers, Co Director

By Thomas

Pete the Fantastic Myers was born in St. Louis Missouri. As a child Pete moved all over the nation due to his father's job. "We moved about every three to five years," says Pete. By the time Pete had graduated from high school he says he remembers living in 6 different cities, including a year over seas in Spain. While living in Spain he attended school in England. "I am the youngest of 5," says Pete, who has three older brothers and one older sister.

As a kid some of the things he loved to do were swimming competitively, being a part of boy scouts, and building things. Pete started to swim competitively at the age of 5 and continued swimming competitively throughout high school. "I was not really able to partake in many team

activities because of my hyperactivity and not wanting to have to share with others," He said. During high school, Pete was involved with Boy Scouts. He was one of the few who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

Although our assumption of Pete may be that he is always at work and doesn't have a life



Master Myers Makes Magic  
Photo By YDC Staff

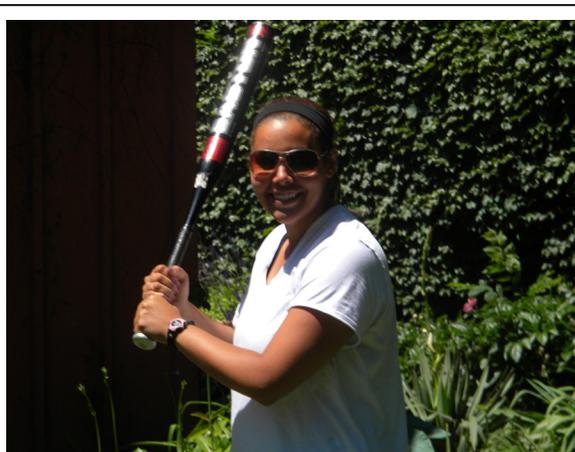
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# Discrimination Elimination

By Carson

For years people have fought for men and women to be treated with equal opportunity and given the same chances and choices. In 1972, an amendment of education, Title IX, was passed stating that "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity." Still, colleges across the country find ways to get around gender equality, namely in inter-collegiate sports.

The University of California Berkeley ran into trouble when they eliminated five varsity teams from their roster. Two of the teams were women's lacrosse and gymnastics. The three men's teams were



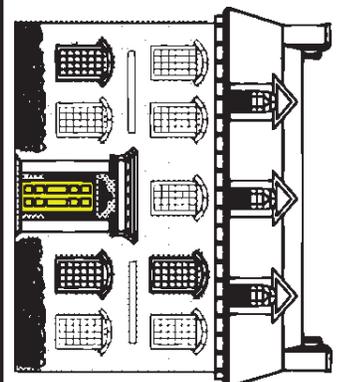
Lorrie's in a league of her own  
Photo by YDC Staff

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YDC  
Year  
door  
Chronicles

The student newspaper of the  
Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School



# yellow

## O'School

# In the Name of Science

By Aidan



*Fractal Museum 2012*  
*Photo By YDC*

We have a main hallway. We have a food court. We more or less have exhibition halls. And, of course, we have hard-working students who can lead and manage any job given to them. It's amazing that the O'School hasn't ever fully embraced its potential to be a museum... until now. Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you: The Orthogenic School Science Museum Belated Grand Debut!

The doors of this extravagant exhibition opened to the general public (O'School staff, students, and even parents) on May 25, 2012, at 2pm.

Hosted in the Big Gym (top floor, by the Conquerors classroom; you may recognize it by the constant yelling and squeaking shoes during Phys Ed), this "Science Museum" was not like your typical science fair. Students

from all 3 science classrooms presented about 2 projects each. The projects orbited around the general theme of fractals, but the presentations ranged from PowerPoints to artwork to hands-on experiences, and reflected the concept of fractals in many different natural, scientific, artistic & technological capacities.

The museum "CEOs" were the mad scientist duo of Maria and Marshall, though the real management was in the hands of the students themselves.

For those of you reading this and scratching your head at each mention of that "fractal" thing, a fractal is a shape that is too irregular to be described in traditional Euclidean geometric language. A fractal, technically speaking, is an object or quantity that is self-similar, or looks "roughly" the same on any scale, so if you zoom in

a thousand times, you'll still see basically the same thing (not necessarily the exact same image, but essentially the same structure).

The fractal museum, as stated previously, wasn't your typical science fair. Maria Photopulos, the O'School science teacher, stated that she "wanted to get away from the old tri-fold model; our students have a lot of creative capacity, but limited resources."

In order to diverge from the science fair norm, the "museum" didn't have the rows of poster board essays, but rather a large variety of exhibit-type displays. There were projected PowerPoints, board games, science experiments, student-made podcasts, and several pieces of fractal art. The Grand Opening even had its own official Infectious

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Tees shirt specially made for all Museum Staff.

The grand opening was a big hit, and the students, of course, managed everything very well and “were able to become experts in a forerunning scientific topic and pres-

ent it to members of our O’School community.”

Hopefully this tradition will be continued, meaning this grand debut was only that of “the First Annual O’School Science Museum Gallery.”

## Don’t Cry Because They Are Leaving, Smile Because They Were There

By Kevin D.

Students don’t stay at the O’ School forever, and neither do members of the staff. There will always be a day that a teacher or counselor that you know and love will leave the O’ School. All staff need to leave in some way or another, and whether it is to go back to school or to become a professional skydiver, the outcome is the same. To accomplish these tasks the staff members must leave the refuge of the yellow door.

When staff members or students leave we tend to reflect on the good or bad times that we’ve had with them. Some of the emotions that are brought up can include sadness, anger, confusion, guilt, and loss. On the other hand, it also can bring

happiness and positive memories. These positive memories are what you need to hold on to and cherish.

Faculty leaving the school is not uncommon in

the summer months. In fact it is the time of the year when staff and students leave in the highest numbers.

One staff who left the O’ School this year is Theresa Gregoire. When asked what emotions were brought up about leaving Theresa said, “I have been at the Orthogenic School for seven years now, never really making plans to leave, be-

cause it is such a wonderful place.” She also said the hardest part about leaving is ending the relationships with students and families.

A Penguins dorm counselor, Brittany Berman, left unexpectedly. She was sad to say goodbye, but proud of the work she has done at the O’ School. Brittany also plans to keep her experiences with her for the rest of her life. She said she enjoyed working with all of the students and will remember all of the O’ School students. Brittany said that you have to roll with and adapt to changes because any change or transition is hard or scary.

While many other staff members may have left this year, the experience and emotions are similar for all. There is a mixture of fear, sadness, and excitement for staff who are leaving. Even so, they will always remember the O’ School and the students who lived and learned there.

# Yellow O’School



Ryan from the Bulls Dorm will be leaving this summer.  
Photo by YDC Staff

# yellow

## O'School

### Staff Profile: 24 Years with Pete Meyers, Co Director *Continued*

By Thomas

outside of work that is not true. Some of the things he loves to do in his free time are going to music concerts, movies, lunch dates with his friends and family, and talking politics with his friends. Pete's favorite food has to be real american steak houses. "I am a real meat and potatoes kind of guy," says Pete.

Pete attended Kalamazoo College for his undergraduate work. At first Pete decided that he would be a pre-med student because that was where he could make all the money he wanted, but during Pete's freshman year he recalls running into difficulties. He ran into issues of it being academically hard because he found himself not interested in the material. While still taking classes before he changed majors Pete ended up having to take a basic psychology class and that is when he learned he really loved psychology. Not only did he enjoy it, he was doing well academically. "When I took my class on psychology I remember learning that I loved psychology and I always wanted to read more about psychology," he said. So Pete switched his degree from Pre Med to Psychology. He also has a Masters and Doctorate degree. He received his Masters from the University Of Chicago and his doctorate from Illinois School of psychology.

"I first came to work at the Orthogenic School July 1, 1988," says Pete. I wanted to come to work at the Orthogenic School because I felt that working with kids and adolescents would be more fulfilling then working with adults." Also he knew if he worked at the Orthogenic School they would give me a place to live and full tuition as a part-time student at the University of Chicago. When Pet first started to work at the Orthogenic School he was a dormitory counselor. Pete had the position of a dormitory counselor for the next two years. After being a dormitory counselor Pete became part of the coverage staff for the next seven years.

After being coverage for seven years he decided to leave the Orthogenic School to finish his doctoral training. To do this he headed for the beautiful New York City. He then took a position in a hospital. Than on July 1 2002 Pete returned to the Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School. During September 2008, Diana and Pete took the position of Co Executive Directors. Pete decided to come back to the Orthogenic School because he wanted to help kids at the school like he did before he left the Orthogenic School. Pete also choose to come back to the Or-

thogenic School because he knew that he would eventually meet this writer and he wanted a chance to work with him. "While it feels as if I just arrived and started working here in 1988, it will be 24 years ago that I first started working here on July 1," he says. Pete loves working here so much because he gets to be a part of everyone's hard work at getting better, being successful, and most importantly being happy which includes all the students, staff, and the student's families. "I have worked here so long because I know the school really makes a difference for people lives and I am proud to be a part of it."

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Although our assumption of Pete may be that he is always at work and doesn't have a life outside of work that is not true. Some of the things he loves to do in his free time are going to music concerts, movies, lunch dates with his friends and family, and talking politics with his friends. Pete's favorite food has to be real american steak houses. "I am a real meat and potatoes kind of guy," says Pete.

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YELLOW

## O'School Got Spirit

By John

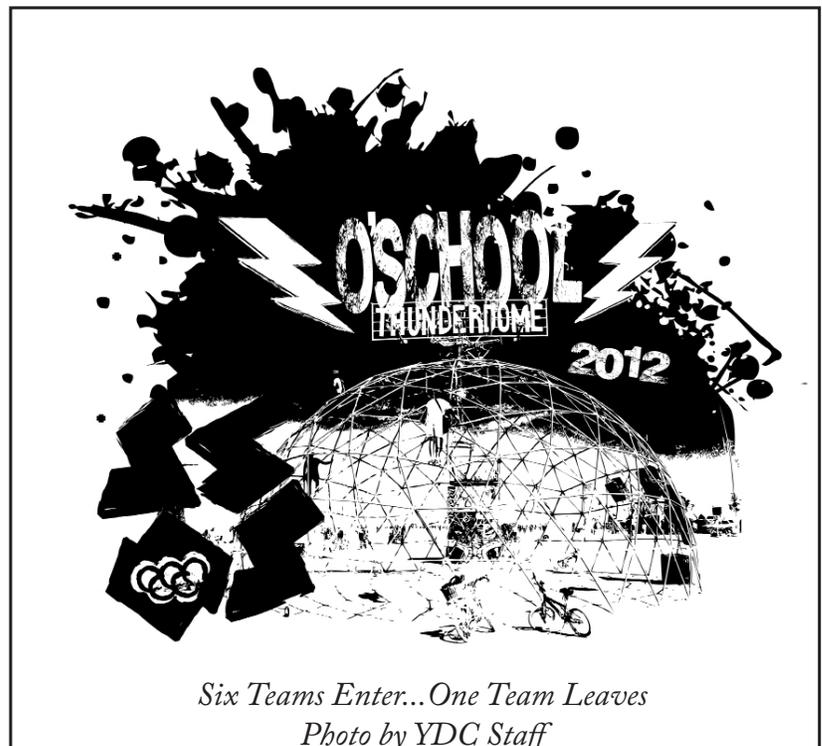
The theme of the O'School Olympics, part of spirit week, is "Welcome to the Thunderdome." Spirit Week is a break between Spring and Summer semesters. There are events on each day. In the past there have been events like relay races and earth ball.

The school is divided into teams. In the past each team had a song and each team had a flag. They also had a name that they came up with. There were team shirts with team colors.

There will be six teams competing in several events (not just sports). There will be track, ping pong, foosball, bozo bucket, Nintendo wii bowling, reaction test, bocci, baggo, and trivia. There are team names, banners, and mottos.

Sports aren't the only activity. There is also Prom on Thursday. Prom is an all student all family formal dance. The prom theme last year was Double

O'school, a secret agent themed after 007 or James Bond.



*Six Teams Enter...One Team Leaves*  
Photo by YDC Staff

# yellow Chicago

## Take Me Out to the Ball Game

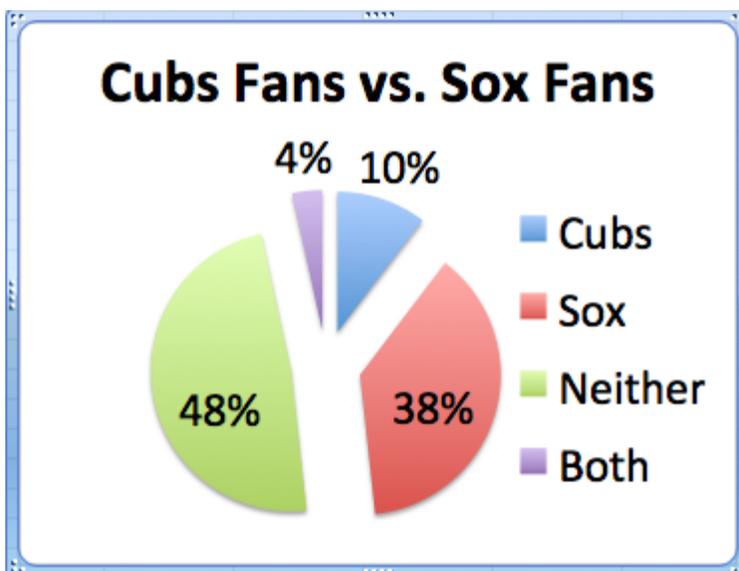
By Kevin

The White Sox and Cubs changed dramatically in the 2012 offseason. Both teams made significant trades and signed free agents. None of these transactions made big headlines like the Prince Fielder or Albert Pujols signings, but the moves that they have made should help out in the long run.

The Cubs lost their two sluggers on the corners of the infield, first and third base, though this doesn't mean that the games are any less exciting. The Cubs still have the speed demon Tony Campana whose running of the base paths and scrappy hitting is always an interest of the spectators. Campana is getting more playing time as a result of the loss of the



*Statistics Don't Say Anything*  
Photo by YDC Staff



multi-million dollar free agent pick up from Japan, Koske Fukudome.

Last year the Cubs had five or more outfielders at a time competing for playing time. Alfonso Soriano, Marlon Byrd, Reed Johnson, Koske Fukudome, Tyler Colvin and of course Scrappy Dappy Campana, were all designated as outfielders. This is twice as many fielders for each position in the outfield. As well as making more room in the outfield, they have acquired an explosive first baseman Adam Lahair. Lahair came from the Colorado Rockies and hasn't been exactly well known, but has always been a powerful hitter.

The White Sox, on the other hand, have upgraded with Adam Dunn finally batting his weight, almost. He's a big guy, 6 foot 6, 287 pounds, with

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an average of .250, as of 5/14/12. Last year he batted a buck fifty nine (.159 batting average) and was only a few games short of having the worst batting average ever in the Major Leagues. The White Sox spared him the humiliation by sitting him out for the final few games of the season. Now, Dunn is hitting like he used to, with power, and taking walks but he is still striking out a great deal. Last year, he rarely walked, and strike outs were a common occurrence. It seems that Dunn has gone back to his old ways for the 2012 season.

The White Sox have lost a few key players also. They lost starting pitcher Mark Buehrle and the slugging Right fielder Carlos Quentin. Along with losing players, the Sox have also lost coaching per-

sonal. Ozzie Guillen has been replaced by Robin Ventura. Ventura played for 16 years and played every infield position and even pitched one year for the Dodgers.

Just like the White Sox the Cubs are under new management. Their manager in 2011, Mike Quade, was replaced by Dale Sveum, the former Milwaukee Brewers Hitting Coach. Both Sveum and Ventura played in the Majors. Both played in the infield. Dale Sveum played for the Brewers, Phillies, White Sox, A's, Mariners, Pirates and Yankees. He played for twelve years. Robin Ventura played for the White Sox, Mets, Yankees, and Dodgers. He played 16 years.

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## C2E2: Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo

By Willy



*Outrageous outing to Comic-Con yeilded this hat  
Photo by YDC Staff*

Greeted by thick, bold, red, plastic lettering, imposed free-standing before the 700,000 square foot expanse of floor set out for the occasion, O'School Gryphons, Penguins, Broncos, Bulls, and Starz dorms entered McCormick Place, broad panes of glass welcoming on a soft clear day. From Friday, April 13, through Sunday, April 15, the Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo would take place in this building. The glass sliding doors that exited the McCormick Place Station opened way to linoleum floored full of readers, viewers, describers, and other mediaphiles adorned in elaborate and cleverly constructed costumes. Somehow the escalators managed to reel the dorms up past the crowds to the second floor of McCormick Place's North Building, where hundreds of comic writers, artists, actors, and vendors awaited the thick flowing crowd to feature "the best of comic, anime, manga, and television" through a tight schedule of panels

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## C2E2: Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo *Continued*

By Willy

and events, all in one huge, thriving place.

Just a few glimpses around the expanse showed the attendees admirable dedication to the cause - green-painted Hulks hulking, Storm Troopers storming, and one man from Aurora stomping about on the red velvet carpet in a \$700 Godzilla costume - each cosplayer acting as both a celebrity, and underneath, an average,

working, relatable person enjoying the occasion. Dressing rooms designated for such personage were in constant traffic. Many of admittees had planned their costumes months in advance, and had several changes of attire over the course of the three-day event weekend. "It was cool n stuff [sic]," laughs Joel, raising both fists into a thumbs up. Joel, from our own Gryphon's dorm, costumed as Dr. Horrible,

was especially appreciated by passerby attendees. Many passerby asked to be photographed with him. Locals not acquainted to the comic and geek culture may have been lucky enough to see several of these whimsically dressed people, including Joel, commuting through the subway lines and back home again.

Of course, the topic of comics and comic conventions is not only about the fans and costumes, but the artists and authors too. JV of the Broncos dorm comments, "I thought it was really interesting; especially the fact that we could sell and buy things there, and how we could meet the writers of new and old comics." Dorms definitely had that opportunity. About a quarter of the floor was designated as the Artist Alley, where 385 booths were constructed exhibiting massive portfolios of spreads, pencils, inks, and masterpieces accumulated through the artists careers - short or long, young or veteran, independent or international. The convention was

definitely not biased about the interests or topics they catered too, some cute and nostalgic, other serious, risqué, or downright terrifying. Near the entrance were large sections squared off for two of the most familiar names in comics, DC and Marvel, the latter of which exhibited an impressive display of props from the recent Captain America movie to raffle off for charity. Marvel also

revealed a new Marvel series Ultimate Comics: Divided We Fall, a major event in the Ultimate Marvel Universe which will span over Ultimate Comics X-Men, Ultimate Comics Ultimates, and Ultimate Comics Spider-Man, as well as introduce Ultimate Captain America.

Several celebrities also showed up throughout the course of the event, including

a surprise appearance of Shia LaBeouf from Transformers fame on Friday and musician Claudio Sanchez of alternative rock group Coheed and Cambria at the Evil Ink booth with his new novel, Key of Z. Maggie Q of CW's Nikita was unable to attend Friday's hugely anticipated Nikita panel due to film scheduling conflicts, but instead, Shane West, playing Michael, Nikita's romantic interest in the Emmy-Award winning drama, took her place alongside series creator Craig Silverstein to talk about the upcoming third season with its official release this coming May.

Saturday also featured Chad Michael Murray from One Tree Hill, invited to introduce his new graphic novel Everlast, set in a pre-apocalyptic era in which Derek Everlast is destined to lead others to Haven, a place rebirth for mankind. On Sunday, in a panel in which the trailer and a short clip of the highly anticipated Poe-inspired film The Raven previewed, Evanston-born John



Comic-con Convention  
Photo by YDC Staff

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Cusack was invited as the featured guest, attracting another huge audience.

An array of booths attracted many a wandering eye, especially since several dorm members had saved money just for this occasion. Booth 277, The Blonde Swan, a hat boutique founded in 2000, “with the goal of reinventing the art of millinery,” amazed passerby costume lovers with their impressive prowess in leatherworking and hat-making with a rainbow of different steampunk-themed items including leather goggles and gas masks.

Superherostuff.com, Booth 539, brought in a literally towering selection of comic book themed t-shirts and apparel for nearly every type of fan base. Just in front of them stood Booth 529 of Hollywood-based Archaia Entertainment, setting up an impressive orange facade emblazoned with their crisp clean logo of a stately looking queen peering from the frame of two intertwining snakes, and handing out free previews for their two incredible graphic series Fraggles Rock and Mouse Guard.

Attendees could also bring their own stories to life in sections dedicated to Live Action Role-Play, in which people take part as characters to enact a fantasy storyline. “They had some really cool LARPing equipment. People there were really

nice and respectful,” says Tyler of the Broncos.

Of course, dorms, had to pay a visit to Booth 462, set up by First Aid Comics of our own Hyde Park, who were a featured exhibitors for their large selection of a timeline of comics and cards that are the cause for much of the Gryphons and Penguins weekday outings.

Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo is organized by Reed-POP who are also known for organizing the New York Comic Con, Star Wars celebrations, and UFC Fan Expos. From the look of the tight traffic students had to press through to get to booths, the expo was a huge success among everyone, and was hugely enjoyed by all floors and dorms. “As a Penguin, I would have to say it was an exhilarating, life-changing experience,” comments Peter. “Plus Batman

shorts,” he adds with a smirk. Huey, also of the Penguins dorm concedes, dropping two fingers in an upside-down deuce. “I thought it was rad. Go Blue Eyes White Dragon all the way. I hope Jim heard that.”

To any who had the tragedy of missing the event, the Free Comic Book Day, on the Saturday, May 5, that took place in most North American comic stores and the release of the new Marvel Avengers movie may have been a slight consolation until next year’s convention.



*R2D2 at C2E2  
Photo by YDC Staff*



*Buying and wearing one of these shirts is  
STEP 6 of the Nerd Initiation Process™.  
Photo by YDC Staff*

# yellow

## National/ World

# Tornadoes Take Charge

By Carson

On April 3, 2012, an estimated 10-18 tornadoes tore through north Texas, in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The Dallas-Fort Worth Airport cancelled around 800 flights, both departures and arrivals, according to the Dallas Morning News. Several incoming flights were diverted to the Dallas Love Field airport. Over 650 homes were destroyed by the tornadoes, and many others received damage from debris, strong winds, and hail reaching the size of a baseball. There were no casualties, but there was a lot of damage done. The media, whether it be a news channel or movies like *The Wizard of Oz* or *Twister*, can instill fear of these violent storms and create misconceptions of what a tornado actually is.

A tornado, by definition, is a rotating column of air ranging in width from a few yards to more than a mile and whirling at destructively high speeds, usually accompanied by a funnel-shaped downward extension. There are different types of tornadoes, the most common being a rope tornado. Ropes are long and skinny, and often twist into a sideways "s" shape. The more threatening tornadoes are the wedge tornadoes. While less common, they are more likely to do serious damage. They have a very wide base and can be hard to differentiate from the rest of the storm.

When a tornado is rain wrapped, that means the rain provides a sort of blanket or sheet that covers up the tornado, making it hard to distinguish. Waterspouts are another type of twister. Like the name indicates, they form over a body of water and generally dissipate once hitting land. They pose little to no threat.

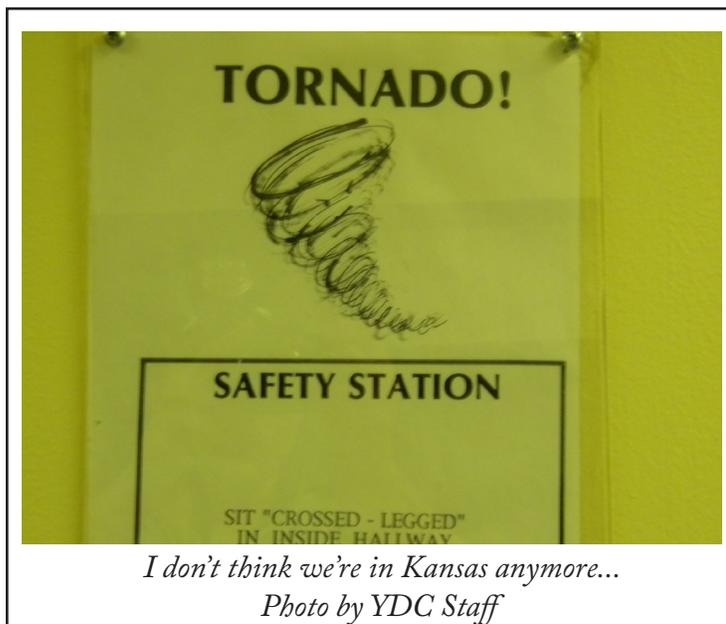
Tornadoes are measured by the amount of damage they did do, not the amount of damage they were capable of doing, according to the National Severe Storm Forecast Center (NSSFC). The Fujita Scale is a scale developed in the 1970s by Dr. Theodore Fujita.

The "F-Scale" classifies tornadoes by their area and intensity. The scale ranges from an F0 to an F5. F0 and F1 tornadoes are the most common, and least dangerous. Those tornadoes may uproot trees, peel off roofs, damage chimneys, and push cars off the road. F2 and F3 tornadoes start to generate light object missiles, tear off roofs or walls, and overturn mobile homes or boxcars. F4 and F5 tornadoes can carry cars over 100 meters, level off buildings, generate large object missiles, and disintegrate houses. Generally, the peak tornado season is around April or May. NESTA, National Earth Science Teachers Association, says tornadoes are generated from thunderstorms when cold, dry air crosses paths with warm, moist air. The winds from the storm start to spin around each other, forming a funnel. This funnel cloud creates a low-pressure area that, in turn, sucks in air.

Japan, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Australia, and South Africa all experience tornadoes. The United States records the highest number of occurrences each year. There is an area in the United States known as Tornado Alley. The states that make up Tornado Alley are Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas

and Nebraska.

Living in one of the states that has tornadoes, it is important to know how to stay safe in case of severe weather. The National Weather Service (NWS) has a general set of guidelines. They say to stay away from windows, and go to the basement. If the house doesn't have a basement, then seek shelter in an interior bathroom or closet (interior meaning does not have a wall that is part of the outside walls of the house). If driving, do not stop under a bridge or overpass. Instead, get to lower ground, such as a ditch, pull over, and lie flat.



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If the weather conditions are suitable for tornadoes, the NWS will issue a tornado watch. If there is a tornado warning, that means that a tornado has been sighted and tornado-safe shelters should be sought out.

The O'School has a tornado safety protocol that the staff and students follow in case one of these violent storms heads toward the school. During school hours, when instructed to do so, staff and students leave their classrooms and quietly

walk through the little gym into the hallway near the unit stairwell and storage closets. During residential hours, staff and students leave their dorms and walk down the back stairwell, through the lounge to the hallway near the unit stairwell and storage closets.

It's important to know what a tornado is and how to deal with one if the situation arises. These storms can cause a lot of damage, but if proper precautions are taken, safety is less at risk.

## Discrimination Elimination *Continued*

By Carson

rugby, baseball, and also gymnastics. The elimination of the two women's teams caused UC Berkeley to fall short of Title IX requirements. They can no longer claim that they meet the interests of the female student body, nor can they claim that they have a history of expanding sports for women. This leaves them with the only option of proportionality. They need to add 50 spots for girls and cut 80 spots for boys. The practice of cutting spots and adding others rather than adding a sport or team is called roster management. This is frowned upon, but not prohibited.

Gender equality means having measurable representation of men and women. It is not saying they are the same, rather that they have equal value, and receive equal treatment and opportunities. Senator Birch Bayh says that "Title IX is rather simple: don't discriminate on the basis of sex." Title IX was created for the sole purpose of an under-represented gender receiving equal access and opportunity, be it male or female. This doesn't mean that for every scholarship given to a male athlete, one is given to a female athlete. What it says is that the amount of scholarships given out to male and female athletes needs to be "proportional to their participation opportunities," states the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

The NCAA says that Title IX has only one goal: equal participation opportunities for both genders. It does not require equal amounts of money to be spent on men's and women's sports, however. Both genders shall receive equal scheduling times for practice and games, equipment and supplies, coaching, locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities, medical and training facilities and services, publicity and promotions, tutoring, travel, housing and dining services, and support services.

Colleges need to pick one of three tests to comply with the gender equity law. One test is that the athletic opportunities must be proportionate to the overall student enrollment in the university. If 55% of the student body is female, then 55% of the student athletes must also be female. Another rule of compliance to Title IX is whether or not the university has a history of expanding sports for women. A school may not claim that test if they have ever cut a women's varsity team from their athletics. The third test of Title IX compliance is to make sure the athletic interests and abilities of the female student body, or whatever gender is currently under-represented, are being met.

Football and men's basketball tend to be the biggest grossing sports for most colleges and universities. Rather than cutting down on the amount of spots available to male student-athletes or adding women's teams, the New York Times says that colleges are finding loop holes in the law.

One of the loop holes universities use counting male athletes that practice with women's teams as female athletes. Female athletes are being counted two or three times if they participate in more than one season of a sport, like indoor track, outdoor track and cross-country. Women are being included in a roster for a team while completely unaware that they were even part of the team. Some schools count some athletes for the roster, and then cut them a few weeks later. South Florida went to the extreme of bribing track athletes with new running shoes to run cross-country so the female athlete count was higher.

The multitude of deceptions and manipulations surrounding gender equity in intercollegiate education has dampened the experiences of many student-athletes, both men and women. There have been concerns about this leaking into high schools. There have been challenges presented to boards of education regarding Title IX and whether or not it extends into high school. Some have said that it should not apply to high schools because in the clause it uses the word "intercollegiate" and not "interscholastic." However, there are spots in which high school applicability is mentioned, so those arguments are usually rejected.

At the Orthogenic School, activities are open to the widespread age groups as well as the different genders. Gender discrimination is not of large concern in this environment, but once the yellow door is in the rear view mirror, that won't always be the case.

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# Aligning of the Planets Lights up March

By Willy

A quick Google search for “2012 apocalypse” may yield about 77,700,000 hits. Should the world actually end, however, one can at least expect to go out in a blaze of glory: in terms of the stars and sky, that is. Along with the meticulous measurement of time and concise invention of the calendar that would spark the apocalypse theory, the Mayan civilization shrewdly calculated the precise movements of the planets and other celestial bodies. Whether through the use of the ancient measurements or modern sciences, it was apparent in both eras that 2012 would be uniquely abundant in astronomical phenomena.

Those who enjoy evening strolls or take a late commute home may have noticed that two especially bright stars seemed to appear in the east sky. The larger is Venus, whose thick clouded atmosphere raises temperatures to a scalding 900°F as well as reflect an abundant amount of the Sun’s light, becoming one of the brightest bodies in the night sky. The smaller is Jupiter, the largest

planet in our solar system, though significantly farther away from planet Earth.

One should note the significance of these two planets appearing so close to each other. It is a conjunction of planets, in which two celestial bodies seem very close to each

and their reflections of sunlight to Earth makes them appear to be glowing ethereally right next to the other.

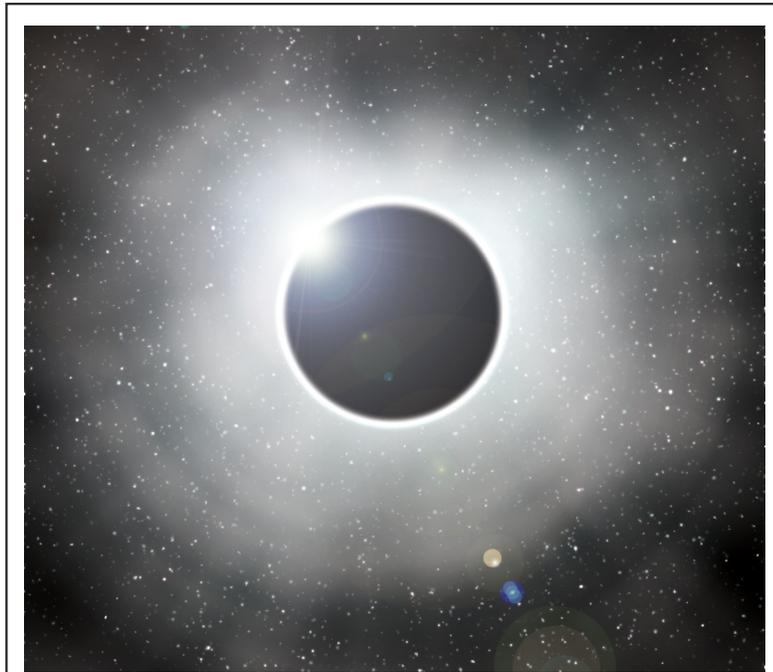
Astronomers generally qualify any two celestial bodies within ten degrees of each other to be a conjunction. To measure it yourself on a clear night, ten degrees is about a fist held at arm’s length. The Venus-Jupiter-Moon conjunction reached its apex from March 14 through March 16, where Venus was within three degrees of Jupiter, or about two fingers held at arm’s length.

Conjunctions are fairly common due to the sheer amount of celestial bodies visible from earth. Venus-Jupiter conjunctions alone occur about every 13 months, some may remember the conjunction of Venus, Jupiter, Mercury, and Mars in May 2011.

However, what makes the 2012 Venus-Jupiter-Moon Conjunction unique is its visibility: it involved three of the brightest and most apparent celestial bodies and occurred within very fortunate, very favorable conditions. Two examples of such conditions include the greatest

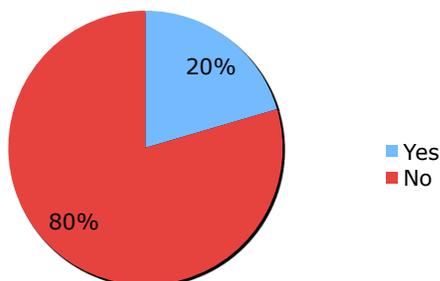
evening elongation and the farthest ecliptic from the horizon. The greatest evening elongation, simply means that the two planets were at the farthest distance from the setting sun, increasing visibility. Additionally, the conjunction was also at the steepest “ecliptic,” or angle of orbit from the horizon, setting it high in the sky away from obstructions and light pollution, also increasing visibility. Thirdly, stargazers also had the great luck of March being blessed with mild nights and cloudless skies.

Thus, along with the factor of the conjunction appearing fairly early in the evening, the three were clearly visible for a great length of time. In some areas, the ethereally large orbs were visible from as early as the afternoon to the remnants



*Venus appeared to coincide with Jupiter in March 2012.  
Digital Image by Joel*

**Did you see Jupiter and Venus in the sky during their alignment ?**



other from the view of the Earth’s surface. Take good notice of the phrase “appearing” and “seem,” however: although the planets are separated by hundreds of millions of miles, perspective gives the illusion of them being close together. Planets orbit in a basically circular motion around the Sun. In a conjunction, the planets are in such a position of orbit that they fall along an observer’s line of vision from the Earth to the sky. Because space is so vast, the human eye is unable to see the amount of depth that separates these bodies,

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# Busy With NATO

By Thomas

According to NATO's web page, a NATO Summit is a summit meeting that is regarded as a periodic opportunity for Heads of States and of Heads of Government of NATO member countries to evaluate and provide strategic direction for Alliance activities. NATO was formed in 1949 and since the founding of NATO there have been a total of 24 summits. NATO was created to help fight off the soviets in the cold war. NATO is the abbreviation for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO recently held another summit meeting in our very own city of Chicago on May 20, and May 21, 2012.

Lake shore drive from 39th to balboa drive was shut-down along with access to I 55 southbound. Access for Lake Shore Drive via I 55 northbound was closed with many other rolling closures. For more information people were able to check the official NATO summit webpage at <http://www.chicagonato.org/traffic-alerts-pages-266.php>.

Along with every big political gathering come protestors. Occupy Chicago along with other organizations protested during the NATO summit. Some of the groups of protestors were anti- war. These people believe that NATO and the US interfere with the affairs

of other countries and go to war for selfish reasons with those countries. Along with anti- war coalitions, there were civil rights and religious groups concerned with the cuts in education and other programs that affect the common people. With these protestors there was an increase of security and police presence.

According to the Chicago Sun Times, Rahm Emaunel's office bought more than 8,500 face shields for the Chicago police department to protect the police officers who were in charge of controlling and keeping the demonstrations non-violent. According to the streets and sanitation department, they removed the solar compactor garbage cans so they were able to see what was in the garbage.

One of the main topics that was discussed is the discussion of the transition in Afghanistan According To Karl- Heinz Kamp the tran-

sition is a two-phase process. The first concern of these phases is the handover of authority to Afghan security forces.



*The NATO Summit was a big concern for the city of Chicago and various activist groups.  
Photo by YDC Staff*

With Chicago hosting the NATO summit there were lots of concerns and questions asked by people. How will the security affect our trips and getting places? The week prior to the summit, Secret Service released the road closures for the weekend of the NATO Summit.

## Aligning of the Planets Lights up March *Continued*

By Willy

dawn. On average, however, the conjunction remained visible four hours after sunset. All over internet forums and news sites, many photographers, both professional and amateur, took advantage of this perfect opportunity to photograph and share internationally the closing proximity between the three beautiful celestial orbs.

As March faded into April, Venus and Jupiter sailed over the ho-

rizon, and the conjunction was no longer visible, but the show was hardly over: Mars, which remained most of spring as a distinctive rust-colored star, will begin to float down to the horizon, where Saturn begins to rise.

## Fighting Fire With Silence

By Danny

A pen dropping, fluorescent lights buzzing, and a bird chirping outside. Silence can bring attention to things that may go unnoticed in the noise of our everyday high school riffraff- but what about things that are less subtle? For the last sixteen years, The National Day of Silence sponsored by the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) has been raising awareness through protest against LGBT bullying and harassment.

National Day of Silence is a day in which students in middle school through college take a daylong vow of silence to symbolize the silencing effect of LGBT bullying. This year, on April 20th, 2012, over 9000 schools worldwide participated in national day of silence making it the largest, one day, student led grassroots action for the LGBT community in American history.

Since the event is for students, it is generally best organized by proactive students who 'spread the word' at their local school. Its best to ask school administrators for help keeping teachers aware of the day and aware that some amount of students may want to stay silent.

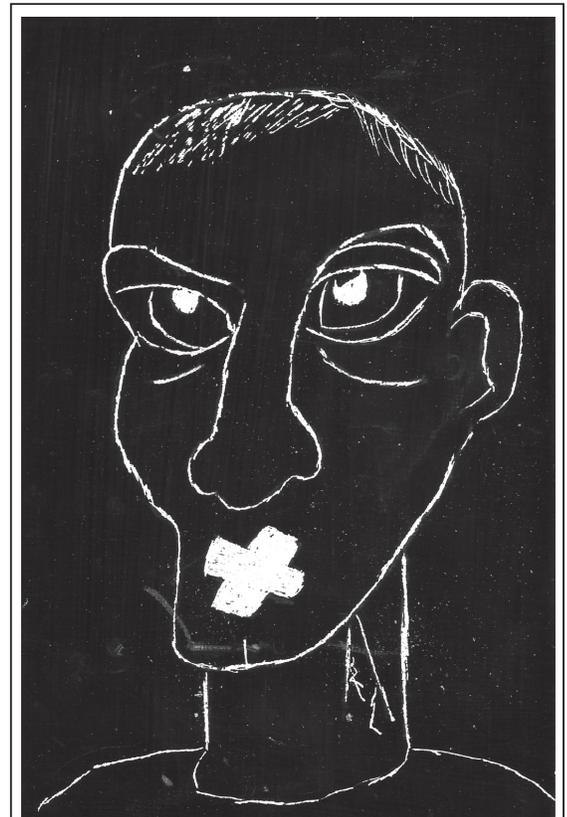
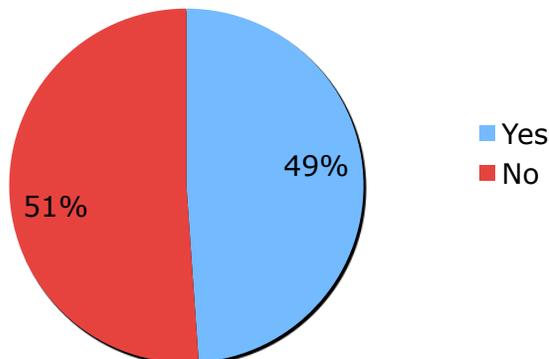
The event does not give students the right to deny answering a direct question while in class it is not advised to approach the movement aggressively or refuse to talk. As an addition or alternative, many schools recognized wearing a red shirt as valid support, but many people at GLSEN, web journalists, and bloggers also identified many other ways of showing support. Some things like

rainbow socks and other pride wear were also recommended to support the event.

The Orthogenic School students organized their own modified version of the day of silence. Students and teachers agreed that those who wanted to participate could do so during the extended base class period. Students were proactive in planning this event, and increased conversation about the topic in general.

From the first day of silence in 1996 at The University of Virginia, the protest has made huge strides towards raising awareness for LGBT youth in America and around the world. With each passing year, the movement gains more followers and supporters, hopefully creating a healthier and more supportive environment for everyone regardless of sexual orientation or expression in the school place.

### Did you participate in the Day of Silence at the O'School?



*Shhhh!*  
Artwork by Kendall

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# Staff Editorial : Lessons Learned from Conflict

By YDC Staff

At the beginning of a conflict, it is important to take space and calm down. In the heat of the moment we can tend to say lots of nasty things to the other person that we may have wished we never said. That's why people should take space because it gives you time to decompress and think about what you want to say when you have to approach the other person and talk about it. Taking space is as easy as just asking someone if it is okay for you to step out for a moment to recompose yourself. When taking space you can use one of your coping skills to help decompress and become ready to talk about the conflict you have had with someone.

Once you have calmed down, it is then important to listen to the other person and hear their side of the story. This means being open to suggestions and feedback from the other person. Sometimes you may be right for the most part but you should still listen and hear what the other person has to say. When listening to someone you shouldn't interrupt them and accuse them of something in mid-sentence. Instead you should listen quietly and wait for your turn to explain your point of view. This is how both parties get a chance to get their points across politely and respectfully.

After you have listened to the other person, you can then decide on whether or not to pursue it. After you've taken a step back and had time to think about what the conflict is about, also think about whether or not it is worth the argument. Sometimes the conflict is important and needs to be figured out. However, there are times when it's okay to say "you're right" or "this is turning into a bigger deal than it needs to be." In those times, even if you believe you are right, just let it go. Maybe it's something you don't see as a big deal, but it might have offended someone else. In those cases, even if you don't think you did something wrong, it's important to take the other's feelings into consideration and keep them in mind in the future. There's no need to dwell on the conflict if both parties have agreed to move past it. Coming back to it repeatedly will just drag the conflict on longer. So, if you are involved in a conflict, take a minute to think about it; evaluate it. Try to see the other person's point of view, even if you don't agree with it, and then decide whether or not it's a conflict worth arguing over.

At the O'School there are many sources of support including staff, therapists, and if necessary peers. It is important in life to be able to reach out assertively to get the help you need. You do not want to bottle up or hide emotions especially those involving conflicts. That is where others you trust may have valuable insight you lack when you are in the midst of a conflict. There is most often value in a second opinion not blaming anyone involved and just both sides being heard is key. Lying and blaming are more likely to get the solution harder to reach and confuse and upset those involved. Regardless of the mediator's position they should be offering their side and not just bouncing ideas off of both sides. The mediator should be neutral to the conflicting sides and not be involved unless truly willing to help. The mediator should be clear of their intentions and not jump in unannounced. If the conflict is physical a mediator is not needed in that moment if staff are involved and a possible mediator is a student they should let staff handle it. If a person being a student is not in need of staff intervention then a student can offer help yet never force anyone and let staff decide how to handle to consequences or further intervention.

Of course, in any conflict, one can't expect to walk away with everything they want. If one could, what conflict would he or she be in the first place? First, one must remember to prioritize what one wants most out of a conflict, and in broader terms, the relationship in general, and then reach a compromise. At the very base, it comes down to a question of values, which any being in relationships has, and which of these are valued the most. To negotiate, two people must lose so both can win. One should take care not to be so self-absorbed to only think only about oneself, and should also think about the person they are in conflict with. They could be your ally, but most importantly they are a being that you are interacting with, and thus one is morally obligated to respect them. At the same time, one should be sure to assert their wishes to a certain level that is comfortable for both persons involved, giving a level of respect for themselves as well — it is wise to be cautious of people who care little about other people's emotions and are not looking to take their relationships farther than themselves.

Respect, politeness, humility, and a learned intuition of others will get one far in life, but be sure remember the greater good and ulterior motives of the community or group that one participates in as well. Even at the more interpersonal scale, caring for someone else, even someone you are in conflict with, is a very strong personal bond that can help one achieve greater happiness. With this logic, perhaps one should gain a certain level of compromise and leniency for all people and their opinions, even the ones they don't necessarily agree with. Not only does it broaden one's view of society and the world in general, you may stumble upon new ideas and new ways of thinking about things that may not have occurred had you not compromised some of yours to someone else.

Sometimes confronting your problems head-on is the only way to get things done. Other times, that tactic only makes things worse. Some situations – and people – need time to cool off and simmer down a bit before they should be approached. Respectfully taking space is an important skill to have, but make sure it is respectful – no yelling, door slamming, or "leave me alone, I hate you!" ... back off for awhile, and handle it when you can.

# hot topic

## If you could meet anyone (dead or alive) who would it be, and what would you do ?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Lil Wayne -Anonymous  | -My real parents, contemplate.  | -Sylvia Plath, & talk to her about her work.  |
| Neil DeGras Tyson, (Astrophysicist)<br>Give him a hug and tell him he's<br>my Hero until I change my<br>mind -Anonymous | -Slash. Play guitar with him<br><br>-Abraham Lincoln, Look cool<br><br>-Jam with Jimi Hendricks               | -Dahvie Vanity and Se7en<br>and BrokeNCYDE<br><br>-Cat in the hat.  |
| DRAKE -To spit a few bars -Kevin E.   | -Eminem, Idk...   | -Bobby Fisher, I'd Play him in chess  |
| Herr Einstein-To Ponder the<br>Universe -Anonymous  | -Harry-carry  | -Taylor Laughtner, & we<br>would go on a cruise!  |
| My Grandmother and my Grandfa-<br>ther and my Mom -Anonymous  | -Wiz Khalifa. He's the most amazing<br>and inspirational person EVER. -Sara                                   | -Andy Warhol, I would want to<br>spend a few hours talking about his<br>work, and stuff. Then let him create<br>whatever art he wanted with me.   |
| My Grandparents -who passed and<br>hang out and have fun -Anonymous   | -Lil Wayne. I would rap with him.   | -I would choose to meet Ernest Hem-<br>ingway. I would like to meet him to ask<br>for writing advice. But, because I can-<br>not choose just one person to meet. I<br>would also choose to meet Morrissey<br>(of the smiths.) I would choose Mor-<br>rissey because I want him to tell me his<br>life story; also, he is my god so, yeah. |
| Yuki Hadia - We would walk around<br>and say China quotes -Anonymous  | -I would meet Hank Williams. He seems<br>like a pretty swell guy -Chandler                                    |   |
| Bjork -Anonymous  | -Nelson Schneider. Hang out<br>and talk about stuff   |   |
| Idina Menzel-sing a duet -Anonymous   | -Chuck Norris, I would hang out with him  |   |
| Paris Hilton- I would make her<br>buy me stuff -Anonymous   | -I would meet Isaac Newton, Ein-<br>stein and Stephen Hawking.  | -Dave Mustaine from Mega-<br>deth, I would jam with him.  |
| I would skydive with Douglas Adams.<br>My life would be complete -Aidan   | -My mom.  | -Jesus, alive, we would prance on a<br>beach in the autumn moonlight. Then<br>we can have a Jesus jam-sesh.   |
| James Franco -Anonymous   | -George Washington, if not one of<br>the other founding fathers, to dis-<br>cuss what our country has become. | -I would meet Martin Luther King<br>jr. to see who he was as a person.  |
| -Jim Morrison, talk.  |   |   |