

## It



Quinn Langford  
Cedar Ridge H. S.

Over Thanksgiving break, I read *It*, a book by Stephen King about a monster that shapeshifts into people's worst nightmares, feeding off of their fear. When I finished the book, I watched the most recent *It* movie, which was released in 2017 and covered the half of the book where the main characters were children.

Like anyone else who reads a book and then watches the movie, I disliked many of the changes that were made. The most egregious one was that they moved the setting of the story from 1958 to 1989. The only explanation I can think of is that they want the next chapter, which has to be set about 27 years in the future, to take place in present day. I still don't think this is a good enough reason, though. The 50s setting was a huge part of the book. All of the kids liked to listen to rock 'n' roll, and a lot of their conversation was centered on music figures of the time. The recent end of World War II and the ongoing Cold War subtly influenced the way characters perceived the world. A major way the kids spent their time in the summer was detonating fireworks, like M-80s, which were outlawed before the 80s. The 80s has its charms too, so it would have been fine if the movie had accurately portrayed the spirit of this time period. However, the setting seemed

stuck between the 50s and the 80s. For example, Bill, one of the main characters, had a bike that looked almost exactly as it was described in the book - which meant it looked like it came straight out of 1958. It was as if the movie creators were confused as to what time period the story was supposed to be set in.

Even if I hadn't read the book, I still would have been disappointed with the movie because it wasn't scary at all. First of all, the costumes weren't very convincing. I think Pennywise (the clown) was pretty good, but the leper that the character Eddie found at an abandoned house had a mask that looked like it came from a nearby Halloween store. They should have used more CGI on his face to make it look less plastic. Additionally, the movie relied too much on jump scares. Good horror movies start off slow and become increasingly unsettling, building up to a horrifying climax of terror. *It* simply followed the formula of alternating between the plot and jump scares, and the climax of the movie was lackluster. The jump scares weren't even that surprising: the music would change or everyone would stop talking before they occurred, which would foreshadow what was coming.

While I wouldn't necessarily recommend the movie, the book was amazing. *It* is 1152 pages long, but every single page is important. Stephen King's attention to detail (he describes every single building, street, and landmark in Derry, Maine, where *It* is set) brings an entire world to life, which is something only a talented author can do. The book takes a while to read, but it is definitely worth the time investment.

## The Season



Tyler Allen  
Gus Garcia YMLA

I saw on television that this is the time of the season. I never understood just what this meant. Most say it is the seasons of sharing with others. Others say it is giving. My little sister says it the time for buy-

ing stuff. She asked me if "Black Friday" was the day set aside for Black's to buy things. She said that all her aunts get up early buy television and all kinds of things for Christmas. Even though they already have some of those things. We did not participate this year. I did get to participate in our annual feeding the less advantage.

I always like doing that. I knew what my grandfather was going to say. I asked him anyway. Were all those poor people get all that money to spend. He said it must be magic. He said that when he was little a gift for your birthday most likely was a cake (maybe with ice cream).

## My week with my Grandparents



Zaila Pearl Rowland  
TOPS

I spent my Thanksgiving break with my grandparents in Navasota, Texas. Navasota is located about 76 miles from Houston, Texas and is a two hour drive from Austin. On Monday we went to the doctor's office and we were there for a long long time. I never knew a doctors appointment could take so long. On Tuesday my little brother and me went outside to play and we picked a big bucket of

pecans. I also got my hair braided with purple and red highlights. That also took a long time.

On Wednesday my grandma finally finished my hair and I am very happy with the results like always. I took walks with my grandpa during his therapy session. It was good exercise and very relaxing. I stayed up late most nights watching movies and Youtube videos. My mom also made sure I had 30min of school work to do everyday while I was there. Finally it was Thanksgiving! There was plenty of food, fun, laughter and love. I played outside with my cousins and we had a really great time. My favorite thing was spending time with my grandparents. It was really fun and I hope to go again soon. I love you so much Pawpaw and Gogo.

## Texas Longhorns

Jackson Owens  
St. Stephens Episcopal

This Saturday the Texas Longhorns will face up against the Oklahoma Sooners in the Big 12 championship in Arlington, Texas at the AT&T stadium. This will be a highly anticipated rematch of the historic tradition of the Red River Rivalry. The Longhorns finished their season off at 9<sup>th</sup> in the country with a record of 9-3

while the Sooners finished their season off at 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the country with a record of 11-1. Oklahoma is currently the number one team in the Big 12 conference and Texas is at number two. Although the regular season is over, the playoffs are still an important asset to the Longhorns as this game will determine the bowl game that they play in and who they play it with.

## Oral Arguments Scheduled for HBCU-Maryland Inequality Case



AFRO Photo/Deborah Bailey

by Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire  
Correspondent

A coalition of HBCU students, alumni and others from Maryland are planning to pack the Fourth District Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia next month for oral arguments in a decades-old lawsuit over inequality in public higher education.

The coalition has chartered buses to leave from each of the four HBCU campuses in Maryland on the morning of the arguments.

Coalition members argue that Maryland has underfunded Morgan State University, Coppin State University, Bowie State University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and allowed other state

schools to duplicate their programs, placing pressure on enrollment.

Published reports suggest that over the years, the coalition has called for increased funding and merging the University of Baltimore with Morgan State, the state's largest public historically black school, to achieve parity.

A year ago, a federal judge asked the state to remedy the lack of investment in Maryland's HBCUs, ordering the state to establish a set of new, unique and high-demand programs at each historically black institution, the judge declared.

Despite that court order, settlement talks have stalled, and Maryland hasn't accepted the court-ordered remedies for HBCUs.

## Hutto quarterback Chase Griffin

By John Harris Jr. | VILLAGER Sports Writer



Chase Griffin

(photo/utrhighlightvideos-youtube)

(HUTTO, TX) - The similarities are real. Hutto senior quarterback Chase Griffin, who has thrown for neatly 11,000 career yards to go along with 123 touchdown passes in his three seasons as a starter, is drawing comparisons to former Westlake standout and future NFL Hall of Famer Drew Brees.

Both Brees and Griffin, who is listed at 5-10, were overlooked by a host of major colleges, including the hometown University of Texas, because of their lack of height at the most important position on offense. Griffin, who has committed to UCLA, leads undefeated Hutto against Richmond Foster in a Class 5A DI regional final Friday night at Waller ISD Stadium.

Asked whether colleges were concerned about Griffin's height, first-year Hutto coach Brad LaPlante told the Villager, "I think so. Everybody wants dimensions. If you've got a 6-4 quarterback who's the same as the (5-10), they're going to take the 6-4 just based on height and potential. Us being with him every day, we know that size is not the only thing."

Griffin, who received his first scholarship offer from Yale and has received offers from other high academic programs such as Brown, Columbia and Cornell, made his official visit to UCLA in October where he met with head coach Chip Kelly. During his visit, Griffin was impressed that quarterbacks coach Dana Bible, who recruited Seattle Seahawks star Russell Wilson to North Carolina State before he transferred to Wisconsin, drew comparisons between the quarterbacks.

"Chase has good leadership skills and good communication skills. He can (write) on a whiteboard and know all of our routes and what every kid should be doing," said LaPlante, who was Hutto's offensive coordinator for four years before he was promoted to head coach. "The thing about Chase is he makes others around him better. If an offensive lineman doesn't set the perfect block on pass pro, his footwork will step him up into the pocket and get him a completion. If a receiver doesn't run a great route, he'll find a way to throw him open. He certainly makes our running backs better. And he's running the ball better now."

Hutto needs Griffin to be on top of his game against Richmond Foster, which advanced to face the Hippos following a win over Manor last week.

"Foster runs the ball and they also have receivers with the speed to stretch the field and have a deep-ball threat," LaPlante said. "They've been in some tight ballgames this year. We'll have to play down to the last seconds."

That's where Griffin comes in.

"Even if things aren't going right for us, the next play could be the one that breaks things open with Chase," LaPlante said.

In 2013, Judge Catherine Blake, U.S. District Court of Maryland, found the state in violation of 14th Amendment rights of its HBCU students and alumni.

By June 2017, after initial failed mediation between HBCU advocates and the state of Maryland, Blake ordered parties back into court.

In November of 2017, Blake reportedly issued an order providing for an administrator known as a special master to coordinate a comprehensive plan ensuring Maryland's HBCU's would be home to high quality academic programs.

According to The Afro, which has covered the story more extensively than any other media outlet, in December 2017, state Attorney General Brian Frosh gave notice that the state would appeal Blake's ruling.

In January, Gov. Larry Hogan, further complicated the State's message toward HBCU's by writing to Del. Cheryl Glenn, former chair of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus (LBC), offering a \$100 million-dollar settlement offer, according to The Afro.