

Keeping up with the Leviathan

By Alvaro Guerrero

Leviathan Castillo is a freshman. He's the one with the long wavy hair we all admire (and envy). You can usually see him running down the street after school. Ever wonder where he goes or why? Read on for more about my pleasant little chat with Leviathan.

-GG: Where and why do you run after school?

-LC: I always run all the way to my house, because if I get to my house faster, then I'll have more time in general, and then I'll have more time to play video games.

-GG: What does your hat mean to you?

-LC: It's important to me. I've had it since fifth grade.

-GG: What is something that you would want people to know about you?

-LC: All they need to know about me is that I play video games and that I'm a nice person because sometimes people don't see me as one. I am like Mr. Bubbles in "Lilo and Stitch." He's a really tough looking guy, and that's kind of how it is with me. Some think that I'm a really scary person and that I would eat their soul if they came within a yard of me. But I'm just a nice guy.

GG: What is your favorite TV show?

LC: I'm not sure, but one of my favorites is "Rick and Morty."

GG: Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

LC: Either a physicist or a video game designer.

Apple Watch Saves Life of Mass. High School Student

By Dimitri Karambinis

On Tuesday, September 8, Paul Houle, a senior at Tabor Academy in Marion, Massachusetts was hospitalized for heart, kidney and liver failure. He was later diagnosed with rhabdomyolysis, and he credits his diagnosis to his Apple Watch.

Houle, 18, unaware that he had rhabdomyolysis, tested his heart rate using his Apple Watch after he noticed intense chest and back pain following football practice and discovered his rate to be around 145 beats per minute. His condition stayed consistent for approximately two hours before he consulted with his school nurse, who urged Houle to seek medical attention.

"I was so dehydrated that my muscles started to actually break down and release a protein that is sort of toxic into my bloodstream which caused my heart, my liver, and my kidneys all to shut down," said Houle. "If my Apple Watch hadn't shown me it was 145, I would have done nothing about it."

Following the rhabdomyolysis diagnosis and proper treatment, Houle was contacted by Tim Cook, CEO of Apple. Cook offered Houle a summer internship at Apple a new iPhone.

Ultimately, this story does not mean that you should pull a fast one and act as if your Apple Watch saved your life just to get an internship at Apple, but it is important to understand the evolution of technology and how the advanced health benefits it provides. Don't stress out the Griffin Football team too much, Mr Velgach, or else we will all need Apple Watches!

Attack at Oregon Community College Results in 10 dead, 7 Injured

By Dimitri Karambinis

On Thursday, October 1, Christopher Harper-Mercer, 26, opened fire on his English class at Umpqua Community College near Roseburg, Oregon, killing nine people. Eight students and one teacher were killed, and seven more students were injured in the attack. The gunman killed himself once surrounded by law enforcement.

Witnesses to the shooting claim that the gunman asked the people their religion before shooting them, reportedly shooting the people that said they were Christian. Law enforcement believes that Harper-Mercer may have warned students of Umpqua Community College not to attend school on an anonymous forum website.

Witnesses describe the shooting as "unreal, shocking and too fast to even comprehend." The gunman had six firearms at the scene of the crime, and eight more firearms recovered from his residence, all bought legally.

Harper-Mercer was confirmed to suffer from a mental illness, though the illness is not confirmed. People close to the suspect describe him as a "hate-filled individual," and former neighbors reported witnessing Harper-Mercer "throw tantrums" at his apartment complex in Torrance, California. One of the surviving victims, Christopher Mintz, 30, attempted to subdue the gunman and was shot at least five times. Witnesses claim that Mintz, a U.S. Army veteran, rushed at Harper-Mercer to block the door of a nearby classroom with more students. Mintz was shot three times, fell, said, "It's my son's birthday today," and was shot two more times. Fortunately, Mintz survived the shooting and is recovering at an Oregon hospital.

The shooting has instigated debates and calls to action, especially by politicians, over the issues on the state of gun safety, gun control, and care for mental illness in the United States.

The Griffin Gazette

"The Noble Pride"



ISIS leader Abu al-Baghdadi targeted in Iraqi Air Strike

By Jacinda Sotelo

On Monday, October 12, an air strike led by the Iraqi Air Force hit a convoy with ISIS, a terrorist organization, leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi inside in the western Anbar province of Iraq. Al-Baghdadi is not confirmed to be dead and was reportedly carried away in a car after the attack. Nine other ISIS officials were killed in the air strike.

Speculation as to Al-Baghdadi's death brings up questions over the future of ISIS' leadership and the state of Syria and its ongoing Civil War. If the ISIS leader was indeed killed, this would cause a leadership divide within ISIS. Any weakness within ISIS's internal structure would benefit the people living in terror in Iraq and Syria.

Important Info:

Homecoming is Friday from 7-10pm. If you're interested in volunteering to help clean up or set up for the dance, please see Ms. Casola.

What's New in Da Hood: A Closer Look at NewCity

By Mia Kelley

5 years ago, a brown lot stood empty on the outskirts of rapidly dying Cabrini-Green neighborhood, a notoriously dangerous part of Chicago. Today, the once-empty lot is the site of a major attraction in the expanding Old Town neighborhood: NewCity. NewCity is a multi-purpose shopping complex. The mall is complete with home-goods stores, restaurants, a bowling alley, a movie theater, and a giant grocery store. NewCity is certain to have a great effect on the local community. For most people, the question is "how?" How exactly will NewCity impact the area?

Recently, I was able to wander into some of the stores in NewCity and ask employees there what they believed their establishment's effect on the surrounding community would be.

While at Dick's Sporting Goods, I spoke with Peter Lewandowski, the Loss Prevention Manager. Lewandowski said that DSG would positively effect the local economy. The store creates jobs. By creating jobs and a safe shopping environment, it will attract other business to buy up the abandoned storefronts in the surrounding neighborhood. "There is a broken window theory that says that once an area goes down-hill, everything else will follow. And we are fixing those broken windows one shop at a time until the neighborhood rebounds entirely." DSG has a booming business and their customers are expanding. Lately, Lewandowski explained, sportswear has become popular since people's role models are promoting it.

The recent trend has been to dress casual and athletic-ly as opposed to the denim and formal dress popular in the early 2000's. Unlike other sports stores, whose retail is seasonal, Dick's is successful year-round, adapting to the wants and needs of their customers, being able to incorporate apparel into their main sales. While other retailers may only offer small quantities of equipment and clothing of major sports categories, Dick's offers everything, and the prices range from affordable to outrageous. Hopefully it carries something for everyone.

I asked him about how he would feel if a large group of students walked into the store. Mr. Lewandowski actually encouraged it, saying that high school students are now probably their largest target group, since the teens are the ones who will tell their parents to spend money at the store, and spread the deals and prices through word of mouth. As far as competition goes, DSG is believed to be the most successful business in NewCity, although the opening of Mariano's will certainly pose a viable threat.

Other businesses that I visited, Z Gallerie, a furniture store, and IT'SUGAR, a candy store, believe that they are and will continue to be very profitable, and that their involvement will benefit the community. Neither establishment views students from the school as a problem. In fact, they value the student interaction and business they bring. Don't go getting a sugartooth, now!

Stores in NewCity will be very successful and impactful. 16 year olds with work permits can even seek employment at the stores. NewCity will bring great things to the community, and we will all be able to watch these events unravel in front of our very eyes. Students will love having a large mall across the street from their school!

Getting to Know Ms. Conroy

By Mia Kelley

For those of you who don't know Ms. Conroy, you're missing out! The bubbly, cheerful teacher in room 305 is a delight to be around. She is the one with a permanent smile on her face. A native of the North Side of Chicago, and an alumna of Phillips Exeter Academy and Columbia University, Ms. Conroy is chock-full of surprises. I was lucky enough to have a chance to sit down and chat with the 9th grade Multicultural Literature teacher during her office hours. Her room provides a fun, loving atmosphere for all the students. What stood out the most is the color-coded bookshelf (go check it out, it looks *beautiful*). It is a friendly place to retake those quizzes (read: go to her office hours). Ms. Conroy always gives off a relaxing and inviting vibe and it made my interview with her all the more fun. Check out what she had to say about these wacky questions.

(Note: For the rest of the interview, initials will be used, GG for the Griffin Gazette and AC for Ms. Conroy)

-GG: "What has been your worst heartbreak?"

-AC: "...My theory on heartbreak is that your heart is [like] your cellphone, or your favorite book, or something like that. You wouldn't let anyone use your cellphone that you wouldn't trust to keep it safe. So, why would you allow someone who you didn't trust to keep your heart safe?"

-GG: "So is that to mean that you don't have one?"

-AC: "Right!"

-GG: "The hardest decision you've had to make in your life?"

-AC: "I think deciding to become a teacher was a really hard decision for me. I think other people had other plans for me. Anytime you really make a decision you decided, and no one else had any input, it's hard to make those decisions, but they are often the best decisions you make."

-GG: "You were a preschool teacher before. Do you prefer younger or older students?"

-AC: "Honestly, they're not as different as people think. I loved my preschoolers, I had the most incredible class in the whole world. And I think here, I have incredible students, too. But at the end of the day, learning is learning, even if the age is different, and feeling excited about coming to school is the same, even if the age is different. I think preschoolers are a lot more willing to take risks and be vulnerable with their learning in a way that high schoolers are not. But, I also love the fact that I can talk about really needy issues with my students."

-GG: "If you were stranded on an island with one book and one historical figure, what and who would that be?"

-AC: "It would be The Complete Works of Herman Melville, but if I had to choose it would be Moby Dick.

For historical figure, Septima Clark. She was an educator, and she developed all the literacy workshops for the Civil Rights Movement. She's known as the "grandmother" of the Civil Rights Movement. Everything she did was rooted in change."

-GG: "Greatest lesson you've learned from a student?"

-AC: "This one is easy! I remember it was my first year teaching, and I was talking to Chloe, this girl who was four at the time. I would always ask a lot of 'how' and 'why' questions to my students, and we were talking about what we wanted to be when we grow up, and she said a teacher. I said 'Let's map out how you're going to be a teacher', expecting her to say 'I need to learn to read, I need to learn my ABCs, I need to go to high school, to college, etc.', with the idea that we would make this plan together so that she would start thinking of those big ideas. She thought about it, and looked at me and said, 'Well, I'll be wearing big person clothes'. Part of me [expecting an answer similar to the one I was thinking], asked her to explain her thinking to me, and she said, 'You're my teacher, and you wear big people clothes, and I learn from my family, and they wear big people clothes.' I realized that she was absolutely right, that everybody that we decide to surround ourselves with has something to teach us. Every person ever, whether they're old or young, has something to teach someone else, and I don't think that I really internalized that until she made it seem so simple.

-GG: "If you could be a different teacher at the school, whose job would you take?"

-AC: "I don't think I'd want to be a teacher, I would want to be a locker! Think about all the things that a locker sees that a teacher doesn't. If I were another teacher, I would just have the same perspective. A locker just has a different perspective."

Catching Feelings for "In My Feelings"

By Jeffery Berry

Listen to Trevor Jackson's mixtape "In My Feelings." is both intriguing and inspiring experience. Jackson, an up-an-coming artist, starts his album with a sample of him and his grandmother talking over the phone as she reads to him one of his favorite biblical scriptures, "II Timothy." The album moves to an inspirational song "Right Enough" where he talks about his hard-knocks life. The mood changes as track two introduces an upbeat tune with the song "Bang Bang." Throughout the song he brags about how his music is well-known on the streets—a cliché grouping of lyrics that we hear too often from rappers. But before I could turn off the album, the middle of the album hooked me in with its grippy tracks "Turn Down" and "Mixtape" where he talks about positive relationships with women, far different from what we usually hear from rappers about women.

In "Like I do". The tunes turn to tell a story of how he made it to become such a big success in the music industry by constantly working and striving for his dreams. Of course there will be various obstacles that will be on your path, but it's up to you if you are going to let them stop you from reaching your goals.

I find it difficult to compare this album with any other because Trevor Jackson has his own unique sound. He works his mixtape with the best of them, weaving in and out of genres like an experienced and creative musician. I congratulate Trevor Jackson for a job well done on "In my feelings" and hope to hear more interesting music from him in the future.

[Berry Rating: 7/10]

President Bernie Sanders?

By David Magdaleno

Bernie Sanders is a Democratic candidate for the 2016 elections, and his popularity is rapidly growing. Get to know more about him. After all, he might be the next POTUS! He is currently serving his second term in the Senate. Bernie Sanders was born in Brooklyn, New York. His father was an immigrant from Poland and his mother was an American citizen. Sanders' political reputation grew after he led a peaceful protest against segregation in 1964, while a student at University of Chicago. In 1981 Sanders won the mayoral race in Burlington, Vermont. On November 1990 Sanders defeated his rival incumbent and became congressman and later senator. Bernie Sanders has a mixed image in the media. Some view him as the future, while others think that he will ruin the economy because he leans socialist. Sanders is running on the idea that the middle class needs to grow and that the poor need a lot of help from the government. This makes him especially unpopular among the very wealthy. It will be interesting to see where this election leads, because the votes in favor of Sanders would show that the country, as a whole, is moving in a new direction on the political spectrum.

Shedding Light to Asian Culture with Humor: Fresh Off the Boat: Review

By Christian Tam

We've all heard the Asian stereotypes and prejudices, "Computers. Numbers. Math. Kung Fu and Nunchucks. Tiger moms. Dogs for dinner. The violin. Ivy League. Quiet. We speak Engrish well." What should we make of stereotypes?

The TV show *Fresh Off the Boat* takes on those stereotypes. I didn't know what to expect when the show first came out, but the show humored me and showed me that the stereotypes I hear are not uncommon. The show is about kids of Asian immigrants. This show is a TV adaptation of a book called *Fresh Off the Boat* written by a hip-hop loving chef, Eddie Huang. Huang grew up as a Chinese kid in the 1990s. In the show, the main character wants to act like his idols: Notorious B.I.G, Tupac, Shaquille O'Neal. In short, Eddie thinks he's a OG, but others don't see him as such. Eddie grew up surrounded by prejudice, but became popular after fighting another student who called him a racial slur.

As one might expect, the show touches on Asian stereotypes. Eddie's family is portrayed as a loving family that cares a ton about academics and own a Chinese restaurant. Even though he has to help his parent's with their restaurant, he manages to stay on top of his academics at school. For example, one episode was about report cards. Eddie came home with straight A's and felt like he should be rewarded. He noticed that a Caucasian friend received a basketball hoop and a trampoline for passing his classes with C's. C's! Eddie thought he should be rewarded with something grand. But that's just what it's like growing up Chinese! Hard work is expected, and oft not rewarded.

Fresh Off the Boat is a funny and interesting show that demonstrate Chinese family relations in a comedic way. I love F.O.B because I can connect to it. Ironically, my dad had a restaurant too.

Though it does seem that the mom really overdoes the Asian-ness with her excessively sharp (and flawed) accent, which bothers me, the flaws can be overlooked by the quality of the show and the questions it raises. When is it OK to laugh at another person because of stereotypes? Does the show normalize that Asians can be made fun of? These are all questions that I will be looking for as I continue watching the show next season.

[Tam Rating Scale: 8/10]

The Martian: Review

By Devon Clinkscales

When I think of the word space, I think of a vast place filled with mystery. In the movie *The Martian*, a group of people set out on a mission to visit the planet Mars. The research is extensive so that they are ready for the unexpected. While on the planet, Astronaut Mark Watney is hit by an object during a terrible Mars-like storm prior to their departure and is presumed dead. The crew left Mars without Watney not realizing that he was still alive. Watney awakens realizing that he is alone on Mars. He must use every resource and skill that he has to survive this planet of mystery. In the meantime, his comrades back on Earth do everything in their power to bring him home.

I believe that the movie is a must see. I was on the edge of the seat, clutching the cushion not to fall out of my seat. The director did a remarkable job playing up the suspense. There were times that I felt that I would die of anxiety because of stress that the authors of the movie created. The movie had a sprinkling of light humor, which kept the seriousness from making the experience a dull one.

The main reason that I liked this movie, however, was because of how inspiring and relatable it was. On Mars, Mr Watney has to take things into his own hands. He works hard towards a goal and does not give up, even when the going gets tough, real tough! I think this is a concept that many can learn from since life is full of obstacles. The movie truly helps define what true grit and determination looks like. I give the movie an 9/10 for it's entertainment value. You can watch it in the theater in NewCity opening up soon!

[Clinkscales Rating 9/10]