

A Bloody Slaughter

— By ARIAN HOLMAN —

Denmark is a Scandinavian country in Northern Europe. The country consists of a large peninsula and many islands. Every year in the island of Faroe, which belongs to Denmark, there is a brutal, grotesque, bloody slaughter of pilot whales. Such whale hunts usually occur during the summer months. Every year, hundreds of Long-finned Pilot Whales are killed in such slaughters. The hunts are non-commercial and anyone in the island community can join at will.

When a school of whales is spotted close to shore, messengers are dispatched to inform local inhabitants of the particular island involved. A formation of small boats is then used to drive the whales ashore, where they beach themselves in the shallow water and are killed by waiting islanders. A special whaling knife is used to sever the animal's spine near the dorsal fin.

These whale kills have occurred in the Faroe Islands for hundreds of years and are considered by islanders to be an important part of their social culture. It is generally only Faroese men who take part in the killings while female islanders look on. The whale hunts have caused international outrage and



have been roundly condemned as unnecessary and barbaric by conservation and animal rights groups around the world. However, Faroese islanders vigorously defend their right to engage in the hunts.

"I think this is completely crazy and barbaric, these people should be arrested for killing," said Wil-

liam Flynn '11. "These kinds of killings are outrageous and insane; the government should not allow such killings to occur," said Jed Jones '10. As we can see these killings are outdated and should be forbidden in every country; it's in our hands to make a difference.

Hoosac's Got Talent

— By STEPHEN BURKE —



Owlet file photo

The 2009 Hoosac talent show participants.

The 2009-2010 school year talent show will be the third annual talent show at Hoosac. The first show had seventeen acts. Last year's had 12. This year has an even lower number of students participating: seven. Mrs. Rabinowitz is running the show, and is still searching for some more last-minute participants. All the participants will perform something on stage in the auditorium. Everyone in the show wants either to simply entertain the school, or demonstrate those talents that may be unknown to the rest of the student body and staff. The cash-prizes for the top three acts are also a helpful incentive.

The award that will be presented to the first prize winner will be \$100. Second place will receive \$50, and third place will win \$25. Some acts are more serious, such as last year's 2nd place winner IV Former David Redmond (a III

former at the time), who sang and played acoustic guitar. Other acts are more satirical, such as the 1st place winners last year, who painted themselves blue and danced to "Blue" on stage. They were 2009 graduates: Ian Davis, Lorne Miller, Gary Marin, and Devin Lefebvre.

The show will take place on March 5th, one week after today. Three judges will decide the winners. One of the acts this year include Alex Faett '10, Tianyi (Terry) Zhang '11, and Raphael Lee '10, who will play as a rock band. "We will be playing two songs. We've been practicing in the auditorium when we have time, mostly during free time and on weekends," said Alex. Another performer will be Mengkun (Kaci) Liu '10, who will be doing a rap. Anyone else willing to perform is more than welcome to join, and should talk to Mrs. Rabinowitz as soon as possible.

Student of the Week

Zhangying Xu

— By JENNIFER FOSTER —



Photo by Yunru Wang

Q. How do you like Hoosac?

A. "I Like the classes very much, and teachers are very kind, they always help me."

Q. Are you enjoying living with Ms. Elacqua and the rest of Lewisohn?

A. "Yes, Ms. E is a good American mother, she helps solve many troubles."

Q. What about the United States do you like the most?

A. "It's an excellent country. There is good educational quality and the people are very friendly to us. Teachers and students are all interesting. I enjoy the U.S."

Top Stories

— By RAPHAEL LEE —

Snow storm in Hoosac.

A heavy snow storm struck the Hoosac campus yesterday. It temporarily knocked out power and the phone lines. Both student and faculty members at Hoosac were experiencing difficulties due to the snow storm. The storm also broke branches off trees around campus. However, students had an opportunity to make the most of it by having fun with snowball fights.



Photo by Austin McCroskie

Students during a snowball fight.

U.N. official: North Korea should get food aid.

Three days after North Korea declared it will not abandon its nuclear weapons program, a senior United Nations official who has just visited Pyongyang strongly defended international food aid to the so-called Hermit Kingdom.

"These are human beings that need the food. It's not the political system. This shouldn't be argued in a political way," U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Lynn Pascoe, told CNN's Christiane Amanpour on Monday.

He said the United Nations is giving nutritional supplements to as many as 1.3 million of North Korea's 24 million people. But the U.N. World Food Programme has estimated that more than a third of the population needs food aid.

Pascoe, who earlier this month was the first top-level U.N. official to visit North Korea in six years, said, "There clearly is malnutrition at younger ages, so we're trying to help them with fortified food and up through the schools so that they can eat. There also was a very large program of immunizations for the children."

"Our problem is we don't have enough money coming in now to sustain some of those programs. ... But the truth of the matter is, we need to do more because these are people."

Hackers expose security flaws with 'Elvis Presley' passport.

In the name of improved security a hacker showed how a biometric passport issued in the name of long-dead rock 'n' roll king Elvis Presley could be cleared through an automated passport scanning system being tested at an international airport.

Using a doctored passport at a self-serve passport machine, the hacker was cleared for travel after just a few seconds and a picture of the King himself appeared on the monitor's display.

Adam Laurie and Jeroen Van Beek, who call themselves "ethical hackers," say the exercise exposed how easy it is to fool a passport scanner with a fraudulent biometric chip.

The Presley test was carried out at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport in September 2008 -- by Laurie and Van Beek -- to highlight potential security shortcomings.

Passports, and the ability to fake them, are back in the spotlight after the apparent use of false documents during the gang assassination of a Hamas militant in Dubai in January.

Van Beek said: "What we did for that chip is create passport content for Elvis Presley and put it on a chip and sign it with our own key for a non-existent country. And a device that was used to read chips didn't check the country's signatures."

Friday Night Speaker



Photos by Austin McCroskie

Mr. Michael Gaylo came to Hoosac with a falcon and horned owl. He discussed the birds natural habitats and challenges for their survival.

School Sports

- By JENNIFER FOSTER -

Boys Basketball

February 20: The Boys Basketball team played at home vs. Hudson Valley losing by a score of 58-38. Will Sims had his best all-around game of the year by scoring 22 points. Other scorers were Da Han Han with 8 points, Gordon Shao with 4 points, and Jason Wu with 4 points.

Girls Basketball

February 23rd: Girls Basketball hosted CPV and lost 27-19. Sara Sun scored 11 points and Soo Jung Seo scored 4.

Hockey

On Friday, the 19th, the team traveled to Kents Hill School and tied the game. Saturday, the 20th, they lost in overtime to North Yarmouth Academy. The teams record now drops to 6-5-1.



Photo by Austin McCroskie

February 24: All sports games were rescheduled due to the weather.

You Dirty Swine

- By ANNIE LYONS -



Photo from www.freemanwicklund.org

Many people love to eat pork and eat it a lot. Each of us may consume 51 pounds of pork annually. That translates to a big impact on our water and air. Due to the high variety of bacteria, worms and other things we don't need that are in pig flesh, and because of the quick-spreading disease potential of crowded pig farms, heavy doses of antibiotics are administered routinely to the swine population. Those same drugs end up in your body by waste streaming into our water supply. Also when pigs are crowded they contribute to climate change by emitting methane which is an air pollutant. Corporate pig farms are responsible for most of the industry's environmental offenses.

The real travesty of pig farms is their contribution of dangerous phosphate and nitrate levels to our water supply. Large corporate pig farms are home to tons of pig excretion, called lagoons, which regularly overflow or seep through poor linings into the earth. The bad stuff in pig manure is associated with stomach cancer, blood oxygen disorders and other health ailments. People living near hog factories suffer a variety of problems, such as depression, frequent vomiting and respiratory complications. More than half of the people living within two miles of big hog sites reported an increase in allergies, sinus infection, nasal blockage and a lack of energy.

Bianca's
Student Special
 1 Large Cheese Pizza
 12 Wings
 (1) 2 Liter Soda
\$17.50
 686-3000
 M-Th 11am-9pm
 F & Sat 11am-10pm

What would you like to see in the Owlet? Give written suggestions to Ms. Roemischer.

Sudoku-Answers

5	7	9	6	1	8	3	2	4
6	8	1	2	4	3	5	9	7
2	3	4	9	7	5	1	8	6
7	1	8	5	3	6	2	4	9
9	4	2	7	8	1	6	5	3
3	5	6	4	9	2	7	1	8
1	9	3	8	5	7	4	6	2
4	6	5	3	2	9	8	7	1
8	2	7	1	6	4	9	3	5

Wacky News

- By STEPHEN BURKE -

Ever scribbled on a desk with pencil or marker during class? This story may make you reconsider doing it again. A twelve-year-old girl in a New York City middle school doodled on her desk with a marker. She wrote: "Lex was here 2/1/10" and "I love my friends Abby and Faith." The girl said the marks could have been erased, but regardless, the girl was arrested at the school by a police officer who was present. Her mother reported that her daughter was released several hours after being taken in handcuffs to a police station. The Education Department spokesman said that the incident shouldn't have happened, and that common sense should prevail. The girl must do eight hours of community service, and write both a book report and an essay on what she's learned from the experience. As reported on cbc.ca

A man decided to walk on the frozen North Sea, by climbing over pack ice off the coast. He wanted to photograph a sunset, but got lost on the ice after becoming disoriented from it. He began to take pictures in order to have the flash on his camera attract attention. The least likely of people ended up seeing the flashes: a woman hundreds of miles away in Germany. She didn't see the flashes with her own eyes, but rather over a webcam. A tourist-webcam was set up looking out over the sea, for people to see places they can't visit at the time. The woman saw flashes in the broadcast, and reported them to authorities. They responded by sending a search team out on the ice, where they saved the man. As reported on usatoday.com

It is commonly known that talking on the cell phone while driving is against the law, and that police may pull you over and give you a ticket for it. This is what happened to a woman in Ohio. However not only was she talking on the phone while driving when the officer spotted her, but she was also breast feeding her child. Police reports said the baby's head was resting on the steering wheel while the mother breast-fed it; at the same time, she was talking on the phone and driving. There was not only a higher collision risk that could injure both the woman and her child, but the deployment of the airbag in the steering wheel likely would have killed the baby. The woman said that she would take the advice of the officers into consideration, but that she may breast feed her baby while driving in the future if she feels that it is necessary. As reported on alldeaf.com

Symposium



Mr. Fidel Moreno came to Hoosac for the 2010 symposium activities. He spoke to both students and faculty during the two-and-a-half-day event.

Sudoku

	7		2		1			
1		3			2		6	
	9		7		1		8	
		7		8		3		
3			4		6			8
		1		5		4		
	8		2		5		3	
7		9				8		2
	1			3			4	

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SPORTS

Winter sports are done. Spring sports schedule will start after spring break.

PEER WRITING ASSISTANCE

Every Monday & Thursday
 7:00-9:00 pm
 in Library Reference Room

PEER MATH ASSISTANCE

Monday through Thursday
 7:00 & 8:00 pm
 @ Library Reference Room
 Must get a pass from dorm parents

LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

Every Thursday, 9pm-9:45pm
 with Nurse Klein
 in Nurse Klein's office
 in Tibbits

ON DUTY

Duty Master - Ms. Elacqua
 Chaperone 1 - Mr. Cochran
 Chaperone 2 - Mr. Uhl
 Prefect on Duty - Cheong
 Open House - Mr. Thomson

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