Hillside’s
GLOBAL GAZETTE
April, 2015

~ Global Club ~President Eric Lu & Vice President Agustin Rodriguez

This club was created to foster a continued strong connection between our international students and American students and faculty. We are intent on sharing our international cultures with the Hillside population as well as learning about other cultures.
Montreal is Canada’s second largest city and the home of Hillside’s very own Coach Dewey. It is located in the southwest part of the province of Quebec and sits on the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. For much of Canada’s history, this European-like city has been the financial and industrial heartbeat of the country. Today, the city is an important center of commerce, technology, culture, world affairs, and it is the headquarters of the Montreal Exchange. The Port of Montreal is one of the biggest inland ports in the world, and the city is known as the railway hub of Canada.

Montreal was referred to as “Canada’s cultural capital” by Monocle Magazine and is a hot spot for art, the film industry, dance, and cuisine. Montreal has a lot to offer and is a must-see if you happen to be in southern Quebec.

In 1611, French explorer Samuel de Champlain established a fur trading post at present day Montreal. The site later became the capital of The Province of Canada from 1844 to 1849 before a Tory (conservative) mob burned down the Parliament building and the capital was moved to Ottawa. The city’s population grew and became economically and politically influential. In 1967, the city hosted the World’s Fair known as Expo ’67 and, in 1976, Montreal was the site of the Summer Olympics and the place where Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci made her mark.

Montreal is a cosmopolitan juggernaut and celebration of French Canadian style. You can take a horse-drawn carriage ride around the cobblestone streets of Vieux-Montreal and experience a taste of European flavor. The Basilique Notre-Dame is a city landmark, and the Plateau Mont-Royal will delight you with its quaint boutiques and trendy cafes. There’s much to do in this delightful city. Perhaps Coach Dewey can take you for a tour.

Cool Facts about Montreal

- 2nd largest French speaking city in the world
- Hosted the 1976 Summer Olympics
- Home to 24 Stanley Cups (Montreal Canadiens)
The Life of Kinky Tail

This is not necessarily a feel good story like others in recent months. Rather, it chronicles the last days of a Mapogo lion that has, along with his brothers and fellow coalition members, dominated territory in the Sabi Sand Game Reserve in South Africa. The story brings to light the harsh reality of the lives of lions and their instinctive quest to pass on their bloodlines and survive in a world where only the strongest live to see another day. And even the strongest, at times, struggle, as is the case with Kinky Tail, an aging alpha male. His rule came to an end on June 8th, 2010 when he and his brother, Mr. T., tried to chase a coalition of 4 younger lions called the magingalene out of their territory. Kinky Tail had been separated briefly from his brothers and the 4 magingalene lions had cornered him. His demise was brutal and savage. The youngsters mauled him for hours and, in a final act of dominance, ate him alive. The scene was captured on video and is disturbing to watch. His death marked the end of a legacy of dominance by the Mapogos who reigned over this region with ruthlessness themselves. Some might ask, why write about this in the Global Gazette? It’s a fair question which, after deep thought, can be answered by saying: Life can be harsh for some of the world’s creatures and people should know this. This brilliant animal was a product of thousands of years of evolutionary design that programmed him for survival in a beautiful, yet unforgiving world. The story brings into questions the notions of justice, morality, and Ultimate Meaning in the universe. Some might ask: How could a loving God create a Universe in which this type of horror can occur? The answer might lie outside the scope of Western thinking and somewhere in the tenants of Buddhist theology. One famous Buddhist adage keeps coming to mind: “The world is so constructed that in order to enjoy life’s many joys, it is also necessary to endure its sufferings.” Without suffering and pain, bliss, joy, and any other warm feelings are without context and experiential meaning. Kinky Tail, you lived a life as a proud creature. We are sad to see you go, and we’re especially saddened to see you meet your end in such a painful way. You lived a proud life as a free roaming dominant male lion. You and your coalition brothers had a good run. Now it’s over. RIP old friend!
Celebrating Japan

**Japan** Mrs. Brown made sweet rice balls and they were a huge hit as over twenty people turned out to celebrate Japan. The kids dined on Japanese sushi-like cuisine and drank green tea.

**Switzerland** Mr. Eyster led a cheese-tasting Café in which students rated their top cheeses. Creamy Havarti and Hot Habanaro tied for 1st place with 6 votes each. Smoked Gouda came in 3rd with 5 votes. Swiss and Garlic & Herb tied for 3rd place with 3 votes each and sharp cheddar got one vote.

**Spain** Mrs. Brown made Gazpacho, a cold Spanish soup, and Arturo Chavez and Anuar Esteban presented the capacity crowd with an entertaining Power Point about Spain.
Hillside’s Chief Academic Officer is none other than Richard Eyster. The “Ice Man” as some call him for his cool demeanor under pressure, is a compassionate and dedicated liberal educator whom one could envision being a character on the Simpsons. He is a cross between neighborly Ned Flanders, disciplinarian Principal Skinner, and even has a bit of that loveable, but forgetful Chief Wiggum in him. He’s a complex man who has several quirky facets to his personality, but above all is a guy who is dynamic, competent, and who has had the gumption to change the academic culture here at Hillside. He’s put us on the map academically with his innovative ideas and skill in navigating problems and dealing with people.

He describes his teaching style as “a little crazy” at times and notes that he can be “tough” on students so that they are challenged and have the chance to reach their potential.

Richard Eyster was born in the American Midwest a little over six decades ago. He grew up in New York. As a child, he looked no further than making his career in education. He has 43 years of experience in the field and has pioneered Hillside’s summer JumpStart Program, First Fridays of the Month (devoted to faculty development and training), and the iPad Professional Development Program. Furthermore, he sets up professional development opportunities outside of Hillside for faculty members and, in his words, is here to “provide moral support” and “big ideas.” Well, he has done all that and more. In my nearly twenty years of teaching, I’ve never received such support and encouragement as I have from Richard Eyster and it has meant a lot. I think many on the Bulldog campus would say the same thing.

In his free time Mr. Eyster enjoys painting. He also loves to cook and write. His wife Rosie works in the Boston Design Center and he has three daughters currently pursuing education careers in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Washington DC. Mr. Eyster is energized by kids and the men and women who devote their lives to them. He’s a good man with a good heart, and his presence is highly appreciated around here. Thanks for all you do, Mr. Eyster.

Cool Facts about Mr. Eyster

- Started a Rock ‘n Roll band
- Baked a 2,200 pound cookie
- Drives a sporty Miata M-5 convertible

Rock ‘n Roll
Earth Day marks the anniversary of what many consider to be the birth of the modern environmental movement. Founder Gaylord Nelson started the movement in 1970 with the intention of bringing into the collective consciousness the importance of sustaining a healthy environment.

**In Canada, school children sing the praises of Earth Day.**

**In Germany, second graders plant a birch tree sapling at Ramstein Air Base.**

**In Japan, citizens promote eco-friendly products to raise awareness.**

**In the USA, the High Mountain Institute in Colorado taught conservation lessons.**

**In Mexico, volunteers hand out environmentally friendly bags and promote conservation.**

### Cool Facts about Earth Day

- Earth Day began on April 22nd, 1970
- In 1990, Earth Day became recognized worldwide
- 100,000 people rode bikes in China in 2012
On May 8th the Hillside School will once again have its annual Diversity Day festival celebrating our rich and diverse student body and faculty. We have kids attending Hillside from 18 different countries including: Canada, Vietnam, Zambia, Mexico, Ukraine, Russia, Germany, Singapore, the Netherlands, China, South Korea, Japan, France, and the Dominican Republic, among others. We also have faculty from as far away as Malaysia and Brazil. It is a tremendous time for our community to come together and learn about each other’s cultures. We, in fact, do this all year round, but Diversity Day is the time slot allotted to “celebrating” this wonderful multicultural environment. Each classroom will represent a country. The kids will travel from country to country with a total of five minutes in each country-room. Near the end of the morning we’ll have the all-popular East vs. West soccer game followed by the fan favorite 4 Corners of the World Buffet in which we have foods from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. It’s a wonderful time to be at Hillside.
Ping Pong Rankings

April Ping Pong Rankings

Top 5 at Hillside
“Hillside’s Best”
1. Amir Thomas (Ber)
2. Cam Ray (USA)
3. Kofi Asante (USA)
4. Kyle Murphy (USA)
5. Dima Piskun (UKR)

Top 5 Rising Stars
1. Carson McKinnon (USA)
2. Connor Guyette (Sin)
3. Colby Becker (USA)
4. Bol Akot (USA)
5. Hyun Ho Kim (Kor)

Top 5 Serves
1. Kofi Asante
2. Kyle Murphy
3. Anuar Esteban
4. Lucas Adam
5. Edward Kosek
On April 18th, the Global Club gathered in the ATL, and 35 of us loaded into two buses and a traverse and made our way to the all-popular Chinese Super Buffet. We had students of several nationalities represented: China, Mexico, South Korea, Japan, Russia, the USA, and others. The boys loved the food, as we were treated to an amazing assortment of Chinese food that included: hot ‘n sour soup, seafood, pork, beef, dumplings, roasted vegetables and so much more. The boys made three to four trips to the buffet counter and needless to say, when we left, they were stuffed. After we ate, the boys thanked their Chinese hosts and got back onto the buses and headed to the Natick Mall. We’re not sure where we’re going next. If you have a suggestion please contact Mr. Brown. mbrown@hillsideschool.net
My Hillside students were able to have an impact on the lives of students in Honduras by sending them their first piece of mail. The students at Lake Yojoa had never received a letter since there is no mail system where they live, and their excitement upon receiving it was unparalleled. It was a great opportunity for Hillside’s Spanish learners to put their language skills to use by inquiring about life in another country. The students in Honduras wrote back and each participant in the pen pal exchange received a letter in return. Students were reminded that whether they like hockey or futbol, burgers or baleadas, or whether they live in the U.S. or Honduras, they have the power to shape someone’s life. Anuar Esteban stated “In this card I learned that happiness isn’t materialistic and that everyone can be friends without liking the same things.”
**Ruijian “Mike” Zhang**

Mike Zhang came to Hillside last year as a quiet 7th grader. He made an immediately positive first impression on all who met him because of his easygoing nature and friendly demeanor. Well, his second impression, in his second year, is even better. He is regarded by his fellow Chinese compatriots as a leader. This fact interested and surprised me a little, not because I can’t envision Mike as a well-liked member of the Hillside Chinese community, but because despite his rather shy nature, he commands the respect and admiration of all. That’s hard to do. Being shy seems to necessarily imply that you’ll be a follower. Not in Mike’s case! When asked why he is so highly regarded and touted as “prefect material,” the boys unanimously respond that he has their trust and all students know that Mike will come through for them in a fair and kind way. And, if you ask outside the Hillside Chinese community, you’d be hard-pressed to find anyone who has anything bad to say about Mike Zhang. That’s a rarity in the boy’s middle boarding school world.

He was born Ruijian Zhang in Dalian, China. Dalian is a trading and financial center situated at the tip of the Liaodong Peninsula in northeastern China. It has a long history as a significant Asian port and is a shipping and logistics center for Northeast Asia. It is here that Mike grew up as the only child of father Lin Zhang and mother Chunzhu Wang. The latter, Mike’s mother, can be seen roaming the halls of Hillside arranging various meetings with faculty members in order to discuss her son’s academic progress. She’s a concerned and protective parent who wants the best for her son. With this kind of support, Mike is sure to succeed in life.

As everyone south of Maher House knows, Mike loves computer games. He can be seen during his free time on the weekends blasting aliens or playing FIFA with his buddies. But, what a lot of people don’t know is that Mike has a passion for baseball. He loves the sport and plays on coach Delahoz’s JV team with BK Kim and the boys. Perhaps someday he plans to follow in the Orioles Wei-Yin Chen’s footsteps.

So Mike, does an easygoing guy like you have any difficulties here at Hillside? Certainly putting up with your ESL teacher Mr. Brown has to rank up there as one of them. But besides that, anything you find hard? Mike confesses that English gives him some troubles, especially when he has to learn academic content at grade level. It’s not an easy thing to do. If you don’t believe him try taking a history course in Mandarin or an Economics course in Cantonese after spending only a year in China. We get it Mike, and we’re here to support you and guide you through your difficult journey.

Mike’s role model is none other than Hillside Prefect, Global Club President, and fellow Chinese national, Eric Lu. In fact, not only does Mike share similar positive character traits with Eric, but he wants to be a school leader too.

Well, good news! Just this afternoon, Headmaster Beecher announced that Mike Zhang will be a proctor next year. Not bad for a kid who came to us barely able to speak English last year. I’d say that Mike has had a very successful time here at Hillside. Well done young man. You’ve earned it!
Alexander Tertyshny

Alexander Tertyshny has only been here for a short time, but he has had a big impact on Hillside. The first major impact he had was due to his name being seemingly impossible to pronounce. I remember Mr. Meyer coming to his name in a roll call and stopping dead in his tracks. He could not get past the “Ter…” part. And if you know Mr. Meyer, pronouncing exotic Russian names is not why we pay him the big bucks here at Hillside. In the Fall Term, Alexander quickly befriended half of the student population with his all-embracing, easygoing personality. No matter how poor a student is at sports, or how young and eccentric they may be, Alexander treats all the same; with respect and dignity. And, it’s not an act. This is who Alexander is!

He was born the son of NHL hockey sensation and Russian national Dmitri Tertyshny and his wife, Polina. Dmitri, as many people know, unfortunately passed away at a young age while Polina was pregnant. Even though he never knew his father, the former NHLer ranks as young Alexander’s role model along with his mother who Alexander describes as a “hard-working stay-at-home mom and interior designer.” It was Polina who told her young son all about his father and idol. When asked about his family, Alexander names all of his relatives and either uses the words “loving” or “great” to describe them. From the way it sounds, they all still live in Russia and are very close. When speaking about his mother and father, Alexander says, “They are amazing. I couldn’t have been luckier to have the parents that I have. I love them so much. They are my biggest motivation.” Wow! What high praise from a terrific and appreciative young man.

Alexander was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania sometime around the millennium. He came to Hillside to pursue his dreams of “one day playing in the NHL while also receiving an excellent education.” Well, he chose the right school for that. Hillside has become a hockey powerhouse and academics are on the rise. But Alexander isn’t all about hockey. He has an affinity for art as well. He explains that his father’s side of the family have always been “hockey crazy” and sporty, but his mother’s side is more inclined towards “design, engineering, and art.” Alexander has incorporated interests from both sides of the family.

Although life at Hillside can sometimes be tough, especially when it comes to balancing schoolwork and athletics, Alexander says that the Hillside community is “one of a kind; so diverse and so rich.” He goes on to praise the faculty members and you get the sense that he really means it. He’s not the type that feels entitled; rather, he feels lucky to be surrounded by good people and a loving family and knows through lessons taught to him by his parents, that one can attain his or her dreams if one works hard and has support. Well, young Alexander dreams of skating in an NHL uniform one day. And likely, he will. During his warm-up skate, he will most definitely think back on the days when his father played for the Flyers. Perhaps, he’ll even give a look up and say thank you Papa. No doubt Dmitri will be looking down from the heavens on his son with great pride and a big smile.
So, who is this Biiron Sane guy? When you see him in the halls he is quiet and well-behaved. He seems to have a maturity that belies his relatively young age. When you talk to him, he has a calm, cool low-key way of responding that makes you wonder how a little guy like this can be more mature than half of the adults I know, including myself. He is in fact in Sixth Grade and we’re lucky to have his mature presence on campus. Biiron Sane has the makings of a kid who, when he graduates from here sometime in 2018, is going to do great things.

Biiron was born in Boston Massachusetts. He was raised by his father, Demba a software tester at Boos, and mother, Mi-Ra, a teacher in the Boston public schools system. He also has an older brother brother, Saama (14), who plays basketball for Noble and Greenough School in Dedham and, from what we hear, is pretty good. Speaking of being pretty good at basketball, Biiron has some talent as well. He started off the Winter Athletic Term by participating in tryouts for the Hillside JV squad. He was good and we were looking forward to him being a contributor but, at the last moment, he chose the wrestling mat, where Coach Morgan was elated to have him.

Biiron came to Hillside because he likes the community and the diversity of the school. Roughly twenty-five percent of our student population is international and we have kids from twelve different states and sixteen countries. We have diversity in spades and the community here accepts and embraces students from various socio-economic backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, and worldviews. To have a school welcome diversity must be viewed positively by young men like Biiron who are told both explicitly and implicitly that they’re valued for who they are. I’m glad Biiron picked up on this, as it happens to be one of the aspects about this community that I believe makes it so special, tolerant, and inclusive.

In his free time Biiron enjoys sketching, video games, and reading comics. Speaking of comics, his role model is Stan Lee of Marvel Comics. If that name sounds familiar, it’s likely because Baby Boomers and Generation X grew up reading his stories. He’s the creator of such notable superheroes as Spider Man, the Hulk, Iron Man, and my personal favorite, the Fantastic Four. Lee has not only been writing comics since the Cold War, he has been an editor, publisher, and former President and Chairman of Marvel Comics. He’s one of the coolest cats to come out of the great comic era and has been the figurehead and public face for Marvel Comics for decades. Any kid who has Stan Lee as his hero is OK in my book.

So what does the future hold for you, young Biiron? He says that “When I’m older I want to work for IGN, which is a video game news website.” Wow! That’s pretty specific. It seems obvious that a good secondary school and college are a given. Well, for the time being Biiron is in Miss Sexton’s class and he has some Sixth Grade things to attend to. Before becoming an adult and punching the clock at IGN headquarters out in San Francisco, Biiron is likely looking forward to summer vacation near home here in Boston. Enjoy it Biiron, it is a well-deserved break for a neat young man.
Colin Binswanger is a Ninth Grade student here at Hillside who we have seen grow up right before our eyes. He came in as a little guy in Miss Macpherson’s Fifth Grade class and is about to leave us as a mature and sophisticated, towering figure of around six feet. This is one of the delights of teaching for five years in a middle school; one gets to see these little boys grow into young men. It takes time, but seeing the finished middle school product is well worth the wait, and Colin is no exception. At fourteen years old, he is ready to move on to secondary school.

Colin was born in Bethesda, Maryland and grew up in Natick, Massachusetts. Colin’s father Josh is a well-respected media consultant in Boston and previously worked for the History Channel and F/X Network. His mother, Carla, works out of Southborough as a “professional organizer,” who helps New England families and businesses “simplify.” He also has a sister Samantha and Mr. Terwilliger’s former golden retriever and all around awesome dog, Moby. When Mr. T. and his wife, Wendy, made a career move from cozy little Marlborough to the Far Eastern megalopolis of Beijing, they had to leave their faithful dog and lifelong friend behind. The Binswangers came to the rescue, offering to take care of him and subsequently fell in love with the gregarious canine.

Colin describes himself as “funny” and “a little bit eccentric.” When I asked him what he means, he replied: “Well, sometimes the way I speak and act are a tad unique, Mr. Brown.” That much is true Colin! He has a pleasant way of communicating that is both refreshing and original. Take his Lunch presentation in March for example. He read a story that he had written in English class about going to Chuck E. Cheese’s for his sister’s birthday when he was ten years old. The way in which he expressed himself was unique and effortless and screamed of a career that might be spent behind a typewriter in a cabin out in the woods, pumping out novels, memoirs, and whatever else the Stephen Kings, J.K. Rowlings, or Roald Dahls of the world do.

So, what do you like to do in your spare time? To this question, young Colin Binswanger has several answers. For one, he enjoys skiing in New England’s snowy winter wonderland. He also likes video games. No shock there, as most kids on this planet do as well. He then mentions writing, which we all know about now. But, instead of stopping, like most middle school boys his age, he rattle off traveling and food. In fact, he watches Anthony Bourdain on the Food Channel and has been to Hawaii, the UK, France, and Italy. On his list of places to see, he names Japan and the historical city of Kyoto. It seems this young man has interests more in common with adults, specifically me, than boys his age. Nothing wrong with that; this kid is precocious and it shows.

Colin credits the tutorial staff for “making me a better student,” and is therefore happy that he chose to come to Hillside. His hero is his father Josh. When asked why, he explains that “he’s a great guy who is really funny.” Well, like they say, the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree. Colin has many of the attributes he admires in his father. We’ll be sad to see you go this year, Colin. Don’t forget us when you’re writing your memoirs or doing a book signing. We won’t forget you!
Wildlife Heroes

By Julie Scardina & Jeff Flocken

Story: This is a nonfiction book about forty of the world’s leading conservationists and the animals they are committed to saving.

In this nonfiction book, environmental activists Julie Scardina and Jeff Flocken highlight some of the amazing endangered and threatened animals on our planet and the determined scientists fighting to keep them here. The first three chapters are devoted to conservation efforts to save animals living in different types of habitats: earth, water, and air. Some of these animals may be familiar to you, such as the cheetah and sea turtle, but others are less well known -- for example, the okapi, which is found only in the Democratic Republic of Congo and looks like a cross between a zebra and horse, and the adorable pangolin, which can be found in Southeast Asia.

The section on each animal opens with an overview of the species and an introduction to one of the conservationists who is working to preserve it. The sections also include information about why the animal is endangered or threatened and what the conservationist does to help. For example, Vera da Silva, a Brazilian scientist, helped defeat a fishery proposal to cull the Amazon River Dolphin population by proving the dolphins were not a threat to their business. Each section is also peppered with interesting facts about the animals. Did you know that African Elephant herds are led by a dominant female and her eldest daughter takes over when she dies? Or that koalas sleep for up to 22 hours each day?

The fourth chapter focuses on the issues that lead to habitat loss such as climate change, wildlife consumption, and ocean degradation. Each section gives a nice overview of the environmental issues that affect animals worldwide. The final chapter suggests ways we can help. Recommendations include: use less, recycle, become politically active to support eco-friendly laws, and donate your time and money to help preserve the environment, for animals and for us.

Not only will you learn about amazing animals and the passionate people who have worked to preserve them -- the beautiful photographs in the book alone are enough of a draw to pick it up. Any nature lover will enjoy this book. Come check it out at the library today!

Facts about Endangered Species

• There are 1,556 endangered species
• 85% of endangered species in US is due to habitat loss
• 40% of all species on planet are facing “high extinction”
In honor of the upcoming marquee whale-watching trip, I have decided to provide you with a conservationist’s background of whales. A couple of facts about whales; they roam throughout all five oceans, the blue whale is the largest animal on the planet reaching up to 100 feet in length and 200 tons in weight (that is as much as 33 elephants), whales are mammals, and they breathe air in spite of living in the ocean.

There are 13 different species of whales on our blue planet. Of these 13, seven are considered to be endangered or vulnerable. In fact, there are only an estimated 300 North Atlantic Right Whales alive today. Other species have numbers ranging from 10,000 to 90,000 individuals.

There are three main reasons for the decline of whale populations. First, sea vessels involved in industrial pursuits often harm whales by colliding with them, catching them as by-catch, or by polluting the waters. Second, commercial whaling is still practiced by some countries. While many countries belong to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) there are still some, like Iceland, that continue to hunt whales, despite their being endangered. Third, climate change is harming whales by disturbing their ecosystems, destroying plants and animals, and disrupting the balance of their individual food webs.

Different organizations are working around the clock to protect whales from these threats. The IWC and the WWF are just two organizations that help to save whales from poachers, beaching, and other dangers. One way that you can get involved is to participate in a program called “Whale Alert.” This program is run through a free downloadable application that can be used on your iPads or smartphones. All you have to do is signal the time and location of a whale sighting using the application and this information will be used to track migratory patterns and reduce the chance of ships accidentally striking whales. It is a free and powerful way for you to help!
**From Spain**

Gazpacho is a delicious cold soup made from fresh raw vegetables with a tomato base. It consists of chopped cucumbers, onions, tomatoes, red peppers, lemon, and garlic. The ingredients are put in a blender, mixed into a liquid, and usually stored overnight so that the flavors are fused together. Gazpacho originated in the southern Spanish region of Andalusia and is widely eaten throughout the country and in neighboring Portugal which is also well known for its unique application of this exquisite dish. Gazpacho is typically eaten in the hot summer months, as it is refreshing and cool, but December 6th is officially known as National Gazpacho Day in Spain.

**From Romania**

Sarma is a delicious Romanian dish that consists of grape, cabbage, and monk’s rhubarb rolled around a filling of minced meat, and can include various kinds of chopped nuts. Essentially, this dish is stuffed cabbage and can be used with rice, pork, and vegetables. It is a dish that was devised in the cuisines of the former Ottoman Empire and eaten throughout the Middle East, Balkans, and Central Europe. In 2008, when I had traveled to Romania, I had the pleasure of tasting this dish.

**From Cuba**

Boliche is a gastronomical delight from our neighbor to the south. It is a Cuban dish made of broiled eye round roast that is stuffed with chorizo sausages browned in olive oil and simmered in water and onions until soft. Potatoes are quartered and put into the pot, and water is repeatedly added so that the dish does not dry. In typical Cuban style, this sumptuous meal is served with white rice and fried plantains. Cuban dishes like boliche are a fusion of Native American, Spanish, African, and Caribbean cuisine. The combinations work to perfection.

**From India**

Rogan Josh is an aromatic Indian dish that is sure to please. It is a lamb curry that is a staple in Indian kitchens all over the country but actually originated in Persia. Lamb, and sometimes goat, is cooked in oil under intense heat. It consists of braised lamb chunks cooked with a gravy base on browned onions or shallots, yogurt, garlic, ginger, cloves, bay leaves, cardamom, and cinnamon.
Jack the Ripper

Perhaps the greatest whodunit of all time occurred in the East End of London in 1888. London, with its foggy gas lit streetlights and back alleys, was the ideal setting for a perplexing series of murders that started on August 31st and ended on November 9th, in what was later called “The Autumn of Terror.” Sherlock Holmes had just come out in print and most Londoners were consumed with Conan Doyle’s London based mysteries. As the latest adventures of Sherlock were flowing hot off the presses, a real-life mystery in line with the greatest of Conan Doyle stories was unfolding right in front of Londoner’s eyes. “Jack the Ripper” was the name given to the unidentified serial killer (or killers) active in London’s impoverished district of Whitechapel. The name originated in a letter to Scotland Yard by a person claiming to be the murderer and forecasting more to come. The sign off name “Jack the Ripper” became an immediate media sensation and captured the attention of a worldwide audience at a time when serial killers were unknown to the general public. The police constables did all they could to prevent future murders, including dressing up as women, but the Ripper would keep doing his dastardly deeds under their noses and the case would go unsolved. Although there is a dispute as to how many murders were committed by the Ripper, most experts settle on the canonical five which were Polly Nichols, Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride, Catherine Eddowes, and Mary Jane Kelly. What is undisputed is that the mystery was never solved and the killings abruptly stopped. Just who was Jack the Ripper? Crime historians and amateur sleuths have been debating this question for over a century.

Revisiting the DB Cooper Case

D.B. Cooper is the media name given to an unknown man who, on November 24th, 1971, hijacked a Boeing 727 aircraft headed from Portland, Oregon to Seattle, Washington. Cooper walked into the Portland International Airport, purchased a ticket using the alias Dan Cooper, and extorted $200,000 in ransom from the FBI by giving a flight attendant a note saying that if he doesn’t get the money, he’ll blow up the plane. Passengers were quickly scurried off the 727. The FBI then brought in a suitcase full of marked bills and gave it to Cooper. The plane took off into the night sky and, at 10,000 feet somewhere above southern Washington state, Cooper opened a hydraulic door in the back, and jumped out into the darkness with a parachute and the briefcase full of money handcuffed to his wrist. He was never seen again. The FBI and Washington State Police launched a massive manhunt. Initial extrapolations placed Cooper’s landing site on the southernmost outreach of Mount Saint Helen’s, a few miles southeast of Ariel, Washington, near Lake Merwin. Search efforts focused on Clark and Cowlitz Counties, encompassing the terrain immediately north and south of the Lewis River. FBI agents and Sheriff’s deputies from those counties searched large areas of the wilderness on foot and by helicopter. They even went door-to-door questioning locals and boat patrols scoured the Lewis River. Despite the massive manhunt, no clues as to Cooper’s whereabouts were ever uncovered. The DB Cooper story remains an enduring mystery that many today are still baffled by.
10 International Trivia Questions for the Month of December

1) In which year did Jack the Ripper terrorize London’s East End?
   a) 1836  b) 1888  c) 1913

2) What is the world’s richest corporation, worth 203 billion US dollars?
   a) Apple  b) Exxon Mobil  c) Walmart

3) What is South Korea’s biggest auto manufacturer?
   a) Kia  b) Hyundai  c) Daewoo

4) In which Chinese city could you find the Forbidden City?
   a) Beijing  b) Shanghai  c) Hong Kong

5) If you were paid in “gourde,” you’d likely be in this country?
   a) Haiti  b) the Dominican  c) Guyana

6) Who is the current Prime Minister of Japan?
   a) Naoto Kan  b) Yoshihiko Noda  c) Shinzo Abe

7) In which present day country is historical Bohemia?
   a) Hungary  b) Croatia  c) Czech Republic

8) Which African country does not border Somalia?
   a) Ethiopia  b) Eritrea  c) Kenya

9) Which country’s flag consists of only one color and no symbol?
   a) Libya  b) Nepal  c) Japan

10) Which country abolished Christmas in 1969?
    a) Cuba  b) Russia  c) North Korea

Answers: 1) b  2) b  3) b  4) a  5) a  6) a  7) c  8) b  9) a  10) a
SPRING from around the world

- English - Spring
- Spanish - Primavera
- Korean - Bom
- Japanese - Haru
- Hindi - Vasanta
- Malay - Spring
- Chinese - Chūntiān