

# THE BUZZER

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## BOND IS A NO-GO



Photo Courtesy of Sophia May

by Richard Berman  
Senior Editor

After the voting booth closed at 9 PM on October 22, the line of voters streaming in and out of the Cochran Gym finally dissipated. The controversial bond referendum was defeated by a decisive vote of 1595 to 1060.

Countless letters from athletes, parents, runners, and students published weekly in The Enterprise had informed the community of the various credible points of contention in this much heated debate.

This vote culminated months of proliferated campaigning - flyers pasted to every telephone pole, and signs placed in countless front yards.

Now that the bond has been defeated, what does this mean for Hastings High School students? How will a vastly pro-bond student body (confirmed by a recent school-wide poll, the results of which were 181 for the bond to 30 against it) respond to this result?

Senior Jesse Litvin, who wrote a letter to The Enterprise and spearheaded much of the pro-bond campaign said, "Of course I'm disappointed about the bond. But luckily there can be another bond

vote in exactly three months time. Unfortunately, I think there was a lot of misinformation surrounding the bond, which influenced the vote a lot."

The Hastings Police Department has dealt with several cases of vandalism on both sides of the debate and even personal altercations between community members.

This schism has transcended the utility poles and street signs into the Internet as well—strongly worded (and even profane) Facebook comments have shown disappointment for the bond's defeat.

"There has been immaturity on both sides - and from adults too - mean comments, bragging and even cyber bullying. Much of this behavior came after voting was finished," Litvin said.

One of the most significant parts of the vote was the exit poll. This poll was conducted by the Board of Education to determine what pieces of the bond influenced residents to vote against it.

The environmental harm of building a turf field - removing natural grass and replacing it with GeoTurf - was the most powerful deterrent.

The other necessary improvements the bond addressed will likely be in the new bond that the Board of Education is going to draft in the coming months.

The Board has promised to "use information from that survey to modify the plan."

Litvin said the students can still have an impact: "The best thing the students can do is stay involved; even though many of us can't vote, we can still have a voice."

### Have an opinion?

**The Buzzer accepts Letters to the Editor or op-eds, and always welcomes your feedback.**

**Send your thoughts to buzzersubmissions@gmail.com.**

**Want to be anonymous? Just Request it!**

## HURRICANE SANDY'S ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

by Rosie Moss &  
Amelia Pollard

When Hurricane Sandy hit in October 2012, Hastings was one of many Northeast towns that was taken aback by the severity of the super storm. Many families lost power, the waterfront was bludgeoned and several parks were damaged.

The catastrophic event devastated many people in Hastings and caused them to realize that events like this could happen to anyone. However, the village came out of the super storm with improved communication and new programs to help storm victims.

Bryan Healy, recreation assistant of Hastings-on-Hudson, said, "Hurricane Irene caused people to be less concerned and prepared for Hurricane Sandy, since Irene was made out to be a much bigger deal than it actually was."

The staff of Hastings-on-Hudson Recreation Department, including Lisa O'Reilly, Rafael Zaratzian, Bryan Healy, and Kendra Garrison stated that while Hurricane Sandy definitely brought negative effects, it also forced residents to come together as a community. They explained that as a result of the hurricane they created the "Are You OK Senior"

*...continued on page eight*

## What's the Buzz on the Buzzer?

by Max Elias

Ever since the Sandy Hook shooting, Hastings High School has become more conscious of an increased need for security.

Recently, the administration has installed a number of changes in the school's security. The Cochran Gym entrance is now closed at all times, and a buzzer system has also been installed at the main entrance. This is meant to prevent anybody who shouldn't be in the school from entering.

A greeter has also been hired to sit at the entrance and speak to anyone who comes into the school, making sure they have a right to be there.

These security measures "may slow [intruders] down, but not necessarily hinder them from causing harm," Mr. Adipietro said.

He believes such measures will be beneficial to students and to

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## WHAT'S INSIDE...

### Revealing Costumes Revealed

What's wrong with being scantily clad? And what's wrong with being as covered up as NSA files?  
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### The Spookiest Article In The Paper: The Parent Portal

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### No More Mystery Meat!

What's in store now that the Hastings Middle and High School cafeteria is under new management? **page five>**

### Tom's Spooky Corner

Wow! A whole page devoted to all things spooky? It's a Halloween miracle!  
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# POLICIES

## New Study Hall Policies

by Kavi Subramanian

At the beginning of this year, a new study hall policy was put in place that prevents students from leaving their classrooms except under special circumstances. This is intended to both increase scholastic productivity and curtail abuse of passes.

With these new rules, underclassmen can go to guidance or any other place for which they have a pass from an administrator. The Principal and Vice Principal will also write passes to the library if there is a dire need to use a computer.

According to Vice Principal Ms. Hardesty, the new policy is intended to increase productivity and prevent rule breaking.

“More often than not, [students] were not coming back, and more often than not they were not making it to the library; they were

leaving campus, they were in the hallways, they were in the lobby, they were where they were not supposed to be. Or, if they made it to the library, they weren't using the computers, they were hanging out and fooling around, and that's not what study hall is,” she said.

The staff, many of whom proctor study halls, received these policies warmly, Ms. Hardesty said. Marc Rosner, a study hall proctor, said he has seen an increase in productivity, as well as an ample use of smart phones.

There was no formal announcement at the brief assembly about school policies at the beginning of year or anywhere other than the study halls themselves, and many proctors claimed to know neither the reason for nor the duration

of the change.

“What are they hiding?” asked junior Maxine Lim.

This year has shown a very slight decrease in the number of students taking study halls.

“I might have added a study hall to my schedule in the future years, but I've heard bad things this year, so I'm not so sure,” said Terrence Nugent, a freshman.

Although seniors are still welcome, the library's atmosphere seems calmer.

“It's much quieter now,” said librarian Arianna Grassia. She has also seen more students reading recreationally in the library, although she attributes that to the relocation of their couches.

## SCHOOLWIRES UPDATE

by Lyra Fuchs  
Senior Staff Writer

Schoolwires, the debate-inciting school website that replaced the eChalk of recent years, has now been in place for nearly three months. The service states that its mission is to create technology that will “help [students and faculty] do all the things they do every day, more easily and efficiently.”

But over the summer, the change from eChalk was often confusing rather than easy and efficient. The website changed along with teacher email addresses and pages. For many, it proved to be a hard adjustment.

Senior Simone Brandford-Altsher said, “It's stupid how we don't have accounts where everything is there, and it's too hard to find teachers . . . it's so convoluted.”

This was an overriding opinion, expressed by students and faculty alike. “It's helpful, but it is definitely not a user friendly program,” Ms. Geller said. She posts frequently on the site, but too finds it difficult to navigate.

The administration says that individual accounts are on the way. And as to the portal, Mr. Adipietro, in a past interview, allowed that there are of course kinks to be worked out. “For example . . . what are the reasonable expectations for parents about when assignments will be posted onto the grade book.”

Brandford-Altsher, echoing the sentiments of many students, said, “I preferred eChalk.”

◀ **Junior Andrew Knispel browses the new Hastings School District site.**

Log Into the Student Portal

Username: [Your Student ID #]  
Password: Changeme

...What's the Buzz on the Buzzer Cont'd

the parents of those students, as well.

He also said that he thinks that a violent occurrence would be “highly unlikely...Newtown was almost an anomaly.”

Some students expressed concern over not being able to enter the school as easily anymore.

“I have been shut out of evening activities multiple times, because the doors are all locked and no one's in the office,” said junior Andrew Knispel.

On the other hand, Andie Abrams, a sophomore, says that the new measures make her feel safer.

“I think [these measures] are important because of the things that have been happening all over the country, so I think [they re] a good improvement,” she said.

...New Clubs at Hastings High School Cont'd

vote and it has opened up a door for those not in the chorus. Dietz believes that “it would give people who don't have time to be in chorus or madrigals another opportunity to sing in a group!”



Photo courtesy of Moira Peterson

## UNLIMITED ACCESS: PARENT PORTAL INTRODUCED TO HASTINGS

by Emily Broude  
Editor-in-Chief

“You're kidding.”

That was the reaction of Ms. DeRubeis, a Spanish teacher at Hastings High School, when she found out that none of the grades from her AP Spanish classes had made it onto the district's newly adopted Parent Portal.

“But they're all there!” she protested as she clicked around her computer in an attempt to get the latest test scores to be published online.

Nearly two weeks after Hastings High School and Farragut Middle School launched a website through which students and parents can monitor grades, not all of the kinks in the software had been worked out.

Although the program that publishes students' grades is built into eSchoolData, the gradebook software that Hastings has been using for several years, not all teachers had adopted the system before the Parent Portal necessitated it.

“It's been a steep learning curve,” said Mr. Brownstein, who teaches in the science department. “We were given a minimal amount of training, so it's taken me an enormous

amount of time just to put it together.”

Other teachers, however, have not noticed such a drastic difference with the introduction of the Parent Portal.

“Nothing has really changed,” said Mr. König, another science teacher. “I haven't gotten any feedback from parents. So far, I'm absolutely neutral—but I think it's a good idea.” For most people in the Hastings community, it seems that the technical aspects of the Parent Portal are far less important than the new abilities it will give them.

Robin Joseph, a Hastings mother of an 8th grader and an 11th grader, said, “I think it will allow me to be more proactive about any help or assistance that my children need. The likelihood is that I'll know that my child needs help before my child says something, so I can be part of the process to help.”

Terri Deutsch, whose children are in 10th and 11th grade, expressed a similar sentiment.

“I would say I think it's a good premise,” she said. “Parents are able to access this information without having to be in direct contact with the teachers.”

However, Deutsch had not yet been able to access the Portal—“I

just signed up today,” she said with a laugh.

Students at the high school have been voicing many opinions about the new software as it pertains to their grades and even their privacy.

“I like it,” said freshman Leah Alligood. “I can check on my grades, and if they're going down I have time to fix it.”

“I think that it's just another way for parents to have more control over their kids' lives,” said Tessa Schneider, a senior. She added that in a community like Hastings, where parents and their children typically have “a very good relationship,” the Parent Portal only implies that “parents don't trust their children.”

Joseph rather accurately summed up many students' impression of the Portal: “Even if things are going well, it seems as though a lot of times students would just rather their parents not have any idea what's going on with their grades.”

Perhaps some of the worry about the new software is misplaced—of 20 students interviewed, only six had been able to access the Parent Portal or had even tried to do so.

“I totally forgot that it exists,” said Loren Heubert-Aubry.

# WHAT'S NEW

## Hastings Cafeteria to Expand its Horizon



Photo courtesy of Moira Peterson

by Arianne Siegel

While grilled cheese sandwiches, greasy bagels with cream cheese, and a bag of chips may be what comes to mind first when Hastings High school students hear the word “cafeteria,” that might not be the case this year.

After the annual bidding took place to figure out which company would cater to the school cafeteria, Whitsons culinary group emerged as the winner. Maureen Caraballo, District Treasurer, clarified that the decision to go with the new company was strictly business-related; Whitsons had offered the best price.

So what will this mean for Hastings High School students?

One thing we can expect to see is the integration of new foods and an expanded variety of the types of foods sold. This includes waffles, which are scheduled to appear in the cafeteria sometime during the next

month, and some new self-serve stations.

There may also be a permanent taco station and even an omelet section on occasions. In addition, there will be an increase in the types of ethnic foods available—around once a month sous-chefs will come in to make fresh sushi rolls instead of having the pre-packaged, slightly suspicious ones which are unpopular among students.

Students remain underwhelmed with the current state of the cafeteria even with these new changes. In fact, many students argue that there are slimmer pickings so far this year.

When asked about their favorite foods from the cafeteria a large group of juniors responded with valid complaints about the lack of what many considered a staple last year: grilled cheese sandwiches.

Junior Michelle Mullen said, “Last year the food was better. All I ate was the grilled cheese sandwiches, the muffins, and the cookies.” An anonymous junior noted, “the new muffins taste like plastic.”

Ms. Caraballo admitted that the transition hasn't been perfect but also looked forward to the new options that will be available during lunchtime. She said: “Some kids may have been sticking to the grilled cheese and bagels simply because there wasn't an alternative they liked.”

While there most likely won't be a re-introduction of those much sought-after large chocolate chip cookies from the middle school years or even classic grilled cheese sandwiches, perhaps the new cafeteria management will surprise us with new and healthier staples.

## PARLEZ-VOUS FRANÇAIS?

by Francesco Scioscia

Hastings-on-Hudson said goodbye to one of its beloved eateries this past summer. Buffet de la Gare closed after 33 years as the premier French restaurant in Westchester County. Opening up in its place is Saint George, a bistro style French place that promises to continue the tradition of quality French cooking while creating a more casual environment that will be welcoming to all the residents of the community.

I was a little nervous to visit, seeing that their new menu, posted online, served Roasted Bone Marrow with a side of parsley pesto and anchovy toast for a meager twelve dollars. Speaking with the co-owners, though, put me at ease.

Christopher Vergara and Jason Steinberg are the co-owners of Saint George. Vergara is also the owner of Harper's in Dobbs Ferry, and Meritage in Scarsdale. Steinberg was an employee at Harper's when it first opened for business. They are embarking on this business venture in Hastings because they both love the community. In fact, Steinberg recently relocated to Hastings from Ardsley.

While speaking with Steinberg, I got the impression that he has a real respect for the space that he is taking over. He understands the legacy that Buffet de la Gare left behind and is working with Vergara to keep it alive. In addition, the owners are committed to serving organic, and farm-to-table options as much as possible.

The menu has options for all. For your parents, there is an extensive wine and cocktail list that will impress any connoisseur. There is also a wide selection of appetizers and other small plates. The dinner entrées are slightly pricey, but the food is all high-quality.

You can find the menu on their website (<http://saintgeorgebistro.com/>). Make sure you have your Google Translate handy or make Ms. Bertacchi your dinner date because much of the menu is written in French. This restaurant is only open for dinner, although there may be a Saturday and Sunday brunch in its future.

For those of you on the hunt for a job this school year, you may want to stop by Saint George. The owners are looking forward to employing local students, and in fact have already hired Sydney Gabay, an HHS sophomore, as a hostess. Gabay informed me that she had no real experience in restaurants before taking this position, but she has found the experience enlightening. “It really gives me a new perspective about restaurants and how much work actually goes into them,” Gabay explained.

Seniors looking for an interesting place to intern this May should look into opportunities at Saint George. The owners are willing to host a senior interested in to get up-close restaurant business experience. Steinberg's advice to climb the ranks within a restaurant is to “start at the bottom.”

Thanks to St. George, Hastings can rely on another French restaurant that will keep quality and authentic flavor at the core of their business. The era of Buffet de la Gare has ended but this new little French bistro is hoping to begin a new tradition on Southside Avenue.

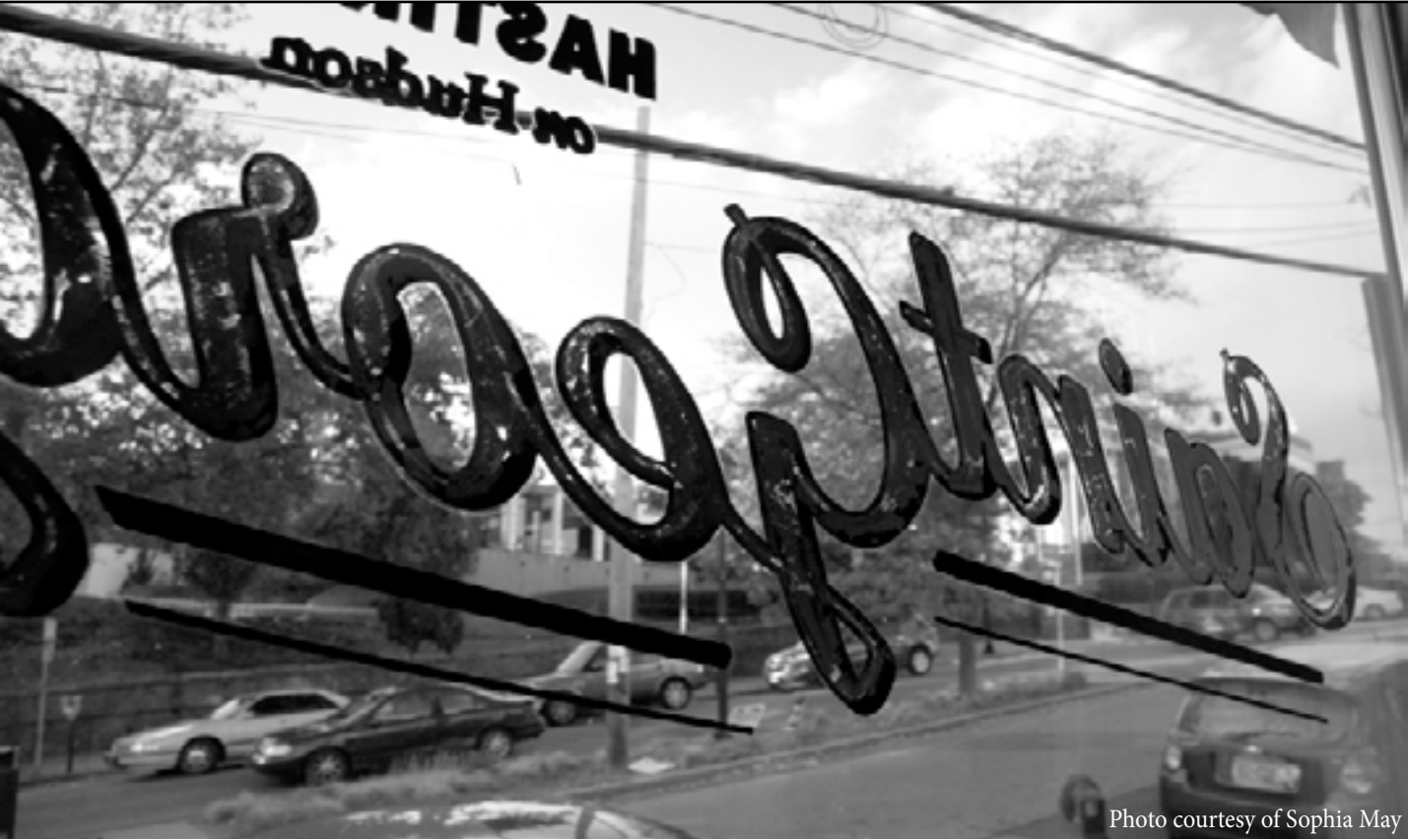


Photo courtesy of Sophia May

# PEOPLE

## Jon Riss: Sing Us a Song, Mr. Piano Man



by David Dorsky

When you walk into the office of Mr. Riss, the first thing you may notice is a sign on his busy bulletin board that reads, “The Being a Geek Award goes to: Jonathan Riss.” This sign was awarded to Riss at the end of a production of *13: the Musical*, when each director, including Riss, the music director, was given an award based off of a song in the show. The sign now hangs in a prominent center position on the bulletin board behind his piano. In the case of Riss, Hastings High School’s new choral director, this award symbolizes a major aspect of his life – music.

“Everyone in my family makes music,” says Riss. His paternal grandmother was a church organist educated at the Julliard School of Music and her husband, a minister at the South Presbyterian Church right in Dobbs Ferry, sang as a part of services.

Riss’s father is a Methodist minister and his brother is studying to become a professional trombone player at Temple University. Not to be outmatched by his family, Riss received a Bachelor of Music degree at Ithaca College and went on to earn his Masters Degree in choral conducting at Temple.

Growing up, Riss lived with his family in upstate New York. But at the age of twelve, he and his family were abruptly thrust into an entirely new environment, when

they moved to Long Island.

“This is the price of having a preacher as a father,” laughs Riss. “It was quite a culture shock – I had been going to a school around the same size as Hastings and all of a sudden, I was in the second largest middle school in the country.”

After finishing grad school at Temple, Riss moved back to Long Island to figure out his future. That’s when he found out about the Hastings job through Facebook.

“Mr. Kerness posted in [a group called] the New York Chapter of American Choral Directors and asked anyone interested to message him, and so it went from there,” Riss explains.

Riss came in for an interview with Ms. Hardesty and agreed to take the job for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year. Before officially taking the reins, he shadowed Kerness for six weeks. “It was really humbling,” says Riss, “to see how he connected with the students on a personal level and how he used that to bring out their very best as musicians.”

When asked about what it’s like to take over such a beloved teacher’s position and under such fragile circumstances, Riss says, “he was and is irreplaceable and now in this position I think of myself as not a replacement for him but someone here to continue his work and continue his legacy.”

## Costume Conference

**Olivia Selemom**  
*What are you going to be for Halloween?*  
I am going to be Britney Spears with my friend Annelise Gentile.

*What is your costume going to look like?*  
We are going to put our hair in high ponytails with pink scrunchies. We are dressing in her schoolgirl outfit and we’re going to carry microphones. We are wearing Converse instead of Mary Jane’s. We are going to have field hockey-type skirts, like plaid

by Julia Morris  
*Senior Editor*

skirts, and we’re going to wear white button-down shirts and grey cardigans.

*How are you going to make your costume?*  
We are going to use things we have in our houses, and maybe go to some little store for anything we don’t have.

**Leah Alligood**  
*What are you going to be for Halloween?*  
I am going to be Ryuk from Death

## Greet The Greeter: Ronald King

by Rachel Chang  
*Managing Editor*

Nearly all the students of the high school pass by Ronald King every morning, sitting at his desk with his newspaper opened and his New York Yankees necklace dangling.

“My job is to check everyone coming in the school, have them sign in, and direct them to the right place to go,” said King in regards to his job, describing himself as a “gatekeeper” of sorts.

King begins his shift at 7:30 AM every weekday morning, and stays until 1 PM. He admitted that the work can sometimes become a bit boring, but he brings the newspaper with him every day to keep himself occupied.

King attended Commerce High School in Yonkers as a kid. “It was a mostly all girls school,” he said. “It was a business school.”

Years later, King can now boast of 43 years of marriage, 3 children, and 6 grandchildren, who range from the ages of 17 years to 14 weeks.



“The kids come down every Sunday,” King said of his grandchildren. “They mooch off me, and then they leave! It’s the best thing about grandkids.”

Prior to his job as HHS’s greeter, King worked as a supervisor for Liberty Lines, a bus service in Westchester. After having been retired from Liberty Lines for three years, King came to Hastings to interview for the greeter position and was given the job.

King’s desk sits beside a monitor that gives him a perfect view of the door outside. Though the door is unlocked while he is on his shift, if he has a concern about someone approaching the door, he can lock it from his desk. He can then greet the person at the door and determine whether he or she should be admitted.

The situation does not arise very often. “Most of the people that come here, I know, including parents,” King explained.

While few students object to having a greeter at the door to the school, many have expressed uncertainty regarding the protection that the position actually brings. But very few of these students know exactly how the system works.

“I think it probably creates a sense of safety and protection for other people in the school,” said sophomore Joseph Rogers of the greeter’s position. But upon learning of the monitor system, Rogers quickly added, “That actually makes a ton of sense. Now I feel

## Simone Brandford-Altsher: One in Sixteen Hundred

by Janey Litvin

In the fourth book of the Harry Potter series, a character says, “You fail to recognize not what someone is born, but what they grow up to be.”

To senior Simone Brandford-Altsher, a fan of the Potter series, this quote has particular resonance. Simone has been recognized as a semi-finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program for black high school students. She is one of only 1,600 people, out of a pool of 160,000, in the nation to reach this level of the competition. Simone’s PSAT score earned her a spot with the other highest performing black students in the country, but in order to advance, other factors, including work experience and an essay, are taken into account.

Simone certainly seems to agree with Dumbledore’s wise words. “I’ve realized that I’ve been making my Jamaican heritage out to be something exotic,” she said, “when really it’s no better than being from any other place.”

going to use a lot of face paint.

**Ellie Plotkin-Kaye**  
*What are you going to be for Halloween?*  
I’m going to be the Tin Man and my friends are going to be other characters from The Wizard of Oz.

*What is your costume going to look like?*  
I’m going to wear silver clothes and this tinfoil hat I made.

*How are you going to make your costume?*  
I’m going to wear black leggings and other black clothes I have. I’m also

...continued on page eight>



## SPOOKYTIME: A HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

by Thomas Gelfars  
*Senior Editor*

Whenever October rolls around, I feel an overwhelming sensation of elation and glee wash over my body, as if some transcendental psychic force were blasting my corporeal being with electric beams of ecstasy. Why does this month bring me such joy, you may ask? It’s because October is a month of many wonderful holidays and festivities: Lief Erickson Day, Oktoberfest, National Fire Prevention Week, Gandhi Jayanti (the commemoration of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi), Canadian Thanksgiving...the list goes on and on. But my favorite of all the holidays comes, in fact, on the very final day of October. Yes, I’m talking about HALLOWEEN.

Recently, however, I have been thinking a lot more about this special day, my favorite day of the tenth month of the Gregorian calendar. As I was preparing my costume (which I will not divulge so as not to spoil any surprises) I realized that I knew little to nothing of the origins of Halloween. Upset with this void in my knowledge, I ceased my costuming and delved into the nebulous tangle of information known as the internet, where I made many illuminating findings.

What I discovered is that it all goes back to an ancient Gaelic festival known as Samhain. It was a celebration of the end of the harvest and the beginning of the dark months of winter that lay ahead, and it fell right around October 31. The Gaels would gather and feast, and it was believed that they were in contact with spirits of the dead. The Gaels, practitioners of polytheistic pagan religion, engaged in divinatory rituals aplenty during Samhain. I was onto something, that much I could tell. Magical deeds were afoot...magical darkness.

During Samhain, I learned, bonfires were lit in order to ward off the more malevolent of the spirits. Another common practice

## DIY HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

by Thomas Gelfars  
*Senior Editor*

**Ghost:**  
- Find a colored bed sheet in your home or local motel.  
- Bleach it heavily so that it turns white.  
- Using a sterilized blade, cut two large holes in the sheet so you can see out of it. (If you do not have the means to chemically sterilize your blade, hold it over the stove for a while until it is red hot. This should suffice.)  
- Remove all of your clothes and drape the sheet over your bod.

**Mummy:**  
- Go to your friend’s house and steal several rolls of toilet paper or saran wrap.  
- Have another friend wrap you in the paper/saran.  
- Fasten the paper/saran with Elmer’s non-toxic glue and staples.  
- Make sure there are holes for breathing and vision.  
- Adorn yourself with ancient talismans.

- Construct a sarcophagus out of cardboard boxes, old flannel shirts, and moist two by fours.  
- Set up the sarcophagus on your porch and lay inside of it. Pop out and spook children when they come to your door. (If you do not have a porch, place the sarcophagus on your fire escape and intermittently scream at passersby).

**Politician:**  
- Acquire an expensive, tailor-made suit at a retailer such as Brooks Brothers, Burlington Coat Factory, or the Armani Exchange.  
- Place a brown paper bag over your face.  
- Sit on the curb in shame.

Got a good Halloween Costume?

Submit a pic to  
buzzersubmissions@gmail.com and  
you could be in the next issue!

Halloween Pick-Up Lines	My Top 10 Halloween Movies, in Reverse Non-Linear Order	Halloween Playlist <i>by Clara Weinstein</i>
What’s your costume, the most beautiful male/female in the world?	6. Beetlejuice - 1988	Perhaps Vampires is a Bit Strong But - Arctic Monkeys
I’d throw eggs and toilet paper all over you, baby.	9. The Crow - 1994	Red Right Hand - Arctic Monkeys
You want to know something really terrifying? How attracted I am to you.	3. The Rocky Horror Picture Show - 1975	Became - Atmosphere
Ever carve a pumpkin before?	7. The Human Centipede - 2010	Lovecraft in Brooklyn - The Mountain Goats
Want to trade your Tootsie Rolls for my unending love and devotion?	2. It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown - 1966	Damn These Vampires - The Mountain Goats
What do you say we dig ourselves a grave and spent the night six feet under?	5. Ernest Scared Stupid - 1991	Ain’t No Grave - Johnny Cash
Trick or treat! As in, I trick you into treating me to dinner, eh?	8. Nosferatu - 1922	
	1. Young Frankenstein - 1974	
	10. The Human Centipede II - 2011	
	4. Spooky Buddies - 2011	

# BUZZER IN BACK

## ...Hurricane Sandy’s Anniversary Cont’d

program, in which senior citizens are checked on, in the event of a hurricane or other disastrous event, via email, phone and door-to-door visits.

The hurricane also brought out the caring nature of Hastings residents. Many families with power in their homes showed hospitality to those without. Marla Hamberger, resident of Hastings, who lost power in her home for ten days, stayed with friends for five of them.

After the stress of the storm, Mrs. Hamberger began worrying about future hurricanes. “We were very lucky in that we did not sustain damage to the house. However, we feel concerned about future weather. We have considered purchasing a generator but have not done so. In general, I think we feel more appreciative about having a [warm] home, something we probably took for granted previously,” she said.

While there are a few long-lasting effects from Hurricane Sandy, not all of them are negative. Hastings residents will always remember the kindness and generosity displayed during this time of need, and will most likely be much more prepared for the possibility of a future storm.

### ...Costumes Conference Cont’d

I am going to go to [cheap] stores off Central Ave to find silver clothes.

**Tessa Schneider**  
What are you going to be for Halloween?  
I’ going to be the Scarecrow from The Wizard of Oz with my friends.

*What is your costume going to look like?*  
I don’t know yet, but probably a flannel shirt and maybe high-waisted shorts.

*How are you going to make your costume?*  
I am going to use stuff in my house or my friends’ stuff. I am not going to buy anything.



Photos Courtesy of Wikipedia

## Melissa Hardesty: Fashion Icon by Sophia May Senior Staff Writer

The next time you get called to the office, be happy rather than despaired - at least you’ll get to see what fabulously classy outfit Ms. Hardesty is wearing. Her style is self-described as “classic”, and Ms. Hardesty is definitely that, dressed in tailored pants, a white blouse, and a red, white, and blue knit cardigan.

Accompanying the outfit are a range of accessories: necklaces, earrings, bracelets and rings, each and every one adorned with pearls, adding cohesiveness to the ensemble. When it comes to accessorizing, Hardesty “loves jewelry.” Her “absolute favorite piece” is an antique Greek coin pendant that she bought in Bermuda. “It’s different and unique. It has a Greek owl on it. It’s really cool.”

Back in her high school days in Greenwich, Connecticut, Hardesty was crazy for fashion. “I bought every fashion magazine, and I used to beg my mother to take me shopping at Bloomingdales.” She joked that her mother “worked a second job to satisfy my bad habit.”

Ms. Hardesty kept a scrapbook with clippings from fashion magazines. She “loved fabrics,” and although she didn’t make clothing, Hardesty did craft her own jewelry. She also followed the popular styles, rocking big hair, makeup and “guacamole earrings,” enormous green metal buttons with a dangling swirl. “Now I would never wear them, but back then, it was cool.”

When asked her opinion about the current styles in Hastings High School, Hardesty was quick to answer. “I see the trends repeating themselves,” she said. She’s noticed styles from the 70s, such as booties and bohemian-style pieces, and a stud trend that evokes memories of the 80s, which Hardesty might just be following herself. “I just bought a studded belt, as a matter of fact.”

“I wish I had saved some of [my old] clothes,” Hardesty mused. “But it’s not like they would fit me now.”

◀ **Hardesty sports a dramatically draped shawl with a contrasting beige shift.**



Photo courtesy of Sophia May



Photo courtesy of Lena Rubin

## ...One in Sixteen Hundred Cont’d

She discusses being biracial, and how people like her “can, for one of the first times in history, self-identify.” She wants others to understand that she can’t be placed in one category, as she’s ¾ white and ¼ black.

In fact, this influenced her decision to even apply for the scholarship. She was concerned because the award didn’t specify what percentage of black heritage was necessary. She “went back and forth about checking the box but ultimately decided just to see what happened.”

This impressive recognition as a semi-finalist will be sent to colleges, where Simone, whose favorite classes have been SUPA courses, is interested in studying culture and anthropology at an urban school.

In addition to her academic pursuits, music plays a large role in Simone’s life. A talented singer, Simone is part of numerous singing groups, including the HHS chorus, the Madrigals, and a community service singing group called the River Singers, which has made appearances at Andrus on Hudson. She is also a pianist, and plans to play a piano concerto with the HHS orchestra at the spring concert.

## Drake’s “Nothing Was The Same” Review

by David Dorsky

Hiphop’s golden child is back: on September 24th, rap superstar Drake released his third LP, entitled “Nothing Was The Same.” But as suggested by Rolling Stone Magazine, this album should probably be called “Everything Was Pretty Much The Same.” Like usual, Drake sings in his silky tenor about past girlfriends, croons to current love interests, and, of course, celebrates his success and fame. The album is a battle between two Drakes, one insecure and vulnerable, and the other proud and boastful. The LP has both hits and misses.

“Hold on We’re Going Home” is Drake’s most passionate love song yet, catchy yet not corny. In “Furthest Thing,” Drake utilizes his signature combination of singing and rapping to convey the fact that he, like everyone in the world, isn’t perfect. Drake completely misses, however, with the album’s opening track, “Tuscan Leather.” The song features a rough and choppy beat that doesn’t match up well with the rhythm of the lyrics. Within its 6-minute time span, the song jumps all over the place and never settles down.

On “Wu Tang Forever,”

Drake uses a sample from the Wu Tang Clan’s “It’s Yourz” and name-drops the legendary rap group throughout the song-- but the song is about an ex-girlfriend and simply doesn’t sound like Wu Tang whatsoever. In fact, many rap aficionados were angered by the song’s title. Nonetheless, if you can get past the title, the song is beautifully haunting and the Clan sample has a great effect on its mood.

Maybe the most impressive track on the album is “From Time,” featuring Jhene Aiko. The song is reminiscent of Drake’s mega hit, “What’s My Name,” a “Grammy” nominated collaboration with Rihanna. In “From Time,” Drake raps about his relationship with his father, and breakups that have hurt him.

In all three of his albums, Drake has never dug this deep and became so vulnerable. With “Nothing Was The Same,” Drake makes quality music while being loose and arrogant, but his real triumph is broadcasting his newfound maturity and showing the world that he is ready to take the next step.

**Rating: 8/10**

## Miley Cyrus’ “Bangerz” Review by Andrew Knispel

Miley Cyrus’ album “Bangerz” has been long awaited ever since her outrageous performance at MTV’s Video Music Awards this year and the release of her risqué music video for “Wrecking Ball,” a single from the album, which also features the summer hit “We Can’t Stop.”

“Bangerz” starts out with a slow, delay-drenched track titled “Adore You”. Things get a bit strange at track three with “SMS” feat. Britney Spears. This song features lines such as “you know I’m on that meow” and the very Freudian “all the way in the back, with a tree in my lap.”

After track six, the album really starts to peter out; once it reaches track twelve it starts to become quite difficult to finish. “Do My Thang” gets an honorable mention, despite being later in the album, because of its catchy beat and fun changes in dynamics.

Overall, the album has some good, poppy dance tracks but contains more misses than hits. Miley just tries too hard with overly provocative lyrics and mostly forgettable instrumentals.

**Rating: 4/10**