

## Frankly Speaking

*Passions can develop at anytime even in high school*



**FRANCESCA PELUSI**  
Writer

In high school, many of us are at a loss as to we want to do with our lives. By this, I mean what is our purpose? What will our profession be?

It all begins with a passion. Some know what their passion is already, but others do not. It takes more than looking at the surface to find out what one is truly passionate about. What inspires you, and what makes you feel fulfilled? Don't think you don't know, because if you think hard enough, past your problems or negative thoughts, you will find what makes you happy.

Some of us will not find our passion until we are in our 20s, or maybe even our 60s. You do not make your passion, you fall into it by mistake, and when you do, it fits perfectly.

Recently, I slowly fell in to what I believe to be my passion. My realization did not come in one "eureka!" moment, rather over time when I came to the conclusion that through my work with the Gay-Straight Alliance I am capable of making change.

At this age, I am hesitant to believe that adults will listen to students and take what they say seriously, although I was proven wrong this past week. I and the other founders of the GSA spoke to the faculty and administration about making the school a safe environment for all students in regard to the lesbian, gay, bisexual students. I read to the faculty a negative experience I endured last year, and as I did I realized they were listening, and I felt so confident and comfortable in that moment.

As I and the other founders of the GSA read their testimonies, the room grew extremely still and quiet. I saw the faces of teachers smiling at me and encouraging me along. It wasn't just that one moment that fueled inspiration for my passion, it was all the people who support me, the wonderful opportunities that I've been exposed to, and my closest friends hugging me or holding my hand as I cried.

I'm eager to see all of my friends and peers grow and find their passion or continue to pursue it. Yes, this is just high school, but don't take any experience for granted because each one means more than you think.

## Christmas not about getting, but giving



**KAITLIN DUNN**  
Editor-in-Chief

It is that time of year again; the time when high school students are making their Christmas lists and wishing for the best Christmas gifts. For many, Christmas seems to be more about getting than giving, but for others, this time of year provides an opportunity to give back to the community.

Charities are always in need, especially over the holidays. Everyone in the community deserves to have a Christmas or other holiday that they may celebrate, and the charities provide gifts and meals to families in need.

The Salvation Army, for example, is in need of bell ringers to raise money to provide Christmas dinners, clothing, and toys for families that are in need. The donations also help with basic necessities for people who do not have enough money to buy them. Toys for Tots happens around this time to collect toys

for children who may not receive any gifts for Christmas.

There are many simple ways to give that will make a huge impact on the lives of others. When you go to Toys R Us to pick up a gift for a child in your family, buy an extra toy for a child in need. Also, keep your change handy when you leave a store and put the change in the red kettle outside the store.

Students can also volunteer their time. There are so many ways to get involved during the holidays and because we have so much time off for break, it is the perfect time to make a difference in many lives.

The real meaning of Christmas is not about all about the new, cool presents you might receive; it is about giving your time and money to those that are less fortunate than you.

## Our Views:

### Tattoos serve as a form of self expression, tribute

We all wait for that magical year; the year we turn 18. It's that time when you are officially an adult. You want to buy a lottery ticket, you go buy a lottery ticket. You want to get a piercing, knock yourself out. You want to get a tattoo...well, what's holding you back?

Tattoos are a source of conflict amongst society. We view them as a form of self expression and tribute, but many view them as a form of "defacing". Many teenagers get tattoos with specific meaning behind them. For instance, someone may get a tattoo that represents a tribute to friend who passed away or a tattoo that expresses one's beliefs. When it comes to the work force, our high school days are over and the views of tattoos change.

We argue that the only reason adults see tattoos in a negative light is because of the stereotypes reflected upon people with tattoos.

Some stereotypes may be that people with tattoos are irresponsible or have low self respect. When you go in to a job interview, it is advised to cover up your tattoo, and especially the "tramp stamp", in fear that your tattoos will cost you the job you desire.

When one is hiring someone for their business, they want to make sure their employees are approachable and respectable, and many business people view people with tattoos as unapproachable and juvenile.

But are these assumptions truly fair to make? It is becoming much more common to see teenagers with tattoos. Self expression has recently taken its definition to a new level. Is it pure teen rebellion that causes us to drive to the tattoo parlor as soon as we turn 18, or do we truly believe in self expression?

The Aegis