

THE ECHO

Over 20 Speakers Address Career Day

by Zach Pagel and Melody McCrary, staff reporter

Career Day took place on October 30th. Scheduled on a half day, the event involved over twenty speakers of various careers discussing their line of work. Throughout the morning, students went from session to session, all around the school, learning about the careers that they were interested in. The day started off with a six person panel discussion, which included Uwe Maurer--founder of Taiwan Sunshine, Derek Bruce--founder of Finga's Restaurant in Taichung, Todd Wertz of K-Swiss International Division, and Stephen Parker from the British Chamber of Commerce. The rest of the day, students went around campus listening to speakers of different careers. Career Day was beneficial to many students. Some learned about their career of interest, and some learned about similar fields to their career of interest. Lauren Baker, a junior interested in cardiovascular surgery and cardiology,

said "Career Day didn't help me as it didn't have sessions on my particular field of interest, but it did provide opportunities for me to browse other options in the medical field." Sarah Tu, a senior, said "I already know that I want to be a physical therapist in the future, and attending Career Day just made me more sure about my decision." Abby Fusca, a sophomore, is interested in being a veterinarian, and although there were no topics on careers of veterinarians, she said that Career Day still helped broaden her spectrum of future career ideas. Career Day also helped those who didn't have a particular career interest in mind. As senior Josh Guenther put it, "[Career Day] gave me further insight into what certain careers would be like, and narrowed down the careers I think would be better suited for me." The event involved much preparation. Administrative assistant Ryan Jacobi, and counselors Clive Hsu and Julie Heinsman put over sixty hours of combined work into making Career Day possible. Jacobi was in charge of

communications, while Hsu was in charge of networking. Planning and preparation took about a month and a half because speakers had to plan in advance to fit the day into their busy schedules.

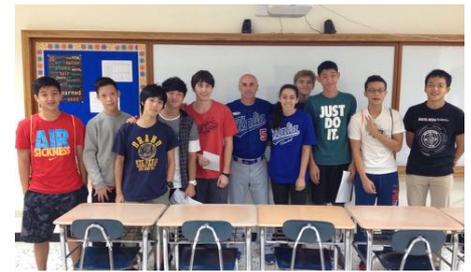


photo by Clive Hsu

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photo by Serene Brown

by Roxanne Chang, staff reporter

The Morrison Red Cross Club organized a concert that brought together musicians and strengthened the bond between the community and Taichung. Red Cross collaborated with

Red Cross and Rotary Club Host Fundraising Concert

the Rotary Club to produce the event and to raise funds for Hue Ming Blind School.

Morrison's Red Cross team had a clear vision of its purpose, "Red Cross is all about lending a hand to the underprivileged and bringing joy into the society," said Julie Kim, Red Cross Vice President, "we advocate for fundraising

for those in need". For months, Red Cross members have been selling tickets, creating posters and flyers, collaborating with clubs both in and outside of school, and holding weekly meetings to make sure the club is on task.

The six months of hard work led up to the big day, November 15th.

The auditorium was filled with students, teachers, families, Rotary members, and news reporters. The concert was the first event hosted by Morrison in collaboration with the Rotary Club to raise funds. Red Cross members furnished the auditorium, provided refreshments, and ushered the concert. The Rotary Club helped raise funds and awareness, advertised, and decorated. Student musicians and the music department spent months in preparation for the event and had weekend rehearsals.

The Rotary Concert not only moved the audience, but it also enlightened Morrison's own students. "I now see the true meaning of service," said Eric Hung, Red Cross Co-President, "and I hope the community does too."

Regarding commitment to a cause, Kim said, "It is not easy to pursue a goal. There are so many aspects [of achievement]: teamwork, responsibility, and time management. Always ask yourself, 'Is this something that I truly want to do?'"



photo by Serene Brown

The concert taught valuable lessons of service and of leadership. "It is hard to be a leader," says Judy Chen, Red Cross Co-President, "it's easy for

others to criticize what you've done, but sometimes those people are not aware of the things that are actually going on. You just have to accept [the criticism] and learn to be humble—and sometimes apologize. I learned that going over the process of an event isn't enough; a physical run-through is necessary. No event ever turns out [perfectly]; big or small problems [occur], but you've got to be flexible and work with what you have."

The Rotary Concert was another step taken closer into the heart of service. "Some people may think that one concert changes nothing," said Kim, "but I don't agree; through the concert, I believe that more and more community members are aware of what Red Cross advocates for."

Drama Team Presents "Relative Values"



photo by Kayle Miller

by Esther Brown and Meeghan Sheppard, staff reporter

High school actors entertained audiences with the 1950s British comedy, "Relative Values," by Noel Coward. The cast and crew performed on both November 6 and 7, keeping the audience absorbed in their three-hour long performance.

Set at Marshwood House, "Relative Values" follows two estranged sisters and the way their paths cross unexpectedly after 20 years. The eldest, a Mrs. Dora "Moxie" Moxton (played by Aliyah Bush) is the maid to Felicity, Countess of Marshwood (Hannah Christopherson) Felicity's son, Nigel (Evan Finch), has become engaged to the Moxie's sister Miranda Frayle (Karissa Kimble). Miranda Frayle, who has captured Nigel's heart, is an actress who hysterically over-dramatizes everything, including her backstory, much to her sister's anger. But the couple, who retreat to the Countess's estate to escape



photo by Kayla Miller

the paparazzi and fans, are followed by Miranda's estranged beau, Don Lucas (Joel Kelly). Felicity, ever the scheming mother and not the hottest fan Miranda in the first place, throws Lucas into the mix by inviting him to stay the night.

As for the drama occurring off the stage, the cast and crew had to overcome several barriers in order to make it to opening night. One unexpected hurdle occurred when, a week before the play was scheduled to show, director Don Beck was called back to the U.S. to be with his father before he passed away. However, "the show must go on," and it did. The actors and actresses impressed the audiences with their British accents and dry but entertaining British humor, all under the last-minute, stand-in direction of Mr. Dale Brugler.

Tiffany Chen, a member of the backstage crew, commented about the situation that arose from Mr. Beck's de-

parture, saying, "A lot of people stepped up in his place and helped out. Both the cast and crew put in extra effort to make sure everything ran smoothly."

Christopher Calmes, a senior and audience member remarked that it was just as fun seeing the actors doing something they love as watching the play itself. And so it was, all cast members were in their element. Hannah Christopherson memorized over 600 lines and executing them nearly perfectly with a British accent. Aliyah Bush and Samuel Cheng complimented the role of Felicity, Countess of Marshwood nicely though witty lines and sarcastic tones. In fact, the dialog, kept engaging by the actors through their tone of voice and facial expressions was a key component in the enjoyment that many audience members felt while watching Relative Values.



photo by Kayla Miller

Junior Class Social Chair Resigns

by Kiki Yi, staff reporter

On October 28th, Joshua Strange resigned from his position as Social Chair of the junior class. Re-elections took place the following week on November 4th, and Jack Widener was chosen to take Strange's place. Echo reporter Kiki Yi spoke to Strange and Widener for a closer look at the resignation and re-election.

Echo: Why did you resign?

Strange: The role of the social chair is to bring the class together in fun activities and to unify, and I felt like I was not fulfilling this role. As a class officer, you have to care a lot to fulfill your role successfully as social chair, and I realized a couple weeks ago, before my resignation, when I was still deciding that I didn't care enough, that I didn't have the right motives during the election process. I was just doing it because everyone else wanted me to. And I was just telling myself that I would do a good job. And honestly, it was for the transcript. That's one of the main reasons.

Echo: What do you think about Jack Weidner taking your place?

Strange: I think the social chair role for the junior class is in capable hands. Jack has already proven himself to be competent and effective. I'm looking forward to what he has planned for the future.

Echo: Why did you decide to run for Social Chair?

Widener: I was [thinking about] running for Stuco next year, and this window of opportunity opened up. I decided I could step in and take up this challenge and show how I can handle the position at the hardest time of junior year and be able to handle high school Stuco for next year. I also wanted to make a difference in my class.

Echo: What is your vision for the class this year?

Widener: I want to unite the class through parties, and I think I am capable of that. I want the best for my class, and I see a future of our class where we're not just a lot of cliques but [united] into one.



photo by Kayla Miller

Student Performance Surprises Audience at House of Blues



photo by Kenkue Her

by Kevin Sun, staff reporter

The House of Blues featured student performers in the evening of October 16. Held in the cafeteria, pizza, chips, and other refreshments were provided.

The evening opened with seniors Hansol Kim and Isaac Park,

performing Korean pop song "I'm in love". The first five songs of the night were centered around the theme of love, complementing the event's promotion slogan, "come enjoy the chemistry".

Placing third was Keegan Heebner and Jada Hsiao, performing Ed Sheeran's "I see fire". At second place, bassist Chris Calmes, drummer Isaac Park, guitarist Ben Myburgh, and vocalist Parker Gass played "Seven Nation Army" by The White Stripes.

By unanimous agreement from the judges, Jooyeo Jung took first place, winning a 1,200NT Starbucks gift card and a standing ovation from the crowd.

The performance was a vocal solo of Elton John's "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?", and Jung's musical talent surprised the audience. "Jooyeo really surprised me. I've never heard him sing", said sophomore Matthias Schmidt. STUCO president David Lee also commented, "I didn't know Jooyeo could sing so well".

Jung explains that it was his first time performing at House of Blues because he is a very shy person. Since it is his last year at Morrison, he thought he would try something new. A short solo in the school choir had also boosted his confidence.

According to STUCO, the

House of Blues was held to “unite the student body with music”. Additionally, all proceeds were donated to Gloria Hsu’s Pregnancy Support Center.

Cafeteria Food: Worth the Price?

by *Jessica Hsu, staff reporter*

When students hear about lunch, there are substantially different reactions. “I don’t eat school lunch—for good reason,” notes a sophomore. He and other underclassmen would rather go to the village for lunch. Time-conscious seniors, on the other hand, would still eat school lunch. “It doesn’t taste bad, and walking out takes so much time,” explains senior Judy Chen. “I’m out everyday for meetings,” remarks senior Samuel Cheng.

Enter the cafeteria where it is buzzing with noise and activity. Indeed, students like to eat inside due to the convenience. “I don’t really need to go out,” says Jacob Dingus, a freshman. Some, like his classmate Samuel Manu, just go for the bigger plate.

Most students don’t consider themselves picky eaters. Most, like Samuel Cheng, think “food is food.” For dorm student Angeline Wong, it is the same food for lunch as at dinner. Still, the most important issue for students is the serving size. Male students complain about the small portions and have mentioned that they eat a lot more at home. “I was annoyed I could only get two scoops of fries,” Manu says. “A lot of people want more.” Judy Chen believes that there should be a daily soup. Cheng, who campaigns for more meat, also thinks so. “I used to have a daily soup, and I liked that.” Nakayama wants more drink variety, such as energy drinks and better desserts.

Mrs. Jennifer McCracken, the new dining supervisor, explains that the 120 NT price for a meal plan is worth it. At school, students get more food than they can ever get at a restaurant, even if they may not necessarily want the vegetable or side dish. As for the price, if they were to get everything that is offered in the school lunch, it would total 250 NT. Students can also enjoy a second serving for free, which they cannot do at a restaurant.

There are many hidden factors that go into the process before the steaming tray of food is carried out of the kitchen. BeBeJia, the company owned by Mr. Wu, the head chef, works together with Mrs. McCracken to decide the menu. BeBeJia buys, prepares and essentially owns all the food while Morrison pays for the food eaten. Mrs. McCracken’s job is to make recommendations if a recipe doesn’t taste good. The portions are based on how much Mr. Wu has to pay for items. The price per meal remains the same regardless of other factors. For example, because of the typhoon at the beginning of the year, Mr. Wu, who normally buys vegetables for 600 NT, had to buy them for 3000 NT.

Whether it is those cooking the food or in charge of quality control, all the people involved with the school lunch program want students to be satisfied. Students can send an email to Mrs. McCracken regarding any concerns. Although serving size is something that cannot be changed. “Once I have enough people saying ‘we really like this,’ I can find cheap substitutes [to fill people up] like more eggs for protein,” says Mrs. McCracken. It would be difficult to increase the portion size for the main course because of the cost involved, but it is definitely something open to discussion.

Overall, high schoolers agree that the quality of school lunch is okay. Taco salad and beef noodle soup remain most popular among students. “I hear that a lot of schools have bad food,” Angeline observes. Based on personal experience, Jacob Dingus can attest to that. “Morrison actually provides vegetables,” he says.



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Club Spotlight: Gathering to Give

by *Praisye Yeo, guest reporter*

During the fall of the last school year, Alice Hsiao took measures to reach out to people with specific needs, creating the club “Gathering to Give.” Echo reporter Praisye Yeo met with Alice one morning to get a better picture of this service club.

Echo: *What is Gathering to Give?*

Hsiao: Gathering to Give is a service club that combines students from four schools; TAS (Taipei American School), TES (Taipei European School), DIS (Dominican International School), and MAC (Morrison Academy). I combined students from these four schools who all have the heart to serve others.

Echo: *What are your visions for the club?*

Hsiao: I mainly want to focus on children and elders, because I feel like nowadays [high school students] don’t really know how to interact with elders...But I feel like because of them we are here and have the knowledge

and wisdom right now... And children because they are our next generation and our next success. I am also looking to extend the club internationally because I don’t want to just serve within the community.



photo by Alice Hsiao

Echo: *How is this club different from the other service clubs at Morrison?*

Hsiao: I’d say [the international aspect] is the main difference. From what I know, other clubs have services that commit to weekly outreaches, and some support school events, but Gathering to Give is a little different because we only go on trips during the longer breaks. We also go out to serve others

with people from other high schools. Also, other clubs focus on the local communities, but my focus is both international and national, reaching out to the old and new generations, the elderly and children.

Echo: *Is there a reason behind how you came up with the name for your club, “Gathering to Give”?*

Hsiao: (laughs) Well, the reason I chose, “Gathering” is since I basically gather [high school] students from four different schools... And the reason I chose “Give”, is because I feel like true happiness doesn’t come from what we receive but what we give to others. And we are so blessed to have all the things we already have in life; like we have a good environment, we can go to school, we have a good family to provide food and such, and a lovely home. But the people that we serve might not necessarily have all the things that we have. So why don’t we gather the happiness and give it to other people?

Junior Carnival Video Debuts At Chapel

by *Jake Strange, staff reporter*

“The Junior Carnival promo video was, in a word,” said Grant Roloff, “splendid.” First debuting at the weekly chapel, the eponymously-named “A Knight to Remember” video left the first viewers jaw-dropped. As one student recalled, “I remember when it first started I was like ‘what?’ Then when it ended I was like ‘woah.’”

The video, which features a cast of primarily junior students, centers on a lonely yet quirky teenage girl played by Melissa Kimble and (spoilers) her

eventual “true love,” Max Ellis, and was intended to build excitement for the Junior Carnival. Esther Brown, script-writer for AKTR, and undoubtedly cause of some of its success, commented on the video’s story; “I wanted to write a story that reflected a common struggle for teenagers. We all managed to capture that with the story, the actors. But of course, the video would have been nothing without Tim.”

It can not go without commenting on the influence the director, Timothy Huang, had on the video,

which multiple participants of the production of the video claim was imperative. “The level of cinematography and experience Tim brought was really the reason the video made the impact that it did,” said Ellis. With the use of an ILCE A7S, Huang utilized a combination of unique cuts and camera angles to amplify the drama of the video.

The video quickly made it’s way to the video sharing website, Vimeo, where it gained decent popularity, garnering 2000 views. “That was really exciting for me,” Timothy said. “In addition to the enthusiastic reception people around Morrison were giving. It feels good.” With the impression it has made on campus, it is little wonder that A Knight to Remember will hold the standard for years to come.





HAPPY

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from echo staff



by O.S. Audrey L...