Musical into film

College apps

Project pauses until March

Khan Academy

Wrap-up

Seniors stress over college apps

Winter Sports preseason wrap-up

Les Misérables turns classic musical into film

Eubank named Central Section AD of the Year

By Katherine Whitman

Staff Writer

Marsha Eubank is Taft High's Athletic Director. She is honored with the Central Section's Athletic Director of the Year award.

This award, which began in 1974, honors ADs (athletic directors) who show exceptional leadership and achievement at their schools.

"She's the best athletic director I've known," said Jim Carnal, varsity girls tennis coach.

Eubank began working at Taft High in 1989 as both a P.E. teacher and a basketball coach. Under Eubank, the varsity basketball team went to the Valley Championship in 1999, 2000, and 2003.

In 2004, Eubank was promoted to athletic director.

"This award is a reflection of the quality of work that Eubank does," cross-country coach Dave Dennis said.

In 2010, Eubank also won the California Coaches Female Athletic Director of the Year award.

Though Eubank says her latest award is "an absolute honor," she doesn't view it as only a personal achievement.

"For me personally, I feel it's a reflection of the entire district," Eubank said.

Vera Torres wins Most Improved Student award

By Amy Wilson

Staff Writer

Cheyenne Vera-Torres was named Most Improved Student at the fall Renaissance Rally on Nov. 28.

Cheyenne received the award because she improved her GPA by 1.57 points from her freshman year to her sophomore year. She also exhibited a positive attitude and had no problems with discipline or attendance.

"I was very surprised to be named Most Improved Student," said Cheyenne. "I kind of thought it was going to be someone else."

Vera-Torres was very proud. Cheyenne received a 32 inch TV, which she is planning to give to her dad for Christmas, and a 10k gold class ring.

"I tell her, 'What ever your dreams, just follow them. Make up your mind and you can be something in the future,'" said her father Elmo. "We are proud of her."

Cheyenne's mother suffered a stroke in August and she had to care for her mother and her two younger sisters at home, which motivated her to improve in school.

"It was a hard time," said Cheyenne. "My mom having a stroke made me think that she may be going soon and somebody needs to take care of the children."

"Someone had to step up and she's the one," said her mother Mary. "She's a terrific kid. She deserves this. I'm proud as a peacock."

Cheyenne's favorite classes are calculus and science. She also is striving to become a therapist and wants to attend Taft College for two years and then move on from that point.

Carnal named Coach of the Year after varsity girls tennis team wins Taft's first Valley title

By Maria Solis

Photo Editor

Years, shock and overwhelming happiness were experienced the varsity tennis team went through after winning a tough match against Liberty of Madera High School for the title of Valley Champions.

All that was left was a trail of tears after they got slaughtered versus Taft, said coach Jim Carnal.

Earlier in the match, Taft was uncertain of what the outcome was going to be. They won set 4-2 after losing two tiebreakers and were a bit worried.

"I didn't know whether we were going to win or lose, but we were all definitely playing our heart's out on the courts," said junior Lupita Lopez.

The fate of the team was to be determined by the outcome of the doubles matches. Junior Roxanna Barboza and her partner senior Juliana Yarbrough played the final, decisive match, which went into a tiebreaker. They ultimately won the tiebreaker 10-8, and with it, the match and the championship.

"I felt it was coming to me," said Barboza. "If I didn't tough out my anxiety it could cost us the championship. All I had to do was set the team aside and play my best."

After sweat and a couple girls' dinners, Taft was announced as Valley Champions, the first title in 42 years, with the score of 5-4.

"We were able to take the game by a couple builds," said Carnal.

The team was awarded championship hats, shirts, plaques and patches. Their banner has been put up in the gym and they will receive championship rings soon.

The girls breezed through the South Sequoia League with a flawless 11-0 record. At the Fall Sports Banquet, they received the award for the team with the highest cumulative GPA.

On December 12, the Bakersfield Californian named Carnal Kern County Tennis Coach of the Year.

"I felt honored. I can officially cross all things off my bucket list," said Carnal. "We beat BCHS, we won valley and league, and I won All Area Girls Tennis Coach of the year, so I can die happy."

The girls lacked no motivation this season, so they were rewarded for their efforts by being treated to dinner.

Carnal is anxious to see what next season has in store.

The team will only have three returning players, and the rest of the players will be brought up from JV. "It was the oldest season by far," said Carnal. "The ultimate was to win league and playoffs. It makes me look forward to next season."

Taft High Library: at your service

By Jennifer Chmale

Editor-in-Chief

The library staff wants to remind students about all of the resources offered to TUHS students and staff.

Taft High's library doesn't just offer books, but also offers computers for research, magazines, and e-books.

All students are eligible for checking out books and e-books, as long as they bring an ID card.

For students to check out an e-book, it is required for them to fill out a TUSH Permisson and Acceptable Use from for Nooks. It is an agreement to take care of the Nook reader while it is in the students possession.

Taft High's Library is open from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. When going into the library make sure to sign-in on the yellow papers in the front counter, whether it is to check out a book or use a computer. And remember, no food or drinks aloud.  

Tufts University Summer 2018
Students not the only ones violating school rules

By Sara Jewell
Editor-in-Chief

Most adults hold a similar opinion to students, that teachers need to have a more lenient perception of right and wrong and usually make some compromises because the result; most adults will tell you that is not the case through Valley and Dustin Acres.

In one instance, a substitute teacher was teaching a class and then sat in the back of the room on her own phone. This isn’t acceptable or fair, and teachers, even substitutes, need to realize that.

Highway 119 widening projects disrupts traffic

By Jennifer Chanale
Editor-in-chief

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) road widening project on Highway 119 has been a hassle for students and teachers alike.

For example for students by following the rules should be applied fairly to staff and students alike.

Is it time to lower the voting age as other countries have done?

By Johndee Butler
Staff Writer

Migrant Program supports students who moved frequently

By Liliana Nolaga
Staff Writer

The Migrant Program exists to support students who are experiencing a lot of help with my UC applications.

Custodian Gary House won the Staff Member of the Year award at the Fall Renaissance Rally. Photo by Amy Wilson

House honored with Staff Member of Year award

By John dee Butler
Staff Writer

Gary House was named Staff Member of the Year at the Renaissance Rally on November 28. He won with more than 50 nominations.

The Class of ‘98 funded the Chad Morris Memorial Walkway to honor a CF victim. Photo by Cooper Mainard

The Walkway was funded by the class of 1998 and constructed in the summer of 1999. The center brick is dedicated to the victims of the 9/11 attack in New York.

Gary Smith says bricks are available for purchase featuring the names of former TUHS students.

By Cooper Mainard
Staff Writer

The walkway in the middle of the quad serves as more than a cool lunch hangout. It is dedicated to Chad Morris, a student who passed away in April of 1998.

Morris was a member of the class of 1998 who was affected by Cystic Fibrosis (CF). CF is a condition that produces thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and makes it difficult to breathe.

Morris needed a lung transplant, and when the time was right, he said, "Chad really was a great kid," said John Kopp, Morris’ former soccer coach. "He never asked for any special treatment." "Today, as always, I feel so proud of that good person," said Harold Heiter, one of Morris’ former teachers. "He had the opportunity to vote into the election." The walkway was funded by the class of 1998 and constructed in the summer of 1999. The center brick is dedicated to the victims of the 9/11 attack in New York.

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Gary Smith says bricks are available for purchase featuring the names of former TUHS students.
Khan Academy online tutorial site offers 3500 free videos

By Maria Sanchez
Staff Writer

Eric Gore trades BV for TUHS

When you get home at night and start your homework, don’t you wish you had a super genius brother or sister? Khan Academy is an online tutorial website that can help students with their academic struggles. It has many helpful videos that take students step by step through their problem. Khan Academy offers about 3500 videos in biology, chemistry and physics and even has a few for history and economics. The top videos, with 1.4 million views, is “On $0,000,000,000,000,000,001,” which deals with Internet privacy and legislation.

The goal of Khan Academy is to help students or anyone get to know the information that they need. “I teach the way that I wish I was taught,” says Sal Khan on the website. “The lectures are coming from me, an actual human being who is fascinated by the world around him.”

Khan’s videos have become famous overnight. In 2004, he was working as a software developer on the Web and his young cousin in New Orleans was struggling with algebra. At first he sent his cousin short videos that he had made to help her, then a Friend on Facebook suggested Khan put them on YouTube. Shortly after that, strangers began to discover his “Shakboard videos,” and they kept asking for more.

So in 2009, Khan quit his job and dedicated himself to producing the videos on Khan Academy.

I have used the website a couple times to help my chemistry homework and it is great. The videos run very smoothly and explain most steps in detail. They usually explain why the answer is what it is which usually will resolve your confusion.

“It is very helpful and interesting,” said Katie Burrows, a junior in chemistry who has used Khan Academy’s tutorials. Most students struggle at home because they don’t have a sibling, friend or adult who can help them. But now they don’t need to struggle because they can get help from Sal Khan. They can use the website anywhere, anytime, as long as they have an internet connection. I highly recommend this website to students who are struggling with their classes, especially math and science classes.

Gore often talks about the “Swiss cheese” problem: a recent interview with The Rutanian Magazine Khan explained his thinking. “I’m talking about the gaps, the holes. Any two students in a classroom are not going to be at exactly the same place. One has mastered algebra, the other one hasn’t - that’s the hole. The teacher, you either have to wade down the algebra or just assume those kids who need remedial help will be lost from the start, Khan Academy videos. Students that remedial help. At the other end, gifted kids who get bored can race ahead.

Khan Academy is also casting with schools. Khan estimates that at 15,000 classrooms are now using our videos in some shape or form.”

University-bound seniors feel the pressure

Applicants for fall semester 2013 for the CSUB, CSU and UC campuses are due November 30. Other universities accept applications until mid-to-late January.

According to AVID senior teacher Karen Arnold, all 22 seniors are applying to four-year colleges or community colleges. Fourteen of those 22 students are planning to apply only to four-year universities or colleges.

According to Karen, “The seniors are succeeding in classes and are moving forward to and others brighter things.

These bigger and brighter things are not easily achieved, in fact, many seniors like Samantha Morrow and Yadira Barrera admit to working hard at work finishing applications right up to the deadline.

CSU and UC campuses have already applied to UC San Diego, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, CSU Long Beach, CSU Monterey Bay and CSU Dominguez Hills. They plan on pursu-

Seniors cope with stress of college application process

By Maribel Bautista
Staff Writer

Many Taft High students have lived in Taft most or all of their lives. Not many of them know the experience of being a new student. Eric Gore does.

Eric Gore is a senior who moved to Taft in the middle of his junior year.

Gore says he moved because he believes he would do better in high school than in the middle school he had attended in the past. Gore and his father came to Taft to have a better life and a better future.

Gore has done better in high school. He has been a part of the football team since his freshman year and he is now a junior varsity player.

Gore says that going to TUHS is a lot different than going to BV. “It is better here than going to BV. I like it here,” said Gore. Gore’s parents are both in the military and they have been in different countries around the world.

Gore has changed a lot since he moved to Taft. “I have changed because I am more motivated and more independent,” said Gore.

Gore says that he is more confident in himself now that he has moved to Taft.

Gore has also made many new friends in high school. “I made new friends at Tuft, some of them are from different countries,” said Gore.

Maribel Bautista enjoys living in Taft even though she misses home. Photo by Johndee Butler

Bautista moves to Taft for senior year, misses coast

By Johndee Butler
Staff Writer

Maribel Bautista moved to Taft after living in Santa Maria her whole life. She attended Pioneer Valley High School the last three years and is now a senior at Taft High.

Maribel didn’t want to move to Taft at first, but when she got here she warmed up to living here. “I didn’t want to move,” said Maribel. “I was upset and mad. I had already been involved in so many activities and clubs that I didn’t want to leave.”

Although she is disappointed about not being able to graduate at Pioneer Valley, she is making the best of her senior year at TaHS.

“I am planning on maybe going to Pioneer Valley’s graduation to visit,” said Maribel.

She goes to Santa Maria once a month to visit family and friends. One difference Maribel has noticed is that the classes here are smaller. “At Pioneer Valley the school was a closed campus also,” said Maribel.

“I was on the block system there, so it was weird to change from that,” she said.

The hardest part of switching from the block system to the semes-

ter system is getting all of her home-

work done because she only had three classes per day on the block system.

Here on the semester system she has seven classes and homework in each of them. She also had a 15-minute break after first period and then a class called Panther Forum that was most of the time a homeroom where they would hear the announcement.

Another difference she has noticed is the AVID class.

In Santa Maria she start the AVID class in eighth grade and after that year you apply for AVID freshman year.

Only 30 students are admitted from the three junior high schools. Students have the same AVID teacher each year, and AVID is held after school.

In Santa Maria they don’t nomi-

nate candidates for Prom and Home-

coming King or Queen. They just run for it and most of the girls go out to be crowned Queen. Instead of Homecoming floats they have Homecoming slopes.

Maribel likes her Piano class best because there is no homework and it’s more laid back than the rest of her classes.

She has made quite a few friends here and she thinks the school here is also very friendly.

The Gusher is a monthly publication of the journalism class at Taft Union High School. The Gusher is a designated public forum for students, staff and faculty of TUHS. The opinions and views expressed in The Gusher are the sole responsibility of their author, not the editors or the Board of Trustees. Staff editors make all final content decisions. The Gusher is a member of the NSPA.

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Friday, February 8, 2013 
Features 

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Staff Writer

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Members of the Art Club participated in the recent Via Arts day at The Marketplace in Bakersfield. Ryan Gaunt (right) reaches out to finish his piece. Photo by Sophie Rasmussen

Art Club provides chance for students to build arts community on campus

By Maribel Bautista
Staff Writer

The Art Club was formed when art teacher Sophie Rasmussen arrived at THS for the 2011-2012 school year.

"Art Club is a place for students who are into the arts to come together so we can share our art and build an art community on campus," expressed Rasmussen.

The Art Club consists of president Roxanna Barboza, vice president Alyby Xancale, secretary Cristina Diaz and historian Ceasar Guereza. The club has approximately 15-20 students and meets every Friday during lunch in Rasmussen’s room, 401. According to Rasmussen, there are no requirements to join the club.

The Art Club has been hard at work doing fundraisers, such as a BBQ at one of the football games, and is planning to do facepainting near the end of the school year. During Art Week the club will have a banner collaborative project that the members are going to create, which will include personal submissions from non-members along with art pieces formed by the club members. They will continue to work on these for the rest of the quarter.

"It’s a really cool idea," Barboza said enthusiastically.

During October the club went to Bakersfield to participate in the Via Arts exhibit at the Marketplace. Via Arts is an exhibition where professional artists and local high school students show their talent by using the local parking lot. Students like Viviana Camacho, a senior, participated in this two-day event.

"It was tiring, but fun," Camacho noted.

"This is a student-led project that promotes art awareness," Rasmussen noted.

"Not only is it a fun, creative place to be, but they can enter art contests, in which they can earn money for their education," Rasmussen said.

Key Club members volunteer in Mr. Pedros’s Special Ed class

By Liliana Noriega
Staff Writer

Key Club members are making a difference by volunteering in Able Pedros's special education class.

The 11 members of Key Club who volunteered with Mr. Pedros’s class during fifth period every other Wednesday get to learn and have fun with the students.

"It’s a lot of fun just playing games with them," said junior Bren da Arellano.

"Not everyone is playing games isn’t the only thing these kids enjoy. Volunteers have also helped with different activities like their P.E. day and a day where they painted each other’s faces and broke open a private.

Having fun and volunteering has also helped the Key Club members learn more about special education.

"It helps you understand people who are not like you," said senior Diego Rivera.

This program has also had a major impact on senior Dana Arellano, who says that she has been considering a career in special education since she started volunteering.

Shawn Hill, the Key Club advisor, believes it is a great program and invites students to join the club and volunteer.

Broad Horizons members enjoy fun activities, build friendships

By Liliana Noriega
Staff Writer

Broad Horizons, one of the most popular clubs at THS, was started in 2008 by Danell Ponce and Dylan Bergstrom. The club, known as The Danels, is a service club that owes its existence to Able Pedros at THS. The advisors of the club are English teachers Lisa Polk and Karen Hillygus, and the point of the club is to make a student’s world bigger.

"The most recent trip we have gone on was the Make-A-Bea Fright in Bakersfield and it was fun," said Polk.

Broad Horizons is exactly what it sounds like, a club that broadens students’ horizons. They do that by taking a variety of field trips and building strong friendships with the other students in the club. Last year they went to Disneyland, ice skating and went to watch Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 1.

"I wanted to be in this club because I wanted to broaden my horizons. Broad Horizons is the most fun of all," said junior Roxana Barboza.

The club has held one fundraiser so far this year, selling T-shirts at most of the home football games and they are still selling them. The officers are president Leon Tram, vice president Kathy Ruben, secretary Kathya Rodriguez and treasurer Roxana Barboza. They meet about twice a month in Hillygus’s classroom.

"We’ve been in the club since the school year started and so far it is pretty fun," said senior Maribel Bautista.
McDonald's menu varies around world; will it add vegetarian items in U.S.?

By Sara Jewell
Editor-in-Chief

With McDonald's being the number one fast food chain in the world, having to become accustomed to consumption in a different country can be challenging.

In India, since the majority of the population is Hindu and un- ate cow products (including beef), McDonald's had to make some changes to their menu. They have started using eggless mayonnaise, and offering burger like the McAllo Tikki, a patty made of potatoes and peas that is breaded, and the vegetarian McMuffin. Since its launch in 1981, many Taft High students have taken initiative and are volunteering for the STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to be my old coworkers,” she said.

K-Mart for five months. As a cashier, she has to deal with nearly every customer that walks through the doors. She loves it when I was vegetarian.”

“Even though they think it could take a while, some McDonald's employees think the chance would be a great move for the chain. “I think the idea is great,” said senior Ana Estrada, who works at McDonalds. “I know I would've loved it when I was vegetarian.”

This could be the beginning of a fast-food restaurant revolution.

McDonald's might see that some Americans don't eat meat anymore, and decide to adapt to the new trend, hopefully getting other chains to fol- low suit.

“You think they would see a mar- ket, “My favorite part would have to be my old coworkers,” she said. “I really didn’t enjoy cleaning the trays at the end of the night.”

Alondra Figueroa, a student worker at TUMS, actually enjoys working.

“I like knowing that I can make a difference in the school’s appearance,” she said. “I really appreciate my supervisor, Karen. She’s such an amazing per- son and gives the best advice.”

Other jobs she’s available through TUMS, local restaurants like OT’s Cookhouse and the Pe- niche 1 Pound, or “Antweight” di-

compete there.

The Taft team will be competing in the 1 Pound, or “Antweight” di-

STEM Club to compete in Robogames next month

By Jesus Gutierrez
Staff Writer

The STEM Club (Science, Technol- ogy, Engineering, and Mathematics) at Taft High is focused on building ro- bots. There are usually a dozen mem- bers, including Katherine Whitman (President) and Clayton Wikoff (Vice President), with Mr. Dennis serving as the advisor.

The club has been recently working on their robots for the Robo games. Robogames is an international competition held in San Mateo counties from around the world compete there. The Taft team will be competing in the 1 Pound, or "Antweight" division. Members will each build a robot to compete and fight against other competitor’s robots.

The games will be held April 19-21 and won’t cost the students a penny. The club members began building their robots on January 29.

Many students think that see- ing a teacher outside of school is strange, so realizing that they have lives outside of giving pop quizzes and homework packets is hard to swerve.

Even though you see these teach- ers every day, there are some things you may not know about them.

Mr. Consin has skipped over 85 time and owns his own skydiving suit.

Mr. Morris found $17 million worth of marijuana while hunting a bear in the wilderness.

He didn't break any bones and walked away totally unharmed.

Mr. Carnal crossed the Interna- tional Date Line on his 10th birthday, so he had two 10th birthdays. He also has bungee jumped out of a hot air balloon.

Mrs. Shoneweis has run five half-marathons.

Mr. Wolfe lived in Hawaii from ages 10-12.

Mr. Dennis holds the record for riding the smallest motorcycle from Mexico to Canada in less than 24 hours. He rode a 250 cc and made the trip in 21 hours.

Surprising facts about Taft faculty members

By Sara Jewell
Editor-in-Chief

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Mr. Dennis holds the record for riding the smallest motorcycle from Mexico to Canada in less than 24 hours. He rode a 250 cc and made the trip in 21 hours.
The 2012 JV boys' basketball team had an overall successful season. The boys finished the pre-season with a record of 10 wins and 3 losses.

Senior Zachary Kolb says that his favorite part of the team is what his coach tells the players before games, “Don’t worry about being too fancy, just play basketball.”

Some of the players, like Kyle Fields, enjoy “getting pumped during the walkout song.” The boys enjoy being together, and they have gotten very close over the season. Kyle Jameson and Cohl Niblett agreed that some key components of the team are Val Richardson and Robert Lumadue, the coaches. "Lummie makes us feel comfortable on the court," Niblett said. Lumadue says that their season is going "fantastic, it’s great so far!"

Lumadue reported that some key scorers and defenders are Trevor Howell, Kyle Jameson, Jamel lakep, Kyle Fields and Oscar Naran. "Our games have gone well, we finished 2-4 overall and 11-1 in league," said Lumadue. Kolb says that his goal is to be like his mentor, Kevin Durant, who is a small forward for the Oklahoma City Thunder. "I really admire that he’s still humble. He still loves his family and tries to put them first," says Kolb.

On January 21 the girls played one of the most exciting games of the season against City Thunder. “I really admire that they keep up their spirits. Coach always tells us before the game and we always try to keep each motivated by joking around," said senior Daniela Sandovals.

Like every other team, they aspired to win league and be SSL Champions. They planned to achieve it by giving their all and pushing hard to give it their all. Not every game is easy but they always manage to have a good time, like in their last game versus Choune High School.

"The best game this season was our game against Choune, it was so intense and we definitely played our best," said Harmer.

The game ended with the tight score of 3-2. Next year the team will only be losing three seniors, so they will not have many changes other than training harder and remaining consistent.

"Learning and teamwork is key. Our teammates share this belief. However, because varsity took some of JV's top players, the junior varsity team is looking at a tough season," Jose Torres, along with Brian Herrera and Alex Arquello, one of the team's top players, and said that to improve their season, "The team going to try harder in everything!"

"We have a really close team, and I think that's a really good quality for us to have, I think it helps us a lot," junior Jaron Halmer remarked. Throughout the season, the girls have become very close, as most teams do. JV Head Coach, Suzanne White, said, "I am very proud of all the girls. We play as a team," according to the Taft Middle Driller.
The varsity girl’s basketball team is off to a good start this season. The team went 12-2 in preseason. Coach Chuck Hagstrom believes the team had a good start.

“We had a great preseason,” said Hagstrom. “The girls improved rapidly through each game. We played well as a team and I think they had a lot of fun.”

The team has improved a great deal since December and early January. They’ve worked on their communication skills, offense and have become more comfortable with the system.

Although the girls are doing well, there are some things they think they can improve on.

“We need to work on running the offense even better,” said junior Halle Neher. “We could also improve on playing our defense.”

“I feel like we are currently on a plateau,” said Hagstrom. “But I hope we can work through that and improve in time for the playoffs.”

The team’s most memorable win is when they played against the undefeated team of Shafter here at Taft High. Every player on the team is considered a key player. They really focus on the concept and don’t worry about individual performances.

“There really are no key players,” said senior Kennedy Kunce. “We work best as a whole team.”

Kennedy Kunce plays center for the team. This is her second year on varsity and she has worked very hard to get on the level she is at.

Hagstrom says that Kunce has made much progress throughout her two years on the team.

“Kennedy has made unbelievable improvement,” said Hagstrom. “She has worked a lot harder, taken over leadership and her desire to win is impressive.”

She has made 266 points throughout the season and counting. Her motivation is her desire to win.

This year will be Kunce’s last year in Taft High basketball. She has done a great job leading by example and just getting her job done.

“I am absolutely going to miss her on the court,” said Hagstrom. “She will be hard to replace.”

“It’s really hard and sad that this is my last year,” said Kunce. “I love basketball and I don’t want it to be over. I don’t want it to be the last time playing on the home court.”
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By Sara Jewell
Editor-in-Chief

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This awards show isn't for the least talented, but for the actors, directors, writers or producers who chose the worst film possible. The Razzies give us the chance to mock bad films and feel better about ourselves. Some Razzie nominees include the year's worst actor, worst actress, worst supporting actor, worst supporting actress, worst picture, worst screenplay and some others.

You can watch films you love, or ones you hate and make fun of them; it doesn't matter. The Razzies are a fun way for the audience to laugh at the film that has chosen the worst film possible.

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