# culture



### THE WAY WE SEE IT

**YRENLY JUANITAS** YUAN

#### **Rock Climbing**

"You go."

We battled back and forth over who was going to attempt to climb up the huge rock wall first.

It seemed like a daunting task to try to support your body weight on only your fingertips and toes, and neither of us actually wanted to take the first step off the

Just to put this out there, rock climbing or bouldering are probably not the activities for you if you have a fear of heights. It might be slightly painful and difficult if you don't have a lot of (or any) arm muscle, as it was

But aside from having no arm muscle, we still decided to go to the Rocknasium and explore it this month. Neither of us had gone rock climbing in five or more so years, so we wanted to go and see if we would be better and braver at it than we were when we were little elementary schoolers!

We found out at the Rocknasium that rock climbing is a little on the pricier side- we had to pay \$18 each, which included a harness and shoe rental. We also had to call our moms back to sign a clearance form, so make sure you have a parent with you if you're under 18

But onto the climbing itself. There are three types of rock climbing in the gym that you can do. Bouldering, which is done without the safety of a harness or belay, and auto-belaying, which eliminates the need of a human belayer, are both free for anyone to do. But to have every climbing course open to you, you must take the \$10 belaying class which teaches you to take up the slack of a climber as he or she ascends and safely controls his or her descent if he or she falls or lets go.

Not knowing about the cost of the belaying class, we were only able to participate on the three auto-belay

At Rocknasium, you are free to follow whatever path you want on the structure, but there are set height limits for boulderers, one for children and one for adults. This is to prevent injuries in case you fall. We didn't have any chalk, which the seasoned rock-climbers used, but instead, we experimented climbing different paths on several walls- there were easier, straight ones to upwards slanting, arm-strength requiring ones. We weren't that great at the latter ones.

But climbing on the straight walls was actually pretty fun for us. We hadn't planned on staying as long as we did when we first got there, but we climbed around for two hours; we wanted to make the most out of our money! It's actually pretty scary to get so high off of the ground, but it was cool to see the extent of what we could do. After all, even with the automatic belay supporting us, when we climbed with our harnesses, it felt like at any moment, if our hands slipped, we would fall down to the squishy floor beneath us.

So overall, it was nice to get a chance to climb again and actually be able to do so, as we were more scared of heights when we were younger. It's a bit more on the pricier side, but if you really fall in love with climbing, you can get monthly or weekly passes so you can get in an unlimited dose of the rocks!

Want to know more? Scan the QR code to visit the Rocknasium website.





In this scene, students congregate in an alley and react to the news that classmate Tom Chapman is in a coma.

### From pen to performance in just four weeks

By **ZACH HERTZ HUB Staff** 

The DHS Drama Department's latest show, "Graffitied Walls," premiered March 13. The show follows a group of high school students over the course of a few days, and the plot is filled with twists and insights into lives that aren't that far from our own.

This play was written, planned and produced by students entirely in the four weeks before the curtain went up. Faced with the daunting task of writing a play from scratch, the drama team started writing Feb. 18.

Maguire was part of the process and said, "To create the script, we divided up the scenes to each group: the academics, the stoners/punks, the popular kids, the hipsters and then the melting pot. Each group wrote its own dialogue, and then a few main writers put it all together and edited it."

The play benefited greatly from the student writers. Maguire said, "[Student writing] creates for more authentic dialogue and makes it easier to act. A lot of the times, we would just be having our own personal conversations and something funny would be said, and we'd say, 'That's great; put it in the script!""

Of course, there were drawbacks. Maguire said that "[we] wanted to make sure the audience had a good time watching, and I was concerned it would come across as cheesy or not fully developed."

But when the play hit the stage, the crowd was pleased. Maguire said, "The majority of people loved the show, which tells me we did just fine!"

Scan the QR code to visit bluedevilhub.com to watch video clips from "Graffittied Walls" and read a review.



## Language fair showcases cultural hodgepodge

By NATHAN WOO **HUB Staff** 

Decked out with food, activities and singing, the World Language Fair brought together all the language clubs and classes at DHS to bring culture to campus on March 8.

"This is a way to have all the languages that are offered at the school come together and have an international fair where we celebrate all the different cultures and the languages and the food and the crafts that are involved," Spanish teacher Janice Candelario said.

Candelario, along with the other language teachers, helped coordinate and set up the event in order to help people learn more about the cultures of the people around them.

The language teachers at DHS also allowed students to receive extra credit for going to the fair and getting stamps at all the booths by doing cultural activities.

The Latinos Unidos and Spanish section of the fair contained food, which included making your own guacamole and Spanish tortilla with various tapas. The activities setup included weaving "ojos de dios," or "the eyes of God," and coloring a Spanish sugar skull, typical of the Mexican holiday, the Day of the Dead.

The German language booth was set up with a German vocabulary game along with posters showing off the German culture.

"We are selling food and also letting the students do German vocabulary [...] a lot of the German words are actually related to English. [This poster] shows famous Germans, including Otto Von Bismarck and Albert Einstein," junior Earth Umnartyutithum said.

The Chinese Club showed off its language through a Chinese character matching game along with a chopsticks

"I am giving a little talk about Confucius and explaining the characters origins. We are selling Chinese food and explaining Chinese characters like pictographs. It's all really fun, and it's an efficient way to expose people to Chinese culture," junior Bijan Varjavand said.

The French booth put up posters about French culture, set out French food and had a French vocabulary game as well.

"[The French culture we are showing off] is mostly specifically of France. We don't have much culture

from the other Francophone countries, but we have a

lot of French food out," sophomore Teddy Knox said. Muslim The Association, even though not affiliated with a class taught at DHS, set up its booth with different traditional Muslim foods and activities.

"We are doing henna, which is like a flower, and when you draw it on your hand, it dyes your hand. It is really popular in Middle Eastern culture," senior Hos-

na Mohabbat said. The Japanese booth put out Japanese food with

character matching activities and origami teaching.

Students experienced a multitude of cultures at the World

Language Fair by participating in fun activities and tasting

Student

"We teach between sushi, jumping frogs, different types of games, throwing stars, different types of boxes and flowers, too," junior Rodney Glasgow said.

On top of all of the booths at the language fair, each group put on a performance of students singing traditional songs or dancing. The performances allowed students to express the culture of their languages to other people and allow spectators to experience different styles of singing and dancing.

#### Artists exhibit the best of DHS

By **ZACH HERTZ HUB Staff** 

Art decorated the inside east wall of the library, as DHS artists and writers had the chance to have their works exhibited during the inaugural DHS Expression Fest from March

Six students from the LEAD class put together the Expression Fest as a project. One of the students, junior JR Real, explained that inspiration for the Expression Fest came from the very basic ideas of the LEAD class.

LEAD aims to promote school unity and spirit, individual values and suicide awareness. The Expression Fest's goal was to highlight students' beliefs and individual values.

Artists who contributed to the Expression Fest created their works based on the question, "What do you believe in?" The 19 submitted works included paintings, sketches, poetry and even a children's book

Originally, a DHS Film Festival was planned, but the idea was later expanded to include artwork and writing as well. The event has been in the works since August, but LEAD senior Marissa Walker admitted that "there was a lot of procrastination. After winter break, we realized that we really needed to start working."

Real said that when planning, they faced challenges "every single day. We stressed out about advertising, and finding a venue was a challenge."

Walker said that in hindsight, "I think we could have done a better job of advertising. I really think we could have gotten more submissions if we talked to the art teachers [and] got it in the bulletin."

Real agreed and suggested that next year they could use more organization. "We all worked really hard on this. In the end, I'm really glad it happened," he said. "Make sure to check

CULTURE 13 MARCH 21, 2014

# Achieving peace of mind with a few kicks and kiais

By **ZOE JUANITAS HUB Staff** 

To junior Ricky Tan, martial arts is not just a way to stay physically fit, but also a way to strengthen his mind.

Tan started the Korean martial art of taekwondo at a young age and earned his first degree black belt a few years prior to moving to Davis. He currently attends Baciarini's Martial Arts, where he learns and practices an eclectic range of styles, including Kenpo, Muay Thai and some Filipino martial arts, which combines techniques of self-defense, sparring and grappling.

When practicing, Tan doesn't think of martial arts as separate strikes, blocks

and throws, but rather as a cohesive means to an end.

"All of the different kinds of moves are actually all of your body working to accomplish whatever your goal is, whether it is self-defense or winning a sparring match," Tan said.

This is why Tan sees martial arts as a full body experience and believes in the importance of having a strong mentality in order to fight his hardest.

The life lessons he learns through martial arts also seem to cross over into his daily life, especially those emphasizing control and

"[Martial arts] imparts relatively useful skills in life compared to other sports," Tan said. These skills include

"being able to persevere through tough things in life, stay controlled in the face of anger and emotion and generally just toughening up your mind for whatever hurdles come at you."

Martial arts also teaches Tan the balance of strategy and competitiveness.

"With sparring and competing, it's important to keep your cool and use mind games as well as being able to connect with that inner viciousness that fighting requires," Tan said.

In general, Tan is greatful for all the long term benefits of martial arts in the way that it keeps him in shape both physically and mentally. He doesn't really have one best memory from his years of experience and training.

"It's just this one collective part of my life that's fun and helps keep me fit," Tan said.

Tan used to participate in minor taekwondo competitions that involved sparring divisions and forms divisions where participants would compete with a prepared set of moves.

Now Tan only partakes in a few intramural tournaments here and there.

"I haven't done any tournaments lately because of a lack of time," Tan said.



naments.

Tan plans to continue practicing martial arts for as long as he physically can and would like for it to always be a part of his life.

"After high school, I'll try to find another studio to attend," Tan said.

# Tako es muy repugnante, pero not K-popular

Review by **NATALIE** SILVER HUB Staff

There are certain things in this world that simply don't go well together. And when such combinations are created, disaster has been known to unfold.

The examples of catastrophic combos are endless; there's mayonnaise and any other food item in existence. Ryan Lochte and an intelligent question and country music and the ability to

So when I went to Tako, the Korean-Mexican fusion restaurant which opened last month on G Street, I wasn't exactly surprised to find that the food was horrendous. When it comes down to it, Korean foods and Mexican foods are not meant to be combined. Maybe there's a reason their origins are on opposite sides of the planet.

What did surprise me, however, was the emotional impact the eating experience left on me. I mean besides the food (which might actually be great, and just not my

taste), the service was amazingly fast, the prices were moderate and the facility was polished. But there was something slightly off about the entire situation. In fact, I left that building kind of disturbed. I left that building extremely-and irrevocably—weirded out.

Now folks, don't get me wrong. I love weird. But there's a difference between good weird and bad weird. Good weird is Steve-O swallowing a live goldfish and then hurling it back out or Mike Tyson getting a face tattoo. But bad weird is something that shakes your world, leaving you with unanswered questions and feelings of instability. Bad weird is a dae ji bulgogi burrito, also known as "ew."

Here's what I mean.

It's no secret that there's nothing to do in Davis. So when your friend says something like, "Hey man, let's hit the DT," you really have two options: go to a movie or eat. And when "12 Years a Slave" and "Frozen" are practically the only movies playing which, by the way, have been

here for a straight dynasty you are only left with option

So as lame as it might sound, us Davisites rely on food for the EXPERIENCE. It's the only reason we have to exist. And when that experience violates the basic principles of normalcy, all of a sudden our universe is shaken. Stability is gone. And we must reconsider those ever-present, looming questions: What is my purpose? What is life? Who.

And this, to me, is disturbing.

Like I said before, maybe this just isn't my taste. Maybe I got the absolute worst item on the menu. But at the same time, it's hard to ignore the actual poor quality of the foods and ingredients. The quality of the meats is comparable to Panda Express, while the produce reminded me of eating a Steve's Pizza salad but with extra cabbage. And as a side note, at some point we need to confirm that it is fundamentally wrong to mix sour cream and that hot pink, sickly sweet Asian sauce.

Come on people. The burrito is a holy thing, and it's not okay to disrespect it by stuffing it with whatever you want. And the same thing goes for the Korean food. Slapping that tortilla on a rice plate is a slap in the face to the masterminds that created Korean food. It's just not right.

So my advice to you guys: don't eat there if you're smart. Or, try it if you're brave. Prove me wrong.

And my advice to aspiring restaurant owners...

Have a really cool sign. That draws people in. Maybe invest in a sick bathroom, with candles, flowers and soft ukulele music in the background (Tako did have an amazing bathroom, by the way. I'll give them that). That draws me in.

And most importantly, stay away from fusion, and just choose ONE type of food! Everything I have to say to 'fusion' lies within its first two letters.

And with that I say, "adios," "annyeonghi gaseyo," and thanks for listening.

#### Review by YRENLY YUAN **HUB Staff**

DIVERGENT

Dystopian novel

proves itself on

the big screen

"Factions all work. Everyone knows where they be-

long [in them]." Factions- segregated social groups that are sorted by an individual's characteristics- are at the heart of the plot of "Divergent," a movie based on the best-selling trilogy of the same name by Veronica Roth.

"Divergent" has been called the next big thing since "The Hunger Games" but is different in that it brings a strong female character who can teach us all a little bit about "ordinary acts of bravery" in our everyday lives.

There are five factions that everyone is shuffled into: the Erudite are the curious and intelligent; the Amity are amicable; the Candors value honesty; the Abnegation pride selflessness, and the Dauntless are brave. The different factions are well represented throughout the film with distinctive clothing and behaviors attributed to members of each faction.

The protagonist, Beatrice "Tris" Prior, and her love interest, Tobias "Four" Prior, are played by Shailene Woodley and Theo James. Kate Winslet also makes an appearance as Jeanine Matthews, the leader of the Erudite faction.

The movie starts with Tris taking the simulation test that will reveal what faction she belongs to and her subsequent place in society.

However, her test results are Divergent, meaning she has traits from more than one faction. During the Initiation Ceremony in which she must choose her future, she chooses to switch from Abnegation to Dauntless, leaving her family behind.

Woodley plays her character as if it was made for her like a glove; Tris' innate sense of self and courage is evident in Woodley's portrayal of her. Tris is not like the "phonies" (antagonist and Dauntless leader Eric in the film), who put on a tough façade on the exterior to hide their inner cowardice, but stands up for both herself and what she thinks is right in a believable manner.

The rest of the movie follows her journey to find love with Four and the importance (and danger) of her divergence. Fast-paced fighting scenes add to the climax of the movie.

Woodley and James also share intense on-screen chemistry, in both their romance and fight scenes, and leave the audience wanting their relationship to be real off-screen as well.

Overall, the tense action and romance scenes add to the atmosphere of the characters and the credibility of their feelings, and well-animated backdrops throughout the film of a decaying Chicago help to facilitate a dystopian feel that keeps the audience interested.

Woodley's apperance in "Divergent" marks her first venture into mainstream film. But the young adult fanatics of the book series will finish the movie satisfied that she was chosen to portray their beloved heroine on

"Divergent" fans, you will not be disappointed to see this novel come to life in the theater and will leave wishing for time-travel so you could see the next part of this

## Childish Gambino brings a mature sound to the medium

Review by **ELLEN FINN HUB Staff** 

Childish Gambino, commonly known as the hilarious comedian Donald Glover, recently released his second album, "Because the Internet." Despite its fantastic original record "Camp" (2011) to live up to, it certainly didn't disappoint.

The most striking difference between the two albums is Gambino's darker and perhaps even angrier, more industrial feel. Right off the bat from the opening song, "Crawl", Glover sparks a riotous sound that continues onto the thumping first few tracks, complete with a surprise, drawn out sax solo.

What luckily hasn't changed about Glover, even with this rougher side, is his unique style of clear articulation and word choice; he makes himself more intellectual than the classic rapper machismo. He uses a tongue in cheek tone and constantly alludes to all kinds of literature pop culture and political phenomena. Unlike most other rappers, he barely touches on the "club life" and instead raps with a fascination for the emotional and even psychological side of human contact. This being said, Glover certainly raps his fair share of ballads about women.

A good example of this is by far the most expertly written track, "3005," where he'll "be right by your side till '3005." While musing about his feelings for a woman, Glover successfully incorporates impeccable allusions to classic rappers (DJ Kool, Chance the Rapper), "The Lion King" ("girl why you lyin'/girl why you Mufasa"), Greek mythology and even Sesame Street. "3005" absolutely made the album- it proved that Childish Gambino improved since his last album, which was superb to begin with.

The album soon transforms into a more retro rap feel, until in track six "Shadows," when Glover tries to splice a record player-sounding piece with random cuts of his earlier screeching industrial-sounding mix. The transition isn't smooth at all and sounds quite awkward.

Besides this slight flaw, Gambino's album's innovative mixing, impressive-featured singers and of course mind blowing and super creative lyrics make it one that will be hard to beat.

Scan the QR code to listen to "3005" by Childish Gambino and to watch the music video.

