

CHARTERINK

The Russian War on Homosexuality



By Danny Freitas

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On June 30th this year, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a bill. Not just any ordinary bill, this bill “bans the promotion of homosexuality to minors,” according to Marc Bennetts’ article on www.theguardian.com. This law also bans the right to hold any gay pride events, speak in favor of gay rights, or say that gay relationships are equal to heterosexual relationships in presence of minors. This disaster of a law has already influenced worldwide protest in support of Russia’s LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) population. The horrific law has also triggered homophobic violence, such as groups that go around and beat homosexual men (or ones who they suspect are), record these beatings, and post them on the internet. This group is called “Occupy Pedophilia”. This group traps gay men by asking and pretending to want a sexual hook-up. Then, people from “Occupy Pedophilia” beat and torture the man they have tricked.

Promotion of homosexuality in Russia should be encouraged and should go unpunished. There are different kinds of punishments, depending on who was promoting it. If an average man/woman was found guilty, they were fined 5,000 rubles, or 124.59 US dollars. If a public official was guilty, they are fined ten times what the average person would pay. If an organization or business was supporting homosexuality, not only were they fined 1 million rubles, or 24,913.06 USD, but the business/organization is also forced to cease any operation for 90 days. Finally, if a foreigner was guilty, they are arrested and detained for up to 15 days, deported, and fined up to 100,000 rubles (2491.81 USD).

Sadly, the new law and the punishments have affected a large population of Russia. One third of the population of Russia believe that homosexuals should get medical or psychological help. Even famous Russian actor, Ivan Okhlobystin, stated he wants all gays “in the oven” Ivan has stated that, “I would put all the gays alive into an oven. As a religious person, I cannot be indifferent about it because it is a real threat to my children!” Luckily, the law has been protested against around the world, including the US. HBO made a movie called “Hunted: The War Against Gays in Russia”, which aired October 6th. With this movie out, hopefully the world will help the LGBT population of Russia fight against this horrific law. operation for 90 days. Finally, if a foreigner was guilty, they are arrested and detained for up to 15 days, deported, and fined up to 100,000 rubles (2491.81 USD).

Fashion

By Maddie Hebert

Fashion is a way of expressing ourselves and being unique in our own ways and showing creativity by our clothes. Fashion changes very often depending on the year the season or even hanging out with certain people and sometimes its trying to fit in with a certain group. Fashion is just like art and portraying our feelings through how we want things being expressed and showing who we really are. What you wear usually says a lot about you so when making choices on buying clothes think what you are portraying to other people and how you want others to see you as and how you want to see yourself as. Never be afraid to be yourself with fashion because thats what makes you and who you are. We are lucky enough to express ourselves the way we want and make something of ourselves. Waking up in the morning do you ever wonder what driving your clothing choices? Do you dress for comfort? Dress to impress? Or just dress for yourself. Just looking at someones style you can see a lot from it, even their personality. Embrace your personality and dont be afraid to express yourself, just be comfortable in your own skin and be yourself!

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Upcoming Events: November

By Molly Schauer

October was a very eventful month, but November will be very different. There are only two events that the school knows about in November as of right now. November 7th there will be a Coffee house which will be run by student board. The next and final event in November will be on the 14th and it is the National Honor Society induction. There are something like 10 new people that will be inducted into the NHS this year. November is a short month but that does not mean that it is uneventful.

Horoscopes

By All-Seeing Seer

You may want to stay in this month. The alignment of the planets of Mars and Venus, combined with the influence of Mercury does not bode well for your relationships. Tensions will be high after all the excitement of Halloween and as everyone re-focuses on school for the end of the first term. It will be important that you keep in touch with your friends during all of this, as it seems likely you will be put in a difficult position when a fight breaks out between two friends. Avoid choosing sides, though, and instead, try to remind them of what good friends they have been all these years and all should work itself out just in time for the snow ball fights, sleepovers, and hot chocolate of winter.

Yes Means Yes

By Jordyn Lussier

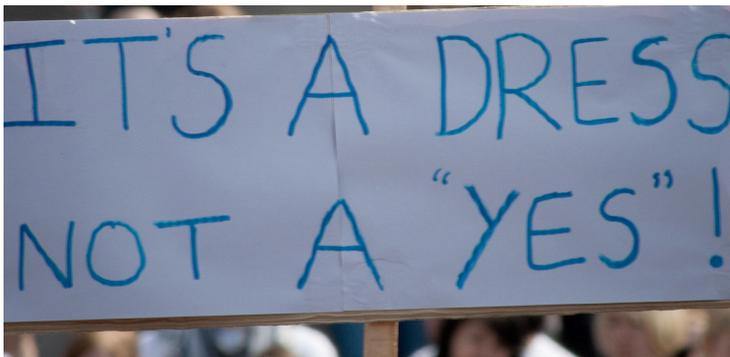
After the throw of the graduation caps and the seemingly endless buzz of “Congratulations!” or “We made it!” students must begin the next chapter of their lives. For some, this could mean a carefree summer, or moving out to Hollywood to become famous, but for a majority of the graduating class, this means college. While college opens the door to a higher learning, and prepares the student for what he/she wants to do for the rest of their life, college can also be dangerous. With so much freedom and independence, students may find themselves putting friends before textbooks, and parties before studying. This can often lead to wild, reckless nights, commonly resulting in trashed dorm rooms, DUI’s, and even sexual assault.

Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. A study done in 2007 by the Department of Justice finds that 20% of women have been a victim of an attempted or completed sexual assault while in college. Most of these incidents take place in either the college dorms or private residences. In sexual assaults that take place on or off campus, 90% of those victimized know the offender. In an attempt to solve the issue at hand, a “No Means No” law was passed stating that once a person say “no”, it should be understood that they do not give consent and anything further, against their will, is assault. However, this left too

many loopholes. If a person is unconscious, and can’t say no, legally anything done to them is not assault. If someone hesitates, tries to stop the act, but never says “no”, the act is not assault. When “No Means No” barely slowed down the rate of college sexual assault, it was evident that something else had to be done.

In August of this year, Governor Jerry Brown of California, signed a bill into law stating that “Yes Means Yes.” The law states that, “Lack of protest or resistance does not mean consent nor does silence mean consent.” The law also covers any “Wait, I changed my mind,” moments that may occur, stating that, “Affirmative consent must be ongoing throughout a sexual activity and can be revoked at any time.” The signing of this bill makes California the first state in the US to make it a law. The law also requires all colleges that receive state funding to have policies covering over 12 different situations in regard to sexual assault or domestic violence. At least 55 colleges and universities in California are currently being investigated for possibly violating federal law in how they handle these sexual assault or harassment cases.

With a new law underway, Governor Jerry Brown and the Department of Justice look forward to seeing the sexual assault rates drop and cracking down on any open cases. “Yes Means Yes” should take care of any loopholes or misunderstanding that previous laws had, and hopefully other states will follow California’s lead, to help ensure a safe college experience for all who plan to attend.



Trick-or-Treat for Teens

By Ana Aniagu

'Trick or treat, smell my feet, give something good to eat,' is the national anthem to the sweet, sugary holiday of Halloween. When hearing the word "Halloween," teenagers instantly think of free candy.

At the most, this is the time of the year when our parents think that the world is out to get us, even more than usual. Halloween is not only a night of fun but a night of fear. Many parents believe that their children should not be out trick-or-treating by themselves no matter what age they are. Even if the family lived in a very good town or neighborhood, parents wouldn't allow their teens to be roaming around the neighborhood without a chaperone. The dangers of halloween include the cars and traffic and receiving candy from an untrustworthy stranger. To prevent getting harmed by the vehicles, having a colorful costume increases how well a driver can see you and avoid hitting you. Also, make sure to check the candy given to you. There might be sharp objects attached to the candy.

Around the previous week, a question was asked to many students; How old do you believe you should be to stop trick-or-treating? Most believed that tennagers should not stop trick-or-treating at all and some said that they are willing to go trick-or-treating with their kids in the future also and not just to chaperone. Others disagreed. They supported their belief of stopping trick-or-treating by saying that when they get their drivers' license they should stop, and if they are craving candy that day they should buy it for themselves. In all, many teens believed they shouldn't stop trick-or-treating.

Based on these opinions, how old do you think should be when you stop trick-or-treating? Should you stop when you get your license? Do you keep on getting free candy when you are in college? Just think about it.



Trick-or-Treating Editorials

How do you feel about trick-or-treating? Letters to the Editor may be sent to maryellen_stohlmanva@student.sscps.org

Trick-or-Treat

By Molly Schauer

This year, Halloween falls on a Friday. Not very many children trick or treat anymore due to the dangers of it. Some children go with their parents due to the very real dangers of trick or treating. Some of the dangers are being unaware if the candy has been previously opened. Parents are very cautious about this, making their children go through their candy to make sure everything is unopened and safe to eat. How old is too old to go trick or treating? Once a freshman in high school, trick or treating should no longer be on your "to-do list" because you've grown up now, and leaving the candy for the kids in middle and elementary school is the right thing to do.



Featured Workshop: Film

By Ana Aniagu

'Lights, camera, action!' This is the phrase that many directors shout when filming a movie. The Film workshop is the place to be if you want to expand your knowledge about the making of movies, being in movies and stretching your makeup skills to the highest potential. The face of the workshop and also in real-life filming is the director. This is the job of a senior, Devin Bailey, who helps make an idea come to life. Not only is he the director of the upcoming film, he is also a screenwriter and a score. When asked if he could ever see himself taking a filming course as a major, he stated, "Maybe. I could see myself becoming a director but at the moment, I don't know." The filming workshop has an eerie sense to it this month, of course with halloween coming up. On halloween, the workshop is planning to make our skin rise up to goosebumps. "We are working on an original horror film this month because we are currently studying horror." stated, the workshop teacher, Donika Hajrizaj.

This workshop sees each other as not only co-workers but a second family. They laugh, make jokes and have a little bit of fun, but at the same time they keep their goals in mind. Not only do they enjoy each other's company, but they enjoy being part of the project. Jokingly, both Mia and Devin stated, "The one thing I want to change is the people in here."

"The students in my workshop learn about all the aspects of filming a movie such as editing, software, a great angle shot on the camera or etc." Donika said, "Each month, we do a different genres of movies like, documentaries, comedies, action, romance and many more."

Being a part of the film workshop has put a whole different lighting to movies in the students' eyes. Sophomore, Zain Akhtar stated, "Being part of the workshop is great. It makes you appreciate any film that has been ever been made because you can see how much effort and hard work is put into it." Zain's goal in this workshop is to become a better actor and work on his tone when acting. Akhtar does not see himself being part of the filming world. "It all seems like a far away dream. I love it, but I don't see myself making a career out of it." he said. In contrast, ninth grader, Mia Strahm, stated, "Yeah, I see myself being part of the film world because I actually see film as a realistic career choice." Mia's role in the workshop is makeup and costume. Without those two, what would make the actors fabulous? Michael Maniscalco is the set designer while his friend, Joshua Gallion is the cameraman. They all stated, "I definitely want to come back next year."

The workshop has changed many students perspective on film and has helped them to see what they are capable of in the film department. As they say in filming; that's a wrap!

DIY: Melted Crayon Art Pumpkins

By Cassie Collins

We're getting ready for Halloween, and that means choosing costumes and carving pumpkins. Carving pumpkins is not always easy, so here is a way to decorate your pumpkin without the danger of cutting yourself.

All you will need is a pumpkin of your choice (it can be any size), a package of crayons (they can be new or used), hair dryer, and glue (anything that works well). Once you have gathered everything you need it's time to start! Start by taking your crayons and unwrapping the paper, then set them aside. Use your glue and place the crayons around the stem of the pumpkin securing with the glue them as you place them. Be sure not to cover a lot of the crayon with the glue. There does not have to be a pattern to the colors, just do as you like. You only need one layer of crayons. Once you have finished and made sure that the glue is dry you can get into the crafty part. Pick up your hair dryer and turn it on hot, the speed you keep it at will change the design that comes out. You can angle the pumpkin so that the crayons will melt in different designs. When you are happy with your design you can leave it to dry. Congratulations, you have just completed your melted crayon pumpkin and are one more step closer to Halloween!

Where Was Kim Jong Un?

By Ethan Seal

Kim Jong Un, the North Korean dictator, took a “vacation” recently. He made no public appearances between September 3rd and October 14th. This caused quite an uproar around the world as everyone was wondering whether or not he was still in power, if he had injured himself, or if he was ill, however, it is certain that he was not Il, Kim Jong Il was his father. The largest South Korean newspaper claimed that he had fractured both of his ankles. The general assumption around the world is that something is wrong with his ankles. He may have broken his ankles during a game of basketball with Dennis Rodman, but more reliable sources claim that he may have pushed on with on-site visits after injuring his ankle and that that resulted in both ankles being fractured.

When Kim Jong Un returned to the public on October 14th, he used a walking stick to support himself. Before his hiatus, Un walked with a very pronounced hobble, so many speculate that he had surgery on his ankle(s) during his respite and that he is currently in the process of receiving physical therapy. While it seems like this is all no big deal, one must wonder why Kim Jong Un did not appear in front of a camera for over a month. Was he not being allowed to show his limp because it would discourage his followers? The world may never find out.



A Light For Homeless Gay Teens

By Maryellen Vanderveen

In Atlanta Georgia, there are an estimated 2,000 homeless children and teenagers each night. 40% of the American youth-homeless population identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT). Survival for this population can be extra difficult, particularly in the South, because many homeless shelters are run by religious groups and, as a consequence, feel unwelcoming to LGBT youths, who most often, are on the street because they were expelled from their families and kicked-out of their homes after coming out. While our society is becoming evermore accepting, personal prejudices die slowly. Teens coming out to their families never expect it to be easy, but in recent years, the average age of coming out has decreased to just 16. More teenagers coming out while still in highschool and dependent on their families results in more of them being turned out on the street, without a way to support themselves. This is of particular issue in Atlanta because it is one of the few more liberal areas in the heart of the ‘bible belt’.

Luckily, there is an organization there that is dedicated to helping LGBT youth get off the streets - the Lost-n-Found Youth Organization.

The services that they offer are invaluable. Their hotline provides counseling and assistance for LGBT youth looking for help while their support center provides healthcare, clothing, and warm meals for those on the street in Atlanta. In addition, they offer long-term housing programs to provide security for homeless youths, so that they may save money and have a secure place to stay while working on starting their new life. One of their newest forms of outreach includes a Lost-n-Found Youth Thrift and Consignment Store, where those enrolled in their long-term housing program can work to gain valuable experience while building up their savings.

Unfortunately, Lost-n-Found Youth is the only non-profit organization of its kind in Atlanta, a city where, because of its geography, the LGBT community could use much more support. Hopefully, the organization’s good work can serve as an inspiration to others looking for a good cause.



Teenage Male Likes Sneakers

By Ethan Seal

BREAKING NEWS --- Jacob Whittemore, a student at Miller High School in Pennsylvania, is reported to like sneakers. According to sources, his favorite brand of sneakers is Jordan. When asked what attracted him to sneakers, Whittemore responded, "You know, I just sort of saw that all of my peers were wearing expensive sneakers, so I thought that maybe I should start buying expensive sneakers too. My favorite pair of shoes is my Nike Air Jordan 11 Retro Basketball Shoes, they're perfect for wearing on my feet."

According to sources, a fad had begun at Miller High School where students wear "hand shoes," which have all the same features as foot shoes, except they avoid much of the tarnish associated with foot shoes. The trend is particularly popular among the poorer students who cannot afford to buy more than a couple of pairs of shoes every year. John Semon, one of the students at Miller High School taking part in the hand shoe trend, told reporters, "My parents can't really afford to buy me new shoes every few months when they wear through, so I started wearing my shoes on my hands instead of on my feet so that I wouldn't go through them as quickly. I've noticed that my parents have realized that I care and that they talk to me more and they ask me about my hygiene more often, which I've come to realize is not as important as people make it out to be." Sadly, all trends must die out eventually, as will happen with the hand shoe trend, however useful it may be. Enjoy the hand shoes while they last, because it will not be for long.

Priceless Puns

By Maryellen Vanderveen

What do skeletons say before they begin dining?
Bone appetite!

What do you get when you cross Bambi with a ghost?
Bamboo.

Why couldn't Dracula's wife get to sleep?
Because of his coffin.

What do you get when you divide the diameter of a jack-o-lantern by its circumference?
Pi



Mystery Person

By Ana Aniagu

When is your birthday?

May 4th 2000

What is your favorite animal?

A sloth

What is your favorite color?

Yellow

What is your favorite restaurant?

McDonalds

How many siblings do you have?

I have two; both are boys,

younger than me, and at the age of 12 and 10

Who is your role model?

Joan Rivers

If you could be any superhero who would it be and why?

I would be superman because he can fly



Sports

By Danny Freitas



NBA

- On October 28th (opening night), The New Orleans Pelicans, the San Antonio Spurs, and the Houston Rockets came away with the first wins of the 2014-15 season.
- On October 29th, the Boston Celtics won their home opener 121-105. Rajon Rondo had 13 points and 14 assists in the first game of the season.
- The reigning MVP Kevin Durant, SF for the Oklahoma City Thunder, is out for 6-8 weeks with a “Jones Fracture” in his right foot.
- Nerlens Noel, Center for the Philadelphia 76ers, is projected to win Rookie of the Year this year, followed by Jabari Parker (SF, Milwaukee Bucks) and Andrew Wiggins (SF, Minnesota Timberwolves).

Possible Rule Changes

- The league may have 44 minute games (not imminent).
- Dirk Nowitzki (PF, Dallas Mavericks) and LeBron James (SF, Cleveland Cavaliers) believe there should be a shorter NBA season. Dirk believes the original 82 game NBA season should be in the mid 60s.
- Michael Jordan, however disagrees. He told ESPN.com, “If I wasn’t playing 82 games, I still would’ve been playing somewhere else because that’s the love for the game I had. As a player, I never thought 82 games was an issue”.

NFL

- The New England Patriots currently sit atop of the AFC East division, standing at 6-2.
- Stevan Ridley, running back for the Patriots, tore both his ACL and MCL in their last game against against the Buffalo Bills. He is expected to miss the remainder of the season.
- Also, Jerod Mayo is out for the rest of the season with a “bad” lower right leg injury, ESPN’s Adam Schefter reported Monday. His injury is still unconfirmed.
- The Oakland Raiders are 0-7. Losers.

World Series

The San Francisco Giants have won the 2014 World Series!! They beat the Kansas City Royals 302 in game 7 on October 29th.



Katie Cianelli
Kevin
McGuinness
Maryellen
Vanderveen
Jordyn Lussier
(Features)
Ethan Seal
(Non-Features)
Cassie Collins
Anastasia Aniagu
Cat Dwyer
Danny Freitas
Giovanni Joseph
Holly Somerville
Maddie Hebert
Molly Schauer
Sarah Catron