



THE MORRISON MINNOW POST



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SPECIAL EDITION

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May the Odds Be Ever in Your Favor

By Grace Hsu and Deborah Jang

Due to problems in deciding this year's house winner arising from the outrage against flimsy standards of bonus points (i.e. Mako having an influx of service points while Tigers consistently win for spirit), the authorities that be have decided to revert to the age-old method for determining who is the superior group: vicious and violent competition (of which, it is said, has been proven to determine the fate of entire empires). Therefore, it has been decided that a massive house competition, molded after the style of combat from *The Hunger Games*, will be held in the vicinity of MAK beginning April 1st and continuing until three of the four houses are eliminated from the competition.

Ms. Brabon, one of the founders of the house system, expressed anticipation for this upcoming event: "House competitions are the tried-and-true method of improving house unity. That's why we try to do them on a regular basis." Principal Torgerson is also in favor of this idea, stating that the grueling circumstances students will be put through will "help develop GRIT" and "[teach] students the importance of sacrificing their own well-being for the greater good."

The arena's borders are set to be Freeway 10 as the western boundary line, with a river and part of Highway 186 marking the border in the south (EDA Mall is strictly off-limits). The north and eastern borders will not be marked as they are mostly a jumble of wilderness leading further and further from MAK, meaning that the farther students move in that direction, their chances of survival (although not necessarily escape) will dwindle significantly. A dotted line has been provided on the map as a rough approximation of where the students will be competing.

Each house will begin the Games equidistant (50 meters) from the MAK MPR, which will be loaded with Airsoft guns, environment-friendly water bottles, and mosquito repellent, meaning that it essentially serves as the Cornucopia. It will, coincidentally, be the

only place in the arena where students will have access to tea, phone chargers, and Doritos chips. Apart from the Cornucopia, the only place where tributes -- sorry, students -- will be able to find clean water is the MAK water fountains on campus, and the only source of food the numerous fruit orchards in the vicinity.

Horror features of the arena are set to include the pineapple fields with their deadly spikes, rabidly vicious stray dogs, and the renowned stinkiness of the nearby cow farm. A handy place for the students to hide, though, are the cemeteries, although we have yet to find out if these graveyards are (or will become) haunted.

It would seem that the Tiger house has an upper edge in the Games as of late, due to their athletic ability, untiring spirit, and their unrivaled first place status throughout last year. But the Mako house's slogan, "Too Fast For You," may be foreshadowing a breakthrough for the green-shirted warriors, especially with calories that can only come from months of birthday cakes to back up their claim. Between the terror-

inducing headbands with eyeballs and the thundering squeaks of their hammers, the Hammerhead house may have their chances at a sweeping victory. And finally, let us not forget (to bribe) the Thresher house due to all their leadership positions: the HouseCo president, the HouseCo sponsor teacher, and even the principal march under the purple-and-white banner.

In all of the excitement, there is the small issue of morality (or should we say mortality?) in the very nature of the games. But no worries -- in keeping with the modern age, students will be eliminated, not physically killed, from the games via Mr. Griffin's programming electives' new app, titled "MAK House Games 2018." Although they will have to face the wild and uncivilized unknown, students will be able to simply render their enemies unable to play by getting within 10 meters of them and tapping the other students' avatars on the app, in a playing style similar to *Pokemon Go*. Once students are eliminated, they will be tracked down and escorted to the (relatively) safe haven of Staff Housing. The app also ensures that the Games per-

sonnel -- um, sorry, the MAK staff -- will be able to keep track of their students at all times.

If it so happens that a student's phone runs out of battery, they will no longer be able to eliminate or be eliminated. The rules that stand, however, will not keep them from sneaking around to wreak havoc on other houses, and based on the moral code of "don't swear, don't lie, and try to act nice [only when teachers are around]," that reigns supreme in the student body, it is truly questionable what casualties we will encounter then. The local farmers will be forcibly removed -- sorry, kindly escorted -- from the arena and given recompense for their loss of fruit and potential destruction of property, a cause that will be, as always, funded by the very generous MAK parents.

Overall, the MAK community looks forward to an exciting Games this year to see which house will turn out to be the victor! We'll keep our fingers crossed to hope that all students will make it out of it unscathed, but when the Threshers are involved, you can never be too sure.



The arena for the 2018 House Games is set in the vicinity of MAK. Figuring out the map and the borders will be your first task.

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R.I.P MAK Couples... School Imposing Another Ban

By Shoichi Miyazano

MAK has banned many things, including boba, short skirts, slow dancing, and now, a new thing has been added onto the list: dating. Yes, you read that right. Dating is no longer going to be tolerated at MAK. Dating is going to be banned officially after this school year. Next school year, we will no longer have to watch couples holding hands, no more banquet dates that last, no more Romeos and Juliets dramatically saying goodbye before EVERY SINGLE CLASS.

But everyone is wondering, why have teachers decided to make this decision? Apparently, there are three reasons to this controversial decision. Also known as the three "A's" which are "Academics," "Affection" and "Awkwardness."

The first A, academics, is quite simple. Various studies at MAK and outside have shown that being in a relationship can negatively affect their grades and work ethic. According to Johnny, who was in a eight month relationship, "The long midnight calls and constant drama made it hard for me not to fall asleep in class." Although the trend is not evident in all relationships, many counselors believe that students who date in high school have significantly lower grades than those who don't.

The second "A," affection, is one of the primary reasons why MAK has decided to ban dating. Despite the handbook clearly stating that "Anything beyond holding hands is considered as inappropriate," various students, including those not in a relationship, were seen touching each other's elbows and earlobes. What shocked teachers the most is the fact that many students are attracted to the same gender's elbows. Teachers have received complaints about these actions making people feel uncomfortable, which is why MAK has decided to ban dating. Students were even distracted in class because other students were touching their elbows while they were trying to focus.

Lastly, the third "A," awkwardness-- something that can be seen during the relationship, but to an even greater extreme after the relationship. Yes, I am talking about break-ups. In our small highschool with a population of 85 students, one break-up can lead to various uncomfortable situations. For example, Johnny and Jenny were in a eight month relationship, but one day, Johnny was caught holding hands with Jenna. Jenny got mad at Johnny, and decided to end their relationship. One week after the intense break-up, Johnny, Jenny, and poor Amy were put

in a group for their English project. Poor Amy had to be the communicator between the two, texting twice as much just to decide the title of their presentation. Poor Amy was dragged into a fight between the two, which forced her to pick a side.

Although the three A's is putting an end to dating, it is not going to be tolerated by all students. "But what if I'm dating someone?" Johnny desperately asked one of the teachers. "Well, too bad," the teacher replied.

In order to lift this ban, he and Jenna have decided to create a couple's club, where couples can discuss about what to do in order to lift this ban. So far all they have managed to do is complain on social media. If you believe that you can help complain with them, feel free to contact them or joining the couple's club.

P.S. Jenna is making an Anti-Couple's club that supports the ban. If you would rather join her side, feel free to contact her as well.



Shoichi Miyazano and Anna Laytham, the last MAK couple, were caught and had a one-week detension.

Not A Long Shot: Soccer Field to Forest

By Gabrielle Liu

Just because the treacherous winter of PM2.5 particles has ended, it doesn't mean MAK hasn't begun to take health precautions for next year's pollution-guaranteed winter. With a semi-eco-friendly AC regulation in place already, MAK is ready to take steps toward ensuring its students, and Taiwan as a whole, can live a lung-cancer free life. The most noticeable

change that will be implemented in the coming weeks is the transformation of the soccer field across the Garden Conference room into a full-fledged forest that will absorb carbon dioxide and restore balance to the ecosystem. With humid weather and plenty of sunshine, a mini-rainforest will grow right in the school's front yard, perhaps accompanied by friendly tropical



This was the last tug of war event happening on the soccer field, as the space will soon be transformed into a forest to combat the air pollution as shown by the greyness in the background.

birds and poisonous but still friendly dart frogs.

Some students, particularly the middle school population, expressed their concern over the loss of playing space. As the field is the site of casual shoot-outs, the World Cup, and many socializing gatherings a closer walk away than the soccer pitch, it is an understatement to say a few tears were shed. George Laytham (grade 7) said, "I've been at MAK my entire life, and this soccer field has been half of it. We're just upset that this [tradition and heritage deeply woven into the culture of our school] is being taken away." A senior, who wishes to remain anonymous, confessed that, "Three years ago, I watched the school take away the not full-size soccer field in the middle of our current track. So many drills were run there, so many memories. Now, the same thing is happening with the other soccer field. We are losing so much ground that Isabella Lee played on." Junior Henry Ho had a slightly more positive response to the idea. "Maybe I'll find Bill [Scott] in one of the trees. I miss him," he said, remembering his friend who moved away.

Aside from Henry's reasons, the logic behind the forest seems practical to some. The trees in their leafy summer state provide shade for build-

ings effectively cooling them. In the winter, leaves drop, allowing sunlight to shine through windows. It can be noted that this natural temperature regulation will at best benefit the band room, not any of the classrooms. The outdoor walkway to the gym, however, will receive the shade/sunlight bonus. Furthermore, depending on the types of trees, a large amount of food can be grown-- ranging from apple trees to coconuts. Always the positive sport, Ms. Ro said, "I do understand how the loss of tradition may be painful to some. However, this can be the beginning of new ones! Kindergarten can make applesauce with home... er, school-grown apples." Students looking forward to this huge change believe it will not hinder their soccer performance even if all three grades of middle school will have to share one field. "We can still have the exact same practices! All the trees will just force us to be more accurate in our passes and shots," said a sixth grader who wishes to remain anonymous.

Despite mixed reviews and heated debates, the soccer field's long career has ended along with the MS soccer season. Be sure to keep an eye out for mass migration of banana or coconut trees, lest you trip over, as one might say, the roots of change.

How MAK Teachers are Trained

By Megan Chen

“My biggest regret is that I did not read the terms and conditions before signing the contract. On one hand, the text was so tiny I didn’t bother. On the other, I did not expect a small, innocent looking Christian school to have such bizarre requirements for getting accepted.

“The pen had barely left the paper before I was knocked unconscious. When I awoke, I found myself on a remote island. I was out of my mind with shock and displeasure, but there was no one around to let that anger out on. Everywhere I looked, there were pineapples. ‘To create a realistic simulation of MAK,’ the authorities later explained to me. I started wandering around because it seemed like the only reasonable thing to do. Minutes passed before I finally came across something unusual. There was a poem embedded on an oversized pineapple with chartreuse colored leaves. I had long since forgotten what it said, except that it tested my Biblical knowledge. I had little trouble with it; I felt confident. Little did I know, that was the first trial of many more to come.

“One second, my field of vision was filled with a sea of pineapples. In the next, a glass pyramid was in front of my eyes. Now students know where their money goes. I went inside, where a second door was waiting immediately in front of me. There were slots on the door in which I had to insert my resume, ID card, passport, and such. I supposed I met all the requirements, because the door hissed open and I was through.

“I saw my would-be colleagues sitting around a table, some faintly smiling at me. I almost choked on unshed tears. There were also a few masked instructors positioned around the room. Not long

after taking a seat, a disembodied voice from a speaker made some announcements. Basically, us teachers would be trained in various areas to prepare us for life at MAK. ‘Fair enough,’ I had thought. I failed to notice we were not told what exactly we would be going through.

“It was not long before I realized that being able to teach was only a small part of this whole preparation thing. Our first focus was self-defense. Yes, exactly what you’re thinking- taekwondo, kickboxing, Muay Thai, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, insanely fast vegetable chopping... The instructors said it was to protect ourselves from kids who drink teas with full sugar or teachers who forget their morning coffee. Another part of this unit was trash talking. To quote the unforgettable mentor, we were told to be ‘salty and lit.’ Some of us were even rewarded a sticker with that motto on it. This lasted about a week.

“When we finally graduated from this stage, we moved to an adjacent room for the next training session. In there, we partook in exercises that prepared us for possible occurrences in the classroom. For example, we practiced how to react in a situation when you make a funny joke but no one laughs. We also became very adept at throwing various items into the trash can like a basketball. This was so we wouldn’t be hypocrites for making fun of students who miss all the time. The instructor also gave us a bonus lesson on how to rig the classroom so that students will tilt back on their chairs and fall. Unexpectedly, these came to be very handy in the future.

“However, even after that training stage, it wasn’t over yet. There was still the third and final leg of our journey. In this session, we were put through activi-



A normal view a MAK teacher encounters on training sessions during a PL (Pineapple Love) Day

ties designed to help us assimilate in to the Taiwanese lifestyle. The first activity focused on acclimatization, being held in an extreme heat-simulation room. We had to run half a mile in the intense heat. Being incredibly unfit, it was a surprise that I waddled all the way to the end. There was also an earthquake simulator we had to brave. We had to stumble our way through an obstacle course while the room, and ourselves, were being shaken like a maraca. After completing these exercises I was ready to go home, but we weren’t done yet. Getting a whiff of what awaited me in the final room made me regret my existence. I recognized none of the exotic foods piled on the silver platter in front of me. Later, I found out the wrinkly blocks were stinky tofu. Around it were assorted organs like duck livers, pig intestines, and chicken hearts. I was able to choke down a tenth of the gourmet before I desperately needed a drink. Unfortunately, the only choice I had was this skin-colored liquid with black spheres inside. It didn’t help that the black spheres looked like eyeballs. When I took a sip, I was not expecting the utter glory that filled my mouth. I was

certain angels started singing opera in the background. Slowly but surely, I finished the meal and completed the final task.

“By then, I’d lost track of time. It must’ve been weeks before all the stages were complete. Many of my male colleagues had full-grown beards by then. We were each shooed out of the glass pyramid just to get knocked unconscious again. I woke up only to see...more pineapples. I was about to cry in fear of having to go through the entire ordeal again when I turned around and saw a beautiful school-- MAK. My bearded colleagues and I cheered excitedly, for we knew there was no one around to hear anyway.

“As with all good adventures, this wasn’t the end. Even after getting accepted, we were to attend follow-up training sessions like PL (Pineapple Love) and H.A.L.F. (Hike Around a Large Field) days. Believe it or not, teaching at MAK made up for my crazy experience. There were comfortable accommodations, great facilities, and an unlimited amount of Costco pretzel sticks. But of course, the students were the ones who made it all worth it in the end.”

Warning: Enter at Your Own Risk

By Annabelle Chien

Walking through the halls of MAK, with its sun-lit windows and laughter filled walkways, one would never imagine the many strange occurrences that take place on its small school grounds. Outside the gym door that connects to the middle school wing, two doors remain closed frequently, if not always, as if to shut off its unimaginable secrets to our close, innocent community. Many have walked past these two rooms -- one being in between the MS Science room and the stairway and the other in the corner, right next to it -- and never given a second thought about either of them, yet, there’s also been rumors about what goes on inside each.

The first room -- a small, narrow closet-like space seemingly incapable of holding any sort of useful promise, just like Logan’s word -- has been suspected to have undergone private construction to remodel into a Senior Lounge. Many teachers seem to have refuted that theory strongly, as they hardly believe that MAK’s seniors can have any sort of authority and responsibility, aside from managing time between their Starbucks runs and field trips to McDonald’s. This makes us question the teachers even more: what position are they in to discredit the seniors for

completing a project they would not have the motivation to finish in the first place, due to an infectious spread of senioritis among the whole class?

Another speculation has been made by voluntary hall monitors Mr. Muir and Ms. Brabon, who’ve noticed an unusual pattern of the number of students who’ve been tardy after their first warnings and, perhaps, even detention. After keeping a watchful eye on Christine Lee, Stephanie Tsai, and other notorious students who’ve kept an amazing record of arriving to class minutes past the bell, Mr. Muir has concluded that after their first detentions, students often do not receive any tardies afterwards. This reassuring after-effect unsettled Mr. Muir rather, for he then personally trained Eden Liu, a future actor-to-be, to follow Stephanie from the moment she steps out of her family car to the second she arrives in class. It’s been said that in one second, Stephanie is “stepping into the small room”, and the next she is “swiftly walking into the Computer Lab for Media Class, humming as she enters the door.”

The second room -- a dark, mysterious space that wishes to disguise its unapparent ongoing, just like Mr. Laytham’s APUSH tests -- has also been accused of being misused and taken advantage of, no

matter the intention or purpose. Students have heard that the room had been used as a podcast-recording room many years ago for a news-reporting elective MAK held for its middle schoolers. However, this suspicion has not yet been proven true.

Rather, what provides more convincing evidence, is the belief that this room has been used as a gateway to MAK staff’s exclusive swimming pool, built underground and unreachable without restricted passwords and codes, created to prevent a clueless middle schooler, or Carmen Clemente, from stumbling upon a heaven-like paradise. According to Conor Grimes, one of our many trusted sources, the so-called PL days are covers for their scheduled afternoons where teachers meet to party at the underground pool. The abbreviation “PL” is actually supposed to be read backwards; the term standing for “Lit Pool” Days, instead. As Mrs. Henwood’s calm and pleasant voice is amplified through the school speakers, a certain announcement during the day is embedded with a code word that cues the teachers to head to the basement swimming pool one by one, starting from kindergarten teacher, Ms. Krause, to our very own principal, Mr. Torgerson.

Another remarkable statement claims that this room is MAK’s very own

Room of Requirement, as seen on the seventh floor of the Hogwarts school campus in the Harry Potter series. Its original function remains -- a room that appears to those in need of it, containing what will serve the needs of the individual. The doors that lead to Hogwarts’ Room of Requirement only appears when you walk past the unseen doorway three times, thinking a thought that voices your needs. But, MAK’s Room of Requirement is disguised as a typical storage room of obsolete items, until it is transformed according to one’s needs when one stops in front of the doorway and thinks a thought indicating their concerns. This room can be put to exceptional use in situations such as when Aden is trying to escape Bully Jack in Esther Yao’s student film, “The Button”.

Various news are still fabricating and justifying its existence into reality, and whether the function of the two rooms are for the student body of MAK or its teachers possessing hidden, yet-to-be-unleashed darkness, our SharkPost editors and writers are just crossing their fingers and hoping the two rooms aren’t in the state Anna Laytham confesses them to be in. “I saw the light on in one of those rooms when the school was completely empty, with a long shadow lurking about in its midst...”

Thrice the Advice

By Anna Laytham, Gabrielle Liu, and Jasmin Kong

On talking to your crush

A: Your crush will seriously fall in love with you if you talk to them all the time. They really like it if you don't talk to them in person and only spam them on chat. If you comment on all their Instagram pics and always call them, your crush will really like you. Also, ask them to send you cute pictures of themselves. If they won't do that, screenshot their Instagram pics and put them in your locker AND keep it as the background on your phone. Then go around showing people how cute you think your crush is and that you have pictures of them. I bet most of you have tried flirting and it didn't work. Here's why: when you flirt, you need to act as normal as possible and then casually start meowing and barking. Everyone thinks cats and dogs are cute, right?

On surviving summer in Taiwan

J: Summer for Taiwan is already here and here's how you can overcome the heat this year. It's all psychological. As long as you think and act like it's cold, your body will also think it's cold too. Wear all black and cover every inch of your skin for the effect of coldness. Spend time outside and do some winter activities, such as making dirt angels instead of snow angels or mudball fights instead of snowball fights. Eating some hot pot under the sun will also do the trick too. If you're not into that, I guess you can drink hot cups of coffee or chocolate with marshmallows to warm up your body and brain. So, next time when you're in a hot and humid room, don't turn on the AC. Just sit there and put more layers of clothes on and grab a cup of a hot beverage. By doing so, you will not be bothered by the 29 degrees Celsius summer days in Taiwan. (If you really can't stand the heat, you might as well buy the next plane ticket to Alaska, because for the next 10 months you'll basically living with this weather. :)

On saving the world

G: Okay so here's the thing: you gotta first define the word "world,"-- like, is the world the people? The environment? The life beyond earthly beings?

You probably were thinking about people, right? Now you feel selfish that you ignored the Irrawaddy dolphin and okapi and hemlock trees, because they are part of the world too. I mean, if there is one thing humans are good at, it is destroying things-- so the best solution to saving this world is to leave it-- NO WAIT HOLD UP THERE-- I didn't mean to die, silly goose. PSH-HHH. Top scientists are proposing that instead of searching for another planet to inhabit (very very \$\$\$), we could just build a second floor on the earth. Like, humans inhabit the top half so that all the other forms of life can live peacefully under us. Think about it-- a floor so thick and protective that we could drop atomic bombs all over Asia's second floor that the pandas on the first floor wouldn't even mind. Of course, there's the problem of sunlight-- so maybe it would be best for humans to take up the first floor. We could build a super tall chimney for just 99% the price of colonizing Mars that would send all the fumes out of earth's atmosphere. The sun is pretty awful anyways, so we'll be shielded from harmful UV rays-- a huge bonus to everyone who wants to look younger (the sun is responsible for a lot of premature aging). Another proposition is to move everyone into one giant building, essentially a mini-planet on earth. However, many people complain that it is a violation of their rights to be moved from their homes and stuff, especially if violence is used, discrimination involved, etc. I think the plan is to call it the "Indigenous and Native Population Awareness 'Kay?-Trail Trip (INPAKT trip).

The alternative plan to the INPAKT trip was to call Batman, but he seems busy at the moment.



New Temperature Regulations: BYOAC

By Deborah Jang

In this year's Annual Report, the School Board determined that MAK, being the southernmost campus of Morrison, uses the most utilities -- in other words, AC. Mr. Wyss set his AP Stat students to the task of studying it, ultimately concluding that as the global temperature rises, the amount of AC used is also expected to in a perfect direct relationship. The conclusion sent MAK staff into planning frenzies at panicked midnight meetings in the Garden Conference Room, ultimately leading to a whole new set of rules to be integrated into the student handbook.

These new regulations are simplest for elementary school. On regular days, there will simply be no AC at all. On days above 32 degrees C, the whole elementary will have class in the basement to take advantage of its state of natural coldness. If this plan succeeds, the administration plans to downsize the elementary school wing into roughly the size of the fifth grade classroom plus the Chinese room. The extra space will be used to plant pineapples, in an effort to integrate MAK into its environment.

Middle and high schoolers will have something rather...different. After success with the implementation of BYOD ("bring your own device"), all students are now part of a new program: "BYOAC" ("bring your own AC"). As many may have heard, the coolest innovation in technology has been the invention of miniature portable air conditioners and/or cooling fans, second only to self-driving trucks and Dogecoin. Because MAK must always be on the cutting edge of innovation, students will be expected to buy their own cooling devices to bring to school. For students confused about which model to buy, Mr. Griffin recommends the Google Breeze or the Samsung Windy. Apple is also expected to release the iCold sometime in 2019, which will retail at 325 USD and will also be supported by MAK's tech team. It is expected to have a touch screen interface and be able to play music when connected to speakers. To guide students in their all-new purchases, the following regulations should be observed:

- USB charging devices are preferred, but battery also works.

- Handheld versions must come with a lanyard and must be marked clearly with the student's name.

- Desk versions are allowed in addition to handheld ones. An AC unit with wheels will not be an acceptable excuse to ride the elevator.

When asked about these changes, Mr. Griffin replied, "The BYOAC program will save the school a ton of money! But Google Breeze is obviously totally better than the iCold. Apple stinks!" Further questioning of various teachers revealed that the money saved will be spent on building and maintaining a pool for PE classes and perhaps even an indoor ice skating rink where the track currently is (because, after all, it's way too hot to run around outside, right?).

One prominent high school student tearfully told a story about her eighth grade year. "We lost a good part of classes when the AC broke down in the middle school wing... it's a pity that such good class time was wasted, and [this is] no way to maintain a solid education!" Other students agreed with the sentiment. "Last year, HS1 was colder than the North Pole!" a junior complained. "This year, it's too warm! How are we supposed to concentrate on schoolwork?"

BYOAC will solve all of these problems! If the program is successful, it will be implemented across all Morrison campuses and MAK will be recognized as the best campus in the system (unless it is unseated by the new Vladivostok campus). To help this program thrive, several other regulations have been put in place. However, most high schoolers agree that there is one rule they cannot abide: all tea must be ordered with full ice, to prevent food poisoning in an environment without AC. "They're reducing our tea to flavored water!" a sophomore said indignantly, sipping her fresh green milk tea with bubbles and tea jelly. "We want AC, if that's what it takes to have qualitea!"

Only time will tell if the BYOAC program, beginning after Easter break, will become enshrined as an immortal part of MAK policy. However, one thing is certain: because of all the money saved (28.3% of the utilities budget), MAK will soon have its long-coveted pool.

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