

What features of American English? Register features? Any grammatical features? Word formation?

A

LOS ANGELES — Oscar voters set up a three-way slugfest on Thursday, with the visual wizardry and box office might of “Gravity” going up against the historical heft of “12 Years a Slave” and the 1970s-era hairdos and cleavage of “American Hustle.”

A couple of surprises came in the feature documentary category, where Sarah Polley’s “Stories We Tell,” a personal yarn about her own dysfunctional family, and Gabriela Cowperthwaite’s “Blackfish,” about allegations of abuse of animals and trainers at the SeaWorld parks, were left out. Both films appeared on list after list of favorites.

B

Dear Gabriel Medina,

On Sunday, I sat on the softest sand in the world and watched you surf in the Billabong Pipeline Masters. You manufactured the best heat of the day and you did so boldly. On one wave, you took off deep, backdoored a roomy barrel, came out and stuck a monstrous alley-ooop. It was poetry, but like any good poem, it made me wonder. Why are you not the face of cool? Why do the adolescents of Newport Beach not strive to be reflections of Gabriel Medina? You seem to lack a certain intangible factor, but that’s OK because I know how you can gain it.

Gabe, you should be driving a Chevrolet from the 1970s. Stop training and start waking up late. You might get a little bit fat but, again, that’s OK. Can you imagine how great it would have been if a chubster stomped that alley-ooop? Like a meatball flying through the blue sky, rotating and spraying Ragu four-cheese sauce all over the sullen faces of your foes.

C

On Thursday, there was utter pandemonium at Kings Plaza Mall in Brooklyn as hundreds of teenagers ran wildly through the shopping center, screaming, roughhousing and allegedly shoplifting. In response to the chaos, the mall only allowed teens under 18 inside on Friday if they came with an adult. Extra officers assigned to the mall were checking IDs outside the gates, and unaccompanied minors were asked to leave. The chaos started after a Facebook post in which teens were urged to put Kings Plaza “on tilt” blew up. Fights broke out at the mall between several girls, while others grabbed at shoppers' bags and broke items in stores. "They had pepper spray. We attacked them because they attacked us," Breeanah Thomas, 15, told CBS about confrontations with security. "They thought they were going to run us out, but they didn't run me out." "They just started fighting, throwing stuff off balconies," Lequan Jackson, a Macy's employee, told ABC. "I was just like I hope they don't come to my store."

D

My blogging bio:

I’m still figuring it out. When you’re young, you aren’t restricted by ‘society’ and you’re open to learning because you know so little, but I think I’ve moved on from that annoying tween fashionista stage of my life. I love Lazy Oaf and I also have about 70 things ‘favourited’ on Etsy.com. Style Bubble is a genius and it’s a total cliché, but Tavi (if you know your stuff I shouldn’t have to say her name) is a huge inspiration.