

HAUNTED MONSTER MASH

CHECK THESE HOUSES OUT!



by Vincent Chu

Halloween is right around the corner and that means haunted houses! This is the perfect time to visit one with a few friends or even a special someone. To make it even easier for you, we at The Classic have compiled a list of the top haunted houses nearby. Just remember to thank us when your date clings onto you in fear.

BAYVILLE SCREAM PARK

ADDRESS: 8 Bayville Ave Long
Island

ATTRACTIONS: The Bloodworth
Haunted Mansion, Uncle Needle's Fun
House of Fear, Temple of Terror,
Zombie Pirates, Evil in the Woods

HOURS: Open everyday until 11/3/13,
from 6 PM to 2 AM Friday and
Saturday, and 6 PM to 12 AM the
rest of the week

ADMISSIONS: \$15-75

BLOODMANOR

NEW YORK CITY'S PREMIER HAUNTED ATTRACTION

ADDRESS: 163 Varick Street NYC

ATTRACTIONS: A labyrinth of
over 15 themed rooms, a new 3-D
maze, where guests receive 3-D
glasses to watch creatures stalk
them

TIMES: Open from October 29 to
November 2 from 7:30 PM to 1
AM on most days

ADMISSIONS: \$35 at the door
and \$33.50 if bought online

SixFlags FRIGHT FEST

ADDRESS: 1 Six Flags Blvd
Jackson NJ

ATTRACTIONS: Zombies roam
around plus the rollercoasters are
normally available at Six Flags.

TIMES: Open during weekends
throughout October, from 5:30
PM to 11 PM on Fridays and from
10:30 AM to 11 PM on Saturdays
and Sundays

ADMISSIONS: \$20

What's this Year?

by Vincent Chu and Katherine Maradiaga

Halloween Parade

New Yorkers are often found embodying
ghastly personas during New York's
Village Halloween Parade, and this year
the costume-mandated parade is having
its 40th anniversary. The celebration
will take place on 6th Avenue from
Spring Street to 16th Street, at 7pm
on October 31.

Ghosts of New York

Anytime you're in the big city, join a Ghosts of New
York walking tour. You'll be able to visit such sights as the East
River, Central Park, and the East
River. Each walking tour is 90
minutes and covers the span of a mile.



Legalizing the right to die

by Parbattie Anant

Recently, British cosmologist Stephen Hawking began openly supporting euthanasia, the painless process of killing someone to prevent further suffering from an extreme malady. He isn't wrong in doing so. It is flawed to think that euthanasia devalues human life. More than anything it allows for a more dignified death. Euthanasia is not used on someone with a common cold wishing to die, but on people with incurable diseases who are experiencing unbearable pain. Failure to offer a pain-free death to terminally ill patients is cruel, especially if recovery is hopeless.

The Death With Dignity (DWD) Act was first implemented in October of 1997 in the state of Oregon. Since then, Washington, Vermont, and Montana have followed suit. This act gives those who are terminally ill the liberty to request lethal medication to end their lives. An annual report conducted by the Oregon Public Health Division in 2012 found that the major end-of-life anxieties were: loss of dignity (77.9%), lack of ability to take part in enjoyable activities (92.2%), and loss of autonomy (93.5%).

In an interview with the BBC, Stephen Hawking, who was diagnosed with motor neurone disease, empathizes with those who no longer have a desire to live. Hawking believes that they should be given the option to end their life and "those that help them should be free from prosecution." He added, "We don't let animals suffer, so why humans?"

Why is it that we can put our pets to sleep to give them a compassionate death but we cannot extend that kindness to human beings? In euthanasia, the patient is the one making the decision; there isn't and shouldn't be a third party. Even religion should not play a role. Whether you're devoutly religious or an atheist, it is your civil liberty to decide what happens to your own body. Religious convictions are not reason enough to force prolonged suffering, especially if you aren't the one in pain. We can never feel the pain someone else feels. Sympathy will only carry us so far.

The top opponents regard euthanasia as a slippery slope that will lead to a sense of apathy towards death. Will doctors, once intended to save lives, end up taking them? As dismal as it seems, the latter is a better option in dire circumstances. With advancements in technological and medical fields, life expectancy has increased. However, these same advancements also guarantee prolonged suffering for the terminally ill and a diminishing quality of life and self-worth for the patient. A heartbeat can not be a signal of life if one cannot acknowledge it. Since when did the right to live encompass a deprivation of senses, movement,



Art by Amanda Yan

and inability to express oneself? If anything, euthanasia will prevent such cases of "living death" from occurring.

There are good reasons to oppose the administration of euthanasia for those who are clinically depressed, but not for those who are depressed from a terminal illness. Those who are clinically depressed hold an unrealistic perception of themselves and can be treated. On the other hand, a terminally ill patient cannot change his or her reality. In order to make sure these two circumstances don't overlap, the boundaries of euthanasia must be made clear. The patient requesting euthanasia should undergo an assessment by more than two psychiatrists and should be confirmed to have a terminal illness before euthanasia can even be considered.

While volunteering at a nursing home during the summer, I met a lot of wonderful people who lived life the way they wanted to. Why can't they be allowed to decide how to end it as well?

Euthanasia is motivated by compassion not only for the ones we love, but for ourselves. It's a question of autonomy, dependency, and control. If faced with ambivalence, ask yourself, are you prolonging life or simply prolonging death?

A VIP Education

by Anna St. Clair

During my recent visit to University of Massachusetts at Amherst, I was struck by how the school's honors program was presented as its own elite institution. The representative boasted about how the honors students get the best education the university had to offer and how they get access to personal advisers, paid fellowships, first pick of classes, a brand new dorm, and even exclusive workshops, seminars and speakers reserved only for honors students. The program sounds less like a challenging academic program and more like a first class plane ticket. Universities often use the term "close-knit community" to describe life at these honors colleges, but what they are really saying is "exclusive community."

As college tuition has skyrocketed in recent years, public universities, as well as less competitive private universities, have found a way to attract academically strong students: give them all the attention and coddling of a small, private liberal arts school but at a public university price. The influx of top students increases the school's selectivity and academic reputation, and in a few years time, the school will have a network of wealthy alumni ready to give back.

These honors colleges have a huge appeal to Townsend Harris students who often have the grades to gain admission to top colleges, but who might not be able to afford the \$30,000-\$60,000 a year price tags. It is no surprise then that Harris is one of the top feeder schools to the Macaulay Honors college at CUNY. The Macaulay program offers free tuition, a free laptop, private housing, interdisciplinary seminar courses, personal advisers, and a network of internship opportunities. While all these perks can offer a great educational experience, it is only available to those who have the grades.

By giving the smart kids extra attention and rewards, we are dividing students into socioeconomic classes before they even graduate. The message these schools are sending is that the A+ students will receive more attention and be wealthier than the B students.

What baffles me is why these colleges give all of these benefits to the smartest students. If we want to improve this country's education we should focus on educating all of our students, not betting all of our resources on the few at the top.

School lunch is more than a bargain

by Harry Petsios

As of September 30, the Department of Education increased the standard price of lunch for students, from \$1.50 to \$1.75. The increase, the first by the DOE in over a decade, is accompanied by a blessing: students who qualify for reduced-price meals will now receive lunch for free, down from \$0.25. Nonetheless, many Harrisites are outraged at the prospect of paying an approximate forty-five dollars extra per academic year for less-than-stellar food. But when you take a step back and consider all the factors that went into making this decision, it hardly seems unfair.

In recent years, common meal components, such as skim milk, whole wheat bread, apples and pizza have seen price increases by margins of as much as 181%. How does the DOE respond to the massive inflation of prices for common foods? They add \$0.25 to the previous price for lunch. According to the DOE's website, the prices charged for lunch continue to remain below the amount the DOE spends to



Photo by Michelle Gan

A typical lunch tray.

provide the meals; despite the increase in the price of meals, and even in the face of budget concerns, the DOE still refuses to turn a profit on school lunches. As a student of the DOE system, I was pleasantly surprised to realize that our education system did not compromise in providing lunches to students at a low cost.

Schools in cities such as Los Angeles, Chicago, and Miami charge as much as \$2.85 for lunch.

Schools as nearby as Yonkers charge \$3.00.

When you make a quantity-cost comparison between school lunch and an outside source of nourishment, even a single component of a meal from a deli costs more than an entire school lunch. Oftentimes, some out-of-school lunches prove to be just as distasteful as those in school.

Although the thought of a \$0.25 increase on school lunch prices might seem absurd to students, the motivation and necessity of the DOE is clear. The funds acquired by increasing regular fees help to subsidize the price paid by students in need of financial assistance.

I do not consider a \$0.25 increase outrageous, especially after I take into account that the cost for someone who is struggling financially will be less. While students may continue to treat it as little more than "inedible cardboard" that is hardly worth their money, they must realize to whom the DOE is directing that money: students in need of financial aid.

FROM THE EDITORS:

Testing fad sinks to a new low

Though some view it as a cure-all, standardized testing has garnered a reputation as something problematic to the long-term state of American education. Of course, the reasonable way for the DOE to treat such a fact would be to introduce yet another standardized exam—the New York City ELA Performance Assessment—for students to tack onto their ever-growing list of reasons to loathe learning.

Administered citywide, the ninety-minute assessment was introduced as a tool to evaluate teachers and diagnose students' abilities at the start of the year. On the accompanying exam that will take place in the spring, students are expected to score better than they did in the fall. For Townsend Harris students, who were capable of doing well on the first exam regardless, any signs of improvement are bound to be negligible, if they exist at all.

Though it succeeds in assessing proficiency to some degree, it indirectly results in a high-stakes testing scenario. If students don't receive higher scores in the spring, it seems as if teachers didn't do the job of helping them progress throughout the year. As a result, both sides end up pitted against each other: teachers want students to do poorly on the fall exam in order to show a false measure of improvement on the spring exam, and students, acting in the interest of a grade that teachers must count, aim to do well, in spite of what this means for the teacher. Isn't this contrary to the ideals of education? Should teachers want students to perform poorly on this exam so they can show progress later? Should students have to feel guilty for setting their teachers up for failure by performing too well in the fall and not showing enough progress in the spring?

To make matters worse, this ELA assessment is not likely to be the only new "local" assessment; since the new teacher evaluations demand scores tied to all teachers, the DOE must make far more exams. The assumption that a few exams could offer comprehensive insight on teachers is false, and to have students take them wastes time that could be spent learning about something to a greater effect. Along with that, now English teachers are tasked with the burden of scoring dozens of assessments on their own time, a sure sign of gratitude to those who already juggle lesson planning and essay grading outside of class.

The ELA assessment further indicates that the DOE doubts the validity of its own Regents exams. It seems as if the English Regents, and all other Regents for that matter, aren't to be trusted as adequate assessors of students' skills or teachers' competence. The Regents is meant to assess that students have met the requirements for a high school education in English; isn't that one exam enough? It's certainly long enough.

With gaping holes in the logic of having students take this test, one would at least expect the Townsend Harris administration to explain the situation in its entirety. In a letter emailed to students on October 3, we were only told that the reasoning behind the test is to measure student progress (which all tests, presumably, aim to do). With no additional details on the "why" of this exam, the letter goes on to reassure us that we need not worry, since "our students will perform exceptionally well."

The letter failed to detail the implications of this test for THHS faculty. Likely, the administration could not fully inform us about the nature of this test for fear of appearing to coach us for it in any way, but therein lies the problem. Everyone wants transparency, but the system itself is shady.

Assessments like this one can, at best, only assess a few factors—namely, the ability to pass a test by learning the nuances of how questions are asked, rather than learning the actual content. Though we can't fully rid the system of standardized testing, its emphasis should be minimized as much as possible.

Above all, the firsthand responsibility of student assessment should be entrusted to teachers, and teacher competence should be evaluated on more holistic factors: how receptive students are to the teacher's lessons in the classroom, and how well students can convey their understanding of a topic through real-world applications. One may say such aspects are too time-consuming and costly to measure, but at this point, with the amount of money and time spent creating, administering, and grading these tests, that argument is no longer valid.

Maintaining ARISTA membership

Every October, Harrisites bustle to get their community service hours in on time in order to qualify for ARISTA. In early November, acceptances are announced, and there is a ceremony inducting new and old members. Parents and students come out to celebrate the community service and academic achievement of ARISTA members, but when the ceremony ends, we often forget the true purpose of being in this honor society.

With all of the formalities that come with induction, Townsend Harris students are led to believe that ARISTA recognition would be followed up with responsibilities similar to what qualified them as members in the first place. Yet, besides a title, the only rewards received are the pastries served at the end of the two-hour ceremony. Even more disappointing is the fact that ARISTA members rarely have meetings, much less engage in any kind of representative community service.

At other high schools, ARISTA members are compelled to demonstrate a group commitment to service. This usually entails representing the school at open houses and high school fairs, or helping a neighborhood nonprofit—anything servicing the school or the community at large. While there are Harrisites already doing this kind of volunteer work, it is mostly done to fulfill the yearly forty-hour requirement; groups like ARISTA are meant to build up a more authentic momentum for service among students.

Students may have joined the honor society believing that it would look good on a college application, but even this doesn't add up to much. Anyone inducted into ARISTA already has an average above 90, along with at least 50 hours of community service under their belt. Colleges can see all of this in your application, so the only thing new addition is the fact that you were in an honor society. There is little sense in mentioning it on your resume if you did nothing as a result of your ARISTA membership. In fact, it may even take away from your application by bringing up confusion about the student's priorities: "so what?" admissions officers might ask themselves—if there's nothing to show for it.

Being a part of the ARISTA Executive Board hardly proves to be a worthwhile distinction either. With only a few responsibilities, these students are mainly in charge of the ceremony running smoothly, and they help add to the induction's pomp and circumstance by giving speeches that pat its members on the back. Richard Feynman, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist and child of the NYC public school system, shared a concern in a 1981 interview that we at *The Classic* agree with: "When I was in high school, one of the first honors I got was to be a member of the ARISTA...when I got into the ARISTA, I discovered that what they did in their meetings was to sit around to discuss who else was worthy to join this wonderful group that we are." This self-centered praise of accomplishment borders on narcissism, something to be condemned among "comrades in the ranks."

While ARISTA members certainly deserve credit for maintaining good grades and doing service, this society's philosophy should be reinforced with an upkeep of values throughout the year. An event organized by the group, like a walk-a-thon or fundraiser, would do well in complementing our school's already established Key Club or Leadership class. For what it's worth, our fingers are crossed on ARISTA membership doing more to uphold and deliver on the promises made in the Ephebic Oath.



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We always welcome opinions. Address all letters to the editors to: thhsclassic@gmail.com

Townsend Harris High School
149-11 Melbourne Avenue
Flushing, NY 11367

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3-D MANIA HITS THE MOVIES

Harrisites split over movie experiences

by Yelena Dzhanova

Ever since their inception, movies have been a prevalent force in the entertainment business, winning over hundreds of millions of fans and earning billions of dollars in revenue. From behind the camera to making it to the big screen, movies have led the decades with cinematic innovations. But what is it about the latest trend towards three dimensional movies that adds to the filmgoing experience?

A poll was recently conducted on the student body with the following results: 56% said that 3-D movies are better than regular movies, 21% said that regular movies beat 3-D movies, and 23% said that there was no preference between the two.

Junior Abeida Prasad made it clear that she prefers 3-D movies over regular ones. "They provide more of an experience. Anyone can just sit at home, turn off the lights, and watch a movie. But with a 3-D movie, you actually want to make some sort of effort to go to the movies because you know it'll be worth it."

Classic film studios such as Disney Pixar have begun to experiment in 3-D, attempting to create more realistic transitions from the screen to the glasses. IMAX worked to enhance the potential of its 3-D glasses by making the lenses more compact.

The new developments are what keep

Gabriela Zygadlo, junior, still interested in 3-D. "I think that 3-D movies really enhance the emotions you get when watching the movie. It's nice to be able to watch a movie and be able to reach out your hand and try to feel if something is actually in



3-D glasses distributed by movie theaters.

front of you. Even though there never really is anything in front of you, you never get disappointed because it's just thrilling."

Although movies in 3-D have gained a lot of attention over the years, there are some drawbacks to them. Freshman Abigail Calumpit claims that she doesn't watch 3-D movies frequently because they are usually more expensive than regular movies. Even though the 3-D experience comes at a higher price, her rare trips to 3-D movies are almost always thrilling. "When I watched Avatar in 3-D, it felt so realistic that there were some moments during the

movie where I felt like I was a part of it. [Three-dimensional movies] also make you feel like something is being thrown your way, and you feel more thrill."

Sophomore Dominik Sochon thinks 3-D movies are unnecessary. "[A three-dimensional movie] gives you headaches and half of the movie is never even in 3-D. It's also way more expensive [than a regular movie]."

Many others feel the same.

There are also those who've been exposed to several 3-D movies, yet remain apathetic as to whether or not 3-D movies can compare with regular ones. Junior, Paula Fraczek made it clear that she thinks 3-D movies can catch the eyes of people of all age groups but are superficial in content. "Personally, I've never really been a fan of 3-D movies since I think that there's no need for them. 3-D movies are just another way for studios to reel money from potential customers, whether they'd be three years old and going to see Ice Age or 60 years old and going to see Titanic."

Similarly, Sofia Milonas, senior, thinks that 3-D movies are not as interesting as they're made out to be. Although she said that they are getting more innovative in style and focus, they do not intrigue her now as much as they would if she were still a kid.

THHS VOICES

Community members share opinions on 3-D movies.



"3-D movies give me a headache. They're usually done badly."

--Fiona Calberson, freshman



"They're kinda cool. Sometimes it can be really realistic. You feel as if you're in the movie." --Syeda Hassan, sophomore

Photographs and quotations collected by Jennifer Walsh

3-D(on't see these movies)

by Jennifer Walsh

With Oscar season quickly approaching, it's time to examine one of the biggest trends in filmmaking: 3-D. The technique is nothing new, having existed in some form since 1915, but recent advancements in the past decade have made its use much more regular. The truth of the matter is, 3-D is to film as AutoTune is to music - fun and effective when used sparingly, but ridiculous and distracting when relied on too heavily.

While 3-D is the new normal for blockbusters, there are only a handful of films released each year that truly use it to aid in visual storytelling. These films, usually grand adventures such as *Avatar*, *Life of Pi*, and *Gravity*, are stunning to watch and immerse viewers in a completely different world. They are what 3-D was meant for, and the reason a lot of consumers pay to see less substantial movies in 3-D.

Many films that are shown in 3-D have the effect added in post-production, and if the director doesn't keep this in mind while shooting, it can look sloppy, arbitrary, or make no impact at all. It can also be abused to the point that it's physically sickening to look at the screen. Action movies, often known for their lack of substance and barrage of effects, are some of the worst offenders. Instead of creating an interesting, coherent plot, directors of these films spend their budgets on dizzying 3-D stunts. For the amount a 3-D ticket costs, audiences deserve more than some flashy tricks.



Photo by Jennifer Wallace

Don't start your 3-D Ticket Collection.

While the prices for 3-D tickets create huge profit margins for film studios, they still scare off customers. Hollywood heavyweights George Lucas and Steven Spielberg spoke about the dangers of a two-tier pricing structure for movies, predicting that it could cost \$25 to see a 3-D blockbuster like *Iron Man* but only \$7 to see a 2-D drama like *Lincoln*. They predict movie theaters will eventually follow a business model similar to that of Broadway, where a few films play for about a year with much higher ticket prices.

Perhaps the most disturbing thing about 3-D is that even though it's sending ticket prices through the roof, the industry can't compete with television at the moment. Cable television and online entertainment companies like Netflix are producing bold, original content more regularly, more affordably and with more variety. Audiences are paying attention to intelligent, character-driven programs, and it's absurd to think they'll be wooed by some stale, overpriced effects. 3-D isn't going anywhere, but it should be used as a storytelling tool, not a gimmick.



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New York Comic Con reveals the latest in pop culture

by Jennifer Walsh and Linda Wu

On October 10-13, thousands of people flooded the Javits Center for New York Comic Con, the largest pop culture convention on the East Coast. It featured star-studded panels promoting the latest and greatest in books, television, comics and more, as well as exhibitors showcasing new video games and gadgets. Many attendees choose to dress in costume for the sold-out event, so it was no surprise to see a colorful array of characters wandering about.

On the show floor, exhibitors from a variety of fields competed for attention. Many gave away free samples or promotional items, like temporary tattoos, buttons, T-shirts, and food. Mattel had one of the largest booths, featuring some of their newest toys and a superhero-themed carnival game. DC Comics, though lacking a traditional booth, displayed a set of Superman's costumes to commemorate the character's 75th anniversary. Video games were not absent either, with Nintendo and UBISOFT setting up booths to promote their upcoming titles.

Although many forms of pop culture were showcased at NYCC, the largest crowds turned out for the television panels. At a panel promoting MTV's *Teen Wolf*, series creator Jeff Davis was joined by cast members Dylan O'Brien and Linden Ashby to discuss the third season of the show. Davis explained that the second half of Season Three will be a darker psychological thriller, and will introduce new supernatural characters. He also announced the show has been renewed for a fourth season.

At another panel, Nickelodeon screened a new episode of their hit animated show, *Avatar: The Legend of Korra*. The episode revealed, for the first time, the identity of the first avatar. The panel was so popular that crowds of people stood and crouched outside the already packed theater.

At another panel, NBC screened the pilot of their new mini-series, *Dracula*, which stars Jonathan Rhys Meyers as the titular character. Meyers, best known for his portrayal of Henry VIII in Showtime's *The Tudors* is well cast as Dracula. The show will officially premiere on October 25.

The highlight of this year's Comic-Con was *The Walking Dead* panel. Fans camped out all day Saturday for a seat at the much-anticipated event. The panel, moderated by *Community* actress Yvette Nicole Brown, teased at what was ahead for Season Four with two clips from the show. Actor Andrew Lincoln discussed his feelings about an upcoming episode, telling the crowd he was "shell-shocked" after he read the script. "I was trying to call everybody because I needed to speak to a human voice. We are going to get into so much trouble with that episode," he



Photo by Jennifer Walsh

Saturday at New York Comic Con

quipped. During the Q&A portion of the panel Michael Cudlitz, disguised as an angry fan, surprised the crowd by announcing he would join the cast as Sgt. Abraham Ford.

Comic-Con's namesake draw - comic books - were not forgotten at the event. Popular publishers like Dark Horse, Marvel and DC all boasted an impressive set of programming and promoted their newest comics. Individual artists were present in Artist Alley and on the show floor, displaying and selling their original creations.

NYCC started out small, with roughly 30,000 attendees when it first began. Now, it boasts an attendance of more than 130,000. The show has grown exponentially, now commandeering the entire Jacob Javits Center.

As soon as NYCC ended Sunday, dates for next year's con were announced.



Logo by Jenner Chen

For many students at THHS, watching shows and movies online is a favored pastime. We are the Netflix generation, and for those of us who come into school and talk at length about the great shows we've spent our online time watching, we are very much a part of a growing 'Net Clique' of instant video watchers. Sometimes, however, it's not easy to dig through the endless programs available online to find something really worth your time. "Net Cliques" is a column devoted to guiding you to the shows and movies that you might not find on your recommended list.

Creepy Classics from Alfred Hitchcock

by Joanna Wong

Good evening, delicious readers, and welcome to a night of terror brought to you by NetCliques!

This month seemed like the perfect time to pay tribute to the underappreciated films of one of Hollywood's great directors, Alfred Hitchcock. Hitchcock set the standard for suspense and alarming plot twists. His philosophy on entertaining is best captured by what he once said: "Give them pleasure—the same pleasure they have when they wake from a nightmare." This tribute is for some unsung tales in his repertoire.

Our first selection has been kept quiet when compared to heavy Hitchcock hitters like *The Birds*, but maybe that's because the film has no quotable dialogue. One of Hitchcock's early silent films, *The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog* (1927, available on Netflix and Amazon), takes place in London where a serial killer nicknamed "The Avenger" begins to target young women. Around the same time of the

first few murders, a nameless man (Ivor Novello) appears at the home of Daisy Bunting (June Tripp), asking about a room she has for rent. The man certainly matches the given description of the wanted man, but is he the feared killer?

As Daisy begins to form a relationship with the elusive stranger and the town becomes increasingly suspicious of his mannerisms, suspense proves to be a powerful weapon in Hitchcock's skilled hands. He is able to turn silence into a climatic film capable of speaking volumes on its own. Is the lodger really The Avenger?

Turning now to the area of psychotic thrillers normally associated with Sir Alfred, *Spellbound* (1945, available on Netflix and Amazon), is often overshadowed by more gruesome Hitchcock works such as *Psycho*. But when a movie is set in a mental asylum and stars the great Ingrid Bergman of *Casablanca*, that movie deserves your undivided attention.

Bergman stars as a blonde bombshell turned psychoanalyst, Dr. Constance Petersen, who discovers the new director of her hospital (Gregory Peck) is not the doctor he claims to be. The other workers of the asylum theorize that the man is a con artist or possibly a murderer, but Dr. Petersen is determined to figure out what his secret is.

Hitchcock can do no wrong in a film that never pauses for a second and

is chock-full of his signature abrupt revelations and races to uncover the truth; but hey, when you have a proven formula to cinematic success, why change it?

You can't watch or read any thrillers without seeing Hitchcock's influence, so this month ignore some of the stale Halloween horrors on TV and open your mind to the smorgasbord Hitchcock has provided for you.

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“Yer a spinoff, Harry!”

by Jason Lalljee

If you listen closely, you might be able to hear the rapid-fire clack of computer keys from muggles congregating on internet forums, rejoicing in the return of what is perhaps the most beloved franchise of all time—*Harry Potter*. In early September, J.K. Rowling announced that she would pen a new screenplay set in the magical wizarding world. Titled *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, it is loosely based off of her 2001 book of the same name. Set in 1920s New York, the film will follow Newt Scamander as he sets about researching and classifying magical creatures unknown to many Potter fans.

Indeed, it seems that J.K. Rowling could hardly escape an interview without being asked if she'd continue the series. She never denied the possibility outright, but repeatedly stated her closure with the world she'd created that fateful day at King's Cross station.

On the nature of the film, Rowling released a statement: “Although it will be set in the worldwide community of witches and wizards where I was so happy for seventeen years, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* is neither a prequel nor a sequel to the *Harry Potter* series, but an extension of the wizarding world. The laws and customs of the hidden magical society will be familiar to anyone who has read the *Harry Potter* books or seen the films, but Newt's story will start in New York, seventy years before Harry's gets underway.”

The New York setting will likely appeal to the large American *Harry Potter* fan base, especially considering the loyalty of both the original books and films to the U.K. Rowling is writing the screenplay directly, rather than adapting it from a book of her own, a first for the acclaimed author.

Upon hearing this news, sophomore Jacqueline Kim stated, “I'm happy for her, that she's making new choices, trying out new things and seeing what she likes—she deserves to do what she wants without criticism.”

Rowling has certainly experienced criticism of late; her first foray into adult fiction, *The Casual Vacancy*, received mixed reviews last fall, and the infamous pseudonymous publishing of *The Cuckoo's Calling* was considerably favored until mixed reviews appeared after the fact.

Indeed, the franchise that was marketed with the tagline “it all ends here” not three years ago has jumped on the lucrative spin-off train, going the way of *The Hobbit* and Disney's Marvel universe. But prequels have never appealed to audiences as much as original films or sequels. *The Hobbit* grossed less than the last *Lord of the Rings* film, even with 3-D ticket prices and nearly a decade of inflation. Junior Hema Venkata said that she has to see if she “trusts Rowling like Tolkien, since he was a master, which [*The Hobbit*] showed.”

It is yet to be seen whether or not the swashbuckling Newt Scamander will prove to enchant audiences as the Boy Who Lived managed to sixteen years ago, but Rowling's easy prowess at enchanting us muggles time and time again is indisputable.

Not so Marvel-ous

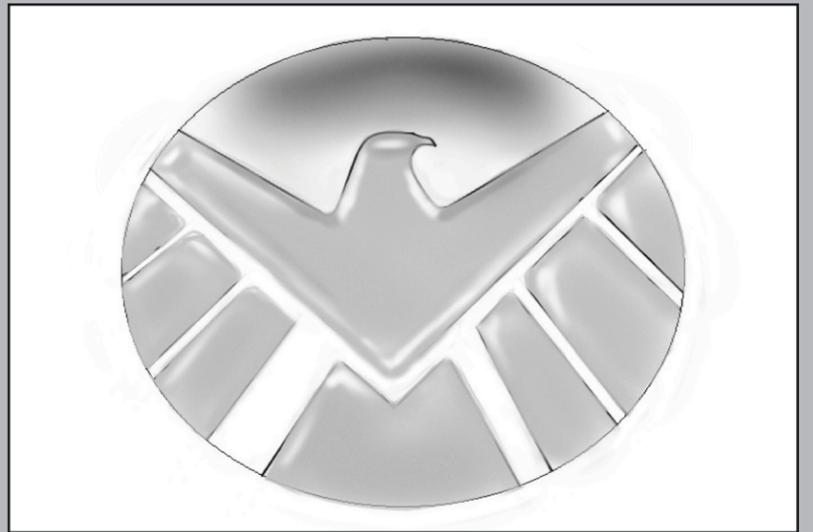
by Deborah Chai

Agents of Shield was one of the most anticipated fall shows this season. Created in part by lord-of-geekdom Joss Whedon (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Firefly*, *The Avengers*), this *Avengers* spin-off focuses on the secret agents working to keep this world safe. Phil Coulson plays a balding James Bond who leads the scientist, weapons expert, computer hacker and special ops agent to recruit emerging superheroes.

The premise and plot of this show is too simplistic and the characters are cliché. There are the geeks, the tough guy who doesn't want to be there, the mysterious woman, and the spunky newbie. Despite the flatness of the characters, I was intrigued by their backgrounds, and they do have some chemistry as a team. This is only the pilot, however, and I'd have to see more to form a better opinion on the characters.

The writing is witty and sarcastic, with the characters having their fair share of touching moments. Though I feel as if they are trying too hard to connect to their fanbase, it wasn't a bad pilot. I was expecting more because this is a Joss Whedon show and the Marvel universe is theirs to experiment with, but the pilot did a good job of setting up the show.

While you don't necessarily have to watch *The Avengers* to understand this movie, it's recommended. They make many references to both the super soldier serum and cosplaying outside of Stark Towers. I look forward to seeing how they weave this show into the Marvel universe for future episodes.



Art by Parina Kaewkrajang

Fifth Estate is a real hack

by Jennifer Walsh

For a phenomenon that is one of few to have completely transformed our society, there sure aren't a lot of feature films about the Internet. The latest film that attempts to explore the web's impact on our lives is *The Fifth Estate*, and it fails to live up to the task.

Directed by Bill Condon, *The Fifth Estate* tells the story of WikiLeaks, the real-life website that sparked some of the biggest news stories of the past decade in its release of highly controversial documents, including sensitive information about the war in Afghanistan. The film was based on two books, *Inside WikiLeaks: My Time with Julian Assange and the World's Most Dangerous Website* by Daniel Domscheit-Berg about his time at the company and *WikiLeaks: Inside Julian Assange's War on Secrecy* by David Leigh and Luke Hedberg.

The film's first and second acts are painfully slow. It spends too much time establishing the relationship between Assange and Domscheit-Berg, but in a bland and uneventful way. The time spent watching WikiLeaks grow is boring, mere filler building up to the climax. The screenplay is flat, and there's no real action until the very end of the film.

Condon struggles to gracefully incorporate the Internet—where many critical scenes take place—into *The Fifth Estate*. Texts and instant messages pop up constantly during the slow first act, though this technique is less abused as the film progresses. It's hard to get any emotion out of cheesy online chats between Assange and the WikiLeaks team, and archival news footage

about WikiLeaks looks equally tacky. The computer programs look like they came straight out of the 90s, too.

The film features a good cast, but they're wasted on a bad screenplay and confusing direction. Laura Linney and Stanley Tucci are featured as U.S. government officials Sarah Shaw and James Boswell, respectively, but a lack of screen time makes it hard for these talented actors to shine. David Thewlis plays one of the editors for *The Daily Mail* and is captivating to watch.

The film's leads do their best, but their performances lose merit in such a mediocre film. However, Benedict Cumberbatch excels as the moody, manipulative, and egotistical WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. Fixated with the idea of publishing the truth at all costs, Assange is the most interesting character in the entire film. Daniel Bruhl portrays Daniel Dom-



Art by Jenner Chen.

scheit-Berg as an accessible figure who gets in over his head and plays off Cumberbatch well.

He occasionally flounders in scenes on his own, but does a decent job overall.

The Fifth Estate isn't worth the price of admission, with the rambling narrative taking away from viewers' enjoyment. The admirable cast could have made for a great film, but they alone can't save it. Despite all this, I suppose Julian Assange would be glad I'm publishing the truth.

Pretzel burgers get your stomach in a twist

by Sabrina Yu

Pretzels and burgers are two quintessential American foods. But what happens when they're combined into one meal? The new trend of swapping out plain burger buns with brown dough-balls masquerading as pretzels has taken the nation's chain restaurants by storm. I sampled this innovation in casual cuisine from Wendy's, Ruby Tuesday, and Dunkin' Donuts.

Wendy's was the initiator of all this commotion. Of the mentioned franchises, its burger has been the most heavily advertised. You might even recognize its ad about a man returning home from jury duty excited because Wendy's is selling pretzel burgers right next to the courthouse.

The fast food chain sells a variety of these burgers. The original of the series is the "Pretzel Bacon Cheeseburger," which contains a beef patty, bacon, a melted slice of cheddar cheese, honey mustard, spring greens, tomatoes, and red onions between two pretzel buns. They also have a "Pretzel Pub Chicken Sandwich" which is almost the same as the cheeseburger. Instead of the bacon it has a slice of muenster cheese alongside the melted cheddar cheese sauce, and a choice of either Spicy Chicken Fillet (fried), Ultimate Chicken Grill Fillet, or Homestyle Chicken Fillet (fried).

I ordered the Pretzel Pub Chicken Sandwich with Ultimate Chicken Grill

Fillet which you can get alone for \$5-\$6 or make it a combo with some fries and a soft drink for about \$8. The sandwich was about palm-sized and topped with a glistening brown pretzel bun with a white X across the center.

In reality, only the crust tasted like a real pretzel while the inside tasted like regular white bread. Another difference between this bun and a real pretzel was that it was a lot plusher and softer, which isn't necessarily a bad thing, but not what I expected. The filling inside the sandwich was also quite tasty. The chicken was moist, and the honey mustard added another layer of sweet, spicy, and smoky flavor. The only con was the cheddar cheese, which clashed with the other flavors. The honey mustard also overpowered the flavor of the pretzel. Ultimately, the burger was rich in flavor, but I didn't get enough from the pretzel bun. It felt like I was eating a regular chicken sandwich.

Ruby Tuesday was the last to put out its pretzel burgers. It has a "Spicy Jalapeno Pretzel Cheeseburger," which features jalapenos and chipotle mayo. The "Bacon Cheese Pretzel Burger," which contains bacon and bacon mustard mayo. The "Portabella Crispy Onion Pretzel Cheeseburger," which comes with portabella mushrooms, chipotle mayo, and fried onion straws. And lastly, the "Black and Blue Bacon Pretzel Burger," which contains bacon,

blue cheese, and chipotle mayo. All of these contain beef, lettuce, tomatoes, red onions, pickles, and a side of fries.

I chose the Bacon Cheese Pretzel Burger and opted for no pickles. Unlike Wendy's pretzel burger, Ruby Tuesday's bun was topped with table salt and had a "knotted" appearance. Although it tasted nothing like an actual pretzel, the texture and consistency of the bun was on point. The bottom bun was cute, as it was shaped like a spiral to resemble the twists of a pretzel, but the concept failed because the bottom fell apart too easily. Inside, the mustard mayo complimented the bun well and brought to mind the classic combination. The beef was juicy, but was so large that it was the only thing I could taste. The vegetables that come with all of the burgers were also fresh and crisp. Other differences between this burger and that of Wendy's was that this was more expensive (\$16), it was about 1 cm. larger in radius, and had more calories.

Dunkin' Donuts came out with its pretzel burger before Ruby Tuesday, but has been on the down low about it. In fact, when I was there it wasn't even on the menu.

At Dunkin' you can just get pretzel rolls or you can make it a sandwich. These "Pretzel Roll Sandwiches" come with roasted beef, white cheddar, and dijon mustard, or you can make it a

breakfast sandwich with ham, eggs, and American cheese.

I got the breakfast pretzel roll. This bun was similar in appearance and size to that of Wendy's, but it was drier; somewhat harder; and had a duller, darker shade of brown. Nonetheless, it tasted more like a pretzel than any of the other places I tried. It was even sprinkled with coarse sea salt on top. The insides of this pretzel sandwich were not fresh since the egg seemed old and spongy, and the ham was cheap and processed. One of the few merits of this sandwich was that it was the cheapest, at only \$3 and had the least amount of calories.

Overall, I thought all of the pretzel burgers were a let down. They were mediocre and with the exception of the Dunkin' Donuts bun, none of them had the taste or texture of a real pretzel. The trend was overhyped and I doubt we'll be seeing more pretzel buns in the future. Although Ruby Tuesday had the best filling in its burger and Dunkin' Donuts had the best pretzel bun, Wendy's had the best overall burger.

If you've tried the Doritos Locos Taco and the KFC Double Down and you can't break your tradition of trying every absurd fast food item, then I would go for the Wendy's burger. Otherwise, pretzel burgers can be added to the ever-growing list of fast food experiments gone wrong.

More Than "I Love It"

by Natalie Pienkowska

The Swedish duo Icona Pop released their aggressive electro-pop single "I Love It" over a year ago, and since then it caught our attention by going viral earlier this year and going on to become a summer anthem. We've blasted it in our cars and added it to many of our playlists, and it is still repeatedly played (overplayed by now) on the radio.



Photo by Jennifer Walsh

The two best friends Caroline Hjelt and Aino Jawo both grew up in Stockholm and formed Icona Pop in 2009. They met at a club, and several weeks later had enough songs to start performing. Their time on "The Iconic Tour" finished last week, and now they wait for another song off their second album "This Is... Icona Pop" to go mainstream.

The group's album, released on September 24, peaked at 36 on the Billboard 200 for a reason: it was well worth every minute I listened to it.

The songs are full of energy; it's no wonder that they're constantly played at clubs. The album starts off with "I Love It" and continues with upbeat songs to amp up your mood. "On a Roll" is very similar to "I Love It" since it's also about being reckless. "In the Stars" has a unique dance beat.

"Just Another Night" shows a different side of the duo. It is a song you would not expect from Icona Pop since it starts off very slow, but the vocals are still impressive. "Hold On" is very repetitive and my least favorite song on the album. Their song "Girlfriend" is about how much the best friends value their relationship. The chorus consists of Tupac's "All I need in this life of sin is me and my girlfriend," (a line also featured in Jay-Z and Beyonce's "Bonnie and Clyde").

Though the songs have a great beat, the lyrics could have been better. Icona Pop cannot solely be blamed, since most lyrics in today's music lack sense.

My personal favorites are tied between "All Night" and "Ready for the Weekend." However, that doesn't mean that the rest of the songs weren't good.

I highly recommend this album for those who generally like electronic music, plan to host a dance party, or want to drown out the emotions that come with a breakup.

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Seniors signing off for girls soccer

by Natalie Gomez

On October 22, the girls soccer team finished its last game of the season with a tie against William C. Bryant High School in overtime. For the seniors, it was the last time they would put on their Townsend Harris jersey and cleats.

For captains Olivia McFadden and Athina Michalidis, the last game was bittersweet: heartwarming because of their accomplishments and sad because it represented the end of a four year soccer career.

Athina said, "I was preparing myself from the night before. Knowing it would be the last game I would ever play in a Townsend uniform made me extremely upset. I started crying that night because as a four-

year player and two-year captain, I grew a bond with the team, the coach, and the game."

Athina, who plays sweeper on defense, had never scored a goal in her high school soccer career, and hoped to leave with at least one goal in her name. On Tuesday, her wish came true as she scored THHS's only goal on a corner kick. Bryant scored one goal as well and the game went into overtime, tied 1-1. In overtime, neither team scored and the game ended in a tie. Olivia said, "Although, I was sad at the end of the game, I real-

ized how happy I was that I got to experience such an amazing four seasons with such wonderful girls who supported me through every 80-minute game, good or bad."

The end of the game was very emotional for the team and a lot of tears were shed as team mem-

men on the team will continue to fill the seniors' shoes."

Sophomore Kristine Guillaume agreed that the level of dedication and intensity has increased, "This season was definitely more demanding than the last; the whole team felt this way especially since PSAL put us in a bigger division with more games to play."

Although the team didn't make playoffs this year, it did gain something perhaps more special. Kristine said, "I feel like we got a lot closer. We really bonded at the tournament where we won first and I just had a lot of fun. That's the thing about our team - we stick together through the highs and lows."

Olivia, who ranked among the PSAL's top soccer players and led the team in scoring; Athina, whose presence could be felt from the field all the way to the bench and who led the team's defense; senior Nicole Bielecki, who helped run the ball from the midfield and whose soccer IQ contributed to the team's success; and all the other seniors of the team whose presence impacted the team on or off the field will be missed greatly by both the team and Coach Sioukas.



Seniors Olivia, Athina, and Nicole pose with junior Nicole Gleizer.

bers recalled good memories and predicted what the future might hold. The underclassmen stated that they "had big shoes to fill," but Athina disagreed, "I think they will step up and continue to play their hearts out as they did the past season."

Olivia agreed with her co-captain, saying, "In the past when I was an underclassman, losing seniors seemed like the end of the team's success. However, every year the girls soccer team has stood up and improved, and I have no doubt that the current underclass-

Turtles vs. Judges

by Diana Mora

On October 8, the THHS Turtles defeated the Cardozo Lady Judges at Franklin K. Lane High School.

Coach James Jordan switched things up this swim meet, making the girls swim in races they weren't normally accustomed to. Although the girls were surprised by the news, Coach Jordan assured them it was just a tactic to see how well they performed in the different events.

This rotation did not phase the team, and the girls dominated from the start. In the the 200 yard Medley Relay, the Turtles placed first and second.

One of the highlights of the swim meet was the 500 yard Freestyle, which consists of 20 laps of continuous swimming. Junior Carina Acosta placed first in this event. The pool room roared with screams as Carina gained a lead over her opponents, lapping them three times. This victory added four points to the Turtles score.

Freshman Alexis Sarabia also swam exceptionally well, placing first in both the 200 yard Freestyle event and the 100 yard Backstroke. Alexis said, "All the cheering and shouting gets me excited to get in the pool and start swimming. Winning a race isn't always everything to me. Win or lose, if I had fun and tried my best, then I know I succeeded."

All of the girls put their best efforts towards beating Benjamin Cardozo High School with a score of 52 to 41. Harris hopes to continue its winning streak against their rivals, especially Francis Lewis.



Junior Carina Acosta swims the 500-yard Freestyle.

Photo courtesy of Diana Mora

Underclassmen take home title of best in Queens

by Catherine Ng

The Queens Freshman and Sophomore Borough Championships were held at Cunningham Park on October 15. This year, the THHS boys cross country team proved themselves one of the best teams in Queens, with the freshmen taking home second place and the sophomores earning first. In addition, Muhamed Bicic broke THHS's freshman record for the 1.5 mile race by five seconds.

Benjamin Pulatov, brother of last year's boys track captain Isaac Pulatov, ran for the first time in a PSAL meet. When asked how he felt before the race, he expressed his anxiety because he had only started track recently.

With the freshmen, Assistant Coach Orlando Martinez and Coach George Rio were especially careful to emphasize the basics. "Pace yourself," Coach Martinez said, adding, "Don't go out so fast and get tired in the middle of the race." Muhamed led his teammates in the warm up and gave them an overview of the course.

In the sophomore 2.5 mile race, the first Harrisite to finish was Abdoulaye Diallo, who earned 4th place with a finish of 15:28. Matthew McAndrew finished at 15:56 in 10th place, followed by Benjamin Chang who finished 17th. Benjamin was nearly outrun by Andre Cunalata of Francis Lewis High School, but managed to stay ahead after a sprint to the finish line, with a time of 16:44. After an intense run to the finish line, sophomores Fahim Nousad and Dysron Marshall both finished with a time of 18:52, passing High School for Construction runner Jermy Budhram. Fahim and Dysron placed 36th and 37th respectively,

with a difference of milliseconds.

While the sophomores were running, the freshmen gathered together for a Hebrew prayer led by

we reached a nearly 180 degree turn which involved us going around several trees to successfully complete it. I noticed a couple of runners cutting through the trees and bushes as opposed to completing the turn the way they should have."

Muhamed claimed that the THHS boys all followed the path correctly, explaining that other teams like Francis Lewis High School were guilty of not following directions: "The Francis Lewis coach talked about how there were some runners who cut parts of the course before the race and coincidentally his whole freshman team cut the beginning part of the race. This frustrated many of the runners and despite not following the rules [the Francis Lewis runners] were not penalized."

The Francis Lewis freshman team took home first place.

According to Assistant Coach Martinez, a "redo" does not exist in cross country races, unlike in indoor track races, so the officials in charge could not redo the race despite concerns over fairness. They also couldn't disqualify anybody since they were unable to tell if anyone cheated due to the large number of freshmen that ran for this race.

Nonetheless, it was a job well done for all freshmen and sophomores.

Abdoulaye stated, "We've learned to have full confidence in our teammates." He also quoted Joe Paterno, saying, "When a team outgrows individual performance and learns team confidence, excellence becomes a reality."



Boys XC underclassmen pose with their trophies.

Matan Zeigel. Matan summed up their goal: "We need to see you dying at the finish line."

After the start of the freshman 1.5 mile race, Muhamed took the lead and won first place with a time of 8:28. Matan finished in 7th place with a time of 10:00, despite his foot injury.

During the race, however, many of the runners did not follow the course correctly. Freshman Justice Williams explained, "Towards the middle of the race,

Photo by Yash Sharma

Volleyball bounces back with win

by Evan Noblesala

Artwork by Parina Kaewkrjang



After two consecutive losses to division leader Benjamin N. Cardozo, the girls varsity volleyball team beat Bayside High School on October 17. The game, which was won two sets to none, was hard-fought with many hustle and scramble plays.

With a whole week off from divisional play, the girls got to practice and improve their communication, a weakness that affected their gameplay.

This week of practice proved to be crucial in their victory. Many of the drop calls that had been costly against Cardozo were avoided as the girls' communication improved against Bayside.

Junior Janine Lim said that she was impressed with how many players "opened their mouths and took charge, unlike in our other games where we seemed to be scared to say anything."

This extra preparation also seemed to help the girls' spirits, with many of them determined to end their two-game losing streak.

Sophomore Tanja Miketic was really proud of the team and said, "The effort we put through the season and in these past practices was shown throughout this game." This effort included lots of hustle, which was highlighted during one "miracle play," as described by Janine.

During one long volley in the beginning of the second set, senior captain Bianca Dilan had shanked a pass on a Bayside attack which was saved from falling all the way in the far gym corner by junior Emma Noblesala. Then, junior Debra Chan hit a long free over falling on the Bayside side, giving THHS a point and the momentum throughout the rest of the set, which was won 25-20. In the first set, which was won 25-17, a similar play occurred where both Bianca and Emma made diving saves to help the team move to an attacking position and win the point.

The extra practice isn't the only factor that helped the girls in their victory. The new cheer of "Ooh kill em," inspired by the song of the same name, was started by Bianca and chanted after every kill. At the end of the game Harris had a total of thirteen kills. Junior Lucy Lim, who had four of these kills felt that the cheer, originally a team joke, helped take pressure off the team and let players "relax and have fun."

The cheer of "Ooh kill em" is hoped to be a rally cry by the team and a winning factor for the rest of the season. The girls will try to kill it in their next game.

Lady Hawks roll over Lewis

by Thomas Sullivan

On October 15, the Townsend Harris girls bowling team obliterated Francis Lewis, 3-0. This win followed the team's first loss in over two years, which occurred on October 11 against Thomas Edison.

Senior Jamie Pfeiffer led the way with a career-high score of 180 in game "A." This score stood as the highest one in the game. Junior Gabriella Zygald also bowled a career-high score of 98. The "B" team for THHS redeemed itself after being a main reason for the loss to Thomas Edison. The team played so well, in fact, that the regulars for the "C" team were permitted to bowl instead of the "A" players, taking their place to give THHS a better chance of winning the final game.

The Hawks came out swinging in Game A, with the team of Ellen Huynh, Jamie Pfeiffer, Michelle Schweiger, and Morgan Wu combining for a total score of 523; this easily beat Lewis's "A" team score of 452. The rest of the games would follow suit. THHS's "B" team, comprised of Georja Fotiou, Rebecca Lee, Shavana Singh, and Veronica Nguyen combined for a score of 407 that beat the Patriot's 386. In Game C, Gabriella Zygald, Jada Allred, Mya Allen, and Rhadika Patel put up a score of 371, which easily beat Francis Lewis's score of 321.



Artwork by Parina Kaewkrjang

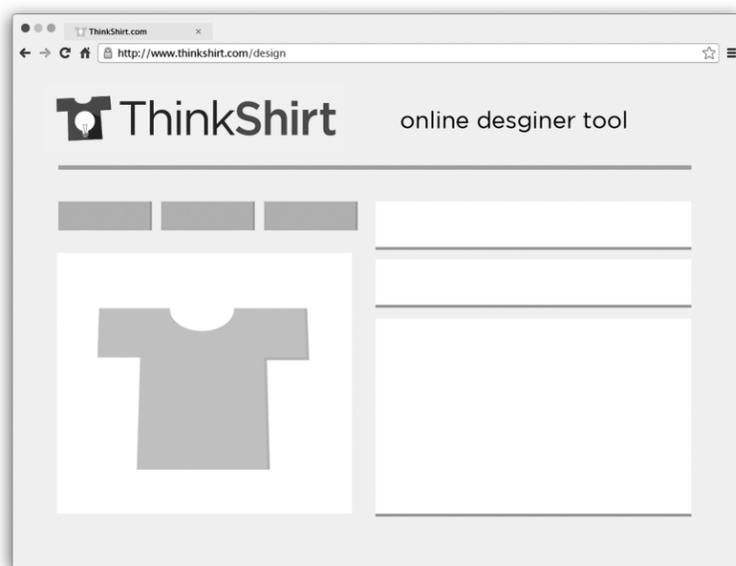
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Teacher feature: Mr. Hackney's history in sports

by Michelle Gan

Social Studies teacher Chris Hackney, most easily recognized by his accent, is notable for teaching the popular electives AP Human Geography and History Through Film. What many students may not know, however, is that Mr. Hackney was the first baseball coach at THHS, and that he also coached girls and boys soccer.

Mr. Hackney's background in sports can be traced back to his days at St. Stithians College, a small, all-boys liberal arts high school in South Africa. He described the school as not being very different from Townsend Harris, sharing a strong focus on Humanities and academic excellence. The only difference he noted was the "greater emphasis on sports" at St. Stithians, which is considered an essential component of most liberal arts schools, but is most definitely not a priority at THHS.

Students at St. Stithians were required to partake in sports throughout the year, meaning that during each of the three athletic seasons they would have to be on a different team. The three-season division is similar to PSAL's classification of sports as either fall, winter, or spring. Mr. Hackney's three sports were rugby, rowing, and track and field.

In addition to playing three sports, students also had to run track, go to the gym, and lift weights throughout the year. Mr. Hackney described their morning routine: "Some days we would go run, some days we would swim laps in the pool, and then we went and changed for breakfast."

Students tend to complain about the length of school days in New York, but at St. Stithians, the day would begin at around 7:30 A.M. and last until 7 P.M. Academic classes would last until 2:30 and then sports would go until 7. According to Mr. Hackney, the school was set up so that teachers could only give tests on Saturdays, and Saturday night became their night to have fun and let loose. As long as they had a pass, they wouldn't have to come back to school until Sunday morning.

"It was a totally different culture," Mr. Hackney stated. Having been raised in such a culture, it was no surprise when he stepped into the position of Townsend Harris's first ever baseball coach.

Mr. Hackney was asked to become the baseball coach in 1996 by a THHS student at the time, Nick Diunte, who was the driving force behind the founding of the baseball team. Mr. Hackney had just started teaching and claims that he was recruited because of his youth.

"When I first started baseball, I didn't get paid to do it," he said. At that time, baseball had started off as a club, which meant PSAL gave him no money for his coaching.



Photo by Kseniya Davydova

Mr. Hackney as he teaches AP Human Geography.

Once he had taken the classes necessary to become a coach, it was much easier for him to sign up to coach other sports. Thus, he seized the opportunity when the position of soccer coach opened up.

He coached baseball for two more years before girls soccer became available. At the time, girls soccer was a spring sport, and he chose to coach girls soccer instead of baseball because "[he] knew very little about baseball, and once baseball was paid PSAL salary, lots of people wanted to do it." The transition was made easier by the fact that there were many willing to replace him and that the players he had started the team with were all graduating.

Mr. Hackney unofficially continued the tradition of coaches from the history department. AP World History teacher Adam Stonehill has coached girls junior varsity basketball, and is currently the assistant coach for girls track. Various other Social Studies teachers have also coached other THHS teams in the past.

Mr. Hackney continued to coach girls soccer until 2003. His decision to stop coaching revolved around a lack of time. "My life became too busy. Got a dog, bought a house, wanted to have a kid. It was very hard."

Mr. Stonehill mentioned that Mr. Hackney's replacement was not nearly as popular as him. Many girls on the team quit and joined track instead, choosing to play soccer with their club teams and hang out with their teammates off the field.

Mr. Hackney reflected upon his experience as both a coach and a teacher, calling it a positive one. "One of the benefits of being a teacher and a coach is recruiting. You know, in class, you throw

a tennis ball in their face to see their coordination," he joked. He recounted the time he ended up recruiting one of his very best players at Parent Teacher Conferences: a girl's mother asked if there was any way for her daughter to get more involved in the THHS community, and he suggested joining girls soccer.

Mr. Hackney commented that the best thing about our student athletes is that "we use our basic brainpower to overcome the athletic ability of another team." He described Staten Island Technical High School as one of their toughest competitors because they have both athletic ability and intelligence.

Mr. Hackney said one of his favorite parts of coaching was the friendships he watched form on the field. "You don't coach for the money; you coach for the pleasure of it. The money's just an extra added bonus. Also, PSAL pays you on time and how much they say they will."

No longer a coach, Mr. Hackney remarked that sports do not play as big a part in his life. He'll occasionally walk, hike, or "kick a ball around with [his] dog and [his] daughter."

Boys soccer falls to Metropolitan Campus

by John O'Neill

On October 17, the Hawks played a home game against the Metropolitan Campus Knights. With second place on the line, the Knights came out on top 1-0.

Both teams came out with strong defensive play, and it was apparent that whoever scored first would win the game. The Hawks' offense looked to be better for the first thirty minutes, as they held the ball for more time, and had more shots on goal. However, in the 31st minute, the Knights found an opening in the Hawks' defense and they capitalized as Metropolitan Campus scored the game's first and only goal, giving them the 1-0 lead.

The game remained 1-0 going into halftime, and in the second half, desperation started to settle in for the Hawks as they knew a loss would be detrimental. This desperation quickly turned into fouls, as both senior Mateusz Chrobak and sophomore Tiarnan Mathers each received yellow cards late in the game.

Senior Michael Jazgarski said, "When someone on our team is down, the whole team takes a hit."

In the final few minutes, the Hawks again showed signs of life, coming close to scoring the equalizer multiple times. As the final whistle blew, the Knights celebrated their victory, and the Hawks left the field very disappointed after the

loss.

Michael said, "Our team lost because we weren't hyped."

Senior Rafal Chudzik also added, "Lack of confidence was a major problem since we possessed the ball for the majority of the game."

This was the Hawks' final game at Kissena Corridor Park, and the final regular season home game at Kissena for all 12 of the Hawks' seniors. The Hawks finished with two wins and 3 losses at Kissena this year.

This was also the first game since October 7 for senior and co-captain Mateusz Chrobak following a 2 game suspension for receiving a red card. On the game, Mateusz said, "All the good things we did are irrelevant because at the end of the day we were scoreless."

The Hawks finished the regular season in fourth place in Queens B III Division, with five wins, six losses, and two ties. After losing the two games after this, the boys soccer



Senior Michael Jazgarski takes on a defender.

team, like the girls, was unable to make playoffs this year. The team's twelve seniors ended their high school soccer careers with a final loss against High School for Arts & Business.