

et Cetera

Really?

In Pennsylvania, it is illegal for a man to purchase alcohol without written consent from his wife.

If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee.

The flea can jump 350 times its body length. That's like a human jumping the length of a football field.

Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump.

During your lifetime, you'll eat about 60,000 pounds of food, that's the weight of about 6 elephants.

Dolphins sleep with one eye open.

By feeding hens certain dyes they can be made to lay eggs with varicolored yolks.

Touching and stroking a plant will aid in it growing healthily.

Star Trek: prospering by keeping the legacy alive

By Sabrina Ketel
Staff Writer

Though Trekkies have been singing his praises for years, few of us have truly appreciated the half-human half-Vulcan, pointy-eared wonder that is Spock—until now. With the 2009 release of J.J. Abrams' *Star Trek*, viewers all over the world have been inducted into the Official Star Trek Fan Club.

Although surely viewers would have enjoyed the spectacle, producers thankfully chose to completely recast the film, rather than try and force a 78-year-old William Shatner into a jumpsuit. Instead, Chris Pine takes on his first big role as the infamous Captain Kirk, with Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Anton Yelchin, and John Cho filling in the rest of the crew.

Someone please send the casting directors (April Webster and Alyssa Weisberg) roses—Zachary Quinto was brilliantly cast as Spock, Captain Kirk's painstakingly logical best friend and character foil. The role echoes his part in the television series *Heroes*, in which he struggles with an emotional identity crisis as the murderous Sylar.

But Webster and Weisberg didn't stop there—the inclusion of a cameo by Leonard Nimoy of *Star Trek: The Original Series* was enough to make the hairs stand up on the arms of longtime Star Trek fans.

Quite apart from brilliant casting, *Star Trek* was also buoyed by supremely witty dialogue from screenwriters Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman. Aside from the typical Hollywood punch lines, the writers worked in a clever nod to the unexpected lack of a love interest hanging on protagonist Chris



image by Kait Feldmann

Pine's arm, subtly cracking the fourth wall.

Additionally, Orci and Kurtzman pulled a stunt that will not soon be forgotten in Hollywood. Highly conveniently, the aged Spock "accidentally" created a black hole in the world in which all previous *Star Trek* films and episodes have taken place. This black hole subsequently ruptured the space-time continuum, hurling both Spock and the evil Nero backwards in time, altering history and thus proving the theory of alternate universes.

Confused yet? Well, essentially, the enterprising screenwriters set the scene for a whole new world in which Kirk and Spock can embark on

a new lifetime's worth of adventures—or misadventures, as the situation may require.

Somewhat morally gray as this might be, the extremely fortunate result is that longtime Trekkies can continue to enjoy the classic chemistry of Kirk's crew, while new members of the Club can get hooked in the correct chronological order.

Not to mention, Paramount Pictures is free to make as many ill-fated sequels as it likes. Luckily, Paramount has only given the go-ahead to one sequel so far—promising us more action, but hopefully not the birth of a decades-long beast of a series about a wizard named Harry that will surely run the franchise into the ground.

Summer concerts on a budget

By Cole Rainey
Staff Writer

Everyone loves the euphoria of a summer music festival. Unfortunately, not everyone can clear an entire weekend for such an event. Most students do not have an extraneous hundred dollars to spend, or the means to get themselves there.

For students like this, there are still stunning concerts and venues to attend over the summer that are cheap and low-key. During the day, Echo Curio is an art exhibit for local talent on Sunset Boulevard. Artists based in Los Angeles can submit their art to be displayed and sold, ranging from homemade CD's to silk screened underwear. However, at night, the "museum" is transformed into a stage for local bands, for only a suggested five-

dollar "donation." The tiny room, barely large enough to hold an art exhibit, brings the listeners right in the band's face. Although you may not have heard of any of the artists playing at Echo Curio, it doesn't mean you can't enjoy yourself. If possible, check out the show on June 30. Fans of *Ida Maria* will love *Werewolves*, and anyone who listens to classic rock should listen to *Soft Black*.

Although many shows are eighteen and over, the Echo and Echoplex, right at the edge of Echo Park, offers some more prominent shows, but equally as low-key. Shows at the run-down club, with mirrors across the walls (Echo), and the basement turned club (Echoplex), feature all kinds of musical acts. Some nights feature only DJ's, and Monday's are called "Dub Club," with amazing

classic dub and reggae. The Echo features acts as popular as *Of Montreal* and the *Silversun Pickups*, while the Echoplex, right below, features more local talent.

And, the hub of hipster, scenester types in Los Angeles is *The Smell*, a small club located two blocks from Little Tokyo. For only five dollars, this all-ages, alcohol free club can offer shows four to five times a week. After entering in the back alley, plastered with graffiti and posters of Buddhist symbols, couches, books, board games, and a vegan café greet you warmly. Every night has a different feel, depending on who's playing. Experimental techno music, scream punk, battles of the bands, and serene folk music can all reside in the same tiny club. *Pizza!*, a band based in Los Angeles that plays at *The Smell* often, play an amazing live set and offer all of their music free online.

This summer, the smallest venues may become your favorite.



Annie Stellar

Personality Profile

By Mike Hogan
Faculty Adviser

Gigi Lawrence-Ventura

Junior Gigi Lawrence Ventura is a unique person who doesn't easily fit into any one category. She is an artist, a poet, an individual, and an imaginative thinker. She's someone you need to get to know.

Gigi has been raised in an environment of art and music. She practically grew up at Disney, where her parents drew backgrounds. Her parents took her to a House of Blues concert when she was two years old, and she reportedly slept under the table. Her mom says that Gigi even met Michael Jackson at Disney when she was six.

When she isn't busy at school, Gigi enjoys watching a lot of films. She does this to inspire her writing of screenplays. She's currently working on a science fiction screenplay, but she also has at least four other screenplays in

various stages of competition. These include fiction, science fiction, comedy, and scripts in different languages, like French and Italian. Gigi chose these languages because she has always been interested in different genres.

The same thing goes with photography—Gigi's been immersed in photography and art studios since childhood. Her dad is a director and photographer, so she grew up around movie sets and art shows. Her love of visual arts is notable. She has amassed a huge collection of photos and will have her work showcased on June 12 at Gallery Godo in Glendale. During this exhibition, an art video that Gigi created will be projected in a room. The video will contain about 100 of her photos. She's been doing this kind of work for several years. In fact, she and classmate Patrick Adelstein made a Barbie

movie in fourth grade (Gigi even got Patrick to play with Barbies).

Gigi fun facts: In addition to her work in the visual arts, Gigi was recently published in *Collected Whispers*, an anthology of new poetry. Her poem, titled, "i am the lips that hold my tongue," was recognized for its originality and superior use of language and imagery.

The future is full of possibilities for Gigi. After graduating from SPHS, she plans to attend a four-year college and major in creative writing with a minor in photography. Eventually, she'd like to earn her BA in cinema and film. Gigi is currently looking into San Francisco State University for its writing program, but she's exploring other options, as well. True to her diverse interests, her future plans also include earning her hapkido black belt in February of 2010, and a stint at the Los Angeles DJ School, where she plans to get her DJ license and learn how to add some beats to her art shows.



Patrick Adelstein