

KAMSC's



196



STEPS
Halloween Edition



Halloween Issue

Welcome back, dedicated readers! I hope that you're safe and out of the way of dangers, unlike us, here at KAMSC. I regret to inform you that something is extremely wrong at KAMSC! The 84 steps have mysteriously increased to become 196 steps, and now we are located on the 8th floor of the building. What used to be our beloved KAMSC, the 4th floor, has mysteriously been closed off with toxic hazard signs. Perhaps something went wrong in a chemistry experiment...

As if walking up the 84 steps wasn't bad enough, now there are 196 for those poor students to drudgingly make their way up! Carrying their 100 lb backpacks, students have begun to make designated rest stops along the way. Not just any casual place where you can stand to take a break, but rather, complete with a pumpkin carving station and hydration stand in the stairwells of both the 3rd and 6th floors. After all, we wouldn't want students to be dehydrated as they crawl up all 196 steps. To add to severity of the stair multiplying catastrophe, it takes approximately 30 minutes for students to make it to the 8th floor; they have been using up their lunchtime to slowly make their way up and not be late to class.

That's not the only crazy thing that's happened at KAMSC. Turns out, we have a ghost problem! The KAMSC office staff, monitoring the cameras on a daily basis, has caught instances of ghosts sneakily avoiding the stairs, and taking the elevator down! The office staff had originally conspired a theory that perhaps these were just students covering themselves in white sheets in order to not get caught. However, they decided that this was not the case; after all, no KAMSC student would ever try to avoid the wonderful experience of the 196 steps! Not only have the ghosts been hanging out around the elevator, but also in the student lounge; perhaps these table tennis playing ghosts also like our new furniture?

To solve this ghost problem, we were able to contact the Ghostbusters, but unfortunately, they won't be able to make it to KAMSC until November 1st. Apparently, the month of October is known as "the ghost exterminating season" and the Ghostbusters are overbooked until November.

Readers, I hope I haven't scared you away! This issue of "196 Steps" is filled with exciting and frightening articles that you wouldn't want to miss out on! I recommend that you not read this issue as a way of relaxing, or even around young children. Hopefully, by the time we release our next issue, KAMSC will be back on the 4th floor!

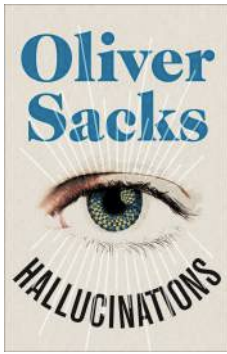
Your "196 Steps" Senior Editor,

Simran Singh

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Book Review



Lily Kitagawa

Review

Halloween is the only holiday throughout the entire year when the creepy is embraced and the unusual becomes the goal. On this one magical day of the year, rather than shying from those things that provoke acute uncomfortable sensations, children and adults alike push aside the fear of fear itself and sit back and enjoy the kooky spookiness. The fear becomes joy and the supernatural becomes natural. But what defines the supernatural anyway? What if the ghosts of Halloween stuck around all year? Such is the life of those who live each day with hallucinations, a state of living which the recently deceased, but forever admired Dr. Oliver Sacks analyzed in the 2012 book, *Hallucinations*.

In *Hallucinations*, readers can expect writing similar to that of his other novels; that is to say, the exploration of hallucinations is largely based on his individual patient anecdotes, strung together in a narrative fashion and interjected with examples from his own experiences. This unique personal writing style is what originally set his works apart and made him so popular; thus, *Hallucinations* does not disappoint in terms of approachability and ability to sustain interest, especially die-hard Sacks followers. The book itself covers aspects of hallucination that are as diverse as the patients from whom the symptoms originate. *Hallucinations* features descriptions of mental disturbances spanning 4 of the 5 cardinal senses: sight, smell, sound, and touch. Furthermore, the topics span another spectrum as well, ranging from a woman who cannot seem to shake an image of Kermit the Frog from her head to the more commonly discussed cases of lost loved ones making reappearances. Of course, the integration of Sacks's own experiences only serve to add another complex and wonderful layer to *Hallucinations*; his utter earnestness and willingness to share his most disturbing experiences and poor choices, to truly make himself the patient rather than the doctor, gives readers incredible insight into the human mind. Sacks does an amazing job in his work of removing the stigma from hallucinations by illuminating the lives of the people who experience them, making the abnormal seem normal. A professor for many years before his unfortunate death, Sacks has a perfect way of teaching and educating without condescension; readers get the impression that Sacks is not only a teacher, but a student himself, with a goal of beginning to understand the immense complexities involved in human cognitive function. He drags his willing readers along with him, a journey with lessons one will not likely forget soon.

Technology



Of course, getting a new gadget to play around is almost *always* fun, and this month there are tons of opportunities to do this—especially as a student. With Apple’s new iPad Pro, and Microsoft’s new Surface Book, the technology world is buzzing with excitement, and trying to attract as many students as possible.



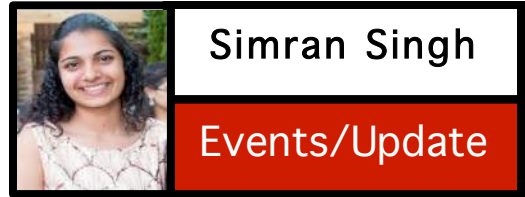
1. iPad Pro: The new iPad Pro is specifically targeted towards students, although the price may be the *one* thing that stands in the way. The new iPad pro has a 12.9-inch display, one large enough to be compared to any laptop. The accessories that can be paired with the device are what make it original. The new Apple Pencil is great for students who like to draw, or would like to take notes in class as they would normally in a notebook. It’s a great facet because it allows a student to write their notes and never lose them. Another new accessory that can be paired with the iPad Pro is the Apple Keyboard. The new keyboard is designed to be paired with this particular iPad, connecting with it immediately and being able to be used like a laptop. Although the price is equal, or even more than a laptop. Starting at \$799 dollars for the iPad, \$169 dollars for the keyboard, and \$100 dollars for the Apple Pencil, it is quite pricey.



2. Surface Book: The new Surface Book came in competition to Apple’s release of many great products. This Surface Book is much like the iPad Pro, except it mimics a laptop more than the iPad does. The screen can be taken off of the keyboard. Unlike the iPad, the Surface Pen and keyboard is included when the product is bought, but it is significantly more expensive at the price of \$1,499 dollars. The laptop has a touch screen display, the new Windows 10 operating system, and the ability to take notes and draw with the surface pen.

These two new gadgets both have the ability to attract many students—although the prices are a little outrageous. Between these two products, it really comes down to simply a personal preference, and the ultimate question itself: Apple vs. Microsoft.

Happenings Around Kalamazoo



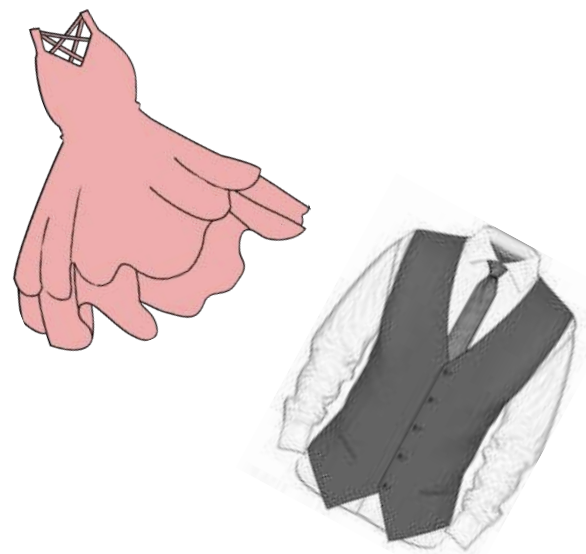
- October 6 – 31, Indoor Flea and Farmers Market, Kalamazoo County Expo Center
- October 23 – 24, Military Collectables Show, Kalamazoo County Expo Center
- October 24, 18th Annual Christmas Boutique Arts & Crafts Show, Kalamazoo County Expo Center
- October 24, Children’s Halloween Night, Kalamazoo Nature Center
- October 24, Safe Halloween, Bronson Park
- October 25, Southwest Michigan Train Show & Sale, Kalamazoo County Expo Center
- October 25, 17th Annual Campus Classic Run, WMU
- November 14, Class Clash & Fall Formal, KAMSC

Student Senate News

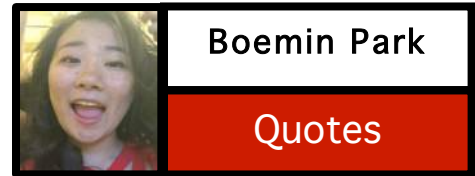
This year, students of all grades voted on the theme for the upcoming dance! With over 250 votes tallied in all, neon was the winner! Over the next few weeks at Senate, we will continue to plan for class clash and the dance. Stay up to date on Senate news by checking out <http://kamsc84steps.weebly.com/student-senate.html>.

Upcoming Events:

- **October 28 & November 4** ~ Spirit Week poster making at the senate meetings
- **November 9-13** ~ Spirit Week
 - Monday: Fictional Character Day
 - Tuesday: Twin Day
 - Wednesday: Dress to Impress Day
 - Thursday: Dress to Unimpress Day
 - Friday: KAMSC Spirit
- **November 14**
 - 11:30 – 1: Decorating for the dance
 - 1-4: Class Clash
 - 8-11: Dance



Funny Quotes



"This class is too hot to handle, and too cold to hold." -Ms. Hampton, during Chemistry

Lockdown drill "If a gunman comes in, that window is our emergency escape...I will jump first!" "Good, then we can all land on top of you!" -Mr. Alshehri, during Advanced Calculus, and Vaughn Rae Taylor, LN Junior



"I hate dirt." "It's not dirt, it's called soil!" Gerrit Rummel, PN Junior, and Ms. Hach, during APES class

"Mr. Milka, I think you spelled 'parfait' wrong. It's AIT, not ET." *draws a slash over the E* "It's in French!" -Rachel Torres, PN Senior, and Mr. Milka, during Calculus class

"Gneiss has gneiss lines." -Mr. Sinclair, during Geology class

"What's the inverse of a function if it's not a function?" "A malfunction!" -Mr. Cardwell, during Pre-calculus class, and Josephine Hosner, VB Junior

"They have a stress-relieving fish tank here! Because KAMSC would be a place that needs a stress-relieving fish tank." -Kate Diamond, PN first year



"Think about how unfair life is! The Kardashians make millions but they don't do hard stuff like us..." *Points to advanced calculus on the board* -Mr. Alshehri, during Advanced Calculus

"Look at all the soil particles floating down!" "Just like my motivation levels." -Megan Cardwell, PN Junior, and Kyle Ladd, SC Junior

"There's me in rock form! Riley-lite (Rhyolite)!" -Riley Martell, GL Senior

"I bombed that quiz. Like literally, if that was Nagasaki, then I was Fat Man." -Liya Jin, PC Sophomore

"KAMSC problem #563 is knowing how to solve an integral but not knowing how to park." -Xing-xing Nordmoe, LN Senior



Top 10 KAMSC Halloween Costumes

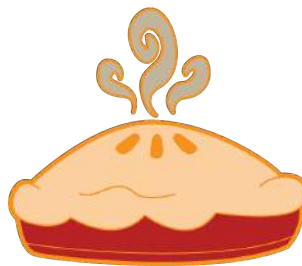
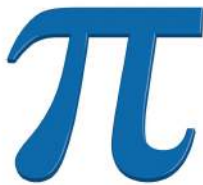


Maggie Benjamin

Top 10

Embrace your inner nerd this Halloween season with some fun and nerdy KAMSC inspired Halloween costumes!

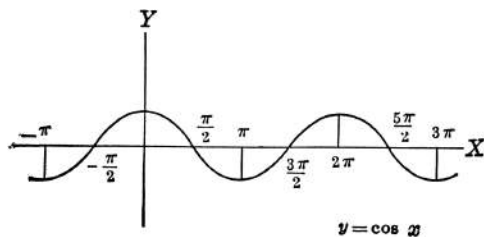
1. Pumpkin Pi--Pumpkins are everywhere at this time of year, pi is everyone's favorite number, and pie is a great food.



2. Calculator--Dress up as a calculator and bring along your TI-84/TI-89/N-SPIRE/calculator of choice and show off your calculator usage skills.



3. Co-Sines--Grab a friend and dress up as cosines! What a fun mix of trigonometry and traffic signs ;)



4. Count Dracula--Truly famous in the math world! Be sure to brush up on some of his facts: his favorite number is 34,969 (187^2), always makes jokes about the time 2:30 (pronounces it "tooth-hurty"), and he sings the song "Eight is Great". What a fun throwback costume.



5. Haunted Homework--We've *all* gotten that extremely long homework assignment that we can't avoid. It will probably haunt us for a while...and I don't know about you, but that seems scarier than any ghost I've seen lately!
6. Water--The glorious H_2O ... We can't live without it and its awesome properties: polarity, high heat of vaporization, high specific heat (!!!!!!!!!!!)



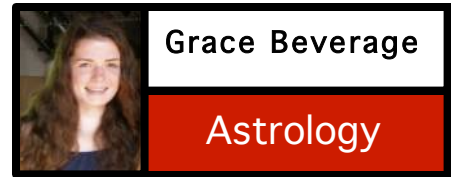
7. Mitochondria--THE POWER HOUSE OF THE CELL!!! (We all know that one). Grab a friend and dress up as an essential organelle.
8. Classic Nerd--Everyone at KAMSC is a nerd. No exceptions ;). Embrace your inner nerd and just be yourself this Halloween.



9. Wonka Nerd--Candy and nerdiness? The perfect combination!
10. Mrs. Frizzle--We all remember the best days of elementary school science were when we got to watch Magic School Bus. Relive that by dressing up as your favorite crazy teacher, Mrs. Frizzle.



Horrorscopes

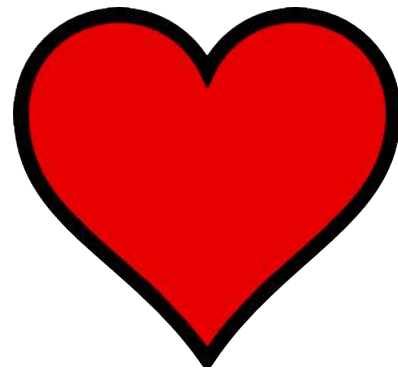


Aries: March 21.2nd - April 19th

Today you will be first in something. (Even if it is just this crumby list.)

Taurus: April 20th - April 21st

Much thought has gone into your outfits this week, but all for naught; your sense fashion will never live up to the legacy of KAMSC teacher lab coats. Invest your time in more scientifically practical apparel.



Leones: April 22nd -April 23th

They love you, they love you not. Don't worry yourself over public image, your immediate future is much more dependent on preparing for an assured barrage of pop quizzes.



Gemi: May 4th - June 20th

Great wealth will find you, but not in the form you desire.

Cancer: June 21st - July

All horrorscopes listed will apply to you, but not that of the Taurus. Avoid all Taurus you know in the coming months.

Leo: July 9 & ³/₄ - August 22nd

Great wealth will be taken from you, but not as you may expect.

Virgo: Augtober 29 - September 22

The stars and planets dictate your future with particular clarity. From their privileged cosmological perspective you are utterly insignificant.

Librarian: September 3.14th - October 3.14159th

Finishing what you start will be

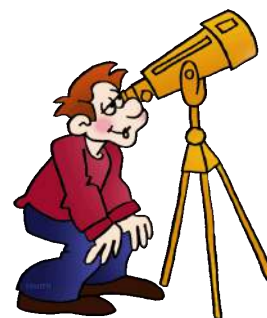
Scorpia: October 23 - November 21



You will feel like an afterthought.

SATrigorius: November 22 - December 21

As the name may suggest, this prediction is more nightmarish than the rest: hours of tireless bubbling are closing in quickly.



Aquarium: December 22 - January 19

You will mistakenly swap the meaning of “astronomy” and “astrology” in front of Mr. Sinclair. Deep exasperation will be unavoidable.

Aquarius: January 20 - February 30th

Straining to make sense of the signs around you will become increasingly difficult and with more effort expended, the information will become increasingly useless to you.



Misfits: February 31st - March 32nd

Today you will be last in something. (Even if it is just this crummy list.)

KAMSC's Top 10 Horrorifying Experiences



Boemin Park

Top 10

1. Dropping your brand-new biology textbook into a puddle of water and getting it all dirty
2. Being locked out of your PIV account, so you can no longer religiously check your grades and see what you got on that math test
3. Staying up until 2a.m. to do your calculus homework but noticing when you're about to hand it in that you did Chapter 4 instead of 3
4. Arriving two minutes late to KAMSC and discovering that there aren't any more spots in the student parking lot, so you have to park all the way out in the neighborhood and walk 3 miles to the building

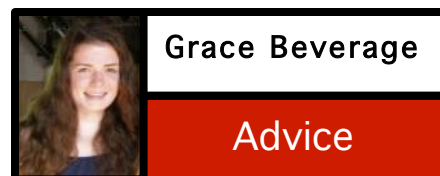


5. Learning that the KAMSC 84 steps have multiplied over night, due to some mysterious phenomenon, and have become the KAMSC 196 steps
6. Losing your precious flashdrive and your life's work of files on it (and kicking yourself not backing everything up!)



7. Your calculator dying in the middle of a math test...and finding out no one has a spare, not even the teacher
8. Finding out that your backpack weighs more than you, and realizing that you have to carry it around all day
9. Getting in the middle of a fight between your two best friends about whether PC or Mac is better
10. Most terrifying of all, accidentally leaving your KAMSC homework in your car and having to run back down to the parking lot to get it

Dear Grace...



We all know getting through the school year can be tough, and that some dilemmas need a second opinion. Submit any of your questions, qualms or queries to 'Ask Grace' at kamsc84steps@yahoo.com for anonymous & amateur advice. Questions are also accepted in the form of sealed letters quietly slid across tables, no questions asked.

Dear Grace,

I'm pretty sure the elevator is haunted. Every day, after class, as I gather my books and bag to descend the 78 stairs down the Dutton Street exit, I see white figures chase through the hallway and into the elevator screaming: "GHOSTS OF KAMSC ANXIETY PAST". They are mostly clumsy and they don't seem particularly threatening, but I can never figure out who or what they are. How can I unravel this mystery?

Sincerely,
Sighting Spirits



Dear Sighting Spirits,

The apparitions you have been seeing are not of the spiritual nature at all: for the past month the 84 Steps team has been avoiding the Dutton stairs under the guise of being ghosts. With white sheets draped over our bodies and backpacks, the secretaries can't tell who it is that keeps breaking the rules and taking the elevator downstairs, and are too "scared" to check. Just be sure to keep this ghoulish secret silent, or else these silly spirits will be banished to the stairwell forever.



Sincerely,
Grace.

Dear Grace,

From the first moment we first sat down at our questionably clean lab tables, I felt we had a connection stronger than an ion-dipole bond. Yes, the love I feel for my chemistry lab partner burns hotter than the inner cone of a Bunsen burner flame. Though my feelings are as easy to spot as iodine stains on a lab coat, I'm afraid he doesn't see my affection. I always put my best effort into our lab work and I make sure to double check my homework so I can help him if he asks, but I'm not sure how to make the next move. What is your advice?

Sincerely,
Chemistry in Chemistry

Dear Chemistry in Chemistry,

The chemicals wafting in and out of the KAMSC labs have been known to have a funny effect on people, but if you swear your high is from the feelings in your heart and not from inhaling hexane vapors, I'll trust you. As to how you should go about revealing these feelings, I would say you're already doing all of the right things – it's hard to resist the allure of a chemically keen mind. Just stay focused on being the best lab partner possible, and maybe he'll catch on. If not, you'll still have the benefit of setting the curve!

Sincerely,
Grace



Dear Grace,

Umm...I know I have something important I needed help with...let me remember...oh yeah: college apps! I keep forgetting. Or at least, I keep putting them off. November 1st just doesn't seem like a hard-set deadline to me, you know? It just feels like everyone is freaking out about something that is ultimately no big deal, and besides: it's really hard to answer thought provoking questions, so I'd rather not try. My parents keep nagging me to work on my apps, but I just don't feel the motivation to care. Do you think I'm wrong to give up?

Sincerely,
Senior Slacker

Dear Senior Slacker,

For the sake of your parents, teachers, and everyone who has put their time and energy into you thus far: get your apps done. You might think you deserve a year to slack off, but in reality, you should be concerned with your apathetic attitude. Let's just be honest for a second, and admit that education before high school was never really a challenge. Therefore, given that you're not even done with high school yet, and you still have four or more years of college to attend after high school, *you're not even half-way done* with the challenging portion of your education. Moreover, it's only going to get more difficult from here. It's time to pony-up and keep yourself driven to achieve your potential. Just try to put the work ethic back in your life, but not the stress.

Sincerely,
Grace



Sports Corner



Michigan vs. Michigan State: Should We Love Punters?

Michigan and Michigan State: a football rivalry renewed. Although Michigan has lost six of the last seven matchups against the Spartans, this year felt different because Jim Harbaugh had given this program hope again. The man known for his keen sense for khakis was signed this offseason as a successor for the disappointing Brady Hoke, and ever since that moment, Michigan has finally been put on the college football map again. Harbaugh has managed to create a resurgence in this storied football program. This year, with a record of 5-1 going into the MSU and Michigan game, things felt different for the maize and blue team than it had the past few years, especially since they were playing against a struggling Michigan State team, which barely beat Purdue (not to taking anything away from their 6-0 record). Could Michigan finally beat an opponent that has simply trounced on them for almost a decade now?

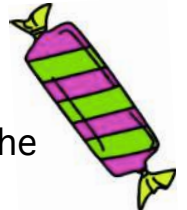
The answer to that question is simple...no. Despite playing well the entire game, and having the lead, along with the ball at 23-20 with 10 seconds left, Michigan managed to lose once more to their in-state rivals, with a final score of 27-23. The game was in the hands of the punter: the position at the back end of most jokes in football. He botched the snap and a Michigan State defender trounced on it and ran it all the way back. The punter received a lot of hatred after this play; however, was it deserved? The answer to that question...another simple no. Many people, including myself, were very mad at the punter at the end of the game, but this anger should not be directed at him. After thinking about the situation for a while, you have to realize that the punter is human too. He should not have received all of the threats he had from fans, because he is only a student. He isn't paid to punt, he is punting as a student of the university. It was an accident, and accidents are simply apart of life. He made one on a larger stage than most people will ever be on in their lives, but that does not make it acceptable to unleash all of our emotions related to that day on to the punter. Not only should we love all punters, but at this time we should especially love this punter.



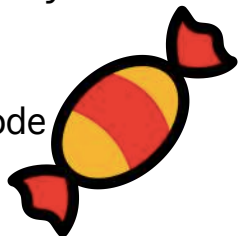
Trick-or-treating at KAMSC



What if we went trick or treating at KAMSC, rather than in neighborhoods? The teachers would all give out some strange, but helpful treats.



- Mr. Alshehri
 - Supplemental textbooks to expand your knowledge beyond the classroom and to help you become an overachiever
- Mr. Cardwell
 - A little programmable robot, like a finch! But, don't worry, you can program it using scratch!
- Ms. Chapoton
 - Halloween stickers, unlike the everyday sticker you earn in class, you can have special Halloween themed ones!
- Ms. Hach
 - Personal sized recycling bins, let's save the planet: one recycling bin at a time!
- Ms. Hampton
 - Mini Periodic Table, who wouldn't want a periodic table that you can put in a wallet?
- Mr Houtrouw
 - Next USACO Assignment, push yourself to be the next Code Warrior.
- Ms. Joyce
 - College prep check list, make sure that you don't fall behind on your college preparation.
- Ms Kalnins
 - TI-84 Connector cables, share all your lists with your best friend.
- Mr. Milka
 - Mints! Mints for everyone!
- Mr. Sinclair
 - Duct tape, it always pulls through when you are in a pinch.
- Mrs. Ingles & Mrs. Banks
 - Elevator passes! Valid any one day that you don't feel up to taking on the 196 steps.



First Year Fears



Simran Singh

Fears

Over the past month or so, first year students were asked to anonymously submit their fears about attending KAMSC. Don't worry first years, your fears will vanish by the time you conquer your first semester here at KAMSC.

"I'm a straight A student. I'm so worried about getting a B!"



"Being late to class"

"I heard that I have to write a 20 page research paper...
I don't think I can even write 5 pages"

"Forgetting my PIV password
and not being able to check
my grades"

"Having to miss an open lab
because of sports"



"Forgetting to do my homework"

"Falling asleep in class when
the teacher plays a movie."



"Meeting new people from other schools is really scary. I
always get nervous about it for no reason!"

"Forgetting where in the hall
I put my backpack down"

"Someone told me that I'm going to get at least six hours
of homework every night starting second quarter... what
if I don't have time?"



"One of the teachers at KAMSC looks an awful lot like
one of my homeschool teachers. I'm afraid I'm going to
call one the wrong name some day!"

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