



# The Little Hoya

Reporting "New Prep" news since 1920

## OP-ED: Afghanistan

Michael Henry '23

Staff Writer

The swift, chaotic, and in many ways, disheartening end to America's longest war ever caused an eruption in the media and shock, concern, as well as a feeling of loss among US citizens.

For almost twenty years, the United States and the Taliban have been fighting a war in Afghanistan in which 6,000 Americans have died; 100,000 Afghans have lost their lives; and over two trillion dollars were spent in the war effort. Even though the U.S. saved many Afghan lives in its occupation, it has always been presumed that the U.S. would eventually be unable to hold the Taliban back from retaking control.

Despite the U.S. intelligence analysts forecasting back in August of 2021 that it would take a couple weeks for the Taliban to retake Afghanistan's capital of Kabul, the retake process took only a few days- which is faster than the U.S. was able to capture Kabul in 2001. The swiftness of the Taliban's success was seen not only as a result of Taliban capability, but also the shortcomings of U.S. intelligence and strategy. As a result of the U.S.'s ignorance and miscalculations, thirteen U.S. troops were killed- which is unacceptable. This series of

events will unquestionably live on throughout history as a failure by the U.S. military and leadership involved.



Outside Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, as a military plane took off. As of Tuesday night (August 24, 2021), President Biden said that 12,000 people were evacuated from the capital during the previous 12 hours. (New York Times) Credit -Jim Huylebroek for The New York Times

Despite the heroism of those who took part in the airlift effort, between 100 and 250 Americans and tens of thousands of Afghans who were promised protection by the U.S. were left behind in Afghanistan to fend for themselves. Not only will the events which have taken place leave a lasting blemish on the military, but also on the Biden administration. Biden's lack of precision throughout these events has caused many to question his competence and ability as a leader.

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Although controversial and costly, the U.S. made a good decision in pulling out from the war on September 11, 2021. The situation had become increasingly unpredictable and risky, and the Biden administration properly calculated that these factors would only lead to more loss. Even though the U.S. has no control of Afghanistan at this point, the hope is that all of the efforts and money put toward Afghanistan during the war will help to build a safer future for Afghanistan.

## The Return of the South Room and a Timeline on the Hoya Cafe

Quinn Synder '24

Staff Writer

It was announced on October 14th that the South Room would open up at 50 percent capacity starting October 18th. This was great news for our student body who had to eat lunch in the fieldhouse all of last year. Additionally, the reintegration into the South Room is a major step in returning to a "normal" Prep campus- a "normal" that the sophomores and freshmen have not been able to experience. Most importantly, our administration could not have taken this step forward without the help of our kitchen staff.

We, Georgetown Prep students, often take the staff's work behind the scenes for granted. "At the dining services, we go by protocol to make sure that everything is safe and we are following health expectations and regulations," remarked Mr. Quintin "Q" Ross, head of dining services. According to Mr. Ross, everything in the Field House/South Room is in accordance with Montgomery County's COVID-19 protocols; everything from the way food is prepared to the limited

capacity of tables is to prevent any sort of outbreak or transmission of COVID-19. As Mr. Ross further explained, "We have a lot of space and a lot of air here that gives us more freedom and makes us feel a little better because we are not closed in." In other words, the large square footage and high ceilings of the Field House work to our advantage. Many schools didn't have a space like that to eat lunch last year.

While the South Room is opening back up, we may have to wait a little longer for the Hoya Cafe. The Cafe should open up again sometime in March or April. However, this date is largely uncertain. "Hopefully, the Cafe will open up before the new building does," joked Mr. Ross. To open up the Hoya Cafe, our community first and foremost needs to remain as Covid free as possible in the several months to come. "The cafe's not going anywhere," remarked Mr. Ross, and he is certainly right. As long as we do our part in preventing cases or infections, we will see the Hoya Cafe again.

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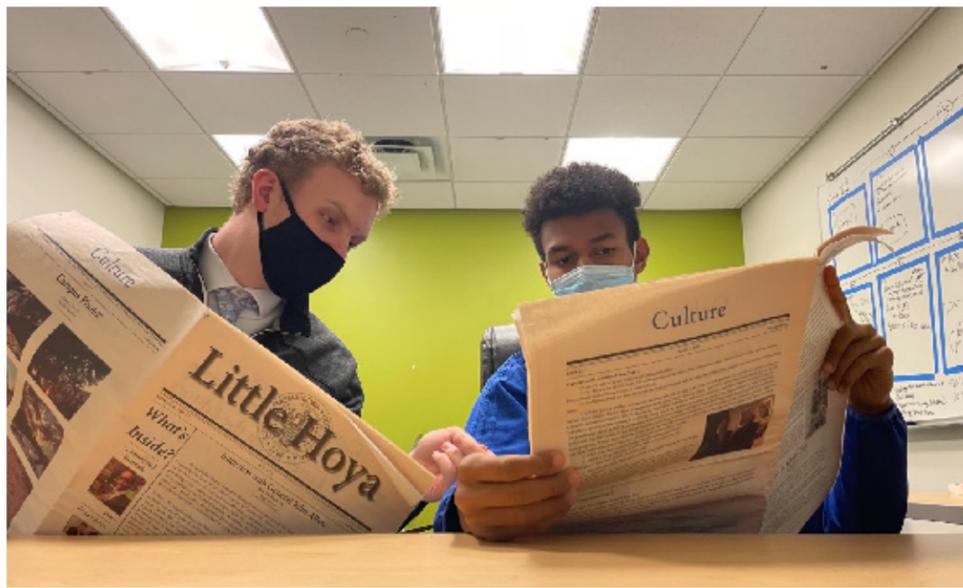
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# A Letter From the Editor-in-Chief



When Tomas Galan muscled out two Landon center backs, leaped 3 feet off the ground, and flicked the ball toward the middle of the box, I was not surprised when the ball bounced square to my left foot. This was it. The inevitable moment. In one moment, I could be the hero. In one moment, we would be one step closer to Georgetown Prep Soccer's first-ever IAC title. One moment could change everything. But it didn't.

I misjudged the bounce of the ball, swung frantically with my left foot, and watched our perfect season roll wide of the post. We lost the game 2-1.

On the bus ride back to Prep, I caught myself searching for excuses like 'my ankle was sprained,' or

'striker isn't my position.' I was afraid to fail.

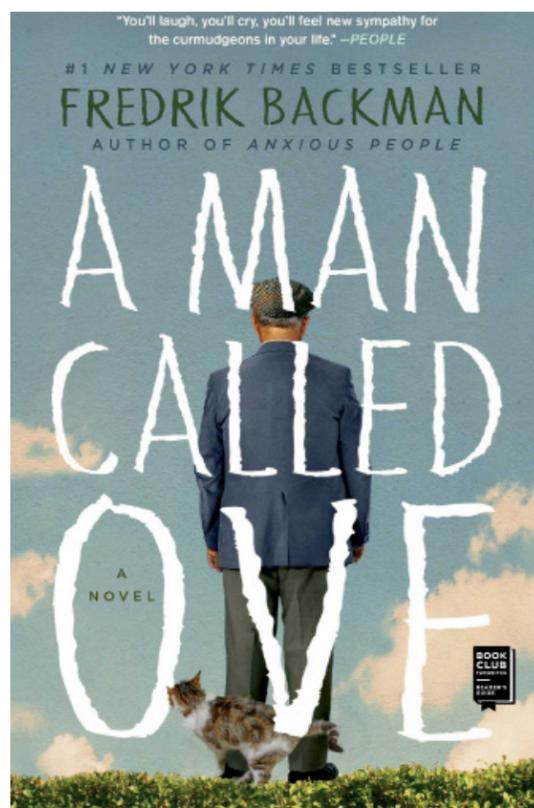
Coming up on the second quarter, with college applications, sports tryouts, and a fresh start with grades, don't be afraid to fail. Fighting my time constraints and responsibilities, I was even scared that I would not be able to put out this edition- but I trusted the process and those around me, and everything worked out.

So take risks, don't make excuses for yourself, and trust in your game, because everything will work out.

Again, sorry for the delay on our new edition, and enjoy our November issue of the Little Hoya!

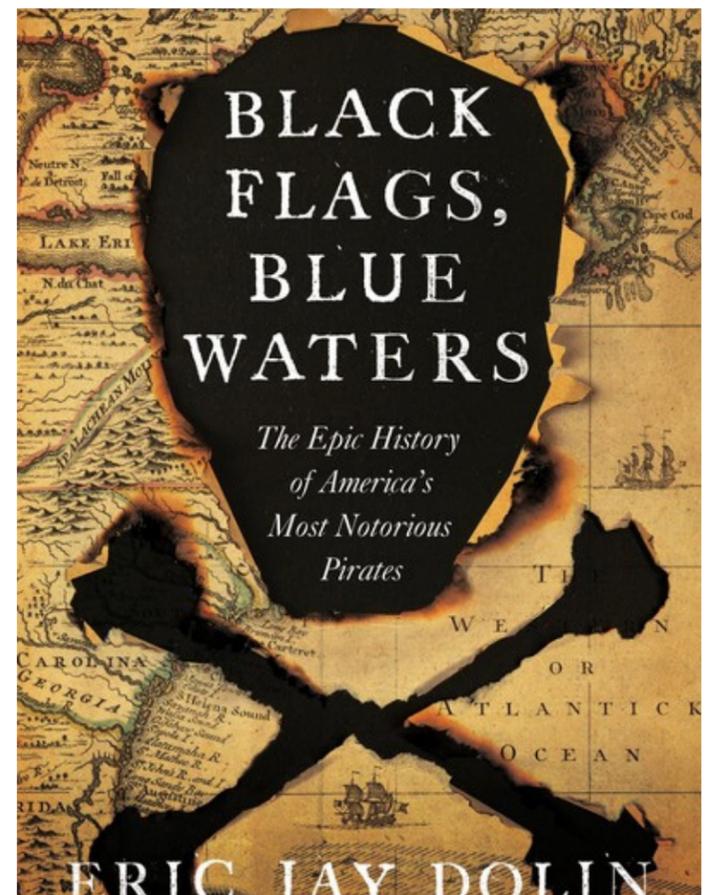
-Alejandro Rojas '22

## What's Prep Reading?



reviewed by Leah Hepburn

This book follows the life of a retired man called Ove. We learn about the good and bad times of his childhood, youth, marriage, and how each phase of life informs his current annoyances, namely, the neighbors-- new and old. Ove is cranky, but loveable, and if you drive a BMW, you are definitely out of his favor. This book is so much more than its summary. I laughed; I cried; I experienced dacrygelosis (fits of laughing and crying simultaneously). When it was over, I felt grief because I didn't want it to end. If you enjoy listening to your fiction, this audiobook is particularly good as it is read by J.K. Simmons who does a wonderful job capturing the tone of the title character. I highly recommend A Man Called Ove!



reviewed by James Szot '22

Black Flags, Blue waters is a novel about the exploits of pirates that were from or operated in the 13 colonies and what later became the United States. I read the book at the while on vacation at the Outer Banks and felt it was a rather appropriate book to read only few miles from where Blackbeard meet his demise. It is a good beach read and while I believe the author should have restructured the ordering of some chapters, it introduces the topic of pirates and the overall timeline well to someone who is just getting interested in the pirates.



If anyone is interesting in doing their own book report in the What's Prep Reading section, contact James Szot ([jszot@gprep.org](mailto:jszot@gprep.org))

# Prep Life

## What's Up With Howie?

*Daniel Xu '23*  
Section Editor

On November 6th, 2020, Mr. Harkins brought Howie Harkins, his nearly two-month-old English labrador retriever, to Boland Hall for the first time. Although a new member of Prep, Howie has quickly become popular in the community and has even gained over forty-five pounds! Named after former Nats infielder Howie Kendrick, Howie is gifted with great amiability, energy to explore, and wit for learning.

Howie maintains good relationships with every human he meets at Prep. Walking through the quad from

one building to another, Howie greets everyone with a big smile and wagging tail as Hoyas walk from one building to another. Howie is undeniably a sociable creature, and he so loves the company of other pooches on campus—especially Seaco Furnary. Howie has quickly become his “pesky and annoying little brother”



that chases Seaco to force him to play with him and steals Seaco's toys at times (Sorry Seaco!).

In the past year, young Howie has taken every opportunity to try out new foods. While zealous for dog treats, peanut butter, chicken, and other things dogs love, Howie surprisingly loves fruit, and vegetables as well. According to Mr. Harkins, “There's not much Howie won't eat!” Howie will eat everything. For example, during the cicada invasion, Howie joyfully snacked on cicadas.

In his short time at Prep, Howie has explored every corner of the campus thoroughly; he often basks in his favorite spot at the end of Boland hallway with its picturesque view of the golf course.

Though having not received formal training, Howie was able to quickly get the hang of things. Abby, Mr. Harkins's daughter, taught Howie how to sit, stay, and shake his paw in just a few days. Howie has also learned that Mrs. Hitt and Mrs. Felkoski will offer him treats and scratches if he visits them.



“Every time we walk into Boland, Howie always makes a beeline to their offices, even if it is the middle of the night”, said Harkins.

Next time you meet Howie on campus, say hi and give him a scratch on his neck.

*All photos credit Mr. Harkins.*



## An Inside Look at this Year's President and Vice President of the Yard

*Patrick Emerson '22 and Harrison Cerone '22*  
Section Editors

As Georgetown Prep undergoes yet another school year, the student body has chosen another valiant pair of candidates to represent the school. After an exhilarating—and successful—campaign, Daniel Pacious '22 and Tom Costello '22 have ascended to the positions of President and Vice President of the Yard to lead our students through the 2021-2022 academic year.

In its early stages, the Pacious-Costello ticket rooted its central mission during the election process. When I spoke with Daniel, he revealed his campaign's primary goals: “We've got a little something for everyone. For the underclassmen, it's our goal to get them re-ac-



climated to Prep culture; we are going to have busses to games, Google forms for arranging rides with upperclassmen, various tournaments, etc. For the upperclassmen, it is our goal to get the parking situation under control given the abnormalities caused by the construction situa-

tion, getting the student body back in the South Room, and potentially a student lounge.”

In October, Daniel and Tom echoed these words before the entire student body, cajoling a jam-packed Figge Theatre as to why they should hold office. As the two cracked jokes, gave shout-outs, and reaffirmed their mission statement, their dreams stated in words became reality.

After their victory in the polls, Daniel delivered his main message: “Our goal is to reunite and recreate the Prep that we experienced in our freshman and sophomore years, and to form an approachable student government, one that all students feel represented by.”

As heard from other Georgetown Prep students, the pair's ability to turn their stated mission into practice astonishes everyone the most. The two have seemingly done everything in their power to get student-produced ideas through the school administration in order to better advocate for the students' well-being.

For example, after a painful year of eating cold sandwiches in the field house, the student body longed for the return of the prized panini press. In his speech, Daniel emphatically declared: “If I am elected president, I will personally walk over to the South Room and rip the panini press out of the wall and put it in the field house for student use.” His message was clear, and the panini press magically

appeared in the field house on day one of the Pacious-Costello Administration. GP students and faculty alike can now say that their sandwiches have been far crispier recently due to our President's efforts.

**Students and faculty alike can now say that their sandwiches have been far crispier recently due to the leadership of Pacious-Costello.**

Aside from bringing back the panini press and other promised policies, Daniel and Tom have lived up to their goal of creating an approachable student government. The two have led in a very democratic way, drawing from the perspectives of all students. Wherever it may be, on or off campus, students are constantly proposing ideas to Daniel and Tom. If the ideas are somewhat plausible, Dan always notes them, follows up with his peers to give an update on the situation, and decides whether or not to put them into action.

So in just one month, the two have been off to an impactful start on the Pike. It will be intriguing to see what else Dan and Tom have in store for the students of Georgetown Prep this year, and we wish their Administration the best of luck.

# Sports & Culture

## The Spinning Dorito

Zeno Song '24  
Staff Writer

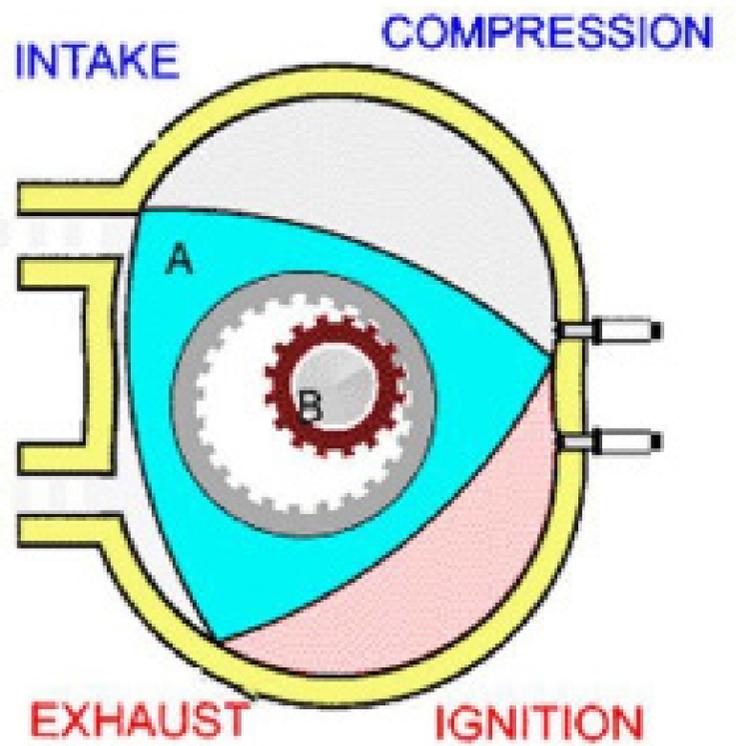
Our exploration of this unique engine starts with Felix Wankel: a talented German who dreamed of inventing a new pistonless engine. The era he lived in, however, wasn't ideal for such innovation because the German economy was devastated by World War I. At that time, money was as worthless as paper. Everything changed when Adolf Hitler seized power. His iron-fisted policies to boost the German economy and industry, led many young, ambitious Germans to join the infamous political group. Among this group was Felix Wankel. It was only then that Felix realized his dream. In 1929, Felix patented the rotary engine.

Jumping to the 50s, a motorcycle giant by the name of NSU (which would later merge with Audi) purchased the patent for the engine and began development on a road-legal production car called a "Spider" (convertible). The 489 cubic-centimeter rotary engine pushes 50 horsepower at 5500 rpm and is capable of a 7000-rpm redline. These specs are incredible even by today's standards.

Although a fundamental principle of the engine is the Otto Cycle (4 stroke cycle), everything revolves around the Reuleaux Triangle-shaped rotor, the stator housing, and the eccentric shaft. The rotor replaced the piston, the stator housing replaced the cylinder block, and the eccentric shaft replaced the crankshaft. As you can see in the picture, the working is the same as a piston engine:



1. The rotor rotates and creates a vacuum by suddenly leaving a large space; the air is being drawn in whilst fuel is injected.
2. The rotor rotates and compresses the air to the smallest possible volume; the spark plug sends a small current and ignites the highly compressed fuel.
3. Expanding gas pushes the rotor around, driving the eccentric shaft in the process, which is connected to the output shaft, transmission, driveshaft, diffs, and axles.
4. The rotor squeezes the air and pushes it out



the exhaust pipe.

The simple structure allows the rotary engine to achieve extremely high revs and redline astonishingly fast (an advantage for performance), but the structure also has a destructive and ultimately fatal shortcoming like the incomparable friction wear of the apex seals. In the next few issues, I will discuss the various manufacturers that experimented with the Wankel engine and their innovative models.

## Fall Sports with AJ: an Interview with Morales and West

AJ Thomas '22  
Staff Writer

Huge roars from the crowd. Shrieks from referees' whistles. Chatter between the two competing teams. This is what we missed last year during the pandemic year at Georgetown Prep. But last year is a thing of the past because Georgetown Prep sports are back! Our fellow Hoyas have been back in action starting with fall sports, hungry to make up for precious lost time and fill up the trophy case. I've had the great honor in talking to a couple of our fall sport athletes on getting back in the swing of things and fulfilling expectations for the season.



AJ: "What is the most exciting part of being back in action on the field?"

Joseph Morales: "The most exciting part of being able to be back on the field for Prep soccer has to be the emotions that you feel only in game. Since the loss of a year due to the pandemic, I forgot about what it truly means to play Prep soccer."

AJ: "What is your favorite part of playing that you missed?"

Joseph Morales: "Running to the corner flag after a goal, learning from our mistakes, or playing in front of your friends and family. The sense of community that Prep soccer brings is the best part of being back."

AJ: "What was the mindset going into this season?"

Isaiah West: "As a team, we all understood this year was going to be different, we knew we would face adversity at levels no other football team at Prep experienced. We came into the season very excited and optimistic."

AJ: "What implications has missing a year meant for the upperclassmen?"

Isaiah West: "For the seniors, missing a year really made us realize that anything can be taken from you in a matter of seconds. We take pride in ourselves and we work as if it was our last day. For the Juniors, missing their year made them unable to experience what Varsity Football is like, although they have another year after this, their progress as players were severely impacted from COVID."

As the fall season continues, please come out and support our fellow Prep brothers. They missed our love and support over the time of the pandemic and they'll need it as they play for IAC titles!



# Current Events

## Sullivan Reports the Globe: AUKUS Submarine Deal

*Jack Sullivan '24*

*Staff Writer*

Have you ever been completely betrayed or left out by your friends? Been the only person in your friend group not texted about going out on Friday? Have you ever made plans with someone, only to have them cancel at the last minute to go do something better with someone else? Try to imagine that feeling, to internalize it, but then replace whatever fun thing you and your pal were originally going to do with a trade deal worth \$66,000,000,000. Maybe then you'll have an inkling of the betrayal France is feeling right now.

On Wednesday, September 15, 2021, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States announced the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) trilateral military pact. Under the pact, the United States and the United Kingdom would share with Australia key knowledge concerning nuclear submarines. As Australia's old submarine fleet begins to reach the end of its life, the Australian government has made it a priority to bulk up its naval strength with the latest technology. Nuclear-powered submarines are important because they can remain underwater longer, carry heavier loads, and move faster than conventional submarines.

"But wait," some of you may be saying. "Didn't Australia just sign a huge sub deal with France in 2016? Weren't they supposed to build twelve advanced diesel-electric subs, creating hundreds of French and Australian jobs? I thought Scott Morrison, the Australia Prime Minister, gave a speech a couple of months ago about how great the deal was. Now you're telling me about this AUKUS stuff - what about the France deal?" Wow. You guys really know your stuff. Yes, Australia did sign a submarine

deal with France in 2016, and yes, Scott Morrison did in fact give a speech on June 16th this year expressing his continued commitment to the France deal.

This is part of the reason France feels so betrayed and left out by Australia. The French government was not told that Australia would be pulling out of the sub deal which both countries had been working on for over six years until less than three hours before the announcement went public. Better yet, we now know that the Australian government was already in talks with the U.S. and U.K. in June, which means there was some serious miscommunication when Scott Morrison told France the original deal was rock solid. French officials and Australian opposition politicians alike have called the action a stab in the back.

Take a second to imagine that you are in France. You and Australia have been working on a \$66 billion deal for the past six years which will create hundreds, if not thousands of good-paying French jobs. Additionally, you'll get a military base or two in the Pacific. Things are looking up for you! Suddenly, you find out with only a few hours notice that the whole deal is off - no \$66 billion for you, no hundreds of jobs, no military bases in the Pacific - all of it is gone.

Even more onerous to France, Australia is getting the U.S.'s coveted nuclear submarine intelligence. Before AUKUS, the U.S. had only shared this information with the U.K. Then, France had been able to rationalize it. I mean, come on, America and Britain are best friends - of course, the U.S. would share

their sub info with the U.K. But now, Australia, barely a Western power, gets the best submarine technology on the globe?

You probably get the picture at this point: France has been left out and humiliated on the global stage. In response, they recalled the French ambassadors to the U.S., U.K., and Australia. Now, this is a really big deal on the global stage. Usually, it only happens between two countries when they are at war with each other.

Now, the American government, for all its faults, does have vast experience on the modern global stage. They should have seen this reaction from France, right? Is the sub deal with Australia really worth being unfriended by France? The short answer is, to the US, yes. It comes down to another problem of friends. Australia is incredibly dependent on its geographical neighbor China, with 30.6% of all exports from and 18% of all imports to Australia coming from China and 65 billion dollars worth of foreign investment per year coming from China. As China continues to act more aggressively in areas such as the South China Sea and the South Pacific, the U.S. wants to make sure Australia remains in its circle of friends in the West, not China's. While the U.S.'s relationship with its oldest ally, France, is incredibly important, at the moment Australia simply holds more strategic priority.

So, what should we take from this? Will NATO, the West, and the current status quo of the world collapse? Probably not. However, there is a chance that something will permanently change in France's relationship with the three AUKUS nations, and that would definitely have far-reaching ramifications. What is the moral of the story? Don't betray your friends!

**Is the sub deal with Australia really worth being unfriended?**



## Prep Index

*Ryan Chan '23*

*Guest Writer*

Articles of Clothing Sold at the Prep Store Annually: 9000

Amazon Deliveries Per Week: 140

Number of Students taught by Mr. Barry: 3,360

Number of Hours Junior English Teachers Spend Grading Essays Annually: 533

Number of Scantrons Used by Ms. Bai Annually: 1000 Scantrons

Number of TVs on Campus: 71

496 students

124 Staff

93 Acres

1 Community.

## Club Ads

### GP Anglers Club

Prep's greatest club—the GP Anglers Club—is a great way to meet friends and learn a valuable and rewarding skill. As former members and now leaders of this club, our experience has been incredible. For example, we took a trip to the Chesapeake Bay to fish for Striped Bass—otherwise known as Rockfish. Though it was a beautiful day, the frigid temperatures and strong winds on the bay did not make for great fishing conditions. Even though we had a few promising bites, we sadly caught no fish. But then again, spending a day on the water with my fellow Hoyas was worth it in and of itself.

While having some experience does help, you do not need to be an experienced fisher to join. When we started fishing many

years ago, the hardest part was trying to cast. It can be a strenuous task, but a very rewarding one when you get your lure right where you want it. To assist with this learning curve, the club has offered some classroom sessions about how to tie knots, cast, or obtain a fishing license. Indeed, the knots that you learn can become handy in many situations. Last but not least, you do not need any materials for this club.

If you have any interest, sign up by emailing [pemerson@gprep.org](mailto:pemerson@gprep.org). All are welcome, and stay tuned because we will have trips coming very soon!

Tight lines!

Patrick Emerson, Club President  
Colin Yavinsky, Vice President

### Prep's Fall Play Preview: The 39 Steps

*Leah Hepburn*  
Faculty Moderator



*Prep Players strike a pose behind the shadow screen during rehearsal for The 39 Steps, running in the Figge Theater on November 12, 13, and 14. From left to right: Croix Harris, Tommy Long Cohen, Grace Morrow (Stone Ridge), Camila Mansilla (Stone Ridge), Noel Belardo, Ari Salim, Seamus Malloy, Alex Wan, Ben Napolitano, Cara Dudenhoeffer (Stone Ridge), Alex Roberts (Stone Ridge).*

On the last Monday of October, I come upon a group of young men and women who appear to be lounging easily on the carpeted steps of the Haas foyer, corralled together by their own desire to be among friends. These are the theater students, the kids who meet every day after school from 3:45 to 5:30 for rehearsals. They lean into one another, bantering back and forth about the day's events, completely comfortable in this group. When I interrupt them, I can tell a few of them think I am looking for a truant student or faculty member. I tell them I am here to write about the play for the newspaper, and senior Ben Napolitano, one of two assistant directors this year, steps into his role immediately. The other assistant director, Alex Roberts, a senior from Stone Ridge, also perks up, visibly eager to discuss this year's play: John Buchan's *The 39 Steps*, a classic Alfred Hitchcock "who dunnit?" murder mystery. This group is excited, their spirit palpable even to me, a visitor unknown to most of them.

Well versed in the play's subject matter and theater goings-on, Napolitano guides me into the Figge theater while delivering a concise summary of Hitchcock's text and describing some of the changes they will make in their adaptation.

Prominently displayed on center stage is a shadow screen. I see two sets of feet in dress shoes behind the screen belonging to Director Mr. Brandon Rothenberg and Mr. Colin Brown. They speak in animated tones as they start the projection behind the screen: a view of mountains rushing by through a train window. This is one of the few changes the crew will make that Napolitano describes for me.

When actors or props move behind the screen, the audience sees only their shadows. The projector may also enlarge moving images like the scene through the train window.

In Napolitano's words, "the shadow screen mixes 2D with 3D with imagination and audience."

For lack of a better term, this shadow screen is simply cool! I can sense Rothenberg and Brown's admiration for the technology employed too. They both

seem to revel in the creative confluence of projection and screen and actors.

In addition to the shadow screen, I glimpse props for the set, which all harken back to the historical backdrop of the play. Set in the 1930s, the protagonist of this classic thriller becomes embroiled in a spy plot.

"But," Napolitano adds. "The play has a comedic lilt, which we plan to develop with additional physical comedy and an expansion of the cast."

The original text, written for four actors, will be performed with up to 13 additional cast members.

Roberts sits on the floor of the aisle between the theater seats, talking to me about her role as Assistant Director, focusing on tech. Even as she laughs along with the other crew members, it is clear that she takes her role seriously. In her words, the tech crew is "the puppeteers of the show, making everything go smoothly. When the actors reach for a glass, we make sure that glass is there."

The esprit de corps of this group of young people cannot be overstated.

"This is the fun zone," they tell me as they burst into laughter. I may be on the outside of this inside joke, but I'm having fun anyway.

"What's the 'fun zone'?" I ask, not sure whether I really want to know. Stone Ridge student Cara Dudenhoeffer and Prep junior Seamus Malloy are both at a loss for words, but they then reach a consensus that the fun zone is more a state of mind; it's the theater equivalent of the Danish word *hygge*, describing a cozy, pleasant spirit of conviviality.

As I gather my things to exit the theater, I see the group circle up on stage at the behest of Rothenberg, preparing to run through lines and blocking. I feel compelled to stay, to be part of the spirit behind the theater curtains, and I look forward to seeing the final product soon. The play runs November 12, 13, and 14. Look for more information in the GP Daily Announcements. See you when the curtains part!



## New Classes

### A Song of Clay and Fire--The Return of Ceramics Class

*Daniel Xu '23*

*Section Editor*

"It is fun to see everyone's expression when the kiln opens with newly fired pieces," Ms. Russell describes her memorable experience in ceramics class. "It's like opening a present."

Prep's ceramics program is coming back strong as Prep gradually regains normalcy this year. Through the medium of clay, the ceramics class provides students with participatory opportunities to learn basic ceramics techniques, such as pinching, glazing, surfacing, firing, etc. Besides having the opportunity to practice art methods that have been around for more than twenty-five thousand years, Ms. Rus-

sell adds, "the class allows for exploration and gives students a space from all of the intellectualization that most of them spend their day engaged in."

Ms. Russell also describes a recent ceramics class project on seed pods: "Students looked at seed pods, drew them from observation, then created their own seed form based on what they observed and added their own elements. The focus was on the technique of pinch forms and included texture, as well as the use of high fire glazes."

### AP Human Geogrpahy

*Sam Schulman '22*

*Staff Writer*

AP Human Geography's introduction to the Prep curriculum has already garnered great interest. An initial class size of 12 has ballooned to 15 as eager students have migrated into the class.

Now, this inaugural class of 15 is ready to embark on a journey through the complex migrations of populations and human interactions with the environment. All

guided, of course, by the venerable Mr. Rothenberg. Mr. Rothenberg himself is super excited for the class and its future impact: "I'm hopeful that the inaugural AP Human Geography students will become

more globally-minded citizens. This course, if taken earnestly, is a first step toward understanding what makes us distinct and what makes us universally human."

"This class has taught me to think about topics and issues in a whole different way."

- Matthew O'Connor, '22

Talk about a ringing endorsement for the burgeoning class. Senior Matthew O'Connor agrees: "This class has taught me to think about topics and issues in a whole different way." Clearly, AP

Human Geography, an environmental, geographical, anthropological hybrid that combines the best of all worlds, is here to stay.

### A New Arrival: Mr. Matthew Sudnik

*Javier Correa '23*

*Staff Writer*

What do opera, philosophy, and Pittsburgh have in common? Prep's new theology teacher Mr. Sudnik, of course!

When I first approached Mr. Sudnik, I found him hard at work, perusing a chapter from *An Ethical Life* in his MacKavanagh basement classroom. Mr. Sudnik had arranged the desks to face each other to facilitate his Harkness discussions. As one of his students, Isaiah Rose '23, describes him, "Mr. Sudnik is a funny, intelligent, and engaging teacher with boundless energy." He invited me to sit and I began the interview. I started with a softball question about where he grew up. Indicating Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as his hometown, he mentioned the connection between where he grew up and his favorite book, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*. Mr. Sudnik praises its author Michael Chabon for his "fun and entertaining reads." He has read nearly all of his books!

Using the book as a segue, I asked Mr. Sudnik what he enjoyed doing when not reading Chabon's latest novel. Eyes wide, he leaned forward and told me about his love for opera. His passion appeared genuine. He expressed his excitement for the next season of the Washington National Opera and mentioned he would love to take a group of students if Fr. Van Dyke allowed him. Next, Mr. Sudnik revealed his love

for travel. He counted all the countries he had visited on his fingers, but he needed another hand or two to complete the tally. His travels extend from the Great Pyramids of Giza to the Taj Mahal (See photo). Mr. Sudnik explained how his previous experience as a history teacher allowed him to see the cultures, people, and cities through another lens.

Intrigued by his response, I asked about the different courses he had taught. He sat back and recounted his job experiences. "I first taught at Pittsburgh Central Catholic, leading various history classes like Human Geography, World History, and Global Civilization. Before coming to Prep, I worked at the Madeira School in Virginia, where I taught those same classes alongside a philosophy elective."

We've all been affected by the pandemic, and Mr. Sudnik was not immune. For him, it was more of an opportunity to explore his true calling. After graduating from Harvard Divinity School, focusing on ethics and sociology, he developed himself into a history teacher through lectures, travel, and reading. However, during quarantine, he reflected and found that, while he loved history, he felt more satisfied working with students and their moral and spiritual development. He appeared content with his

### Arts Exploration Featuring Ms. B. White

*Daniel Xu '23*

*Section Editor*

Want to explore sculpture, ceramics, painting, drawing, printmaking, and digital media design? Try Ms. White's brand new Arts Exploration course!

"The class feels like a real artist's studio," Ms. White explains. She reflects, "getting to teach a class that combines a bunch of different mediums I love and contemporary art history is really enjoyable." Students enrolled in the Arts Exploration class learn about contemporary art history and independently work through various mediums, including 2D, 3D, and digital media. The class motivates students to

master and discover new and familiar methods and provides foundations for AP art portfolios.

Like Ceramics, the Arts Exploration class is open to sophomores through seniors. It is the ideal choice for students interested in exploring a variety of art forms beyond the Freshman art program and those who intend to prepare for an AP portfolio. Recently, the class has been focusing on artwork inspired by the Pop Art movement. "Guys created a diverse array of projects using a variety of materials," says Ms. White, "we have also made some artist presentations and are starting to work on self-portraits."



*Mr. Sudnik at the Taj Mahal in 2016.*

*Photo Credit Mr. Sudnik*

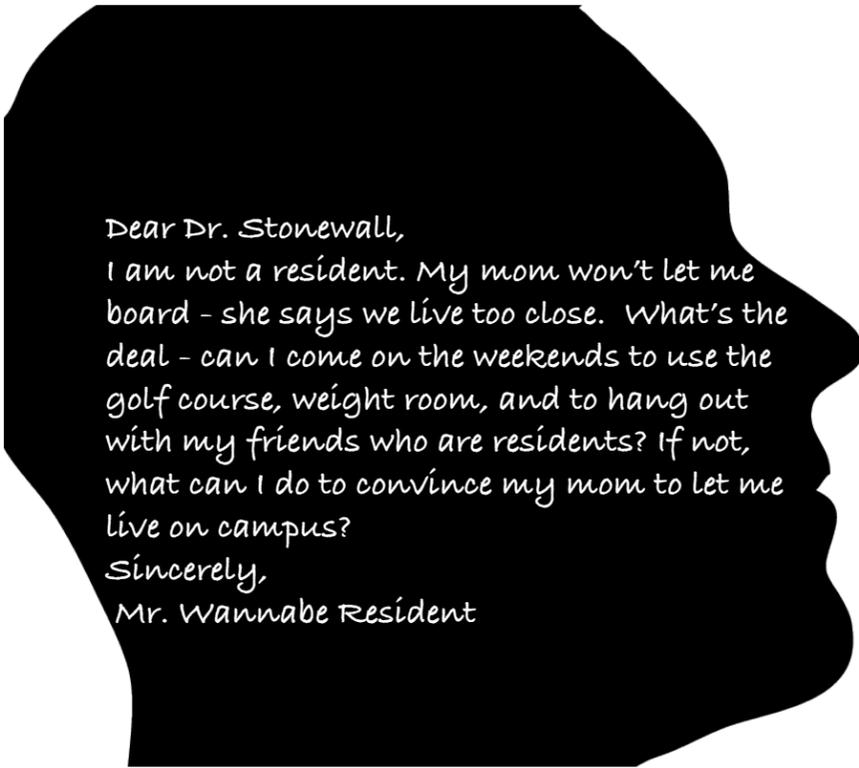
choice.

I finally delved into Mr. Sudnik's motivations for coming to Prep. When he visited, Mr. Sudnik connected much of Prep to his own high school experience in Pittsburgh, and he felt like he belonged here. The first thing he noticed about Prep was how much everyone loves the school: "the students and teachers alike are filled with school spirit." Not only that, but he also found it remarkable how much the students care about service, retreats, and each other, all staples of Ignatian Spirituality.

If you find Mr. Sudnik walking across the quad with his green backpack, make sure to greet him!

Thank you so much for your time, Mr. Sudnik, and welcome to Prep!

# Fun Around School



Dear Dr. Stonewall,  
 I am not a resident. My mom won't let me board - she says we live too close. What's the deal - can I come on the weekends to use the golf course, weight room, and to hang out with my friends who are residents? If not, what can I do to convince my mom to let me live on campus?  
 Sincerely,  
 Mr. Wannabe Resident

## Dear Dr. Stonewall

### Dear Mr. Wannabe Resident:

Straight up - convincing your mom is your problem, no way, no how can a mere doctor make that happen. If you really think boarding is the way to go, you need to call in the big guns, or the big belt buckle to help.

What I, as a Doctor of Advice (a degree which only takes 7 graduate years to complete), can actually do is offer plenty of tips on how to make the most of your GP weekend ...

#### Here's the deal:

There is usually some game/match/meet going on- those are always listed in the GP Daily. So if there is a game or match, definitely come out and cheer on your fellow hoyas.

If nothing is going on already, here's the scoop on our campus amenities:

#### Hit the links!

As long as the flags are up on Prep's golf course, you are welcome to use it. But remember, be respectful of the greens, follow the proper etiquette. If you don't know what golf etiquette is, ask someone who knows what they are doing, i.e. Mr. Barry, Mr. Tangwe or Mr. Paro.

#### Serve it, smash it on the tennis courts!

There are almost always a few courts reserved for Prep students. This year's

sophomore residents have been putting the tennis courts to good use, so definitely join in!

#### Bulk up (or slim down) in the weight room!

If you are not part of a team, check with our in-house muscle guru, Coach Eamon "The Man" O'Liddy.

#### Chill with resident friends on the weekends!

Ask your resident pal to alert the DA that you will be hanging with him in the dorm. You may ask, How do I get residents cleared to come out with me? The residents love getting the heck out of dodge, they know what they need to do, so Snap away and invite your residents friends to hang at your place with a home cooked meal.

If your weekends are still a bit low key, try studying and organizing your room. You may win the coveted favorite child trophy if you squeeze that in! No shame in doing a load of laundry too. Clean socks for all!

Hoya Saxa!

Dr. Stonewall

#### Editor's note:

This was written by Dr. Stonewall prior to the announcement that the golf course is closed indefinitely. Remember to be respectful of school property.

Interested in sending your question to Dr. Stonewall? Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code to open a link to our totally anonymous Google Form. Yes, it actually really truly is anonymous.



## A Matching Game: Prep's Hidden Talents Which talent belongs to which faculty/staff member?

Need help perfecting a golf swing or making the perfect pizza crust? Match Prep faculty or staff member with their talents, and send your answers to arojas@gprep.org for a prize! (Answers will be published in the next issue!)

Swinging a 7-iron	Ms. Thigpen
Smoking a brisket	Mr. Bowen
Birding (not to be confused with bird-watching, a lower form of birding)	Mr. Tirado
Making pizza dough	Mr. Tangwe
Serving a Ping Pong ball	Ms. Hepburn
How to win a pie bake-off	Mr. Owen
Making a mean BBQ sauce	Mr. Barry
Predicting college football stats	Ms. Allen
Animal Crossing interior design	Ms. Scimeca
Sweeping in the sport of curling	Mr. Williams
Water skiing across the Severn River	Mr. Wisecarver
Getting cardio in while lip synching "Don't Stop Believin'"	Ms. Gehringer
Reading the Bible in Greek	Mr. C. Russell
Accordion lessons	Mr. Poole

This issue of The Little Hoya was made possible by the hard work of our editorial team and staff writers.

Here at The Little Hoya, we strive for truth and integrity. Any mistakes are unintentional. Reach out with questions or concerns by email to the newspaper faculty moderator,

Ms. Leah Hepburn:  
 LHepburn@gprep.org

Thanks for reading.

Hoya Saxa!