



# THE METAMORPHOSIS

## YOUNG WOMEN'S PREPARATORY ACADEMY

CREDO FIO PRAEEO

### High School Presidential Close-Up

**Perez:** What makes you a good leader?

**Estefany Pineda-Suazo:** I think I'm very responsible and hard-working. I've always been the person to look at both sides.

**Perez:** Why did you want to be the President?

**Pineda-Suazo:** It's my last year and I wanted to have one last chance to do something good for my school, a school I really ended up falling in love with. This is my building, my high school. who I am.

**Perez:** What is the first thing you're going to do as President?

**Pineda-Suazo:** I want to establish a foundation so that our school has more tradition and once I graduate, I leave some type of legacy behind.

**Perez:** What kind of foundation?

**Pineda-Suazo:** What I really wish is that our school would be recognized for something. I want things like the tea parties and ceremonies to continue. This is YWPA's tradition.

**Perez:** I know that this is your last year here.



By Alexandria Perez

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Where do you want to go from here?

**Pineda-Suazo:** I want to go to a good school, an Ivy League, then, if not, UM. I've been working really hard my whole life so I can go to a really good school.

### Destroyed in Seconds

Has anything so horrible ever happened to you that you still wonder how you're alive?

September 29, 2009 was the day that I thought I was going to die. I was sitting on my bus seat just like every other day, laughing and talking with my friends when all of a sudden the bus driver stops the bus and yells "Fire!" The next seconds were just a blur of events. I didn't know where to go or what to do. The blood pulsed dramatically in my veins until I realized that the driver had opened the back door to the bus and was letting us out one by one. Shakily, I jumped up from my seat and hurried to the end of the bus, hoping

to save my life.

Terrified and shocked by the horrifying site before my eyes all I could think about was that I was still alive, all in one piece.

Standing safely on the sidewalk as far away from the bus, I watched the horrendous smoke as it danced its way up into the sky. Between one blink of an eye and the next, bright flames were tearing down the bus. Within seconds the flames had devoured the bus and all that was left was the skeletal design of it. Everyone from the bus was staring at the disaster before us wide-eyed like little children in a candy store; the only difference was



that this wasn't our own paradise, but our own hell.

Some people use the expression "I thought I was going to die" as a way of exaggerating things, but when I say this, I am not lying or being facetious: September 29, 2009 was the day I thought my life would end. Life is precious and no matter how careful you are, you never know when it's going to be your turn to die.

## Middle School Presidential Close Up

**"I know how to listen to the opinions that people have, because I want people to listen to me." – Gabriela Kort-Kamp**

Perez: What made you want to be the President?

Kort-Kamp: I wanted to help the school with some problems the school had. Also, because I was never part of the student government.

Perez: What's one of the things you want to do for the school?

Kort-Kamp: I wanted the school to do the best of their ability in their classes. I want to inspire them to

participate more.

Perez: Are you inspired by the high school president [Estefany Pineda-Suazo] ?

Kort-Kamp: Yeah. When we talk, we have a conversation of what we want the school to be. She's very nice and she took the school very seriously. I think she wants to help the school.

Perez: What's the first thing you know you're going to do?

Kort-Kamp: I'm not very sure about what I'm going to do. I think I should talk more to the high school president so I could have an idea.

Perez: What's the main reason you wanted to be president?

Kort-Kamp: I wanted the school to improve and everyone to respect each other. I want to arrange activities, advice the administration on what the students want to do. Be-

cause, as a student, I know what they want.



## Dalí Lives

By Alexandria Perez

Usually, I don't wake up at 4:30 in the morning for any genius, but that's exactly what I did on October 24, 2009. My best friend and colleague, Danielle Kline, spent the night and we headed out to our school at around 5:15. During the five-hour bus ride, everyone was either half asleep, dozing off, talking to one another, or just listening to music.

Then we arrived. The Salvador Dalí Museum was right before our eyes. Mr. Anthony Cabrera, the Activities Director and AP European History teacher, organized the entire trip, planning it to perfection.

We entered the museum, first roaming around the gift shop, waiting for our tour to begin. I was so excited. I had been looking forward to this trip since it had been announced.

As the tour began we followed our tour guide, who analyzed the complexity of Dalí's artwork, the majority of which are displayed in the museum, with the understanding that it could be interpreted in many different ways.

All the paintings were beautiful, yet disturbing. Dalí put much thought into his work, keeping his audience guessing, wondering, and analyzing. Dalí's best work, in my opinion, is *The Persistence of Memory*. The clocks are melting, a symbol that can mean just about anything, the falling of time, the end of time.

The overall tour was amazing, though I'll admit, I'd wander off to stare at Dalí's other paintings, only to be told nicely by Mr. Cabrera to listen to our guide. I'd bow my head, smiling sheepishly, and

**“ The clocks are melting, a symbol that can mean just about anything, the falling of time, the end of time. ”**

walk back to our guide, listening to every word he'd offer about the legendary Dalí.

I had fun, and when the tour was over, we were given an hour to go around the museum to stare at the paintings we'd skipped. The more I saw of his work, the more I read; the more I read, the more I learned. I saw the world the way Dalí saw the world.

One of my favorite parts was, *Una noche sin fin*, an analysis of how Mabel Palacin thinks he saw the world. *Una noche sin fin*, or *A Night Without End*, were two different films played on two different screens, interpreting the double nature of Dalí's images.

The trip was one to remember. Salvador Dalí may have died twenty years ago, but in that museum, he continues to live.

## You Are NOT a Pet Person

By Kymberly Paramo

I have no idea why something bad happens to my pets. They either die or run away, but mostly die. Is it because I'm not a good owner, because I tend to forget to feed them, or because I forget I even had a pet? I certainly think that those are all the right answers.

"Kimberly, Kimberly, Kimberly why can't you take good care of your pets? I'm tired of taking

care of them for you. That's it young lady you are not getting another pet again!" That's what my mother said after my last pet.

Sometimes I think "What if my mom is right?", "What if I'm not meant to be a pet owner?", "Does that make me a murderer?" Those are all the questions I think about every single time.

When I come to

think about it I feel ashamed of my self and regretful so many times, but things happen and even though you wish you can go back in the past and change it you actually can't.

I still remember their names. I didn't have much as my older sister and brother. Blueberry, my fish that fell down the sink. Spike and Fred my pet turtles

who unfortunately died. There's Boo my



## American Idol Live Tour!

By Alexandria Perez

On Wednesday, July 29, I went to an amazing concert featuring idol, Adam Lambert and idol winner, Kris Allen. From beginning to end, the show was great, filled with the best tunes and the best performances.

The show started in order of how the contestants had been eliminated from ten to number five. There was then a twenty minute intermission and the show came back to the top four; Allison Iraheta, Danny Gokey, Adam Lambert, and Kris Allen.

Allison Iraheta gave a brilliant performance, performing only rock songs while rocking out on her guitar. One of the tunes she sang was Cry Baby by the legendary Janis Joplin. Danny Gokey was heartwarming while busting moves and getting loose on stage. As, Adam Lambert made his entrance the entire audience went crazy, cheering loudly for him. I was one of those people. Lambert stole the show with a beautiful rendition of Mad World and powerful cover of Starlight by Muse. Kris Allen's performance, although good, was anti climatic, especially since he appeared after showman, Adam Lambert.

At the end of the show, all ten idols shared the stage and sang Hey Jude. The audience got lost in the performance, singing along with them. The curtain fell and it was over after three awesome hours.

## Youth Violence Prevention Summit

It was the middle of mid-term when Junior Rocio Sevilla was asked to lead the Youth Violence Prevention Summit. Sevilla, as preparation for the summit, had to attend an orientation workshop at Coral Gables Senior High School on January 9th. "Even though being a part of this summit meant more stress and less

study time for mid-terms, I decided to take the offer and see what it was all about. In the summit we went over the presentation we would conduct on Thursday the 13th at our respective schools.

The Saturday workshop Sevilla attended was from nine

in the morning until twelve in the afternoon; "When we arrived we were given a gift bag which contained a shirt with the initiative's Slogan, 'I speak my Peace' a coffee mug, a pen, and a key chain. We were given a few minutes to read and



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By Rocio Sevilla



familiarize ourselves with the PowerPoint before we began playing ice-breaker games which resulted in lots of laughter and fun.”

In recognition of being a Peer Leader, Sevilla was honored at a Miami Dade County Public School Board Meeting on live television on January 13 2010.

“Attending the Board meeting was a very nice experience. I met the superintendent and saw how the meetings are held; Also, I was able to see the people I had spoken with the previous Saturday and got to know them a little more.”

January 14 was when the big day finally arrived, after reading the Power Point over and over again it was time to present it to the teachers, the students, the principal and even community



members. “That Thursday I stayed after school until the summit was complete and I kept reading and reading the presentation because of the feeling I had of making a mistake.”

Sevilla finished the summit successfully making no mistakes and was very happy with the people and students who supported her and helped her organize the event.

Sevilla thought once that day was over this event would not be relevant anymore. However, she was asked to present it to the Freshman class almost a month later and received an invitation from the Miami Dade County Police to spend a day working with them as a team.

“When I accepted to be the facilitator for the Youth Violence Prevention Summit I did not realize what a big deal it was; I thought ‘okay, I go on Saturday, go on Wednesday and the n present Thursday, the end. But as time goes by everyday I realize what a big step I took as a leader for the school and my community and I know it was a very good decision to accept such challenge even though I doubted it at first.

## College Bound or Beach Bound?

By: Erin Moore



Summer is supposed to be the time when you break free from desks, text books, and anything relating to biology and/or geometry. Shun all the intelligent conversations and convert your mind only to process IM lingo and gossip.

It's a time to give your brain a break and chill out, right?

Well, most of the time. But for some of us those 80 sunny, warm, welcoming days were a very crucial part in our young lives. The last summer before your senior year. The last year of our safe haven. The days where we start to send in our applications to colleges and universities. Or, we're supposed to anyways.

But! Some of us haven't warmed up to that idea yet. Or, the teenage population of America has just become lazier and lazier and they expect someone else to come along and fill

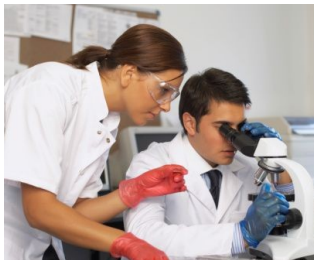
My summer was my time to forget about my lost freshman year transcripts, or my grade in Algebra II. But silly me, college? Hah, applications? Psh, that can wait. Today is my beach day and it's going to be the ONLY sunny day of the summer. Trust me. I'll do it tomorrow, I promise.

In reality, I'm a procrastinator. Who would've guessed, right? For once in my short life, I should have been proactive and had a plan for planning college. A plan for a plan? Pretty ridiculous, right? Wrong. It's actually quite smart, to tell you the truth. I mean it takes time to plan a vacation before it actually happens, and planning for college is kind of sorta the same thing--minus the vacationing part.

Lesson numero uno I, Erin Moore, learned this summer....to use your brain.

In 5 years from now, do you think I'm still going to have that tan line I got from lounging in the sun for days on end? Heck no. But in 5 years, I'll be in a place in my life that I was thinking about this summer. And planning ahead does not give you

“Today is my beach day and it's going to be the ONLY sunny day of the summer. Trust me. I'll do it tomorrow, I promise.”



## Locks of Love

By: Gretha Suarez

Every person is financially disadvantaged different, but one of the children in the United States things I believe we have in and Canada under the age common is that at some points in our lives we feel the need to know that we did some good. There are many ways in which someone can provide his/her assistance in a generous way, without expecting anything back. Moreover, these acts of goodwill reflect on the faculty of the individual who steps forward on doing them. As an example, a plan I had in mind for a long time, which was to cut my hair.

On June 27, 2009 I went to a hair salon to cut my hair in order to donate it to Locks of Love. This non-profit organization consists of providing hairpieces to



**YWPA Student Counselor show cases her own souvenir from her Locks of Love donation.**

of 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. I feel that by having done something like this I'm helping someone out there and making him/her gain confidence to face the world. The emotion that evokes in knowing that my hair can be used for a good cause is incredibly gratifying.

I definitely don't regret cutting my long hair, because the idea of offering a part of me to someone who needs it sounds more pleasant than anything else.

I first heard about this great organization in YWPA, when Mrs. Ross prepared an event with the purpose of donating approximately ten inches of hair which I signed up for. Unfortunately, some difficulties arose and the project was canceled. However, I was determined to carry on with my initiative and eventually do it on my own, disregarding the

previous issue. For that reason, this summer I went to a recommended hairdresser and indicated to him what I wanted to be done. Later on, I mailed

In addition, I think that more than hair I donated a genuine deed with the simple reward of understanding the cause behind it. The experience made me feel like a better person and I'm very much happy with my new look. I feel that the change in my appearance goes with the growth in my personality as I evolve. Having the urge to take a decision and putting it into action is liberating. That is why I highly encourage anybody to make a good deed in any way that is possible,



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### Give and Receive

By: Rocio Sevilla

As the days go by and summer vacation is just around the corner, students begin to plan what they will be doing during their free time. Junior, Hannah Dziura and Rocio Sevilla volunteered in the country of Haiti with their church's youth group, Key Biscayne Presbyterian Church. The team was made up of 20 people from the ages of 13 to

33, and they visited 15 orphanages in the time span of seven days.

In each orphanage they acted out a bible parable, did arts and crafts, and played with the kids.

In many of the orphanages there was no water so the children would spend months without being able to shower. What to us is some-

thing so basic, to them is something unheard of.

"There is a lot you can do to get in trouble during the summer and volunteering keeps you focus on the more important things in life (...) volunteering in foreign countries is a real culture shock and it helps me realize what a great country I live in", said Dziura, Junior.

While Hannah was off in Haiti, Senior, Maybelis Velasquez took the challenge of volunteering at the Miami Jewish Hospital where she took care of elderly people suffering from Dementia, a sickness in which brain neurons are damaged or lost and the memory, concentration, and judgment is affected. Dementia might also cause emotional disturbances or personality changes.

"The sickness affects people mentally and physically so while volunteering I took care of them by playing games and doing activities that kept their brains active," Velasquez said.

There are plenty of ways you can help your community, you just need to find the one you enjoy the most. Whether it is traveling across the globe, crossing the street to a hospital, or cutting a portion of your hair, every little bit counts.

## 500 Days of Summer

By Gretha Suarez

In the world of cinema there are movies that serve as a time killer and then there are some that are able to impact us in a grand way. It is possible to watch a movie and instantly feel better afterwards, since it can awaken emotions by submerging us in the fictional world that is playing on the screen. A common day for any person is filled with reality and personal problems but watching a movie such as "500 Days of Summer" makes anybody focus on subjects that are pushed aside most of the time. This particular film is special because it tells the story in a very original way, allowing the audience to experience something different.

As the reviews of "500 Days of Summer" say, this is a movie in which "Boy meets Girl, Boy falls in love, Girl doesn't". The great thing is that the plot doesn't follow the typical pattern that would be expected of a movie pertaining to the genre of Romance. To some it might be even considered a bit tragical, when the ideal occasions are destroyed by incomprehensible actions. However, that adds a touch of the real situations that occur in life and how they all don't end up as one would wish. The movie shows how much someone can suffer from a broken heart and be absorbed by immense feelings, but then finds the light in the obscure tunnel that leads to move on.

Another amazing factor of the movie is that it has a soundtrack of sixteen songs that evoke the right emotion in the moment they are being played. The 500 Days of Summer Soundtrack is composed of a variety of simple, but yet fascinating songs that have a unique vibe and wonderful content. One of the most charismatic songs on the list is "You Make My Dreams Come True" by Hall and Oates, because it is a tune that has the power of making people want to get up and enjoy the rich melody. Also in the list, the track "There Is a Light That Never Goes Out" by the legendary band The Smiths, with a more melancholic feeling to it but certainly deep lyrics that express a yearning for the other person. In conclusion, each song contributes to the film in a distinctive manner with its own spark.





## Barack Obama Wins Nobel Prize

By Alexandra Thulin

A tremendously honorable award, the Nobel Peace Prize, first established by Swedish industrialist and inventor, Alfred Nobel, is one of the five Nobel Prizes awarded annually. As Alfred Nobel himself stated, "the Peace Prize should be awarded to the person who during the preceding year shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

Less than nine months into his presidency Barack Obama notably received the Nobel Peace Prize for "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples". Through his efforts and his envisioning of a world without nuclear weapons the Norwegian Nobel Committee made the decision that he deserved the award for 2009. An unexpected honor indeed for which has most certainly raised debate and speculation across the globe.

Controversially, many have believed the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to President Barack Obama to be solely for his wondrous declamatory skills rather than his ac-

tual achievements. Whether although he may be persuading the strengthening of democracy and human rights all across the globe both parties, Republicans and Democrats, feel as though he does not entirely deserve to be awarded with such a high and honorable accolade as early on in his presidency with no accomplishment thus far.

Yet, as stated by Obama himself hours after he received the news, "I do not view it as a recognition of my own accomplishments but rather as an affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations."

It can be conferred that the prize was simply awarded to Obama more along the lines as a sort of encouragement and to recognize his drive for justice and dignity. As he himself feels this award was simply "a call to action".

"This prize reflects the kind of world that those men and women who have inspired me and inspired the entire globe through their courageous pursuit of peace want to build. A world that gives life to the promise of our founding documents and I know that throughout history the Nobel Peace Prize has not been used to just honor



<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

specific achievement, it has also been used as a means to give momentum to a set of causes. And that is why I will accept this award as a called action, a call for all nations to confront the common challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

While although Barack Obama was "prematurely" awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the Norwegian Committee made their decision on one sole purpose and reason.

"Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future," the committee said. While according to Thorbjorn Jagland, chairman of the Nobel Committee, the decision was "unanimous and came with ease."

## Young Women's Preparatory Academy



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