

THE NORTHWOOD HOWLER

A Northwood High School Publication

4515 PORTOLA PKWY. IRVINE, CA 92620

Volume XI, Issue I: September 10, 2009

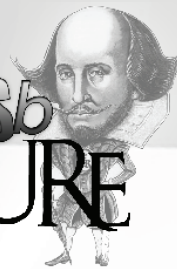
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GET READY FOR homecoming! THE BRITISH INVASION

STAFF
FAMOUS FIGURES



FRESHMAN & ASB
LITERATURE



JUNIORS
MOVIES

DON'T FORGET TO DRESS UP!

HOMEcoming WEEK COMES

EARLIER THIS YEAR.

Week: October 5-9

Football Game: October 9

Homecoming Dance: October 10

SOPHOMORES
MUSIC

SENIORS
COURT/ROYALTY

Say goodbye to sweet summer, Northwood – the new school year has inevitably arrived. But don't worry, the fun has just begun! The 2009-2010 school year is jam-packed with many new surprises. Aside from the tedious process of filling out college applications (seniors), the dreaded onset of SATs (juniors), the rigorous studying and homework load (sophomores), and the frightening task of finding your classrooms (freshmen), there is a lot to look forward to: new clubs to join, new events to attend, a bloody brilliant Homecoming dance you do not want to miss and, of course, the friends and faculty you have missed over the summer. So as you ascend to greater heights, remember to keep your eyes straight and feet forward – and make this year one worth remembering. On behalf of the Northwood *Howler*, welcome back!

New values committee established for the "good of the pack"

By ARIANA TANG
Staff Writer

Starting this fall, the administration and various student groups on campus will collaborate to launch a student-teacher Values Committee that counters the issue of cheating at Northwood. The committee, created by Assistant Principal Matthew Pate, is comprised of Northwood teachers Robin Gray, Michael Kassarian, Judie Persons, Debbie Meany, Jeffrey Morano and Northwood students Brian Nguyen and Whitney Brooks.

The committee's main goal of promoting academic integrity is focused on the three core values of mutual respect, trustworthiness and compassion, which form the cornerstone of a campaign to reiterate the idea that a student must work "for the good of the pack." This slogan, which is de-

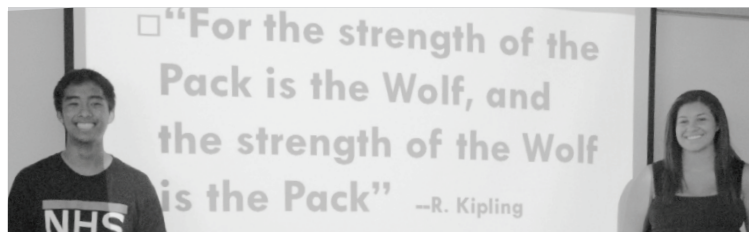
rived from a quote by author Rudyard Kipling, reinforces the concept of teamwork and cooperation.

"We wanted the Northwood community to come together more, so everyone [feels] collectively responsible for helping everyone's experience at Northwood be as good as possible," said Morano.

"Mutual respect" calls for the recognition and awareness of differences among both students and staff in order to promote a sense of understanding and community. To promote this, the committee will call for the display of mutual respect amongst students and teachers in both social and academic environments. The program also hopes that students will recognize the value of trustworthiness as "a personal and collective responsibility," and the value of compassion as an "act in the benefit of others, and not only themselves,"



YADA KHOONGUMJORN Northwood Howler



YADA KHOONGUMJORN Northwood Howler

according to a PowerPoint presentation created by the committee that will be presented to the teachers at a staff meeting. To promote positive behavior

and the demonstration of these three traits, the Values Committee intends to print the slogan on various objects, including spiritwear, student agendas

and the school newsletter.

The committee also intends to paint the slogan across the gym wall. Collaboration with Link Crew and various other student organizations is also a possibility. At a fall 2009 staff meeting, teachers will discuss how to acknowledge positive behavior; and at a Student Forum meeting, students will discuss various ways to demonstrate positive behavior. The committee will also attempt to incorporate the values behind the slogan into Teacher Advisement activities. The program may also be integrated into the disciplinary system at Northwood.

"We want our community to recognize the fact that we need to be all in this together," said Morano. "We are all responsible for making sure that everyone is looking out for everyone's best interest."

This summer...

Compiled By LAURA BRAN
Staff Writer

Summer is a great time to take a break from Orange County – or to discover what it really has to offer. Northwood students took part in various activities this summer such as going on family vacations, attending sports camps or preparing themselves to go off to college. With no homework or tests to study for, let's see what Northwood students have been up to for the last couple months.

"This summer I went to my final session at the John's Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth program at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. There, I talked with a hippie and an Amish person, dyed my hair and countless other people's hair, pierced my ear with a needle by phone light, had the best ice cream, spent three weeks with my best friends in the whole world and learned about life and love." – Maggie Farrell (11)

"With National Charity League, I was able to go to a camp and play with young children with special needs and their siblings for a weekend. We had a lot of fun playing with the kids and visiting with their families while working with our moms. I made new friends and even went bear hunting!" – Kendall Unbehnd (11)

"My summer has been spent playing a lot of baseball. I went to Arizona for the Junior Olympics and



Photo provided by ZACK WEISS

got opportunities to play at both Angel Stadium and Dodger Stadium. At the start of the summer, I also verbally committed to UCLA to play baseball there." – Zack Weiss (12)

"When it is 100 degrees and you're bored and out of cash, there is only one thing to do: karaoke. This summer my friends and I dedicated five nights to letting our vocal talents blossom. With my friend Jacque, whose voice resembles Kelly Clarkson's, and Mattan and my voices bearing a striking resemblance to Brandon Flowers', we were able to sing a wide variety of songs and have a great time." – Kyle Ruane (11)

"I went to Greece with my family and then to Romania to visit my Dad's family for the first time ever. Both Greece and Romania had been



Photo provided by KELSEY CONSTANTIN

Summer camps 2009

By JASMINE CHANG
Centerspread Editor

Marching band:

Over the summer, marching band and leadership worked hard to get started on their 2009 show. From practicing basics to learning drill, the 170-piece-band sweated six hour days for two weeks to put together their Beatles-inspired "Magical Mystery Tour." Make sure to support their hard work during our fall football games!



YADA KHOONGMORN The Northwood Howler

Speech and Debate:

Twice this summer, the Speech and Debate Team met up for a week to work on their public speaking skills. From learning how to give speeches on the spot, to preparing long debates, the team learned how to effectively convey their thoughts and arguments. The older members ran the meetings, giving demonstrations on certain forms of debate and speeches. "Camp [was] a really rewarding experience as [the older members] get to watch the new generation develop as we get ready for another year," said senior John Yu, president of the Speech and Debate club.

Film camp:

Split into three camps for different levels, film camp trained students to work with high-end equipment, professional editing software and graphical software. Preproducing stories such as car hit scenes, music videos and action sequences, the film students learned a lot about the art of cinematography. Students will take what they've learned during film camp and apply it to our weekly NTV shows and yearbook DVD.



JASMINE CHANG The Northwood Howler

ASB camp:

For four days over the summer, our Associated Student Body (ASB) met with four other schools to develop team skills and a strong group mentality. The camp was split into two basic components: the core session, as well as the job sessions. The core sessions helped each school's ASB grow and understand each other so that they would work well throughout the year, while the job sessions helped the ASB members learn how to do their jobs more effectively. "The camp wasn't just about learning how to work as an ASB, but it was also about understanding our individual strengths and weaknesses so that we could become closer as an ASB," said senior Brian Nguyen.



Photo provided by CHRISTIAN ERNESTO GONZALEZ



LAURA BRAN The Northwood Howler

New budget emerges after heavy reductions

By KRISTINE LEE
Copy Editor

California's ongoing cuts to education funds have served as nothing more than a Band-Aid solution to a \$26 billion deficit, and many school districts across the state are left to fend for themselves in the economic wilderness.

Around this time last year, the state of California adopted a budget for 2008-2009 amid projections for unstable revenues. Almost immediately, California's fiscal situation seemed off-kilter, casting a shadow on its public education system.

Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) had to maintain solvency over the course of several months, pruning funds between January, when Sacramento first announced its multi-billion dollar shortfall, and May. It was a migraine-inducing journey that culminated in its transition to Basic Aid funding, which routes local property tax dollars to IUSD's budget in lieu of state funds.

"In the face of it all, IUSD

has been very flexible," said Northwood High School's principal, Leslie Roach. "The district has considered the important programs that support students and has tried to save those, such as the Writing Project that allows [Humanities] teachers to have days to norm papers."

As the state began to slash spending, education took the brunt of the blow, and IUSD was forced to initiate a series of cuts: \$9 million in January, another \$2.2 million in late May and most recently, an additional \$7 million in June.

And when state legislators moved to sweep up additional funds from Basic Aid districts in late June, many of these districts preemptively submitted a "Fair Share" proposal. They, under the provisions of the proposal, opted to voluntarily decrease their share of state funding rather than yield to another blow from the state.

The Fair Share proposal therefore required another wave of reductions, the effects in Irvine ranging from increased class sizes for

grades one, two, three and nine, to a hold-off on textbook adoptions as well as reduced spending on the arts and sciences.

"The biggest cut to us [at Northwood High] was that 9th grade Humanities went from 20 students in a class to 25," said Roach.

The IUSD Board of Education posits that its budget will be slightly less flexible for the 2009-2010 fiscal year due to local property taxes coming in at lower-than-expected rates. As the district's funding may boomerang back to its pre-Basic Aid formula, property tax revenues will likely be supplemented once again by state funds.

Nonetheless, IUSD capped off the last year successfully due to a timely three-phase reduction plan and the \$7.8 million it received in federal stimulus funds. In light of its success in dealing with the budget crisis thus far, IUSD's Board of Education anticipates that it can manage future shortfalls with both flexibility and resilience.

...I had fun!

[Continued from left side of page]

tiful weather, delicious food and nice people. It was an overall amazing trip." – Kelsey Constantin (12)

"One of my highlights was when my friends, my sister Julie and I rode the 1,060-foot roller coaster on top of the Stratosphere in Las Vegas. This was the best summer, filled with many memories." – Christie Hom (10)

"This summer, I, along with Kevin Rowen and Max Lindsay, was invited to attend the Nike Elite Lacrosse Classic at the Home Depot Center in Carson. The event was a showcase for local talent in the So-Cal area and was led by some of the biggest stars in pro and collegiate lacrosse. We had a great time playing for the guys we had only seen on TV. We scored a bunch of free stuff from the different sponsors, which only made the already awesome day even better." – Aaron Bucka (12)



Photo provided by AARON BUCKA

"I went [to] UCSD for a month over the summer for the COSMOS program. I had the chance to live in the dorms and explore the campus grounds while taking classes. It was a really fun experience and I got to meet a lot of great people that I continue to keep in touch with." – Austin Hsu (12)

"This summer my family took a trip up to San Francisco. While we were there, my sister Dewey and I connected with our inner hippie as we lay in a daisy patch down by the bay." – Francesca DellaMaggiore (11)

"This summer I coached my neighborhood swim-team, took classes at IVC and got my wisdom teeth pulled out. But I got my license, went to the fair, hit up the pool with a bunch of my friends and had an amazing sweet 16!" – Mona Sleiman (11)

"On July 17, I went to a Demi Lovato concert in Los Angeles. Two of my friends and I left at six in the morning and went by Demi's house and almost got hit by her car. After the concert I ended up meeting her, and she remembered me." – Natalie Nemeo (10)



Photo provided by NATALIE NEMEO

Fall sports forecast

By JEREMY CHEN
Sports Editor

Football:

Anchored by talent and experience, Northwood's football team looks ready to blow open the gates and start the season strong. The team has demonstrated its caliber this summer by advancing to the championships of the OC Air Attack passing tournament on July 25, as well as winning 2nd in the City of Irvine weightlifting contest in late May.

Coach Rick Curtis has his eye on rising standouts like seniors Brian Pione, David Woolbert, Kyle Beane and Tony Fullman.

This star-studded roster, complete with veteran players and fresh talent, should propel the team through a solid season and a strong opening game against University High School on Sept. 10.

Boys Water Polo:

Northwood's Boys Water Polo team is eyeing a league title this year after finishing a promising season. Summer play and leadership from coach Ed Carrera and assistant coach Drew Vyn certainly bolster its chances as well.

Meanwhile, seniors Dustin Hayashi and James Hartshorne participated in a tournament at Stanford University with their club team and are looking to share their success with the rest of their team.

"Some up-and-coming players are [sophomore] Jack Mayers, [senior] Dustin Hayashi, and [senior] Kyle Kim-E. They are all going to be leaders out in the field," said Hartshorne.

With every starter returning this year, experience coupled with skill should help the team wreak havoc out in the pool.



KRIS GEORGE, JASMINE CHANG The Northwood Howler

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: Northwood teams spent the summer enhancing their talents.

Girls Golf:

The Girls Golf team had a great summer together with their usual practice rounds at Oak Creek and a three-day golf retreat in Palm Springs. The result? A team with newfound determination and a lot of group chemistry.

"It was definitely a good opportunity for the girls to [...] get a feel for [the game]," said varsity co-captain, senior Vivianne Chang. "Our team will continue to be solid because we can depend on [...] our experienced players, but with some great new additions, our team will be stronger than ever."

Cross Country:

Northwood's Cross Country team hopes to step up the pace against its competitors and stride towards unprecedented levels of accomplishment. A consistent weekly routine and team-bonding events, such as a beach-run and a Disneyland trip, unified the team this summer.

"This year, I think we might have a pretty epic team," said varsity junior Lauren Porter.

Promising freshmen, like Marisa Purcell and Jimmy Alford, are backed by senior team captains Aviv Lazar, Savini Ganheva, Kevin Nelson and Kevin Griffith. With a mix of fresh legs and proven racers, it is hard to doubt Porter's words: The team should not fall too short of epic.

Pep Squad:

Considering the pivotal role the pep squad's contagious spirit plays in the success of our football team, it's impossible to leave the pep squad out of the picture. This summer's cheer camp served as an opportunity for upperclassmen and freshmen alike to build up their cheer skills.

"Summer camp was great! Our freshmen are showing promise," said varsity cheerleader, junior Cat Chao. "We practiced our home routine over and over, and we will be performing [it] on the first day of school."



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Mission Statement: To serve as a medium for school news and the expression of student ideas while adhering to the highest standards of journalistic integrity.

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ANGELA HSU The Northwood Howler

SUMMER WORKOUT: Sports teams prepare for the coming year.

Girls Volleyball:

The Girls Volleyball team is striving to make CIF playoffs this year; with the guidance of longtime coach John Gaido and a strong trio of senior Amanda Clark, sophomore Kelsey Groot and junior Kendall Langdon, its hopes certainly do not seem out-of-reach.

Over the summer, the Girls Volleyball team held its usual practices in addition to scrimmaging other schools.

"This team has a fresh, new attitude and [has] a strong opportunity to make the playoffs," said Gaido.

Girls Tennis:

The blazing agility and experience of Northwood's Girls Tennis team are strong indicators of their potential to repeat last year's success with another Sea View league title. Nevertheless, it also has its eyes on the CIF championships to avenge its loss to Troy in last year's playoffs.

"Some of the key players to look for this upcoming year are team captain, junior Courtney Pattugalan, senior Melissa Kan and sophomore Courtni Pham. They will form the core of our team," said Keith. "We also are excited about some of the other girls carrying the load as well. We should have an exciting and energetic team."

New at Northwood

By EMILY McBRIDE
Staff Writer

Fall is finally here, and with another school year comes changes in both staff and classes at Northwood High School.

Although the administrative staff is a vital to keeping our school organized, it is no exception to these changes. Christine Hale, former English teacher and department chairwoman at Orange High School, will be replacing Gina Cuneo as Northwood's assistant principal. Former Media Center worker Leanne Lauritzen also joins the front office as the new administrative assistant.

Each year, a few loved and talented members of the teaching staff leave to pursue their careers at other schools. This year, a number of Northwood teachers are doing so, including English teacher Jason Hwang, social studies teachers Frank Harrington and Jennifer Donnelly, physical education teacher Tom Knudson and sci-

ence teacher Tracy Walla.

Various changes are occurring within the teaching staff at Northwood as well. Jeanna Heck will be taking Christy O'Dwyer's place as advisor of Yearbook and Christine Gates, who took a one-year leave of absence due to the birth of her baby girl, will be returning to Northwood. The school is also in the process of hiring a new special education teacher and a new instrumental music teacher.

Business Communications, taught by Jenny Contant, and Current Issues, taught by Mary Deluca, are two new courses added to Northwood this semester. Asian Studies has been cancelled due to the fact that its instructor, Donnelly, no longer works at Northwood.

But even amidst the changes, Assistant Principal Matthew Pate says that students' needs will continue to be the focus of the staff at Northwood.



JASMINE CHANG Northwood Howler

Hi Northwood.

Oh, joy! Another bright and fulfilling year at Northwood High School awaits us. Put down those surfboards and put on those starched polos... there are textbooks to be read, clubs to be joined and new friends to be made. Prepare for pep rallies with a lot of back flips and too-small tricycles that could use just a little more pep. Get ready for club fairs with overeager board members toting sloppily-made signs, screaming by the Oak about 3-for-1 sushi, human torture and just about everything in between. Go to our home basketball games and look around, confused, as the away team's crowd seems to outnumber our own. Endure staggeringly long lines in the cafeteria before you realize that you are buying a small, dry chicken sandwich for almost \$4. These are the oft-overlooked details of Northwood that, for better or for worse, make it what it is. To help you with the rest of these details, I'll give you guys the grade-A *Howler* treatment – an obligatory walkthrough for all of you 9th-12th graders.

Let us start off with the flush-faced and excited little freshmen. You kids are cuddly, but I really think that you get smaller by AT LEAST two inches every year. Allow me to personally welcome you to the friendly, neighborhood stucco monster that is Northwood. But first, save yourself substantial amounts of embarrassment, and make sure the clear size sticker is REMOVED from your new shirt or jeans before you come to school. If you want to take honors classes, start now – it's harder to get on the advanced track as you get older. Join a few clubs early and stay committed – you want to experiment, but keep in mind that if you stay in a club for four years, you're likely to nab that coveted presidency. To freshmen girls: Yes, we know that there is an unspoken law that the older your boyfriend is, the cooler you are within your group. But make sure that you don't brush off your male peers too quickly – you're going to be stuck with these guys for the next four years. To freshmen boys: Sorry, you have to tough it out for a year. But once next year's freshmen roll in, you'll be the most sought-after guys on the block.

Sophomores: You are lucky. This year, after your senior year, will be your best year at Northwood. You are alive and have emerged triumphant from the harrowing ordeals of freshman year. You can walk around knowing safely that there are younger, smaller people than you here and that you have authority over them. Usually by now, you guys will start self-segregating into your cliques. You'll have your math and science lovers. Your band geeks. Your drama kids. Your hypish boys with lime-green Nikes and ridiculously expensive extra-large T-shirts. Enjoy this year's classes, because the coursework is largely a slightly-more-difficult extension of freshman year. Teachers will continue to hold your hand, but you shouldn't get used to it. Those who do will fall victim to junior year.

It is a fact of life that in junior year, you will either do nothing but study or nothing but party. There is absolutely nothing in between. For those who seek the knowledge that AP Biology, Honors Spanish 4, AP European History and other fun-filled classes offer, be prepared to enjoy late nights at Barnes and Noble, where you'll be feverishly studying for your test, presentation and oral exam that all just unfortunately happen to be the next day. Dressed hurriedly in sweatpants and an old hooded sweater, you'll desperately try to suck up the last drops of maple-colored dew from your Red Bull as you try to blitz through all of your practice problems before closing time at 11. Your eyes will have that characteristic "junior-year" tinge (red and blotchy), and you will start taking long after-school naps. For those who choose a less demanding course-load, don't get caught doing anything stupid. Try not to lose interest in school – no matter what you may think of it now, in the future, you will most likely regret throwing away your high school education. And all of you: Keep in mind that the classes you take this year and the amount of time you put into them will determine the course of your entire life. No pressure.

Seniors! This year will be either the most action-packed, mind-blowing fun that you've had in your entire teenage existence... or it will be the loneliest. You can choose your own destiny. Hopefully, most of you have worked on college apps a little. If not, put down those new glove lights, take advantage of the lull in the first month or so of school, and get to work – later on, your essay-writing abilities will be severely impaired by lack of sleep and general laziness. Try not to succumb to senioritis until AFTER your first semester (unless you get in somewhere early. Then you cheated the system). You can always identify a second-semester senior by their characteristic mussed hair, wrinkled pajama pants and the thin, usually empty, binder clenched loosely in their hand. Try not to be this person. And guys, definitely don't hunt incoming freshmen girls. A difference of one year is okay. Two years is okay only if people mistake her for a junior. Three years... let me introduce you to a little something we in the United States like to call "statutory rape."

Yup. Northwood in a nutshell. Take my advice for what it's worth. I'm not the type to sit by and offer you a perfect and idealized Disney-original-movie take on what Northwood is really like. Though this article is in the Junk section, try to take it at least somewhat seriously – there are good intentions behind it. No matter what Northwood's faults are, there will always be a special place in all of your hearts for the friends you've made and the experiences you've had here.

Seriously.

So have fun, and I'll (hopefully) see you alive and well at the end of the semester.

Much love,
Your Junk correspondent, Kevin Kim

Top 10 summer fails

Compiled by JOHNNY CHANG, *Junk Editor*
From real NHS students, Alumni and teachers

10. As soon as I finished my SAT classes for the summer, I realized that I had to get started on my AP homework.
9. I got a shot to prevent cervical cancer. After the shot, the nurse gave me an ice pack and told me to hold it on my arm for 15 minutes. When the time was up, she came over to take the pack away. Looking puzzled, she returned the ice pack to me and said loudly, "Make sure you ice the area below the shot - not to inches below it."
8. I went to my boyfriend's sister's wedding on Saturday. She came up to us after the rehearsal and told us to make sure that when we get married, the rehearsal is more organized. I'm like 19... and we both kind of freaked out.
7. As I was walking outside with my friend, he told me his car was complete junk. Assuming the closest car to the curb was his, I agreed with him, stating that it was indeed a piece of junk. The couple who actually owned the car happened to be right behind us.
6. I traveled to the Four Corners only to find out, upon my return, that a geologist discovered the current Four Corners marker to be 2.5 miles too far east.
5. I went to the beach for a fun-filled day of body boarding. As soon I stepped out of my car, I stepped in bird poo.
4. I went on a rant about how I sneaked out of the house for the first time. I found out when I came home that I had butt-dialed my parents.
3. I declared that this summer was going to be the best summer in my life and that I was going to do everything there was to possibly do. Then I found out a girl liked me and my summer was gone in a snap.
2. I was doing my business in the bathroom when my dog surprise attacked me from the bathtub and made me fall. I was still using the toilet.
1. I got lost in Irvine.

Best fail picture of the summer



Photo provided by RIANN SIMMONS

WHY DID THEY FINISH WRITING THIS?: Northwood High ironically experiences an embarrassing spelling error when its roads were repaved and repainted during this year's kick-off days.

America's obvious invincibility may be put to the test

By JOHNNY CHANG AND SUNNY SINGH
Junk Editor and Contributing Writer

In 1776, Paul Revere rode around Massachusetts on his horse screaming, "The British are coming!" He lit some lamps and gave the Americans a fighting chance in their war for independence. The Americans fought long and hard, expelling the British government's influence from the United States. Key point: the British GOVERNMENT'S influence. What we haven't been able to expel is British cultural influence.

According to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, England may be expected to launch an invasion on the United States some time in October. President Obama has declared a national state of emergency and has ordered the government to mail the entire "Twilight" series to every U.S. resident in an effort to combat the wizardry of "Harry Potter."

"We cannot afford to lose any more people in the United States, neither mentally nor physically," said President Obama at a recent White House press conference. Reiterating his famous line, President Obama said, "We are not red states and blue states, but the United States of America. And when we come together, when we unite, we are more powerful than Gandalf on a white horse, Harry Potter on a Firebolt or James Bond in an Aston Martin." Although Obama has been trying to raise the country's morale, some citizens do not appreciate certain references in his speech.

"It's a bloody tea party all over again! I say we should have voted for John McCain! He wouldn't have caused America to suffer like Obama did!" said Arizona Senator John McCain.

England has yet to announce a declaration of war, but it is expected shortly. It seems that Great Britain, a country that has given us so much, is soon to become an enemy. The people of the United States will truly have to come together to protect themselves from British royalty, movies, music and literature.



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