

The R.E.A.L. Deal



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NEW HOPE ACADEMY'S THE R.E.A.L. DEAL | ISSUE #1 | WWW.NEWHOPE.ACADEMY

THURSDAY 10.31.2019

BROADWAY BOUND
An NHA student reflects on a youth spent traveling to the Big Apple to see Broadway shows.

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ART IS EVERYWHERE



And thriving at New Hope Academy
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IT: Chapter 2 Movie Review

"IT has returned, and he's more powerful and malicious than ever!"



Entertainment 6

THE 2019 NHA FALL PICNIC

NHA started the year strong off with great food, great music and a great time!

By JOE MARKLEY ('20)

OCTOBER 7TH, 2019 -

New Hope Academy's fall picnic this year was an overwhelming success.

The annual fall picnic was held at Core Creek Park on Friday, October 4th. The weather was perfect, staying sunny and sub-seventy all day. Steve Gana and Bob Woerner operated the grill, cooking a ton of hamburgers, hot dogs, and barbeque chicken. A lot of food was brought to the picnic. Among the different items were deviled eggs, salads, and a variety of chips and dips. There were also delicious desserts, like baked smores bars, peanut butter brownies, and cookies.

There were many activities at the picnic. Some people played frisbee, basketball, or soccer. A giant chess set was procured by chess teacher Bela Kis. Yoga teacher Marianne Lane-Noreika held a yoga session by the lake. 3d Animation teacher Andrew Hay hosted games of "Werewolf" and "Dungeons and Dragons." Halfway through the day,



a massive group of people broke off to play football. Music teacher Chris Cinalli made sure that there was music playing all day.

The theater department held a 50/50 raffle that benefitted the upcoming



fall drama, "Peter and the Starcatcher." Prizes included a gift card to Wawa, which was won by Quinn Toy-Foster, and half of the money raised by the raffle, which was won by Andrew Simon. The picnic was a lot of fun, with friends, games and great food.

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NIGHTMARE ON MAIN STREET

By KATHY ROSSO GANA

There was nothing that she dreaded more
Nothing that made her head so sore

This was not how she had pictured it
Hours going by with fit after fit

Homework time always made her ill
Every night fighting against her will

One day she desperately listened and read
She discovered a way to end the dread

Light music went on and her smile appeared
A candle was lit and her fear disappeared

It was still hard work but she had learned
Consequences were given and privileges earned

Little by little some good grades came along
Some nights were tough but she stayed strong

Now with an attitude of laughter and cheers
She sits with her son and ...there's no more tears!!



Kathy Rosso-Gana, founder and president of Motivational Educational Training Company, Inc. and New Hope Academy

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PETER & THE STARCATCHER

By ELISABETH ROGERS ('20)

Fall is coming and going at NHA. As the leaves keep changing, and the weather gets cooler, students a part of the theatre group are preparing for the upcoming fall play of the 2019/2020 school season! This year, the theatre group is proud to present "Peter and the Starcatcher" to kick off the theatre season.

"Peter and the Starcatcher" tells the story of Boy, a nameless orphan who is being sold into slavery, and Molly, an aristocratic girl who is traveling to an island to meet with her father. What unfolds from their meeting is a thrilling adventure filled with magic, music, and a fair share of clever word play. With a cast of colorful characters that will leave you happily laughing, it's sure to make a lasting impression.

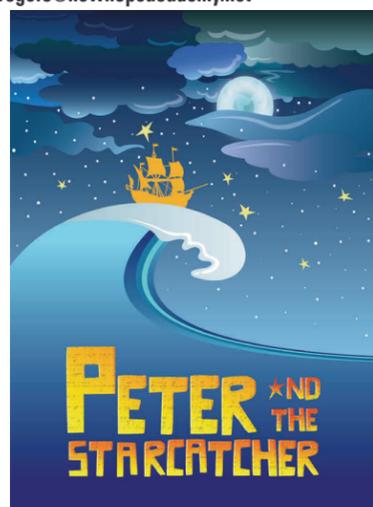
"As people watch the show, I hope that the audience sees that the teenagers performing the show are a group of students wise beyond their years," said Jenna Parrilla, the head of the NHA Theatre Department. "The process of putting on a show is as

tough as it is rewarding. While that toughness is to be expected, it's also important to have open arms and to make this a welcoming family no matter how long anyone has done theatre," she explained to us, referring to the process of rehearsal through her eyes. "That's the beauty of being a part of a NHA show."

If you wish to help out the theatre department, not just with this show, but shows in the future, there are plenty of fundraisers to help with the productions. What just passed was the 50/50 raffle at the fall picnic, where tickets were sold to be entered into a raffle. Half the proceeds went to the theatre department, and the other half went to a lucky student. There is also the valentine serenades in February. Want someone to know you love them, but you want to do it in the best way possible? Why not pay a small fee to get a serenade delivered to that special someone! This only happens around Valentine's Day, however, so stay tuned. The best way to support the department as of now? Just coming to the

shows, and being a part of our wonderful audience. Make sure you save the dates November 15th and 16th so you can come, join us, and watch the story of "Peter and the Starcatcher" unfold.

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Science Olympiad: A Club for your Brain

There are many different clubs and after-school activities for students to join and get involved with at NHA.

By **BRYAN ROY ('20)**

Have you ever wanted to build a gravity vehicle? Or decode a hidden message? Well, I have the club for you! Science Olympiad is an academic competition, which has students from all over the region. The competition will take place in Kutztown University on March 11, 2020. Until then, there are many different topics and activities to choose from, so don't worry if you're uncertain. One of the most popular ones is the Gravity Vehicle, which is a model car or other vehicle, that you have to build, and see if it can use gravity as a means of propulsion. Another one that has garnered a lot of interest is the Boomilever, which is a wooden structure attached to a wall, that can hold weight. A lever, which is one of the most useful tools we use. And, if you're not into building, have no fear! There are a plethora of other topics and activities from which to choose from. One of my personal favorites is

Astronomy, which is the study of the Universe, and of celestial bodies, which I think is really cool.

Another topic of study which I find fascinating are Fossils, in which you have to catalogue, and describe. And, if that's not your cup of tea, there's code busters, an activity where you have to crack difficult codes, and decipher hidden messages. In Science Olympiad, there are so many different choices to choose from, and each one challenges you to use problem solving and memorization skills to complete difficult, but rewarding tasks.

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Club Spotlight: Chess

More than a game, more than a club, Chess teaches you about life.

By **JOE MARKLEY ('20)**

I have been going to New Hope Academy for five years now, and for four of those I have been part of the chess team here. Regardless of your own belief in your ability to play, I believe it beneficial to at least play a little chess while you are going to school here. Chess, as a mental sport, is a game that anyone can get better at, provided that they put in work in the right areas.

There are many reasons why playing chess is beneficial as well, beyond just the enjoyment the playing itself provides. To begin with, regular chess playing has been shown to improve cognitive thinking ability and aid those with memory loss. Joining the team at you campus is a great opportunity to meet new people, not just from the school itself but also from other schools, as both campuses teams participate in a chess league.

In Doylestown, chess is run by Ed McKenney. Ed has worked here for thirteen years teaching chess and German. When asked why he thinks chess is important, Ed responded with "(Chess) teaches students forward thinking, the value of hard work and how to deal with success and failure." I also asked Ed about what qualities are important to have for a chess player. Most of the answers are what you would expect, patience and what not, but there was one to keep in mind, which is the ability to become emotionally detached from the position.

In Yardley, chess is run by Bela Kis. Dan Kitchen talked to Bela and found out that he has worked at New Hope Academy for the last 13 years and has formed many teams. This year, after he had lost some of his best players, four new champions and one possible champ have arrived. They are Langhston Richardson, Isaiah Irving, Thomas O'Neal, Brian Roy, and possibly Jaymin Serdikoff. When asked how he feels about chess, he responded, "In a world dominated by artificial intelligence, it teaches you a life lesson to think on your own, to make a plan, to make your own decisions, and to adapt with your consequences. Chess is an educational tool that sets you for life." Bela also said that what makes a good chess player is someone "who has the knowledge and integrity to do what's right while being strong minded and unwavering to their end goal."

Some of my greatest friends were, or are, a part of the Doylestown chess team. The experience of playing, and sometimes winning, chess matches has helped me with sportsmanship a great amount. I have also learned better studying strategies, the importance of practice, and, of course, to never give up. Another indescribably important lesson I learned from chess is the danger of rushing. In order of rating, the Doylestown Chess Team consists of myself, Ronit Saadon, Caid Patterson, Finnly Hopkins and Max Macmillan. I highly encourage anyone interested to come to at least one club meeting, held at the Doylestown campus every Tuesday after school from 3-5pm.

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Meditation: tree

By **MAXWELL MACMILLAN ('23)**

A tree's purpose is simply to exist. During which it endures harsh winter winds and the stripping of its leaves on a yearly basis. However, during these hardships the tree is aware of the beautiful sight it will become in the coming spring. Just as the tree endures the winter no matter how long it takes in pursuit of the beauty and joy it will receive, one should seek to push through their hardships keeping in mind the inevitable spring that will come and restore them just as it does for the trees.



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Short Story Contest

SUBMITTED BY THE NHA ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Attention all writers! It's time for New Hope Academy's Short Story Contest!

Starting Thursday, October 31, NHA students can submit a short story to their English teacher. Students in grades 6-9 must submit a story that is 2-3 pages in length, while students in grades 10-12 must submit a story that is 3-4 pages in length.

The English department will read and judge the stories on factors such as an interesting plot, logical organization, and character development. They will also be looking at grammar and punctuation. The subject matter of the story can be about almost anything - as long as it's school appropriate!

All entries must be submitted digitally by Thursday, November 21, 2019. Prizes will be awarded to two writers from each grade category from each campus. Winners will be announced at the Thanksgiving feast on Tuesday, November 26, 2019.

Please see your English teacher for help. This is a great opportunity to be creative, have fun, and maybe even win a prize!

NHA ART: FEATURED

Each campus showcases an art piece that captivates.

ART BY SARA SEIDELL ('22)



By MAXWELL MACMILLAN ('20)

I chose to show Sara's painting in the newspaper because I felt that the refreshing nature of the pink and blue colors as well as the quality of the tree itself should be showcased to those who can appreciate it. I'm particularly fond of the more impressionistic approach to the leaves, which leaves the painting to dwell in your imagination in more ways than any realistic depiction could. At a time when the leaves are falling I think this painting serves as a refreshing reminder of better spring days.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY THOMAS O'NEAL ('22)



By JOE MARKLEY ('20)

During the hot, grueling months of July and August of the summer of 2019, Thomas O'Neal bore the crippling humidity to learn how to use a camera manually. During one of the photo walks, Thomas went to the pond near the Yardley campus, which had a plethora of water lilies. Thomas, who had a 300 Mm camera, ended up taking some pictures of dragon flies that were swarming the flowers. He ended up capturing this photograph, which won Best in Show at the Bucks County Grange Fair, which many people - both students and adults - had entered. As a reward, Thomas received prize money, and a large red, white, and blue ribbon. What made the image a winner? The dark blue dragonfly contrasted gorgeously with the white lily, creating an aesthetically unique image.

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NEBULOUS: A POETRY BOOK

Resident student author chronicles the self-publishing process.

By JAMIE LUBOV ('21)

The first time I ever wrote a book was in first grade. It was an epic novelisation of my all time favorite video game: The Legend of Zelda- Twilight Princess. Featuring 121 illegible pages of chicken scratch, accompanied by crayon drawings of my mental screenshots, calling it "rough" would be an understatement.

Nine years later, I accomplished my goal of publishing a book before I graduated high school.

I began this book, as one does, during a class I couldn't focus in. Over the course of several years, internalising my issues began to stress me out to the point I felt I would explode from the pressure of bottling everything up. So, I wrote my first poem in eighth grade as a way to vent, and shared it online (in a place virtually no one saw it in).

After sporadically writing for a few more years, my poetry really started to take off when I started school at NHA last September/October and by that I mean I was writing, non-stop. I eventually began to compile my poems into one large manuscript, absently entertaining the idea of a poetry book (and fully expecting it to fall through like my other books).

Unfortunately for teacher Andrew Hay, I discovered the Adobe InDesign tool on his computer, and began formatting my poems into pages. The hazy, undefined book I had always pictured writing was finally becoming tangible, grounded in reality.

After months of layout, scanning and editing my art in Photoshop, and figuring out logistics, by the last month of the 2018-2019 school year, I had finished my formatting! At this point, I had already determined the print-on-demand company, Lulu, as my best bet for an affordable, quality print job. This also enabled me to acquire an ISBN for my book (which allows global/retail distribution) while still self-publishing the book. It was at that point, I hit my first major roadblock.

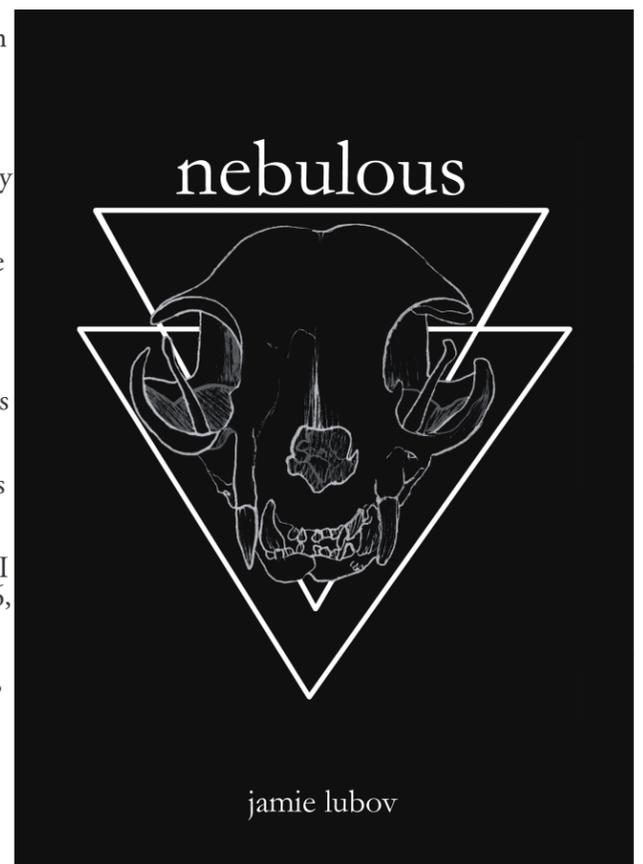
My proximity to the end of the school year meant I

reached difficulties with the timing of my project. In order to publish "Nebulous" on Lulu, and Amazon/Barnes and Noble following that, I first needed to order a proof. However, when I received my proof copy, there were printing errors along with content errors. This was not ideal, since by then I had already started my summer break, and my home workstation did not have Adobe InDesign. That meant in order to fix the errors in the book, I had to go to the Yardley Campus one day in the summer and fix the errors.

To my dismay, after I supposedly fixed the errors and received the new proof, I noticed a handful of additional errors. At this point, I began asking favors of Andrew, who had access to the tools I needed on his school computer. He became my impromptu editor, and had to deal with my specific and at times frustrated lists of edits that needed to occur. After a few more proof copies (and occasional conflicts about placement of certain poems or punctuation), I finally received one I was pleased with. On August 6, 2019, "Nebulous" became available for purchase on Lulu.com!

Now, a couple months later (and one paycheck in), I've been selling copies of my book online and in person- in my workplace, at school, or with friends and family. While it can be awkward having people I know ask me to sign their copy, I am overall glad that I published it. I'm really proud of myself for working so hard on it, and it has brought more attention to my writing than ever before! If there are any other aspiring authors out there, it doesn't matter if you have a publisher or experience. If you put in the hard work and rely on yourself for all the heavy lifting, it's incredible what a teenager can do!

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EDITOR SPOTLIGHT: JAMIE LUBOV

OCTOBER 20TH, 2019 - Yardley editor Jamie Lubov is spotlighted in an interview discussing NHA clubs, hobbies, and identity.

By ELISABETH ROGERS ('20)



Jamie Lubov is a junior at NHA. They're an artistic student with a passion for multiple artsy pursuits, and they take pride in their academic standing. They're the lead editor of The Real Deal newspaper club at the Yardley campus. Jamie is involved with many different clubs at NHA including Diplomacy, Theatre, Science Olympiad, and many others.

When asked how they got involved with the Real Deal, Jamie explained that some of their friends and a few teachers recommended them to join. An already existing love of writing pushed them further into becoming a permanent part of the team. After completing their first article, they quickly established themselves as an accomplished and consistent journalist. This same love of writing led to Jamie publishing their first ever poetry book titled 'Nebulous'. Questioning Jamie about their future goals offered an interesting answer. They expressed that they wanted to find a way to balance both their creative, and scientific/academic aspects of their life. "I want to be able to go to college for something I love to do and will provide a steady income," Jamie told us. "However, I don't want it to directly impact my time to write, draw, or create music." When asked about the school year, Jamie talked about how they were excited to jump into the thick of their AP classes, but also how they were ready to take on the new responsibilities and roles they've come into.

As established before, Jamie is part of many clubs that are offered at NHA. However, they also have many hobbies they enjoy outside of school. Jamie is an avid gardener, taking pleasure in growing and sustaining many forms of plantlife. They have an increased interest in carnivorous plants at the moment. They also enjoy taking care of their pets, of which they have many. If they were to name a favorite, it would have to be their bunny Nimbus. Jamie also enjoys creating original songs, some of which have been performed at NHA's fests before. You might remember the smooth jazz of Jamie's 'Poison', performed during Springfest 2019.

"I'm open to talk about anything if any students need support," they expressed when asked about what students should know about them. "I identify within the LGBT+ community and use they/them pronouns, so if anyone wants advice, support or even just information, I'm glad to help!"

Jamie is an exceptional student who has many ideas they wish to implement in the future. With a plan in their head, and a passion in their heart, they're ready to face whatever gets thrown at them. We're excited to see what they can accomplish in their junior year, and their senior year!

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NIBBLE ON THIS!

11 REASONS RABBITS MAKE THE BEST EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

By JAMIE LUBOV ('21)

Some people may not see the benefit of emotional support animals, wrongly confuse them with therapy or service animals, or even deny their purpose, insisting personal gain as the true motive for these pets. I am pleased to inform you that not only do emotional support animals exist, but they can take the form of your personal favorite animal companion (whereas service animals are mostly dogs, or in some rare cases in specific states, miniature ponies). Of course, the takeaway from this should not be that everyone with mental or personal struggles should get an ESA- rather, if you are already considering an animal friend, bunnies are 100% the best choice to go with! Here are my personal reasons having a rabbit best friend is the ultimate coping skill on any rough day, or just the best pet in general:

Snuggles: The best thing about my day is coming home to my rabbit, Nimbus, and seeing him run up to the edge of his pen! He stands on his back feet and reaches up to me to ask for snuggles, pets, fluffing of the cheeks, scratching behind the ears, and other such "grooming" activities.

Volume: Rabbits are extremely quiet animals- the loudest noise I have ever heard from Nimbus is a sneeze, which just sounds like a gentle wheeze. As someone with audio triggers for my anxiety, a dog's affection but accompanying barks would overwhelm me, but bunnies communicate with their owners through poses and gestures unique to each rabbit's personality!

Neatness: Not only are rabbits easily litter box trained, organized, and aware of where everything in their pen/cage setup is, but they groom themselves, and spend more time on grooming than the average cat! By far the most heartwarming occurrence, "fluffing the face" is when they stand slouched with their front paws raised, lick the paws, and then proceed to wash their face, cheeks, and ears with their tiny feet! Another adorable act is rabbits rearranging their toys/objects in the cage- even when not chewing or playing with it, they move objects by carrying it in their mouth, or even occasionally "punch" the offending object in frustration when it doesn't move to the exact spot they want it!

Cuteness: The appearance is a MAJOR contributing factor to the overall cuteness of the rabbit. From their size, hair color and/or pattern, ears, eyes and snout, there are endless things to love about bunnies' appearances! The deal- breaker when I was at the shelter and saw Nimbus was his floppy ears, and the way he has to sometimes wiggle them a bit when he lifts his head so they don't block his eyes!

Care: Bunnies are pets with simple needs, but that being said, they require a lot of attention and stimulation to prevent loneliness and boredom. A compact litter box changed about twice daily, water bowl refilled as needed, and 24/7 available hay (which can be served in dispensers that last a few hours) are the most demanding tasks. Having a little friend follow me around every single day as I go through a care routine to check what I'm doing (and make sure I am not disturbing the specific litter box position) and make sure everything is up to his standards!

Softness: Before I had met my rabbit, I had thought my cat was the softest pet that I could acquire. Being a fluffy Siberian variety, with long hair softer than an average mix, and definitely softer than the more waxy, water-resistant coat of dogs, I thought I had encountered the cream of the crop. Petting bunnies at the shelter, however... the softness level is truly indescribable unless you can get your hands on a bunny yourself! Let it be said, however, when my rabbit sheds, my room is like living in a walking, breathing cloud (my rabbit lays on the air duct when he's hot so the atmosphere in my room is approximately 40% rabbit hair). It's a bit disconcerting when

grabbing something off a shelf three days after I've dusted feels like some sort of small mammal instead of a seashell coated in two inch thick dust.

The Human Friend: While bunnies can be very affectionate, it often takes a long time to develop a close enough bond with one that you develop the title of "human best friend". While my bunny has no other rabbit friends, it still took six months before he would fully snuggle into my side, and nearly a year before he would start grooming me. However, it's a special feeling when you ARE the human friend, and every single time you're in sight your bunny wants to say hello! (This effect is funnier when said bunny gives everyone else a dramatic head turn after attempted contact and displaying the fluffy butt and tail to end the conversation)

Diet: Other than hay, veggies and leafy greens are a major part of a rabbit's diet! Watching my rabbit eat his breakfast or dinner salad is like watching a spring mix go into a shredder- the little leaves just disappear into a pair of fuzzy lips! Carrots and strawberries are a favorite healthy snack, but Nimbus really goes wild when he hears the crinkling of his potato chips- nutritional pellets and alfalfa cubes!

Binky Dance: Aside from loafing themselves while being pet, grinding their teeth as an equivalent to a purr, and grooming, the ultimate sign of excitement and happiness is a binky dance! Usually precluded by sprinting at top speed in tight patterns or circles at random, the binky dance is when a bunny jumps with more emphasis than normal, and spins, kicks or even flail in the air! Aside from my rabbit accidentally jumping onto my 4 foot tall desk, randomly launching himself into a specific corner of my yard behind a shed (while evading my efforts to stop him), or even chasing my cat throughout the house because he "just wants to play" with the cynical, 5 year old Lynx, some of the strangest and most phenomenal things I've seen Nimbus do are his binky dances. I am surprised he has not repeatedly injured himself by now, since he looks like an Olympic diver, if they were traveling vertically, at high speed, in a small space. It's pretty cute though.

Poses: Some poses rabbits do are the infamous "sploot"! Often sighted in corgies, this pose is also known as the superman, and features outstretched frontpaws with head between them, stomach flat on the ground, fluffy tail reaching for the sky, and the hind feet fully extended

Grooming: The ultimate act of friendship a bunny can bestow... is the act of grooming. Whether a human or bunny friend, rabbits will lick their friends to groom them when they are happy or comfortable, or sometimes as a thanks after snacks or pets. Imagine a tiny kitten tongue, but soft like a dog's rather than sandpapery cat tongues, gently grooming (read: kitten licking) whichever part of you is at eye level- sometimes, my knees, legs, pants, arms or hands are the target... but on the best days, I get little kisses all over the face from my best friend to make sure I know that he loves me!

This article may have devolved into me internally squealing a monologue about my rabbit... but nevertheless, it should at least be some indication of what excellent pet, companion, friend, and emotional support a rabbit can be!

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PENTACLES OR PREJUDICE?

By JAMIE LUBOV ('21)

Throughout history, while most religions tore each other apart, a unanimous decision seemed to have been made- paganism is bad. Although religion has evolved over time, religious symbolism along with it, one of the most recognizable symbols of pagan religion is the 'dreaded' pentacle (commonly mislabeled as a pentagram). And yes, there is a substantial difference between the two- oftentimes in historical pagan groups, the pentagram was a five sided shape (typically a star) which was the equivalent to the Christian cross. Pentacles, however, are a five sided shape within a circle symbolising the five elements (earth, air, water, fire, and spirit) as well as unity, totality and oftentimes protection. Pentacles are more commonly used by modern Pagans, witches, and Wiccans than the traditional pentagram. Regardless of your stance on the validity of said religions or groups of people, the pentacle is a positive symbol which not only greatly impacts those who use it in positive and spiritual ways, but it also provides a common ground for entirely separate communities to coexist and interact peacefully with each other.

A modern dilemma, however, has been encountered. Thanks to pop culture (specifically horror movies), the generally peaceful Satanist community as well as pentacles have gained a severely negative connotation. From gory horror movies with a violent 'satanist' antagonist to gruesome serial killers menacingly leaving pentacles at crime scenes, entirely inaccurate stereotypes have been formed around pagans as a whole. Many people simply trying to go about existing and living with the weight of their own actions in the world around them can find themselves ridiculed or even attacked due to a simple pentacle or mention of the word satanist. As someone of the Wiccan faith who is also a modern witch, I find that even worse than the sheer disbelief of my spirituality is the awful misconceptions about people like me. I know several satanists, all of whom

greatly care about the earth and have an 'eye for an eye' philosophy, and it is heartbreaking to see them clam up before the word satanist leaves their lips if they get passionate about their religion, in order to avoid stereotypes.

While it is difficult for Pagans and witches, as well as incredibly invalidating someone ignorantly calls a pentacle token for protection "the devil mark", it is no doubt satanists have it the worst. In fact, they do not go around sacrificing babies, murdering virgins and drawing pentacles in blood-very few people who identify as satanists would harm people without cause, or violate their orderly commandments- its likely many criminals simply grab hold of whatever intimidating label they think will cause panic. But nevertheless, the public persists to be terrified of anything remotely associated with paganism.

While on the surface, this is a recent problem due to lack of education, it honestly starts as far back as when Christianity based the devil on the Pagan god (accurately dubbed the horned god). Nowhere in the Bible is it stated the devil had two horns, goat feet, and a tail- this caricature of the horned god was used by Christians to exterminate the pagan faith using scare tactics and intimidating anyone from converting, making Pagan's God the Christian's Devil.

While it is apparent not everyone felt this way, since Paganism has survived to this day, the harmful ideals from centuries ago still persist in society. Pentacles have become more of a target than a symbol of protection as intended- but dubbed 'boo' topic, education about modern Paganism is not widely accepted. While religions keep fighting through verbal attacks or community-wide holy wars, Pagans are just trying to coexist with the world, and escape the chronic prejudice society has pinned on pentacles.



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accepted. While religions keep fighting through verbal attacks or community-wide holy wars, Pagans are just trying to coexist with the world, and escape the chronic prejudice society has pinned on pentacles.

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EDITOR SPOTLIGHT: JOE MARKLEY

OCTOBER 10TH, 2019 - Doylestown editor Joe Markley is interviewed about his history at NHA and his love of music and chess.

By GRANT LODZINSKI ('20)

This issue's Student Spotlight is The REAL Deal's Doylestown senior editor Joe Markley. Joe is from Upper Dublin school district in Ambler, PA. Joe has been attending New Hope Academy for five years. He is involved in many after-school activities, such as chess club. Joe is NHA's first board, which is the highest rank you can be on the chess team. He also is an actor in the school's theater department, as well as a member of the pit orchestra.



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His favorite subject at school is German because, as he said, "Ed McKenny is the bomb." After graduation, Joe plans to go to college. He has already applied to Drexel University but he thinks he may end up going to Montgomery County Community College for two years. He is also looking at Virginia Tech and St. Joe's University because he is highly interested in computer science and business.

Joe is a musician and plays the flute. When asked to pick his favorite bands, he picked Kansas and Jethro Tull because both these bands are a part of classic rock and progressive rock, which are Joe's favorite genres of music. Joe's favorite food is barbecue. When asked why, his response was, "Because it's barbecue," making him a big barbecue fan.

Joe has an assortment of hobbies that he partakes in after school. He studies chess and attends tournaments and also plays music and video games. When asked what his favorite animal is, he had trouble coming up with one animal but ended up choosing rabbits because "they are soft." Joe's favorite book is "The Secret of Platform 13." Joe loves reading and that was the first book that really captured his interest. If Joe could pick someone from history to meet, he would choose Frederick Douglass and Theodore Roosevelt because of all the great things they accomplished.



BLACK TO MOVE AND WIN

Chess puzzle courtesy of Joe Markley

Chess puzzles are a famous way of testing your chess abilities dating all the way back to the middle ages. Sometimes they are fabricated for the purpose of training and practice, or a position is taken from an actual game to see how the best chess players react to a position and how they think.

The purpose of a chess puzzle is to take a given position and achieve the desired outcome. In this example you are playing as black, and your job is to find checkmate. If there are multiple spaces for black to move in response, you must account for them. Check out the next issue for the solution to this puzzle.

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SUPERVISED INJECTION SITES

Sites known as 'Legal Injection Sites' have been popping up around the world. But do they belong in US cities?

FOR:

By **JAMIE LUBOV ('21)**

Safe injection sites are often mischaracterized, whether through media or politics. Some argue that these safe havens are being used by drug addicts to 'legally' do illegal drugs. However, these sites are not encouraging drug use or addiction - users bring pre-obtained drugs and administer them in a supervised environment. With medical staff and counsellors on hand, common concerns such as overdoses can be reversed, and co-occurring mental health issues can be addressed with a trained professional. Not only does this save lives, but it provides an environment where addicts - who may be homeless, estranged from their family and friends, or facing a variety of other issues - a judgment-free environment, where people know what they're going through.

While the safe injection sites vary slightly in name and policy throughout different countries, many emphasise hygiene. This can include free showers, meals, sterilized needles, syringes and swabs, and a safe disposal site. Medical issues, such as skin problems associated with drug use, can be treated at safe injection sites. Since sharing needles within the sites is not permitted, and safe disposal is a key policy, this greatly reduces the chance of someone transmitting or getting infected with bloodborne diseases, such as HIV. Some European injection sites, according to the consensus in "Preventing HIV Infection Among Injecting Drug Users in High-Risk Countries", even provide 'vending machines', which accept dirty/used needles and provide sanitary syringes in exchange.

According to the Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS), the high mortality rate among people with HIV/AIDS is mostly observed with populations encountering barriers accessing treatments- "notably people who use drugs" says JIAS. The Dr. Peter Centre (DPC) in Vancouver, Canada, not only provides residential treatment options, but a comprehensive harm reduction strategy (which includes safe injection sites). According to the results of the DPC study, "...participants reported that the environmental supports provided by the DPC Residence decreased drug-related risks and improved health outcomes, including HAART (highly active antiretroviral therapy) adherence and survival." This proves the HIV/AIDS community are receiving life-altering benefits from safe injection sites and their affiliated resources.

Denmark has had a particularly successful "fix room", according to an article by NPR's Sidsel Overgaard. According to the article, "a growing body of evidence suggests that (drug consumption rooms) can save lives and reduce the public nuisance of open drug use without increasing crime." This is a major factor those in opposition of these sites should consider - every time someone smokes or injects drugs in such a site, that is one less injection taking place on the street in view of children or locals. After experiencing 285 overdose related deaths in 2011, Denmark saw an uptick in overdose reversal due to nurses present at their supervised injection sites. "During this first year, 135 people have overdosed; none of them have died," states Overgaard. The impact of these sites on overdose fatality is apparent, not only in Denmark, but in safe injection sites around the world.

One of the most important benefits of these sites is the support network drug users are connected with. From professionals to others going through the same experiences as them, drug addicts can catch a break from the isolation and alienation faced in their daily lives, while simultaneously striving towards recovery.

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Awaken the Nostalgia

By **ELISABETH ROGERS ('20)**

The video game industry is always changing, re-arranging, and making way for innovations that will inevitably change how the game is played. However, sometimes it's nice to take a step back, and reminisce about the golden days of the industry. Remember that game you haven't played in a while? Why not give it a shot while it's still its original, because the industry is now using nostalgia to market.

The best way to appeal to old and new players alike? Revamping old classics with a new style intended to please both audiences. However, do these remakes taint the original game, or do they overshadow the original? Well, the opinion is completely split with many favoring rereleases, and many others dissing them because they're a remake. Of course, that isn't to say that remakes are necessarily bad. In fact, many of them do outshine their predecessors. It's the sheer fact that people are tied to the original nostalgia, and may not desire to ruin that with something a remake might add.

Yet, there is a remake that came out fairly recently that has garnered some major praises, and might

be evidence to prove remakes can appeal to everyone, regardless of it being a remake. The Legend of Zelda: Link's Awakening for the Nintendo Switch released on September 20th, 2019, and it has already amassed a large following. It's a remake of the classic title that was originally released for the Game Boy in 1993. Considering it's a cult classic, it was surprising to fans of the series when Nintendo announced their remake. For such an old game, it was a peculiar choice especially when you consider the fact that the entire game had to be remade using a new engine due to the original being completely 8-bit.

Despite this, the remake does not disappoint. It's colorful, zany, filled with that Zelda zing, and has that charm that comes naturally with titles of this series. When you can spend hours fishing and not even get bored of it, you know you did something right. While it is completely modeled in 3-D, they designed the game to have the overhead style that was present in the 1993 release. Original gimmicks were also kept such as the secret seashells, the ocarina, and the mix of Ma-

rio themed enemies appearing. However, new things were added to keep the game fresh, and separate from the original. Similar to Mario Maker, it has a dungeon-building aspect to the game that allows you to create your own dungeons to play through, and there are thousands of combinations to come up with.

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AGAINST:

By **BRYAN ROY ('20)**

A counter argument for the creation of legal injection sites is the issue that the person is still doing the illegal drug, and is still potentially putting their life in danger. Now, these sites exist to prevent addicts from overdosing, and I can completely understand that. However, the dangers of that happening outside of the injection site still persist, and the person is still an addict. The person doesn't stop being addicted, and they still are harming themselves. While therapy and care is offered at these centers, it can only go so far, and it is optional. They're also literally breaking the law, out in the open. If you inject or sell at home, you go to prison, but at these sites, you're allowed to openly use illegal substance, with no penalties. This is blatantly hypocritical, and can only be rectified by decriminalizing drugs all together, which is another matter entirely.

One thing that may go unseen at these sites is the selling and distribution of narcotics, and other illicit substances. A center such as this can be easily abused by gang members, cartels, and other violent, drug-based organizations. According to Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, opioid-related deaths increased more than 54 percent from 2012 to 2016, while the median drug sentence given to Drug Traffickers decreased by twenty percent between 2009 to 2016. And this is with legal injection sites existing. Now, these can be rectified with supervision and policing, but does that not make the whole purpose of these institutions irrelevant? The point of a legal injection site is to make the person struggling with addiction feel safe and comfortable. If police are hovering over their shoulder, they may not even show up, and thus nullifying the whole concept.

My final point is the issue that these sites may destroy the communities that they are placed in. Now, folks may say they're for them, but many do not want them in their communities. How many high-income neighborhoods will want a drug-injection site in their community, near their children and families? Most will say no. And this will lead to many of these centers being placed in high-crime, low-income areas. This will lead to more drugs entering these communities, and will put more pressure on these already struggling communities.

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"While therapy and care is offered at these centers, it can only go so far..."



FRIGHT FEST

By ELISABETH ROGERS ('20)

October marks the beginning of many things. Fall clothes, pumpkin spice everything, and Christmas decorations appearing in major retailers. However, it also marks the start of the one time a year where it's okay to scream like a little girl in movie theaters. It's Halloween season meaning costumes, candy, and frights! And with fright comes the annual Fright Fest at Six Flags Great Adventure.

This year's events were spooky, fun, and friendly for all ages as to be expected from a theme park. However, if you were brave enough to go into the haunted attractions, you were in for quite the scare. This year, the park boasted attractions such as the Blood Shed, The Manor, the Lady of the Lake cemetery, and many others that would send a chill down your spine. Each area of the park was dolled up in demonic fashion, with a fully fledged demon district, and a carn-evil where personal space isn't a rule.

While walking through the park, it wasn't hard to see that the ghouls that roamed each area got some good screams out of unsuspecting guests. The ghouls walk around with chainsaws, rusty shovels to scrape the ground, and some alarming noise makers in an attempt to frighten guests. If those don't work the first time around, they might just approach you in your face out of nowhere, hoping their sudden appearance is scary enough to elicit a scream.

While Fright Fest might have spooky aspects to it, there are also some not-so-scary activities that make it an enjoyable experience for all age groups. Little children have the opportunity to go trick or treating in the park, with many different kinds of candy for them to obtain as they walk around. Concerts, karaoke sessions, and many other fun activities are available before the lights go out. There's also the fun thrill of riding coasters in the darkness of the night, if you're attending at night of course. Sure, it might be a little scary, but that's half the thrill, and Six Flags aims to please thrill seekers.

Whether you're looking to have nightmares for a while, or just wish to have a good time with friends and family, Six Flags has you covered with their Fright Fests, as they are equal parts scary, and fun. Fright Fest doesn't end until November 3rd, so make sure to plan a trip if you haven't already.

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FILM REVIEW: j o k e r

By MAXWELL MACMILLAN ('23)

I had heard a lot of different viewpoints of "Joker" over the course of its initial release. There was the impression that it was a movie that, instead of focusing on wide-spread appeal, sought to create a movie that felt like a piece of art that would stand the test of time. On the other hand, many labeled it as a movie with themes and messages that would be dangerous for people to take in. Hearing these opinions, I felt that I had to see it for myself to understand each argument fully. From this point, I set out for the movie theater with an open mind.

"Joker" is not the first iteration of the Joker character. Most people already have Jack Nicholson's or Heath Ledger's portrayals already established as the essential Joker in their mind. However, "Joker" is a movie that scraps the formats previously used to depict this character, and instead chooses to tackle the usually ambiguous origin of this mysterious character without using most of the typical attributes of the Joker. Instead, they take the essence of the character and the chaotic insanity that is associated with him and use this essential aspect to build a new version of the Joker that has never been seen before. This is only possible with the acting of Joaquin Phoenix who masterfully portrays a mentally ill man who descends into madness.

Phoenix portrays the Joker (known as Arthur Peck for the majority of the movie) so well that I could relate to his bottled-up emotions and his constant fight with depression despite the violent track that these emotional troubles set him on. And the violence in "Joker" makes no attempt to censor itself or reduce the realistic horror it portrays. Despite the horrific violence caused by the emotionally troubled Joker, I maintained sympathy for even as his violence and view of the world were irreversibly skewed.

As the movie continues, it starts to reveal a larger picture than just a mentally ill man, but instead a

society that, for all intents and purposes, is just as confused and frustrated as anyone with a mental illness. Throughout the course of "Joker," there is a consistent idea of righteous violence, and by the end, this idea has consumed the whole city as the poor and desperate masses turn to violence for an emotional release.

It's in these ideas that I can see where many people think it is dangerous. The Joker associates un-biased and perpetual violence with the anger and worries of the poor working class. Considering the large number of violent acts that have been carried out around the world recently, I understand why the people who see this movie as dangerous feel this way. However, to me, this is not a movie portraying a possible future where violence is romanticized and encouraged by the masses; it's a movie simply reflecting the issues we already face today. Some fear "Joker" will incite more violent acts, but in reality, with or without this movie, there are too many violent actions that have been taken around the globe already for us, as a world, to accept.

Instead of targeting a movie that just shines light on the issue, we should target the issue of mental illness and how it's handled directly and with unified and overwhelming support. The portrayal of a mentally ill man who descends into madness may be creating empathy for those who carry out violent acts, but why shouldn't we have empathy for those people? The actions they have taken are unforgivable but were caused by the way they were molded within our society, not by any means of predetermination.

"Joker" is a movie that forces us to reflect on ourselves and those around us, and it does so in a way that will be jarring for many. However, I feel that it does so in a tragic, yet beautiful, portrayal of many issues that plague us today, and should be appreciated for doing so.

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IT CHAPTER 2: A REVIEW

"This Loser's Club meeting has officially begun."

By BRYAN BURKE ('20)

27 years ago, The Loser's Club single-handedly took on Pennywise The Clown, or should I say... took on It! Pennywise feeds on the fear of kids and although they thought they had defeated him, the battle has unfortunately only just begun.

Yes, it is true, It has returned and he's more powerful and malicious than ever! He has returned from his cold-hearted slumber and is now recharged, angry and ready for round two. It was in "It: Chapter One," released in 2017, that Pennywise realized he had underestimated the bravery and knowledge of young children and teens, including The Losers themselves.

In this second chapter of what is known as one of Steven King's most horrific masterpieces of mad hysteria, blood will be shed throughout the streets of Derry, Maine. Others will have to dig up a past they had forgotten about, and try to remember who they used to be. Some may have to get pushed past their limits for the greater good of mankind.

"It: Chapter Two" is one of those final intoxicating and rather thrilling showdowns you won't want to miss. In my opinion, it is the most nail-biting, eye-shocking experiences in all of Steve King's line of brilliant works of horror! "It: Chapter Two" topped the box office on the weekend of September 8, without needing to even stretch. The film earned a robust \$91 million in domes-

tic launch and \$185 million worldwide.

However, most fans were disappointed. Some were tired after the movie drew to a close, because they felt as though the story dragged on too much. Some even said the movie was a little too unreal. But aren't the majority of horror movies made pretty unrealistic?

Personally, I liked "It: Chapter One" better, and that's not to say that "It: Chapter Two" wasn't both great and astonishing. I just feel as though I could relate more to the group of kids and the memories they created as a group in the first movie. Given that, I feel as though Mr. King and the film industry who brought the show-down to life in the final "It" chapter have outdone themselves yet again, which is why I do not feel a second's hesitation in giving the movie a rating of 4 out of 5 stars.

Do you know It? Because he knows you. He is watching you, waiting for you to go see his masterpiece.

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The Flipside

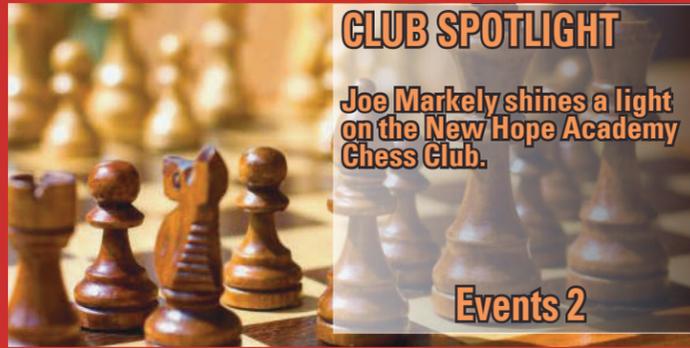
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Joe Markely shines a light on the New Hope Academy Chess Club.

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FRIGHT FEST!

THE R.E.A.L Deal has your preview to one of the scariest events of the Halloween season!



FILM REVIEW:

Joker

"...the Joker associates unbiased and perpetual violence with the anger and worries of the poor working class..."



OPINION 7

Broadway The Hard Way

An NHA student details the shows she has been lucky enough to see on Broadway.

By JEM MORRIS ('22)

During my life, I have been blessed with many opportunities to attend Broadway shows. I believe that everyone should see at least one show on Broadway in their lifetime. Not only does it bring people together through the art of theatre, but it is a wonderful and entertaining full day trip that you will always remember.

In 2014, I attended the popular Broadway musical *Wicked*. The story centers on Elphaba, an intelligent and misunderstood girl with emerald green skin who grows up to be the notorious Wicked Witch of the West. Then there's Galinda, a beautiful and popular individual who grows up to become the Good Witch of the South. Both girls attended Shiz University, where they became roommates and close friends. However, this soon changes. Elphaba and Galinda begin to constantly argue over ridiculous things. This, in a way, brings them together and also separates them. Elphaba's passions differ from Galinda. When Elphaba learns about "The Cage," which will be used to control all animals so that they will never learn to speak, she decides to visit the Wizard of Oz and express her concerns. She plans her trip to Emerald City to visit Great Oz, asking Galinda to go with her. They finally reach Oz, finding that the Wizard is not as intimidating as he was said to be. He promises to solve all of Elphaba's problems, if she can prove herself worthy. It quickly becomes obvious to Elphaba and the audience that the Wizard is not who he says he is. Turning on her, he begins to spread the rumour that Elphaba is the Wicked Witch of the West, and it was her, in fact, who was caging the animals! Elphaba makes a broom fly and flees the scene.

This show really represents how misunderstood some people can be, and sheds a new light on The "Wicked" Witch of the West, allowing the audience to hold sympathy for her. I absolutely loved this musical; it brought me to tears. What with the romantic angle demonstrated throughout the show, the special effects,

and the message of girl power, this show is very well rounded.

"Hamilton" is another well-written play. Lin Manuel Maranda, the writer of the show, takes you through the life of Alexander Hamilton, a major author of the Federalist paper, and first secretary of the treasury of the United States. You may recognize him as the face of the ten dollar bill. The musical is sung and rapped about the life of this American Founding Father, incorporating R&B, hip-hop, soul and pop.

The story begins with orphaned Alexander, arriving in New York in 1776. After his arrival, he meets Aaron Burr, John Lawrence, Hercules Mulligan and Marquis De Lafayette and impresses them with his intellectuality. Throughout the show, it only becomes more and more clear that Mr. Hamilton is hungry and will do anything to rise above his past conditions. As the play proceeds, Alexander meets, falls in love with, and marries Elizabeth Schuyler. After the wedding, the celebration continues. Many events occur during the play, leading to the demise of Alexander Hamilton.

In my opinion, the show was very enlightening. Not only was the cast multicultural, but Miranda managed to not only keep the audience entertained, but provided an accurate description of America's past, educating them all the while.

Both shows were amazing, and I am very thankful that I had the chance to see them. Seeing a Broadway show is like no other experience. It leaves you fulfilled afterwards and wanting more! Luckily, New Hope Academy students are given the opportunity to see a Broadway show every December and this should not be passed up! I urge you to attend one someday, so you, too, will be able to have the amazing time that I did!

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THE BEES KNEES

By ALEXIS FEUCHTER ('22)

Bees are much more important than one may realize. To some, bees are just pesky little bugs that sting you and cause a rash. But, bees are far more significant than that. 90% of the bees pollinate the world's nutrition. Both wild and domestic bees pollinate 80% of the entire world. Bees have been dying at an alarming rate the past decades, due to pesticides, habitat destruction, nutrition deficit, air pollution, global warming and many more. Pesticides and habitat destruction are the humans faults to blame. The number of bee colonizations has too, decreased. David Hackenburg, a beekeeper, has reported in 2006 that 90% of his three thousand bee hives have died out. The Biologists have found more than one hundred and fifty different chemical residues in bee pollen has been extremely deadly to the bees. Pesticides are affecting the bees health, it's killing them. A class of chemicals by the name of neonicotinoids have also been the cause of bee death. The bees are pollinating \$30 billion of the U.S.

food crops. Bees pollinate one third of our food supply. The bees are keeping our crops and plants alive. The human race will be no longer if the bees are wiped out of existence. Now, what can one do to help out on protecting and saving the bees? Avoid using pesticides on crops and plants and instead use a bee-friendly alternative. Another suggestion is to create a bee bath. The steps are simple and easy, it doesn't require a lot of hard work nor is it high maintenance. Put a shallow container of water in your garden and add in many pebbles and a few twigs. That will attract the bees. Instead of buying supermarket honey, buy local honey. By buying local honey, you're supporting your local beekeeper and your bees. You're improving your own health, as well as others. Raw honey is well known for healing remedies and soothing relief for colds. Therefore, if bees no longer survive, humanity will cease to exist.

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NEXT ISSUE!!

HALLOWEEN!

NHA FALL PLAY

WINTERFEST!

