

→ CONVERGENCE ←

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BOXED WATER

SEYON RAJADURAI
STAFF REPORTER

BOXED WATER



Boxed Water. Boxed. Water. What is it about this sharp, eye-catching carton that puts it in the limelight, making it the topic of discussion during many recess-time LD runs and lunch? Boxed Water has stirred much controversy amongst students at the College. Why buy water - let alone water presented in a container resembling milk cartons - when we have water fountains in every hallway of the school? Is it the aspect of convenience of being able to pick up a healthy alternative to juices while getting lunch? This rant - ahem - article will discuss the reasons as to why Boxed Water is a great idea and then ultimately prove why it is a terrible one.

Boxed Water made its debut at the school this year with the exit of our beloved Arizona Iced Tea and sweet drinks alike. Weighing in with a much smaller sized container with contents readily available throughout the school, the replacement had many critics disapprove. A rather suitable successor, wouldn't you say!

The question that we ask both the school and ourselves is "why?" Although Boxed Water stopped the consumption of sugary drinks in the school, wouldn't fountained water do the same thing? Why revert to a

waste-producing "eco-friendly" option when the same funds to bring Boxed Water to the school could have been used to tackle nutrition and waste production in another more socially acceptable manner? An idea pitched by our new Sustainability Steward, Bradley Manucha, and the Green School organization is to implement reusable plastic cups in the LD for water on the go. The nutrition committee also continues to cement the idea of students carrying around a reusable water bottle to be refilled at our new water fountains complete with a fill station.

Did you know that we (the students) successfully voted AGAINST bringing Boxed Water to the school, but the school overturned the consensual decision? Boxed Water was brought to the LD even after a survey conducted by current Sustainability Steward, Charlie Dunn, (who emotionally stated that he "hates [Boxed Water] with a passion") effectively voiced the opinion of the leaving class. 92% of our IB2s voted against Boxed Water existing at the College, with the remaining 8% for the idea or choosing not to voice their opinion. With the collected data, Mr. Dunn confronted the school and presented his concern, where he found -- much to his delight -- that the school would not bring it in. However, months lat-

er (for unclear reasons) we see these slim and fragile cartons mocking us from the shelves in the fridge downstairs. "Boxed Water is Better," a motto and company name of our innovative and creative entrepreneurs who provide no foundation for the claim. How dare they cause such turmoil at our school? Why are we trying to fix something that works just fine? Sure, a fountain does occasionally go out of order, but it is only one short walk away from wherever you are in the school. There is no need to try and reinvent the wheel. Out with the new and back with the old.



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EXIT INTERVIEW WITH MR. WEBB

PAUL WEISER - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As you may have heard in his assembly address a few weeks ago, Mr. Webb, an Old Boy who attended UCC for 8 years, is retiring from the college after having taught here for the last 40. It's hard to imagine the number of boys Mr. Webb has made an impact on throughout his time at UCC. As it is his last issue as the Faculty Advisor for Convergence (a position he has held for 12 years), we wanted to thank him for all of his work and ask him some questions about his time at UCC.

CONVERGENCE: WHEN YOU FIRST CAME TO UCC AS A STUDENT, DID YOU EVER IMAGINE YOU'D GO ON TO TEACH AT THE COLLEGE AND STAY HERE FOR AS LONG AS YOU HAVE? DID YOU EVER THINK ABOUT LEAVING IN THE PAST?

MR. WEBB: NEVER ENTERED MY MIND. I REALLY ENJOYED SCHOOL. I DON'T THINK I EVER MISSED A DAY. I TAUGHT FRENCH AT PICKERING COLLEGE AND ONE NIGHT WROTE A LETTER TO THE UCC PRINCIPAL (PATRICK JOHNSON) TELLING HIM THAT I'D REALLY LOVE TO TEACH ENGLISH (ALTHOUGH I HAD NO TRAINING). I HAD A GOOD INTERVIEW WITH HIS SUCCESSOR RICHARD SADLEIR, TALKING MOSTLY ABOUT CANADIAN LITERATURE. I CAME TO UCC, GAVE MYSELF 5 YEARS, TOOK MY 6TH YEAR OFF AND THEN CAME BACK...34 YEARS LATER HERE I AM! DID I EVER THINK OF LEAVING? YES, A COUPLE OF TIMES WHICH I PURSUED, BUT I'M GLAD NOTHING CAME OF THEM (BY MY CHOICE). I RECALL VIVIDLY ON MY 30TH BIRTHDAY LYING AWAKE IN BED IN THE MORNING THINKING "I COULD BE DOING THE SAME THING FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!" IT WAS A COMBINATION OF HORROR AND ACCEPTANCE (NOT RESIGNATION).

C: HOW ARE UCC STUDENTS TODAY SIMILAR AND/OR DIFFERENT TO THOSE WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED TEACHING AT THE COLLEGE?

W: THE ONE THING THAT HASN'T CHANGED IS THE ENERGY. THE STARTLING DIFFERENCE IS THE SHORTER ATTENTION SPANS AND IN MANY BOYS A FEAR OF OR DISLIKE FOR READING AND THEREFORE A LACK OF CURIOSITY AND DESIRE TO PURSUE AN IDEA BEYOND THE SURFACE. OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM, STUDENTS TODAY ARE LARGELY NOT AS PREJUDICED AGAINST OTHERS. TODAY'S STUDENT REFLECTS MUCH MORE OF THE WORLD THAN IT DID IN THE 70S AND 80S.

C: WHAT ARE THE MAIN WAYS IN WHICH YOUR TEACHING HAS EVOLVED IN YOUR TIME HERE? HAVE YOU HAD TO ADAPT YOUR TEACHING STYLE?

W: IN THE BEGINNING, TEACHERS, WHO WERE CALLED "MASTERS", STOOD AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM AND TALKED WHILE STUDENTS DUTIFULLY LISTENED. IN THE LATE 80S, AS THE RESULT OF A WEEK-LONG CONFERENCE I ATTENDED, I MADE A CHANGE THAT HAD A BIG IMPACT FOR ME: HAVING STUDENTS SIT IN AN OPEN RECTANGLE (SOMETIMES WITHOUT DESKS IN FRONT OF THEM) AND HAD THEM WRITE "READER RESPONSES" TO THEIR READINGS. THIS ARRANGEMENT OPENED UP DISCUSSION; BOYS COULD START TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER. IN RETROSPECT, THAT APPROACH REQUIRED CONCENTRATION SO NOW IT'S HARDER TO ACHIEVE THE SAME RESULTS. WITH THE ADVENT OF THE COMPUTER IN THE CLASSROOM, I FEEL MORE LIKE A MANAGER THAN A PARTICIPANT IN THE CLASS'S LEARNING.

C: WHAT ARE THE MAIN WAYS IN WHICH CONVERGENCE HAS EVOLVED IN YOUR TIME AS THE FACULTY ADVISOR?

W: THE BEST PART ABOUT CONVERGENCE IS THAT IT IS STUDENT-RUN. WHEN I FIRST STARTED, I COULD PRETTY MUCH SIT BACK AND WATCH/LISTEN TO THE GUYS IN CHARGE. WE HAD TIME FOR EDITORS' DINNER ONCE A WEEK AND LATE AFTERNOON EDITING IN THE ONE COMPUTER LAB. THERE WAS TIME TO PREPARE A BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER THAT HAD A LOT OF UCC CONTENT. NOW CONVERGENCE IS MORE SOPHISTICATED IN ITS CONTENT. IT APPEARS LESS OFTEN BECAUSE STUDENTS DON'T HAVE TIME TO PRODUCE MORE ISSUES MORE FREQUENTLY.

C: HAVING WITNESSED THE PATH THAT UCC HAS TAKEN OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS, WHAT DIRECTION DO YOU SEE THE COLLEGE TAKING IN THE FUTURE?

W: TOUGH QUESTION. THE REAL ANSWER MAY BE "I DON'T KNOW." I WONDER IF THE NEXT 5 YEARS AND BEYOND WILL SEE SOME DIFFICULTIES. FEES WILL CONTINUE TO CLIMB, EXPENSES WILL AS WELL. CAN FINANCIAL AID KEEP UP? WILL TEACHERS BE ABLE TO AFFORD LIVING IN TORONTO? UCC MAY WRESTLE WITH ITS FOCUS. THE CLASSROOM USED TO BE THE CENTRAL FOCUS, BUT THAT ISN'T TRUE IN REALITY NOW. LEARNING OCCURS IN MANY WAYS AND PLACES, SO HOW WILL THE SCHOOL ADJUST ITS TIMETABLE TO REFLECT THAT? IDEALLY THE MINISTRY

AND IB WILL BECOME FLEXIBLE IN THEIR DEMANDS FOR AND DEFINITION OF "CLASS HOURS". AND CERTAINLY IN THE SHORT TERM, THE SMARTPHONE IS 'THE' TOOL.

C: FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER/PUBLICATION TO READ IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

W: I READ THE WEEKEND FINANCIAL TIMES. IT IS A TREASURE OF WELL-WRITTEN NEWS ITEMS, BUSINESS INFORMATION (I GET AN EDUCATION HERE) AND SUPERIOR BOOK AND ART REVIEWS. I ALSO READ THE NEW YORKER - ALWAYS START WITH THE CARTOONS.

C: WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE LITERARY WORK/AUTHOR THAT YOU'VE TAUGHT AS AN ENGLISH TEACHER AT THE COLLEGE?

W: I'D CHOOSE HEART OF DARKNESS AND LORD JIM (JOSEPH CONRAD), TO THE LIGHTHOUSE (WOOLF), AND KING LEAR. ALL THOSE WERE FROM WHEN WE HAD GRADE 13. I TRIED KING LEAR LAST YEAR FOR FIRST TIME IN DECADES; IT DIDN'T GO OVER AS WELL AS IT USED TO. I GAINED APPRECIATION FOR THE POETS ALDEN NOWLAN (ACCESSIBLE CANLIT) AND PHILIP LARKIN.

C: WHAT WAS YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT IN YOUR TIME AT UCC?

W: JUST ONE? THERE ARE SOMETIMES MOMENTS IN A YEAR WHEN YOU ALMOST SEE THE "LIGHTBULB" GO OFF IN A STUDENT'S MIND, THE MOMENT WHEN HE 'GETS IT.' THAT IS AN EXCITING MOMENT. PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT? A GRADE 13 MODERNISM COURSE WHERE WE LOOKED AT LITERATURE, ART AND MUSIC OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY. THE PRODUCTION OF AMADEUS THAT I DIRECTED. IT WAS A HUGE HIT AND THE FIRST TIME THE THEATRE (THEN CALLED THE LITTLE THEATRE) GAVE 4 PERFORMANCES. 10 MARCH BREAK TRIPS TO THE SOVIET UNION. BRINGING A WORLD CULTURES COURSE TO UCC (A GOOD GIG WHILE IT LASTED)

C: ANY CLOSING REMARKS OR WORDS OF ADVICE TO THE BOYS?

W: SET A HIGH STANDARD FOR YOURSELF IN PUBLIC THAT YOU UPHOLD IN PRIVATE.

LEARN TO RESPECTFULLY QUESTION THE STATUS QUO.

THE PANAMA PAPERS: THE PHANTOM MENACE

CAN HEPKARABELLI
STAFF REPORTER

What are the Panama Papers?

The “Panama Papers” is a global investigation into the sprawling, secretive industry of offshore that the world’s rich and powerful use to hide assets, evade taxes and skirt rules by setting up front companies in far-flung jurisdictions.

Journalists from across the world have been sifting through a whopping 2.6Tb of data leaked from the servers of Mossack Fonseca, the world’s 4th largest offshore law firm. It is safe to say that this leak would make what Mr. Snowden did in 2013 look like spider bite.

How is it illegal?

Surprisingly, it is not. This process, using offshore structures, is completely legal, and in many times quite justified. Private companies in Ukraine and Russia use it to get around the imposing currency restrictions they face and others use it for estate planning and inheritance.

What’s the Problem?

To answer that, we need to take a short, albeit crucial, history lesson. Over the past three years, Syria’s air force rained down missiles and bombs, killing more than 21,000 civilians. They targeted schools, bus stops, even hospitals. These statistics and facts are well documented. Not so the part played by offshore finance in behind the scenes. Several companies who utilized these offshore “tax havens” were accused of financing the Syrian Air Force with fuel and oil.

In 2014, numerous countries, including the UK, the US and Canada, passed legislation banning doing business with these companies but now this leak and the subsequent investigation has revealed that the Panamanian firm Mossack Fonseca helped these companies operate as the attacks in Syria escalated.

Mossack Fonseca is a key player

in this secretive industry in which the world’s rich and powerful used to hide assets, skirt rules, evade taxes and abuse the system by setting up shell companies in far-flung countries like Malta, Seychelles and Cyprus.

Further investigation revealed an alarming clientele, including the heads of state of several countries, their families and cabinet members, several MP’s in the British Parliament, a key FIFA official, Argentinian soccer player Lionel Messi and the legendary Jackie Chan. What was even more shocking was that several of these clients were involved in several crimes such as bribery, tax fraud and evasion, drug and human trafficking and arms deals. In present day, a trail of invoices, interdepartmental memos and emails are all that’s left of the victims.

In Russia, a businessman who dealt with Mossack Fonseca has been exposed in running a prostitution ring of teenage girls. When the firm found out that their client was a pedophile, they decided they were not legally obliged to report his activities. In Uganda, a company who was looking to sell a prospective oil field paid Mossack Fonseca to help them avoid four hundred million

USD in taxes. To put in comparison, four hundred million USD is almost twice the amount of the Ugandan Government’s annual healthcare budget. Meanwhile hospitals and clinics in the shadow of the oil field are left without the most basic medical equipment.

The offshore finance industry has recently come under fire, but firms like Mossack Fonseca has helped clients continue to operate behind a veil of secrecy. Until the shadowy world is held accountable, more tax dollars will be evaded, more teenage girls will be forced into prostitution and more bombs will continue to kill innocent bystanders.

IS IT ILLEGAL?

SURPRISINGLY, IT IS NOT.



Panama Papers
By the numbers

214,488

Entities involved
(includes companies, trusts, foundations)

200+

Countries/territories involved

11.5M

Documents leaked

12

Current or former
country leaders involved

29

Forbes-listed
billionaires named

Source: International Consortium of Investigative Journalists

12 ANGRY JURORS

A STUDENT DIRECTED PRODUCTION

ERNEST LEUNG A&E EDITOR

This year's student directed production of 12 Angry Jurors was a pleasurable experience. The production's storyline depicts 12 jurors who are tasked with deliberating on the fate of a boy on trial for murdering his father. Each of the jurors in the production has their own reason for discriminating against the witness; whether it is his race, background, or relational status to his father. Throughout the production, the cast was able to expertly portray different jurors, each with their own agendas, opinions, and backgrounds. On a more specific note, the level-headed Juror 8, played by BSS student Trish Rooney (Grade 12), is able to sow the seed of reasonable doubt amongst each of the other eleven jurors, leading to an emotional portrayal of Juror 3 (played by Jack van Nostrand, IB2) who adds fuel to the fire due to his hard relationship with his estranged son. Due to the guidance and vision of student-director Jake Bradshaw (IB2), the rest of the cast worked cohesively to deliver a truly memorable and emotional performance exploring the issues with the American jury system, the influence of prejudice in our society, and the failure of the justice system to eliminate the influence of such prejudice.

The production consisted of an impressive set as well. Having had a bathroom, door, and windows built for the production, the set only added to the feeling of confinement within the jury room. Building up to the crux or focal point of the show in which Juror 10 (played by Graeme Joel, IB2)

desperately pleads with the other jurors to retain a 'guilty' vote via an ever-so-slightly racist monologue, the placement of the set and the blocking of the actors within the set only helped to further accentuate the place of isolation in which that Juror 10 finds himself. Through the hard work of the cast and crew, there was never a moment in the play in the audience did not find themselves intrigued by a heated argument between jurors, a humorous one-liner, or further information about the actual crime being revealed.

12 Angry Jurors was definitely one of the highlights of Upper Canada College co-curricular activities this year and for all those that were not able to watch, a chance to see an influential play of the 20th century was truly missed. If you see any of the students involved with this production, please do commend them on their success.

Foreman: Jeff Collins
Juror 2: Alex Roberts
Juror 3: Jack van Nostrand
Juror 4: Ben Caldwell
Juror 5: Isabel Coleman
Juror 6: Theo Iordache
Juror 7: Devin Lee
Juror 8: Trish Rooney
Juror 9: Jocelyn Roy
Juror 10: Graeme Joel
Juror 11: Umid Abduragimov
Juror 12: Abby Holland
Guard: Kate Fanjoy
Judge: Atef Abedin



ONE NIGHT ONLY
APRIL 29TH
IN PERSON

TICKETS
\$10.00

AT 7:30pm

David Chu Theatre
Upper Canada College



UCC

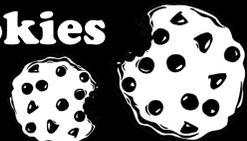
THE SCHOOL THAT HAS IT ALL...

*Relax
in the Chu*

Refreshments



Cookies



BLAZER

UCC'S HUMOUR
PUBLICATION WRITTEN BY
PEOPLE WHO THINK
THEY'RE WAY FUNNIER
THAN THEY ACTUALLY ARE.

Many of you are thinking, "Man, Blazer's been gone for like 2 months now - they must have a super issue prepared for us, with only the funniest of jokes available! After all, they've had so much time to write it!" Well, that's *partly* true, minus the "true" part. It's a Blazer tradition for every issue to be written the night before, specifically at 12:30 AM in the basement, and that will never change! Never!

CAS Projects

If you haven't done your CAS project yet, you're in one of two different situations: you're an IB1 who couldn't care less for the time being, or you're expelled. If you're in the latter, boy do we have a deal for you! Need a quick, easy, totally-not-defeating-the-purpose-of-it CAS project that follows the IB guidelines? Well, we *might* have what you need. Behold, CAS projects that are so helpful it just hurts to even think about them.

Opening Doors for People

If we had a nickel for every time we thought, "Man, it would've been sick if that person held the door open for us just a second ago," we would probably have a couple of nickels... which is more than having no nickels.

Maybe? Nickels are pretty inconvenient to have, and no one really uses them anymore... regardless, it's the little things that go a long way. Nothing encapsulates that more than a friendly gesture towards a stranger you've never met before. Plus, it's definitely enough work to warrant a CAS project.



Giving John Zhang a pencil

Death, taxes, and John Zhang never having any school materials on him ever. Giving Jay-Z a pencil may initially seem pretty basic - after all, who doesn't loan a pencil to a friend every once and a while? Difference is that the Zhang-a-tang is a 24/7, yearlong commitment with no breaks in-between. You just gave him a pen and paper last period? Better have another one (or three) on deck, because that poor writing utensil is gone and you know it. At least know that it's going towards a good cause.

Spoiling Game of Thrones

Wait, watching a TV show is taking action for the community? You bet it is! Watching a season of *Game of Thrones* in one night is akin to that of sacrificing your entire mental sanity for 10 hours. "Man, this character is super cool! He's defs my fav- oh wait, he's dead. Well, at least that other guy seems pretty coo- *oh maaaaaan*, not again!"



Spoiling such events is where the real community service lies, as it's your duty to prevent them from going through the same pain. Trust us, everyone will appreciate you for it.

Econ Notes Drive

Every year, tens upon tens of UCC students suffer from the fated *Chanfluenza*, or *Bordeneumonia*, where they suddenly forget everything they've ever learned prior to an exam. This leads to every student asking each other for notes, resulting in a school-wide panic for information (unless you're a tryhard to who "makes your own notes"). They need *your* help, and just a paper a day, you can help those aspiring students to achieve that 5- they always wanted. Just leave them in the library and they'll be sure to be gone within at least 5 minutes.

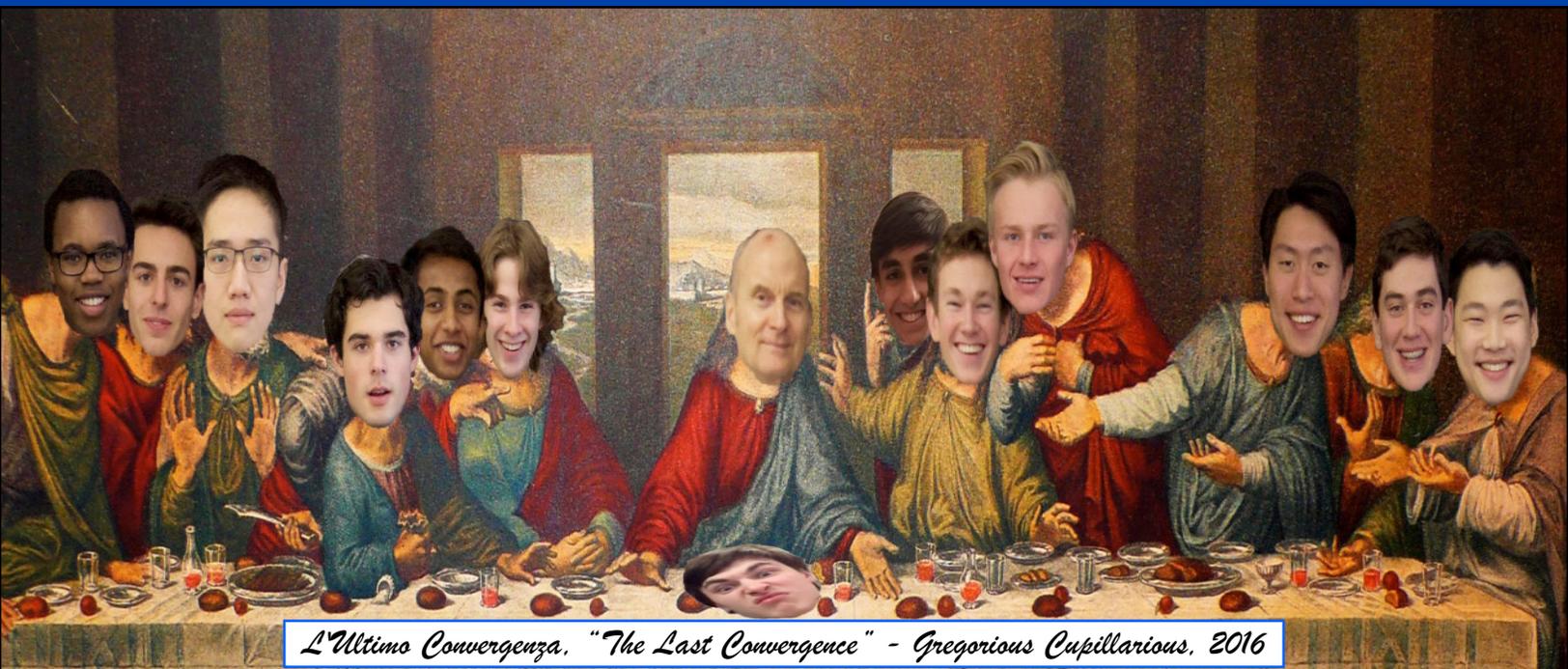


Doing Blazer For Us

It's fun and easy, we promise! Just procrastinate for a couple weeks, steal jokes from other people and finish it in a night or two. It's for the community (please help us).

Want to be a part of Blazer? Email us a 200-word blurb at blazer@ucc.on.ca to show off why YOU are not-funny enough for us!

If we've offended you with this issue of Blazer, too bad. We're leaving. Complain to the next guy!



L'Ultimo Convergenza, "The Last Convergence" - Gregorious Cupillarious, 2016

Steps to Studying - A Blazer Guide

Being a UCC student can be hard - doing work *and* memorizing information, at the same time? Life's a pain, man. With these quick steps, exams will be a breeze.

Step #1: Making a Plan

First things first, set up a schedule to follow so that we can maintain a consistent effort across each subject. Open up iCal, and... wait, was that a Skype notification?



Step #2: Organizing Your Materials

Now that we know what we're doing and when, we have to organize all the information neatly so we know where to find it, *just* after we check our Facebook. These Daniel videos get funnier every time!

Step #3: Getting the Work Done

Normally, this is where we start the nitty-gritty, but this sick Reddit post about Bernie Sanders came up and we had to read it. Did you know he knows Killer Mike? He's like, a rapper, so you know he's "hood" (which is cool-speak for "cool").

Step #4: Revision

Well, after watching every Harry Potter in succession, we can safely say the 5th one was the best... but we might have to watch it again. Exams are in a month! Plenty of time.



HEADLINES

- Howards disappointed at recent performance by guest Jerry Seinfeld
- Administration cites "Boxed Water" for recent increase in academic performance
- Friday assembly attendance increases dramatically after announcements of Greg Ekler replacing Jack van Nostrand
- Facilities cuts Commons grass for first time in 5 years
- School considering moving EE week to after Period 1 to combat record low IB1 attendance
- Aramark's recent attempts at fixing broken caps lock key prove to be unsuccessful
- Reports arise that Varsity Lacrosse players managed to finish a lap during practice
- European History reports no change in attendance during optional IB2 week
- Foyer construction set to be completed in spring season of 2018
- Max Taylor cut from Varsity Badminton team due to lack of participation in recent math contest
- IT forces school to be shutdown after campus-wide WiFi failure
- Young Republican club spotted at lunch building walls around school property
- UCC announces plans to implement permanent rugby lines of oval "soon-ish"

Bellswether was responsible for the night-howler attacks