

DeKalb School of the Arts

OVER THE EDGE

Catching what you missed!

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THE COLLEGE ISSUE
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Humans of DSA

By Maddy Laing



"Outwardly, I appear cold and unwelcoming, almost as if I hate people. But underneath this

misanthropic candy coating, there's an extremely sensitive and affectionate person, and that person loves you."

"I love poetry, I just wish I was good at writing it."



"I was in the Boy Choir of Harlem and got to travel outside the country and go to all these amazing concert halls and cities. I got to meet presidents, Ray Charles, and even Mandela. I was involved from seventh grade all the way through high school."



"I lived in America from 1970 to 1972. That was when everyone was a hippie and everyone was talking about peace and love. The Vietnam War was raging. They say the 60s was when promises were made, and the 70s were when they came true. That was a unique part of my life."



The Customized College Experience: You Have More Options Than You Think

By Arlena McClenton

There are almost 5,000 colleges and universities in the US alone. There are huge schools that span hundreds of acres and there are tiny schools that cover less than five. Some schools accept 15,000 people, and others accept 15. Yet underneath both these umbrellas lurks yet another type of school. I call them niche colleges. These are universities that have a certain type of ideology or cater to a certain sector of the population.

When you think about niche schools, the first thing that comes to mind might be religious schools, but there are other categories, including gender oriented and technical schools.

Religious colleges and universities, like Calvin College or Texas Christian University, focus on religion. If you're passionate about your faith and you'd like if it was incorporated into each of your classes, this kind of school is for you. There are schools for a multitude of religions and sects. You don't have to be a very religious person to attend one of these schools, but be aware that some require religious credits to graduate.

Technical colleges, like Georgia Tech and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, are for those students who are

math and science buffs. If you know you want a career that's technically oriented, you should seriously consider one of these schools. They're selective and place more emphasis on math and science test scores than other schools, so be prepared.

Gender specific colleges come in two types, women's and men's. Students have many reasons for choosing a single-gender college, some of which include avoiding distractions and to be in a more supportive environment than otherwise. Many single-gender colleges are part of co-ed consortiums, in which students can cross register for classes at other colleges. However, some opponents of single-gender colleges argue that it doesn't prepare students for the real world. Examples of single-gender colleges include Wellesley College and Mt. Holyoke College for women, and Morehouse College and Wabash College for men.

HBCUs, or historically black colleges and universities, were established to educate blacks in an era when higher education might not have been otherwise available. These colleges traditionally have a black majority, which students might not have experienced until enrolling at one of these schools. Despite the desegregation of most colleges and universities, these schools are still a safe haven for the students they serve. All of these special interest schools cater to a specific type of student, but if you're the kind of student they're looking for, give it a try. You might make the best decision of your life.

Chance Favors the Prepared Mind



By Zahria Moore

College is approaching! That's right, it's approaching. Whether you are a subbie or a senior, it behooves you to prepare for this major goal in life (if college is your goal). Senior year is stressful enough without the weight of senior year on your shoulders, so to help those who are considering attending college or university after high school, I want to provide tips on the 3 factors colleges consider when you apply: Coursework, Extracurriculars, and Standardized Testing.

Coursework is another way of addressing your GPA and classes you take in school. Your grades matter, so remember to stay focused in your classes and do the best that you can. Ninth grade year is the most important year, not because the work is back-breaking or because of the adjustment to high school, but because this is the year when one sets their GPA which is now cumulative, averaging your grades from 9th to 12th grade year.

Consider that your grades are not the only important thing, the classes you take and their rigor also play a role. An 89 in AP Calculus, looks better than a 100 in Chorus. Likewise, it looks better on your part if you take a harder class like AP World History as opposed to regular World History.

If you do choose to take APs, build on the number of APs you take in one year. For example, I took 1 AP class 10th grade, 2 AP classes 11th grade year, and 3 AP classes my senior year. This way you have time to adjust. Don't go into senior year without taking one AP class.

Extracurriculars are like APs. If you are interested in joining a club, do not wait until your senior year to join 7 clubs. Colleges

usually look for a well-rounded student. Not just a student with awesome grades, but also a student that can balance coursework and activities academic and non-academic. There are a large variety of extracurriculars you can be involved in from student government to church groups to dance troupes to Eco Team.

Community service is one of the most important extracurriculars in a scholarship and college application. So if you don't want to join a club, donate to charity, collect cans for a food drive, do something within the community and earn hours to state on those applications.

Standardized Testing is another important factor when applying schools. Most schools require that you submit standardized test scores. So take tests (SAT and ACT) starting your junior year in high school, this way you'll have scores way before you start applying your senior year.

Also, prior to testing, Study! There are a plethora of Test Prep classes available each year from different schools, organizations, and teachers. If you think you need a prep class to really help you prepare for a test, sign up for one your junior year. If you are a person who can buckle down and study or if you think a class is too expensive, buy a test prep book.

A wise man once said, "Chance favors the prepared mind." So more preparation you have when approaching college admission, the more positive your outcome.

SUDOKU

Rules:
Fill in all the boxes with the numbers 1-9. You can't have two of the same number in the same 3x3 box, column, or row.

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3		7			8	9
	5					1
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Ebola is not a Punch Line

By Darya Mack



While the Ebola scare has mostly subsided since it's peak in October, we are still reminded of it often in the news and in society. Many are still cracking jokes about Ebola. Here is why we shouldn't.

1. It is easy to joke about something that doesn't affect us directly. We don't joke about cancer or AIDS because many of us know people with these diseases – it is too close to home. However, it is only humane to give those affected by Ebola the same respect.
2. Making light of the disease can even be dangerous. This has been proven by the man on the plane who coughed and jested that he had Ebola. He was promptly taken off the plane by hazmat-clad officials. Ebola is being taken very seriously in this country and joking about it in the wrong circumstances could land you a trip to your local hospital - bill included.
3. It makes you look ignorant. I beg you, do your research and get informed. Many don't know that unless you are traveling to Liberia or a select few other countries in Africa, your chances of contracting it are slim to none. On the other side of the coin, it has touched many people's lives, and that fact shouldn't be swept under the rug.
4. Joking about the craze surrounding Ebola is the same as joking about those

who have contracted and died from it. While that is probably not the joker's intent, sometimes perception trumps intention.

By Arlena McCienton

5. It has brought to light the deep rooted Anticipation in our high school. DSA's most popular fall show, Dark Night, which premiered on November 14th and runs until the 16th at DSA's Kyle Theater. This year, the three-night-long show will showcase the works of twenty-two second year creative writers who've been busy penning their plays since September.

The process was intense. The second year in 4th period often went to the library to discuss, write, and later, peer edit and critique their completed plays.

6. Joking about Ebola trivializes it, and if you were to "google image" the disease and see the families and children affected by it, I doubt you would find it funny. Ebola is a deadly disease that has hit 13,268 people as of November 7, 2014 with a 50% death rate.

Yet that was only the first stage. In keeping with a new tradition, the writers then gave their scripts to students from Drama Ensemble, DSA's premiere acting group. Since last year, Drama Ensemble has had the privilege of casting and directing the plays. There are literally SO MANY things that are more funny than Ebola. Previously, Dark Night writers had the opportunity to direct their own plays from start to finish. Some people miss the old arrangement, but others believe that the new process more closely mimics the real world.

millennial. However, joking about Ebola crosses many boundaries that many of us do not even realize. The casualness with which we treat Ebola is understandable, because often we were invited to cast and direct the latest crop of plays. A fourth year, Darya wrote and directed her own play for Dark Night a few years ago. This year she is eager to direct someone else's words.

"I'm so excited about the play I'm directing," she said. "It's about Chance the Rapper and Childish Gambino, who are people I'm not super familiar with. It's a

The opinions expressed in this section are that of the writers only, and do not reflect on the opinions of the Over the Edge newspaper.

Introduction of Mr. Ayala

By Holly Thigpen



Have you noticed an unfamiliar face standing around in the hallway for the past couple of months?

Not exactly sure who he is or what he teaches? Meet DSA's new creative writing and world literature teacher, Mr. Ayala!

Mr. Ayala has had lots of experience teaching artistic students, having taught at a performing arts school in New York before moving to Atlanta last year. He's also been involved in a variety of subjects and school activities, including teaching an introduction to acting class, coaching girls basketball, and teaching 9th, 10th and 11th grade literature classes.

Not only this, but he actually has a bit of an artistic background himself. "I was a performing arts student in high school. I sang with the boys' choir starting in 7th grade and did it all the way through high school. I've always just had a connection to the arts one way or another and that's what made me interested in DSA," he stated.

When asked about his ideas for the creative writing department, he replied "I have a lot of ideas I'm thinking about. I'd love to do some more stuff with poetry. I understand that at some point there used to be a poetry slam type of event but they don't have that anymore, so I'm working with some students to get that back together. I also think it would be great to mix up the years instead of always having first years work together, second years work together, etc."

DSA students have been loving Mr. Ayala and can't wait to have him or continue having him as a teacher. "I think Mr. Ayala's a great teacher," says freshman Iris Harrington. "Class with him is really fun and he's already made some improvements to the creative writing department. I'm sure that having him next year for lit will be awesome as well! He's definitely changing the way I think about things and helping me to improve and I hope he has that effect on other people too."



DSA Secret Societies: Drama Ensemble

By Maddy Laing



One of the most well known secret societies of DSA is the cult, also known as Drama Ensemble. This is a group of the school's top actors, who have their own class, perform shows on tour, and direct Dark Night. They eat together at lunch, hang out outside of school, and spend many weekends touring together.

There are roughly fifteen members of the group, led by Mrs. Lambert. They perform together, sit together during activities, and spend hours together

every week. Mr. Landes, a teacher here, says he finds it interesting how at least one of the SPA board members has been a Drama Ensemble member for the entire time he has been here.

When I asked students to describe the cult in ten words, I got a variety of answers. One student just repeated the word "cult" ten times.



Holyn Thigpen stated, "it's a cult that suffers from the loss of Lorne Feeser." Brother Winchester said, "they have a lot of inside jokes that no one else gets.." But we can all agree that Drama Ensemble is a talented group of people who we truly appreciate. If you enjoy acting you should consider auditioning this year!

Research Study: DSA's Perception of Blondes as Dumb

By Arlena McClenton

Do DSA students perceive girls with lighter colored hair as less intelligent than other girls?

The short answer is yes. After taking pictures of four women of the same race and photo shopping different colored hair each – black, blonde, red, or brown -- AP Psychology students Theresa Mayo and Lauren Weiss then asked students which of the women had the highest GPA, which attended a highly selective college, and which participated in the honors program at her college.

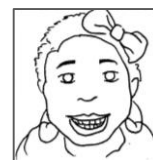
Students consistently associated these traits with black and brown haired girls, not ones with blonde and red hair. It is necessary to remember that the survey tested students' perceptions of intelligence, not actual intelligence. It could be possible that the top ten percent of every DSA class right now is completely blonde. Maybe you know a redhead who always makes the highest grade on tests. Yet because of the perception that lighter-haired girls are less intelligent, we're surprised when they defy our expectations.

The origin of the dumb blonde perception is unknown, but these findings show that it has permeated society's consciousness and is here to stay unless we take steps to change it.

Recipe of the Month: Thanksgiving Leftovers Monte Cristo

By Janae Beasley

This recipe is quick and easy for the busy DSA student to be able to incorporate their favourite Thanksgiving meal staples into a tasty, yet simple, sandwich.



You will need:

- 8 slices of thickly cut bread (I recommend a french bread or something like it.)
- A few slices of Turkey or Ham
- Cranberry sauce (Optional)
- thinly sliced cheese of your choice (I recommend cream Havarti or or provolone, both can be found in a deli counter)
- 1 egg
- 1 cup of milk
- a few tablespoons of butter

First, spread as much or as little cranberry sauce as you prefer onto the bread. Next, stack your sandwich as you feel it should be layered.

In a shallow pie pan, combine the egg and milk until well beaten. Take your sandwich and dip the sandwich on both sides for about thirty seconds. The bread should be covered in the egg-milk mixture but not soggy.

Place a bit of butter into a pan and make sure it is melted. Take your sandwich and toast it on both sides in the heated pan for about 3-4 minute per side.

Serve warm.

A D&A
EXCLUSIVE
COMIC

By *Pat Daus*

The Adventures of **SUPERGIRL**

EPISODE 3



HOROSCOPES

by Madame Esmeralda

Scorpio

(October 24 - November 21)

You are a rather straightforward and honest person Scorpio. Though this is a good thing, remember to take others feelings into consideration before sharing your opinion. The planets will soon align for you this month!

Sagittarius

(November 22 - December 21)

You often have trouble enjoying the moment, Sagittarius. Make sure to take time to appreciate the little things, and not always focus on what is going to happen next. Jupiter will guide you in the correct direction if you let it. But always remember that life is about the journey and not the destination.

Capricorn

(December 22 - January 19)

You have a powerful and resilient energy young Capricorn. The coming weeks will be full of twists and turns, but through it all remember to have a clear head and look to the stars for guidance.

Aquarius

(January 20 - February 18)

Things have been rough for you lately, Aquarius, but the planets will soon align for you. Remember in your good luck to be grateful for what you have. Remember the bad times and celebrate the good. Just as the sun and moon take their turns in the sky, find a balance in your life.

Pisces

(February 19 - March 20)

The stars have brought some excitement into your life lately Pisces. Though these changes affect you greatly, don't let them define you. In times of trouble or confusion find your inner North star and follow the path that makes you happy.

Aries

(March 21 - April 19)

Lately you seem to have fallen into a pattern Aries. You are having trouble getting things done, and are feeling stressed. But do not let this stop you because the planets will soon align and you will find yourself in a better situation. But in your times of luck take every chance you can get and thank the stars for their kindness.

Taurus

(April 20 - May 20)

Unlike some of your friends you've had quite a bit of luck lately, unfortunately with all good comes bad, and vice versa. But do not be angry, use these hard times as motivation. Do not wait for the planets to align for you again, go and make good things happen yourself, young Taurus.

Gemini

(May 21 - June 20)

You have recently seen a change in many of your relationships lately, Gemini. But do not view this as a bad thing. Though certain friendships may begin to fade away, others will grow and bloom. In times of trouble look to the stars for guidance.

Cancer

(June 21 - July 22)

You have been looking for something new in your love life, Cancer. Though these are valid feelings, don't let Venus overtake your life. Remember that romantic relationships are not the only important ones and to leave room for your friendships in your heart.

Leo

(July 23 - August 22)

You have changed much these past few weeks, Leo. Some may be viewing this in a negative light, and it may cause you inner turmoil. Avoid these feelings, those who refuse to accept you don't deserve your company. Focus on the good and let your inner self out, the planets will soon align in your favor.

Virgo

(August 23 - September 21)

Lately, Virgo, you have been questioning your values. Your perspective is changing and that's not a bad thing. It is good to keep an open heart and mind, but do not feel pressured into doing things that make you uncomfortable. Look to Mercury in times of trouble.

Libra

(September 22 - October 23)

Consistency is very important to you, Libra. Unfortunately, this can sometimes get in the way of things. Don't be afraid to take chances and trust that even if you're taking risks the stars will guide you in the correct direction.