

THE GAMES GAUNTLET



IN THIS ISSUE

Anonymous
Submissions

Monthly Dose of
Inspiration

Words from Brian

Movie Reviews

Where Are They
Now: Joshua Sonola

And More.

INFO FOR FINALS

BY ENDURE MCTIER

Hello GAMERS! I hope all of you had amazing Thanksgiving breaks. Although we got a brief week of respite, it is time for us to finish strong. WE ARE APPROACHING FINALS WEEK! Due to this fact, this issue is for the entire group!

For the second (and third) years, this is nothing new; for the first years, this is your first college finals time. This is a quest that is not for the faint of heart. Depending on the professor, the exam will either be comprehensive or content learned over the last few chapters.

This year, the exam schedule is shifted to the dates of Wednesday, December 6th to Monday, December 11th. This means that you have a full day on Tuesday to prepare. Do not let throw away this opportunity. For the juniors, these are the grades that truly matter for colleges. For the seniors, make sure that the universities know that you have been dedicated, even unto the end. If your grades are not where you need them to be, test strong and don't worry. One "B" will not be the end of the world (Haha, Get it?).

As we complete our first semester, please remember that we are rarities. We have made the decision to attend college early and that holds weight. Let us not become weary; we are all sound, intelligent individuals and we can find solace in each other. Until next time.



AN ALLSTAR "MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS" WITH FEW SURPRISES

BY GLENN KENNY
NOVEMBER 8, 2017

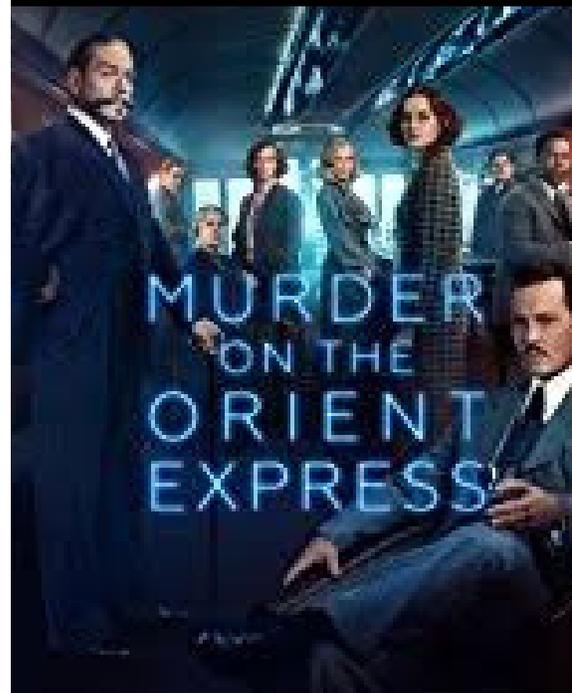
In my boyhood I read Agatha Christie's 1934 mystery novel "Murder on the Orient Express," a copy of which was handed down to me by my mother, a mystery enthusiast. In my early teens I saw the then-grand movie adaptation, an all-star cast affair directed by Sidney Lumet and featuring Albert Finney as the finicky Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. Christie's novel derives much of its notoriety from the solution to its mystery.

*Credits to the New
York Times*

It's very novel; whether it's ingenious or just ostentatious is still debated by mystery lovers. But even more than 40 years after Mr. Lumet's film I had presumed that the ending was so well-known that there would be little point in a remake. And yet, as the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins said in a different context, generations have trod, have trod, have trod, and there are plenty of millennials who haven't read the book.

Mr. Finney's embodiment of Poirot in the Lumet picture was a marathon of sorts, with the actor testing how many of the beloved character's irritating yet endearing quirks could be pushed to the limits of coherence. In this latest version, Kenneth Branagh, who also directs (from a script by Michael Green), gives us a Poirot who's fussy but not too fussy, and rather crisp in his English-language diction. Most radically, this is a Poirot with heart. This interpretation is a dumb idea, but Mr. Branagh, an actor of prodigious skills, can at least pull this one half off. It's not the only dumb idea in this film, which nevertheless bounces along in a way that's sometimes almost entertaining. Mr. Branagh shot the film in the 65-millimeter format, which offers a particular kind of "big movie" resolution. People tend to think that big-gauge celluloid is best for big-vista movies, such as "Lawrence of Arabia," but Mr. Branagh's picture is set almost entirely on a train.

Fun Fact: On the Venice Simplon Orient Express, every season, more than 12,000 croissants are served for breakfast. That's over 48,000 croissants a year!



As in Mr. Lumet's adaptation, the supporting cast here is full of stars. Michelle Pfeiffer, Judi Dench, Willem Dafoe, Penélope Cruz, Derek Jacobi, and newer faces like Daisy Ridley and Leslie Odom Jr., fill out the roster of subjects. Johnny Depp, who is known to make some eccentric choices in crafting his characters, does not (necessarily) disappoint in the role of the murder victim, Edward Ratchett.

Go out and see the movie! It's amazing!

Murder on the Orient Express

Directed by **Kenneth Branagh**

Rated **PG-13**

Run Time **1hr 54m**

Genre **Crime, Drama, Mystery**

SUBMIT
YOUR
WORK

AN ANONYMOUS SUBMISSION

BY X

Picture an addict in your mind. Go ahead... I'll wait. Do you have that picture? My guess is that when you close your eyes there's an anonymous face, disheveled hair, someone living on the streets—or maybe I'm wrong. If you've lived it, addiction has swallowed someone you love. Deep in the belly of heroin, OxyContin, or Fentanyl lies someone whom you'd do anything for but who suffers so fiercely that the only elixir is the next pill, patch, or needle. It allows them to wake, just a minute, from the death they live daily here on Earth.

When my eyes close, I see a full head of grey hair. It's the kind of hair I imagine every 72-year-old man hopes for. This hair has grown thick and plentiful since I last saw it, inching past what I have always thought of as freakishly-large old man ears, down toward the nape of a neck, wrinkled and grey like the skin of a tired elephant.

His head bobs up and down as I watch—the same way my little brother's used to as he'd try to stay awake long enough to see if Spider-Man conquered the bad guys and got the girl. But this is my grandfather, and he's not tired.

I know what you are thinking. This is one of THOSE stories. This is the story about the girl who escapes a cycle of poverty and overcomes adversity, except it is not. This is a story of how far my hero has fallen.

In John's house are endless shelves of books filled with first-edition Faulkner, O'Connor, and Percy. They line the walls like soldiers, waiting to be re-discovered. "They are my treasures," he'd tell me as he lifted me high above his head to grab a volume. "This one next," he'd declare, passing over his own published work, tucked in among the greats. My grandfather's mind was once amazing—strong and sleek, with a quick-wit and an even quicker tongue. I remember wondering if there were a limit to the words an individual could speak in a lifetime and thinking that if there were, Grandpa would surely reach his limit.

And maybe there was some kind of limit, some limit to how accomplished one could be, some limit to how much one person could be admired without filling the emptiness inside with something else.

The last time I saw my grandfather was on a long, straight stretch of I-75 through South Georgia; I was his ride to his new life, one he had re-imagined as a life full of family dinners and game nights. The days before had been full of anticipation and phone calls. His voice was clear, full of hope, and his tongue and his wit were once again quick.

We could forget finding him earlier that month on the floor nearly naked, a chewed Fentanyl patch in his mouth. I remember the blur of that scene and days later what seemed to be a search and rescue mission for remaining pills and patches. In true John form, the irony of finding his stash in a first-edition of "As I Lay Dying" did not escape us and gave me pause to wonder if he somehow knew he would not win this battle.

Of course, you already know the end of this story. I do not have to tell you that it does not end well or that John's ride to a new life never happened. You see his hope for recovery was just that--hope. When I close my eyes and imagine an addict, I see John's last ride--a mass of grey hair bobbing, words spilling from his mind and getting lost in the space between his mouth and my ears. I see him check and re-check that his pills are still with him, and I feel my heart sink, heavy with the knowledge that our imagined life would never be.



MORE THOUGHTS ON SUCCESSFUL STUDYING

BY BRIAN WARREN

1. Plan a time for homework/study. Use the Outlook calendar, commit the time you need for the classes you have. The time is available for you to have both tough academics and fun. But you **MUST** manage your time. If you need help to figure this out -- ASK!!! We want to help you to be successful.

More words of wisdom to come next month. Are you victim to these habits? Anytime is a good time to start newer, better habits.

2. Remember: Quality NOT quantity when it comes to studying. If you are combining History with a Games of Thrones binge -- your half attention with results in half success.

3. Study for yourself!! -- This is YOUR future, YOUR dreams, YOUR dreams, YOUR plans, YOUR ambition. You are not here for my happiness, or your parent's success or to out-do your siblings -- things belongs to you. Do the work to get where you want to go. If you don't know that destination -- that is okay too -- doing well will give you options and choices.

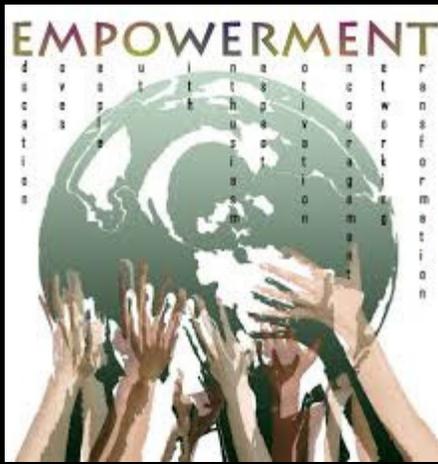
4. "OMG, I didn't study today. I'm such a failure." You don't have to study every day. You shouldn't study everyday!! Have at least one day a week when you do nothing school related; your brain needs the rest!

5. "My professor is a bad teacher and that's why I can't learn this/get good grades in this subject." Take your computer, open google, or Khan or one of hundreds of other sources and teach yourself the stuff you don't get. Work collaboratively with other students. Don't blame your teacher for not understanding something.

They're humans and not perfect. Be ambitious and try to teach yourself with the help of your friends, the internet, YouTube, library books, etc.

6. "I must be an Engineer, a Physician, a Lawyer, or a Complete Disappointment!" No you don't. Be You—Find your Passion and be that —Find success in something you love. Your entire life cannot be planned at your age. If being an engineer is your great dream and passion GREAT! But it is also GREAT if you want to be a Writer, a Dancer, a Theologian or a Plumber. The investment you make in your own education will help you in any field you choose. Believe it or not, Chemistry matters, so does history, literature, statistics and psychology—and learning all of them well will help you to be better at whatever the future holds for you.

Finally -- **GO TO OFFICE HOURS!** Extra study sessions offered and free tutoring are accessible in the Student Success Center.



BRYCE'S BUBBLE

BY BRYCE BUSSERT

"Therefore, many of His disciples, when they heard this, said 'This is a hard saying, who can understand it?'" John 6:60

While struggling to miraculously remember material that I have never seen before, this scripture comes to mind, and no, the disciples weren't taking a Physics Final. Everyone knows Jesus didn't give final exams, that'd be a sin. Anyways, the Bible story continues and tells us that Jesus knew the disciples were complaining about the homework, err... theological conundrum that he gave them. While this isn't much of a surprise, (Wow, Jesus knew something?) it is immensely cool to think that Jesus Christ, who can retrieve absolutely any fact from past, present, or future bothered to teach his disciples anything. After all, Professor Lin looks pretty disappointed in me after my questions in Calculus and

After all, Professor Lin looks pretty disappointed in me after my questions in Calculus and sometimes I cannot believe the dumb questions I hear in class (yes, that is a thing), but Jesus remained incredibly patient and understanding despite having ALL of the knowledge. Jesus expressed a lot more love to people than I could ever muster, but now that we are on the topic... I don't think that it would be wrong for any of us to wish that our professors would be a little more like Jesus this week, don't you?

EMPOWER. INSPIRE.

BY ENDURE MCTIER

Hello GAMERS,
This is an excerpt from one of my favorite pieces of poetry that I would like to share with everyone. Enjoy!

If by Rudyard Kipling

"If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,

But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!"

*Show off your
creativity!*

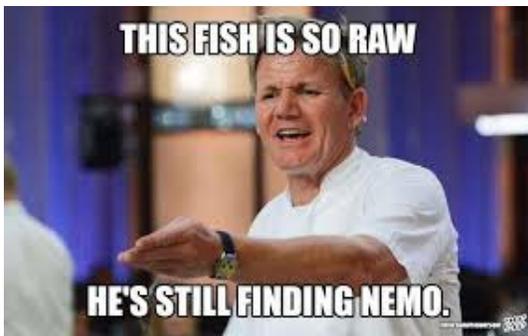
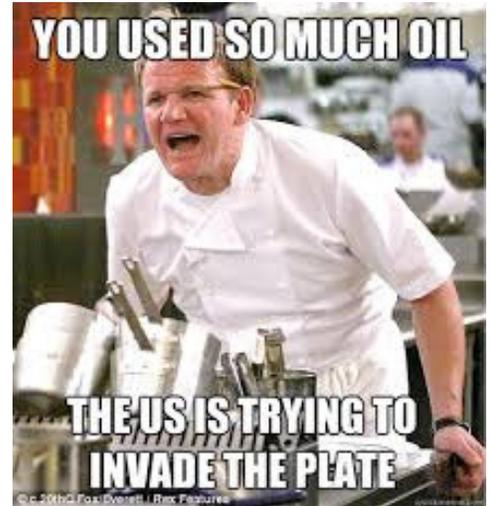
Share your opinions.

*Dare to be
different.*

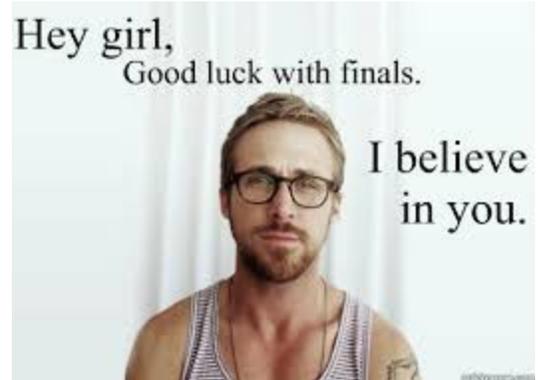
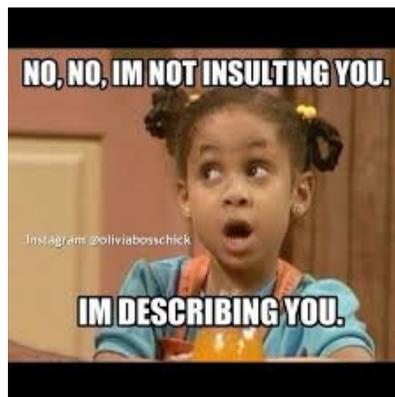
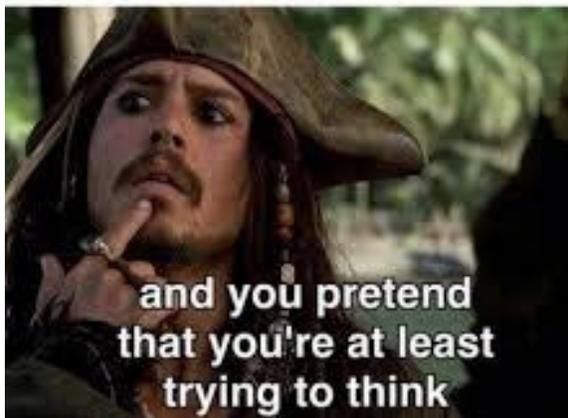
MEMES

SUBMIT YOUR FAVORITES TO BE INCLUDED

GAMERS SEEM TO LIKE
THESE



When the teacher is
watching you during
a test..



Goldman Sachs



A LETTER TO THE GAMERS

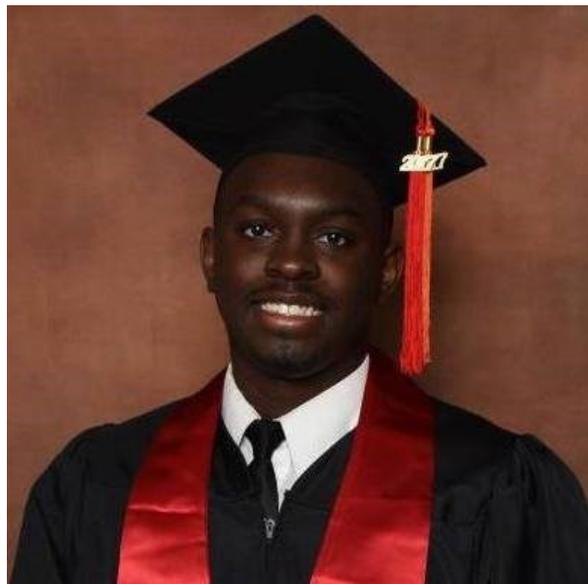
BY JOSHUA SONOLA

Hi, I'm Joshua Sonola, an alumni of the GAMES program, class of 2013. While at GAMES, I was a GAMES tour guide, member of the math team, member of the percussion and jazz ensemble, and leader of the GAMES Intramural team. I'm currently working at Goldman Sachs in New York as a quantitative trader on the algorithmic trading team, trading US Treasuries. This past June, I graduated from Caltech with a degree in Chemical Engineering and a minor in Computer Science.

Going to GAMES from 2011-2013 was one of the best decisions I've made in my life. Going to GAMES gives you not only the opportunity to take college classes alongside college peers, but most importantly it gives you the chance to experience the college lifestyle before you even graduate high school. Getting into a college environment at a young age may seem frightening at first, but these college experiences you get at GAMES lend themselves to be extraordinarily valuable preparation for going to college afterwards.

My advice to current students is to have fun but also take this opportunity to learn more about themselves. For most people, this will be the first time they spend weeks away from their families. This forces you to really grow up and figure some things out, whether that's how to do your laundry or how to not burn ramen in the microwave. GAMES is set up in such a way that it's the perfect transition between high school and college, giving just the right amount of freedom for students to make their own decisions in an environment that still guides towards good decisions.

My other important piece of advice is to get involved in things that you care about. Most activities don't require a great amount of time commitment but they provide a stress relief and something to look forward to. Figuring out what that activity is now is vital for personal development. Good luck and I wish everyone the best of luck in their future endeavors.



Caltech



A BRIEF BRIEFING

BY KAREN ZRAICK AND LANCE BOOTH
NOVEMBER 30, 2017

1. It all started as a tax cut.

But provisions in the Republican tax bill could reshape health care, education and social services. John McCain announced his support for the Senate's version of the bill, but Susan Collins, above right, remains undecided. We're tracking the progress on the Senate floor, where a vote is expected within 24 hours.

2. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson could be on the way out.

The Trump administration has marginalized and bypassed the State Department, even as Mr. Tillerson, above, has pushed out droves of career diplomats.

Now, senior White House officials tell our reporters that the president plans to replace Mr. Tillerson with the C.I.A. director, Mike Pompeo, possibly before the end of the year.

3. The TV networks are reeling as the media luminaries they built their businesses around fall like dominoes to accusations of sexual misconduct and worse. The latest, Matt Lauer, above, offered a hedged apology.

Accusations against two more major figures came to light: Russell Simmons, the hip-hop mogul who co-founded Def Jam Records; and the charismatic playwright Israel Horowitz.

4. Photographs from North Korea are providing valuable clues about the powerful new missile it launched Wednesday, the Hwasong-15, above. Analysts say it appears to have two engines for its first booster stage, giving it greater range.

Washington is revisiting a long-simmering debate: Could the Cold War strategy that worked against the Soviet Union — mutually assured destruction — also work against North Korea?

5. You'll probably pay more for your Christmas tree this year.

Blame the Great Recession. Growers planted fewer trees in those lean years — and the shortage is now upon us.

And prices have been rising all the while: The average buyer spent \$36.50 on a tree in 2008; last year, the figure was \$74.70.

10. Finally, hurricane season is ending. But a possibly tumultuous Oscar season has begun.

Actors and publicists are grappling with how — or whether — to address the sexual misconduct scandals shaking Hollywood through the three-month stretch of campaigning, and the succession of lesser awards shows, that culminate with the ceremony March 4.

Have a great night.

If there is no struggle, there is no progress. - Frederick Douglass
*The Gauntlet Team appreciates your support. If you have any comments or questions, email **endure.mctier@mga.edu**. Until next month...*