

THE ROUNDUP

BY AND FOR THE STUDENTS OF HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL WEST
VOLUME: 37 ISSUE: 3



Credit: Lilly Milman

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Señora Banks Overthrows Castros; Takes Power in Cuba

Andrew Baker & Joshua Wende

Credit: Michelle Zhang



The free world rejoiced last week when the Castros were overthrown and their regime was toppled by Hills West's own Señora Olga Maria Prieto Banks Militana. The uprising was sudden and swift, with a sleepy Hump Day morning erupting into widespread rebellion within minutes. It is now known that Banks had snuck into the country a week before, gaining the support of locals in each town she passed through with rousing speeches on liberty, equality, and security.

There was no response from the military, as Señora had won pledges of support from many of Cuba's highest ranking officers. Fidel and Raul fell quickly, and they fell hard. As the people celebrated, however, Banks

was solidifying her authority and building a structure for her rule. It is now clear that democracy will not come to Cuba yet, as Banks declared herself Divine Queen Olga Maria Prieto Banks Militana of Cuba two nights ago. Construction of her palace has already begun on the site of her childhood home.

Though she is now the Divine Queen of Cuba, Banks can still be seen in Hills West every day, continuing her job as a Spanish teacher. "Just because I have absolute power in the land of my birth does not mean that I will forsake my commitment to the school and its students. I need to keep spreading the duende and helping my students do great on the National Span-

ish Exam," Banks said on this topic. Señora will commute to the school from her palace every day for the rest of the year, getting a ride on the Royal Helicopter, which will park on the roof.

We also reached out to her daughter, Megan, a student at Fordham University in the Bronx. "I guess it's pretty cool," she said, "I'm the Crown Princess of Cuba now, you know? My mom knows what's up."

She seized absolute power in Cuba, but the world is still pretty sure that she'll be better than Castro was. The full extent of the repercussions from the past week's events has yet to be seen. Señora Banks: savior of Cuba, or Señora Banks: ruthless dictator? Only time will tell.

Insert Cheesy Word Search Title Here

VULCAN

GUCCI

MEXICO

OBESITY

HUMP DAY

HULU

PROM

HILLS

GREY

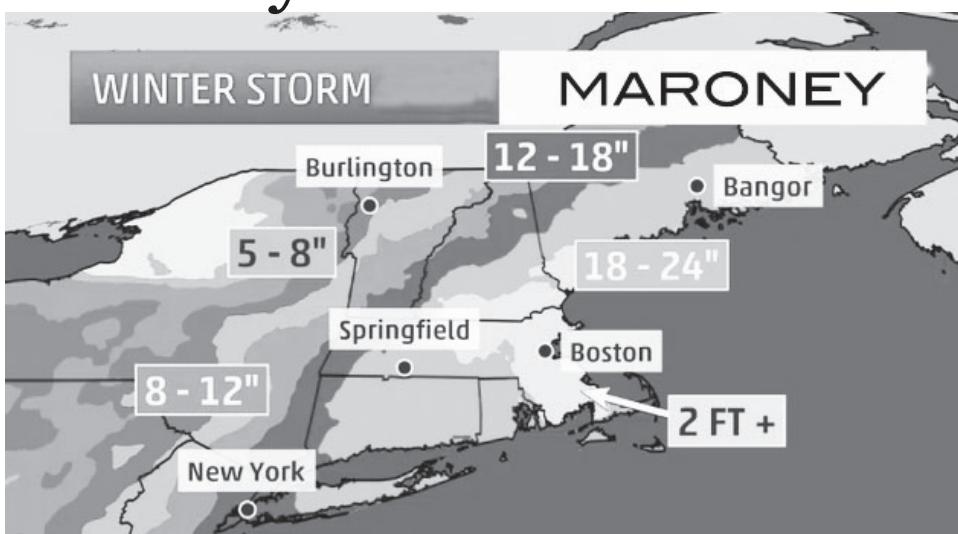
SPICY

VACATION

WEST

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Maroney Wins Local Contest!



Our very own Hills West meteorologist, Mr. Maroney, has been awarded a coveted honor usually reserved for Disney characters and ancient Greek mythological figures. Due to his perfect forecasting record for the past two years, a local meteorologist blog sponsored by Stony Brook University nominated Mr. Maroney for the "Prime Precipitation Prognosticator Award." Mr. Maroney won the honor, and accepted his title this past weekend at a full ballroom gala hosted at Stony Brook University.

"It was an incredible experience. It's so difficult to believe that's it true, but of course I predicted it years ago," admitted Mr. Maroney.

The greatest part of the honor is having a storm named after you, which will be happening next winter. Although winter storms are not officially named by the government, Mr. Maroney's impeccable record has prompted NOAA, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to ignore its usual protocols in order to honor Mr. Maroney's record.

The Weather Channel is currently in negotiations to start a hyper-local forecasting show similar to AOL's "Patch" service for local news, and it is rumored that Mr. Maroney will start the show right here at Hills West next winter. What does Mr. Maroney say about all of this? "Check out The Roundup website!"

Yak Attack

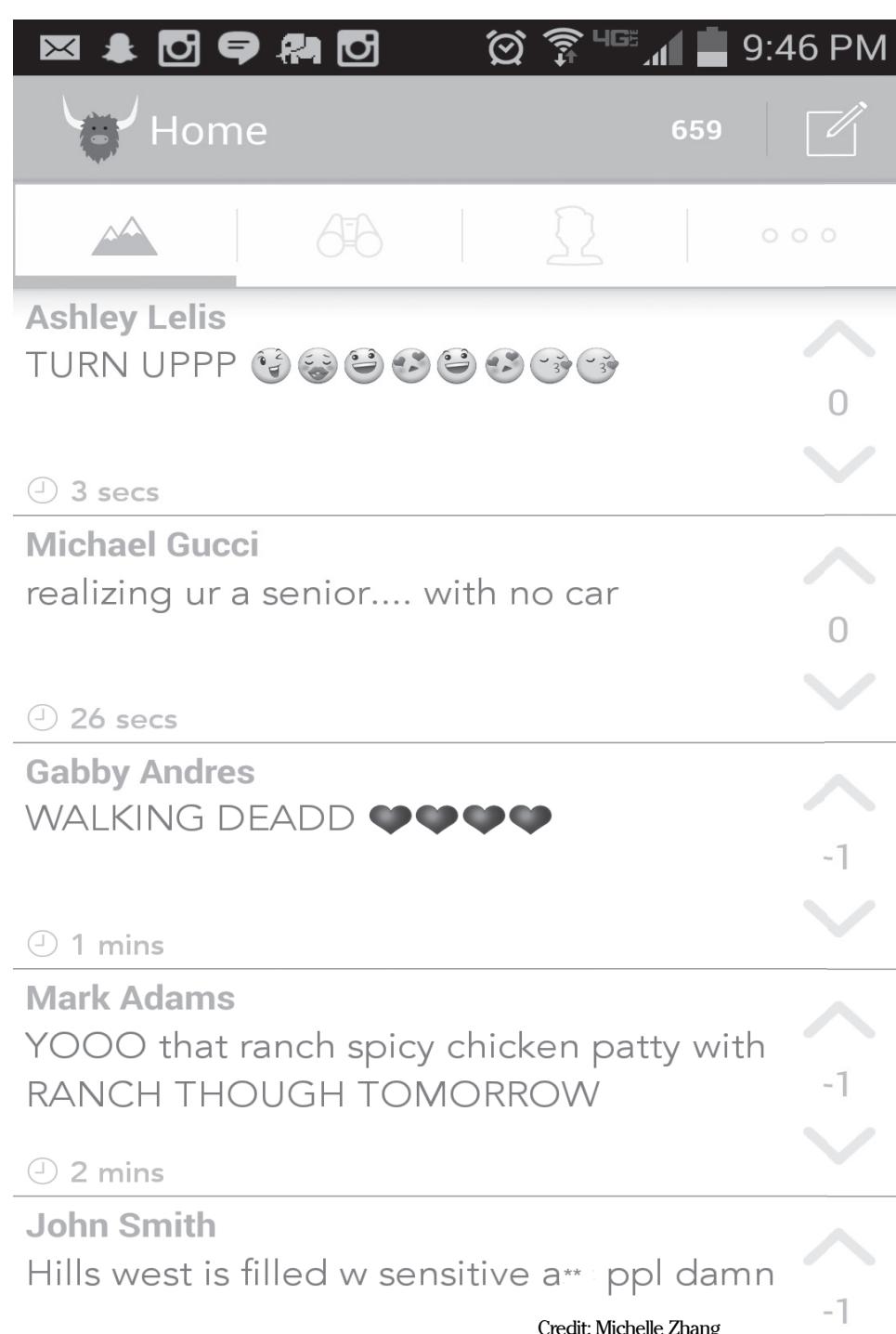
Alexandra Eichenstein

Great news, fellow yakkers. It was announced today that Buffalo Herders Incorporated, parent company of Yik Yak, that the popular social media app that allows users to anonymously post whatever they deem relevant and of interest to nearby users, will reveal the identity of each and every yak's originator.

This is great news for Hills West, considering the recent outpouring of love and affection that has flooded students' Yik Yak feeds on a daily basis. The app provides students an outlet with which users are allowed to creatively explore the inner workings of their minds without judgement, which, many can agree, is a far more effective way to channel creativity than useless activities such as community service or spending quality time with close friends or family members.

Users can "up" or "down" posts depending on their feelings towards each specific yak, and, after receiving five downs, a yak is promptly deleted from each user's feed forever- only to live on in the camera rolls of people who cared enough to screenshot the often-times amusing yak in anticipation of its deletion.

Finally the authors of Yaks such as "Hills west is filled w sensitive a** ppl damn," or "YOOO that spicy chicken patty



Credit: Michelle Zhang

After Prom At Skyzone!

After weeks of bickering on social media sites, the senior class no longer has to worry about their after-prom activities. The school administrators, after hearing multiple complaints and spotting some very hateful tweets concerning the lack of a grade-wide celebration following prom, have stepped up and are now holding the class of 2015's after-prom party at Sky Zone, the trampoline park in Deer Park.

The popular location for children's birthday parties will provide pizza and soda to the rowdy seniors, and Avoid-ball games will be held throughout the night. The celebration will take place immediately after the prom and will end promptly

at 11:30 p.m., so seniors do not have to worry about being too worn out the following morning.

Unfortunately, as a result of a conflict in scheduling, the seniors will have to share their special night celebrating with the Goldberg family, who rented out the location for a bat mitzvah.

In accordance with school rules, no dancing, touching, laughing or outside beverages are allowed during these school-friendly festivities. Students are required to attend, and permission slips are available in the main office.

When asked about the event, Mrs. Lippert replied "You're welcome, Class of 2015!"

Alexandra Eichenstein



Students of Hills West enjoying Skyzone.

with RANCH THOUGH TOMORROW" will be revealed to the interested general public.

Although this development will no doubt reduce some of the app's initial appeal, apparently such an idea was not a major concern of the app's creators. Yik Yak's Georgia-based founders Brooks Buffington and Tyler Droll, while addressing a crowd of prominent industry colleagues such as Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and Hills West Roundup website editor Miles Essner, said in a statement, "We are so proud that this app allows students to be kind to one another, and truly get to know each other in ways that we, or they, never even thought possible. Thank you all for being so responsible on this social media outlet in particular. Ride on, yakkers."

Evidently, with posts such as "savage is the only way in life," Yik Yak also seems to be fostering a new breed of poets and linguists alike. Robert Frost or Walt Whitman would truly be impressed by Yik Yak's encouragement of so many new slang terms of this variety. Thankfully, Hills West students have chosen to remain intelligent when deciding what to post and have absolutely no need to fear today's big reveal. Stay safe Hills West, and remember to yak responsibly.

2015 Teacher Superlatives

The Roundup Editors

The annual awarding of senior superlatives is one of the quintessential and most anticipated experiences of high school. Every student yearns for the immortal title that a senior superlative bestows. Since it is commonplace to recognize the best students in their own respective categories, it is only fair to give our hardworking teachers and administrators their own accolades. For that reason, Hills West has begun a new tradition of awarding teacher superlatives, and the results are in!



Best Hair
Mr. Ferretti



Most Likely to Give a Test on a Monday
Señora Palmada



Dyamic Duo
Mrs. Dittrich and
Mrs. DiPietro



Most Likely to "Break Bad"
Mr. Christian



Best Chuck
Mr. Bartolotta



Best Smile
Mr. Caligiuri



Class Clown
Dr. Catapano



Strongest Teacher
Mrs. Monez



Next Oprah
Mrs. Crowe



Most Conservative Teacher
Mrs. Benson

The Real Dr. Catapano

Joshua Wende

You all know Dr. Catapano, our beloved principal of two years. In that time, he has taken to leading our school with a passion seldom seen in the world of American public high school administration. His sudden rise to the spotlight, however, has left many wondering about his past, about where he came from. Some may know that he used to be a math teacher at East, but this is just the tip of the iceberg. It comes as a surprise to many that Dr. Catapano has lived more in his short time on this Earth than most could ever hope to in their entire lives.

The story started in Levittown, New York, on one balmy October afternoon in 1974. Michael Francisco Catapano was born in a local hospital with no complications. He was the only child that Martha and

Paco Catapano would ever have. As an only child, Michael was loved and cared for, but early on learned how to do things his own way. Still, his childhood was fairly average. He plodded his way through school, not disinterested but not inspired. Upon graduating high school, however, he made a decision that would permanently divert his path from the ordinary into the extraordi-

nary. Michael decided to take a gap year before college, and let himself be ruled by wanderlust.

Within a month, he joined up with a traveling circus in Southeast Asia. For three months, he dazzled audiences as "The Sequined Leopard," performing daring and death-defying feats of acrobatics. His skill quickly earned him great renown throughout the poverty-

stricken region (even today, if you ask nicely, he might show you his signature move, the incendiary whirlwind, in the school lobby). Michael learned to love the cheers from the crowd, the smiles on the faces of his fans. One day, however, there was a horrible accident involving baby powder and a water buffalo that left Michael with a badly stubbed toe. In such a dog eat

Mr. Ferretti Abandons English for Vulcan

Miles Essner



Mr. Ferretti posing with his new comrades and co-workers.

Credit: Michelle Zhang

On February 27, the science fiction world lost a true icon in Star Trek's Leonard Nimoy. Most recognized for his role as Spock on the revolutionary television series, Nimoy became one of the most prominent actors during the show's multiple decade reign, during which a cult following started to form among its many devoted fans.

"I am choosing to teach this way not at all to benefit my students, but to carry on the legacy of my fallen hero," said Ferretti. As soon as you walk into Mr. Ferretti's classroom, you know where his passion lies. His knowledge of all things Star Trek goes beyond casual conversation and mere role-playing. He lives it, he breathes it, and now he speaks it. As a result, it is highly recommended that you bring in a Vulcan to English translator to class, sold at your local Star Trek themed retail establishment, because reviewing for the AP will probably be much easier if you have a slight grasp on the language.

Not the kind of cult where they drink Kool-Aid and kill their family members, but the fun kind. These members live and breathe Star Trek, no matter how weird their teenage daughters and sons may think they are. Hills West's most devout Star Trek fan, Mr. Ferretti, is deeply saddened by the news of Nimoy's death and has found the perfect way to pay homage to him and his character on the show.

For the people unfamiliar with Star Trek, Spock is half human half Vulcan due to his parent's interspecies relationship. He is fluent in both English and Vulcan, but as many may have guessed, so is our very own Mr. Ferretti. Ferretti feels that the

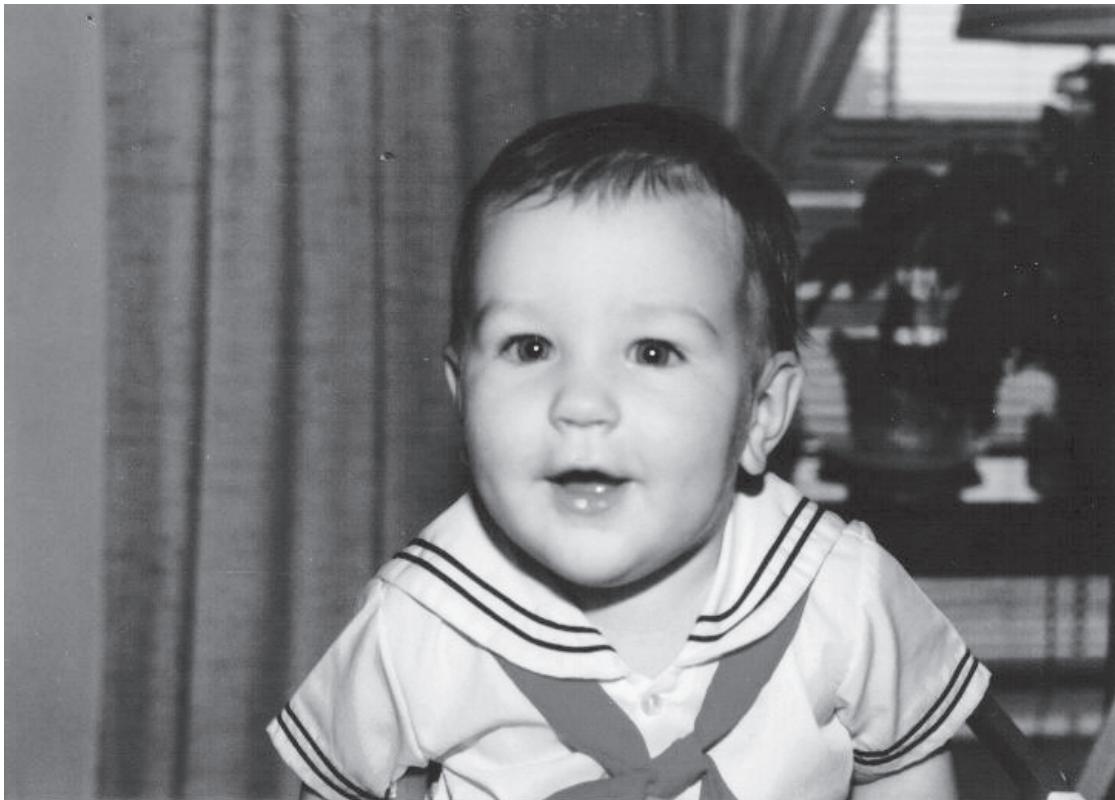
only respectable way to honor the fallen icon is to speak the language of his heritage, even to his students. So from now until the end of the year, Mr. Ferretti will be communicating to his students, family and faculty members solely in Vulcan.

"Regardless of what my students get on their final exam, I know I am doing this on behalf of all faithful Star Trek fans, and they would be proud of me for it."

dog industry, he was left behind and forgotten almost instantly. He remained upbeat, though, and decided that he wanted to see the Great Pyramids at Giza before his gap year ended. Michael traveled by bus and on foot from Bangkok towards Egypt, but somewhere in western China he ran out of money. He was seen walking off of a bus and into the Gobi Desert, but then he seemed to vanish. A search was conducted, but after three weeks he was presumed dead and the search was called off. Sixteen months later, an almost unrecognizable man stumbled out of the western edge of the Gobi, wearing nothing but a hula skirt and some scuba gear. How he survived is a mystery, as he has never spoken about what occurred during that time.

As he had been presumed dead, Michael's college acceptances had been nullified, but he had no intention of continuing his education anymore regardless. He had found true purpose in his life, and felt no need to get any degrees. He wanted to perform for people and travel the world.

Without so much as a water break, Michael paid for



passage from Morocco to Mexico by working as a deckhand on a cargo ship that was taking that same route. Upon arriving in Mexico, the land of his ancestors, he began to look for work in entertainment. He quickly found it, as a wrestler in a local Lucha Libre league. He took the name "El Leopardo de Lentejuelas," an homage to his acrobatic past. Armed with only sparkly tights, a billowing cape, and a flare for

the dramatic, he quickly became a fan favorite, and rose in the ranks. Soon, he was beloved in all of Mexico—companies paid him to be in commercials, children played with his action figures, and his catch phrases became popular bumper stickers. In between his fights, he got into betting on others, and soon became a regular member of the gambling circles in Guadalajara. Because of this experi-

ence in the world of gambling and his fame among fans of Mexican wrestling, Michael was recruited by an eccentric billionaire to be a part of an elite team of card counters designed to win millions in Las Vegas.

Flattered, he accepted, and as he learned how to count cards, he discovered that he had a deep passion for mathematics. Using his illegal skills, he made tens of millions of

Kim Jong Un Sues Former Multi-Million Dollar Company; Netflix Files for Bankruptcy.

Jaime Weinreb

Bid Adieu to binge-watching, Hills West. On March 31st, 2015 the beloved television and movie streaming service "Netflix" filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy.

After the controversial film The Interview, starring James Franco and Seth Rogen as a respective talk-show host and producer attempting to assassinate ruthless North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, Un, a former Netflix supporter, sued

Netflix for their entire net worth and stated in a press conference, "It really hurt my feelings that [Netflix] would do such a thing. America is stupid. Boo America."

Although the film was uploaded on Netflix's server on January 24th, Un just recently decided to take action against his self-proclaimed enemies. "It was quite a dilemma, but my image to the world is more important than binge-watching

Friends," admitted Kim.

After days in court with apprehension concerning nuclear attacks, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Un. "If I were the Supreme Court I would have like just like let Kim attack us. I mean, having no Netflix is like having no air and is like totally unchill," stated angry Long Island teenager Isabella Frauppachinhoe. Founder and CEO of Netflix, Reed Hastings officially made

a statement last night concerning company's termination: "To all of the avid Netflix watchers out there, including but not limited to, basic Starbucks-loving teenagers, avid documentary watchers and film aficionados, and television crackheads: I am extremely heartbroken to inform you all that Netflix will no longer be accessible to the world."

Following this statement, multiple riots broke out across the nation—incomparable to any riots ever witnessed in our country's history. Essentially, the "Netflix riots" made Ferguson, Missouri look like a picnic. At approximately 11:30 P.M. last night, in our very own neighborhood, a group of "rebellious" teenagers, seen wearing Uggs and Lulu Lemon leggings, marched through the streets of Dix Hills chanting "Give us Netflix, or give us death!"

This chaos sparked an idea for former home entertainment company, Blockbuster. "Now that Netflix, the company that caused our bankruptcy back in 2010, is no longer, we have decided to brush the dust off of our VHS tapes and get back to business" stated Block-

buster founder, David Cook. Starting this Thursday, April 2nd, Blockbuster will be having their first "Throwback Thursday Half-Off Movie Day" where shoppers can get fabulous deals on their favorite oldies but goodies including The Wizard of Oz, King Kong, Frankenstein and many more. For every five movies purchased, Blockbuster will be giving out your choice of a free Nintendo 64 or Easy Bake Oven.

"I think that this is the perfect opportunity for young teens to appreciate some cinematic masterpieces that they may not have had the opportunity to see otherwise. Thankfully, Netflix's ultimate demise will prevent these millennials from witnessing the television shows such as Breaking Bad or Gossip Girl—both of which are detrimental to social development," said psychologist Bill Lowney.

After just one week of Netflix being gone, Bill Lowney predicts that student's grades will rise an average of 10 points. Maybe the end of Netflix could mean good things for our generation, or maybe we could all just use Hulu instead.



Credit: Michelle Zhang



Credit: Lexi Weber

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hillswestroundup.com!

Pedals Over Pastries

Josalie Quiwa

First school lunches, then bake sales, now this. On Monday, March 2, 2015, Michelle Obama revealed her newest initiative during the School Nutrition Association's (SNA) 2015 Legislative Action Conference in Washington. Her plan, "Pedals over Pastries," included a nationwide mandate to replace traditional student desks with stationary bikes, allowing students to exercise while they learn.

Along with the nutritional standards implemented in the lunchroom, the placement of stationary bikes in the classroom is expected to further help combat childhood obesity throughout America.

The idea to replace desks with bikes was first tested at Ward Elementary in Winston-Salem, North Carolina five years ago. The elementary school found that students who had

spent the most time in the "Read and Ride" program achieved an 83% proficiency in reading, while those who spent the least time in the program had failing scores.

"Exercise is proven to boost student memory and attention," stated First Lady Michelle Obama. "Not only will exercise directly improve our children's capacity to learn, it will also promote a healthy lifestyle."

This new initiative has received both positive and negative responses from the Half Hollow Hills community. "I'm really looking forward to having stationary bikes as desks!" said no one ever.

It is too early to tell how this revolutionary change will affect our school district and community. For the latest updates regarding "Pedals over Pastries," visit: hillswestroundup.com.

Credit: Josalie Quiwa



Can you believe we were actually able to find a picture like this on Google? No Photoshop needed.

50 Shades of Grey to be the Next School Play

Evan Hochhauser

In recent times, the Hills West Theatre productions have been entirely more difficult and demanding of our student actors and actresses. We have seen powerful lead performances, such as the perfection of Daniel Rudin as Antonio Salieri and Jake Regensburg as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. We have seen this group of actors perform everything from dramas to tragedies to comedies. However, moving in this direction of challenging the actors with new experiences, Ms. Ievolo, the director of the Theatre West Dramas, has decided to try something new. The next production will be an adaptation of the hit novel and blockbuster movie, 50 Shades of Grey.

Now, the immediate concern is that the source is way too scandalous for a high school production, and this sentiment has been widespread. However, it is important to note that while there will be strong sexual implications throughout, this is a censored version. When asked about the reasoning behind such a controversial theatre production, Ms. Ievolo responded, "The purpose of our theatre productions are two-fold; we hope to put out quality productions while also seeking to develop and enhance the acting capabilities of our entire cast. We pushed the limits of our actors with Amadeus, and with our next production I really want to expand their skills in completely new directions."

While definitely controversial, a censored ver-



Credit: Lilly Milman



Daniel Rudin's headshots for the upcoming play.

sion of 50 Shades of Grey can certainly provide the actors with new challenges.

Even with this concept of expanding the horizons of the actors, many parents have fought back arguing that such powerful sexual implications have no place in a high school production. One such mother, the parent of a Hills West actress who will remain anonymous, said, "My daughter has been a part of every play in her high school experience, but I refuse to condone any performance with such sexual roots. I immediately took her out of the play when

I discovered her costumes would involve various lingerie outfits."

The actors have been more split on this matter. Sophomore actor Sam Nackman understands the purpose of the play but thinks it can be accomplished in a different manner. He said, "Look, I get that we need to be artistically challenged and all that, but this is really pushing the limits. I think it's just going to be completely uncomfortable for us to be going out on stage and saying things that no one in their right mind would want to hear coming from our mouths."

Prominent senior actress, Tahra Friedman agreed with this sentiment, "Yes, this is an ambitious play for all of the actors involved, but at the same time, I think high school is way too early for this sort of challenge. Those serious about acting as a career definitely have to learn to push their boundaries, but a high school production in which many of the actors and actresses are simply looking to enjoy themselves is not the place."

Daniel Rudin, however, strongly supports the play. When asked why he is so adamant about

playing Christian Grey, he said, "I have been acting my whole life from hills on stage to Broadway and I have never had the opportunity to perform in such a production. This will be an entirely new acting experience for me, and I think I can fit the role of Christian Grey more than perfectly."

There is no doubt that this production is the most controversial in Hills West history, but from all perspectives it appears they are moving forward with this idea.

MR. RUDIN WILL SEE YOU NOW



APRIL FOOLS' DAY 2015

FIFTYSHADESOFRUDIN.COM