

# MR *The Muckraker*

Featured in this Issue: SC Changes, Halloween Tips from your favorite columnists as well as an exciting album review , A FUN Crossword

## **SPEAKS**

Dear Readers, it's that time of the year again where the pumpkins start glowing, werewolves start howling, and vampires come hunting. While some of us are preoccupied worrying about tests, quizzes, and the SAT, others are concerned with what to dress up as or whether or not they even want to dress up. Just keep in mind, other than the German "Fasching", there is only ONE day where we get to dress up as whoever and whatever we want. For once we have the excuse to be something other than ourselves without suffering from the consequences. By putting on a mask, painting our faces, or disguising our true identities under the clothes of another we can BE something different. As little kids some of us dressed up as Batman or Superman, Princesses or Fairies because we wanted to save the world or be beautiful and royal. Why can't we do that now? You want to be someone crazy/incredible/different but can't seem to find the guts to do it? Stop studying and worrying for ONE day and just put on the costume. Hide under the mask. It may not follow the scary Halloween theme, but that shouldn't stop you!

Cheers,  
The Editors

## **Grade Inflation**

Did you know that humans have actually gotten smarter in the last century at an unprecedented rate? It's true, Americans and Britons in particular have experienced a surge of intellectualism throughout the last few decades. I'm not just referring to technological improvements. Sure, scientific knowledge has made some astounding advances, but this doesn't necessarily mean that we have gotten smarter as a species per-say. Nevertheless, statistics prove that the human race as a whole has simply become more intelligent. It is not difficult to infer this conclusion either. Simply look at the GPA scores of Universities such as Harvard over the past 100 years. In 1890, Harvard students had an average GPA of 2.27, by 1950 students' scores had significantly improved to a GPA of 2.55, and in 2004 students scored a whopping 3.48 average GPA. Surely this proves that the humans have morphed into a smarter species. Or does it?

Perhaps you have heard teachers speak of a mysterious phenomenon that has been unsettling the academic structure for the last decades. No school, institution or university has been spared from the devastating effects of this beast. In fact, only recently has it been sighted. The seemingly untamable creature I speak of goes by the name of 'grade inflation'. It has left many teachers, and even professors baffled, and hopelessly searching for a remedy. So let us dive into the belly of the beast.

What is grade inflation? Often it is defined as the tendency to receive higher academic grades for a certain work that would have received a lower mark in the past. So when did all this start? Truth be told, it is impossible to pinpoint the birthplace of this occurrence. Rather, new findings suggest that 'grade inflation' is likely inherent in our education structure. In other words, it is conceivable that grade inflation has been in our society for as long as modern education systems have existed. To explain this phenomenon we must then focus on the causes not the source of this event.

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Grade inflation is really a simple psychological and social process. Imagine a utopian society in which all schools had a uniform system of assigning grades based solely and flawlessly on a student's merit. Under this structure, a school's academic ability would be readily determined from their student's achievement and families could easily distinguish which school provides the best academic experience for their children. However, what if, one day, a school decided to boost their students' scores by even a slight amount? Perhaps at first the school's administrators would be disdained, however soon other schools would follow suit, not wishing to be portrayed as inferior. After a certain amount of the time, any school or teacher who would continue to 'hold out' against the changing tide would place its students at a disadvantage. However, 'Grade Inflation' does not originate from a singular school's decision to boost its students' grades. Instead, Grade inflation is a direct cause of the structure of the education system. When deciding on giving a teacher tenure or promotion, evaluation committees often rely on course evaluations and exam scores. This dynamic often leads educators to feel pressure to increase their students' grades by either 'teaching to the test' or simply easing their

grading scale. So, if "Grade Inflation" is so natural what's so bad about it? In the end, don't both students and teachers profit from it?

The reality is that although in the short run students seem to profit from Grade Inflation, in the long run this phenomenon can have devastating effect on their further development. Because Grade Inflation is by definition not uniform in all schools, losers and winners are bound to exist in this system. Universities often have difficulty in determining which schools have a more rigorous grading scale than others, and endeavor to counter balance their hesitation by viewing candidates in a 'holistic' manner. Nevertheless, the polls have shown that most universities do not take the disparity in grading scales as critically into account as we may hope. That may be one of the reasons why top universities such as Harvard have continued to push their entry requirements to outrageous standards.

Don't let the statistics fool you. The human race has not evolved, nor have we morphed into some type of super intellectual being. Instead, society has come to fetishize intellectual elitism, and that puts a great strain on all of us.

*-Richard Diehl*

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## JFKS LIFE

### Student Council Structure Reform

JFKS' Student Council presidents have struggled to keep the SC alive while leaving students consistently disappointed. Candidates' campaign promises and exciting new ideas have been pushed to the side by school events that somehow require all the presidents' energy.

Running events isn't the responsibility of the presidents, however. We did not vote Elias Lugani and Michael Alber into office because we thought they had the best spirit week ideas or could host a great Valentine's Day dance. These responsibilities have always gone to the SC committees, in which the committee "heads" lead the members to fulfill the committee's role – organizing dances, running seminar day, etc. The heads of each committee *used to be* nominated and voted-in by the class representatives during the first meeting, and all class representatives were randomly assigned to various committees.

This sounds simple and fair, right? Sure! But do you think we have had good events over the past few years? (Think: Seminar Day, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Spirit Week...) Obviously, the committees that were assigned to

each of these events did not perform up to standard. Too many committee heads flaked as soon as the serious work and dedication surfaced, leaving all the work to Presidents Reyk and Jacob, who would rather have been working on new projects and not doing committee work.

Working quickly to prevent the same problem this year, our *current* SC Presidents Elias and Michael are doing things differently. Committee heads will no longer be peer-elected, and the committee members will not be randomly assigned. At this year's first SC meeting, the presidents collected the names of class representatives wishing to become committee heads. After meeting with these applicants, the presidents will personally choose the best head for each committee. Those heads then choose the committee members they will work with. (Students wishing to dedicate themselves to a committee, approach the heads personally.)

Is this stricter system unfair? Will it work? Watch this year's events carefully, and follow the Muckraker for further updates!

*-Max Sherwood (hopeful SC member)*

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## Get to know Mr. Salzer

*Where do you come from?*

Most recently from Boston, Massachusetts. I was in Boston for the last seven years, and before that I was in Madison, Wisconsin.

*What is your first impression of Berlin?*

This is my first time living in Berlin and I absolutely love it. I was able to take over the apartment of the former principal Joe Kelly. And he had a beautiful apartment in Steglitz, so of

course, I love the neighborhood. It's a great place to be. I'm very happy.

*What is your favorite thing about Berlin?*

So far, the weather! It's been great! I mean until now- the month of August has been wonderful! I'm also a long distance runner so I've been able

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## JFKS LIFE

to find some great running paths along the Grunewald, and then I was lucky enough to get into the Berlin Marathon so I'll be running that soon.

*What is the least favorite thing about Berlin?*

Oh, dog poop on the sidewalks! It makes me crazy! It's terrible.

*What made you come to the John F Kennedy School?*

Well, it's a prestigious school. It's very well known in New England, where I was, and also I had hired an English teacher from here to my High School just outside of Boston and he was always talking about how great JFK was. He loved it. So I'd known people who knew of the school and I knew it was a pretty prestigious school to be a part of, so I took shot and put my resume in and here I am!

*What's your first impression of this school?*

The students are fantastic. They are smart and committed to their learning. I think that students are focused and take the challenge of learning and want to be successful because I feel most students have their eyes on prestigious universities that they want to go to. So they are doing their work now to make their dreams come true.

*Have you been a principal before?*

I have been a principal for 10 years, then I left that field and became a School business manager and then a superintendent of schools, so I was a superintendent for the last few years before I came here.

*What is your favorite thing about our school?*

So far, the students. I think the majority is so

positive and ambitious and really easy to work with.

*What is your least favorite?*

I guess one thing would be that the doors to the classrooms don't have windows... most doors in the states have them, so I can see what's going on and know that if I have to, when it's an okay time, I can interrupt and go in. But with doors closed and no windows, I always feel a lot more hesitant.

*Do you have any changes for our school in mind?*

I'm trying to work with the teachers for professional development, and to put together small professional learning teams where teachers can work together on something of interest. For example, if a teacher is really good at working with smart boards he can teach other teachers and so on. That way they can earn credits necessary for renewing teaching licenses and also to use the material to improve their teaching!

*What is your favorite TV show?*

The Big Bang Theory! The best! finally a TV show for smart people!

*Your favorite movie?*

I think Les Miserables is my favorite from recently... can't watch it without crying.

*Favorite department in our school?*

English!

*What's your favorite food?*

That's hard between the currywurst and the doener. I love them both!

*What do you do as a principal?*

First of all: the admissions process. I help select students from the candidates for this school, which is extremely competitive. We want to create a successful and diverse student body! And also: teaching observation and supervision- we want to make sure that teachers are using up to date teaching methods and strategies .

*-Chaeky Song and Simona Koch*

**COLUMN -ARTS AND LITERATURE**

**Dear readers,**

Everywhere you look the leaves are changing colors, pumpkins sit in the front yard of your neighbors and Starbucks is serving the pumpkin spiced latte (if you have not tried this yet, go get one NOW...they are heavenly). Does this remind you of anything? Yes, it is fall and with it comes.....HALLOWEEN! The Night of the Dead is coming up real soon and....you still don't have a costume idea? We know and... well, we are here to support. Here are some creative costume ideas:

*If you are dressing up as a group/couple:*

- The Adam's Family
- The Simpsons
- Mario Bros.
- The smurfs
- Barbie and Ken

*If you are alone:*

- The madhatter
- Queen of Hearts/ Alice in Wonderland
- Edward Scissorhand

*You want a bloodcurdling, spine chilling movie to inspire you first? We recommend:*

- The exorcist
- Halloween
- The Birds (by Alfred Hitchcock)
- Saw
- A nightmare on Elm street
- The Adam's family (not too spooky)

Enjoy!



[source:atstockillustration.com](http://source:atstockillustration.com)

**Dear series-lovers,**

Do you have that feeling of pure excitement when you count the days left until the next episode or season of your show is aired? When you squirm in your seat only thinking about it? When you almost burst with frustration waiting for school to *finally* end, or get home from wherever you are to finally, FINALLY, watch the new episode(s)? When you feel both full of anticipation, apprehension, and fear at the same time?

Well I don't. My apologies. The only thing I feel is apprehension of yet another disappointment, because of my –what one might consider –naiveté of always having hope to find the *good* in

people or, in this context, the good in the producers of a series.

In the last years, my love for series has suffered gravely due to the fact that entertainment companies tend to have repetitive themes either because they lack the imagination to come up with new ideas (which if you think about it is really their job) because they are in love with their recurring concept.

For those out there who have not yet given up on series and still have faith in humanity and its creativity, here is your savior:

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**COLUMN -ARTS AND LITERATURE/ ENTERTAINMENT**

Game of Thrones.

Now, now, don't back off.

(Of course, if you launched yourself into reading this because I mentioned Game of Thrones and just eliminated all other distractions that could possibly disturb you while reading, may I just say what a great taste you have!)

I know that there are these nasty rumors that claim Game of Thrones to be a blood-thirsty, violent, and pornographic displeasure. I will not lie; it is bloody, violent, and yes, there are quite a few scenes with nudity and more. But that does not take up all of the show's elements. Once you watch the first episode, which involves the "walking-dead" and whatnot, you might find yourself surprised. The story is, like the title indicates, about the fight for the "Iron Throne" (not very comfortable) of the so-called "Seven Kingdoms".

The specialty is that the plot has various twists, thus ensuring that it never, ever, EVER be boring let alone repetitive. While watching, I

was both shocked in both positive and negative ways. This does not mean that I was disappointed, but rather the opposite; It keeps you interested and excited, knowing that none of the performers are the stereotypical good or bad. Because fact is, we humans are neither. That's life. Real life.

If the bloodthirstiness still frightens you consider...

Halloween is the perfect environment to watch this show. Cuddle up under a blanket, call a friend over, and have chocolate or even better chocolate chip cookies next to you. If you love to dip your cookies into milk

I would suggest you rest your glass on a table – we wouldn't want any accidents, would we? ;) At least try it out; Halloween really is the perfect excuse to watch this terrific series. You might just encounter the youngest and yet most selfish, bestial, and criminal villain of all times. More horrid than Voldemort (Harry Potter), Joker (The Dark Knight), Sauron (The Lord of the Rings), and The Grinch (How the Grinch stole Christmas) together.

*Sincerely,*

*Mary Poppins & The Wizard of Oz*

## Seid auch ihr von Wetterfühligkeit betroffen?

Das Wetter – ein Zustand unserer Atmosphäre. Aber wer hätte gedacht, dass die Theorie „Das Wetter ist an allem Schuld!“ oft sogar stimmt?

Jeder Mensch ist wetterfühlig, er reagiert also auf starke Veränderungen des Wetters. Wir Schüler fühlen uns zu Beginn der Herbst- und Winter oft müde, erschöpft und gereizt. Dabei wurde wissenschaftlich bewiesen, dass Kälte oder Nebel unsere Konzentrations- und Aufmerksamkeitsfähigkeit fördert, diese durch starke Hitze und Schwüle aber deutlich sinken. Außerdem wirkt sich das Wetter auch auf unseren Leistungswillen aus: Bei Sonnenschein

und Wärme verhalten wir uns alle hilfsbereiter als bei Regen und Kälte. Auch ist es erstaunlich, dass sich schwankende Temperaturen nicht nur auf unsere Gefühlslage, sondern auch auf den Gesundheitsstand vieler Menschen auswirkt. Viele werden bei den sich ständig ändernden Temperaturen schnell krank, sie haben Migräne oder Kreislaufstörungen.

Aber wie können wir uns auf den Wetterwechsel vorbereiten, damit wir nicht von Krankheiten oder Stimmungsschwankungen betroffen werden? Die Antwort ist ganz einfach:

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Tägliche kurze Spaziergänge bringen nicht nur unseren Kreislauf in Schwung, sondern helfen unserem Körper auch, sich schnell an unterschiedliche Temperaturen zu gewöhnen. Auch Wechselduschen härten uns gegen die Kälte ab. Auf dem Wetterportal [wetteronline.de](http://wetteronline.de)

sind zusätzlich die durch das Wetter beeinflussten Stimmungslagen des durchschnittlichen Bürgers in allen Bundesländern zu sehen. Umfragen, die euch zeigen, wie ihr vom Wetter direkt betroffen seid, könnt ihr auch beantworten!

*-Annabelle Proepstl*

## Oscar Wilde's Trial

Oscar Wilde was born in 1854 in Dublin, Ireland, and grew up with an irresistible mixture of cultured wisdom and flamboyant indulgence. But this eloquent youth would die destitute in Paris, France, only 46 years later, after a tragic series of events that tore his life apart.

His innovative artistic talent embraced by elite bohemian circles, Wilde enjoyed great social success in the 1870s and '80s. In 1884, Wilde married and conceived two children. But all was not as it seemed. In 1893, Wilde began a tempestuous affair with the love of his life: Lord Alfred Douglas. It was, though none knew it then, the beginning of the end.

When John Douglas, Alfred Douglas's aristocratic father, left a message on his calling card at Wilde's club accusing him of sodomy, Wilde furiously sued him for libel. In the Victorian era, sodomy was a crime regarded with great contempt, and the Marquess's words went beyond slander – they were an accusation of one of the lowest, sacrilegious deeds known to man. To prove himself innocent, John Douglas needed only to prove his accusation was true.

The 1895 trial was soon embraced by the bloodthirsty public as a delicious scandal. Private detectives produced "evidence" that irreparably damaged Wilde's reputation. He lost the case, was left bankrupt, and promptly arrested on charges of sodomy and gross indecency. The case Crown vs. Wilde had begun.

Alfred Douglas's poem "Two Loves" features a dialogue between two angelic youths. When the second claims, "My name is Love," the first cries out, "He lieth, for his name is Shame! / I am true

Love, I fill / the hearts of boy and girl with mutual flame." The second responds, "I am the Love that dare not speak its name."

The first question the Crown's prosecutor asked Wilde: "What is 'the love that dare not speak its name'?"

Wilde answered, "'The love that dare not speak its name' in this century is such a great affection of an elder for a younger man as there was between David and Jonathan, such as Plato made the very basis of his philosophy, and such as you find in the sonnets of Michelangelo and Shakespeare. It is that deep spiritual affection that is as pure as it is perfect. It is beautiful, it is fine, it is the noblest form of affection. There is nothing unnatural about it. [But] the world does not understand."

Loud cries of "Shame!" drowned out his defense; he was sentenced to two years' hard labor. He would never again be allowed to see his children.

In May 1897, Wilde was released from prison, broken, emaciated and ruined. He wept when his request to the Society of Jesus for a six-month Catholic retreat was denied. He spent the next three years in penniless exile, seeking forgiveness for what he now deemed an errant history and a spiritual renewal of hope. On November 30, 1900, Oscar Wilde died of disease. His gravestone bears a verse from his final, post-prison work, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, where he was last incarcerated: And alien tears will fill for him / Pity's long-broken urn, / For his mourners will be outcast men, / And outcasts always mourn.

*-Julia Keller*

**COLUMN ~MUSIC/CONCERTS/EVENTS**

## It's Going To Be A Day To Remember



What do I despise about pop punk? Um, just about everything really; the whiny songs about the singer's many lost girlfriends, the "wanna-be bad" attitude, the excessive pogo dancing, and most of all the pop punk bands (Blink-182, Green Day, Sum 4, etc), who seem to market their music as "punk". What do I love about A Day To Remember? Well, just about everything.

This band has something for everyone; catchy riffs, vocal harmonies, breakdowns for the hardcore kids, acoustic bits, sweet time changes, and lyrics you can't help but sing along to. ADTR is one of the bands that should be loved by everyone (alongside bands like Slayer, Primus, or The Mean Jeans). This is the band that you listen to when you want to turn a bad day into a good one or make your good day even better. A Day To Remember is awesome for when you're stuck inside because it's raining (or who knows, you might be awesome and be outside), or when it's sunny and you're hanging out with some friends. Bottom line is –in case you didn't already get it –this band rules. It's pop punk with breakdowns and the drummer plays on oversized acorns. Just check it out -it really can't hurt.

Needless to say, A Day To Remember just released its new album, *Common Courtesy*, a couple weeks ago and this thing is awesome! To begin with, this album is a total DIY album. Due to a long feud with Victory Records, they had to produce this album all by themselves for the first time. This becomes completely obvious from the first second you start listening. While listening to the songs, you can hear the amount of heart put into the process unlike the more generic previous ones, giving the album a much more personal sound and feel. The album kicks off with City of Ocala, an average song that sums up just about everything that has happened during the history

of the band, then jumps to Right Back At It Again, which resembles the story of ADTR breaking up with Victory Records and pursuing their own goals. *Common Courtesy* is the perfect album for A Day To Remember; with bits of hardcore, pop punk, metal core, and a dash of acoustic music. It would be difficult to say their style has changed. Really, they've done such a great job keeping the same sound that you could put all their songs on one album and not be able to tell a difference. If at this point you're thinking you'll only be listening to one track, be sure to listen to Violence (Enough Is Enough). I mean, the chorus goes: "VIOLENCE! GIVE ME VIOLENCE!" it doesn't get much better than that. *Common Courtesy* is the perfect demonstration of ADTR with sounds for everyone to head bang to, sing along to, or even simply jam to. With tracks jumping from fast paced sing-a-longs like "Sometimes You're the Hammer, Sometimes You're the Nail" to uplifting, mellow acoustic songs such as "I'm Already Gone, back to a short, but angry Life Lessons Learned the Hard Way", this album is an exciting A Day To Remember roller coaster where you catch the band in their golden hour, which might really be darkest one before the dawn.

Bottom, bottom, *bottom* line: this band rules! Their sound is the same as it always has been (it's the shiznit, I'd say something else, but I guess I can't), and *Common Courtesy* is the perfect album for anyone and everyone and anything and everything. If you're going to do something with your day today, just make it A Day To Remember. Wow...that was a really cheesy way to end this.

"*Common Courtesy* shows exactly what ADTR is about and where they are from".

-Lukas Baildon (someone else who liked this album)  
-Lafayette Vanderkin-Jus



**TOP MOVIE LISTS**

In mainstream cinema, the mindset is often ‘the bigger the better’. Most films span weeks, months, or years. Some films even span decades or create universes in which time travel exists so that the possibilities are endless. But the truth is that a story that spans a very short period of time – one day, for example – can have just as much of an impact. We have compiled our personal favorite films that take place in 24 hours or less.

**Antonia’s Top Five****5. Before Sunrise / Before Sunset (1995, 2004)**

In Richard Linklater’s BEFORE SUNRISE, an American man (Ethan Hawke) convinces a French woman (Julie Delpy) he meets on a train to spend the day with him in Vienna. They both know that they only have until the next morning together, at which point they must travel back to America and France, respectively. Regardless of this, they fall in love. BEFORE SUNSET picks up nine years later in Paris as the two have only one afternoon to spend together. Linklater relies on authentic and poignant dialogue to drive this sweet story.

**4. 11:14 (2003)**

11:14, written and directed by Greg Marcks, shows the events leading up to a car crash at 11:14 from five very different perspectives. As the various storylines prove to be interconnected, the confusing events in this chaotic story gradually begin to make sense. Although the story is dark and tragic, Marcks brilliantly portrays it with a significant amount of humor. The unusual use of multiple perspectives and non-linearity along with the blend of action, drama, and comedy, make for a unique and intriguing film.

**3. The Breakfast Club (1985)**

THE BREAKFAST CLUB, from writer-director John Hughes, depicts the story of five teenagers, all fitting into a different clique within their school, who are forced to spend the day together in detention. Although they start out hating each other, as the day goes on they begin to learn that they aren’t as different as they once thought. A story novel in its day, THE BREAKFAST CLUB still rings true. Strong performances and a heartfelt script carry this classic film.

**2. Superbad (2007)**

From writing team Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, this semi-autobiographical comedy, the first draft of which Rogen and Goldberg began writing when they were just thirteen, tells the story of Evan (Michael Cera) and Seth (Jonah Hill), two co-dependent best friends who have an unexpected crazy night when their plans to get booze for a house party go awry. This clever comedy infuses a surprising amount of sincerity and heart with its vulgar gags. With a spectacular supporting cast including Bill Hader, Seth Rogen, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, and Emma Stone, SUPERBAD is a hilarious and authentically awkward portrayal of the high school experience, with just enough over the top bits to keep it exciting.

**1. Reservoir Dogs and Dazed and Confused (1992, 1993)**

Tied for first place are two very different films. RESERVOIR DOGS, Quentin Tarantino’s feature film debut, follows five total strangers who team up for a jewelry heist. After the heist goes terribly wrong, they each begin to suspect that one of them is a police informant. Over the course of the film the characters and the audience try to piece together which one of them is the rat. Tarantino made a name for himself with this film, displaying for the first time his iconic style

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through the use of witty dialogue, extreme violence, and dark humor. Told in a non-linear fashion with flashbacks, *RESERVOIR DOGS* is a suspenseful, hilarious, and edgy crime film. *DAZED AND CONFUSED*, on the other hand, follows a group of teenagers on the last day of school in 1976. Another film by Richard Linklater, *DAZED AND CONFUSED* is a funny and sentimental depiction of youth in the 70s. Linklater impressively creates a precise atmosphere of the 1970s with the help of a fantastic soundtrack. The film manages to not only capture the spirit of the 70s, but also remain timeless thanks to Linklater's perceptive and compassionate portrayal of teenagers. Filled with heart and humor, *DAZED AND CONFUSED* brilliantly depicts high school life in the 1970s.

### **Alina's Top Five**

#### **5. Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)**

This classic 80s teen comedy tells the story of a high school senior who decides to skip school for a day. We follow Ferris Bueller as he feigns illness to both his parents and his principal and explores Chicago with his girlfriend Sloane and his depressed best friend Cameron. This movie is delightful from start to finish and makes great use of their day; exploring all the ways Ferris beguiles authoritative figures and comes out on top. Immensely quotable and filled with hilarious supporting characters, *FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF* is hugely rewatchable.

#### **4. Groundhog Day (1993)**

When a narcissistic weatherman is sent to report on Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney PA, he finds himself repeating the same day over and over again until he can get it right. Although this premise could easily become monotonous and boring, the filmmakers take full advantage of their unconventional idea and explore all facets of what a man reliving the same day might experience. This movie is also very rewatchable and Stephen Tobolowsky is funny every time.

#### **3. Certified Copy (2010)**

This movie follows two strangers - an author who writes about artifice and art and a French woman - as they spend the day walking through the village of Lucignano. At first these two people from very different backgrounds seem to be getting to know each other: they discuss philosophical questions and argue about their beliefs. But when they sit down in a cafe and a waitress mistakes them for a married couple, their roles change instantaneously. For the second half of the film they behave as a married couple, bickering about each other and trying to fix their relationship. The audience is left to decide for themselves which half of the film is authentic and which half is merely a fabricated performance.

#### **2. Do the Right Thing (1989)**

On one hot summer day in Brooklyn we follow a pizza delivery boy for a day as he interacts with his employers, his friends, family and the residents of his neighborhood. As the day progresses, racial tensions grow and eventually culminate in violent devastation. While the film is dramatic, we also get to meet the amusing, idiosyncratic people of the neighborhood that Spike Lee fills with humor and great music. Essentially, *DO THE RIGHT THING* tells a tragic story in which there are no heroes or villains, just people propelled by misunderstandings, suspicions, and insecurities.

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**1. Mystery Train (1989)**

This film is split into three separate pieces that each take place in Memphis, Tennessee. Although the various characters never come into contact, all three story lines share three similarities: Everyone ends up at the same crummy hotel, they hear the song Blue Moon on the radio, and are awoken in the morning by a gunshot. In many ways this is a much quieter film than the others on this list. Jim Jarmusch weaves together comedy, nostalgia, and sadness to create a truly unique film about legends and the people who believe in them.

*-Antonia Nihsen and Alina Albrecht*

# Spooky Halloween Crossword Puzzle



**Across**

- 5. Scary creature like Frankenstein
- 8. Boo! Yikes, it's an apparition!
- 9. Delicious brown candy
- 12. The holiday name
- 13. Howdy pardner, this costume might make you want to ride a horse!
- 16. Pumpkin carved
- 17. A celebration of the holiday with lots of people.
- 18. Ring the doorbell and say...

**Down**

- 1. Pointy hat and broom
- 2. They fly, but they are mammals
- 3. What do you wear?
- 4. Bobbing for this fruit
- 6. All our bones
- 7. Meow, don't let this animal cross your path.
- 9. No cob for this candy
- 10. Covering for your face
- 11. The round light in the sky at night
- 14. He wants to drink your blood!
- 15. A scary house filled with ghosts is said to be...



