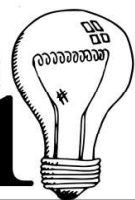


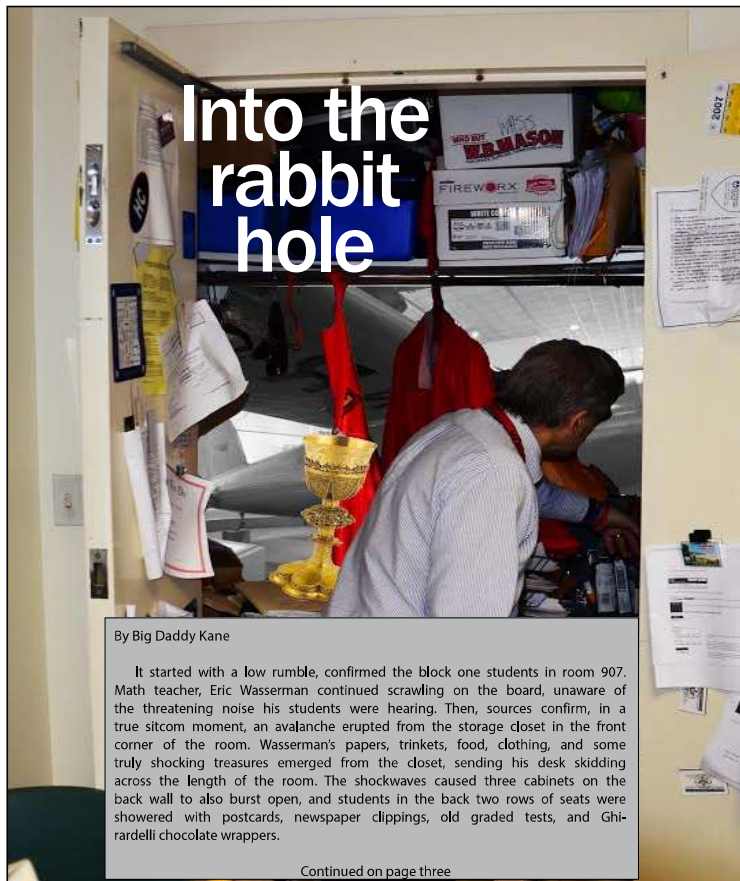
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Volume LVIII/ Number 11

Hunterdon Central's bi-weekly newspaper



Into the rabbit hole

By Big Daddy Kane

It started with a low rumble, confirmed the block one students in room 907. Math teacher, Eric Wasserman continued scrawling on the board, unaware of the threatening noise his students were hearing. Then, sources confirm, in a true sitcom moment, an avalanche erupted from the storage closet in the front corner of the room. Wasserman's papers, trinkets, food, clothing, and some truly shocking treasures emerged from the closet, sending his desk skidding across the length of the room. The shockwaves caused three cabinets on the back wall to also burst open, and students in the back two rows of seats were showered with postcards, newspaper clippings, old graded tests, and Ghirardelli chocolate wrappers.

Continued on page three

Photo by Adam Zeloff

Central goes nuts Squirrel population takes over Central campus

By Coca Cola Controversola

Squirrels have taken over Hunterdon Central in a surprise coup. Recently, Central has seen a rise in the squirrel population on both campuses. Unsure of the root of this issue, students have many opinions about where they came from. Senior Anna Helfrich thinks there may be a revolt going on within the government of the squirrels. While highly unlikely, and without any factual evidence whatsoever to back it up, this could definitely be completely correct. Because of this, Helfrich has decided to graduate early and move to Florida.

Squirrels have been sighted everywhere, lurking the halls of the school and scurrying around corners. They've even made their own study group in the IMC, even though there haven't been any classes implemented into the curriculum relating to squirrel life. To help diversify the classes offered, Chip Monk (the master squirrel) has spent days and nights creating new classes to include ones that are more "squirrel-friendly." Of course, since they weren't in English and were in the official language of squirrel, the administration doesn't seem to be able

to read them, although, a certain principal was seen conversing with Monk and holding the 2014-2015 course of studies, a pen, and the souls of countless teenagers.

The squirrels have also been partaking in shenanigans across campus. Junior Brennan Cook has had many run-ins with them. "One ate part of my lunch one time," he said. "I was so hungry, I had to eat my pants." He then started to choke back up some of his pants.

These animals have also been seen pranking upperclassmen and underclassmen alike, including sophomore Joey Harkness. "I can't believe they actually ripped my backpack off my back," he said. "I told them I didn't have any nuts! I don't know how they knew I actually did."

Coincidentally, students have also been noticing many strange modifications to school policy. The cafeteria has begun serving roasted acorns during lunch. Summer break has been cancelled, and a new winter "hibernation," as it is being called, has been implemented. Many students are wondering if the administrators are really in control of school policy anymore.

Continued on page two

The ABC's of ABCDE schedule

By Reuben Sandwich

The administration has established that Central will move away from the current block-scheduling system as of the 2014-2015 school year. However, after already deciding that the new schedule would be in the "A-day B-day" format, they have recently decided that two letters of the alphabet just isn't good enough. Instead, Central will now follow an "ABCDE-day" schedule. Next year, students will take four different classes each day of the week.

There are clear benefits to

adding a "C-day, D-day, and E-day." Students will now be able to take 20 classes all at once. This means greater exposure to all subjects and inherently increased preparedness for college. Instead of just learning about American history, students can learn a different nation's history each day of the week. A special World War II class will be offered on Thursdays, "D-Day."

No students should be concerned about a heavy homework load, as they will now have one whole week before each assignment is due. Additionally, a moti-

vated student will now be able to take all 38 of the AP courses offered by the College Board in just two years (only \$3,382 in test fees, what a bargain!).

Senior Abbe Knight agrees that this opportunity is a positive one. "I definitely think that if I was staying at Central, I'd take advantage of the opportunity to take maybe even 15 AP classes," she said. "I know I'd make time for extracurriculars, too. Who needs sleep!"

Continued on page two

By Jerry "Tugboat" Thompson

The stars of Hunterdon Central came out for Mr. Central, as an audience of nearly 1,000 students, parents, and staff members were treated to a stellar performance by many of the school's most notable gentlemen. The night opened with an arrangement of various talents, ranging from song and dance to oil painting and nationalist displays of superiority over antiquated theories of economy. Before the event was complete, audiences would see contestants model men's formal wear, perform several dance numbers, and complete an impromptu question and answer session.

Continued on page four

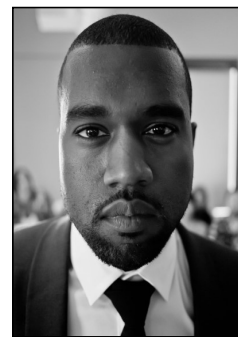
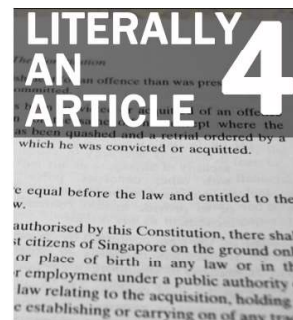
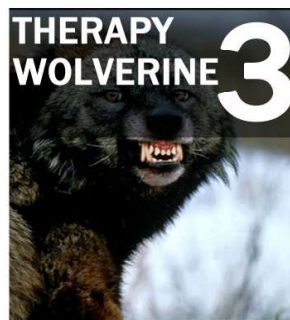


Photo courtesy of Troy Holden

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Trage-TEA strikes Central: Tensions are boiling over

By Ginger Snap

The Hunterdon Central morning announcements recently aired a violent commercial that left three students in the hospital. The topic of this cardiac-arrest causing advertisement: tea.

EMTs arrived at Hunterdon Central on Thursday at 7:48 a.m. to find the students shocked into near paralysis. After performing mouth-to-mouth, the Heimlich, and a charming musical number, the emergency responders were able to bring most of the students out of their catatonic state.

Unfortunately, three students were forced to suffer through the entire duration of the literally heart-stopping commercial. Two students were released from the hospital this weekend after receiving intensive care; the other student remains in critical condition.

At first, police and school administrators were baffled by the cause of this occurrence.

One anonymous school administrator voiced his enormous surprise over the situation. "It was strange that three students had heart attacks simultaneously," he said. "But what made it even more flabbergasting was the fact that the students were in different classes on different campuses."



Students who view Lipton Tea commercials are more prone to heart attacks, studies have shown.

At first investigators were led to believe that this Lemmy Snicket-esque event was caused by an impending AP Calculus BC test; how-

ever, this theory was dispelled when detectives were informed that none of the students were in AP Calculus. Head of the investigation is Inspector Lestrade, a resoundingly successful detective with Scotland Yard. "We thought we were on to something good with that AP Calc thing," stated Lestrade at a public briefing this weekend.

Following the failed investigations, junior Brennan Cook found the true cause. He pointed towards the showing of the "TTTTTEEE-AAAAA!!!" commercial on the morning announcements, citing a recent study by Harvard University which demonstrated that "being screamed at by maniacal, half naked men can cause slight increases in unstable cardiac rhythms."

Harvard Professor Roob Ferd expanded on these findings. "We have no proof for this evidence, it's just a guess." These accusations have been corroborated by similarly clueless medical examiners.

Others in the medical community believe that this isn't an isolated event; a guy at a place that studies this stuff expressed concern over the recent phenomenon. Ferd noted that incidences like this contribute to a trend that has grown in the past few years. "Large men without shirts are breaking into morning announcements across the nation and yelling at students about tea," he said. "As a result more and more God-fearing pupils are being shocked into myocardial infarction."

Following these accusations, a representative from Tea Trolley Inc., gave an official apology to the school, students, and parents. "The advertisement was in no way meant to cause the damage it did," the representative said. "And on behalf of the Tea Trolley company, I would like to extend a heartfelt 'sucks to suck.' However, tea will be on sale Monday through Friday for \$5.99 on a tea trolley near you."

The Tea Trolley representative's statement caused quite a stir in the Hunterdon Central community as relatives of the injured students threaten to take Tea Trolley Inc. to court. One parent plans on bringing a class action suit to the company in the coming months. "It's irresponsible of the Tea Trolley company,"

he said. "They put our children at risk everyday with their bombastic commercials...And their tea is neither relaxing nor a taste Asia!"

This controversy has left the tea community divided. A grassroots movement has even begun to crop up demanding legislation that bans screaming while drinking tea shirtless. Some have gone so far as to demand banning drinking tea shirtless altogether.



Photo by Emily Schalk

The body builders featured in the tea commercial have been going around the country speaking on behalf of the health benefits of tea.

Some government officials, such as Assemblyman Jim Mim, have been labeled as radical due to their proposed plan. "Not only is it a health risk," he said at a town meeting this Saturday, "but it strikes fear into the heart of ordinary Americans. If we allow people to drink tea topless and scream, what will be next? Coffee? Orange juice?"

The backlash has extended even to Tea Trolley Inc. headquarters, where more than just tea is heating up. Eight high-level employees have already quit in protest to the advertisement and the corporation's response. One employee even leaked footage containing content for commercials that were to be released next month.

Some of the material involved is too grotesque to be described in words, so viewer discretion is advised. The video includes the only thing worse than being half-naked: yoga pants.



TRADING BRAINS with Aaron Lewy and Chris Ratanski

BREAKING NEWS: Reverse volcano... explosion

By Aaron Lewy and Chris Ratanski

About an hour ago, a report came in saying that in Kazakhstan, a hole opened in the earth outside of the Ekibastuz GRES-2 Power Station. Within minutes, a vacuuming sensation pulled everything in sight into the abyss.

This is thought to have been caused by an enormous underground gas fire, which eventually sucked all of the oxygen and water out of the earth it was below. Thus the earth dried, cracked, and soon broke up into the oxygen demanding fire hole that brought news groups from all over the world, including the Trading Brains Action News Team.

Where this hole was found, in a waste water drainage area, contaminated water was sucked away until the local government sent in a team of experts to solve

the problem. So Bill Nye, team Trading Brains, and David Hasselhoff's left pec filled said hole with excess unread copies of our column. There were plenty.

Although all seems to be okay now, what does this mean for future generations? To be explicit, scientists can not be 100% sure at this point in time. Some predictions have been made, including one by an elderly non-conformist male out of New Mexico, who seems to believe evacuating to Mars is the best option. For an unknown reason, he was also naked.

On the bright side most educated investigators seem to believe that this won't pose any real threat, as long as we keep the hole sealed. This shouldn't be too much of a problem, because, while engineers find a way to secure the opening permanently, our unwanted columns are doing just fine.

Squirrel takeover

Continued from page one

Students have observed that many portraits of past administrators have been replaced with pictures of Sandy Cheeks sporting several different outfits. Students have also noticed many new students, who, for lack of a better word, have been described as "squirrelly." These students don't say much in class and are very shy, often running away when approached.

As far as athletics go, the squirrels have been taking the field by storm. Holding their town hall meetings on Stewart Field, they have impeded on the practice and game schedule.

Also, as the mascot was changed to a squirrel, Hunterdon Central has had to invest in all new uniforms. This is due to the fact that the school colors will now be tan and brown, a slight deviation from the familiar red and black.

The feedback received as a result of the uniform changes vary. Many students enjoy the fact that

they now do not need to wash their uniforms because the dirt just blends in (although many of them have openly stated that they never washed them anyway). Rumors have also been spreading that the school will have to buy another new set of uniforms that will feature what has been described as a "tail hole," to help accommodate for the recent changes to the student body.

There's also been an increase in traffic due to the fact that squirrels aren't returning to their usual trees after school. Since they've started an education at a two-time-winning blue ribbon school, they've all been more aware of "stranger danger." Therefore, more and more squirrel parents have been coming to Central to pick up their squirrel children.

Students, parents and staff are unsure about what will come of this squirrel takeover, but like gauchos and Kidzobop, we here at The Lamp are hoping that this is a trend that will soon fade off into distant memory.

New ABCDE schedule

Continued from page one

Hunterdon Central students will out-perform all students throughout the state on the PARCC exam because the students will learn at such a fast pace. How can you compete with a school that has its students learning Algebra I on Monday and AP Calculus BC on Friday?

Also, Central will offer the unique opportunity to graduate in just one year, as students will now be able to fulfill all of their credits much quicker. However, it will have to accommodate those students that choose to stay for all four years by quadrupling the number of courses offered in the program of studies.

Students are in favor of this change, because sitting in the same classroom every single day or even every other day becomes boring, routine, and treacherous. Once a week—no problem.

Junior Steph Waterhouse is excited to walk into the classroom and learn something different every single day. "Normally, I get tired of the class after a few months but this new schedule keeps my academics fresh and exciting," she said.

A simple calculation tells us that each class will now be taught 36 days a year, which is certainly enough if the classes are taught at the proper pace. Teachers will need to make good use of their class time. A class on "speed-reading" techniques will be mandatory to help students keep up with the fast pace. Instead of covering 10,000 years in one unit, AP World History will now cover all of mankind before the year 0 and after year 0 in two prompt units.

Teachers will teach about 15 of the 20 blocks per week. Each day they will have one preparatory block. Additionally, they will now have to teach courses from dif-

ferent departments. With the breadth of new courses offered, it will not be possible for all courses to be taught unless a couple of Physical Education teachers teach AP Chemistry, for example.

These changes are undoubtedly positive and the 2014-2015 school year will be the most successful yet. As we all know, quantity is always better than quality.

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Wasserman's room of wonder

Continued from page one

According to senior Jenna Holland, the closet in the front of room 907 has always been a source of concern for Wasserman's students, particularly for the students in his AP Calculus BC class. "He always leaves the doors open and it just gives me a lot of anxiety looking at all the things he keeps in there that he can't possibly need," she said. "I just couldn't believe it was so much bigger than it looked."

To junior Hayley Miller, the avalanche just was another day in the life of a calculus student. "It didn't surprise me at all. Weirder things have happened in Wass' room," she said.

"It didn't surprise me at all. Weirder things have happened in Wass' room."

- Hayley Miller, junior

Many weird things emerged from the closet, but none more shocking than an entire plane. Investigators have confirmed the plane did indeed belong to the female pioneer, Amelia Earhart, whose plane disappeared over the Pacific Ocean in July 1937. The plane curiously fell out of Wasserman's closet. Historians are totally fan-girling over this incredible find.

Aviation expert and historian Holt McGibbon is eager and excited about the discovery, but also slightly uncomfortable with how it ended up in a New Jersey math teacher's storage closet. "Earhart's plane has been missing for almost 77 years now," said McGibbon. "Wass-

man isn't nearly that old, nor has he ever been known to travel to the central Pacific Ocean, where Earhart's plane lost contact on that fateful day."

Investigators are in the process of evaluating Wasserman's contacts in attempts to find possible accomplices to the recovery of the large aircraft. McGibbon states that they are considering every possible angle, searching for some kind of motive. Foul play is not suspected (after all, he is just 'Wass').

Wasserman claims that he had no idea how the plane ended up in his closet. "It's just a normal sized closet," he said. "I'm just a math teacher who jumps onto tables and sings Rebecca Black songs. Why would I want Amelia Earhart's plane?"

Along with Earhart's plane, investigators continued to search the surprisingly spacious closet and stumbled upon the sacred Holy Grail.

That's right. The very Holy Grail said to possess magical powers, that was used by Jesus in the Last Supper, was found in the closet in room 907. Also a Christian history fanatic, McGibbon became highly apprehensive and nervous upon hearing of the monumental discovery.

The Holy Grail seems to be the greatest of all mysteries. It is said to have been hidden in the mountain caves of the Pyrenees, the fortified monastery of San Juan de la Pena high above the Camino. Now, it resides in Eric Wasserman's closet of lost treasures and shrines of the famous Hollywood actress Jennifer Aniston, Wass' TV girlfriend."

Wasserman's closet, which resides in the halls of Hunterdon Central, will now be forever remembered as a closet of mystery and discovery. How the Holy Grail and Earhart plane ended up in his closet we may never know. But for now, the students will forever have a tale to pass down to their families.

Central's new therapy wolverine tears into students' hearts



Photo by Emily Schalk, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and Flickr

Central's therapy wolverine, Hugh, brings comfort and camaraderie to students all across campus.

By Mizzundastood Teenager

Hunterdon Central is home to a myriad of exotic animals. A cuddly devil, a furry and playful labrador retriever, and way too many freshmen line the halls day in and day out, and until recently, they were the only ones.

However, a new friend has joined the fray, and is accompanying Lucy, Central's therapy dog, in roaming the halls and doing the job of putting smiles on the students' faces. Meet Hugh, Hunterdon Central's therapy wolverine. She clawed herself all the way over from the 100s hallway, where she is stationed, to give The Lamp an exclusive interview. We here at The Lamp wanted to know what a day in the life of Hugh The Wolverine is like.

Q: Welcome to Hunterdon Central, Hugh. How do you like this school so far?

A: Thank you, and Central has been great to me so far. It took a while for people to warm up to me. Whenever they tried to hug me, my claws would get in the way, and then I wouldn't get any more hugs. Some of the kids would just avoid me, but I've learned to let them hug me instead so that my claws wouldn't poke a hole through their bodies. And now lots of friendly people give me hugs, high-fives, and everything in between. It's been great, I love this place.

Q: How hard has it been adjusting to a new setting?

A: Well, back in the mountains of Siberia, I would usually just hang out at the peak, so it's been a little hard to adjust to a school environment where there are no mountains to be found. I asked National Art Honor Society to paint a mountain on the walls, but they didn't budge.

Q: Being a wolverine in Hunterdon County, you're bound to get some weird reactions. What's the weirdest one you've received?

A: Ah, I figured you'd ask this. It was my first day here, and a lot of students were welcoming me, saying "hello," and all that. This girl spotted me from across the hall and just started screaming. She chased after me and I had to climb up on a door for safety. I had never been more scared in my life, and I live in Siberia.

Q: Was it Amanda Mauchet? She scared off our last wolverine.

A: As a matter of fact it was. I don't blame that last one either.

Q: Well, I figured. How does being a wolverine make your job different from Lucy's?

A: I have so much more energy than Lucy, a little too much actually, so I can help more students at a time. We both have different ways of handling things, which I think is great.

Q: Do you plan on staying at Central?

A: Yes, I love this school and this community, and I wouldn't want to go anywhere else. I've gotten to know the students, and some of them even call me "Hugh." It's a great feeling to be appreciated by so many people, and Central is one of the few places where that's possible.

First Block Horoscopes

By Emma Creoleu

Science: In a fortnight, you will burn toast and set off the fire alarm in your house. On April 4, your neighbor down the street will casually invite you to come over for dinner, but don't be fooled by this! Can you remember the last Hollywood movie that showed neighbors were nice people? Nope. This ruse is actually a trap to steal your dog when you are out of the house. Don't fall for it. Also, a Girl Scout will try to sell you cookies tomorrow, only buy the Thin Mints.

English: You will finally realize that Spark Notes does just as good a job preparing you for a group discussion as does reading the book. You will come into school late on the 7th because your dog actually ate your homework. You will come home to find your room vacuumed on the 12th and all of your left socks missing. A week later the socks will appear in the least likely of places.

Math: The annoying person you sit next to in first block will read this horoscope and subsequently apologize for being annoying. Your

parents are considering adopting a squirrel, convince them otherwise. On April 8 your childhood enemy will make you wet your pants. In retaliation you'll call them a "butt trumpet." The monsters under your bed will return next week from their 10-year vacation.

History: Your parents decided that you can't have a party this month because April is National Poetry Month and you've been slacking off on your Keats. You'll be diagnosed with a rare disease that does not allow you to wake up in the mornings unless you consume a high dose of caffeine and your early onset senioritis will flare up. Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream will be on sale this week at Shop-Rite, now is the time to act.

Gym: You will be excited to meet the light of your life and fire of your loins this week, and then be let down to discover he/she is underage. After having an identity crisis, you will change your name to Ash Ketchum and move to the heart of Greater Metropolitan Region so you can join the circus and become a Pikachu tamer.

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Kanye West crashes Mr. Central pageant

Continued from page one

Though competition was fierce, and the voting results proved incredibly close, and at the night's conclusion, Samuel Dennis, Mr. National Art Honor Society, was crowned Mr. Central. This year's installation of the annual Mr. Central pageant, many conclude, was amongst the most successful of all time, by nearly all measures. From the very first dance number to closing speeches the production was executed relatively without a hitch.

Relatively.

When it came time to crown the victor, Dennis humbly took the spotlight and proceeded into his acceptance speech. "Thank you so much!" Dennis began. "I always dreamed about what it would be like to maybe win one of these some

day, but I never actually thought it would have happened. Thank you so much for giving me a chance to be crowned Mr. Central."

But before he could continue, professional singer Kanye West took the stage and stole the microphone from a surprised Dennis. "Yo Sam, I'm really happy for you, I'll let you finish, but Joel Sirusas had one of the best vocal performances of all time!" West declared boisterously before Dennis and the audibly stunned Central auditorium. "Backstreet Boys ain't nothing, I Want It That Way ain't nothing," West continued to boast despite a visibly distraught Dennis. "La Habanera from Carmen is a classic! One of the best song & dance numbers of all time!" said West, referencing the opera performance of pageant contestant Joel Sirusas,

who had competed as Mr. Debate, apparently unaware that Sirusas had lip-synced his performance.

The audience's reaction to West's interjection was unanimously one of awe and vocal disapproval. Greeted only with boos and heckling, an undaunted West persisted, despite a now teary-eyed Dennis. "And don't even get me started on that leg contest," said West, kneeling down, to remove the bottom half of his half-zip pants, revealing a single chiseled calf. West subsequently stole the bucket of KFC chicken legs, earlier awarded to Nick Della Fave, the winner of the "best leg contest," yelled "Y'all don't know nothin'!" and dropped the mic. Following the disturbance, West promptly proceeded to heely off-stage, much to the relief of Dennis and all involved.



Photos courtesy of Rachel Weil and Wikimedia, edited by Jerry "Tugboat" Thompson

Kanye West interrupts senior Sam Dennis during his acceptance speech at Mr. Central.

Since making the appearance at the pageant, West has been lambasted by several major TV personalities, and has officially been dropped by notable sponsor Heelys, Inc. West has yet to com-

ment on the decision, and has yet to make a public apology to Dennis despite increasing pressure. Dennis said only "Well, he did have pretty nice calves."

Central students like literally can't even



Cartoon by Andy Gultwite

By Tyrannosaurus Flex

Here at Hunterdon Central, the administration tries their best to create a safe and effective learning environment for the student body. Recently, however, that environment has been challenged due to an epidemic affecting many Red Devils on campus—the misuse of the word "literally." According to dictionary.com, literally is defined as "without exaggeration or inaccuracy." The problem is that the misuse of this word has led to many miscommunications involving kissing classmates and near death by pop sensation.

Junior Krishna Varre experienced a situation when his interpretation of the word got him into quite the pickle. "I once gave a girl mouth

to mouth resuscitation because she said that she literally couldn't even breathe," he said. "Turns out she was exaggerating and chemistry class has been awkward ever since."

When there are girls "literally dying" over the fact that a certain senior male may have looked their direction in the hall, or students who "literally can't even" because of their upcoming trigonometry test, it's hard for the school to adjust to the needs of the kids. One, there is not enough room in the nurse's office for the amount of young ladies that literally swoon over the eye candy we have here at Hunterdon Central. And two, our school's nurses have not yet found a sure-fire remedy of curing someone who literally can't even (*The Lamp* will keep you posted if they make any progress).

There's no exact cause of the constant misuse of the word. Maybe it's genetic, or maybe stars like Kourtney Kardashian of *Keeping Up With the Kardashians* are to blame. Kardashian, who has coined the phrase, "Mom, you're literally being so rude right now," refused to comment when *The Lamp* got in contact with her.

Regardless of who is to blame, the misuse of the word can lead to some serious mishaps. Take senior Meghan Stark, for example, who experienced something just as awkward as Varre. "After Beyoncé's Grammy performance, I tweeted

that I was 'literally on the floor convulsing.' Medics were called and ambulances came to my house," said Stark. "Needless to say, none of them were too appreciative of my love for Queen B."

But it's not just the school that is feeling the effects of the tragic exploitation of the word literally. Parents are literally on their hands and knees begging the Board of Education to find a solution. Central parent Lee Terally recently expressed her worry for the future of the school. "There is no doubt that the word literally is contagious, this may be the worst thing that's happened to Hunterdon Central since the oozing of the mysterious fluid from the ceilings or #HCKetchup," she said.

At this point, there is no clear solution in sight. The only thing we can do is keep everyone in the Hunterdon Central community informed as to the severity of the problem at hand. Although some are afraid of a different L word (love) we have another L word that is just as terrifying and is plaguing us. The fate of our school is in our hands. If we don't try and stop the spread of this now there will literally be a global apocalypse.

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