

# THE ORATOR

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

*Empowering the voice of the urban student.*

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FREE

## Maria Hinojosa Visits HCCC to Discuss Latinos in Society

CLARA OROZCO  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On October 21, 2015, Hudson County Community College's North Hudson Campus was treated to a visit by LatinoUSA's own Maria Hinojosa. Maria Hinojosa is a Mexican journalist who grew up in Chicago during the civil rights movement. Her experiences through the transient years of the civil rights movement and the culture of acceptance and xenophobia that arose from those movements defined her as a woman destined to create change. Her career began as an inquisitive journalist at Barnard College. Her experience grew as a journalist while reporting for CNN and NPR. She then proceeded to create The Futuro Media Group, which hosts her current show dedicated to the plight of Latinos in our nation, LatinoUSA.

Her words lit up the room as she told of the many unspoken stories of immigrants in this nation. She spoke of the financial power Latina women exert by having an economic power that balances to 1.2 trillion dollars in spending as they are the decision makers in their families. She also mentioned that Sofia Vergara is now the highest paid actress in Hollywood. The former paints a picture of a society

where Hispanics are driving forces and where advancement is up to par with Anglo-Americans. She highlighted the fact that the double standard for Latinos in this nation is widening and that our current situation is grim regardless of our advancements.

The reality is that the highest rate of attempted suicides occurs in Latina teenagers. The highest rates of college enrollment and dropping out also occurs within the Latino community. The highest and most accelerated rate of incarceration can be attributed to immigrant detention centers which have been enslaving immigrants sans habeas corpus or Miranda rights. Hinojosa asked the crowd to raise their hands if any one of us knew of all those statistics. A few hands shot up and cut the uncomfortable silence in the room. However, she opened our eyes faster than any alarm clock ever had.

The evening unraveled as the conversation between Hinojosa and the crowd became one of nostalgia, intimacy, and laughter. She mentioned how immigrants in detention centers are forced to eat rotten food. They are also victims of sexual harassment and unpunished violent and nonviolent violations against them.

See Hinojosa || Continued on Pg. 3



From left to right; Juan Antonio, Mineton Ramirez '15, Dr. Paula Pando, Vice President of Student Affairs, Maria Hinojosa, Dahiana Rojas '19

## Students Attend 29th Annual Conference

BY MARY MERCADO  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The HACU (Hispanic Association Colleges and Universities) 29th Annual Conference in Miami was an amazing and enlightening experience. Being selected to attend the conference felt like I had won the lottery. As a Hispanic woman these opportunities were not always available, and it made me proud to be in a room with so many women in high ranking positions in Fortune 500 companies. I wanted to take advantage of everything they have to offer like scholarships, internships and externships. The conference had an incredible student track which was geared toward enhancing leadership skills and building professional development. With over 450 students from all over the United States representing prestigious universities such as MIT, Florida International, Rutgers, and of course Hudson County Community College, the event offered panel discussions with representatives from Google, Lockheed Martin, and The Environmental Protection Agency just to name a few. In addition to the panel discussions, I attended individual workshops presented by NCAA, Sodexo, Central Intelligence Agency and Secret Service. The individual workshops focused on building skills for resume writing, networking, effective communication, and interviewing. Every day I had the opportunity to meet and greet representatives from over 85 companies in the exhibition hall where appetizers were served and a band played music as the students made their way to the booths shaking hands and networking.

HACU conducted a workshop on national internships on Capitol Hill and the private sector. It was very informative session. They encouraged students at the conference to apply for these opportunities that would award them with travel to Washington DC, housing, salary, and all this is free. As a representative of the Hispanic community, I was motivated and inspired to listen to student ambassadors like myself share their great internship experiences with NASA and the USDA. I have applied for the summer internship in Washington D.C. because the conference has rejuvenated me and made me realize

with a little more effort, the sky is the limit at HCCC. The lunches and dinners were complemented with awards HACU gave to its various supporters and sponsors. Students were awarded over \$300,000 in scholarships to further their education. The dinner and dance the last night was really fun, and the Mayor of Miami Beach, Philip Levine spoke at the dinner. The food was very tasty and a band played every type of music you could imagine. To top off the trip, the HCCC student ambassadors were treated to dinner at Scarpeta Restaurant with Dr. Gabert, President and Dr. Pando, Vice President of Student Affairs at HCCC. I felt very fortunate to have been invited to share this wonderful experience. I brought back a few ideas I believe we can make successful on campus like adding a workshop to the leadership conference that would highlight the internship and scholarship opportunities offered to students by HACU when they reach their junior year at the university, putting together a student panel to discuss our great experience at the conference to help motivate students so they will want to improve their potential so they too can be selected to attend these amazing events, and holding a round table lunch with a dean once a month so 15 students can sign up and have an intimate lunch with a him/her to discuss issues and ideas. It would make the deans approachable because the students can feel comfortable sharing a meal and having an open discussion. My favorite idea I brought back was to have a one-stop-shop place on campus that would have computers with links to the internships, externships, scholarships and career opportunities open to all students to help them with their next steps.



## Sean Astin Shares Film Making Experiences with Students at HCCC



Sean Astin-Photo by Katherine O'Neill

BY KATHERINE O'NEILL  
FEATURES EDITOR

The actor, director, and author Sean Astin is a down to earth guy. Sean Astin came to HCCC on October 29, 2015. Astin was warmly welcomed by HCCC students, staff, and non-students alike. There was a short reel about his film career, such as *The Goonies*, *Rudy*, 24, and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. The lecture was about filmmaking as well as acting.

Speaking with Austin, the audience seemed to forget that he was a famous person and just thought of him as a person. Mr. Astin can relate to community college students like us because he went to community college before moving on to UCLA. Community college helped him to write and think critical-

ly. These skills would help him in life, more specifically his career.

He reflected on the roles he has played on screen and what he has learned from them along the way. He suggested that we all take in the moments from our lives and learn from them because in time what we take from each moment may change. His main process for acting--what Astin calls his thesis, "is to live with a sense of mission, and that as an actor to use drama to help people live their lives... Samwise Gamgee did that."

This reporter was thrilled to go to the lecture and the audience was excited and energetic. HCCC, we thank you for having these series of lectures. They are a delight to go to.

See Astin || Continued on Pg. 4

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# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

KATHERINE O'NEIL

It is hard for me to articulate how I feel about HCCC, about the students and the staff here. I have really loved my time here at HCCC so much so that even after I graduated in 2011 I returned in fall 2013 to take some classes that I really wanted to take and have been here since. But now is the right time for me to move forward in my endeavors.

What the Orator has meant to me is being part of a group that is more like a family with all its quirks. Why I love it is you all have a main goal to achieve : to get your story/point of view out for others to see. Being part of the newspaper, you get to experience events you otherwise wouldn't have such as going to Conferences and meeting well established anchors like David Ushery, Mo Rocca, and Gabe Pressman or going to a lecture and getting to see an Actor, or a Nobel Prize winner, and actually writing about it.

You get to explore the world from all sides of viewpoints and above all be part of a group that believes you.

I first joined the Orator in 07/08 and knew little about what the Orator was. I was introduced to it by my English professor. The Orator helped me because it gave me an outlet for my thoughts and ideas that I didn't get to express in class. Also it brought me out of my shell as well as it helped me academically for I had a set schedule to hand in my articles, whether it was a play or movie to a homework assignment. It taught me time management, for when I had a lot of work for school I would write a review. When I had more time I was able to write a lengthy news article.

One of the top moments of my college career was being able to go with the Orator to Kansas City, MO, in 2008 to The National College Media Conference.

This was the first time I was in a new city and state, and I got to see how all the colleges produced their media.

It was from that point in time that I decided to major in English and minor in art; my goal is to be a children's author. Now is the right time for that thought, wish, dream to come into fruition. I will work hard to obtain my Bachelors degree in NJCU, and from there come back here, become a tutor and work on the side as an author. So it is with that said, here is a huge big hug and thanks to HCCC, the staff, students, faculty, as well as my Orator staff. I will see you around, for you will always be home to me.

## Meet The Orator 2015-2016 Staff

### EDITOR IN CHIEF



more of my writing @NomadInJC

Hi, my name is Clara Orozco, I'm a Graphic Arts major here at HCCC. I am a writer, artist, and musician. I love being a part of The Orator because I want to spread awareness of the issues pertinent to students. Feel free to follow me to read

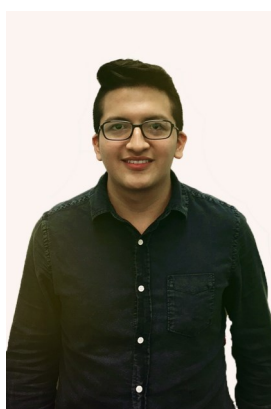
### FEATURE EDITOR



dream is to write children's books as well as work here at HCCC.

Hello, my Name is Katherine O'Neill I graduated from HCCC in 2011. I returned to HCCC for there were classes that I always wanted to take. Although I am transferring to NJCU to obtain my "BA": HCCC and the Orator will always be my home. I am an avid reader and my

### PRODUCTION EDITOR



motivational tweets, @Riera\_Jonnathan

Greetings! My name is Jonnathan Riera. I am a Computer Science major. I enjoy learning about business and technology. My goal is to one day become a successful investor, entrepreneur, author, and motivational speaker. Follow me for some

### STAFF WRITER



inform with several opportunities for being successful.

Hello, my name is Betsy Apena and I am a Business Administration major. I joined the Orator because I loved to share articles about amazing activities what happened at HCCC and keep my fellow students

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

TERRENCE SYKES  
STAFF ILLUSTRATOR

MARISSA HERNANDEZ  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MARY MERCADO  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

RENE HEWITT  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

## Letter to The Editor

Dear Orator,

Hi, I am a student at HCCC, and I have to say that I am getting a little bored with the menu choice in Liberty Cafe. I mean change up the menu once in while. It would be nice to have a bacon lettuce and tomato sandwich, or ham and swiss on rye-bread. For something hot, try grilled cheese. I love the staff. They are so friendly and they always get my hot beverage order right. This was the only way I could think of to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,  
Bored Taste Buds

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**Hinojosa || Cont. from Pg. 1**

Many are neglected medical care from the most minimal Advil to sanitary napkins. Just in April, a man named Raul Ernesto Morales Ramos died during a transfer from Adelanto Detention Center to a hospital from violent intestinal bleeding that was preceded by days of uncontrollable vomiting and an incontinent bladder that spelled one word: cancer (for which he was neglected care). She mentioned how Immigration Enforcement and Customs centers are run by for-profit prison complexes where every head has a price the federal government and our taxes subsidize. These are the same immigrants who perform tasks most Americans are unwilling to perform such as working in hot pesticide-covered strawberry fields in California at rates and working conditions legal workers would find unacceptable.

The evening came to a close as Mrs. Hinojosa was kind to share a few moments for a thought provoking Q & A.

**Clara Orozco:** Do you think the Latino mainstream media keeps Latinos in the dark?

**Maria Hinojosa:** I cannot necessarily say that it keeps Latinos in the dark on purpose, but is there a lot of Latino media that is interested in topics that are not deep- yes. At the same time there, Univision and Telemundo are doing a great job at providing coverage Latinos can relate to. What we are lacking is more investigative reporting in all forms of media.

**CO:** Being a Latina myself, I notice that when I see family members watching Latino media- it does not provide enough coverage of important issues as your broadcast LatinoUSA does. Why do you think that is so?

**MH:** It's complicated. We need more journalism that crosses language barriers. That is what LatinoUSA tries to provide. We uncover stories that need to be told.

**CO:** At any point in your career have you felt as if you've been treated differently because you are a Latina in journal-

ism?

**MH:** There are subtle things that have happened. Racism definitely permeates in the world of media. I have definitely been criticized of pushing an agenda as a Latina woman focusing Latino issues. I fight for what I believe in--I understand the complexity of our issues.

**CO:** What is the most constant concern you have heard in detention centers?

**MH:** That nobody knows. One, they (the detainees) don't even know if they'll survive, they live in a constant state of fear for their lives, they don't know if they'll live through it due to lack of food, bad living conditions, etc. Two, they want to know why they're being held- when will they get out? Part of the fear is that there is no clarity. What is their due process? Is there even a process? *Nadie les puede responder* (no one can answer them).

**CO:** The Black Lives Matter movement is picking up momentum to change the conditions for African Americans in this country. Do you think that if Latinos united along with other ethnic groups to change conditions for immigrants in detention centers, conditions would change?

**MH:** I do. What we actually need is the Black Lives Matter movement to create a coalition to say "ALL LIVES MATTER, it's our brown brothers and sisters that are being detained on the streets and dying in immigration centers.

**CO:** Why do you think they don't?

**MH:** I do not know enough to accurately say; however all it takes is your voice. When I was in college I was an activist, use your voice, don't wait for someone to create a movement for you.

**CO:** Has there ever been a story too painful to tell?

**MH:** No.

**CO:** That's amazing!

**MH:** If I see a story that needs to be told, I will tell it. even if they are painful they are beautiful stories that bring light

to issues that need to be known. I have received an enormous satisfaction from seeing the students here tonight learning about my story so they can tell their story.

**CO:** You were there when one couldn't even say "black lives matter" during your childhood in Chicago. Do you think that the plight of immigrants is similar to the plight of African Americans before and throughout the civil right movement?

**MH:** Of course. That is why we need to raise these important points. Black Lives Matter has the liberty to protest. But what about the voice of Latinos and other ethnic groups too afraid to protest for fear. We have all seen the news, we'll hear of a few men that grab a *paisanito* (a newly-arrived immigrant from South or Central America) and brutalize them. A lot of undocumented people wish they could protest but they don't because of immigration raids, detentions that lead to deportations and lack of any status.

**CO:** At one point African Americans had to race home to avoid being lynched, much like immigrants now live in fear of even leaving their houses out of fear of being sent to detention centers and even being lynched by xenophobic groups. Although we have advanced our humanity we still have a lot to do., and human beings.

Maria Hinojosa is the current host of The Futuro Group's LatinoUSA. LatinoUSA is a show that focuses on unheard and unexplored issues affecting the Latino community in the United States. She has covered major events such as the plight of the Dream 9 and the deaths of immigrants in ICE detention centers. As the great journalist Edward Murrow said "Everyone is a prisoner of his own experiences. No one can eliminate prejudices - just recognize them". Maria Hinojosa battles our prejudices every day. Support her by following her show at LatinoUSA.org.

## Why Am I Voting for Bernie Sanders?

BY CLARA OROZCO  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's an election cycle. The joys and circles of endless debates, political debauchery and less-than-optimal candidate mud slinging has begun. Our school seems very quiet about politics. Measures taken to spread knowledge amongst the student body seem inconsequential as we are all "too busy," "too tired," "not into politics," and "not caring" about this election cycle and what hand we are dealt come January 2017. The truth is that THIS ELECTION MATTERS. Hold on, don't put the paper down just yet. This is worth more of your time than cute cat videos or yelling goats on Youtube. As Obama leaves office, we are seeing defining issues become part of what will be our legacy. Topics such as free public college, global warming, immigration, Black Lives Matter, the fight for a living wage, and immigrants indefinitely held in detention centers, among other pressing issues, are all fires slowly burning closer to our daily lives.

The political system has taught us one too many lessons. We often vote based on hopes and slogans shouted over long debates and endless town hall meetings. We vote based on what we would like to project to the world--a candidate that best reflects our views and positions, and even who is most visually appealing (yes, that's actually being studied by psychologists at Princeton). The reality of the political race is that much of it will be defined by our choice of information, action, inaction, and even the media we consume.

Why is no one speaking about politics on campus? Why are we only focused on Hillary and Trump when there are clearly other chocolates in the box? Why are we not involved with our political process if it so deeply affects us?

Apathy is not a choice here. Hopefully the last issue of *The Orator* helped identify our candidates' views on many key issues. I for one will take the time to

explain what counts to me in regards to a candidate—their record. Politicians can claim anything as pure campaign material; yet what happens to those promises after they're sworn and comfortably sitting in political office? For most, promises are premises; a promise is a momentary political standing, campaign contributions, a vote—a ticket. For others a promise is a promise followed by action. That is what I look for and what you should look at also. I am not voting for Hillary because she's a woman just like many people did not vote for Obama because he is an African American. I vote based on who will benefit the whole instead of the few. That is why I am voting for Bernie.

Bernie has had a political career laced with opposition to major quagmires of past and present, such as Vietnam and Iraq. He has consistently voted for immigration legalization that will greatly help fix the situation at immigration detention centers where immigrants have no due process (and are held indefinitely in sub-human conditions). He has also always defended a woman's right to choose. His views on the environment are clear: He has been against Keystone since its inception. He has also been against drilling in the Arctic (which would greatly affect global warming). He has drafted a bill to get money out of politics by overturning Citizens United. Aside from that, he has come in direct support of the Black Lives Matter, DREAMERS, unions, and college students by supporting free tuition for degrees at public state colleges. Bernie has supported veterans by trying to improve the conditions of VA hospitals. He has also come out in support of our people by increasing our social safety nets such as WIC, MEDICAID, MEDICARE, and

Welfare, while closing corporate loopholes and increasing taxes on corporations (did you know that Bank of America had an income tax expense of \$-1.12 billion despite reporting \$75.12 billion in earnings?) Furthermore, he has come out in support of every American by opposing the Patriot Act, NSA, and the TPP; all combinations of laws and government programs that have become the forefront infantry currently eroding our civil liberties and right to privacy.

This is solely my opinion, not The Orator, its staff or our school. At this time I will ask you, what do you believe in? Who represents you? What issues matter to you? Look at our political candidates and make your own choice. Hopefully you will be able to identify with someone who will fight for you as I have identified with someone who I feel will fight for the uphill battle the American people face- one of those people being me.

Once again, may the votes be ever in our favor.



Bernie Sanders— Image Courtesy www.bernieanders.com

## Quick Tips for an Easier Semester

BY KATHERINE O'NEILL  
FEATURES EDITOR

Did you ever have a teacher for English or math who made learning the material easier for you? How did that professor help you? Did he/she break down the language of the material or go over the information you previously learned a semester or longer ago? Make a checklist of how they helped you. So this way, you have a better understanding of how you learn. Everyone has learning preferences, so you could also take a learning styles quiz online to determine the best way for you to study.

Sometimes students sign up for a specific professor, but at the last minute their schedule changes, and they're stuck with a professor who is not as easy to learn from due to a different teaching style. To make the semester go more smoothly, first talk to the professor after class send an email. Try to stay interested in the material, listen, and ask questions. Also, get a your classmates' numbers and/or emails.

Another quick tip is go to tutoring. For one, it will show your professor that you are getting help to understand the classwork. The new Tutorial Center is located in the lower level of the Library, and for assistance with writing, you can make an appointment to visit the Writing Center online at <http://hccc.mywconline.com>. With these quick tips you should have an easier semester.

## Are you ready for the Transfer Process?

- **Speak to your Hudson County Community College counselor.**
- **Go to College fairs and speak with representatives from different Colleges/Universities.**
- **Visit the schools' websites and gather as much information as you can get.**
- **On Instant Decision Day: Be calm, be prepared. Have your application filled out or do it online if the option is available.**
- **Have your essay, letters of recommendation, and official transcripts ready. It comes in an envelope. (CAUTION: DO NOT OPEN THE ENVELOPE. If you open the envelope, then it is no longer an official transcript.)**

# Musician Rachel Brown Rocks Coffee House

BY MARISSA HERNANDEZ  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Let's all take a quick moment to take in the lovely presence of Rachel Brown that was bestowed upon us by the pop/soul gods on Monday, November 11th. On behalf of HCCC, I'd like to thank-you for filling our Library with the soothing sounds of guitar and ukulele. Our fellow metropolitan native (being raised in Manhattan, New York City) continues to redefine the unimaginable. Since when is music allowed in a library?

Before the show started, Rachel sat down for a 5-minute interview with The Orator. With a quick introduction and a shake of the hand, we sat down on the couch as she ate a banana. Graduating from Harvard University in 2010 as a Film/Video major, creativity is no stranger to Brown along with the bittersweet lifestyle of being a college student. Before attending university she took a year off to discover herself. Within this year, she taught herself how to play guitar, which eventually turned into being able to play around with notes, and creating her own songs. Once finding her passion, she was ready to pursue it no strings-attached. Living in the city, finding gigs wasn't too hard. Starting off at open-mics, she gained experience. Even though she was a bit shy with sharing her songs in the beginning she faced her fears admitting to crying after her first open-mic! Tears of joy of course!

When asked about her inspiration on a bigger scale, pop-rock artists Bruno Mars and Sara Bareilles came into mind. In her first debut album "Building Castles," which can be downloaded on iTunes, the fusion between both artists is insanely recognizable. Rachel, you are these two combined. When asked what can be found on her playlist Malaysian artist Yuna and @lyledivinsky on twitter was mentioned.

Rumor has it Brown is coming out with a new video just in time to celebrate the winter holiday! No spoilers were given sadly she was undeniably hush hush about the entire thing (with fair reason) but did say "expect a Christmas video." We shall be on the lookout Brown! In addition to getting to sit down with an artist oozing positive and inspirational energy, students were provided with 1 free coffee and cookie to further compliment the coffee house vibes! HCCC hopes to see you again Rachel Brown! Her website is Rachelbrownmusic.com



Rachel Brown— Image Courtesy of Rb0410 on Wikipedia

# Celebrating Women's Achievement: Kenmare High School

BY MARY MERCADO  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I was invited to attend an event to support my accounting professor, Royal Ross. The panel event was sponsored by Kenmare High School, which is an alternative high school for women with children in downtown Jersey City. This school has a specialized curriculum geared towards helping the students earn their high school diploma. Professor Ross was one of four women selected to be a panelist at their Career Connection panel session on October 29, 2015. She was asked to speak about her life, her struggles, and how she overcame obstacles. She is now a successful accounting professor at Hudson County Community College. Professor Ross introduced herself and told the ladies how she was a high school dropout and had 2 daughters before the age

of 19. As a single mother of two, she faced many struggles in her life because she had no education to pursue a career. Professor Ross challenged the ladies to complete their diplomas. She said to the students she had failed the GED exam three times because of the math portion of the exam, which is kind of funny because she is an accounting professor. She stressed and reiterated to the students that life gets in the way and there will be negativity that surrounds you on a daily basis, but you have to be strong enough to move past it to get what you want in life. Professor Ross told the ladies that she was in their same seat not so long ago and with her drive and ambition she was able to finally pass her GED exam and enroll in HCCC where she fell in love with accounting. After graduating from HCCC with her Associates degree, she

moved on to get two Masters Degrees and is studying to take the CPA exam in early 2017. The guest panelists were each from different career paths. Professor Ross is a full time business professor at HCCC. Additionally, there was an Applied Behavior Analysis Therapist, a Vice President of Global Markets at Citigroup and an alumni who now attends St. Peter's University and is seeking a degree in public policy. All were single mothers and all had inspiring stories for the students. After the panel discussion, the students had the opportunity to network with these professionals and ask questions. The panelists were inspiring and they encouraged the ladies to motivate, negotiate, and to always use your network. It was a great event. I was inspired by their stories and was privileged to have been invited to participate as an audience member.

### Astin || Cont. from Pg. 1

They are a delight to go to.

There was enough time for a Q and A. One of the people who asked a question was Dr. Paula Pando, Vice President:

PP: "What was the most fulfilling movie?"

SA: "I think ultimately I would have to say Sam. I think I've done 60 to 70 movies.... But the totality of the experience of *Lord of the Rings*--two years in New Zealand putting on thirty pounds, having to hold that weight for two years--extremely painful--physically, emotionally, spiritually, painful--a painful journey from that perspective. Thrilling to provide for my wife and then two-year-old daughter with that experience...but ultimately when it comes right down to it, Samwise Gamgee, that character--the most important literary character ever rendered and I got to do that...Everyday was a deepening of understanding of what I was doing. And the impact that it has had--I've talked to people across the spectrum. People have been affected by the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Rudy is the movie that I am singularly recognized for. It is the most that looks like me. But I would have to say the *Lord of the Rings* would be the most important work that I have done in my lifetime."



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Shay Valentine in: *Winter Break: A Cruel Sick Joke!*

Hey Jenny. What are you doing for Winter break?

My family is going to stay with my aunt Paula for Hanukkah.

But then I remembered that I have to take Winter classes.

What about you Shay?

Well I was going to spend it watching TV and eating cereal all day.

Bummer

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