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Hurricane Fiona: A Story of Danger, Disaster, & Displacement

WILLIAM CHARLES '23

Hurricane Fiona recently made landfall near the small town of Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. According to the New York Times, this Category 4 storm barreled through Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Turks and Caicos. With maximum wind speeds of around 130 miles per hour, Hurricane Fiona is nothing to be messed with. The island of Bermuda has issued both a hurricane watch and a tropical storm warning as Fiona heads their way. The New York Times states that the hurricane will approach Bermuda late Thursday. Parts of Atlantic Canada, including Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Western Newfoundland, will receive multiple inches of rain as a result.

Michael Weeks, Bermuda's minister of national security, states that "[Bermuda's] hurricane seasons in recent years have been getting busier and more active." The Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico are no strangers to storms, but Hurricane Fiona's Category 4 status has greatly affected the country and territory respectively. Puerto Rico, more specifically, was struck by Hurricane Irma and then Maria back in Fall of

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Rosh Hashanah: The Meaning Behind the Holiday and How Community Members Celebrate

MAX DONOVAN '25

Rosh Hashanah 2022 lasted from Sunday Evening, September 25, until Tuesday Evening, September 27. While many of Milton Academy's student body who are not Jewish enjoyed a basic long weekend, there was much more importance to the day for those celebrating. This holiday marks the beginning of a new year. Jewish people look back on any failings or wrongdoings from the previous year and try to improve those flaws in the next year. According to the Farmer's Almanac, this holiday is also a time "to grow closer to God." While Milton students receive only that Monday off from school, Rosh Hashanah is a holiday that lasts two days. Some choose to celebrate for one day, while others choose to celebrate for both.

In the Bible, Rosh Hashanah is called "Yom Teruah." This name has its origins in the Old Testament from a story in Israel about children

being commanded by the Lord. "Teruah" means to be commanded.

There are many traditions for Rosh Hashanah including candle lighting when blessings are recited. At temple, there are many other blessings recited during services. At these services, prayers are recited from the machzor, a book used only on the holiest days of the year. After this religious service, people enjoy a large meal to celebrate with their families. Here, the Kiddush is recited, a blessing that means "santificacion." They share blessings over wine and bread. According to NJ.com, "sweet foods, such as apples and honey, are popular during Rosh Hashanah because ancient Jews believed apples had healing properties and honey signifies that the new year will be sweet."

I interviewed a Class III student, Asa Strauss, on his experiences celebrating Rosh Hashanah this year.

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The 'New' Schedule: A Retrospection

It's been a year since the new schedule was put in place. 45-minute blocks became 60-minutes, club blocks were moved to the 10AM slot, where recess used to be, and a two-week timeframe was introduced. A year ago, TMP remarked that "nobody really asked us if we wanted [the change] in the first place." In this issue, the TMP board wants to review the last year of the new schedule and explore its effects on student life.

The switch to 60- and 80-minute periods was a huge shift at first. At the start, many students struggled with even the 60-minute blocks, finding their attention spans ending by the 45-minute mark. After a year, however, students and faculty have adapted to the longer classes. This change has given teachers more flexibility during class meetings: after all, what can they really fit into 45 minutes?

A majority of students have reported a lighter workload. Rather than having four assignments a week (one for every class meeting), students now only receive homework three times a week. A year ago, TMP declared, "we want less homework—not more time to do it." While most

students do truly have "less homework," some have found "more time to do it" truer to their experience.

Less homework, however, is a double-edged sword. Some teachers have found planning courses, especially those with heavy reading, difficult. With less homework time, there is simply less space with which teachers can assign homework. Language classes, which thrive on consistent practice and application, have been negatively affected as well.

We've been without a short but important part of the old schedule: recess. Once upon a time, from 10:00-10:15, every student had no class commitments. There was time, daily, outside of assembly, during which the whole upper school community would be gathered in one place. The Stu would be packed to the brim, which, among many other benefits, gave TMP a nice window to distribute our papers weekly. The 20-minute extended periods just aren't the same.

Clubs, however, are one aspect of student life that has worsened under the new schedule. Last year, the schedule featured six distinct club blocks, but since

they were split across two weeks we basically only had three. Clubs could either meet weekly, potentially dropping members to conflicting clubs, or meet bi-weekly, hindering the buildup of momentum. Most clubs decided on the former, jamming themselves into already-contested spots. As a result, many students were prevented from attending clubs they wanted to be a part of. Despite being an institution that prides itself on the strength of its extracurricular activities, Milton failed to keep its club in mind while building its new schedule. This year's changes (splitting up Thursday's block to create four weekly meeting slots) promise improvement, though not a full return to the effective system in place before the new schedule.

The last year has been more or less an extended trial for the new schedule. While there are significant kinks to work out (especially with club meeting slots), students have adapted well to many of the other changes, like longer class blocks and less work. Overall, however, the philosophy of the schedule—to lighten the homework load for students—has been effectively realised.

Rosh Hashanah

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He said he had a “very fun time at Rosh Hashanah, when friends and family can sit around a table to celebrate the new year.” While he did not attend temple in person, he attended virtually with his family. When asked what were his favorite foods to eat during the meal, he responded, “brisket, salmon, apples, and honey.” Honey is extra important for Asa and his family because the honey they eat during the Rosh Hashanah meal is from the bees that they own. Because sweet foods are very symbolic on Rosh Hashanah, Asa enjoys them all the more on Rosh Hashanah. I interviewed another Class 3 student who celebrated the holiday slightly differently. He attended temple with his family. Like Asa, he also had a large meal with his family after temple and ate many sweet foods. These foods include apples and honey which are eaten during this special meal by countless Jewish people around the world.

Now, what comes next after Rosh Hashanah? For 10 days after the holiday, the Days of Repentance take place, a time to continue looking back on the past year and identify any personal improvements that can be made in the coming year. This ten day period ends on Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement. Yom Kippur wraps up all of the celebrations of the previous ten days. It’s a day of fasting when Jewish people seek forgiveness for mistakes of the previous year. After this day finishes, the Shofar, a Jewish musical horn used for religious purposes, which is also used during Rosh Hashanah and at the beginning of the Days of Repentance, is blown. This concludes the celebrations. All of the holidays—Rosh Hashanah, the 10 Days of Repentance, and Yom Kippur—are connected with a central theme of trying to improve oneself in the year ahead.



NASA

Hurricane Fiona: A Story of Danger, Disaster, & Displacement

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2017. As of 2022, Puerto Rico has still not recovered from the devastation of the 2017 superstorms. Now, the island has been hit with yet another storm. As reported by the New York Times, the growing number of hurricanes stems from a changing climate. Many of the plantations in Puerto Rico have been hit hard by Fiona. According to the secretary of Puerto Rico’s agriculture department, the island’s agriculture will take at least months to recover. Specifically banana and plantain crops, a crucial crop for many Caribbean Islanders, were damaged greatly by the storm. The Governor of Puerto Rico, Pedro Pierluisi, has requested that the U.S. government waive a federal law on fuel shipments to the island as the shortage of fuel could cause public health problems. According to NPR, a British Petroleum ship with 300,000 barrels of diesel is awaiting arrival on the shore. CNN states that

millions are deeply impacted by the hurricane, left without power and running water. The hurricane has caused over a dozen people to lose their lives, and many have been displaced from their homes or are seeking refuge.

Recently, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has sent Canadian Armed Forces to help with the damages. Their main concern right now is the restoration of power across the Atlantic region of Canada. It is considered the worst natural disaster to affect Canada in 19 years. Although the storm had been “downgraded” by the time it reached the country, it still had heavy rainfall and winds up to 110 mph. Canadian officials are asking residents to stay off the roads as power is restored. According to Environment Canada, Fiona, only a cyclone at the time, had the lowest barometric pressure of any storm to hit our neighbor to the north. CNN states that the lower the barometric pressure, the more unsettling the weather is. To conclude, Hurricane Fiona has caused a severe amount of damage as it traveled from the Dominican Republic and up the east coast towards Atlantic Canada. Moreover, Puerto Rico is in need of much help recovering from its third biggest hurricane in the past decade. If you are interested in helping, go to GlobalGiving.org to support the many victims of Fiona.

Interest Rate Hikes in the US: A Global Affair

ABBY DUNN '24

Over the past two years, inflation has sky-rocketed in the United States as a result of the pandemic. Inconsistencies in pandemic restrictions made demands for in-person services vs. goods unpredictable. Unemployment rates spiked to an all time high (14.8%) causing supply shortages. Overall, production could not keep up with consumption—prices increased as the value of the dollar decreased. When Russia invaded Ukraine, inflation worsened as export prices surged. Barron's estimates that the war in Ukraine has led to a "30% increase in oil prices" and a "90% increase in European gas prices."

The Federal Reserve is determined to battle this inflation by increasing the federal fund interest rate or having interest rate banks charge one another to borrow money. But how can interest rate hikes impact the greater economy and fight inflation if they only concern transactions between banks? When a large corporation borrows money, a bank can charge a prime rate, which is equivalent to the federal funds rate plus three percent. As the prime rate increases, NBC explains that "the cost of borrowing for all other loan products, like real estate and vehicle purchases" also increases. The idea is that if borrowing money costs more, consumers will spend less, countering the high demands causing inflation.

During their September 20-21 meeting, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates by 0.75%. Projections predict that the interest rate will increase by at least 1.25% in the next two Federal Reserve meetings. The Federal Reserve is determined to bring inflation down to 2%. Jerome Powell, the chair of the Federal Reserve, said the Federal Open Market Committee will "keep at it until the job is done."

While the Federal Reserve's job is to protect the US economy when it comes to increasing interest rates to fight inflation, the reserve is occupying a rather narrow vision. Rising interest rates make the dollar more alluring—investors are more likely to invest in the US market rather than the smaller markets that may be struggling. According

to The New York Times, as the dollar becomes more alluring, it is "clobbering" other currencies. Early in the summer, the dollar and the euro reached a 1-1 parity for the first time in twenty years. This past week, the British pound reached a "record low against the dollar." The New York Times also states that "one year ago \$100 worth of oil cost 1,572 Egyptian pounds and 117,655 Korean won." Now, the same amount of oil costs "1,950 Egyptian pounds and 143,158 Korean won." Americans, on the other hand, are enjoying the increasing value of the dollar. One year ago "12 pounds of British tea cost \$16.44" while today, that same amount costs only \$13.03.

To make matters worse, as countries see US interest rates increasing, they will do the same to prevent their import prices from sky-rocketing and to protect their own currencies. Countries like Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia, Sweden, and Switzerland have already raised their own interest rates. While fighting inflation in the United States is certainly important, the Federal Reserve must be cautious of how increasing interest rates are impacting the global economy. The New York Times explained that "the economic outlook in the United States, however cloudy, is still better than in most other regions." As Alan Greenspan, the ex-president of the Federal Reserve said, "it is just not credible that the United States can remain an oasis of prosperity unaffected by a world that is experiencing greatly increased stress."

The Importance of Cultural Exchange

ANNA SCHMULTS '25

The Latinx assembly was an important and vivid cultural showcase. With the frequency of Milton's all school programming, sitting through assembly after assembly begins to become slightly boring--there are only so many announcements hundreds of people can sit through before phones start to turn on in the bleachers. When September comes around, the Latinx assembly is

always a welcome relief. A consensus developed among the interviewed students that it is their favorite programming throughout the entire year. With salsa dancing, music, faculty stories, and, of course, the much anticipated Ritmo performance, the assembly was engaging and fun. Professional performers brought in by Latinx club expertly engaged the audience with call and response songs and convinced everyone to come down to the dance floor with the help of Milton faculty. At the height of the dancing, nearly all of the lower school was packed shoulder to shoulder, doing their best to dance. The music brought important energy, causing an anonymous student to share, "I usually just fall asleep at these things, but the music made it easy to stay awake. I actually went down to go dance when the salsa started." Audience participation certainly made this assembly especially memorable, since many students feel that, by the end of their weekly hour in the bleachers, their "back pain becomes more engaging than the speaker." Active dancing allowed students to stretch out and feel as though they, too, contributed to the festivities.

Though Ritmo's annual performance proved a highlight for most of those interviewed, especially middle school students who only recently got to attend, it seemed even more important to the dancers themselves; one member, who feels as though "[she has] gotten so much better at dance with everything Trinity taught [her,]" reported that "[she loves] the people so much and it is a great team."

A great controversy, however, did arise from the decision to remove the lower schoolers. One student, viewing the decision as problematic, incredulously commented, "what part of Ritmo is too much for the middle schoolers to see?" In reference to the removal, another commented, "it is...disrespectful. Like, the school's oversexualizing something that is just dancing."

In essence, the Latinx assembly crucially contributes to the student body's education and remains a much valued Milton tradition. Milton possesses such a large boarder population, and often forgets to recognize that a large group of students not only experience a new school when arriving on campus, but also a new culture and country. The transitional shock of leaving home is exacerbated further if students' culture is unfamiliar to those around them.

Spilling the T

JASON YU '25

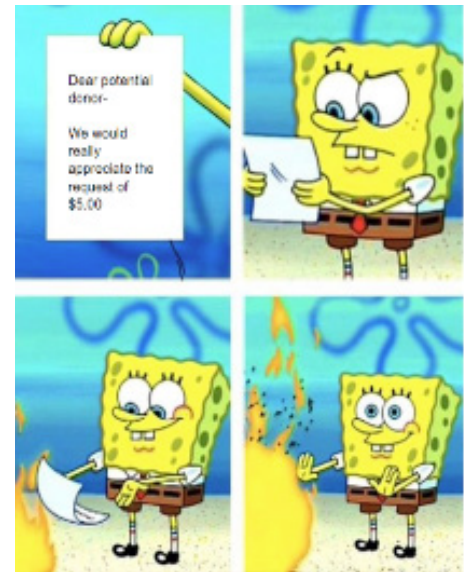
I do not clearly remember my initial thoughts of the ‘T,’ but after seeing movies featuring the New York subway and learning about its unexpected tragic deaths, I imagine I had pretty low expectations for the American subway in terms of safety, sanitation, and convenience. The American underground transportation system and the transportation system where I come from, Hong Kong, contrast drastically. I find Hong Kong’s Mass Transit Railway (MTR) to be quite convenient. Though Hong Kong is not a very big place, the MTR is extremely efficient and effective. The MTR has convenient stores, direct underground entrances to local hotspots, and most importantly, air conditioning.

On the other hand, the American metro system and setup itself is unattractive. First of all, when talking about Boston specifically, the Green Line is the oldest American rail line and has been in use since 1897. The founding of Boston’s MBTA system pre-dates even T.S. Eliot’s time at high school in Milton. The other rail lines are not exactly new either – in fact they’re rather impractical. Thea DiGiammerino from NBC 10 Boston reported that the recent shutdown of the Orange Line for 30 days was due to a “a number of safety directives issues ... some of which proved fatal.” One instance where the ‘T’ has proved fatally unsafe occurred this past April, where a man named Robinson

Lalin got his arm stuck in the side of the train and he was dragged into the tunnel. In July, a train from the Orange Line even caught fire while traversing a bridge over the Mystic River.

There are a few aspects the United States can adopt from other countries’ underground railway systems. Of course, fixing the basic things mentioned above is necessary. The metro has the potential to be a place where local artistry and culture is showcased, too. In Hong Kong, artists are hired to do site-specific work. For example, take Hong Kong’s new and improved Admiralty station. As one walks from one side of the station to the other, they can admire a large sculpture hanging from the ceiling, a symbol that celebrates the connection between four lines coming together. Whereas in Massachusetts, a train to Chinatown from Milton is about 1 hour and 5 minutes. For this specific journey, cycling can beat the train by 10 full minutes!

As a boarder, there are a few ways I can get to places. Out of all my options, frankly, I am not surprised that taking the ‘T’ is one of the last methods of travel that come to mind. By all means, the ‘T’ makes for relatively smooth travel. However, with the chilly winds and the half an hour trek, the train discourages me from travelling at all. An upgrade for Boston’s ‘T’ is very much needed, for it is not suitable for the 21st century and emerging technology. America’s clear lack of funding for this form of transportation system is shocking and unfortunate as it carries a great potential for raising the quality of life.



Alex G's *God Save the Animals* and the Beginnings of a Gen-Z Canon

LOUIS CHIASSON '25



NEW YORK TIMES

“After all, people come and people go away, but God with me he stayed,” so begins Alex G’s most recent studio album, *God Save the Animals*. The words themselves aren’t worlds away from DJ Khalid’s garish declarations of “They ain’t believe in us! God did!” on his most recent album, but it’s all in the delivery. Chipmunked vocals over a gloomy and cavernous guitar make the words dirgelike and difficult to even understand. One can’t help but take more away from the “people go away” than from the “God with me he stayed.” I don’t know whether or not Alex is religious in his personal life, but these lines feel desperate and almost dissociative—more of a plea than a proclamation.

This alienation of words to sound is the major innovation that Alex G brings to the table on *God Save the Animals*. He’s always been able to thread melancholic writing into groovy, melodic songs (“Runner,” the only track on this record that sounds like a bona fide hit, is one of his best instances of this songwriting style yet), but this record is defined by the opposite: optimistic writing burdened by sonic malaise.

On “Cross the Sea,” a deeply haunting song, Alex sings “you can believe in me” in a tone that doesn’t inspire much confidence; it’s hushed and distorted, diluted by a harsh layer of auto tune that sounds like it’s buoying Alex from whispering the whole song. Nearly 10 years ago, the late theorist Mark Fisher wrote that “a secret sadness lurks beneath the 21st century’s forced smile,” words that I couldn’t help but ponder when listening to this record. Fisher’s statement seems truer than ever in some ways, but I constantly wonder how it’s evolved with the maturation of my own generation, Gen-Z. How have the artists who grew up on a record like 808’s and Heartbreak metabolized such emotional expression?

Where artists like Drake or Future made their mark by building a character out of alternating hedonistic emotional repression and operatic vulnerability (to stunning results), the younger generation—Bladee, Playboi Carti, Ken Carson, etcetera—have begun to wield emotional obfuscation. Their records are abrasive enough that most first impressions are visceral, yet underneath the harsh digital sound lies real longing and

insecurity—consider Carti’s repeated “don’t get close, baby don’t get too close” on “ILoveUIHateU.” Alex G, who is older than Gen-Z but whose music finds its most devoted listeners among younger people, has begun to use the same mode of expression. The word “hyperpop” has certainly come up more than once in conjunction with *Animals*, and listening to the climax of a track like “No Bitterness” proves the comparisons to be apt. The record is alternately hyperactive and jittery and somber in a hazy, dulled way, more in line with the most forward-thinking pop and rap trends than anyone else in the indie-sphere.

A full listen of *God Save the Animals* might lead one to think I’ve led them astray with talk of its “revolutionary” qualities; I don’t mean to overstate this record’s experimentation. Indeed, much of the album sounds like the rest of Alex G’s output: technically sound, low-fi, folk music. Yet the melding of this acoustic mode, which is similarly in-vogue, with hopeless online soundscapes that evoke Jane Shoenbrun’s *We’re All Going to the World’s Fair* (the first film for which Alex G has supplied the score) is truly zeitgeist-capturing. The emotional expression is at times messy or unpleasant, though in the same messy, unpleasant way that online spaces have liberated and defined a generation. And for the record to focus on a quest for faith, that oldest and most hallowed of coping mechanisms, it feels profoundly like the newest iteration of a universal longing. In a year full of wonderful new albums, *God Save the Animals* feels like the finest musical embodiment of its era. Clearly, a wave of change is coming: democratized artistic creation and dwindling attention spans have necessitated completely new forms for songwriting and filmmaking. Thus, one couldn’t be blamed for calling an Alex G song fragmentary. Nobody, however, could claim he doesn’t reflect a radical combination of all the most pressing artistic ideas of a generation with newfound agency.

House of the Dragon: Is it Worth the Watch?

SAM GOLDINGS '24



NEW YORK TIMES

Did you love Game of Thrones? All eight seasons? Have you seen four or more ads for House of the Dragon but can't decide if you should give it a shot? In that case, this article is for you. I boldly did what 3.5 million other Americans have done and watched the first six episodes of the hit prequel show. The verdict? It's only OK. Fans of Game of Thrones will recognize the dragons and thrones, but they might miss just about everything else they loved. Like its predecessor, the show follows a handful of important characters all vying for the throne.

The primary conflict comes from King Viserys Targaryen who names his daughter, Rhaenyra, as heir to the throne instead of his brother, Daemon, or Viserys's younger son, Aegon. The first six episodes all take place while King Viserys is still alive, but the show makes clear that his frailty and a potential war over succession could take place once he dies.

Another important character is Alicent Hightower, Rhaenyra's

childhood best friend, who marries Rhaenyra's father, the King, and becomes her rival for power. Amid the dragons, knights, betrayal, gore, and romance, the vast majority of characters somehow remain boring and annoying, saved only by a handful of fantastic performances. Among these performances is Matt Smith, famous for his role in Doctor Who, who plays King Viserys's brother. As a morally gray antagonist, Matt Smith plays Daemon as one of the more exciting and almost relatable characters, despite being a terrible person. The other dozen or so important characters introduced thus far, in this critic's humble opinion, all remain uniquely unlikeable and bland.

The magic of the original series came from its fleshed out characters, many of whom fans were happy to root for. This new prequel series, however, leaves the viewer feeling like they could happily read the book instead. Rather than watching on the edge of their seats, anticipating the next wild twist, the viewer

might witness a main character die and feel the sort of passionless indifference one might have while watching an episode of The Big Bang Theory. This claim is not to say the show is not watchable or even enjoyable; there are moments that are reminiscent of what made Game of Thrones so great, and the monstrous budget allows for spectacular visual effects. The show regularly leaves the viewer stunned by the dragon flights and battle scenes in front of them.

In conclusion, a reasonably good cast, a lavish FX budget, and a script that probably took a team of interns to write come together to make a show that is just fine. As much as I might criticize House of the Dragon, I have given six hours of my life to it, so I cannot be too harsh. House of the Dragon is a show that exists as a fun continuation of the world we all know and love, but it is maybe not as strong a show on its own.

SKOOL YR ASPIRATIONS!

NESQUICK>>>>>>>>>>>



You're Not Going to Harvard

Staring down from stu balcony is
not very slay



Get with your writer tutor, get
the A- (#askandyoushallreceive)

"Convocation Theme" kills seasonal
depression("Dare To Be True To Yourself"
enhances it)



ALWAYS avoid Cox basement past
7pm

