

WOKSAPE

“The Wise Book”

The Humanization of Oscar Grant III Makes *Fruitvale Station* Worth Viewing at Least Once



BY
**HUNTER
KOCH**

Fruitvale Station tells the true story of Oscar Grant III, a 22-year-old African American who is shot and killed by an officer of the Bay Area Rapid Transit at the Fruitvale subway station in Oakland, California on New Year's Eve, 2009.

The film follows Oscar through the day leading up to the incident. Through this one day and several flashbacks, the viewer explores the multidimensionality of Oscar: his past mistakes and time spent in prison; his drug dealing and his lost jobs; his inability to be completely honest to his family.

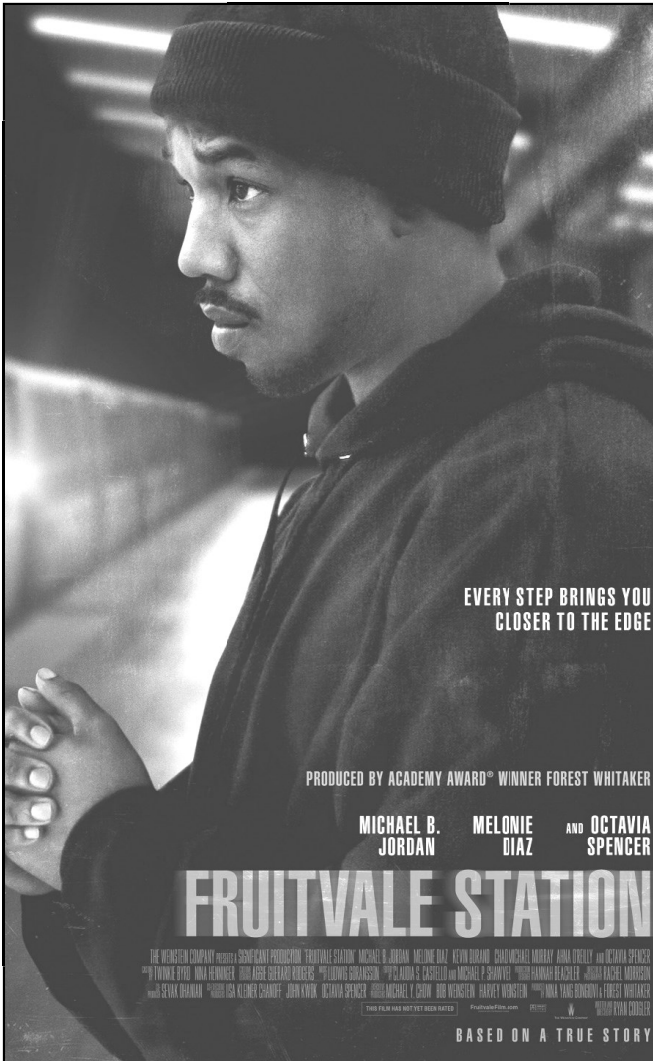
The viewer also sees the good in Oscar: his relationship with his girlfriend, 4-year-old daughter, and mother, and the love he has for them; his sincere and genuine desire to be a better partner, father, and son; his dumping of his remaining cannabis into the ocean and declaring he will sell drugs no longer; his amiability to strangers in need of help.

The development and humanization of Oscar is the most brilliant aspect of this movie. The film effectively leads the viewer into empathizing with and caring for Oscar, and this is what makes the ending so tragic.

But Ryan Coogler, the director, pulls this off in a way that is rarely seen in a biographical film or a film based on a true story. Looking back to as recently as last year, *Lincoln*'s titular hero was portrayed as being closer to God than to an actual man, having all the right words to say, taking all necessary actions in order to achieve a moral and virtuous goal, and doing all this with incredible romance and grace.

Ryan Coogler, however, spares all this sentimentality when dealing with the premature death of Oscar; he shows the good and the bad sides of Oscar, and he leads viewers to believe that Oscar can and just might have acted on his desires to change his life for the better.

Oscar is a kid on the cusp of adulthood with his whole life in front of him. This pairing of empathy the viewer gains for Oscar and the pressing question of “What if?” makes *Fruitvale Station* one of the most tragic and gut-wrenching films I have seen. Not everyone may agree with me, but this movie is worth seeing at least once.



STOCK IMAGE

Editor's Note

Traditionally, the *Woksape* editor is a senior, and I am no exception to this rule. Like many students, I looked forward to the final year of high school. While I am glad that I have only a year left, this year feels no different than the three years prior to it. I still have homework (more this year than I have had), I continue to have responsibilities outside of school, and with senior year comes the daunting task of applying to colleges. Open campus, a widely-touted perk of being a senior, is, for me, not as exciting as it once seemed. To me, it serves as a study hall where I do homework or study. Senior year is just like any other year of high school to me. Retrospectively, senior year may seem like an exhilarating time, and I don't doubt that it is easy to have nostalgia for it when one has experienced the entirety of the year. However, when a student is inundated with more homework and more responsibilities than before and has no choice but to trudge through it, it is easy to become disillusioned by the situation he or she is in. How can one know for sure that by graduation, he or she will feel joy and fondness for the year that has just passed? Though senior year isn't always amazing and enjoyable, I have no doubt that this final year will be worth the struggle. Instead of being overly-sentimental about senior year and comparing reality with preconceived notions, try making the most of high school while it is here; learn, be involved, do something worthwhile during this final year. After all, now is your final chance.

Hunter Koch

Insurgent is a Thrilling Second Installment in the Divergent Series



BY
**MORGAN
TESSIER**

Veronica Roth's new Divergent trilogy is thrilling, suspenseful, and action-packed. Anyone who is interested in futuristic settings or enjoyed the *Hunger Games* would appreciate this series even more.

Insurgent, the second book in the trilogy, picks up only seconds after *Divergent*, the first book, finishes.

In a dystopian version of Chicago, the five factions are in turmoil. Every choice Beatrice Prior (Tris) makes affects the ones she loves and wants to keep out of harm's way.

Questions of loyalty, grief, politics, forgiveness, and love haunt Tris as she struggles for a solution to the faction wars.

The day of Tris's initiation goes terribly wrong, and instead of celebrating, many are mourn-

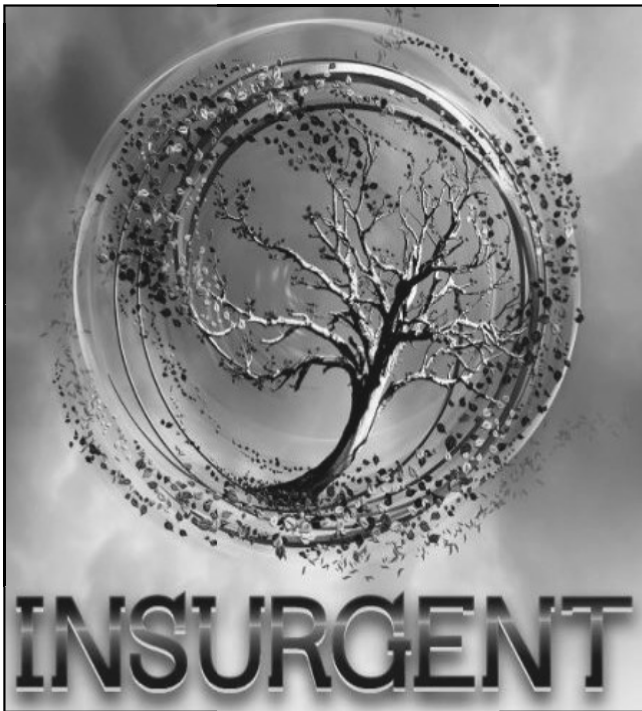
ing in horror. War seems to be just around the bend for the factions as each ideology develops even more.

During these times of war, sides must be chosen and secrets unveiled. The choices made become permanent, irreversible, and powerful.

Tris fights her grief and guilt as her relationships to those closest to her bend and waver, almost to a breaking point. She must use her Divergence to her full capabilities and death may be the cost.

This second book of the Divergent series is an invigorating thrill that leaves the reader wanting more.

Filled with heartbreak, romance, and powerful insights about human nature, Veronica Roth has written a must-read trilogy. The final book of the trilogy, *Allegiant*, will be released on October 22, 2013.



STOCK IMAGE

Respect Retreat is Time Well-Invested for Yankton High School Juniors



BY
**TYLER
WENANDE**

Youth Frontiers put on a respect retreat for the junior class last Thursday in the school's gym. Upon entering, students were greeted by a very excited tunnel made up of various staff members and leaders from the community. After students were seated on the floor in the gymnasium, the presenters of the retreat, Dan Rodriguez and Kesiah Kolbow (KK), began to address their new audience.

The majority of the day was spent in this manner. With the students seated and listening, Dan and KK jovially initiated their pre-rehearsed routine of telling stories and making jokes.

Along with the stories and jokes, the two ensured the day to be full of fun, games, small group activities, stories, and a newfound respect for respect.

For one game, all the students spread along the walls of the gym, forming a circle. Several community members sat in the middle of the circle.

The objective of the game was to not end up in the middle of the circle. In order to get out of the middle of the circle, the community members would have to find someone that meets the criteria announced by Dan or KK, like wearing school colors, and pull them into the middle of

the circle and sit in their spot. The game was over when KK yelled to stop.

Jacob Selgestad, Yankton High School junior and retreat participant, thought that the retreat had a good message.

One story KK told that turned students' attention toward respect was centered on a high school student who had it all going for him. He was incredibly smart and very athletic. Everyone wanted to be him. Until he stopped showing up for school, that is. After not showing up for school for months, he came back for one day, except he wasn't the same. This high school student was incredibly pale, sickly skinny, with bags under his eyes. After coming back for one day, he wasn't seen again for years.

But one day, KK ran into him on the street, purely by chance. They got to talking, and the conversation eventually shifted to how he had missed so much school so long ago. This is when the man admitted he had gotten into meth. Always being compared to his older brother, the man felt inferior. So, he began doing meth.

This individual who had had such a bright future had failed to respect himself.

KK then shared an important message everyone could take home: Respect yourself, along with others.



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Retreat Director, Kesiah Kolbow, leads a respect retreat.

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Celebrate “Ole Hansen Day”

What: “Ole Hansen Day” will be held in honor of one of the Roger Haas Basketball Tournament's founding fathers.

Who: The entire community is invited to join the celebration!

When: Friday, Sept. 9, 2013

Where: Yankton Bucks vs. Brandon Valley football game at Crane-Youngworth Field, kick-off 7 p.m.

Ole passed away August 19th. T-shirts in his memory are for sale for \$10 by contacting Karla Olson via email at krolson@cedarwb.net or by phone at 661-1012. Sizes run from Youth Medium up to 3XL. They can be picked up at the SAC meeting room Thursday 9/12 from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m., so you will have them to wear to the football game. Free-will donation pulled pork sandwiches and chips will be available prior to the game starting at 5:00 p.m. Order your t-shirts today to honor a man who worked tirelessly for kids! Additionally, all proceeds will go to the family of Ole Hansen.

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.....Alisa Ruzicka

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