


THE MUDDRAKER


vol. 29, issue 4

april 2019


hot takes




63%
PREFER COKE TO PEPSI
BUT MANY ARE ANTI SODA




69.1%
POUR THEIR CEREAL
BEFORE MILK



72.1%
SAY THAT WEST COAST
IS THE BEST COAST

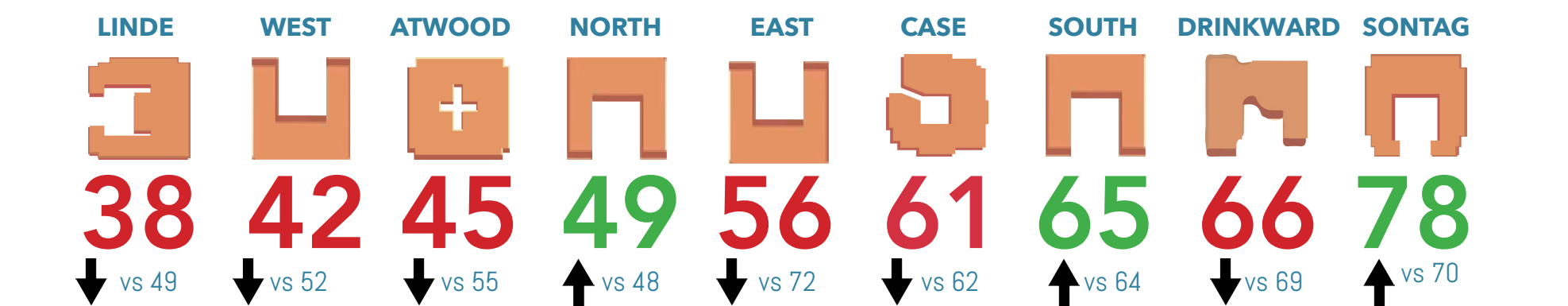


59.5%
LIKE IPHONES BETTER
THAN ADROIDS



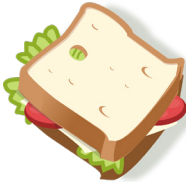
54%
THINK THAT PINEAPPLES
BELONG ON PIZZA

HOW DO RICE PURITY SCORES COMPARE TO LAST YEAR?



OVERALL, MOST DORMS SEEM TO HAVE LOWERED THEIR RICE PURITY SCORES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NORTH, SOUTH, AND SONTAG.

IS THE MUDDRAKER A SANDWICH?



"Yeah, it's super cheesy."

"Language is a tool for communication and is not meant to be used in such a sinful way."

"No, it's a taco."

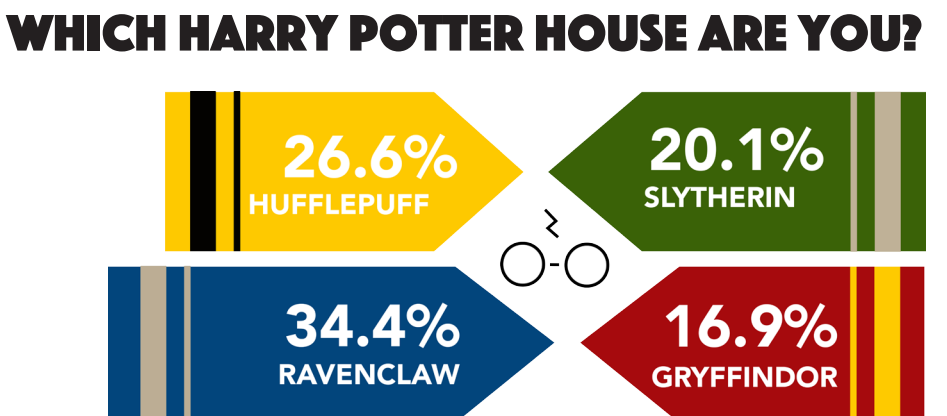
"If we consider a sandwich as being composed of multiple slices of objects stacked together (i.e. bread, jam, peanut butter, bread; or in the case of a hotdog, bun, hotdog, bun; for Mudd core physics: spec rel, mechanics, e&m, and physics lab), then we must consider all things that are composed of multiple slices of objects stacked together as sandwiches. Note that each section of the sandwich must be different, and this is left as an exercise to the reader. Newspapers are simply slices of paper stacked on top of each other, with different words on each piece of paper - thus, this fulfills the definition of a sandwich. Since *The Muddraker* is a specific type of newspaper, it too must be considered a sandwich."

TOP 3 DINING HALLS

1 HOCH

2 MCCONNELL

3 COLLINS & MALOTT (tie)



2 LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Howdy y'all!

It has been a wild year and we wanted to thank you for sticking with us through it all. From creating a center spread based on a potato identity quiz to our list of N things to do before graduating, provided by current Mudd seniors, we have worked to highlight the different elements that make us all Mudders. Thanks to Brenden Brown and William Teav, our two seniors on staff who have made The Muddraker such a special family. We wish you success in your future endeavors, journalistic and otherwise. We also wanted to welcome the new additions to our editorial team, the Mudders who help make sure we can keep sharing awesome content with you: William La, Anuragini Arora, Kyle Grace, and Becca Blyn!



XOXO,

Tiffany, Hannah, and Rachel

If you are interested in subscribing, please visit themuddraker.com/subscribe for more information!

Your Guide for Summer Films by Anuragini Arora

It'll soon be time to enter the sleep-until-noon-and-stay-up-until-three-AM summer phase, unless, of course, you're already on that schedule. Whatever you're doing during the summer, whether it be research, an internship, travel, or getting your life together before it falls apart again in the fall, here are a few movies that'll make your summer more interesting.

May 10 - The Hustle

I didn't realize how much I was waiting for an Anne Hathaway and Rebel Wilson collaboration until it happened in "The Hustle"! Hathaway's character, a con artist, takes Wilson's character as an apprentice because she sees her potential. This combination of "Ocean's 8" and Rebel Wilson's wonderfully blunt humor is perfect, and the fact that their mark looks a little like Zuckerberg makes it even better.

May 24 - Aladdin

Aladdin promises to be a CGI-filled, Bollywood-period-drama-invoking spectacle, starring Mena Massoud as Aladdin and Naomi Scott as Jasmine. And of course, we've all seen the memes about Will Smith as the Genie. Hopefully, the singing will be an improvement from the unnecessarily auto-tuned songs in the live action version of "Beauty and the Beast".

June 21 - Toy Story 4

Bo Peep is back! And of course, this time, Bonnie's new toy is a spork. Woody and Buzz want to convince Forky that he is valuable, but they seem to be realizing that belonging to a kid may not be worth all the hype. I'm definitely not a die-hard "Toy Story" fan, but the trailer is still intriguing, so it might be a good dose of nostalgia.

July 5 - Spider-Man: Far From Home (contains Avengers: Infinity War spoiler)

It looks like the teaser for "Spider-Man: Far From Home" ruined the ending for "Avengers: Endgame" by implying that Spider-Man won't be permanently dead. In "Far From Home", Spider-Man is going on a trip to Europe with his friends and leaves his suit behind, intending to relax. But Nick Fury soon arrives, telling Peter Parker that Spider-Man must make a comeback. We also see a glimpse of Jake Gyllenhaal, portraying a villain in a cape. I'm excited for this movie, as I am for all Marvel movies, and the trailer seems to reflect a good balance of humor and action. Looks like "Far From Home" will be one to put on the watchlist.

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Domenico Ottolia '22
Priyanka Agarwal '20
Jacob Donenfeld '21
Kailee Lin '21
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July 19 - The Lion King

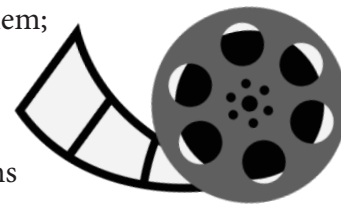
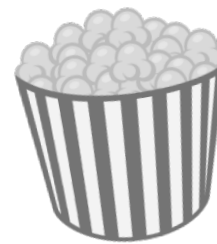
Let's be honest: Donald Glover voicing Simba and Beyoncé voicing Nala are two great reasons to go see "The Lion King". Add beautiful CGI and "Hakuna Matata," and you've got yourself a great must-see summer film.

August 2 - Dora & the Lost City of Gold

Isabela Moner, who has roles in "Instant Family" and "Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life", plays Dora, the spunky explorer we all adore and miss. Don't worry, Boots is CGI'd in, and Michael Peña, hilarious as usual, plays the role of Dora's father. While her parents go to find the City of Gold, Dora goes to public high school for the first time with Diego. You might think that the movie will just be about Dora's misadventures in high school, but the trailer is action-packed. The movie has definitely been revamped for everyone to enjoy. I know watching Dora seems childish, but if you enjoyed the newest "Jumanji movie", then you're probably going to like this movie, too. We should all release our inner child and at least give this film a shot.

August 9 - Artemis Fowl

I definitely liked the first part of the teaser for Disney's adaptation of the book "Artemis Fowl" because it had a fantasy, science-fiction vibe with futuristic technology. But at the end of the teaser, the kid, wearing a suit and sunglasses, walked into the frame and I immediately felt like I was watching "Spy Kids". To be honest, I liked "Spy Kids", all three of them; I just don't know whether I would want to watch a similar movie at this point in my life. Hopefully though, "Artemis Fowl" will portray a unique storyline, because it seems to have the potential. But I would advise you to wait for the trailer and make your own decision.



Other movies coming soon:

May 24 - Booksmart
May 31 - Rocketman
June 7 - Late Night

June 14 - Men In Black: International
June 28 - Yesterday

What are your hobbies?

I like hiking and being outdoors in the woods. I really enjoy and am obsessively competitive at board games. So, if you wanted to challenge me to a board game, I'd be game for that. But I take them way too seriously.

Can you describe what the Hixon Center does?

The Hixon Center is a college wide center dedicated to strengthening sustainability at Harvey Mudd with respect to research and the curriculum, and with regard to engaging our campus community and our larger community wide partners around sustainability.

Tell us a little about yourself! How did you start working at Mudd, and how long have you been here?

Mudd found me, not the other way around. I had been working for an environmental think tank for a number of years already. Then, one night I was on my computer, and a LinkedIn notification came in from a recruiter asking me if I had heard about Harvey Mudd. I had to look it up! And then one thing led to another and, as I learned more about the college and its students and faculty and staff, I became more interested in the job. That was almost five years ago.

Are there things you wish HMC students knew about sustainability?

I would be very happy if all of our students could think of at least one way in which their interests and specific major connect to sustainability. If we build that awareness, then that's the first step towards thinking about reducing negative impacts on the environment or on society that are associated with that area.



Srebotnjak PROFile

If you could tell Mudders one thing, what would it be?

When it comes to finding your passion, I know your schedule is really full, but if you have a chance to try out something new, do check it out! Sometimes our minds might be too focused on one thing, and we don't see other interesting things along the road until later.

Favorite Mudd tradition?

Stealing the cannon from Caltech. You gotta keep those bigger pranks alive. *

**Speaking of larger pranks, check out the recent Caltech prank at themuddraker.com*

I used to collect stamps when I was little, really getting into the trading thing and going to conventions. You could subscribe to receive a set of stamps every month in the mail, from the postal service in Germany. The stamps are more valuable when they have the postal stamp on it, so there was also this active business of sending postcards to your friends so you could get the stamp.

Tell us something we wouldn't guess about you.

Reduce Single Use

This semester, ASHMC Sustainability ran a Reduce Single Use Campaign. This campaign encouraged students to pledge against using single use cups for a two week period. We now have the results of the pledge and students perspectives on how this campaign influenced sustainability at Mudd!

288
students
participated
in the
Reduce
Single Use
Pledge

over

1/3

of the Harvey
Mudd student
body.

Sontag

won the dorm
percentage
participation
competition

with

45

participants

Skylar Gering & Vadim Mathys

After the competition ended, we sent out a survey to analyze students' responses to the campaign and got **91** responses back.

On the positive side, we found that the campaign truly did help reduce the number of single use cups that students were using. **87.9%** of survey respondents stated that the pledge inspired them to use fewer single-use cups, even after their pledge period ended. Additionally, as can be seen in the figures online, participating in the pledge made participants as a whole much more aware of the sustainability efforts and issues on Mudd's campus.

Overall, though, the survey suggested that students feel that individual action to protect and conserve the environment is less important than government and institutional action. We want to remind everyone that government and institutional action can only happen if individuals come together to make change and have an impact on society. When students leave Mudd, they have the potential to become the leaders who will implement governmental and institutional action and therefore need to fully understand the importance of environmental protection and sustainable practices.

Demographically, females and first year students dominated the pool of participants with **68%** of the survey respondents identifying as female and **47%** being first year students. We hope that the enthusiasm we see in the class of 2022 will continue through the next three years and will continue to gain momentum! We hope that the community benefited from the Reduce Single Use Campaign, and we are planning on using a similar model next year.

N Things To Do Before You Graduate

Feeling bored at Mudd? Need some spice in your life? Then work on completing the *N Things to Do at Mudd Before You Graduate* checklist, proudly brought to you by the Class of 2019.
Disclaimer: *The Muddraker* does not necessarily endorse these activities.



By William Teav
Photos by Domenico Ottolia

ACADEMICS



Academic Advisory ➤

Let's face it - nothing matters to you more than academics. You didn't come here for the architecture, the dining hall food, or the air conditioning. You came here because you love the joys and challenges of learning.

- ☐ Wing a presentation
- ☐ Do research with a professor
- ☐ "Accidentally" scare a prefrish by telling them about your workload
- ☐ Take biostats
- ☐ Receive an academic advisory
- ☐ Score below 30 on an exam
- ☐ Get wrecked by an Orrison exam
- ☐ Create a Chrome bookmark for the MCP6002
- ☐ Take a completely random class with your friends
- ☐ Work on a physics p-set while intoxicated
- ☐ Begin an exam at 3 AM
- ☐ Take a class taught by Prof. Seitz
- ☐ Take an upper division course outside of your major

DORM SWEET DORM



They say that home is where the heart is. And your heart belongs to Harvey Mudd. Why else would you cry about it so much?

- ☐ Attend a West bonfire
- ☐ Cry in your room
- ☐ Cry in someone else's room
- ☐ Swing on South's tire swing
- ☐ Go inside all of the dorms at least once
- ☐ Go to a dorm meeting
- ☐ Throw a crushed beer can onto Case's Roof
- ☐ Attend Case Singalong
- ☐ Attend a Dorm Barbecue
- ☐ Go to Tea Time



ACADEMIC END

Home away from home. Blood, sweat, and tears.

- ☐ Cry next to the fountain by Olin
- ☐ Have a sleepover on the third floor of Shan
- ☐ Pull an all-nighter in the Libra Complex
- ☐ Cry in a building located on Ac End
- ☐ Press the button to make the chalkboards go up and down
- ☐ Break down during a professor's office hours

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

There are plenty of fish (and snakes) at the 5Cs.

- ☐ Take a class with your significant other
- ☐ Go on a date on third floor Shan
- ☐ Fall in love and then have your heart subsequently broken
- ☐ Kiss a wart
- ☐ Room with your significant other



THOSE OTHER SCHOOLS

Their students clog up our computer science courses and disrespect us in our own dining hall. But hey, there are some very fine people and places at the other 5Cs.

- ☐ Eat at all the dining halls
- ☐ Gather and eat the fruit at Scripps
- ☐ Attend a talk at the Athenaeum
- ☐ Find the color-changing fountain
- ☐ Take a class at every 5C
- ☐ Go to Oldenborg
- ☐ Have sushi bowl at Pitzer
- ☐ Spend all your Flex on Andes Mints at the Coop Store
- ☐ Muddsplain a STEM concept to offcampus students
- ☐ Attend a 5C concert
- ☐ Go fountain hopping
- ☐ Have brunch at Frank

WE LOVE OUR MUDDRAKER SENIORS



Brenden Brown

Take a look at the last few issues to see Brenden's layout designs!

William Teav

Check out William's articles on planes, weird food combos, and more on the website and in print!

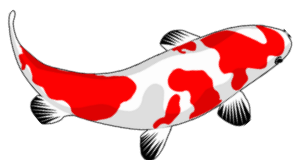


HIGHLIGHTS

We asked some seniors to tell us about their favorite memories at Mudd. Here's what they shared with us:

- * One memorable moment I really enjoyed at Mudd was my E80 launch day, where my amazing E80 team and I got to deploy our AUV in the ocean at Dana Point, CA. So much hard work and struggle had gone into preparing our robot, but launch day made it all worth it! It was a beautiful sunny day, we got to relax a little in the sand, and our robot didn't do half bad (after Prof. Clark had retrieved it from the sea floor)!
- * After going to Paint Night, we went fountain hopping and stayed up all night and then went to Drinkward and got ice cream!
- * Any Singalong. Junior fall ingalong. It was just a really good semester and I enjoyed singalong and I knew I was going abroad. Everything came together. Nothing scandalous happened that semester so it was a good semester.
- * Anytime Piano Man plays at Singalong! Everyone circles around the courtyard and links arms/shoulders while singing along.
- * Humans vs. Zombies final mission every year!
- * My friends and I all stayed up for 48 hours straight finishing the E72 project. We finished at 6am and sat with our legs hanging off the roof of the Shan watching the sun rise. My friends drank a bottle of Jameson each to celebrate the victory of finishing that project. Then my friend sat in a cactus and we had to pick all the needles out with needle nose pliers. Then we slept all day.
- * I liked the Mudders of Color Barbeque because it felt like I was a part of a community.
- * Camp Sec asked me if I was on drugs when I slept outside at CMC.
- * My favorite memories at Mudd are the times we played Catan during the weekends.

THE EDGY STUFF



Mudd Memes for Mathematical Teens
Closed group

Do any of these and you'll be (in)famous.

- ☐ Make a Mudd meme (as a Mathematical Teen)
- ☐ Attempt/complete the 5C Challenge (hook up with a student from each Claremont College)
- ☐ Call Proctor On-Call for a lockout (please don't)
- ☐ Hotbox an elevator
- ☐ Drink from the koi pond
- ☐ Get wasted during clinic dinner
- ☐ Try to see how many friendships you can end at once through Room Draw
- ☐ Self Report
- ☐ Get a drink with a Prof.

SELF CARE



Very important.

- ☐ Go to therapy. Seriously. Y'all need it.
- ☐ Fill out a noise complaint form and get sleep
- ☐ Skip a problem set that is sapping your life-force and reinvest the time in an activity that feeds your soul
- ☐ Sleep on a textbook and learn through osmosis
- ☐ Fall asleep during class
- ☐ Pet a townie's dog when they walk it on campus

MUDDING AROUND



Neither class, professors' offices, nor dorms.

- ☐ Play pool in Jay's
- ☐ Play ping pong at the LAC
- ☐ Find the ASHMC office
- ☐ Make it through a pasta line at the Hoch
- ☐ Ride the Platt elevator and shut it off before it reaches the right floor
- ☐ Challenge your friends to see who can grab the most swag from the Career Fair

OFF CAMPUS ADVENTURES

Wow, you have time to go off campus? Can't relate.

- ☐ Mourn the death of Fruizen
- ☐ Climb Mount Baldy
- ☐ Treat your professors to a Leonard Fund meal
- ☐ Take the Metrolink to LA
- ☐ Order from Tpumps or use boba-l

FUN & GAMES

Fun is something that many seek but few find.

- ☐ Play inner tube water polo
- ☐ Play pong (alcoholic or otherwise)
- ☐ Survive a full week in Humans vs. Zombies
- ☐ Take clinic/thesis shots
- ☐ Write for *The Muddraker*

6 FLEXPLOURATION

by Stephanie Blankley and Tiffany Madruga

Hey, kids. Steph here. Topic of discussion: Jay's Place. I interviewed 20+ people about their Jay's preferences and this is what we came up with. Not all of their names are explicitly stated, but many thanks to everyone who contributed. Let's jump right in!

QUICK TIPS

Don't remember how much flex you have?
Check with the tappy guy at the door.

Few cents left over but not enough to buy anything?
Combine your flex with friends and share something (perhaps a massive cookie).

Want to know how long the line is? Check the live stream at jays-place.cam.hmc.edu
(also a great tool for selfies while at Jay's).

HEALTHY ALTERNATIVES

If you can't stand the pizza grease, Jay's does have a selection of healthier options. Not my cup of tea, but to each their own.

In terms of food, they have items like yogurt, fruit cups, and bananas. I also received a lot of positive comments on the Odwalla smoothies and kombucha.

While these are all solid choices for the calorie-conscious individual, the true no-calorie option lies at the pick-up counter: the water dispenser. You never really know how thirsty you are until you take a sip of water from that dispenser. Next thing you know, you're on cup number six and can't hydrate enough. Go crazy.



GO-TO GRABS

Sometimes you go to Jay's to relax and hang out, but other times you're on a mission. For those times when you just want to grab something and go, here are some common choices.

The overwhelmingly popular answer is pizza rolls, but only if they're ready. These are a hit or miss. If they're ready, boom, pizza rolls right away. If they're not ready, it takes an indefinitely long amount of time, to the point where you forgot what you ordered.

Next go-to would be a classic pizza slice, followed by chips or Cheez-Its (preferably White Cheddar, but Original is also good), and then candy, like Sour Skittles or M&Ms.

HIDDEN GEMS

There is a lot of stuff at Jay's, and we can't let the pizza slices and pizza rolls blind us from other goods.

Let's start with the ice cream cart in the corner. This isn't exactly "hidden," but it's definitely not the first thing I notice when I walk in. If you actually take a look inside, they have a pretty good selection. And if you look even harder, you'll find the true gem, Dibs, tucked underneath some other, less important ice cream.

Next, I'll move onto the giant cookies at the register. In no way are these "hidden" because they are absolutely massive. However, I have included them here because only the few people who have tried them know they are delicious. They are certainly an intimidating size, but split one with a friend and you won't regret it.

Major credit to Alex Smith ('21) for these next few hidden gems. I don't know how or under what circumstances he acquired this information, but I'm glad he did.

Alex Tip #1: Order a Philly and ask for BBQ-cooked steak. They'll add BBQ sauce half way through cooking the meat for your sandwich. Then ask for avocado, peppers, onions, and cheese toasted on a wheat roll and boom, bone apple teeth.

Alex Tip #2: There is a new toppings bar to the right of the pick-up counter with bacon bits, cheese, chives, and hot cheeto dust. Use this to jazz up your mac 'n cheese or your pizza slice.

Alex Tip #3: Order the pizza bread. It's half of a baguette that they load up with butter and garlic and everything you'd want, and it's delicious.

For a quick review of Jay's newest additions, Alex rates the mozzarella sticks and mac 'n cheese very highly, with the chicken nuggets not quite making the cut. I trust him on this one.



GUMMY RANKINGS



This section is definitely way longer than it needs to be, but I am very passionate about Jay's gummies, so hear me out. The eight gummy options take up the top two rows of the snack rack (and rightfully so). For those

who share the same passion for gummies as I do, I'm sure you're familiar with the gummy selection. For those who don't, I'll lay it out for you. There are: Trolli Squiggles (regular worms), Sour Brite Crawlers (sour worms), Very Berry Sour Brite Crawlers (berry sour worms), Sour Brite Octopus, Sour Brite James Harden Weird Beards, Sour Brite Blasts, Peachie O's, and Apple O's.

When I asked people to rank the gummy options, each response was (not surprisingly) different. Many people claimed to be gummy connoisseurs but, alas, I have to disagree with a lot of their rankings.

First and foremost, I would like to call out Natalia Orbach-Mandel ('21) for putting the octopuses first on her list. I mean, how could the octopuses possibly be better than the berry sour worms (my personal favorite)? "There may not be that many in a bag but they're pretty thick." OK, Natalia, whatever you say. My opinion on the octopuses: good, but they definitely don't make my top five.

Next, I would like to applaud Jonah Cartwright ('20) and Kevin Shoyer ('20) for firing off their rankings with absolutely zero hesitation. Kevin put the sour worms first (objectively the right choice), so I now trust this man with my life. I'd also put the sour blasts up there, which

was Jonah's top pick. For those who aren't familiar with the sour blasts, they're these little gummy cubes filled with some sugary juice inside, kind of like Gushers.

While the sour blasts are amazing, I would like to thank Abel Sapirstein ('21) for pointing out that they are not a successful freezer food. I'm a big fan of putting gummies in the freezer -- they're cold and chewier and it's an overall better experience. With the blasts, however, the juicy part on the inside freezes and hurts your teeth. Learned that one the hard way. Blasts are still in my top picks, nevertheless.

Honorable mentions to Linden Conrad-Marut ('21) and Megan Dymerski ('21) for their strong opinions on the matter. They each ranked Apple O's and Peachie O's highly, which is wrong, but not as wrong as Natalia, so they've earned my respect.

We all have our own opinions, but to give you a definitive answer for which gummies are better, here are my personal rankings (all of which I recommend be eaten frozen except for the blasts): berry sour worms, sour worms, sour blasts, Apple O's, beards, Peachie O's, sour octopuses, regular worms.

If you disagree, sorry, but this isn't your article. Take it up with my editor.

artists of mudd

with mary celestin



Matthew Calligaro



Chris McElroy



Katie Gruenhagen

I play the electric guitar. I was bored over Thanksgiving break in 9th grade, so I decided to mess around with an old guitar my dad had lying around the house. I have been playing ever since. Music has been a great way for me to develop my creative skills, since most of my other interests are more technically focused. It has also been a great way to connect with my dad – we jam together, go to concerts together, and have even recorded a few covers together. My freshman year roommate (Josh Morgan) is also a guitarist, and we thought it would be fun to form a band. We got in touch with a variety of other Mudd freshmen that year, created Froshband, and played our first Wednesday Nighter that Spring (2017). Although we are no longer Frosh, the name has stuck, and we have played a Wednesday Nighter every semester since! I am also the president of Jam Society, Mudd's student-run music room. I have had a lot of fun improving the space this year and I hope that I have had a positive impact on the other musicians on campus! Froshband is currently working on a new song which is turning out to be my new favorite. This is the first time that the drum track set the core, and I really like where it is going.

I am a CS major. I had a great opportunity to blend my passion for CS and music in E155 (Microprocessors), where I built a guitar multi-effects and recording device using an FPGA and microprocessor. I don't plan on incorporating music into my career though – I use music as a break from work, so I don't want it to become work.

I'm an a cappella singer. I usually sing bass or baritone parts, though I've learned some beatboxing as well! I've always sung too much—I always annoyed my brother singing in the car on the way to school every morning. In middle and high school I started getting more into performing, joining the school chorus and acting in winter musicals every year. At Mudd, I'm part of Mood Swing A Cappella, one of the many 5C a cappella groups on campus. I realized I wanted to be in a cappella as soon as I saw some groups perform during ASP, and I managed to get in during the audition process my frosh year. It's been a wonderful community for me, and it's encouraged me to branch out and try new things, including beatboxing. I arrange music for Mood Swing pretty often. I got obsessed with the song Power by Wolf and decided I needed to hear it performed—it just has this desperation and longing that I love in music, and I thought an a cappella version could bring out that feeling really well. I arranged the song last year and we performed it that fall. It's probably the arrangement I'm proudest of; I feel like I really captured the drama and emotion of the song with a lot more creativity than I've had before.

I'm an engineering major. So far music hasn't crossed over too much with my other work, but it's been a wonderful way to stay happy and connected when the rest of my work becomes a bit too much. I hope to keep active in music throughout the rest of my life; it's always been really important for me.

I play the drums! I currently play drum set and other types of percussion in the Pomona College Jazz Ensemble. I've also taught myself how to play piano, guitar, and bass, though those are purely for fun. I started drumming in a local youth percussion group when I was 7 years old, and that group really fueled my passion for playing music. The group was made up of elementary school kids in the area, and we learned lots of rock, funk, and jazz songs by ear and performed them at various events around town. It was a really cool and unique experience. There are only a couple of groups like that in the nation, and I feel really lucky that there was one in my hometown. I've been with the Pomona jazz band for my whole time at Mudd. I was in lots of different musical ensembles in high school, but I knew that in college I just wanted to do jazz. I auditioned for the group the first day of school and got in, so I've continued in the group ever since. I was in a punk band with some friends in high school and we used to write lots of songs together. We played at small underground/DIY shows so our main influence was the music we listened to and other local bands around us.

I'm a CS-Math major and I'll be working at a tech company after I graduate. I don't think music will correlate directly with my day job, but I definitely plan to continue playing music in some music ensemble outside of work.

The Life of Students

Annual Room Draw Fiasco

Not all heroes wear capes.
Some wear Google forms.

BY: RICHARD ZHANG

FLASHBACK TO ROOM DRAW 2K18

DSA Commissioner Gordon stood on Platt rooftop^[1] and saw the Residential Affairs Liaison standing next to the RAL signal. The RAL tapped the signal. “Nice,” they said.

Gordon nodded. “You really started something. The new online Digital Draw system and beautiful Graphical User Interface (GUI) where you can navigate between all the dorms with ease and see floor plans and exactly what rooms you can pull into with your number compared to others’ live online decisions, plans, and actions, is actually useful and informative. Intimidation and dorm machines are running scared, there’s hope in the student body...” Gordon trailed off.

“But?” The RAL inquired.

Gordon sighed. “DSA and ResLife preplacements are changing and increasing, and they’re still not letting us pull into Garrett House or Parsons 2nd Floor Lounge. And URL Lounge is lost to the Quads.”

“We’ll get them back,” the RAL said. “We can bring hope back to Harvey Mudd.” He turned to go.

“Wait,” Gordon called after them. “I never said thank you. For roomdraw.yancey.io.”

The RAL turned to look at Gordon. “And you never will.” They grabbed their unicycle^[2] and leapt from the roof^[3].

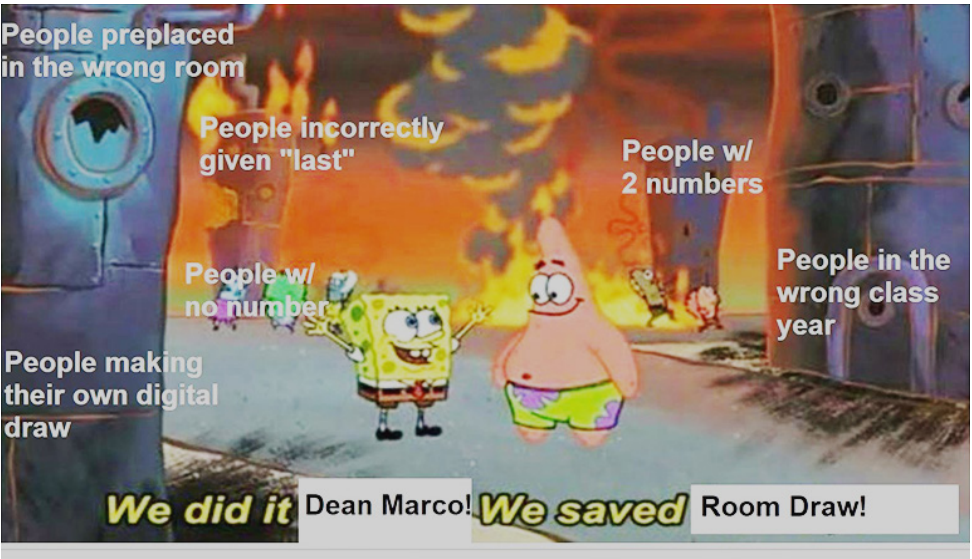
FLASHFORWARD TO ROOM DRAW 2K19

DSA Commissioner Gordon and the RAL stood on the wind-blasted roof of Platt^[4], staring at the “Digital Draw 2019-2020 (UNOFFICIAL)” Google spreadsheet on Gordon’s phone. Carnage and devastation reigned inside. The Commissioner hung his head in resignation.

“All of Digital Draw, all the plans, and lock pulls, and pre-placements, and frosh rooms,” Gordon muttered. “Whatever chance you gave us of fixing Room Draw dies with Digital Draw’s reputation. We bet it all on the Google Form. Rising sophomores pulling a Sontag single on number 12 took the best of our plans and tore Digital Draw down. Students will lose hope.”

The RAL shook their head, gritting their teeth. “They won’t. They must never know what Digital Draw could have been.”

Gordon almost laughed. “Four DSA suites... and almost taking a Case quad... you can’t sweep that under a rug.”



Art by: Chris Thompson

The RAL bowed their head grimly. “No. But the chaos of Room Draw cannot win.” They took Gordon’s phone and started typing. “Harvey Mudd Room Draw needs its true hero.”

Gordon gasped, aghast. “No! You can’t pre-place everyone!”

The RAL looked up. “You either die a hero, or live long enough to get blamed for Room Draw. I did those things. I did the pre-placements. Because I can do that. I’m not a hero. Harvey Mudd needs its true savior. It needs you.” They held the phone out to Gordon. “Call it in. Set the students on me.”

Gordon reluctantly took the phone back. “They’ll hunt you. Or at least, they’ll violate the Honor Code by trying to intimidate you.”

The RAL grabbed their freelines and turned to go, before pausing and looking back. “I can be whatever the students, whatever Harvey Mudd, needs me to be.” They mounted their freelines and began to speed off.

The door to Platt burst open and a prospective RAL ran out, only to catch a glimpse of the RAL as they freelined past. “RAL! Gordon, why are they running?”

“Because we have to chase them,” Gordon replied, gazing into the distance.

“But they didn’t do anything wrong,” the prospective RAL said, confused.

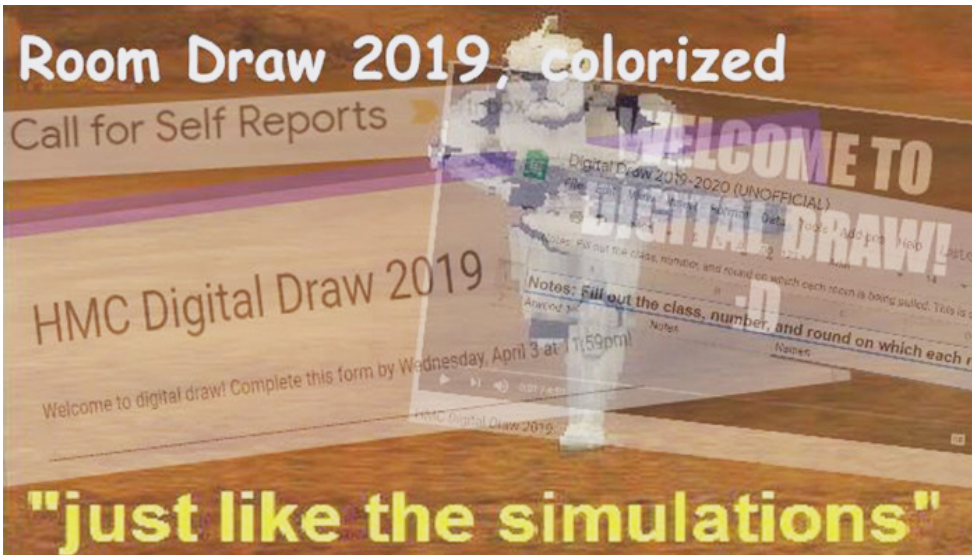
“Because,” Gordon said, looking down at the RAL, “they’re the Room Draw that Harvey Mudd deserves, but not the one it needs right now.”

They stood together and watched the RAL freeline away.

Gordon and the prospective RAL turned together towards the chaos of Platt, and walked slowly towards the doors. Just before they entered, Gordon turned back towards the night sky and spoke into the suddenly still air.

“They’re our silent protector. A watchful guardian. A Residential Affairs Liaison.”^[5]

Art by: Richard Zhang



[1] *The Muddraker* does not advocate climbing to the roof of Platt. This is an Honor Code violation.

[2] RIP unicyclers 2k17, freeliners killed the unicyclist star of Platt.

[3] *The Muddraker* does not advocate grabbing a unicycle and jumping off the roof of Platt.

[4] PLEASE DON’T CLIMB TO THE ROOF OF PLATT.

[5] (Thanks to Christopher Nolan, Hans Zimmer, Christian Bale, and Gary Oldman.)

[6] (Thank you to *The New York Times*, *SpongeBob*, and *Star Wars* for inspiration.)