

Maroon & White

“For a better Tennessee High School”

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DO WE HAVE SCHOOL SPIRIT OR SCHOOL SPIRITS?

By: Caitlin Vining and Joan Weddington

After a late-night Friday football game, one might make the long trek to their parked car, only to turn back, face-to-face with the historic Tennessee High School, ominous underneath pale moonlight.

Many local residents of Bristol are aware of what supposedly lurks behind the stone walls: hauntings and ghosts of time.

There are three known ghosts that allegedly roam the THS campus. The primary apparition is of a former student, nicknamed Agnes, with several theories regarding her passing.

Another spirit of an athlete has been said to float through the old field house inside the Stone Castle.

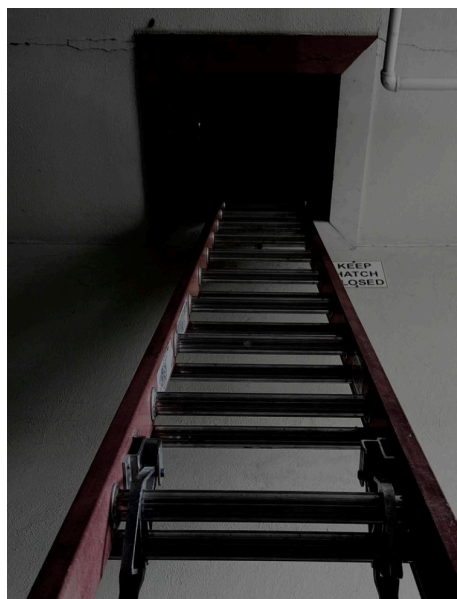
The third ghost that haunts the halls, not a living being but a nineteenth-century train, rattles the school and blows its whistle, echoing into the late hours of the night.

Chef Sauls, the THS culinary teacher, has become quite familiar with these spirits. His first encounter was with Agnes: he was washing dishes with three of his students when the sound of rustling movement caught his attention.

When he turned around he was faced with “parchment paper flying in the air as if someone was playing with them.”

Though when Chef Sauls approached the paper, the pieces “flew back to the counter.”

Chef Sauls, along with several students



An eerie look in to the hidden entrance to the infamous bell tower.

Photo cred Caitlin Vining

in his class, have seen “pans and plates go flying off shelves by themselves.”

Sauls has had many instances where he has been alone in the school late at night or early in the morning. “At these times, even if no one else is in the

building, there’s a feeling that someone is always with you,” he explains

The custodial staff has a multitude of stories and testimonies regarding the ghosts of Tennessee High. These experiences have instilled fear in the custodial staff, and many of them now wear earbuds to ignore the noises the ghosts distract them with.

Instances such as “doors slamming, lights turning on and off, and the continuous flushing of toilets that only stop when someone yells at them to” are common happenings during shifts, says head custodian Josh Ashburn.

One late night in English teacher Ms. Story’s classroom, the staff was doing routine cleaning when footsteps thundered through the classroom.

“The footsteps went from one corner of the room to another,” says Ashburn, “but they came from the ceiling.” Ms. Story’s classroom lies just beneath the famous bell tower that sits atop the school, and they suspect this may be why it has more activity than other rooms.

When Viking Hall seats slam down by themselves and the hallways are only lit by eerie emergency exit signs, students and staff alike are reminded that they attend one of the top ten most haunted high schools in America, completely changing their perception of “school spirit.”

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SWEATER WEATHER CALLS FOR VIKING COLD BREW

By Halle Mullins

As students transition from t-shirts to warm sweaters, swap sneakers for comfy boots, and bundle themselves in layers, they can now enjoy specialty fall treats from the school store!

The school store has gained popularity for their pizza pull-aparts, buffalo muffins, and Viking Ship Cookies. Recently, they have “started offering some unique items for the fall season as part of the school store’s grand reopening,” according to culinary student Madison Manahan.

These new items include apple cider, hot chocolate, and either cinnamon dolce or pumpkin spice cold brew.

In addition, the new food offered includes pumpkin muffins, cinnamon rolls, caramel apple tarts, snickerdoodle cookies, fall leaf cookies, rice cereal treats, and mini apple and pumpkin pies.

SHIPWRECK SURVIVOR?

The following is an escape adventure with several different endings based on the choice that you make at the end of each story. Will you survive a shipwreck? Choose your path and turn to the page to find out.



The wreckage of your Viking longboat.. By Joan Weddington

By Joseph Burriss and Joan Weddington

You are a part of a small Viking crew that has set sail in conquest of the British Isles, but a severe storm throws your ship off course.

Waking up on the rocky shore of a strange island, you find yourself in decent condition compared to your severely injured crewmates.

Most of your supplies have been lost at sea, save a few extra sets of clothes and scant rations.

The shore looks barren, but there may be wild game or a settlement farther inland. You have just enough material to resuscitate your fellow Vikings. What do you do?

A: Leave for Supplies - pg. 2

B: Tend to Crewmates - pg. 3



LEAVE FOR SUPPLIES

The forests were devoid of animated life, but you have stumbled upon a village. It must have been lived in recently, the thatched roofs are still intact and all the houses, even the towering stone castle in the center, are spotless. In the distance you see fencing, implying livestock, but no animals can be seen. Everything is in order, but strangely no one is nearby.

A: Approach cautiously - Turn to page 9
B: Return to the ship- this isn't worth it - Turn to page 5

HORNS UP! IT'S HOMECOMING

By: Caden Cartwright

Sleepyheads in their PJs, cowhands in overalls, hunters in camo, tourists in hawaiian shirts, American patriots, the occasional Jimmy Buffet (may he rest in peace), and shoppers pushing buggy-carried schoolwork all arrived at Tennessee High School to celebrate Homecoming Week.

From Sep. 18-22, festivities included everything from dress-up days to a parade, to a bonfire, to a crowning.

At the parade Wednesday, Sep. 20, children scurried to grab as much candy as they could hold, occasionally reporting back to their cheering families to deposit their hoards.

A total of 40 Homecoming Court nominees—ten from each grade, elected by popular vote—showered their audience with sugar from truck beds and backseats.

Soon after the last car passed and the audience migrated to the track, flames erupted into a bonfire, glowing upon a roaring sea of students. The boisterous sea waded “this way” and

“Sweet Caroline,” “Hey Baby,” and “Bad Romance.”

A few days later at the football game Friday, Sep. 22, students dressed in

patriotic reds, whites, and blues, some “painting up” their faces or shirtless bodies to show their support for the Vikings.

During pre-game, the Homecoming Court walked out on the field to be presented to their fans. Last year’s Homecoming Queen, Bridgette Flaherty, and King, Jackson Elliot, worked with Principal—and alum—Kim Kirk to crown this year’s beaming champions, Bella Frye and Jimmy Phipps.



Homecoming Royalty: Josie Tikle, Mason Campbell, Raleigh Tolbert, Jimmy Phipps, Bella Frye, Carter Keese, Brooklyn arter, Griffen Smith, Lucy Millwood
 Picture cred Caden Cartwright

“that way,” chanting this in unison. The Mighty Viking Band backed the color guard, cheer, firecracker squad, and dance teams, rallying students with pep-tune favorites like

Viking Football delivered the week’s grand finale as a 28—14 win against Abingdon High School, bringing this eventful homecoming season to a close.

Sessions with Slagle

By Bree Eaton

As college season rolls around, Tennessee High seniors frantically begin the long-dreaded college application process. Ahead of them lie heaps of research, campus tours, sleepless nights, and impending deadlines. Counselor Mrs. Slagle has set out to find a solution.

Students can find Mrs. Slagle set up next to the ISS room during all three lunch periods on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. “If your application is stumping you, we’ll be here to help,” Slagle says.

A multitude of topics will be discussed in these sessions. For first generation students, Slagle is offering resources on how to start the process, answering any

questions they may have.

Students can also expect guidance with CommonApp: how to set up your account, picking your schools, navigating writing questions, and prioritizing due dates.

In the following weeks, information will be offered on how to source financial aid, apply for scholarships, and maximize college dollars.

Slagle’s goal is to “help students walk through the application process with someone who has walked down that road before.” She plans to continue these sessions through next semester.

Slagle encourages students to come to her with any other questions they may have.

“[I want to] help students walk through the application process with someone who has walked down that road before.”

ACT Tips

- ▶ Identify your target score.
- ▶ Pace yourself.
- ▶ Attend ACT boot camps hosted at THS by Mrs. Sutherland the week prior.
- ▶ Save questions you struggle on for if you have extra time at the end.
- ▶ Eliminate answers you know are wrong.
- ▶ Fill in every question, even if you have to guess.



Hours: 7:30am-3:00 pm
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NEW INDUSTRY 4.0 DIPLOMA DISTINCTION!

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

NINE CREDITS OF DUAL ENROLLMENT OR WORK-BASED-LEARNING BY GRADUATION

SENIOR AND JUNIORS MUST MEET WITH CAREER COUNSELORS AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH

BY THEIR SOPHOMORE YEAR, STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SIGNED DOCUMENTATION

ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE INDUSTRY 4.0 DIPLOMA DISTINCTION SHOULD CONTACT COUNSELING FOR FURTHER DETAILS!

FOXES ROLL THE DICE

By Ada Ritchie

During the winter months, foxes often migrate to warmer territories. When this happens, new foxes inhabit other fox families' dens. As the original fox family migrates back to their den, the two fox families unite instead of fighting over the den.

This cycle is the inspiration behind a new board game cafe in Blountville, Tennessee. By naming it "The Fox's Den", the owner, Bronson Bess, states that he wants the social hub to be a "place for people to come back to and [feel at] home."

The Den is the perfect place for coffee enthusiasts, due to its cafe being one of the main things the business has to offer. Bess even brags that he can tell you "the location and the elevation at which your coffee was made."

Their coffees and teas are either locally grown or made in Africa—and they support a good cause—as a percentage of sales go towards supporting missionaries in Africa.

To cater to every customers' needs, they supply allergy conscious options: gluten-free foods, as well as a variety of

dairy-free milks, are available.

Whatever your hobby is, Fox's Den has something for you. Bess emphasizes that there are "over 200 board games [to choose from]." Bringing the community together, they also host book clubs, Bible studies, and gaming clubs.

There's also a used book store at the cafe, with genres ranging from faith-based books to popular young adult novels. Party rooms are also available.

"This is a great space to hang out with family and friends," says Bess. Anyone who brings this newspaper in during the month of November will receive 10% off beverages. All the staff members at the Fox's Den "hope to see you soon!"



In one of the cafe's corners, Kaylie Cunningham engages in a card game. Pic cred Ada Ritchie



TEND TO YOUR CREW

Using the remaining wool on the ship, you bandage the wounds of your crewmates. The last of your bread and wine is used up, which revitalizes the crew but leaves you hungry. Another hour likely remains before sunset, leaving you the option to either explore the wilderness before the sunset or to spend the night on the ship staving off hunger until morning

You:
A: Hunker down for the night - Turn to page 5.
B: Venture out for supplies

Tri-Star Takes On The Classroom

By Caitlin Vining

Wake up, go to school, go to practice, and repeat. This is the cycle that many student-athletes go through on a daily basis. Cramming in time for homework but yet still somehow having availability for friends and family is nothing out of the ordinary for these students.

Usually, this rhythm is only followed throughout one or two seasons of the school year and then these students can finally have time for themselves, but every so often one athlete sticks out from the crowd: one of Tennessee High's twenty "Tri-Star athletes."

The "Tri-Star Athlete" award is given out to those student-athletes who participate in three or more sports. These sports can range from football, swim, and baseball or to soccer, basketball, and track, the sports junior Chase Wolfenbarger participates in.

From a young age, Wolfenbarger took part in numerous activities including "dance and gymnastics."

But from the age of eight she sparked a flame for soccer with basketball and track soon following behind.

Wolfenbarger has helped lead her teams to numerous accomplishments and championships: the Lady Viking Soccer team winning the Smoky Mountain Cup championship, district

“ Nothing has been able to stop Chase Wolfenbarger in previous school years, not the stress of grades, juggling family and friend relationships, or the constant fight to be the best athlete she can be. ”

championship, regional championship, and state tournament, the next season she stormed to court making it to the regional semi-finals for basketball, and racing to a seventh-place finish at state in the girls 4 by 100 meter relay, a sixth-place finish at state in the 4 by 200 meter relay, and an amazing state championship win for triple jump in track and field.

Although it is "rewarding to mercy rule and shut-out other teams on the field, advancing to sectional and state meets, and having the opportunity to go through highs and lows with [her] team," Wolfenbarger is not new to the struggles of juggling both school and sports.

"I try to set boundaries for myself and give myself time for my friends and family whether it's on the weekends or after practices or games. It also helps when most of my friends play the same sports as me. I have found some of my best friends from sports" Wolfenbarger expressed.

Nothing has been able to stop Chase Wolfenbarger in previous school years, not the stress of grades, juggling family and friend relationships, or the constant fight to be the best athlete she can be.

On the field, court, or track Wolfenbarger has not only succeeded in being a student-athlete but has shined through on all grounds.



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Folk Yeah! Bristol's Radio

By Ryan Bunning

Anyone tuning into Radio Bristol on a Wednesday afternoon will find themselves captivated by the easygoing Momma Molasses as she navigates the winding roads of American folk music. The reoccurring program "Folk Yeah!" fills the local airwaves from 2 to 3pm on Wednesdays with an eclectic mix of folk tunes.

From classics like Bob Dylan and Gram Parsons, to contemporary acts such as Allison Russel or Sufjan Stevens, "Folk Yeah!" explores the broad expanses of Americana and folk music. Songs range from the mid-to-late 1960s all the way to weeks-old releases.

Episodes occasionally feature live guests from the surrounding region to promote their upcoming music and concerts. Momma Molasses' "Folk Yeah!" makes for an excellent introduction to the local Southern Appalachian folk music scene.

Momma Molasses herself, otherwise known as Ella Patrick, is originally from The Pines area of North Carolina. She too is a contributor to the folk scene her show celebrates. She brands her country tunes as "warbling County-folk, tear in your beer ballads; toe-tapping, finger-picking, and sweet soundin'."

The sheer diversity of style and era satisfies those in-search of a mixed sampling of folk music alongside the local commentary provided by Momma Molasses, anchoring the program in Southern Appalachia. Among Radio Bristol's lineup of programs, "Folk Yeah!" glistens as a distinctive offer for the curious listener.

UKRAINIANS ADJUST TO BRISTOL



Visiting their grandparents in Ukraine the Mashkin family works in the garden making wine. Picture cred Igor Mashkin By Ada Ritchie

To save his family from the destruction of war, Igor Mashkin searched for a way to get his family out of Odesa, Ukraine, safely.

Igor discovered the United States had recently developed United for Ukraine (U4U) legislation that granted Ukrainian immigrants automatic refugee status.

Upon learning this, Igor began researching places in the United States and landed on the Tri-Cities of Tennessee because of the safety and educational opportunities that come with the area.

Around the same time, couple John and Linda Barker, residents of Bristol, Tennessee and devout members of Central Presbyterian Church, learned about the war in Ukraine and searched to find a way to help.

John Barker reached out to his neighbor, who was a member of Celebration Church in Blountville,

Tennessee, which has sponsored over 50 Ukrainian families to come to the United States. John Barker—and Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Ann Aichinger—reached out to Celebration Church in hopes of starting the process themselves.

Celebration Church gave the Barkers the contact information of a Ukrainian family they had been talking to: Igor and Anya Mashkin.

After a few discussions between the two families, they reached an agreement. The Barker family would house the Mashkin family for six months or more if needed, and Central Presbyterian Church would raise \$10,000 to bring the family to the US.

Though the Mashkin family was eternally grateful, there were still many roadblocks they had to overcome and adjust to. THS Freshman Nikita Mashkin claims that the hardest part had to be the language barrier. The family primarily spoke Russian and struggled to learn English, despite already taking classes in Ukraine.

John Barker, whom the Mashkins call their "American Grandpa," stated that "both families were quite nervous the first time they met, since [the Barkers] didn't speak Russian, and [the Mashkins] didn't speak English," and yet, "they were going to manage living together."

Language wasn't the only difference, however, for life in Ukraine is strikingly dissimilar compared to life in the US. Odesa, the city from which the Mashkins originate, is located near the Black Sea, with beautiful beaches, churches, never-ending sunflower

fields, and castles. es and lan

In Odesa, Igor was an accountant and business manager. Anya earned a Ph.D. in Economics and was the head economist at a firm until she had their two children and discovered her passion for child care.

Currently, Igor works at Lowes, but is trying to find a job as an accountant, and Anya is working in childcare at Apple Preschool. Their son, Nikita, and their daughter, Enya, are both full time students at Tennessee High and Avoca Elementary, respectively.

Just like the cultures of the two nations differ, Ukrainian and United States school systems are remarkably different. Nikita describes school in Ukraine as very difficult and having "3 to 4 hours of homework each night." The school also had a strict dress code; students were "required to wear a white shirt with black pants."

Nikita "likes Tennessee High better than [his] school in Ukraine." He is involved in two sports: basketball and soccer. He played basketball in Ukraine, however, he explains that "the rules were different there."

Overall, the Mashkin family enjoys living in the US. They feel that Americans are friendlier. "In America, you often say "excuse me" when you move past someone, which isn't something people usually say in Ukraine."

All in all, the situation ended up working well; the Mashkins bought their own house (but still visit the Barkers frequently), own their very own car, and are active members in their community.

Mighty Viking Colorguard Brawls 'til The Last Straw

By Kayden Adams and Bree Eaton

The stadium lights in the Stone Castle shine bright on Friday night, signaling a new season for fall sports.

Players are practicing on the field, cheerleaders are prepping their pyramids, and the Tennessee High Mighty Viking Band fills their section of the stands, readying their new halftime show: "The Last Straw."

Following the halftime buzzer, the band marches out, making the 50 yard-line center stage. Covered in black feathers, the Mighty Viking Color Guard surrounds the strung-up scarecrow, Kynzee Davis, anxiously waiting for the music to start.

The show begins quietly as Astraea Kudela stands up to complete her flute solo. After 30 seconds of motionlessness filled by a soft tune, the band rises, as the story begins.

The Scarecrow, dressed in her red



At Tennessee High vs. Abingdon, Kynzee Davis woos the crowd with her performance as the Scarecrow. Picture cred Caden Cartwright

plaid shirt and overalls, comes to life from her podium and finds herself face-to-face with the greedy crows who are after her corn. When Kynzee comes to life, she feels "wary" of the crows and their plan to steal her corn.

As the music crescendos, the Scarecrow's panic arises. The minute her feet touch the ground, she is instantly terrorized by her enemies. She frantically dances out of the crows' persecution while the band begins to

move in, marching circles around the thrilling scene.

A back and forth battle occurs between the foes for almost the entirety of the show—the Scarecrow desperately trying to preserve not only her corn, but also her life.

Interrupting a soon to be feast, the band slows down the music, engaging in a soft ballad. The Scarecrow's movements grow depressing and small, as she portrays her sadness towards the situation.

She begins to run exhaustively to the crows in a last endeavor of peace. However, her attempts return unwarranted.

The band begins to lower themselves to the ground, juxtaposing their music, which is once again rising in volume. As if by memory of the vivace tune, the crows surround the Scarecrow to a point of no return, ripping her apart till the very last straw.

TIMELY
Or
TIMELESS?
By: Callie Eckley



Love Is Impatient

The following is an editorial taken from *The Magnavox* of Gadsden High School in Alabama.—Ed.

What made Romeo and Juliet's love so special and rare? Impatience. They were eager and restless to love because they were brought up in a world of hate. The threat of death did not hinder their impatience but made it more intense. That is why Shakespeare's two young lovers are so remembered and cherished today.

Usually, when we think of impatience we think of it as a bad characteristic in someone. If a teacher is impatient with his students, or some parents are impatient with the behavior of their son, we look down on them. But their impatience only means that they love those children and want them to learn and live a good life.

The youth of today are eager for love to replace all of the hate that exists today in our country. They want love to take the place of prejudice, fear and pride. These youths know that this is an impossible goal. Even they have failed in trying to take hate out of their lives, but they must try. They are impatient for peace.

Don Quixote was impatient for good to replace evil, and he spent the latter part of his life working toward that goal. Everyone laughed at him then and still do today. But instead of laughing they should be crying because he failed. All he wanted was for respect and honor to be in everyone's lives instead of hate.

When Shakespeare wrote the play *Romeo and Juliet*, he created two unforgettable youths. They are being compared to today's youth because of one trait that they all have, impatience. Impatience to create a world of love so they would not have to live in the world of hate which their parents live in.

Everyone, not just the youth, must strive for the same goal and put aside all of our prejudices and misgivings to be able to have peace and love. We must be impatient.

The Maroon & White

N.S.D.A. "All American" Honor Roll 1967-1969

Love Is Patient

"Love Is Impatient" from Tennessee High's February 20th, 1970 issue is both timely and timeless in its complexity. Its definition of love is timely, whereas its depiction of youth will forever be timeless.

The article begins by reminding us of the seemingly unforgettable Romeo and Juliet love story, explaining that their recklessness, eagerness, and impatience is what makes their love so desired. A product of youth, blinded by their emotions, and yearning for something beyond themselves—something that they can share with another human being.

That is why—according to the title—love is impatient, though I disagree with this statement. Love isn't impatient, but the desire to be loved is.

We are collectively young, confused, and lost. We want nothing more to be known and understand ourselves. We assume that if we find that right person, then maybe, just maybe, they can understand us for us.

The article describes love as nothing more than just an attempt to "take the place of prejudice, fear and pride," and that is why it is impatient: love has a time limit, love is urgent. Though I disagree, I see love as forever patient and unconditioned by time. We all change: our situations, passions, wants and needs. Time in itself cannot

dissipate love; only we can affect the method in which it fades in and out as we learn and live—as we change over time. I feel as if love is not happiness, but contentment.

The article also uses the famous novel *Don Quixote* as a prime example of this so-called impatience. The article claimed him to be a character who "was impatient for good to replace evil, and he spent the latter part of his life working toward that goal. Everyone laughed at him then and they still do today."

Their humor stems from the unrealistic and impossibility of this burden of a task: there cannot be good without evil, there cannot be love without hate. Both must coexist for us to truly grasp the severity.

One of our biggest flaws as humans is that we fail to cherish something until we see what the absence of it is like. Love is patient and we are not. It is so flawed of us to blame the most desired emotion—love—as the catalyst for recklessness and impatience.

All in all, the youth of today is impatient in their desire to be loved, not love itself. We are impatient for peace that cannot be achieved, and look for relationships that mend us in ways we didn't even realize we were broken in.

**HUNKER
DOWN/LEAVE,
THIS ISN'T
WORTH IT**

Conversing with the crew, you are pleased to find that everyone is simply happy to have survived the wreck. Merriment is abundant inside the remains of the ship, that is until you hear the uniform footsteps of a group marching towards you.

Peering out from behind broken heaps of wood, you see a group of hooded figures stop at the shore. Speaking not a word, they seem aware you are hiding in the ship, and they await your next move.

Something mysteriously fascinating about these people leads you to wonder if they might have something for you. But maybe you should just sail away on the tattered wooden planks, leaving your fatigued crew behind.

You:

A: Accept their aid - Turn to page 11.

B: Use the last raft to escape- Turn to page 11.

LIVING LIKE A LUDDITE

By Kacey Hamrick

I unlocked my phone and began to wade through the endless stream of algorithm-based content that was my social media feed, routine among today's teens. Clips of dancing bears, wannabe filmmakers, and fall treats are abundant this time of year.

What I didn't know was that, ironically, this bad habit would lead me to the article that would change my entire perspective—'Luddite' Teens Don't Want Your Likes. New York Times Journalist Alex Vadukul follows the group of self-proclaimed Luddites through a typical club meeting.

The group of upstate New York teens, the most dedicated of them trading their smartphones for flip phones, reclaim the title of Luddite, a typically derogatory term for one who opposes the advance of technology.

Club president Logan Lane founded the club after becoming concerned with her social media usage during the COVID-19 pandemic. Having had a similar experience, I devised my own evaluation to see if the Luddite way was for me.

I decided to place my phone in a box, not to be interacted with for the next 72 hours.

Lacking the stimulation my phone provided me before bed, I found

found that the analog alarm clock I'd programmed gave me no other option but to click snooze or get out of bed. Gone were the days of rolling over to catch up on what I'd missed as I slept.

Moreover, I felt that phone-free, it was easier to focus and mingle in a classroom environment. Simply put, withdrawing from my phone gave me nothing better to do but my schoolwork. I found myself asking my teachers questions and doing my own research without the internet at my fingertips.

Following the conclusion of my experiment, I employed an out of sight out of mind tactic, removing all social media from my home screen. I stopped using Instagram, BeReal, and VSCO entirely, as I found those apps made me feel the worst.

Two weeks later, I have decreased my screen time to 2-3 hours per day, the vast majority of it spent on Messages, Snapchat, and Google Docs. I am proud of how I am now able to set aside time for activities that make me feel human, proving that disconnecting from the social media hive mind is worthwhile.



Blast from the past! How many of these technological items can you recognize?

Picture cred Kacey Hamrick

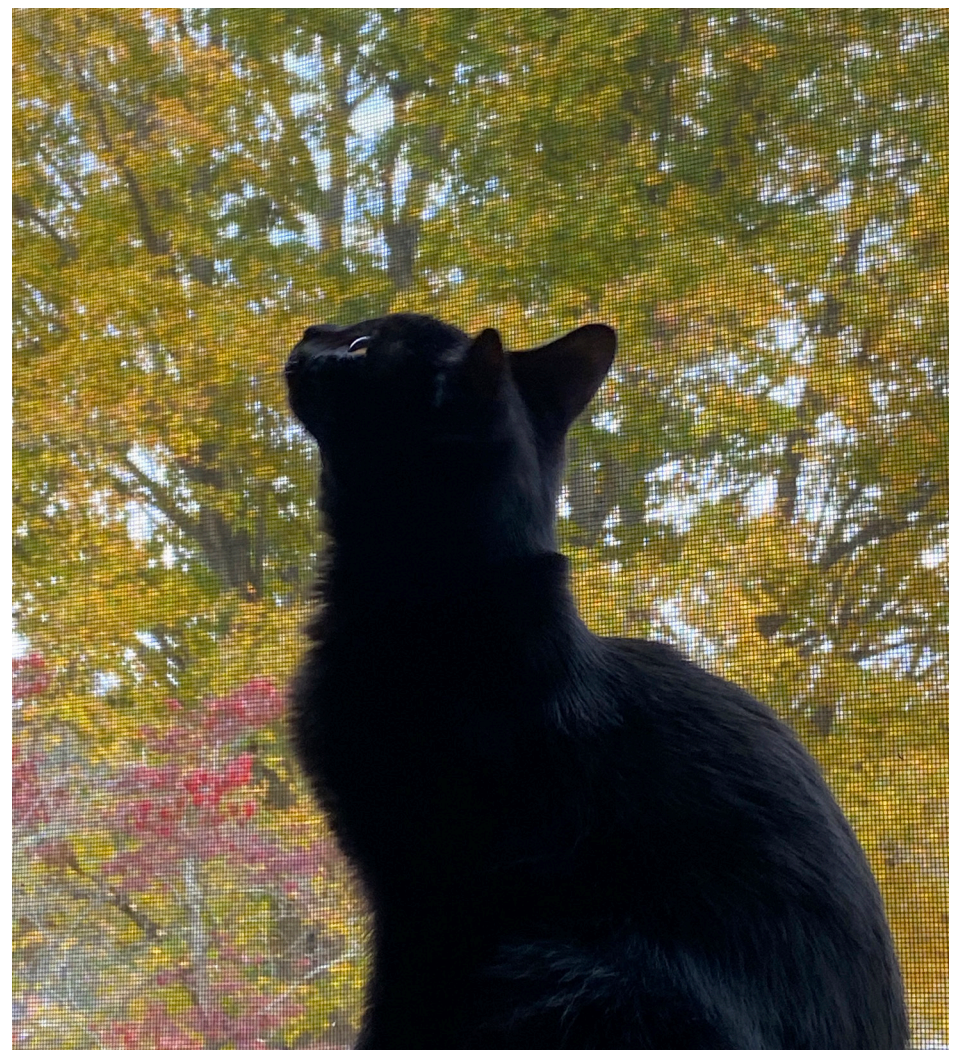
I was able to fall into deep sleep, and struggled to wake up at first. I

By Caden Cartwright and Ada Ritchie SUPERSTITIONS:

Have you ever searched for a four-leaf clover to find luck? Are you frightful of Friday the 13th? Do you knock on wood to prevent a prophecy? Do you panic when seeing a black cat run across the road? Do you avoid opening umbrellas indoors or refuse to step on cracks? If so, you believe in a superstition. A superstition is a belief that an event can change your fortune.



*Testing fate, Ryan Bunning opens an umbrella indoors
Pic cred Mariel Story*



*Sara, the black cat, defies the Halloween superstitions
Pic cred Hayden Arnett*

MYTHOLOGY AND FOLKLORE: O

CROSSING A BLACK CAT'S PATH

The “Cat Sith”, from Scottish folklore, is a nefarious, tall, black, feline fairy that steals dying souls before they depart to the afterlife. During the Middle Ages and the Salem Witch Trials, black cats were associated with the devil and witchcraft. Black cats were slaughtered in the Middle Ages due to fear they were harbingers of evil or witches’ familiar forms.

In ancient Egypt, however, it was a capital crime to kill any cat. Cats were associated with two sides of the same goddess: Bastet—a gentle, house cat-headed protector

of Lower Egypt and goddess of medicine and fertility—and Sekhmet—a fierce, lion-headed Eye of Ra and goddess of war and revenge. Today, in Japan, Russia, and even parts of Europe like the English Midlands, black cats are believed to bring good fortune, particularly in the form of marriage and love.

WALKING UNDER LADDERS

Medieval Europeans and ancient Egyptians agreed, however, that walking under a ladder is unlucky, although they differed in reasoning. In the Middle Ages, ladders reminded people of

gallows, where public hangings occurred, so walking under them was unsettling, to say the least. In Egypt, ladders were more revered than unnerving. Leaning ladders make a pyramid shape—which, like cats, was sacred to Egyptians—so it was considered sacrilegious. Not to mention, there’s usually an alternative route to going under ladders, which are prone to falling.

•STEP ON A CRACK, YOU BREAK YOUR MOTHER'S BACK•

Everyone remembers the silly superstition of “don’t step on a crack or you’ll break your

mother’s back” when they were younger. The original meaning of the superstition had nothing to do with breaking your mother’s back.

This superstition originated from African and European folklore. The belief was that cracks were a portal to a supernatural realm. Within this belief, stepping on a crack could introduce a supernatural force into our world who would harm a loved one. This concept eventually turned into a school game for children, who invented the rhyme, “step on a crack and you break your mothers back.” Some also attribute this superstition to the jarring jolt

REAL OR FAKE?

PLACEBO EFFECT: SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

Superstitions only affect those who believe in them, even if not intentionally.

“Superstitions come from classical conditioning,” as psychology teacher Mr. Mark Grindstaff explains. Classical conditioning is simply defined as learning something unconsciously.

A typical example of classical conditioning would be a dog owner rustling a treat bowl before giving a dog a treat, so the dog unconsciously associates the rustling of the bowl with receiving a treat.

Classical conditioning is also common in gambling and sports; when a baseball player taps their bat on the ground four times and then scores a home run, they will start tapping the baseball bat four times in the hope of replicating their home run.

Mr. Grindstaff further affirms this with his experience playing basketball in high school. He wore the same socks to every basketball game because he believed the

socks would help improve his performance.

Similarly, sophomore athlete Ella Ratliff mentions the softball team’s superstition of “never stepping on the white line,” because it brings bad luck to the players during the game.

Athletes having superstitions

increasing confidence.

Superstitions and classical conditioning can be further reinforced by confirmation bias, “the tendency to interpret new evidence as confirmation of one’s existing beliefs or theories.” Essentially, if a correlation or coincidence is observed, it may be

decreases afterward, and they believe that the “medication” is curing their insomnia, rather than it being eliminated by the reduced stress.

In this situation, the patient is experiencing a placebo effect. The same principle is applicable to superstition. If a couple breaks up, it could be attributed to “that time they split a pole,” which tends to be common.

Manifestation, the practice of believing or willing things into existence, may also contribute to superstition. “Manifestation is a way of sending energy out into the universe for what you want in hopes of achieving that goal,” says spiritual senior Addi Ray, “prayers are a form of manifestation,” she adds.

Like with a placebo effect, manifestation may influence belief in superstition.

Superstition could theoretically be fate’s arbitrary laws of the land or be invented by people and reinforced by the factors above.

“ *Superstition could theoretically be fate’s arbitrary laws of the land or be invented [or reinforced] by people.* ”

have been shown to improve their performance. This improvement is attributed to reduced anxiety in athletes. The fulfillment of their superstition calms nerves, i

mistaken as a causation.

For example: a patient stressed about their insomnia is prescribed a sugar pill. Their stress—and consequently their insomnia—

ORIGINS OF POPULAR SUPERSTITIONS

in the lower back when suddenly stepping down farther than expected.

OPENING UMBRELLAS INDOORS

Opening an umbrella indoors is supposed to cause unluckiness to “rain” upon you and everyone in the household. The origins of this superstition are undetermined; there are theories of the beliefs beginning.

The first theory is because the umbrella is a safety hazard. Original umbrellas are not as safe as they are today. Due to the fact that opening the umbrellas indoors

could threaten the safety of others, someone made it up.

The second theory involves beliefs of ancient Egyptians. Umbrellas in this time period and place were used to shield people from the sun. Opening umbrellas indoors is believed to anger the Egyptian sun god and bring misfortune upon people residing in the house where the umbrella was opened.

FRIDAY THE 13TH

The number 13, and the hotel floors, Fridays, and lore associated with it are known to be unlucky.

The number has negative

religious origins in Norse Mythology and Christianity.

In Norse Mythology, the shapeshifting god of mischief, Loki, crashed an event in Valhalla with 13 gods in attendance. Loki tricked the god Hodr into killing his brother, Baldr, the god of joy, so 13 began being associated with the death of joy and hope.

In Christianity, Judas was the 13th person to be seated at the Last Supper, where he betrayed Jesus, which some believe was on the 13th of that month.

Some also believe that 13 is ominous due to its position in our ten-digit number system: 13 is a prime number and follows 12, an

especially symmetrical number.

Additionally, some believe that the stigma of the number has roots in sexism, due to women’s 13 menstruations per year, the 13 lunar cycles per year, and the celebration of 13 representing divine femininity in some ancient cultures. The superstitions around the number became further popularized after the release of the movie Friday the 13th in the ‘80s.

Most superstitions have origins in cautionary safety or courtesy. Numerous other superstitions include breaking mirrors, splitting poles, spilling salt, holding breaths, knocking on wood, stamping hands, and infinitely more.

FENDERS FARM: FRILLS OR THRILLS?

By Kayden Adams, Joseph Burris, and Nancy Smith

The wafting scent of funnel cakes and apple cider fill the crisp autumn air, setting the mood of a spooky October night. A walk through Fenders Farm not only creates the atmosphere for hundreds of Pinterest worthy fall photos, but also offers scare attractions that do not disappoint.

The first attraction of the night was Patches Penthouse—a giant gray haunted barn—full of props and scares. The actors were anywhere from ages 16 to over 50; some have been doing the job for years and others had just started this year.

The barn had the theme of a clown house, according to the owner, Randy. From the get go, the queue line set the vibe for the rest of the house; it was entertaining with actors and the “hype” music blasting on speakers.

All of the rooms are meticulously decorated, they didn’t spare any details when designing them. The place wasn’t all that “scary”, but it was definitely an unforgettable experience.

The haunted barn admission is \$15 for a 12 minute experience—a good

price for what’s offered.

Patches Penthouse isn’t the only horror experience Fenders Farm has to offer. A more extreme spook is held in their corn maze, entitled The Field

chance they got.

The maze was a great deal scarier than the barn—warning advised for younger siblings or crybaby friends.

The decorations in the maze



Two scratched and bloodied clowns stand hauntingly, smiling in the doorway at visitors.

Pic cred Kayden Adams

Of Screams.

Actors were tucked in every nook and cranny of the maze, jumping out and screaming with chainsaws every

were just as good as the ones in Patches Penthouse. Typically, maze decorations in other places are tacky or non-existent, so the quality Fenders

Farm has to offer is a pleasant surprise.

One of the highlights of the maze was the haunted bus, which was an abandoned school bus purchased by the farm, and it was a nice change of scenery.

At the very end of the maze, you will find the climax of the scares: being chased by men wielding chainsaws. After getting out of the maze, you get to enjoy a relaxing hay ride back to the main part of the farm.

The place is just miles ahead of other places near us, so it’s definitely worth the 45 minute drive from Bristol.

Fender’s farm is a lot more put together than other spooky attractions. Their actors seem to actually care about their job, doing their best to be as frightening as possible.

Everything there is well made, from the accessible set up to the extensive decorations.

Offering activities for all ages to enjoy—haunted attractions, pumpkin painting, and a corn maze—Fender’s Farm definitely takes the (funnel) cake for our spot of a cozy fall getaway.

Reading Controversial Books Gives Teens a Valuable Opportunity To Explore Differences

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison, Maus by Art Spiegelman, The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky, The Burning Maze by Rick Riordan, and The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas.

What do these books have in common? They have all been banned in school districts in the state of Tennessee.

Two were banned for their depictions of racism. One was banned because of its exploration of death and grief. Some were banned for rough or objectionable content.

Some were banned for portraying teen characters who do things they shouldn’t do.

In the right circumstances and with supportive supervision, books with objectionable content can serve as a gateway, introducing difficult ideas in a way that teens can digest.

However, recent laws like the State Censorship Law and the Age-Appropriate Materials Act have enabled more books in school libraries and classrooms across the state to be challenged.

Just a few years ago, many classrooms were full of books from teacher’s personal libraries.

are ultimately responsible for what their children are exposed to.

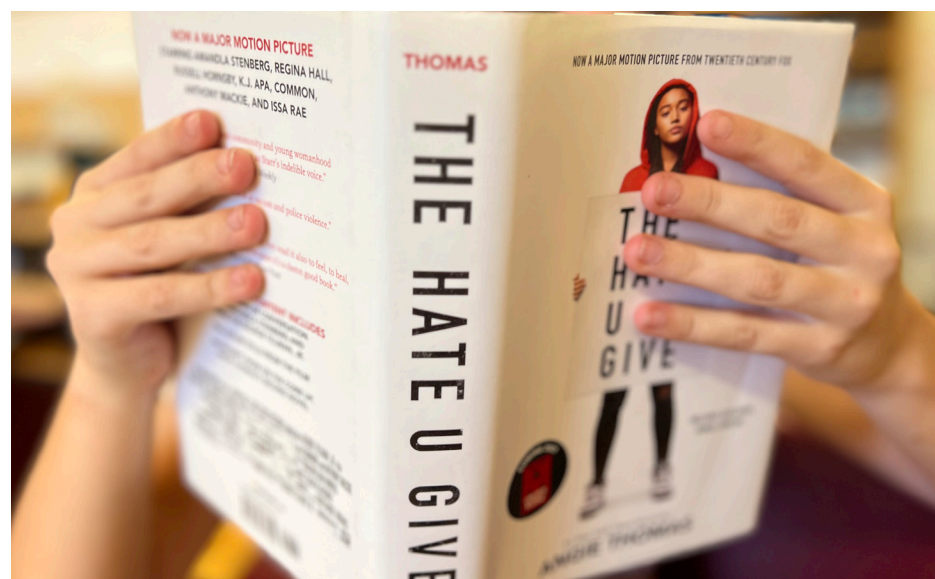
However, while parents should

Appropriate Materials Act threaten the employment of educators who teach banned books, raising the question: what conversations are we being steered to avoid?

The K-12 Classroom Censorship Law reveals a list that communicates a clearer representation of what the state government deems as “inappropriate,” and the agenda it is attempting to push is clear.

These unacceptable concepts include the idea that “an individual, meritocracy, or the United States as a whole, by virtue of the individual’s race or sex, is inherently privileged, racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or subconsciously”—which is widely known as Critical Race Theory.

When books are banned for mentioning race, sexism, and sexuality, they are fostering ignorance by not exposing students to perspectives that are not their own. Students are prohibited from forming the ability to think critically, and remain uninformed about important cultural issues.



Student Callie Eckley reads the banned book “The Hate U Give” despite the controversy surrounding it.

Pic cred Mariel Story

Today, however, many classroom shelves are empty because many teachers have chosen to remove books in response to this legislation.

Advocates of these laws argue that parents and parent groups should have a voice in limiting access to books because parents

have a say, as teens grow up, we should have an increased say in what we read—not less.

Removing access to these books diminishes our ability to make decisions concerning our own maturation.

Some of these laws like the State Censorship Law and the Age

MOVING BEYOND ID BADGES:

THE RECURRING THREAT OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE

Our Fall '23 Staff:

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95% of students wear their ID badges as directed. They respect the school rules by ID-ing themselves throughout the day. Rules like these are necessary to living in a respectful and civilized society.

However, we feel that the daily focus on ID badges is overly negative. A positive message in the morning announcements could promote other preventative safety measures, student mental health, and building a positive school culture.

The goal of the badges is school safety, a goal we support. After all, teachers have to wear badges, restaurant employees wear name tags, and musicians who play at festivals need artist passes.

In the working world, rules of identification matter to support security. Take the White House, for example. People need special IDs and security clearances to get in for the safety of the government officials within.

Our ID badges are our ticket in, a visual demonstration of who belongs and who doesn't. If an intruder were to enter without a badge, they might be easier to identify since they lack

the credentials.

This makes sense. But how much safer do they make us? Without any data or explanation for how effective badges are at preventing violence, we wonder why so much of our daily conversations center around them.

The negative feeling students get about school badges stems from morning announcements, which routinely reinforce the importance of these badges.

to create layers of security for our protection.

They have instituted policies to lock our school and classroom doors, to add bulletproof protection on exterior windows, to maintain an armed SRO on campus, to know where students are at all times using SmartPasses, and practice lock-down drills so we can be more prepared in case of emergency.

The problem is not with the

“The problem is not with the badges themselves. The problem is that the badges have become a bandage covering the open wound of school violence.”

Although only a small minority of students are deliberately not wearing badges, the entire school population gets regularly warned of the trouble they could get in if they don't wear them.

Admittedly, this small percentage may be causing problems for teachers who are trying to follow the rules. However, we believe that the guilty parties—not the entire school population—should be addressed.

If the idea is safety, then students who simply forget should not be punished.

Safety is an obvious concern for everyone. We know that our administration has worked hard

badges themselves. The problem is that the badges have become a bandage on the open wound of school violence.

ID badges seem like a drop in a bucket in a vast ocean of school safety concerns.

Some suggestions to decrease the threat of school violence that avoid the divisive debate over gun-control could include hiring a second SRO, adding metal detectors, scanning our badges, and participating in more constructive discussions at the district level.

Positive school culture and more effective safety precautions must take priority over punishment.

APPROACH CAUTIOUSLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

As you walk through the main square, you observe through open doors a bizarre level of order in the houses, as if they have never been lived in. Despite all attempts, however, the impressive castle doors seem unbreachable. Still, each house provides you with more food and wine than you can

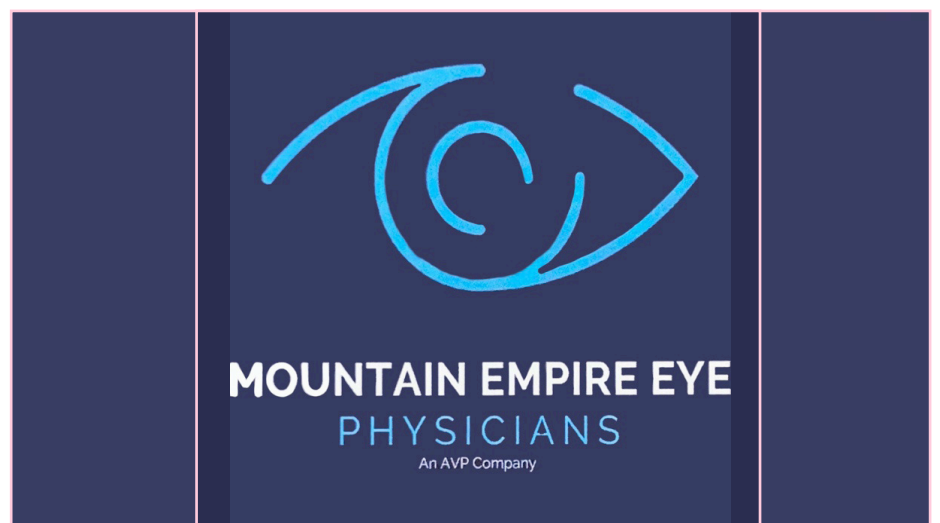
hold, and soon you find yourself more than satiated and well supplied. It seems there would be no choice but to return to your ship to inform your crew of the great news.

You:
Turn to page 5.

VENTURE OUT

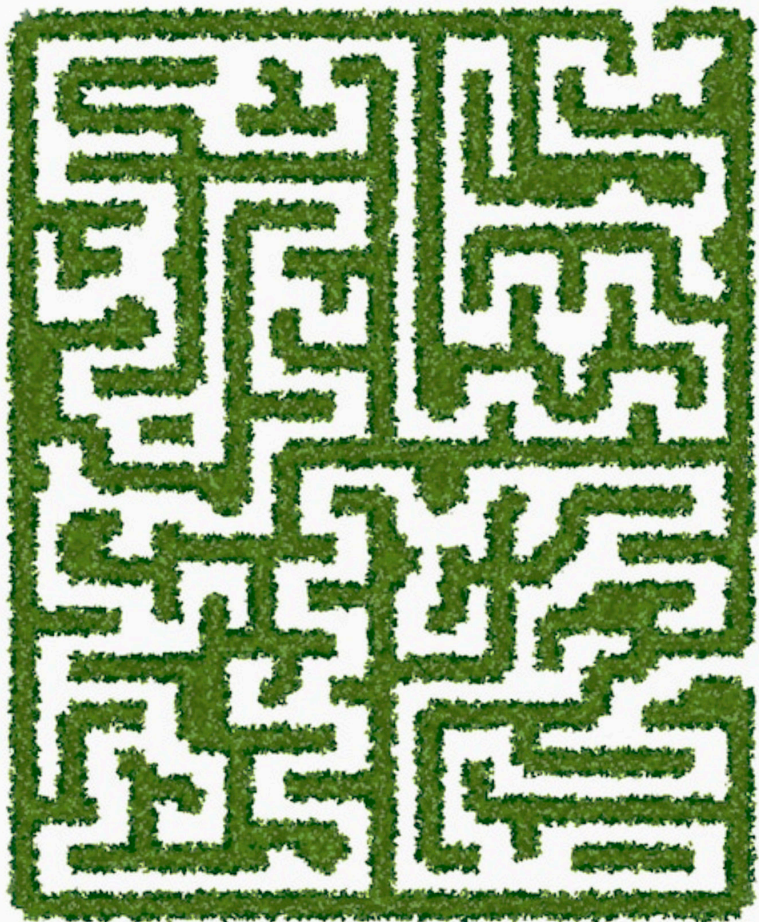
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

As the sun sets on the island, so does a mysterious fog which clouds your vision. Even with your caution, a faux pile of leaves is set off by your labored steps and you are led down into a deep, cavernous pit. GAME OVER



The M&W Corn Maze

Start Here ↓



End Here ↘



Answers:

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Down | Across |
| Ireland | Corn |
| Black | Dracula |
| Story | ChaiTea |
| Moon | Mummy |

The MAROON MINI

Oct. 27, 2023

Edited by The M&W Staff



ACROSS:

- 2. CANDY ___ (WHITE, YELLOW, ORANGE)
- 4. MOST FAMOUS NOVEL BY BRAM STOKER
- 6. MAROON AND WHITE'S FALL RECIPE.
- 7. WHAT IS A CORPSE IN A BANDAGE CALLED?

DOWN:

- 1. WHAT COUNTRY IS BELIEVED TO BE THE ORIGIN OF HALLOWEEN?
- 3. WHAT COLOR IS A WITCH'S CAT?
- 5. WHO IS THE MAROON AND WHITE ADVISOR?
- 8. WEREWOLVES TRANSFORM DURING A FULL ___.

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Chai Latte Brewing Guide

By Caden Cartwright

Utensils:

A pot, kettle, or cauldron of choice
A sealable jar, vial, or flask of choice
A cheesecloth or mesh strainer
A whisk, milk frother, or broom (do not use a broom)

Ingredients:

Milk of choice
Syrup:
2 cups honey or cane sugar
4 cups water
4 masala (chai) teabags
1 teaspoon cardamom
1 teaspoon ground cloves
1 teaspoon cinnamon
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Syrup instructions:

Mix the two cups of honey/sugar and four cups of water in a small pot on medium heat.
Once the mixture comes to a boil, reduce to low heat and let the mixture simmer for five minutes.
After, add the four tea bags and

steep for ten minutes, occasionally stirring; the longer it steeps, the stronger it will be.

Add each of the teaspoons of cardamom, ground cloves, and cinnamon to the mixture and steep for five more minutes; again, the longer, the stronger.

To avoid graininess from the tea bags and loose spices, strain with the cheese cloth once or strainer at least twice, then pour into the jar.

Add the two teaspoons of vanilla extract to the mixture in the jar and stir.

Latte instructions:

Froth the milk by whisking vigorously or using the frother.

Add a few tablespoons of the chai syrup to your milk. An average ratio of a cup of milk to a tablespoon of syrup will yield a strong chai latte.

Stir, optionally add ice, and enjoy your potion.

FALL BOOK RECS

By M&W Staff

“The Killers of the Flower Moon”

by David Grann

“The Secret History”

by Donna Tartt

“Frankenstein”

by Mary Shelley

“Tuesdays With Morrie”

by Mitch Albom

“Dead Poets Society”

by Nancy H. Kleinbaum

“Ninth House”

by Leigh Bardugo

“If We Were Villians”

by M. L. Rio

“Carrie”

by Stephen King

Vikings Vocalize

What is your favorite superstition?

By Ada Richtie

Freshman, Lily Chen:

“Wearing the exact same outfit on big academic days to help her perform better.”

Freshman, Mikaela

Guillermo: “If an object in the house has a crack throw it out immediately because it causes bad luck.”

Sophomore, Austria

Kudela: “Don’t say anything in a theatre.”

Sophomore, Jacob

Canter: “The moon landing.”

Junior, Jackson Norris:

“Friday the 13th.”

Junior, Georgie Simora:

“Friday the 13th.”

Senior, Jared Mccold:

“Knock on Wood.”

Senior, Rayne Russo:

“Friday the 13th.”

Senior, Alex Akard:

“Four leaf clovers.”

Senior, Abby Hodges:

“Friday the 13th.”

USE THE LAST RAFT TO ESCAPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Taking a small wooden boat, you quickly dump your supplies into the raft and set off, hoping to find more land closeby. The weight of the raft and its damaged structure appear to be too much, however, and you sink into the dark, unforgiving sea below. GAME OVER

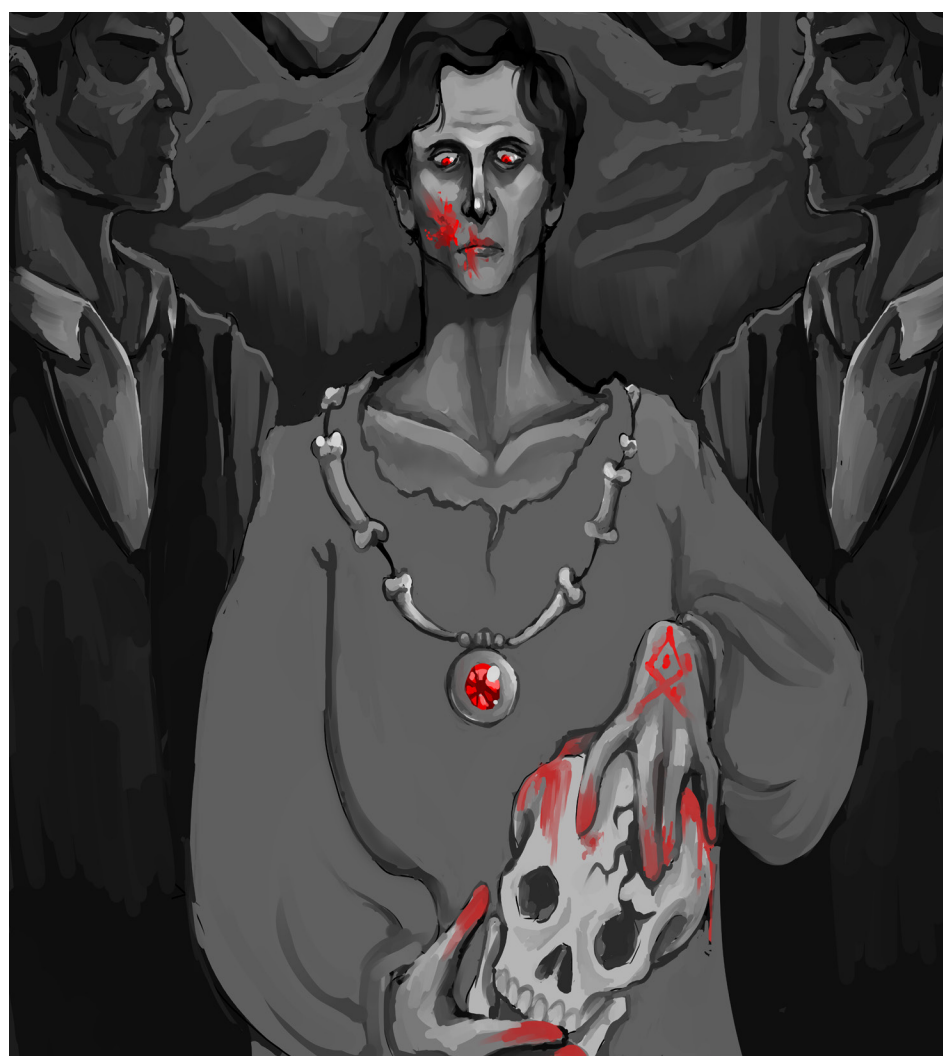


ACCEPT THEIR AID

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

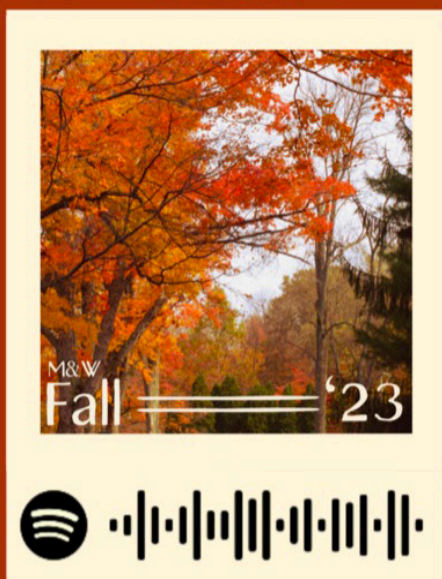
They bring you back to the village and give you a new set of robes. You begin to hesitate, but through the shadow of their hoods, the inhabitants assure you that this is part of your rite of initiation. You are presented with a large coffin placed in the ground, and your heart sinks. “Perhaps this is a reprimand for my plunder” but before

you think to attempt an escape, you sink quickly into your new home. You have won... at a cost.



THE MAROON & WHITE
FALL PLAYLIST

BY THE M&W STAFF



FEATURING:

About You by The 1975
Let The Light In by Lana Del Rey
Linger by The Cranberries
For Emma by Bon Iver
State of Grace (Taylor's Version)
by Taylor Swift
Scott Street by Phoebe Bridgers
Everybody Wants To Rule The World
by Tears for Fears
Love Will Tear Us Apart by Joy Division
Salt In The Wound by Boygenius

ask MISS KNOW IT ALL

“Okay so like there’s this girl, and I have a little crush, and she kinda knows that. I think she has a little crush back, but I can’t really prove it. How would I find out if she has a little crush too??”

Definitely go for it! If you feel confident that both you and her have feelings for each other, you should ask her out. Take things slow and maybe ask her to hang out in a shared group of friends if you have one. Stay casual and take it from friends to the final step of asking her to be your girlfriend. Always be polite and respectful but don’t friend-zone her or else she’ll tell your friends you’re sending mixed signals. Keep an eye out for any of her TikTok reposts to see if any relate to you. See what kind of looks her friends give you, if they smile and giggle whenever you’re around, you’re in the right place!

Ok you need to tread LIGHTLY, but I’ll definitely be the one to feed into your delusions here. If I put myself in your shoes, I’d believe he was obsessed too. He probably does like you, but his friends don’t; they’re disapproving and most people value their friends’ opinions greatly. Regarding that, that’s probably why he avoids you, because his friends would be upset if they saw him doing exactly what they advised him not to do. So try to DM him on Snapchat, Instagram, or Messages, somewhere where you can hold a private conversation. If he takes the bait, then you can actually start talking to him and see if he actually likes you.

“Ok, so there is this guy who literally will NOT stop staring at me, but like here’s the thing, he goes out of his way to avoid me, will not talk to me, and lowkey probably hates me because I’m not friends with his friends. ALSO, all of his notes on Instagram are about me, you cannot tell me otherwise, so does he want me, or am I delusional?”

“How do I stop being so hard on myself?”

A good first step is to make time for yourself. A time where you can just relax and do something you enjoy, whether that be baking, reading, exercising or scrolling on Instagram. Also, remember that no one is perfect and that you’re doing great. Regardless of if you don’t have an A, if you tripped in the hallway, or if you’re short on change for the school store.