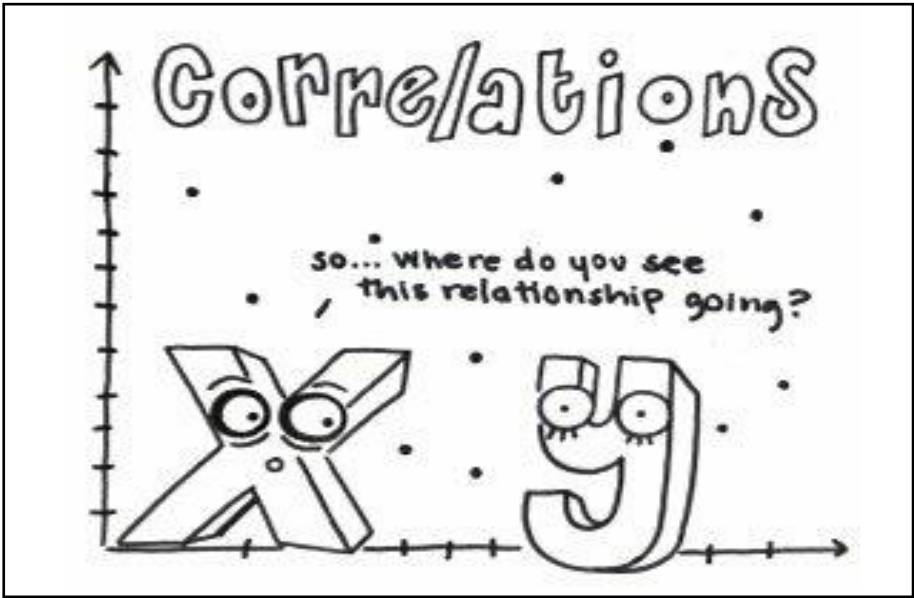


Correlations

By Mira Bohannan Kumar and Zoë Butler



LH Book Review: A Gentleman In Moscow

By Theo Prineas

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles is a take on an aristocratic and scholarly man from an antiquated era. This man is Count Alexander Rostov. Five years after the October Rebellion, when the Russian monarchy was toppled by the Bolsheviks, Rostov is placed under house arrest, convicted of being an “unrepentant aristocrat.” He is thrown into the illustrious “Metropol,” a hotel he frequents on each of his visits to Moscow. After this, the Count spends his hours fighting boredom in the various sections of the hotel, congregating with patrons and discovering connections with people whom would be considered “commoners” before the Bolshevik rebellion. These people include a British diplomat, a nine-year-old girl named Nina, a famous actress named Anna Urbanova, and even a high-ranking Kremlin politician. All the while, outside the walls of the hotel, the world experiences an economic depression, Stalin’s Terror, and Hitler begins the bloodiest geno-

cide in history. Thus, we reach the mid-1940s. By this time, the girl, Nina, is an adult with a child of her own. She and her husband are sentenced to ten years of hard labor in Siberia by an increasingly paranoid Kremlin. She leaves her daughter, Sofia, with Count Rostov, who raises this child as his own.

“*A Gentleman in Moscow* is full of humor, Russian spirit, and intimate characterization.”

At the very end of the book, they both leave the hotel– thirty years after Count Rostov was first locked away.

Overall, I would say this book is a solid four out of five. It depicts a man who is much too proper to be openly affectionate, yet still feels emotionally close to the hotel’s patrons, especially

Nina and Sofia. What I found most intriguing, however, is the contrast between the inside of the hotel and the history happening outside. The inside of the hotel is a sanctuary unaffected by history, where Russian citizens can socialize, reminisce, and forget their worries. Outside is chaos and uncertainty. However, the Count cannot leave this space, even if he wanted to. When he leaves in 1954, he has missed the prime of his life and all of this history. This is the only thing I didn’t like; while the characters and the writing in this book are marvelous, the plot has little to it, and there is no momentum or suspense. Waiting in the hotel is a long and often feels monotonous. *A Gentleman in Moscow* is full of humor, Russian spirit, and intimate characterization. I recommend it for readers who are willing to be patient with their reading, and are looking for a fascinating and immersive perspective on the 20th century.

Reasons You Should Visit Your School Therapist

By Olivia Lusala

Keeping up with grades, friends, family, and just being a teenager gets the best of us from time to time. We spend a good portion of our time in a school with a school-provided “therapist,” and paying them a visit wouldn’t be a bad idea; in fact, you could only benefit, because therapy is helpful for a range of issues. Here are some reasons why you should consider talking to a school therapist.

Reasons Why You Should See YOUR SCHOOL THERAPIST



You’re feeling isolated or alone.

Maybe you’re in between friend groups or social anxiety gets the best of you some days. High school is a big place and it’s easy to feel lost, but you are not alone.

A school therapist can help you problem-solve and communicate in an efficient way with teachers or other students.

They can advocate for you.

You need to talk to someone.

You can talk your problems out as opposed to keeping them inside. These problems can take a toll if you keep them bottled up.

These therapists are here to help you relieve stress and problems you are facing, not create more.

They DON’T tell you what to do.

You can receive counseling at school.

A lot of things go on during school that can put a damper on your day. Being able to let some things out is sure to be beneficial.



“If a parent or a teacher or the student themselves feels like they need counseling or therapeutic support, they can reach out to me,” Amy Kahle, City’s student-family advocate, said. “Then I can connect them with Lydia [City High’s school based therapist] or with an outside therapist.”

Students can receive school based services after a parent or guardian gives consent to therapy.

And We Mean All-Gender.

By Olivia Baird and Mira Bohannan Kumar

Over the past year, City High’s Student Senate has been working with GLOW Club to bring an important matter to the attention of the school board: the initiative of transforming a gender-designated restroom into a neutral gender restroom in City High. It took several months and many meetings, but finally the Senate received the go-ahead to make the requested changes.

While City High had had a gender neutral restroom last year, it was technically gender-designated as a women’s restroom, was only one stall, and was located in a far corner of the school in the basement of the music wing, making it nearly impossible to use the restroom and get to class on time. We needed another gender-neutral restroom, one that was accessible to students trying to get through

their normal school day.

The second-floor restroom in the new wing was officially made gender-neutral over the summer. Its purpose is to create a safe place for those students who are transitioning and transgender. Having a restroom for anyone and everyone to go to the restroom at City is a very important thing to have and, in my opinion, this should be required in all schools.

Prior to this change, there were several problems pertaining to the lack of gender-neutral restrooms. Some students who were members of the trans* community did not feel safe using the gender-designated restrooms at school. Some felt unable to use them at all, and had to wait until they arrived home at the end of the day to use the restroom. This created an uncomfortable and extremely stressful school environment for these

students, the complete opposite of what school should be like for anyone.

Many teachers and students seem to be under the impression that this restroom is specifically for members of the trans* community, but this is not true. The new restroom is called an all-gender restroom, so this includes everyone. Letting everyone in one bathroom may appear to raise some concerns, but if it were just for those who are transgender or transitioning, that would be exclusive and the reverse of what it is all about. This new bathroom is for everyone–trans* or cis–and thinking that its purpose is anything less than inclusion for all is not doing justice to what it means that our school is taking this important step toward making sure everyone feels valid in our community.