



NUNTIVS CALFORNIENSIS

The Official Publication of the California Junior Classical League

JCL Winter Festivities

Zahra Hasanain, Nuntius Editor

Winter doesn't have to be a solemn, frenzied season in search of a brighter one. Like many universal ills, winter misery can be cured by stealing some remedies from the Ancient Romans. In fact, many JCLs in California are already capturing the joyful spirit of the Roman Holiday, Saturnalia, or as Catullus dubbed it, "the best of days," in their own creative winter activities. For them, the drudgery of winter thaws into a passionate camaraderie, an exciting portal into the past, or an opportunity to extend a helping hand in the best way they know.

At Miramonte High School in Orinda, Latin students meet downtown annually near Christmas time and serenade residents by singing classic carols in Latin. Upper and Lowerclassmen alike talk loudly, eat cookies, and drink hot chocolate before setting out, cultivating an enthusiastic atmosphere if not completely angelic voices. They throw their self-consciousness in the trash along with their cups, and sing through rain, occasional glares, and shivers. Many share a feeling of solidarity and pride in the Latin Language because as the President of the Miramonte Latin Club, Sophie Hammond, describes it, "There's something about singing "Reno erat Rudolphus" (continued on pg. 3)

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Jolly Miramonte JCLers singing Latin carols in downtown Orinda

Ludi 2016 Debrief

Jordan Grelling, Northern Representative

Ludi Novembres was yet another JCL success. Delegates started off their day with a copious amount of donuts and ended with abounding spirit. For more creative students, old favorites like Project Runway, Impromptu Art, and Greeting Cards produced stunning results. Many beginner and veteran students also tried their hand at Certamen for the first time this year. With regard to workshops, Miramonte put on a special workshop

teaching the JCL how to effectively participate in the competition we like best: the Publicity contest. We also had two professors

from UC Berkeley lecture on new developments in Classics, a professor from UC Davis lecturing about Latin Epitaphs, and a history teacher from our own school, who discussed another unusual yet important narrative in the Classical World: the lives and perspectives of Roman women. For community service, the JCL packed 964 pounds of canned food in one day! The Contra Costa food bank, to whom the food was donated, even tweeted a congratulatory message to us! As a perfect end to a fun day, we ended slightly early while people were just beginning to tire and the sun was still out. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped put on a great event!



Getting in the Certamen zone at Ludi

SCRAM 2016 Debrief

Jack Sadoff, Southern Representative

On November 12th, 2016 almost a thousand students gathered at a tiny high school for the arts and sciences in



JCLers Herding at SCRAM

Santa Monica to celebrate the Latin Language. I am talking of course about SCRAM at Crosroads!

During the event, almost every square foot of our tiny campus was occupied. Some of the highlights of the event included Certamen finals, which over a hundred people watched in our theater, water balloon battleship, an incredibly elaborate Project Runway, and a very energetic recitation of the first eleven lines of the Aeneid during registration. The workshops featured at SCRAM covered a wide variety of topics ranging from historical inaccuracies in the Lizzy Maguire movie to erasure poetry, in which someone starts with a poem and then erases words until a new poem is made. We are proud to announce that Our community service booth for Operation Gratitude was enormously popular. We made a huge difference by writing letters to soldiers and making paracord bracelets! Thank you to all the delegations who attended!

JCL Winter Festivities

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off-key for an audience of harried Christmas shoppers who don't know any Latin, which never fails to remind me of the passion, commitment, and ironic humor of JCLers." Just as Saturnalia provided some fun in the defiance of societal conventions, caroling in Latin fosters a strong if strange bond amongst JCLers.

However, high schoolers aren't the only ones who brighten their winters with Roman inspired traditions. The members of the Harker Middle School JCL in San Jose celebrate the winter holidays by throwing a Saturnalia party filled with food, games, and fun. Instead of hearing the same old English Christmas fables, Harker students explore the myths behind Saturnalia, which provides important context and insight into why the celebration was so culturally important for the Romans, and why it is still worth reviving and reliving today. Their re-creation of the holiday is so authentic that they even eat a modernized version of dormouse,

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Io, Saturnalia!

Humor: Nihil Sub Sole Novum

Lindsay Chong, Woodbridge High School

Today, we have Trump memes that poke fun at the hue of his bleached orange hair; in ancient times, the Romans had Juvenalian satire about the Emperor Domitian's incompetence. Yet when it comes to comedy, there is nothing new under the sun, or as the Latin phrase goes, *nihil sub sole novum*. Common stereotypes found in Roman comedies are still featured prominently in popular books, movies, and TV shows today.



A mosaic depicting Roman tragedy and comedy masks

One well-known trope is the *complex plan*, which occurs when a character plots a ridiculously convoluted plan to achieve a secret goal. However, a plot twist develops, forcing the character to improvise in a humorous manner. In Roman plays, a clever *ancilla* or *servus* would assist his master's forbidden pursuit of a romantic interest while humiliating the master's father. A modern example might be when friends act as wingmen by inviting the main character's crush to a surprise party, encountering some minor mishaps along the way.

In contrast to the small blunders that occur during a complex plan, one big mistake is the basis for another kind of situation featured in comedies (continued on pg. 6)

HS Advanced Winner: The Queen of Rome

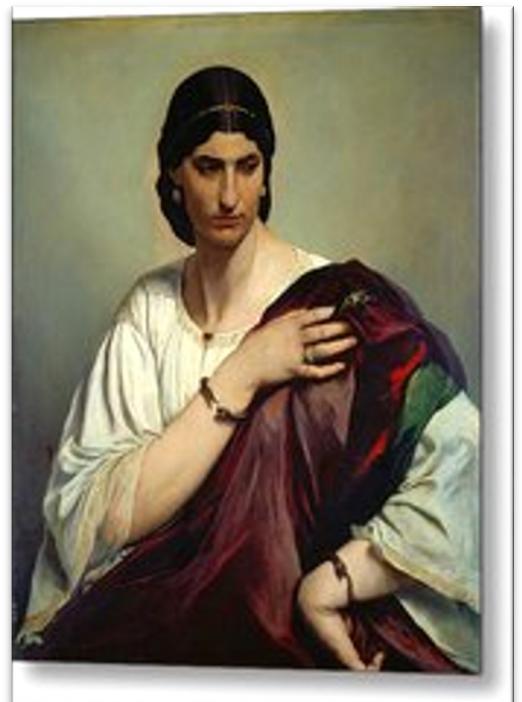
Isabella Gravano, Miramonte High School

The gold made for her did not match the toga wrapped so tightly around her body. The gavel she shook was rubbed raw with decades of calluses and fingernails of men before her who had been given a place in history, but she would need to fight for it. But even the throne three steps too tall did not make her waiver. Voices of criticism and disapproval filled the room, but they never seeped into her mind. Her sole focus was to lead her people. With her honor and dignity, war was not born out of looms of hate, but rather out of her leadership to create a legacy that could withstand world-wars full of the same terror she once knew. Her religion gave power to the people as a driving standard to establish that she would not be the last queen to rule Rome.

Had she really existed, her path paved eons before mine, or my daughter's, the Queen of Rome perhaps would've asked of me today, "how do you want to be remembered?" And I would not be afraid to offer a bold answer. Not in front of the most resilient warrior of them all. The Queen would've needed a strong back, a strong rib, a strong mind, a strong heart. Her ear close to the ground, her lips as solid as stone. With no bow and arrow, or snakes upon her head, her genius would've been a product of the sharpest wit that was not always her greatest friend, but would prove that she was powerful. I like to imagine the Queen of Rome as an eighth member of the dynasty that is as influential today as she was when her feet walked the earth.

Editor's Note

Thank you to everyone who entered the Winter Nuntius Writing Contest. It was a pleasure to read and evaluate all the entries. Every single participant possessed remarkably unique insights and extraordinary creativity. If you'd like to have more feedback on your work, guidance in starting a publication at your school, or would like to write for a future issue of the Nuntius, contact me at nuntius@cajcl.org. For now, please enjoy the work of the incredibly talented 1st place winners of the contest!



**"The Queen would've needed a strong back,
a strong rib, a strong mind, a strong heart"**

Source: fineart.com

HS1-2 Winner: Hestia's Hymn

Sofia Abolfahiti, University High School

Warmth, the smell of fresh baked bread, the silver, swirling steam from the teakettle, whirling and twirling as it rises through the air, curling its tendrils of

Warmth, thawing hands red and numb with cold, fogging up the window; see the children there, tracing pictures in the deliciously cool glass, others rubbing a circle and cupping their hands to peer at the outside, cold, dark'ning and desolate, leaping backwards when the wailing winter wind screams, demanding entrance into the

Warmth, where the children are called to the table, where platter upon platter awaits them. One child tries to snatch a piece when no one is looking, but is reminded gently that the table must be set and those grubby hands must be washed first!- The child grumbles, yet smiles as skin comes in contact with the stream of water, the grime and dirt and bits of gravel are swept down the drain by the cascading water's

Warmth, and in only a few minutes, the family is ready to raise their clear glasses, glistening in the firelight, and praise the year, celebrate successes, and thank the home that shelters them from the howling storm. After cups are washed, pots are scrubbed, and dishes are licked clean, they gather by the fireplace, raptly listening to the spinning thrilling tales, wide eyed with wonder, their faces illuminated and animated by the shadows of the murmuring embers, at ease, the room glowing from the

Warmth from the fire, where She sits, unseen yet Her presence felt everywhere, unsung yet most beloved, standing vigil in the flickering flames, Her soft, sage eyes sparkling, Her smile radiating Warmth.



**“Standing vigil in the flickering flames,
Her soft, sage eyes sparkling, Her smile
radiating Warmth”**

Source: Wikimedia commons

Quote Corner!

Sick of the cold and turmoil of the past few months? Missing the California sun? Thinking of moving out of the US? Then take the advice of Horace, who warns, “Caelum non animus mutant qui trans mare currunt” (they change their sky, not their soul, who rush across the sea.) You’ll live a richer life if you can adapt your attitude and perspective to the current situation instead of indulging in some form of escapism.

MS Winner: Cicero: An Exile Story

Arthur Delot-Vilain, Mirman School

“My dear Atticus,” he wrote, in one of his unrecovered letters, “it has been too long since we have seen each other. Your time in Epirus has robbed me of the great sense of satisfaction that comes alongside seeing you. Then again, I haven’t seen anyone in too long. Damned be that Clodius, that ignoble knave! The last time I wrote to you, I wanted to end this misery. Your pleas have kept me from doing so right away, but the thoughts still hang heavily on my mind.” His voice cried, “Oh! It’s no use! What am I to do in any case?” He had been exiled by that wench Clodius. And for what? For saving the republic? For doing what had to be done? Clodius ‘hadn’t acted out of some noble calling and devotion to the Constitution. No, he sought pure revenge. Clodius was a tool, a slave to his own fury. But here Cicero found himself, in exile, away from the hustle and bustle of the Roman life, and his Palatine villa. Nothing to keep him company but his thoughts and his letters. His thoughts often turned dark, and he was too distracted to write efficiently. He was unhealthy, and often worked too late into the night, too early into the morning. He wrote and wrote, poetry and letters, all trash. Everything he wrote was terrible, and when the futility of it all crashed down upon him, he still kept cranking it out, for he knew that if he stopped writing he would succumb to those evil thoughts. He could not and would not stop, and he barely took notice when his candle burnt low and his sleeve caught on fire, for it meant for it meant light and warmth, and while his flesh burned, he kept writing.



“he knew that if he stopped writing he would succumb to those evil thoughts”

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#CJCL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The California Junior Classical League is all over social media! Check out our sites below:

Twitter:

Follow @CaliforniaJCL (we have more followers than any other state JCL Twitter!)

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/CAJCL

Tumblr:

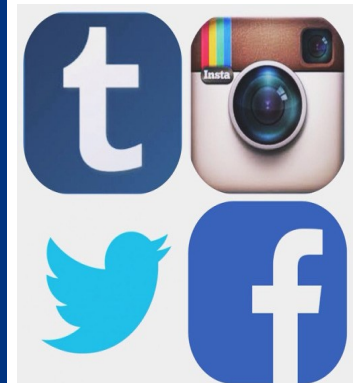
<http://cajcl.tumblr.com/>

Instagram:

Follow: [cajcl](#)

Website:

www.cajcl.org



Honorable Mentions

(2nd place winners)

HS Advanced:
Gabrielle Ly,
CHD Academy,
“Semper Fidelis”

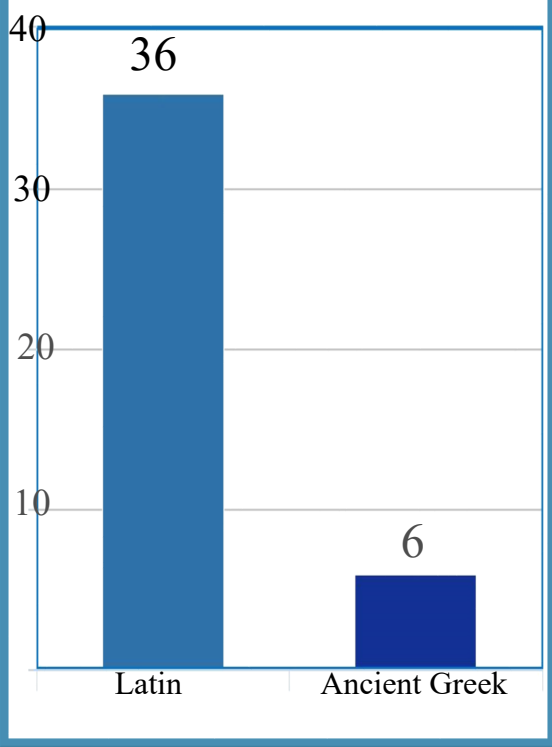
HS 1-2: Joshua
Zou, University
High School,
“Goodbye”

Cicero: An Exile Story

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“*Rosae rubrae sunt. Dulcorum sicut mel es,*” he wrote. He cursed himself, he couldn't even write properly with correct grammar. Still he sat hard at work, trying to drown his demons with words. One night, he gave up. His flesh was charred, his clothes were on fire, he was burning his writing, and the futility came. This time he let it wash over him. The thoughts came back, but a new idea came as well. He could just run. Horses roamed nearby, he could grab one and venture wherever he chose. He could go see Atticus in Epirus! He was thrilled by this idea. He smothered the fire, gathered up a few things, and rode out on a wild steed. He rode through the night, towards what he thought was Epirus. He braced the cold and faced the winds to be with Atticus. With the biting cold, he would be lucky to arrive without pneumonia. But unbeknownst to him, he had been riding too far north. The next night, when the stallion finally gave out, he had reached Ravenna. Here he was faced with a dilemma. Ride back, with another steed, and face more stinging cold, or march on Rome using known roads. He loved Atticus, but Rome was the safer bet.

On his march back, he went to Arpinum, his birth town. He looked out, and admired the little town that had produced such a great man as himself. He stole another horse from Arpinum, and rode up through Rome. Never one to miss an opportunity for showmanship, he rode down the Capitoline into the forum, and stopped at the rostra. He announced, “*Salvete, ego sum, Cicero!*” All who were listening gasped, and a praetor who happened to be walking by stopped. He unleashed his lictors, commanding them to seize the man. Cicero, stunned, froze, and was carried to prison, all the while shouting his defense, and exclaiming to anyone who would listen that he was a *pater patriae*. And with the greatest irony, he was tossed in the very same pit in which he had thrown the conspirators 5 years previously. This was the last that was heard of Cicero, the courageous one, the vain one, the insane one, the loving one. In Epirus, Atticus wept for a month, and then was heard no more.



CJCL Twitter Poll:

Which is the Superior Language?

State Convention Update

Carina Leung, Convention President

Salvete Amici! State Convention at St. Ignatius in San Francisco is quickly approaching! We hope you are excited as we are to visit our City by the Bay. This year, convention will be more packed with activities than ever. The festivities include seven different academic workshops, eight different sporting events AND bubble soccer, cultural arts and crafts, and convention classics (hahah get it?) such as open certamen, Project Runway, and cookie decorating. Food is sure to be a highlight as well! Friday night dinner will consist of teriyaki chicken, vegetables, and rice. Breakfast sandwiches and



St. Ignatius Convention Board

fresh fruit for Saturday morning will keep you energized for a day full of Roman' around. A lunch of mac and cheese, chicken, and broccoli will refuel you for afternoon activities. Finally, choose your feast from one of our many food trucks for banquet dinner, including gourmet burgers, fried chicken, tacos, Korean fusion, and more! Finish your dinner on a sweet note with a dessert buffet composed of cupcakes, cookies, and lemon bars. The fun doesn't end there. We're bringing glow-in-the-dark mini golf, laser tag, and bubble soccer to the banquet! Test your luck and your skill against your friends at our *taberna*. Convention is sure to be a promising, weekend long party, and you won't want to miss out on this special occasion! All of the information can be found on sijcl.com or cajcl.org. Take a look at our Blue Booklet for Convention specifics. Registration deadline is on MARCH 15th, so get your activity sheet, medical form, waiver, and bubble soccer waiver in to your sponsors quam celerrime! We can't wait to see you on April 21st and 22nd!

SCL Update

Sydney Higa, CSCL President

Do you remember us, the California Senior Classical League? Because we remember you and want to thank you all for such an incredible time at SCRAM and Ludi. We are always filled with a sense of nostalgia when we return to JCL events and are reminded of our golden JCL years. Since you last saw us, we have been gearing up for CAJCL Convention this April. We'll be doing the same tasks at State as you saw us doing at Regionals, but on a larger scale. You will see out on the field organizing your Ludi and Olympika events, as well as in the theater producing and directing That's Entertainment, a talent competition we welcome all to participate in. And to you high school juniors and seniors who may be wondering

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JCL Winter Festivities

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dormouse, and participate in a gift exchange similar to the one which would've taken place on the *Sigillaria* day of Saturnalia. Anna Vazhaeparambil, an eighth grader at Harker, considers the party to be a particularly enriching Classical experience because "With pickled popcorn, awesome Latin memes, and diving into Roman customs, the Saturnalia party is definitely unique and memorable." Although Saturnalia might initially seem like another outdated Roman celebration, Harker makes it a personal and relatable occasion by realizing and maintaining its original essence while still adding twists of their own. Festive students can finally understand the extreme spirit of rejoicing in the interjection, "Io, Saturnalia!"

In another special effort to understand Classical values and keep with the JCL's devotion to charity, Woodbridge High School JCL in Irvine puts on a sock drive for the homeless during winter. In the last 3 months, they've collected 400 pairs of socks, and developed a friendly competition amongst the classes for who can bring the most socks. Far from being phased by the cold, JCLers put aside their own needs and hone the quality of *humanitas*, which is inseparable from the Roman definition of honor. They realize that the greatest internal warmth comes from helping others even by giving "small but significant items to those less fortunate so that they can stay warm in the winter with the love of their friends at the WHS JCL", as Maggie McCarty, a senior at Woodbridge, observed. While the cold will never completely disappear, and Classical civilization will never be completely understood, the small efforts of JCLs to embrace the passion and compassion derived from Ancient mores combats the more mundane aspects of life.

Historian Announcement

Lilly Lee, CJCL Historian

Calling all JCL Chapters! As Historian, I am responsible for creating a digital scrapbook that encompasses all the major events that CAJCL participates in to send to Nationals. So with SCRAM and Ludi having taken place last November, and Convention coming up this April, I ask that you could all contribute and submit photos to be put into the scrapbook by sending them to me at historian@cajcl.org. In addition, there will be a Historian's meeting at State Convention where we can all meet to share photos and collaborate scrapbook ideas. I hope to see you then!



**Bags full of socks collected from
Woodbridge JCL Sock Drive**

Running for CAJCL Office

David Mendieta, Parliamentarian

Salvete omnes! As we approach CARCER and state convention, the applications for officer positions are now available and will be open until the 21st of March. Delegates can apply for 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Parliamentarian, Secretary, Historian, Northern/Southern Representative, Nuntius Editor, and Webmaster. A detailed checklist of the application can be found on the Officer Application Sheet. Additional questions and a copy of the application can be located on the CJCL's website, cajcl.org. Once applications have been submitted, a Nominations Committee, consisting of individual members of the Executive Board, will convene and select two candidates from the applications for each office. At that time, I will be contacting each of the candidates and be briefing them on more information regarding campaigning and their proposed speeches in the weeks leading up to state convention. For those unsure about the roles of each of the offices, here is a summary of each of the officer's duties throughout his/her term:

1st Vice President: Recruiting new schools, collecting publicity from local chapters/recording points for state publicity contest, and serving as representative of CJCL by publicizing its purpose to broader community.

2nd Vice President: Presiding at Executive Meetings/being responsible for programs of organization, chairing/communicating with Executive Board monthly, organizing delegates and spirit for National Junior Classical League Convention, and establishing community service opportunities. *(continued on pg. 11)*

Humor: Nihil Sub Sole Novum

(continued from pg. 3)

of the modern and classical ages: the *mistaken identity* trope. The protagonist is mistaken for another character, leading to adventures along the way and, at the end, a penalty to be paid. In comedies by Plautus, townspeople mistook the innocent protagonist for his less innocent twin, punishing him for crimes he didn't commit, while his twin was rewarded for the protagonist's good deeds. A modern twist of this situation is the slapstick "mistaken from behind" scene: a wife mistakes another man for her husband, resulting in embarrassment and confusion. Another timeless trope, the *generation gap* refers to the conflict between a father and son duo, who never see eye to eye; the son



**Scene from Pompeii of
Roman Comedy**

rebels against the father and his values. A Roman take on the trope included a senex tirelessly lecturing his son, an adulescens, about living properly. *(continued on pg. 12)*

Running for CJCL Office

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Parliamentarian: Serving as authority of parliamentary procedure/ advisor to 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, drafting amendments to constitution and/or its by-laws, annually reviewing the constitution to ensure it remains concurrent with the needs of the CJCL, chairing the nominating committee/running the voting delegates' caucus and voting assembly, creating a Voter Information Guide.

Secretary: Keeping a record of all meetings of CJCL, sending all meeting minutes to all members of the Executive broad, recording voting of any roll call vote and the attendance at the State Convention, and reading minutes of the previous State Convention at the State Convention unless deemed unnecessary by a majority of delegates.

Historian: Keeping history of the CJCL, creating annual electronic scrapbook on a compact disc containing account of events of the CJCL, and submitting scrapbook to competition at NJCL Convention.

Regional Representatives: planning activities in their region, including at least one event in the fall, and directing communication between the Executive Board and the CJCL members in their geographical regions.

Nuntius Editor: Publicizing/distributing at least 3 issues of the *Nuntius Californiensis*, presenting a report at every meeting of the Executive Committee, and submitting the *Nuntius Californiensis* to the NJCL Publications contest.

Webmaster: Maintaining the CJCL website, encouraging chapters to create their own websites, taking pictures with the CJCL digital camera at State, and submitting the CJCL website to the NJCL website contest.

For a more detailed list of duties for each office, read Article V, Section 8 of the CJCL Constitution, which can be found on the CJCL website. Hopefully, many of you will consider running for office! Bonam fortunam!

SCL Update

(continued from pg. 8)

what more there is to SCL, there are plenty of opportunities to engage no matter what state you pursue your post-JCL career in. CASCL holds occasional social events when SCLers throughout the state are reunited. In fact, we had a potluck reunion this past winter break! Better than all the food was the opportunity to see so many old comites again. There are also opportunities to be involved in the National Senior Classical League. If you want to learn more, come check us out at State Convention or email us at californiasclofficial@gmail.com



SCL Board members at the Winter JCL Board meeting

Pictures from SCRAM and Ludi!



“Gladiator in arena consilium capit”



“Ipsa scientia potestas est”



“Mens sana in corpore sano”

Humor: Nihil sub sole novum

(continued from pg. 10)

Ironically, the father’s nagging is what causes the son’s rebellion against societal norms. Paralleling this situation, an extremely common conflict featured in 1960s movies centered on the difference in perspectives between a Baby Boomer son and his WWII veteran father (**Rebel Without a Cause**, anyone?). The influence of Roman comedies cannot be denied: while the culture of the Romans and our own modern culture may seem worlds apart, laughter derives its universality from the humanity inherent within all of us. Unlike the ruins of Pompeii, echoes of Roman comedies’ situations and characters continue to be found in popular culture today, maintaining its integral position in western society.



“Animus Omnia Vincit”