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Terror Strikes Mumbai in Thanksgiving Attack



Over Prep's Thanksgiving Break, there were a string of horrible terrorist attacks in India that have sent shock waves around the world. Officials are troubled by where the attacks took place and who was targeted. It was a blatant act of terrorism on a large scale, targeting India's financial capital, the city of Mumbai, formally Bombay, and India's New York City. Well trained, well armed, hostage-taking gunmen targeted Americans, Britons, and orthodox Jews, but also shot anyone and anything in sight. Authorities have confirmed at least 183 people were killed, including at least six Americans. The assault began November 26 in Mumbai as a well-coordinated group of terrorists reportedly arrived by boat and attacked at least 10 well-known locations in the city, including the Taj Mahal Hotel, The Oberoi Hotel, and the Jewish Center in Mumbai.

No one in the city expected the crisis would last 60 hours. The one surviving attacker, who was arrested at a Mumbai train station, told police he was Pakistani and a member of the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, who trained in Pakistan. One official said India's intelligence agency received information in September that Pakistan-based terrorists were plotting attacks against targets in Mumbai, and India's now demanding that Pakistan hand over about 20 suspected terrorists believed to be living in Pakistan. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was in India on the December 4 in reaction to the terrorist attacks. She met with the Prime Minister and other officials trying to ease tensions in the region, specifically Pakistan, because of the attacks. It is too soon to tell who was behind the violence, but she stated, "It is clearly the kind of terror in which al-Qaeda participates, but I would not jump to any conclusions about who is to blame." This is going to be another issue that the new president's going to have to deal with.

- Max Schroder, '10

Barack Obama Wins Presidential Election

Forty-five years ago Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in our nation's capital. An incredible part of his dream was fulfilled a few weeks ago when Barack Hussein Obama was elected the forty-fourth president of the United States of America. King's dream was not necessarily that a black man would become president. His dream was that whoever ran for president would not be judged, "by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." In this election we crossed the formidable color barrier and found that the measure of a man lies in what they believe in.

This monumental election was not a question of black and white, just and unjust. What was so extraordinary about the election was that it transcended race. The American people, after eight years of President Bush, are in a time of great need. The economy is failing, the U.S. is coping with close to a three trillion dollar deficit, and our wars with Iraq and Afghanistan have not progressed as Bush promised. The American people are harassed with issues of healthcare, mortgage foreclosures, college tuition, layoffs, and record-breaking fuel, oil, gas, and food prices. Obama proposed solutions to these problems. Throughout the campaign the American people found a leadership quality and poise that they have not seen for many years in a candidate. It is not necessarily that we see Obama as a savior to all our problems. It is more that we see him as a visionary for "change and optimism." We see him as a man who will empower others to bring about change. We see him as a man, with Lincoln-like qualities who brings rivals together in order to find and create the best results for action. He reminds us that we are far stronger together than divided.

The entire world watched this election in great suspense, knowing that whoever was chosen would deeply affect their lives. Obama's election has brought a great sense of hope for change, here and around the world. Ironically, he is a man mostly of great potential. He empowers people with charisma, like Kennedy. He brings us together like Lincoln. The future seems bright for our new president, yet he has a rough road to travel. The road is a tough one, no matter who had been elected, but the American people overwhelmingly believe he is the best one to lead us.

- Alex Amador, '10





Prep Takes on the Connecticut Challenge



Recently, Prep was invited to participate in one of the most exciting televised high school scholastic competitions in the tri-state area. The Connecticut Challenge is a statewide academic competition that will test the knowledge of 21 different Connecticut high school teams. Competing schools in New York and New Jersey will also be trying to work their way through their respective brackets to the tri-state finals this spring. The ultimate victor of the spring final match up wins \$10,000 for their school and team members are awarded \$500. Prep's team is lead by Mr. Mamrus and the team consists of

John Bonazzo, Richard Johnson, Kevin Leitao, Sean McGuinness, and Sean Welch. Filming of the Connecticut Challenge will take place at NEP Studios in New York City on Monday, November 17th, 2008 for later broadcast on Cablevision/Channel 12. Prep's first opponent will be Laurelton Hall. If you are interested in learning more about the competition or viewing past competitions online go to: <http://www.powertolearn.com/challenge/index.shtml>

- S. Welch, '11



Cannery Row: 2008 -?

The recession has begun and already thousands of jobs have been lost. Budgets are being tightened, houses defaulted, the college loan system is shot, and unemployment rates are going through the roof. What is not to be worried about? Detroit needs a bailout, Manhattan needs a bailout, but in some way, the recession might be something that revives America; the family values we once embraced, gone, lost in sight of big rewards and high salaries, will now start to make its way back into the average (even the above average) American's life. The American will rediscover what really matters: home, friends and family. (Taken from David Brooks, and his op-ed article from the New York Times, *The Formerly Middle Class*.)

What does John Steinbeck have to do with every job cut today? A light; a path to the revival of our older, family oriented culture, where social status is built on your presence in the community, not built on the Pirelli tires and the newest edition of your car. Cannery Row could be a slightly exaggerated blueprint to how the average American must be a part of their community in the next two or three years. The novel by Steinbeck is the story of a tight-knit, lower class community in which everyone knows one another and uses one another to survive. Not necessarily physically with food or shelter, although in some cases they do, but mentally and emotionally, where in their eyes being there for one another takes precedent over just one's self. The character in the novel that everyone praises and looks up to is Doc. Doc is richer than the rest of the Cannery Row residents, but constantly stays upbeat and remains wholeheartedly interested in the condition of his friends and neighbors. He offers advice to those who are sick, he provides comfort to those in struggle, and he is the community's role model.

In America's current situation, we will need to be better members of our communities. We will need to start to integrate our lives into those of

our neighbors. This recession will be like none other due to a change in culture. Families no longer live as close to each other as once before. People are more mobile and are more independent. People move to big cities, away from home. There are more singles that live away from home than before. Now that families are generally scattered around the country more than before, we will have to rely on our neighbors this time round, rather than relying on our families as much as before. Friday night, what better to do than invite a couple or two over, make a fire, order in, talk about issues and events, and enjoy the night. You don't spend too much money and create a better relationship with those who surround you. Why not go serve at a soup kitchen one late afternoon, and sit down with one of the people that are there too? The person may or may not be much like you, or even have the same interests, but the thing that counts is the hand you are reaching out to your community with when they need one.

What will become of the single men and women, or the newly wed couples, who no longer have a surplus of money to spend on material possessions? What will happen when extravagance is no longer an option? It will all require a bond between those around them. The recession will bring red on the stock report, negatives in a bank statement, and a foreclosure sign in the mail, but it very well may bring back the necessary reliance on family and friends; the type of reliance that seems to have been forgotten in times of prosperity.

- N. Voreyer, '10





Slipping Into Fall - Editorial

Fall, a season yes, but it's a loaded word right now. Have you looked at the stock market, the fall of firms like Lehman Brothers or the economic knife edge on which the world seems to teeter? The inauguration of a new president looms but the future seems sketchy, diffuse somehow.

For too long it appears that we as a society have been possessed of a heady sense of self. We survey the contemporary scene as something separated out from history. Indeed, history appears as a dead topic trapped in musty books. People celebrate their disinterest in any context that is no wider and deeper than the next text message.

We are fast approaching the 100th anniversary of the First World War. The events of which, and their importance, are lost for the majority of people. It's hard to connect cloth covered biplanes and crank operated telephones in the same world with cell phones and Google earth, or the breadlines of the depression with the bulging supermarkets of today.

In his book, *The End of History and the Last Man (1992)*, a book not without some controversy, Francis Fukuyama argues, not that going forward all events will end, but that history as an ideological evolution will end. Western representative democracy has emerged as the most viable of all systems, he purports, other systems and their extremes having been discredited. He further argues that all future representative democracies are likely to contain some form of marketplace. It would seem, then, that we might draw the inference that, the future of the symbiosis between government and market place hinges on a mutual stability, a stability that is borne from a real understanding of the role of each party.

The events of history are neither singular nor unrelated. We are still dealing with the impact of the end of the First World War and the Treaty of Versailles. In the Middle East, the clumsy partition of the Ottoman Empire echoes to this day in the incessant war without end that ebbs and flows across its former lands in a blood tide that calls remorselessly for more victims. In very real ways the election of Barack Obama is connected to the election of Abraham Lincoln. Just as tangible are comparisons between the events of 1929 and the current economic abyss into which we stare. It is the wheel of history turning on itself.

Our planes are swifter, our communication instantaneous, and our bird's eye view of the planet—all seeing. Yet we go places for no instructive reason and our understanding seems to lag behind our communication like a horse outpaced down a slippery slope by its own runaway cart. Democratic society implies each one of us is free. But if we act only and consistently in our own best interest where is the concept of society? John F Kennedy challenged us to not ask for ourselves, but to do for our country. We know what country is. We belong to it by birth or by sworn allegiance. But what is society?

Societies are somewhat different, they are formed for mutual benefit and mutual interest; we must continually choose them and choose to renew them. We all must have a stake and derive a benefit. Going forward at this moment we would do well to heal the fabric of American society not just sew up its purse. One phrase heard a lot lately in reference to the current economic crisis is—"We are in uncharted territory." Are we?

It appears that a close reading of history might well reveal how we got to this point. A willingness to learn from that same history might yet bring us out of our situation.

Fall, and then winter . . . history tells us that spring will come again. Our experience predicts it. Let's learn from it.

- Mr. Bramble - Faculty Moderator

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Q&A With Prep Alumni!

This is a segment where we interview alum from Fairfield Prep and see how their years at Prep were like. Our first segment is about Jeff Zielinski, class of '96.

What year did you graduate from Prep and what was the headline news you remember most while attending Prep?

I graduated in 1996. There was lots of news I remember well while at prep – the 1994 Republican takeover of Congress, OJ Simpson trial, the Oklahoma City bombings, Nelson Mandela being elected president of South Africa

What are some of your fondest memories at Prep and your worst memories?

My best memories were of running on the cross-country team, and cheering on the hockey team. I didn't have many bad memories!

Did you have a favorite teacher, and why?

My favorite teacher was Fr Cipolla. He mixed classes in chemistry with a lot of lessons about Catholicism and life.

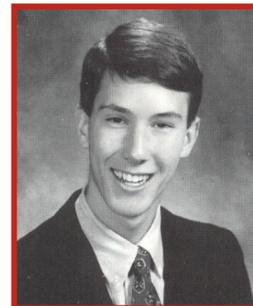
What college did you go to and what ended up being your first job out of school?

I went to Princeton and worked at Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong after college.

What advice would you give to current students, would your advice be different to freshmen vs. juniors or seniors?

The only humble advice for Prep students generally is to get involved in activities as much as possible, taking advantage of the opportunities that Prep has. For seniors, don't stress too much about the college admission process as many things work out in unexpected ways after college.

Would you have done anything differently in your career, or while you were at Prep?
Slept more!



Fairfield Prep Halloween!

Every year, Fairfield Prep allows the seniors to dress up for Halloween. Then, during Junior/Senior lunch, a winner is selected, the prize being a free prom ticket. This past year's winner was Dan Golden, who portrayed Mr. Brennan. The costumes were a success over all and made the day very enjoyable for all. Even some of the teachers dressed up, like Ms. Mumma as Flavor Flav, and Mr. Saracco as Indiana Jones

– M. Schroder, '10



Merry Christmas to All!

As midterms approach, the Christmas season also approaches. The Prep Christmas Tree Lighting on December 14th in the Quad was a great holiday occasion! On behalf of the Fairfield Prep Soundings Newspaper, we wish everyone a very joyous Christmas Vacation and all the best in the New Year of 2009. Who knows what the next year will bring?

