

Editorials

Putting off SAT, ACT

Students have a wide variety of interests and goals, but one thing remains consistent, at least among juniors and seniors: the dread of college admission exams. Even though the SAT and ACT tests are exhausting and time-consuming, it is in each student’s best interest to take the tests early and often. Upperclassmen are being pulled in a million different directions, and often college entrance exams are at the very back of a junior’s mind. Yet, the junior year is when students need to begin taking entrance exams. Many students put off the tests and then find themselves in a bind. Saturdays are often filled with athletic events or other extracurricular activities, so when a student has an open Saturday, he or she should take advantage of it. Taking the SAT and ACT tests during the junior year also allows plenty of time to retake the tests. Although many students think this is unnecessary, it is usually beneficial to try to improve scores. Taking the SAT or ACT for the first time is often very overwhelming. Both exams are long and tedious, which can be intimidating. However, when students take the tests for the second time, they know what to expect and are better able to prepare. According to The College View, 55 percent of students increase their SAT and ACT scores on the second attempt. Therefore, there is no reason to not retake the tests at least once.

Retaking the tests also allows students to super score their results. Many colleges super score, which means that they take your best score from each section on the test and combine them to create the best possible composite score. Therefore, if someone scored a 28 on the ACT math section and a 22 on the reading section on the first attempt, and a 24 on the math and a 30 on the reading during a second time, they can take the math score from the first test and the reading score from the second test.

Many students do not want to retake the college entrance exams because they believe that their first score is good enough for admittance, but retaking the tests could potentially raise scores enough to receive scholarships.

Even though they are time-consuming and can be a hassle, it is beneficial to take the college entrance exams early and more than once.

Spring brings busy season

For many students, spring brings the end of basketball, and the beginning of track, softball, baseball, tennis, and golf. Spring is also when the UIL academic and One-Act Play competitions take place.

Although all of these organizations are good and can be beneficial, students need to make sure that their extracurricular activities aren’t overshadowing their curricular.

Students can become involved in too many activities, and miss a large number of school days for tournaments, games, and competitions. Students who are involved in multiple activities could miss school on Wednesday for an academic UIL meet, and Thursday and Friday for a baseball tournament.

Due to this, students often fall behind on schoolwork. Extracurricular activities can cause students to miss lessons and tests at school, and afternoon practices, games, and competitions can eliminate time for studying and homework.

Being involved in too many activities can also take a physical toll on your body. Often students don’t get home until at least 9:00 from an out-of-town game, and then they stay up for several more hours studying and finishing homework assignments. Running on only a few hours of sleep will eventually catch up with you.

Even though it is great to be involved in a variety of extracurricular activities, students need to set boundaries so that they don’t overwork themselves.

Extracurricular activities are important, but the main point of school is the curricular portion. Activities do not need to overshadow academics



Finding healthy relationships

The older I get, the more I find myself analyzing situations time and time again, and I seem to ponder relationships the people around me have more than anything else. Much too often I see girls who are so eager to “fall in love” with some older guy who has dreamy eyes and couldn’t care less about them. But I’m not just picking on girls, because I have seen it happen in the lives of boys around me as well.

I have absolutely nothing against high school relationships. In fact, I’m in one myself, but I feel that there is a fine line between being in a healthy relationship and being someone’s puppet.

I’m just going to be quite honest: if you cry daily, you should not be in that relationship. If you frequently have to make excuses for your significant other treating you badly, the relationship is toxic. If he puts you down and makes you self-conscious, he doesn’t love you.

Likewise, if she causes you to rethink every decision you make, she isn’t in love with you.

Students should be with whomever they choose, but they should choose someone who chooses them.

There was a book I read a few weeks ago, and while it was wonderfully written, there was a quote in it that I didn’t quite agree with. The quote read, “If equal affection can not be, let the more loving one be me.” I’m aware that

it was written with the intent of being heart-warming, but as I said, I analyze things much too often, and I found myself questioning why someone would ever feel

content with caring deeply for someone who didn’t feel the same way. The person that you choose to be in a relationship with should care about you just as much as you care for them, and vice versa.

I could go on and on about my feelings on this subject, but ultimately it’s out of my control. Whether you’re male or female, know what you deserve, and never settle for anything less.



GARDNER SEEDS
by KYLEA GARDNER



REDHEADED RANTS
by CURRY WILSON

I don’t understand today’s relationships. I don’t understand how young teens can tell each other they love each other after they have been only dating for a month, and then break up the next. Love is a very powerful word, but evidently it has very little meaning these days.

I guess you would call me “old school,” but when I tell somebody I love him or her I mean it. I don’t throw the word around like it doesn’t mean anything. I feel most of today’s high school relationships are just superficial. If you don’t have one, then you’re weird, or if you have never dated someone, then you’re a nun. Many teens have a boyfriend or girlfriend one day, then turn around the next day and have a new one.

I’m sure people think that I’m weird because I haven’t had a serious boyfriend. It’s not like I haven’t received any offers, I just don’t say yes to everybody who comes my

way. Why would I settle for somebody when I can wait for somebody who I deserve and who deserves me?

Some teens today can’t be alone. They always have to be with their boyfriend or girlfriend. Trust me, it’s okay to stay at your house on the weekend. I do it almost every weekend and I’m perfectly fine! I honestly like being by myself. I like the

quietness and being away from everything. There is something so satisfying to me about staying in my pajamas and watching a movie on the couch.

I’m not the kind of person who needs to be around somebody all the time or who needs a boyfriend all the time. I like to take my time and get to know somebody before I make a rash decision.

My great grandmother always said, “If you can’t see yourself marrying somebody, then what’s the point of dating them at all.”

So don’t settle for anybody. Wait for the right person.

NBA top 5 shooters picked

Throughout the history of the NBA, great shooters have come and gone. From Larry Bird and Reggie Miller, to Ray Allen and Dirk Nowitzki. Here are the top five shooters of all time, based on three-point percentage, the number of 3’s made, and their influence in playoff games. To qualify, the player must average four 3’s a game. This way, a player who only shoots when wide open doesn’t make the list. This list is my opinion, based on the player’s stats and clutch.

5- Steve Nash. Since Nash came into the league in 1996, he has been one of the most influential point guards in history. Nash has made 1,685 and shot 42 percent. Although Nash never won a championship, he won MVP of the entire league in 2005 and 2006. He had his huge moments in the playoffs, but simply didn’t have the team around him to pull it off.

4- Kyle Korver. When you hear the name Kyle Korver, you think three point shooter because that’s about all he does. Korver is the embodiment of an NBA three-point specialist. He came into the league in 2003. Although he hasn’t won many awards, his shooting has made him famous. He has made 1,796 3’s, with a percentage of 43. During the 2015 NBA season, Korver broke the percentage record, shooting above 50 percent all season from behind the arc.

3- Ray Allen. Since Allen came into the league, he has been one of the most reliable three-point shooters ever. He lived for the big moments in big games. Allen currently holds the record for most 3’s made by an NBA player during a career with 2,973. Allen shoots a solid 40 percent. Allen won the three-point shootout in 2001, and the NBA championships in 2007 (Celtics) and 2013 (Heat). He was incredibly influential in sealing the deal in the 2013 championship when he nailed

a three from the corner to send game six into overtime, a game they won to hold on to their chances.

2- Stephen Curry. Over the past two seasons, Curry has been the hottest player on the court. Curry came into the league in 2009, and quickly got the hang of things. He won a spot on the NBA rookie first team. Curry is famous for his smooth stroke, quick release, and seemingly unlimited range. Curry has already made 1,367 3’s and shoots at the blazing percentage of 44. Curry had his breakout season last year, and it was one for the record books, literally. He broke the NBA record for most three’s in the post season with 59. He also won the 2015 three point contest, and was named the MVP of the league the same year. Curry also led his team to win the 2015 NBA championship. The only reason Curry isn’t number

one on my list, is simply because he hasn’t played in as many big games as this man right here.

1- Reggie Miller. Miller will go down in history as possibly the most influential game shooter in history. Miller came into the league in 1987. Although Miller never won a championship, MVP or a three-point shootout, he definitely made his mark in the NBA world. Miller is second in all time 3’s with 2,560 and shoots at 40 percent. Miller isn’t number one on my list just for flashy stats or championships won, but because he won games single handedly. Miller currently holds the scoring record for any Pacer. Miller was counted on countless times to hit game winning shots. During one playoff game against the Nicks, the Pacers were losing by six with six seconds left. Miller hit a three, stole the ball and hit another three, and then made the game-winning bucket as time expired. Moments like this are what makes Miller the best three point shooter ever.



THE LIONS ROAR
ILPC 2014 Gold Star Winner
ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

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The Lions Roar is a student publication published periodically as a nonprofit education project by the Albany High School Journalism Department. Any errors will be corrected if brought to the attention of the Adviser in writing within 10 days of the publication date.

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2¢ worth

How are you spending your Valentines Day?

“I’m going to stay home alone.”
Cameron Dacus
Freshman

“I’m going on a date with my boyfriend, Jake Green.”
McKenna Thompson
Sophomore

“I’m going to lie in bed with rose petals, eating candy hearts while listening to Selena Gomez.”
Roman Fuentes
Junior

“I’m going to go to Church and spend the day with my family.”
Kelsey Tollett
Senior