

THE MUDDRAKER

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Campus Dorm Culture



← *WEST*

“West dorm is a community that makes coming back to the dorm after a long day of work worth. I live close to all of my friends and there is always a friendly face to stop and say hi to out and about. Westies enjoy being rambunctious and doing things together. We will make a mess of our courtyard and then clean it up the next day. Everyone looks out for each other and puts the community first.

- Sydney Wallace

SONTAG →

“Sontag is pretty quiet and calm and we have kitchens. Suites have different personalities depending on their inhabitants and there aren’t any ‘legacy suites’ that perform some function for the dorm year to year. Sontag lounge is nice and comfy and we just got a new projector! Dorm culture at Sontag is most obvious during holiday dinners when we dress up and travel to the Hoch-Shanahan Dining Commons together or when we come together for our semesterly wine and cheese party. Some people say the culture at Sontag is the lack of culture at Sontag!”

- Julia Wang



← *DRINKWARD*

“Drinkward is based on understanding and inclusion. We’re the largest and newest of the dorms, with no set characteristics, traits, or traditions that set us apart. Some view that as a drawback, but I think it’s a blessing in disguise. With no niche to fit into, the people in Drinkward have split into a number of subcultures more based on proximity than on predefined niches. At Drinkward, people feel like they are able to live a comfortable and good life at Mudd, surrounded by varied people, and participate in other dorms’ cultures without the social pressures that come with living where you party. Dorm culture is less of a framework on how to fit in and more of a “home base” for Drinkward residents. We try to keep things simple at the largest dorm at Mudd!”

Story by Zoe Ryan
Photos by Domenico Ottolia

- Felipe Borja

(continued on back...)

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HOLIDAY TRADITIONS by Max Maleno



Mudders love to continue and create traditions that persist over time. Every year, as the holiday season comes around, there are numerous customs that are celebrated across campus. For Atwood, these activities kick off with a dorm-wide Hochsgiving dinner on the Thursday before Thanksgiving at the Hoch-Shanahan Dining Commons. At the end of the dinner, a microphone gets passed around the room and residents express what they are thankful for.

In addition to Hochsgiving, Atwood also has an annual Hochmas holiday dinner. This year, the dorm added a new tradition: everyone shared their New Year's resolutions with the room. The event was also held in the Aviation Room (a 60 person room) this year due to overwhelming interest by the Atwood community. Throughout the night, the DSA Muchachos host "Santa Yong" photos, with Prof Darryl Yong dressed as Santa alongside Dean Chris and the Muchachos dressed as Santa Yong's elves.



Festive photoshoots are also a common tradition across campus. This year, Atwood's 2nd-floor Southeast suite, "ThreeWood," held a photoshoot at Bert & Rocky's, inspired by the iconic Friends milkshake promotional photo.



HOLIDAY JAMS!

Check out our staff picks
Spotify playlist to listen to our
favorite holiday songs

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Hi there!

We're excited to share the newest issue of The Muddraker with you! This issue, we wanted to incorporate fun articles that will help ease the pre-finals stress. The holiday season is a time for us to give thanks and recognize those who have helped us along the way. We want to show our appreciation for our growing staff who have created so much content that we were able to expand the paper to share even more stories from the place we are so lucky to call home. We also want to thank all of the professors and students who have showed kindness and patience as we bugged them for interviews. None of this would have been possible without you, our reader! Words cannot describe how thankful we are for your support as we share new style and content with you.

Happy holidays from our family to yours!



XOXO,

Hannah, Rachel, and Tiffany

PROFiles: Professor Stephen Adolph

Professor Stephen Adolph has been a biology professor here at Harvey Mudd College for 26 years. He is best known for teaching Ecology and Mathematical Biology as well as being the campus lizard expert.

WHAT WERE YOU LIKE IN COLLEGE?

I was a hippie. Like a vegetarian hippie. Other than that, I studied a lot. I didn't really have any extracurriculars. I worked for the campus humor magazine a bit, writing articles and copy editing and stuff like that. I wasn't a nerd but I was pretty much focused on just academics.

DO YOU STILL IDENTIFY AS A HIPPIE VEGETARIAN?

I'm still mostly vegetarian. It's harder to be a hippie when you're bald.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE JOB GROWING UP?

One summer I worked at Six Flags taking care of animals. They used to have a petting zoo and a pasture where they had bison, elk, and a bunch of cattle of various breeds. One of our jobs was something called Elk Watch. You had to go out and make sure the elk were not near the gates when the train went through. Otherwise, the elk could get into the park as a whole and then you would have elk, or worse, bison, running around.

DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES?

I like to go bicycling, mostly mountain biking. I go biking a lot with my family, Prof. Ran, and sometimes Prof. Bush. My son and I go camping in the desert with my brother and his crazy friends. Death Valley is a great spot to go or really remote places in the Mojave Desert. Our ideal campsite is where we can't see anybody, so we camp out in the middle of the desert.

I used to play percussion instruments but those are kind of loud when you have little kids in the house. So I've only recently started playing those again. I play Latin percussion, like mostly congas and other Afro-Cuban drums.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO DRUMMING?

In college and grad school, I started getting drums. I took lessons from several different drummers. I can't read music, but that musical tradition long predates written music.

HAVE YOU PERFORMED?

I used to perform. My brother worked as a musician for like 20 years playing in bar bands. I would sometimes sit in with his band whenever I could make it down from Mudd. We played some New Year's Eve gigs. Those are good; you get to see interesting human behavior. Our most unusual gig was when we played at a nudist colony when they wanted a band to play for their pool party. That was an interesting gig.

WOULD YOU EVER START A BAND?

I wouldn't start one but I would gladly play in a band. That would be my alternative, totally different career path: run off and join a Cuban jazz band.

WHAT IS SOMETHING PEOPLE DON'T GUESS ABOUT YOU?

I've been arrested. It was just a sit-in in college. We were protesting the investments in companies that did business in South Africa, when Apartheid was still in place. Like 300 of us got arrested. I guess I'm in the minority there. I'm sure the majority of Harvey Mudd faculty have not been arrested or performed at a nudist colony.



Professors Adolph and Ran pose on boulders during a trip to Joshua Tree.

HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN YOUR RESEARCH?

As a kid growing up in the desert in Southern California, there really wasn't a lot to do. Most kids just did sports. I played baseball. And then it's the desert, so there were lots of lizards and snakes and creepy crawlies around. Many kids had that hobby of catching and keeping lizards. Most of them grew out of it, but I didn't. It was always a thing that I was interested in.

DO YOU HAVE ANY RESEARCH STORIES?

One time I caught a fence lizard when I was doing my graduate research. I was catching lizards, taking data on where I saw them in the habitat, taking their body temperature, and then I would release them. The lizards I work on like to climb. So this one lizard, after I released her onto the ground, ran towards the nearest object, which was my leg. She ran up my leg inside the pant leg, crossed over, ran down inside the other pant leg, and escaped. That was a first, and it's only happened once. Lizards bite and poop on you, but that was the only lizard that ran inside my clothes.

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN MUDD CHANGE?

There are some old student cultural traditions that I am glad disappeared, like whirling. If students found out somebody high-scored an exam, they would hold their head in a toilet bowl and flush. That's what Mudd used to be like but things have really changed in the Mudd culture. It used to be that a white male cross country runner was the Mudd archetype. I don't think there is an archetype now.

Along with the changes in the demographics of the students, I feel like the students are much better now overall. The talents in the student body and the diverse backgrounds and interests that students have are so much more interesting now. As far as I am concerned, all of the changes here are all for the better, in the student body and the faculty.

IF YOU WERE STUCK ON A DESERT ISLAND WITH ONE OTHER MUDD PROFESSOR, WHO WOULD YOU WANT IT TO BE?

That would have to be Prof. Ran. I've known Prof. McFadden the longest and she certainly would be a good person to be with in the wilderness, but I would have to say Prof. Ran. He's my best friend here. We just click. We have a lot of fun together. I think we have pretty good survival skills.

Speed Round!

.....

WHAT IS YOUR SPIRIT ANIMAL?

In other words, which lizard is my spirit animal. Let's go with the Chuckwalla. It lives in the desert and I grew up in the desert. They're vegetarians and I am mostly vegetarian. They're pretty calm animals; I'm pretty calm. They're ugly; I'm pretty ugly. They live a long time.

WOULD YOU EVER WALK A LIZARD ON A LEASH?

Yeah, I think that would be funny actually. I would.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SMELL?

The smell after a rain, especially in the desert.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE DAY?

Right before sunrise. It's quiet. I like seeing it get lighter. I see it pretty much every day because I usually get up for sunrise.

Hooked on Holiday Horoscopes



Good news for everyone! Mercury is no longer in retrograde so communication is going to be a little easier. Just in time for finals!



CAPRICORN (Dec 23-Jan 20)

You've had a pretty stressful semester but things are coming to an end. Since Capricorns get a lot of satisfaction from accomplishment, you're going to be feeling pretty good. The sun is about to enter Capricorn so you're going to get an extra burst of motivation and you're going to be able to express your thoughts and ideas very clearly. Use this during finals!



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

Be extra careful talking to your friends. After all those team projects, you might be a little done with people right now, but your friends are there to help you! Don't break off any important relationships right before leaving for break. You'll be so glad to see everyone back in the spring.



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

Success is written in the stars for you! Whatever that success means for you, you'll have the assistance of those close to you to help you out in these next few weeks. Watch out for January though, big life changes are ahead!



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

People are going to be very perceptive to you and your needs. Use this to your advantage, ask your crush out or try to make some new friends. Or maybe start throwing out hints for some nice holiday gifts (new iPhone X...?)



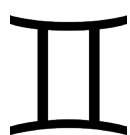
TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

Look forward to going home. Your relatives are going to be easier to deal with than usual. Spend quality time at home, free from problem sets. Enjoy sitting inside your warm house while it snows outside. If you're in California, enjoy staying inside hidden away from that frigid 50° weather.



GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Your friendships and relationships are going to be a little tense and you're going to have to make some uncomfortable compromises this month. Sucks, I know.



CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You're going to be feeling pretty confident! Now's the time to jump back from finals and try out something new. You're going to feel unstoppable. Be careful making overly ambitious New Year's resolutions, though. Keep your limits in mind.



LEO (July 23-Aug 21)

You might experience the pre-finals plague but you're going to be coming back from it stronger than ever. I mean obviously, you're a Leo. People in your life might be a little touchy but you're strong enough to support them. If a friend asks for help studying, take some time out of your day and help them. You won't regret it.



VIRGO (Aug 22-Sep 23)

You've probably been feeling incredibly nervous and rushed. You're way more likely to get into an argument that you're going to regret later. Take a breath. Relax. It'll all be over soon. In fact, you're going to be super fortunate and on top of your game in January. Does that mean meeting someone in an off-campus class? We'll see...



LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23)

You're probably feeling a little more social than usual. It's the perfect time to reconnect with some old friends or ask your crush out. Since you're a Libra you're going to try to overthink this. Don't. Make the first move. You won't regret it.



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

I know times have been pretty rough and you're tired of it all. Don't worry! You're going to be feeling a lot more energetic and in control. Go ahead and work off those holiday dinners. You're going to come in to spring semester feeling refreshed and ready to tackle anything that comes your way.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 22)

Take some time for yourself! Take a real break from school and focus on your well-being and friendships. It's going to mean a lot to you in December. In January, you're going to be extra charming. If you're a single Sagittarius, you might just start getting lucky. If you're in a relationship, you and your partner are going to be happier and more secure.



Shan Shower EXPOSED



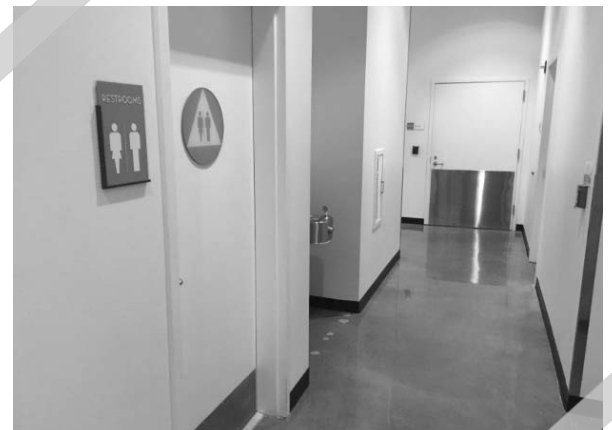
Read carefully
to decipher a
hidden message
from us!

BY GREG PAGANI
and
HUEY FIELDS

There are many interesting and largely unexplored features hidden around Mudd's campus that the more casual observer might have missed. These include the Elevator in Platt that can be stopped for no apparent reason, the eerie Keck sub-basement, the special collections on the fourth floor of Sprague which contain a stockpile of fossils in Amber, the library on the second floor of Case, the tunnels that connect the recital hall in Shanahan with B460, or the F&M Tunnels that connect the Inner Dorms to Platt.



The heavily-
guarded
secret
entrance to the
Shan shower



Also this thing
One oddity in particular, however seems to receive even less attention. This would be, of course, the Shanahana shower.



What dark secrets lie within?
(The R. Michael Shanahan Center for Teaching and Learning pictured above)

It is located on the basement floor in the unisex bathroom that is sandwiched between a staircase and a door to Big Shan on the northeast corner. And it's as simple as that, a shower in the bathroom in Shanahan. OR IS IT? The shower was actually put in place long before any other water feature of the new building and was used as an onsite shower for the construction crew raising the building, as well as a test for the water functions of the building.

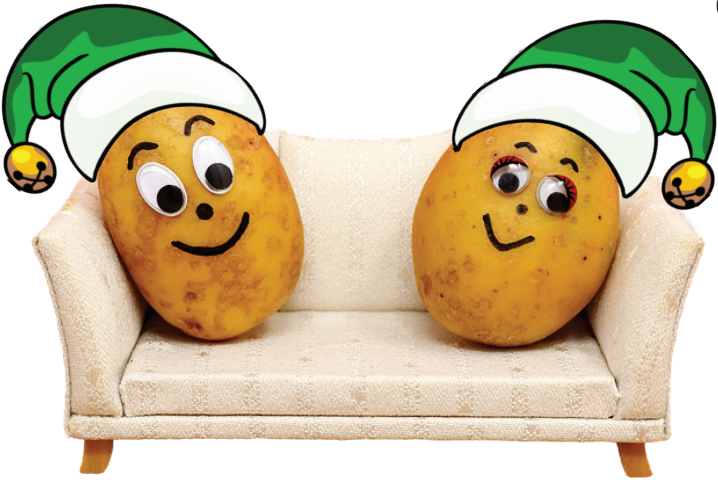
The names of these crewmen were etched in the walls of the shower, and up until last summer when the shower was tiled any student could go and read the names of those who built Shanahan. Though the names cannot still be read, the Shanahan shower still stands as an homage to the women and men who worked to build that building we all learn and grow in. So the next time someone is listing off the strange and quirky things that can be found around Mudd, between mentions of the stocked bookshelf hidden in the Bernard Field Station or the one computer in the LAC computer lab that cannot be unplugged without shutting down every other computer (the third down from the door), remember to throw in a mention of the Shanahan shower. And for those of you who have never explored enough to have seen the Shanahan shower, get out there and do some exploring! You might make the next big Discovery on Harvey Mudd's campus.



Enter if you dare

What Potato Are You?

by Jonah Cartwright and Stephanie Blankley



You have two more problem sets, one more lab write-up, two final projects, four finals to study for, and one presentation to rehearse. But what are you doing right now? Reading this dumb article. That's right. You have things you could be doing, things that may or may not influence your academic success. But here you are reading this article about potatoes. And here we are writing this article about potatoes.

We at *The Muddraker* thought it was important to cap off the semester with an informative piece on what the people want to know-- Based on a recent BuzzFeed quiz, what kind of potato are you?

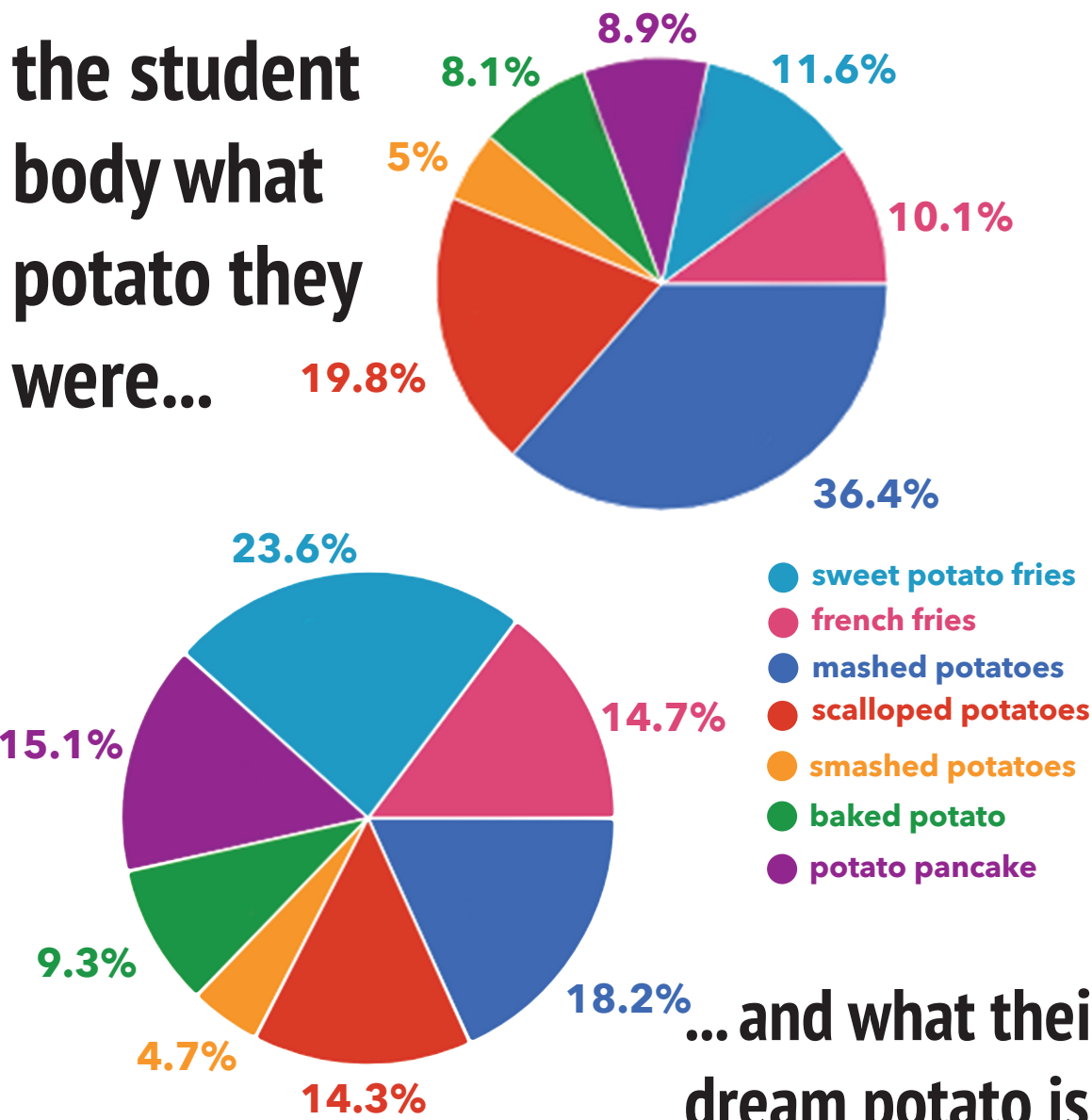
If you say you've never wanted to know the potato distribution of our student body, you're lying to yourself. So as a courtesy to all of you, we surveyed the Mudd community and processed the potato data to give a clearer picture of who we are. Are we mashed? Are we baked? Are we fried? Read further for all of the answers.

We have to make one last bad joke before we sign off. While all of this potato parsing is fun, we want to remind you all of the bigger picture. We may express ourselves in different ways: some are crispy, some are soft, some are sweet, some are savory. But under it all, we're all just potatoes.

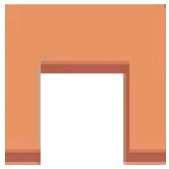
Take the quiz here to find out your own results!



We asked the student body what potato they were...



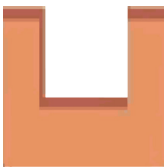
SOUTH



POTATO PANCAKE

South Dorm residents love their communal kitchen. They make pancakes together every Sunday. On a more existential level, people at South like lying on the ground which is an emotion we relate to potato pancakes.

WEST



SMASHED POTATOES

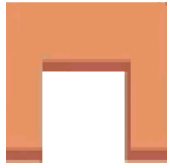
West is smashed for a different reason than North. Have you seen it? They smash things regularly. Like plastic cups, tiny pumpkins and large furniture.

PROFtatoes weigh in: is this scientifically accurate?



Rebecca Johannsen,
French Fries,
Economics Professor

There is an issue with limited choice. Hashbrowns for instance, are very underrepresented in this survey. More accuracy will require a complete set of options. However, if this includes the most common choices in the population, it may be a reasonable approximation even if some items are not included. I would normally question scientific accuracy of this survey, however, I saw an article about the scientific accuracy of the baby shark song, so it seems as though the definition is somewhat flexible!

NORTH**SMASHED POTATOES**

This year in particular, North Dorm has had some rather destructive and rowdy residents. Typically, they're always smashed. As one North resident put it "Fam gets smashed..."

SONTAG**SCALLOPED POTATOES**

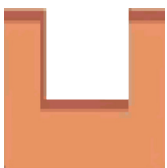
Commonly referred to as a retirement home for seniors, Sontag is really fancy, but nobody actually knows what it is. Just like scalloped potatoes. Scalloped potatoes are boujee and so is Sontag.

DRINKWARD**MASHED POTATOES**

Drinkward is a mash of different cultures, but it's still awesome. Just like how mashed potatoes are well mashed and still super tasty!

LINDE**BAKED POTATO**

You know what baked means. 'Nuff said.

EAST**SWEET POTATO FRIES**

East is sweet in a really awkward way. Frequently their residents act in spooky unison like a bunch of identical sweet potato fries. They are "sweet and salty and full of memes."

ATWOOD**BAKED POTATO**

They have a suite named Fratwood, sounds like they deserve the most basic potato. Also, see Linde.

CASE**FRENCH FRIES**

With french fries you can mix and match many things to make them unique, just like how the L culture in Case can shift around quite a bit.

WHAT POTATO IS EACH DORM ?



Albert Dato,
Mashed Potatoes,
Engineering Professor

Yes. Because I'm a scientist.



Zach Dodds,
Potato Pancake,
Computer Science Professor

"Not only is this scientifically accurate, but it's Turing-complete (TM)!"



Adam Johnson,
Mashed Potatoes,
Chemistry Professor

Yes. Everyone knows potatoes and profs are the same thing.



Nicholas Breznay,
Smashed Potatoes,
Physics Professor

"Not", only because there are so many other possibilities?! (Sweet potato chips - yum!)



Gordon Krauss,
Mashed Potatoes,
Engineering Professor

This poll, not so much. First, you need at least 20 styles of potatoes (per function) in your morph chart. Second, this asks about type of potato not serving style of a potato. Third, I'd expect an EcoIndicator 99 comparison score for each potato type. Finally, there should be potato prototypes of appropriate resolution to answer specific design questions.



Wendy Menefee-Libey,
Mashed Potatoes,
Director of Learning Programs

This is empirically verifiable-- I will eat some mashed potatoes and verify they are the best. A perfectly designed study!



Vatche Sahakian,
Scalloped Potatoes,
Physics Professor

yes and no.




Dagan "the carb cutter" Karp
Mashed Potatoes
Math Professor

Certainly. It was based on multiple replicated studies published in double-blind peer reviewed articles, agrees with my lived experience, and is common knowledge.




Mathew Spencer,
Scalloped Potatoes,
Engineering Professor

This poll is terrible and, by extension, so are you.



At 18, Col3trane debuted with the album, Tsarina, to rightful appraisal. This soulful, genre-bending, artist has a wisdom and wordplay that is well beyond his age. He's new, cool, and creative with both his lyrics and musicality. Favorite Songs: New Chain, Mario Kart


London, England



Woodie Smalls' raps are the perfect accompaniment to a long-night drive or a laid-back hangout with friends. He epitomizes chill and tackles a wide variety of topics with a smoothness that is incredibly fresh. Favorite Songs: Planet Shrooms, Tokyo Drift

Sint-Niklaas, Belgium

by Mary Celestin



Meet the post-Week-nd, post-Drake sound of Toronto, anders. He is a powerhouse. With a global fanbase, he unifies pop elements with ominous R&B to create songs that you just want to replay over and over. Favorite Songs: Press It Up, Bad Guy

Toronto, Canada



chrms
Mumbai, India
Low-Fi Electro



This hip-hop group is high-intensity and high-energy; their raps hit hard and their style is slick. The High-er Brothers have hybridized cashy hooks with fast flows to create a sound that's uniquely their own. Favorite Songs: Workin, Storm


Chengdu, China



Dylan Thomas.
San José, Costa Rica
Indie Alternative




Stevan
Sydney, Australia
Alternative R&B



This 17 year-old artist is a force to be reckoned with. Melding reggae, riddim, and soul into her vocals/rap, Koffee symbolizes all that is magical in Jamaican-induced music. She holds a truly efferscensent sound. Favorite Song: Toast

Spanish Town, Jamaica



With soothing vocals and a silky flow, Karun- Runka makes you feel every type of way. Her music is edgy with strong low-fi influences. Great music for all kinds emotions. Favorite Song: Interlude

Nairobi, Kenya




An incredible DJ, producer and singer/songwriter, Yaeji is an original. Her style is quirky, her music a blend of techno, house, and R&B. As explained in 'The FADER', "You never know what could happen when you show up to a Yaeji party" Favorite Songs: One More, Drink I'm Sippin On

Seoul, South Korea
New York, New York



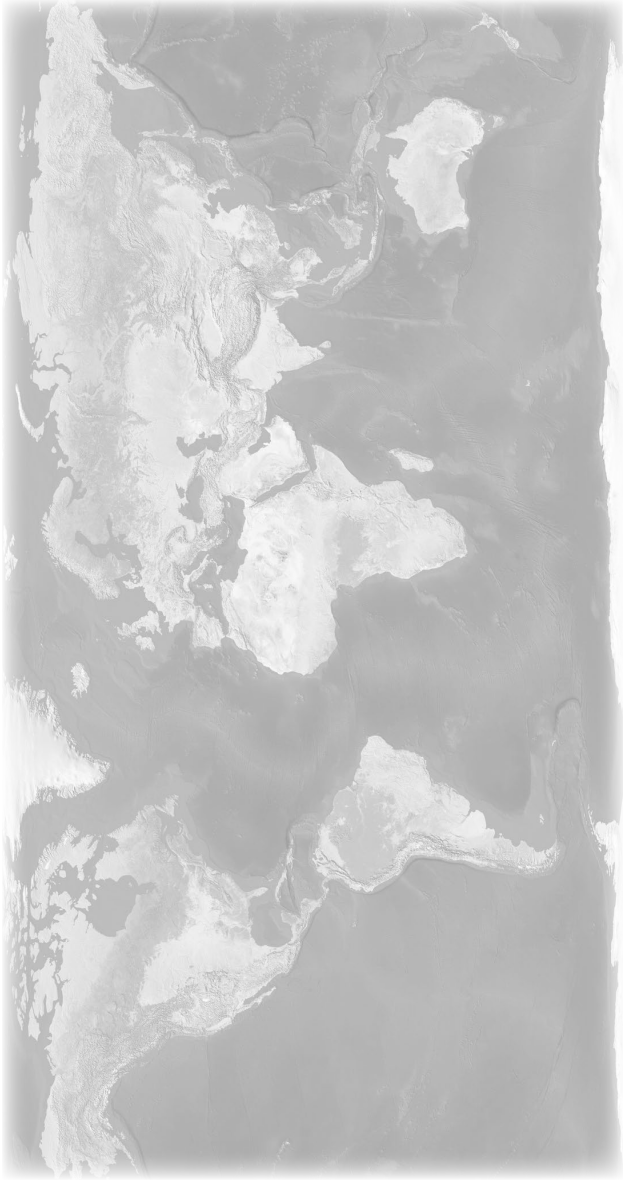
Eliane Elias is an iconic, multi-Grammy award winning artist. A pianist, singer, composer, arranger and producer, she's been blessing this world with her brilliant Latin Jazz music for 4 decades. Eliane Elias remains a breath of refreshing air. Favorite Song: So Nice

Sao Paulo, Brazil



Mr. Eazi brings fun and liveliness to his vibrant hits. A king of the Banku style, his music speaks to the heart. Fusing diverse range of sounds, Mr. Eazi's music makes you want to get up and dance! Favorite Songs: Pour Me Water, Property

Port Harcourt, Nigeria



Netflix: Your One Source for Not-So-Great Holiday Movies

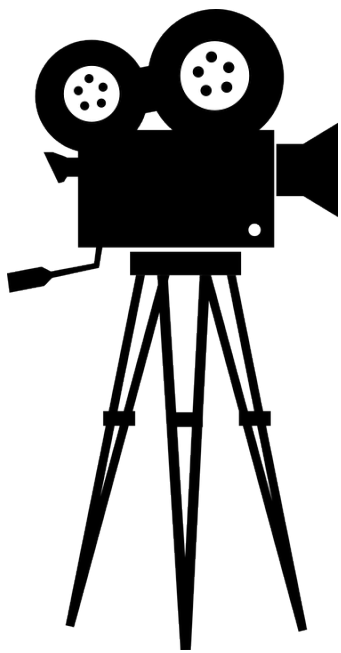
So I love holiday movies. No, really. They're feel-good, happy-ending type stories that just make you want to sit by the fire and drink hot chocolate. Netflix has recently released several holiday movies as Netflix does. And they're all kind-of okay. Warning: spoilers ahead.

by Anuragini Arora



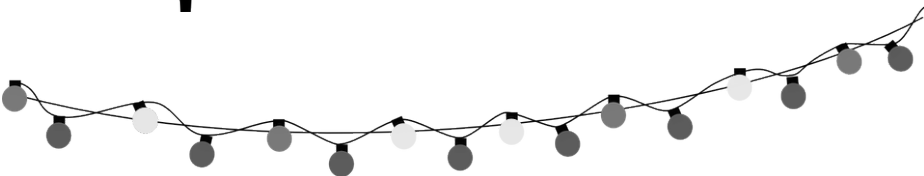
A Christmas Prince - The Royal Wedding

Speaking of "A Christmas Prince", its sequel is simply disappointing. You might know that in "A Christmas Prince", a journalist travels to a fake country to report on a prince's coronation and ultimately falls in love with that same prince. The sequel is basically her struggle to be herself in a world that revolves around maintaining a certain public image of wealth. In addition, she is using her journalistic skills to understand why a progressive plan for improving infrastructure is not working. While the storyline is satisfactory, the problems lie in a few characters. One of the things that threw me off was that they changed the actor for the father of the journalist, so that his character could become another representation of the middle-class versus royalty conflict. However, that is a pretty minor issue. What I found extremely annoying was the character for the wedding designer. He was an Indian character who was clearly supposed to have a heavy fake Indian accent. But if you have a heavy fake Indian accent, then why is it so difficult for you to pronounce your own name correctly? Having a diverse cast may be an achievement, but losing the accuracy of the culture in the process completely invalidates that diversity. If you wanted to see what happened after "A Christmas Prince", then watch the sequel, but otherwise you are really not missing much.



The Holiday Calendar

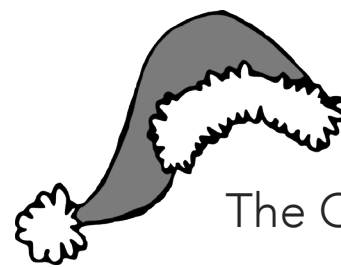
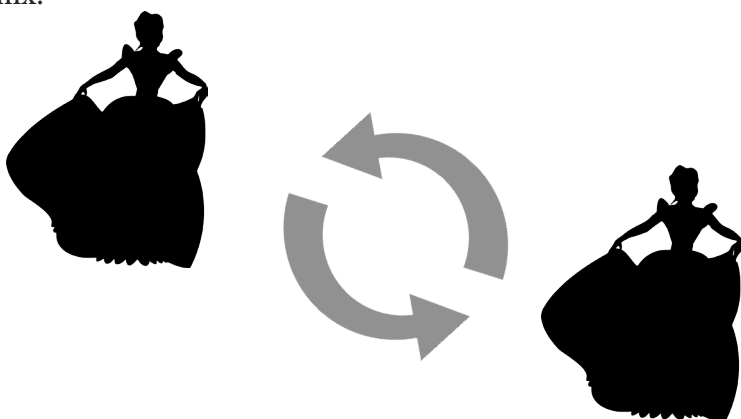
Girl and boy are very close friends. Girl does not believe in herself but wants to pursue her passion: photography. Boy is back for the holidays. Girl gets an Advent calendar and discovers that what seemed like coincidence is indeed magic and ends up falling for another boy. So overall, the storyline is what you would expect from a holiday movie and it has a relatively diverse cast. But it is extremely predictable and you just want to fast-forward to the end. If you are looking for a typical holiday movie, then "The Holiday Calendar" might be a decent choice.



The Princess Switch

OKAY, so first of all, Vanessa Hudgens cannot do a British accent. It's not even debatable. Second of all, why would a duchess from a fake country want to switch places with a baker? I am telling you the story is just a completely plagiarized holiday version of "Barbie: The Princess and the Popstar". And third of all, why do all members of royalty have to be taught about what it means to be compassionate? The Princess Switch is frustrating to a certain extent but cheesily romantic too. And it has a good lesson about sexism thrown in too. So if you want switcheroo humor and romance, then watch "The Princess Switch".

And by the way, both "The Holiday Calendar" and "The Princess Switch" have scenes where the characters choose to watch the Netflix movie, "A Christmas Prince". Way to self-advertise your movie failures, Netflix.



The Christmas Chronicles

Two siblings are spending their first Christmas without their dad and their mom is working a night-shift. So what do they do? Eat a bunch of junk food and set up a trap to get video footage of Santa. They sneak onto his sleigh and poof: an adventure of a lifetime. All of Christmas Ever, the siblings bond and learn the true meaning of Christmas spirit. In general, Santa (Kurt Russell) seems to carry the show, with a jazzy musical number in prison, very little understanding of the concept of skepticism, and extremely advanced technology. "The Christmas Chronicles" is a modern take on Santa but still seems slow. It took me a couple tries to finally get through the movie.

So I know I have thoroughly bashed these movies, but holiday movies are about holiday spirit. Maybe give them all a chance. You never know what you might end up playing on repeat for winter break.

A Letter To The HMC Community

Dear HMC,

We, Skylar Gering '22 and Vadim Mathys '22, are this year's ASHMC (Associated Students of Harvey Mudd College) Sustainability Directors. We are both passionate about protecting the environment and are excited to encourage sustainability at Mudd. We have spent the first semester talking with the Hixon Center for Sustainable Environmental Design, Facilities and Maintenance (F&M), and the administration about ways to make Mudd more sustainable. After a long semester of planning, we want to be more transparent about our aim and goals for the semester ahead. We hope you all can help us transform Mudd into a greener campus!

Our main focus for this year is to decrease the amount of single use materials on campus. We are approaching this problem from several fronts. First, President Klawe has decided to fund several water bottle refilling stations in Shanahan, one on each floor. These will be installed by F&M over winter break. Secondly, we want to focus on decreasing the waste that comes from the cafe. We will be encouraging students to bring their own mugs to the cafe, and we are hoping to implement a discount, similar to the Motley, for those that do. When we return from

break, we will be having a dorm competition for the most students to pledge to use only reusable water bottles, and their own containers at the Cafe for two weeks, with a prize for the winning dorm. Additionally, we are working with the Hoch to encourage more sustainable barbeques and a reduction of single use materials at the dining hall. Finally, we are working with President Klawe to switch Harvey Mudd's branded water bottles from single-use PET plastic to reusable water bottles for prospective students to take home and keep using.

Beyond our main initiative, we are working on three smaller projects. First, we would like to increase recycling of e-waste on campus. We are organizing two e-waste drives next semester. The first will happen during the first week back from winter break, so bring your e-waste back from break!!! F&M will set up huge bins on campus for students and faculty alike to drop off their e-waste. We also want to make sure that any useable electronics are donated to a good cause.

Useable computers will be donated to schools or those in need. We are also placing battery bins in each dorm, so please recycle your old batteries!

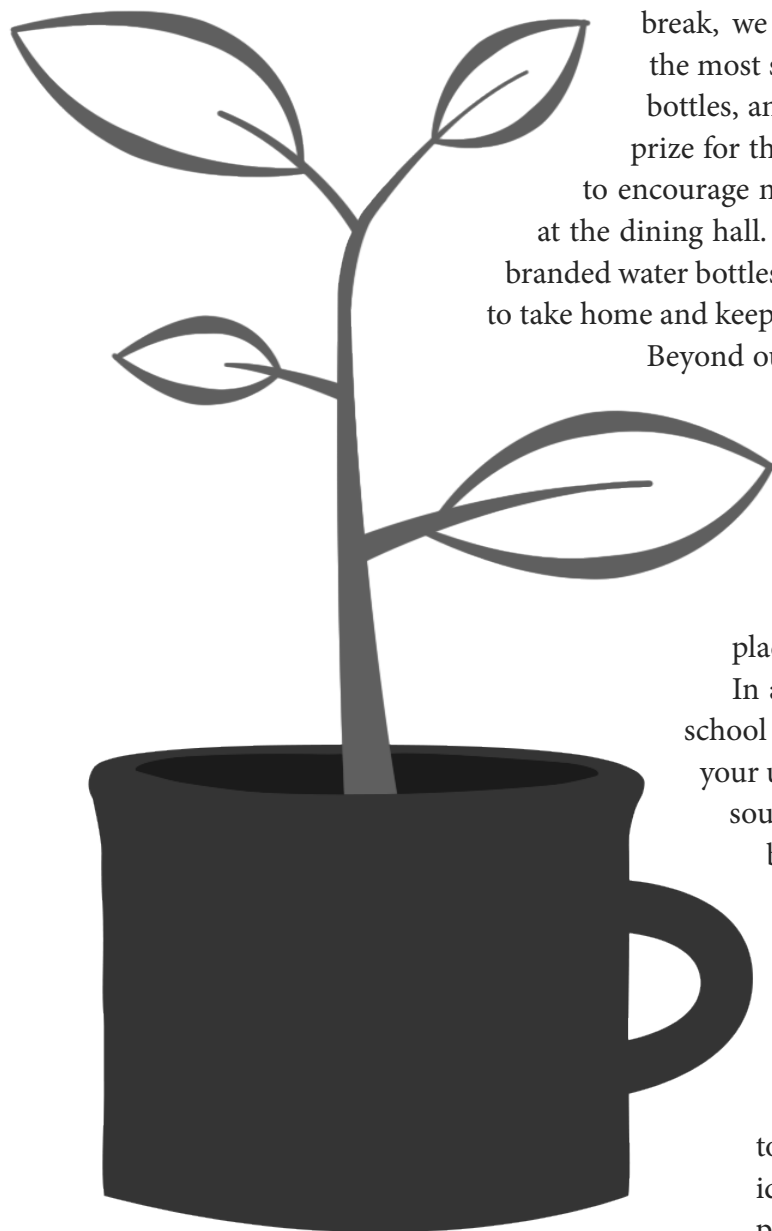
In another attempt to reduce move-out waste, we will be bringing back the end of school year Donation Drive! We will have large bins located on campus for you to place your unwanted belongings in so that we can give them to those in need. As cheesy as it sounds, your trash truly is someone else's treasure. And it reduces landfill waste! Two birds with one stone!

On the more social side of things, we are starting a program called Protect the Planet with a Prof, in which students will be able to engage with Mudd's Environmental Analysis professors. We will be offering lunches at the Hoch, dinners through the Leonard Fund, and possible weekend activities! Keep an eye out for emails to sign up!

We want to work with all of you to make these changes a reality. We are excited to see our plans take shape next semester, and would love to hear any feedback or ideas that the student body has. Please help us make Mudd a more sustainable place.



Skylar Gering (Top Left) and
Vadim Mathys (Bottom Right)





The Muddraker

@themuddraker

The Muddraker newspaper is a student-run publication of Harvey Mudd College. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the college or its students.

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🌐 themuddraker.com

📅 Joined March 2018

Worldwide trends

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Ben Hinthorne @MuddrakerStaffWriter • Dec 14

A few months ago I took only a few seconds to delete both Twitter and Instagram off my phone. On the surface and in the moment this decision seemed small and insignificant, but taking the time to observe social media's role in my life proved that this decision may not be so trivial at all. My path to this surprisingly significant event began with a Ted Talk by Tristan Harris, titled "How a handful of tech companies control billions of minds every day", that sparked my curiosity to look deeper into why social media caused me to exhibit such addictive behavior towards the platforms. Harris discussed many cognitive tricks developers of social media platforms use to keep their users continuously returning to their platform. These tricks even extend to the neurological level, literally conditioning the user's brain to keep them using the platform. After gaining a better understanding of the cognitive science behind social media, I started to become extremely conscious of how social media is used in this age. Determined not to let these developer's tricks work on me, I began to observe how and why I used social media and what my interactions with the platforms really entailed.

Making an effort to observe my behavior towards social media was staggering and borderline embarrassing. The first thing I noticed was the inexplicable amount of times I simply reached to pick up my phone. Whether I was doing homework, sitting at dinner, talking to my friends, it didn't matter; I consistently found myself reaching for my phone. Not because I felt like there was something important for me to see, not because I saw a notification pop up, I didn't know why, I just reached for it. Once I had slid open the phone, I was routinely drawn to social media, usually Twitter or Instagram. It didn't matter if I had checked it in the last 15 minutes or 4 hours, I was still drawn to open the app. Once I noticed this behavior I began to contemplate why I was doing this. Was I feeling the need to open social media because I was afraid I missed out on something important in the last 20 minutes? No. Was I determined to find a meme on Instagram's explore page to make my friends laugh every 20 minutes? No. The ultimate embarrassment came when I was doing research and reading specifically about developer's tricks to cause addiction to social media. I had been trying to focus on the article, needing to finish a research proposal, yet 15 minutes into reading, I found myself leaned back in my chair scrolling and tapping my way through my Instagram feed. I snapped back to reality and nearly threw my phone across the room, feeling as if I wasn't even in control of my own actions. I was appalled that, even when reading about how I could be tricked into continuously using social media, the tricks still worked. I was so wrapped up in it that I felt like nothing could draw me away from the addiction, not even an insight into what is keeping me in. After a few more months of being flustered by own behavior I realized it was only a single action that could act as a disconnect between me and my over usage of the apps: clicking the home button, holding down the icon on the far right, and tapping the 'x' in the top right corner. Delete.

Naturally I expected that I would extremely miss something I removed from my everyday life that used to be so prevalent. Yet, I was surprised to notice that I didn't feel like I was missing anything at all. I didn't feel a disconnect from any sort of pop culture, or like I was missing out any important news from the people I followed on social media. I noticed that everything I had felt like I was gaining from social media before, whether it was joy or laughter from a random meme, or keeping up with the lives of those I was following, I could still do in real life and not through a screen. In fact, it became clear that I could even do these things better without social media. A lack of connection through social media drove me to reach out more and actually talk to people about their experiences, where in the past I might have just been satisfied with information from a single picture and caption. Newly found self control allowed me to not pick up my phone so often while doing homework, or at dinner, or with my friends. I was instead able to focus on what was in front of me that wasn't a phone screen.

Time away from social media has been an extremely positive experience for me. Even though when I was using social media I didn't feel like it was detrimental to me in any way, this time has given me a new perspective on the role social media should play in my life. I am still continuing to search for and develop an understanding for what the real impact of social media is on my life and the lives of others. I hope to eventually uncover how social media can be an entirely positive experience without its detrimental effects or addictive tendencies. I believe this won't come from completely ignoring social media, but rather from being conscious of how and why people use the platforms, and how this use affects their lives even beyond the hours a week they may spend looking at the screen.

💬 606

↻ 687

❤️ 3.4K

12 “Dorm culture in Atwood is all about family. Atwood is unique in that each suite houses nine students, and these students tend to come from every class year at Mudd. You form a strong friendship with your roommate(s) but also have the opportunity to develop

relationships with everyone in your suite, effectively becoming a little family. What it means to be family for each suite depends on who lives there. Maybe you do suite dinners a few times a week, or watch Netflix together every Wednesday night. Anyone can walk into any suite and hang out with the residents there, and suites can get together and have a ton of fun!”

- Djassi Julien



ATWOOD

“I think dorm culture is about making people feel welcome and Case does a really good job of that. Since there are four different halls, they all have their own mini cultures so pretty much everyone can find a place to hang out in Case!”

- Sol Cruz



CASE

“I think Linde is all about having a chill community that you can trust will always be there to support you. I can always go back knowing that I will be able to have a good time or just relax when I need to. Nobody goes too crazy and people are very accepting of others’ ways they express themselves or how other people like to have fun.”

- Kyle Grace



LINDE

“Dorm culture is extremely strong at Mudd, and in particular East has always felt like a family. We embrace the “cult” in culture and have a distinct identity--from an anthropological point of view, we have many shared habits, linguistic quirks, and memes that are common to people who identify as part of East. Overall, East is a great space to exist in on campus, and I really do love that I live here.”

- Giselle Serate



EAST

“As someone who is fairly involved in South culture, I’m not totally sure what it is. I guess it’s a bunch of cool and mildly quiet people who enjoy each other’s company. We bake bread in our kitchen, watch fun videos in the lounge, drink a little with our bars Blitz and Baja, and go to other dorms’ parties together in big groups. I love South and the people who live in it, and South culture is a community of people who feel the same way.”

- Ellie Naudzius



SOUTH

“Dorm culture is one of the most important things to me about living at North because if I didn’t have the community that I am currently involved in, I don’t think I would be as happy as I am today. Mudd is very unique in the sense that seniors get to live in the same dorm as freshmen and that is a huge advantage for all age groups. We all hang out together and learn from each other, whether it is in an academic environment or just having an intellectual conversation about life. From the outside looking in, it is easy to assume that North is just a bunch of nerdy jocks playing pong in the courtyard, and while that is true for a good portion of time, we look after each other because we truly care.”

- Peyton Witte



NORTH

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