October 16th ended the 16 day atrial government shutdown when the Senate, the House and President Obama agreed to raise the debt ceiling shortly circumventing the inability for our government to pay their bills.

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Good Ol’ Uncle Sam had 350,000 federal workers furloughed, military training exercises canceled, and a stock market plummet. We are so short on cash that some military families whose relatives paid the ultimate sacrifice can’t even be compensated for their funerals. It had gotten so bad that wealthy civilians have had to pick up the bill and help these families in their time of need. Fisher House, Donald Trump, and many other people and organizations picked up the slack and financed the burial of the servicemen who died during the shutdown.

The major problem right now with the government is that they can’t seem to pass anything that helps the country get through the tough times it is going through.

The epicenter of this shutdown was Obama’s “Affordable Care Act”, which would make health care available to everyone. Republicans used the prospective defaulting on America’s debts to defund this piece of legislation. Some have called this tactic “brinkmanship”, in other words, pushing events to the brink of disaster in order to gain an advantage.

The 16 day shutdown cost America an estimated $24 billion according to CNN and Standard and Poor. Government workers are not likely to receive lost wages, those with government contracts will not get back pay, and the resolution is temporary! The extension will only last until February 7th with spending levels authorized until January 15th and there seems to be no agreement between the parties in sight.

With the health of the United States economy on the line, politicians need to put their differences aside and do what’s best for their constituents.

Source: NBCnews.com/ CNN.com

Uncle Sam Unemployed?: CJ Barone

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This Month in History

- October 1, 1908 – Henry Ford’s Model T, a “universal car” designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.
- October 12, 1811 – Paraguay declared its independence from Spain and Argentina.
- October 14, 1933 – Nazi Germany announced its withdrawal from the League of Nations and stated it would take no further part in the Geneva Disarmament Conference.
- October 19, 1987 – “Black Monday” occurred on Wall Street as stocks plunged a record 508 points or 22.6 per cent, the largest one-day drop in stock market history.
- October 31st – Halloween or All Hallow’s Eve, an ancient celebration combining the Christian festival of All Saints with Pagan autumn festivals.

Compiled from Internet
**School News**

**Battle of the Chefs**

*By Mikael Pena*

One morning in September, it happened; the cafeteria was on fire! No, it wasn’t a malfunction in the kitchen, nor was it too many lovely ladies filling the room. It was the cooking skills of the Advanced Nutrition & Culinary Arts classes.

Students participated in a competition sponsored by Health Corps and the California Walnut Company to make an amazing breakfast that was both delicious and healthy. The only condition was that the meal had to use walnuts.

Our amazing Advanced Nutrition & Culinary students attacked this challenge without a second thought.

The competitors were separated into two groups; team 1 was called Team OOOO Cook ‘Em and Team 2 was dubbed Team Toasters, and with that settled, they went on to create their masterpieces.

Team 1 created a flat walnut pancake filled with creamy strawberry paste, accompanied by delicious smoothies. Team 2 made French toast stuffed with a delectable filling of apples and walnuts.

The morning of the challenge, judges, teachers, and students alike tasted the mouthwatering cuisine. In fact, some, the food was so good that they wanted seconds, thirds, fourths, and even fifths!

Both teams felt great cooking for their peers, and they all felt extremely proud of their results. The triumphant team was OOOO Cook ‘Em! At the announcement of their victory, members screamed with pleasure and extreme happiness. Ms. A. DiRoma, The Nutrition & Culinary teacher, could not have been more proud of her students.

The Advance Nutrition & Culinary students have finished this challenge, but are always ready to face more demanding ones as they get the opportunity.

**Sportsmanship Banner**

*By Mina Lisanin*

Although it may feel like a life or death situation when all of your teammates are relying on you to score to win leagues, winning is not everything. Being on a team requires its athletes to conduct themselves in a respectful manner; such behavior is proudly shown by Cliffside Park High School and they’ve been rewarded for it.

This year, Cliffside Park High School was awarded a sportsmanship banner for the 2012 to 2013 school year for signs of great character and respect for rules, coaches, and other players. Each year, the state gives out sportsmanship banners to schools who show proper conduct throughout the year, which involves following and obeying all rules and regulations of the NJSIAA and the Big North Conference. Out of forty-one teams in total, CPHS was one of seven schools to receive this honor. The other six schools were Bergen Catholic, Holy Angels, Immaculate Heart, Paramus Catholic, Passaic, and West Milford.

Athletic Director Mr. Lombardo said, “It’s not always about winning… one of the main goals for coaches and directors is to teach kids to be good sports.” Fortunately, this is not the first time CPHS has received this award. In fact, over the last fourteen years, the school has received thirteen sportsmanship banners. Keep up the good work Raiders!

**Zombie Apocalypse Haunted Maze**

*By Elmer Maximilian Cruz*

On October 25th and 26th, students of CPHS had the opportunity to experience life among the “walking dead” as part of the Drama Club’s first ever zombie apocalypse horror maze.

The idea for the maze originated with Drama Club secretary Kasey Marin but evolved to its current magnificence with the amazing ideas of President Allie Jones, Vice President Matthew Owitz and Treasurer Arturo Fernandez. When asked about the maze Mattey Owitz said “Zombies are HUGE right now, what better way to raise some money for the drama club and scare our fellow classmates than with the a Zombie Apocalypse!”

The maze began outside the cafeteria by the field, where Doctor’s Rebecca House and Fredrick Hall told the groups that the sudden zombie infection was a result of Doctor Rebecca House’s experiment which went horribly wrong and that Agent Zero is inside the quarantine zone waiting with an antidote.

Groups of 5-7 humans entered the maze and each room had an array of items that need to be collected in order to proceed to the following rooms and ultimately access the antidote.

As participants made their way deeper into the maze, they had to avoid close to thirty zombies hungry for flesh.

Groups lucky enough to survive the maze they exited into the triage center where the doctors and nurses checked to see whether the group was infected or not. Much like the show, no one escaped the maze without contamination.

Saturday’s performance was just for the thrills and chills as participants made their way through the haunted halls.

The zombie maze also owes a great deal of gratitude to Ms. Lupica and Ms. Romano for all their assistance. The Drama Club would like to thank everyone who came out to the event, and urge our peers to continue supporting us in future fundraisers.
Principal's Corner

It’s already the end of the first marking period and by now you should all be back in the routine of classes, homework, and studying for tests and quizzes. Juniors and seniors should be thinking about “college shopping” and focusing on earning the best grades possible. These days, competition for entrance into college or the job market is fierce. You need to be at the “top of your game” if you expect to receive acceptance letters or land a job after graduation! Freshmen and sophomores need to begin planning for the future as well. Too many of you think that doing your best is doing too much. Change your philosophy to “never do less than your best” if you hope to move ahead in the world!

I’d like to congratulate all of our student athletes who have been practicing and playing so hard for Cliffside Park High School! We are proud of each of you for the way you represent us! Win or lose, you are the best! If you are not a player, be a spectator and cheer on your friends and classmates! It’s also great to see the participation in other activities such as Student Council, the robotics team, drama club, band, and this school newspaper. The list goes on and on. Membership in school activities is a must on college applications!

Don’t forget that my door is always open. Stop in to see me if you have an idea or a problem. I love hearing about the great things that so many of you are doing!

~ Mrs. Morrow
GLEE IS BACK!
by Katelyn Quino

Fox’s top hit show, Glee aired its fifth season premier, on September 26th, with a two-part Beatles tribute. It received off-the-charts ratings, with positive reviews.

Rachel Berry, played by Lea Michele, opened the show “All You Need Is Love,” with a cover of the song “Yesterday” in her audition for the main part in the play Funny Girl. Back at McKinley, Mr. Shuester announced a two week tribute of the Beatles, which he thinks will get the glee club to win Nationals, for the second year in a row! Not to mention, Kitty and Artie are now dating! In the second part of the Beatles tribute, Blaine announced to the Glee club his plans to propose to Kurt.

With the most romantic proposal anyone could imagine, Blaine asked Kurt to marry him, and Kurt, without second thought answered with a yes. Over all, Glee’s season opener showed that “all you need is love”.

After watching the two-part season opener, many fans were left with unanswered questions like, “What happened to Finn?” With the tragic and sudden passing of actor Cory Montieth, many were very uncertain about in the new season. Cory, who played Finn Hudson was found dead over the summer in his Vancouver hotel room due to a toxic combination of drugs. What is even more heartbreaking is that he died at the age of 31, young, and just about at the peak of his career considering his important role in Glee. In reference to that, there have been numerous rumors on twitter saying what is to be expected of Cory’s character, Finn Hudson and the impact of his passing on the show. Producers have stated that they would have a special episode, which aired October 10th, saying goodbye to both Finn Hudson and the memorable actor who played him, Cory Montieth.

Ultimately, there is a lot to expect in the fifth season of Glee due to Blaine and Kurt’s engagement and the tragic loss of Finn. Will Blain and Kurt have their perfect wedding? Will Rachel keep up with her success in New York? What is going to happen to the Glee club? Keep up by watching Glee, Thursdays at 9/8 central!

GLOBAL CITIZEN FESTIVAL
By Kasey Marin

On September 28, 2013, the Global Citizen Festival drew a crowd of 60,000 people for the second year in a row to the Great Lawn in Central Park. The festival, organized by Australian philanthropist Hugh Evans, primarily revolves around the issues of health, women’s equality and ending extreme poverty worldwide.

The festival coincided with the United Nations’ General Assembly meetings in order to amplify its message to the global leaders. Organizers of the festival say that their goal is to end extreme world poverty by 2030.

In normal benefit concerts, one pays for their ticket, proceeds to watch their favorite performers and goes home with no real consideration for the true meaning behind the concert. In the case of the Global Citizen Festival, the majority of the 60,000 people earned their way in by taking various actions. The concertgoers had to register at the festival’s web site and gain points by completing various awareness-building tasks. The more points acquired, the more the participant’s name was submitted into a lottery to win a pair of tickets. Throughout the concert, text messages were sent to each member of the audience urging them to continue taking action and to keep signing petitions.

The performers contributed as well by foregoing a paycheck. This year, the headliners were Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys, John Mayer and Kings of Leon, as well as performances by Elvis Costello and Janelle Monae.

Although all of the acts were outstanding, the majority only made feeble attempts to remind the audience of why they were there. That is, except for Mr. Wonder, whose words resonated through the crowd. Not only did he introduce Ban Ki-Moon, secretary general of the United Nations, with insightful warmth, but he had the audience singing “We are global citizens, we’re gonna change the world!” all the way home.

GRAVITY
By Soo Kang

In the recent film Gravity, featuring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney as Dr. Ryan Stone and Matt Kowalski, struggle to survive and try to make their way home to planet Earth.

A chain reaction of high speed debris attacks the space shuttle Explorer and its crew. This onslaught results in Dr. Stone helplessly drifting away into space. Soon after, Kowalski rescues her by using his thruster pack and tether lines.

After they reach the Explorer, they discover that the rest of the crew has already died and that they are the only survivors. Kowalski suggests that they travel to the ISS (International Space Station) to use the module there to return to Earth and their perilous journey to survive begins.

It was interesting for two actors to be shown throughout the movie to carry all the action. However, most of the movie’s action takes place in space or in a space shuttle, which got boring visually. I found the spinning of the open space background very distracting and it was difficult to focus on the action.

The thrilling plot twists and the actors’ performances brought the film its quality. There were few parts of the movie that have been overplayed in other films but it still had an emotional impact on the viewer.

Since the film was available in 3D, the director made viewers feel like an additional character floating in space alongside the actors. However, this reviewer was more distracted than engrossed by this.

Although the film Gravity was often cliché, it still had an emotional impact to the viewer. The actors performed really well and I recommend the film Gravity to those who love emotional films such as myself. Gravity was a very emotional movie to watch and it was filled with suspense. As the characters faced life-threatening dangers, I found myself on the edge of the seat.
The Simpsons, an animated series that has been running for 24 years, will soon lose a character. Creators are planning on ‘killing’ one of its regulars.

An executive producer of The Simpsons Al Jean, teased fans, “I’ll give you a clue that the actor playing the character won an Emmy for playing that character, but I won’t say who it is.” Unfortunately, 9 Simpsons voice actors have won 25 Emmys for their performances.

Jean also said that the actual death of the character will occur during season 26, but the plotline for it will begin in season 25. The episode is supposed to be aired sometime between the middle and the end of 2014. Al Jean, as well as other producers hope to get “Breaking Bad type numbers” for this stunt.

Lisa, Bart, and Maggie (Homer and Marge’s children, can’t die because it might bring up controversy with viewers. A large number of dedicated viewers believe that Homer might be the one to die because it would be a powerful way to end the show. Those who don’t even watch the show know Homer and it might bring in more viewers for those last few episodes and a viral final episode that would get large ratings.

Other die hard viewers predict that Marge might be cut out. She is so sympathetic and it would be a tragic if she died, because Homer would have to raise the children on his own. Not-so-major characters like Chief Wiggum and Krusty the Clown can easily get disappear in humorous ways. Moe is a character that is always around and Grandpa Simpson is old but neither of their deaths would really have an effect on the series. There are still a great number of characters that can die off this next season.

Even though Homer is the main character, dedicated viewers believe that his death can tie the entire show together in a tragic but historic ending. Others feel that if he dies, the show will come to an end and producers possibly want to continue. We will all soon find out! The Walking Dead Season Four Premiere
by Tiffany Tobey

If you did not snuggle up with a bowl of popcorn and join in on the excitement of The Walking Dead Season 4 Premiere, then you missed out!

It has been months since the collapse of Woodbury and the Governor is still missing. Rick Grimes allowed remaining survivors to live in the prison. The prisons’ cell blocks are now occupied by more men, women, and children. We are introduced to additional new characters such as Bob Stookey, an ex-army medic, Patrick, a nerdy teenager, and Zach, Beth’s new boy toy. There are also more new characters to come this season.

The prison has been doing fairly well. There are farm animals, crops are being cultivated and so far, there have been thirty days without an accident. Unfortunately, in this zombie-infested world, something is always bound to go wrong. Walkers have piled up overnight by the fences and it is becoming a problem. Daryl Dixon, our favorite tough bow and arrow guy, helps assemble a team to go out and scavenge for food and supplies. The new guys Bob and Zach tag along. Things do not go so well when they face a collapsing ceiling in the food store where they are searching. Through the ceiling fall dozens of walkers and it looks as if it is raining zombies. Not everyone makes it back to the prison. They lost one of their own people in that “zombie storm.”

In the comic book version, Bob Stookey is an army medic with an alcohol problem. This new guy seems to raise some suspicion. He has only been in the prison for about a week; so no one knows him very well. Perhaps the former army medic is the Governor’s spy? Who knows? The episode reaches its end with poor Patrick looking awfully sick and zombie-like. There is a walker inside the prison, and who can tell what is going to happen next? Let’s stay tuned and find out what suspense the next episode brings.

When my friend and I attended a recent free concert from American Authors, we agreed they were great. They played awesome music, and had a sort of indie rock kind of feel to them. Their sound was very similar to that of Imagine Dragons or the Lumineers, and it made me think that they could be the next “big thing” on the radio and in the music world.

The band was formed in 2006 by four friends who met in college. They all shared a love for music, considering the fact that they attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. The band later relocated to Brooklyn, New York, where it has remained their home base.

All four members of the band are extremely talented, especially Zachary Barnett, whose vocals are mellifluous and pierce the audience’s ears by carrying out the song beautifully. The crowd went wild when the band performed its hit single, “Best Day of My Life,” which had everyone in the crowd singing along.

The concert was relatively short, not lasting longer than an hour, due to the fact that the band has only released an EP, and has yet to release a full album. Nevertheless, the hour they spent on stage was wonderful, and their interaction with the crowd was outstanding. All of the band members had something to say to the audience and all their words got the crowd pumped up.

After the concert, I had the pleasure of meeting Zachary Barnett, who although was mostly surrounded by close friends, put his conversations aside to take a picture with my friend and I, and talk to us about his band.

I have a feeling that American Authors will go very far and achieve success. Their music is catchy and upbeat, and fits with current trends in the music scene.
Robot Killers Instead of Soldiers
By Wedad Haddabeh

For several years now, South Korea has been exploring the idea of using robots instead of soldiers to patrol their border. The South Korean government has chosen to do this for a couple of reasons. The country has one of the world’s lowest birth rates and it’s continuing to decline, which makes it a struggle for the nation to maintain their military forces. Also, South Korea shares a border with one of the most feared and dangerous military dictatorships in the world—North Korea. With North Korea’s military personnel nearly double that of South Korea’s 655,000 troops, they see the best to be investing millions in the creation and development of robot sentinels to guard the coasts and borders in order to mitigate the effects of a shortage of men.

According to data from 2006, the South Korean government invested about $1 billion in four institutions to make the Intelligent Surveillance and Guard Robots (SGR-A1). The SGR-A1 has an infrared camera that allows it to detect and track targets of up to four km away. To differentiate humans from animals or other objects, the robot uses a low-light camera and pattern recognition software. If an approaching person is unable to provide a required access code to the sentry bot, it will either sound an alarm or use its machine gun. Along the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), however, anyone who crosses the line will be considered an enemy to the SGR-A1, in which the robot will verbally command the trespasser to surrender. If the robot is able to detect the sign of surrender—both arms held high—it will not fire. The robot has an automatic mode, which gives it the ability to make the decision.

Even if robots are improved and programmed to make more precise decisions, there’s always the possibility of malfunctions and technical problems. Robot soldiers may seem advantageous in certain situations, but will they prove to be merciless murderers in the time to come?


Hacking Our Hard Drives
By Patricia Hoyos

As if science fiction could not get any spookier, scientists have decided to make it a scientific reality. In the past, scientists have tried to unravel the mystery of the brain, and mind control was only seen in scary movies. Recently, however, science has gone beyond merely trying to understand the brain. Now, the goal is to control it.

While it seems hard to believe, the use of electricity to improve hearing through cochlear implants, which allow the brain to decipher sound through electrical impulses, has benefited a multitude of hearing impaired people. However, recent breakthroughs have led to the discovery of a more precise method to send signals to the brain—lasers.

Before the light from lasers can be used to control the brain, a virus must change the DNA within the cells of the targeted brain. Genes from algae, which depend on light to survive, are implanted into the cells so that they can pick up the laser’s signal. Genes cause the cell to make proteins that convert the light into electrical signals. The DNA of algae is compatible with the human cell, so the cell absorbs the DNA as its own.

With a genetically altered brain and a suitable laser, the only missing component is a mad scientist and people can be manipulated to be sad, happy, or even move at the press of a button.

Proving that fiction can be fact, scientists have already used this innovative technology on rats. The part of the brain that controls the rat’s movement to the left was altered to accept light signals. As expected, whenever a laser shone light on that area of the brain, the rat had no choice but to run the left.

While many call deciphering body language a method to uncover the underlying intentions of the brain, scientific research is pushing the boundaries. The target is no longer to decipher the brain, but to control it. Although some may argue that hacking the brain is against morality and is a step closer to making humans into automatons, there is no doubt that science has come alive.

Sources: gizmodo.com

Human Beings Catching Fire Without A Spark?
By Jessica Reyes

There have been more than 200 reported cases of humans spontaneously catching fire. The majority of the reported cases involve victims burned alive completely, yet the environment they were in did not catch on fire.

This rare occurrence, called Spontaneous Human Combustion (SHC), involves a human being catching fire from within the body, without any ignition source. Is it truly possible that a human body can go up in flames without being ignited in any way?

One case occurred in 1966, when Dr. J. Irvin-g Bentley, 92, was found in his Pennsylvania home by a meter reader. The bizarre part of the discovery was that only his leg and foot were present, meaning that the rest of his body was burned to ashes. A hole in the bathroom floor was evidence of the fire, but oddly enough, the rest of his house was untouched.

Another case happened a year later involving a man named Robert Francis Bailey. On September 13th, 1967, a member of a group of female office workers called the London Fire Brigade after noticing flames through a window.

The first fireman that arrived on the scene stated, "The fire was coming from within the abdomen of his body. There’s no doubt whatsoever, that fire began inside the body." Most scientists and investigators of the incident are skeptical and believe that a man catching fire without a flame is impossible.

The theory of combustion requires the human body to have intensely high heat and a flammable substance.
Evolution of Horror Movies
Jonathan Campos

Horror movies have been around for 117 years and are a big part of the movie industry today. Horror movies have grown from 3 minute clips to hours with different types of animation and effects.

The first horror movie was created in 1896, Le Manoir du Diable or “The Manor of the Devil” in English. It was a silent short in black and white involving the devil who was trying to mess around with a man. However, the short-film itself would not even be considered scary or even a horror movie to most people today.

In the 1930s, some of the very famous classic horror movies were born. Movies such as Dracula (1931), Frankenstein (1931), and The Mummy (1932). All of these movies had the addition of voice and music, but remained in black and white.

In the 1950s, most horror movies concentrated on alien invasions, mutations, weird creatures, demons, monster plants and insects. In the mid-50’s the first colored movie was made. According to many people, the greatest time period for horror movies were in the 70s, 80s, and the 90s. Many horror movies adopted occult symbols, the living dead, demons, and the devil as the main antagonists. This time period is when the famous “The Exorcist” (1973) was created. One of my all-time favorites The Omen (1976), The Hills Have Eyes (1977), The Texas Chain Saw Massacre (1974), Halloween (1978), Friday the 13th (1980), and more appeared.

In the 90s many sequels were created from many of the horror movies created in the 80s in order to continue the bloody gore theme. Half way through the 90s, the themes of many horror movie shifted and famous movies like Species (1995), Sleepy Hollow (1999), The Haunting (1999), and Scream (1996) were made.

Starting in 2000, many different types of horror movies came out. The movies itself were much higher quality, more realistic, with much better effects and animations. Some new horror movies from the 2000s are Final Destination (2000), Orphan (2009), House of 1000 Corpses (2003), and Silent Hill (2006).

Horror movies have been around for 117 years and are a big part of the movie industry today. Horror movies have grown from 3 minute clips to hours with different types of animation and effects. Horror movies themselves have changed and evolved making them a popular genre of films.

Roots of the Pumpkin
By Mayra Díaz

Whether you celebrate it or not, we all know what Halloween is. Halloween is the second most popular holiday in America, but it’s meaning seems a bit obscure. Holidays like Thanksgiving or Christmas have religious, historic or emotional meanings behind them.

Admittedly, most if not all holidays are centered around commercialism and industry. It’s all about selling the products associated with the holiday, but Halloween seems to be solely centered around that concept.

History tells us that on the night of October 31st, the ancient Celtics would celebrate Samhain, the lord of the dead. They believed that on this day, Samhain called forth spirits, and therefore they would make sacrifices to stay protected from any demon that might come their way. Mystical creatures such as witches and even cats were also feared, which is what most believe to be the influence for Halloween costumes.

The all-famous carving of a pumpkin was used to scare away any souls that wandered around at night.

Traditional trick-or-treating is said to originate from Ireland. Irish farmers would go from door to door asking for food for the “Halloween” feast. They promised good fortune to those who complied, and terrible tricks on those who refused.

Around the Middle Age, Christians were still keen on spreading their beliefs and getting people to convert. The Samhain celebration was seen as evil, and so they changed the ritual to be more appropriate for Christianity. November 1st was renamed Day of All Saints, and the night of October 31st was named All Hallowed Eve.

As for the actual current holiday Halloween holiday, it’s far from anything it had originally been used for. It was merely a Celtic ritual that was conformed into something else that the tribe had no choice but to accept.

Halloween celebrates nothing in particular, since endlessly eating candy and dressing up like a crazed maniac is something that can be done year-round. It is a content-free holiday merely celebrated for tradition and childish fun.

That being said, it still can be a holiday that brings all family together. It gives serious adults a chance to act silly and scary, and the kids really enjoy the dress up as well. It may not be about anything sentimental, but Halloween can be a fun and enjoyable time.

http://www.holybible.com/resources/halloween.htm
U.S. AND IRAN: PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIP IN SIGHT?
By Murat Goksu

As many already know, the United States and Iran do not have an amiable relationship on a global scale. This is because, during recent years, Iran has gathered various chemicals capable of producing nuclear energy for, as its leaders claim, increasing the availability of domestic energy.

Much of the Western world, including the U.S., views Iran’s heightened interest in creating its own nuclear resources as a major threat to international safety. As a result, many nations decided to take action of their own to oppose Iran’s nuclear development by imposing different types of sanctions and embargos on the country.

Those prohibitions led to a wider rift between the opposing nations (especially the U.S.) and Iran; a rift that seemed irreparable until a new president, Hassan Rouhani, came to power after winning the 2013 Iranian presidential election.

History was made between the United States and Iran towards the end of last month when President Barack Obama and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani had a conversation via phone regarding Iran’s nuclear program.

President Rouhani later came to the U.S. to spend a few days at the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York, where he made a number of public addresses indicating that “Iran was open to a deeper relationship with the U.S. and the West, and resolving conflict around his country’s nuclear program.”

Moments before President Obama took the podium at a White House briefing, Rouhani tweeted the news about the phone call, saying that both he and Obama “expressed their mutual political will to rapidly solve the nuclear issue” in Iran. The phone call itself was the “first direct conversation between leaders in Washington and Tehran since 1979.”

Soon after the phone call, President Obama explained that after three decades of mistrust, “a path to a meaningful agreement will be difficult and at this point both sides have significant concerns that will have to be overcome.”

Hopefully, the two nations can have friendlier exchanges between each other regarding major world issues now that Obama and Rouhani are seemingly on the same page about Iran’s greatest controversy: its nuclear program.

Sources: CNN.com www.nbcnews.com

TERRORISM SCARE IN FAIRVIEW
By Raven Rentas

September 30th seemed to be a typical day in the town of Fairview, New Jersey. That afternoon, however, a mysterious briefcase was abandoned in the middle of a side walk, turning the peaceful town upside down.

Following its discovery, a bomb squad appeared to assess the potential threat. Hysteria spread throughout social networks, such as twitter, causing people to panic. The “threat” turned out to be nothing more than an ordinary brief case left for unidentified reasons.

Although many people were relieved that the community was not in danger, many questioned why people immediately suspected terrorism when they discovered the abandoned case. In the past, if a briefcase was found on the sidewalk, the majority of people would assume that someone mistakenly forgot it. In 2013, however, the circumstances are different. In today’s world, we do not hesitate in expecting the worst.

While this may be due to the increased amount of terrorist attacks, excessive precaution can also have the negative side effect of unnecessary hysteria and panic. There have been so many terrorist attacks in the past decade in not only different parts of the world, but in different parts of our nation. People are aware of the violence in the world and as a result take extreme precautions in order to avoid unpleasant surprises.

Among the instances that brought this wave of panic and alarm are 9/11 and the Boston Marathon bombing this year. Unfortunately, terrorism is a recurring event in the modern world. As a result, many people applaud those who reported the mysterious briefcase to authorities because a moment of panic is better than a successful terrorist attack.

OBAMACARE
By Brian Palumbo

Although people may have heard of Obamacare while watching the news or while reading a newspaper, many are unaware of what it is and what conditions it has.

Obamacare was signed and put into law on March 23, 2010, and the bills that make up Obamacare are the Affordable Care Act and Patient Protection Plan. These new laws are intended to curb the cost of health coverage and expand it to millions of uninsured people while improving the quality of care at the same time. After 2014, it will be required that every American hold and pay for health insurance. Americans that are already insured by a private insurance company, are unaffected by Obamacare.

A controversial bill, the stipulations of Obamacare have received a lot of criticism. According to the bill, Americans without insurance could either pay four thousand dollars a year in tax for Obamacare or reject Obamacare and pay a penalty tax of over two thousand dollars to not have insurance. While the intention of the bill is to increase the amount of people with insurance, many predict that its main outcome will be that the prices for the mandatory insurance will go up and the quality of doctor’s visits will go down. Since so many people that did not have insurance will, doctors’ offices will be packed. Many fear that doctors will not be able to give their best skills to an overabundance of patients.

On the other hand, Obamacare has received a significant amount of support, especially from those who hope to give health care to people that do not have it. Whether or not President Obama’s new policy is the correct decision is the opinion of the people. Regardless of their opinion, however, Obamacare has already been passed and the new stipulations will be enforced in 2014.
And Then Some...

**Diary of a senior**

*By Staff Writer*

The other day, as I was trying to park my car in the school parking lot AFTER school, I was stopped, and told I wasn’t allowed to park there.

Apparently, students who return to school after 9th period are not allowed to park in the parking lot until after 3:10 even when there are available spots. I think this is ridiculous of course, but no one is going to change that rule any time soon.

Parking has always been an issue at our high school. The only lot that we have has meters, and somehow students are expected to go outside every couple of hours to feed those meters. How are we supposed to put coins into the meter when we aren’t allowed to leave the school during class? It just doesn’t make sense.

It would be better to pay for a parking sticker at the beginning of the year than to have to deal with feeding meters throughout the day. In fact, I’m sure other seniors would agree with me, that parking stickers would allow us to park in the lot near the school would be very efficient. The sticker could even be limited to 3 p.m. allowing others to park there after school. Another option would be Riverview Avenue along the football field, which could be student parking during school hours.

There are times when I would much rather walk to school than drive just because I don’t want to deal with the hassle of parking. I live relatively close though, and at least have this option. The seniors who live down the hill in Fairview, and have no choice but to drive to school don’t have this luxury.

Parking shouldn’t be this big an issue. Other high schools have parking lots reserved for the seniors with cars, but we don’t have the space for that. Still, is there no better way?

I know this situation won’t be resolved by the time I graduate, but for future seniors, it would be a big help if the school could find a way to make the parking situation easier for all of us.

**Why Is It Important To Join A Sport**

*By Victoria McCoy*

Every year, the coaches of various teams attempt to inspire students to join their teams, the question they receive in response is often, “What do we get out of it?”

It is very important to join a sport because it is a great way to exercise. Sports are very important in order to be healthy. The obesity rate for America is 16 to 33 percent according to the AACAP. Obesity is very serious and can cause problems later on in life. Being in shape now is a good foundation for when you get older. Studies show that if you are healthy, you are less likely to get sick.

Sports are also an excellent option for people looking to branch out socially. While playing sports, you may have time to talk to people you share a common interest with, especially if you’re shy. It is a lot easier to start a conversation with someone you play a sport with.

Teams also create a family atmosphere that builds strong bonds among teammates.

Sports also look good on college applications. Colleges prefer students who do sports and get good grades than people who just go home after school. You also practice time management, which is very important for succeeding in life as well as college. Colleges look for extracurricular activities and sports are a good way to show involvement.

Sports can relieve stress because they help players release endorphins. Endorphins help the body fight depression and anxiety. Sports help to channel anger. Since you exercise and take your aggression out on the other team, you do not feel the need to get frustrated every day.

Sports also teach you focus and commitment, which helps in school. With these two traits, hard work holds purpose, dedication is ingrained and success is visualized easily.

So go out there and be a part of the Raiders in whatever sport you love!

**Oh My Lorde**

*By Barbara De Barros*

Aspiring new artist, Lorde has a new album out, called “Pure Heroine” which captures the voice of feminism by showing society that women do not need to degrade themselves to get their point across.

Her songs are stories, painting pictures of love, ambition, and dreams. “Pure Heroine” criticizes society as one in which living in the fast lane is glorified.

This album is honest. Her famous new hit song that brought her popularity and fame “Royals” depicts a stoic side of the youth culture where feelings are irrelevant and the main objective is your aspirations.

The music on this album has a steady beat and trance-inducing lyrics that embodies our generation. The lyrics on the album, “Pure Heroine”, can be related to and have the ability to motivate and inspire people. One of the lyrics in the song, “Still Sane,” is “I’m little, but I’m coming for the crown.”

I like that Lorde highlights that the majority of artists are unfamiliar with how to compose songs that teens can relate to. Teenagers, as a whole, are obsessed with reading about celebrities and their lavish lifestyles but in the real world most of us are making minimum wage.

Lorde is a New Zealand native who was discovered in a talent show at the age of 12, by an A&R scout, Scott Maclachlan. From then until turning 16, she has been training to adopt the perfect sound for her music.

All of these years of training were to make sure that she would be ready for what the real world has to offer. This album reaches for the dreamers who aspire to leave their comfort zone and go after something far beyond their expectations.

Lorde knows that although she has been training since the age of 12, she has a long way to go and with determination, she is bound to come out on top. After listening to this album, I do not have the slightest doubt in my mind that she will achieve success.
From Scary Science

Typically, our bodies lack both, but scientists have taken multiple guesses on several reports of the phenomenon.

Famous author Charles Dickens wrote about SHC many times, using the concept to kill a character named Krook in his novel "Bleak House." He writes that the alcoholic Krook catches fire due to his excessive consumption of alcohol.

Other theories state that SHC is the result of accumulated static electricity inside the body. Larry Arnold, an expert on SHC, has implied that the occurrence is the exertion of a new subatomic particle called a pyroton. According to him, a pyroton connects with cells to create a miniscule explosion, but no scientific evidence proves the existence of this particle.

Whether or not it is in fact a myth, I feel uneasy at the idea of unexpectedly catching on fire. To be on the safe side, one should always stay hydrated and be aware of fire safety.

Halloween or Christmas?

By Mohammad Warrad

An age old debate is whether or not Christmas is better than Halloween or vise versa. As some people may say that on Christmas, you receive gifts and an occasional $50 or more. Others argue that candy during Halloween is delightful as they throw their bag filled with assorted candy on the floor, choosing the ones they like. I for one bet all my money on Christmas. Although I don’t celebrate Christmas, there are many perks to the holiday. Waking up on a crisp, cold morning and opening up a present that you find to be an iPad is one-million times better than getting candy that you’ll finish in about a night.

I asked my peers about if they liked Halloween or Christmas, and most said Christmas. If you think about it, many people like the expensive presents or money. During Halloween, you have the risk of eating too much candy and getting sick. If you were to get an iPad or a phone for Christmas, it’s more likely to last longer. The opinion is yours.