

The ECHO

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Morrison Academy, Taichung

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CHAMPNOS TO CHAMPS!

By: Niki Yang



This year, our defending volleyball champs plunged right into the competition upon arriving in Daegu, South Korea. The first two days' games determined the team's rank depending on how many wins and losses they had. At the end of the two days, the Morrison girls had reached rank 1 and were fired up for the next three days of double elimination.

Coach Nancy Wittgow and Beth Turner both showed great enthusiasm and made sure the team was focused and together. Co-captain, Karen Yates' excellent all around playing

earned her the title of MVP. All star tourney players were Nicole Turner, "the beast", Ilona Heiskanen "the intimidating middle blocker", and Bridget Homer, who showed leadership from the back row.

According to the coaches, Victoria Huang had consistent hitting and digging, Selina Taylor improved greatly as setter, Diean Manu did well in serving and passing. Although Teresa Chen had a shoulder injury, she played tough while Bethany Pagel's great attitude lifted up the team's spirits. The team was well balanced and everyone got the chance to play. Undefeated, the Morrison girls once again took the gold by solidly taking down every team. "We went and achieved exactly what we wanted" said Coach Turner.



A WOOHOO FOR BALLYHOO

By: Jubilee PhamXuan

Morrison's fall play, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* did anything but disappoint with its humorous portrayal of a German-Jewish family living in Atlanta, Georgia.

Written by Alfred Uhry and set in the December of 1939, the play revolves around the Freitags: businessman Adolph (Nathan Brugler), his widowed sister Beulah 'Boo' Levy (Josephine Chiang), his sister-in-law Reba Freitag (Elizabeth Hanson) who's also widowed, and his two nieces Lala Levy (Hannah Wei) and Sunny Freitag (Renee Baker).

As Hitler takes over Poland and *Gone With the Wind* premieres, the family looks forward to Ballyhoo, the biggest social event of the year that's hosted by their elite country club. With Boo pressuring her to find someone acceptable to go with to Ballyhoo, such as the upstanding Sylvan 'Peachy' Weil, Jr.



(Ramsey Baden), the childish, fanciful Lala sets her sights on Joe Farkas (Mike Lihou), Adolph's new assistant. However, Joe is quite taken by Lala's cousin Sunny, a junior at a liberal arts college who's visiting home for Christmas. While emotions clash and arguments ensue, topics that concern finding one's identity and dealing with discrimination are present, giving the audience both a laugh and a lesson.

Since there were only seven characters to be played, the cast of *Ballyhoo* were challenged in the amount of lines they had to memorize, with many scenes comprised of only two people. "There were a lot of funny mistakes that happened during the practices," comments Elizabeth Hanson, but "everyone improved a lot," said Renee Baker, making the play a satisfying experience for both cast member and audiences.

MUD, SWEAT, AND TEARS – DOING SERVICE IN THE PHILIPPINES

By: Niki Yang



While most students settled down to relax for fall break, others decided to use the week to serve. Most of them were members of the Swim Team. Since 2008, the Swim Team has traveled to

the Philippines to assist Kid's International Ministries (K.I.M). Every year members come back burning with excitement as well as a few sunburns. Similar to previous trips, new jobs were provided, and each person on the team had the chance to do new things.

The team started off the week by diving straight into the "pit", a large hole that is going to become KIM's new swimming pool. Mud needed to be broken up, put in buckets, and heaved onto a truck. The work was dirty, and not what most were used to. Thankfully, the team came prepared with rubber boots and gloves. From digging, to moving buckets, to dumping out mud, the pit was the hardest of the jobs.

When not soaked with mud, other jobs done by members included tutoring, distributing food, and hanging out with the kids at New Faith Family Children's Home. Tutoring involved helping kids with their homework, reading to them, and

getting to know them, meeting up in the library that had been built by the team last year. Distributing food involved a small group of people who would load a van full of food and drive to "tent city", "which is more like tin city now, seeing as there are not as many tents," said Mr. Wertz. As soon as the word "feeding" was yelled in the village, dozens and dozens of children ran out with every cup, bowl, and pan they owned. At every feeding, food was given out until distributors had to scrape the bottoms of the containers.

After a long, tiring afternoon, whether it was pit work, tutoring, or distributing food, the end of the day was dedicated to devotions at the New Faith Family Children's Home. Team members had the opportunity to testify and share their love of the Lord with the kids at the home. Both the members and the children became closer, and when it came time for the team to leave, tears were shed on both sides.

Mud, sweat, and tears – was it worth it? Absolutely.



CARE FOR A BITE?

By: Maria Huang



White boxes printed with the green and red logo of Krispy Kreme appeared out of the blue on campus Monday November 12. One might wonder where in the world they had come from? The answer: Honor band trip.

Full. Enriching. Musicality. Broadening. Responsibility. Those were just few of the words honor band students described their four day trip to Faith Academy in the Philippines. This group that consisted of two alto flutes, one bass flute, three clarinets, one alto clarinet, one bass clarinet, one euphonium, two trombones, one trumpet and two directors took the midnight flight on Cebu Pacific Wednesday Nov 7 and got to Faith Academy right before the sun broke through the thick curtains of night. That morning was spent resting up in the simple but tidy Korean guest house; the afternoon was spent visiting the Kids International Ministry headed by Jeff Long. Junior trombone player Mark McGill, who just came back from the swim trip a month ago, says, "...[A] highlight was getting to see the progress they made on the four new classrooms at K.I.M and getting to see those kids again."

Serious work came Friday when honor band students from twelve different schools met up at Faith Academy 7:45 in the morning. The high school honor band was then introduced to Professor Timothy Salzman, the director of the University of Washington's wind ensemble. At first glance, Prof. Salzman's pleasant smile gave off an appeasing air but once practice ensued "the director came off as very intense...[and] his words were sharp" says Junior clarinet player Evangeline Chiow, "but I learned so much more about creating and playing music from him." Senior trombone player Tiffany Yeh echoed Evangeline's thoughts by saying, "I really liked our director's style -- he comes across as strict and harshly straightforward at first, but his honesty and high standards motivated me as an instrumentalist to play the best I can." As a Wheaton graduate, Professor Salzman also naturally incorporated his Christian view of music as a gift from God into his rehearsals.

Throughout the practices, Morrison students learned very valuable lessons from Professor Salzman. Senior bass

clarinet player Jason Soegiharto learned that practice does not equal rehearsal, senior alto clarinet player Jeffrey Tsai learned that breathing is essential for a band to play well, and junior Evangeline Chiow learned that one must play from their heart in order to make true music.

After spending more than fifteen hours practicing, the combined high school band performed three beautiful pieces Saturday evening at Faith's Cadd Theater. The flute ensemble that consisted of 15 flute players also performed three pieces they worked hard for. After the recognitions, the hand shakings, and the picture takings, students were asked what their favorite piece was and there was an unanimous reply that "Sheltering Sky" by John Mackey was their favorite. Junior trombone player Mark McGill says, "A highlight for me was being able to play in a big band with lots of brass, something we don't get at Morrison." This stunning music piece by John Mackey really brought out the deep, rich brass colors to paint a full picture of the darkened night sky with the clear penetrating trumpet and oboe note signaling the break of dawn.

The wave of the director's baton did not signal leaving the creation of beautiful music behind. "Sheltering Sky" was such a breathtaking piece that our students have been persuading Mr. Beck to add that piece of music into one of this year's concert performances. Our unique alto and bass flute players, Hannah Wei, Lillian Chang, Karen Chang, also performed amazingly and won an invitation by the TAS music director to play with their flute choir in an upcoming concert. It wasn't all work and no play for this group of twelve musicians. There were nights of interaction with other schools, of popcorn and movies, of testing the balut egg (a filipino delicacy, half-born chick still in the egg), and of shopping. It is fair to say that the Morrison group thoroughly enjoyed themselves on this year's Honor Band Trip whether it is from playing music to establishing friendships to buying Krispy Kreme.

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THE SEVEN PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HIGH SCHOOL

By: Florence Davidson

Ah, high school. The best time of your life! A center of joy and laughter! A fortress of learning! A prison! A pit worse than a volcano! It all depends who you ask.

Whatever high school may be (and it is often all these things combined), you're here for four years, and it's good to learn what's memorable about high school, as well as the things you're supposed to learn. A popular quote is "A place is only as good as the people in it." This is pretty true about high school. The people that make high school an actual place are the students. They are your fellows, your comrades in arms, your bros and your sistahs. You'll probably meet many different people here; some will be special and others won't. Whoever they are, they can be roughly sorted into the seven following categories.



1. **The Genius** (Ms. McCoskey comes to mind. Can't you see a younger her, spouting off facts a mile a minute?) This person is pretty tricky to get a handle on, because they vary so much, but the bottom line is: they're smart. They're an EXPERT. They're good at what they do. They may be brilliant but lazy, never doing homework and only cramming for tests the week before, -- still finishing with a higher G.P.A. than you, darn it all -- or they could be

hardworking, studious, and overachieving with their school. They may be arrogant about how good they are or they could be blissfully oblivious to it. In any case, it's better to have these people on your good side; they can often give some help when you desperately need it.



2. **The Celebrity** (Mr. Taylor was quite obviously this, he even tries to hold onto it with that long hair he's got.) This person is usually the easiest to recognize -- they're the popular kid! They stand out. He could be a sports star, or she could be a social butterfly. Whoever they are, they're universally liked. It's not hard to like this person,

unless they're mind-blowingly snotty, which they sometimes are. They're usually attractive and likely charismatic. They always seem to have dozens of friends, and the best popular people are usually friends with almost everyone, usually because they're awesome and fun and they either throw the best parties or know the people who throw the best parties. This person is usually like this because they are really, really NICE. There is usually a little envy involved with this person, because they seem to be having so much fun, but really you can't hate them because they are lovely to everyone -- including you.

3. **The Angel** (One would think of Mrs. Chase. One might also be surprised that high-school Mrs. Chase did not ascend to heaven on wings made of sainthood.) If you are this person, you pretty much have it made. With the teachers and adults, at least. You are the upstanding student who may or may not be

pulled up to the podium as an example to all the other young reprobates. This person is usually selected as the "most likely to succeed" and is well on his/her way. They have good grades, the teachers love them, and they're usually involved in at least one extracurricular activity. They can't stay back and help you with your homework because they're too busy volunteering at some local activity or event. Come senior year, they'll be sending off glowing recommendation letters to Harvard while you try to bribe a teacher into telling a university you're "not that bad". Try and hang around this person; they might rub off on you

4. **The Archenemy** (Mr. Sparrow relates how his



archenemy was named Robin and "he always took the best worms." Sounds pretty worthy of arch enmity.) We all know this person, or have at least met them once in our lives. This person seems to know exactly what to do to annoy you. They're good at annoying you, and they often use their skills to do just that. Of course, you try to annoy them too. You really dislike each other. You may

know why you dislike this person, or you may have forgotten, but they are usually useful when you're trying to think up creative insults in your head. Hopefully you don't have a class with this person, because it's probably going to escalate into a competition, either in grades or who can make the most noise. Beware of getting too competitive, however - I recall a bad confrontation I witnessed that involved several firebombs, two rabid cats, and somehow, Slenderman. Then again, if the other classmates have a camera on their phone, it could become viral on Facebook. Picture how many hits THAT would get.

5. **The BFF** (I imagine Mrs. Hearn was probably the BFF



of quite a few people in high school) Read this part with a smile on your face, because, "awww." The person is the person you love, who makes it all worth it. You might have known this person this early childhood or you might have met them in the last quarter of senior year. It doesn't matter. You and him/her are bound together, forever and ever.

At least, it feels that way. Pretty much everything is done together. You might like the same things or argue viciously about them -- you don't really care, because you agree on one thing, which is that you're totally awesome together. You'll probably graduate early and fight crime together as a superhero team, that's how awesome you are. If one of you is in trouble, the other one will bail you out or already be in detention with you. If you're bored, this person is the first person you call. You could sit with this person for all time and just watch the world go by, but you're already making plans to go to the same college.



6. **The Lurker** (You'd be surprised how many famous figures were "lurkers". Examples include J.K. Rowling and Albert Einstein.) Not much is known about this persona. This person is kind of, well, kind of mysterious. They're relatively quiet. Sometimes they will talk to you but it's not often. You might wonder if they have a secret identity, because they aren't very "out there". They aren't very good at being loud or exuberant, but they like it that way and aren't

making any efforts to change their social status or preference for not talking. They might stare off into space or they might read a lot. You might spot them in the library, checking out something about thermonuclear physics. Whatever they're doing, you might want to give them extra candy or something, because there's always a possibility they're planning world domination. It's always a good idea to try to talk to these people, not because they'll tell you their secret plans, but because it's good to get to know your new overlords.



7. **The Crush** (Seeing as all high school teachers have, upon taking teaching posts at Morrison, evolved into stately old grandparents, I will have to leave this one up to your

imagination..) You might not meet this person in high school. That's fine. It's probably a good thing anyway, because this way you get to have your heart torn up when you are older and more likely to stomp down the street in a dramatic scene with rain pouring down -I mean, handle things in an adult manner. If you do meet this person in high school, it can either be the best or worst thing. This person is (in your eyes) perfection in human form. It's like they came on this earth to supply you with beauty and light. You feel like floating whenever they come into the room, but the downside is usually you are really nervous whenever you talk to them, and you overanalyze everything they say. If you ever get the courage up to ask them out or tell them how you feel, be prepared for a crushing rejection. On the other hand, if they say yes, you will feel an immediate urge to climb to the roof of your high school and shout, "I'm the KIIIIING OF THE WORLD!" (Incidentally, this a great way to explain away those mood swings. Just tell everyone you have a crush on someone.)

High school. It's got ups; it's got downs. Sometimes you think you can't stand it and other times you can't imagine your life without it. But among all these types of people surrounding you every day, you'll find the types of people that will probably surround you for your entire life. Who said high school never trained you for anything? Get that acid ready!

THE REBEL SON

Anonymous Morrison Student

Why do you look for what you cannot find?

Can you see what others can't?

Why do you fight for what you can't win?

Are you so much stronger than others?

Why do you flee from what you can't escape?

Are you that fast of a runner?

Why do you hate that which loves?

Are you so cold on the inside?

Why do you reject your fathers love?

Are you intent on sinking your ship?

Why do you brush off your mothers embrace?

Are you void of comfort and care?

Why do you ostracize yourself from your friends?

Are you so bent on selfishness?

Why won't you accept my salvation?

Are you not my creation?

Why do you choose to fail time and time again?

Are you not a son of victory?

CALL THE MILITARY - MAYBE?

By: Florence Davidson



Everyone knows that high school isn't the end. It's only a stepping stone to the destination that awaits all students. In days gone by, college was a privilege, a place only the wealthy or the gifted could attend. Today, it's taken for granted that high school graduates will pick a college or a university, select a

major, and graduate with a shiny degree. No one will ever tell you that college is unimportant or a waste of time. You'll be training for adult life, if nothing else. But are there other places to gain experience? Are there other options for those who aren't sure about spending four years in a dormitory? The short answer is yes. There are several smart, sensible decisions that do not involve a university, from internships to taking a gap year to study something special, but one of the most widely mentioned alternatives is joining the military.

Joining the Armed Forces is something that might sound daunting at first. One of the first and foremost questions is, "Why?" followed shortly by the "What's in it for me?" There are quite a few benefits for you, as it turns out. "The military does their best to help individuals who are seeking to who are trying to better themselves," says Morrison teacher Doug Bradburn, who has served four years active duty in the U.S. Navy and then four more years in the Indiana Army National Guard as an active reservist. "There are all sorts of career advice, skills training, and college funding available."

First of all, while you are in the military, you are given skills training in different areas of service. Mr. Bradburn chose Aviation Electrician, a job-skill which took up to a year of training before he was deployed for service. Training received in the Navy can go towards college accreditation; if, upon leaving, you pick a major in that same area, it will knock years off the time needed to get a degree. After serving for the required amount (four years minimum) you will also have a significant amount of your college tuition covered by military benefits, courtesy of the GI Bill.

If you choose not to serve full-time, there are other options as well. Mr. Gulliver, who served in the Canadian military, comments, "My military service was my part time job while in university. I worked one night a week and one weekend a month during the school year then full time during the summer. I made enough to cover all tuition and books but I lived at home so I didn't pay for room and board." He adds, "Military service is an excellent option for most people. You are well taken care of generally and you have great opportunities to learn skills. In some cases, the military will even pay for you to go to university."

The benefits of serving in the Armed Forces don't just extend to education. Mr. Bradburn made the decision to join

chiefly because of the discipline it provided. "I knew I needed that structured role," he says. "It was a personal choice; if I went directly to college, I think I would've dropped out. I wasn't focused in a big way. The Navy gave me a sense of direction and it gave me the time I needed to mature. I don't think I was ready to be serious about a degree when I joined the Navy." After finishing training at the top of his class, and serving as an aviation electrician, working on F-14 air-crafts, Mr. Bradburn was accepted to Ball State University in Indiana, working towards his degree in Secondary Education.

Serving in the US Armed Forces might be a harder decision for girls, as training is tough. "It's very challenging physically," says Bridget Homer, senior, who has a brother and a sister serving in the US military. "But both of them are glad they joined, and the benefits you get afterwards are good. You also get the opportunity to experience things you never would have otherwise, and you get the chance to travel to different parts of the world while serving." One of the main fears one might harbor is being in a war zone. While it's true that you can't pick where you are sent, you can decide what capacity you serve in the military. Just because war zones exist doesn't mean you will be forced to pick up a gun and shoot people. "Everyone has their M.O.S. (Military Occupation Specialty)," Mr. Bradburn says. "You serve in the occupation you have. I was serving, and I would have served as an Aviation Electrician even in a war zone." Still, military service, with all its benefits, requires commitment. "It's a total lifestyle choice," reflects Bridget Homer. "It's a good way to go, definitely, but there are elements where your family worries about you. You come out a different person."

"Serving in the Navy definitely matured me in a lot of ways. The military has training and benefits, but expectations are big and pressure is high," says Mr. Bradburn, adding that "Whatever amount of work and effort you put into the army, you get out. When all is said and done, it can be a very rewarding experience for anyone."



IGNITE

By: Maria Huang



If some epiphany comes to you one day and you wake up one day at 6:30am, rush to school at seven, you will most likely spot several clumps of pink or blue uniforms waiting for their busses or getting breakfast at 7-11. You speed past them on your bike not farther than one breath of hair away. The song

“Soooo~ far, but so close~~” resounds in your head. How is it possible that two groups of people live so close but are so far in terms of interaction and relationship? This was a question that swarmed in my mind Freshmen year before I learned of Ignite Youth Group, a place where two cultures, two groups of people merge together and learned about one God.

Ignite, started four years ago by a group of Morrison students headed by Joseph Wang, meets every Sunday at 6:30pm at the Da Yi Building. Mr. Wu says: “I chose to be a youth group advisor because I came to know Christ as my Lord and Savior through a local youth group when I was in high school. I want to see Morrison students provide the same opportunity to our local Taiwanese students.” Thus a group of five student leaders: Malia Johnson, Conrad Noble, Andy Gillette, Maria Huang and Owen Enoch, led by adult sponsors Mr. Wu and Ellen Lin meet every Tuesday during lunch and every Friday morning to plan for the coming Sunday. About fifteen to twenty local students and about ten Morrison students attend every week. Sophomore Jessica Lin says: “I go to youth group so I can be a part of the outside community as well as the Morrison community. I want to contribute with what I have however I can.”

Morrison, well-known for its service opportunities and ministry outreaches, sends out multiple short-term mission teams every year, yet the Ignite ministry is different because it happens all year round. Therefore, the student leaders are challenged with a ministry similar to that of church planting. At

OH, THE MAJORS TO CHOOSE

By: Caleb Strange

Freshman year, a year of blissful ignorance and care-less thinking. I can still hear my dad telling me, “Caleb, you gotta start thinking about college now, you’re in highschool!”, and I can remember thinking that college was way too far away to be thinking about now, now I’m going to enjoy life and do whatever I well please. As the years went on, and I became a sophomore, and then a junior, time began to seemingly slip through my fingers.

the beginning of each school year, the leadership team meets together, prays, and asks God for the theme that year. Once a theme is established, students prepare the Sunday messages one week in advance. For a long-term ministry, a “... challenge is not becoming complacent in our planning.” says Owen, “and remaining in contact with the students throughout the week.” Unlike a mission trip, one needs to establish lasting relationships; it is essential to acknowledge the spiritual needs of the students weekly and plan accordingly, because “for the local students,” comments Mr. Wu, “the youth group might be the only place where they get to study the Bible and worship God.”

Spending about three or more hours every week on Youth Group, student leaders may feel exhausted when their schedules at school get tighter and work loads increase but the time they put into youth group isn’t futile. When asked about what she likes about Ignite, local high-schooler Wendy Hsu replied, “This is such a hard question because I enjoy every moment. Well, I like the games. They are the fun part....[where] you can interact with others. I also like small groups...because we share about life and pray for each other.” Having a fellowship with people of similar age is a precious experience that many students seek for and Wendy found hers at Ignite saying: “My favorite part is listening to youth group leaders share their stories, because a lot of times I found myself having the same situation!! And I was thinking, ‘He/She is talking about me!’ Or ‘I just went through this!’” Leaders are also encouraged by personal stories like the following. “A local middle school boy shared his desire to know God on his first visit to youth group.” says Mr. Wu, “He thought his dad would not want him to come back again because it was inconvenient. The week after, the father took him back to youth group and asked us what happened to his son because the father had never seen his son with so much peace and patience over the week.”

“[It is interesting to] see God work through variety of ways,” says Senior Samuel Hwang, “one of the ways is through the people in the youth group and leaders caring about other and taking initiative to talk to them, which is what God would probably want us to do.” One way to join with us in this long-term ministry that does not stop this week or next month or next year is through prayer. Pray that the students who come will see God’s love in our words and actions; pray that deep relationships between Morrison students and local students are established; pray that they come to know him personally instead of just a good idea or concept; and pray that opportunities open up for the Morrison students to intimately share the gospel with each one of the local students.

The statement “I’ll think about that later” meant less and less as my high school years went on. Finally when it came down to the end of my junior year, I was left thinking, “What am I going to do in life?” I was going to have to start applying to colleges soon, and I still was a little uncertain about what I wanted to do. I had to start thinking about what I was passionate about, and what I felt called to do. Surprisingly enough, I found my answer in Christian service learning. Don’t get me wrong, it’s a good class but it was the last one I’d expected to help me see what I care about most. It started when both of the service learning classes took an overnight trip to a home out near Taoyuan for mentally handicapped people.

There we interacted with the people living there taking them out to the night market, touring where they worked, and basically, seeing how they went about their daily lives and how this home was helping them. The specific home we went to is funded and run by the parent of a student that goes to Morrison, so he was the one who showed us around and told us how everything worked. Just seeing how much of his life he poured into this program and how much he cared for the wellbeing of the people living there struck me. I knew I could never do something like that and it made me feel guilty inside; felt like I had nothing to offer to a place like this. I tried to force-fit myself into roles that I thought I could possibly do, but didn't really have the heart to do. Eventually, we all went to bed, and readied ourselves for another long day of service.

The next day, we gathered for devotional time before we began work. The speaker, the same parent who ran the program, talked about how he was called to do work for the handicapped people of Taiwan and how God moved his heart

for them. He ended by asking us all what we were passionate about, what or who had God laid on our hearts to serve. It had never really struck me that I would have somewhat of a say in how I served God, that He would use my passion to further His kingdom, and in that moment, I realized what I wanted to do with my life.

Ultimately, we can't control how or when that moment of realization comes, and it might not come all at once either. There isn't really a formula to deciding what you want to major in, it takes thought and reflection, it shouldn't be a decision made in haste. Me, my passion is for justice, to see that everyone gets what they deserve, but in such a way that provides hope for redemption and salvation to those making the decisions, and what better opportunity than through law enforcement? Choose a major that feeds your passion, and will help educate you in such a way that will help you better impact the world.

SOURCING NIGHTMARES: RESEARCHING A RESEARCH PAPER

By: Jubilee PhamXuan



As an underclassmen, the rumors floating around are terrifying: you hear of sleepless nights, non-stop homework, endless projects, and time-consuming social events.

Junior year is considered the busiest one in the Morrison high school journey. Out of the many reasons why this is so, one is that the juniors get to start off the first quarter with an eight to ten page research paper. If the junior is in AP US History (APUSH), make that ten to twelve pages. The process seems simple enough: frantically fight for a topic of your

choice, contrive a well-working thesis statement related to said topic, scavenge for at least eight dependable sources, type up at least eighty note cards detailing quotes and paraphrases, mish-mash it all together and voilà, a grammatically correct, intelligently written term paper appears in the course of a month.

So why the big deal? Well, this research paper, also known as Term Paper, carries a rather large, combined grade for both English and History. Hearing this is what usually causes juniors and underclassmen to cower at the academic horror that is Term Paper. The pressure to do well rises by tenfold and the need for paper perfection verges on OCD.

In reality though, "I've been here since 1st grade and I've heard about term paper, how overwhelmed everyone is about it," says junior Malia Johnson "but it's not as bad as people make it out to be". "It's stressful, but not that stressful," adds junior Kevin Yun "[but] last year I remember the juniors were dying," recalling that many people found the note cards especially difficult.

But how are we supposed to avoid the attack of the big, bad Term Paper then? Truth is, you can't. To get more growl than bite though, follow the advice that anyone would recommend: don't procrastinate!

FINALS TIPS

By: Abraham Chen



Your best friend, who is usually upbeat and sanguine, replies to your animated description of some hilarious incident with an apathetic grunt. Classmates begin to scream and holler at one another, all over a trivial matter of who was first to get in the lunch line. A junior, carrying

a messy stack of textbooks and notebooks, rushes by your room during study hours, not even knowing that he his leaving behind a trail of wrinkled notes and marked quizzes. An unusual silence reigns in the jam-packed library, only to be interrupted by an occasional paper crinkle or scratching pencil.

It's finals week. During this demanding week, stress hormones spike up, tempers run short, and hours of sleep are lost. So, in order to help you guys prepare for the midterm finals this December, some tips for studying are included below. They are compiled of the wise (or maybe not so wise) words of your teachers and fellow classmates. Enjoy!

Tiffany Yeh - "Relax, and look at your notes."

Lilly Su- "You want to have study guides, and besides making your own, take a look at other [students'] guides. Begin studying a week or two earlier. Make a schedule for what to study on each day. That way, you won't get stressed out because you have twenty-three chapters to go over in a day."

Jubilee PhamXuan- "Study hard, but don't stress out or overdo it...it's unhealthy for you."

Dave Luther - "Use quizlet.com for vocab type stuff."

Richard Lee - Not everyone can do this, but "just cram. A lot of cramming. And also, no Facebook!"

Megan Campbell - "Don't procrastinate. Limit your distractions, like turning off the computer."

Diana Chiang - "Go ask the teachers about stuff you do not understand, and make sure you get it [by finals week]."

Tiffany Juan - "Do the chapter reviews from the textbook."

Mr. Manu - "Understand how the brain works. You will do better if you take in information over a longer period of time," so avoid cramming the day before.

Mr. Smith - "Sleep well, and eat breakfast."

Mr. Hsu - "Turn all electronics off."

Mr. Dwight - "You should practice using the vocab words in context."

Ms. Lawson - "Review every night, from the beginning of the quarter, for five minutes on the things you've learned that day. You can just read over [your notes or] the lesson, and write down any questions you may have. This way, you will be familiar with the subject, and can help avoid cramming."

Mr. Gulliver - "Shut up and do what you're told!"



THE INHERITANCE OF SENIOR CARNIVAL

By: Florence Davidson

Back in the 60s, Junior Carnival was a time for the seniors to slave away (As if we don't have enough to do already) and it was called the Senior Carnival. However, when Tim McGill -- our superintendent-- was in 11th grade (1972), the juniors of Morrison Christian Academy received the venerated honor of preparing a fair that everyone (else) would enjoy. It's also sponsored by the juniors. Their main goal is to raise funds for two events: the Junior-Senior Banquet and their class's next year Senior Trip. Nowadays, juniors set up a large, where drinks and refreshments are served, and fair games are played. It starts at 3:15 and



is open to school outsiders.

The core purpose for anyone not a junior is to have fun, spend money, win prizes, and generally to enjoy yourself. You should also stick around until the end, because the Junior Carnival ends with a bang – literally. Fireworks at 9 or 10 will signal the end of Junior Carnival.

"In the early 90's," says Joanna McCoskey, Morrison

alum and teacher, "Junior Carnival happened on Parent-Teacher Conference day. Juniors would provide free childcare to parents and organize games for the elementary school kids. They would have a Storybook Parade and walk around the school, visiting classrooms for a half day or so."

Junior Carnival is also known more informally as a sort of replacement for the holiday commonly known as Halloween, which falls on October 31st. Junior Carnival happens a tiny bit later. Halloween traces its origin to the eve of the pagan harvest festival, the Feast of Samhain. Later on, it was adopted for a Catholic festival and renamed All Hallow's Eve, being the day before All Saint's Day. Now, it's mainly celebrated as a time to scare your friends/get free candy. For Christians, though, a festival with pagan roots is often considered inappropriate, so there is no school Halloween party.

There is, however, a great substitute, and it's called the Morrison Junior Carnival. There's also a decoration/dress up theme, and this year's Pixar theme was charming. Congrats to the juniors, too, they'll be able to sit back next year, having been promoted to senior status, and watch their underclassmen work.

BEHIND THE CURTAINS OF THE WORSHIP TEAM

By: Niki Yang



Every Thursday, as students and faculty approach the auditorium, a loud, booming sound resounds off the walls; It's the worship team. They're warming up and ready to go with their well-prepared music and service. The tech team is equally equipped with their power points, lights, and

sound control. But unbeknownst to many, there is a great deal of time and effort that each member contributes to make sure that chapel is successful each time.

When I asked a senior team leader Ilona Heiskanen why she became a part of the worship team, she replied, "I joined because I love to sing and to praise my Creator." Not only are members given the opportunity to set a good example for others, they are also given a chance to grow in their walk with God. Thus, members are required to meet weekly with their mentors to discuss their spiritual life.

During "Team Time", which is every Wednesday from three to three-thirty, several activities take place and the members use this meeting to worship, share, and bond. Often there is even a time set aside for high-fives and hugs to encourage closeness within the "worship family". People then break into smaller groups, usually determined by their role or the

instrument they play, to discuss what they've learned over the week. Things that they share range from simple everyday things to a big lesson God has taught them. During the meeting, a fellow member of the worship team may share their testimony to encourage others.

After the short but meaningful meeting, groups scheduled to perform at the next chapel stay behind and finely tune their performance. The group that will perform the following week practices in a small room known to most as the "jamhub". People who will present or perform other parts of the program meet up with Mr. Drevets.

Senior Ilona Heiskanen states, "The 30 minutes we spend together on Wednesday afternoons are a great pause in the midst of the business and stress of school; it's a time where you can come and be yourself in front of God, and you get to meet new people and enjoy community." Most members don't see "Team Time" as a waste. Rather, it's beneficial in helping team members take a break and simply focus on God.



TEACHER PL DAYS: WHAT REALLY GOES ON?

By: Ben Dingus



Have you ever wondered about the Fridays we get out of school for Teacher PL Day: for instance what goes on? How are they important? The Fridays and Saturdays set aside for our teachers are long and busy, but fun-filled and rewarding.

On PL Days, teachers from all three Morrison Campuses come together at our very own Taichung Campus to partake in Professional Learning. They do this by attending a series of meetings and workshops. The workshops and meetings are designed to help our teachers progress and stay up-to-date on teaching which helps the teachers be better equipped to run a classroom and teach.

Modern technologies are changing classrooms and teaching styles everyday but teachers can't always stay up to date on these advances so they need to be learning new things just like we do, these workshops help teachers learn about these new technologies. Teachers also have times where they meet with their "job-a-likes." This is important for the teachers to touch base with each other and plan. As Mr. Hsu explains it, "Teacher PL days play a very important role between the campuses. As a school system, the goal is to be consistent in what a Morrison education means so PL days are an opportunity for the three campuses to, Mr. Strange's word, 'recalibrate' ourselves and make sure that we're all teaching the curriculum." Without the meetings between our teachers and their job-a-likes each campus could have bigger and more jeopardizing differences in what is being taught.



Teacher PL Days aren't all meetings and workshops; there's an assortment of activities to participate in. Over the two days teachers spend together, there is plenty of time for

A LITTLE PIECE OF TERRY MCGILL

By: Alex Conn



Terry McGill: a fun, inspirational, and lively man that has been working at Morrison for a whopping twenty-two years. Out of those twenty-two years, Terry has been a devoted dorm dad for twelve, and his dorm students this year have said nothing but good things about him. Some of his dorm children describe him as "wise", and "charismatic", or "funny", and "welcoming"- all characteristics that show what kind of person he truly is. One McGill dormie, Alex Finch, said "Terry has a never-ending amount of care and concern for the people he's looking after", and another dorm student Amy Ko said, "Terry is very passionate about the things he loves, and is always really showing love." One thing that Terry is very passionate about, is being a dorm parent. When asked what his favorite part about being a dorm parent is, he replied "I like sharing life with good people. I like relationships that have a chance to build over some concentrated time together. I like seeing young people mature in their thinking and choice of action. I like the opportunity to encourage people to become generous with whatever they have, and I like laughing together and making memories."

If there are two things that one should know about Terry, it is that he is a devoted Cardinals fan, and a Manchester United fan." One tradition that Terry has adopted, is that every time the Cardinal's win a game; he wears their jersey the next day. Rather than watching ESPN for the game highlights, just try to find Terry McGill to see if he is wearing

them to spend it doing fun things, like swimming or partaking in the five provided meals offered to them. Teachers were also able to play volleyball, basketball or attend an open gym. Just like any other event, everyone is going to leave with their favorite, and their least favorite part. For example, Ms. Hearn says, "My favorite part of PL days is always spending time with my peers from the other campuses. It gives us time to compare notes, talk about issues, and give each other input on things that are going on."

Planning for a two day event like this isn't an easy task. From coordinating with teachers and staff from the other campuses to planning with the kitchen staff, to setting up learning workshops and scheduling meetings, the most recent Teacher PL was well-organized and thought out.

a Cardinals jersey. Inside of Terry's office, there is a wide display of Cardinals paraphernalia, and also an extremely large collection of hats- any type of hat that one could imagine. Sitting down in Terry's office, is like sitting down in a small museum exhibit.

Terry McGill's contribution to the Morrison community has shown his true love for the people and Morrison as a whole. Let's hope that maybe he'll reach thirty years here at Morrison!



SOPHOMORE CLASS RETREAT

By: Alex Conn



After around five weeks of delay, due to the typhoon weekend, the Sophomore Class retreat has happened! What exactly is a retreat? Well, a retreat is a short break from homework, and other time-consuming and tedious activities. This retreat was anything but tedious. Whether it was dropping eggs from the balcony, or playing an extended version of “Underground Church”, Mr. Strange made sure to keep the class busy and active.

The beginning of the night was dedicated to the consumption of over thirty pizzas, and countless bottles of Coke. After a filling dinner, the students had a chance to digest their food by participating in worship. Student Ramsey Baden said, “I enjoyed worship...the song choice was really good, and also the singers did a really good job too.” Following worship was a couple of short and fun icebreakers, and then the real games began. The sophomore class of 2015 can successfully say that they participated in a real-life version of The Amazing Race, where the students were divided up into groups, and sent on quests around the school campus. These quests consisted of eating Oreo’s without using any body parts beside the mouth and building an egg-drop that could survive through being thrown off of the balcony. One student says, “I enjoyed the

Amazing Race activity, because it gave us a chance to warm up for Underground Church!” After the mini-series of The Amazing Race was over (and after the winners boasted about their victory), all of the students gathered to play Underground Church; a game where players are divided into different roles (e.g police officer, angel, Christian), and depending on their role, must stay away from the police officers and build a congregation with all of the Christians. This game lasted for about two hours, and eventually exhausted everyone, due to the fact that players were constantly trying to keep their distance from the police officers, this meant that the players had to be ready to do a lot of sprinting and hiding. The last part of the night was devoted towards the highly anticipated movie “She’s the Man”. During the movie, there were many laughs and squeals (due to Channing Tatum), and even a few kids sleeping. Overall, the class retreat was filled with a lot of running, laughing, playing, and most of all: good memories.



MR. HSU’S CORNER: RELATIONSHIPS



Ah, relationships. Boy and girl mushy stuff. This is a dicey subject for me. On one hand, I’m not sure I’m all that up-to-date with how things work nowadays. Does chatting on FB or sending texts constitute real communication? Does anyone have RDT’s anymore (Relationship Defining Talk)? Dare I say that I’m probably a little old-fashioned and conservative when it comes to dating? On the other hand, I married my high school sweetheart and all bragging aside, out of 10 banquets during my high school years (there were 2 all high school banquets each year back in my day) a girl asked me to half of those! Ohhhhh, GG! The other half I went to with Mrs. Hsu. So in an effort to be more of a journalist, I did some poking around and asked students and teachers what they thought high school boys and girls want out of a relationship.

I list the top 5 and intersperse my own thoughts throughout but hopefully this will give you some food for thought when it comes to understanding (assuming it’s possible to understand girls!) the opposite sex.

What He Wants:

- 1) Um...I don't know....
- 2) Let's just get this one out of the way – good looks. I'll leave it at that. One senior did say a nice smile. I thought that was nice.
- 3) Personality. When I asked for clarification the response was usually something related to humor, being laid-back, happy, and fun.
- 4) Compatibility. This one makes sense. You want to get along with the person. This could also include similar interests and hobbies not just similar personalities. But then again, you might get along because you have totally different personalities. The more pertinent issue here is probably the ability to communicate and resolve conflict.
- 5) Christian. Whew! Glad that made it onto the list!
- 6) Honorable Mentions: Understanding, kind, sociable, common sense, respect, stability, fashionable

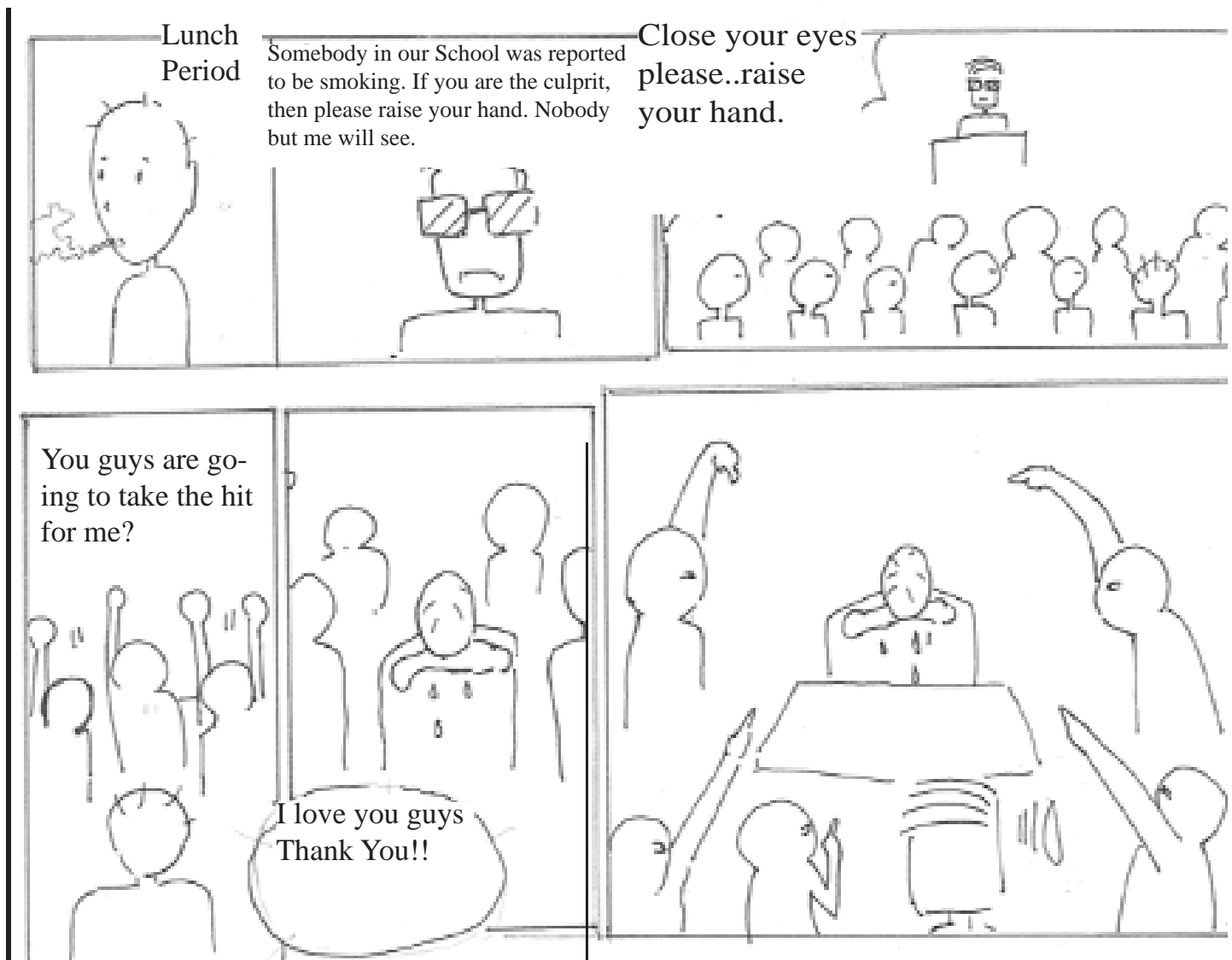
What She Wants

- 1) Um...I don't know....Yup, for girls too.
- 2) Humor. Interesting top choice. Maybe this includes personality too. It seems like a lot of pressure for guys who aren't naturally funny. Girls, do looks not matter? Or were you guys just not being honest?!
- 3) Stability/security. Interesting second choice. Neither of the top two choices are ones that I would've guessed. It's also an interesting answer for high school. I think it communicates that girls are more serious about relationships than boys are. Or it could mean that girls don't want to be messed with!
- 4) Responsible. This is a good one. Could this be a call for Men of Honor? Wear those polo shirts proudly guys!
- 5) Christian. Nice. Made the girls list too.
- 6) Honorable Mentions: Sensitive (doesn't mean "likes to cry" boys!), mature, chivalrous, polite, cute, humble, good listener

So there you have it. May this list help you become Mr. or Mrs. Right. Until next time, cock-a-doodle Hsuuuuu!

COMIC

By: Sam Choi



SPIRIT WEEK PHOTOS

Photo Credits: Alex Lin





THREE NATIONS, ONE CUP

By: Jubilee PhamXuan

Officially titled “The Nations Cup”, the tournament for the varsity soccer Lady Mustangs was played hard and in good spirit with Morrison earning second place. Faith Academy and Dalat International School from the Philippines and Malaysia came to compete. But since there were only three teams that were contending, each team had to play the other two teams twice. The schedule was tight and the games were exhausting.

Dominating the whole tournament, Faith Academy’s aggressive style of play led to an undefeated record against Morrison and Dalat. Despite the Lady Mustangs two losses from Faith, one loss from Dalat, and numerous injuries, the Mustangs were able to dominate one of the games against the Dalat team with a 4-0 win.

“It was a big improvement compared to last year in the Philippines when we got last place,” said team captain Caitlin Bridges, “we did really good, and I see a lot of potential for future seasons.” “I think we played and tried hard” said defender Gabrielle Bridges “so even though we didn’t win first place, we didn’t lose because we played the best we could”.



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CHIANG MAI HEAT

By: Caleb Strange



How does a team who has lost their first three games and countless injuries come back and motivate themselves to do the best that they can? Between the losses, the injuries, the weather, and the pure apathy, many excuses could've been made to justify the Morrison varsity soccer team giving up and calling it a day.

The tournament began with the Mustangs struggling to get comfortable and confident with the ball, starting with a 1-0 loss to Faith, and a 6-0 loss to Grace (both teams went on to play for 1st and 2nd with Grace winning 4-1). The Mustangs endeavored to find their morale and attempted to rally against a strong Dalat team, but after a fluke free kick and lack of marking, lost 2-0. There was no hiding the disappointment and frustration that was written on the team's faces.

Captain Grant Robinson said "We were definitely a bit down after the losses, as pretty much anyone would be. But we knew we had a few wins headed our way." That night, the Mustangs had their first team devotional and reflected on the tournament and searched hard to find the motivation they needed to not give up on this tournament, having lost every game so far and being scoreless three games into the tournament, they were beginning to quit.

The next morning, there was no debate, the Mustangs had found their desire to achieve what they hadn't before and it showed the following day with Morrison pulling ahead in their games against Hong Kong, winning 3-0 and 2-0 against Chiang Mai, giving Morrison the edge they needed to play for third and fourth place.

It could be said that our Mustangs found their much needed motivation from their two consecutive victories, but it

also could be said that they found it in each other in that night of devotions, opening up and being real with each other. Either way, they brought the fight to Dalat for the third place game.

After a letting a goal in near the beginning of the first half, it looked as if the Varsity boys were losing their hold of the momentum, but they held on long enough for midfielder Timothy Cheng to put a header in the side netting to tie it up. The tension in the game was high when Morrison keeper Joseph Park got slide tackled in the chest and struggled to continue to play, and you would've thought that it would discourage the team, but they used it as motivation to win it, and when right wing defender Jesse Chen ran in for the cross, they believed it.

When that header from Jesse went in to put Morrison ahead, the teams spirit soared and Dalat failed to score after that. With the last game of the season ending in a 2-1 win for third place, the Varsity guys were happy with their final performance. Though they didn't come home with gold, they did come back after three consecutive wins, with a winning attitude which is something to be proud of.

