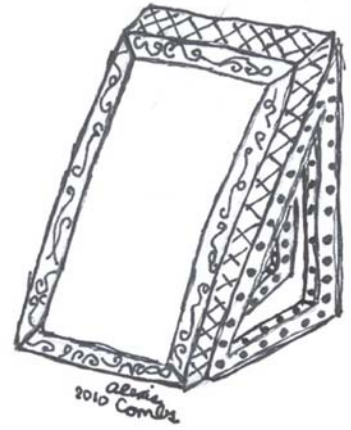


THE MIRROR

New Paltz Middle School Student Newspaper
Edition I FALL/WINTER 2010



SCHOOL NEWS

MR. RICCI SHOWS OFF HIS RACE CAR

By Robert Mercogliano and Augie Scoppa

Mr. Ricci, the father of NPMS student Rich Ricci, is a race car driver. On October 28th in the back parking lot during periods 7 and 8, everyone in Rich Ricci's class got to see his dad's race car and go inside it. Mr. Ricci answered The Mirror's questions.



Photo by Augie Scoppa

A.I race mostly in Accord.

Q.When do you race?

A. I race every weekend during racing season, 7 to 8 PM.

Q. What is the racing season? How long is it?

A. Racing season is when most racing happens. It starts in the beginning of April and ends in the middle of October.

Matt, a student

of Ms. Ibrahim said, "This is so cool!"

Ms. Ibrahim commented, "I am happy the students could come and see this great looking car!"

Mr.Ricci's car was very cool, and it was fun to check it out.

Q. Where do you race?

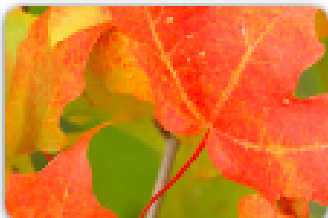


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The Transition

By Caroline Aurigemma
(a 9th Grader)

For the new 8th graders this year : You might be nervous or scared about going to the high school. It's okay to admit the fact that you are uncomfortable. Believe me it happens to EVERYONE! So I just wanted to tell you some of the positive things about the high school that you are going to be experiencing next year.

There is a total time difference in high school. As many of you already know, the high school only has four blocks, and the day might seem like it goes by much faster.

Sports is another positive! We have many sports to choose from and we have a great athletic department! We have a varsity football league that has great games, and plays really hard. Our football games are the BEST! Even though it is sometimes cold, the games are good and when you are hanging out and cheering with friends, it's all the more fun.

All of our other sports are great, too! Our JV and Varsity Volleyball teams are amazing to watch and when you cheer for these teams, you give them your support to do well.

Our teachers expect so much of you as well. When you are in high school, similar to middle school, you need to do your homework, labs, and important projects. All of your high school years are on your College papers. This means working hard is NOT an option; it's a "must have."

There are also a lot of clubs in High School that you are always welcome to join. For example, there is Peer Leadership, Peer Mediation, Cooking Club, French Club, and Spanish Club. These are a great way to spend free time as well as become a part of something. High School is all about being part of a group and having fun while working hard.

Pep-rally is definitely a way to have fun! This week starts out with different fun and dramatic days where supporting your school is cool! Then there is a community lunch, which is awesome! And last but not least there is a PEP-RALLY!! I don't want to ruin any surprises or give away anything but just note that it is really fun!

So there you have it! There are many important and fun things to do in High School. You just need to open your brain and find them. And I do miss all of my teachers and thank you all for helping and supporting me in my middle school years! Have fun, and be safe

Frost Valley

By Ilanna Hinson and Jamie Meluso

On September 22, 23, and 24, the 6th graders of New Paltz Middle School ventured out to the vast camp of Frost Valley. Frost Valley is run by the YMCA.

During these three days, students participated in cooperative activities. While they were in Frost Valley they learned to bond with their classmates and teachers in a way that they would not be able to experience during any other field trips.

Luckily this year they had the opportunity to work with Chris Bravo and Sarah Rubin, seventh graders from the Student Council.

The 6th graders owe a big thank you to all the chaperones and the teachers, and a gigantic thank you to Dr. Wiesenthal and Mrs. Ritter; if it weren't for them, the students would not have had this amazing learning experience.

To all students that liked Frost Valley, there is a two-week sleepaway summer camp. Their address is 2000 Frost Valley Road, Claryville, NY 12725. Check it out at <http://www.frostvalley.org>.

Students get Recognized

By Nicholas Zaccheo

On November 18, 2010 in the New Paltz Middle School Cafeteria, a Student Recognition Breakfast was hosted to celebrate students who helped make the Middle School a better community.

A special speaker, Superintendent Mrs. Rice, said "I am very proud that 22 students got this very special award."

Dr. Wiesenthal said, "I am very proud that I can say at middle level meetings that I can take my kids to Frost Valley, Boston and Washington DC. I never have to worry about any problems because my students know how to act."

Students were honored for such things as helping new students, cleaning lunch tables, outstanding work, coming prepared to class and helping teachers if needed.

Congratulations to the following 6th, 7th and 8th grade students: Angel Castellanos, Annalise Connolly, Priscilla Cooper, Morgan Cozzolino, Emily Denno, Quentin Dixon, Anthony Fazio, Kenadeed Gilmour, Danielle Guirma, William Kay, Robert Kelly, Steven Le, Megan Mastro, Robert

Mercogliano, Donna Nardella, Samuel Nidorf, John O'Donnell, Ariel Pazer, Robert Rivera, Crystal Thomsen, Darren Tsai and Nicholas Zaccheo.



Thank you to Dr. Wiesenthal, Mr. Tantillo, Ms. Magarity, Mrs. Metzger and all the other faculty and staff members who put this special ceremony together.

Find A Way

By Eric Lasko

In the summer of 2005 I passed by Unison Arts Center on my way home from camp. In the front yard, I saw a strange sight. A bunch of kids were fighting with foam swords and people were randomly falling to the ground. Little did I know I was witnessing a Wayfinder Experience adventure game.

The Wayfinder Experience is a live action theatrical role playing camp. They teach improvisational theatre. During the camp, campers fight with foam swords and various other weapons. Towards the end of



Picture found at: <http://www.wayfinderexperience.com/gallery/>
camp they play a long game called an "adventure game." The adventure games are fun and normally have a conflict that a character must resolve. When the

character dies, he or she goes to a place called Re. Re will bring them back as a new or possibly the same character.

The group can be found at:

<http://www.wayfinderexperience.com>. The photo is from the Wayfinder 2010 Finale camp.

STUDENT THOUGHTS

Ask Ms. Judy

Dear Ms. Judy,

Recently I have felt peer pressure to be thinner. All my friends talk about is their need to slim down and lose weight by dieting. My friend told me that I need to diet too, because I was "chunky". I've been wondering if I was overweight for a while, but now I know it's true.

So, I tried dieting and exercising, but nothing worked. I felt guilty every time I ate, so I started skipping breakfast. Slowly but surely, I stopped eating all together. Since then I've dropped 20 pounds, but I'm concerned. I think I am anorexic and I know how dangerous eating disorders are to your health, but I can't bring myself to eat anything. PLEASE HELP ME!!!!!!

- Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Thank you for reaching out to me for help. I know how much courage that must've taken. Now please, please, PLEASE tell an adult you trust that you've been starving yourself. A parent, teacher, older sibling, or one of our school counselors can help you get the help you need, which may include talking to a psychologist, psychiatrist, or a medical doctor. They will help you gain and maintain a healthy weight, and help you feel happy about the way you look. After you are back on track, talk to your friend and tell her that calling you chunky was wrong, and that you both should be proud of the way you look. Also tell her that she is NOT overweight. You don't want the same thing to happen to her, right?

You are beautiful. Please never think otherwise. I wish you luck.

With love,

Ms. Judy

If you have a problem, please write it and give to Ms. Pereira. Ms. Judy will answer in the next edition.

INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW HOME & CAREERS TEACHER: MS. ERHLICH ☺☀

By Augie
Scoppa



Q: What inspired you to become a teacher?

A: I loved my 8th grade Home & Careers class when I was in school.

Q: What are your hopes for this year?

A: One I want to have my students love Home and Careers class, and I want to start driving again after my broken leg.

Q: What is your favorite part of teaching?

A: My favorite part of teaching is teaching the students.

Q: What is your favorite unit in Home & Careers?

A: Sewing is my favorite unit.

Q: What school did you used to go to?

A: Carnegie-Mellon University.

Q: Do most people misspell your name?

A: Yes, the way people misspell it is: Erhlick

Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: A long time

Q: Is there anything else you like to tell the

A: I think the people of NPMS are awesome, friendly, and helpful!♥

Mr. Fisher comes to The Middle School

By Nicole Schofield

Recently I interviewed Mr. Fisher , the new Spanish teacher.

Q. What made you want to become a teacher?

A. I have come from a family of teachers and have always had a natural way of helping others and explaining or teaching things to others. I

was inspired by my high school Spanish teacher because of everything he taught me.

Q. Do you like teaching?

A. Yes. At times it is stressful and students can be difficult but there are many rewarding moments.

Q. What made you choose to be a Spanish teacher?

A. My mother is a Spanish teacher and I have always really enjoyed speaking Spanish and learning about Spanish culture.

Q. What grade do you teach?

A. 8th grade Spanish-II

Q. How long did it take you to learn all the Spanish?

A. I started learning Spanish formally in 8th grade and I have been studying it ever since, so about 12 years.

Q. Did you take a foreign language when you were younger?

A. Yes, I started in 8th grade.

Q. Where did you go to school?

A. Rhinebeck High School, College of Saint Rose for college, and Middlebury College for graduate school.

Mr. Fisher likes to travel, experience new cultures, play golf, tennis and scuba dive.

He spent a year in Madrid and studied in Sevilla, Spain for one semester. He also spent a summer in Costa Rica. Mr. Fisher says, "Learning a language will show you the world."



CLUB NEWS

Art Club meets Mondays in room 36. For students who enjoy art and want to make creative projects. Open to all students, you do not have to join, just come!



Drama Club meets after school. Ms. Holmes is the advisor. The production this year will be, *Beauty and the Beast*. Students are busy auditioning for parts. Performance will be March 4-5, 2011.

Geo Bee meets every Thursday in room 1. The advisor is Ms. Naclario. This club is for all students who like geography, fun games and a chance to compete in the National Geography Bee.



to

The New Paltz Rock & Soul Revue was started by school band director Mr. Seymour in 2002, shortly after he arrived here from teaching in Maine where he had run a similar Middle School group. Assisted by Mr. Constable on drums and Mr. Melamud on bass guitar, this group of approximately 24 NPMS students plays and sings a 10 song set of songs drawn from classic rock up through more contemporary rhythm and blues.



Selection for the group's membership begins in the spring of each year with singers being drawn from their performances in our PTA Talent Show. Mr. Seymour writes all of the arrangements and begins rehearsing with individuals and small groups beginning in September. By November 1st, the band comes together in rehearsals three days per week. Throughout the remainder of the school year, Rock and Soul performs for school and community functions which vary from year to year.

This year, Rock & Soul will perform at Lenape Elementary with a 5th Grade Select Choir and with our

new high school group called "Glee", which is directed by new Choral Director Ms. Ferrante, a graduate of the New Paltz

The Mirror (this newspaper) meets every Wednesday in room 3. Ms. Pereira is the advisor. It is open to all students. Even if you can't attend every meeting, you can still be a reporter, cartoonist, or reviewer for the paper.



Morning Announcements: Join the team of students who broadcast the morning announcements. See Ms. Lamb in the computer lab for details.

Reflections: NPMS's literary and art magazine is open to all 6th, 7th, 8th graders interested in helping to put the magazine together and students willing to submit their artwork and creative writing. The meetings are held in room 38 on Wednesdays, about once a month, so listen to the announcements or ask Ms. Rosen for details.

The purpose of Reflections is to showcase the amazing creative ability and talent of our middle schoolers. Students who just wish to submit work and not be on the staff can give it to me or leave it in my mailbox. A reminder to teachers to submit their students' creative work would also be helpful.



Social Group meets every Wednesday in the art room, right after school. See Ms. Ibrahim or Ms. O'Brien for details.

***Important:** If your club, organization or sports team is having an upcoming event, please let a Mirror staff member know so that he or she can cover the event.

SPORTS

Girl's Swimming

By Melissa Lo Brutto

Congratulations to the girl's Varsity swim team! Last year, they didn't win any meets, but this year they won 2 meets out of 10.

Brooke Hart and Quinn Berger are the only middle school students among many high school students on the varsity girl's swim team. Quinn and Brooke are eighth graders here in New Paltz Middle School.

Quinn Berger qualified for sectionals for 200 IM (200 yard individual medley) and 50 yards for all four strokes which are butterfly, back stroke, breast stroke, and freestyle. Quinn also qualified for the 100 yard breast stroke. This is her second year of varsity.

On the other hand, Brooke Hart is becoming a distance swimmer. Her specialty is the 500 yard freestyle. This is her first year of varsity. Even though the team didn't win many meets, this was a good rebuilding year. Over all, they were AMAZING this season.



Cross Country

By Essence Coxum, Lexi Klinger and Robert Mercogliano

The New Paltz Cross-Country team had a big party as the cross-country season neared to an end. Overall, the team won five races and didn't lose any. The last race the team was in, Lorenzo Mizuka came in first.

"It felt exhilarating when I won," Lorenzo said.

The season was a lot of fun. Kids were very dedicated, worked very hard, and we are proud of every single one of them," said coaches Pat Barbario and Mike Vance.

All Out 'till the End

By Evan Purcell



The New Paltz modified football team ended their season with a 6-1 record. The team with 50 players had an outstanding record beating last year's 5-1-1.

Even long term coach Mr. Pizzarello said, "One of the best teams I have ever coached."

All the players were happy at the end of the year even with their loss against Saugerties. After they lost the coach said to just "clap it out".

All the kids fought "all out 'till the end," said one of the players.

"We deserve the win against Saugerties," said another.

The coaches were happy about how all the players were responsible in school and got their work done. "Next year we will win it all," said a 7th grade teammate. This has been a very successful year for the team!





REVIEWS

To read more about Rick Riordan check out:
[http:// www.rickriordan.com](http://www.rickriordan.com)

The Lost Hero: First book in the heroes of Olympus series

By Eric Lasko

This book follows 3 teenagers. Their names are Jason, Piper and Leo. Jason is a son of Zeus (sometimes Jupiter) with very little memory. Piper is a daughter of Aphrodite (Sometimes Venus) with a crush on Jason. Leo is a son of Hephaestus (sometimes Vulcan). This book has an awesome plot with an interesting twist. Some characters from the Percy Jackson series will be returning, including the huntress, Thalia (who may play an important part in the story). They will face Storm Spirits, a princess and even King Midas for the ultimate plot twist. Who is the villain of the story? How 'bout you ask the gods?

Gallery of Characters:

Thalia: One of the hunters of Artemis, she is a demigod daughter of Zeus.

Zeus: Zeus is the King of the Greek gods and the god of Storms and lightning.

Jupiter: The Roman aspect of Zeus

Aphrodite: The Greek Goddess of love. She tends to have the most demigods. Unfaithful wife of Hephaestus

Venus: The Roman aspect of Aphrodite

Hephaestus: The Greek god of the forge and of fire. Unfaithful husband of Aphrodite.

Vulcan: Roman aspect of Hephaestus.

Avara-Kadavra A review of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows part 1

By Eric Lasko

Are you a fan of magic? Well then, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows part 1 is the movie for you! This is the first Harry Potter movie to not take place inside of Hogwarts.

In this movie Harry Potter, Hermione and Ron have several close calls with

Death. Harry and Ron find out who left the false Hocrux locket in the cave where it was found. They get one step closer to destroying all the hocruxes. Also, some characters do die.

In my opinion this movie scores 9.9 out of 10. The reason it does not get a 10 is because it was boring at times. Overall, it was an entertaining movie. My favorite quote from the movie is: "Dobby never meant to kill. Only to maim, or seriously injure."



To find out more go to:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0926084/>

Face of Fire

part 1

Introduction to the Face of Fire by Eric Lasko)

(If you have access to a music database I would suggest listening to Imperial March by John Williams while reading this)

Prologue

About 700 years into the future there is a group of people who fix history. They make it so worlds aren't destroyed. They are known as The Time Travelers guild. This is where our story begins. It follows a man particularly interested in the World Narlos, which was destroyed by Nerigoth, who was an evil elemental. This was all because his brother tried to stop him.

And so it begins

The man with the cold dark robe walked down the mysterious corridor. He held his sword over his shoulder.

"Nerigoth* here I come. You destroyed your own planet but I will reverse this." He walked through a hallway with several doors leading to strange looking places.

"I need to help Ozrigoth* and the monsters summon Necriniyae, the Dragon Warrior*." Then a monster appeared. His eyes were red with anger. He had a hammer made of pure gold. He attacked the stranger. The man blocked every swipe and eventually hacked and jabbed at the beast. Golden Blood dripped out of its hide and it released a cry of anguish. The man incinerated the monster with a volley of fire, so that the monster would never come back. Then he stepped around the ball of fire and walked to a door with a crossed axe and shield emblazoned on the door. He opened the door and walked through it into a world of terror.

*Nerigoth: Leader of the humans, brother of Ozrigoth and one of the elementals. He is known as the hand of ice.

Ozrigoth: Leader of the monsters, brother of Nerigoth, father of Eskane and one of the elementals. He is known as the face of fire.

*Necriniyae: The Dragon warrior and protector of the Monsters. He has powerful Dragon magic and until he vanished the Monsters were safe.

Eskane*: The first half troll half human in HISTORY. He has the powers of his father, Ozrigoth the Troll and his mother, Koneg, who is a Human Cleric.

To be continued in the next edition...

Fall Double Puzzle

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Take the letters that appear in ☐ boxes and unscramble them for the final message.

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TIME FOR FUN

FALL WORD FIND

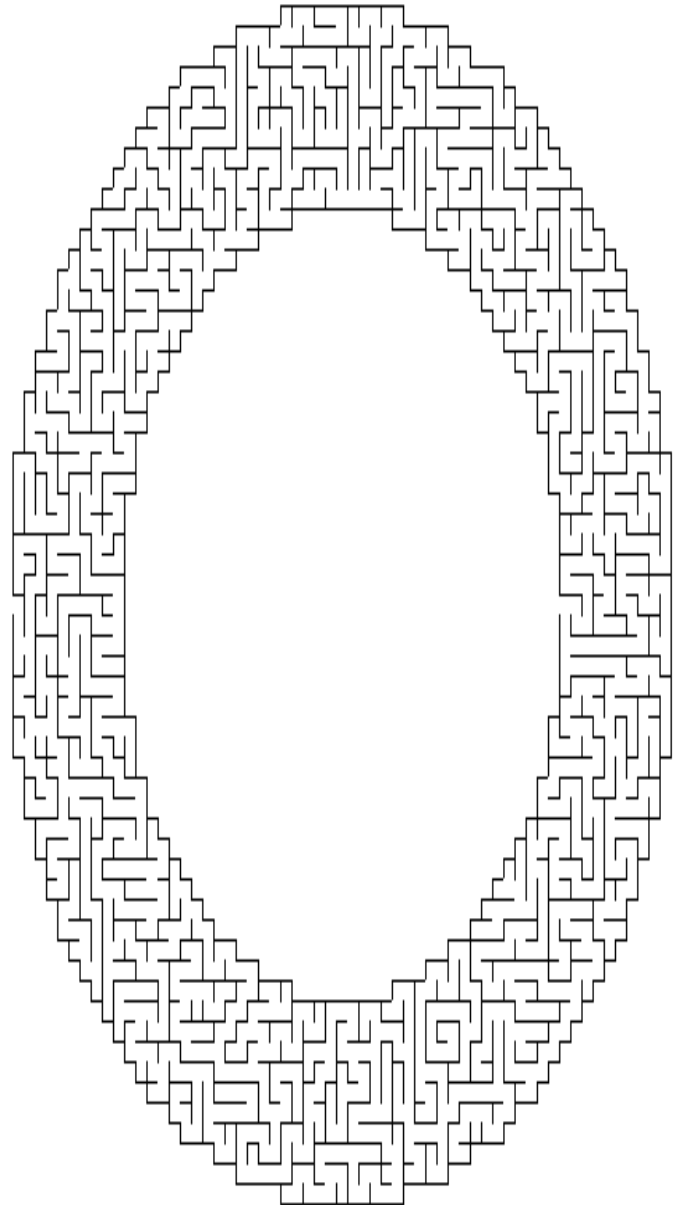
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K G Y M R J G T G N G U H A D

CANDY	GHOSTS	GOBLINS
HALLOWEEN	HORROR	LEAVES
PUMPKINS	ZOMBIES	

By Augie Scoppa

From: Puzzlemaker.com

Maze

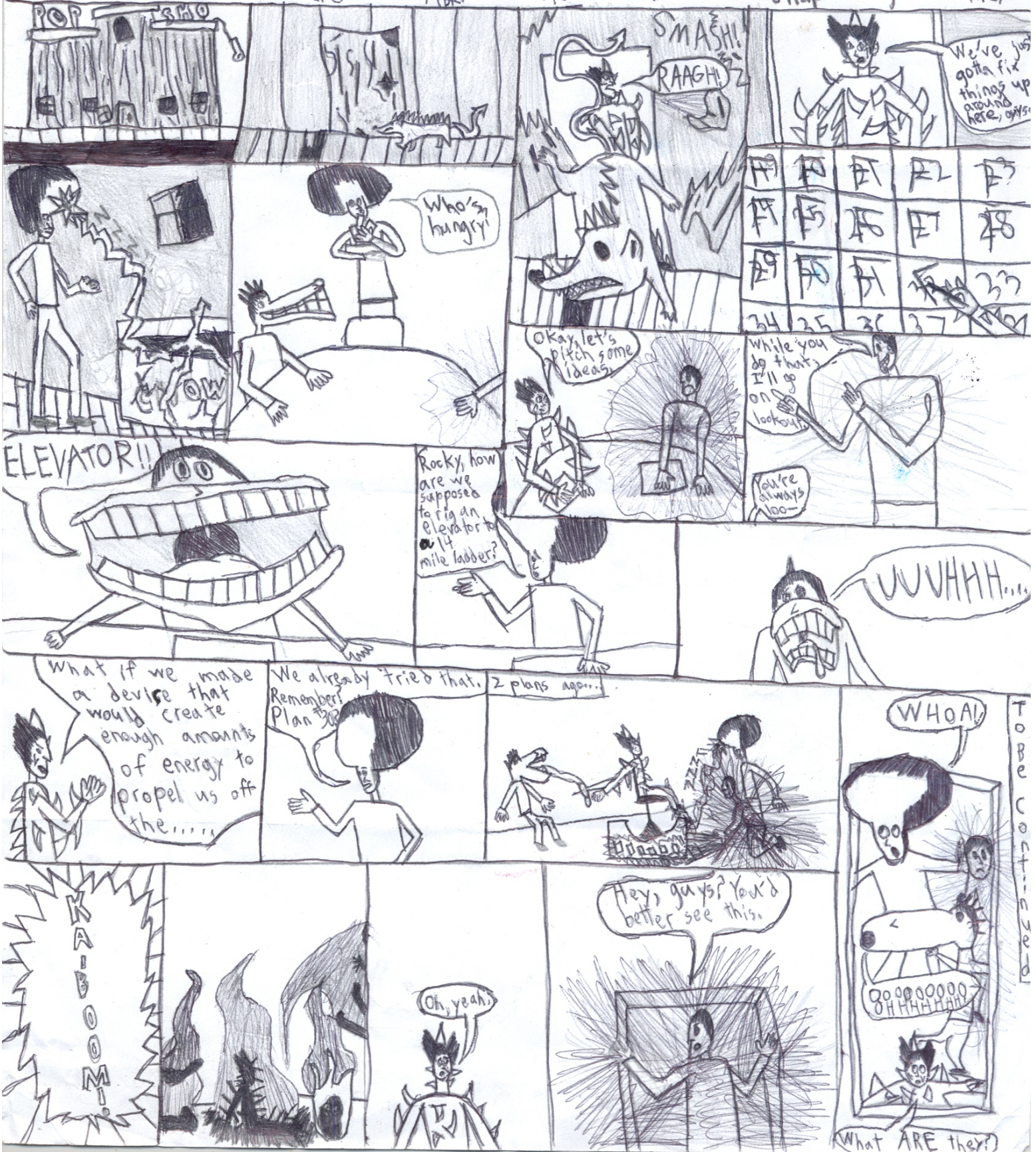


14 MILES DOWN

by Ian McAllister



chapt. 2, What ARE they?



Halloween Fun



The Mirror Staff



Charlie Bason, Chris Bravo,
Ilana Hinson, Melissa LoBrutto,
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Jamie Maluso,
Ian McCalaster, Robert Mercogliano, Michael Paino,
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Nicole Schofield, and Nicholas Zaccheo

Advisor Susan Pereira

A special thanks to Fran Lamb
for all of her technological help and
Jeff Lipton for his editing expertise!

The Mirror is also available
online at:

<http://www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us>



Seasons Greetings to all

From,
The Mirror

