

the age of six. If the numbers are any indication, the Hebrew cluster should be the largest cluster at the Language House!

But, as many of you know, the Hebrew Cluster has always been among the smallest clusters in the program. With so many “available” applicants, how is this possible? This is why, to me, “Commons” has become a dirty word. Whenever there is a new possible applicant for the cluster, students in my apartment look at me with pity and say “but she lives in Commons” and I know this student won’t apply.

For the students who care

Status from pg 4

his treason resolute on Facebook by posting in a status that President Vladimir Putin could “... make improvements...”. President Putin, whom by the way is doing a terrific job with everything both politically and socially, insisted that the new terrorist cell be dealt with in the most proficient and clean way possible. The cell’s terrorist Facebook page pompously named “Demtiri Vasilyevich” made a more recent status update containing the following: “I don’t really know why this is happening. I don’t understand what I’ve done

Evil from pg 1 enough about improving their Hebrew, it appears that, what they care even more about, is the sense of Jewish community present in Commons where like-minded students keep Kosher and Shabbat.

I often joke that if something were to happen to the Commons, the Language House would have to erect a separate Language building for the Hebrew cluster. But that is only the stuff of dreams for the Hebrew mentor. Until then, I will have to make due with our status as the Smallest Cluster.

wrong” in response to police surveillance for its treasonous claims. Authorities were hesitant to infiltrate the residence complex and subdue the suspect, and probably most certainly guilty spy, due to the possibility of the presence of explosives therein, or even terrorist satellite laser cans. Much else is known about the terrorist ringleader known as ‘Demtiri’, a name acquaintances of his seem to know him by. However the Kremlin refuses to reveal any information whatsoever on the matter, and rightfully so, probably to keep us safe.

The Phoenix Staff

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Superstitions from pg 3

(*) Leaving the house and returning for something forgotten is a bad omen. If returning is necessary, one should look in the mirror before leaving the house again.

(*) Things for a newborn baby should only be bought after the baby’s birth. So it’s all usually done in a hurry!

(*) One should not lick food off a knife – it’s said that it will make you a cruel person.

(*) Outgoing guests must drink a last glass, called “na pososhok” (на посшок).

(*) If you have hiccups, someone is remembering you at the moment.

(*) If you spill salt, it is a bad omen. You should throw some over your left shoulder to cancel it out.

(*) When you give someone a wallet or change purse as a gift, you should put at least a cent inside. Giving it empty means it will not hold money well / the person won’t keep much money.

Ice Cream Social

Don’t forget, the annual Ice Cream Social will be held on December 8, 2014 from 7:00-8:00pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. As always, we will be honoring the students who are graduating. After the mini-ceremony, we will be eating a lot of ice cream. So you should come. Honestly, you have no choice because it’s mandatory.

Congratulations and good luck to all the Language House students who will be graduating this month!

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The Problem Facing the Smallest Cluster: The Evil that is the Commons

By **Shachar Gannot**
Editor-in-Chief (*Hebrew Cluster*)

Certain clusters in the Language House have it made. French and Spanish, for instance, are languages that are offered in the public school system as early as middle school. Many students who began learning these languages reach college with a level of fluency high enough to live in the Language House if they so choose. Even if the majority of them are not interested, there still remains a large enough group of students to result in as large a cluster as we have consistently seen in the Language House.

To my knowledge, Hebrew is not taught in the majority of public schools. Still, there are many students who speak the language at a high enough level to live in the Language House. After all, Maryland has the third largest Jewish population of any public university in the country, with Jews comprising 20% of its student body. Many of these students have studied Hebrew in private schools or Sunday schools with some having grown up learning Hebrew since

Evil see pg 4

STAGES OF STUDENT COOKING ©11.14



NEWS RUSSIA: New Terrorist Cell Group Set In KGB Crosshairs By “Putin could make improvements” Facebook Status

By **Daniel Coyote**
Guest Writer (*Russian Cluster*)

A St. Petersburg Police standoff came to postponement last Tuesday after local man, and enemy

of the state ‘Demtiri Vasilyevich’, refused to come out of his strategically placed St. Petersburg apartment. Vasilyevich, an initial political moderate, made

Status see pg 4

Сегодня В Спорте! (*Today in Sports*)

By Isaac Zhodzishsky

Guest Writer (Russian Cluster)

From 2014 to 2018 there has been and will be a large increase in the number of international sporting events held in Sochi, Russia. In February 2014, Sochi hosted the Winter Olympic Games. The Winter Games have not been in Russia since the 1980s when it was the United Soviet Socialist Republic. Leading up to the games there were multiple controversies. To begin, in October, Russia's court rejected the LGBT Pride House citing that it would "contradict the foundations of public morality and government policy in the area of protection of the family, motherhood and childhood." The United State was worried that homosexual athletes, who had put in years of work for the games, and fans could be fined, arrested, and/or deported. However, the (IOC) International Olympic Committee said that Russia's anti-gay law does not violate the Olympic Charter. Earlier in the year, Russia's secret service caught three men suspected of planning a terrorist attack on the Olympics. Following the foiled attack, terrorists threatened those who planned to attend the games saying, "We've prepared a present for you and all tourists who'll come over. If you will hold the Olympics, you'll get a present from us for the Muslim blood that's been spilled." Soon afterwards, Olympic officials in numerous countries received emails threatening Sochi visitors. However, the IOC did not view the emails as a credible threat. For Russia, the games were a great success. Russian cosmonauts performed the first ever

spacewalk of the Olympic torch and earned the greatest number of gold, silver, and total medals followed by the United States and Norway.

Eight months later, Russia saw its first Formula 1 Grand Prix in 100 years. President Vladimir Putin himself came to Sochi and congratulated the winner, Lewis Hamilton, in person on the podium. The Sochi Grand Prix was not only long awaited, but also received Russian 20 year old rookie, Daniil Kvyat: the second ever Russian Formula One World Championship driver. Kvyat has been behind the seasons so far in his first season until Sochi where he qualified in 5th of 25 drivers: a new record for the rookie. A week before the race, it was announced that he would be replacing four time World Champion Sebastian Vettel at the end of the season. Kvyat told reporters that he was honored to take Vettel's position, seat, and car in Infiniti Red Bull Racing. It is confirmed that both Daniil Kvyat and the Sochi Grand Prix will be seen in years to come.

In 2018, Sochi will be hosting the FIFA World Cup. However, multiple controversies have already arisen. There have been problems with racism in Russian football teams as well as discrimination against LGBT persons in general society. Similar to the Winter Games, it is likely that the Fédération Internationale de Football Association will neglect that the anti-gay laws will have any effect on foreign players and fans. The annexation of Crimea and overall conflict with Ukraine has also put political strains on the possibility of a World Cup in Sochi.

Sochi see pg 3

Arabic: Al-Qaeda mistakenly beheads the wrong man and afterwards apologizes.

Chinese: Two coal mine accidents occur in a matter of 2 days, killing at least 37 miners.

French: Some ISIS members in a surfaced video appear to be burning their French passports to prove their loyalty to the organization.

German: Germany enforces a tourist-targeted road toll, adding to other anti-tourist measures such as an anti-open borders law.

Hebrew: Amid tension between Israelis and Palestinians, 3 Arabs arrested in Jerusalem for suspected stabbing of 3 Israeli Jews.

Italian: Mafia in Naples arrested for allegedly producing 90 percent of counterfeit euros in worldwide distribution.

Japanese: More than 30 civilians pronounced dead after Japanese volcano erupts.

Persian: Supreme leader Khomeini in support of further talks with Western powers in regards to Iran's nuclear program.

Russian: Value of the ruble falls after OPEC refuses to administer checks on oil production, causing Russian oil prices to plummet.

Spanish: An affordable, compact device called "The Grillo" in the process of creation, could save lives by notifying user of earthquake by collecting seismic information from major Mexican cities.

The Ukraine Crisis in Film

Anfisa Wilson

Russian Cluster

The crisis in Ukraine no longer dominates international headlines, but the conflict is far from over. Director Yuri Gruzinov's mission is to make the international community aware of Ukraine's state of affairs through film.

On October 29th, Gruzinov came to the University of Maryland to screen his documentary, #BABY-LON13 in Hornbake Library. The documentary follows the people of Ukraine's actions and reactions to the crisis. The film, broken up into parts, opens with a brief text explaining the actions taken by the Russian and Ukrainian governments that led up to the crisis, followed by a powerful shot of the Euromaidan protests last November.

A collection of interviews with Ukrainian soldiers showed a more personal side of the conflict. Gruzinov went to a hospital where soldiers who had lost limbs in combat were being treated. The soldiers, some still just teenagers, spoke about how much they would miss playing soccer to their feelings about a war they feel is futile, senseless, and a waste of human life.

After the screening, Gruzinov spoke openly about the danger he experienced while filming in the hot spots of the Ukraine crisis, Donetsk and Kiev. Gruzinov emphasized that while his goal is to enlighten people to the perils in Ukraine and the plight of people affected by the war, his project aims to avoid bias and allow viewers to come to their own conclusion about the gravity of the situation.

Is London to Blame for the Struggle in Hong Kong?

Hannah Doxzen

Chinese Cluster

Since the Umbrella Revolution has been raging in Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region of China, the American media has been flooded with images of seas of rainbow-colored umbrellas shielding protesters from pepper-spraying police, crowds blurred in the haze of tear gas, and spirited students waving signs demanding freedom. This conflict began in September, when Beijing announced that starting with Hong Kong's 2017 Chief Executive election, a Beijing-sympathetic committee would nominate candidates before the Hong Kong public would be allowed to vote on them—contradicting protesters' ideas of universal suffrage. On November 21st, protesters rallied outside the British consulate, holding signs such as "British Promise Made in China" and "Stop hiding Britain!! China breached the Sino British Joint Declaration!!" Their complaints were

rooted in Hong Kong's history as a British colony from 1841 to 1997 (excluding WW2 Japanese occupation). Signed by Britain and China in 1984, the Sino-British Joint Declaration stipulated that Hong Kong would be returned to China in 1997 and yet its social system would remain unaltered for the following fifty years. However, although protesters desire British support in pressuring China to uphold its treaty, a British consulate spokeswoman has denied that China has even breached the treaty at all, so it seems unlikely that Britain will come to the protesters' aid.

In the end, the protesters are going to have to face Beijing, not London. Although previous attempts at negotiations have been largely fruitless, both sides need to start getting serious about resolution. If the protesters can convince Beijing to listen to a well-articulated, logical argument (with lots of international press), they could stand a chance of at least a partial victory.

Russian Superstitions

By Elaine Oves

Managing Editor (German Cluster)

Somewhere along the centuries, the Slavic culture picked up a vast variety of superstitions, some of which may seem familiar or just bizarre. One of the most curious things about foreign cultures is slang and traditions – it's

something specific to each kind.

Some superstitions are found in American culture, too. For instance, breaking a mirror is bad luck. Then there's this one: If someone steps on another person's foot, that person should lightly step back on the first person's foot. Supposedly it avoids future conflict.

Here are some other Russian superstitions: **Superstitions see pg4**

Sochi from pg 2

Rumors have also surfaced stating that Russia rigged the bid process for the 2018 and 2022 World Cup causing the England Football Association

to threaten to boycott the tournament altogether. Despite allegations and controversies, it seems that Sochi will be in the spotlight once again for the 2018 Fifa World Cup.