

# WestWord

## Flashback: month of October

### October is...

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| County Music Month            | Family History Month |
| Popcorn Poppin' Month         | Rollerskating Month  |
| Breast Cancer Awareness Month | Vegetarian Month     |
| Stamp Collecting Month        | Dessert Month        |

### Fun Fall Fact: Never park on a pile of leaves!

The muffler and catalytic converter on cars get extremely hot and can cause the leaves to catch on fire.

### October's Astrological signs:

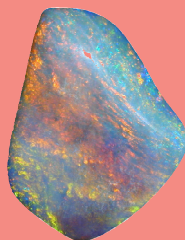
Libra: September 23-October 22  
 Scorpio: October 23-November 21

### October's Flower



Calendula

### October's Birthstone



Opal

### History

Oct. 7, 1826: the first railroad in the U.S. was built in Massachusetts  
 Oct. 27, 1904: New York City's first official subway system began operation  
 Oct. 1, 1908: the Model T was introduced by Henry Ford  
 Oct. 9, 1936: the first generator at Hoover Dam began transmitting electricity to Los Angeles, California  
 Oct. 22, 1938: Xerox introduced the copy machine  
 Oct. 29, 1945: the first ballpoint pens went on sale at Gimbels in New York for \$12.50 each  
 Oct. 5, 1947: the first televised White House address was aired by President Harry S. Truman  
 Oct. 14, 1947: Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier

### Entertainment

Oct. 14, 1926: Winnie-the-Pooh by A.A. Milne was published  
 Oct. 6, 1927: The Jazz Singer, the first talking movie, premiered  
 Oct. 5, 1949: the first US television station WSAZ, located in Hunigton, West Virginia began broadcasting  
 Oct. 15, 1951: I Love Lucy premiered  
 Oct. 3, 1955: Mickey Mouse Club premiered  
 Oct. 5, 1969: Monty Python's Flying Circus debuted  
 Oct. 11, 1975: Saturday Night Live premiered

### Sports Highlights

Oct. 1, 1903: the first World Series game was played  
 Oct. 23, 1915: the first US championship horseshoe tournament was held in Kellerton, Iowa  
 Oct. 5, 1921: the World Series was broadcasted on the radio for the first time  
 Oct. 23, 1930: the first miniature golf tournament was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee  
 Oct. 22, 1934: the first televised professional football game was aired

Compiled by Morgan Quilici

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# WESTWORLD



## Obama's Nobel not yet merited

**W** Adriana Zalloni  
World Editor

On Friday, Oct. 9, President Barack Obama received the Nobel Prize. A five person Norwegian Nobel Committee chose him as the recipient of the prize because the judges found his promise of disarmament and diplomacy too good to ignore, according to *Yahoo! News*.

Thorbjørn Jagland, chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said that "the committee whittled down a record pool of 205 nominations and had several candidates until the last minute," but that the committee could not get around giving Obama the award.

However, many feel that the award was given to Obama too soon into his presidency, charging that he has not yet yielded concrete achievements in the areas he promised he would.

According to *Yahoo! News*, the Nobel Peace prize was created to encourage the peace efforts; however, compared to past winners, Obama's efforts are at a much earlier stage. Members of the committee admit that these efforts might be fruitless.

It is not that Obama does not deserve to win the Nobel Peace Prize. It is just far too early to give him such a large reward for only the beginning stages of a plan that, quite frankly, might fail completely.

The nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize had to be postmarked by Feb. 1, meaning that he was nominated a mere 12 days after he took office, for the accomplishments he had not yet achieved.

Conservatives are infuriated about Obama's winning the award. According to the *Huffington Post*, the Republican National Committee (RNC) released a statement that said, "it is unfortunate that the president's star power has outshined tireless advocates who have made real achievements working towards peace and human rights," and that "one thing is certain, President Obama won't be receiving any awards from Americans for job creation, fiscal responsibility, or backing up rhetoric with concrete action."

The RNC brings up an excellent point. What about those who have been working hard for everything this prize is supposed to embody? Will their efforts be in vain because Obama took the prize? According to the *UK Independent*, nominees included: Denis Mukwege, a doctor dedicated to helping rape victims; Ghazi bin Muhammad, a man in search of peace after 9/11 and Piedad Córdoba, Colombia's "woman of peace."

According to <http://nobelpeaceprize.org>, the prize will go to whoever "shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

While Obama has promised to make efforts towards these ends, other contenders have made progress in making them happen.

Córdoba, for example, articulates everything the prize stands for. Her work with negotiations with the guerrilla group Farc and her advocacy for peace makes her the perfect contender. She is the head of Colombians for Peace, an organization dedicated to end the 45-year conflict between the Colombian government and the Farc. She continues to search for a solution to this longstanding conflict.

Take Mukwege as another example. This doctor spends all his time devoted to helping raped women "reclaim something of their physical selves and begin to heal some of the psychological wounds", according to the *UK Independent*. He performs up to a half a dozen surgeries a day, and has now treated over 21,000 women. He devotes his life to bring peace to the women who suffer damage that would normally leave them dead.

Ghazi bin Muhammad advocates the similarities between the East and the West. He encourages debate between the relationships of Islam and other faiths. He has devoted himself to finding the solution for peace and justice between different religious communities. He worked to counteract terrorism.

Contrast these achievements to Obama's proposals. According to [www.wbztv.com](http://www.wbztv.com), he "pushed" for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians, but there has been little cooperation. He promised to end the Iraq war, yet, troops remain. Obama pledged to close the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, but speculators believe that the January 2010 deadline is unrealistic.

These three contenders have made progress in the causes they advocate for. It is still too early to know if the promises Obama made will have any merit.

Why does Obama get to bask in glory when these people, who dedicate their lives to their cause, are barely recognizable?

It is not fair. It is not that Obama does not deserve the prize. It is just that it is much too early to recognize him when there are others who are just as deserving, if not more, of the prize. At least one positive thing will arise from this: Obama will donate the \$1.4 million cash award that comes with the Nobel Peace Prize to charity.

## Gmail™ fails to please students

**W** Sofiya Pershteyn  
Staff Writer

"As with any website, there could be [problems]," lead computer technician Elise Jernstrom said. "If Google™ goes down, then there would be technical difficulties, but so far I have never seen that happen."

Jernstrom's comments were in response to student fears that District 219's promotion of "Google™ Apps" might be misguided in light of a recent report on [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com) that Google™ users nationwide have reported problems keeping files online. According to the report, some Google™ users have been experiencing unexpected Gmail™ outages.

However, computer technician Abraham Sihweil considers the fears unfounded.

"[With Google™] you don't have to worry about backing up your stuff because it is usually backed up for you," Sihweil said.

Because of recent network changes, district technology staff have advised students and faculty to use the Google™ email server, Gmail™, and to store their files online using applications such as Google™ Docs.

Since Google™ offers a variety of free applications, many students rely on it for extracurricular activities as well.

"I use Google™ Docs [because I am on the] finance committee for Dance Marathon," senior Jane Berdysheva said. "I have never had trouble accessing Google™ Docs."

Many find Google™ Docs appealing because it provides instant access to documents anywhere there is Internet connection.

"More and more, Internet hot spots everywhere [offer] the ability to share your stuff instantaneously," Sihweil said.

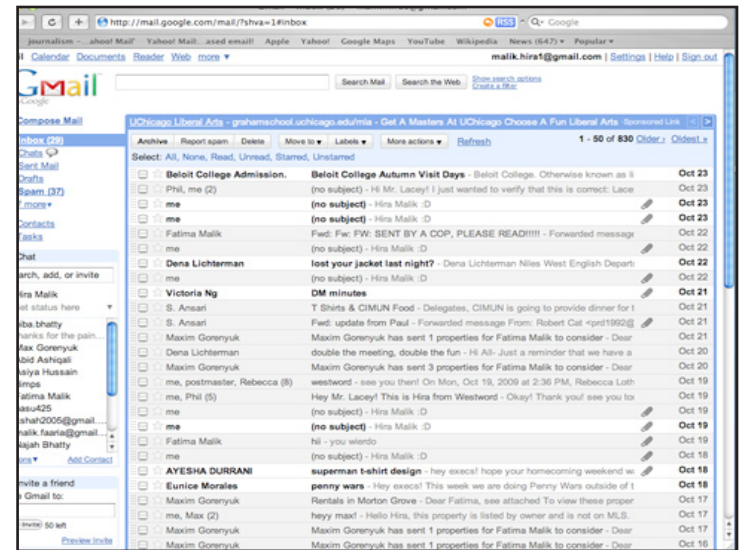
Often students use their school-provided Gmail™ for completion of homework or other projects.

"I use [Gmail™] for school work," senior Dmitry Ramirez said. "I like Gmail™ [because] it is safe."

Still, not all students have signed on, despite the district's request, preferring to use other email providers instead of Google™.

"Most of my contacts and everything are in my personal email, and it will take too long to transfer over," sophomore Junaid Dawood said. "I actually use HotMail™ Apps."

Although Google™ has kept the reported outages at a minimum, Sihweil advises students to have a back-up plan in



Problems with Gmail have discouraged some from using Google™ Apps. Photo by Adriana Zalloni

case their files become unreachable.

"You should ensure that you have the file in multiple formats," he said. "If you have it on Google™, you should back it up on pen drive or somewhere else so you would have it in case something happens."

Sophomore Susan Urban agrees from past experience.

"I tried to send a PowerPoint, but it failed. I did not have a backup copy," she said.

If students experience any difficulty with accessing their Google™ account, they are encouraged to contact the information services help desk (room 2160 extension 2920) with their questions.

## Abercrombie sued for discrimination

**W** Kathryn Booker  
Staff Writer

"As much as I respect [anyone] for wearing [a head scarf], if Abercrombie and Fitch (Abercrombie) requires a look, [the company is] not being racist or judgmental," junior Abtaha Ahmed said. "It is just their policy."

Ahmed, herself a Muslim, commented in reference to a report in *U.S. News* and *World Report* that a teenager in Oklahoma City filed a federal discrimination lawsuit after Abercrombie denied her a job because she wore hijab.

According to the article, 17-year-old Samantha Elauf accused Abercrombie of "discrimination on the basis of religion."

Muslim students expressed varying opinions about the incident.

Junior Farah Siddique applauds Elauf's decision.

"Even if we do or do not wear [a head scarf], if you are a Muslim, everyone is affected," Siddique said.

Senior Eva Huzieran agrees, citing the narrow perspective of Abercrombie's hiring practices.

"I am not surprised by this event, considering the people who are hired for Abercrombie," Huzieran said. "Abercrombie only hires people who fit their image."

Senior Chaudhry Ahmad echoed Huzieran's sentiments, adding that the company does not seem to care about the quality of employees' effort.

"Abercrombie doesn't hire people because of how they work; they only hire people because of fashion and accessories," he said.

Freshman Zarin Sultana takes the clothing company's stance personally even though she does not wear a head scarf.

"It shows that they are racist," she said. "Just because we wear a scarf does not mean we

cannot work at a place like Abercrombie."

The *U.S. News* article quotes an attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) who claims Abercrombie violated the Civil Rights Act of 1969, which protects workers from religious discrimination.

Sophomore Muslim student Osman Khan agrees that Abercrombie's actions were illegal.

"I think that it was wrong, because I am pretty sure racial profiling is against the law," he said.

This is not the first time Abercrombie has been accused of discrimination. In 2004, the company settled out of court in \$50 million lawsuit brought by EEOC that contended that Abercrombie promoted Caucasians over minorities in catalog photos.

