

Lights, Camera, Action at MFS

Hezekiah Lewis, Villanova Professor, Teaches a New Film-Focused M

By Emily Tatum

Film Analysis is an interactive and exciting elective that was introduced this year at Moorestown Friends School. It meets on A days at 10:42 and D days at 1:40. This class teaches the basics of film critique and production, culminating in students making their own six minute short films. This class was instituted due to the buzz the Artist in Residence program created two years ago at MFS. Hezekiah Lewis, the instructor for this course, received his Master's degree in Theatre at Villanova University. He went on to graduate from UCLA's film school with an MFA in Directing. He has directed, produced, and written a number of films, his two most recent films being "Who is Wright" and "Warrior Queen." Lewis is currently an assistant professor at Villanova.

Lewis came here to be the Artist in Residence in 2011. "I was amazed by

the talent and intelligence by the wonderful Moorestown Friends students," said Lewis. He jumped at the opportunity to teach a class at Moorestown Friends. Lewis said, "I don't see this as a job; I see it as my passion." When

asked if he would consider continuing teaching at Moorestown Friends, Lewis replied, "I would love to. This is a great experience, and I'm always learning."

"Mr. Lewis brings a unique energy that helps create new projects and inspires us to think of interesting ways to express our story through film," said sophomore Scott Strickland. Sophomore Ryan Dorsey said, "I like it because it's more hands on [than other electives]."

"This class lets you bring a vision you've had to life," said Strickland, "and for someone that is interested in doing work with videos or film, this is an exciting opportunity."



photo by Mike Schlotterbeck

Justin The Neighborhood

By Maura Aleardi

The new Upper School Director has surely made a first impression on the Moorestown Friends student body. "I am always wary about people with two first names," said senior Scott Krasner. Krasner says his skepticism was proved wrong. Sophomore Megan Le said, "Once he went around giving out candy, and I thought that was really cool."

Brandon's new position requires that he really gets to know each and every member of the MFS community, and he has made progress in many different ways. Krasner said, "He has given me Oreos and we watched the soccer game together." Junior Steven Mannion recalled his times with Brandon and said, "We were talking a lot when I was helping out at freshman bonding day and at back to school night. We just hung out and talked about random stuff not even dealing with school."

Brandon decided to come to MFS because he was looking for a school a little smaller than the Episcopal Academy. Brandon refers to MFS by saying, "I've always loved Quaker education, and I've heard great things about Moorestown Friends."

Prior to being at MFS, Brandon's entire life was consumed by education; his mother

was a teacher in New York, his brother and sister teach in Las Vegas, and his wife teaches at the Episcopal Academy. In college, Brandon was involved in a tutoring group called "Homework and Hoops" in which he tutored kids and played basketball with them. He eventually started his own tutoring organization and ran all of the others at the college.

Brandon said that his greatest moment of teaching was an experience he shared with a student during his first teaching job in Texas. The student entered Brandon's American History class saying that he was a science and math student and would surely fail. Brandon says, "I took some time to think about the best way I could try to approach the student and try to see if there was some kind of way I could connect his love of science and technology and math with U.S. History." Brandon decided to ask the student to create a blog for the History class. The blog ended up thriving so greatly that it eventually had sponsors and the student went from a C to an A- in the class.

For now, Brandon has no specific hopes for MFS. Brandon explains, "I'm just trying to figure out how I fit in and the cultures and traditions of MFS."

New Host Policy Stirs Up Drama

by Lauren Lowe

A recent discussion of revisions to the 2012-2013 Student Handbook has had many Upper School students discussing the different policies. Specifically, the new Social Host policy has been the most controversial. The policy states: "Students (i.e., social hosts) who enable an off-campus gathering that involves any of the harmful substances listed in this policy, either by hosting the event or by providing the harmful substance(s), will experience more severe consequences than those who attend. Social hosting is a level three offense." Level three offenses are considered major disciplinary offenses and therefore the accompanying punishments are severe. These serious penalties coupled with what several students have referred to as "too general" wording has left members of the Upper School community dissatisfied with the new policy. Senior Nicole Hovatter said, "I understand where the [administration] is coming from, but [the policy] is too vague and doesn't leave room for specific circumstances such as the host

not knowing that alcohol is being consumed." So what does happen when the host is completely ignorant of any illegal substances being used or consumed? Upper School Dean Mike Brunswick pointed out that the generality of the policy actually allows the administration to be more flexible in their disciplinary actions. "I think by keeping it vague it actually does give us room to go situation by situation," he said.

Many have maintained a firm opposition to the new policy because they think that it infringes on their lives outside of school, but have asked to remain anonymous for fear of repercussions from speaking out against the policy and the administration. "Our school life and our social life should be two separate things," one senior student said. "I don't think the school has the right to tell me what to do on my own time." Another junior agreed: "I think it crosses the line." Others feel that the policy resulted from the school's desire to keep a clean image, and was not implemented out of genuine concern for students' health

and wellbeing. "I do think the school is more concerned with their reputation than students' safety," stated one upperclassman. "What a student does in their outside life has no bearing on how they do academically and doesn't affect the school." When asked about the policy, senior Taylor Hart-McGonigle didn't hesitate before answering, "The school shouldn't be able to control how students behave outside of school. [Their behavior] doesn't reflect poorly on the school, it reflects poorly on the individual." However, Upper School Counselor Katie LuBrant said, "The policy really stems from a place of true care for the members of the student body." LuBrant pointed to specific revisions to the drug and alcohol policy that gives the school the ability to send a student to drug/alcohol counseling if a student violates the drug and alcohol policy. "The powers that be felt that besides a disciplinary approach it was necessary to add a health and counseling approach to take care of the whole child beyond just punishing them," LuBrant said. "Bottom

line, if you're using drugs or alcohol underage then we have a health concern. [The policy] is an appropriate response that the school has always believed in but was never in writing and needed to be." Mr. Brunswick said, "I think parents and the host students need to understand that they're just as responsible as the people that are drinking. We take the whole thing seriously. I think many families can get in trouble, legally, with the law. I think we're trying to help our parents out too, though people may not see it that way."

"We're here to help. My fear is that I'll get a call over the weekend or show up Monday morning and that something bad has happened to one of [the students]," he said. "It might be infringing on your 'off-campus activities' or whatever you want to call it, but we also want you to be safe - you're a part of this community."

In this issue:

Spirit Week Wrap-Up:
Opinions from each grade



Reena Karasin reviews
Toni Morrison's new book *Home*



Visit our new website,
www.mfswordsworth.com,
for the latest updates, media and
spirit week recaps!

New Kids on the Block

By Jailene Jaquez

This year at Moorestown Friends there has been a lot of change, including a number of new students arriving.

I myself am a new student, and I asked a group of fellow new students about their time here at MFS so far.

"I like MFS. The teachers are nice, the people are accepting and friendly, and it's a lot of fun," said Gabriela Montes.

"MFS is great! The kids are nice, the teachers are wonderful, the administration is available and makes an effort to get to know each of the kids individually, and the atmosphere is optimal for both rich learning and socialization," responded freshman Edward Gelernt.

I am in many classes with a few of my fellow new students, and they seem to enjoy their courses very much. New students I have spoken with also agreed that finding



Jailene Jaquez, new student turned member of the community.

classes was not that difficult either.

Everyone eagerly anticipates the events that will occur throughout the day, like what new things they will be learning to what they will eat for lunch. It did not seem to take most of them very long to fit in because everyone was welcoming.

Additionally, some had friends from previous schools that also came to MFS, and this eased the transition.

Every day in the halls you will hear comments just like Edward's and Gabriela's. Attending MFS is a great pleasure.

Ever since I have arrived I have been welcomed with open arms. Everyone is just so kind and willing to help out each other.

MFS is an amazing school and I am glad I am here.

Letter to the Editor:

World Language Department Chair Josefina Paoello wished to respond to the article in the October edition about "Tell Me More."

"In an effort to improve communicative skills in the world language classroom, the Department of World Languages undertook a painstaking research in different language-learning programs on the market. At the end of two laborious years, the department determined that Tell Me More, a program designed for all levels of learning, was best suited for the three languages we offer. Our choice was based on the richness of its didactic content, and the variety of options it affords students for interactive activities.

Although some students are still experiencing some concern with the voice-recognition feature, the program flexibility gives students choices in what they can learn, and equips teachers with optimum pedagogical tools. The confluence of learning and teaching centers around a wide variety of grammatical exercises, vocabulary, pronunciation and comprehension activities devised for both audio and visual learners. Most instruction takes place in the context of scenes related to everyday life, such as family, travel, and the like."

NOVEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11 Thanksgiving Food Collection	12 Thanksgiving Food Collection	13 Thanksgiving Food Collection	14 No school for MS/US students! MS/US parent conferences	15 Come see Gypsy for free! 7:00 pm	16 Gypsy plays again at 7:30 pm	17 Last chance to see the play! 7:30 pm
18	19 US Assembly-JV sports awards 11:29 am	20 US Dodgeball tournament! 4:00 pm	21 Thanksgiving Happening (half-day-11:30 dismissal)	22 Thanksgiving Day (No School)	23 No School	24
25	26 MS/US winter sports begin	27 Keep People Warm collection Bring a Friend to Friends	28 Keep People Warm collection Bring a Friend to Friends	29 Keep People Warm collection Bring a Friend to Friends	30 Keep People Warm collection Bring a Friend to Friends	1 Keep People Warm Collection SAT's

Something Fishy at Pixar

Editor-in-Chief's Column
By Austin Harris

For years, Pixar has been known for their excellent CG films, but there has to be something fishy going on if they're really planning on making *Finding Nemo 2* (which they are), along with other sequels. When I heard the news that Pixar had decided to make sequels to several of their famous, already-classic movies, I instantly became cynical. Is Pixar's "golden age" over?

I was a generation too late to "grow up" with some of the new Disney classics like *Aladdin* or *The Lion King*. However, I was old enough to grow up with Pixar. I remember watching both of the original *Toy Story* movies on VHS, and my earliest memory in a movie theater was seeing *Monsters Inc.* with my family. Like many of you, I laughed and cried at *Finding Nemo* and *Up*, was enthralled by *The Incredibles*, and was simply mesmerized by *Wall-E*.

Lately, though, Pixar hasn't been cutting it. I didn't see *Cars 2*, and I don't plan to. All I know is that it was a sequel to my least favorite Pixar movie, the

first Pixar movie to get more bad reviews than good reviews, and probably the first Pixar movie that was made with the express intent to sell toys. I didn't see *Brave* either, but what I hear is that while it's nowhere near as bad as *Cars 2*, it doesn't quite reach the lofty standards that Pixar usually has. And now, I hear that Pixar is not only making *Finding Nemo 2*, but also *Toy Story 4*.

Pixar was rare. Most other movie studios have a collection of good films and bad films, and most other movie studios have lately been putting most of their money into sequels and remakes. Pixar didn't do any of that. They made excellent, original films, and only made sequels when they felt that the story was superior to the story of the last film, hence the immense critical and commercial success of *Toy Story 3* (even if you didn't think it was better than the originals, you know you liked it). Pixar didn't make movies to sell merchandise; they made movies to tell stories. My theory is that Pixar could get away

with this before because it was a small studio that made constant hits. But now, Pixar has grown from its humble beginnings, a new corporate Disney attitude seems to have taken over, and now they are making more sequels. This theory makes even more sense with the recent news that Disney has now purchased Lucasfilm from George Lucas (and has already put *Star Wars Episode VII* in production). Hearing this news is really sad for me, because I thought that Pixar was somehow above these corporate antics; but, apparently, I was naive.

Pixar used to be this infallible company that you could always rely on to make something brilliant, but I can no longer make that comment. *Monsters University* is their next film, and it's a prequel to *Monsters Inc.* If this film is good, I will set aside *Cars 2* and *Brave* as mistakes and go on thinking that Pixar is amazing. However, if this movie isn't good, I think I'll lose more respect for the studio and really believe that the so-called "golden age" is over.

Spirit Week Wrap-Up

The leaders of hallway and airband in each grade gave their opinions on their Spirit Week performances and on those of their rivals.

“My favorite part of the [hallway] process was seeing everyone work together [Thursday night].”
-Brady Sloan, 9th Grade

“My favorite part of our hallway was the LED constellation map.”
-CJ Durkow, 11th Grade

“My favorite part [of the 10th grade hallway] was the SpongeBob music playing as you walked through the hall.”
-Megan Le, 10th Grade

“I liked everything, but one of my favorite parts [of the senior hallway] was Dobby peeking out from the kitchen. I also really liked the bulletin board with all the announcements.”
-Liana Hershey, 12th Grade

“My favorite part of our airband was the ‘Run It’ dance because the choreography was really good and fun to learn. It’s also my favorite Chris Brown song.”
-Jess Richards, 9th Grade

“My favorite part of my grade’s airband was finally seeing it all come together. We had so many problems with the order of songs, the costumes, the video, and the CD, including me leaving it home the night of hallway, but being able to see it all come together was better than I could ever imagine.”
-Ciani Green, 11th Grade

“My favorite part of our airband was the ‘As Long As You Love Me’ dance.”
-Stephanie Walker, 10th Grade

“My favorite part of our airband was watching how excited everyone was the first time we made it through the whole thing without stopping.”
-Maggie Fischer, 12th Grade

... and on other grades’ performances.

On 9th Grade

“I liked their My Milkshake video.”
-Stephanie Walker, 10th Grade

“It was really colorful, and a lot better than our hallway when we were freshmen.”
-Megan Le, 10th Grade

On 10th Grade

“I liked the music they had playing, and the jellyfish, and how everything was blue.”
-Brady Sloan, 9th Grade

“Their airband seemed more organized and rehearsed than last year. Every Spirit Week is a chance to do it better than before and I think they definitely did that.”
- Ciani Green, 11th Grade



The Senior boys team pulls its way to victory in tug-of-war. Photo by Austin Harris

On 11th Grade

“My favorite part of the junior hallway was the light board.”
-Liana Hershey, 12th Grade

“My favorite part of the junior airband was the dance to ‘Turn Up The Music’ because all of them, but especially EC, were working it out.”
-Maggie Fischer, 12th Grade

On 12th Grade

“I really liked the screens playing videos of teachers dressed as wizards.”
-CJ Durkow, 11th Grade

“My favorite part of the senior airband was the finger lights and the song where Spencer Bard was in the front with the baton.” -
Jess Richards, 9th Grade

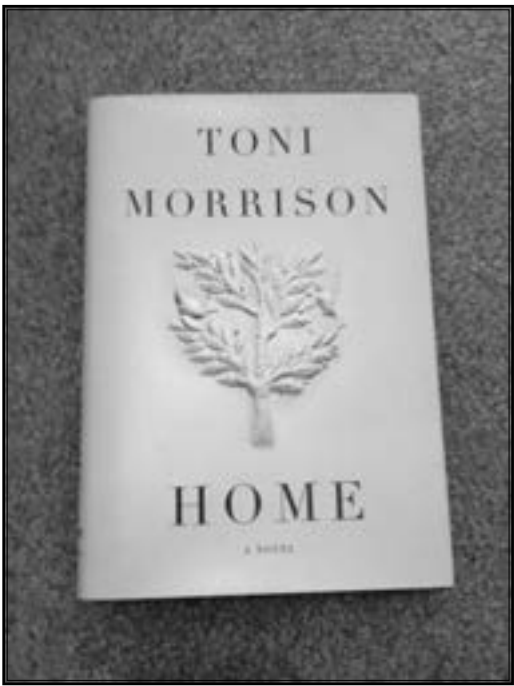


Photo by Reena Karasin

Reads with Reena

Book Reviews by Reena Karasin – This Month: *Home* by Toni Morrison

Home by Toni Morrison is a jam-packed novel, offering far more than its slender size would suggest. It centers on the life of Frank Money, a veteran of the Korean War who hates his hometown in Georgia. Frank is traumatized by his experiences overseas, and seeks relief from his memories in alcohol and wandering. However, he receives notice that his younger sister, Ycidra (also known as Cee) is in grave danger. The story follows his journey back to Georgia to rescue Cee, as well as Cee’s personal transformation. Although Frank is arguably the main character in this novel, I feel that Cee’s story is the most profound. She grows up being told that she is

nothing and cowers in the face of the world. She was a trembling, obedient child, who consistently depended on her older brother to guide and protect her. However, throughout the book she uses the horrible realities of her world to grow into a tough, independent woman like those who surround her – women who became strong in the face of adversity, who grew lives for themselves out of nothing. However, Frank Money is also a fascinating character. His hometown, Lotus, was always too slow and dull for his taste. But once he experiences the horrors of the world, both in his surroundings and in himself, he is forever changed; Lotus becomes a beautiful

haven and finally feels like home. Toni Morrison makes sections of her novel almost like interviews with Frank Money; he addresses her and the readers in the first person, and allows us a deeper insight into his mind. He admits to not completely telling his interviewer the truth, and thereby causes us to question the validity of the story he offers. This book contains many disturbing aspects; branches of the story are horrifying and nauseating. However, *Home* is a powerful novel dealing with race, violence, and the transformation that a person can undergo when he leaves home.

Sports Editorial

What’s Black and White and Accused of Being Blind?

By Edward Gelernt

Referees are not particularly popular people. Fans often blame refs for blowing games with calls that may or may not be incorrect. However happy one team’s fanbase is with a particular call, the other team’s fans are equally if not more unhappy. In their careers, referees are likely to gain the disfavor of at least half of the teams in the league in which they officiate. However, it’s hard for fans to complain; referees are professionally trained, have plenty of experience, and make most of the calls, even the close ones, correctly. That is, until now.

The National Football League’s replacement referees have been ripped to shreds week in and week out by fans of every team in the league. Hired by the NFL to fill in for the locked-out referees, they worked for only three weeks of the regular season, yet they have received more attention than any refereeing crew in any sport ever has. Sports commentators have spent countless hours discussing awfully blown calls, and sports imitators on Twitter have found an endless source of tweets (@NOTSportsCenter: “At some point, instead of a yellow flag, the replacement refs are going to throw a white flag and just leave the stadium. Hopefully.”). Countless online memes tease: “After official review, we have no idea what we’re doing!” There’s no better way to put it than this: the NFL replacement refs were absolutely horrible.

The replacement referees actually had seven-week careers. They officiated during all four games of

the preseason, and were most likely just as bad then as they were in the regular season.

During their brief regular-season tenure, the replacement refs blew more calls than one can count. The best-known is what has been dubbed “touchception.” The Monday night game on September 24 between the Green Bay Packers and the Seattle Seahawks was a close one. Green Bay led Seattle 12-7 with eight seconds to go in the game. Seattle had a 4th-and-10 on the Packers’ 24-yard line. Seahawks quarterback took the football, dropped back 15 yards, and let it fly. Three players went up for the ball, and wide receiver Golden Tate shoved cornerback Sam Shields out of the way in an attempt to make the catch. However, safety M.D. Jennings ended up with possession of the ball for what was actually an interception. Two officials made different calls on the play: one signaled touchdown, the other seemed to simply call a time stoppage. The play was reviewed, and the ruling of touchdown was upheld. Not only did the referees fail to recognize clear offensive pass interference on Tate, but they did not realize, even on slow-motion replay, that Jennings had possession of the ball rather than Tate. It was easily their worst call, although they had many other terrible ones.

In Week Two, Golden Tate was again the center of a terrible call. In a game against the Dallas Cowboys, Tate intentionally hit linebacker Sean Lee

square in the chest with his helmet as the Seattle quarterback was running the football. This blatant penalty was ignored, and instead, Dallas’ Bruce Carter was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct; Carter pushed Seattle QB Russell Wilson out of bounds as Wilson was running toward the sideline. In Week Three, with the New England Patriots leading the Ravens 20-18 in Baltimore and 2:18 left in the game, Ravens’ coach Jim Harbaugh tried feverishly to catch the attention of the referees in order to call timeout. Instead, due to the tough rules imposed after Week Two to keep coaches from coming on the field to scold the referees, Harbaugh was charged with unsportsmanlike conduct from the bench.

When the replacement refs did make calls, they tended to not even know what calls they were trying to make. In Week One, Baltimore was visiting the Atlanta Falcons. A first-quarter play was ruled to be a catch for Baltimore, and was challenged by the Falcons. Through video review, it was determined that the Raven who made the catch had stepped out of bounds before catching the ball. The referee proclaimed that Atlanta was correct in their challenge: “therefore, Arizona will not be charged with a timeout.”

Sports Radio WIP’s Glen Macnow commented: “We don’t realize how good [referees] are until we see something ten times worse.”

The Patriots’ Early Demise by Dylan di Florio

Recently, the New England Patriots have not even come close to their high standards. Although New England supporters hate this, most of the rest of the country love it. The Patriots’ current record is 3-3-0, and they are in a deadlock between the other teams in the East American Football Conference: the New York Jets, Buffalo Bills, and Miami Dolphins. Normally, the Patriots would be well above this very mediocre record, but this season has had its challenges. An early injury of Aaron Hernandez, one of two great tight ends, had a profound

effect on the Patriot offense. The tight end position is an important one; it is basically a larger receiver with more muscle. The offense is not really the cause of the Patriot’s weak season; their secondary defense is their larger problem. Whether they’re getting beat by the receiver or simply confused on the plays, the Patriots’ secondary defense is having difficulties, and the struggle is felt by the whole team. New England’s pass defense is among the five worst in the league, something that is unacceptable by Patriot standards. They have never been known for a standout defense, but a confused, challenged, and

out of shape defense is unprecedented. Freshman Eric Price said, “I’m not really a huge fan of the Patriots, so seeing them struggle is pretty nice.” Freshman Josh Murdy agrees, “I definitely like seeing the Patriots struggle because I still remember when they beat [the Eagles] in the playoffs. I bleed green so that’s hard to get over.” So although the Patriots have brought much frustration to New England, they have brought joy to many local sports fans.

NEW FEATURE:

Every month WordsWorth will be featuring a new Player-to-Watch article written by Alex Creighton.

Player-to-Watch: Matthew Mullock

By Alex Creighton



“I love to run and be active, and I like the over-all teamwork,” said freshman Matthew Mullock when asked why he loves soccer. Mullock is a varsity soccer player at Moorestown Friends School. He has played soccer for seven years and has started every varsity game. He plays outside midfielder and has good numbers so far this season. Matt has had four goals and two assists, and rarely sits on the bench during the games. He has been on the South Jersey Select team and the Woolwich Wizards. Even though he lives far from MFS, he finds the time for soccer in his schedule. Mullock said that soccer is “just a fun thing to do.” “My favorite memory is when we were tied with five minutes to go, and I scored on a free kick,” said Mullock. When asked about the team’s season, he replied, “Watch out for us in the state playoffs!” He is definitely one of the most talented freshman soccer players, which is why Matt is a player to watch.

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