



## Odyssey Student Pays Homage to Controversial Journalist

Publications student Harrison Hansen writes about  
journalist legend Hunter S. Thompson

“Is it better to sit idly by on the shore of financial security in safety, or to go out into sea and brave the storm of life and risk it all?” This excerpt from Hunter S. Thompson’s book Proud Highway is not one of his most famous quotes. However, it is in my opinion one of his most meaningful. This quote was an outline for Thompson’s life plan. While many of his friends were choosing careers based solely on monetary earnings and financial security, Hunter based his career path on the job he felt would be something he could do well and enjoy at the same time. In fact, he is cited as having once said, “I couldn’t stand coming home every day from a job I hate.”



Thompson was best known for his self-styled writing creation known as gonzo journalism. This type of journalism is best described as fact intertwined with metaphorical fiction which stems from the writer’s often intoxicated perspective. It could easily be called the exact opposite of objectivity and responsible journalism at the time of Thompson’s early writings. Many have tried to imitate his style. It has remained one of a kind and answers only to Hunter’s own unique way of writing.

Unfortunately, fans of Thompson’s writing were heartbroken on February 21, 2005. He had taken his own life the night before. Jimmy Ibbotson, a neighbor of Thompson’s in Aspen, Colorado, commented to the Aspen Times: “He was dying and he didn’t want the coyotes to get his body. He lived his life by his own rules, and he took his life by his own rules.”

Thompson’s literary works span several decades and include several best selling books.:

- \* Hell’s Angels: A Terrible and Desperate Saga (1966)
- \* Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: A Savage Journey to the Heart of the American Dream (1972)
- \* Generation of Swine: Tales of Shame and Degradation in the ‘80’s (1988)
- \* The Rum Diary: The Long Lost Novel (1988)
- \* Fear and Loathing in America: The Brutal Odyssey of an Outlaw Journalist (2000)



Recently, Ms. Mendoza assigned an exercise in which students pretend that they are an advice columnist. A HYPOTHETICAL situation was presented to them. Their job was to respond to the letter using utmost wisdom and maturity.

Dear Advice Columnist,

I am a parent of a sixteen-year-old boy named Tyson. Last Christmas, he received an Xbox as a gift from his grandparents. Tyson started playing video games every week. After awhile, he started playing every day.

Last month, I noticed a change in him. He suddenly stopped attending student council meetings. He started handing in assignments late. He stopped seeing his friends. To make things worse, he started having personal hygiene issues; he would go days without taking a shower.

My friend Mike said that Tyson is addicted to video games. I always thought that addiction was more prevalent among drinkers and drug users. What should I do to address this problem? What are the signs of a video game addict?

Sincerely,  
Parent with a Problem



Dear Parent with a Problem,

Video game "addictions" are quite common, especially amongst teenage boys. Addiction, however, is probably not the proper word. I prefer infatuation. Tyson is sucked in by his video games, which allow him to drift into another world. This is a common happening amongst those in the gaming world.

As his mother, it is your job to intervene, and nip the problem in the bud. I don't suggest taking away his video games, simply limiting his playing time. Encourage him to go out with his friends, or restrict him from playing until he has completed his chores and taken a shower. Remind him of things he found fun before video games, and implant the importance of student council and other obligations in this mind.

Right now Tyson is blinded by his pastime, but with your coaxing and a little time, he'll soon discover the enjoyable and necessary tasks and activities around him. Good luck.

Sincerely,  
Advice Columnist



# *Interview With April Doremus*

Volume 1  
Issue 4

## **Odyssey Student Also a Rodeo Star!**

**April Doremus, a freshman, is also a rodeo competitor. In an interview with Joanna Hernandez, she unveils the world of rodeo for our readers.**

**Do you consider rodeo a hobby or a job?**

Both: horses and rodeo are my life, it's what I enjoy doing the most. It's so much fun!

**What other things, besides rodeo do you enjoy doing?**

I enjoy trail riding, practicing and training horses.

**How did you get involved/started in rodeo?**

I have many people in my family that ride. My uncle is a 3 time world champion for saddle back bronco riding. I've always wanted to compete and this year my mom finally agreed. I've always known that I wanted to ride.

**Is it difficult to learn how to ride a horse? Any falls?**



Yes, it is difficult. I was about three when I first rode one. No one taught me to ride, I would just watch people and pick up on what they did. I have had one of the horses fall on me twice, but I've never been bucked off or anything like that.

**Do you ever get scared being on one? Do you have your own?**

Nope, there's nothing to be scared of. If you fall off, get back on. barrel horse.



# *Interview With April Doremus Continued*

Volume 1  
Issue 4

## **Do you feel safe with a horse that is not your personal animal?**

Yes, when you rodeo on a horse, you need to be "one" with them; I am very comfortable riding my rodeo director's horse. I know him very well. His name is Dollar, because they only paid 3 dollars for him. He is a mustang. Dollar and I have an amazing connection. I don't even need to hold on to the lead rope when we walk around. He follows me everywhere I go, and he does everything I ask.

## **Does it take a lot of self-discipline to learn how to rodeo?**

Yes, it does. I practice a lot. Barrel-riding and pole bending is a lot harder than many people think; you need to be a good rider to be able to perform in these events.

## **Explain the procedures of a rodeo competition.**

In rodeo you earn points if you place in the top ten. There are usually sixty girls that compete. Barrels and poles are the hardest to place because every girl out there has a top notch horse. Timing is very crucial. I have placed in the top ten in poles frequently. I won 30 dollars once.

## **What are your future plans?**

I would like to keep barrel racing when I'm older, but ultimately I want to go into the Air Force and become a nurse.

## **Who do you look up to in the world of rodeos?**

I looked up to Lane Frost, he was an amazing bull rider, and it was a great loss to lose him so soon.

**BY JOANNA HERNANDEZ**



House  
Memories, family  
Laughing, hanging, leaving  
Where the heart is  
Home

## Jared Fairfield

Baseball  
Slow, quiet  
batting, fouling, grounding  
Hit a pop fly  
World-series

## Charles Broderick

Drums  
Loud, fun  
Drumming, moving, pounding  
Very fast moving and fun  
Drum set

## Anonymous

Call me your friend or your home girl  
Call me your sister or your confidante  
Call me your favorite or your teacher  
Call me anything you want  
Whether it's becoming or degrading  
It's me

Monica Rucker

## Life Line

The tunnel of darkness awaits those  
who lost faith  
A black hole, draining every bit of life,  
every bit of humanity  
As you can feel yourself falling  
you grab onto something  
A rope  
a safety line

You are unable to recall where it came  
from  
but you don't complain  
as you are ascending up the tunnel  
feeling the light return to your life  
your hope  
your sanity

Once you are pulled out completely  
they ones holding your rope are the  
ones you held so close  
Your friends and family are your  
lifeline  
**DON'T CUT THE ROPE!**

By Benjamin Block



# *Interview With Joseph Dugan*

Volume 1  
Issue 4

**Joseph Dugan was chosen to attend in Washington DC. He spoke with reporter Lynsey Roscoe.**

**I understand that you went to Washington DC. What inspired you to attend the event?**

Ms DeRocher she applied and spoke about it.

**What were your first impressions of the event?**

The schedule was so tense, they had us working from the moment we woke up to the moment we had to sleep.

**Did anything about the experience surprise you?**

We went to the Department Of Justice when visitors aren't allowed.

**Did you have a chance to visit other historic sites in Washington DC?**

Capital Building, Washington Monument, Korean, Vietnam War Memorial.

**What were your impressions of the other youths in the event?**

Everyone's profession matched mine.

**Did you make any friends while**

**you were there?**

A lot.

**Tell me what makes a person a great leader.**

Someone who can look at an argument from both sides.

**What did you hope to accomplish with your journey to Washington DC?**

Networking and the things they taught me good training.

**What obstacles have you faced while obtaining your goals?**

Graduating with a high GPA and getting into a decent college.

**By LYNSEY ROSCOE**