



THE MORRISON MINNOW POST



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Newkirk's Office is a Black Market

By: Anna Huang

Chips and sugary snacks are the new contraband at MAK. Cheetos and Lays that used to flow freely from hand to hand, dusting guilty fingers with shiny powder and greasy glow, are now a hushed existence since the closing of the student store.

Those who are desperate have found their hope in Newkirk. Only a select few know about the secret chamber storing "you-know-what" in Mr. Newkirk's new attic office, and even fewer dare to venture in. Perhaps those who are oblivious are content with the lack of finger-lickin'-good snacks, or maybe they swallowed the school's anti-snack propaganda; either way, they're missing out on a lot of bliss.

Even for those "aware" of Newkirk's black market, not many dare spend money on the secret stash. Maybe it's because they feel guilty about partaking in these... seemingly illegal activities, or maybe they're on probation and want to avoid any appearance of rule-breaking, but these students stay far far away from Newkirk's office even if they have questions for the guidance counselor. "I just find him when he's out of his office," a student whispered. "He seems more like a normal counselor when he's not in his office."

Nevertheless, for the rest of the population, the universal human desire for food coloring and artificial flavors ultimately triumphs fear. Sales have been rumored to soar by 1000% ever since the shutdown of the student store, leading to speculations about Mr. Newkirk's involvement in the prohibitionist revolution that led to the closing of the student store.

"I saw him... emerging from the night... visits to Mr. Torgerson -," at this, our anonymous source who suffers from glucose deficiency (namely, Milky Way), burst into tears and refused to reveal more. What is behind the ostensibly health-conscious cause of limiting student

access to unhealthy snacks? Had Mr. Newkirk single-handedly organized the movement to overthrow the student store to advance his own chip-selling business?

As the only source of snacks, Mr. Newkirk effectively monopolizes the snack industry in MAK and benefits from the flocking customers of the former student store. The influx of profit also helped Mr. Newkirk land new property at the top floor of the commercial and political center at MAK. Long wanting to be separated from Mr. Chan, "the immigrant who threatens to take away MY JOB" (Newkirk 2017), Mr. Newkirk is very satisfied with the new location of his office.

In fact, students recall that Mr. Newkirk has complained about his office for a long time now. "I've been here for thirteen years," Sabrina Tsai said as she exchanged cash for a few Snickers bars, "and he's told one too many stories about how he deserves a better office."

Mr. Newkirk definitely suffered in his old location. He had students lounging outside on the sofas playing games and creating ruckuses, and had people barging into his small room asking him to take them off-campus. The doctors have also diagnosed him with a very complex disease caused by long term exposure to middle school students and their "totally important issues."

Some students, however, have found that Mr. Newkirk's snacks are disappointing. The chicken-flavored chips taste like the sweat of a dying chicken, the seaweed-flavored chips taste like toilet paper dabbed in



Do not be deceived by the clean appearance of this hidden location. Secret transactions for food occur throughout the day. // photo taken by Anna Huang

seawater, and even the shape of the Cheetos looks like an infant's finger.

When asked to comment on these attacks, Mr. Newkirk openly denounced the critics and defended his products. "Guess what, my snacks are healthy alternatives. My chicken-flavored chips have NO real chicken, my Doritos have NO real cheese. FAKE. That means no animal abuse, no meat, no resources wasted. We are a green company."

With such healthy options,

parents have no reason to complain, and some have even secretly helped provide food, such as home made coke (only with the most organic ingredients!) and candy.

In addition, Mr. Newkirk's company also practices the "America First" policy. His store is readily stocked with American treats like M&Ms and Snickers (Mexico and Canada are of course not part of America. Do they even have food?). When asked if Newkirk has been inspired by the policies of the new US president, Newkirk demurred.

"As a teacher, I don't comment on my politics," he said.

Newkirk did agree to share his mantra, which is purportedly recites to himself in front of his bathroom mirror every morning:

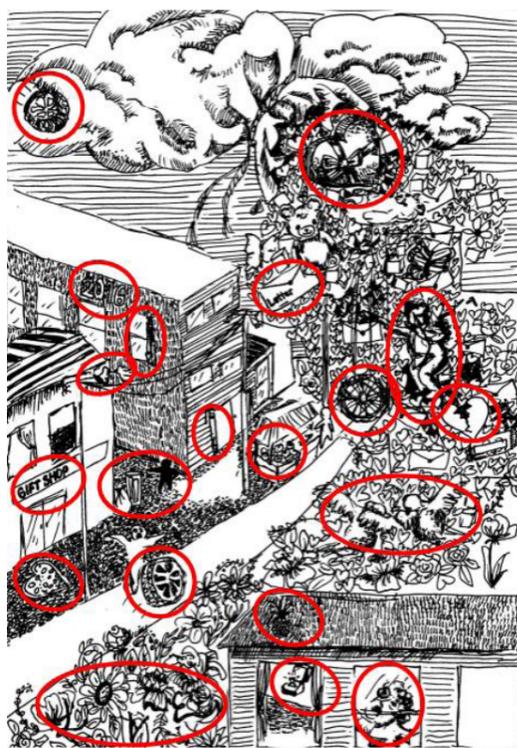
Do not go empty-handed out of that good office,

Or you shall burn and rot at close of day,

Buy, buy to the deepening of Newkirk's pockets.

With reporting from Sabrina Tsai

Answers to the Puzzles of Issue 2



Trivia: 4. B 8. D
1. A 5. A 9. A
2. D 6. D 10. C
3. C 7. C 11. B

Word search: Kisses
Affection Laughter
Candy Lipstick
Chocolate Love
Cookies Outings
Cupid Romance
Dancing Roses
Family Sharing
Friends Singing
Hairstyles Smiles
Hearts Surprises
Joy Tenderness
Kindness Warmth

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RICE THE ADVICE

Do you have dire problems in need of solving? You've come to the right place. The Rice: the Advice experts are here to sprinkle rice of wisdom onto your head. Head to thricetheadvice.typeform.com/to/GI39Az or scan the QR code to submit any questions

By: Anna Laytham, Jasmin Kong, Gabrielle Liu

I'm in middle school and one of my teachers on block days won't let me eat during class. I've already gotten in trouble two or three times for eating in class because I get SO hungry during the long classes. What should I do?

Kongnichiwa: I understand the feeling of going through a long class time without food. It happens to me basically everyday. Since it's an advice column, I will share my secret for "how to stay full in class": Before class starts, go to the elementary courtyard. There, you will find a magical rice tree that I planted when I was in elementary. You might not be able to see it, but if you say, "O rice, fried rice, more rice," you will see the rice tree. I give you permission to take some rice off that tree. It's delicious. Trust me.

How do you politely ask for the wifi password?

Gabriwhale: One day, I was driving a car that had no windshield glass. It only had one seat, but it could fit two people if you squished up really close together, like putting 125 cubic centimeters of rice into a 64 cubic centimeter box. There wasn't a door either, so I always had to crawl through one of the side windows. The bottom of the car had no bottom; it was just this rectangular hole that you stuck your feet through. I drove this car around the house like I would drive a car around my house until that day when one of its black plastic wheels ran over my foot. Screaming in pain

while surrounded with static electricity in that beloved plastic toddler car, I had a revelation: I was a jellyfish. Jellyfish do not have to live in water. They do not need to be pretty. They do not need to be brainless. You do not need wifi to experience the vividness of feeling and the awareness of self. Thanks for listening to my story. You simply must take the bold letters and figure out the answer. Got it?

Is Rainbow Trout a good name for my baby girl?

Santa Anna: Well, I've never had a baby girl. But I did have a baby fish. I didn't name him Rainbow Trout though--his name was Fried Rice, because I really loved fried rice. Back then, I didn't know fried rice was rice that was fried. When my Fried Rice baby fish looked dead, my mom took him and tried to flush him down the toilet. But gravity didn't happen. Did you know gravity doesn't affect fish? This fish was my physics lesson when I was 6 years old. Then the fish started screaming HELP HELP HELP. By the way - I also applaud you for not breaking copyright laws and using "Rainbow Fish," which is a stupid name. Remember that you have to consider what your daughter's name will rhyme with. Her nickname might be "BIG Snout" or "Sauerkraut" when she gets older. In my experience, kids can be really mean. Like when I went to school after my baby fish died, I told all my friends that Fried Rice died. They all started laughing at me, saying - Fried Rice was never alive. I

KNEW FRIED RICE WAS ALIVE THOUGH. How could you deny the fact that Fried Rice was alive? Even rice is alive because it grows on rice plants. My teacher told me that anything that grows, or develops, reacts to stimuli, is made of cells, and passes traits onto offspring is alive. And both rice and Fried Rice have those traits. Those kids who told me Fried Rice was never alive were wrong! Just remember kids are mean and sometimes moms are too, like flushing baby fish down the toilet or naming their daughter Rainbow Trout.

My wedding is this summer. I need to lose 50 pounds. How do I do this?

Kongnichiwa: Losing 50 pounds before summer? LOL. Eat mo rice.

I always feel really awkward when people sing Happy Birthday to me. What should I do while they're singing?

Gabriwhale:
A poem:
oh joe
i feel bad for your toe
edgar allen poe
you're at an all time low
but
oh
that song though
is an expression of love
to get you to feel like a trip around the sun is actually worth having cake and a party for since apparently we're rich enough to do that so hey smile and



The Rice: the Advice crew are total professionals at providing "rice" advice.

stare at your chocolate vanilla cake and celebrate the strange human experience of awkwardness and rice.

I'm moving to Canada. Do they have toilet paper there?

Santa Anna:
CBC Breaking News: "Environmentalists have argued for the reduction of logging. This reduction of logging has reduced the amount of toilet paper production. Rationing has occurred in Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, and Montreal. They are starting to import rice from China to make the toilet paper out of. But people have begun to complain about the quality of rice toilet paper. To make the toilet paper, they first cook the rice so it becomes very soft. Then they smash it down and compress it into toilet paper. Well, when they process the rice pieces, some pieces don't get smashed down and is painful to use." Imagine what that'd feel like. I'm glad none of us have to live in Canada.

THE MORRISON KAOHSIUNG MINNOW POST

If you are confused, in shock, horribly upset by our content, you have reacted just as expected and complaints will be ignored. If, however, you would like to proclaim your undying love for us, please send a pigeon to the Chieftainess.

Disclaimer: The material presented in this issue is intended for entertainment purposes only. It is not intended as a positive example of factual reporting and should not be construed as such. Any engagement with material contained herein is at the reader's own risk.

Address: The brick red building next to fields of pineapple and graveyards, da Best City, Taiwan (a real country) 81546, (07) call a high schooler and say you're from a tea shop.

SPEAKER OF WISDOM

Shaffnerd

TRIBAL CHIEFTAINESS

Saboobie

PERSON OF MONIES

LuV

WORD LORDS

OwlGwacey

Huang Di

LateLee

Gabriwhale

WORD SERFS

AnnaBao

Evian

OwlGwacey

Kongnichiwa

Santa Anna

Billdungsroman

cROSant

Huang Di

Gabriwhale

LuV

KatHorse

Sunshine

Objective Declaration:

To successfully troll the school and gain power through the confusion of the students.

“▲”

By: Gabrielle Liu

When last year's senior class left MAK, it was rumored that they left with more than their diplomas. We are just beginning to discover some of the dark secrets behind MAK's House logos. An observation of the newly hung flags in the high school wing have led to a shocking revelation: the Illuminati may have infiltrated MAK.

For over a year, the House logos on t-shirts, canvases, and flags have been saluting this mysterious and dangerous secret society. If you look carefully at the House flags overlaid upon each other, the triangular banner of Mako's flag forms two sides of a pyramid. Without even rotating, the metal circle of Hammerhead's hammer perfectly aligns with the pyramid, undeniably forming the iris and pupil of an eye. The head of Tiger Shark's silhouette, when turned upside down, forms an almond shaped sclera, hosting Hammerhead's foreboding iris. And while many have wondered why Thresher's logo seemed so lackluster with its straight lines and irrelevant tiny lions, when turned upside down, the crest shockingly has a purpose: the base of the pyramid.

What is most frightening about this turn of events is that it went down right under our noses. Young, innocent (*cough) middle schoolers wore the house t-shirts, not knowing what they were truly endorsing. High schoolers are just beginning to see the situation from a frightening perspective: they are trapped in the system from birth to death – a Mako, a Hammerhead, a Thresher, and a Tiger for life: even *their children* cannot escape the ties of their mothers and fathers since they belong to the house of their parent. What sort of mafia is this?

How have the Illuminati snuck into the house system, and what are they going to do? Why have the security cameras in the high school wing been focused on students slapping the flags? Why are the perpetrators of

this crime upperclassmen, ones who might possibly have begun to rebel as they've gained knowledge of this underground society lurking, perhaps, in an underground high school bathroom?

The Illuminati has not yet explicitly expressed menace towards the Sharks of MAK yet, but neither has the silent atomic bomb hovering above us. Tensions are rising as people begin to wonder if the whole house system was a conspiracy designed by the Illuminati, trying to divide or unite students for some sort of secret plan. The goal of the Illuminati is to preserve humanity and advance it. What better place is there for them to start recruiting members and establishing a headquarters than in a highly educated, somewhat isolated, stray-dog-protected school like Morrison Academy Kaohsiung?

The House flags and logos were designed by current seniors Anna Huang and Nini Lee, as well as former graduates Alice Lin and Catherine Chen. When I tried to contact the two former seniors, they suspiciously did not reply back. When confronted with the problem, MAK's HouseCo president, Nini, expressed deep concerns over the flags. "I never saw the symbol! We just designed the flag according to inspiration we found online and the guidance of last year's graduating class," she said. Claiming that she and Anna had no prior knowledge of the hidden symbol, she commented that it was Catherine and Alice who had been so insistent on having the Mako flag contain the triangular banner and the Hammerhead contain a circle on the hammer.

Was it a coincidence that those two alumni designed the flags with the knowledge that they'd leave the school in only a year, a time far too short for something as hidden as the Illuminati symbol to go noticed? Or were they also influenced by someone else, perhaps an unknown elder or undercover spy?

MAK Sharks must dig deep into this discovery and refuse to be torn apart by these houses if that is the intention of the Illuminati. There is a long road ahead to fully uncover how this secret society infiltrated the integrity of MAK's high security campus. Sharks, shall we be bystanders and let them continue unchecked? Or shall we search for the truth, for the truth will set us free?

*Note: If you have inside information about the Illuminati in MAK, please place a letter enclosed with 1000NT by the 2nd urinal in the underground bathroom on April 31st. The code is 9-3-6-1-2. Whisper "blub, blub, blub."



When overlaid, the house flags produce a skin-crawling resemblance to the illuminati symbol. // photo by Gabieeee

Scandal: Canada Stripped of its Olympic Victory

By: Bill Scott

Running faster, jumping higher, and throwing further than what was previously possible, Team Canada blitzed through all competition, established a solid first place position, and set almost superhuman records which are projected to last for years to come.

However, amidst the festivities of the closing ceremony celebrating the unprecedented victory of a nation that is generally better known for its breakfast condiments than its athletic performance, an American investigative journalist, George Laytham, became suspicious of the ever-so-slightly fishy victory of his motherland's reputedly polite northern neighbours.

Armed with a permit of investigation signed by none other than the American president Donald Trump himself in an effort to repair slightly strained relationships with the media, the young Laytham had extensive medical examinations conducted on all Canadian athletes, testing for common signs of substance abuse, the results of which would only begin to uncover the sinister truth behind the MAK Olympic Day of 2017...

After failing a total of 22 blood tests, the Canadian team in its entirety was shown to have taken an extremely potent performance enhancing drug made from a pungent mix of beaver milk and musk ox sweat (originally used by the Inuits to punch holes through large icebergs when fishing for rare sea-dwelling moose). It was here that our journalist himself hit an iceberg and failed to see the terrible magnitude of foul play under the tip that he had uncovered.

On February 30th, Laytham was walking back home from MAK when he mysteriously disappeared, with a witnesses reporting the sudden appearance of a tall man wearing a wooly black and red cap riding on a bear, carrying a young man over his shoulder. (If you know anything about the whereabouts of George Laytham, please contact Bill Scott, head of the missing persons department of MAK.)

It was at this point that MAK decided to bring out the big guns, enlisting the help of the high school criminal investigations club.

In a characteristic display of efficiency, an incriminating photograph of Team Canada was uncovered within a day, revealing a man resembling the wise and just Russian president, Vladimir Putin*,

standing in the shadow of Mr. Albert Tam, the head coach of team Canada.

Immediately taking Mr. Tam in for questioning, the Canadian athletic director was subject to hours of Chemistry lectures involving interrogation methods that beg not be discussed, until he finally cracked, blowing the whistle on the corruption that had lodged itself like oil, deep in the ice of the team. In a shaky confession, it was found that Team Canada was in fact controlled by a secretive branch of the Russian government, which was using the Canadian government to further its own nationalistic goals.

In an official statement by the Russian Ministry of Propaganda, Russia has explained that after being rejected by the Olympic Federation and the MAK selection committee, the nation was deeply wounded, and sought the least relevant nation available to use as a disguise.

Heads bowed and faces covered, the ex-Canadian Olympic day team walked through the MPR this morning, where they were officially stripped of all Games Day medals in a mix up that was quickly resolved when the MAK administration remembered that they hadn't given them any in the first place.

Although the students of team Russia were unable to participate in any Olympic Day events due to imprisonment in Mr. Newkirk's office (Mr. Newkirk is currently denying all allegations of links to the Russian government), they were given a hearty pat on the back for their bravery throughout the trauma of the event. While it is unsure whether or not an official winner for the 2017 Olympic day will be announced, team Russia (Canada) has been officially disqualified from all future athletic events at MAK, a status that may change due to Russian requests for lifting such conditions in exchange for the return of George Laytham.

*This article has been modified to meet Russian standards of publication and freedom of speech so that the rights and liberties of all people will be righteously upheld.



The Russian head of state, Vladamir Putin, can be seen posing as a 'Canadian' coach, leading his group of incognito Russian athletes in this incriminating photo uncovered by George Laytham // photo by ??

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Money Spent to Pacify Bladders

By: Sabrina Tsai

The noise of catfighting and screaming has long been part of the ambient noise surrounding the high school bathroom. Since the construction of the new high school wing, the bathrooms have remained the same, with four measly stalls crammed in each bathroom, despite the increased number of students.

"It's a war," Christine Wu said when asked why she never leaves the classroom during breaks. "I just can't deal with it."

Many students agree. The stress of continuously twisting your neck to check the time while praying that your teacher wraps up the lesson soon so you can secure a stall is just too much. Some students tried to creatively work around the problem by going to the bathroom outside. Mr. Mai soon put a stop to that practice, however, citing that "the garden flowers are being poisoned to death."

Despite a demanding schedule and short breaks between classes, the only available bathroom for high school students is the one beside the gym. With the limited amount of stalls, time, and energy, some students just decide not to go at all. A student, who wishes to stay anonymous, described how she never goes to the bathroom at school, having trained her bladder to hold it all in. Many students opt for the same option, not realizing how dangerous this choice can be. Holding in the urge to go to

the bathroom could lead to a severe infection, such as a Urinary Tract Infection (UTI). UTIs can cause a burning feeling when urinating, a frequent or intense urge to urinate, or fatigue and shakiness.

The rest of the students choose to fight for the stalls. There is hair pulling, door slamming, and tons of boxing out. The screams of horror and anger are only amplified by the echo effect of the bathrooms.

"It's actually very entertaining once you're in," Anna Huang said. "Sometimes I purposely stay in the stall longer to hear the glorious sound of war as [they] grow more impatient."

Of course, you better not stay in the stalls too long or people will start banging on the door and doing everything they can to get you out. Even worse, in the men's bathroom, potent mustard gas, sold exclusively by the senior class (for only \$99.99, on sale for a limited time!), is slipped under the stalls to encourage faster usage.

"It's nasty," Leo Hsieh, one of the founders of the gas said, "super 'que asco' – I didn't actually think it was that bad until I almost died from gas poison last week."

Stories and showcases of battle scars are common, and there are often mini battles about who's sustained the worst damages. Jammed fingers, bald spots, and concussions are all com-

mon aftermaths of a trip to the bathroom.

Worst of all, a wait for the bathroom and a trip to the nurse's office for these injuries cause tardies for the students. These tardies build up, and the effects are long lasting. A senior fell to his knees in tears only yesterday after a college sent him an email rejecting admission due to "the presence of an out of school suspension from tardies. It just cannot be known whether you're serious enough about your education."

Of course, teachers are exempt from these "bathroom wars" as they have already built private bathrooms hidden in the teacher's workroom.

However, in an effort to pacify dissatisfied students and powerful mothers, the school has decided to address the issue. The problem is, there is no space. Administrators considered merging the lockers with portables so each student would have his or her own stall but ultimately rejected the idea in fear of strong smells.

Instead, "We'll just stack up porta potties outside," Mr. Torgerson said. "The new students, the freshmen... it'll be a great way to start their high school life here at MAK." These policies align to his personal belief



The dream of every MAK high school student // photo provided by Vivian Liu

that that every student should have a period of... doing hard things (or soft things, depending on the consistency of the poop) at MAK.

"It definitely doesn't surprise me," Elisa Cheng said as she recalled her glorious soccer days. "When it rained, he used to tell us to roll in the mud a few times before practice started." Perhaps it seems unfair that upperclassmen will be given priority to the indoor stalls, but the truth of the hierarchy at Morrison and its perks for different classes will only come forth as time passes.

Of course, it is very suspicious that the board immediately passed the porta potties after the news of the senior's rejection from a university, but at least now students will never have to fight for bathrooms again.

MAK Gets A New Track (Again)

By: Bill Scott and Evan Hsu

Around this time last year, MAK initiated a fundraising program aimed to bring new life in the form of replacement to the then-decrepit MAK track, which was ravaged by years of middle school mile runs, the brutality of Mr. Campbell's infamous flying chicken days, and the determination of the world renowned MAK cross country team. Distributing images portraying the beloved track as an emaciated war hero in desperate need of repair, the members of the MAK administration sent home flyers to impressionable elementary and middle school and sceptical high school students alike imploring the Morrison community to fund the rebirth of the track, whose previous popularity almost led to its adoption as MAK's mascot in 2010.



A lone runner makes their way around the MAK track. // photo provided by Bill Scott

After what seemed like an eternity of waiting, the track was completed at the beginning of this school year alongside the expansion of the soccer field in order to meet TISSA regulations. However, due to a minor miscommunication, the landscaping company responsible for the remodeling of the track mistook MAK for a beach resort of a similar name and surfaced MAK with a circular artificial beach instead of the track that had been ordered. When confronted about the issue, Ma Fan, President of A. A. L. Co. (Almost Adequate Landscaping), formally apologized for the mix up, saying that the sand would be trodden in very shortly. Once the workers from A. A. L. Co. left the school after finishing their job, the students of MAK rushed out excitedly, only to find that the ever-competent track replacement workers had forgotten a lane.

Over the past year, a fair amount of controversy has arisen concerning the safety of MAK's red astroturf-beach hybrid, especially after a kindergarten student was caught in quicksand during PE class, surviving only thanks to the inten-

sive survival course that all MAK applicants are required to pass. Mrs. Laytham commented on the issue, expressing concern over an increase in running injuries due to the surplus of 'friction-aiding' sand and the slick nylon surface of the so-called 'track.' Studies have revealed that before the new track, only 5% of MAK students suffered track related injuries; since the implementation of a track born only from a post-modernist's mind, injuries have soared to encompass 95% of all MAK students, with the other 5% being incapacitated due to their previous injuries. It was also reported that Mrs. Griffin suffered a minor brain aneurysm upon the discovery that the new running path measured 400 metres in length. There is still an ongoing debate within the high school philosophy class as to why exactly this length was chosen. The answer, they believe, may reveal a clue to the greater questions of life and existence itself.

As you can probably imagine, the removal of the track has led to high dissatisfaction within the student body, motivating some of MAK's most talented runners to emigrate to



Our new track next year will ensure proper running surface for our Sharks. //photo provided by Bill Scott

the superiorly surfaced track at MAC, including none other than Elijah "The Lightning Bolt" Gregg, Kevin "The Animal" Lin and Douglas "The Bullet" Scott. In fearful anticipation of the further desertion of MAK's world-renowned track and cross country teams, the PAC board has decided to build a brand new track at MAK. Although not much information can be accurately disclosed at this point, the track will be painted red and black in a statement of school spirit and will probably, or perhaps more realistically — maybe — boast a workable running surface, allowing MAK students to finally run as smoothly as a shark.

2017 CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Internship Program Implementation Recommendations:

1. Interns qualification: 11th to 12th grade students
2. Each academic year: only 3 classes
3. The first class (summer): 2017/6/5 ~ 6/23
4. The second class (summer): 2017/7/3 ~ 7/21
5. The third class (winter): 2017/11/27 ~ 2017/12/15
6. Each class only 4 ~6 places for Morrison students.



OFFICIAL WEBSITE

Meals and transportation fee will be subsidized by the company during the internship.

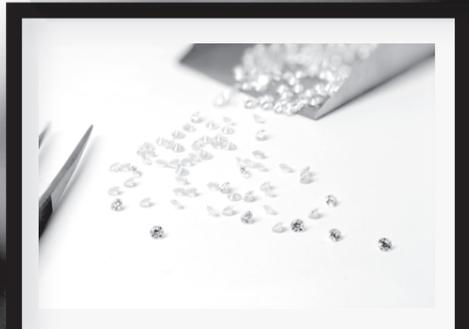
Course Outline

1. Professional Diamond identification Course
2. Marketing plans and executive management
3. Internship final presentation

Qualified interns will receive a certification after the final presentation by CAPSTONE DIAMOND INTERNATIONAL LTD.

Internship registration:

Email your resume to "vvdventure@gmail.com." Your resume must include personal and contact information, autobiography. We will contact you within 2 days for interview. Students who passes the interview will receive an email notification.



The Freshmen Class' Secret Identities

By: Annabelle Chien

An explosion of shrill laughter interrupts the silence that cloaks the halls during class time. Around the corner, a few 9th grade girls sit in a loose circle, all on their devices. A teacher walks by, gives them a cursory glance, and is satisfied to see that articles about the Iraq War or productive-looking Google Docs are the main focus of the girls' attention. "So focused!" he smiles to himself. He turns the corner... and all of a sudden, the content on their screens are very, very, different.

Whether it be video production, social media, or online games, here are the secret lives the members of the freshmen class live, not outside of, but during, school hours. As one of my sources noted, these double lives allow them to be a "whole other version of themselves."

It's pretty well known that Parker Shen, known for his video editing, has a personal vlog channel that documents everything from World History class to his vacations. Yet the truth behind those videos is

that Parker uses only half of his study hall time to actually study. In fact, the reason that he can keep the vlog up is by using those precious hours to watch other vlogs for inspiration and to film; sources have seen him about the school, camera in hand, frantically trying to catch up on his video producing.

This is only one of the cases. Apart from producing videos, freshmen guys are known for their digital prowess in video gaming. Recent achievements include Yosub Lim's placing in the Top 10 of online Tetris competitions whilst Mr. Chesebro lectured the Biology I Class about evolution. Other renowned video gamers include Raymond Hsin and Joseph Hsu, holding their own "Five Nights at Freddy's Gaming Club" meetings during club time, interspersed around the student lounge in an effort not to appear suspicious. This explains why Joseph always "needs" to go to his locker to get his things (because he is signing up for online tournaments) and why Raymond always needs math

homework help (between gaming and more gaming he never has enough time to do it).

The most surprising example of all is probably the hit reality TV show that all members of the freshmen class host together. Eden Liu, the show's main host, visited Los Angeles at the end of January to meet with companies that are considering purchasing syndication rights.

The premise of the show is a cross between the romantic hijinks of The Bachelor and the cut-throat competition of Survivor. "How in the world do they manage to pull this off?" you may wonder. It seems that in between their classes and various responsibilities, the 9th graders cunningly find excuses to leave the classroom to film snippets of the show.

This is done in the computer lab with the green screen and MAK's equipment (Mr. Griffin never catches them at it since he's too busy buying honey green tea at Tea and Magic Hand). As soon as the bell rings, though, they are out in the hallways



Freshmen girls dress up to film an episode of their TV show. //photo provided by Annabelle Chien

again, acting like normal freshmen with their school books and backpacks.

What seems like a normal day to most is not an ordinary day for the freshmen class. Whether they're editing posts for Instagram fan accounts, battling to the top of video game competitions, or casting new stars for their reality show, the freshmen are always busy managing their secret lives, doing their best to keep them hidden. But now that Pandora's box has been unleashed and their double lives are exposed, we'll just have to see what happens next.

Seniors Welcome New Students

By: Nathan Lee and Rosa Lin

The seniors are greatly honored to break the exciting news to everyone: the Class of 2017 will no longer be a class of twelve. Starting 4th quarter this year, our class will at last be welcoming its first new students for the longest time. Jake and Finn Briar's arrival marks the end of a disheartening two-year period of solitude and despair. The Class of 2017 rejoiced when Mr. Newkirk announced the news, since the class gender discrepancy will now finally be balanced with seven guys and seven girls.

Risking our very lives, we snuck into Mr. Newkirk's new lair to gain some valuable insight on the new dynamic duo. We took snapshots of their student information and decided to exclusively share this inside information with the Shark Post.

Here's what we conveniently found lying on Newkirk's desk, unattended:

Apparently, Jake is deaf and Finn is mute, which means they are expected to excel in the current senior class and might even teach the class some sign language. "I'm hoping they will add a new dynamic to our class discussions," Mrs. Shaffner, the 12th grade government teacher said. "Maybe now the seniors will be more communicative."

Also from the information we obtained, the twins were allegedly expelled from their previous school due to excessive amounts of tardies and "personal senior skip days." Now we know that Nathan won't be the only one scraping off coffee filters in the staff lounge during lunch or spending the day in the glass room in the library.

We scheduled an interview with a member of the Class of 2018, Truman Chiang, to hear his thoughts.

"I'm glad that I don't have to roast Leo as much anymore. I'll leave the job to my two new beloved seniors. I'm tired of roasting him on my own."

**For more information, contact us @ classof2017.com. Bribes are mandatory.*

	Briar, Jake	Briar, Finn
Height	6'2	6'1
Cumulative GPA	2.8	3.0
College	Decided to take gap year	Applied to too many to decide
Sports	Varsity Golf	Varsity Lacrosse
Hobbies	Studying until 1 am, playing the guitar, eating slowlee	Doing chemistry homework during lunch, sleeping
Favorite song	My Lighthouse	10,000 Reasons
Love interests	Expected to ardentlee pursue Nini	Expected to wu Christine

Tea Ban Returns!

By: Sunny Wang

Stop and look around you. Are there Steas on tables or in people's hands? The tea culture is intense at MAK; we order often, yet still do not properly dispose the tea cups, relying on the cleaning ladies to pick up after us.

The school will soon be revoking the tea privileges. Tea addicts, you better start preparing for this dramatic change as this tea ban will be effective from April 1st.

Why a tea ban all of a sudden? Please recall that there was a boba ban a year ago. The ban had two purposes. First, the principal became aware of the obesity problem in MAK and discovered that it was the starch inside the bobas that made people gain weight. Second, students, especially middle schoolers, were dumping bobas into sinks which clogged pipes.

The first ban was effective for less than a year; however, before it was overthrown by the high school students. As a result, high school students were given boba rights while middle school was still stuck with the boba-free tea rule. However, people started to forget about this ban, so middle school students began to order bobas again, too.

Although there have actually been no incidents of pipe clogging so far, the issue of obesity persists. The school used to turn a blind eye, hoping that the issue would fix itself. Unfortunately, statistics proved the school wrong. By the end of the first semester, the school realized that students order teas far more often than they should. After multiple meetings and debates, the teachers decided to

ban tea itself.

Of course, there is another reason for this ban. What do you see in the garbage bins? Mostly tissues and tea cups – improperly disposed tea cups. The school has repeatedly asked students to recycle tea cups properly, but no one seems to be listening. The school has even been receiving constant complaints from the cleaning ladies about cups with tea still in them. EWW! If you, yes, YOU, had to clean these tea cups, wouldn't you feel extremely annoyed? If yes, why are you doing this to the staff who serve the school?

Under this tea ban, teas will only be ordered on special occasions, such as Olympic Day or House events. Students will no longer be able to order teas on their own. Let's hope students learn from this experience so other privileges won't be revoked.



Students fail to recycle their tea cups. //photo taken by Sunny Wang

PROMises are Hard to Keep

By: Katherine Ma

Last year, the student council kicked off the most glamorous event held in MAK history, involving dazzling dresses, stylish suits, stunning photos, and fancy dance moves. Yes, it was MAK's first junior and senior prom. The prom was such a success that one high school student, who wishes to remain anonymous, has stated that attending the prom was their sole purpose for enrolling in MAK.

Unfortunately, now he might have to consider transferring to another school because although most students considered the event a roaring success, the school disagreed. Even despite the current high school students' love for social activities (especially those held on weekends before large exams), the school has officially announced that prom will never be held again for the following reasons:

1. MAK seems to be losing its long-established traditions and the reputation of its students.

When you think of a student from MAK, what image comes to mind? The common answer is a small, socially awkward, nerdy kid with glasses. Compared to other international schools, MAK students are easily distinguishable as they are more conservative, studious, and introverted. Looking at statistics sourced from a Galloop poll, 80 percent of students in MAK interact with less than seven people per week. This truly meaning-

ful record is yet to be broken by any other school.

Having a prom is obviously devastating to such a reputation. During the prom last year, juniors and seniors were laughing, talking to each other, and even dancing. This is not natural behavior for an MAK high schooler. If having a prom every year becomes a new trend, the school will undoubtedly lose its uniquely awkward culture. Prom threatens the preservation of long held traditions in MAK, with Mr. Torgerson stating that "the prom undermines the very fabric of MAK, exposing students to dangerous circumstances that could potentially induce a state of reduced academic efficiency and even encouraging an increase in social activity within the MAK community."

2. Financial spending on prom can be directed to other areas of greater necessity.

The money used for the prom is fundraised by the House Council. Members of the House Council and other teachers decided that the money should be spent on more urgent issues. For example, the school needs to build more bathrooms in the high school wing to solve the bathroom crisis. Also, the students hope that by contributing the funds to school projects, they may be one small step closer toward enjoying a swimming pool as big and beautiful as the one at

the other Morrison campus. Overall, the consensus has been reached that prom should be canceled so there will be more financial resources available for other (more pressing) projects.

3. The prom is in conflict with exam season.

The prom is traditionally held in April. Teachers have all expressed that such a time is improper for any social activity. Many high school students need to take the AP exams, the almighty SAT, and the semester two finals in the following months. All of these tests determine whether or not a student will be successful in life. The potential five hours spent on prom night can actually be utilized effectively for memorizing vocabulary or even reading multiple chapters from a textbook. Studies have shown that five hours of studying can improve students' academic performance by at least a third of a tenth of a percent. Such a monumental impact must not be neglected.



Students were dancing in the first and now also the last MAK prom. //photo taken from MAK flickr

Regardless of whether you're a banquet lover or a typical MAK scholar, the cancellation of prom is already a fact. However, the school has decided that another big event should replace the prom. Further details have not yet been released, but there have been rumors about an over-the-weekend SAT studying festival for high school students. In addition, in order to combat a rise in the development of well-rounded and socially adept MAK students, the MAK staff will be implementing a five year plan tasked with the creation of a stable and unified MAK, protecting it from Western influences such as the prom, which could potentially lead to cultural annihilation. All MAK students will be required to practice awkward aversion of eye-contact, stuttering of speech, an inability to communicate with the opposite gender, as well as limiting all unnecessary interpersonal contact.

Paca-gate: The Secrets Revealed

By: Grace Hsu

As a means of preparing for the World Scholar's Cup Taiwan regional round from March 31st to April 1st, both MS and HS scholars have been creating a guide to help them study the curriculum better. They have been faithfully slaving away at this, patiently enduring the mental challenge to the end.

Or they are so thought.

Recent data from a couple of scholars who wish to remain anonymous suggests that the entire guide has been plagiarized from a variety of websites, most notably Wikipedia. These scholars, or rather, *conspiracy theorists*, are actively trying to identify suspects and get to the bottom of this huge scandal, which they have dubbed "Paca-gate," and the conspirators (the plagiarists) the "Illumipwaati."

The theorists have been contacting each other via social media, where the data which started their investigations was first shared (see graph). As for the theorist who came up with the data, I tried to contact him, but all his fellow theorists would tell me is that he is in 10th grade.

"The data is pretty self-explanatory," one of the theorists told me in

an interview. "Members of the Illumipwaati have been encouraging their peers to plagiarize the guide from Wikipedia. High schoolers, as can be seen from the data, take less time to copy/paste entire paragraphs, and are more used to altering the text in order to hide their treachery. Middle schoolers, on the other hand, tend to be tripped up by guilt (bless their innocent souls) and are also less experienced at changing up the sentence structure."

However, when I went to Mr. Muir, the director of WSC at MAK, to ask about his thoughts on the Illumipwaati, I received a much different response. The first thing he complained about was the name of the conspirators: "If my students are going to run off on such a wild goose chase, they might as well give it a proper name!" he exclaimed. "The only similarity between this nonsense and the widespread theory about the Illuminati is that they are both absolutely ridiculous."

"The only thing the data (which, may I add, is very vague and probably made up) serves to show is the homework loads of the respective

grades. The older you are, the more schoolwork you have, and the less time you are able to spend on guide-slaving. It's that simple!"

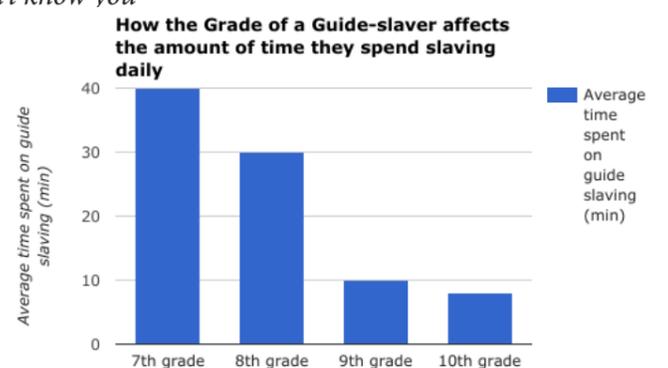
When I asked him who he suspected the theorists to be, he answered, "People who haven't studied. If they had really known what causation vs correlation means, as well as the wide variety of unfounded conspiracy theories on the Internet, they wouldn't be thinking this way."

Mr. Muir's very adamant rebuke, when conveyed back to the theorists, received the most *flawless* response: "Shut your ears... to what they say... they don't know you anyways," they chanted unanimously to a doleful tune. After that beautiful rendition, however, we went back to business; I had a few more pieces of information I needed.

The theorists traced Paca-gate's origins back to last year's guide, when a guide-slaver plagiarized the guide about *plagiarism*,

of all things ("It was just for fun!" the poor girl told me. "And it wasn't even my idea!"). But the damage is done, nevertheless. The theorists have also "uncovered" a document titled *The Guide Slave Manifesto* with the slogan "Guide slaves of the World, Unite!"

"We need your help to get to the bottom of this scandal," they urge the MAK community. Personally, however, I wonder what would happen if the theorists were, in fact, found to be part of the Illumipwaati themselves. After all, unlikely things *do* happen.



I have done my best to accurately represent the data communicated to me by the theorists. // graph created by Grace Hsu