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Now!*

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*Who's The Who?*

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*Kennywood  
Memories & Stats*

*...and a whole lot  
more!*

# The Shadow



(Left) This sign welcomed guests to the art show, choral and band concerts on May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. In this month's issue, we will be featuring several creative arts pieces, including: original poetry, short stories, and artwork.

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# More Rest, Better Tests!

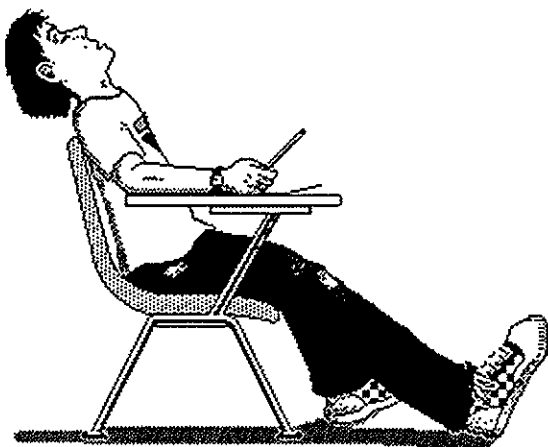
By Mia Leonberg

I'm pretty sure everyone hates getting up early; I know I do! School starts at 7:30a.m and most students get up around 6 o'clock or even earlier and they're tired for the whole day. To help students get more sleep, school should start later.

Many students wake up around 5:30 or 6 o'clock five days a week to get up and to get ready for school. Most all students are very tired during the day and they fall asleep in class. Students fall asleep in class, they lose a lot of very important information for that class. To prevent students losing information for their classes, school should start later in the morning. Most all middle schools start 7:30a.m and end at 2:30ish, and some students have sports or events going on after school and that largely depends on the age group students are in. For example, elementary students, their classes start around 8:30 and they're done at 3:30. Many students in elementary school have a lot less homework and they wake up a lot later than junior high and high school students. Junior high students wake up around 5:30 or 6 o'clock and get so much homework and when they get home at 2:30ish. They have to study, do all of their homework, and that might take hours for them to do. Some students might also have family events, sports or programs to go to after school. When they get done with those, they might not have enough time to do their own thing or might not even have time to sit and relax. For many high school students, they

get up even earlier to make it to school. Most students in high school have jobs after school or they have to leave school early to go to work. High schools students go home from work, they still have to all of their homework and study for tests, then they have to get up early to go to school. By improving school start times, the schools would be much more efficient!

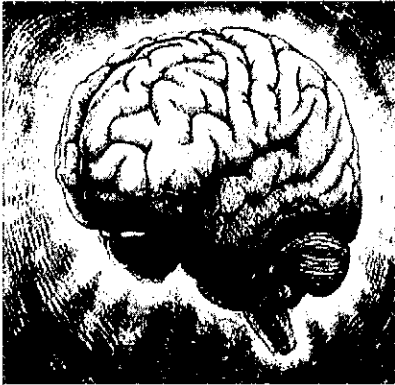
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# Water You Waiting For?

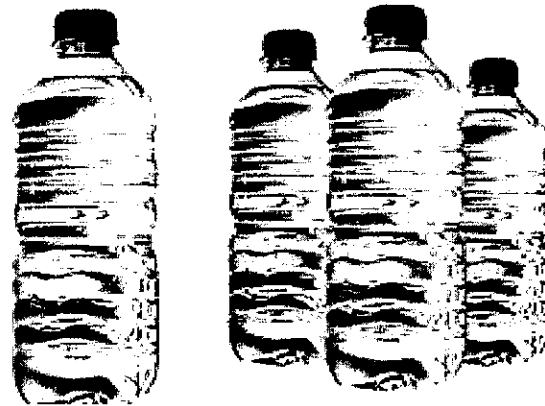
By Dominic Santia

Have you ever been told, “How do I know there isn’t gin in that bottle?” by a teacher? The answer is probably no, but that’s why these rules are set up in the first place. Who knows what mysterious clear liquid is lurking beneath that cap. Regardless, water bottles should be allowed in classrooms because water is an easy thirst quencher and it improves focus in school.



Everyone drinks water. We can get water at home or at the park, so why not at school in classrooms? Water, well drinking water, has many positive effects on people. Drinking water, for example, hydrates people. If students are dehydrated, they will not perform well in school activities. These people can get nausea and headaches from not drinking water and then be sent to the nurse to get... water! If water bottles were allowed in classrooms, this would not happen and the student would not miss school. Water allows students to focus more on school work and not asking a teacher to get water from the water fountain. Drinking water helps the brain function normally, improving focus. The brain is made up of 78% of water, and if people do not drink enough, how will the brain get water?

Teachers have water bottles in classrooms. People may not notice, but they certainly do. Not allowing students to have water bottles and allowing teachers to makes students feel less significant. Teachers and administration may argue that kids could sneak alcohol into bottles of water. If people truly believe this is a major concern, then only water bottles sold at school should be allowed in classrooms. Even so, we are allowed to drink water at lunch, so why do teachers and administration only question “What’s in your water” during any time except for lunch.



Others may also argue that water bottles could be spilled and easily drench homework or other papers. Simply ask students to keep water bottles on the floor and tell them not to drink over the papers. If one student spills their water or one person brings alcohol in a bottle, does it really seem fair to punish everyone?



Water is essential. If we did not have it, we would all die, so why is it not allowed in classrooms? Bringing water to class should be permitted because drinking the water can enhance a person’s learning. If the administration really does value increased student success, they would allow students to bring water bottles to class.

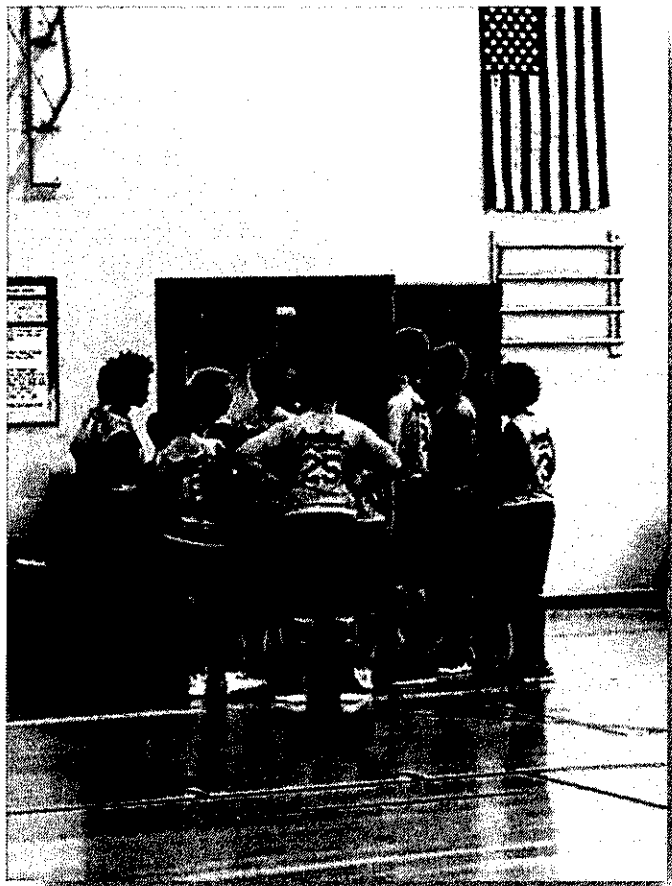
# SUPPORTING STUDENT ATHLETES

**BY BRIONNA LEE**

A national study from 2000 showed an association between school sports and lower rates of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. Why should school sports be supported? It is simple, really. Almost all kids enjoy playing sports and games, even if they aren't on an organized team. That kind of interest requires a lot of cash, and one way we can help is by having more fundraisers. All sports happen in different seasons, so support is needed all year long.

What are the benefits of athletics? That's easy kids love to participate in them. There are around 8,000 different sports around the world and around 7.6 million kids played sports around 2010-11. It helps keep kids more healthy and active. It teaches them teamwork and keeps them out of trouble. Another thing is they would want to go to school and keep a good grade. The reason for that is because you could get kicked off a team if you don't have specific percentage of a grade. Sports keep kids out of trouble, too because they spend more time at practice than on the streets. It teaches kids leadership and how to listen and have a good attitude towards learning. Without sports, school would be boring!

If we don't have sports in school, we would have far less individuals going into professional athletics as a career. Physical activities are easier to learn as children, which is why they need to be well-integrated into school, especially at the elementary level. However, sports are most important during high school all the way through college. That's when sports scouts start to watch how you play. That's also the time were kids start to play better and stay out of less trouble so the scouts could watch them. That's why we need to have more fundraisers so we can keep sports. Sports are a needed thing for school to help kids focus. Supporting student athletes goes a lot farther than just cheering at a game. A supportive mindset and a few donations here and there can boost a child to success throughout their entire lives.



**(Above) The boys' volleyball team at their game on April 25, 2017.**

# IS WAR AT OUR DOOR?

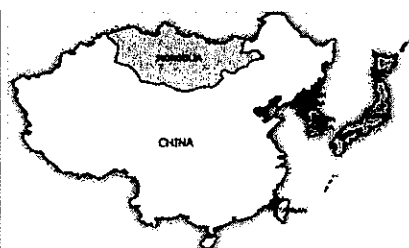
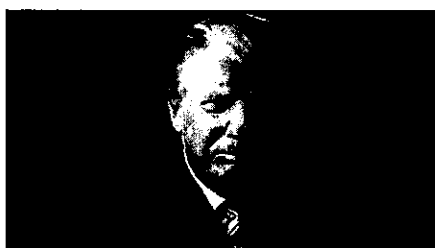
By Parker Gazda

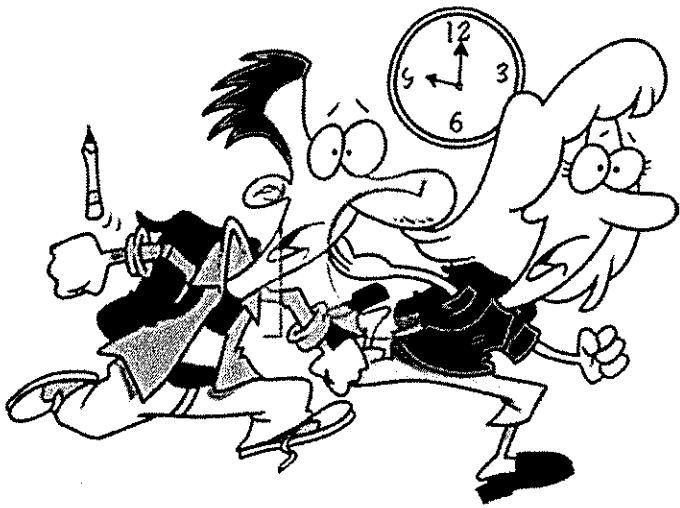
Whether you hear it from friends and family or on the news, North Korea and its communistic leader Kim Jong-un have been pushing many countries – especially the United States – to their limits by threatening to attack them with nuclear weapons and conducting many missile tests off the coast of Japan. Some think that war may be the only solution.

North Korea already has a bad history with the United States. June 25, 1950 marked the beginning of the Korean War and it has never officially ended. There currently is a cease fire in action to prevent casualties of all the countries involved in the devastating war. In 2006, North Korea conducted their first nuclear test in an underground facility. This trial caused the UN (United Nations) to impose economic and commercial sanctions onto North Korea, however, that did not seem to stop them.

## January – April 2017

In the early days of 2017, Kim Jong-un stated that he is almost done creating long-range missiles that can carry nuclear weapons; many refer to these as weapons of mass destruction. After this frightening declaration, China ceased giving North Korea materials that could possibly assist them with making these weapons of mass destruction. China also stopped sending them shipments of cameras and drones. Thae Yong-ho, North Korean diplomat, tells Americans that “Un’s days are numbered and the regime is inevitably declining to collapse.” On the 13<sup>th</sup> of February, Kim Jong-un’s half- brother, Kim Jong-nam, was killed due to two women smothering his mouth with a rag coated in a highly toxic VX nerve agent. This event occurred in a Malaysian airport and some say it was an inside job that Kim conducted to kill his brother who did not agree with his way of running North Korea. Soon after his death, China suspended all coal imports from North Korea to put more pressure on Pyongyang, North Korea’s capital. This sanction was thought to be a response to a recent missile test and Kim Jong-nam’s death. North Korea pushed the United State’s president, Donald Trump, to his breaking point when they fired four ballistic missiles into the Sea of Japan. This would bring two countries, China and the United States, to respond to North Korea’s actions just a few days later. Donald J. Trump sent the USS Carl Vinson, a US aircraft carrier, to North Korea to show Jong-un that they meant business. After that, he sent a fleet of American warships known as the Trump Armada to North Korean waters. Trump and his advisors backed this choice by claiming that it was a repercussion to ensure the safety of North Korea’s targets. Kim Jong-un did not like this, so he stated that the US will suffer from “massive consequences” and later said that he is ready for war. After these statements, China moved 150,000 troops to their border with North Korea. Later in April, North Korea ordered another missile test, but it failed almost instantly. As tensions increased and more people talked about potential war, Kim Jong-un warned the United States of a “super mighty preemptive strike” which many thought was a threat with nuclear weapons. Are these just another one of North Korea’s bluffs, or will war occur? Only time will tell.





# There Just Aren't Enough Minutes in the Day!

By Matt Fallecker

Many students at Ambridge Area Junior High School believe there should be longer time in between classes. If we live in a democracy, then why don't we give the people what they want?

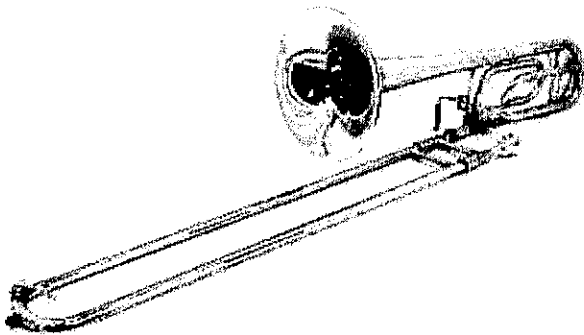
At Ambridge Area Junior High, we currently have three minutes to get from class to class, but sometimes it just isn't enough to go to your next class. Sometimes your next class is across the school, and three minutes isn't enough time to make it there. That is why we should have more time to get to each class. On your way to your next class you might get stuck behind a big group of people that will cause you to be late to your next class. If we had more time to get to each class we wouldn't have to worry about coming to class late. Also you might have to go to your locker or to the bathroom before your next class but you won't have time to go to those places so you might have to go to class without your supplies or have to stop class to go to the bathroom. When asked how much time should be allowed between classes Dominic Santia said, "I would say four minutes." David Polachek agreed. When I asked Mr. Gulish what his thoughts were, he said, "The more time that can be spent in the halls, the more time kids will be in the halls." Gulish believes that if the time were extended to get to each class, the more time students would wander the halls and not actually try to get to each class. However, I disagree with this because some kids actually try to get to each class but fail to do so and if we don't get more time to get to each class then it isn't fair to the students who actually try to get there. The kids who wander the halls will have no reason to be late if we added more hall monitors to the staff. Therefore, we should have more time because the kids who wander the halls will eventually get caught, and the kids who actually strive to be on time will have enough time to get there. This is a complex problem that can be solved with a simple solution.

## Students Need More Class Electives!

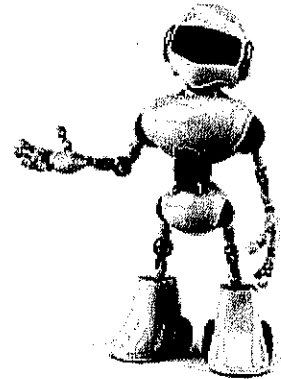
By Gwennyth Palmer

Middle school students should have more elective classes. We will have better chances to learn what we want to learn.

Middle school students such as us should have more electives. They can teach us what we want to learn. If we wanted to learn about animals, we could have an elective for it, if we wanted to learn to play trombone, trumpet, or even clarinet we should have electives for those. It may help kids in their future

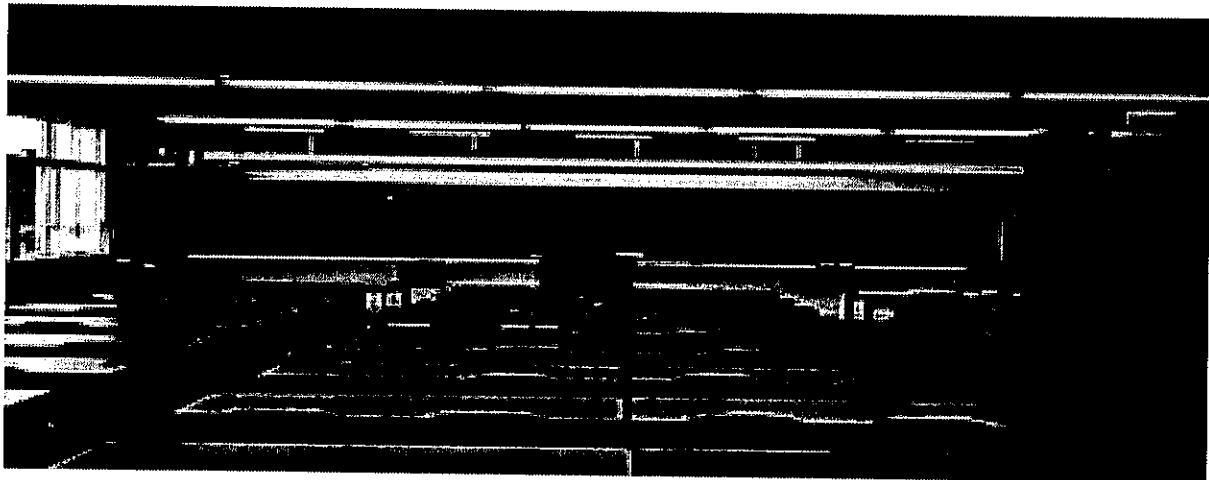


careers. So if some children wanted to learn about nature, they could take biology class before high school and they could be ahead. We could take robotics class. In robotics class we can learn how to make robots and cables. Some of the electives currently offered



now are: Keyboard, guitar, art, and band.

From these electives students may not work menial jobs for lower wages. Instead, they could become an engineer. This is a high paying job. They could help solve and fix technological problems. They can even create new technology. You could become an artist. You would learn drawing techniques that could get you millions of dollars.



# Can You Read This?

By Chloe Fouse

Many schools and students don't write in cursive because it's no longer part of the Common Core.

Handwriting is 50% of literacy, cursive is a part of handwriting too. Many schools don't teach cursive writing because it's no longer relevant to the Common Core system. Over 35 states have adopted the Common

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg  
Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn  
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu  
Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

Core. Most schools are only concerned about teaching the newest technology. Writing by hand improves cognition rather than typing. Cursive writing helps with brain development and has increased comprehension and participation skills. Most people tend to be more literate than others when they write in cursive. In 2006 a school board found that students scored higher on SAT's than others who wrote in print. In 2010 the state of Illinois taught under the Common Core system after 7 years they finally approved a bill that they are required to teach cursive. Interviewing my English teacher, Miss Healey, I asked for her opinion on the lost art of cursive teaching and this is what she said "cursive is not only more efficient, but also improves cognition."

a b c d e f g h i j k

l m n o p q r s t

u v w x y z , . ? " " ' ' !



# Flabs to Abs

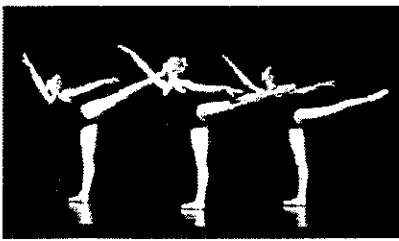
by Luke Holman

There are too many people in America that are overweight or obese. Most people can help it; everyone can prevent it. In the past 30 years the rate of obesity among teens nearly tripled. Children now spend more than 7.5 hours on T.V.

Less than 5% of adults participate in 30 minutes of physical activity each day. When being physical active you also need a healthy diet. There is data that shows from 2009 to 2010 there are over 78million adult's children and adolescents that are obese.



Recent reports show that by 2030, half of all adults in the United States will be obese. Adolescents that are overweight have about a 70% chance of being obese when they are adults. Exercising, eating right, and making good choices on your health will help you live longer, prevent diseases, and make you feel and look better. It's time to make a change in the U.S. One way we can fix this is people wanting to feel and look better and getting out and exercising. If people stress active living more than people will more likely to feel motivated to do it. One way we can fix it among kids is by having gym all year long and then kids might like active more and do it when they are adults. If everyone gets together and stress how important active living it then we can fix the problem. Active living will make the US more well-rounded and not just around the waist.



# Bridgers Can Dance, Too!



By Kyrsta Girardi

Do you remember when Ambridge had a dance program? This year they decided to put an end to it. Many schools, like ours, do not offer dance. I think schools should offer dance because it will benefit both the school and the people at the school.

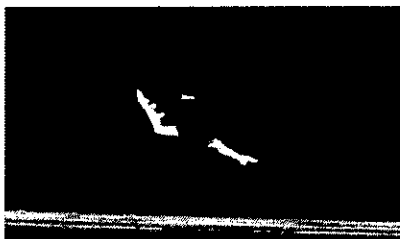
Can you believe that 57% of kids don't receive dance training from their school? Only about 6,000 schools in the U.S. offer dance, and that is out of 100,000 schools. That means about 94,000 schools don't offer dance to their students. I believe that dance should be offered, not required.

Schools are starting to lean away from the arts. However, there are many careers in the arts that students want to do as a future career. If dance is offered, that is a step in the right direction. Also, some people say our school needs to offer more electives, so they could offer dance as one.

Dance is proven to make people more outgoing. This would especially be good for shy students. They will be able to be friends with people on the dance team. It also makes you have a higher work ethic more confidence, healthier lifestyle, and it makes you more empathetic. Dance also helps you pick up on new concepts faster, even in school. Scientists have done studies to prove these facts.

Schools should offer dance because some people want to have a career in dance. The definition of dance is "move rhythmically to music, typically following a set sequence of steps", but to others it can mean so much more. It could be a future career. Since school is meant to help prepare you for your future, it should have what you want to do as a career. Also, dancing could help out with acting, gymnastics cheer, and other activities like that.

There are many people who I did the dance program with, and they loved it. I, as well as many others, believe there should be a dance program. Do you?



# A Unexpected American Hero

By Jonah Timmons

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013, one of the most terrifying attacks on American soil had occurred. During a marathon in Boston, two bombs had exploded 12 seconds of each other. One bomb was right next to a man named Jeff Bauman. It blew off both of his legs below the knees. He was lucky to have survived but also became an American hero.

Jeff Bauman was there at the finish line waiting for his girlfriend. He and a few of his friends were just like everyone else, cheering, screaming, laughing, just having fun. Then, a man named Tammerlan Tsarnaev was beside him. He had a bag in his hand.



(Above) Jeff Bauman and wife, after Jeff's prosthetic legs were attached.

Little did Jeff and many others know that there were actually two men holding bags filled with explosives. Jeff did notice the man, but then he was distracted by one of his friends. But when Jeff turned around, he noticed that the man holding the bag was nowhere in sight, but he left the bag just lying there on the concrete. Then all of a sudden the bag exploded, tearing both of Jeff's legs off just below the knees. Nearly twelve seconds after, another bomb exploded. Multiple people were killed while many others were injured. Medics came in an ambulance to Jeff's assistance. Meanwhile, they tried asking Jeff what the man looked like. He was so drugged that he couldn't even speak that well. He asked for a paper and pen and wrote, "bag, saw the guy, looked right at me." Because of Jeff's help in accordance with an FBI investigation, a city-wide manhunt began in Boston, leading to the death of one suspect and the capture of another. A GoFundMe was started for Jeff's medical bills, and to date, it has raised over \$800,000. Since

then, Jeff has married his girlfriend and they welcomed a child in 2015. Thanks to his bravery, many more lives were saved that day. The attackers were planning many more attacks in multiple American cities. Jeff Bauman went from a regular citizen to a national hero.

# Crash from the Past

by Haven O'Brien

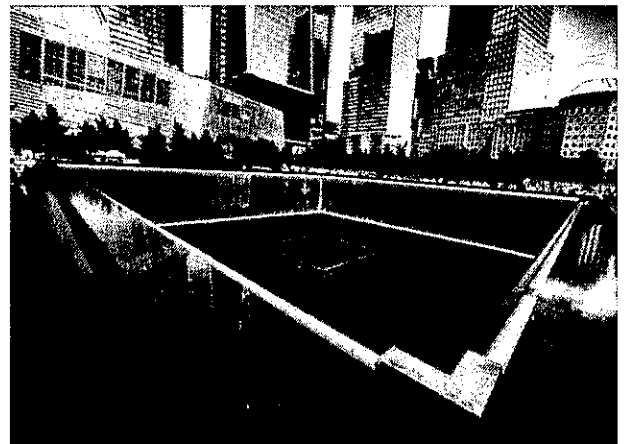


"We yelled into the darkness and waited for a response that never came. Slowly the realization came over me that everyone in there was dead. It was extremely intense. Extremely emotional." – 9/11 survivor.

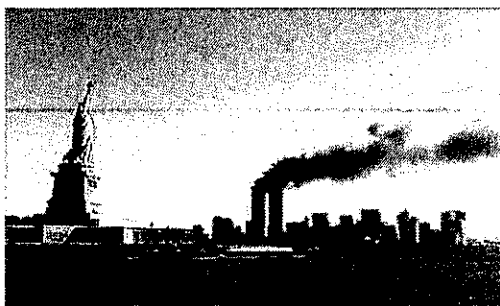
The September 11 attacks were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamic terrorist group Al-Qaeda on the United States on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

The attacks killed 2,996 people, injured over 6,000 others, and caused at least \$10 billion in property and infrastructure damage and \$3 trillion in total costs. There were 4 planes involved in this attack. The first two planes were flown into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. The third plane hit the Pentagon which is just outside Washington D.C. the fourth and final plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. These attacks resulted in extensive death and destruction. The president during this tragedy was George W. Bush. Over 3,000 people were killed during the attacks in New York City and Washington D.C, including more than 400 police officers and firefighters. Some deaths were caused from lung cancer from the dust and debris from the attack.

September 11, 2001, at 8:45A.M on a clear Tuesday morning, an American Airline Boeing 767 loaded with 20,000 gallons of jet fuel crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. The impact left a gaping, burning hole near the 80<sup>th</sup> floor of the 110 story skyscraper, instantly killing hundreds of people and trapping hundreds of people and trapping hundreds more in higher floors. After the first plane, a second Boeing 767- United Airlines Flight 175- appeared out of the sky. 18 minutes after the first. It turned sharply into the World Trade Center and sliced into the South Tower near the 60<sup>th</sup> floor. The collision caused a massive explosion showering burning debris over surrounding buildings and the streets below. The Islamic terrorists from Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations made September 11 of 2001, the deadliest day in history for New York firefighters: 343 were killed. Some of the terrorists lived in the United States for more than a year and took flight lessons at American commercial flight schools. Others slipped into the country months before September 11.



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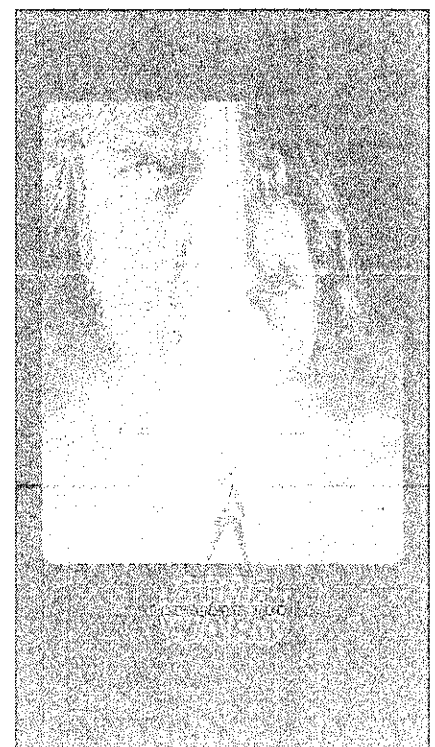
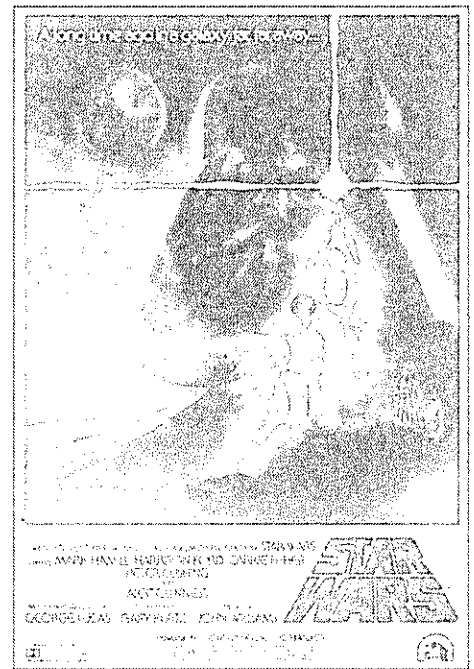


As millions watched the events unfolding in New York, American Airlines Flight 77 circled over downtown Washington D.C and slammed into the west side of the Pentagon military headquarters at 9:45 A.M. All told, 125 military personnel and civilians were killed in the Pentagon, along with all 64 people aboard the airlines. The devastating effects of 9/11 are still evident today in American Nationalism and foreign policy.

# STAR WARS THE LAST JEDI

**Do you like Star Wars? There is a new movie in the works. It's titled "The Last Jedi" and it follows Rey, a character introduced in "The Force Awakens". Not much information has been released about the new movie yet, but there has been a teaser trailer and a release is planned for December late 2017. Based off the trailer, we can determine that Poe, Finn, Luke Skywalker, and Kylo Ren are making a return as well. One thing many fans are wondering is a quote that Luke makes in the trailer. He states that it is time for the Jedi to end. We catch a glimpse of Poe rushing towards his ship with his droid companion, BB-8, only to turn around and sprint away once it explodes. A poster has been released to go along with the trailer show casing her in a similar way to Luke in "The Return of The Jedi". This is amping up to be a great movie. Hopefully some of our many questions will be answered with the release of more information. For now we are very excited about this new addition to the Star Wars series.**

**BY MICHAEL CHALUPIAK**



# Overwatch vs. Team Fortress 2

## The facts!

By Michael Husted

There has been a very large debate appearing through the gamers of the internet, the unsolvable problem of Team Fortress 2 (TF2) vs. Overwatch!

### Team fortress 2

#### Pros:

- One of the main arguments supporting TF2 is the amount of customization it offers. TF2 has thousands of weapons, hats, and other accessories to choose from for each class it offers. This allows you to let your gameplay reflect your preferences and ideas instead of the developers'.

- Another fact supporting TF2 is that it has a supported modding system and allows players access to the game engine.

made by  
crosstraindesign

#### Cons:

- TF2 has a domination system that rewards people for hunting down certain targets repeatedly, instead of playing on the objective, to win the game.

-TF2 also has a system where "taunts" can be used repeatedly, blocking people from playing the game. A "taunt" is something your character can do, that blocks you from moving, attacking, and defending yourself. This system slows down the game consistently, and usually results in lots of stalemates.

### Overwatch

#### Pros:

- One of Overwatch's main arguments for it is it has no "team balancing system." This system can punish any player that is doing particularly well in a match. The system works like this: if you are doing well compared to your teammates, and the enemy team has fewer players than your team does, you will be switched to the enemy team, rooting your progress against you.

- One of the great things about Overwatch is that it currently has 24 characters, allowing you to play whichever playstyle you want.

#### Cons:

- Overwatch has a very limited amount of customizations, even with almost double the characters; it has only about 100 cosmetics.

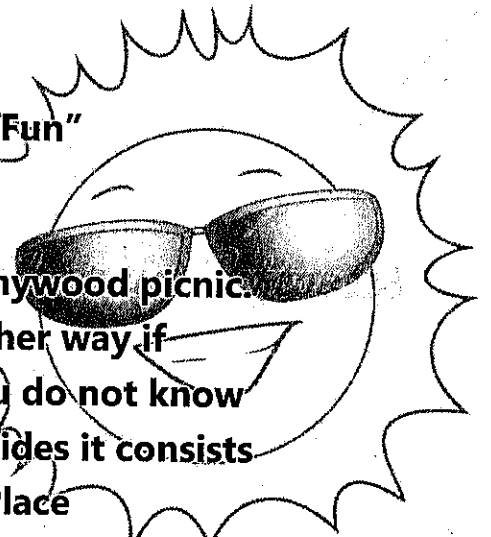
- Overwatch has no modding system and does not allow players access to the game engine. This means that there is no player-created content and the progress of the game is bottlenecked to just the Blizzard staff's progress, and not the community's.

So, what do you think? Do you think the game that popularized the genre, Team Fortress 2, is better? Or do you think that the "new and improved" Overwatch is superior?

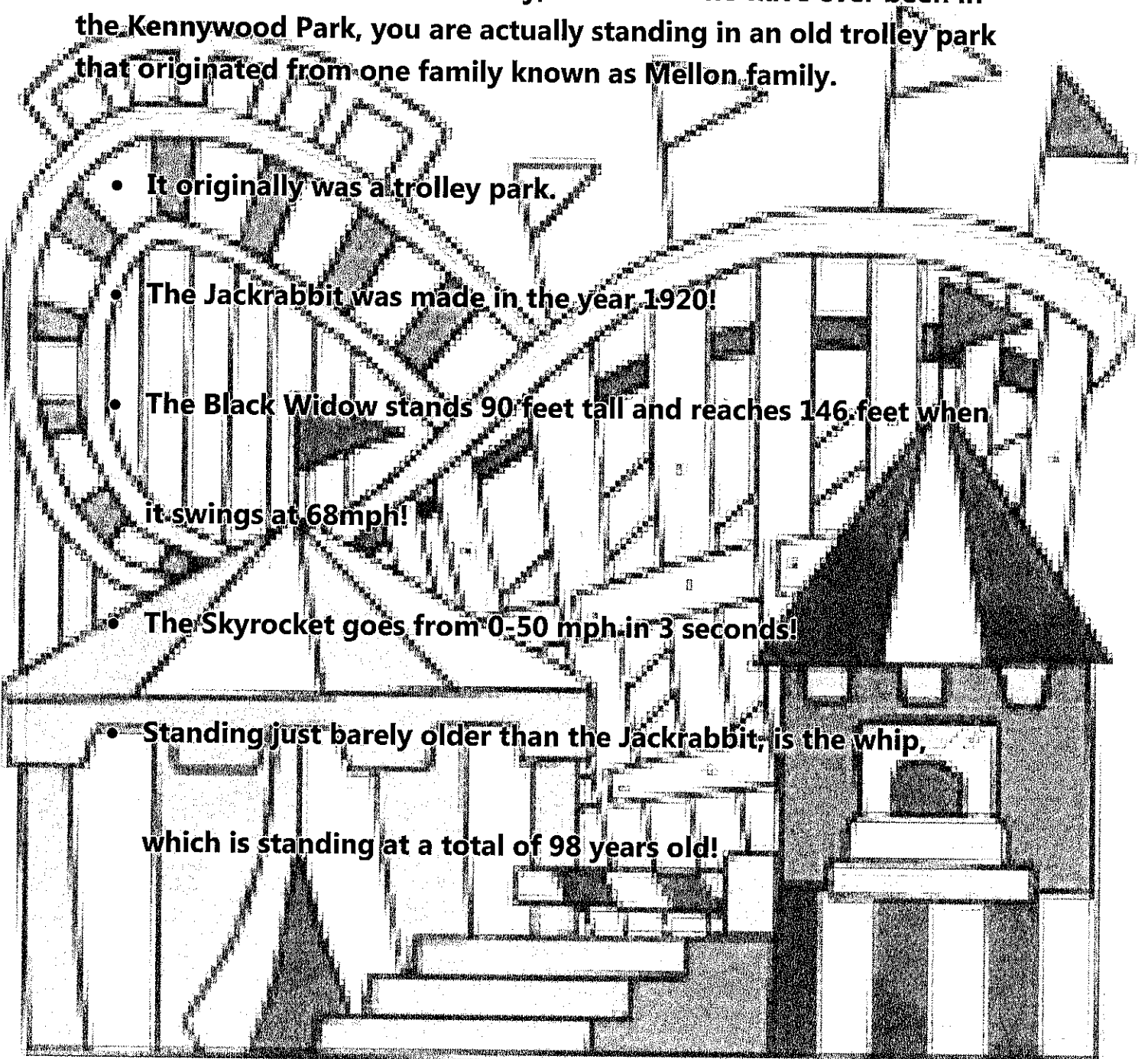
## "Kennywood, The Way to Unforgettable Fun"

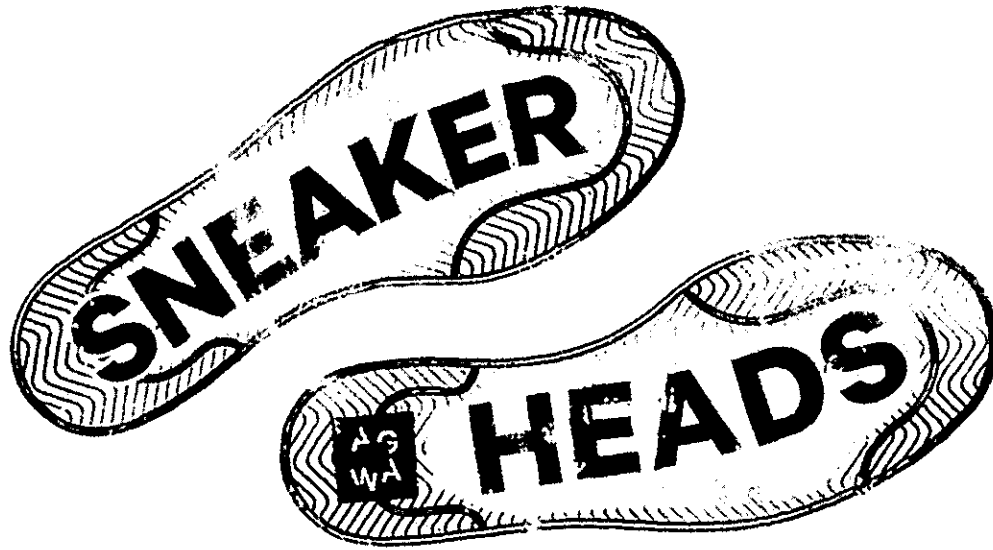
By Dimitri Martiny

Summer is around the corner; just like the Kennywood picnic. The thrills and rides are at the end of this month. Either way if you're going or not, there is probably something you do not know about Kennywood and its 80 acres and 46 different rides it consists of. Kennywood, was purchased by California Based Place Entertainment in 2007. So actually, for those who have ever been in the Kennywood Park, you are actually standing in an old trolley park that originated from one family known as Mellon family.



- It originally was a trolley park.
- The Jackrabbit was made in the year 1920!
- The Black Widow stands 90 feet tall and reaches 146 feet when it swings at 68mph!
- The Skyrocket goes from 0-50 mph in 3 seconds!
- Standing just barely older than the Jackrabbit, is the whip, which is standing at a total of 98 years old!





By Shaun Thomas

Some of the most iconic sneakers are Jordan's, but do you really know how much the original Jordan's were? In that particular brand, there are many types of shoes, even ones that were gifts. Some shoe gifts to Jordan were the Ovo 12's or Air Jordan LA Lakers from Kobe. One of the most iconic but basic ones out there cost around \$4,500 - Air Jordan III OG.

Some other shoes popular among sneaker heads consist of the Air Jordan VI (1992 Olympics-\$7200). Another is the Air Jordan Blackouts which usually cost around \$11,000. There are different variations but black is the most popular.

Some of the most expensive are the Air Jordan 12 ovo 12's-\$100,000 a pair. The most expensive Jordan shoe in the world is the Air Jordan 12 (Flu Game)-104,000 for the original pair. These shoes were worn by Michael himself. Those are the only signed and worn Jordan's in the world. Those shoes were worn when Michael put up fifteen points, which may not seem like a lot, but he did have the flu at the time. He also got a clutch shot for the game win. Many believe that those shoes should not be sold and should only be kept with Michael Jordan because of his legacy.





# HOO are The Who?

By

Cameron  
Weatherly



The Who is an English rock group who is about to embark on their 51<sup>st</sup> year and a tour.

The Who is one of the most famous and iconic rock bands of all time. One thing they are known for is their live shows which include, but is not limited to Woodstock, Live Aid, and A Tribute to American Heroes. This year they kick off a tour in North America in many cities, but not Pittsburgh. The closest city they play in is somewhere in New York state. The Who can pick from a large selection of songs including "Baba o'Riley", "Who are you", and "Won't get fooled again". They started in 1964 and are still going strong today. The Who have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the UK Music Hall of Fame, and are Kennedy Center honorees. The Who has also been called the loudest rock and roll band in the world. The Who had one of the best and influential drummers of their time. Keith Moon is world renowned worldwide, but sadly died of a drug overdose. The Who also has one of the greatest vocalists of all time, Rodger Daltery, whose vocal range is quite amazing as displayed in "Love Reign Over Me." The Who has been hinting that this year might be their last year on tour. If they decided to stop touring, their music and legacy will live on.



(Above) Keith Moon playing his drum set



The two remaining members of The Who after playing a live show. (Rodger Daltery) left (Pete Townshend) right.

# Remarkable Places to Visit in New Zealand

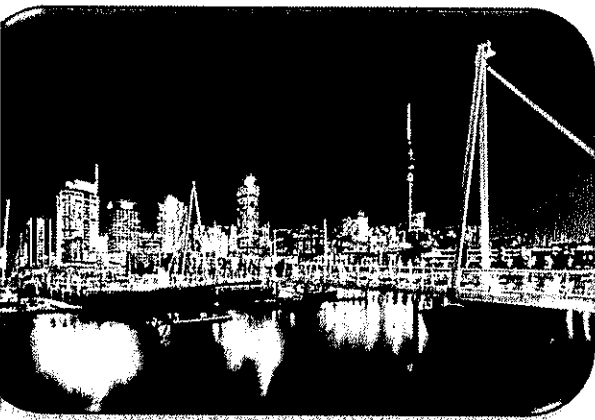
By Allison Dibish

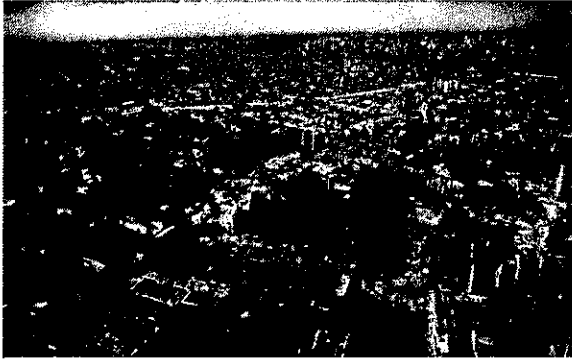
Traveling over 3,000 miles to New Zealand for only one thing is kind of a waste of time and energy. Don't know where to go? There are many wonderful places to explore in New Zealand.

A lot of places in New Zealand are good for walking because of the land. Queenstown, for example, offers a lot of hiking activities, being surrounded by The Remarkables mountain range. If hiking isn't really your thing, you can bungee jump instead. Queenstown is home to the world's first commercial bungee jump, which is off of Kawerau Bridge. If being active doesn't interest you, there are many different shops you can visit. There are also scenic flights and cruises that you can take to enjoy the surroundings.

Bay of Islands is a place that's well-known for its history. There, you can learn about the Māori culture and look at the stunning beauty of the islands. Being the biggest island in New Zealand, it's quite a popular tourist area. Waitangi is one of the most historic sites in the country. In this town, Māori and the British Crown joined in signing the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. If you're more into sporting, Paihia is the place for you. Fishing, sailing, and even swimming with dolphins are a few things you can do. Cruises are available, too if you just want to observe.

Auckland is filled with some exciting things to do. Whether you're looking for peaceful waterfalls to look at or high cliffs to jump off of, you'll definitely find something to do. Auckland is home to the Sky Tower, a 328-meter-tall tower. You travel up to the top in a glass elevator, and at the top you can do a skywalk or sky jump. For a more family-friendly option, the Auckland Zoo is home to 117 species and over 700 animals. They offer behind-the-scenes tours to show the lives of many animals. If you've been looking for some nice art, Auckland Art Gallery has art that dates back seven centuries. Performances and film screenings are also offered, as well as tours to learn about the art, artists, and the gallery itself.





# Zoned Out

by Sophia Pedigo

“This is your d- d- d- ail...” The whacking of the sledgehammer became louder than the former-daily broadcast that had, until a few seconds ago, been projected. A soft breeze blew through the dark, curly hair of the girl passing the building, as she often did. Her eyes rolled backwards at the sound of the continuous pattern in which the man was beating the speaker in. As she turned the corner, Annabelle let out a small, sad sigh. For weeks now, gun fights had broken out in streets all over the city. Bombs had been dropped on innocent homes,

schools, stores, and people.

It was in the curriculum to know about how the former government had destroyed the Grecians. The national debt of Greece had amounted to so much money that the country collapsed, leading to the now-leaders to take over. However, Annabelle’s parents taught her the difference between a utopia and a dystopia – and how they lived in a terrorizing dystopia. She learned about how the government rules the country in such a forceful, unpleasant dictatorship. She hated it. Almost everyone hated it, and they were not afraid to show it. Annabelle’s family, the Zeneopolous family, were against the government, but not completely with the rebels.

Now that there was utter anarchy and absolute chaos, no one seemed to know what side they were on. The rebels could not lead, but they old government was just as bad – on the other side of the spectrum. They lead with *too* much power and control.

Ducking under a fallen tree branch, Annabelle pulled her bag closer and her book tighter to her chest with a deep sigh. The cameras placed in every crevice were still hooked up, causing her to move gingerly, even when going to her own home. It was such a fear-filled, terrifying world that they lived in. The world seemed so distant that she feared there was maybe even a wall that surrounded the country. She would never know.

Slipping through the worn, cracking door of her home, a smile appeared on her face. The home was old, and rather small, but it was home. Her home. It had not been destroyed in the battle, but its inhabitants had lost friends, family, and happiness. No matter what side you were on, or how supportive you were, there was a simple fact – you were affected. Whether it was losing someone you know, a school, or work building, or even your own home. You were affected.

“Annabelle!” Anna did not know if she was in trouble or being praised. As soon as her mother, small and dainty, entered the room, her question was answered. “Where have you been? You told no one where you were going!”

Her mother often spoke in broken English because of her accent. Her ancestors had come from France, and she had moved back to Greece just before the war started. Cécile Zeneopolous was small, a short, thin, brown haired woman. Her body did not show that she had had seven children, and was almost the complete opposite body frame as her husband. Achilles Zeneopolous was a full Greek man who had met Cécile when she visited Greece, and had fallen in love, but she had to return to France. Feeling as if he was in love, he followed her and brought her home. He was a tall, muscular, dark haired man with broad shoulders. They were the definition of true love.

Then the war came. It was short, but destructive. Grecians had low supplies, and were easily beat, but they fought as long as they could.

“But, I-” She sighed, knowing that no excuse would please her mother. She understood why she was worried; in fact, if she had not been worried, *Annabelle* would have been. “Sorry.” Short and sweet. Her mother had enough on her plate with seven children, a husband always ay work, and the collapsing world around her.

Her mother was about to continue when they heard crying from the bedroom and she rushed back. Annabelle sighed again, and sat down on the brown, leather chair, opening her book. She loved reading. It let her travel to another, better world, away from the reality she had been forced into. Rather than staying in her terrible life where not one was happy, in constant fear, she traveled to worlds where heroes and heroines could save the world, or fantasy stories where a prince saved a fair maiden. While she did not enjoy all of the happiness, few books of suffering and pain were available to her. The rebels had told them that they went through a worse-than-bad time. Her father, another avid reader, had come to the conclusion that they were not to be shown pain in any way for it may make citizens realize that their world was not perfect. At all. It was a flawed, damaged, imperfect world that had brainwashed them to think that it was absolutely impeccable.

Her doll eyes skimmed the pages of the book quickly, eyes scanning the words. Annabelle continued to read until she heard her mother calling her name, and because it was so loud, she presumed it had not been the first time she asked for her attention. She glanced up and realized that her mother did not look irritated, but in fact nervous. Annabelle rushed over, taking the baby from her mother’s shaky arms.

Her mother looked almost green, and was trembling. She stared straight at her daughter, so zoned out that she scared Anna. She had so many younger siblings that she was scared if her mother asked her to run away, she would not be able to save them from... From... What was wrong?

"Mom, what's going on?" Her voice was raspy, like she was trying to hide her nervousness.

"You-Your dad..."

Her heart fell. She had always been the closest to her father. Yes, little kids may not have interests as mature as her father's, yet, but even as a young child, Anna tried to spend as much time with him as she could. Her hand shook as she pulled the baby up higher on her hip, motherly instincts kicking in.

"What happened? Where is he? Mom, what happened?" She was now shaking her mother's shoulder with her left hand, holding her youngest sibling in her right arm. They both looked so terrified.

"He's... Annabelle, he's dead."

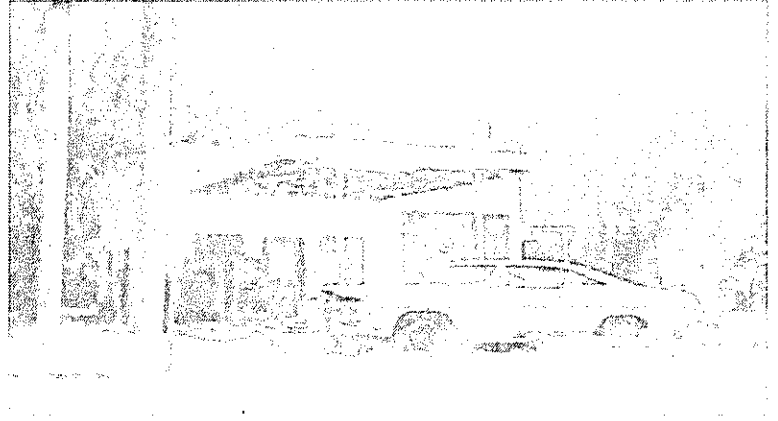
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## Stranger

by Leah Thomas

I awoke and had the worst headache. I was in a car. I stared in disbelief at the stranger that was just staring at me while he drove. Was I just kidnapped? I started to pass out as a red bandana with a strange smell was placed over my mouth. I was at a party wasn't I? I think I was, yes it was Ashley

Sumpter's party (my best friend). It was a fun party, but how did I end up in a stranger's car? I had a pounding headache and still didn't know where I was. I was looking out the window as I awoke again. It was starting to get dark. He noticed I was awake and started to say something to me. I couldn't hear anything except the words: stopping, 50 miles, and gas station. After that I went to open the door with all my strength. My arms were so tired and felt heavy. He noticed what I was trying to do and pulled out a silver weapon. As soon as I saw the weapon I stopped even though there was a lot of people around. I noticed that we got slower and slower as cars slowed like us. I looked up and there were sirens and smoke in the air. He looked nervous. He tried to put another strange smelling bandana on my mouth. I tried to push it away but he was so strong. He must have overpowered me. I could see him pulling into an old gas station. There was a creepy-looking man standing and staring. The man that had taken me just looked at me while I acted like I was sleeping. After a while he got out to get what I assume food and gas. The old, creepy man that worked there came over and started to pump his gas. He looked at me and smiled. I jumped at any sight of another human, and asked him for help. He gave me another smile, but this one made my heart sink. He started to laugh and walked into the store to talk to the man. I busted out the window and started to run as fast as I could. I knew that I was not going to be a match for two men. I felt like I was running in slow motion. What were they planning? I saw some house far off into the distance. My heart sank when I heard someone say "Come back, honey." I raced even faster. Suddenly, I woke up in a sweaty mess. That was the weirdest dream I have ever had. Buzz...buzz.....on the screen of my phone was a text. It said "Hey, do you want to go to a party tonight?"



# "AN EX"

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# Original Poetry

All at Once



I throw my hands up in surrender  
 As you shoot bullets of words at me.  
 I don't know why I see you as home.  
 I suffer in your arms, but I love the pain.  
 You kiss me until I bleed.  
 You bleach my lips with the shape and prints of yours,  
 My eyes are stained from the tears you've caused me.  
 You are hands down the best thing that has happened  
 to me.  
 You  
 Are love  
 And war  
 All at once.

- Anonymous

# Oceanic Love

I'm standing in the ocean,  
 waves bringing me up to rise  
 And pushing my feet back down  
 on the warm, squished sand.  
 As I stand here while the waves pass by me,  
 I feel them tickle the sides of my chest,  
 sending shivers  
 down my spine.  
 I think to myself that  
 you are the water,  
 lifting me up  
 and pushing me down.  
 I can't go against you,  
 so I go with you.

- Anonymous



## EVIDENCE #205 B

The Day Everything Changed

4/27/10

My name is Sam. I'm 17 and in high school. I'm a junior and I'm so close to being done! I live in a big town called Bridgeway, which is in Virginia. I was on my way to the bus one Tuesday morning and it was just like any normal day. I sat there on the bus on the way to school listening to music. Music soothes everything about me. When we arrived to school I barely saw anyone. Bridgeway is a very big school. It is by far the biggest school in our county. In every graduating class there is more than 600 people which is over 2,000 kids in our school. I would call that fairly big. Once I walked in I went straight to my locker since my bus was a little late; I wish it was a little later. First period was like any other class. I have pre-calculus, which is the worst class ever! It is like 45 minutes of torture. First period finally passed and I was on to second. I had World History which is actually really fun. Only because I aced that class. I had a project & presentation, and I always have to go first. Oh well, I aced it. After mine, the bell rang and I went to my favorite class. Business & Personal Finance III. I want to be a business woman when older, so why not fake it? I usually never go to the bathroom, but I forgot to go this morning, so it was urgent. The class I was in was kind of far away from the bathroom. I forgot my phone in the classroom since it was

urgent. As I got in the bathroom I hear thru the intercome come on saying "Code red!". In that exact moment I froze. I almost stopped breathing because of all the possible things that could of happened to me. At that moment I locked the door almost crying. I saw a sign on the floor and it said "Out of Order" so I unlocked the door and hung that up then re-locking the door. I also remembered turning off the light so no knew I was in there. After 15 minutes I heard footsteps; loud, banging ones. I heard a knock on the door asking if anyone was in there. The worst mistake I probably have ever made: saying "Yes." to whomever was out there. That moment where I lost all hope and all of my strength, I opened the door and saw "him," someone whose name I do not know of or would ever want to know of. At the same time, I saw one of our school resource officers, he was ready to tackle him. I had so many nerves going through me that I didn't know what to do. I froze and everything was in slow motion. He officer comes and tackles him but at the same time he gets hurt, hurt to the point where I see blood everywhere. I run till I see the front-door. Being a track star, it wasn't hard going from the second floor to the basement. Once I got to the office I knocked so hard and finally got in and told them what happened. Long story short, I'm terrified for my life. It has been 2 weeks and they still have not found him. Can't wait to be.

# Jobs Got The Job

by David Polachek

You thought he was dead, but he is actually right now hiding deep beneath your house in a chamber, deep in the Earth. He is watching you, and watching me for something to do on the iPhone 36. He is Steve Jobs!

As he is sitting in his lonely chamber playing on his iPhone 36 with the T.V. on Fox News, the reporter is talking about the upcoming election, and how crazy the last one was. It is Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This is the day that started it all. "I think I will run for president," Jobs said, "but they must not find out I am still alive. So, I will go under the name Stevie Hobbs. Now, I need a bogus story, and a team to help me secure the win. They can be called 'The Job Squad.' I Steve Jobs or Stevie Hobbs Will be the first member and leader. Now who can help me and join the squad. Well I guess I could start with someone very sneaky, clever, and has one of the best hacking groups in the world,



Vladimir Putin. Next, while Putin is hacking I need someone who can cause a distraction. I got it Kim Jong Un. Now since I don't have access to all of Apple's technology, I need someone who can provide the electronic component. Hmmmm...Bill Gates I choose you! I also need someone that could help steal information. I will call my old friend Susan Bennett. Since she does the Siri voice, people will think that it is Siri, but it is actually her.

The technicalities are taken care of, but what if I need an enforcer? I will get the most electrifying man in sports entertainment history Dwayne 'the Rock' Johnson!" Now that Jobs had a plan, he had to execute it fast because the primaries would be here soon. So, first Jobs thought he would get the "soon to be members" living in the United States first. First, Jobs will go to Georgia to get Bennett. Then Jobs goes to Austin, Texas to get Dwayne Johnson. Next, he will go to Washington State to Get Bill Gates. Now, he has to go to Russia and get Vladimir Putin. Finally Jobs Purposely gets arrested in North Korea to speak to Kim Jong Un. He makes a deal with him and gets him on board as the distraction. Now Steve wins the primaries fairly easily because he tells the Rock to Peoples Elbow Bernie Sanders, and Rock Bottom All the other Candidates. Then for the general election, every time someone in the Trump Administration uses Siri, they actually are speaking to Susan Bennett, and Steve uses all the information he gathers from Bennett to use against Trump. Trump also has nothing to fire back because Steve is going by the name Stevie Hobbs, who is not a real person. Of course Bill



Gates is providing the technical support and is running as Steve's Vice President. So, because of this Steve wins the election easily. He also, obviously has Putin hack the election to secure the win. The first thing he does is call the whole squad to congratulate them. Everybody is happy and Steve triumphs in a blowout, winning every state except Delaware. Steve will have many accomplishments, and gives the greatest inauguration speech ever.



# Carl's Purrfect Adventure

By Morgan McKay

Carl the cat isn't a very violent cat. He really isn't. He does have a temper though. Yes, he is a nice cat and no, he hasn't gotten into a fight before, but there's a first time for everything. Allen the alligator, his best friend, took his wallet. Allen says that he knows nothing of the missing item, but the only one who had a key to his house was Allen. This problem all started about two weeks ago from Easter. This wasn't a huge problem at the start but it escalated after some time. At first Carl asked kindly for his wallet back, but Allen denied any accusations.

Carl paced around his room in his New York City apartment. 'This wouldn't have been a huge problem if Allen just confessed to his mistake!' Carl thought to himself. This just wouldn't have been as big of a problem. Carl chuckled to himself; the whole story is funny if you think about it. Carl's thoughts were interrupted when there was a knock on his door. He turned and opened the door with his tail. Once the door was opened, Carl's friend Sheba entered the apartment. "How are you doing Carl? You seem angry," Sheba said while walking towards him. "It's nothing to be worked up about", he replied. "Carl, have you ever thought that it might not have been Allen and you just misplaced your wallet?" Sheba asked timidly. "That is a possibility", Carl said back. Sheba nodded and looked around the apartment. "Well, I came here to invite you to a party at Shamo's house", Sheba said. Carl turned to look at her. "When is the party?" he asked. "5:00 pm." she replied. "It's 4:36!" He said and ran out of the room to go get ready.

Some time later...

Carl and Sheba both sauntered into the party. It was ordinary at best. His friends were there, the food seemed good, and Carl hasn't seen Allen yet, so it was a great party in his book. "Hi Carl", Shamo said. "Hey Shamo, great party!" he responded. "Oh, I have something to give you; Let me go get it!", she said and walked off somewhere. It took at least 5 minutes for her to get back. "Sorry, I took your wallet to get you something for your birthday", she said timidly, walking away. Carl stood with his mouth agape, staring into the direction she walked off in.



'Great', he thought, 'Now I have to apologize.'

Mr. Ayers  
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Mrs. White  
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Limit OPS

Ms. Wandel  
One free homework pass  
Limit OPS

**MRS. YANNESSA**  
**3 BONUS POINTS ON A  
TEST OR QUIZ**  
**LIMIT OPS**

Mr. Grafton  
3 Bonus Points  
Limit OPS

Mrs. Padgett  
1 free homework pass  
Limit OPS

Mrs. Mawhinney  
5 Bonus Points  
Limit OPS

Miss Healey  
3 bonus points on the final  
project  
Limit OPS

**Mrs. Connolly**  
**5 Bonus points**  
**Limit OPS**

Mr. Olenic  
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