

THE ROUNDUP

STORY OF THE WEEK - DECEMBER 4, 2015

BY AND FOR THE STUDENTS OF HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL WEST

Short of a week after ISIS attacked Paris, France, the seniors of Hills West began to worry about the status of their annual Europe trips. Over the past years, seniors enrolled in a foreign language class have been invited to partake in a class trip overseas. With the option of visiting either Spain or France and Italy, the seniors had much to look forward to until Friday the thirteenth.

Both trips included approximately thirty seniors, and were planned to take place during Presidents' Week. Scheduled to leave on February 11th, seniors were eager to travel to Madrid, Barcelona, Paris, and Rome. The trip costs a steep \$4,000, but many felt you could not truly put a price on this once-in-a-lifetime experience full of fun and a splash of learning. For nine days, dozens of Hills West students would wander the streets of foreign nations and gain new experiences. However, recent events have hindered excitement. On November 19, the senior trips to either Spain or France and Italy were cancelled due to the growing distress in Europe. According to principal Dr. Catapano, World Language Director of Half Hollow Hills, Mrs. Campbell, along with other district officials, had a role in deciding the fate in the trip

ISIS, which stands for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, has shaken up Western culture. Its recent attacks have incited a great fear of traveling overseas - especially in Europe. A group that condemns Western culture and loathes the United States and all it offers, ISIS is an ever-growing predator that threatens all Americans.

Killing approximately 130 people, including one American student, the Paris attacks have had a tremendous influence on American soil. Just a few weeks earlier on October 31st, a Russian commercial flight crashed, killing all 224 passengers - a massacre ISIS proudly took responsibility for. Due to recent events, parents and students worry that a large group of American students overseas would be a perfect target for ISIS. France has been the longest documented ally with the United States, and having been attacked

Au Revoir To The Senior Trip

Written By: Jayda Lisman
Design By: Lexi Gevisenheit

just 14 years ago on September 11th, the United States has been deeply affected by the attacks in Paris. Hills West students have taken to social media with hashtags such as "#PrayforParis," and images of the French flag have dominated students' timelines on Facebook. Although the circumstances are unstable, Hills West seniors still have some desires to travel abroad.

"I hope the district changes its mind," said senior Olivia Dabrowski, "It was going to be so much fun traveling to Spain with some of my best friends." Dabrowski was planning on visiting Spain with other Spanish language students over the February break. Emily Orlando, another Hills West foreign language student who studies

Senior class advisor and Hills West Spanish teacher Anny Espinal is in charge of the Spain trip. Espinal has visited Spain in the past, and is just as upset as the students regarding the trip's termination.

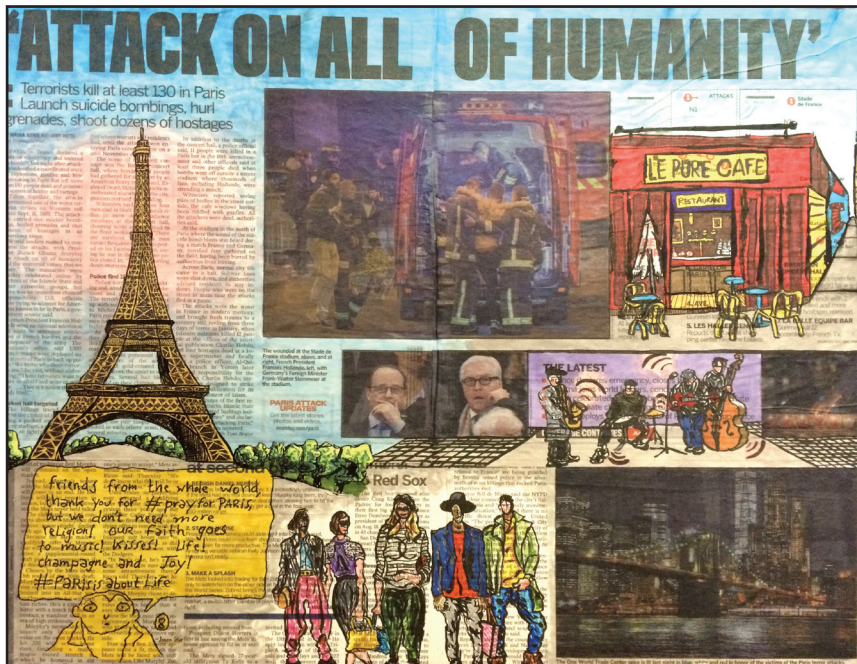
"It is really upsetting because these seniors are going to miss out on what would have been a life changing experience and something that they would always remember," said Espinal.

The loss of visiting Europe wasn't the only issue. Although the trip has been cancelled for over a week, students and their families remained in the dark in regards to whether or not they would be refunded. After placing thousands of dollars in deposits to hold his spot, senior, David Kaplan said, "Thousands of dollars were paid for a trip that no longer exists..we have not heard anything regarding the refunding of our money." After over a week of waiting, students and their families were emailed on December 2 by ACIS - the program that organizes educational overseas trips - and learned that they would be receiving refunds for their deposits.

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The Hills West community is not the only school concerned with senior trips. Jericho High school of Nassau County has also cancelled its overseas trips in response to the growing concerns of the Paris attacks.

The recent Paris attacks shocked the world and have left millions with just as many questions. ISIS has subjected the West to its terrorism - what will happen next, however, is an unsettling mystery.



Jason Greenberg's "Hot off the Press" project for Ms. Ievolo's AP Studio Art Class.

Italian, was planning on going to Italy and France. Despite the upset, Orlando is understanding. "I wouldn't have gone either way," said Orlando, "I was planning on going, but after what happened in Paris, there was no way I would go."

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MORE ON BACK!

WHO AND WHAT IS...

THE ROUNDUP

STORY OF THE WEEK

DECEMBER 4, 2015

ISIS?

Written By: Samantha Lange
Design By: Lexi Gevisenheit

On November 13th, a series of surprise terrorist attacks plagued the streets of Paris and the immediate areas surrounding the beloved city. On November 14th, the terrorist organization, ISIS, took responsibility for the awful acts committed the previous day. However, this was not the first the world has heard of ISIS.

The terrorist organization has been attacking the countries of Syria and Iraq ever since the Iraq War, trying to conquer enough land from the two countries to become a legitimate caliphate, or Islamic state. It is the only terrorist organization that has been as close as it currently is to successfully forming a caliphate.

Although CBS News argued in 2014 that ISIS originated in Camp Bucca, the largest U.S. prison in Iraq, sources since then have argued that the problem had roots in a much larger spectrum than simply one camp. According to *The Week*, ISIS began when the U.S. decided to clear the Iraqi government of all former Saddam Hussein supporters, following their invasion in 2003. These supporters, commonly referred to as Baathists due to their approval of Saddam's expansion during his reign, were left vulnerable and an-

jobs. As a result, Al Qaeda, the terrorist group guilty of the 9/11 attacks, thought Iraq would be the perfect place to set up a new branch of its organization: AQI, or Al Qaeda in Iraq.

AQI, the predecessor to ISIS, continued to gain power as the Iraq War with the United States continued. It was U.S. persecution of AQI that prompted the members of the group to often travel to Syria during those years, forming essential allies and sowing the seeds of radicalism in their wake. Their influence in Syria came to fruition when the Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad began killing his own people in response to a series of peaceful protests, inspiring fear, anger, mistrust, and, most importantly, vulnerability in Syria. Just as Al Qaeda did in Iraq years before, AQI took advantage of these sentiments, moving into Syria and forming the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, otherwise known as ISIS.

ISIS is merely one of the many names this jihadist group has acquired. Most notably, other titles include ISIL and Daesh. However, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, despite the different forms the name takes on, they all mean essentially the same thing. Daesh, perhaps the least frequently used title in the U.S., is the Arabic equivalent to the aforementioned names, directly translating to "Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham." Most French people prefer to use this name to describe ISIS, but it is limited primarily to

people that speak the Arabic language.

Up until then, the terrorist group currently labeled ISIS had been merely a branch of Al Qaeda. However, following its aggressive expansion into Syria, the group has adopted a new name and, with it, a completely separate identity from that of its creator's. Make no mistake; Al Qaeda is no ally of ISIS. In fact, it is becoming abundantly clear that no group, Islamic or otherwise, is a friend of ISIS.

According to an exclusive CNN interview of a former ISIS fighter, the "principal goal of the Islamic State that they tell their new members is to establish an Islamic state that will encompass the Arab world." After ISIS accomplishes that, they aim to "go to other countries," killing the "infidels" they deem fit. It is difficult to make allies when the ultimate goal is to conquer and, if their ideals are different, oppress or even kill the opposition. It is obvious that Western countries would never meet ISIS' standards, but it is, to say the least, extreme that not even other Sunni Muslims are safe from the terrorist organization's wrath.

Due to sectarian disputes, according to the United Nation's "Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict in Iraq," ISIS was the "primary actor" in 9,347 civilian deaths in Iraq. ISIS is notorious for unflinchingly killing fellow Muslims, Sunni and Shiite alike, as a result of their paranoia of spies, traitors, and general insurgencies.

