

THE PAW PRINT

🐾 SEPTEMBER 2017 🐾

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NEW HIGH SCHOOL
STAFF MEMBERS

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BERLIN
BRANDENBURG
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

LAYOUT & DESIGN BY JIKANG LIU

Dear readers,

Welcome to this new school year's first issue of the Paw Print! Over the course of the coming year, we will be coming out with an issue once a month, so be sure to pick them up as they come out!

This year's issue will feature an insightful article regarding the BBIS Boarding construction, the effects of the hurricane Harvey, the new iPhone X, and an evaluation of Donald Trump's policies, to name a few. It will also feature a number puzzle for you to solve (the answers will be in the next issue so please pick them up too!). Another bonus feature will include a small biography on each of the new high school teachers who joined us this year.

A goal for the paper this year is to increase our distribution. Last year, many students complained of being unable to find copies of the Paw Print when they came out, and although actions were being made near the end of the year to change this, the primary place the Paw Print could be found continued to be the IB study hall. We want this newspaper to be for anyone who wants to read it, which is why we will continue striving to print more copies. Don't forget, however, that it can be found online on the Paw Print Facebook page!

Yet another goal is recruit a many more students for the forthcoming issues of the Paw Print so that a diversity of opinions are heard and communicated. For those students who are dissatisfied or even satisfied with the school system, the Paw Print is a great way to let your opinions be heard and perhaps even make a change. The next meeting will be held in the English floor during the first half of lunch on the 5th of October so please come and let us hear your voices!

Please enjoy and see you soon!

Suh hye Park and Nathaniel Beardsley



TERROR ATTACK IN LONDON

STRIKES US ALL

by Nathaniel Beardsley

On September 15th, a bomb exploding on a subway in London injured thirty people. The UK terror threat level was raised to "critical" immediately following the attack, and only as of the last 2 days has it been lowered to "severe." Investigations into the incident have so far yielded two suspects, and are ongoing.



A bucket with flames and wires coming out of it was photographed in the carriage after the explosion – apparently the source of the blast

This is not the first attack that has threatened the city in recent history. In this year alone, four have transpired, excluding the one last week, all of which left civilians dead.

The first suspect is a 21-year old native Syrian, who moved to the UK in 2013, and, according to his social media pages, enjoyed a typical "Westernized" life, according to the owner of the fast-food joint at which the suspect was arrested. Other witnesses never described him as someone they would suspect of terrorism.

The other suspect is an 18-year old of un-

released identity, who was tracked using facial recognition technology with footage taken from a household security system. The owner of the house stated that "I got chills when I saw him on the footage waltz past my house...It's broad daylight, first thing in the morning, and this guy is walking down the road allegedly with a huge bomb in his bag — cool as you like." It is known that the suspect was a foster child of Ronald and Penelope Jones - who were honored by the queen for raising 268 foster children - and a refugee from Iraq.

ISIS, a radical Islamic terrorist organization, has claimed responsibility for the attack, claiming it was carried out by "soldiers of the caliphate." The group has claimed responsibility for many of the previous attacks in London as well, though the previously most recent one on 19 June, 2017 was carried out against a group of Muslims.

Although the attack was not as severe as previous ones, citizens of the city are still advised to be "vigilant." It has been postulated that the likelihood of attacks in London will continue to remain high, and judging from the increasing frequency of the attacks, this prediction appears to be accurate, not just for London, but for cities around the world.



Three of the seven people arrested so far have been released and one man has been charged

THE GERMAN ELECTION

by Luca Agostini



German elections are generally boring, and have been for the last ten years. The last time euphoria was felt in the German heart was the election of the first female chancellor Angela Merkel against the incumbent Social Democrat Gerhard Schröder, and even then the euphoria was more of a mild surprise.

Merkel continued on, slowly and carefully building up relations and alliances. Her first years in office were positively boring, steady. No great scandals or crises. Even so, in her more-than-ten-year reign she had and continues to have acquired a great status both at home and abroad. Merkeling, they call it. Slowly, cautiously coming to a mutual beneficial solution that gives both parties a chance to leave with something. Events however, followed her soon enough. Germany, one of the world's leading economies could not avoid responsibilities forever. The Greek financial crisis spiraled out of control and led to a full blown European economic crisis. Governments fell and were changed, the end of Europe was hailed as imminent.

Then came the Arab spring. Revolutions and demonstrations in Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Bahrain, Libya, Syria, and Oman led the the toppling of governments in some, and reform in others. Then came the migrant crisis. One million people entered Germany during the years of 2015-16. Some were fleeing conflicts while others were looking for a better life.

It is the year 2017, all is well in Germany. Election posters show landscapes of flowers and laughing children. The economy is booming;

unemployment is at a record low 4%. All is well, except it isn't. The hailed German infrastructure is nearing the brink of collapse, highways are dilapidated, the Deutsche bahn is in ruins, airports are left unfinished, and Hamburg doesn't know where to put its ships anymore. German schools are falling to bits and both local and federal governments are debating whether to invest in renovations or digitalization, that to has fallen from 9th to 25th in the world. The military and police forces are hesitantly spending more to repair their hollowed out structures and underfunded departments. Germany recently boosting the defense spending from a 41.1 billion to a whopping 4.2 billion. German manufactures are still happily pumping out cars yet the "made in Germany" label has been tarnished by the hands of the greedy and corrupt. The diesel scandal cost VW billions and countless figures in terms of reputation. No, not all is well in Germany, and not all want to pretend it isn't.

The social democrat (SPD) Martin Schulz promised reform and coming straight out the European parliament in Brussels, steamed ahead with a record 35% approval rating only to be sunk back to the bottom of the political 20% by losses in the regional elections, among others in its territory Nordrhein-Westphalia. Those are not the only problems besetting the political establishment à la Merkel. There is the problem of political extremism, both left and right, found in the factions of Die Linke, and the AFD. Both parties represent the most extreme sides of the left and right. One preaching closure of borders and "Germanifying" Germany, the other wants to disband the military. Their posters pop up on the sides of roads, seemingly ugly and gloomy next to the cheery images of a Germany that we live in well and gladly. It is 2017, all is well. Germans, at least for the time being want reforms, but not a reformer. This leaves Germany set on another predictable, if not quite as smooth ride with Merkel and her CDU.



MAKE AMERICA "GREAT" AGAIN?

OPINION by *Jessica Yun*

In November 2016, everyone in the world was interested to see who the next president of the United States was going to be. Although the presidential elections in the US garner the world's attention through its global and international significance, the amount of focus given to the 2016 election was abnormally large. People from all around the world - even US citizens - were shocked by the result of the election. Someone who no one expected to become president had won the election: Donald Trump.

Although no one had expected Trump to be president, his use of nationalistic appeals gave enough reasons to explain how he became president. During his campaign, Trump brought up many controversial issues, such as illegal immigrants, unemployment, terrorism, etc. He then convinced the voters that the United States has come to stand in a weaker position globally, and the only way for the country to be strong is to focus on internal issues rather than external issues. Furthermore, he suggested that a stronger internal economy is the only way to achieve or maintain a stronger worldwide status. Thus, as a presidential candidate, he pledged to decrease government spending on foreign policies.

Apart from Trump's questionable qualities as president - the sexist and racist comments that he made when he was still a candidate, for example - it seemed that there was no reason to disagree with his idea: wouldn't it be beneficial for the Americans if Trump makes America "great" again?

Now, let's face the reality. It has been almost 250 days into Trump presidency and, unfortunately, it is hard to say that Trump is making America stronger. In fact, by cutting off foreign aid budgets and pulling off from important treaties, Trump causes America to have less Global authority.

Withdrawing from the Paris climate-change accords or abandoning the planned

Trans-Pacific Partnership (a trade pact with 11 Asia-Pacific nations) opens up opportunities for other countries to emerge in power, as they unite and promote global goods without the U.S. For example, China has made it clear that the country is interested in taking global leadership and asked to help on climate change. The United States could also face serious diplomatic consequences for leaving the agreement; Europe, China and other countries may decide to not cooperate with the Trump government in the issues that Trump cares about, such as trade.

In addition, decreasing the foreign aid budget concurrently cuts off the U.S. allies.

Trump proposed a 28% cut in foreign aid budget for 2018, affecting funding for the United Nations (UN), World Bank, and allying countries. He has been pressuring allying countries such as Korea, Egypt, Pakistan, and Germany, to spend more money on defense. He has been turning against his allied countries such as Germany and Britain: He scolded Angela Merkel for not spending much money on national security and falsely accused Britain for spying on him. He refuses to take a role in multilateral institutions such as the UN and World Bank, which gave the U.S. an immense power over global rules in the past from trade to security.

As the United States is walking away from the active international leadership in the world, the U.S. is getting weaker and weaker; it will no longer have allies or power to have control over global issues, whereas countries like China will continue to grow and take an important role in world wide leadership.

It seems like there is no way that America can be "great" again if Trump diminishes its role in the global community. Globalization is inevitable in the 21st century; the more nationalistic a country is, the more isolated it becomes. If Trump continues to ignore the reality, then the past glory of the United States may be something that can only be found in history textbooks.



THE LAW OF SURVIVAL OF NEWS IN THE DIGITAL ERA

by Hye-Soo Paik

The title reminds me of 'Man, Woman, Wild', the US television series that is about teamwork in a survival situation. The modern press also needs to consider how to survive in a situation which feels like a jungle. With the internet there is a lot of competition out there and not necessarily a lot of cooperation. Much of the news is free, some of it is good, and some of it is not. How will our society figure out who it can trust and how much money that trust is worth?

As the internet and smartphones continue to spread to more people, traditional 'newspapers' are not in use as much anymore. Therefore, newspaper presses are considering how they can recover their profits in the digital era by focusing their attention on millennial customers who might be persuaded to buy their news on-line.

On 5th of June this year, there was 'editing forum' in the republic of South Africa which hosted the World Association of Newspapers. According to the participants (many well-known media corporations), the conclusion was to focus on creating a pay system which included new and trending articles and kept old or less fashionable news free. Newspaper presses like the NY TIMES are now making an effort to draw specific distinctions between free news and pay news.

In May 2017, The New York Times announced a sales increase of 5% and achieved a surplus compared to last year. The reason why that happened was because the pay system for on-line subscribers to the New York Times increased 62% (30million people).

The Japanese economic news press, Nihon Keizai Shinbun also started an on-line pay sys-

tem in 2010 and achieved more than 50 million subscribers for the first time in 7 years. Since they bought the England Financial Times, the number of on-line pay system subscribers has gone up to 114 million. That number is good enough for 2nd place in the world after the New York Times.

However, the situation is different in Northeast Asia. Since those consumers can find all their news on portal sites for free, it's very difficult to make a pay system, and to secure subscribers for a pay system. People who were born between 1980~90, are used to using computers to download articles for free or getting illegal replicas on online. Therefore, they don't want to pay for news. Nevertheless, teens and "20 somethings" are different. They are used to spending money for playing games and buying items for communication, downloading MP3s for digital songs or shows off of Netflix, and for them paying is not a problem.

Therefore, news presses looking to increase their profit have to focus on the millennial generation. Again the Millennial generation means the people age 20~30s (who were born in the middle of the 80s until the end of the 90s) who now lead the trends in all world marketing. In fact, in the news presses which succeed with the pay system, 30~40% of subscribers belong to the millennial generation. So the delegate of the New York Times, Mark Thomson announced at INMA (International Newspaper Marketing Association) on May 2017 that success depends on the Millennials.

Therefore, news presses have to consider pay systems. They may have to look at what is trending from the millennial generation perspectives and charge accordingly.

Since the mission of news presses has not changed they need to change with times and continue to seek the truth. However, they have to consider how they deliver news to people. This is the precondition to survival in the digital era. In conclusion, the answer is in market. All news cannot free, especially news that is popular.



CURRENT DISASTERS

OPINION by *Juliette Douet*

I'm sure everyone's heard of storms Harvey and Irma, but what about the dangers in southern Asia?

The end of August marked the start of a very weather-focused month for the US, with around 200 dead and billions of dollars worth spent in damage. It's been all over social media, where people are sharing devastating pictures of their demolished homes, and even videos playing one final song on the piano, surrounded by half a meter of water. We are all very aware of the extent of the effects in Texas and Florida, but why haven't we heard of the even more alarming disasters across southern Asia?



Landslide in southern Nepal

The media doesn't cover it, is the easy answer, which is definitely a big contributor. The landslides in Nepal, or the intense flooding in India, as well as many other events, just don't make the cut for CNN alerts; even though they amount to around 1,200 deaths and millions affected. The 'world's worst cholera outbreak' in Yemen was declared by the UN in June, but even that doesn't make headlines. However, would we really react the same way we do about storms in western countries to these emergency's if they were covered by the media in similar ways? People tend to sympathise more with disasters in areas similar to their own that they can imagine themselves in and easily relate to. It's also harder to visualize big cities being flooded, rather than, for example, the floods in India.

With hurricane Maria now threatening the Caribbean islands, I wonder what 'less important' event it will mask, and if we will ever reach a stage where all are covered equally.

LOLLAPALOOZA

by *Juliette Douet*



Lollapalooza 2017 in Berlin

Lollapalooza, one of the most difficult words to spell and largest music festivals of the world! This year, many say the lineup wasn't the best, but in my opinion, the experience made up for it. With basically every food option possible there in truck form, you might mistake it for a food festival! Or even an art or sustainability festival, because of "Der Grune Kiez" area, and Urban Nation's art contributions. Saturday was my personal favorite of the two days, as Two Door Cinema Club was headlining, alongside Mumford and Sons and the Vaccines, to name a few. On Sunday, the legendary Foo Fighters performed, as well as The XX and Hardwell. The only problem, was that the festival was over an hour outside of the center of Berlin, making it no longer even Berlin anymore. Public transport was a nightmare, with S Bahn stations being completely closed, and buses packed to the brim with people. However, they just announced that next year, the festival will be held in Charlottenburg! Hope to see you there, only around 300 days left to go!

HOW CAN WE CALCULATE THE ECONOMIC COST OF HURRICANES?

by Hyunjun Koh

In the past weeks there have been numerous hurricanes around the world which have damaged cities as well as killing, injuring or economically harming people through the destruction of infrastructure. After hurricane Harvey, which hit the Gulf of Mexico killing at least 63 people and causing catastrophic flooding and damage to Texas and Louisiana, and Hurricane Irma, the most powerful storm ever recorded in the Atlantic Ocean, the global economy was clearly negatively impacted. AccuWeather predict[ed] an economic impact of \$290 billion from Harvey and Irma combined. "This amounts to 0.5 of a percentage point of the GDP (\$19 trillion)," AccuWeather Founder, President and Chairman Dr. Joel N. Myers said.



Hurricane Harvey slams Texas

While it may seem like there are a lot of storms right now, the peak of peak hurricane season is still to come and more costs will be derived from it. However, how can people actually calculate derived cost from a situation like this? A hurricane is a natural disaster which involves a large amount of rain that leads to floods. High winds can also destroy buildings and

infrastructure. Moreover, hurricanes can also cause Tsunamis. Therefore, it is certain that Hurricanes bring a huge cost to a country's economy.

Calculating the predictive cost requires interdisciplinary knowledge including knowledge of economics but also knowledge regarding the nature of the Hurricane in question. Normally, the procedure of calculation will require teams of mathematicians, economists, statisticians, meteorologists, and structural engineers to compile the figures and analyze the data. Meteorologists and structural engineers will try to model the hurricane's movement and predict its strength as well as its path. Then, mathematicians, statisticians and economists will estimate the overall cost based on their simulations. Generally, there are two types of calculations. One calculates the actual loss after the hurricane. The other one also includes the recovery cost.

Usually, the figure will focus on the loss of costly or high price goods and services such as houses, infrastructure, or items like expensive cars since those products indicate macro aspects of the cost which will be easier to estimate.

In the case of housing, hurricanes not only destroy homes but also cause flooding. The calculation team will estimate the cost of the affected house and assign the monetary loss incurred. Of course, hurricanes tend to break smaller items like signposts, or trees around a given city and these must be accounted for as well.

However, depending on the situation one can also calculate other indirect costs such as the cost of an inactive economy. Cost of the inactive economy includes things like inactive ports, or an inactive tourism industry. Moreover, an inactive economy can also include loss of business due to loss of electricity or central industries like, water and oil as well as agriculture. This loss of business will lead to higher job losses which will increase the demand for unemployment benefits.

Taken as a whole, of what use are calculations in the case of economic loss due Hurricanes and who do these calculations benefit? For one, stakeholders in businesses desperately need to know estimated costs ahead of time to determine how to make smart decisions regarding their shares in companies that might be negatively affected. Insurance companies also hire risk-modeling companies to help them prepare for the aftermath of the hurricane. They want to know how much money they'll need to settle claims, and how many agents they will have to send into the field. On the other hand, insurance companies don't care so much about the overall numbers, which take into consideration inactive economies as mentioned above. Governments and NGO's do, however, require the overall numbers as they can estimate the size of the damage and prepare money for aid and support.

Although the economic cost analysis technique has been developed over the course of many years, we all know that these estimates have limitations and like forecasting the weather, are often flawed approximations at best. This is because our scientific knowledge of storms has not been fully developed yet. Our basic predictions of a storm's path and its strength are not sophisticated enough, as we saw in the case of hurricane Irma which was predicted to strike Miami but did not. Finally, Also, calculations do not consider less direct costs such as personal effects and family heirlooms. Nor do they account the loss of human or natural capital such as opportunities for kids to be educated or important natural habitats. In the final analysis, however, although these calculations have their limitations, cost analysis of hurricanes is essential for humanity to predict basic cost required for large scale support operations.

THE NEW IPHONE (S)

by Helen Kim and Suh hye Park

Apple has come a long way since the launch of its first iPhone that caused a sensation around the world. However, since the death of Steve Jobs, the company has been slandered with

various criticisms regarding their new phones as they did not meet the customer's needs; the phone was too small, the camera quality did not match up with other rival companies, the lack of the headphone jack was idiotic and so much more. Yet we still find ourselves standing in front of the Apple store with a newly purchased phone or computer in our hands. So what is it that makes them so enticing? The answer may lie in what the new iPhones have to offer us:

iPhone X

- 5-8 inch Super Retina screen/display
- A11 Bionic chip with an engine capable of 600,000 operations per second
- Face ID through TrueDepth camera sensors - Over 30,000 invisible dots for a depth map of the face
- TrueDepth camera mirrors facial expressions in Animoji
- Durable glass for both the front and back
- Wireless charging
- Water and dust resistance
- Portrait mode camera upgraded with quality lighting effects



iPhone X



iPhone 8

iPhone 8

- Durable glass for both the front and back
- Wireless charging
- Water and dust resistance
- True Tone technology allows light balance for better viewing in all environments
- Dual-domain pixels allow great views of the screen from any angle
- Optical image stabilization for photos and videos
- Camera zoom of up to 10x for photos and 6x for videos

"Simple can be harder than complex."

- Jobs





BBIS BOARDING: THE NEW BERLIN AIRPORT

by anonymous author

"Waking up to construction workers is always a pleasure." For the past few months BBIS boarding has been undergoing an entire re-vamp, with the promise of the addition of two new floors and refurbishing of existing rooms. The notion is applaudable; hopes to turn outdated hostel rooms into more modern and functional abodes are harmless. Yet thought is nothing without execution, and with large tapestries locking boarding in, anyone can see that the "minor" construction is here to stay.

Currently, approximately 16 boarding students are residing in the nearby NH hotel - which might sound like a dream, but once the initial fascination of the hotel wears off, you come to realise walking to boarding every morning and



dinner is less than ideal. Trekking through the forest at 7:00 am is a great way to wake up; with sleep still lulling in your eyes and a 10 degree chill coaxing you into shape. Some mornings teased with forecasts of rain, we are especially lucky to take our morning showers en route! Walking to and from the NH before and after dinner takes care of those extra calories - you can even tell I've lost some weight.

However not only are hotel students affected by these renovations, but students still residing in boarding bear the not so sweet fruit of unwanted labor too, with noises of pounding machinery at 6:30 am. Great alternative for alarm clocks, with no apparent snooze buttons; I'm never late to breakfast anymore. Yet still, the lyrics of Polish disco Hej Sokoly are now imprinted in my brain, by workers - who really should be singers - building a little too close to home, cajoling us into our now needed 3:30 pm naps.

Regardless, I'm sure we can all agree that with the hotel students moving back in (unfortunately), the construction is moving along. With promises of pools to be built in 15 years and ongoing construction for the rest of my time here, perhaps we could learn something from the infamous BER airport. Make no promises and make sure that at the end, the doors actually open.



BBIS WELCOMES THEIR NEW HIGH SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS

by Suh hye Park



BBIS opened up their doors to numerous new teachers this year. They have come after the departure of Mr. Danko and Mr. Kopkas who were the science and history teachers in the secondary school. Acclaimed by many students and loved by all, they have left for various reasons. Although their departure will undoubtedly sadden us all who have met them and had them as our wonderful teachers, it is time to meet the new secondary teachers who have come.

Mr. Arkilander is the new biology teacher and head of the science department. He had lived in Seoul, South Korea, London, UK, and Canada in the past few years. His favorite sport is curling and as an added bonus he also plays the trumpet in the school orchestra.

Mr. Darwazeh is the new history teacher and

has lived in Jordan before coming to Berlin. A fun fact about him: he wants to walk the entire length of the Berlin wall. And listen well history students, "Does not want students not scoring a 7!"

BBIS ORCHESTRA PERFORMS PUBLICLY

- by Suh hye Park

On the 15th of September, the BBIS orchestra performed ten songs in public for the people in Zehlendorf. A compilation of all the songs over the past two years, there were many merriment and clapping as the orchestra performed for forty minutes in the cold weather. There were some notable members in the orchestra such as Mr. Arkilander and Mr. Paul from the high school teachers.

Try to solve these riddles and see your answers in the next issue!

Answers to previous issue

Number Puzzle

A teacher says: I'm thinking of two natural numbers greater than 1. Try to guess what they are.

The first student knows their product and the other one knows their sum.

First: I do not know the sum.

Second: I knew that. The sum is less than 14.

First: I knew that. However, now I know the numbers.

Second: And so do I.

What were the numbers?

Sudoku

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

Einstein's Riddle

House	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
Colour	Yellow	Blue	Red	Green	White
Natl	Norweg	Dane	Brit	German	Swede
Bevg	Water	Tea	Milk	Coffee	Beer
Smokes	Dunhill	Blends	PallM	Prince	BlueM
Pet	Cat	Horse	Bird	?	Dog

Sudoku

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



THE MOST MYSTERIOUS OBSERVABLE STAR IS SHOWING FURTHER STRANGE BEHAVIOUR

- by Nathaniel Beardsley



Over the weekend of the 20th of May, the star KIC 8462852, otherwise known as Tabby's Star, has had significant dips in light intensity over a short period of time. Ever since this star was first observed in 2015, this star has exhibited behavior most unlike many other stars, having varying dips of light intensity at irregular intervals, ranging from a 3% decrease to 20%. While decreases in intensity are normal for stars, given by the fact that planets pass in front of them and block out some degree of light, this dipping is so irregular that it has left scientists baffled for the last two years.

Many theories have been put forth as to what could be causing this mysterious phenomenon. The most intriguing, though arguably least likely, answer is that it is an extraterrestrial civilization building a massive superstructure called a Dyson sphere around the star, in order to harness its power. This would not only explain the dimming, but also the fact that scientists have recently discovered that over the course of the last century, the average light intensity emitted has declined as a whole. While this may seem like a stretch, it has to be taken into account that no other star exhibiting this strange behaviour has been found anywhere in the universe, and if natural phenomenon is the explanation for this, similar behavior would likely be seen elsewhere.

Some attempts have been made to intercept alien signals from the star, but as of today there has been no success. Other theories put up suggest that comets colliding around the star, releasing huge clouds of dust that dim the star at irregular intervals. It could even be dust released from planetary collisions. Astrophysicist Tabettha Boyajian stated: "You can imagine

some Death Star blowing up a planet that was inhabited perhaps and this is the pieces of shrapnel from the planet that is orbiting around the star and blocking the light."

Whatever the explanation, Tabby's star is an interesting phenomenon, and scientists will continue to observe it to collect more data and see if they can identify any patterns. Boyajian had predicted the most recent dips before they occurred, and only time will tell if her future predictions will turn out to be true. Until this mystery can be solved, however, Tabby's star will be just one more inexplicable phenomenon in a vast, complex universe.

THE FRENCH ELECTION

- by Juliette Douet

Over the past couple months, people in France and abroad have been deciding the fate of their country. As a French citizen myself, I have to say it was probably one of the most crucial elections as it was deemed the least predictable one in decades. However I found that the presidential debate held on the 4th of May was the most interesting event of the entire election process.



From the very beginning, the polls indicated that Emmanuel Macron would win the debate against Marine Le Pen, pictured right and left respectively. The discussion got heated very quickly, and both candidates did not refrain from calling the other a "hate-filled" liar or an arrogant, cold-eyed, "smirking banker". Le Pen was accused by Libération of "avoiding any serious debate" and just attacking Macron. She went so far as to mention Macron's family, more specifically his wife; Brigitte Macron. This is a controversial topic as Brigitte is 24 years older



than Macron, at 64. They met in high school, and Brigitte was his drama teacher. Some do not approve of their relationship at all, although others are more understanding. Many reason with the argument that if their roles were reversed, no one would even bat an eye at the age gap. However, none of this affected his votes in a largely negative way, as he went on to win the elections.

Macron was elected the youngest head of state since Napoleon on the 7th of May. He won with over 30 percent more votes than Le Pen, matching the prediction of around two thirds of the votes would go to him. Since then, Macron has made the headlines and been brought to our attention on social media again by his meeting with the US president, Donald Trump. Apparently, Macron wanted to show Trump that he was not a pushover, despite his young age. He had intentionally planned to slightly crush Trump's hand just to make sure he was respected. Although this was not the first time they met. The Thursday before, Macron had left Trump as the last person he greeted, and Trump pulled his hand to show dominance. This would perhaps explain and justify Macron's plan for their second meeting. Additionally, the pictures have definitely made the rounds on social media around the world.



To conclude, a new chapter has opened for France over the past months, with a path that has never been taken before. However, I feel that the country is in strong hands, quite literally, and that the presidential election was a success.

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION (REVISED)

- by Emma Schuetze

2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the Russian revolution, which some argue to be one of the most significant historical events in the 20th

century still affecting politics and public opinion today. When the Russian revolution is discussed, the focus is usually put on the February revolution in 1917, which was the final push that overthrew the 200 year old Empire. However, there were many factors leading up to this uprising, including a failed revolution in 1905 and the food shortages that came as a result of WWI. With a lack of industrialization in comparison to other countries at the time Russia faced more casualties on both the western and eastern front than any other country involved in the war. This loss led to the quick downward spiral of the economy and food supplies which further aggravated large parts of the population.

February revolution (1917)

The February revolution begins on the 8th of march (gregorian calendar) with protesters in St. Petersburg blaming the government for the lack of bread. At first these riots do not seem to threaten the czarist government. An account from a new york times journalist states that "A number of causes, working together, brought the crisis momentarily to a head, although I do not personally believe there can be serious trouble while the Duma [the Russian legislature] is sitting."

In the following days, however; the protests grow, eventually leading the Czar to order troops to suppress the uprising, who refuse and join the protests themselves. Realising that he has lost control, Czar Nicholas II abdicates the throne to his brother whose refusal brings an end to the czarist aristocracy on March 15th.

October (Bolshevik) revolution (1917)

After the fall of the aristocracy a provisional government is set in place before elections can be held. This government quickly loses popularity among the population due to decisions such as land reform and the choice to remain in war. During this time, many soviets are elected into councils in cities across the country, slowly gaining influence. This slow reversal of power is led by Vladimir Lenin, who declares Russia to be led by the soviets, who, in contrast to the provisional government, had been elected. With the 'Peace, Bread, Land' slogan, the Bolshevik party quickly gains popularity. Through a combination of this positive public appeal and the coup d'état involving the occupation of several government buildings, the Bolshevik party rises above the provisional government and seizes power with Lenin as its head. The implementation of this communist-inspired government sets a competition against capitalist ideals on the world stage, challenging US - soviet relations to this day.

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
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NEXT MEETING:

Ms Barker's room (3409)
Oct 5th 11:05-11:20

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