

UNDER AGE PAGE

Mystery Science

■ "Mystery Science Theater 3000," which devoted fans might also recognize in the reincarnated Web videos of "Cinematic Titanic," is being released on DVDs.
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China in position for economic dominance

BY ARIANE FLORES
TEMPLE HIGH SCHOOL

The economic crash that has hit us like a sledgehammer on an open wound, has placed China in a critical position for dominance. According to newsmag.com, President George W. Bush called for a global free trade deal to offset the economic crisis. President-elect Barack Obama, who takes over from Bush on Jan. 20, said, "There are no quick or easy fixes to this crisis, which has been many years in the making, and it's likely to get worse before it gets better." This is where China comes into play. Chinese President Hu said the Asian powerhouse would work alongside the international communi-

ty to strengthen cooperation and protect international markets. China has been a major driver of the world economy as its rapid expansion fueled demand for raw materials. The U.S. government has launched a \$700 billion financial bailout initiative in response to the turmoil. But the U.S. economy needed additional support measures of between \$300 billion and \$600 billion. A couple of years ago, the Web site recession.org considered the economy at its current state, and predicted its downfall. It was eerie how accurate their prediction was: "The U.S. economy has been living on borrowed money for a long time, and the economy is experiencing the unwinding of that excess currently. However, it probably won't be enough to disarm the global econo-

my's growth, so a worldwide depression is unlikely. It could trigger a global recession in 2008 or 2009." The Labor Department said the unemployment rate rose to 6.7 percent in November in the highest reading since 1993, compared with 6.5 percent in October, after widespread losses across the country's major industry sectors. And the horror doesn't stop there. Even heavenly sanctuaries for the children are being jeopardized. According to the themeparkinsider.com, "Walt Disney World Resort has put a freeze on hiring ... this means NO new people will be coming in, they won't replace any full-timers that leave, and seasonal or part-time cast members will not be able to be hired full time ... the parks have slowed down

tremendously because of the crisis, and there just aren't enough hours to go around because of lack of manpower needed with smaller crowds." Looking back, the Jan. 27, 1998, issue of The Global Beat stated during the economic crisis, China had the opportunity "to exercise leadership that would enhance China's campaign to dominate Asia and ease out the U.S." And so far, China has been well ahead of the U.S. and Japan. Chinese with access to official thinking say "President Jiang Zemin and his associates see the economic crisis as an opportunity to enhance China's standing. Beijing seeks to revive the Middle Kingdom's dominance over Asia and gradually to build political pressures that would force the U.S. to withdraw its mili-

tary forces." A critical decision in Beijing was whether to maintain the value of China's currency at 8.3 renminbi to 1 U.S. dollar. It's been just one decade since that article was written, and history has placed China back into the position of puppet-master. With the U.S. severely in debt, and as Obama said, it would only get worse before it got better, many wonder what China will choose to do with its newly found control over finances. In the meantime, job losses and smaller paychecks led some unfortunate children to shortening down their Christmas wish list, while parents tried to spread out the presents underneath the tree in order to fill the gaps.

Students' IB prize is near

BY ARIANE FLORES
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The tears have fallen, the sweat has dried, and the printers have been silenced. Brave seniors who are doing the full IB diploma are finally done with their extended essays. It's a traumatic experience for some, an invigorating experience for others. Either way, the wait is finally over. According to the International Baccalaureate Web site, the extended essay is an "independent, self-directed" 4,000-word paper that provides preparation for undergraduate research and an opportunity for students to "engage in an in-depth study of a topic within a chosen subject." Students are encouraged to analyze, synthesize and evaluate knowledge, all with the guidance of a teacher specifically chosen by the students. The senior class of 2009 has already been consumed with college applications, getting teacher recommendations, sending transcripts, copious amounts of homework, and infinite miscellaneous extracurricular activities, all in preparation to make themselves shine a little bit brighter in the eyes of admissions to the college of their dreams. The full diploma IB candidates have had all of this on their plates, in addition to their 4,000 word extended essay that was due Dec. 1. Luckily, the essay is over, and is no longer a burden on their over-worked minds.



Jonathan McGinnis Illustration

With more than 175,000 new blogs created daily according to Technorati.com, people using the Internet have more and more information at their fingertips. Social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace are among the popular blog locations for teenagers.

Got Blog?

There's a blog for everyone

BY ALEX ANDERSON
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Web logs, or blogs as they're more commonly known today, have become a major influence in today's technological world. According to Technorati.com, a leading blog tracking Web site, more than 175,000 new blogs are created every day. With the simple click of a button, so much information can be at your fingertips. Social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook are very popular forms of blogs, however there are many other types. Blog topics can range anywhere from business and education to entertainment, politics and news. While the concept of "blogging" has been around since the early '90s, it hasn't been until the past few years that the industry has really taken off and developed. With the dawn of a new technological age, blogging has also become a lot more accessible and convenient. It now can be done from not only a computer, but cell phones and PDAs too. Being able to join other networks for free without having

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to have a domain has also increased their appeal. In years past, blogs have not been taken as reliable sources. However they now have earned a lot more credibility and are even taken as dependable sources by the mainstream media. While not every person, business and organization has one, blogs still serve as a large influence on the Internet. Most Web sites contain blog-like components such as allowing feeds, links to publish their content on other people's blogs as well as the ability to comment. Blogging not only influences the Internet, but this year's presidential election and politics in general. As technology develops and becomes more prominent in everyday life, so will online concepts like blogging. As such activities gain popularity and become more mainstream, who knows where they could go in the future?

Preparation for college seems main goal of classes

BY KARLY HOUCHIN
TEMPLE HIGH SCHOOL

Preparing students for college seems to be the main goal for the majority of the classes offered at Temple High School. Curriculum can only take you so far, so what is the next step that a high school student should take in

order to prep themselves for college? THS students had a chance to learn more about colleges at the College Fair on Dec. 4. There were more than 30 colleges represented in the College Fair, including the University of Texas, Texas A&M University, Southern Methodist University, Abilene Christian University, Texas State

Technical College and Texas Wesleyan University. Counselor Susan Luck said the purpose of the College Fair was to "give students a general overview of college programming. If there was no brochure available, students can sign their name up so that the schools can be contacted." "Tenth and 11th grade levels are

where you learn about the site, criteria, and programs for a college that interests you. Senior year you apply to specialized programs. Overall, it is a three- to four-year process where you choose a program that matches your interests and skills." Eleventh-grader Lanika Harrison's intentions for college are, "I plan on going to McMurry because they give

good scholarships and have a good business program and media design program." The main goal of the College Fair was to help students decide on a college appropriate for themselves. Successful or not, some students were very appreciative of the opportunities that the College Fair gave them.

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