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Gratis!  
Gratuite!



# The Dominico Times

Your school. Your voice. Your paper.

CDA News

Volume II, Issue 3

June 3, 2009

## Calendar of events

- ✓ Jun 2-8  
Semester Exams
- ✓ Jun 12  
Start Semester 1  
Summer School
- ✓ Jun 24  
Report Card Day
- ✓ Jun 26  
Graduation  
Rehearsal
- ✓ Jul 3  
Senior Graduation
- ✓ Jul 7  
End Semester 1  
Summer School
- ✓ Jul 8  
Start Semester 2  
Summer School
- ✓ Jul 31  
End of Semester 2  
Summer school
- ✓ Aug 18  
Start 2009-2010  
school year

## The Beginning is the End is the Beginning

Finally, the school year is drawing to a close. And though we should be happy, we're all miserable. Even these happy endings are stressful: we've got essays, quarter projects, finals, IOWAs, and for those in eight and twelfth grade—*pruebas nacionales*. Thankfully, Dominico students know how to be headstrong till the fighting is done, and as long as we organize our time wisely, everything will be alright.

For seventeen of us, however, this is the last year of our high school lives; therefore, the end of life as we know it. We've been going to school for the last thirteen years, waiting for our lives to start, but what we haven't

realized is that we've already been living, giving it all we got. As "Smashing Pumpkins" would say: The beginning is the end is the beginning.

Some of us have most of our memories set right here within the buildings of this

institution: fights, moments of pride, successes, failures, and crushes as well as falling down, getting up, brushing ourselves off and starting all over again.

Brace yourselves for a few changes at the start of the next school year: 1) there is definitely going to be a change in newspaper staff, starting with a new Senior Editor (since yours truly is graduating), 2) a fresh start with all of its implications (new classmates, the smell of paint, etc.), and 3) another school year to get it right. Remember to open yourselves to the new opportunities, be brave, take chances, do things that you won't regret having done (or not done).

And so, welcome to this school year's final edition of *The Dominico Times*. While I exhort you to be responsible and headstrong, it wouldn't hurt to be a little distracted by this issue. :) It includes our usual entertainment and then some, including this month's Teacher's Corner submission by Alicia de los Santos—one

of our favorite teachers, another Sudoku to feed the latest craze among teen age obsessions, plus a new section called The Literary Pages featuring poetry by the eleventh graders (who are coming on strongly, blazing a new trail and setting an innovative trend here at Dominico). Also featured is our official Student Council Constitution for everyone to see, and the results from last issue's poll with a few ties we hope you'll eventually help us decide. And, finally, The Last Word by our economics reporter and senior class president, Scarlett García.

Farewell and remember: This end is just another beginning.

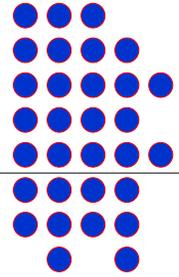


Jessica Cairo, Senior Editor

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# Transi-



At last the school year comes to its end! It definitely has been a tough year. We've had so many activities and experiences it's been hard to keep track! It's incredible all the things that happen in a year!

We have to admit that they've got style!

"Mi corazoncito." We saw the tenth graders bring it down in *bachata* for the annual Independence Day

There have been other events this school year that made it an interesting one. We all experienced the stress created by SEMESTER EXAMS!!! But looking at things on the bright side, school is almost over and we all have grown better as persons through each day.

In the end, all these activities brought us together as a school. It's been a good year even if it's been a long one. Next year is full of promise to be even better.

Let's start with Spirit Week! In a sadistic game, the juniors massacred the seniors who very pitifully tried to lessen their humiliating defeat by concealing it in a cowardly and bashful way. Never mind their shame, now that we are talking about the eleventh graders, we can recognize how they gracefully and extravagantly organized an extravagant prom.



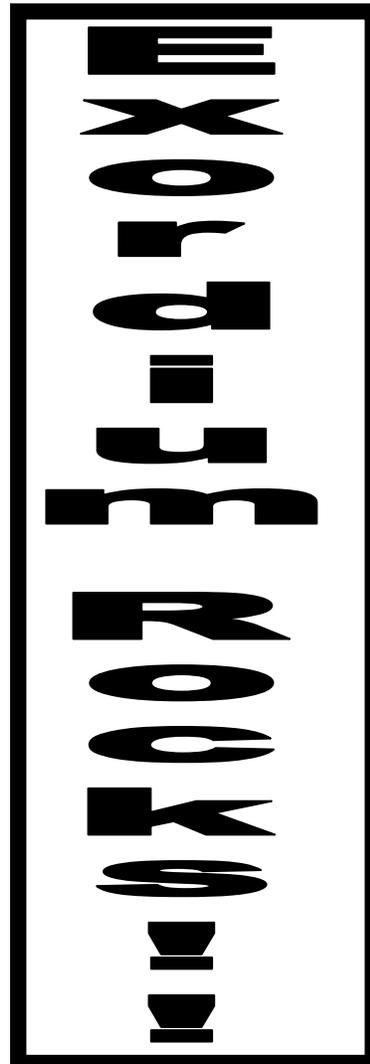
*Amalia María Pérez, Junior Editor*

Talking about prom, did you see Mr. Oliva and Ms. Zobeida shaking it up on the dance floor? They danced salsa with so much fluency; it was a beautiful spectacle to watch.

celebration. "Farolito." with the ninth graders—kids who know how to dance.

We also can't forget the senior skip day. From what I heard they got their act together and spent a marvelous time at Guavaberry Resort in Juan Dolio.

And even more interesting is that they convinced Mr. Perez into letting them have an end-of-year taco party. Props to them because, personally, I never thought that I would see that day arrive.



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## Teacher's Corner: A PROPOSITO DE LA PROMOCIÓN

*Alicia de los Santos, español*

Tantos años de recuerdos no caben en la mochila de ningún estudiante de 12mo. Por eso al culminar el ciclo de la promoción REGIUX '09 es que sentimos ese dejo sutil y aún incomprensible de honda nostalgia.

Es tiempo de elegir. Todos estamos llenos de añoranzas por los años compartidos, por las notas buenas y malas, por los chistes buenos y malos, por los días buenos y malos. A nosotros—sus maestros—animadores de inquietudes y entusiasmo (aunque no siempre se vea con claridad) nos ha tocado potenciar sus talentos para convertirlos del niño o la niña tímida, en audaces vencedores. Hacer que lo que entonces fue temor, sea ahora confianza; lo que antes fue ilusión, ahora sea certeza; lo que comenzó con paso inseguro, hoy sea la huella profunda que cada uno de ustedes ha dejado en el *Domínico-Americano*.

Nunca como hoy los jóvenes han tenido tantas posibilidades de despliegue personal como de esparcimiento, pero a la vez, tanta plenitud e inagotable capacidad de obrar los empuja hacia el agotamiento, la indiferencia y la saciedad. Los jóvenes necesitan, entonces, voluntad férrea para evitar que rápidamente se estrangule el periodo más hermoso de su existencia.

Es tiempo de partir. No olviden que la palabra es la mejor tecnología, que en la atmósfera de hoy asfixiante de hedonismo, los maestros no hemos sido simples reparadores de programas, sino rescatistas de valores personales. No hay programa más comunicativo que la voz o una palabra bien escrita. Sean virtuosos, no virtuales.

Los latinoamericanos descendemos de razas y pueblos que histórica y culturalmente acreditan su vocación de grandeza. No permanezcan insensibles a la vida que los circunda, ni sean prisioneros de la fuerza servil de la imitación. Sean legítimos, únicos en el enriquecimiento dinámico de sus competencias, siempre con nivel de excelencia.

El futuro tiene muchos nombres. Largo es el camino para los débiles; el futuro es inalcanzable para los temerosos; el futuro es lo desconocido para los soñadores sin sueños. En cambio, para los valientes, el futuro es la oportunidad.

## Who Do You Think You Are?

Heyyy! Wanna see if you are who you thought you were? If you're as cool, pretty or popular as you showed off. Check the results and see!

These are the finalists for the next round. Vote when you receive the paper! Based on what you believe, and NOT POPULARITY, choose from these winners who you think is the most likely to succeed between them, and so on. See if you are voted as the SCHOOL winner for your category!

P.S. If there is an = that means there was a tie, if there are two people mentioned, we posted first and second places, and if there is only one name, that person won by a landslide!

Don't forget to vote next time!

Toodles!

*Antoinette Dominguez and  
Michelle Pepen Melo*

### The Categories:

1. Most likely to succeed
2. Cutest couple
3. Always stressed
4. Prettiest girl
5. Hottest Boy
6. Best smile
7. Most Outstanding Student
8. Most Photogenic
9. Most talented
10. Funniest student
11. Most obsessive twilight fan
12. Most loveable
13. Shyest
14. Most understanding
15. Coolest teacher
16. Favorite Subject

### 12th

- 1.Paviele, Jackie
- 2.Scarlette&Wilson 3.Scarlette, Fanny 4.Michelle
- 5.Paviele, Felix
- 6.Antoinette,José
- 7.Gabby,Fanny 8.Michelle
- 9.Lázaro=Antoinette
- 10.Lázaro=Paviele 11.Jessica
- 12.Gabby 13.Fanny,Felix
- 14.Gabby 15.Dinzey,Cairo
16. Sociales, Government

### 11th

- 1.Miguel Pérez, Anaridia
- 2.Ana&Jonathan 3.Anaridia,Lady
- 4.Laura Guerrero=Katherine
- 5.Fernando 6.Laura Cordero,
7. Kevin 8.Emma,Ana T.
- 9.Anaridia 10.Fernando,Emma
- 11.Johanna 12.Melissa,Jonathan
- 13.Javier, Jiexin
- 14.Francia,Melissa
- 15.Oliva, Cairo 16.History, PE

### 10th

- 1.Jared,Shaila
- 2.Jesus&Carol,Linda&Jeffery
- 3.Elliot 4.Ana H.
- 5.Julio H.,José Pedro
- 6.Natalie,Graely 7.Nicole=Shaila
- 8.Keyla 9.Jared,Carol
- 10.Jared,Natalie 11.Priscilla
- 12.José Pedro,Sally 13.Roseline
- 14.Nicole=Everly
- 15.Dinzey,Oliva=Anselmo
- 16.Computer=BiologY=Geometry

### 9th

- 1.Claudia 2.Guarina&José Ricardo 3.None 4.Laura Ibert
- 5.Kenny 6.Michelle Pelletier
- 7.Claudia 8.Priscilla Franjul
- 9.Priscilla Franjul,Lily
- 10.Eliecer=Max 11.Betsy
- 12.Salura 13.Gabriela Hernández
- 14.Luis Acta
- 15.Oliva,Pérez 16.Science

## A Mathematical Farewell To Regius

How to bid farewell to Regius 2009 by means of Mathematical metaphors or analogies? Quite a feat, since this group is anything but mathematical!! But hey, let's see...

I could suggest to this year's seniors that, when having arguments with peers and loved ones, they must try to **factor out** those **negative attitudes** and prejudices that prevent us from **solving problems** and checking our answers.

When getting to the **root** of a problem, make sure that you evaluate the contribution of every **component**, and that you do not stop looking for reasons until you hit the **prime factors**, after which there is nothing left to assess.

Whether you know this or not, life does not start after graduation, but before; and **trial and error**, as well as **working backwards**, will be two of the most important weapons in your strategies arsenal, because there are neither bullet – proof formulas nor **study guides** when dealing with human emotions, and the **algorithms** that you may apply to a given set of circumstances are not guaranteed to work as well in a similar situation.

Success and failure are sides of the same coin, and while the former side is **directly proportional** to effort, the latter is the **reciprocal** of this. But, being fate a fair coin, the chances of resulting successful or not in life the same. You should be these prepared to accept either of are

**possible outcomes**, and have the courage to blaze your own trail. Give your all in all your endeavors, and let others remember you by what you **added** to their lives, and not by what you **took away**.

Best of success to you all!!.

*Pedro Cairo, math and science*

## Want to attend college stateside?

*Gabriela Nuñez* (who will start a B.A. in environmental studies this fall at Worcester Polytechnic) offers a few tips.

According to many, high school is one of the most memorable times of one's life. It is full of new experiences, stirring discoveries and special "first times". However, high school plays another significant role—it is our stepping stone to college. Time is of the essence when it comes to planning your future. One of the most important questions for Dominican seniors is whether to study in the DR or in the States. If you decide to stay in the Dominican Republic, it is safe to say "sit back and enjoy the four-year ride." Universities in our country arrange things in a way that students start their application process at the end of their senior year. On the other hand, if you plan to enroll in an American college, brace yourself! Applying to college in the States is a long and tedious process. It can even become chaotic if you don't organize yourself. Here are some things I learned from my own experience going through the application process.

- **Keep your options open** It is very important that you don't let optimism and overconfidence get to your head. Choose 5 to 10 colleges. Two thirds of your colleges should be the "hard ones" and the other third should be your "safe ones." Pick your safe ones wisely, there is a big chance you might not get the hard ones.

- **NEVER dismiss an opportunity**

The admissions process is like a tunnel—you don't know what's on the other side. Keep every door open and grasp every opportunity that comes to you as mediocre or stupid as it may sound. You may regret not doing so.

- **Branch out** Admissions officers look for more than good grades. They want well-rounded people who are involved in their school and community. In other words, get ready to spend some extra time in extra-curricular activities.

- **Study for the SATs** Depending on the person, studying might be the difference between average and very good or very good and great. Just hit the books, or the Kaplan CD. Take your pick. *Sparknotes* is highly recommended. The practice exercises helped me A LOT.

- **Be informed** Learning as much as you can about the culture and philosophy of the institution you're applying to, application due dates, TOEFL requirements, campus life, the food, the scene...everything... shows that you're really interested in the school.

- **Good writers ask for feedback** Don't be afraid to ask for help. Actually, try to get help from every source possible. Reading other essays on the internet is a good place to start. You could also try talking to Ms. Bencosme or Ms. Dinzey. Most importantly, don't be shy when writing your essay. Be as creative as you are. The essay I wrote was actually a 500 word play! The essay is what will give your application a soul, so make sure it reflects who you are.

- **Enjoy every step of the way** I had tons of fun and learned as much about American universities as I learned about myself. Try to picture yourself in each college and you'll know if it's right for you. Follow my advice and learn from my mistakes and I promise you won't have to picture yourself there...you'll actually be there.

# Fun Stuff!!



*Kevin Wu, Interactive*

## Trivia

Be the first person to complete the entire page correctly and receive a KFC® lunch for you and a classmate courtesy of the *The Domínico Times*.

- \_\_\_ # of Bulletin Boards in Building B (High school)
- \_\_\_ # of Lockers in the back of Building B (High school)
- \_\_\_ Initials of the April Student of the Month from 2nd-C
- \_\_\_ # of Windows in front of the Computer Lab
- \_\_\_ # of Classrooms in Building B (High school)
- \_\_\_ # of Bulletin Boards in Building B (elementary)
- \_\_\_ # of Paintings outside the Computer Lab
- \_\_\_ # of Ping Pong Tables
- \_\_\_ Ms. Fedorah's last name
- \_\_\_ # of Computers on the west side Computer Lab B

# Sudoku

	4	1				9		6
			3		7			
		7	1	9		3		8
			8	1			3	
6		5				1		4
	3			7	5			
4		9		3	1	7		
			2		9			
2		3				6	9	



*Juan Alejandro Pérez, Layout Editor*

## Constitution of the Student Council of COLEGIO DOMINICO AMERICANO

The Student Council of CDA is an elected body of student representatives consisting of four Executive Officers elected by the student Body and Representatives elected by each high school grade level. The purpose of the Student Council is to act as an intermediary between the student Body as a whole and the High School Administration in order to improve school operations and facilities as well as to help increase understanding and cooperation between the two.

### ARTICLE 1

#### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee of the Student Council shall consist of four officers, the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the four corresponding Representatives of each Grade Level. Each Officer shall serve a term of one school year with the Student Council.
2. The President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall be chosen through a general election among high school students.
3. Yearly elections for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the four corresponding Grade Level Representatives shall be held no later than a month after a new school year.
4. To qualify for official candidacy, a student must (a) have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of no less than 85, (b) secure the written recommendation of a class teacher who has taught the student for at least one semester, and (c) submit a written approval signed by the Student Council Faculty Advisor.
5. The official campaign period shall begin in the first week of September. A general School Assembly shall be held during that time to allow each candidate to express his/her platform for candidacy. A code of ethics based on mutual respect shall be penalized according to the discretion of the School Administration.
6. The candidate for the Presidency is required to have at least one year of experience in the Student Council as a homeroom representative, active alternate, honorary, or executive member.
7. Candidates for the position of Secretary run for office as independent candidates and shall be elected from Grades 9.
8. Candidates for the position of Treasurer run for office as independent candidates and shall be elected from Grades 10.
9. Grade Level Representatives shall be elected from Grade Levels six through eight.
10. Elections shall be held by secret ballot in each 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Homeroom on the scheduled date and appointed time decided upon by the Electoral Board. Results shall be tabulated by the Student Council Faculty Advisor who is solely responsible for the conduct of the elections and shall be assisted by the four most senior Executive Committee Members who are not currently running for any positions in office.
11. Election winners shall be proclaimed based on a plurality of votes, provided that the plurality consists of a simple majority of at least two votes of the total valid votes cast. In case an elective position fails to meet such requirement, a run-off election by secret balloting between the two highest contending candidates shall be held within three school days. In case of an election with only one qualified candidate or pair of candidates, that candidate or candidates will win authentically.
12. Election results shall be announced as soon as possible to the Student Body. Clarification regarding the results may be requested in writing from the Student Council Faculty Advisor after the announcement.
1. The duty of the president is to act as Chairman of all Student Council meetings and activities. He/She has the power to appoint individuals to Committees within the Council for the purposive function of the Council. He/She must seek the advice of the Student Council Faculty Advisor and may consult the High School Principal in the exercise of all his/her functions.
2. The duty of the Vice President is to act as an assistant to the President and represent the President in his/her capacity in any functions should the President be indisposed. He/She may be appointed other functions and responsibilities by the President as the Chairman of the Council sees fit. In case of the President's resignation or removal from office for whatever reason, the Vice President shall automatically assume the position of President for the remainder of the term and will call for Special Elections for the vacant President post.
3. The duty of the Secretary is to prepare and maintain all the written records of all Student Council activities.
4. The duty of the Treasurer is to properly and effectively handle all the financial resources of the Student Council. All Student Council funds shall be deposited in the Student Council account at ICDA cashier through the Activities Coordinator. The Treasurer may be assigned some other function by the President as deemed fit. The Treasurer must train each grade level treasurer. Each grade level treasurer must

### ARTICLE II

#### DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

report to His/Her duty when assigned.

5. The Student Council Treasurer should keep a ledger that accounts for all the Grade Level Treasurers and that keeps track of the income and output of money.
6. The duty of the Grade Level Representative is to represent Grade Level needs, issues, and viewpoints and present them to the Student Council for the Council's attention and/or action. He/She may also be assigned by the President other duties and responsibilities as seen fit. He/She must meet with his/her Homeroom Representatives as deemed fit. He/She is also responsible for taking the roll of his/her Grade Level Homeroom Representatives at any official gathering and reporting that roll to the Secretary.
7. The duties of the Faculty Advisor include the organization of the annual Student Council Elections and the provision of sound advice to the President and to the other members of the Council. In the instance of the latter, the Student Council may reconsider any recommendation and advice given. All Student Council Officers are under the direct administration of the Faculty Advisor and are directly responsible to him/her for whatever actions they take in their capacities as Student Council Officers. The Faculty Advisor may also act as the coordinator between the Student Council and the Faculty whenever requested by the President.
8. Any Officer of the Student Council may be unable to continue in office on the following grounds:
  - a. Resignation due to illness, withdrawal from the school, or personal problems. A written letter of resignation shall be submitted to the Council by the Officer concerned in order to make official the resignation from the office.
  - b. Removal from office due to poor academic performance, misconduct, or failure to perform the duties required of the position. The Student Council may remove an officer from his/her post for any of the aforementioned reasons by producing a petition duly signed by

3/4 of the total number of members of the Council, excluding the person being petitioned. A majority vote of approval by the Executive Committee shall make the petition implemental.

c. Any Student Council member who incurs a failing mark in any of his/her subjects or is accused of misconduct shall be given a warning and a chance to meet with the Executive Committee to present his/her case before any impeachment action is undertaken. The High School Principal may, however, also require that an Officer resign due to poor academic performance or grave misconduct, and only the School Directors decision can repeal such action.

8. A representative may be removed permanently from his/her position due to poor Student Council practices with the decision made by simple vote.
9. Any Student Council member who misses leadership club three times or more in a semester may face removal from office on the advisement of the Student Council Faculty Advisory.
10. In the event of drastic changes in the composition of the Student Council, notification shall be made known to the Student Body before implementation of the change which the Student Body must follow and accept.
11. All members of the Student Council must attend leadership club meetings on a regular basis.

### **ARTICLE III HOMEROOM REPRESENTATIVES**

1. Homeroom Representatives must possess the will to serve, must possess good moral conduct, and must have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of no less than 80. In case the qualities mentioned above are not met by the elected Homeroom Representative, the Executive Committee may request his/her removal from office and an immediate replacement within fifteen

days from the concluded Homeroom Election.

2. The duty of each Homeroom Representative is to represent the constituents of his/her Homeroom in **all** of the Council meetings. It is his/her responsibility to inform his/her constituents of all that is discussed and agreed and decided upon during the Council meetings. A Homeroom Representative may also assign duties and responsibilities within the Council as the Executive Committee deems necessary.
3. Any Homeroom Representative may be unable to continue in office on the following grounds:
  - a. Resignation due to illness, withdrawal from the school, or personal problems. A written letter of resignation shall be submitted to the Student Council by the Homeroom Representative concerned in order to make official the resignation from office. The Student Council may accept or reject the resignation.
  - b. Removal from office due to poor academic performance, misconduct, or failure to perform the duties required of the position. The Executive Committee may remove a Homeroom Representative from his/her post for any of the aforementioned reasons by 3/4 votes of the total number of Executive Committee Officers. The Alternate Homeroom Representative shall then become the Homeroom Representative and another Alternate Homeroom Representative shall be chosen. The High School Principal may, however, also require a Homeroom Representative to resign due to poor academic performance or grave misconduct, and only the School Director's decision can repeal such action.

### **ARTICLE IV STUDENT COUNCIL FUNCTIONS**

1. The Student Council has the right to make suggestions concerning the welfare of the Student Body for as long as the rules do not violate existing School Policies. There will

follow an administrative process of approval prior to application.

2. The Student Council has the right to have access to all existing School Policies.
3. The Student Council shall not intervene in the exercise of the School Administration of its power to execute Administrative and Academic disciplinary measures over the constituents of the Student Body, but it may give suggestions.
4. The Student Council has the right to request from the Administration the holding of regular meetings, dialogues, and conferences that relate to the rights and welfare of the Student Body.
5. The Student Council shall act as a Body only with the presence of a quorum, which shall mean 50% + 1 of the total number of Student Council members unless otherwise agreed upon in a motion.
6. In any issue that requires a majority decision by the Student Council, the members shall observe the rule of "one member; one vote." A majority vote by the Body shall be constituted by a total of the quorum present (50% + 1).
7. There should be Presidential succession in the Student Council following the end of the school year. Should there

be a vacancy in the Presidency following the end of the school year and the Vice President can not assume office, the following Committee members shall succeed the President in the order specified unless otherwise agreed upon in motion:

- a. Secretary
- b. Treasurer
- c. Most Senior Grade Level Representative appointed by the Student Council Faculty Advisor.

### ARTICLE V ELASTIC CLAUSE

For the benefit of, and in the interest of the Student Body, the Executive Committee of the Student Council shall take certain measures to ensure that the rights and privileges of the Student Body are met under the advisement of the Student Council Faculty Advisor (See advisement process).

### ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution (Except to Article IV: Sections 1, 3,

and 4) may be made following these steps.

**First:** A formal proposal for an amendment shall be made.

**Second:** The proposal shall be made by 3/4 majority of the entire Student Council.

**Lastly:** The amendment, to be official, shall be approved by the School Director.

The Student Council shall review the Constitution each academic year and hold a vote as to whether it shall proceed with the amendment process or not.

### ARTICLE VII VETO POWER

1. All powers of the Student Council are delegated to it by the School Administration. The School Director has the right to veto any act of the Student Council and any of the power held by it.
2. No Student Council member or Homeroom Representative has the power to veto.

**Written by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amalia Pérez,  
Vice President, Student Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eliot González, Treasurer, 10th

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Coradin, President, 10th

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Martínez, Vice President, 10th

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jesús León

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Soriano

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Julissa Gómez  
High School Principal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Alba Salterio  
School Director

# The Literary Pages

## My Garden, My Life

*Javier Liu*

### Confessions of a Fashion Model

*Anaridia Burgos*

You might envy me or tell me I rock  
but everyone doing that is something  
I seriously hate.

I am pressured everyday to walk straight and not fall,  
To eat right but not too much, to work a lot of hours  
and still smile.

I may have to breathe slowly from time to time  
And hold my stomach in. I can't complain because  
This was all I ever wanted or it used to be my dream  
But now it belongs to everyone but me.

I feel trapped in an empty desert with no way out,  
Lost in this world that drowns me in the quicksand  
until there's no air in my lungs.

I am going to give up trying, trying to survive,  
Pleasing everyone but myself.  
I am going to quit listening to the voices in my head  
to the noise around me and especially to you.

### The Beginning

*Melissa Vargas*

An idle warmth rising up my spine  
Fingertips on Fingertips perfectly fit  
Gusting winds teasing my hair  
Roaring screams coming from "The Hurricane"

Up we went, round and round  
slowly making our way to the top  
only to be at the bottom once again.  
We stopped, as if frozen in time,  
you took my hand and the slow warmth kept rising.

Coarse hair running through my hands  
Hazel eyes looking not at me but in me  
Suddenly, it was as if we were melting together.  
Expecting rough and I got soft  
Expecting flawed and I got perfection.

The stars surely got a show that night.

Upon the rising sun of the morning

My garden spirit wakes up.

As I get to my dearly beloved garden

I cut, I spray, I plant, and I dig.

The same routine all day.

How boring...

Hopeless as a dream

a garden without insect is just a miracle,

but having insects in the garden

only wages undesirable war.

Killing and spraying these malevolent insects

is nothing more than a hobby to me.

And again,

The same routine all day.

But you know what...

I'm a gardener

And this is my life.

### The locks on your chain necklace

*Horacio Viciosa*

The locks on your chain necklace  
That shook every time you took my hand  
Soft yet rough they felt against my skin  
Such rage, such force...

They took me to a London night,  
And felt as grim as the gates of Hell  
Waiting to cast their spells upon me.

"Do you hate me?" I asked  
"I don't know" you answered  
But your lips were sealed by locks and chains.

# The Literary Pages

## The shoe shiner

*Jonathan Soriano*

People look at me as I am inferior,  
Every day scrubbing and shining shoes.  
Always repeating to myself how miserable my life is,  
Listening to words as “bastard” or “get a real job”.

You can compare my life to a shoe.  
Always under someone’s feet,  
Picking up whatever they step on.  
Charging a misery for my cleaning service  
Telling my customers “God bless you”  
Even when they only pay half the service  
But what can I do?

If I refuse I don’t eat,  
I can’t sleep, and if I don’t sleep,  
I can’t dream.  
It’s pretty funny how my life is based on a simple phrase “shine sir?”

## Desert Cactus

*Marcel Robles*

You were like a desert cactus that can be spiny on the outside  
But on the inside a nectar of life  
Who is silent and reserved and only flowers at moonlight.

You’re hands were warm like a hot breeze on a snowy day  
Once you hold them you’ll never want to go away.

Like a sunny day on a Bahamas shore.  
Like a gambling night in Vegas  
Amazing and Unique

Did I do you wrong?

A question you may never answer  
And an answer I do not want to know.

## The woman in the cold room

*Laura Cordero*

The cold room gives me goosebumps,  
As if I were in Pluto  
With barely any clothes on.

The woman in the room  
Has her head completely bandaged  
And her hands are shaking furiously.  
Something in her face makes  
me think she's unconscious.

I walk towards her with a white rose  
And my favorite teddy bear,  
I put them next to her and kiss  
Her softly on the cheeks.

I know this woman,  
But she is completely different  
From the one I loved.

They take me to my house,  
I try to distinguish the faces  
But my thoughts are on the woman  
In the cold room.

The moment I enter  
I am choked by loneliness  
And I don't know where to go.

I go to sleep, but the woman  
In the cold room  
Visits me in my dreams.

# The Literary Pages

## Cyanide

*Miguel Pérez*

It seems unreal, I mean, the other day  
when I told you those words,  
that made me feel sick  
because I knew I was saying exactly  
what you wanted to hear.

And I tired so quickly that I had to leave,  
not because we kissed to the point  
of exhaustion, but because lying  
takes every piece of me.  
And so, you whispered in my ear,  
and I promised I would dream of you.  
While I slept, you sat there...  
awake, and scheming.

The dream wove itself, threaded  
from the cobwebs of my imagination,  
just of me and some friends running  
through a field. And I awoke, guilty  
because of that promise,  
and all I couldn't control.

Because... in the dream, I never saw you,  
and I felt happy and whole. As opposed  
to the nervous angst I felt when  
you said "Good morning," and asked  
if I dreamed of you. Of course,  
I said yes, compelling you to say those damn,  
gut-wrenching words again,  
making me clench my jaw in anger,  
and I wanted to confess right then and there,  
that I just couldn't say those words again,  
not even if you said all the right things,  
and told all the right lies.

And damn, I want to tell you everything,  
but the words come out wrong like **cyanide**.  
I'd write you a song, spelling out  
how sorry I am. Except...  
I don't like classical and you don't like rock.  
You once told me that the sounds of guitars  
playing in perfect harmony  
made you physically sick.

And if even beautiful sounds make you sick,  
I don't ever want to hear your voice,  
whisper softly in my ear "I love you, hon."  
Because I know that the first sound you would hear,  
would be absolute silence,  
of me wondering how to lie to you some more.

## Message to the air

*Katherine Lara*

I felt the sweet scent of your perfume,  
Making my way through the room.  
Your cat plays around in the house,  
Happy that some company finally came around.  
I open the door walking myself towards your room.  
Yet something was missing,  
And that something was you.  
The sadness surrounds this lonely house now,  
No one now plays with Michu, your cat.  
No one dares to hear the music in your room.  
Those whiskey bottles remain full.  
Everyone feels your absence now,  
But yet I could feel your presence in the house.  
See you every night in my dreams.  
Feel your smooth hand reaching until mine,  
Helping me stand up every time I fall.  
It tears me apart, seeing my baby pictures with you,  
And know this is all I have let behind.  
I can't help regret every night,  
Not being able to say goodbye.  
Everyday I think about you,  
Hoping that eventually you will too.  
I shout out to the air how much I miss you,  
Hoping that the air will deliver this message to you.  
That someday you'll understand  
The reason for my tears,  
The sadness of my heart,  
The loneliness of my soul,  
Since the moment you were gone.

# The Last Word

*The following is the body of senior class president Scarletta Garcia's speech delivered at the Candelight Ceremony—the traditional passing of the torch from the outgoing senior class to the incoming senior class—on Friday, May 29, 2009.*

La elaboración de este discurso ha sido una de las tareas más arduas que me ha sido asignada. Dure aproximadamente dos semanas tratando de encontrar un momento de inspiración el cual pudiera facilitarme la elaboración del mismo. Me di cuenta de que la única razón por la cual lo había estado posponiendo, por lo difícil que es despedirse de un grupo de personas que se convirtieron en parte de mi familia. Así mismo, me cuesta pensar que esta será la última vez que me dirigiré hacia ustedes como presidenta de la promoción *Regiux*, año académico 2008-2009.

Sin embargo, esta no es una carta de despedida, pues las despedidas son tristes y en cambio hoy estamos celebrando la culminación de una fructífera y productiva etapa en nuestras vidas. Debería ser un hasta la vista: un hasta luego que se tradujese en una cita que nos obligase a volvernos a ver dentro de unos años. Dentro de muy poco nos separaremos: lo haremos sin traumas y solo unos pocos seguiremos en contacto. Es ley de vida: resulta imposible congeniar con todo el mundo y también es imposible estar juntos cuando la distancia, las obligaciones profesionales, académicas y personales pueden separar a los amigos de hoy, pero sin perder el cariño y el afecto logrado en estos años de estudios en el CDA.

Aunque nos separaremos sin traumas, vale recalcar que durante esta etapa hemos aprendido muchas cosas juntos: que la globalización, que la democracia, que el impulso y momento de un vector, que la poesía, la probabilidad de sacar

un corazón negro de una pila de cartas, pero lo más importante es que hemos aprendido a ser personas más humanas, más amigos, más hermanos; hemos aprendido que con una buena educación es posible el desarrollo personal, el desarrollo de la familia y por ende el desarrollo del país.

¿Cómo olvidar aquellas ventas de comida y día de colores donde nunca dejábamos de pelear o la comida desaparecía misteriosamente? ¿Cómo olvidar a Brianna, la hija del curso, quien es capaz de alegrarle el día a cualquiera? Detalles tan sencillos como estos los que nos harán reflexionar sobre la importancia de nuestra amistad y compañía diaria. Solo cuando en verdad nos demos cuenta de que ya no habrá más Montillas en las mañanas o más Miguelinas para darle un abrazo por el simple hecho de así los sentimos, anhelaremos el pasado y añoraremos estar ahí de nuevo.

Aprovechamos este momento tan especial, para agradecer a nuestro apreciados profesores y profesoras y a las autoridades del CDA por la oportunidad de contribuir al desarrollo de nuestras vidas; gracias por fomentar todas las actividades en las cuales aprendimos a tolerar, a aceptar al prójimo, pero sobre todo ensañarnos el valor de la verdad; que no es propiedad de nadie en particular, y que solamente se conoce cuando todos podemos externalarla y aceptarla.

Así mismo, en nombre de todos los graduandos de la promoción 2008-2009 queremos felicitar a todos los padres, madres y familiares presente por los grandes esfuerzos que hacen para educar con un criterio de calidad a estos hombres y mujeres que concluimos nuestros estudios secundarios, para iniciar nuestras carreras

universitarias y a través de ella servir a la nación y al mundo. Ustedes merecen el trofeo que recibamos en esta ceremonia.

Como un atrevimiento, quisiera compartir con ustedes una lección que he aprendido en la vida: la humildad es la base de todo. En el momento que pensamos que los sabemos todo, en ese mismo instante, no sabemos nada. ¿Nunca se han puesto a pensar porque tenemos dos ojos, dos oídos, pero solo una boca? Esto es para ver más, oír más y hablar menos. Aprendemos más viendo y oyendo, que hablando como si todo lo supiéramos.

Damos gracias a Dios al despedirme junto a mis compañeros, al entregar la antorcha a la promoción 2009-2010: *Exordium*; les corresponde ser el pilar de esta gran institución. Desde este instante, tienen en sus manos el poder, pero sobre todo el deber de hacer ver el resto del mundo lo que en verdad significa el Colegio Dominicano Americano: una institución con una preponderante excelencia académica y uno de los principales formadores de ciudadanos íntegros, sobresalientes y servidores de la sociedad.

Para terminar, mi querida promoción, nunca permitan que nadie, absolutamente nadie, le trace un límite a sus metas en la vida, ya que como dijo Johnny Walker "El primer paso para la conquista, es creer". Siempre recuerden que la felicidad es el camino y no un destino, pues el arte de la vida consiste en hacer de la vida una obra de arte. Éxitos en su vida,

*Scarletta Garcia-Avila*