

Monsoon Magazine



Monsoon Magazine Monthly Q&A

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**New Years
By Bo Shirk**

It is the eve of the new year
And we are full of cheer
"Happy holidays" we hear them sing
And we hear the bells ring
For it is midnight at the hour
And we baked a cake using flour
We all have a good time at the party
And have a sugar crash because of the chocolate dipped havarti
We listen to Geico commercials on TV
And then go to party in the RV

**Q and A for Cooper Bouslough
by Bo Shirk**

1. What sports do you play? Soccer, Basketball, and Flag Football.
2. What is your favorite sport? Soccer.
3. What is your favorite sports team? Steelers.
4. What is 1 of your pet peeves? Trash Talking.
5. What is your dream car brand? Porsche.
6. If you could live anywhere, where would you live? Texas.
7. If you could meet anyone, who would you meet? Leo Messi.
8. What is your favorite color? Neon Green.
9. Who is your role model? My dad.
10. What is your favorite number? 2.

Q and A for Nick Paul
By Bo Shirk

1. What sports do you play? Soccer, and Flag Football.
2. What is your favorite sport? Soccer.
3. What is your favorite sports team? Redskins.
4. What is 1 of your pet peeves? Making Red Lights.
5. What is your dream car brand? Lamborghini.
6. If you could live anywhere, where would you live? Las Vegas, Nevada.
7. If you could meet anyone, who would you meet? Lebron James.
8. What is your favorite color? Red.
9. Who is your role model? Cristian Pulisic, I guess.
10. What is your favorite number? 99.

Q and A for Cassie Bradshaw
By Bo Shirk

1. What sports do you play? Dance, but I do volleyball for fun.
2. What is your favorite sport? Dance.
3. What is your favorite sports team? None.
4. What is 1 of your pet peeves? When people chew with your mouths open.
5. What is your dream car brand? Ferrari
6. If you could live anywhere, where would you live? Florida.
7. If you could meet anyone, who would you meet? Queen Beyoncé
8. What is your favorite color? Blue.
9. Who is your role model? Gigi Hadid.
10. What is your favorite number? 8.

Q&A FOR THE STUDENTS
BY ABBY KAUFFMAN

Guest, Mathias Van De Louw

1. What is your favorite subject? A: "Math"
2. What sports do you play? A: "Swimming"
3. What is your favorite color? A: "Blue"
4. What is your favorite band? A: "AC/DC"
5. What is your favorite animal? A "Cat"
6. What other languages do you speak? A: "French"
7. What pets do you have? What is/are their names? A "I have a cat named Mickey and a dog named Max."
8. Can you give a shout out to someone? A "My sister Roxanne for surviving 6th grade."

Thank you Mathias!!!

Elayna's Journey

By Nicole Yang

A week after the war, people were still looking for lost soldiers. At the time, I wasn't sure if my father was already dead or if he was lost and too weak to carry on, but I hoped that he would return soon. My mother had tried everything. She alerted the police, all of Bordeaux, and everybody was searching for him. My little sister Alice suggested that we should make a move ourselves and head out to look for him, so we did.

Mother packed everything we needed in trunks and set it in the wagon. While Dad was gone at the war, we were extremely stressed out. Since Dad was out of the house, Mom had to work extra long hours taking the job of him at the factory. All the women and children were much busier than they used to be, especially Alice and me. Since mom was working longer, my sister Alice and I had to take care of Tracy, my youngest sister. We had to cook and clean and take care of our crops. Mother had to explain to the factory management that we were going away for a few months to search for Dad.

Soon, we started our journey. Two of our horses, Cinnamon and Pepper, were pulling the wagon.

Four tiring hours later, we'd only traveled about 15 miles. We'd decided that we should stop and rest, for we were all hungry, and thirsty. Tracy had been wailing because she could not fall asleep. At the pace we were traveling, we wouldn't be covering much land that night. I wondered just how long we'd be searching.

Clip-clop, clip-clop, clippity-clop. I could hear Cinnamon and Pepper's light hooves tapping the gravel

path. I could see planes flying above, probably searching for soldiers. I fell asleep to the soothing bumps of the wagon. Ba-dump, ba-dump, ba-dump...

When night fell, Mother stopped us nearby a shallow pond. We set out our pillows and blankets, getting ready to sleep. I breathed in the moist air, watching the leaves on the willow trees dancing in the wind, and prayed that we would find Dad soon. We needed to find him. We had to.

The next morning, after we fed ourselves, we proceeded onward. I barely slept. The anxiety and stress kept me awake. We covered 40 or so miles each day, occasionally stopping to rest. The last time anybody saw Dad, or at least they thought, was in Somme, France. We searched near Somme and other battlefields where soldiers fought.

A month passed, and still, we hadn't found him. I was getting panicked and worrying that I wouldn't be able to see him again. Day after day, night after night, we searched everywhere, but we still had no sign of him. I spent my days sitting inside the wagon thinking and wondering about Dad. *Where is he? How come he's still out there while the rest of the soldiers are safely at home? Could he be so severely injured that he can't come back? What if he's dead?* I could tell that Alice and Mother were also worried, overtopping the stress of taking care of my sister Tracy.

On our 37th day, our horses were getting tired and worn out by each step. We were traveling north after searching where The Battle of La Bassée took place. Cinnamon and Pepper's canters turned into slow trots.

All of a sudden, Pepper fell on her side and passed out. She was drained and could walk no more. While my mother was caring for Pepper, I had to refresh Cinnamon as well. Poor horses... they've been pulling our heavy old wagon 8-9 hours a day for over a month. This would only slow us down even more.

We spent the whole day treating our exhausted horses and couldn't go on until both of our horses recovered. Mother gave them a bath and cleaned out their dirty hooves. I fed them apples and water. We let them sleep for a little while. Once they recovered, we continued.

Many days had passed. Morning of the 80th day of our journey, I reassured myself that Dad was somewhere out there, alive, waiting to be rescued, but even so I felt as if we wouldn't get to see him. No matter what, we had to find him. Mother needed him more than we did. She was so busy doing so much work at the factory, and she was the only one that was holding our whole family up. Mother took care of us and making sure we wouldn't starve. We heard that soldiers had been sighted near Hamel, France, which was also up north. Out of many places we had searched, it was our last chance, and I hoped we would find him there.

Tracy was constantly wailing. She was hungry. Mother stopped us next to a forest, and we rested there for a bit. While she was caring for Tracy, I decided to explore in the forest. Alice wanted to go with me.

Pulling along Alice's small hand, I wondered if wandering into an unknown forest was safe. I could hear the crispy leaves crunching under our feet, and the birds softly chirping. In the corner of my eye, I spotted movement in the bushes. I snapped my head around but had no sign of anyone having been there. I wanted to see who or what was behind the bushes, but I was equally as afraid.

Alice pulled my hand and I reluctantly followed. I was never really was a daredevil, more of the shy person who just stayed in the corner all the time, but Alice was. Alice peered into the bush and gasped.

"Come quick!" She pointed. I rushed over to her side.

"Is that... it can't be..." I wasn't sure if my mind was playing tricks on me, but I saw a man that I was almost sure was Dad. Of all places, I'd least expect him to be in the forest. Before I could get a better look at the man, he bolted away.

"Wait! Wait!" Alice yelled running after him. "Stop!" The man paused, looking back.

"Dad?" Alice shouted.

“Alice? Elayna?” The man asked.

A warm rush a joy went through my body.

“Dad! It’s us!” Sprinting towards him, we shared a group hug. I lept with joy.

Looking up, I finally saw my dad’s face for the first time in 3 years. There were deep cuts and scars on his face, and he was limping. He had a small beard and he was pale and very thin. His clothes were torn and worn out, and he had a few bandages around wounded spots. I almost didn’t recognize him.

“Why are you here?” I asked him.

“I got lost.” Dad started. Looking at our faces, he knew we wanted to know more. “I was following the rest of the army, preparing to launch an attack on the Germans, but they were too quick. All of a sudden bullets started flying, hitting many of the soldiers around me. I knew the only way for me to escape was to run. I was fortunate that I had survived, but being dazed and injured, I couldn’t find my way back. For weeks I had been resting, and taking care of myself to recover. I’ve mostly survived on berries and fish, and drank from the stream. I’ve gotten much better now, and just two weeks ago, I began navigating my way back, for I had no idea where I was.” Dad paused, glancing at us to make sure we were listening before he continued.

“I stopped here to sleep. Footsteps awoke me, and I heard voices. Two girls peered into the bushes, and I knew they had seen me. I ran off hoping I would lose them until I heard the voice of one of them. It was you.” He pointed at Alice and smiled.

“I had recognized the voice immediately as Alice’s and here we are. I am so fortunate that I found you.” Dad’s eyes started to fill with tears, and mine did, too.

“Why are you two here? Where is your mother?” He asked us. Alice briefly explained about our journey to finding Dad, and how we had wandered off exploring to be so lucky to find him.

“Well, you must’ve been through so much over the past couple of months,” dad sighed. Holding hands, we walked out of the forest together.

Mother was surprised when she saw Alice and me coming out of the forest with dad, but she was just as delighted as the rest of us were to finally get to see him again. Tracy who is three, hadn’t recognized her father because she hadn’t seen him since she was a newborn.

We spent the rest of the night spending time with each other. It was the best family reunion I could have ever wished for.

The trip heading home seemed twice as quick as the previous trip because we knew that we had Dad now. We knew he was safe, and we had him back. I was extremely relieved, and all of the anxiety and stress was gone.

That was only just three months ago. I still wish every night that we will forever live a peaceful and happy life. During the war, I spent most of the time worrying about my dad. After experiencing him being gone at war, I realized just really how important a family is. I will cling onto every moment, every memory that we share.

“MySpace”

Ava Harryman

Click Click, Click Click. The sound of Justin’s keyboard typing fills his bedroom as he creates

his new MySpace account. It's the new cool thing, everyone is doing it. So Justin decided to hop on the social media bus and make one. Justin is a freshman that goes to Lindenberg Creek High. Clang. Ugh. He knocked over his oxygen tank again, he does that a lot. His stand for it isn't very sturdy. Anyways, he thought a MySpace account would help him make some friends. Ya know, help with "social skills."

Alright, thought Justin, just have to answer a few more questions... and, done! He had created his first MySpace profile. "This is it, how about, Ooh Prescott is in my Phys. Ed, Ooh! Jeremy and I have English..." Justin is saying to himself.

His mom peers in and hears him,

"Who are you talking to sweetheart?"

"Uhh, nobody. Love you mom," that's her cue to leave.

"Love you too, have fun typing away." Justin doesn't reply and his mom leaves. He continues adding people he knows from school.

"It's time for school!" His mom is calling him down, so he won't miss the bus. Justin is in for a wild ride.

Justin finally arrives at school after a long, and lonely bus ride. It was a rainy day, one of those dewy days. It's a gloomy one too, very very dark and cloudy. He trudged over to his locker, trying not to be noticed. But unfortunately he is.

"Hey Loser, I saw your lame MySpace account."

Justin sat there in silence as Tyler taunted him, it had really cut to his core, he was obviously in pain, he attempted to hide it though.

"You gonna say something or just sit there with your breathing tubes, huh?"

They started to push and shove Justin, making it hard for him to breath. Justin could feel their hands pounding on his chest as he was gasping for a breath, he was a diver trapped underwater, can't breathe. Fortunately Mr. Frank saw what had been happening.

"Hey! Hey! Hey!, boys thats *enough*, Justin are you ok?"

"I, I think so..." He was trying to grasp the air.

"Alright, now for the rest of you, detention, for a *week*"

Mr. Frank walked off as the group shot Justin a dirty look. His stomach dropped, at least now he can catch a breath. The rest of the day flew by, especially now that Justin was being left alone. When he got home he went and checked his account to see who friended him back and who liked his posts etc. Justin opened his computer and began reading the comments and broke down into tears, he couldn't handle what they were saying about him. You're worthless, you'll never be like us, LOSER, why are you even here, maybe you should just leave for good. He had felt this hole in his chest where his heart used to be, his stomach dropped to the floor. Justin just sat there and thought, am I really worthless? Maybe if i didn't exist it would be better. He had never felt true sadness before, he's experienced sadness, but nothing like this, this was *different*. He thought if he ignored them, that they would go away. But boy was he wrong. They wouldn't stop coming, and every time he read one, that same feeling would ball up inside him. You're a nobody, everyone hates you, stop trying. All of those words followed him wherever he went. There was no escaping it, there was no way out. He couldn't get it off his mind, he tried everything, it was like a chain attached to his ankle, it followed him everywhere. He was walking home when he heard a voice behind him, *oh no*, he thought.

"Heyyy, it's the loser that got us detention." He couldn't run, not very far, he had his tank weighing him down. Just then a girl walked up to Tyler, and punched him in the nose, he fell to the ground.

“GO! Justin Run!” She was yelling, then she followed Justin home. They got to his house and she said hi. It was Ella, she’s Justin’s best friend, his only friend. They had biology together.

“You alright bud?”

“Yeah just need a minute.”

“How ya holding up?”

“I’m alright, I went to the doctors last week, he said I might need more testing.”

“Oh”

They went inside, His parents greeted her, ya know, the normal friend comes over parents say hi and leave you alone kinda deal. They went up stairs into his room, Ella looked around and saw his laptop. She seemed really interested in it.

“Do you mind?”

“Not at all.”

She opens the computer and Justin unlocks it. Uh oh, Justin had forgot to close his MySpace page, she starts looking through the comments. Her ocean blue eyes started to well up,

“How long?”

“What?”

She points to the computer and Justin realized what she had seen.

“Oh, a week or two.”

Ella looked at Justin and gave him a big tight hug, and she talked to him about it,

“Those things aren’t true Justin, you can never listen to them, they do this to tare you down. They are so bored with their awful lives and need something to make them feel better about themselves, it’s a horrible thing to do. But Justin this is the world we live in, and you are going to have to learn how to fight back, you can’t let them do this to you. You’re better than this, you’re amazing, funny, handsome, and incredibly sweet to everyone. You are worth it, *You matter*, more than anyone else I know, you’ll get through this, and I will be there for you every step of the way, ok?” Justin nodded, he had felt much better now that Ella knew. That day he knew he had to stand up to them, he had to win the war.

Tuesday Morning. Justin sat on the stuffy bus on the way to school, he knew today was the day, he had this huge lump in his stomach like someone had removed it. *I can do this, just breathe and talk*. He was thinking about it the whole ride.

“Oh look who it is, Loser.”

“Ya, look at his dumb tank”

“Stop” Justin was being very stern, very powerful.

“What did you just say? Loser.”

“I said stop, do you even know why I need my oxygen tank? Because I have, I have.” Justin took a deep breath in and a deep breath out, and began to speak again.

“I have *Bronchogenic Carcinomas*, I don’t know how much time I have left. And I most certainly do not want to spend it being torn down, hurt, and teased by some guys who don’t understand what it’s like not being able to breathe on your own, it’s the worst thing you could ever possibly imagine. It’s like when you’re laughing so hard you can’t catch a breath, but instead of laughing, you’re just breathing. It’s like when you get pulled under the water and aren’t able to get back up. Most people don’t live as long as I can with this disease but I got lucky, if you can even say that. *So stop.*”

“Justin! Justin! Justin!” Ella started chanting, yelling this aloud for everyone to hear, sooner or later everyone was chanting. Tyler and his friends picked Justin and his tank up on their shoulders, he felt amazing, he loved it. After everyone died down Tyler pulled him aside.

“Hey man, I just wanted to say, to say, I’m sorry. I shouldn't have done that, and I have no excuse, but I promise to make your last days the best ones of your life, you’ll go out with a bang, and we’re all here for you, no matter the time, no matter the place. I’m here.”

“Thanks, I look forward to all this. I can’t wait.”

“Hey Justin, Tyler.”

“Hey Ella.”

“Heyyy.”

They all walked home together and hung out, watching tv, playing board games, truth or dare, just all being the best of friends.

(9 weeks later).

“He doesn’t have more than 2 days, I’m, im sorry.”

“No! There has to be another way, he’s my best friend! Please!”

“We’ve done everything we can.”

The doctor walks out of the room, leaving Tyler in tears. He walks in to see Justin lying there, he sits next to him, and gives him a big hug. Ella walks in after hearing the news and joins. They all sit there for a little, just enjoying what they have left. All in all, everything will be okay. Ok.

Riddles **By Bo Shirk**

Mary’s Father has 5 daughters, Lala, Lele, Lili, and Lolo. What is the name of the fifth daughter.

Answer: Mary.

People buy me to eat, but never eat me. What am I?

Answer: A plate

What can be seen once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?

Answer: The letter M

Which hand is better to stir sugar in a cup of tea?

Answer: It is better to use a spoon

More Riddles

By Bo Shirk

I fly without wings and cry without eyes. What am I?

Answer: A Cloud

What do you call a 3 humped camel?

Answer: Pregnant

What can you serve but not eat?

Answer: A Tennis Ball

A mansion is on fire. There are three rooms: A room full of money, a room full of expensive paintings, and a room full of gold and precious jewels. Which room do the policeman put out first?

Answer: None. They are POLICEMen.

You are trapped in a room with no windows or doors. You have a knife and an orange. How do you escape?

Answer: You use the knife to cut the orange in half. Half plus half equals a hole, and you escape through the hole.

TOP TEN BOOKS FOR 6TH GRADERS

BY: CASSIE BRADSHAW

FROM: Goodreads.com

10. PERCY JACKSON SEA OF MONSTERS.

9. MOCKINGJAY HUNGER GAMES #3
8. STARGIRL #1
- 7 WONDER BY RJ PALACIO
6. HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE
5. OUT OF MY MIND BY SHARON M. DRAPER
4. HATCHET
3. THE LIGHTNING THIEF (PERCY JACKSON SERIES)
2. THE GIVER #1
- 1 THE HUNGER GAMES #1

Inspirational quotes

By Jamie Brown

As you go through this world,
if you want to make your way
as a star...
do the best you can.

When the ground falls
out from you...
...learn to fly.

Lost in Vermont

By: Mathias Van De Louw

One day I was walking in the woods in Vermont with my family. The woods were on a steep hill and it was hard to walk because the rocks were loose and you could slip on them. I was following my sister Alizée when all of a sudden she was gone! After running after her I eventually caught up with her, but she was lost and so was the rest of my family. We couldn't go down back the way we came because it was too steep. So we just kept going trying to find a way out. Later I found a flag pointing us towards the end of the path where we would be able to get out. Then we kept following the flags but they led us to a fast moving river filled with sharp objects such as rocks and fish that we had to cross, but actually to get out we had to stay on the side we were on because we were following the flags the wrong way. So we soon found that out and crossed it again and I almost fell in it. We then came across a strange boulder covered in poison ivy and decided to go around it, and we then found the way out. Although this adventure was tiring and dangerous due to the poison ivy and the quickly moving river filled with sharp deadly objects when we got out there was beautiful landscapes, farms, and an enormous mountain with the sun in the background. The air was fresh and we had finally gotten out of the forest after hours of trying to find our way out. Later when we got home we had rashes and scrapes everywhere, but at least we got to have had this exciting journey in the forest.

The Interview

Featuring Roxanne Van De Louw
By Mathias Van De Louw

1. What is your favorite encore subject? A. "Art"
2. What is your favorite food? A. "My mom's pork tenderloin"
3. What kind of dog is your favorite? A. "Mini Goldendoodle"
4. Do you like to read? A. "Yes"
5. What is your favorite kind of book? A. "Mystery"
6. What sports do you play? A. "Basketball"
7. What are some of your hobbies? A. "Read, Fight my brother, hang out with friends"
8. What is your favorite song? A. "Dilemma"
9. What is your favorite genre of songs? A. "Pop"
10. What is your favorite holiday? A. "My birthday, because I get all of the attention and I get presents and I get to choose where we eat."
11. Who is your favorite teacher that you've had since kindergarten? A. "Monsoon season team teachers from 2016-2017"
12. What is your favorite season? A. "Spring"
13. Where is your favorite place to go on vacation? A. "Away from my brother"
14. What is your funniest memory from 6th grade? A. "Mrs. Latimer's stories/ Jokes."
15. What was your favorite experiment in science? A. "Planes experiment"

New Year's Six Bowls

By: Joey Owsley

The College Football bowl season was a big part of my break. The Cotton Bowl was the first of the New Year's Six Bowls. Ohio State took a convincing win over USC as Sam Darnold

did not improve his draft stock by seeing throwing lanes that didn't exist. To be fair, the Trojans O-line did him no favors. Next was the Fiesta Bowl with the Nits last game of the season. The went out in style with Trace excelling on third down and Hamilton burning the Huskie D. You can't forget Saquon's 92 yarder. Jumping over the Badgers 34-24 win over the stumbling Canes, and UCF going undefeated thanks to their 34-27 classy win over the now four loss Auburn, the College Football Playoff. Now, the New Year started out with a bang as both running games thrived in the Rose Bowl, the first College Football Playoff semifinal. Arguably the best game in College Football history, the game concluded with a blocked Oklahoma field goal, and Georgia touchdown in double overtime. To cap the bowl season, Alabama showed dominance over the Tigers and continue on to contend for the third straight time in the national championship.

Football New Years By Anthony Bernardo.

Wow we're already in 2018! Soon time for the playoffs. So let me just say what's gonna happen for the wildcard, and what just happened in December 31, 2017.

Starting off the Brown @Steelers 24-28. Sorry Browns fans 0-16. And the Cardinals finally beat their rival the, Seahawks 26-24. The big blowout was the 49ers destroying the Rams 34-13. Even the Cowboys fans thought it was luck as the Eagle go off from the big win against the Cowboys as a 6-0 loss. Now I'm a Steelers fan and I even thought the Patriots had a better game than them. A Jets loss vs. Patriots 6-26. I still am also amazed how a Giants win against the Redskins is still believable as a 10-18 Giants win. Now let me just quickly tell you wildcard then you can get on with the rest of your day. The Titans AT AT Chiefs game Sun 1/7 4:35 PM, and the Bills at AT Jaguars Sun 1/7 1:05 PM. Also we got the Falcons at Rams Sat 1/6 8:15 PM, and finally the Panther at Saints Sun 1/7 4:40 PM. Now let me let you on your day now. Oh yeah don't worry Patriots, Steelers, Eagles, and Vikings are already gonna be in the divisional playoffs. Alright have a good day :).

FROSTBITTEN

By: Anne Gardner

It was a cold day and I was sitting in my bed at 12 in the afternoon on my phone, because I'm lazy. This was my hobby and I planned to do it all day, but my mom was home. All of a sudden I heard footsteps and thought It's her! Before I knew it I was outside in my winter cloths with all the neighbor kids. It was actually pretty fun and I played for hours in the below freezing weather. Little did I know something was stirring up. Afterwards we went inside to drink hot chocolate and throw out cloths in the dryer. While sitting at the fire place my friend looked at my shin and his jaw dropped. I had frostbite. My neighbor looked at my leg and right away grabbed an axe. We need to amputate. He lifted it up in the air and slammed it down. Just like that he said showing me a dummy doll. We drove to the ER and ever since that day I was never allowed to play with blue markers, and make people think I have frostbite.



Q and A for Meghan McDonald

1. What sports do you play? Field Hockey and Lacrosse
2. What is your favorite sport? Indoor Field Hockey
3. What is your favorite sports team? Red Sox
4. What is 1 of your pet peeves? People biting into apples
5. What is your dream car brand? Jeep
6. If you could live anywhere, where would you live? Los Angeles, California
7. If you could meet anyone, who would you meet? Richard Branson
8. What is your favorite color? Olive Green
9. Who is your role model? Natalie Sicher (Megan's cousin at Harvard)
10. What is your favorite numb

The Engineer
By Jason Jiang, again



Are women allowed in NHL?
By. Abby Kauffman

Everybody knows what the NHL is, but do you know if women are allowed? Most of people might say "duh, women are not allowed!" But did you know a woman named Manon Rheaume who played a goalie in NHL at 1992 for a game, Tampa Bay Lightning V.S. St. Louis Blues? That makes a point girls might be allowed in NHL, but is girls really allowed to be in NHL? But whenever I search it up I safari or google, it doesn't show the answer. Does this mean women are allowed in NHL? Nobody knows.

Morse Code Decoding

By: Anne Gardner

THE ALPHABET

A	— —	N	— —
B	— — — —	O	— — — —
C	— — — —	P	— — — —
D	— — — —	Q	— — — —
E	—	R	— — — —
F	— — — —	S	— — — —
G	— — — —	T	— — — —
H	— — — —	U	— — — —
I	— —	V	— — — —
J	— — — —	W	— — — —
K	— — — —	X	— — — —
L	— — — —	Y	— — — —
M	— — — —	Z	— — — —
Full Stop (.)	— — — —		

Try to decode the following
The white circles○ are the spaces between the letters.

. . . . ○ . . .
 — — — — ○ — — — — ○ — — — — ○ ○ — — — — ○ — — — — ○ — — — — ○ — — — — ○ — — — — ○ — — — —
 ○ — — — — ○ — — — — ○ — — — —

Government

Opinion Piece by Joey Owsley

Today, I am writing about the most pressing issue in America right now, which is the Government of the USA.

It all started in 2015 when Paul Ryan got elected as the a Speaker of the House of Representatives. That started to turn Congress into the pro- Republican branch that we know of today. It also started become a non-progressive unit, much to the detriment of the rest of U.S. So, in the last year of the Obama presidency, the democratic President and the mostly-republican Congress were at an impasse. Obama would propose a bill, whether good or bad, and the legislature would Veto it, and vice-versa. So, when the the 2016 election, a year in which a new president would be elected, primaries began, many thought it was for the better that there would be a change in Federal leadership from all levels. However, you would have had to look far and wide to find a single person who would have thought the businessman and republican, Donald Trump, would become the 45th president of the United States. Having showed a level of uncontrol in the primaries and general election debates, it was surprising for him to win the Republican primaries, and go on to beat the former Secretary of State, democrat Hillary Clinton to win presidency. Indeed, Clinton beat Trump in the popular votes, the votes by regular citizens. However, Trump was able to triumph over Clinton in the Electoral Votes, the only votes that matter. Both branches of legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate, were also elected to a pro-republican status, hence the United States government is Republican at all levels of the Executive and Legislative branches.

Our president's term got off to a somewhat rough start right away, what with his first healthcare proposal being rejected by Congress. That was only the beginning of a rough year that included racist, sexist, and other remarks, mainly fueled by Trump's Twitter account above all else. A particularly patchy spot occurred this year when our joke of a President said at a rally in Alabama,

"Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say, 'Get that son of a b- - - off the field right now, out, he's fired!' You know, some owner is going to do that. He's gonna say, 'That guy disrespects our flag, he's fired.' And that owner, they don't know it. They don't know it. They're friends of mine, many of them. They don't know it. They'll be the most popular person, for a week. They'll be the most popular person in the country."

And to cap off our Disrespectful Leader's year as commander-in-chief, the government had a shutdown that affected certain government amenities, including the all important Department of Education, and certain National Parks.

Clearly, the United States government needs a change and it has to start at the top, and that is our President.

Martin Luther King Jr.

By: Ally Rogers

He protested with all of his might
His words made this world more bright
He fought for equal rights
His words were the lights
For millions of people around the globe
He made people realize
There are more important things than what is in your wardrobe
He was assassinated by James Earl Ray
April 4th, 1963
A terribly tragic day
He made this world better
His legacy is one to remember
Who gave all races equal rights?
The Great M.L.K
He helped people say, "Come What May!"

Football Pro Bowl and Super Bowl

(and what happened in the playoffs)

by, Anthony Bernardo

Alright now I'm just really sad that the Steelers lost to the Jaguars 42-45, but it's ok we got next year. Well I'll just quickly say the playoffs. Ok Falcons lost to the Eagles 10-15, the Saints lost to the Vikings 24-29 and the Patriots won no doubt 14-35. Let's get into the juicy stuff. The Vikings got destroyed to the Eagles 38-7 and the Patriots just got the win against the Jaguars 20-24. So you know who I'll want to win in the Super Bowl. The Patriots all the way! Now I don't know about the Pro Bowl but I guess the people on the Eagles and Patriots players can't be in it so. AFC will win because they got Antonio Brown and Le'veon Bell so I'll just get out the way, but do you know da wae. Ok bye

Be Yourself

By: Jamie Brown

In our lives we all have ups and downs. There's sometimes rumors and sometimes we get bullied but we go on in our lives still never forgetting what happened in the past and it can haunt us. Just don't changed be yourself. You belong here we are all different. We all can't be the same because nobody is the same. We have our own personalities we shouldn't change that to impressed people. Just because someone tells you to change don't you shouldn't listen to them you be yourself because you know who you should be and can be. We still have our lives to decide what we want to do but you should be yourself.

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