



Pittverse

What's Inside

- ◆ Babe Ruth By Daniel Ashkin
- ◆ Sweet Island Sleepover By Mark Sulkin
- ◆ Diamond Painting By Alicia Farina
- ◆ Five Nights at Freddy's By Michelle Middlemiss
- ◆ Berlin By David O'Rorey

About Pittverse Magazine

Pittverse Magazine is a quarterly publication that proudly represents the introspection and creativity of adults on the autism spectrum. Its goal is to educate and entertain the public while providing its writers, who are all adults on the autism spectrum, with skills applicable to future employment.

Brian Kluchurosky founded *Pittverse* in 2013. It began as a newsletter written by four of the adults in Kluchurosky's pro-

gram. This year, with generous funding from Edith Trees Foundation, *Pittverse* has grown from a newsletter into a magazine that commissions more than 40 adults with autism.

In each seasonal issue, readers can peruse a variety of topics through the unique perspective of its writers. Topics range from sports to restaurant reviews to local history.

On the Cover

Delaine Swearman earns the credit for the beautiful photo of fresh blueberries that epitomize the breezy warmth of spring and early summer.

Pour of glass of blueberry iced tea as you sit back and enjoy the Spring 2021 issue of *Pittverse!*~

Letter from the Editor

Change has unquestionably been our theme this year. Our writers (and our publication itself) have endured an enormous amount of change, and have taken it in stride! We have a great many exciting changes on tap for 2021; I appreciate our writers' willingness to embrace all of the changes with a sense of excitement.

This issue is our first in 2021, which is a year that signifies hope. Not so coincidentally, the most common thread among our articles for this issue is hopeful change: hope for the end of the pandemic, and a hope that we will all see each other in person again soon.

We are looking forward to making *Pittverse* bigger and better than ever!

Jennifer Pizzuto

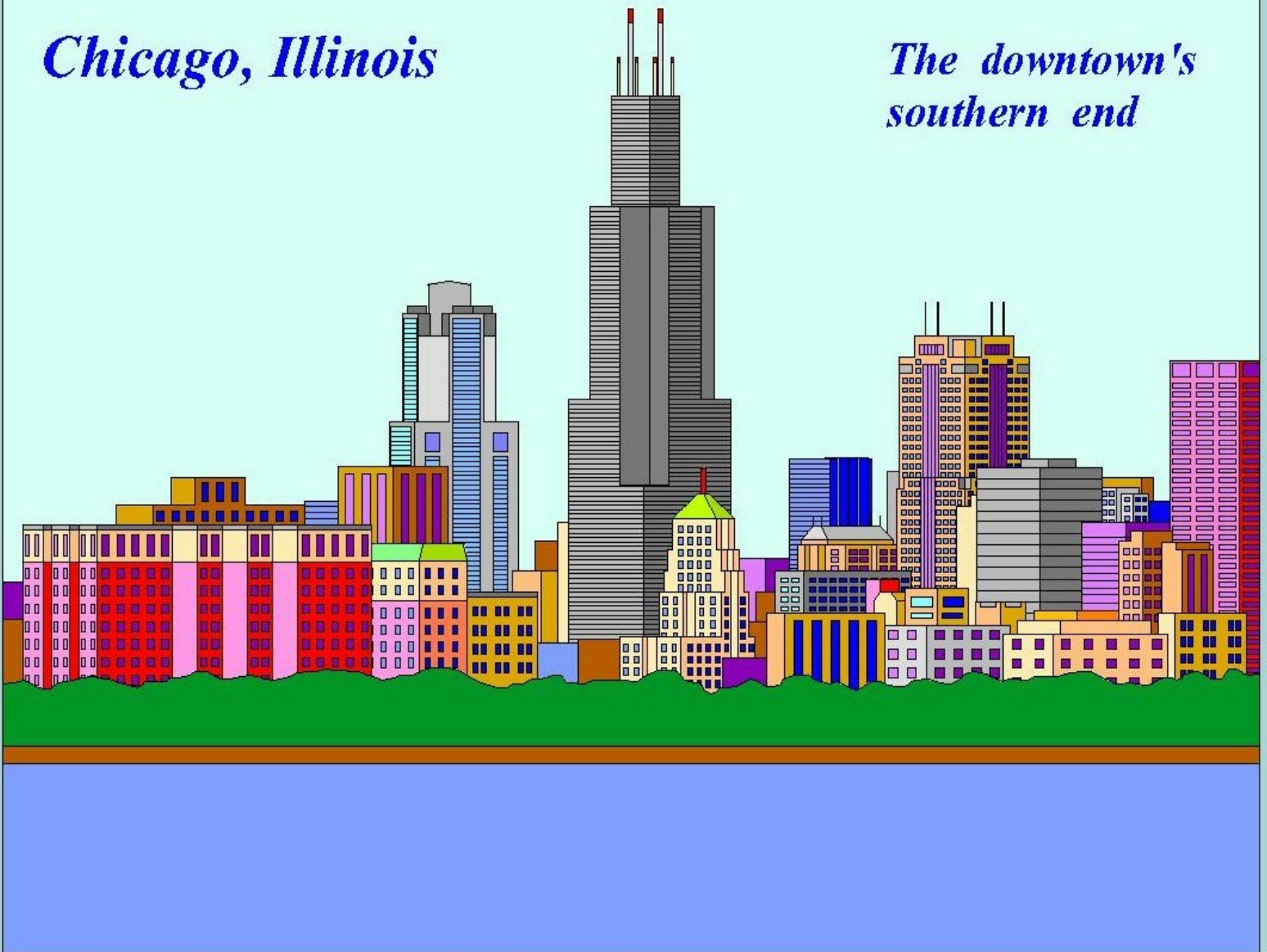
In this Issue:

Chicago, Pt. 1 (Mark Lizotte) - 4
Chicago, Pt. 2 (Mark Lizotte) - 5
Cinco de Mayo (Megan Cunningham) - 6
Autism-Running (Joshua Walburn) - 7
Inside my Journey (Julia Fieldhammer) - 8
This is Me (Maggie Jones) - 10
Painful People (Paul Lechevalier) - 11
N'Dlis Pt. 1 (Jordan Watson) - 12
Musical Mystery Tour (Jake Ziesche) - 15
Sweet Island Sleepover (Mark Sulkin) - 16
Babe Ruth (Daniel Ashkin) - 17
Five Nights at Freddy's (Michelle Middlemiss) - 19
Avenge Back to the Future (Andrew Olsavicky) - 20
It Happened in 2020 (Delaine Swearman) - 22
Paternal Grandmother Tribute (Nathaniel Geyer) - 22
My Weird Morning (Rachel Williamson) - 23
Sunday Boy Band Group (Amelia Krzton) - 23
Game Stop (Megan Cunningham) - 24
Shigeru Miyamoto (John Kruike) - 25
Pokemon Anniversary (Michael Kurland) - 26
Sesame Street (Candice Brooks) - 27
Adele Jergens (David O'Rorey) - 28
Anesthesia (Zach Grabowski) - 30
N'Dlis Pt. 2 (Jordan Watson) - 32
Sunrise in Love (Paul Lechevalier) - 34
Parting Glass (Renee Skudra) - 35
Children of a Lesser God (Nils Skudra) - 36
Larry King Tribute (Robert Hester) - 38
Devoid of Time (Dima Harmon) - 40
Diamond Painting (Alicia Farina) - 42

Fake Mustache Person (Joe Cepek) - 44
Vaccine of Hope (Maggie Jones) - 47
PGH's Perfect Parties (Amelia Krzton) - 47
Birthday Cake (Andrew Olsavicky) - 48
Top 5 Pizza Places (Amelia Krzton) - 49
V3 Pizza Review (Zach Grabowski) - 49
Denny's after Midnight (Robert Hester) - 50
Goosebumps Top 10 (Jake Ziesche) - 51
Flushed Pet (Rachel Williamson) - 51
Rick Riordan Presents (Michelle Middlemiss) - 52
N'Dlis Pt. 3 (Jordan Watson) - 53
Jessica Benham (Megan Cunningham) - 55
Warring (Joseph Cepek) - 56
Kids' Choice Awards (Amelia Krzton) - 56
Regrets (Renee Skudra) - 57
This is Why I Care (Maggie Jones) - 58
VR Technology (Rachel Williamson) - 58
Moonlit Tidings (Paul Lechevalier) - 59
Reason I Jump (Nils Skudra) - 60
Berlin (David O'Rorey) - 62
Star Trek (Andrew Olsavicky) - 64
Jordan Cioppa (Robert Hester) - 65
Killing for Cash (Megan Cunningham) - 66
Cuckoo-Clock Heart Review (Nils Skudra) - 68
Bug Debate (Rachel Williamson) - 69
Aroma of Spring (Maggie Jones) - 69
N'Dlis, Pt. 4 (Jordan Watson) - 70
Adele Jergens Movies (David O'Rorey) - 72
Spring Photo Collection—73
Dom Errico Photo Collage (Robert Hester) - 74
Miss Susie (Zach Grabowski & Maggie Jones) - 75

Chicago, Illinois

*The downtown's
southern end*



Five Facts About Chicago

By: Mark D. Lizotte

1. In 1871, a Great Fire destroyed 3.3 square miles of the city.
2. The world's first skyscraper was built here in 1885. It was 10 stories tall.
3. In 1893, the Chicago World's Fair featured the world's first Ferris Wheel.
4. The term "Jazz" originated here in 1914.
5. The 110 story Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower) is pictured above on this page. It is the second tallest building in the Western Hemisphere.

*The downtown's
northern end*

Chicago, Illinois



Five More Facts About Chicago

6. Chicago is the third largest city in the country. It has a population of 2.7 million people.
7. The zipper was invented here in 1851.
8. O'hare International Airport is the world's busiest airport.
9. Batman's Gotham City was inspired by Chicago.
10. In 2016, the Chicago Cubs won the World Series for the first time in 108 years.

By: Mark D. Lizotte

The Bonkers Origins of Cinco de Mayo

By: Megan Cunningham

People celebrate holidays for all kinds of reasons. Some reflect religious and cultural observance. Some may be of some regional importance that commemorate an important person, an ethnic heritage, or an anniversary of some momentous historical event. Think of an important battle victory, a national tragedy, a landmark policy, or an independence day.

However, none of that explains why a holiday like Cinco de Mayo exists. Now I don't mean to offend Mexicans, but it's one of two Mexican holidays most non-Mexicans ever heard of (the other being *Dio de los Muertos*). It's not much of a stretch that many non-Mexicans assume that it's Mexican Independence Day. Except that it isn't since that's on September 16 with a very different backstory.

What Cinco de Mayo actually commemorates is the Mexican victory over the invading French at the Battle of Puebla. Under General Ignacio Zaragoza's leadership, a force of only 4,000 poorly equipped Mexican soldiers put up heavy resistance against an invading force of 8,000 well-equipped French troops, leading to a decisive Mexican victory on May 5, 1862. The victory at Puebla significantly boosted morale in the Mexican Army and people at large as well as helped establish a sense of unity and patriotism. After all, 1861 was a terrible year for Mexico since French Emperor Napoleon III sent an invasion fleet to land in Veracruz and send President Benito Juarez and his government. So this victory at Puebla meant a great deal.

However, the victory at Puebla didn't bring a resounding end to Mexico's war with France insofar as slowed the French Army down. Napoleon III still had designs on establishing a French-friendly empire in Mexico. Instead, French forces simply retreated and regrouped and the invasion continued after Napoleon III sent additional troops. In 1863, the French were able to defeat the Mexican Army, capture Mexico City, and install an Austrian Archduke named Maximilian as a puppet Mexican emperor for three years. Fortunately, in 1865, the American Civil War ended, allowing the US to provide more political and military aid to Mexico in order to expel the French. Facing persistent Mexican guerilla resistance, a war threat with Prussia, and potential problems in US relations, Napoleon III's forces began a year-long retreat in 1866. The Mexicans recaptured Mexico City as well as arrested and executed Maximilian I along with some friendly collaborators. On June 5, 1867, Mexican President Benito Juarez returned to the capital where he installed a new government and reorganized his administration.

Now I know that many people might have a lot of questions about this that would take too long for me to explain. But you can take that Cinco de Mayo commemorates a short-lived Mexican victory that only became as significant in the Americans' victory at Trenton during the American Revolution. It was a nice morale boost showing that a small band of poorly equipped soldiers had a fighting chance against an outside European force but it didn't significantly impact on the big picture. Yet, Americans don't have a holiday celebrating that, at least in an official capacity.

In fact, it might come as a surprise to many people outside Mexico but Cinco de Mayo isn't as big a holiday in Mexico as many people think. Despite then-President Benito Juarez's declaration that it would be observed as a national holiday, it still isn't widely celebrated in Mexico to this day. Sure, it's a huge deal in Puebla where they have a big festival complete with historical reenactments, parades, and meals, and other big events. But aside from a Mexico City commemoration and a day off from school, the rest of Mexico virtually ignores it.

But why is Cinco de Mayo so well-known in the United States? There are few factors at play. First, while Cinco de Mayo is about as celebrated in Mexico as Presidents' Day, it's huge in California as the Chicano equivalent to Saint Patrick's Day. In fact, it's where the modern American focus on Cinco de Mayo started in the gold country town of Columbia back in 1863 where news of the Puebla victory "excited the Mexican miners that they spontaneously fired rifle shots and fireworks, sang patriotic songs, and made impromptu speeches." It has been celebrated in the state ever since. The holiday also came into vogue in the 1940s with the Chicano Movement's rise, crossing over to the rest of the US during the 1950s and 1960s.

However, Cinco de Mayo didn't achieve mainstream popularity in the United States until the 1980s when marketers (particularly beer companies) capitalized on the Chicano celebrations of the day and started promoting it. It later became more prominent and evolved into a celebration of Mexican heritage and culture where you can get drunk on Corona beer and tequila. In 1998, there were about 120 Cinco de Mayo celebrations in 21 different states. In 2006, there were over 150. Not bad for a Mexican holiday that's largely ignored in its native country.



Photo courtesy of Bing

Autism-Running Connection

By: Joshua Walburn

About 5-6 years ago, I began running. Sports is not just something that makes me happy, there are many important benefits in athletics. I see myself getting to make some progress from the start. The running helps me to be calmer and specifically trains my brain on how to handle situations that are more complex. I recently got more aware and discovered that the reason running reduces violent outbursts is greater emotional awareness. I start to become more aware about the rage that's produced by the body as it rapidly increases.

At fifteen years old, I had little or no self-confidence. Then the endurance of that level starting to rapidly surge. When my progress was being made in the running world, something was opened: my mind began shifting, bridges were being built, doors were opening and my thinking had become more useful in ways of social situations. The running can improve one's social awareness such as the ability to interpret others' thoughts and feelings.

On May 5, 2019 I completed the steel challenge of the Pittsburgh Half-Marathon finishing at 2:27:53. It's not unusual for me to finish at a race feeling super tired afterwards because like most runners, they often feel the same when they cross the finish line. What's the connection between autism and running? Why does it help improve cognition and behavioral awareness? For so-called 'neurotypicals,' the similar benefits of running occur too, but scientists are continually revealing their studies on what makes this sport a potent tool for someone like me.

Autism is a spectrum disorder because of the broad range of symptoms, behaviors and individual variation. Primary recessive gene characteristics involving a 'de novo' mutation lead to an autism diagnosis, because the disorder is not pronounced in the rest of a family household but the child. The data we have today shows that there are 102 genes that are responsible for developing an ASD, but still features a lot of unknowns about the disability's genetic origins. Deficits in social interaction and communication along with repetitive behavioral patterns are the characteristics that meet enough of the diagnostic criteria for one to be considered autistic.

I've witnessed that the more I run, the less anxiety, meltdowns and violent outbursts I experience. There's a social circle when it comes to attending the programs in the region that I rely on and more importantly, it increases. Things would take years to make progress but for sports with a continuous pattern such as running, it speeds up that rate to where I'm at now from my childhood. I start to believe that this is a key advantage over the years of daily complex therapies that a child needs to go through to support his or her learning and development. Because parents spend \$60,000.00 a year on therapeutic treatments, assigning their child to running can help them to progress and that it doesn't cost money. I also notice the financial advantage along with it too.

Research has confirmed some of the things I've noticed. Scientists at New York Medical College partnered with Achilles International presented their largest studies on autism and running at the Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy's annual conference in November of 2016. Their work investigated the psychological qualitative and quantitative effects of 94 student athletes with autism in an average four-month period. The researchers found statistically significant improvements in endurance, social awareness, communication, cognition and motivation among those who ran and walked 20 minutes twice per week.

Numerous studies continue to reveal that a broad range of physical activities can support some of the similar improving measures, such as football benefiting cognitive brain function, coordination and aerobic capacity. The NYMC study shows that exercise also reduces self-injurious behaviors, aggression, severe meltdowns and repetitive motor stereotypes that some people with autism engage in. While sports benefits many on the autistic spectrum, running can offer unique advantages.

In the same year when I ran Pittsburgh, I ran another 13.1 mile half-marathon in Columbus. Somewhere on the 12-mile mark about 4.0 kilometers south of Ohio State's Main Campus primarily on High Street and east the Olentangy River. I felt tired enough while looking up between towering buildings as I made the last right angle turn before crossing the finish line. As I keep going, I continue to make progress in self-confidence and self-esteem which are the first two unique advantages I've noticed firsthand.

I cannot anticipate the results in distance running as opportunities for training and racing grow. I've imagined or pretended to play football, putting my shoes in the spirit of a running-back like James Conner and wide receivers like Juju Smith-Schuster, accelerating the thoughts of each player and a 40yard sprint and catch while running towards the end zone. Football also has some mental benefits.

~~

An Inside Look at My Journey

By Julia Fieldhammer

There are many different kinds of people in the world. Each person has their unique story that makes them themselves. A person's story can tell you a lot about them—it tells about their past and maybe where they want to go in the future. A person has some control over their story but there are some aspects that you can't control. For me, my story starts at birth. When I was born, I lost some oxygen which resulted in my Cerebral Palsy. Cerebral Palsy is an injury to the brain that effects the way the body and brain communicate. My parents knew my life was going to be different.

Now I'm 21 and I've had a lot of experiences in my life. Some good and some bad. I've learned a lot about the world and myself. I know my path in life isn't the typical path. When I was in elementary school, the differences between me and the other kids didn't really impact me that much. But as I got older, I started to notice it more and more.

In elementary school I was aware that I was different physically, but emotionally, I felt like everyone else. When you're a little kid you're not that independent. Your parents do a lot for you. They drive you places. They make your meals and you're pretty much around them all the time. When you get older, you start to do more things for yourself and spend more time with your friends. Well, imagine being a young adult and still having to depend on your parents or other people for almost everything.

When I got to high school, I started to notice more differences between my friends and me. My friends started doing and talking about things that I couldn't really take part in. At times like that, it was really hard for me because I wanted to take part in the conversation, but I didn't have anything to add. In those situations, I just had to be the listener. During my high school years, I definitely learned how to be a good listener. A good listener listens without interrupting. This is usually my role especially in large groups. Sometimes I get tired of being the listener. In my experience it takes a lot of patience to have a good interaction with me. The conversation is definitely going to take longer.

In high school I had a lot of ups and downs. I was in all the regular classes and around mostly typical students. Because of my medical issues and needing help with everything, I had a one-on-one aide with me all the time. I loved my aide, and to this day she is one of my best friends; however, sometimes it got annoying to have an adult around constantly. I know I needed the help, but I wish I could have been more independent. I feel like some of my fellow peers were afraid to be themselves around me because they didn't want to say certain things around an adult. I understood that but sometimes I felt left out.

Despite some of the bad feelings I experienced throughout my high school years, I had some really great ones too. I was part of a normal group of friends. My group of friends formed when I went to high school. Some of them I had known for a while, like my one my best friend. I met her in elementary school and we became really close friends. We would hang out all the time.



In high school I had opportunities to make some new friends. My high school was very good for special needs kids. We had these two programs called Peer Buddies and Best Buddies. They both pair special needs kids up with normal kids. The difference between the two was, Peer Buddies was during the school day while Best Buddies was outside of school. It was nice for me because I got to meet some new people and make some new friends. At first, I was a little nervous and shy because I didn't know how they were going to react to my disability or how to make them see past it. Most of them did great and we become good friends.

One of the best things I did in high school was becoming a cheerleader in my senior year. My two really good



friends were on the team in our junior year and thought it would be fun if I joined for our senior year. I was a little unsure at first, but they talked me into it. I'm so glad I did it!! All the girls on the team were so nice and for the most part just treat me like another one of them. I cheered for both football and basketball.

I really enjoyed football because of the atmosphere. Even though most of the games were boring because our team was really good and they usually crushed the other team. Being on the field with all the lights and music was exhilarating! It made me excited and very energetic. Whenever the music came on in between plays, we would all dance and bob our heads up and down.

Our football team made it to the state finals in Hershey that year. My parents took me. I really wanted to ride the bus with the other cheerleaders. So my school got a handicapped accessible bus so I could get my wheelchair on. I was so happy I got to ride the bus with my team. When we got there, we got ready for the game. It was freezing outside; I swear this was the coldest game I've had ever been to in my life! My mom put a bunch of layers on me. Despite all the layers, I was still freezing! My mom and I even had to go into the bathroom to warm up, that's how cold it was! But it was worth it because we won the state finals!! I'm so glad I got to be a part of such a special moment.

Basketball was also exciting. All the cheerleaders would sit in the stands or we would go stand on the side lines. Basketball was more interesting to watch because the teams were much more evenly matched. Where we sat to cheer we were close to the action, which made it very exciting. But there was more of a risk of getting hit by the ball or a player. The basketball team made it to the semifinals but unfortunately, they lost there. Being a cheerleader definitely made my senior year unforgettable and I'm so glad I got the opportunity to be one!!

Graduating high school was both exciting and scary. I knew things were going to change and I was scared about that. I knew that I was going to have a different path than my friends. At first, I didn't like that. I just wanted to be a "normal" kid and follow the traditional path. I thought being different was a bad thing because I wouldn't have the same experiences as my friends. I thought that made me less of a person. Even though I still feel that way sometimes, I'm working on seeing myself as valuable and accepting that my path is different.

In June, I'm going to graduate from City Connections, my community-based program. I've learned and experienced a lot. I started working at Robert Morris University in their sports and social media department and, of course, I started writing for *Pittverse*. I've also gotten so much more independent since I started this program. Before coming to City Connections, I didn't know how to advocate for myself. I've gotten much better at that.

I'm a little bit nervous and sad to graduate but I'm really excited for the future. I have confidence that I can achieve the goals that I set for myself. I hope to continue to do the work that I'm doing and explore more opportunities. I hope to take a creative writing class in the future so I can improve my skills as a writer.

Everyone is on their own journey. Thank you for supporting me as I journey on my own unique path.~~



This is Me: A Positive Way of Thinking

By: Maggie Jones

I am a human being, as you are also. We are all equal in the eyes of the creator, God. When you treat and respect all people, people with disabilities of all kinds, physical or mental, people of color, people from different countries of origin, people that speak or don't have a voice to talk, people from all around the world, you are treating and respecting God .

This is me.

I believe that all have a right in an opinion, as long as it's respectful and will not hurt anyone in any way. We get mad sometimes and might not agree with the other person, but talk it out respectfully.

This is me.

I try my best to be the person I need to be in this world. If people don't accept me for who I am, it's ok. I forgive and ignore people who try to hurt my feelings, unless they try to hurt me physically then I get help right away.

This is me.

Loving, forgiving, respectful, and filled with diversity for all people.
I accept me for being autistic, and believe she has the wings of courage to help all people and animals.

This is me.

I believe in a catholic faith that says to respect all people. There is no room for judgement and hate in this world. For we are all the same that God envisioned us to be. We are created in God's likeness and image.

This is me.

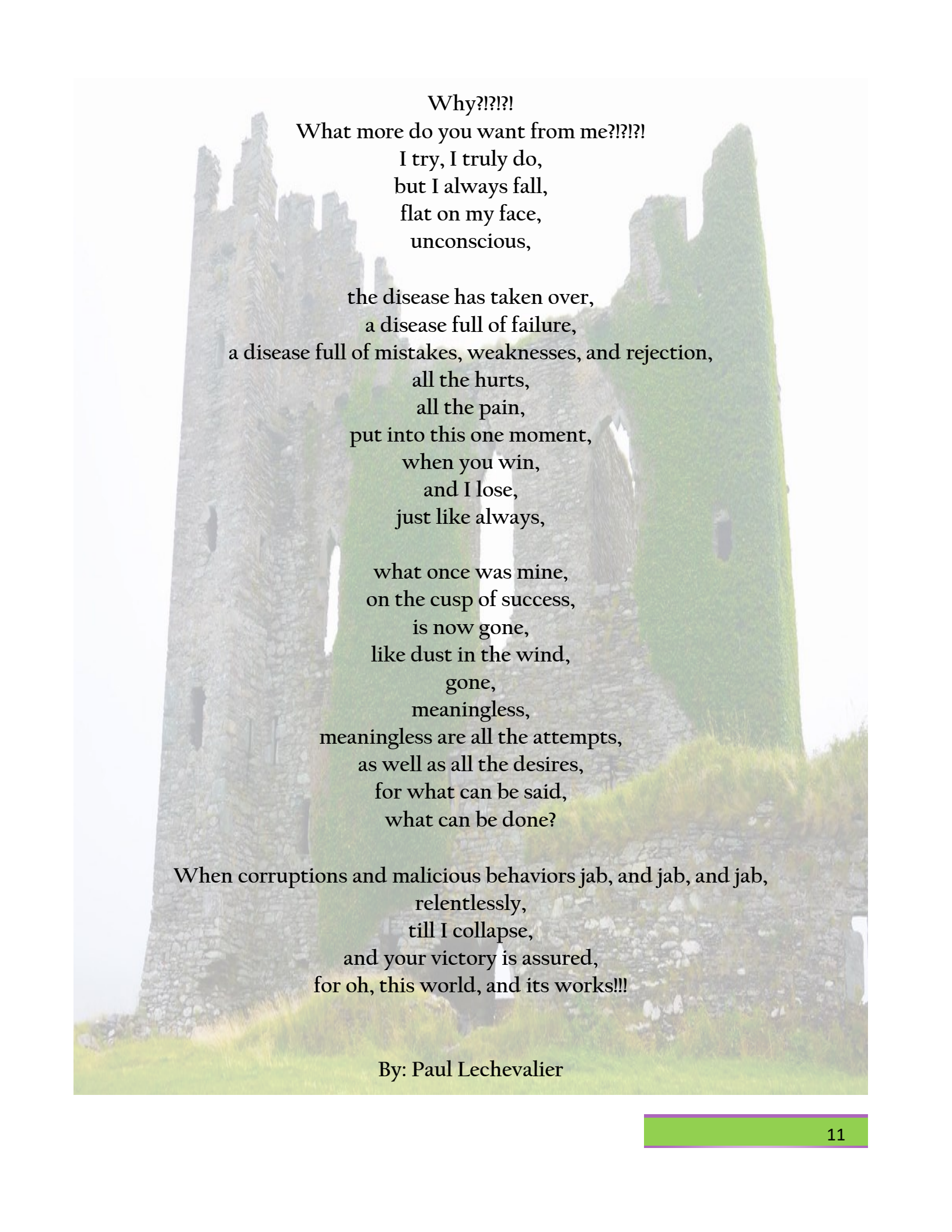
Anyone that needs help the most, I help all I can to the best of my knowledge and abilities. There is no such thing as not needing a helping hand.

This is me.

I am a friendly person and a very intelligent person that knows how to know the difference between love and hate, right and wrong.

I'm a *Pittverse* writer.
Know all of these qualities in me. And this is me,
Maggie Kathleen Jones.

And this is me. In a positive way.~~



Why?!?!?
What more do you want from me?!?!?
I try, I truly do,
but I always fall,
flat on my face,
unconscious,

the disease has taken over,
a disease full of failure,
a disease full of mistakes, weaknesses, and rejection,
all the hurts,
all the pain,
put into this one moment,
when you win,
and I lose,
just like always,

what once was mine,
on the cusp of success,
is now gone,
like dust in the wind,
gone,
meaningless,
meaningless are all the attempts,
as well as all the desires,
for what can be said,
what can be done?

When corruptions and malicious behaviors jab, and jab, and jab,
relentlessly,
till I collapse,
and your victory is assured,
for oh, this world, and its works!!!

By: Paul Lechevalier

ND'15



BY JORDAN WATSON

N'dlis (Pt. 1)

By: Jordan Watson

Day 117. The clouds are blanketed in gray musk. The time's 15:23. Underneath one of the nearly collapsed bridge passes. Somewhere in the intersection between Tonic Ave. and 17th Street. Southwest end of Wake City. They'd been tailing me for the past 110 days, not seeing much of a means to stop what they started. I'd been keeping the pot boiled on a moderate heating rate. Just at the sweet spot where I'm able to cook the baked beans, and the sparse amounts of canned corn I dabble in between the steel bowl I kept during my time on tours, alongside a large moleskin canteen to catch rainwater when necessary. It's also to make sure the steam doesn't catch some of their attention. The first week of being exposed to these....things...was an absolute hell on this forsaken Earth.

Oh. Right. Name's Xavier Grigor. Before I ramble on, making you think I'm someone who broke out his own straitjacket like an illusionist on opening weekend, lemme try and go back to the beginning.

For nearly my whole life, my dad Erik Grigor, raised me on survivalist training. Hunting wildlife both big and small, carpentry through improvisation of my surroundings, even man tracking through finding my way back, or to find others. He was always overly cautious that our world wouldn't keep the reigns of peace for very long. He always told me to question everything. That eventually, our world would try to put on a new coat of paint to cover over the darker colors of the ones who painted the canvas prior. His own observations on seeing me improve my survival skills nearly every day, gave him the idea to tell me to join the Marines. Come the day I turned 19, I took his advice. Throughout my first year, my sergeant felt that my performances weren't just good. They were exceptionally superb. So much so, by the time I turned 21, he had me transferred to an elite infantry known as the Overt Watcher's League (O.W.L.). It's where I got meet my friends Dyson, Westie, Kane, Julian, and my future wife, Hilda.

Part of what made our ops so different from groups like the Green Beret, or even the Spetsnaz, was that we're meant to be the guys that even *they* call for when a mission gets to be too big for them to swallow. Throughout my nine tours, we helped take down an underground arms dealer hunkered down with subatomic heavy arms on North Sentinel Island, lit up a privatized island near the Pacific Ocean that was used by the Somalians to transport child trafficking through some prolific masonists, and even went through both physical and cyber warfare through the Wuhan War from 2024 to 2030. That had to have been the biggest one that Hilda, the boys and I all had to endure. The fact we had a lot of these rats subverted not just on American soil, but everywhere else from portions of Canada's borders, Germany, and even backtracking to Italy. Guess it's true that they say all things lead back to Rome.

Once we had dealt with the last of their regime, we departed back home to Wake City to plan out the rest of our lives. Because hey, the benefits scaled the heroism pretty evenly. We were all eating at one of our favorite diners, Burgeroth, when Hilda and I were discussing plans to move out to the countryside. Start a life of off grid living. Have a few new little warriors to help defend us for when he cannot stand anymore. After the collective years of taking down those whom oppressed us for so long, you couldn't really blame us for wanting to check out of modern city life. We weren't even halfway through paying the check to our waitress when the rumble nearly swept us from our feet.

We look outside, to our distressed horror, a mushroom cloud in the distance. What caught our attention more, was the fog of mysterious gas quickly covering the buildings and intersections. If it weren't for us having our duffel bags beside us, we'd be completely swamped from the strolling smoke. Hilda and I abruptly shimmied our CM-6M masks on and got our semi-autos out at the hip. Nine years of the despicable, underbelly of chaos steeled us for whatever would come next. But...nothing like this. This....was new.

Mobs of people...turned into some kind of Kronenstein freaks. Some had whipping tendrils from their open wounds. Some with morphed limbs that stretched and expanded far beyond what their muscular tissue could bear. Some, bore no eyes. Contorting like malleable putty. Something that even the people from Somalia who suffered from malnourished conditions, would greatly piss themselves from shock. This...fog...it wasn't normal. What especially wasn't normal, was that one individual in the contorted crowd was...violently exhaling fumes. The same kind of fumes that cover the fog. Police forces tried to cover the forks in the intersections to let others evacuate from the fog, or within the fog itself. That didn't last for longer than 0300 hours. The regulations our country enforced when it comes to the 2030 NG, were that they needed to cover sectors of their stationed

cities, form a contingency plan from out the gate, should bio-weaponry set foot on our country like it did a decade ago. On this massive of a scale, however, they were drastically under-prepared. Outmatched. As were we.

These once American citizens, these...creeps...the mob was greater than the sum of its community. Hilda and I had to retreat, reformulate a strategy. There was barely any time to even escape. From weaving through the west of Gon Street, narrowly gunning through the stretchy inflicted ones, to dodging frantic traffic between the intersections that go through Combs Ave and holding up in one of the bunkers stationed outside of Yellow Road, the mob grew more ferocious. Some of the areas became so dense in the fumes, we all had to form a Roman tortoise of guns before leaving the station. When we made our first supply run, Julian was the first to get literally whipped into a frenzy. His reaction rate in turning was in mere seconds. Dyson had to put him down fast. Wasn't very pretty, nor did we want to find out what he'd become. We all had to keep our wits about us.

It'd be nearly two months before the fog would dissipate. In that time frame, these bastards started to evolve between three days to a month's time. Not just as humanoid freaks, but as...strange creatures too. Westie got bitten by one of their smaller ranks when he was in the showers. A Latcher is what we called it. He started shooting out lumps of his fat all over the halls to the armament facility. Kane was losing his mind. He began to notice weird occurrences, hallucinated in believing the roads outside in the city limits were shifting. Even the buildings festered something wicked. He tells us he keeps hearing voices in his head, telling him to come back to the city. One like his wife, calling out to him. He knew it wasn't real. But it grew more demanding, to the point where it would deafen him. He tried to hold out for three weeks. He ended up taking the "easy way" out. Dyson was getting antsy. He began to feel itchy, and not by his trigger finger either. His skin was literally peeling away. Hilda and I found out the hard way after we were in the cafeteria when he was about to put his dirty tray near the dish-washing room. He began to shake violently, and in his wailing agony, his sores popped out bulbous tendrils, almost like a sea anemone. They sprang forth and tried to latch onto Hilda, dragging her in for his neck to swell, and form a tendril-like mouth. Before she's 20 inches away from being ingested from the husk that was once Dyson, I plugged him hard with concentrated buck shots from my nearby KSG Patrol. Hardened as we were from the days of true war, nothing could stop my wife and I from crying into each other's arms from the loss of our second family. We knew we couldn't stay cooped in this facility much longer. Too much of a risk.

We took the essentials from MREs, canned goods, pots, a spare uniform, clothing and masks, including what weapons that would emit the least noise, then headed for the garage to haul out in one of the Humvees. The old saying, "stuck like deers at the headlights" doesn't even come close to what happened next. A gaping hole beside the garage doors, as those fumes creeped in. The moment the keys turned the ignition, and the engine roared, the truck lights came on to show an entire group of them awoke from all ar-

Hold on...That sloshing sound near my legs... ~~

Musical Mystery Tour Chapter 2

By: Jake Ziesche

As the quintet went down Kiwi Street, Melody was still dubious of Alfredo's mysterious rafiki. "Alfredo, it feels like you made up a friend to get out of doing things you don't enjoy. If you didn't want to attend Sugarplum's cake decorating seminar or my art show, we would have understood."

"I'm telling you Waffle isn't imaginary," Alfredo shot back. "In fact, he suggested I get a job and I found a pet shop that's looking for a new hire."

"You're not the only one looking for work," Nikki put in. "I'm applying for work at a salon. I'll get hired for sure."

"I'm hoping to get employed at a spa," added Peanut. "I also entered a contest at the local pizza parlor. I sure hope I win."

"I'm hoping to find some new digs," said Melody. Melody used to have her own apartment. Unfortunately, the building got a new manager who was allergic to cats and he evicted Melody. Luckily, Valentine said Melody could crash with him for the time being. "I still adore staying with Sugarplum, though."

"I was happy to welcome you with open arms," Valentine acknowledged. "I love helping friends. Speaking of friends, Alfredo, where's your friend Waffle's shop?"

"It's not much farther," Alfredo informed Valentine. "As a matter of fact, we're here." Alfredo stopped in front of a China shop and opened the door. "Ladies first," Alfredo said giving Nikki a sly grin. The genie went inside with Melody right behind her. Alfredo let Valentine and Peanut go ahead of him, too. Once they did, the griffin entered, closing the door behind him.

Upon entering the establishment, the gang didn't see anyone. However, they heard a noise coming from the back room. A voice with an Italian accent was belting out the lyrics to "Mamma Mia!" When the song ended, a figure emerged and Alfredo's cohorts were shocked.

A six-foot Minotaur, dressed in a mint green zoot suit, lumbered toward them. A voluminous brown afro sat perfectly positioned between his two horns and added a few more inches to his height. The beast laid robin's egg blue eyes on the guests in his shop. "Everyone, meet my good friend Waffle," presented Alfredo.

When Waffle saw his visitors, he broke into a grin. "Welcome to my shop, friends." Then he caught sight of Alfredo. "Good to see you again, Fuzzy Wuzzy."

Alfredo's whole face turned pink at the mention of his nickname. The griffin managed to regain his composure and introduced Waffle to his comrades. Alfredo also noticed Melody looking flabbergasted at finding out she was in the wrong. "News flash: Melody has egg on her face, and that's the way it is Monday June 21, 2021."

"Thanks Walter Cronkite," Nikki deadpanned. Then she continued in a more eloquent voice. "We were hoping you could help us with something." Nikki showed Waffle the map fragment she discovered. "Does this look familiar to you?"

After a brief examination, a look of recognition appeared on Waffle's face. "I think I have just what you're looking for." Waffle reached into his hair and pulled out a bottle. The Minotaur tilted the bottle and a piece of paper slid out. Then he handed it to Nikki. The genie held up both scraps to see if they fit together and they did. "Grazie!" a joyous Nikki said to Waffle.

The Minotaur grinned from ear to ear. "You're quite welcome. It's always fun meeting new people, including a magical girl like you."

"If you ask me," Alfredo interjected. "every little thing she does is magic."

"May we have a look?" Melody asked. After a nod from Nikki, Melody looked over the two pieces. "It looks like we still need another part to complete the map. Where in the world could it be?"

Peanut raised his hand and said, "I think I have the third segment at home."

"Right, and I'm Bill Nye the Science Guy," an unconvinced Alfredo chimed in.

"This isn't a joke," Peanut protested. "If you guys come over, I can prove that I'm telling the truth. In fact, why don't we have a sleepover at my place?"

"What a wonderful idea," Valentine gushed. "We've never been to your abode before." Valentine turned to the others. "What do you guys think?"

Melody, Alfredo and Nikki all agreed with Valentine and the sleepover was on. The team decided to hold the get together on Wednesday. Nikki said she would hold on to the two map sections they already had.

"We should start preparing now," said Melody. Then she turned to Waffle. "It was nice to finally meet you. I hope to see you around in the future."

"I would love to spend time with you guys, and that includes Fuzzy Wuzzy," Waffle said as he turned his gaze to Alfredo.

"Look at the time! We should really be going," the griffin quickly stated. "We need to decide on refreshments for our little get together."

Everyone bid Waffle farewell and departed. They were off to get some grub for the first sleepover of summer. --

Sweet Island Sleepover

By: Mark Sulkin

One night, Alex was at her best friend's Erin's house for a sleepover. They had pizza for dinner, drew pictures, and watched *Toy Story* on television. When it was time for bed, Erin and Alex took a bath, put on their pajamas and brushed their teeth. In Erin's bedroom, Erin's mother got ready to read them a story.

"Here's a story I think you girls will love." said Erin's mother. "It's a story about children going to an island of sweets."

"I can't wait to hear it!" said Erin.

"Neither can I!" exclaimed Alex.

Erin's mother started reading the story. "Once upon a time," she began. "A group of children noticed a magic staircase in their school classroom. They climbed it and were surprised to see that they'd climbed aboard a big ship." Alex and Erin couldn't believe their ears. They'd never heard of a ship covered in candy before. Erin's mother read on. "The captain saw the children and said, 'Ahoy there me hardies! I'm Captain Sweet. Welcome aboard me ship. I will be taking ye to Sweet Island. On that island, you'll find all the sweets that you can eat, like candy, ice cream, cake, cookies, brownies, pies, donuts, muffins, cupcakes, and any other sweet treat you want.'"

The children were so excited. "We're ready, Captain Sweet!" they shouted. "Then away were go!" replied Captain Sweet. Captain Sweet sailed the children far and wide across the ocean. The children couldn't wait to eat all the sweets that Sweet Island had.

The ship sailed across the ocean pushed by a warm and wonderful wind. Finally, Captain Sweet shouted, "Land ho! Sweet Island dead ahead!" The children looked ahead and saw Sweet Island. "We see it!" they called. But as the ship got to Sweet Island, the sky began to turn gray and dark. "Oh no!" said the children. "It's a storm!" "Hang on, me hardies!" "We be in a hurricane!" The ship rocked back and forth and side to side in the storm. Suddenly, Captain Sweet shouted, "Look out, me hardies! Here comes a big wave.

The wave lifted the ship out of the water and dropped it on Sweet Island. Finally, the sky turned blue again and the gray clouds blew away. "Good news, me hardies!" called Captain Sweet. "The storm is over!" "Thanks, Captain Sweet!" explained the children. They got off the ship and went off to explore Sweet Island.

Some of the children went into a forest of ice cream cones. There was chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, peppermint, lemon, and lots of other flavors of ice cream. Other children found a gingerbread house. It had lollipops, gumdrops, M&Ms, Candy Corns, Candy Canes, and lots of other candies attached to it. When the children ate parts of the gingerbread house, they grew back. It was a magic gingerbread house.

The last group of children came upon a valley of baked goods. There were cupcakes, cakes, muffins, cookies, pies, brownies, donuts, and lots of other baked goods. They ate so much of them that they began to feel tired.

Soon, Captain Sweet called the children. "Attention, me hardies! It's time for you to sail home." The children climbed onboard the ship feeling very tired. They couldn't wait to tell their parents about the wonderful adventure they had."

"That is the end of the story." said Erin's mother. "Did you girls like it?" "We sure did, Mom." said Erin. "Thanks for reading to us." "You're welcome, girls. It's time for you to go to bed now." "Alex and Erin climbed into bed and said goodnight to Erin's mother. They fell fast asleep and dreamed all about what it would be like if Sweet Island was real to them.

THE END!~~

The Story of Babe Ruth

By: Daniel H. Ashkin

Babe Ruth was born on February 6, 1895 and died on August 16, 1948 from throat cancer. He lived on 216 Emory Street in the city of Baltimore, MD. George Herman Ruth Sr. was born in the country of Germany. When Babe was growing up, Babe's dad worked a series of jobs as a lightning rod salesman, streetcar operator, and a saloon owner. Before Babe Ruth was sent to St. Mary School of Orphanages, he got into many altercations in his neighborhood. For an example, he threw objects at the bar, police, and constantly swore.

When Babe Ruth attended the orphanages, Brother Matthias was introducing him to the game of baseball at the age of 15. When Babe Ruth was playing the game of baseball, he had exhibited exceptional skills in pitching and hitting baseballs. Jack Dunn, who was a scout, signed him a major league contract at the age of 19.

According to HBO Sports Biography on youtube.com, Babe Ruth had two types of traits as a young adult. One, he was very compulsive. Two, he loved children. Before each major league game, he would drink alcohol and occasionally eat too much at restaurants. He loved to eat hot dogs. On the other hand, Babe Ruth was very generous with all types of races of children growing up in New York City. He taught children how to play the game of baseball through assisting Little Leagues in New York City. Many of the children saw him as a folk hero.

When Babe Ruth was a child, he spent most of his time living in his father's saloon. Before Babe Ruth went to the Catholic orphanage, he had poor parents, little education and frequently ran away from home. When Babe Ruth was attending St. Marys' Orphanages for boys, he was struggling to become a mature adult. Because of his poor childhood, Babe Ruth wanted children to develop a solid foundation of a character and dignity through playing the game of baseball.

Babe Ruth was a major movie star in the movie *"New York Yankee-Babe Ruth in 'Just the Pals.'"* In the story, he taught a boy who was struggling to hit the baseball with other teammates. After the game, Babe Ruth took him to Yankee Stadium and taught him how to hit a baseball. When the boy returns to his little League, he slugged a home run over the fence for his home team.

Babe Ruth often visited children hospitals for sick children. In one of the stories, he signed a baseball for Johnny Sylvester. Johnny Sylvester fell off a horse and suffered spinal infection. He also suffered brain swelling from the accident. When Babe Ruth visited the boy, he signed the boy's baseball. Babe Ruth commented, "I knock a homer for you in Wednesday's game."



Figure 1 Babe Ruth's Visit

On game 4 of the World Series of 1926, Babe Ruth slugged three home runs for the sick boy in the hospital that day. Later, Babe Ruth wrote Tom Sylvester a personal letter. When the boy grew older, he sold the famous baseball for \$76,747 dollars to Siegel.

Babe Ruth Major League Statistics as Pitcher and a Hitter

From the years of 1914 to 1933, Babe Ruth had won 94 games as a pitcher for the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees. During this time, his earned run average was of 2.28 as a pitcher. He had accumulated 17 shutouts as a pitcher during this period. Ironically, he had completed 163 games as pitcher between the years of 1914 and 1933 as a starting pitcher.

Babe Ruth was known as an impressive home run hitter through these years. He slugged 714 home runs. Babe Ruth had driven 2213 RBIs during this amazing period. However, he struck out 1330 times as a hitter at the plate. When Babe Ruth was traded to the Boston Red Sox, he only had a batting average of .181 for his last year. During his last year, many of the fans started booing him for his poor performance at the plate.

Because of Babe Ruth's reckless behavior with alcohol, food, and girls in the Major Leagues, none of the teams wanted to hire him as a coach or manager. Babe Ruth could only get his reputation as a sideshow in a circus according to an HBO Sports Special.

In 1946, Babe Ruth was diagnosed as suffering from throat cancer in the state of New Hampshire at his private home. He could not eat regular food. Before Babe Ruth died, his number was retired by the New York Yankees. He was invited to speak for the fans. In Babe's pale voice, he wanted every kid to enjoy the game of baseball.

On August 16, 1948, Babe finally died of throat cancer at a hospital. Before his body was buried, the Yankees fans could view his body for the last time. Children showed their respect to the king of baseball. The whole city of New York City was touched by this great man of baseball through a documentary special of HBO Special on youtube.com

On a whole, the Babe was the king of baseball, children and adults will never forget this incredible man's spirit in the game of baseball. Not everyone in this world is perfect. However, he or she can bring a special contribution to this society.



Figure 2. Statue of Babe Ruth

Sources

Babe Ruth's Effects on Children

"New York Yankee-Babe Ruth in "Just the Pals."

Ruth and John Sylvester Story

Babe Ruth's Statistics as Pitcher and a Hitter

My Theories on *Five Nights at Freddy's*

By Michelle Middlemiss

In my last *Pittverse* article I began this discussion about my theories concerning the book series that Scott Cawthon wrote.

Using some of the *Five Nights at Freddy's* books and basically *Survival Security Logbook* by Scott Cawthon, it got me wondering if Mike is really Oswald. One of the spirits talking through the book keeps on asking: "Do you remember your name?" It's almost as if saying that the spirit knows that Mike is not the name of the person working and using the book.

Thirty years after one of the first killings at Freddy Fazbears, "Freddy's" is now "Jeff's Pizza." I think Henry was actually the owner of the Fazbears Restaurant so that he could protect the Ball Pit. Basically Henry bought Fazbears so Oswald would one day discover the Ball Pit.

When he was young, Oswald went back in time through a time travel device which was the Ball Pit, and could have as an adult, reused the Ball Pit to undermine the Purple Guys murder sprees.

Another point is that I think Oswald's father is one of Henry's children. At first I thought that Oswald's father was the purple guy, but after more thought and reading the other Fazbear books this makes more sense.

One of the reasons I thought Sammy was the killer was the fact he didn't leave town when the Mill left. I'm just calling Oswald's father Sammy so that it's easier. Yes, the story says Sammy stayed because of his mother. But it's only brought up once. If Scott Cawthon brings something up, it's important. But not once do we meet the mother.

Point one: from the story "Out of Stock," the reader meets this guy that is only in the story to be the set up. And this is just as important as the unknown "Mother."

Point two: in the same book that "Into the Pit" is in, the story reads where Oswald is alone with Jeff's Pizza. Count the ways every character has a point.

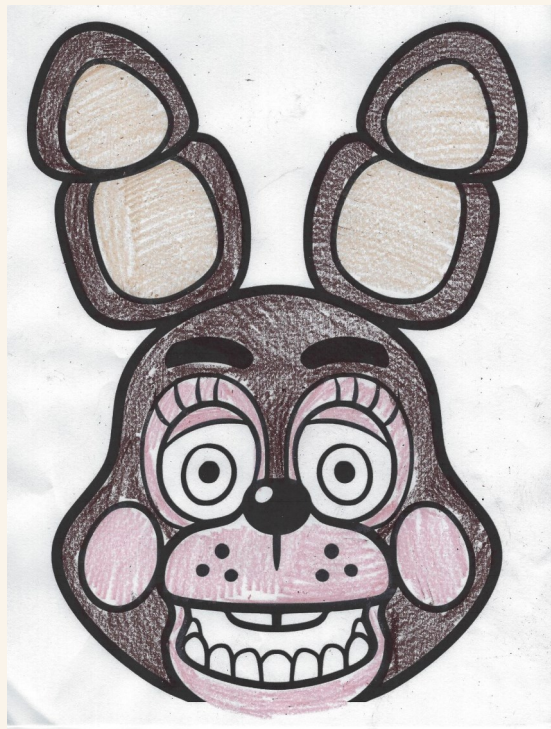
Another reason I thought Sammy was the killer was the fact that in the story he gets taken over by the killer, Spring Tap. This is where I think Jeff (Henry), comes in. He did see the rabbit; this was what he'd been waiting for and dreading. Spring Tap is back.

I think this is when he learns some kids have some kind of psychic connection to the old stories. Maybe he started hearing also about the missing people in other cities.

In the book *Talisman* by Stephen King, his main character is connected to another dimension through a doppelganger (someone who looks just like you). Scott might be doing the same thing to try his book and games together. The Stephen King book might also have some hints to the rules of the world that Scott has made. Because the only way to be sure of this is to ask Scott. So this will always be just a theory. He could be taking some of the ideas from the World of Narnia, *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis.

Why I really believe Jeff is Henry and Oswald's father is Sammy is because I think Henry Fazbear faked both of their deaths.

In the "Five Nights at Freddy's" games Henry set up a simulator Pizza Place to bring all the possessed electronics to this restaurant in order to burn it down. It's very possible that Henry had this convoluted plan to make sure Oswald would find the time travelling Ball Pit.~~



Avenging *Back to the Future* by Redoing *The Avengers*

By: Andrew Olsavicky

I will “avenge “ the ideas of *Back to the Future* by telling “Marvel Comics” how it screwed up its own franchise and how they have insulted a better one, known more so as the trilogy that is *Back to the Future*. First lets list what things they have messed up in their franchise starting with the thing that INSULTS GREATLY the ideas and TRUE FANS of the *Back to the Future* Trilogy, and to put it short and simple they have stated that “Time Travel, Can’t change the Past.” To make things worse, this is a falsehood in their franchise as in the movie *Doctor Strange*, the main character did use a form of time travel to change how things would turn out. This has been the most up-setting things to fans of *Back to the Future* as we ALL believe that you can change the past to make a better future, and even if modern science says otherwise. We have a right to say otherwise and complain about it and try to change things in movies to reflect it. Put more simply again, If *Back to the Future* was like God, *The Avengers* at this point would be like the DEVIL. Anyway since I have done what I think I must do to fight for what you might call “The Back to the Future Believers” I will continue with fixing *The Avengers* as they will need to change things that have happened in the timeline of their franchise much as the characters in *Back to the Future* do likewise in one way or another. To continue with the issues I will list them with a basic idea of how they should turn out:

The Deaths of (in order of importance):

Iron Man : So he can raise his daughter and make sure she does not become like him, but hopefully like Captain America maybe something like “Iron America” a character with the Captains views but Iron-Man’s power

Black Widow : Though should be cursed to make up for all the atrocities she committed working for the KGB and unable to die/age until she does

Vision: Restored and with the same powers just not with the infinity stone

Captain America : In the sense of him quitting, should be viewed as a soldiers abandonment of duty and treated likewise, plus I’m not racist but I don’t think a black guy should be Captain America especially one who was already another superhero

Gamora: Should use the time travel technique they have already to switch the Bad Gamora from the future with Gamora who Thanos killed before he killed her

People who should die or be punished in a way worse:

The Winter Soldier Dies: By having Bucky Barns sacrificing himself and restoring either Black Widow or Gamora

Thanos : Alive but stripped of all his powers and resources, and sentenced to a life of pain and suffering

Ego :Turned into a Human and stripped of his powers, and sentenced to the same painful fate as Thanos

Hele : Same as Ego

Loki : Same as Hele

Karl Mordo : Alive, but stripped of his powers which are then used to heal other characters in the franchise like War Machine’s spine

General Issues:

The Blip/Half the Universes Population disappearing

They need to go back and keep it from ever happening and force Thanos down the path previously mentioned

The Idea that lives were disrupted is bad and the issues with the students including the joke about the older brother now being younger than his kid brother and the administrators making them repeat a year is DEFINITELY WRONG AND OUT-DATED

Ironman's/Tony Stark's Daughter:

He should be there to raise her unlike what happened with him and his parents. She should turn out more like Captain America and not be the next feminine version of Ironman

Infinity Stones

Saved from being destroyed and used to restore Asgard, Thor's Hammer and Thor's Eye

Kept in one piece but only accessible to one guy a new who is more powerful than the most powerful being in the universe, but still human and thanks to the Mandarin Formula able to withstand the side effects of the stones, who makes deals with the others to keep things good including earth and give new less powerful stones to those who had the originals

Those are the basic Ideas behind all the issues they have made for themselves so far. As for the last thing about the guy I mentioned, he would be a character based on myself called "Mr. Destiny" who like myself has Autistic and OCD issues, and will say to others in his/my words "I may not and will not be any better than anyone else, but they will never be any better than me because we stand as equals in both good and bad ways." In any case, what they need to do now is have a movie where they go and fix all these things in the manner of which I mentioned, possibly where it is "Mr. Destiny" who has to be convinced to do all these things instead of destroying the universe as it is. Plus they should make a movie about the terrible fate of the villains who are all sent to another dimension to be tortured, kind of like "The Bad Place" in the series "The Good Place" but connected to the Marvel Universe, with the idea that the movie is the Marvel Equivalent of DC's "Superman III". This Movie would have Patrick McKenna as a version of my favorite of his characters "Harold Green" being in charge of this place, in which he explains what they all really are and why "Mr. Destiny" who also knows as he comes from our Universe, has done this to them, and see the various ways they are tormented for what they have done and how it is all just a painful illusion in the end like what the aliens in the original "Star Trek Pilot Episode" do. If you're wondering why "Harold Green" I say because as a nerdy character he would be perfect for making comic book villain's suffer. As for how all this relates to the "Back to the Future" part, basically "Mr. Destiny" would use time traveling powers by reversing the flow of time and altering events as they happen to make things better, and after showing all the hero characters each of their stories so they would all know who each of the other ones are, though not like what he does with the bad guys. He would make them all admit that *Back to the Future* was right, you can change history, and that it is their lot in life to do the "Hero Gig" for all their life no matter what. Also I think that having more than one Marvel Timeline would be too confusing and that they should abandon this idea for the same reason the "Stargate Franchise" choose to not make the two planned sequel movies to the original movie and just carry the events of the movie into their first TV Series, which made things much more comfortable for the fans and general audience, especially since it would also eliminate a lot of arguing among comic book readers who spend too much time arguing over trivial things based on the different approaches instead of having a nice and neat set of how things are and how things will be. Doing so is a waste of time and just causes problems especially among good friends and even family. With all that the Marvel Universe would be fixed, *Back to the Future* would be avenged, and the sanity of people like me in this universe would be restored, thank you.~~

It Happened in 2020

By: Delaine Swearman

In 2020, the world's "most powerful" nations plummeted off the charts of success when confronted with a .1 micron coronavirus. Success became measured by one metric only, the ability to control COVID-19. As nations, and as a world, we were easily overwhelmed by the virus. But on a human level, we have fought hard and sacrificed much in this ongoing battle.

In the beginning, we realized that as a human species we must first focus on our collective survival; everything else could be put on hold. The minimum wage janitor and sanitation worker, whose jobs were once scoffed at, suddenly became "essential," and the movie star became unemployed.

The balance of the planet was thrown out of orbit by a force of global human connectedness, which spread COVID-19 from a single location in China to our entire world. Throughout 2020 the virus defied closed borders, government rules, shutdowns, social distancing, and wearing face masks. It spread not only death and disease, but violence, poverty, hunger, loneliness, isolation, and depression.

Ironically, the interconnectedness that tore us apart has also brought us together. We have broached digital divides. We have found camaraderie in our shared human experience across the world. We have raced for

Paternal Grandmother Tribute Nathaniel R Geyer

On the Eastern Orthodox Christmas 1931 (Thursday, January 7, 1931) my paternal grandmother was born to a pair of Eastern European immigrants who moved to the United States for a better life for their family. The father could only obtain a job as a coal miner in Hazleton, Pa. My grandmother was born the third daughter out of eleven children during the second year of the Great Depression. Although not much is known about this time, it was difficult. My great-grandmother asked the eleven children to watch over each other and settle differences by talking to each other. As a result, each of the sisters and brothers had family connections that continue to blossom today.

My grandmother's story was a bit more challenging than the other sisters. She was married at a young age and had her only child when she was in her twenties. During her marriage they had moved to the capital city of Harrisburg. After several years, sadly, the marriage ended in divorce. Now she needed to find a job to support the two of them. She ended up working at a shoe store for many years. My Dad would often go spend time with her family in Hazleton. Year later, she married again to Glenn Attick who I consider my paternal grandfather. He took great care of his new family for more than 50 years, until his death in 2015.

My grandmother was working at a shoe store, but then was hired as a receptionist at the Dauphin County Courthouse. My grandmother could not type efficiently but had the personality to compensate for her lack of typing. When the county commissioner became the first elected attorney general she moved to his office as executive administrative assistant. She remained working in state government for 15 years, working for two attorney generals, until she retired in December 1995.

In January 2021, she was a widow, unable to drive, and had some dementia, she was a very important part of my life. During the 30 plus years with her, she always reminded me that in life you must work hard to get what you want. She kept daily contact with her sisters and brothers and loved to be near the company of her immediate family. She always looked forward to her phone calls with the daily gossip. On Sunday, February 7th she left us. Gone, but not forgotten. She will be missed by her family.~~

My Weird Morning

By: Rachel Williamson

On a late Saturday morning of 1993, my parents and I were driving in Waynesburg, PA. As we were passing 22 east high building, a car cut in front of us, and a minor crash happened. We all were ok. A woman from Nazarene Church saw the wreck and took me in her store and gave me a stuffed bear and named it Brave Bear. I was left alone for a second or two when I heard a strange voice, saying “are you ok?”

I searched for who said that, then it came out to be the truck! He said, “Are you ok? I’m an alien from the Planet Cybertron. We’re here to protect earth! You can nick name me if you want.”

I said, “Thanks for being my friend.”

On the way home, I was a little gritty from the crash, so I grabbed the interior too hard. He whispered very low. “Don’t squeeze me that hard.” I apologized. When we got home, we went to my grandparents’ house to visit. I wanted to talk more, but the truck whispered, “Just go and I’ll be every vehicle that you’re parents have, ok?” I nodded and went off and asked my grandma if she heard the crash uptown. She was too busy talking to my parents and Uncle Ben. I was happy I was safe with an alien friend that was a truck. All my life I knew I was being watched by someone in plain sight.~~



Sunday Boy Band Group

By: Amelia Krzton

Every Sunday, ever since the start of the new year, my friends and I have been studying the music of our favorite boy bands, like NSYNC and 98 Degrees. NSYNC formed in 1995 and consists of Justin Timberlake, JC Chasez, Chris Kirkpatrick, Joey Fatone, and Lance Bass, and their best song is “Tearin’ Up My Heart” from their 1997 debut album. 98 Degrees formed in 1997 and consists of brothers Nick and Drew Lachey, Jeff Timmons, and Justin Jeffre, and their best song is “Give Me Just One Night (Una Noche)” from their 2000 album Revelation. Thus far, the activities we have done on Sundays include common slumber party activities while listening to their music, choreographed dance routines, dinner with a celebrity from the band, recording instrumental versions of the songs, having a discussion group on these dance anthems, a Valentine’s Day dance at Trinity United Methodist Church in Brackenridge, and this week, for the first time ever- Childhood Chat before and after snow tubing in Schenley Park! While jamming out to NSYNC’s 1997 debut album, we found out about Carnegie Mellon University sophomore Allison Brawner sporting a new pair of slippers in 5th grade in downtown Pittsburgh, 9th grader Ashley Cassoin getting a manicure in 5th grade in the North Side, CCAC Boyce Campus sophomore Elizabeth Mosh buying a night light in 11th grade in Oakland, and 5th grader Samantha Mifflin pulling pranks in 4th grade in the South Side. While jamming out to 98 Degrees’ 2000 album, *Revelation*, we found out about Chatham University sophomore Abigail Mifflin going to bed early at 9 years old in Ross Township, 6th grader Emily Grey eating waffles for breakfast at 4 years old in Westmoreland County, 9th grader Hannah Mifflin watching YouTube videos at 8 years old in Hampton Township, Carnegie Mellon University sophomore Emma Wallace watching a funny movie at 14 years old in McCandless, 12th grader Jennifer Preager selling lemonade at 15 years old in the northern suburbs, and Carnegie Mellon University freshman Kayla Jennis staying comfy at 17 years old in the southern suburbs.~~

How to Understand the Game Stop Stock Drama

By: Megan Cunningham

For this issue, I now endeavor to undergo a very difficult challenge that few have ever successfully accomplished during this winter of 2021. For it began like a pleasant surprise for a country beleaguered with white supremacist terror at the Capitol, more Covid-19 cases, and rich people screwing the rest of us. But it attracted major outcry from Wall Street with panicking hedge fund managers thinking the whole world they once knew has gone down in flames. I will try to coherently explain the recent story of Game Stop. Now before I get to the story, I'd like to talk about hedge funds. These are financial partnerships between a financial manager and investors pooling in their money into the fund to earn active returns. Originating in the 1940s, these funds create a "hedge" by "shorting" stocks thought poised to fall. The "hedge" is meant to reduce risk and protect against market fluctuations. But while this remains the basic hedge fund strategy, they often range from extremely risky to fairly conservative. Since hedge fund managers are nearly always paid a performance fee, or percentage of their created gains, they have a strong incentive to make money for investors.

Now our saga begins when a group of enraged small-time investors took to Reddit took on these hedge fund firms in this Game Stop "short squeeze" frenzy, encouraging millions of others to join in. Using the trading platform Robinhood, their effort to drive up Game Stop's price once perceived as undervalued soon shifted to "Stick it to Wall Street. They "squeeze" to rally the share price and personally profit from it while forcing hedge funds betting on its fall to buy it to prevent greater losses. And man, it was sweet to see these rich yacht owners feel like the market was deeply unfair if a bunch of small-time investors on Reddit manipulate stock prices and not them.

So why did these small-time investors on Reddit want to stick it to hedge funds? Well, you can blame Wall Street greed for that. For hedge funds have angered many Americans for gutting companies, causing layoffs, and engaging in questionable financial practices responsible for the near economic collapse in 2008. While millions of Americans lost money during the depths of the financial crisis along with their jobs and their homes, some big-time investors did astonishingly well, including those who predicted and profited from the buildup and collapse of the housing and credit bubbles in the late 2000s. And if you're an American who's had their life upended during the recession, you'd be pissed. As University of Pennsylvania professor Itay Goldstein told *USA Today*, "They're associated with ruthless financial institutions that are out there to make money and not care where it's coming from." For instance, a hedge fund manager named John Paulson netted \$20 billion in profits when he bet against subprime mortgage at the 2007 housing credit bubble's peak. As Bright Trading market structure head Dennis Dick noted that short sellers keep stock prices in check in check by voicing their opinion on where they believe a stock's valued. "It's not like every short seller is making bets against America. They're making calls on whether a stock is overvalued or not," he told *USA Today*. But whether he's right or is just living up to his name is up for you to decide.

Nor was it just the distressed Game Stop that experienced a sudden rise in stock price either. Other companies ailing during the Covid-19 pandemic are seeing their shares soar on Reddit. These companies are the theater chain AMC Entertainment that shot more than 300% and American Airlines soaring up to 30%. But then Robinhood stated that, "in light of recent volatility" and started restricting transactions for securities including Game Stop and AMC, and raising margin requirements. But later changed its mind to allow "limited buys" of these.

Nonetheless, the debacle involving Game Stop, Reddit, and Robinhood has led to Capitol Hill's harshest criticisms of Wall Street in years. Not surprisingly, several prominent lawmakers have warned of such moments, stating how hedge funds and corporations have too much power. As US Senator Elizabeth Warren wrote in a long letter that it's "long beyond time for the SEC to act" asking it to investigate the rallies in Game Stop, AMC Entertainment, and others that "have seen huge shifts in their share price driven by similar internet reading schemes. These wild fluctuations are just the latest indication that many private equity firms, hedge funds, and other investors, big and small, are treating the stock market like a casino, giving little consideration to the companies, communities, workers, and consumers that may be affected by these risky bets."

Time will only tell whether the populist movement to disrupt the financial system will be sustained. Although hedge funds like Melvin Capital Management took the brunt of losses from Game Stop's and other shorted stocks' soaring prices. However, others made a ton of money like Senvest Management, which landed \$700 million. Goldstein noted, "Is it sticking it to Wall Street? Only temporarily, but in the long term probably not. At the end of the day, the sophisticated financial institutions will find ways to recuperate and make money out of this." After all, they always do.

Unfortunately, Game Stop's stock price couldn't remain rising forever. When February began, the share price plummeted with an estimated \$27 billion in value along with other stocks like Blackberry and AMC. All of this was due to Robinhood and other brokers' restrictions on their clients' share purchase limit. Yet, despite the decline, some of the Reddit users involved rallied convince other users to hold on to their shares. Arguing they'd either increase in value or that such an action would send a political message. Even though those holding on to their shares suffered significant losses. Also, since Game Stop's basically the Blockbuster of video games, the chances of it regaining its value are unlikely.

Nonetheless, this Game Stop debacle has shown that what people see as the so-called free market is a human construct and that people can manipulate the stock market at their own wills. Or if a bunch of people band together to buy and sell shares on the Internet. For a long time, the people shaping the economy to their hearts content were and still are the greedy 1% who don't like it when mere peons do the same. ~~

Shigeru Miyamoto

An article written by John Kruse

Often referred to as the “Walt Disney” of video games, Shigeru Miyamoto and the characters he created are recognized worldwide. Born on November 16, 1952 in Kyoto, Japan, he would spend most of his childhood exploring the surrounding areas of his home town (such as caves and mountains) and would get ideas for video games and the surroundings for the characters based on what he had experienced as a child (ex. *Legend of Zelda* series). He would partake in other activities such as drawing, painting, playing baseball, and participating in puppet shows. His family didn’t own a car or a television but would travel to the movie theaters (and would watch cartoons made by Disney). At age 11 his father eventually bought a television and he would get interested in Japanese Animation on TV at that age and in middle school. He would get interested in playing the banjo and bluegrass music as he attended Kanazawa College.

In 1977 he graduated and would become Nintendo’s first industrial designer (his father and Yamauchi were friends at the time). He got an interview and showcased toy ideas such as a three-way see saw, children’s clothes hangers with designs (in the shape of birds and elephants), and a grandfather clock (to be used at an amusement park). The first project he was involved with for Nintendo was housing designs for Color TV Racing 112 and he wanted to make better hardware which he explained as “bad.”

In 1980 Nintendo was trying to make it big in the arcades with “Radar Scope” which didn’t do too well in America but did better with the Japanese. They told him, “Find a way to make this better.” He said, “I will. We’ll make a new game using the same things we have here.” He wanted to create a game based on the cartoon *Popeye*, but Nintendo couldn’t secure the rights with King Features to use the character. When developing *Popeye*, he would stop the cartoon and play it back frame by frame and draw the character movements. Miyamoto would create a game where Mario (called “Jump Man” at the time) would save Pauline (based off of Olive Oil from the *Popeye* cartoons) from a stubborn gorilla (in place of Brutus) and thus “Donkey Kong” was created.

In 1985 the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES for short) came to America. It was released in Japan a year earlier as the “Famicom” (a shortened version of “Family Computer”). Soon Super Mario Bros. came out and would soon become a huge hit!

Then The Legend of Zelda came out in 1986. It would be the first video game where you could save your progress if you wanted to come back to it later.

Miyamoto can be recently seen in a video on YouTube giving a grand tour of a Nintendo Theme Park that will open in Japan later this year. It might come to Hollywood, but nothing has been confirmed yet. Miyamoto has been seen from Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon’s YouTube to G4’s Icons series. I think he is a genius and has created so many wonderful video games I grew up with. I hope to follow in his footsteps someday.

“Any new media or industry that grows rapidly is going to be criticized. That’s just because the older, more established media have been around, and a lot of adults can be very conservative. They may not have an open mind to new things that weren’t around when they were growing up, and are replacing the things they grew up with... over the years I’ve seen this standard image of a child playing a video game in which the child is alone in a darkened room, with his face very close to the TV, with the light of the TV reflecting off his face, holding the controller and just staring at the TV. I’d really like to be able to change that image of video games into something that’s a little more positive.”

— Shigeru Miyamoto

Satoshi Tajiri: From Game Boy to Pokémon Master A 25th Anniversary Retrospective by Michael Kurland

How did an Autistic kid from Machida, Japan use two childhood interests as inspiration for Nintendo's second-highest franchise? To answer this, we have to go back in time to 1960s Japan. Satoshi Tajiri was born on August 28, 1965 in a suburb of Tokyo, Japan. His father was a Nissan salesman and his mother was a housewife. At a very young age, he loved exploring the outdoors and developed a huge passion for collecting insects, earning him the nickname "Dr. Bug" by his peers.



Satoshi Tajiri, 2016

In the late 1970s, apartment buildings and shopping malls replaced the ponds and fields. As a result, Tajiri's interest switched to video games and arcades. Even though his parents initially thought he was throwing his future away, they were very happy when he graduated from the Tokyo National College of Technology. To help raise awareness of these games, he founded the magazine *Game Freak* in 1982. Eventually, it went from a gaming magazine to an actual developer.

One fateful day, in the early 1990s, a chance discovery would allow both of his childhood hobbies to form the inspiration for a brand new concept. Upon finding out about the Game Boy Link Cable, an idea immediately struck him. He wanted to give today's kids a chance to find these creatures just like he did in real life. He pitched the initial concept for *Pokémon* to Nintendo, and even though they didn't fully understand the idea, they gave him the green light and the assistance from another game design studio, Creatures, Inc. as well as the direct influence of Shigeru Miyamoto, the creator of the *Super Mario Bros.* franchise.



After six years in development, on February 27, 1996, *Pokémon Red and Green* were released in Japan, and became immediate best sellers. Two-and-a-half years later, *Pokémon* came to the United States. And by the end of the decade, the franchise had turned into an inescapable phenomenon, spawning comics, spin-off titles, a TV series, and even a live-action feature film.



February 27, 2021 marks the 25th anniversary of *Pokémon*, and it's not stopping anytime soon. For Satoshi Tajiri, what does the future hold? Only time will tell as the journey continues...~~

Pokémon Created by Satoshi Tajiri, Junichi Masuda & Ken Sugimori

**25th Anniversary Art Courtesy of the Pokémon Company
© 1996-2021 Nintendo, Game Freak & Creatures, Inc.**

TOP 20 Most Interesting Facts about Sesame Street

By: Candi Brooks



1. According to Sesame Workshop, Elmo is the only non-human to testify before Congress. In 2002, he lobbied for more funding for music education.
2. Nigeria's version of Cookie Monster isn't into cookies at all. Nigeria's version of Cookie Monster eats yams. His catchphrase is: "ME WANT YAM!"
3. In 1990, a clay stop-motion short starring a character named Arnold debuted on the show. It would later become "Hey Arnold."
4. Kermit the Frog became the first Sesame Street character to be part of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in 1977.
5. Ernie wears horizontal stripes on his sweater to make him appear more relaxed; while Bert wears vertical stripes on his sweater to make him appear more uptight.
6. Big Bird's feathers are white turkey feathers, dyed yellow.
7. Oscar the Grouch used to be orange before season two. Oscar said he went on vacation to the very damp swamp "Mushy Muddy" and turned green overnight.
8. Cookie Monster wasn't an amateur when he joined Sesame Street. He'd started his acting career almost three years prior starring as "The Wheel Stealer" in an unaired General Foods commercial. He then went on to appear in the IBM training film and a Munchos commercial.
9. Both Cookie Monster and Snuffleupagus have first names. Cookie Monster's first name is Sid and Snuffy's first name is Aloysius.
10. In 2002, the South African version of Sesame Street added a HIV-positive Muppet named Kami.
11. Big Bird has a teddy bear named Radar who was named after the character on M*A*S*H who slept with a teddy bear every night.
12. Big Bird made a special guest appearance on an episode of "Deal or No Deal" to help contestant Lamar Wilson overcome his childhood fear of the bird.
13. Cookie Monster is the only Muppet character who has five fingers. Everyone else has four.
14. Ernie's song "Rubber Ducky" was released as a single in 1970 and made it to #16 on the Billboard Chart.
15. Breaking Bad and Better Call Saul's Gus Fring played Big Bird's camp counselor, Mickey, in 1982.
16. According to Sesame Workshop, there are currently more than 150 different versions of Sesame Street in 70 different languages.
17. Bert has a bottle cap collection of 368 bottle caps and his favorite bottle cap is from figgy fizz soda.
18. Count von Count's birthday is October 9,1,830,653 B.C.
19. After spending 44 years on Sesame Street, Sonia Manzano, who played, Maria, retired in 2015. She was nominated for two Emmys as Outstanding Performer and won 15 Emmys as a writer for the show. Big Bird's favorite bird-seed milkshake cost a mere 20 cents at Hooper's store back in 1969. Today they go for \$2.99.~~

Adele Jergens

By: David O'Rorey

This article is dedicated to the talent and beauty of Actress/Model Adele Jergens. I have 26 films she made from 1945-1956. One of the nicest and sexiest from the golden age of Hollywood. When movies were movies and had great icons in front and behind the camera. Born on November 26, 1917 as Adele Louise Jergens. She was 5'9 and her measurements are 30-23-33. She was originally a brunette and chorus girl in the late 1930's. She started in 1943. Though her first credited role was in 1944 the film *Black Arrow*. She was a name. She was credited as "The Girl with The Million Dollar Legs" and "The Eye-ful." By the mid 40's she had dyed her hair blonde was a tough talking actress who did lots of great Noir movies as a bad girl, plus many other roles. She married fellow actor Glenn Langan by 1949. I have two movies they made together called *The Treasure Of The Monte Crisco '49* and later in



1954 *The Big Chase*. She wanted to break free of the B-Film cheesecake status roles and chorus roles. That never came to be, and the same fate was suffered by another favorite, Peggie Castle!

Adele was named the All-American Girl during WWII by 504th parachute infantry she was a regular Pin-Up in Yank Magazines of the 1940's. She was a hard-working blonde, especially when her hair was let down. Some of her roles were very heroic women. At the end of her movie run, doing three movies for the fledgling low-budget company, A.I.P. (American International Pictures). It was produced by Alex Gordon, the younger brother of famed Executive Producer, Richard Gordon. Alex said she was one the nicest and sweetest women he ever knew. Glenn Langan and Adele had a song together which he worked in Hollywood behind-the-scenes as a technician. Adele was wwith Langan till he died in 1991 of cancer at age 73. Their only son, Tracy, suffered a terrible fate and died in 2001 of a brain tumor at only 48.

This devastated Adele and her health quickly declined. The following

year on November 22, 2002, she died from pneumonia at age 84, days shy of her 85th Birthday.

Now I want to discuss my thoughts and observations and story of discovering some of Adele and her films. The first time I saw a movie with Adele Jergens was maybe in 1999. I VHS taped on Sci-Fi Channel *Abbott And Costello Meet The Invisible Man* from 1951, which runs about 82 minutes. All of these films are pretty much not rated. It was shot in black in white and released by Universal-International Pictures. She shared the screen with comedy legends Bud and Lou. The great Arthur Franz a favorite actor of mine of all-time! William Frawley of *I Love Lucy* fame. In the *Abbott and Costello* film, Adele plays a main bad guy's gang mole "Boots Marsden." Her performance was well very seductive to Lou's character and sneaky at the time; looking very good as usual too. Then I saw her in Roger Corman's Sci-Fi-Thriller *Day The World Ended* (1955) B&W 78 mins [NR]. Superscope shot at an aspect ratio of 2.00:1 one of the last films as with A.R.C. (American Releasing Corporation) Changed by 1956 to A.I.P. as I stated above. I





saw *Day The World Ended* on AMC's Monsterfest around October in 2000, which I also VHS taped. Master Sculptor and Artist Paul Blaisdell also made and wore the main creature costume in the film dubbed *Marty, The Mutant*. The film is about the survivors of an apocalyptic nuclear war film. It focuses on the survivors of an atomically destroyed world. Adele again plays another showgirl named Ruby in the film a type of burlesque queen. With a real jerk of a boyfriend played by "Mannix" fame 60's T.V. show actor and previous films the actor, Touch Connors (real name Mike Connors). He passed away just a few years ago in his 90s believe it or not--great actor!

They could not stop giving her these roles and that was the end of her career. Then on eBay I snagged the VHS of her in *Girls In Prison*, released under A.I.P. in 1956. Adele shared the screen alongside greats like Richard Denning, Joan Taylor, and Lance Fuller. Adele played Jenny trying to help a wrongly persecuted inmate played by Actress/Model Joan Taylor escape. The film was directed by B-Movie legend Edward L. Cahn. I have so many films he made. I think her performance in this was one of her best! I think next I saw her in the 1951 film *Armored Car Robbery*, which aired on TCM, as I VHS taped it one day in 2005. The film a great little B-Grade Noir-Crime-Thriller Classic as Adele appeared in it as Yvonne LeDoux another burlesque queen. Directed by the great Richard Fleischer! I have a good bit of his films. Responsible for other Noir Classics such as *The Narrow Margin*, '52 a B-Grade Noir Classic which The B's can be made good if not better than a lot of the A Films and lots of times



are more remembered and out-gross the A Films in too many situations. Also with Adele was tough talking Noir lead actor Charles McGraw, also with William Talman, Steve Brodie and Gene Evans fans of them all also. Adele did well and all dancing on stage as any guy would like her but again the type-cast burlesque queen role.

I know I like all the films I saw she made and whatever role she played in. She was tough talking I thought her voice suited her well. I remember I asked my Grandma if she remembered her as I was just starting to becoming a passionate fan of her talent and beauty back in 1999 or so. I not only remember her burlesque and chorus girl roles. Also some of her heroic and no take no crap tough talking roles. As I own 34 with the extras on them and 437 digital jpeg images of her. My own scans and downloads since 2001 or 2002 I have been collecting her movies and cheesecake images. I really enjoy reading about her so much. I wish I could find an interview as I don't think she ever did any. I thought she was a very good singer as well in the chorus girl roles. On a final note

on that, even though I am not so big on Monroe, she did a movie with Marilyn Monroe as her mother called *Ladies Of The Chorus* from 1949 that is black and white and runs a little over an hour. Just seems her career went up and down; she even had bit parts they threw her into cause she was a popular name in these films and she delivered in whatever they roles they gave her. Fans like me keep her memory alive and remember her and knew she could have done more! She means so much to me as a kid and still I will always revisit her films, bonus features and photos! What a woman or even better as they called them dames then amazing woman inside and out!~

Administering Anesthesia

By: Zach Grabowski

I had the pleasure of interviewing Carrie Haggerty, CRNA (certified registered nurse anesthetist). A nurse anesthetist is a registered nurse that puts patients to sleep and provides them with anesthesia medicine so that they are pain free while undergoing surgery. Carrie explained that anesthesia has been around for approximately 150 years (since the Civil War). She stated that before anesthesia was invented people with a gunshot wound or cannon wound would have to have their legs sawed off by a surgeon while they were awake! “OUCH!” If you ever need to have surgery, “Anesthesia is your best friend!”

Carrie has been an anesthetist since 2009 and has been a nurse since 1990. She described that in order to become a nurse anesthetist, she had to complete a total of seven years of college. This schooling included four years of undergrad school where she earned her bachelor’s degree. Following this, she had to work as an intensive Care Unit, (ICU Nurse) for a couple of years.

As a Trauma Care Nurse, Carrie opted to take a Trauma Care class. She talked to a classmate who was thinking of going to school to become a nurse anesthetist. Carrie looked into the details of the job and found it very interesting. She then contacted the Anesthesiology Department at Allegheny General Hospital where she was working at the time and they allowed her to shadow a nurse anesthetist and that was how she decided to go on to school to become an anesthetist herself.

Carrie shared both her most rewarding and challenging aspects of her job. The most rewarding part is making someone feel less afraid and more comfortable when they are going to have surgery. She loves to take great care of the patients while they are asleep during the surgery. It is comforting to the person undergoing surgery and their families to find out what the surgeon will be doing and knowing that it will make the patient feel better. When the person undergoing surgery wakes up, then it is all over. The scariest part of the day for a patient is when Carrie has to insert the IV port before surgery for the patient to get anesthesia. Once the IV is in, everything else is easily tolerated. In addition, Carrie said that she finds it very difficult to take care of small children with burns. When she works at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA, she deals with patients with burns. “It is very heartbreaking when the parent (s) can’t travel to the operating room with their little children when they are being operated on from a severe burn.”

The most fascinating operation Carrie has seen was a pregnant woman who had an ultrasound done. The baby had a spinal deformity. The woman was able to have the baby partially taken out of her womb and the surgeon was able to fix the spinal deformity. Following this procedure, the baby was placed back inside the woman’s womb to finish her pregnancy. When the baby was born, there was no more spinal deformity! “It was really amazing!”

Carrie described an interesting development of medicine which is robotic surgeries. This surgery is when the surgeons are not even standing next to the patients when operating. They are sitting in a robot machine across the room from the patients and are able to operate from across the room. She even stated that in the future, maybe they will be able to operate on patients from across the world. “It is incredible what technology can do today!”

Carrie rotates hospitals, but she mostly works at Mercy Hospital. Sometimes she will work as a fill-in at Shadyside Hospital, Magee Hospital, or at Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh.

When I asked Carrie what the most unique operation was that she has been involved with, she explained that at Mercy, there is a surgeon who performs a special type of brain surgery. This procedure is done when a patient has a weakened blood vessel inside their brain. The surgeon can then take another blood vessel, bypass it and then bring in the blood flow from another way. Without this fascinating type of brain surgery, the patient’s life expectancy is not long. It is a long surgery but is well worth it because then the patients have a longer life expectancy.

Another unique surgery Carrie talked about is whenever someone is in the hospital after having a stroke. The patient can go into the Radiology Suite and the surgeon takes a picture to find the blockage in the brain and puts a catheter into the groin. The catheter travels all the way up to the brain and sucks out the blockage. If someone having a stroke loses function in their body, and a clot gets removed the person regains their body function. It is really amazing!

Carrie described the scariest operations that she encounters. Some of these include victims of a

gunshot wound, car accidents, and internal bleeding, which are life and death situations. When I asked Carrie what advice she can give someone who wants to become a nurse anesthetist, she explained that the schooling is very long and hard. “However, it is well worth it in the long run once you graduate and pass your boards.” She stated that it is her best job ever!

Out of curiosity, I wondered how COVID has changed the operating room. Carrie explained that it has changed tremendously. At the beginning of COVID, there were a lot of surgeries that were put on hold due to shortage of supplies, like masks, gloves, and hospital gowns. The types of surgeries that were put on hold included getting your wisdom teeth out or a knee replacement. Essential surgeries were the only surgeries being performed.

Anesthesia is done to assure that everything is safest for the patient. An anesthesia provider makes sure they know your whole medical history and medications that you are currently taking. You can rest assured that when you have a need to receive anesthesia, you are in the most competent hands.

When asked if she has ever been a part of an operation with someone she knew or anyone famous, Carrie stated that she’s never operated on anyone famous, but she has been involved with an operation with someone she knew. She explained that it can be hard to be a part of an operation with a family member or friend because you can become very emotionally involved and it is hard to separate your emotions from the job.

I asked Carrie what type of patch people can wear to prevent from getting sick from anesthesia. She explained that you can wear a patch called a Scopolamine patch. Not only is it used to prevent getting sick from anesthesia – it also helps with motion sickness from being on a boat. You can wear it up to three days. One time when I had surgery, I got sick from the anesthesia when I came out of surgery. When I had another surgery after that I wore the Scopolamine patch and didn’t get sick afterward. I only wore the patch during surgery. Carrie told me that not everybody gets sick from anesthesia, but she explained that when people do get sick, the chances of them getting sick are very high for having any more surgeries. She advised that if you let your anesthetist know that you were sick from your last surgery, they will give you extra medication to prevent you from getting sick.

Carrie stated that she has had several surgeries. She had her gallbladder removed, nasal surgery, and carpal tunnel surgery. She had her gallbladder removed and her nasal surgery before she became an anesthetist. She had her carpal tunnel surgery after she became an anesthetist. She explained that it was more difficult to receive anesthesia after she became an anesthetist. When Carrie told her anesthetist that she got sick from her nasal surgery and asked for more medicine, her anesthetist laughed and joked with her by asking her if she wanted to write the prescription out herself. “It is not my job to tell my anesthetist what to do or what to give me.” Carrie suggested that if patients undergoing surgery have concerns, they can call the Anesthesiology Department to talk about their concerns and what they may be afraid of and they can more than likely help you overcome your fears.

“Something else to keep in mind, before having surgery is not to eat or drink anything on the day of your surgery after midnight. If patients coming into the hospital for surgery say they ate breakfast the morning of their surgery, then they cannot get operated on. If you are on medication or need to take pills before the surgery, you may have just enough water to take your pills. She said to always double check with your surgeon because there are some medicines that need to be stopped a couple of days ahead of time. For instance, if someone is on a blood thinner and they take medicine before surgery, they can develop severe bleeding. I told Carrie that I am on seizure medicine and I asked her if I am okay to take seizure medicine before surgery, and she said yes, unless my neurologist would tell me otherwise. She also explained that you can get medicine through the IV when you are asleep.

I asked Carrie how she unwinds after work. Before COVID she would go out with friends and family. During COVID she will just go home and sit in the dark by herself and will play a game on her phone or read to decompress since her kids are all grown and out of the house. My interview with Carrie was very inspirational.~~



N'dlis (Pt. 2)

By: Jordan Watson

The ground was beginning to sink beneath me! I had to leap and roll out of the way from my encampment! One of those Gen'rélích bastards found me! After a quick glance, before they slink into the ground, and disappear, I can definitely recognize those damn tentacles from anywhere. Just above me, I see it. I first saw this thing around the 3rd month during this whole thing. I call it a Pitfaller. It's like if trypophobia were a floating drug trip of anemone arms, and some hardened cartilage. It floats on rocks that breathe. Yeah, you heard right, they *breathe* to keep it afloat. I don't stick around long enough to admire it, since I've dealt with this thing long enough to know what it's capable of. Getting the head start I need, I hightail it to grab my bag, and run through the former alleyways of Mirr Industries. I'm nearing the halfway point before it hits. I hear a HUGE rumbling from the right side of the complex. The Pitfaller has this ability where when one of its tentacles retract inwards, and expands into a bulbous balloon, it forms large holes for its target on the surface. Doesn't matter the kind of ground it's on, nor the size of the object, you'll fall in the moment it gets you dead center. Sometimes the holes spawn large tentacles from its sides like some kind of f**ked up flytrap. Getting closer to the end of it, trying to keep the pace, and avoid any debris that falls from above like glass from above the numerous stories, or rocks and trash from the sides. Can't run up top the next building, or it'll form a hole to sink me in. Christ, it'll be just like what Hilda and I had to endure 1 month prior to their arrival. Gotta think quick!

The under pass near the freeway, that's it! The gap is narrowing. Some of the foundation of Mirr is beginning to lean to the left. I make a dive out from the booming collapse of the first foundation of Mirr's duplex! Nothing some skin burn on the arms the adrenaline can't cure. Immediately I see the gap between the freeway, and vault on down to clamp for collision to the waterway. Gritting through the pain, I put my back against one of the freeway's pillars, all while doing my damndest to keep my heavy breathing in check. What makes the Pitfaller so difficult is that it picks up on sounds through the intensity of one's lung capacity. Least from what I gathered from studying it these past four months. Breath out the nose Xavier, c'mon. Long, slow breaths. I take quick glances to see if its patrolling the area. About six minutes pass. Hasn't found me yet. But just when I imagine I gave it the slip, I hear some BIG tears within the ground I stand on.

The shift is *very* abrupt! I'm taken up from the under pass to about 50 feet into the air. For a brief moment, it stares at me from below my feet. Of course it *had* to be that damn Trencher! This thing is like a fleshy golem whose form of armor is the hardened minerals it dips its bottom appendage into. From there, it uses crystalline eyes, and similar ones surrounding its body to manipulate the ground and use it like some sidewinder. This definitely alerted the Pitfaller. Dammit, dealing with one is bad enough, but *both* of them are going to turn this situation into a playground of nightmares!

The Trencher takes its burly arms upwards. I jump off the floating heap of road before it crushes it completely! Having to suddenly barrel roll on the ground, I hit it running to the inbound roadway of the northern paths to Wake City. My flight reaction was in overdrive. My gut feeling is queasy for what I'd know they'll do. The Pitfaller used the underpass's foundation of the freeway to sink one after the other. The Trencher would use this momentum of me hotfooting it to one of tunnels and tear the roads I run on to make me lose balance. Each wavelike sensation would feel more harrowing than the last. I had to hop back and forth on the torn roadways and try to slide down each of the steep dips without losing my footing. Just about 30 more feet, and I can try to lose them down near one of those open ways leading to the maintenance tunnels. Pitfaller's making the freeways reach steeper to near underground level. Trencher's starting to shift the roads from side to side, to that of an ocean wave. They're trying to catapult me off! Keep running! 22 feet left! I can feel the surges and the waves getting stronger. 10 feet! C'mon Xavier, dammit, head to it! I can feel the sinking sensation. This dip might very well launch me off the damn road...I crunch my legs, grit my teeth, and make one of the longest jumps of my life.

My hands make contact with the entrance way to the tunnel, as I use the momentum to flip and land my feet onto the paved road. The sounds of steel and concrete of the freeway ripping upwards like a whip, was far louder than any mini-gun or wired bandolier of grenades could muster. Ended up making the dash to the left side entrance to the maintenance tunnels. Good God, I hope they didn't notice if I went in. Regardless, I can still feel the tremors of the Earth being split apart like crazy from above. Hard to believe the electrical grid can handle such punishment, despite the consistent flickering from the lights that lead the path of Wake City's bomb shelters. Thank God for our boys in green in keeping this a well-deserved secret, even from the CIA and FBI.

Now's where the pain strikes at its sharpest. With the rush worn off, my arms feel like they've gotten done being stung by a bunch of bullet ants, minus the shock that sets in afterwards. I take my time to find one of the larger shelters that branch off to where Vult Tower is situated. The encampments down here are top of the line to hold a society of almost 30 Mil. Sadly however, it doesn't come without its "warm welcoming". Piles of corpses, ranging from being eviscerated from the ones that turned, to bullet ridden casualties, to even those crisped to a full charcoal. I'd be damned if anyone else survived this heavy fallout. Beggars can't definitely be choosers though. I head for the nearest med facility to the left of the endless line of steel encased housing pods. For the next few hours, I patch up my arms, fully heal it with these cellular graphers that resemble 3D printers from a decade and a half ago. As it goes through the motions in intricately repairing the exposed tendons, I take the time to rest. I can't help but feel this whole situation seems...familiar...I can hear Hilda's voice as I shut my eyes.

"You ever stop to think that things are connected?"

"What? The battles that we're fighting for?"

"No. Not just these wars...just that..."

My mind trails off to our first gathering.

"Good to meet you greenhorn. I'm Hilda Hathor. I'll be your guide throughout the orientation process."

"Man, right out the gate, and y'all are getting' pampered by momma militant here! Heh heh!"

"Save the jokes for after training, Dyson. Alright rookie, your mission here is to clear the exercise, and keep the chemicals intact without shooting them, or the hostages. You need reflexes like lightning, and striking precision like a viper, so don't f**k it up. Kane holds the record in being the fastest for about a minute thirty. See if you can handle it."

"Good luck to ya, newbie."

As the bells ring to go through the regiment, my mind trails to our first mission near North Sentinel Island, having to navigate the underground tunnels to save the Sentinelees' children. They were used as bargaining chips to secure their illegal arms trading provinces across the Bengal Bay. The constant shifting between one lit path after the other. Having to pop armed, incoming cartel members, while making sure they don't use the kids as shields. The timing *had* to be impeccable. To my right, two guys with nuclear canisters behind them. Flash bangs through the center hallway. Pop them both with four taps to the foreheads. Kane and Westie throw their smoke bombs down the straight pathways. We coordinate to funnel them out, reverse Spartan style. We begin to head into the main compound, taking no prisoners. We slowly get the children out one by one, before the villagers rush us with near murderous intent in their eyes. Blood-Red ey-

GASP

Damn. 21:45. Helluva way to wake from a dream. --

Sunrise in Love (a fancy poem)

By: Paul Lechevalier

Oh, I hear you speaking to me, but,
I can't hear,
you're right next to me,
trying to wake me from my slumber,
slumber in darkness,
I wait, and wait, and wait,
for my break of dawn,
when you're there,
but you are,
so, why,
why can't I wake,
why,
how much can I endure,
when so much goes wrong,
only till I break,
will we know my breaking point,
I cry, I weep, I wallow,
losing so much,
hurting so bad,
but you,
you never gave up,
not on me,
not on anyone,
so all I want to say is, "thank you,"
I want to run away,
but, you won't leave,
I want to cry,
but, you listen,
I want to hate,
but, you love me,
so much so, that I begin to overflow,
if there's anything I am to do,
it's to love, love you like never before,
for you gave me the greatest gift,
a heart,
one full of love,
one where malice, hate, and anger subsided,
one with you,
till the dawn's breaking,
towards dusk's birth,
we live in merriment,
and nothing anyone says,
shall hinder our feelings,
for we are,
together,
forever.~~

A Parting Glass Renewed or alternatively: A Single Mother's Song

By: Renee Skudra

I gave you my heart
When the dogwoods did bloom
And the wind caught its breath
And made still the room
Not knowing that heart you would soon cleave apart.

In lavender fields
Where we mingled as one
Under cover of night
Not mindful of cold
The shrill call of birds rendering mute
Our somnabulent words.

But ere winter came
And a hoary frost showed
Your attention had turned
To other delights
The child in my womb insensate to my doom.

In March three weeks late
A bonny boy arrived with azure eyes
And in a tumult, downy curls

A wondrous surprise
From a man I once knew.

Not disconsolate – I –
This great gift heaven-deigned.
I have foregone remorse
and have made my adieus.
Your memory has lost its force
'cept in our son's bright eyes of blue.

while I
Disconsolate? Sir no remorse –
Such a gift had I gained
Clearly heaven has deigned
And your memory has lost its force.~~

Review of *Children of a Lesser God*

By: Nils Skudra

This weekend I had the opportunity to watch *Children of a Lesser God*, a beautiful 1986 film about a romance between a hearing teacher and a young deaf woman working at a school for the deaf and hearing-impaired. I felt that this film was a worthwhile topic for review since it stars Marlee Matlin, an actress who is deaf in real life and has become a prominent advocate for people with disabilities. Since there is a common trend in Hollywood for disabled characters to be portrayed by non-disabled actors, *Children of a Lesser God* is a notable exception, and the developments that have taken place since the film's release profoundly demonstrate how far services have come for deaf and hearing-impaired individuals, as well as the challenges that the general disabled community faces in terms of representation.

The film opens with Professor James Leeds (William Hurt), a new teacher with an extensive background in deaf education, arriving at the Governor Kittredge School for the Deaf in New England. During his interview with Dr. Franklin (Philip Bosco), the insensitive school principal, James is told that his purpose is not to "change the world" but simply "help a few deaf kids with getting along." This conflicts with James' outlook since he firmly believes in helping deaf individuals reach their full potential, which he hopes to accomplish by teaching them to speak, a necessary skill in social interaction. Upon meeting his class, James discovers that they are not highly motivated, with some showing a complete reluctance to even try speaking. He promptly takes steps to remediate this by implementing an unorthodox teaching style, which includes standing on his hands and comparing it to potential scenarios in which the students may have to speak, as well as encouraging them to respond vocally when reading lips and interpreting his sign language.

James' teaching methods become a source of inspiration for the majority of his students, who begin practicing their speech regularly. In order to help them respond to music, he plays the song "Boomerang" on a record and instructs one of his students to place her hand on it, so that she can feel the rhythm, and lipsync to the lyrics by reading his lips. However, this approach provokes the irritation of Dr. Franklin, who abruptly enters the room and turns the record off. This reaction demonstrates a disturbing lack of empathy on the part of the principal, which viewers would find shocking since they would expect a person responsible for deaf education to empathize with the students in his charge. For James, this provides further proof that the principal only expects him to help deaf students achieve the bare minimum of communication skills instead of encouraging them to broaden their sensory abilities.

During one evening after class, James meets Sarah Norman (Marlee Matlin), a young deaf janitor who has lived at the school since the age of five. He invites her into his classroom and, upon realizing that she does not read lips, offers to teach her to speak. However, she exhibits a hostile and belligerent attitude, responding in sign language that she has no interest, and then abruptly leaves the room. Nonetheless, James is impressed by Sarah's quick-wittedness and urges the principal to allow him to instruct her, emphasizing that she can achieve so much more with her intelligence. Dr. Franklin initially refuses, explaining that Sarah had a miserable childhood and is therefore content with her life, but agrees to give James a trial session with Sarah.

When James attempts to teach Sarah, she continues to resist the prospect of speaking but agrees to go out on a date with him. During their dinner at a restaurant, her self-consciousness about how others perceive her is made clear when the waiter turns to James to ask about the wine they would like after Sarah does not reply. After James orders for them, Sarah states in sign language, "He thinks I'm stupid," to which James responds, "Only stupid hearing people think deaf people are stupid." Sarah then invites him to dance with her, during which he becomes captivated by her beauty and directness in articulating her thoughts, oblivious to the unwelcome glances that other partygoers make as he communicates with her in sign language.

Eager to learn more about the reasons for Sarah's refusal to speak, James visits her mother (Piper Laurie), who displays a complete disillusionment with past efforts to help her daughter communicate. She explains that when Sarah tried to speak as a child, "she looked horrible and she sounded horrible," and other children mocked her, but as an adolescent she was treated with respect by her sister's boyfriends. However, when James questions Sarah about her upbringing, she indicates that in fact she was sexually exploited by her male peers, who took advantage of her deafness, and that her sister was essentially an accomplice to this abuse. This revelation makes it clear that Sarah's resistance to speaking not only stems from the fear of how her voice will sound, but from a deeper place of emotional and psychological pain, which she thinks will reoccur if she opens herself up to him. However, it has the effect of drawing James closer to Sarah and reinforcing his determination to help her find her voice, and they soon become romantically involved.

As James and Sarah's relationship progresses, he seeks to broaden her understanding of the hearing world, taking her to the movie theater for a classic Marilyn Monroe film and inquiring about what sounds she can process. Sarah responds that she can feel the rhythm of the ocean waves, using sign language to illustrate what they sound like in her mind. However, James occasionally makes insensitive jokes that hint at his desire for Sarah to speak, which upsets her. This becomes volatile when she bitterly observes him conducting his students in a successful lip-syncing performance of "Boomerang," prompting her to shatter a glass mirror and injure her hand in the process. When he meets with Sarah shortly afterward, she expresses

her interest in starting a family with him, to which he responds that while he does not want to have deaf children, he would have no objection if that were to happen.

In spite of Dr. Franklin's objections, James convinces Sarah to leave her job at the school and move in with him. Although his efforts are well-intentioned since he wants to help Sarah reach her potential, he is rather overbearing and micromanaging since he does not show much consideration for her feelings about giving up the life that she has grown accustomed to. As she settles into living with James, there is a constant tension between them due to his expectation that she will agree to vocalize her thoughts, in spite of his promise not to raise the subject, and the fact that he cannot share the joy of listening to music with her. In addition, when they attend a party hosted by a prominent advocate in the deaf community, James experiences the feeling of being an outsider as Sarah converses with the other guests in sign language. For Sarah, however, this event makes her self-conscious about her lack of opportunities and instills her with the aspiration to attend college.

A pivotal moment in the film takes place when James asks Sarah what she really wants, following an argument about her refusal to speak. She subsequently delivers a monologue in sign language, stating that everyone else in her life has spoken in third person about what she wants without actually thinking of Sarah as an individual but that she won't stand for that anymore. Regarding her relationship with James, she articulates:

"This sign, to connect – simple. But it means so much more, when I do this. Now it means: To be joined in a relationship, separate but one. That's what I want. But you think for me, think for Sarah, as if there were no 'I.' 'She will be with me, quit her job... learn how to speak.' That's all you, not me. Until you let me be an 'I,' the way you are, you can never come inside my silence and know me. And I won't let myself know you. Until that time, we can't be like this, joined."

This speech is a powerful commentary on Sarah's personal growth. Throughout her life, she has been accustomed to living in silence, letting other people speak for her as a deaf person but never opening herself up to express her true feelings. Through her relationship with James and subsequent exposure to the broader world, she has developed a new mindset about herself as an individual, but she realizes that in spite of his love for her, James does not truly respect Sarah in this way since he wants her to live according to his standards. This prompts James to furiously accuse her of lying about her inability to read lips, insisting that she must speak in order to live an independent life and then repeatedly yelling "Speak to me!" at her. Agitated and overwhelmed by his outburst, Sarah finally screams in a strained and high-pitched voice, "See my mouth? Hear my voice? I'm not afraid!", after which she breaks down crying and leaves the house.

This volatile exchange forces James to come to terms with his controlling behavior and the effect that it has had on his relationship with Sarah. Despite his well-meaning efforts, his failure to treat Sarah as an individual has proved alienating, and her forced vocalization truly exposes her vulnerability and the potential humiliation she could suffer when speaking. This leads him to seek reconciliation with Sarah, which she achieved with her mother after leaving James, and they finally reunite at a school party. James expresses his understanding for her feelings about opening herself up and risking being hurt, and she communicates that she used her anger to push him away but has learned that she "can hurt and won't shrivel up and blow away" in loving another person. In the film's climactic moment, as they stand by the lake, James asks in sign language, "Do you think that we could find a place where we can meet - not in silence and not in sound?", to which she responds by embracing him tenderly, indicating her openness to the prospect of learning to speak.

Children of a Lesser God is a beautifully crafted film that addresses numerous issues that are still debated within the deaf community today. These include the questions of communicating through speech or sign language, whether deaf individuals should be allowed to lead the lives they are content with or step out of their comfort zones in order to expand their horizons, and whether social integration is worth sacrificing fundamental aspects of deaf culture. In the decades since the film's release in 1986, there have been numerous advances made in speech education and hearing aids for deaf individuals, which enable them to speak more articulately and process sound more efficiently. However, these innovations have been subject to significant scrutiny since many deaf advocates maintain that deaf individuals are forced to give up their identity in the name of assimilation and that communicating through sign language helps to preserve that identity. Throughout the film, this is powerfully conveyed through the ongoing tension between Sarah and James over her refusal to speak.

The film is also highly relevant because of what it reveals about the representation of disabled characters by disabled actors in Hollywood. Marlee Matlin, who received an Oscar for Best Actress for her phenomenal performance, is the first and thus far the only deaf winner of this award, and in the subsequent decades she has become an active advocate for the disability community. In a recent interview that I watched, she stated that 95% of disabled roles are portrayed by able-bodied or neurotypical actors, while only 5% are given to actors who are disabled in real life. Although there have been some notable breakthroughs in recent years, such as Down syndrome actor Zack Gottsagen in *The Peanut Butter Falcon*, this tremendous discrepancy poses significant representational issues for the disability community, and therefore films like *The Theory of Everything* have been met with protest over their portrayal of prominent disabled figures by able-bodied actors. Hopefully *Children of a Lesser God* will instill viewers with an appreciation for the strides that have been made in services for the deaf community, as well as an inspiration to address the challenges that are still present today.~~

A TRIBUTE FIT FOR LARRY KING

Story by Robert Hester

At the start of this year, the world said goodbye to a well-known TV and radio journalist who spent over 60-plus years building his reputation with the title of “Interviewer to the stars of the world.” Lawrence Harvey Zeiger would begin his journey to become Larry King when he was born in Brooklyn, New York on November 19th, 1933 to parents who were Orthodox Jews that immigrated to the United States from Belarus. After he graduated from Brooklyn’s LaFayette high school, King worked some jobs to help support his mother; his father suddenly passed away when King was nine years old. But at an early age, King had a great desire to work in radio broadcasting.



One day a staff announcer at CBS Radio, who King met by chance, suggested he’d move to the state of Florida. At the time King has his “chance” meeting with that staff announcer of the radio division of the popular Columbia Broadcasting System, the media market in terms of job openings for inexperienced broadcasters in the state of Florida was a lot like the oranges that helps its state’s economy, growing and in blossoming leaps and bounds. And after he was informed about that intriguing fact, King Larry did something with his radio talents that someone named LeBron James did his basketball talents over a half a century later; he decided to those talent them to South Beach by moving to Miami. When King arrived in Miami he encountered some initial setbacks, but his patience out-endured his impatience when he got his first job in Miami/South Florida radio as the manager of a small station, WAHR (now WMBM) in Miami Beach... as a janitor, of sorts. His job at the station was to clean up and perform other miscellaneous tasks across the station.

May 1st, 1957 would be the day that Larry was, unexpectedly, introduced to the Miami/South Florida market when one of the station's announcers suddenly resigned. As a result, Larry was put on the air for the first time. He was paid a not-too-shabby \$50 a week working as the disc jockey from 9 a.m. to noon, anchoring two afternoon newscasts, along with a sportscast. Before Larry was put on the air, the general manager of WAHR thought that the last name “Zeiger” was too difficult to remember, so minutes Larry chose the surname King. He got from an advertisement in the Miami Herald for King’s Wholesale Liquor. Within two years, Larry Zeigler legally changed his name to Larry King—and ever since then Larry King, in terms of his stylish approach to radio—and eventually, television—broadcasting, would utterly be like a King named Midas; everything he would touch turned to broadcasting gold. A few years later, King was hired by Miami’s WIOD radio as a host of a mid-morning program. His show consisted of him conducting interviews with whoever walked in to Pumpernik’s Restaurant in Miami Beach, the setting for his show. His first interview was with a waiter at the restaurant. And two days later, he scored a much bigger interview with singer Bobby Darin, who was in Miami for a concert that evening. Having



heard King’s radio show, Darin walked into Pumpernik’s, and became King’s first-ever celebrity interview guest. But little did anyone know that this encounter with a celebrity would NOT be King’s last. With his radio show, a lot of local attention was brought to the up-and-coming broadcaster. And in May 1960, King added TV to his broadcasting resume when he became the host of “Miami Undercover,” a show that aired on late Sunday nights, 11:30 p.m. on WPST-TV Channel 10 (now WPLG-TV, Local 10). His hosting duties were simply that of moderator of debates on important local issues of the day. In 1964 Jackie Gleason, a legendary TV



actor best known for played the feisty Ralph Kramden on the hit 1950's series *The Honeymooners*, arrived in Miami from New York to host his TV variety show on Miami Beach. King credited his success on Miami/South Florida TV to the assistance of comedian Jackie Gleason. King said this about the changing of the set of his show *Miami Undercover* in a 1996 interview he gave when King was inducted into the Broadcasters' Hall of Fame, "That show really took off because Gleason came to Miami. He didn't like the set, so we broke into the general manager's office and changed the set. Gleason changed the set, he changed the lighting, and he became like a mentor of mine." In 1970, WIOD radio was the flagship station for the NFL's Miami Dolphins, and the station looked to King as part of the Dolphins' radio broadcast team as the color commentator for during their 1970 season and most of their 1971 season. He also worked for television station WTVJ TV as a sports commentator.

On January 30th, 1978 King, who moved from Miami to Washington, D.C., would enter the national spotlight when he first signed-on as the host of his own late-night radio talk show,

The Larry King Show, on the Mutual Broadcasting System. The show broadcasted nightly Mutual radio affiliates from coast-to-coast. His in-studio or phone-in guests he interviewed were nationally and internationally-known public figures; politicians, celebrities, fellow TV and radio personalities, athletes, and other newsmakers of the day. After he spent the first hour of his show talking only to his guests, he'd spend the rest of his show opening up the phone lines to allow to talk to either him, and/or his guests. *The Larry King Show* lasted on Mutual until 1985 when he made his return to TV—albeit cable TV—as the host of the TV version of his radio talk show *Larry King Live* on an upstart, all-news cable channel named the Cable News Network, A.K.A. CNN. The format of his TV talk show, which were broadcasted live from Los Angeles, California, was a lot like his radio talk show in Washington; the big difference, he was seen interviewing over a whopping 60,000 guests in 6,000 episodes in front of his trademark, classic radio microphone, while donning thousands, upon thousands of different trademark suspenders every weeknight at 9 P.M. Eastern Standard Time for 25 years—from June of 1985, until December of 2010. With that accomplishment, King became by the Guinness Book of World Records' holder for the title of having the longest-running television show hosted by the same person, on the same network and in the same time slot.

In March 2012, less than a year and a half after he signed-off his CNN show for the last time, King became the co-founder of Ora TV, an online production company. "Larry King Now" was be the title of his new, online-only show. On January 16, 2013, Ora TV celebrated the show's 100th episode. In September 2017, King stated that he had no intention of ever retiring and was to continue to host his programs on Ora TV. Sadly, on January 23rd, 2020, King passed away. He left behind such a pioneering legacy—let alone so many awards, honors and accomplishments that went with his long, legendary career that lasted almost 65 years. The same way that this writer will end this story about the man who left behind such a pioneering legacy for future Larry King's out there is to paraphrase the same words that King himself said when he signed-off of his show on CNN, *Larry King Live*, for the last time in December of 2010; I don't know what else to say except to you, my readers, thank you. And instead of goodbye, how about so long.~~



Devoid Of Time

By: Dmitry Harmon

Chapter 1

Margaret woke up from her slumber with aches and pains in her stomach. This occurrence was happening more frequently within the past two weeks and she was unsure as to what was causing it. She got out of bed and proceeded to walk to the mirror and sat in the chair.

"Anne!" She yelled out. Her voice was sharp when it yelled but when she spoke normally, it had a smokey hazy sound to it; it was similar to a male with a tenor voice. Almost immediately after yelling she heard the frantic footsteps walking along the wooded flooring in the hallways and in walked in a girl who had the appearance of someone who was fourteen or fifteen but in actuality this girl was in her early twenties.

"How may I beest of s'rvise?" asked Anne.

"Well anon holdeth on, i did want to asketh thee how thee did sleep?"

"I did sleep well"

"Excellent. Doth thee seeth how I behold the present day. Absolutely h'rrible! Fixeth it!" At this point anyone that was looking in the mirror would see that Margaret's flesh had a pallor look to it. It was something she hated and did everything she could to hide it. Her eyes were bloodshot with dark liquored eyes. With the curtains still closed she looked like she was possessed. Anne didn't hesitate at all, quickly opened the curtains and got to work.

"How was your night?" Asked Anne. After a few seconds she realized she made a mistake and saw the daggers in Margaret's eyes which felt like they were staring at her soul. "Mine own apologies, how wast thy night?" she asked frantically.

"Taketh mine own gen'rosity with full heart. yond blund'r shall beest f'rgotten, but next timeth 'twill not best f'rgotten!" Margaret replied menacingly. She then switched gears. "At which hour is the new wench due to cometh?"

"The lady is due within the hour."

"We needeth to receiveth eft then! hie up!"

"Of course, mine own mistress" With that Anne quickly applied the makeup and laid out the clothes that were specified for meeting a new girl. Brushed her black hair and put it in a bun. Margaret lived in a mansion isolated from other people. The closest neighbor lived two hours away. She lived in the United States of America in the year 2025 and technology was about the same. She lived up north in the states. North Dakota to be exact. Margaret was the daughter of a deceased couple that passed away twenty years ago when she was sixteen. The house was in the family name for centuries and she owned an extraordinary amount of land which explained the lack of neighbors. The house consisted of two main floors and two basements. The house had massive windows. The first-floor walls went up something like twenty feet if one was to guess and the second floor was close to fifteen feet high.

The house had candles all over the place and had a dank look to it. The wood was faded and there were patches where the stone was showing through the wall. Anne quickly walked through the hallway, down the main stairs and quickly ran into the kitchen. The kitchen had a sort of gloom to it, grey stones and it was very hot with a roaring fire underneath a



stone structure that looked like a fireplace and an iron grate on top. This wasn't an average size stove, it took up the majority of the wall that happened to be fifteen feet long. Once Anne walked in, the woman who were working in the kitchen turned around. They looked in a very ragged state. Gaunt faces and extremely dirty clothes. In whole they just looked very worn out.

"Hurry up! She is awake," snapped Anne. But it wasn't a bossy snap, it was from concern.

"What kind of mood is she in?" Asked the one girl with black hair.

"Horrible, you know how Margaret gets when a new worker shows up."

"Did she say what she wants?"

"No, just stick with tea, fruit, meat and bread. I don't care I just want to get it out. What day is it today?"

"It is Wednesday, I think..." Asked the girl in an apprehensive way.

"Ok, lets just get it out and if its there by the time she gets down and we screwed up the day it might not be so bad." With that one girl put a pot of water on the grate, another grabbed a pan and threw an assortment of meat, another frantically pulled tea trying to remember what day tea Wednesday tea was supposed to be, and the last two started cutting up the fruit in a frantic pace.

Anne quickly left the kitchen and started to prep the dining hall table. It was a long wooden table with a chair on each end and six tables on each side. Up against one of the walls was a big mirror. On each side of the table was a cabinet with two candlesticks up against the wall. The room's ceiling was very high and exceeded fifteen feet tall. It had wooden walls and a wooden floor and a couple of windows that shaded certain parts of the room with the light coming from the outside, giving the room a gloomy look. The Table's wood was fading and the chairs had chips and things in them to show the age and level of care that was put into them. The wood was chipped in the wall showing the stone behind it. The cabinets had a coating of dust that didn't exactly show the potential opulence the room could show.

Anne finished setting the table and then proceeded to light the candles which gave the room an even mustier look. You could see the dust in the air and the room had a smell of wet wood. In the winter times this room was always extremely cold, and in the summer, it was very hot. The windows were closed windows. So there wasn't an opportunity for the heat to escape, it just lingered around until one decided they had enough and left the room.

Before Anne knew it, she heard the familiar echoing cadence of steps going down the grand staircase which meant Margaret was coming down the steps. It was the type if you were exploring would send shivers down your spine if you were unaware someone was living in this house. Within a series of seconds Margaret came in sat down and sighed. ~~

The Art of Diamond Painting

By: Alicia M. Farina

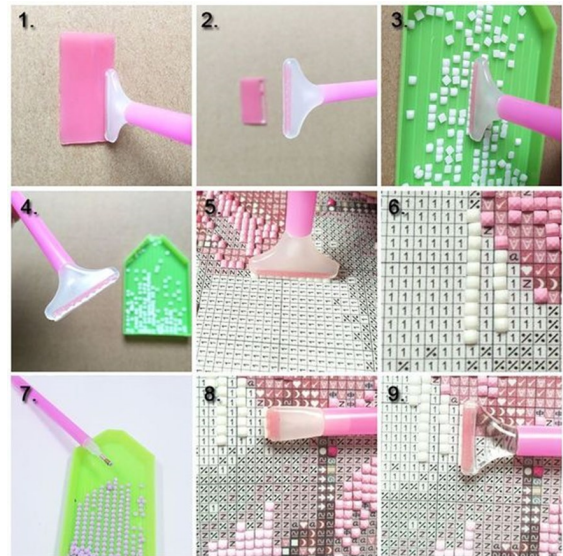


Diamond painting is the newest artform that's impacted the art world. It's recently become very popular among DIY artists and crafters. It's also a form of mosaic art in which the painter creates a painting by sticking small, plastic pieces known as resins that sparkle like diamonds on a cloth canvas with numbers and symbols printed according to the color of that specific diamond piece. All the painter has to do is to take a diamond and stick it onto the canvas, allowing the diamonds to create a beautiful painting that sparkles like real diamonds.

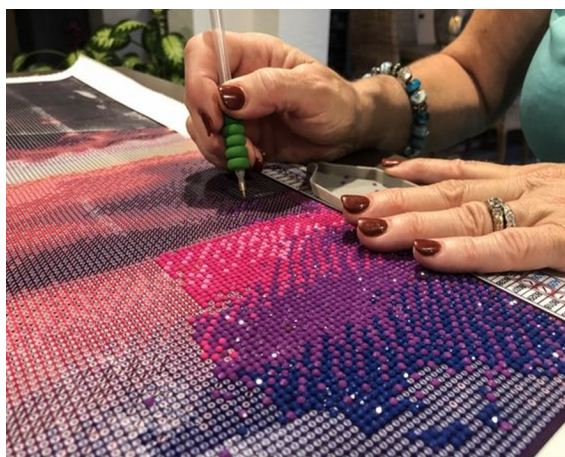
You don't have to spend a whole amount of time learning about diamond art to be able to do it correctly. Diamond painting is relatively easy when getting started. It requires no professional experience on the painters' part.

Since diamond painting is a mosaic art, the larger the painting, the more detailed it'll look. For beginners, it's safe to try and stick to a smaller canvas. As you get better and start to advance, you can choose a larger canvas. Included with every diamond painting package will be a diamond painting kit. The diamond painting kits include:

- A printed canvas.
- Resin diamonds. Extra diamonds are also included to the kit so that the painter never has to run out of diamonds.
- A plastic tray to hold the diamonds.
- A diamond painting pen tool to pick up diamonds.
- Glue or wax to insert in the pen tool.



The diamonds shine, due to the facets cut into their size. Both types of diamond shapes may be round or square. Both types of diamonds have the same use. Round diamonds are easier to



pick up, but they leave gaps in the canvas which can break the shiny effect of the painting. All painting with diamonds kits that include a canvas. The canvas is printed with numbers and symbols that match with the colors of the diamonds along with a printed guide as well. The canvas itself is covered with a layer of a sticky glue substance that allows the diamonds to stick with ease. The kits include various colors of diamonds that match to your canvas. Each colored diamond has a code or symbol which is printed on the canvas and the packaging that the diamonds come in. It's important to keep track and remember

these codes so that the painting doesn't get mixed up. A small, plastic tray comes with the kit that has thin indentations to help separate the diamonds in a row that makes it easy for you to pick them up. The tray also has a dipped corner to help transfer the diamonds back into their original packaging once you're done with your work. Luckily, all diamond painting kits come with a diamond applicator tool. These tools are cylindrical and resemble a pen. These pens come with a hollow end where a small nib should be, where the diamond can stick and be transferred easily to the canvas from the tray. Glue or wax, mostly wax, is applied to the nib to help the diamonds stick to the pen. While diamond kits would only include a single-drill applicator, different diamond painting websites and craft stores sell applicator tools that apply up to ten drills at a time. This can be helpful if you're working on a large canvas that requires the same color constantly so that it would be easier and faster to apply your diamonds.



When you take some time painting with diamonds, you get to concentrate on the task at hand and create something beautiful artwork by yourself. The benefits of diamond painting:

- Reduces symptoms of anxiety. Painting with diamonds requires a lot of attention. It'll give you an excuse to keep away from stress.
- Increases concentration. Painting with diamonds allows you to engage in an activity where you perform repetitive actions.
- Improves motor skills. We go through similar, yet repetitive motions when painting with diamonds. These actions can boost our muscle memory.
- Promotes learning. You learn hands-on by practicing the movements and techniques again and again.
- Increases discipline. Painting with diamonds is a very methodical and therapeutic exercise. Discipline can be strengthened by making strong habits that are repeated in the same way.

Once your painting is finished, you can keep it forever by framing it up and hanging it on your wall, or store it with your other previous collective artwork. A single diamond painting can provide a lot of busyness and joy and will make you addicted to the process. Diamond painting can sound and seem intimidating and feel like a huge task, but that's just part of the fun when painting with diamonds.~~



The 19th Century Fake Mustache Person (Parts 1 & 2)

By Joseph Cepek

I appear in the lower-left hand corner of an 1863 U.S. Civil War battle depiction by Louis Kurz (1833-1921), which depicts a re-created scene of the third (3RD) and final day of the Battle of Gettysburg. Pennsylvania did not join the armed rebellion against the Federal Government. However, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia did rebel against the U.S. Government between December 1860 and April 1861. I never lived and died in actuality. Kurz created me to be as historically accurate as is possible in a colored physical appearance. I am painted in a supine position (on my back). My right arm and hand are lying behind my head. My right leg is bent upright with my right boot foot planted on the painted ground. My eyes are closed.

I am a white (Caucasian) male with a receding hairline. I have light brown wavy hair. I have a dark brown mustache that is thick in hairy texture. I have on blue wool pants with a red vertical leg stripe on the outside of each pant leg. In the painting, only the left vertical red leg stripe is shown. I am the only Northern (Union) soldier in Kurz's creation to have such particular pants. I also have on a matching blue wool coat with red wool fabric on the bottom edges of the coat as well as on the wrist cuffs and on the neckline area. A vertical row of metal buttons runs down the middle of my blue wool coat's front. I have a black belt over the blue wool coat's bottom with a brass buckle with the "U.S." insignia engraved on it. I stand about 5 feet 6 inches (5'6") tall and weigh about one hundred and forty-five (145) pounds.

July 3, 1863, was the particular date that Kurz's battle re-creation was supposed to have taken place. I was made by Kurz to have been an artillery leader by the colors of my uniform. During an intense artillery (cannon) battle, which preceded an infantry (foot soldier) attack on the Union (Northern) battle line on Cemetery Ridge by Rebel (Confederate) soldiers, I was "killed" along with the other subordinate (lower-ranking members) of our Pennsylvania-based artillery unit.

We were "killed" when a Confederate artillery shell hit into our position. The enemy's cannon fire also "maimed" some of our horse comrades "fatally". Our own cannons were also badly broken up. A group of captured Rebels are seen being escorted by "living" Union soldiers off of the battlefield on the painting's lower-right hand side. This is occurring as fighting continues in the painting's foreground. One of the captured Confederates is an enslaved black man that is shown helping a physically unhurt white Confederate soldier carry a wounded white Confederate soldier off of the battlefield. Perhaps, maybe the wounded Rebel is the master of the black (Negro) servant. This is simply a personal guess from me even though I don't physically see any of them. My fake face is looking straight upward into the fake sky.

I don't appear in any other manner in any other version of the Gettysburg battle artistic re-enactment, because Kurz only painted me in this before-mentioned way. I really wanted him to make me a "living" mustachioed Union artillery soldier along with my lower-ranking comrades, because we all wanted to be artistically portrayed by Kurz as the lucky few who were not bodily hurt in the Gettysburg battle re-creation. Unfortunately, Kurz created us the actual way he wanted to do so. Probably, since he made us up, that is, inside of his creative artistic mindset, he had the final say on how he desired us to look in his finished artwork piece.

Approximately seven-thousand (7,000) Rebels were wounded, killed, or captured as POWs (Prisoners of War) in the final Confederate attack on a Union infantry battle position on the afternoon of July 3, 1863. The Union defensive line of battle was broken through in some areas by the attacking Rebels, but they were unable to fully take advantage of their initial successes. This was due to there being not enough surviving attackers to hold on to the breached areas of the enemy battle position in their forward advance.

For about an hour, the soldiers of both sides locked themselves into a desperate armed struggle around an area called the Copse of Trees, which is located near the center of Cemetery Ridge. This is clearly shown in Kurz's artistry re-enactment. The Federals (Union soldiers) suffered about fifteen-hundred (1,500) casualties during the vicious attack by the Rebels as soldiers on both sides used knife-like bayonets at the ends of their muskets, rocks, fists, cannon shells, in addition to fired musket bullets to kill as many of the enemy in front of themselves as was possible in the quickest time. As was before-stated, Union casualties were about one-eighth (1/8) of what was inflicted on the Rebels during the attack.

Time was certainly an extremely important element to the soldiers on both the Unionist (Northern, Union) and the Secessionist (Confederate, Rebel) sides, because victory or defeat was ultimately determined by time like what actually transpired after 3 PM on the afternoon of Friday, July 3, 1863. Tragically, this involved the terrible loss of valuable equine (horse) and human lives alike.

Robert E. Lee (1807-1870) began his retreat on Independence Day, July 4, 1863, because he could not risk staying in enemy territory for too long as his army was badly wounded after three (3) consecutive days of heavy fighting. Approximately twenty-eight thousand (28,000) of his army of about seventy-thousand (70,000) lay dead or wounded on the battlefield along with countless others held as POWs and those who were MIA (Missing In Action). Many of the Rebel dead and wounded were left behind for Northern morticians, civilian burial detail crews, doctors, and nurses to properly care for alongside dead and wounded Union soldiers.

George G. Meade (1815-1872) also had an army that was critically maimed after having about twenty-three thousand (23,000) casualties inflicted on it out of approximately ninety-five thousand (95,000) members. The actual amount of soldiers engaged and the casualty counts of the three (3)-day battle, which was the largest and deadliest during the American Civil War, are always being debated by historians to this very day. The battle has been considered the biggest and bloodiest one ever waged in the Western Hemisphere before or since then. This is eerily truthful given that tanks, machine guns, air-

planes, hand grenades, and land mines were absent and yet-to-be invented war weapons at the time.

Neither side lingered long to tidy up the surrounding fields around the small town of Gettysburg. Approximately two-thousand-four-hundred (2,400) citizens resided there in 1863. After the last remnant of Union soldiers left the Gettysburg area on July 7, 1863, the town's civilians were largely tasked to replace departing Union soldiers' burial job duties with the hideous task of adequately burying the remainder of the battle's dead in massive trench graves. The armies left a scene of ghoulis horror with a huge charnel house of thousands of unburied and partially buried dead human and horse corpses whose bloated bodies and blackened flesh caused a rancid stench in the air for months afterwards. This was during the battle's immediate aftermath. Many of the dead horses were later cremated. About seven-thousand (7,000) soldiers and five-thousand (5,000) horses were tragically killed outright in three (3) days. Hundreds more died of terrible wounds in the days following the battle's end.

One Gettysburg civilian was killed during the battle. A twenty (20)-year-old woman named Mary Virginia "Jenny" Wade (1843-1863) was baking bread in her sister's house on the morning of July 3, 1863, when a Confederate sharpshooter's bullet accidentally went through a wooden door panel and fatally struck her in the back. John Burns (1791-1872), a Gettysburg jail keeper and a War of 1812 veteran, joined Union soldiers in repelling the Confederate invaders on July 1, 1863, which was the battle's first day. Wounded thrice (3 times) and briefly taken by the Rebels as a POW, he was the only Gettysburg civilian to actually be an armed participant in the battle. The second day of the battle, July 2, 1863, sadly saw the most casualties inflicted on both armies.

Afterwards, the unfortunate failure of George G. Meade's (1815-1872) victorious army to successfully pursue and force an armed surrender of Lee's escaping insurrectionist (Rebel, Confederate, Southern) army in the days following the battle at Gettysburg was and still is believed to have been a big reason that the internal war continued for almost two (2) more tormenting years in a divided America. If Lee had been vigorously pursued, attacked, and eventually forced to give up the armed resistance by Meade, the war might have come to an effective end a lot sooner than it actually did.

As is stated beforehand, the victorious Federal Army did not fully depart from the Gettysburg area until July 7, 1863. By this time, Lee had had a good distance between his retreating troops and the Federals. By July 14, 1863, Lee and the defeated Rebel force's survivors were able to cross through Maryland into Virginia. It was in Virginia that the armed Rebel invasion began on June 3, 1863. Independence Day that particular year (1863) marked the nation's eighty-seventh (87TH) birthday.

Even the U.S. President Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) was reported to have been deeply disappointed in Meade's inability to successfully stop Lee's retreat back into Virginia in the days following the fighting at Gettysburg. In fact, Meade reportedly sent Lincoln a telegraph message informing the Commander In Chief of the U.S. Army and Navy that "the invader (Lee and his Rebel Army) has been driven from our soil", an angry Lincoln said in an alleged reply, "Drive the enemy from our soil? Will our generals ever get that idea out of their heads? The whole country is our soil!!!", to one of his Presidential Cabinet secretaries named John Hay (1838-1905).

In Lincoln's personal opinion as was shared by some lower-ranking generals as well as many infantry and cavalry soldiers serving under Meade at the time, it was very frustrating that Lee was able to return to Virginia virtually unopposed by Union forces. According to many historians, had Lee been prevented in returning to Virginia in relative peace, thousands upon thousands of Americans on both sides of the awful conflict could have had their lives spared in the next twenty-one (21) months before Lee actually did surrender his army on April 9, 1865. Sadly, this was not meant to be the actual case.

The Battle of Gettysburg did not end the U.S. Civil War. However, the battle's outcome did prevent Lee from further entertaining the idea of launching a future massed invasion of the Northern states for the remainder of the war. Also, the Federal victory gave Union soldiers in the Eastern half of the armed conflict the needed confidence that they could effectively fight against Lee's soldiers. Before the Gettysburg battle, Union forces were met largely with defeat as a result of fighting Lee's troops. This was despite them outnumbering Lee's armed force in previous battles that were met with crushing defeats for the Federals such as the second battle at Manassas, Virginia (also called Second Bull Run), in August 1862, the battle at Fredericksburg, Virginia, in December 1862, and the battle at Chancellorsville, Virginia, in May 1863.

The first battle in Manassas, Virginia (also named First Bull Run), which was waged in July 1861, also ended in an embarrassing Federal defeat and in a disordered retreat back to Washington, D.C. (the District of Columbia, the then Capital City of the states that remained loyal to the Federal Government). As was before-mentioned, one of the loyal states was Pennsylvania. Lee was not the leading Rebel general in this 1861 battle. Lee's previous belief in his army being invincible to defeat by the Federals was broken after the Gettysburg battle.

Addition-wise, FYFI (For Your Further Information), over a year had gone by following the surrender of Robert E. Lee's army when U.S. President Andrew Johnson (1808-1875) was able to officially declare in a speech to the healing nation the following words, "Order, tranquility, and civil authority now exists in and throughout the whole of the United States of America." Texas was a notable scene of armed insurrection against the Federal Government throughout 1865 and the first half of 1866.

Texas had been a part of the Confederate States of America since 1861. The last known land battle of the war occurred at a place called Palmito Ranch, which is near Brownsville, Texas, on May 12 and 13, 1865. It turned out to be a Confederate victory in a tactical manner. I would have liked the Gettysburg battle almost two (2) years earlier to have been the war's final armed land engagement, because I do NOT like the tragic fact that more people and war horses had to die after this momentous and nightmarish event in the summer of 1863 in my home state. I cannot emphasize this grim historical truth enough.

One (1) of the two (2) good aspects of the image (the Gettysburg battle mural) is that I and the rest of the human and equine (horse) figures in Kurz's 1884 painting are fake (not real). The Southern (Rebel, Confederate) soldiers are as equally as fake as are the Northern (Federal, Union) soldiers. This means the "living" and "dead" ones alike. None of the war horses are really "dead" or "alive" either. We all are fictional figures, which teach real people a very real and brutal lesson in a visual (plus in a non-verbal manner) of the awful destruction involved with warfare in terms of real human and animal lives being snuffed out in a gruesome manner. It is certainly NOT a beautiful thing.

This is the second and more profoundly valuable goodness, if any, of this particular late nineteenth (19TH) century artwork creation by Kurz despite its startlingly grotesque portrayal of a hideous yet historically significant event in American history. Thus, this unsavory adjective description would appropriately apply to the Battle of Gettysburg. While it shows patriotism by the created figures to fight and/or die for their varied beliefs as people actually did during the American Civil War (1861-1865) and in any other armed conflict before or since then, a tragic reminder is being sent to any viewer that non-verbally reminds generation after generation of real people of the terrible inability of real humans to rationally deal with disputes WITHOUT resorting to killing one another.

I wish real people would someday realize the horrible consequences of waging war on themselves regardless of how "justifiable" a war might seem to be. I personally hope that they will fully consider to carefully count ALL of the economic, the social, and the psychological costs, plus untold other costs with unavoidable future consequences (including the negative ones) for future generations of real people who would be both directly and indirectly impacted by a war of any type before deciding to war against others. This is regardless of it being a civil war within a country like the United States of America (USA) or between two (2) or more countries in the world.

My fake figure was supposed to visually represent the ugly price of war by the loss of human life by Kurz, who was a U.S. Civil War veteran on the Northern side. I was not given any made-up name by him like any other fake persons in his color creation. Yet, over one hundred and thirty (130) years later, some other person gave me the fictional name of Ade Igbolt. I am from New Castle, Pennsylvania. I am of German nationality descent. My nationality and hometown description are "make believe", especially for me, in this particular magazine short story as is my name. However, New Castle and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, are real places. Cemetery Ridge, including the Copse of Trees, is a real place on the Gettysburg battlefield. It is part of the Gettysburg National Military Park. The park was established in 1895.

Afterwards:

Mr. Kurz's creation can be shockingly disturbing and/or offensive even to some early twenty-first (21ST) century real people, so the color creation will NOT be seen in any way in the Pittverse Magazine for necessary censorship purposes, which must be adhered to in this particular case. An animated color picture will be used in its place. A Union soldier with a mustache face will be inserted alongside the written material. This will be in a color cartoon format. Quotation marks were intentionally put in between the words of "alive", "dead", "killed", "fatally", "maimed", and "living", because all of the humans and horses in the Kurz painting are fake as was before-mentioned. They are simply artistic replicas of people and horses as was made by Kurz.

Ade Igbolt is the main fiction narrator of the above-mentioned information. The Louis Kurz image was made by using colored glass plate stones. They were meticulously engraved on top of one another in order to form the finished product. They were known as chromolithographs. They were a very popular artwork form in the late nineteenth (19TH) and early twentieth (20TH) centuries in the United States. The Kurz artwork pieces depicting major battles of the U.S. Civil War were made through the Chicago Lithograph Company. The company was started by Kurz in 1880. The Gettysburg Battle chromolithograph was created in 1884. It was the first known U.S. Civil War battle to be commemorated by the Illinois lithograph company in a chromolithograph color piece. The probable reason was that the Pennsylvania battle was the largest, deadliest, and most well-known of the approximately two-thousand-four-hundred (2,400) land and water battles during the four (4)-year conflict that nearly destroyed the nation.

Plus, Abraham Lincoln's immortal speech at Gettysburg in the dedication of the first national cemetery for military dead on November 19, 1863, further cemented Gettysburg's historical value in America's collective consciousness in the years following the war's end. This nostalgic view of Gettysburg's place in American history continues to the present time. Understandably, due to motion picture projectors and sound recorders not being invented yet, the Battle of Gettysburg, for example, was not able to be filmed and audibly recorded for future generations to see and hear the hideous reality of this violent armed clash of Americans warring against each other. Additionally, a sound filming of Abraham Lincoln giving his approximately three (3) minute-speech on the Gettysburg battlefield over four (4) months following the battle there also was not meant to be made. Lincoln's delivered words are referred to as, "a few appropriate remarks", for a very solemn ceremony of which approximately twenty-thousand (20,000) individuals attended. Gettysburg, PA, is in Adams County. New Castle, PA, is in Lawrence County.~~

A Vaccine of Hope and Promise

By: Maggie Jones

A long-awaited anticipation, something that would give hope to millions all around the world. When so many lives were still lost at the time, there is hope for a better tomorrow with a promise of a vaccine dosage. which is twice every three weeks then it will get better results from there which might turn promising as our nation and the world heals over time.

The CDC still says that masks are still recommended through the end of the year 2021. When everyone will already receive their second vaccine dosage. It couldn't come at a better time. When so much hardship has happened. When so much pain and sacrifice of ourselves to others during this time of hardship. When so many lost their jobs due to this pandemic. We must come together even when we are apart. And still do our part until the vaccine is last distributed. We need to heal as a nation, the time to slowly heal is now. We must do our part even when it's hard too. We made it so far together, we are still in this together.

We still have to do our part yet to curve the virus downward more and more by wearing masks, social distancing 6 feet, and staying home as much as possible to stop the spread and get vaccinated when told too. When you do the right things that you are told to do from the cdc and the government officials, local and national, you are a commonsense person and things will get better. You have to think, if you don't have a mask or social distance, go into large gatherings, and not wash hands, things will get worse. People will get sick so severely they will die even. We have to keep doing what we need to do even when it's hard too. And never give up hope for a better day. So, try to keep thinking positive. And things will get better.

You would need two vaccinations in a matter of three weeks apart depending on which vaccine you get. There may be two vaccines every four weeks even. It depends and varies. But yet it is very important to get one now more than ever and better than later. We are in this together. Like before, only stronger, even when we are apart from each other. We are still family. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other, even when we are apart. And a deep gratitude and of thankfulness for our men and women on the front lines, nursing homes, hospitals, stores and the people that volunteer at places like food banks, American Red cross, etc. Thank you for being the true heroes of this country that we always will call home, the United States of America.~~

Upcoming Pittsburgh's Perfect Parties Slumber Parties

By: Amelia Krzton

As we all know, the Traditional Sleepover was hosted on January 23 by Carnegie Mellon University graduate student and alumni Vanessa Peters at her house in Oakmont and the Spa Night Sleepover was hosted just last Saturday (February 20) by Shady Side Academy Middle School 7th grader Zoe Meanor at her house in Oakmont. Some more slumber parties that will be hosted this spring include the Fashion Fest Sleepover on March 20 by Gateway High School 9th grader Riley Benson at her house in Monroeville, the Rock Star Sleepover on April 17 by Shady Side Academy 11th grader Sarah Ching at her house in Monroeville, and the Super Fan Sleepover based on my band, Angel Kitty on May 22 by Shady Side Academy Middle School 7th grader Grace Luster at her house in Cheswick. The exact same activities from last year were featured at both the Traditional Sleepover and the Spa Night Sleepover. The company is having us do this Saturday internship for a second consecutive year because of the coronavirus pandemic that wrecked last year, and hopefully, things will get better this year regarding the pandemic. Some major changes were made this year, however. The slumber parties are hosted on the second to last Saturday of the month rather than the last Saturday of the month because of conflicts around the holidays and other breaks, and the other change is that on days when I get activities from every sleepover, we will start with the current month and go around in a circle so that we are not doing the same old boring activities every day. Either way, cheers to a whole new year of fun from the Pittsburgh's Perfect Parties company! We pledge to bring love and enjoyment to clients of all ages from the Pittsburgh area hosting superb parties! We have been very committed to helping others out during the coronavirus pandemic and will continue to be helpful post pandemic and beyond! Even though this was highly unexpected, we continue to put a little light in even the darkest days and come up with superb activities for every day of the week!

Can't Beat a Birthday Cake

By: Andrew Olsavicky

Spring is perhaps my favorite season of the year; for one thing, everything starts to go from getting colder and colder to getting warmer and warmer, granted it can be rather rainy but I rather enjoy rainy weather, it's great for comforting naps. To top it all off for me the first day of spring is and always will be March 20th, why because that is my birthday, and for my Foodie article this edition I'm going to talk about a birthday treat you can never beat, "Birthday Cake." I'll describe what I would consider my ideal birthday cake, and I'll go into some of the more unique cakes I've either had, sometimes for my birthday, sometimes for others, and ones that I've seen made and or on sale.

The ideal birthday cake for me is best broken down first by stating the various options in what makes up a cake, such as the mixture of the cake itself including how many layers of it there are, the frosting, the filling, the trim, and the decoration options. For the cake itself I do a 2-layer cake done 1 of 2 ways, the first is either both layers are a marble cake, meaning chocolate and vanilla cake mix, the second is that if a bakery doesn't do marble cakes, I'll have them do one layer chocolate and one layer vanilla. To move on to the filling before the frosting most times I'll just have them use the same buttercream frosting on the outside of the cake for the filling, though if I had my ideal cake the filling between the 2 layers would be a peanut butter flavored frosting, with as I said a white buttercream frosting on the outside, with a green trim of the same frosting. For decorations I usually ask them to use colored frosting to make little balloons on the cake usually in various colors including the 3 prime colors of red, yellow, and blue, though on the ideal cake they would be every basic color but brown and white, no white because of the frosting itself being white, and no brown because I'd have them use a chocolate brown frosting to say "Happy Birthday Andrew" on the top next to the balloons. (On a side note, I'd serve the cake with three different types of ice cream, vanilla, chocolate, and coffee-flavored, coffee-flavored ice cream being my favorite flavor, also the vanilla would ideally be a vanilla bean ice cream and the chocolate one would be just your usual chocolate flavored ice cream.

Now I'd like to tell you about some of the other cakes I've either had or seen for my birthday among other people's birthday's and other occasions. One alternative I've used for my own birthday is a type of pound cake called "Dump Cake," which is a family recipe and is always made in a bunt pan, It has no frosting on it and I like to eat the leftovers for breakfast over the next few days afterwards, but then again I do that with my usual birthday cakes a lot anyway. Sometimes for other family members birthdays depending on the birthday or more accurately was, usually my Mom's and in the past when they were alive my Grandmother's, included a chocolate cake of some kind, like a chocolate truffle cake and in my Mom's case whatever cake she got always had to have something in it that was her favorite kind of chocolate, "dark chocolate," what can I say, she likes the more tart chocolates.

Another interesting type of cake I've had was one with a vanilla base for the cake itself with either a raspberry or strawberry filling and trim of some sort, though I can't remember exactly which flavor it was, but I do remember that it had a "cream cheese" based frosting. This of course gave it a cheesecake-like flavor to it, cheesecake being another type of general cake I like though not one I've to the best of my knowledge had for a birthday cake, though that's not to say I would not consider having cheesecake for a birthday cake. In any case, having a cake to celebrate the day of one's birth is a great custom, and one that I hope people will continue to do in their own special way for a long time to come, as well as write articles like this one about them.~

Foodie Call: The Top 5 Best Pizza Places in Pittsburgh

By Amelia Krzton

For the Employee Sleepover Party in Murrysville on Tuesday night, pizza was voted the top option! Pasta was offered as an alternate choice. This makes me want to do a list of the best pizza restaurants in both Squirrel Hill and Downtown Pittsburgh.

#5: Cafe Milano: Located on 134 6th Street in Downtown Pittsburgh. Whenever I stayed with my dad and stepmom and we would always go to special events Downtown, we would almost always order pizza from Cafe Milano. It was one of the best traditions that we ever shared together!

#4: Giovanni's : Located on 123 6th Street in Downtown Pittsburgh. This was where the Meetup group and I ordered dinner from on the night of the Haunted Ghost Tour in Downtown Pittsburgh. We got a choice of either a personal pizza or a hoagie, and I obviously chose the former.

#3: Pizza Bellino: Located on 5839 Forbes Avenue in Squirrel Hill. I have eaten at this pizza restaurant on occasion, and their food is actually pretty good. Fun fact: Along with the now defunct Napoli's Pizzeria, this was one of the restaurants where I actually got spaghetti to eat instead of pizza.

#2: Aiello's Pizza: Located on 2112 Murray Avenue in Squirrel Hill This is one of the ultimate pizza places in Squirrel Hill! Not to mention, this restaurant also served Stickler's Popsicles on occasion. This restaurant and the next restaurant being #1 are rivals with each other.

#1: Mineo's Pizza: Located on 2128 Murray Avenue in Squirrel Hill. This is one of very few restaurants in the Pittsburgh area that is cash-only. I still love the fact that Mineo's often serves extra cheese over your choice of pizza toppings and little pints of ice cream for dessert, which as we all know, is my favorite dessert.~~

V3 Flat Bread Pizza Review

By: Zach Grabowski

There is a great pizza shop in Lawrenceville that I recently discovered called "V3 Flat Bread Pizza." The pizza from V3 is not your traditional circular pie, but rectangular in shape. They make this fantastic pizza called the "Firehouse Chicken Pizza." It is made with grilled chicken, banana peppers, Wisconsin mozzarella cheese, cheddar cheese, hot sauce, buttermilk ranch dressing, and if you're looking for more protein, you can add bacon, too. It is my new favorite pizza!

V3 Flat Bread Pizza has other types of pizzas that include a Barbecue Pit Boss Pizza, Buttermilk Chicken Pizza, Margherita V Pizza, Cattle Ranch Pizza, Tuscan Garden Pizza, Sunny Side Sausage Pizza, cheese pizza or you can also build your own pizza. They also have salads. The staff are very friendly and helpful. If you are looking for good pizza to try I highly recommend trying out V3 Flat Bread Pizza!~~



FOODIE CALL: MONROEVILLE DENNY'S AFTER MIDNIGHT

Story and Photos by Robert Hester

In 1970, Eric Clapton released one of his hit singles by the name of “After Midnight.” Over a half-a-century later, the song still remains an inspiration behind one of the restaurant industry’s most popular pastimes—a pastime that this writer first took advantage of exactly 50 years after the release of “After Midnight.” Every chance that I could since I relocated to Monroeville, PA in January of 2020, I managed to step out of my place of residence and dine at one of the familiar eateries along Monroeville’s William Penn Highway (US Route 22), Denny’s. As it is with Monroeville, PA’s location, Denny’s has been one of America’s premier destinations for hungry insomniacs. This is mainly because of their locations being open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

However, when Denny’s slowly reopened their locations for dine-in and takeout orders nationwide after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, a pandemic that’s still ongoing in spite of millions and millions of



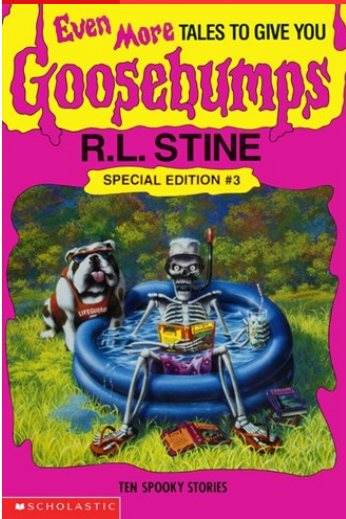
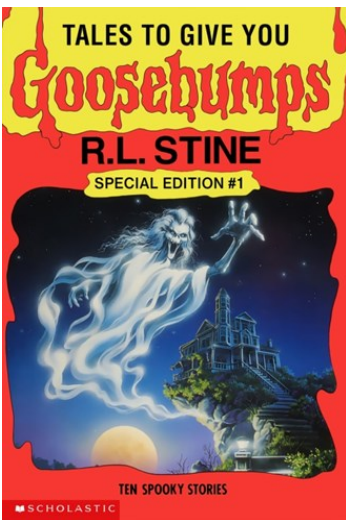
Americans being vaccinated every day, a lot of locations nationwide did not resume their dining hours to 24-7. Like most of its locations, the Denny’s in Monroeville, after being open for takeout-only service since the start of the COVID pandemic, reopened their restaurant for dine-in service last June, but was open from 6AM in the morning until 11PM at night; the restaurant was not open 24-7. And as you can imagine, like all restaurants, the hours that they were closed, 11PM-6AM, were reserved for cleaning and sanitizing the restaurant in an effort to meet the safety guidelines of the United States Center of Disease Control (the CDC) to stay open during the pandemic. But late last summer Denny’s, suddenly, announced that their Monroeville, PA location would be one of their few locations in the Northeast part of the country that would be able reopen 24-7, but only on weekends; between Friday Mornings at 6AM, and Sunday nights at 11PM. And just before the start this year, Denny’s announced that their Monroeville, PA location would reopen 24-7, everyday!

To coin a phrase just for this story, this reporter just said a “mouthful,” in a bad way. And now that I’ve said a mouthful in a bad way, it’s time for me to tell you in a good way what my mouth was full of at around 2AM on my late night trip to the place that’s regarded as part of its as “America’s Diner!” Denny’s

is known for their Grand Slams: a pair of buttermilk pancakes, sausage links, bacon, and some eggs (I like mine scrambled!). On this late night, I went to the next level—I had their Grand Slam Sluggers! A Grand Slam Sluggers is all of the aforementioned and includes hash browns, a glass of orange juice, and a cup of hot chocolate—instead of coffee. And although it added a small cost to my tab, I also had a pair of delicious buttermilk biscuits to add to my already delicious way-too-early morning, but late-night breakfast!

So whether you’re an occasional night owl like me, or you just want you and your taste buds to experience something a bona fide late-night treat, stop by and dine-in at Denny’s in Monroeville after midnight, one of the few Denny’s in the country that’s back to being open 24-7. And again, this story is written by a writer who enjoys dining at Denny’s after midnight whenever I can; it’s one best places on earth, much less PA, to enjoy great food late at night...other than Sheetz!~~





Jake's Top 10: Tales to Give You Goosebumps: #1 and #3

By: Jake Ziesche

10. **The House of No Return** - Three kids try to get a new kid in their club by making him go inside an old house.
9. **Broken Dolls** - A girl that likes dolls tries to save her brother from an old woman who has evil plans for him.
8. **Teacher's Pet** - A pair of best friends get a new teacher that has a thing for snakes.
7. **Strangers in the Woods** - During a stay with her great-aunt, a girl has a close encounter of the third kind.
6. **Change for the Strange** - Two girls visit a shop with "special" items.
5. **The Perfect School** - A boy is shipped off to a boarding school that makes robot copies of the students.
4. **Click** - A channel surfer gets a remote that can control his whole world.
3. **The Chalk Closet** - A boy goes to summer school with a room called the Chalk Closet
2. **I'm Telling!** - A boy finds a gargoyle with a liquid that petrifies what it hits.
1. **For the Birds**- During a visit to a bird sanctuary, a girl thinks the birds are trying to tell her something. ~~

If I was a Flushed Pet (Secret Life of Pets Movie)

By: Rachel Williamson

My reason to be a flushed pet would be, if I were a dog, I would tear up the whole house from ceiling to floor and would open the fridge and eat all the food and drag everything else off the shelves. Then I would go to the living room and tear up the couch and loveseat and pull the TV off the stand and then get a drink out of the toilet, drool everywhere afterwards, knock down the heaviest plant in the house, then whiz in a shoe. And then chew up the slippers into bits, then poo in front of the front door, then when my owner comes back home, I'd sit right at the front door and wag my tail like crazy with a grin on my face and with a leash in my hand.... What do you think will happen to me now?!?!?

A Summary of "Rick Riordan Presents" Book Collection By: Michelle Middlemiss

Rick Riordan is the author of the Percy Jackson series, who decided to dedicate a Disney offshoot series called "Rick Riordan Presents." The books within this series are created by different authors, from different cultures, to expand upon their native cultures, mythology and folklore. I am going to introduce the books, the authors, the culture it came from, whether it is a myth, legend, or folklore, and why Rick Riordan chose these stories in his "Presents" collection.

1. **Race to the Sun** by Rebecca Roanhorse - A black indigenous author of Native American descent (Native American Culture). Navajo mythology of conquering monsters. Rick chose this because it was an insiders' perspective of Navajo culture written better than he could.

2. **Paola Santiago and the River of Tears** by Tehlor Kay Mejia (Spanish/Mexican Culture) An urban legend about a woman who drowned her children in the 1700s, who now roams around rivers looking to drown kids. Parents warn their children to not go to the rivers by themselves. Rick chose this book because he has a personal connection to the story. Growing up in Texas, he heard the legend first hand.

3. **Dragon Pearl** by Yoon Ha Lee (Korean Culture) Folklore about shape shifting and shape shifters such as the fox and the dragon. The dragon pearl is an inanimate object that can change the environment around it - ex: a planet that is dead with no life and not flourishing change into a planet having living beings and flourishing. Rick chose this book because it deals with Korean folklore in an adventurous way.

4. Trilogy: **The Storm Runner**, **The Fire Keeper**, and **Shadow Crosser** by J.C.Cervantes (Mayan Culture) A mixed mythology of Mayan culture about and dealing with the Gods. Rick chose this trilogy because there is more information about the Roman and Greek Gods and he wanted to shed light and bring about more knowledge and understanding of the Mayan Gods.

5. **City of the Plague God** by Sarwat Chadda- Award winning Indian author, traveled to Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, and is a first generation Muslim immigrant (Middle Eastern Culture) Mythology of a God from Mesopotamia that was a plague god; bringing a Mesopotamian story mixed with Muslim influence. Rick chose this book for many reasons. The author actually came to Rick about adding this title to his "Presents" collection and Rick, being familiar with the authors work, was happy to have him. The main character in the story is a Muslim hero, which you don't always hear about. It is the most recent book in the collection to come out (January 2021) to help readers cope with Covid-19, instead of postponing release until the pandemic is over.

As you can see, Rick Riordan collaborated with authors to bring together different cultures, stories and mythologies all in one place.

N'dlis (Pt. 3)

By: Jordan Watson

22:21. After getting my arms and right side fixed up through the cellular grapher, a quick run through the showers, and a change of uniform, I figured it'd be a good time to try and use this time I have to hunt. Going through the majority of Vult Tower's underground structure, there wasn't much in terms of supplies. There's only about 15 MREs in stock, and about 5 collective cans of beans, corn, meat and green beans. Either the rest spoiled overtime, or the majority of the civilians that were alive likely ransacked the encampments before they ended up falling prey to the teeming masses of infected hybrids. Luckily with what left I was able to gather from my previous expedition, I have a tactical bow with about 30 arrows left in the quiver, bottled pheromones to attract any wildlife, and my hunting knife the old man passed down to me. This was right around 2024 before he succumbed to Crohn's disease in his later years. Ironic that of all the survival training we did when I was younger, and the health he had, that would be his ticket to crossing the River of Styx.

22:40. I make sure to huddle against the walls of the tunnel. As I emerge, I scan the outside of the end section of the tunnel that hadn't been completely ripped apart. It's where I noticed large chunks of what's left of the bridge that hurdled itself in numerous spots, buried like asteroids on the craters of this near empty tomb of a city. With this in mind, I use the concrete terrain to run and take cover any given chance I get. Who knows where those bastards are patrolling, or how far their sense of hearing can travel. I had probably covered nearly two and a half miles' worth of the hunks of rock. There's at least two locations left in all of Wake City that haven't been completely compromised. The west end of The Grapevine District, which has a multitude of overgrown vegetation covering the 10-block long ruin, where animals herd around those spots at this time of night. Then there's the northwest of the of the Babel Trades market square. Most of the facilities have some untapped supplies of self-sufficient nuclear-powered batteries that will power anything by mere contact. Yet it's limited in range to how far the source can travel, since it's unable to go past the city itself. In addition, it's the hub of the city's biggest decentralized wireless radio transmitters, Apostle Radio. Could make some use of that to try and find a way to travel out of the city should things reach molten magma levels of f**ked.

23:20. I use the cover of night to go between about 2 miles of intersections and merging roads from Adam Ave., to all of 40th through 70th St. Here I was able to come across Samson Energies, one of the shops carrying said nuke batteries. Seeing that the place had been long broken into, I carefully tip-toe around the glass laden holes where prior civilians plunged the shelves full of these devices, likely where they made like squirrels shoving nuts in their mouths and ran for the shelters below. Thank God for durability's sake, otherwise, these things could set off half a city without much warning to tell you you're about to become pure radiated sludge. With the power of genuine quantum physicians, and newly innovated hadron science, the weight of these bad mofos are condensed to that of a 30 pound weight, and the shape of a volleyball. Putting it into my backpack, I notice some small shadows near the border of Garden Pass, the line between Babel Trades and Grapevine. I pull over my gas mask, and activate the inner night vision on one of the ear guards near my helmet. Sneaking back into darkness away from the open roads, I follow the trail of where they're heading.

23:45. The distinct overgrowth in ferns and ivy surrounding the empty circular lot tells me I'm in the heart of the market square. To my surprise, there's a good bit of elk and fawn alike coming through to feast on the irradiated leaves. Thankfully, this carries an upside to the situation. Guess I won't be needing the pheromone bottles for this part. Carefully putting my gear down, I take out the tactical bow, and ready a steel arrow from the quiver. As I carefully aim my sights down to get this nice 13-point buck, I'm taken back to my time with my father during one of our first hunts together. We were in that smoky autumn forest, lying camouflaged under a dead tree branch.

“Remember this well, little warrior. We are the upper echelon of the food chain. We do this because it's part of our intrinsic nature. Don't feel bad that we hunt these creatures. The cycle of life repeats itself, just like a mortal exchange. The Earth provides the plant for oxygenation. That oxygen allows the deer to roam free. The deer gets sustenance from the plant and allows it to have strength to carry its legacy. We hunt the deer to live, but let the others live on. We then eat the deer, and it empowers the essence of our lives, giving us the same purpose. In the hopes we too can carry on our own lega-

cy through our kin. Live to tell our stories, for they must all end gloriously.”

I exhale slowly, keep my eye on the prize, and let my bolt strike with truth.

The rest of the herd hop and scatter from the scene, as one of their own collapses from the shot near its serratus ventralis thoracis. Exactly the muscular point where the lungs and heart are shielded. I slide down the debris of the stone pile I've situated myself from atop, making sure I don't tumble or lose balance. Briskly sprinting to the roundabout sector where the body twitches, I quickly take the rod to the arrow, and jam my knife into its head, putting it out of its misery.

23:50. The knife my old man gave me has always been put to good use to ensure it cuts through any grade of muscle. Told me this knife was passed on by grandpa when he lived in the snowy mountains of Alta. Said he'd tell me some stories about his hunts when I'm older. Hilda was always curious about my ventures with Dad, so before we would embark on our mission deployments, I'd tell her one every day. Even some about my grandpa when Dad would eventually spill the beans. Some of them were pretty spine chilling. Soon as I bag the carcass, and divvy the parts to make room, I notice the streetlights flicker slowly. Real weird. The grid to Wake City still is able to hold out for a good 30 years before it completely fizzles. Now they're more erratic, and out of sync. Been breathing real hard through my filtrated mask. After about 20 seconds, I see it.

That fog. That damn green fog.

My heart sinks straight to my lower intestine.

It begins to move my way. I see the figure's thin, disturbing silhouette.

The Fogger.

I make a mad bolt to the right avenue of the market square! Not even realizing it, I forgot the deer bag! Can't go back now with the rate of speed that smoke is coming in! I cut through more of the wide crevices through Agatha's Breads to cut down straight ahead to Easter's to weave between the abandoned restaurant block! The smoke is creeping through even the building cracks, devouring that section of Wake City like a sinister smog devouring a rain forest of its nutrients. To my hard left of running through the square, I find a massive lot of vacant cars. I try going for the old strategy Hilda and I used for when we needed and use one of the cars to hide out from this creature until the vapor trails subsided completely. I use her skeleton knife to open the key slot to one of these SUVs.

The lock's too sturdy. I try for one of the compacts adjacent to it. Handle slot breaks. Too many beaters for the next few dozen rows. I have to hurry! Try one last go with a Winnebago to the third row to my right!

WHEWO WHEWO WHEWO WHEWO

DAMMIT! The car alarm's going off!

It's definitely going to hear that!

The rate of the clouds behind me pick up pace as they're a good 700 feet away from me!

Try to open the trunk of the truck in front of it!

It doesn't turn correctly!

No NO NO! 400 feet away!

I'm running out of options!

300 feet now!

Where the hell do I go when its distance is THAT close?!

My breathing is getting extremely heavy...I can't let it near my vicinity!

100 feet away....~~

My Interview with Jessica Benham

By Megan Cunningham

On Thursday, January 21, 2021, I sat down in a virtual chat with Freshman State Representative Jessica Benham. We discussed state and national politics, particularly on the issues we cared about, most notably healthcare, as she was about to venture to Harrisburg because of Republican efforts to defund Medicaid the following week.

How were you diagnosed with ASD? Did the diagnosis provide relief?

I wasn't diagnosed until I was in college. I came from a conservative religious family who were resistant to seek answers because of their beliefs. They didn't want me to have any labels, even though I was phased out of public school from second grade. Teachers said, "She has PDD or ADHD." Since I felt different, I sought out an evaluation for myself in college. After my diagnosis, I felt relieved since things started to make a lot of sense and I found a community.

Who were your influences when younger and now? Who was your strongest influence into politics?

Running for office wasn't the plan. When suggested, I kind of laughed it off. People like us (ASD, bisexual) don't do this. People I knew encouraged me by saying I was a leader, that people will see my strengths outside of diagnosis. As I've strived to be open and okay with it. But in the end, it was people in my own community like people who are hungry and/or unemployed as well as suffered from violence and unclean water. I also understand growing up in lower income for I saw the same fears in my parents.

Looking back at career highs and lows, what is the most rewarding aspect of your choices now?

Serving my community. Helping people, individually, is very meaningful, especially in addressing unemployment, food insecurity, housing insecurity. My background mostly focuses on advocacy, education policy, and healthcare policy. Following the path set in front of me and taking one step at a time, I'm happy with what she chose. And I wouldn't change a thing.

What would you say to younger people who feel under-represented? I live in the overwhelmingly red Westmoreland County, which greatly upset me in both 2016 and 2020.

I agree that younger people are under-represented in national government. I'd recommend that they should look to Georgia as an example of slow change and continue as a group over decades. At the same time, it's important to develop personal relationships so people can see the candidates' true intentions.

What school/career/endorsement setbacks did you have and how you overcame them?

I had to leave behind a conservative religious family. I was pushed out of public school. And I didn't have resources and support. But my biggest setback is people not believing in me because of who I am, which I have by letting people get to know who I am and what I stand for. As I've overcome structural barriers, bigotry, and assumptions, I come to see my autism as a strength. For it helps with hyper focus and detail needed for policy. Though I never overcame autism itself, I used it to strengthen me.

How are you able to not take things personally?

Childhood helped me grow thicker skin. I often look at the meanness of others as to what it says about them, does not take it personally. There are always cruel people, bullies who will just be bullies. They are just mean people, and the things they say do not matter to her, it's not who I really am.

Is your achievement of becoming state legislature personally greater due to your disability?

Maybe, it is a testament to my tenacity. I don't see disability as a limitation to my skills. Others' personal biases were a barrier – ensuring I fight against that.

What resources do you use to get real, truthful information?

When there is a new finding, I try to get as close to actual research as possible. Whenever I see a news story, I ask what research paper they get that from and whether I can see the source. I also use a lot of resources like the *Washington Post*, BBC, and Fox News.

Personal career goals for the future? How do you plan/prepare for career path changes? What is still difficult?

I want to be the best state representative I can be as well as the best person in that moment. My top three policies are access to healthcare, protecting the environment with ensuring people have sustainable jobs, and reducing gun violence.~~

Warring

By: Joseph Cepek

Warring and Killing are terminally ill
The potential human participants have both an Individual and Collective Free Will
To kill or not to kill
Love, Negotiation and Understanding are far better to instill
Unfortunately, Warring and Killing sadly outweighs them all still
Until?
Warring and Killing are someday going to be defeated by a United World Army of Love, Negotiation, Understanding, as well as Individual and Collective Free Will
Bill and Jill, who along with their Divine Creator, helped to stop Warring and Killing
Thus, they are triumphant in fulfilling their Ultimate Creator's Divine Will

This is a separate poetic accompaniment to The 19TH Century Fake Mustache Person commentary article in a narrative format.~~

My Votes for the 2021 Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards

By: Amelia Krzton

The Kids' Choice Awards is broadcast on Nickelodeon every spring. This year, it will be held virtually yet again due to the coronavirus pandemic, and the air date will be March 13, 2021. Here is who I voted for in each category and why I would like them to win. We will start off with the movie section. I voted for Hamilton for Favorite Movie because we all know how much I love that movie dealing with American history. I voted for Lin-Manuel Miranda as Alexander Hamilton from *Hamilton* for Favorite Movie Actor because he is one of the best actors in the movie and he certainly deserves to win. I voted for Liu Yifei as Mulan from *Mulan* for Favorite Movie Actress because I thought that she did a pretty good job as Mulan. I voted for *Trolls World Tour* for Favorite Animated Movie because that sounds like a very popular movie. I voted for Anna Kendrick as Poppy from *Trolls World Tour* because her character is one of the best in the whole movie. Now, we will move on to the television section. I voted for Raven's Home for Favorite Kids' TV Show because it is a spin-off of an old show that I used to watch on Disney Channel, which was of course, *That's So Raven*. I voted for *Fuller House* for Favorite Family TV Show because I enjoy watching it as much as I did *Full House*, although I prefer the original series more. I voted for Candace Cameron Bure as D.J. Tanner-Fuller from *Fuller House* because she still does a very good job playing D.J. Tanner. I voted for Iain Armitage as Sheldon Cooper from *Young Sheldon* because it is obviously the same Sheldon from *The Big Bang Theory*, only younger. I voted for *American Idol* for Favorite Reality Show because it is the most popular show on TV. I voted for *The Loud House* for Favorite Animated Series because it is newer and pretty underrated (although don't be surprised if *Sponge Bob* wins yet again, people)! Next, we will move on to the music section. I voted for Maroon 5 for Favorite Music Group because I have always loved their music and they are so talented. I voted for Shawn Mendes for Favorite Male Artist because I like listening to several of his songs. I voted for Selena Gomez for Favorite Female Artist because she is the most beautiful and likable celebrity out there, although I still prefer her acting. I voted for "Blinding Lights" by The Weeknd for Favorite Song because that is one of my favorite songs from the *Now 74* album last spring. I voted for "Ice Cream" by Blackpink and Selena Gomez for Favorite Music Collaboration because even though I have never heard the song before, it still sounds very nice. I voted for Taylor Swift from North America for Favorite Global Music Star because she is the celebrity whose songs I have heard the most. For sports, I voted for Serena Williams for Favorite Female Sports Star because she is pretty much the only one that I am familiar with. I voted for LeBron James for Favorite Male Sports Star because, same with Serena Williams, he is pretty much the only one that I am familiar with. Miscellaneous categories involve the following: I voted for Charli D'Amelio for Favorite Female Social Star because she helped out with one of the best movies of 2020 entitled *This Is the Year*. I voted for Jason Derulo for Favorite Male Social Star because he is one of the best singers on the planet, and the only male star that I am familiar with. I voted for *Pokemon Go* for Favorite Video Game because *Pokemon* is a classic, of course.~~

Regrets: Give Them No Quarter

By: Renee Skudra

Sheltering at home I've been doing more thinking than perhaps I've ever done in the past year since this pandemic touched down upon our American shores, about politics and the nature of its devolution into corruption bolstered by a president who fomented lies and division on this sacred ground, and many other things as well: lamenting the over 460,000 lives lost to the raging and vexatious coronavirus, a ravaged economy, massive food insecurity, business closings, homelessness and the upcoming evictions that will affect thousands who have not enough money to pay their rent, the loss of two jobs in my own home. There are the secondary effects of all the foregoing – my fragile psyche, the feeling that I am now untethered from my usual emotional moorings, always standing on shaky ground, that my very ability to cope has been so compromised that I not only don't have enough strength to abandon the mental ship but am possibly going down, deep down with it to unparalleled depths of a wrathful and avenging sea that I have never visited before.

With unprecedented time on my hands I'm also thinking about another topic, not specifically really driven into reality by the current hot and complicated world mess we all necessarily share, yet it is something I am certain we all can lay claim and relate to. On one particularly grieving and vexatious day, I allowed myself to wallow in one regret that I had unrelentingly kept at bay, stored in an imaginative vault with the words inscribed upon it: "never open." While cleaning out a file cabinet I found a photo from decades ago of myself and someone I had loved passionately and beyond the rim of reason. At that moment a tangible feeling of new heartbreak engulfed me and I was overcome with tears. There was supposed to be a marriage. Two wonderful dazzling years full of unsullied happiness and love with a man I met at his birthday party while on a first date with his best friend. The quotidian details are not important but suffice it to say that the injured friend never forgave me and called me at a later time and said "I gave you Dan, have a nice life" and loudly hung up the phone. I know the gesture had nothing to do with munificence but the opportunity he had inadvertently brought my way was indisputably a gift. I was sorry for Larry's hurt feelings but absolutely grateful for the gift of an unusual promising romantic connection that I had not experienced in a very long time.

It is often the nature of things to fall apart and my story was not remiss in that ineluctable effort. As we made plans to weld our futures together through the deus ex machina of a wedding, Dan's mother announced summarily that there would be no marriage unless I converted to Catholicism. Otherwise, their Irish family would not attend a wedding and moreover their son would be excised bitterly and promptly from the family. I could not make such a choice – not able to square my Sephardic Jewish soul to fit the stated perimeters of the clan circle, we made the hard decision (each broken-hearted) to part ways. For a long time, it felt like I couldn't breathe properly, couldn't catch enough breath. One day a very dear friend sent me a card on which the following words were printed: "Je ne pas regrette rien" with the note: "listen to Edith Piaf." I knew the songstress and the French song composed in 1956 by Charles Dumont. I remembered hearing it in Bernardo Bertolucci's film "The Dreamers" (2003) as well as in "La Vie en Rose" which immortalized the life of Piaf, so ably portrayed by French actress Marion Cotillard. At that moment it was as if an epiphany hit me front right and center – as much pain as the break-up had caused me, I did not regret the relationship which had lifted me spiritually and was revelatory of what it meant to live one's best life with another, to share a joint emotional plangency at the possible highest pitch. Like the words in Whitney Houston's song, this was a man that I would ALWAYS love. The words from a favorite musical, Jonathan Larson's "Rent", like a tidal wave, came out of nowhere: "Forget regret, or life is yours to miss. No other path, no other way, no day but today."

As I sit here now, ensconced in my favorite oak captain's chair, the roar of the wind outside rattling my home with some angry and unshakeable resolve, I realize the trope that "time heals all wounds" is incontrovertibly not true. Some wounds never heal. As Sofia Velez-Calderon said in her story "Walking With George" (about the loss of her beloved miniature Schnauzer who had been with her for almost 12 years), "one must build one's soul around them." I have an enormous cache of regrets stored in this precipitous mind of mine, teetering and tottering, at any moment threatening to break loose and wreak their fury. But in the end all of this time I have spent regretting has not advanced me and maybe it has perceptibly grayed my hair. I tell my son "No, I do not regret the move to North Carolina or the trips we didn't take or the fact that his father's and my marriage didn't reach the margins of eternity." The ineradicable truth was that I could not reconstitute my life to form a different fabric and shape another narrative because the original one had generously given us so very much – a lovely new home replete with new friendships, beautiful geographical visages and terrain, fresh historical understandings – so important for my long-evolved and studious Civil War historian boy – a beloved dog who accompanied us on numerous and sundry trips, always uncomplainingly, always evincing the joy of traversing a new and unfamiliar road. I could not simply change up the path I had taken to soothe an aching soul and quiet the Pandora's box of regrets that always threatened to break loose and cause foreseeable and monumental panic.~~

This is Why I Care

By: Maggie Jones

This story begins with why do I care, or how do I start caring about? When we started this pandemic of Covid -19 that spread all over the world and killed more people than any war combined. We had to stay in our homes all the time because we couldn't go outside. Last year at this time we all where home.

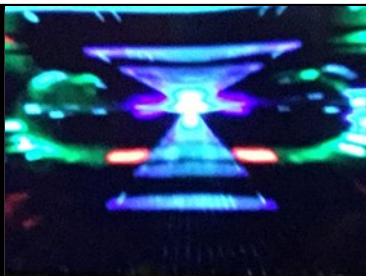
Nurses and doctors busy trying to save as many lives as they could but wasn't enough to save everyone. Cases went sky high and the number of deaths recorded last year was unbearable to handle for some or for most that lost loved ones. And when they needed people that they loved there to say their goodbyes, their loved ones couldn't because of the spread of COVID-19. Because there wasn't a cure yet last year in March of 2020. Everything from bars to restaurants to places in between where closed. People were losing their jobs. The economy was going badly down the drain.

When I say that I care, it's a way to show the true meaning of love and compassion for one another. Wearing a mask, social distancing, and washing your hands too were the next right thing. And kids staying home from school, learning virtually was hard for so many kids.

This story is about a girl and her family and will explain that we need each other in times of hardship and showing that we care makes a difference in the lives of many people all over the world. And here at home too. And that love and caring always beat carelessness and selfishness.

The story begins when the girl asked her mom at home while they watched the news on television "what's the covid 19?" she asked. Her mom said, "it's a disease that attacks the lungs and it is making a lot of people have trouble breathing." She was autistic and could not understand why or how it came to be yet of Covid-19, but she wasn't allowed to go outside because it was airborne, which mean it could spread without us noticing it. So she and her family stayed in for a few months until it got a little better to go to the store to get important essentials.

She saw everyone wearing a mask and asked her mom why. Her mother explained, "it's because of Covid-19. It's something you have to do to stay safe from germs that float in the air. They come in different colors and designs but, it's very important to wear one so you don't get sick."~~



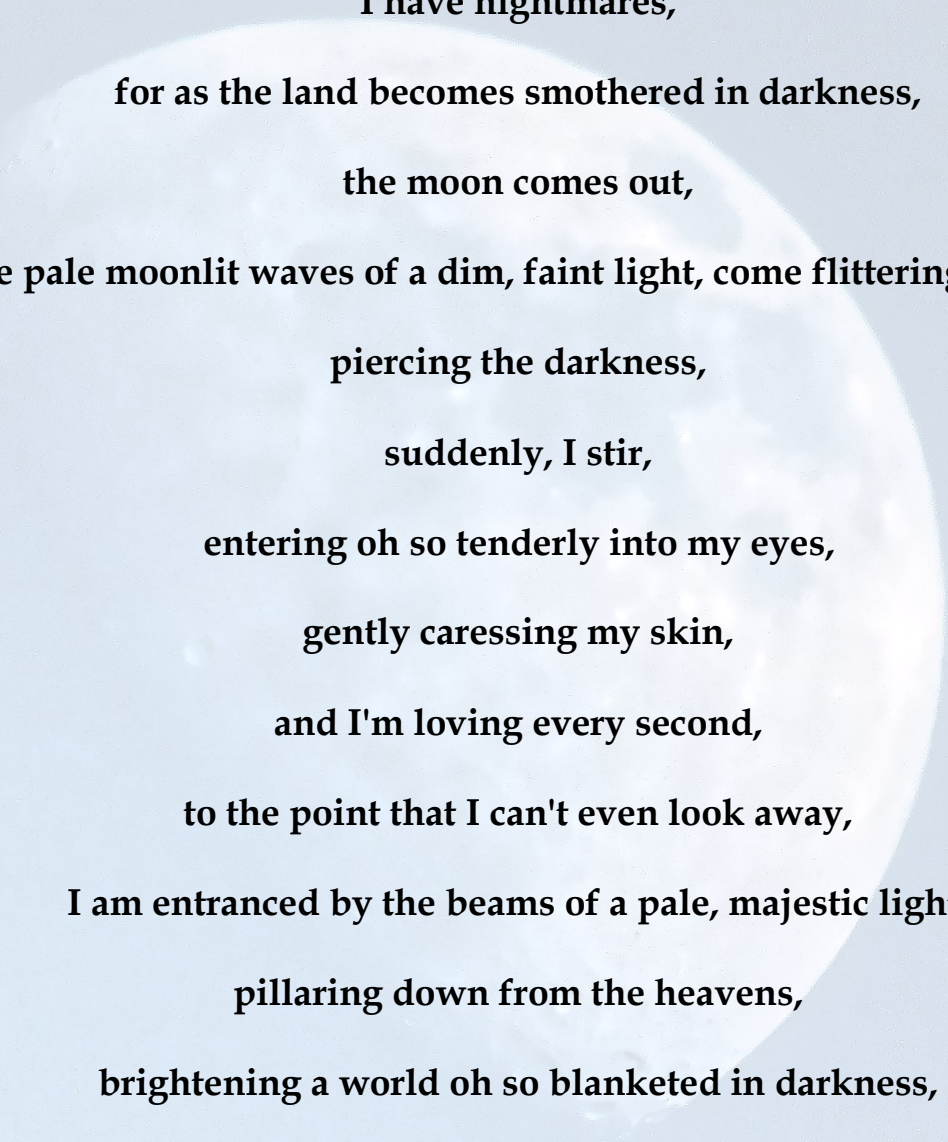
Ready Player One: How close are we to the Dystopian Movie?

Researched & Written By: Rachel Williamson

Ready Player One was a heck of a popular Syfy novel written by Ernest Cline. How close are we to something like this happening in real life? It was about a future where the world stopped trying to fix problems and just tried to outlive them. In the story, millions of people escape their reality to a virtual reality world called Oasis. It is the ultimate escapism; in the Oasis, millions of people can play games 24/7, make friends, they can make their avatars any size, lookm gender, scary, cartoon, find a job, and many other things you could do in the real world. We already have a similar VR head set like the oasis, the Oculus Quest. The graphics are realistic enough and some of virtual reality elements and equipment are already available.

How to Build the Oasis

There are parts to make up the oasis experience, each one integral to total immersion. The most obvious one is the virtual reality, the oasis as a full immersion experience just wouldn't be possible with out it. VR is now a solved problem the imminent release of devices such as the oculus, htc vine, and the gear VR has the potential put room scale VR in every room. While VR is necessary for immersion, it's not the full story; a truly immersion experience must engage all the senses. Recent advances haptics have given us omnidirectional treadmill like Omani full body haptics just is like Tesla suit with responsive controllers like the falcon, using all our sensing inside. A virtual world is closer, though we might have to wait a while for a smell-a-vision.~~



Lo and behold,
for as I have a fitful night in slumber,
I have nightmares,
for as the land becomes smothered in darkness,
the moon comes out,
as the pale moonlit waves of a dim, faint light, come flittering through,
piercing the darkness,
suddenly, I stir,
entering oh so tenderly into my eyes,
gently caressing my skin,
and I'm loving every second,
to the point that I can't even look away,
I am entranced by the beams of a pale, majestic light,
pillaring down from the heavens,
brightening a world oh so blanketed in darkness,
filling the world with a comfortable rest in sleep.

By: Paul Lechevalier

Review of *The Reason I Jump*

By: Nils Skudra

This week I had the opportunity to watch Jerry Rothwell's documentary *The Reason I Jump*, a profoundly compelling commentary on the lives of several young nonverbal adults on the autism spectrum. Based on the book of the same title by Naoki Higashida, this documentary explores the unique experiences and challenges of nonverbal autistic individuals from an insider's perspective since the author himself grew up as an autistic child without speech. Given that there is a widespread perception that nonverbal autistic people are placed at a significant disadvantage in contrast to their verbal counterparts, this documentary definitely merited a film review since it makes an effort to debunk this commonly held belief through chronicling the struggles and successes of the respective individuals who are featured.

The documentary opens with footage of a young Japanese boy (representing Higashida as a child) wandering alone through fields and a deserted industrial area, making keen observations of his surroundings. The viewer is subsequently introduced to excerpts from Higashida's book, reflecting on his childhood experience: "I didn't even know that I was a kid with special needs. Even now, I can't do a real conversation." He elaborates that the realm of autism may seem like "a very mysterious place" from an outsider's perspective, which motivated him to write the book. We are subsequently introduced to two other young nonverbal adults on the spectrum: Joss, an English adolescent who is first seen making incomprehensible statements, and Emma, who walks around with a Google Chrome disc. Higashida then breaks the fourth wall by telling the viewers: "Spare a little time for what I have to stay and take a little trip through our world."

As the documentary progresses, it delves into the perspectives of the families of the respective young nonverbal adults with autism and the emotional challenges that they have had in trying to help their children. For example, we are introduced to Amrit, an Indian girl whose mother reflects that her daughter "had so much anger in her but there was no way she could tell us about it." She recalls that when Amrit would scream and cry, she did not know what to do, which was very painful for her. In spite of this, Amrit displays a remarkable talent as an artist, producing beautiful paintings which she seeks to have displayed in an art gallery. It is clear that for Amrit, artwork is a channel through which she can express her emotions that cannot be vocalized through speech.

Higashida subsequently shares another reflection about his perception of the world as a person with autism: "How do I see our world? How I perceive it appears to be different." He elaborates that for him, the details jump straight out first of all, and gradually the whole image comes into focus, and he must scan his memory in order to get a grip on things. This is a very relatable observation for individuals on all ranges of the autism spectrum since their neurological functioning is very detail-oriented, and consequently they tend to share this information in an unfiltered manner, which can sometimes be a source of annoyance or discomfort for neurotypical individuals. This is exemplified by the character of Shaun Murphy in *The Good Doctor* since he often relates the full details of his patients' medical condition to their family members instead of reassuring them or respecting their wishes, and consequently his supervising surgeons and peers have to keep Shaun's tendencies in check.

David Mitchell, the co-translator for the documentary, shares his insights about Higashida's book, stating that the author "makes a map of his mind." This is a compelling insight since many autistic individuals think visually, laying their thoughts out in the form of maps or diagrams in their mind in order to put different pieces of information together. In *The Good Doctor*, Shaun follows these steps when thinking about a possible surgical operation that would best work for the given situation, and he often comes up with the right solution. However, Higashida points out that there is a downside to the ways in which people with autism think since the world they inhabit is chaotic and swirling, and this frequently can bring about meltdowns, which, he states, can blow up out of nowhere. This is illustrated by Joss who is shown crying and moaning in agitation and covering his ears with his hands as his parents try to comfort him.

Another intriguing aspect of the documentary is that it portrays how nonverbal autistic individuals absorb the sounds around them and how they perceive those sounds. This is reflected in the story of Amrit since she exhibits a very keen attention to the sensory input that she is exposed to, showing a unique appreciation for the everyday sounds that neurotypical individuals take for granted. Higashida pointedly remarks on this tendency: "Every single thing has its unique beauty. I can't concentrate on anything else. There are certain sounds and sights that are either very painful or very pleasant." The effect that these sounds have on autistic individuals can vary based on the situation and the kind of sound that they absorb. I can relate to this on a personal level since I have a strong sensitivity to sudden loud noises, such as pots and pans unexpectedly falling down, and put my hands over my ears with alarm when I hear them.

One truly profound observation that Higashida shares revolves around the effect that being non-

verbal has on people with autism: “Not being able to talk means not being able to share what you’re thinking or feeling.” Since nonverbal individuals cannot vocalize their thoughts and feelings through speech, they face the major challenge of expressing the sensory input they have processed. Amrit expresses herself this through her artwork while Emma and her friend Ben learn to use a spelling board for forming complete sentences. Although many of Joss’ statements are incomprehensible, he is able to form some discernible words such as “like music” and “I need to get more bubbles at the shop.” “Joss can see everything and can hear everything,” his mother Stevie observes, and he has an eidetic memory since he recalls Number 18, their former address: “To Joss, what happened in our old house is just as real as something that happened half an hour ago.”



Joss’ phenomenal memory is a common trait among people with autism, and in many ways, it can be an important advantage in an academic or professional context. I have often been told that I have a photographic memory since I can instantaneously recall facts about notable historical figures or events, and this has been very beneficial for my academic performance. Higashida elaborates that for autistic individuals, “time is something that has no clear boundaries,” with “cycles of scattered memories sometimes replay[ing] themselves in my head as if they had just happened.” In certain ways, this can be a mixed blessing since an autistic person’s bad memories might periodically replay themselves. While most neurotypical individuals might be able to arrange and filter their memories in a continuous and chronological manner, this replaying of certain memories can be a source of deep discomfort and anxiety for a person with autism, and therefore it may not be so easy to put these bad memories behind them.

A major impact of Higashida’s book is that it challenged ideas about people with autism having no emotions or imaginative feelings, and the documentary conveys this aspect beautifully through its use of excerpts and coverage of the different protagonists. In explaining the reason that he jumps, Higashida writes, “I react physically to feelings of sadness and happiness. When I jump, it feels as if my feelings are going upwards to the sky.” Furthermore, as Ben and Emma learn to form words, they display the ability to express their feelings and reflections, with Emma stating that their friendship “requires only some peace from the world.” This sentiment is very illustrative of the type of comfort zone that many autistic individuals consider ideal since there is more peace and quiet with less sensory input, which may be especially appealing for nonverbal people given that they wouldn’t have the pressure of trying to vocalize their thoughts in interactions with other people.

Another pivotal aspect of this documentary makes is its depiction of the ostracism that nonverbal autistic people face in comparison with their verbal counterparts. The stigma placed on nonverbal autism is painfully conveyed in the film’s chronicling of Jestina, a girl in Sierra Leone whose parents share their experiences of raising her. Jestina’s mother reflects that when her daughter would go into temper tantrums, neighbors would say “The devil has possessed her.” In addressing the community about her daughter’s condition, she encourages other parents to share their stories about the challenges facing their nonverbal children: One mother tearfully states that neighbors told her to drown her daughter in the river. Although these shocking sentiments would seem primitive to contemporary Western audiences, the documentary demonstrates that they were once prevalent throughout the Western world since autistic children were considered psychotic, and eugenics, implemented through sterilization or (in its ultimate manifestation under the Nazis) euthanasia, was widely regarded as a humane solution for children with “degenerate” characteristics.

In spite of the severe challenges that nonverbal autistic people face, *The Reason I Jump* makes it poignantly clear that they can successfully integrate into mainstream society as fully fledged adults through support from family and community. Through this breakthrough, it makes a profound argument for changing the conversation around autism, which, Ben remarks, can be achieved by nonverbal autistics “being part of the conversation.” Part of changing this conversation necessarily includes a change in our perceptions of verbal vs. nonverbal autistic people. While verbal individuals on the high-functioning range are considered more successful, lower-functioning and nonverbal autistic individuals are commonly viewed as being handicapped and unable to achieve social integration. By watching this documentary, viewers will hopefully develop an appreciation for the talents and abilities of nonverbal children with autism and become more supportive of their personal and professional growth. ~~

Berlin Legendary 80's New Wave Band

By: David O'Rorey

Formed in Orange County, California as Berlin by 1977 by John Crawford on Bass Guitar, Bass Synthesizers & Rhythm Machine, early member guitarist Chris Ruiz-Velasco also on Drums & Percussion Dan Van Patten. The female singers were changed 2 times by 1979 Terri Nunn joined as the lead vocalist of the band from an answer through musicians Contact Service in Hollywood as an ad. In 1976 Terri auditioned for the role of Princess Leia for the 1977 Sci-Fi Blockbuster Hit "Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope." The name Berlin did not come from the famous capitol city name but thus the band wanted to seem exotic and European. The band's synthesizer and keyboard hooks were influenced by Kraftwerk, Devo, Sparks and The Screamers. The first single recorded was a "A Matter Of Time" released in 1979 by Renegade Records. Terri Nunn left the band by late 1979 or 1980 Terri was pursuing acting again as her good but failed attempt at Leia as she was good just not what they were looking for as she was chosen over Carrie Fisher. By Virginia Maccolino joined as the lead singer in the band. John, Chris, Dan and Virginia would record a German only Vinyl LP release called Information released in 1980. I have as Losless Flac and Compressed Mp3 Files. "A Matter Of Time" would later be re-recorded with Terri Nunn. The album did not go well as planned not even sure of the sales. The band could not get signed on a major record label since the departure of Terri Nunn. This annoyed Chris and Virginia as they would leave the band and left it as John and Dan the sole remaining members. By late '80 Terri would re-join the band with David Diamond on Synthesizers, Rhythm and Lead Guitars as a core founding member of the enduring line-up of Berlin. Along with Matt Reid on Keyboards, Ric Olsen on Lead Guitars Plus drummer and electronic percussionist Dan Van Patten. They would go on to record the double single "Tell Me Why" my favorite Berlin song that rocks out so much! Plus on the other side of the LP "The Metro" it was intended as a one-off as by then John was working on other projects. The Double Sided Single was released by the Indie Label Enigma Records who later by the end of 1990 would collapse. The Single gained enough attention to help them to record the EP "Pleasure Victim" It had a 2,900 budget. Chris Ruiz-Velasco an original member wrote a hit for "Masquerade". Berlin came at the dawn of MTV with music video for some hits such as "Masquerade" (#82 U.S.) "The Metro" (#53 U.S.) and "Sex (I'm A...)" (#62 U.S. #5 Canada). "Pleasure Victim" (1982) a 7 Song EP that went platinum eventually the band's only one as such in the U.S.A. The controversial Hit Single "Sex (I'm A...)" was banned on many radio stations. Pleasure Victim The EP was released in October 1982. The band did gain recognition by London Radio DJ based in California Mr. "Richard Blade" from K-Rocking KROQ which who is also a huge Gary Numan fan and announced him and the band on the 10-8-82 Opening show of his '82 U.K. Hit album I, Assassin which was the tour was "The Assassin U.S. Tour" the kick off show took place in Pasadena, California at The Perkins Palace. I have a recording in Flac and Mp3 of it. Gary's first u.s. show in over 2 years in North America! Rod Learned would go on Drums and Percussion for The the tour touring Pleasure Victim with new songs from June 1982 to early July '83 in North America. I have 6 recordings from this tour in superb or excellent quality mainly except 1 little distant sounding audience capture. 2-14-83 Partial Show from FM in Flac, 3-19-83 NYC Soundboard Flac and Mp3, 3-20-83 Long Island, NY Soundboard Flac and Mp3 one with and without glitches. 4-20-83 Houston, TX. is the B+ distant some audience recording from tape in Flac. 5-18-83 San Francisco, Ca. Audience capture a great one as Flac Files too! Lastly 7-1-83 in Universal City, Ca. which is a one off show. Show runs longer at 77 mins. the other a little over an hr. 60 some or 70 mins. each at most. This one is from Master Tape>CD-R>Eac>TLH>Flac This is the best audience recording from as an A+, the second would be 5-18-83 as I said a 9/10 sound. Richard announced Berlin on May 30, 1983 at The US Festival at The Glen Helen Regional Park Stage Amphitheater, in San Bernardino, Ca. Which the whole show or partial was filmed as I believe incomplete as I have a video file in mpeg from a fan I got of the show which has a cut right before the song "Touch" is played. On this show Richard said it was the band's first appearance in southern California for several months. Which is an one off then later came the 2 shows at The Universal Amphitheater which one I have I stated I have 7-1-83. Richard also said the shows on the tour sold out just about everywhere. The first full length album was released in on March 12, 1984 titled "Love Life" which yielded some hits, "No More Words" (U.S. #23, #5 New Zealand), "Dancing In Berlin" (#11 New Zealand) and "Now It's My Turn" which reached the lower end of the U.S Billboard Hot 100 Charts stalling at #74 that is a great song and a hit is a hit! To me I like synths a lot as well as other instruments in my music. To me synthesizers feel like a

breath of fresh air everytime I play some of these Berlin Records on CD or Files. The band was down yo a trio with Terri, John and third drummer and percussionist Rob Brill. Arguments between Terri and John on the harder rock edge on the album plagued them. The main hit was on the soundtrack "Take My Breath Away" for the 1986 Blockbuster hit "Top Gun" one of my all-time favorite movies I have a passion for military planes WWII and after! It was a the main love theme used in the film. The song was not written by the band at all instead by Giorgio Moroder and Tom Whitlock. Terri has an amazing voice on it and other songs she sings on one of the best of the era I think. I always thought she was a beautiful woman too always. The song released June 15, 1986 peaked at #1 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 that year. It also charted high in several other countries. . The hits produced hits on the the album are "You Don't Know" a favorite of mine had a nice accompanying music video released in Dec. 1986 peaking at #39 in The U.K. also #16 in Belgium. I like that song more then Take My Breath Away it is also a ballad song too I think much better. I like Take My Breath but never a favorite and not even true to the band's sound. Seems Terri wanted to do it to just make some extra ready cash. The next sing released in 1987 was "Like Flames" which peaked low at #82 on The U.S. Charts that year the song is also much better then Breath as they recruited lead guitarist David Gilmour and one of the vocalists of the legendary late 60's and after Psychedelic Rock and Progressive Rock Band "Pink Floyd" who I am also a big fan of. The single went to #10 in Belgium also #18 in Australia and #14 in The Netherlands. Lots of additional musicians were also gathered for the album making as by then the band's 6-Piece Line-Up was down to a trio. As for Take My Breath Away John did not want to have her record the song and them play it they pretty much ended breaking up the band after a U.S. Tour and supporting U.K. dates in March 1986 supporting legendary 80's Act with huge U.K. Hits "Frankie Goes To Hollywood". They played other countries on the tour as well. A Laserdisc was released in Japan as Wam Bam, Live In Japan. Recorded on March 23, 1987 at Shinjuku Kouseinekin Hall, in Tokyo, Japan. Which I have a copy on DVD-R of. By 1988 the band had broken up and Geffen Records released a Best Of Berlin 1979-1988 on Compact Disc that sold well. Terri Nunn did gain control of the band with new members one being Carlton Bost of Deadsy on Guitars and Z-Tars in the band Deadsy. Just Guitars in Berlin. I wrote about them in January 2020 Pittverse Article. Deadsy were also influenced a good but by Berlin. Terry with a few other newer members also big fans of the band themselves were releasing albums starting in 2002, plus another in 2005 and 2012. Though in between all that in 2004 VH1's Band's Reunited got all 6 Original Members back together for the legendary program who also got back together other 80's legends with many hits such as "A Flock Of Seagulls" and "Kajagoogoo". To name 2 I like a lot they showed on the program. By 2018 John Crawford and David Diamond came back as guests on some shows they decided to put out a new album called Transcendance on the Cleopatra Records Label they also released the 1999 compilation called "Greatest Hits Remixed" which I have too. The new album was well made. So Terri, John, David, Carlton, Plus Dave Schulz on Keys and Synths also on Drums and Percussion Chris Olivas with Berlin since like 2000 something. They decided to start a nationwide tour the first in years to promote the album! Most of the previous shows were around the West Coast era only. I had the pleasure of seeing Berlin on Monday September 16, 2019 at Jergel's Rhythm Grille, in Warrendale, PA. My good friend Christopher Vertosick decided to take me to the show we bought our tickets in advance. His online me I went to the venue and snagged prior. I remember the night well we went in his S.U.VWhich I got and downloaded on a torrent short set shared with Cyndi Lauper, The Pointer Sisters and more who I am also fans of! I played that show a lot since. John remembered that but not the 8-28-84 Boston short set good quality audience capture after all it was a fan recording so. I also asked him about The LP only German released album "Information" from 1980 without Terri on vocals he said no CD plans for that record ever. I was talking about The US Festival 5-30-83 Footage I think I told him I play drums and he was very nice and soft spoken married for years and was going through a tough divorce recently. Sadly no idea he would be on stage and had nothing for him to sign I did get 2 pics with him. I will share plus some concert ones and other art. Watch for some future Pittverse Berlin Drum Performances by me. I love this band till I die legends that made some great and pioneering Synth-Rock Music!

To Boldly Go Where *Star Trek* Should Have Gone Before

By: Andrew Olsavicky

Star Trek, a series originally pitched as “westerns set in outer space,” a franchise combining different aspects of humanity in space in the future, it’s current direction is going from simple to dark and wild, now I tell you what after “*Star Trek Enterprise*” the franchise should have done before, before where it is now that is. Following the ending of the series *Star Trek Enterprise* originally just called “*Enterprise*” the *Star Trek* Franchise was looking for a way to get itself moving again, and its first step in doing so was in the year 2009 with the release of a new *Star Trek* Film which took place in an alternate timeline created by the original “Mr. Spock” from the original series which involved a new version of the original series characters. Since then two additional movies have been made revolving around this new version of the *Enterprise* crew in the same timeline called the “Kelvin Timeline” in reference to the first thing in this case a starships fate that differentiated how things in terms of events would be from the original timeline, and since then two series have spawned from it the first to come out taking place in the “Kelvin Timeline” in a series called “*Star Trek Discovery*,” which has taken all the extravagancies from the general “*Star Trek*” Universe and in my opinion gone overboard with them.

The second series to come out of it was called “*Star Trek Picard*” following the life of the captain from “*Star Trek the Next Generation*” in his later career after he left Starfleet as a retired Admiral which also follows the events in the normal timeline after the incident involving “Mr. Spock” and his presumed disappearance in the minds of the original timeline with more tragedy to come. While the second series spawned has been more about the personal life of the characters in the franchise rather than the technological side of things it has still focus to much on gritty and rough storylines, a common mistake in a lot of series in both regular television and Sci-Fi show, one of which on the latter side of that note is in the “*Stargate Franchise*” in there series “*Stargate Universe*” but as I say “Like Whistles and Sneezes that’s another story.”

So with all that in mind I’m going to tell you what must be done in order to fix this franchise before it becomes too far gone and too warped out to enjoy anymore, especially since the general franchise began to get darker following the later seasons and ending of “*Star Trek Deep Space Nine*.” First to note though is that in the original series of *Star Trek* the introduce the concept of what is called the “Mirror Universe” in which earth became a conquering empire rather than helping to form the “United Federation of Planets.” While this was only featured once in the original series it did reappear a few times in the “*Deep Space Nine*” series and in a 2-part episode in the “*Enterprise*” series, and has since then been re-introduced in the Kelvin Timeline including a character that apparently has one parent from the normal Kelvin Timeline and one from its Mirror Universe, a character that in my opinion should be considered a threat to their time space continuum and if I were a writer in the series should be outlawed by the series omnipotent species known as the Q, who are as far as the series will say the most powerful species in the Universe, and would outlaw it on grounds similar to why Starfleet Outlawed things like using time travel to change historical events.

Anyway from what I understand of the “*Discovery*” series, the ship in question uses advanced technology to travel through both time and space to save the Federation of the Kelvin Timeline from being destroyed in one way or another from various threats to its existence. This includes the 1st 2 seasons invasion from the “Klingon Empire,” a well-known adversary introduced in the original series. This of course just leads the writers to come up with more extravagant plots which only takes away from the basic idea of Starfleet which is supposed to be an exploratory organization, not a military unit.

As for “*Star Trek Picard*,” one of the focusing factors in this series involves the death of the android character Data, and as this franchise has seen too much tragedy already some of which is just due to the writers, producers, and general creators not wanting to let the various actors have more to do for their careers or in the usual and in my opinion stupid idea of ending a series with a touch of tragedy rather than having everything work out and all characters live for lack of a better known and more appropriate term “Live Happily Ever After.” So in order to fix this, what must happen is that in some future movie set in the Kelvin Timeline *Discovery* uses its advanced technology to travel back in time to a point where the *Enterprise* crew discovers them and adapts *Discovery*’s tech to the *Enterprise* in order to travel back in time to the original timeline.

The character I mentioned between their main universe and mirror universe has accidentally caused an anomaly that has not only destroyed her but will destroy both universes unless events are changed in the original timeline that prevents the creation of the Kelvin Timeline, but does not destroy the *Enterprise* crew at least though only leaving the memory and star-logs of the *Discovery* crew in the care of the *Enterprise* crew who change a series of events and also save several of the lost characters throughout the franchise’s main timeline including Data. Which then lead them to help “Mr. Spock” who due to the death of Leonard Nimoy is now portrayed by an actor with digital feature.

All these characters are reunited with their loved ones who now go on to continue the work of which Starfleet was meant for and help other characters including former Borg Drones Like “Seven of Nine” from “*Star Trek Voyager*” be more accepted in society that they are in the *Picard* series. After that they can start a series based around the character Benjamin Sisko who has come back from living with the “Bajoran Profits” to live with his family he left behind, and help to deal with an old adversary that has been turned into a Human being and is trying to remind humanity how bad we can be as Humans. Granted if they want to involve a gritty like reason for bringing the dead characters back, mine would be so that along with other characters who are still alive. They would be forced to reveal the truth being some of the lies that have been present throughout the franchise. That, my readers, is how they must move the direction of the franchise into in both series and in movies and continue to do so till the end of the franchise itself, whenever that will be.~~

WJAC-TV'S JORDAN CIOPPA

Story and Photos by Robert Hester

If you've already read the winter, 2018/2019 edition of *Pittverse Magazine*, you may remember a story I did about Mary Ours, the then-morning meteorologist at WJAC-TV in the Central Pennsylvania market (Altoona, Johnstown and State College). And over two years later, someone who is currently a member of the WJAC-TV's news team is the subject of this story. Like Mary, who is now a meteorologist at the CBS affiliate in her hometown of Pittsburgh, KDKA-TV, Jordan Cioppa has Western Pennsylvania roots. While Mary grew up in Beaver County, Jordan grew up in Allegheny County. She's a high school graduate of Plum Area High School and is a college graduate of Penn State.

As a student at Penn State, Jordan received a lot of experience learning more about the broadcasting industry. It's through that experience she was able to join the staff of the Penn State student-run, web-based radio station CommRadio, where she was the station's news anchor, reporter, director and talk show host. Jordan gained even more broadcasting experience as part of Penn State's student-run TV newscast, The Centre County Report. "We learned the ins and outs of the business," Jordan said about her time as a Broadcast Journalism student at Penn State, "I still use everything I was taught there to this day!"

As a junior student in the spring of 2018, Jordan joined the Disney College Program, a program that allowed her to travel to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The following spring, when she was a senior student at Penn State, Jordan was one of 16 students chosen to take part in the Penn State's Hollywood Program. "That experience was like a dream come true," Jordan said about the program, "Being a life-long Disney fan." The program required Jordan to take a semester away from the campus of Penn State in Central Pennsylvania to become an intern at Disney's Hollywood Studios on the campus of Disneyland in Southern California. She spent an entire semester at Disneyland interning in the entertainment industry, an industry Jordan had a strong passion for growing up. "I used that as the inspiration for my career choice," Jordan said about the entertainment, and broadcast news industries growing up, "I was always interested in news as well; I even have videos of myself from a young age pretending to be on the news!"

After the clock struck midnight on Jordan's Cinderella-like internship at the place in California that's said to be the happiest place on earth, she flew back east in time to become a Broadcast Journalism graduate of the school that is located in the heart of Pennsylvania's Happy Valley. After graduating from Penn State, Jordan immediately found journalism work in the Central PA market as a social media reporter/multimedia journalist at WJAC-TV, the NBC affiliate of the Central PA market. Shortly after she arrived at WJAC-TV, Jordan was promoted to her-now current positions as an anchor and producer for the morning newscasts at WATM-TV, Central PA's ABC affiliate that's located in the same building that houses WJAC-TV, Central PA's longtime NBC affiliate.

Jordan's love for broadcast journalism started at a young age. And now, at least in Central PA, she's much further at the top of the broadcast journalism game than aspiring broadcast journalists half her age. "It is truly surreal finally being in the industry I have always dreamed about," Jordan said about her broadcasting career so far, "And I am excited to see what's next on my career journey!" Maybe the next part of her career may take her as far away at Los Angeles, where she spent a semester of her senior year as a Penn State student as an intern at the happiest place on earth. Or, perhaps, next door here in the Pittsburgh TV market at KDKA-TV, where she'd be reunited with her former WJAC-TV/WATM-TV colleagues Jessica Guay, Lindsay Ward, and the aforementioned Mary Ours. No matter what the next stop on Jordan's career journey takes her, so far, Jordan's journey as a broadcast journalist is that of any movie, TV special, or TV series Disney can only dream about—a very wonderful and very magical one.~~



Killing for Cash: The Strange Case of Burke and Hare

By: Megan Cunningham

In the advent of modern medicine, places in the western world had laws against dissections for some reason. However, given western medicine's demands for dead bodies for training doctors and advancing medical research, bodies had to come from somewhere. And despite how governments applied the death penalty for a wide range of crimes, corpses of executed criminals weren't enough to satisfy the need. So, these doctors and medical schools enlisted "resurrection men" to sneak into cemeteries at night, dig up freshly dug graves, and snatch dead bodies for doctors, scientists, and medical students to cut open. Was this practice illegal? Of course, but it was considered a misdemeanor. And boy, did it pay, the fresher, the better. And like Jerry Cruncher in *A Tale of Two Cities*, grave robbing was a great opportunity for folks supplement their income.

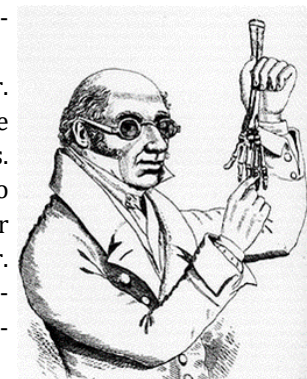
Now in the early 19th century, Edinburgh, Scotland was a leading center of anatomical study and one of the worst cities for dead relatives. Although Scottish law required that medical research cadavers should only come from dead prison inmates, suicide victims, foundlings, and orphans. But since such rules didn't reduce the demand shortfall for dead bodies, body snatching went way up. And the general public hated it. Aside from protesting the grave robbing increase, people did all kinds of stuff to deter thieves from stealing their dead relatives for science. Examples include hiring guards to watch over gravesites, building watchtower in cemeteries, temporary tombstones, and iron coffin cages. Yet, these security measures only exacerbated the cadaver shortages that doctors were willing to take any body they could get, sometimes in terrible condition. And most never bothered to ask any questions to their suppliers.



Enter William Burke and William Hare. Born in Ireland and moved to Edinburgh by late 1827 to work on the Union Canal. Hare and his "wife" Margaret Laird ran the Hare's Tanner's Close lodging house where Burke lived with his "wife" Helen McDougal (note: both couples weren't legally married). Both couples had a reputation for hard drinking and boisterous behavior. On November 29, 1827, an elderly lodger at the Hare's house named Old Donald died of dropsy shortly before receiving his quarterly army pension and owing the Hares in back rent. So Hare whines about the financial loss to Burke and the two decide to sell the body to a local anatomist instead. So after stealing Donald's body from his coffin before the burial, they shopped for a buyer at Edinburgh University. That guy would be

then-well-respected anatomist Dr. Robert Knox who dissected two bodies a day and whose lessons drew over 400 students. Furthermore, he almost single-handedly raised the profile of anatomical study in Great Britain, which might not have progressed as it did without him. But as we'll soon know, Knox would soon acquire a dark stain on his reputation all because he didn't ask any questions to his suppliers.

And so begins the business relationship between Burke and Hare and Dr. Knox that would last for the next several months. On the surface, this seemed like a match made in heaven. Knox got fresh new bodies to cut open for his students. Burke and Hare would get paid, no questions asked. But in reality, this was all too good to be true at Knox's standpoint. Because Burke and Hare actually got their other bodies, not from digging fresh graves in a cemetery, but through murder. From January to November 1828, the Irishmen racked a total of at least 16 victims (though it could be as many as 30), mostly through plying them with whis-



key before being smothered while forcibly restrained. Later known as “burking” this killed the victim while leaving their bodies unmarked and undamaged, kind of like a non-magic “*Avada Kedavra*” if you will. But until modern forensics, such method would’ve been undetectable. After all, if you want a fresh dead body for medical students to cut open and take out the middle man, you have to kill them in the least suspicious way possible. The bodies would then be loaded onto tea chests or fish barrels before landing in Dr. Knox’s anatomy theater for dissection. While most of their victims were among Edinburgh’s poorest, many of whom the Hares had preyed on to stay in their lodging house. Because they were less likely to be missed or recognized by the general public. These included prostitutes, street sweepers, old ladies with nowhere to go, the mentally disabled, and even one of McDougal’s relatives. Oh, and their “wives” were definitely involved as accomplices. A few of the highlights:

Joseph- a miller who fell ill with a delirious fever. Killed around January or February 1828 over the Hares’ concern that a sick lodger would be bad for business. Often said to be the pair’s first victim.

Mary Paterson- 18, a prostitute. She and her friend Janet Brown in April 1828 met Burke at a bar in Canongate. He bought them drinks and went to his brother’s house. Paterson fell asleep drunk. Brown left during an argument between Burke and McDougal. After the Hares’ arrive, Burke and Hare lock their wives out and killed Paterson in her sleep. McDougal kept her skirt and petticoats. Said to be warm upon arrival to Dr. Knox’s surgery. An assistant named Fergusson thought he recognized her along with other students who might’ve been her clients.



James “Daft Jamie” Wilson- 18, a mentally disabled and homeless beggar with deformed feet who was somewhat a local celebrity. Though not as drunk as the others, he was strong enough to fight back. But was overpowered and smothered like the rest. Several of Dr. Knox’s students recognized him during the dissection. But the professor removed his head and feet before the lecture.

Margaret Docherty (a.k.a. Margery Campbell)- a middle-aged Irish woman who was killed on October 31, 1828.



Lured by Burke into the Broggan lodging house (owned by his cousin John Broggan), he and Hare murdered her during a night drinking, put her in a pile of straw at the end of the bed. She was their final victim and the only one with an autopsy.

As in many of these murder cases, it was only a matter of time before Burke, Hare, and their abetting “wives” would get caught. Thanks to a tenant couple named Ann and James Gray who lived at the Broggan house. Burke and Hare had paid them to stay at the Hares’ place the night of Docherty’s murder, which they did. But the next morning, Burke wouldn’t let Ann approach a bed where she left her stockings. Suspicious, the Grays searched the straw and found Docherty’s body with blood and spit on her face. Naturally, the couple decided to report their discovery to the police and not even McDougal’s offer to bribe them would change their minds. Meanwhile, Burke and Hare removed Docherty’s body for an appointment in Dr. Knox’s surgery where police found her after taking in Burke and McDougal for questioning. Once James Gray identified her as the woman he and his wife saw with Burke and Hare that night. Police arrested the Hares and Broggan that day (though Broggan was later released). All gave differing accounts during questioning of the murders with Burke and Hare blaming each other. Janet Brown later identified clothes found at the Hares’ lodging house as belonging to her missing friend Mary Paterson. However, since modern CSI techniques like fingerprinting didn’t exist in 19th century Scotland, the police had little hard evidence to go on. Eventually, Edinburgh Lord Advocate Sir William Rae offered Hare immunity for testifying against Burke, which he gladly did. While the whole affair was a media sensation attracting widespread public outcry. In the end, Burke was hung in front of 25,000 people and donated to science, Hare disappeared from history after fleeing to England, their “wives” evaded charges and left the country, and Dr. Knox’s reputation was reduced to shambles that he was forced to quit his job and go to London.

The Burke and Hare murders would later lead to Britain’s Parliament passing the 1832 Anatomy Act allow doctors much more access to cadavers and allowed legal body donations to science as well as effectively ended the body-snatching trade. Sure they were mainly unclaimed poor people from workhouses, but that’s another story. And their case lives on in pop culture from inspiring a Robert Louis Stevenson story to a 2010 film starring Simon Pegg and a non-CGI Andy Serkis. But what makes Burke and Hare resonate is that their story is about the lengths people will go to in order to get what they want, regardless of implications. ~~



Review of Jack and the Cuckoo-Clock Heart

By: Nils Skudra

While staying indoors in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, I recently had the opportunity to watch *Jack and the Cuckoo-Clock Heart*, a visually compelling 2013 animated film directed by Mathias Malzieu and Stéphane Berla with dark, macabre plot elements. The film revolves around a boy named Jack who is born with a frozen heart during a bitterly cold winter storm and consequently has it replaced with a cuckoo-clock, saving his life but leaving him with a permanent physical handicap. I felt that the film conveyed a significant message not only about the ostracism that disabled individuals face, but also about the ways in which they can make their disability a source of empowerment rather than an obstacle. I therefore decided that this review would be worthwhile since disability audiences could potentially relate to the film and find a message in its plot.

The film takes place in Edinburgh in 1874, when Jack's pregnant mother ventures to the home of Madeleine (voiced by Barbara Scaff), an eccentric midwife who lives a life of seclusion from the rest of the community. After delivering Jack, she performs a heart transplant to save his life, inserting a cuckoo-clock in place of his frozen heart. Although this ensures that Jack will live, she warns that this is conditional upon three golden rules: Jack must never touch the hands of the clock; he must not lose his temper; and he must never, ever fall in love. This proves too much for Jack's mother who subsequently abandons him and leaves town. Madeleine is thus left with the task of raising Jack, and she grows to love him as her own since she cannot bear children.

Over the years, Madeleine constantly reminds Jack (Orlando Seale), often to the point of being overprotective, about following the three golden rules because of the potentially life-threatening consequences for his cuckoo-clock heart if any of them are broken. However, one day Jack escapes her watch and meets a visually impaired young street performer, Miss Acacia (voiced by Samantha Barks from Tom Hooper's 2012 *Les Misérables* film), who captivates him with her beautiful singing voice. During the subsequent musical sequence, they fall in love, and Jack is determined to reunite with her. Following this encounter, he is determined to go to school, which Madeleine grudgingly agrees to.

During his first day at school, Jack immediately makes an enemy of the school bully, Joe, who also harbors affections for Miss Acacia and is thus enraged upon learning of Jack's interest in her. Consequently, he and his gang routinely harass Jack over the next four years, opening his cuckoo-clock heart and winding it to make him walk about in awkward fashion. One day, Jack accidentally gouges out Joe's right eye with his cuckoo when he is accosted on the schoolyard, prompting him to run home believing that he has murdered Joe. Madeleine thus helps Jack to leave town on the train just before the police arrive, parting with her adopted son after having raised him for fourteen years.

As he travels across Europe, Jack is plagued by loneliness but is sustained by his infatuation with Miss Acacia, and he steadfastly retains his determination to be reunited with her. He meets the French illusionist and aspiring filmmaker George Méliès (Stephane Cornicard), who seeks a partner for showcasing his films. After helping to repair Jack's heart, they venture to Andalusia, Spain to find Miss Acacia. They arrive at a circus featuring a wide variety of bizarre oddities, including a star-headed human face shot out of a cannon and a pair of conjoined twins with angel wings. Upon discovering that Miss Acacia is a featured singer in the circus, Jack is apprehensive about approaching her since he fears that she may not remember him and that confessing his love may have fatal consequences for his heart. It is at this point that Méliès offers Jack some poignant advice: "You are different, Jack. You can think it must be a weakness. The reverse is true. Your difference is your strength. Your fragility, that clock heart of yours, makes you special and almost irresistible. Make the most of your difference." This statement is truly profound since it articulates a message of empowerment that resonates within the disability community. Although there is a widespread perception that disabilities inhibit people from reaching their potential, advocates have argued that in many ways they can serve as assets because of the unique talents that they contribute to the workplace and to interpersonal relationships. For example, autistic individuals, by virtue of their different neurological orientation, bring an intensive focus and diligence to jobs that they are hired for, particularly in their areas of specialization. Furthermore, this neurological functioning accounts for autistic individuals' tendency to always speak their minds directly, which can sometimes alienate other people but is considered a fundamental value in relationships. This is exemplified by Shaun Murphy, the protagonist of *The Good Doctor* miniseries, whose brutal honesty is deeply appreciated by Lea, his love interest, and which prompts a change in her parents' skeptical attitude toward him.

Jack decides to heed his friend's advice and renews his connection with Miss Acacia after her captivating performance at the circus, although he is initially ambivalent about admitting that he is the same boy that she fell in love with in Edinburgh. After he finally reveals this truth, they plan to elope together, but the reappearance of his childhood nemesis Joe poses a pivotal challenge to Jack's happiness and the functioning of his heart. When the film reaches its tragic climax, Jack must come to grips with the realities of heart-break (both metaphorical and, in his case, physical) as a consequence of love.

Beautifully animated and articulating dark themes that are eerily reminiscent of Tim Burton's films, *Jack and the Cuckoo-Clock Heart* is a profound film about the joy and painfulness of opening one's heart to love another, and many of its plot elements may seem too mature for children. For members of the disability community, however, the film can serve as an inspirational piece about making difference a strength rather than an obstacle in a relationship, albeit with the reminder that doing so may not always have a happy outcome. As individuals with autism or other disabilities go forward in their lives to find romance, the lessons of *Jack and the Cuckoo-Clock Heart* can provide valuable insight about how to approach a relationship and sustain it, as well as the emotional costs that it can sometimes bring.~~



Why People are Fascinated with Bugs Reasoning By Rachel Williamson

I think people are fascinated by bugs because they crawl, and sometimes spit and bite, but the good things about them that they are actually (to my opinion) neat. I think the June Beetles are cool because they are so harmless, and they love to grab onto your finger with their little arms. They're sticky arms and make me feel like the beetle feels secure on me. Other bugs are slimy like the earth worms and are usually used for fishing (my dad and I used to go to grandpa's barn to dig up earth worms to fish at the sportsmen's club, I have to admit, kinda slimy but worth handling, to get a good-looking fish!!!).

Another bug that fascinates people is ants. They're just funny, look at the cartoon ones, which the cat like Sylvester, and his picnic on Looney Tunes, ants marched and took all of his food. Sylvester was also carried out to the diving board and was dropped in the water. In real life, there just living beings who need food for the winter to survive. A ladybug may stink, but makes a good way to make good luck in your life, according to your beliefs. They feed on and help control moths, caterpillars, harmful beetles, aphids and many other pests so we don't have to worry about them doing harm to our plants and/or things. They also should be protected because of that, not killed, even if don't like them (throw them out the door if you have to or keep them in a cup or jar).

A house fly is a little smarter than you think, it's like they taunt you when you try to swat them... I see that they have a brain. A house fly named "mooch" was trained to be an espionage in a government spy agency, which proves that a fly can be intelligent, if it wants. A caterpillar is a trained cutie; you actually can have a kit to raise caterpillars into the most beautiful creature ever, the butterfly! In the kit, there is a butterfly garden house where you can raise the butterfly from the egg to the larva to the cocoon then the butterfly. There's one time I saved a butterfly. I put a splash of juice on my t-shirt, and it drank it up from my shirt like it was parched. It trusted me very well and I liked that. Locusts are fun to play with, don't think of them as bothersome. If you find a female one, they chirp as like "hey, put me down!" Don't freak out if they land on you, they're just resting their wings, and they like you, as a friend too! Try to make a friend out of one the next time you feel one land on you!~~

Aroma of Spring is in the Air

By: Maggie Jones

Spring is the time of year where you start planting and going for walks, smelling the aroma of flowers and blossoms on trees. Celebrating new life when birds would start laying eggs, and newborn animals are born. Also the resurrection of Christ who in Catholic Faith is believed to resurrect from the dead so we may live in the promise of going to heaven. The colors of dyes of easter eggs are symbols of new life. Life is so precious to see them suffer with covid-19. so, walking with a mask is still a must, even when you just got the Covid-19 vaccine to prevent another possible spread of Covid-19.

God's love was given for us so that we can do what is right for others. When you smell the fresh flowers of spring you think of such delight. The mind isn't thinking of life being terrible, but it's a beautiful and happy life that we live in when you see the aroma of the colors in the light. All the vitamin E and endorphins that are positive ones kick in. You start to feel that light is at the end of the tunnel, after a long dark cold year of emptiness and hopelessness and sadness goes away. Spring is a time that we have graduations, get-togethers and other celebrations. Easter is one of the celebrations, Christ passion in Holy Week is what gives us the hope to come together as a nation in this country. We as people from all walks of faith believe it's time to come and heal together in the season of hope, awe, and wonder.

When we achieve in great things and try our best, not perfect, but trying our best to achieve good in life, and when we work hard at what we have to do to achieve the end result, we succeed because we try too and never go back or say never or give up. We need people to believe in doing the right things for people and for the planet. Spring is about making change in our routines and daily lifestyle and habits that we make for the better. By next year at this time possibly, it will turn back to normality again. If we keep doing what we are supposed to do, everything will get done. We are still in this together to the finish line and light is at the end the tunnel when you believe it will and do the right things. Then you will smell spring in the air again next year and say, "the aroma of spring is in the air again."~~

N'dlis (Pt. 4)

By: Jordan Watson

The sickening fog billows along the market square, strolling along the expanded rows of cars by the dozens of thousands. Several of these automobiles, being crushed down to near cubes by the tall, spindly behemoth-like silhouette controlling its vapors. The other majority being swept up 200 feet in the air within 4 to 6 seconds maximum. The needle limbs loudly pierce the reinforced pavement like powerful jackhammers. Its large protruding tubes on its ribbed sides continues to spray the smog to hinder the visage of the roads. Its head a spongy, wired sight, with a large eyeball shifting to several smaller ones, which could be used to enhance its surroundings. Teeth within three flowery flaps. Two on its left and right cheek, the main one dead center. Many more car alarms wail in scattered unison, as this freak of creation roams through the square, casually swiping more cars away like lingering trash on the road, with no remorse.....

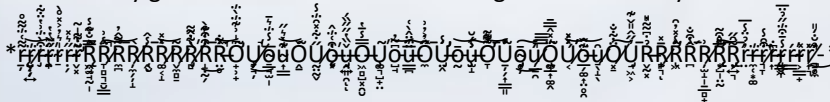
The Fogger abruptly stops in its destructive imprinted tracks. Its eyes expand to the hundreds of thousands. It senses the need to scan much more thoroughly within its peripheral gaze. From the right down to the left in the span of 3 miles. About 2 minutes pass. It does however, notice some unusual activity 140 feet from its standing. It lumbers over to continuously gash the concrete and scour the point of interest.

I can hear its unnerving sonar emit from above the truck I hid myself underneath. This was a stretch, but before it could make its way over to my general area, I decided to puncture the oil lining of the truck to cover myself all over. This took over a minute & 15 to try to be fully concealed. Is it possible it can sense internal body heat? Even cold temperatures? Ultraviolet?

It jams its long spider-like limbs into the concrete. The rumbling comes closer to the vicinity of the truck. I'm assuming the side legs are brushing up against the truck. How an alarm has yet to sound off on this heap of fiber glass surprises me.

I can see the head. Its eyes menacingly peruse the underbellies to each automotive, as its looming shadow covers the cars in extremely thick green gaseous smog. I keep my hastened breathing to slow, intermittent pauses. Knowing he's just as dangerous as the rest of his disturbing unit, that if I'm caught, it'll be a helluva suffocation pit. The pounding in my chest in almost unreal. But I have to keep myself relaxed. Let go of all anxiety and panic. Play dead.

I can feel it staring holes through these hunks of junk. The sonars bellow forceful vibrations. The intensity gets worse as it has its head....right....next...to my truck.



I close my eyes....and let my mind drift....to much better times....to Hilda.

"Your knife...there's a poem written on it..."

"It's one of my grandpa's favorites."

Even when we were near an outpost to the jungles of the southern regions of the forests in Somalia, I can still see her keenly reading it out loud. Thankfully, we were out 5 miles to where the mason encampments where tucked away from the outside world.

"Hmm.....They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning— " We both state the last phrase.

"We will remember them..."

I slowly caress her coarse hands over my grandfather's blade. She leans her head onto my left shoulder, huddling herself closer to me, next to the low smoking campfire. That night was the first time where things began to take a near nihilistic turn. Her voice goes low. A sense of doubt starts to wash over her. She had kept to herself from the others, just for the sake of keeping iron resolve. But this question solidified her wandering thoughts.

"Do you ever wonder if we'll truly be remembered for the actions we commit?"

".....It's why they put our names on those memorial plaques, right?"

"No.....I mean, it's a little patronizing."

"Well, it *is* the prerequisites for us Patriots to prove that."

She manages a chuckle, helping put her mind at ease before our next mission tomorrow.

".... But seriously though, there's more to us than just a name...I'm sure your grandfather thought the same thing. I mean, family by name is one thing.... but the names of everyone else? Their stories shouldn't be lost. It's one thing we often forget about over the years."

"...Just have to make sure we're remembered by the right people...A merchant can smear the name of the good-willed when bargained by the fire in another's heart."

She looks to me in deep affection.

"Which is why we fight...to never let that happen again."

The Fogger's eyes begin to meld back together into a singular gigantic ball within its wiry, nested sac, as it raises its head back up to sky level. Through an ironic sense of relief, I'm rocked out of my happy place when it suddenly jolts its gaze further ahead of the city block. Its eyes return to a thousand-fold. Its legs quickly unmount from the punctured road, and scurries toward its nearest attraction, with the earth shaking profusely beneath me! Though my body feels frozen to the pavement, I let out a large gasp of air through my filtration canister, feeling the weight of stress wash away. Unfortunately, the duration the gas can stay within the general perimeter for at least 3 hours. With that in mind, I crawl my way out from underneath the truck, and jog back the rest of the way.

Day 118. 02:20 AM. Feeling completely parched. I find myself at a riverbank about half a mile out from the tunnel that leads back to Vult Tower's encampments. Luck's been with me decently so far this whole evening. I use a small filtration bottle to help separate the possible radiated contaminants, and let it run its course for a few minutes. Regardless of the dreary atmosphere, the night sky is at peace with a clear, starry sight. Helps not having to strain my sight with night vision for once. Although, as I sit by to look through the forest beyond it while taking a sip from the bottle, something catches my eye among the fodder of branches. It can't be....Is that...

A Chinese nuclear container from Fùxīng Industries? Good God....

Without another moment's pause, I gather my bag, and run back to the tunnels. I need some time to recollect my thoughts. I place the nuclear battery near one of the Humvees to allow it time to charge. The beauty of this contraption is that it can power a central point within an entire complex, no matter the type of electrical current your facility uses. It's also based on the range you set the device's position, similarly to how people use to have Wifi networks back in the 2010's. Thankfully our tech has gone farther than mere globally grounded fiber cables.

03:38. After setting up the focal point of Vult Tower's grid right to the encampment's mainframe servers, I use this time to start researching into the military's encrypted files to Operation Usurp. This was what my team and I helped in taking down the CCP's 10-year operation from the infiltration of the USA. Everything from implementing coder & programmer moles in their ranks the same way they did to our government, to gaining joint deals of merging their armament markets with ours, to setting up covert crypto banks that we marketed to their secret launderers. A lot of the military branches including FEMA were skeptical with the more tech savvy approach to this operation. However, we were able to convince them once the long-term sting operation was a go, we would then come in through the latter operation, with help from our insiders forging documentation to label us as "security" for their firms, and their leader.

Fùxīng Industries was one of those companies. Looking through the classified sections, I found the folder titled "L-0 CHAIN". The story behind this, was the CCP made very conventional trades to gain unconventional tech through not just our US shareholders, but our biologists as well. At first it seemed like a new form of subatomic energy to be used for their armies in future warfare. Foot soldiers, drones, tanks, air fighters, you name it, it's like an idea out of a fantasy tabletop game. But it wasn't. The energy didn't come from manmade energy. Rather, it was.... farther away. Out of our own reach. Are they talking about space? I cough for a moment and take another sip from the filtrated bottle. We were sent to Wuhan for reasons related to this. Unreal. Gotta get some sleep. Something tells me I have quite the drive ahead of me within the next few days. I head to the sleeping quarters.

Gotta do this. For her.~~

List of Adele Jergens Movies

Compiled By: David O'Rorey

1. She Wouldn't Say Yes (1945) B&W 1:26 [NR] (Digitally Restored in 2.0 Stereo - Columbia Tri-Star PAL Region 2 DVD Rip).mp4 (download)
2. A Thousand And One Nights (1945) color 1:33 [NR] (Digitally Restored in 1080p Hi-Def & 2.0 Stereo - PAL Region 2 DVD Rip).mp4 & .mkv files (downloads and a favorite in beautiful Technicolor as a princess!)
3. Down To Earth (1947) Color 1:40 [NR] (Digitally Restored in 2.0 Stereo - Viavision All Region DVD Rip).mp4 (download Adele is not in this except at the start and that's it the lead goes to Rita Hayworth.)
4. The Corpse Came C.O.D. (1947) B&W 1:26 [NR] (Digitally Restored Version in Dolby 2.0 Stereo - TCM to DVD-R Rip).avi (Paid download good film!)
5. The Dark Past (1948) B&W 1:11 [NR] (Digitally Restored in 2.0 Stereo - Italian Region 0 DVD Rip).avi (download played out but decent film otherwise of the Noir genre.)
6. I Love Trouble (1948) B&W 1:34 [NR] (Digitally Restored in 2.0 Stereo - Reel Vault MOD DVD-R Rip in 1080p HD).mp4 (Bought this and ripped it myself still need to watch it. Adele only appears in a few scenes but better than others seems her role some.)
7. The Fuller Brush Man (1948) B&W 1:32 [NR] (Digitally Restored Version in 2.0 Stereo - TCM to DVD+R Rip in 720p SHD).mp4 (Recorded off TCM on DVD+R I ripped myself it airs on their from time to time still to this day. She only appears in one scene seducing Red Skelton's character trying to sell fuller brushes as her goes into her house and she plays a struggling actress in the film with these types of roles she always did in reality like she was having fun with it in a way. LOL!)
8. Pirate Ship (1949) B&W 1:00 [NR] (Rare Unreleased Raw & Unenhanced Film in 2.0 Mono - SP VHS Rip)
9. Tippi Hedren Hosts, Slightly French (1949) B&W 1:21 [NR] (Digitally Restored Version in 2.0 Stereo - TCM to DVD+R SHD Rip).mp4 (Aired on TCM and I recorded it to DVD+R Adele is not in the movie much but a few scenes beginning singing and dancing with men re-appears maybe 1 more time in the film.)
10. Treasure Of Monte Cristo (1949) B&W 1:17 [NR] (Digitally Restored in Dolby 2.0 Stereo - PAL Region 2 DVD Rip).avi (Paid download she plays along side her husband fellow actor Glenn Lanagn. Pretty good little film.)
11. Ladies Of The Chorus (1949) B&W 1:00 [NR] (Digitally Restored in 2.0 Stereo - Columbia Tri-Star PAL Region 2 DVD Rip).mp4 & .avi files (paid download better quality also an old TCM copy on DVD+R hosted by Robert Osborne. Love this movie! Ripped TCM Version.)
12. Side Street (1950) B&W 1:22 [NR] (Digitally Restored in SHD & 1.0 Stereo - Warner Home Video DVD Rip).mkv (Paid download Adele is uncredited here and her character dies early on in the film.)
13. The Sound Of Fury (1950) a.k.a. Try And Get Me! B&W 1:28 [NR] (Digitally Restored in 2.0 Stereo - Olive Films & Paramount DVD Rip).mp4 (Paid download still need to watch it.)
14. Traveling Saleswoman (1950) B&W 1:14 [NR] (Digitally Restored in 2.0 Stereo - Sony Pictures Home Entertainment MOD DVD-R Rip).mp4
15. Blues Busters (1950) B&W 1:07 [NR] (Digitally Restored in 2.0 Stereo - PAL Region 2 DVD Rip in SHD).mkv (Paid download good her as another seductive role Bowery Boys Film and those guys always made funny good little films.)
16. Armored Car Robbery (1950) B&W 1:07 [NR] (Digitally Restored in 1.0 Stereo - Warner Home Video DVD Rip in 1080p HD).mp4 (Great movie! despite her role again man she did good as a sexy bad girl!)
17. Edge Of Doom (1950) B&W 1:37 [NR] (Digitally Restored in SHD & Dolby 2.0 Stereo - Warner Archive Collection MOD DVD-R Rip).mkv (Paid download need to watch good Noir Adele as a supporting actress she did well good film.)
18. Sugarfoot (1951) Color 1:16 [NR] (Digitally Restored in 2.0 Stereo - PAL Region 2 DVD Rip).avi (Paid download need to watch she is the main actress with Randolph Scott a Western star.)
19. Robert Osborne Hosts, Abbott & Costell Meet The Invisible Man (1951) B&W 1:22 [NR] (Digitally Restored Version in 2.0 Stereo - TCM to DVD+R SHD Rip).mp4 (Great film!)
20. The Big Chase (1954) B&W 59 mins. [NR] (Digitally Restored in 2.0 Stereo - VCI Entertainment DVD Rip).mp4 (My personal ripped from a Forgotten Noirs Box Set yet to still watch as 2 bonus features too.)
21. The Miami Story (1954) B&W 1:15 [NR] (Digitally Restored in SHD Widescreen 1.85.1 & 2.0 Stereo - Sony Pictures "Choice Collection" MOD DVD-R Rip).
22. The Cobweb (1955) (Digitally Restored in SHD Letter-Box 2.55.1 & 2.0 Stereo - Warner Archive Collection MOD DVD-R Rip).avi (download she is not in this much great film none the less. The lead belongs to Lauren Bacall and Gloria Grahame.)
23. Day The World Ended (1955) B&W 1:18 [NR] (Digitally Restored in Letter-Box 2.00.1 & 2.0 Stereo - Lionsgate Home Entertainment DVD Rip in HQ).mp4 (Bought this and ripped it myself great film she did good in it! I also have the trailer as well.)
24. Fighting Trouble (1956) B&W 1:01 [NR] (Digitally Restored in Widescreen 1.85.1 & Dolby 2.0 Stereo - PAL Region 2 DVD Rip).mkv Runaway Daughters (1956) B&W 1:30 [NR] (Some Grainy Film Elements in SHD Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono - The Arkoff Film Library PAL Region 2 Direct Video DVD Rip).mp4 (Bought this and ripped myself plays supporter a long side Marla English another B-Movie legend beauty, actress and model. I love this film yes one of the last Adele did an A.I.P. one.)
25. Girls in Prison (1956) B&W 1:26 [NR] (Digitally Restored in SHD Widescreen 1.85.1 & 2.0 Stereo - PAL Region 2 Direct Video DVD Rip).mp4 (Paid download after great film!)-~-



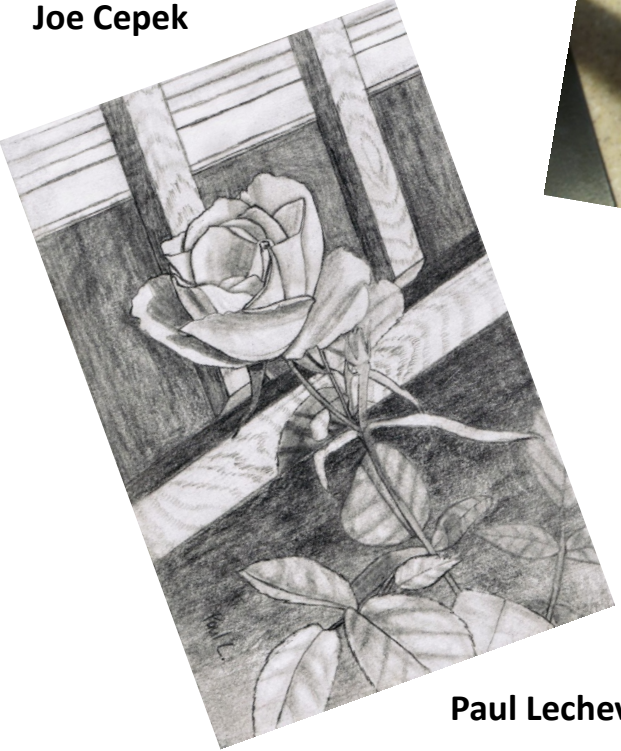
Daniel Ashkin



Joe Cepek



Maggie Jones



Paul Lechevalier

Pittverse Spring Photo Collection

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DOMINIC "DOM" ERRICO 1978-2021



"You have fun out there."

"Leave the lights on, Libbie."

"Thank you for attending, and GO DUKES!"

Pittverse

Robert Hester

Our Friend, Ms. Susie

Collaboration Project

By: Maggie Jones and Zach Grabowski

In Loving Memory of a Great Friend

Zach:

Ms. Susie O'Leary was a mother of one son, a grandmother of one granddaughter, a great-grandmother of four, a sister of seven siblings, a dear friend to many and a great boss. Susie worked as the Bakery Manager at Paddy Cake Bakery in Bloomfield for many years. I had the pleasure and honor of working with Susie when I worked at Paddy Cake. We formed a great bond and relationship and we always had fun together! I loved her dearly! She would always feed me delicious baked goods when I worked at Paddy Cake. She was a hard worker and had loyal and faithful customers who would come to the bakery every day to say hello, chat, and buy baked goods. She was loved by so many!

Susie recently passed away from a very short battle with Pancreatic Cancer. She is missed and loved by so many.

Maggie:

Ms. Susie was a caring person. She accepted you for who you were. She was always there to talk to and when you went into Paddy Cake Bakery, she was happy to help any way she could! She was also someone that loved saying prayers on her time off work! When she had time off, I would stop at her house on Howley Street in Bloomfield and we would sit and talk.

Susie was there for me when each of my pets passed. She would say, "They will always be here for you. Even if you don't see, God is there for you and so are your pets that passed."

I have to be positive and believe that Ms. Susie is still here for me and Zach from heaven. I loved Ms. Susie also! We will never forget her for being a wonderful, sweet, kind, accepting woman that cared about each of us! She taught me never to give up and to accept life for what it means to me. I learned to be understanding because of her. She would be happy for me or Zach when we accomplish something great or small too. We were happy to have Ms. Susie as our friend that truly cared about us! God bless Ms. Susie for being such a great friend!

The Hopeless Flower into Light Poem:

By: Maggie Jones

I feel lost that hope is gone, but I must go on and do the next right thing. The flower is deceased, no longer lives, and your job is to bring it back to light, water, sunshine, and good health by being brave. Even when you are down and it seems over, don't give up. You will make it; tell the flower that you are here to do the next right thing, and the flower will be returned to light of day when it's happy. "You will go forth, o flower, and create fruit of the beauty of the earth - with courage, you must. A true friend is what you need; a dear flower to guide you to light. From the Northwind to the sea, down the river full of memory, comes my darling homeward bound. I am found," said the little flower. "Of course you are found," said the heavens and the earth. "You were once lost in fear, then found with the hope of another day to rise and bloom and on the horizon. A new hope for a better tomorrow, we must not give courage with haste, for its our only hope, A new day dawns from the light you have created now show with pride, though the beauty of a rainbow, a dove shows divine size of love."~~

The logo for Pittverse Magazine, featuring the word "Pittverse" in a white, stylized, gothic-style font centered within a purple, wavy-edged banner.

Pittverse

Edith L. Tree Charitable Trust

Pittverse Magazine is made possible in part due to the generous donations from the Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust. Through the grant provided by the Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust, the Pittverse writers are able to be compensated for their submissions, creating work experience and greater independence, as well as a productive and diverse environment for adults with autism in the Pittsburgh area and beyond.

Pittverse is open to submissions from writers, illustrators, photographers, poets, etc., on the Autism Spectrum. Contact us through Pittverse.org or email PittverseMagazine@gmail.com to get involved!

A purple, wavy-edged banner with the text "Get Involved!" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Get Involved!

Website: www.pittverse.org

Facebook: facebook.com/pittverse

Twitter: [@pittverse](https://twitter.com/pittverse)