

## Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

Greetings from the 1st Editorial Board! *The Tavern* is a monthly interscholastic “thoughtpaper” promoting conversations on important topics past the walls of our individual institutions. After thinking about our specific goal as a paper, we realized we weren't interested in reporting news, since we believe that to be the role of our individual school newspapers. Instead, our goal is to provide a platform for students from different institutions to engage in thoughtful dialogue and civil discourse. So rather than a newspaper with the occasional thought piece, *The Tavern* is a thoughtpaper with the occasional news piece.

Each issue will begin with a "Letter from the Editors," which includes an explanation behind the issue's theme or theme question. We chose "Do schools encourage voice but ultimately censor its students?" as our first issue's theme question because, while certain that all of our schools encouraged—especially in speeches made in the beginning of the school year—individuality and independent voice, we wanted to tackle the question of whether they in fact practiced what they preached. The Editorial Board spent a week debating this question and eventually ended up writing ten thoughtful articles on the topic. Before sharing our articles, however, we think it's important to emphasize the flaming intensity with which we all love our schools. To quote Solace Mensah-Narh, the Milton Academy Editor, "Milton has given me an unparalleled opportunity to become a curious mind. Here is where I learned *how* to learn." Our articles aren't written solely as criticism, but more so as stimulants to hopefully engender meaningful conversations both within and across our communities.

Before we let you go explore the rest of the website, we want to make some clarifications: we want to state clearly that *The Tavern's* Editorial Board and writers' individual thoughts do not represent any school or any singular school experience. We are individual student voices from these different schools, coming together and sharing ideas. The fact that many of our schools have officially endorsed *The Tavern* does not detract from this prior statement, as we are still independent and individual voices.

We would also like to address our name: *The Tavern*. Our critics argue that *The Tavern* is an inappropriate name for a community of eager-to-learn high school students, considering its historical association with alcohol. As much as we understand this concern, however, we think it is outdated.

By naming our thoughtpaper *The Tavern*, we are in fact renewing its modern day definition to embody collaboration, intellect, and civil discourse. With that said, however, we still want to honor certain aspects of the historical "tavern". Taverns from the past have strongly been associated with community and *fun*, as places for people to come together and form communities. We emphasize *fun* because one of our goals is to in fact make the exchange of ideas a fun effort, an effort that is about bonding and binding across our schools. As we grow as an organization, we hope that *The Tavern* does in fact become a social and fun gathering spot, and in that exchange, we hope real substance gets talked about. Just by brushing shoulders with each other, good ideas can emerge. So all of this is to say: *The Tavern* feels right.

In media, our generation has often been referred to as the "New Generation" because the 21st century lifestyle has required us to pursue lifestyles drastically different from those in the past. In fact, our generation is being tailored to work in collaboration from the get-go. We are expected to believe in the notion that better work comes out of collaboration, so in that sense, we think *The Tavern* is an incredibly apt—if not the best possible—name for our organization, since in merely one word it instills everything we value: communication, collaboration, harmony, and—last but most definitely not least—fun.

*The Tavern* is a risk. However, it is a risk we are willing to take because we believe in its potential to create a community where ideas are shared, and new ones are born. So welcome to *The Tavern*, and we hope you enjoy your stay.

Sincerely,  
*The Tavern*'s 1st Editorial Board