

# the talonzinho

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## OUR MISSION

The *Talonzinho* strives to waste your time, make you late for class, distract you from your work, aggravate your teachers, rattle the administration, and always tell the news without regard to truth or journalistic ethics.

## Murder Plot Uncovered: Senior Willing to Kill for a 7 on IB exam

A small pistol has been found in locker 073 in the senior hallway. According to a member of the senior class, who chose to remain anonymous, the firearm was discovered after ongoing rumors that if a diploma candidate dies during an IB exam, all other students automatically score a 7. A search team is now working to find out who owns the gun and who was on the Hit List. Ms. Mariani refused to comment on the incident but reminded seniors to bring all supplies in a transparent plastic bag and leave other personal objects (including guns) outside the exam room. ❶

## Thumbless Student Suspended for Breaking Dress Code

Graded's crackdown on inappropriate attire has left some students at a loss when it comes to what to wear. A weary sophomore who hadn't been to school for two weeks was spotted walking aimlessly in the B-wing. Upon being asked why she had been gone for so long, she said she was suspended

for repeatedly breaking the dress code. "Page 29 of the student handbook," she explained, "clearly classifies inappropriate apparel as 'short shorts,' which 'should not be above the tip of the thumb.' I was born without any thumbs—so there was no parameter by which the

appropriateness of my clothing could be judged." She continued by saying she pleaded to the administration for understanding. However, she had no success because, according to her, "they told me to get thumb prostheses! After all, rules are rules, right?" ❶

## In the News...

Birth certificate found confirming Pooga Singhi's name. Clara Bezerra faints from excitement.

Portal to Narnia found in the senior lawn. Teachers believe this explains Eddie Sanchez's long "water" breaks.

Amaral runs out of metaphors, scours Pfeiffer's Guidebook for a new literary device.

Kevin Bengtsson's profile picture free of reptiles, horse heads, or massive amounts of red. "Likes" diminish by 50%.

Tanay Agarwal sends enrollment deposit to SCAD. Rensselaer Polytechnic mourns great loss.

Overly boisterous birthday songs in the cafeteria leave HS deaf.

Cross's 50-kilo stash of maple syrup found. Turns out more than just beakers and thermometers hidden in cabinets.

Fight breaks out between juniors and PTA moms, destroying Floor 1.5 of the library.

Snack bar lines reach record-breaking speeds of five people per hour. Guards forced to set new speed limit.

Indignant students storm teacher cafeteria during taco day. Salsa goes missing.

Sleep-deprived seniors given nap time during CAS meetings; attendance at all-time high

Tall Tales and Short Stories: Jane Hoyt mistaken for senior; Ferreira and Lepecki reported lost in MS.

Klam uses pun nobody understands, giggles to self.

Cleaning staff responsible for Pfeiffer's hyper-organized office.

Berg writes for the *New York Times*. Uses own article in TOK class discussion.

Biology students' DNA tests on Adam Hunt Fertig's grey hair reveal that he is actually an 80-year-old man. Local police identify him as an elderly home runaway.

Rowing machines gain sentience after freak weather event. Some seen rowing through halls.

Ange Moloney and Ocki Fernandes just making up their accents as they go along.

Small woodland creatures discovered in Mr. Stephenson's beard.

Graded servers operational for entire school day.

Mr. Hardwicke mistaken for surfer dude. ❶

Dear Ms. T

"How can I get Ms. Mariani to let me take my cellphone to my IB exams? I really need it for those dates!"

—Hopeless Historian

Dear Hopeless,

There are a couple tricks that are Mariani-proof. The first option is hiding it in a body part (our recommended area is the rec—oops, we don't want to be censored!). However, if you are uncomfortable with that, use a decoy. Bring your laptop to the exam and she will never even notice the phone. If all else fails, there's the tried and true "attach-your-phone-to-the-ceiling-with-superglue" method. Though tall, Mariani will never be able to reach it. Good luck!

"Mr. Reynolds' baby Seamus is so freaking adorable! Is there any way I can steal it?"

—Wannabe Teen Mom

Dear Mom,

Although I do not endorse violence against babies, I feel that stealing Seamus is a just cause. I recommend Stephenson's golf club as your weapon of choice to knock Reynolds out of his senses. Store passed-out Reynolds in Ana Cris' office—no one will be able to find him there. This would give you ample time to buy a plane ticket to Timbuktu (or wherever your chosen stolen baby location is). Make sure to send us pictures of Seamus, though!

"I'm a junior, and I really need to do well on the SAT for my college applications. What should I do to prepare for it so that I can ace it?"

—Miss Multiple Choice

Dear Miss,

Preparing for any standardized test can seem daunting, but don't worry—there's a simple but popular trick that will guarantee you a leg up on test day. On the night before the exam, simply slaughter a virgin lamb with a knife made of whittled elk horn. Cut out its small intestine and use it to form a hexagon around your person. Then, just utter the Lord's Prayer backwards, and bury a lock of your hair at a crossroads at midnight. You're all set! Don't forget to also eat a nutritious breakfast on the day of the SAT. Good luck! ❶

## Alain, Pepe, and Kauê Departing Graded

After finalizing a tattoo of Castro's beard on his lower back, Alain Youssef will be leading an invasion of Liechtenstein, a European monarchic superpower. He assumed the command of the LRARFCC-THDUSP (Liechtensteinian Red Army, Revolutionary Force of Communist Commanders That Have a Degree from USP) after learning about the abuses directed towards the almost 40,000 residents of the soon-to-be socialist nation. Pepe, who swam from Cuba to Guarujá, was convinced by the Brazilian department at Graded to join the liberating forces as co-commander. Kauê, who will coordinate the invasion because he is the only human being that knows that Lichtenstein is a country (Liechtensteinians believe they are Swiss), will join his

colleagues since he could not resist the opportunity to travel for free.

The liberation will take place at the start of the next school year and will proceed with a substantial financial incentive from Max Telles, one of Alain's major ideological supporters. The three Latin American teachers plan on extinguishing the elitist, fascist bourgeois society of Liechtenstein by installing a collectivized work system where privatization will be virtually illegal. The revolutionary council has elected Brian Wolfson, Mendel Schwarz, Nicole Vladimirschi, and Gabe Borger to take care of the treasury, which will invest all its tax gains into weightlifting. Pepe and Kauê—who will also model, after winning Graded's Cutest Biceps Prize of 2014—will direct the weightlifting committee. ①

## Inside the Educator: Ocki Fernandes

Assistant Principal Ocki Fernandes is a man of many talents. Besides his day-to-day administrative duties, he has several hobbies. In fact, he has been recognized for his excellence in a variety of fields outside of education. Below is an abridged compilation of his achievements from the past week:

- Global Vision Award, UNICEF
- Honorable Mention, 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Daylight Savings Society Conference
- Lifetime Achievement Award, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
- Golden Wood Block Award, Com-

petitive Printmaker's Guild

- Honorary Dental Doctorate, Stanford University
- Employee of the Month, Burger King
- Medal of Valor, His Eminence's Royal Navy of Papua New Guinea
- Best in Show, Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show
- Archvizier of the Underworld, Cult of Luk-Ragna
- Best New Gospel Album (for the Triple Platinum debut *Tend to your Flocki*), *Grammy Awards*
- President, United States of America
- Platinum Member, Habib's ①

## Berg and Vieira Found Guilty of Hair Theft

Last week Graded security cameras caught an unusual crime. Two previously unidentified thieves were discovered scouring the senior hallway's trash bins, leaving under cover of night with what seemed to be clumps of hair. Although the absconders' faces were obscured, light shining from their bald heads enabled two suspects to be named. The

morning after the tapes were reviewed, The Talon sent two reporters to the offices of Mr. Josh Berg and Mr. Ricardo Vieira, known for having the chromest of domes. During the interrogation, our reporters investigated the desk drawers of the accused, finding several styled wigs ready for use. DNA scans matched the wig hair to several seniors

recently admitted into colleges, including that of Paulo Flecha and Adam Hunt, whose hair was featured prominently due to the excessive amount "donated" to the two teachers in each wig. Berg and Ricardo have been placed in the custody of Mr. Fernandes, while the wigs have found a home in the Theater Department prop room. ①

### Graded Gossip Girls "Spotted"

GGG: Hey Graded-goers. We hear a behavioral apocalypse is on its way. You might just be the next victim. But don't waste time trying to hide for we have eyes everywhere. Who are we? That's a secret we'll never tell. XOXO, Graded Gossip Girls.

GGG: We all love a little teacher gossip! Spotted: Ms. P spying on her Lit students after a whole week without annotations. Wonder what she's up to next...Here's a tip: annotate or you might find

yourself in that dark place. XOXO

GGG: Vegetarian or Liartarian? KK spotted eating pasta WITH meatballs during a Sunday lunch with her family. Ouch!

GGG: Wondering why we never hear JA singing around our halls anymore? Rumor has it she exchanged her voice for a boyfriend. Our own tragic version of The Little Mermaid. Maybe she still sings in the shower!

GGG: Why is Ms. S leaving? Is she real-

ly going to an ashram? Rumor has it she is just leaving because of stress level especially since she was forced to write 100 rec letters. GGG: Can AHF stop fixing his hair? After having to shave his head for college he dealt with the addiction, but is he now returning to old habits?

GGG: Spotted DA and his strawberry-shaped head. Guess he couldn't hide it forever.

GGG: Eleventh grader or rebel in disguise? Spotted:

AL, aka, UL dancing frantically to Latino beats during her free block and leaving unfinished cans of soda on top of student-center tables. Who is she?

GGG: NYU or NYUnion? CF and MD plotting to overthrow New York City swag with their recent news of college acceptances. Watch out Upper East Siders, these two have tricks rolled up their sleeves. Shopping at Bergdorf Goodman's will NEVER be as cool. Just saying... XOXO. ①

## Gazette v. Talon Rivalry Reaches New Heights

Talon scrambles to catch up with critically celebrated Gazette

Following a year-long struggle to reach the same level of enthusiastic admiration of the Gazette among the Graded community, the Talon has launched its own online version. However, its leaders recently announced that the student publication has failed to beat the acclaimed Gazette's circulation numbers.

When asked about the reason behind such disappointing figures, Editors-in-Chief Adam Fertig and Mariana Lepecki claimed that going digital was "more of a PR stunt, really." Fertig also confessed "the Talon really can't hope to match the quality content put forth by

the men and women running the Gazette." Talon editors accepted that with "such sought-after pieces like the monthly cafeteria schedule or even the widely read statement from the Superintendent, the Talon doesn't even come close to what those guys are offering."

According to sources close to the Editors-in-Chief, in recent years the Talon has tried a series of experimental measures, including the publishing of the controversial "Monthly Update" to challenge the Gazette's

wide appeal. After quietly getting rid of the Sports section, a decision that emerged from a focus-group study, both Fertig and Lepecki thought their readership numbers would reach those of the Gazette. "Unfortunately, that was not the case," disclosed Lepecki. "Apparently Graded students couldn't get enough of the sports updates that we used to offer, and they've now turned to Ricardo Vieira's GOTW email." Editors were now questioning their publishing acumen. "Excellent, just what we needed: another competitor!" Fertig could be heard shout-

ing from a closed-door meeting in the Writing Center.

A desperate Talon staff member, who chooses remain anonymous, revealed, "We thought we had them when we launched the podcast, but those bastards have had an audio element integrated in their monthly issue for years now. We don't know what else we can do."

At press time, the thoroughly humiliated Talon staff could be seen hatching a new scheme to try to beat the Gazette once and for all. ①

## GIN Removes All Food from Campus

Claiming that "food in general" has a "detrimental effect on students," the Global Issues Network community service group has created Foodless Weekdays, an initiative in which no more food will be served at school, on any day. The initiative, GIN leader Carlo Krell explains, was a "logical progression from Meatless Mondays," and the next necessary step in saving the world. Krell points out that edible material

negatively impacts the environment and is the leading cause of stomach aches and constipation worldwide. He also cited the "ridiculous" costs of keeping the school stocked with food as a reason for the change. While some students are criticizing this policy, claiming that food is necessary to survival, the GIN group remains optimistic. "There was unanimous approval when we got rid of all the plastic on campus," says co-leader

Leo Sabó. "We think that people will come around and embrace the movement."

"Look, I'll be the first to admit that I like to, you know, eat, every now and then," he added. "But in this day and age food is pretty much obsolete." The leaders emphasize that this will be a gradual, organic move away from organic material. At first, meals will only be removed from one serving station at lunch, but by the end of the se-

mester the organization hopes to have phased out alimentary sustenance completely. GIN also announced that after the Foodless Weekdays initiative is implemented, the group plans to work hard on some of its other projects, including the Turn Off the Sun energy-saving protocol, the Classrooms Without Ceilings renovation plans, and the Mandatory Kidney Drive. ①