

VOICE

The International School of Amsterdam's Student Newspaper

Death of Big Macs - Creator Dies at 98



Who has ever indulged in the pleasures of a Big Mac burger? Who has entered McDonald's with a smile on their face in anticipation of this fabulous calorie bomb, about to make their day? Probably most of the people reading this. Sadly though, with a stomach grumbling in despair, it must be said that the creator of this breathtaking (quite literally) treat is dead. Michael "Jim" Delligatti passed away on November 28, 2016 in Fox Chapel, Pennsylvania. His first creative encounter with the famed sandwich occurred in the mid-1960s, when, according to his personal preference, he added a second burger patty. Along with the extra meat came six other additional ingredients. Although this part of the invention took mere weeks, the 'special sauce' combo was much more difficult, resulting in two years filled with (more or less) successful testing and experimenting. It was the town of Pennsylvania in the year of 1967, which received the honor of hosting the burger's debut as a McDonald's meal. Despite the long creation process, the treat was available worldwide the following year. The world is a very big place, and McDonald's reigns over an even larger part of it, a worrying fact which is seen in the 900 million Big Macs which are sold annually in over one hundred countries.

Delligatti started off as the owner of a single Pennsylvanian McDonald's, and ended up becoming the company's largest franchise holder; with over 48 restaurants. According to the corporation "Jim was a legendary franchisee within McDonald's system who made a lasting impression on our brand." This glowing phrase can be backed by the inventor's own statement: "I would never have dreamed that my creation would turn into a piece of Americana." Sadly, taste and creativity do not go in pair with modesty, of which Delligatti is a living (or rather, was a living) example.

In the end it must be said that whether for better or for worse, this man's invention changed the world and the teenage perception of good cuisine. It is a subject of many debates whether adolescents indeed have something to thank Delligatti for, or whether he has changed their dietary preferences in a ghastly and backfiring way. Not many know what the future holds, however it must be grievously announced that the MacDonal'd's brand will no longer include Mr. Delligatti or any forthcoming Big Macs.

By Zosia Bulhak

ALSO INSIDE:	The Extreme Surveillance Act	(Not) The Best Start to 2017	How Close Is this School to Genocide?	Tech Column
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Hello!!!!

I joined the school paper in the 9th grade, after my (then) communications teacher Mr. Michell pointed me in its direction. I barely understood the concept of CAS, and showed up on Thursdays because I figured it was a good way to make friends and get better grades in English. At the time, I was the only 9th grader in the VOICE, and I was surrounded by 12th graders who were getting into fancy colleges and knew how to write catchy hooks.

At first, I had no idea what I was doing but I still came because I loved the spirit of the members of the paper. Be it track NECIS or op-ed articles about dress codes, people always seemed to be writing about things they cared about. Amazingly, the paper made me feel more connected to ISA than 5 years of attending the school.

Since then I've brainstormed, written and edited articles under the great leadership of Brian Smith and Ari Economon. I've also made friends, some of whom are now writing at different schools for different newspapers.

What I'm really trying to say is that I love this paper, and I'm ready to run it. So, hello! My name is Evie Portier, and I'm the new Editor in Chief of the school newspaper. I promise to diligently complete the work necessary in order to make this paper the best it can be, and to always do my best to make the paper a place where everyone can feel at home the way I have been able to. If you have been considering joining the VOICE, I hope you'll come along to one of our meetings.

This is the first issue of 2017, and we have some really fantastic articles for you in store. One of our 9th grade members, Pranjal has written a piece on the cleaning staff, Anna has written a lovely piece on the "AmnesTEA" event that was held at ISA and Robert in 11th grade wrote an op-ed piece on the extreme surveillance act. We have plenty more articles that you can use to take a break from your school work.

Enjoy!

Evie M. Portier, Editor in Chief of the VOICE

Who We Are...

VOICE is the International School of Amsterdam's upper school student publication. We are grade 6-12 students who meet each week at lunch on Thursdays for publication planning and development – there is no journalism class that supports the project. We commit our time and energy to support our school, our community, and our own growth as thinkers and writers.

We welcome your letters. We welcome your article contributions. We welcome corrections that you wish to alert us to. Send all communications to Ms. Sabine Henrichsen-Schrems (shenrichsen@isa.nl), the project faculty advisor, Editor-in-Chief Evie M. Portier (eportier@isa.nl), or drop a note into the VOICE "suggestion/question" box outside room 189.



VOICE Team:

Evie M. Portier(editor-in-chief), Robert Brighton(senior editor), Moses Ochs (layout-design), R. Trinabh Banerjee, Roos Creighton, Sophia Lee, Lindsay Budin, Kenneth MacRae, Aaron Lam, Lukas Joosten, Ana McCawley, Young Jae Kim, Anna Economon, Zosia Bulhak, Miguel Pena, Tom de Wolf, Filip Lindgren, Luc Huistra, Pranjal Ray.

Want to improve your writing? Report on ISA issues and events? Get your name in the paper? If, so join Voice! Meetings for 2017 are every Thursday at lunch, and we welcome any new applicants from grade 6-12. Remember, you can also send in specific articles to Evie M. Portier or Sabine Henrichsen-Schrems.

VOICE is published on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper, by MultiCopy of Amstelveen (www.multicopy.nl/Amstelveen).

We ask our community to join us in a "read and share" approach. Once you have read an issue of **VOICE**, if you do not wish to keep the edition, return it to the Voice display rack outside room 189 so others may read it. This is environmentally and fiscally responsible.

VOICE is available as a digital download (PDF) on upper school Final Site link.

The Extreme Surveillance Act

The EU is tarnished by corruption, there is no doubt about it. Big business and dodgy dealings are a mainstay in Brussels. These unfortunate truths are just a couple of the many reasons, whether valid or not, why the UK chose Brexit in the summer of 2016. However, a corrupt, holier-than-thou and hypocritical UK government that seems to think themselves free of any oversight or consequences after the Brexit vote passed, with little opposition, the Snooper's Charter. The purpose of this charter is simple - it extends the powers of the UK's surveillance of its citizens to unprecedented and terrifying levels. The UK government now needs no suspicion of criminal activity, no warrant or ongoing investigation or even suspicion of such a nebulous idea as treason to dig through ANY citizen's private online communications. Oh, sorry, that's wrong - ANY citizen except the MPs and Prime Minister in Westminster. That's right: while the government digs through your internet history, email, and texts, they're protected from the same investigation themselves.

The government, widely criticised for its child sex scandals and embezzlement of public funds, has granted itself additional protections while simultaneously swiping rights from the little people. In response, Snapchat and Whatsapp have pledged to increase their already stringent security, and none of the peeping toms in Westminster are happy about that.

So where were the opposition? After all, the Conservatives make up just barely over 50% of Parliamentary seats, and not every single one voted in favour of the measure. But, the embarrassing shambles of a progressive party they are, of 231 MPs only a few Labour MPs turned out to vote against the charter. Indeed, 166 of them voted for it after a few token concessions were made by the Tories. Not even the leader of the Labour Party, Jeremy "Gives Good Quotes But Never Votes" Corbyn, could be bothered to turn up and vote! To their credit, all of the smaller parties voted against the invasive bill, but they couldn't overturn the vast majority of the two major parties.

"But Rob, I have nothing to hide! I'm not a terrorist, I've never dodged my taxes, I've paid all my speeding fines on time and I've never done anything more illegal than that!" - This is someone who believes in **Nothing to Hide, Nothing to Fear**, a concept coined by the Nazis in the buildup to the Second World War.



In response to that, let's go down the list of some reasonably common scenarios, and what the consequences could be.

- Your son smokes weed, comes home, and you catch him, telling him to knock it off and grounding him for a month. You blab about it to your mates, and the government catches wind of it by chance.
 - Your son can spend up to **5 years in prison, or receive an unlimited fine, or both**¹.
- You get into a (mutual) fistfight with a man at the pub. It's caught on a surveillance camera, or someone posts it on Twitter and you're recognisable.
 - You can spend up to **6 months in prison**².
- You're gay, but you're in the closet for now. You're also CEO of a multinational corporation, and have just refused to provide the government preferential rates on your product. Well, the government also has access to all of your text and voice communication, and isn't exactly a paragon of virtue. So they anonymously out you as revenge.
 - Being outed after taking the position **could, and probably will, cause you to lose your job**³.



The European Court of Human Rights ruled the bill illegal, citing overly invasive practices and an assumption of guilt, but after a Brexit the UK population is set alone against a government less trustworthy than a dog with rabies. The fantasy of a benevolent government in Westminster becomes further from the truth every day.

See you in court.

By Robert Brighton

¹ <https://goo.gl/PFbdqy>

² <https://goo.gl/Uvo6Dp>

³ <https://goo.gl/25U7Yj>

The Best and Worst 2016 Had to Offer

2016 was an interesting year. That's a fact. Most people would agree that 2016 was a tragic year and many consider it to be the "WORST YEAR EVER", however, you may also find a few people that enjoyed 2016, at least on a personal level. Let's review and refresh your mind so you can decide whether you would repeat 2016 or if you hope a year this bad never returns:

January:

- David Bowie dies on the 11th at the age of 69, fans worldwide are confused and believe that what they are reading at first is a hoax (myself included) however, it is soon revealed that it is sadly too true and he did, in fact, pass away from cancer. This is a major beginning of tragic events in 2016, at least I hope you think his death isn't a happy event.

February:

- The Author of "To Kill a Mockingbird" Harper Lee dies at age 89. Her book sold over 40 million copies and educates society on racial segregation, as well as gender expectations and the importance of community acceptance.

March:

- A suspect in the 2015 Paris Terrorist Attack was arrested on the 18th of March. The Belgian police arrested Abdeslam who is believed to be an ISIS logistics chief and the only major player of the Paris attacks who is still alive.
- Brussels was the centre of a terrorist attack on the 22nd of March which left scores of people mourning, wounded and dead. The bombs exploded in the Brussels airport and the metro station. Brussels Terrorist Attacks leave dozens dead and people mourning in the streets



April:

- The Panama Papers were leaked offering a deeper look at corruption, tax evasion, and financial dishonesty. These showed how many rich companies and people would store their money in secret offshore areas like Panama.

May:

- On the 28th of May a 3 year-old boy fell into a gorilla enclosure and in a misguided attempt to save his life, the gorilla Harambe was shot. The whole world went insane over this gorilla gaining huge amounts of popularity on the internet as a meme. In fact, Harambe became so popular that there was a rumor that he got 20,000 votes for president of the US and many believed that, although this did turn out to be fake.

June:

- On the 23rd of June, a Referendum was held which decided whether Britain would leave the EU. The majority vote went to leaving, nicknamed Brexit, and the impact of this situation was finally made clear to many. A surge of British google searches regarding the EU and what would happen after leaving occurred AFTER the vote INSTEAD of before and a majority of the young population that voted to stay blames the older generation of which a majority voted to leave as it doesn't really impact them as strongly.

July:

- The top grossing app Pokemon GO is released on Android and iPhone. GO was created by Niantics, a Google company, and Nintendo which have been making video games for decades including Pokemon. This app was even successful with people who weren't familiar/fans of the franchise, such as middle-aged men. Whilst it was a hit for a while and encouraged many kids (and adults!) to go outside and socialise, major server overload and lack of features soon decreased its popularity. The creators had never imagined that so many people would play it and did not have available servers. Now updates and events continue to be rolled out to improve the game, however, its fan base has drastically dropped.

- Portugal beats France in Euro Championship 1-0 after an arduous journey and claims its first Euro Championship win, even with an injured Cristiano Ronaldo with Eder scoring the winning goal.
- Tragedy struck France once again on the 14th of July whilst celebrating Bastille day when a large truck was driven through a crowd in Nice, France as a terrorist attack and the driver was valiantly subdued by a passerby. Without him, many more would have been killed.



August:

- The 2016 Olympics that were held in Brazil began on the 5th of August and ended on the 21st. They were attended by 205 nations and thousands of athletes who believed that they had the potential to win. The top 3 placing countries were: USA taking 1st, Great Britain in 2nd, and China following in 3rd.

September:

- The 19th of September marked the end of the Syrian cease-fire as an airstrike hit a UN convoy and destroyed 31 trucks of food and medical supplies for the people of Aleppo. The following days had various other airstrikes marking the end of the cease-fire.

October:

- Killer clowns are roaming cities all around the world. People are advised to stay indoors and freaky vlog footage has people spooked. Originating in the US the trend quickly spread to other parts of the world and really started to harm people. A-14-year old kid unknowingly stabbed his friend who was dressed as a clown in Germany due to fear.

November:

- Perhaps the biggest event of the year, THE ELECTION. Donald J. Trump is elected as the president of the United States of America. A gigantic swarm of people mob the internet with their own opinions and the United States is struck with fear. Wild claims are being thrown about Russia influencing the election, meme magic giving Trump the win and even thoughts of Trump having originally planned this whole ordeal as a publicity stunt.
- On the 25th of November dictator Fidel Castro died at the age of 90. He was the leader of Cuba for almost 5 decades by overthrowing the previous dictator Fulgencio Batista. The impact of his death is currently unknown as his brother who is currently president is set to retire in 2018 which shall bring about uncertain change in Cuba.

December:

- 2016 was a year full of major celebrity deaths and not even Carrie Fisher, the beloved princess Leia and her mother Debbie Reynolds could withstand its grasp. Carrie Fisher passed away on the 27th of December followed shortly by her mother on the 28th. It was once again a tragic hit near the end of the year which left those close to them and all their fans mourning.
- The 19th of December was the bearer of two tragic events. The first was a truck crash in Berlin and the other was the assassination of a Russian ambassador. ISIS claims responsibility for plowing a truck into a Berlin Christmas market. Killing 12 and injuring dozens more. The Russian Ambassador, Karlov, was assassinated in Turkey by an off-duty police officer whilst unveiling an art exhibit in Ankara. Many wondered how this would affect ties between Russia, many were worried however there are claims that it united them in the pursuit of justice against terrorism.



-2016 claims its final victim closer to the end of the year taking Mariah Carey's Career. With multiple technical difficulties during her New Year's performance in Times Square, the cringe overwhelmed the world.

-After reading all these events of 2016 (mostly negative, to be honest) what do you think of 2016? Researching this has reminded us how truly awful 2016 was at least on a global news scale, but the truth is that most news is tragic otherwise it likely isn't news. We hope that 2016 was great for you on a personal level at least and that 2017 will be even better.

By Miguel Pena and KC MacRae

(Not) The Best Start to 2017



I suppose it's time to say Happy New Year. Except, that, so far, it hasn't exactly been happy. And I'm not saying that 2016 was good, it wasn't. But don't take me wrong, I'm not a pessimist. I'm just fed up with humanity, and all the atrocities committed every single year. So, why hasn't 2017 had a good start?

The New Year's Eve Terrorist Attack in Turkey:

As we woke up on January 1st, all of us were subject to the horrifying news, that a terrorist had opened fire at the Reina Nightclub, in Istanbul. Hundreds of people were celebrating New Year's eve there, and as a result of the attack, 39 people lost their lives, and a further 70 were injured. The gunman was arrested on January 17th.

Do I really have to explain how unbelievably shocking this is?! The first day of 2017, a terrorist attack happens. 39 people are dead, and 70 are injured. On the first day! And okay, Turkey's political situation hasn't exactly been good, but whenever there is a terrorist attack, it is still shocking.

Baghdad Car Bombings:

We wake up on January 2nd to hear that 56 people are killed in a series of car bomb attacks in Baghdad, Iraq. 120 people are injured. For goodness sake, it's only day two! So far, we've had 95 people dead in back-to-back major terrorist attacks, and 190 people injured.

Iraq is a place which has been decimated by internal conflict and terrorism. But seriously, are we not common humanity enough to learn that killing people gets us nowhere? If this is how we started 2017, how on earth will it end?

I only named two major events that took place at the start of the year. 2017 is a mixed year. Donald Trump became the President of the US on January 20, 2017, and so far, it isn't looking good. His hugely controversial ban on 7 majority Muslim countries was frozen by a federal judge, his unprecedented comments on said judge who banned the ban, his administration's attacks on the media (accusing them of not covering terror attacks, for example the Paris attacks) and his use of the phrase "alternative facts" (a.k.a. lies). So, people, listen up! Treat your fellow humans with kindness and respect. Treat the environment with kindness and respect. Please, please, please. A little can go a long way, and if we all pitch in, we can make a difference. Our common humanity has gone through so much. Let's not put further burden on already strained differences. Work to tolerate and accept each other. Make this world a better place. I'll finish with a quote Michael Jackson once sung: "Heal the World, make it a better place, for you and for me, and the entire human race". Please!

By Trinabh Banerjee

The Choir Concert

It was a truly mesmerising evening for everyone on-stage and off-stage; it was a flow of wonderful music that enraptures everyone's ears.

It was approximately just about an hour and 15 minutes long, and the concert was divided into two performing groups: Kelly's choir and Mr. Beam's ensemble.

The Choir:

Pure Imagination – Willy Wonka: The song that embodies the concept of curiosity.

Boogie Boogie Bugle Boy: A classic 1930's US song that is extremely playful.

Les Misérables Medley: A beautiful piece crafted by the geniuses of harmony.

Se Se: A tribal accapella that is widely known in Africa.

O Nata Lux: A prayerful song that seeks transcendence to its highest level.

The Ensemble:

Star Wars - John Williams: The intro of one of the best movie series of all time.

Hungarian Dance No. 5 - Johannes Brahms: Fast and slow, a sense of rushing and slowing down.

Loch Lomond - Traditional Scottish Aire: A rather sad and nostalgic song.

Blue Tango - Leroy Anderson: A legendary song from the 1952's that people used to dance around to.

Little Drummer Boy - Traditional Czech Carol: A Christmas carol playing a drum for the newborn Jesus.

It was an evening of incredible effort and talent that has been displayed, even though everything might not have gone the way it could have. The most important point, however, is to appreciate how, when people play music together, it creates a beautiful harmony and also represents emotions. Music is strange, because it is a language that clearly communicates emotions; it can make people sorrowful, jovial, nervous, and furious, but yet it depends on each person's interpretation - which is often based on personal experience.

I, as a pianist, have fully enjoyed playing for the Choir, partially because I am used to only play music by myself. It is unique to play with other people, as you have to adapt to their voice, their breath, and their interpretation of music. Despite all the challenges that come with adapting to so many people, I would still fully say that it was indeed a worthwhile experience.

Overall it was an exciting day for the school, as, in my opinion, most importantly the beauty of music was given a chance to be appreciated.



Courtesy of Charlotte Cabri

School Genocide: How close are we?

All the devices are in place, one leader with vile intentions might just be what it takes for you to turn on your friends.

It was a normal day in Rwanda on April 7th 1994, yet the day marked the darkest day in the Rwandan history. On April 7th civilians turned into death squads and the streets turned into paths of war. The Rwandan genocide is one of the most remarkable events in human history, where normal civilians decided to turn on their neighbours and friends out of nowhere. Psychologists examined this event to see how it is possible for millions of ordinary people to decide to commit murder. Through this they discovered the "5 steps to tyranny", detailing how a normal society turns into one similar to that of Hitler's Germany or Rwanda in 1994. In this article I will outline how these steps are found in our school and what it will take for us to pick up our weapons.

Prejudice:

The first steps towards tyranny is exploiting or creating a prejudice against a certain group. Creating an in-group, usually the majority, vs. an out-group, the minority who are targeted. In Rwanda the out group was tutsis, another type of tribe that made up the minority of the people in Rwanda. Here I will take an arbitrary feature, let's say hair colour, as our divisor for the in and out group. Black and brown haired people make up the majority of the school, and therefore they will be the in group, while blond haired people are the out group. One of the reasons the campaign against tutsis was so effective, was because the other tribe in Rwanda, the hutus, already thought of the tutsis as less, and generally not very favourably. The same goes for our defining feature, odds are that you either are well-known or make jokes about "dumb blondes". While you may not believe in this stereotype, due to you being exposed to it so often, subconsciously you are more likely to accept it as the truth. When a new school leader with dubious intentions starts hanging up posters about how blonde people are dumber, stating it as the truth, this joke might start to become serious. Once you've accepted the fact that someone's intelligence can be decided by their hair colour due to relentless school-led propaganda campaigns, you might start to wonder why these "dumb blondes" are allowed at your school bringing down your learning. This is where tyranny starts, when people are led to believe they are better off without a certain type of person, and when you think about it, we aren't too far from this step.

Obey Orders:

This might be the most straightforward step in a school, because your academic career exists almost entirely of you obeying teachers' orders. You have been trained from birth to obey orders from the government, your parents, your teachers, your friends, and the list goes on. When you didn't follow orders you were probably punished, hardwiring your brain to associate not following orders with negative feelings. This was done at school because teachers usually act with good intentions when handing out instructions, and not following these would have a negative effect on your life in the long run, but when these teachers are told to instruct you to do terrible things, like harm your friends, will you do it?

You might think you draw the line when you're forced to do someone harm, but a range of psychological experiments prove this wrong. In a well known case study called the Milgram experiment, Stanley Milgram asked people to come in for an experiment to see the effects of shock on memory. One participant was asked to click buttons which would each administer a shock to another person they could not see, they were told this would help the memory of the subject. The shocks went from very light to deadly, at each stage the actor "receiving" the shocks would react with increasing intensity. 65% of the people pressed the final button administering a shock which they thought would either kill or severely injure the subject. While you may not think this relates to you, the experiment proves how quick humans are to follow orders when receiving them from someone with authority, like a teacher.

Do Them Harm

It has already been proven that doing people harm is something you are likely to do when someone tells you to, but due to a range of factors once we reach the third step to tyranny you will hurt people without hesitation. At this point you are convinced that blonde people are dumb, are slowing down your learning, and other myths that the school has told you in their propaganda campaigns. You don't want these people at your school anymore, and while trying to find a way how you can kick them out of the school, teachers start telling you that you should start physically harassing these people. Psychology has shown us that you will follow orders but history says the same. When Germans were instructed by government officials and their Nazi propaganda to physically abuse people of Jewish descent they followed suite. Horrible events happened like the Kristallnacht, where Jewish shops were vandalised and robbed. Jewish people were frequently harassed on the street.

While you might think you're not like a 1930's German, the truth is this school is more susceptible to being convinced to hurt people than they were. Looking around the world shows us that physical bullying is an urgent problem in a lot of schools, and while it may not be a problem at ISA, it shows us that the students at our school are currently in an age group where they are more likely to harm each other. This is because people are running high on hormones and are struggling to fit in. When years of training to respect each other and school rules are thrown out of the window, so will our restrictions on bullying.

We can't see ourselves as people who like to hurt each other, but if you are conditioned enough, and someone with enough authority tells you to do it, you most probably will.

Stand up or Stand by

This is the last step before genocide, and this is the part where the process can be stopped; it's the part where other tyrannies have been halted, and where you can stop our hypothetical one. I'm here to explain why you won't. This steps consists of the people making a choice. Here people need to decide if they don't take any action and let the tyranny happen, or if they stand up and fight the oppressive power. Here's why you won't be part of the latter. Firstly if you are part of the majority of the school at this stage, you won't consider standing up because you feel what you are doing is just. Then, let's say, you are the exception and see the moral dubiousness of the school's actions. You probably won't do anything. Our normal human response is to not do anything. If you do get involved you risk being socially excluded and isolated or worse being physically harassed. These risks are probably going to be more important to you than the safety of "dumb blondes", who you, at this stage, will probably also be not to fond of. If you are walking down the street and see strangers having a fight, do you intervene? No you don't, you probably just walk a little faster and make sure you don't get harmed. If you won't break up a fight, why will you stop something that can socially and physically ruin you?

Because you don't intervene, you let the next step happen.

Extermination

The dreaded final step, we have come to the end of this emotional journey and have reached the final drop of this roller coaster. This is the part where you pick up a weapon of your choice and get rid of the dumb blonde person thing, that you see as a pest. You may not see yourself doing this, neither did someone in Rwanda or someone in Nazi Germany, right before it happened.

I have outlined to you why you are no different to these people, and how through the correct manipulation you will end up in their shoes. If you still don't see yourself doing it, imagine the thing you hate the most, and then imagine being exposed to posters and education for years teaching you that this thing is literally the worst thing on earth. Then imagine your teachers tell you do start hindering this thing, and you do it because you want to release your anger and it's allowed and it's encouraged. Now, how big of a step is hindering this thing from stopping it? If you could stop poverty or unclean water right now, would you? At this point in the steps to tyranny you see "dumb blondes" as this thing, the worst thing on earth, as bad as poverty, as bad as people dying due to diseased water, can you now imagine yourself ending that menace?

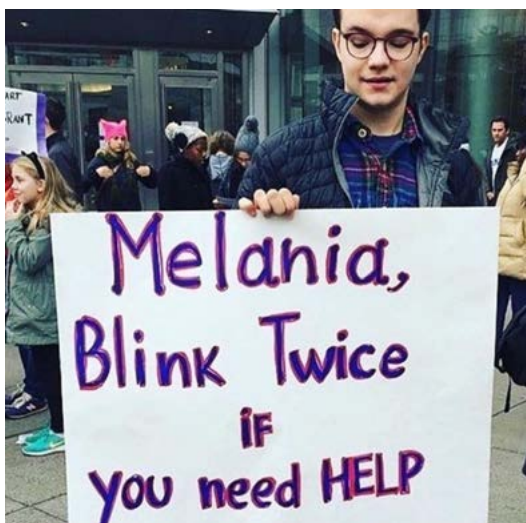
By Lukas Joosten

#FreeMelania Is Nonsense

Melania Knauss has a net worth of 11 Million USD. With this money she could buy herself eleven rare golden tiger fish, spend a day at Disneyland 10526 times, or buy herself a beautiful penthouse apartment in New York City. She is a successful designer from Slovenia, and also the current first lady of the United States of America. She is a lot of things, but I do not believe that she is a prisoner. The hashtag #FreeMelania has gone viral alongside photos of signs saying things like "Melania, Are You OK?" or "Blink Twice If You Need Help" at various protests against the new President of the United States, Donald Trump. By not acknowledging that women also hold diverse political views and that women can make their own decisions regarding the relationships that they are in, we are letting women down everywhere.



Courtesy of Cosmopolitan



Courtesy of Perez



Melania Trump met Donald Trump at a fashion week party in 1996. Donald had shown up with a date, but this did not stop him from noticing Melania. At first, she would not give him her number, but then agreed to take his. Two days later she called him, and they planned a date. In 2005, they were married and the year following they had their first and only child, Barron Trump. Their relationship



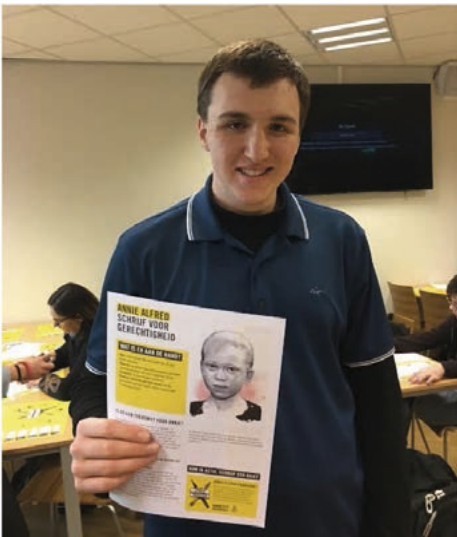
Courtesy of Evening Standard

has spanned 21 years, and in those 21 years Melania has never indicated that she is unhappy in their marriage. Instead of worrying about Melania, who has not indicated that she needs help, people should direct their focus and attention to the 390,000 women in America who would lose access to healthcare if/when Trump defunds Planned Parenthood, the 24 women per minute who experience domestic violence every minute in the US alone, or the 47,000 women who die as a result of unsafe abortions around the world every year.

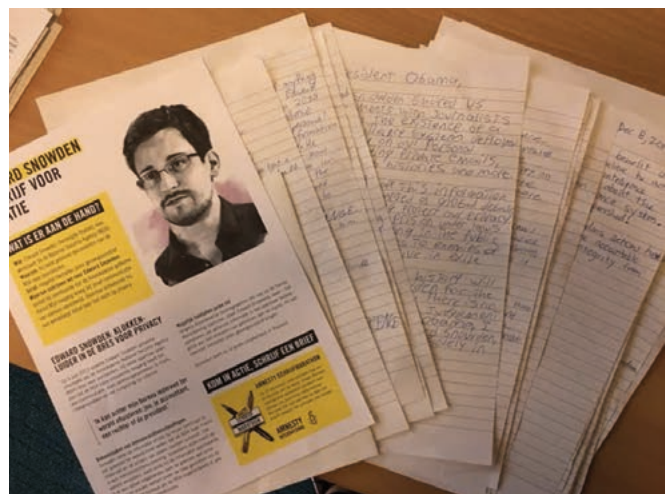
By Evie Portier

A Marathon of Writing to Save Human Lives

On December 8th, 2016, members of the ISA community came together to respect and uphold the world's human rights. This took the form of the annual Amnesty "Write for Rights" writing marathon, which took place in the school's annex. Organized by the Amnesty International group, the premise of this event was to help those whose human rights have been violated.



Participants were asked to write letters for 11 individuals whose rights had been disregarded. Some of these letters took the form of official complaints to government leaders, such as US president Obama or the Turkish Ministry of Justice, while other letters were intended to soothe victims, and were filled with empathetic messages concerning their situations. As there were 11 separate cases, participants had a wide variety of campaigns to support. Ranging from illegally detained Turkish journalists, to unlawfully jailed school teachers, ISA's community was able to demonstrate strong affection for victims. There were two cases however, which partakers seemed to admire most. The first incident was that of Annie Alfred. People seemed to care most about her, as she was a discriminated Albino child, living in Malawi, who was being hunted for her body parts. The other case which intrigued the community was that of Edward Snowden. Snowden is the American whistleblower who was being illegally detained in Russia, for his public sharing of US intelligence documents.



The writing marathon event appealed to students, teachers and parents alike, due to its variation. Older participants were given the opportunity to write letters advocating for human rights, which allowed them to learn about abuse around the world and gave them a chance to make a difference for their chosen cause. People were allowed to write as many letters as their heart desired. This meant a couple of students showed their devotion to human rights by staying the duration of the event, in order to write a letter for each one of the victims.



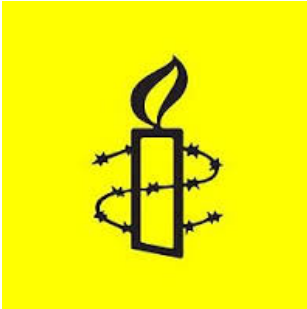
Courtesy of Anna Economon

By Anna Economon

At the same time, younger members of the community were also able to participate, through their involvement in the “kids corner”. Here children could draw pictures, postcards and even scribble down messages, which would be sent along with the letters. These drawings allowed youngsters to learn about their own human rights, and about discrimination around the world.

In total around 305 heartfelt letters were written, with more expected in the coming months. In addition to these letters, over 25 drawings were also created by ISA’s younger students. This plethora of dedication from our school’s community demonstrates how successful Amnesty’s “Write for Rights” event actually is. Therefore, if you missed the event this time around, Amnesty International urges ISA’s members to stand up for human rights, and write letters to help free those who are being abused.

Amnesty's AmnesTea



Now is it AmnesTea or Amnesty? Many ISA parents, students and teachers participated in the annual AmnesTea human rights event at our school, during the first week of December. The AmnesTea was an awareness campaign organized by the Amnesty International group. The activity urged community members to get involved, and help save those whose human rights had been abused. In order to participate, all one had to do, was sign their name on one of the pre selected petitions for the freeing of a victim.

The two petitions which the Amnesty group chose to create were aimed at liberating men whose rights had been violated. The first man, Zimbabwean pro-democracy activist Itai Dzamara, had been beaten and illegally detained since the start of 2016. With no advancement into the investigation of his abduction, Amnesty decided to take action and let Dzamara regain his freedom. The other petition which existed was for Iranian teen Himan Uraminejad. After being arrested for a crime he was accused of committing when he was only 15 years old, Uraminejad was receiving threats of execution from the government. As Amnesty International believes that no one deserves the death penalty, the organization created this petition to help save an abused individual.

Petition signing booths were located in the main cafeteria and at George Juniors, allowing students easy access. The stands were manned by jaunty Amnesty International members from ISA, who were able to explain the petitions, and help anyone participate. The event was called the AmnesTea, because after signing a petition, one would receive a free cup of tea and a tasty cookie. Athina Economon, one of the many students who partook in the AmnesTea, claims to have loved the event. After being asked what she found best about it, Athina replied, "The atmosphere was awesome. It was really good that there were vibrant posters, and nice students explaining what was going on, and I understood who it was I was helping. The cookies were a great addition too." With over 233 signatures in total, the event was a great success. However, Amnesty International member Zosia Bulhak says, "We hope that next year there is an even greater turnout, so that we can help save even more innocent lives!"



Courtesy of Anna Economon

By Anna Economon

ISA Talent Show 2016

The enjoyable three weeks of winter break has allowed the students and faculty of ISA to reconnect with their family and friends to celebrate the halfway mark of the school year. The winter break also gave an opportunity for those at ISA to focus on their personal life outside of school, and to celebrate the distinctive holidays in the month of December, which includes Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza and many more celebrations. Despite the fact that Winter Break unfortunately came to an end, it is time to reunite with our classmates and fellow teachers to commence our next and final semester of the school year.

Therefore, before 2016 came to an end, the students and faculty of ISA spent the last day of school working on the talent show! The ISA High School Talent Show was a tremendous hit and a great way to end the semester. It allowed the students and faculty of ISA to leave the auditorium with beaming smiles on their faces.

This year's talent show had heaps of talent in it and was well liked by all. It was nothing less than spectacular, with entertaining hosts Sam Freeman and Adam Ramani making the show enjoyable with their humorous miniature acts in between the large performances taking place all throughout the last few hours of school. They were not only amusing, but phenomenal! Moreover, one of our very own Science teachers, Mr. Daghigh was the DJ for the afternoon. What skills he has! A performance presented by Mr. Daghigh that I believed was very enjoyable, as well as festive, was a piece at the end, which included festive holiday songs and an amusing twist, as Star Wars made its appearance in his performance. The addition was fitting, as Rogue One, the newest Star War movie directed by Gareth Edwards, came out only a couple weeks after. With the upbeat music, alluring piano appearances, stand up comedian acts, magic tricks and glow sticks, it shows how many talented people there are in our own school.

One amazing performance was the magic act. Our own magician of ISA, 12th grader Lewis Caldwell, was able to pull an unbelievable trick. This trick left people on the edge of their seats, pulling out their phones to record the magic in the happening. With suspense music provided by Mr. Daghigh to accompany the act, it was definitely magic no one will be able to forget:



Courtesy of Moses Ochs

At the very start of the magic show, a mysteriously sealed envelope was seen near the edge of the stage. Inside the envelope was one particular card from the deck of 52 cards. The envelope was visible during the whole show and that no one had the opportunity to move it or open the envelope. Towards the end of the performance, Lewis asked a couple students in the crowd thoughtful questions regarding the specific card. These students were not picked specifically, every aspect was randomized which made the act even more difficult to wrap one's head around. At the end, the card picked by the students and teacher matched the one inside the untouched envelope. What a trick! All of the students and faculty are still trying to figure out how Lewis was able to pull it off; but a true magician never reveals his secrets!

To continue the show, a thought provoking and extremely amusing component was involved with four trivia rounds between teachers and students of ISA. In between the acts, two elves dressed both colorfully and festively (9th grader Zosia Bulhak and 11th grader Paul Keen) came onto the stage and pepped up the teachers and students with their randomized trivia rounds. They selected students and teachers from all grade levels in rounds with questions, which were about a range of many subjects. Teachers came up to answer the questions, but the twist was that the questions focused on a subject they did not teach.

The show also featured acts by teachers, who took time and effort into giving amazing performances. One distinct performance was an outstanding opera performance by one of the Spanish teachers, Miss Lopez Dekker, accompanied by a student playing the piano. It was performed incredibly and extremely invincibly, too. How Miss Anna Lopez Dekker is able to sing notes that high and loud is eye opening and one can only wonder how much practice was placed into going on stage with that particular song. Another performance consisted of three teachers, who had formed their very own band, wearing luscious golden wigs, playing instruments, and singing their hearts out. All in all, ISA's 2016 talent show was phenomenal! You may have even spotted parts of it on students' social media. It wasn't one to be missed! If only we could say the same about the unfortunate bottle flip Samuel Freeman didn't land during the show.



Courtesy of Annebelle Rombach

Until next year's update on ISA's 2017 annual Talent Show!

By Sophia Lee and Ani McCawley

VOICE Tech Column

Welcome to Issue 3's Tech Column. We'll be taking a look at a variety of news. In this issue: The MacBook Pro Battery issues, the DDoS Attack that shut down a large part of the internet, and LG's new TV.

MacBook Pro Battery Issues

2016 was not a good year for batteries. One only has to look back to the Samsung Note 7 fiasco to understand why. What's made that problem worse, however, were the recent flood of reviews, comments and user experience saying that the new MacBook Pro released by Apple late last year was suffering from serious battery-life issues. While Apple advertises that the MacBook Pro's have up to 10 hours of battery life, some users have taken to the Apple Support Forums and Twitter to complain that this could not be further from the truth. Some users claim to be lucky to get 3 hours of battery time on a single charge. To top it off, Consumer Reports, a product testing organization, dropped the bombshell by saying this: "The laptops did very well in measures of display quality and performance, but in terms of battery life, we found that the models varied dramatically from one trial to another. As a result, these laptops are the first MacBooks not to receive recommended ratings from Consumer Reports." Apple executive Phil Schiller said that Apple was working with Consumer Reports to understand the issue further.

The battery life issue only makes things worse for Apple. With the company failing to meet sales targets for 2016, and renewed criticism regarding Apple's plan not to refresh the MacBook Air line, 2016 ended in a not-so-good year for tech companies. Sources from places such as Foxconn (the company in charge of making Apple devices), say that Apple is suffering from an "innovation crisis", in regards to the company's future plans for the iPhone.

While Apple has not issued an official statement regarding the issue, some tech-savvy users say that the issue could be caused by the Raedon graphics card. It is not clear how widespread the problem is, and the only solution as of now appears to be visiting the Apple Store itself and getting help there.



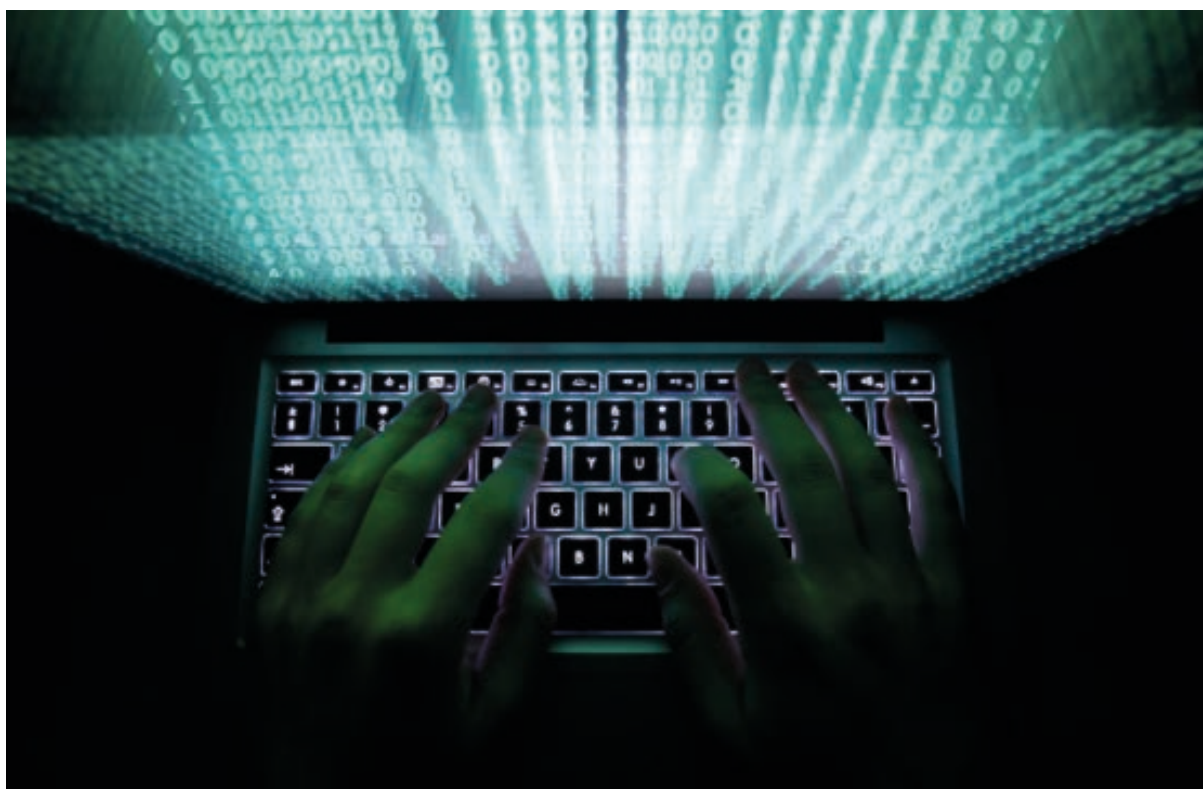
The DDoS Attack

Recently, a massive DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) attack on a large chunk of the internet showed how vulnerable our things really are. Websites such as Spotify, Netflix, Reddit, and The New York Times were all affected and became inaccessible. This DDoS attack mainly targeted the East Coast of the United States, but reports of website inaccessible from all over the United States as well as from Europe also arrived later in the day. It all began with an attack on DNS (Domain Name System) provider Dyn, based in New Hampshire around 7am ET, on Wednesday 21 October, 2016. Dyn reported that it had resolved the attack two hours later at 9am ET. However, just before noon, a second attack began, and finally Dyn reported the third wave around 4pm ET. In a statement later in the day, Dyn described the attack as “very sophisticated”. Dyn is a DNS company, with DNS being a system which acts as an address book for the internet. DNS resolves web addresses such as “<http://www.example.com>”, into IP addresses, which allow your device to connect to the right server and show you the content you asked for.

That’s why DDoS attacks are so effective. By attacking the places which process regular internet traffic with millions of bogus requests, an attacker can single handedly overwhelm the DNS servers with so many requests that legitimate requests of people wanting to visit Netflix (for example) cannot be processed. Everytime Dyn had to deal with millions of fake requests, its servers were so overloaded that they were not able to function. In short, one group of hackers shut down the internet for the entire East Coast of the US, along with lots of people all over the US and Europe.

An investigation into the events that transpired on the 21st is still ongoing.

By Trinabh Banerjee



The Agony of Not Having Your Article on the First Page

*or Anywhere Else in the Newspaper for that Matter
or Why I Believe the Cleaning Staff are the Unsung Heroes of ISA*

Once upon a time, long ago, there lived a great scholar named Brian Smith. His speaking & writing skills and long, luscious beard were the envies of the land. This op-ed article is a way of honoring his existence, in a time when speaking & writing skills and extravagant facial hair are in extreme need of.

Who are the people you see everyday at ISA, but never notice? What is the reason that you come back to school everyday to enjoy a hygienic environment? Why do you think all the litter you see on the red carpets of ISA miraculously disappears? It is due to those men and women who stay after school and work hard to erase the mess we have made, as well as making our school a nicer place than we left it.

You might say, "OK. Okay. We get what this is. An enormous guilt trip, isn't it? Anyway, why should we care? They've been here all the time, why the sudden highlight of the cleaning staff?" You should care, immensely, because in a way, the cleaning staff represents the core values of a modern community; they represent teamwork, dedication, and a desire to bridge the gap of their differences and to come together.

The cleaning staff at the school is international. All of those who ISA employs to clean the inside of the school, after us hyperactive students leave the place, are from different parts of the world. Just like us. And yet, while we complain in group projects of there being a barrier in discussion, the cleaning facility has overcome larger divides in communication to productively and effectively work. The cleaning staff represents dedication, persevering to keep the buildings of the school polished, day in and day out, so that students have a refreshing place to study, to learn and have fun in.

I originally wanted to write this op-ed article to entertain the VOICE's demographic, but I realised that this topic could only be transmitted seriously. That the people who are invisible in the hallways of this school are the people who deserve the spotlight. Not only due to their hard work in silence, but also because they have come together as one community

In an era when divides are at their greatest, when confusion and negativity are pushing people apart, when the clashes of beliefs are omnipotent in the destruction of relationships, the most unlikely of men and women set standards. They do this by communicating, working hard, and bridging their personal gaps by overcoming their differences for a common purpose of wellbeing. As Stephen R. Covey once said, "Strength lies in differences, not similarities". We, the students of ISA and the next generation, have the ability to build upon our differences for good and what a better time to do this than the beginning of a new year.

Have a very happy 2017.

By Pranjal Ray