

THE BAY CURRENT

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Summer 2018

Bay Raises Money For Clean Water

By Emily Louie

This year at Family Science Night, the 7th grade ELA teachers came together for a cause: to help people in countries with little water, moved and inspired by the book, *A Long Walk To Water*, the partly true story of a pair of children's struggle to survive during the Sudanese Civil War.

In the 7th Grade ELA curriculum students learned about the water crisis and the civil war in Sudan. Fortunately, the war has ended but the water crisis persists. Across the globe 780 million people don't have ready access to safe drinking water. In order to survive in Sudan, young girls have to walk long distances in order to get water, which can take up to eight hours. Their parents and family depend on them to make this journey. It's a burden many young girls carry for the rest of their lives until they are married off and have daughters of their own.

According to ELA teacher Mrs. Rubinfeld, "In the 7th grade novel, *A Long Walk to Water*, a girl named Nya struggles collecting dirty water for her family twice a day. This dirty water can lead to many consequences like water-borne diseases that can kill you. Also, this same water is used by animals that bathe and drink it. My students asked if

there was any way we could help and we came up with a solution, donating to LifeStraw."

LifeStraw is a company that creates a device that can filter impure liquids and turn it into drinkable water. The Bay Academy teachers had a fundraiser with all the money earned donated to LifeStraw. For only twenty dollars, LifeStraw can provide a family a year's worth of water and basic necessities. According to Mrs. Rubinfeld, "Our goals are to raise as much money as possible to help people in Sudan. The more the better. It costs \$20 for a LifeStraw and it allows a family to drink clean water for a year."

Alan Mirzoyan and Melanie Cabrero are both 7th grade students who helped set up for the event on Family Science Night. According to the students interviewed, "The fundraiser will be very beneficial to those in Sudan and to us. It will extend our studies and will help us become better people knowing we did the right thing. With every donation, we are saving lives for this severe crisis." At the end, the school raised \$255. Even if you didn't donate you can donate online or raise awareness about the water crisis. So, please, support the cause, because you might end up saving a life.

Debate Team Wins Competition at SONYC Speeds

By Amelia Sambone and Gregory Roitbourd

During the months of March and May, The Bay Academy Debate Team participated in a series of debate events in a face-off against middle schools throughout New York City. The competition is hosted by the NYC Urban Debate League, a division of School's Out New York City (SONYC).

The topic this year was "The United States federal government should require all American citizens 18 years or older to vote." Team members were divided into 2 groups, beginners and advanced. Then a computer matched the students against teams from opposing schools. The debate was split into a number of components: the opening statements, the rebuttals, the summaries, the final focuses and three cross fires. In the end the judge reviewed his or her notes and decided upon a winner.

In the first competition, Elizabeth Paperno, Clara Ghali, Jessica Mindel, Victoria Solodkova, Anastasiia Popova and Edib Redzematovic, all went undefeated, with Edib placing top speaker. In the last competition, Jessica Mindel, Victoria Solodkova, Gregory Roitbourd and Ashley Slavin went undefeated, with Jessica taking top speaker.

Under the coaching of Ms. Curren, Mrs. Vero-Kipp and Mr. Tutone, students research and prepare arguments and practice debate techniques. Students build skills to think on their feet and support their point while refuting the other team, and learn discussion skills that can help them in real world situations. Debate team member Aidan Aroubas described the process as "understanding and studying recent, past and potential event and the opponents to better yourself." He said, "In the future I strive to be a lawyer. I got into the Madison Law Program and this has helped me a lot." Congratulations to the team members and their coaches.

The Best of Times at Bay Academy



At Bay Academy, Spring is the busiest time of the year with trips, concerts, academic events and tons of amazing shows. In June, select seventh and eighth graders were inducted into the Arista and Archon honor societies for high achievement in academics and service. Graduating eighth graders were recognized for their best work at Senior Awards night. Students and families interacted with compelling science demonstrations at Science Night.

In the performing arts talents, students stunned the crowds. Vocal and Instrumental Talents wowed the audience at the Spring Concert. Sixth grade Drama Talent found out there is no place like home in the *Wizard of Oz*, seventh grade brought us to a whole new world in *Aladdin*, and eighth graders brought the sun out in *Annie Jr.* Dance Talent rocked the stage in their self-choreographed show, *Dancing With Disney*.

Finally, eighth graders danced the night away at the Prom, held at Rex Manor, and are preparing for their graduation ceremony at Aviator on June 22nd.

There's always something fun and impressive happening at Bay Academy!



Top left: Seventh graders get ready to zip line on the class trip to Pocono Valley.

Top right: Teachers take a break from laser tag on the sixth grade trip to iPlay America.

Above: Eighth grade Dance Talent performing in the Spring show, *Dancing With Disney*.

Bottom left: Students learn about The Billion Oyster Project at Science Night.

Bottom right: Sixth grade Drama Talent is off the see the wizard during the Spring production of *The Wizard Of Oz*.

To Be Honest...

Opinions are the columnists' own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Bay Current or The Bay Academy.



By Zainab Alnadesh

On May 14, the United States relocated its Israeli embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, recognizing it as Israel's capital. This decision by the Trump administration has been labeled as contentious because of Palestine and Israel's seemingly endless conflict. Both Palestine and Israel claim Jerusalem as their capital and consider it a holy city. During the embassy's opening ceremony, which coincided with the 70th anniversary of the Israeli state's establishment, Palestinians were seen protesting the move. Israel is the world's only Jewish state, located just east of the Mediterranean Sea. The condition of Palestine (which wasn't always an Israeli territory) is what motivates the tensions between them. Although both the Jews and Arab Muslims claim the land to be theirs, over the last several thousand years both Arabs and Jews have alternately occupied the area. Around the time of the 20th century, thousands of Jews began fleeing Europe in response to the horrific religious persecution of the Holocaust. Many of the Jews had traveled to Palestine in hopes of creating a national homeland and safe haven. To establish this Jewish state, the Palestinians had to be removed from their homes and land. The Arabs resisted, maintaining the land as rightfully theirs, leading the United Nations to give each group only parts of the land. Unfortunately for a number of reasons, this two-state solution failed leading surrounding Arab countries to declare war on Israel. At the end of what's known as the Six Day War, Israelis possessed 77% of the land (everything but the West Bank and East Quarter of Jerusalem). The war had given Israel a state, but left Palestinians with little to feel satisfied about. Most countries believe there is a simple solution to this undying conflict: if Israel was to end the occupation and both groups were to compromise on a two-state solution, perhaps there could be peace. I believe Palestinians and Israelis can one day forgive each other's past transgressions and recognize their mutual interests of freedom, independence, and respect.



By Malika Nasriddinova

Women still don't have equal rights as men. We saw women go into space, run for Congress, be appointed to the Supreme Court, anchor the news, break Olympic records, lead billion dollar companies, become successful lawyers, doctors, writers, journalists, artists and rock the world with their music and dance. Many of the young women of our generation assume that we have equal rights with men under the law of our constitution. After all, we live in the United States of America, the strongest democracy in the world. Why wouldn't we?

Women went through a lot to earn the right to do a man's job, and they succeeded. Then, women fought for equal pay and while the gaps are narrowing, there is still a glaring difference. According to the Pew Research Center, women in the U.S., working full and part-time, make 84% of what their male counterparts earn. In other words, women need to work an extra 40 days a year to earn as much as men. And according to a report from the United Nations International Labor Organization, it's an even grimmer picture overseas: Women worldwide make 77% the amount paid to men. African American women have to work 19 months to make what Caucasian men did in a year, and that number is even worse for Hispanic women.

Right now, in America a Caucasian woman earns 80¢ for every \$1 earned by a man, an African American woman earns 63¢, and a Latina woman earns just 54¢. Women are 51% of the population, but make up only 19% of Congress, and only a quarter of state legislatures. Additionally, women are far more likely to be the victims of human trafficking, and overall, they are at a greater risk of domestic violence. What is human trafficking? It's the action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, typically for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.

Women, and especially young girls, also experience inequality in sports. I've always considered it unfair that our school had a boys basketball team, but not a girls team. Girls can play soccer, basketball, volleyball and other sports as well as boys can, and sometimes even better. I had the privilege to interview one of the girls in our school. Neve Yair from class 742 says that it is unfair that there is only a boy's basketball team. She says, "You should have a chance to do something that you are passionate about. Without opportunities to nurture them, you could lose your passions." I asked Neve if she would like to see a girl's basketball team in our school. She says, "You can get scholarships and get further in life. People think it's a small thing, but following your passions can do a lot for you." I asked Neve if she thinks that girls in our school would be interested in trying out for the boy's basketball team. But Neve says that some girls would be scared or too shy to try out. It would be impossible, unless there were different teams because girls wouldn't be readily accepted by boys even if they were on the same team. In fact, Neve even told me that one of the girls in her class started a petition to create a separate team.

To be fair, there is no boy's volleyball team, which may seem like an injustice, but according to Mr. Bommarito, five years ago NYC cut funding for sports programs and there had to be compromise. The Bay kept girl's volleyball because, at the time, it was their strongest sport. The boys kept basketball because it was their strongest sport. And both teams kept soccer because they were equally very good. Nevertheless, while we can't always solve inequality in the world, regardless of what we're fighting for, middle school is still the perfect time to begin having these conversations.

Bay Back When



The Manhattan Beach Hotel (via the Museum of the City of New York)

Resort Destination On the Bay

Though it may be difficult to imagine it now, Sheepshead Bay was once the site of three lavish hotels and served as a popular vacation spot for New York City's elite.

In the 1870's businessman Austin Corbin set his sights on an area of uninhabited swampland realizing its potential as a resort destination. He chose the name "Manhattan Beach" hoping that its ritzy name would attract ritzy people. Realizing that the location required transportation access, he used his power as president of the Long Island Railroad to construct the New York and Manhattan Beach Railway, bringing the shore within one hour of uptown New York. The Manhattan Beach Hotel officially opened in the summer of 1877. The newspaper, The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, called it "the best hotel on the Atlantic Ocean." Later, Corbin would open a second equally opulent hotel, The Oriental Hotel. Quickly following that, the Brighton Beach Hotel was constructed by a rival businessman.

Guests of all three hotels enjoyed evenings filled with concerts and elaborate firework displays. By the early 1900's, the hotels were closed due to the suburbanization of the area and the prohibition of gambling. By the early 1940's the area was no longer regarded as a resort destination at all, its sparkling history built over with stores and homes.



Humans of Bay

Stacy Kalinkina is a sixth grade Art Talent student at Bay Academy, but also a karate World Champion. She currently holds two international first place titles through the World Karate Federation, in the Girls 10 -11 division of 2-point kumite and 8-point kumite, a style of shotokan karate. Her team also scored a second place victory. Her wins took place this past April in Istanbul, Turkey, but they are not her first. She was previously crowned the world champion in 2015, part of her incredible collection of 56 total medals. In addition to traveling internationally, she also participates in contests around the U.S., and spends part of each summer competing in Florida.

Stacy began participating in karate when she was only four years old. At the time she was taking classes in both karate and gymnastics but because

she wasn't flexible enough to pursue gymnastics, she chose to stick with karate. She currently trains in Brooklyn with the Dojo, Golden Fleece.

"I train five times a week for two hours each day. I train by fighting other people who are much better than me and I compete in different competitions where they put me in categories that are higher than my rank so I can improve. I'm really passionate about it. It's become a part of my life."

"I watch other people fight and figure out what I need to do. Sometimes I'm scared, but once I start to compete I just relax and do what I have to do."

At the time of our interview, Stacy's hand was bandaged from a dislocated finger suffered during a training session. But no doubt it won't keep her out of the gym.

LAB NOTES

Water Bears and Other Animals You Just Can't Destroy

By Aaima Rehman

Water Bears look nothing like your average bear. In fact, you can't even see a Water Bear with your bare eyes. These microscopic creatures dwell in water and are the toughest organisms on Earth. Water Bears, more officially known as Tardigrades, belong to the Animal Kingdom and their scientific name is Tardigrada. Their size ranges from .005 mm to about 1.0 mm. They have long, plump bodies with 8 legs and on each leg they have 3-4 claws. The diet of Tardigrades consists of mostly fluids. They suck these fluids out of lichen, algae and mosses.

Tardigrades are called the toughest organisms on Earth because they can live virtually anywhere. Most prefer to live in lake beds, buried in the sediments. They can withstand -328°F weather and can even live in 300°F weather. Tardigrades are known to be able to be put under immense pressure and survive. Research shows that Tardigrades can survive up to six times the pressure found in the deepest part of the ocean. A study conducted in 2008 showed that Tardigrades can survive 10 days in orbit while being exposed to radiation and heat.

Tardigrades survive extreme conditions by going into a death-like state called cryptobiosis. While in cryptobiosis, the organisms dehydrate themselves and then curl into balls retracting their feet and head. In this stage, they are called tuns. When reintroduced to water, the tardigrades come back to life in just a few hours.

Scientists now speculate that the tardigrades might actually outlive humans due to their ability to survive unimaginable temperatures.

The Water Bears aren't the only indestructible animals out there. Another animal that is terrifyingly hard to kill is the East African Giant Snail. This creature grows to around 8 inches in length and about 4 inches in height. Since these animals are one of the most harmful invasive species, there have been many attempts to eradicate them. The snails cause severe damage to agricultural crops and native plants and spread human disease. Villagers have used rifles and even flame-throwers to kill these animals to no avail.

And speaking of animals that are terrifying and hard to kill, the Zombie Bug is a creature straight out of your worst nightmare. They look like a mix between a cockroach and a cricket, but don't worry because they usually live underground so the chances of you meeting one are slim. These organisms survive harsh conditions on account of a special protein in its blood that allows it to go into a deep freeze and warm its blood up when the coast is clear. The amazing part of this is that when they go into a deep freeze, their brains and hearts actually die. Once the animal thaws out, they rise like a zombie from the dead.



The frighteningly indestructible East African Giant Snail.

ASK A SENIOR

Advice from your peers

"My friend keeps ignoring me. Despite me trying to talk to her, she still acts the same way. I still want to be friends but she has me confused and I don't know what to do."

Give the friendship a break for a while. Maybe your friend just needs some space or time to think about what she wants. Sometimes friendships just don't work out. It's possible that if they truly did value your friendship, they would have found the time and made the effort to talk to you. In situations like this, it's important to put yourself first. You shouldn't let toxic friendships get the best of you or second guess how valuable you are as a friend. Some people just aren't worth it. As you get older you're going to experience and see so many different and new things. People grow apart, lives change, and best of all, new friendships form. Focus on yourself, give them space, and you will get through it.

"I feel like my teacher doesn't like me. We constantly butt heads and I don't know what to do."

There will be times in life where people won't appreciate your effort and time, despite how hard you try. You have to understand that even though he/she is a teacher, teachers are human too and may not even realize how they are acting towards you. Ask your teacher to set up a meeting to discuss your progress and how they feel you are performing within their class. Maybe there is some sort of misunderstanding or issue taking place that you aren't even aware of. No matter what life throws at you, remember to always be kind and respectful towards others, but don't change yourself in order to feel liked, no matter who the person is. Just make sure you're doing your best. Do not let his or her presumed feelings change your great effort. In the end, only you will ever truly understand the hard work you put in. It should not have to take someone else to validate your achievements. Knowing that you tried is for more valuable than any grade or being the teacher's favorite.

Good luck,
T.G.

If you have a question for our advice columnists, leave your question in our drop-boxes, outside room 244 or the second floor student bathrooms. And always talk with a trusted adult if you need serious and immediate help or advice. Our guidance counselors are a great place to start. See Mr. Caiati or Ms. Carlino in room 128.

Congratulations to the new staff of The Bay Current for the 2018-2019 school year. And endless thanks to our graduating eighth graders on their dedicated service during our inaugural year.

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Find assignments, dates, news and events happening now at Bay Academy.



What's Hot

By Kaylee Ann Rivera

Skater Dresses & Sneakers

Skater dresses have been around for a bit but this Spring into Summer you'll be seeing them more than ever. Girls are rocking their mini skater dresses in both bright and dark colors... with a twist! Now they're pairing them with sneakers. From Vans to Jordans, talk about tomboy chic! You can find these dresses reasonably priced at stores like Primark, Forever 21, and H&M.

Have a comment, question or lead on a great story? Visit The Bay Current office in room 244 to share your ideas.

Tie Dye Tank Tops

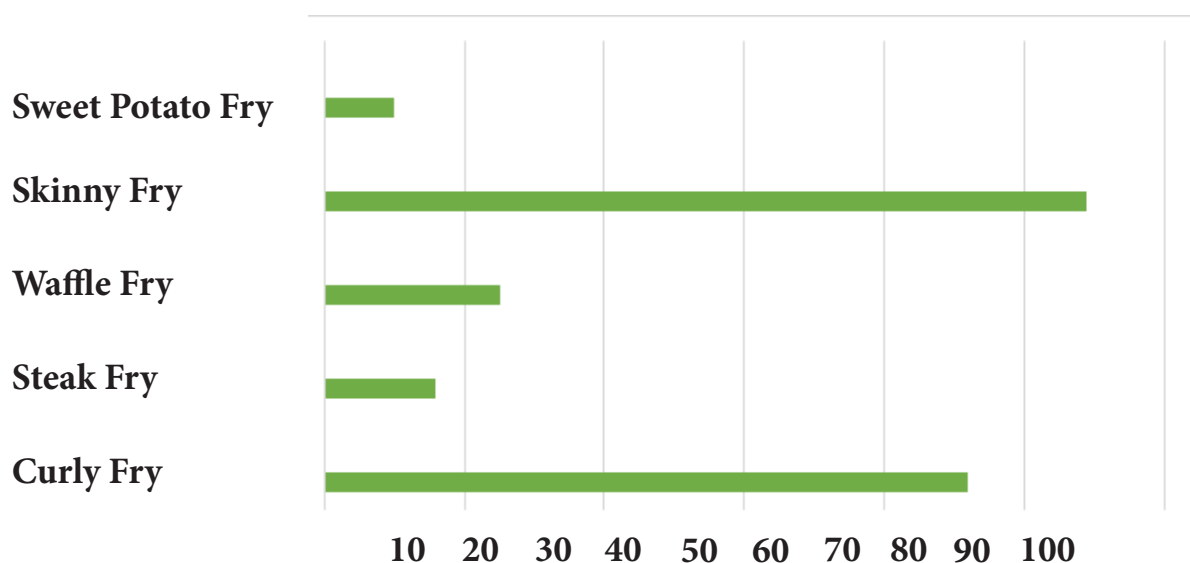
Talk about bright and beautiful! Tie dye has been a trend on and off for decades and it's coming back around again! This time it's the boys who are pulling it off. Boys like to show off their muscles in these hot tank shirts. Many teenage celebrities and boys on the street love this new look. Summer vibes are rushing in with this pop of color.

Fortnite Dances

2018's hottest video game is Fortnite and now social media stars are posting videos of their favorite Fortnite dance moves. With vbucks you can buy the moves such as Hype, Zany, Floss, Orange Justice and more. The dances are performed by the characters but are catching on in real life too. Your characters have moves. How 'bout you?

We asked 252 students:

What Is Your Favorite Fry?



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Harry Potter and the Cursed Child
by J.K. Rowling, Jack Thorne, and John Tiffany

Reviewed by Amelia Sambone

It was always difficult being Harry Potter and it isn't much easier now that he is an over-worked employee of the Ministry of Magic, a husband, and father of three school-age children. While Harry grapples with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs, his youngest son, Albus, must struggle with the weight of a family legacy he never wanted.

This has to be one of the worst plots I have ever read in most of my years. I heard bad things going into this book but I still had hopes. The book is written in play format which could be hard for some people to read. This combined with the fact that J.K. Rowling did not write this book alone, makes a huge negative impact on the story.

You would think that a story with the title *Harry Potter* would employ him as a main character! Well, we were all fooled! This story is about his poorly named child Albus Severus. The plot contradicts everything Rowling has built over the last 2 decades. Every character that we have known does not seem like themselves at all, and all the new characters have annoying personalities. A huge example of this is when Ron Weasley gives a child a love potion, or when Harry Potter says "I wish you weren't my child" to his son! In no universe would any of these characters say or do any of these things! Every plot twist was as predictable as it was ridiculous. I have many negative comments on this book but there are two highlights. First, as insane as the story was, I have to admit it was enjoyable to read. The people that wrote this story were still excellent script writers

and the dialogue itself wasn't too bad. Secondly, the characters Scorpius and Draco Malfoy are the only redeemable characters (Seeing they aren't as annoying as the rest of them). Though the plot was disappointing, I have some hope that if the play were to be performed on stage, we would see the magic come to life.

A Wrinkle in Time
by Madeleine L'Engle

Reviewed by Gregory Roitboud & Amelia Sambone

On a dark and stormy night, a strange visitor comes to the Murry household and takes Meg, her wise-beyond-his-years brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe on a remarkable adventure through the cosmos in order to save Dr. Murry, Meg's dad. However, there's a hitch. In order to save him, Meg must confront every fear that she has kept hidden from the world. Guided by the mysterious and enigmatic trio of Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who and Mrs. Which, Meg must reach deep inside herself in order to save those she loves.

This is a bold tale of good and evil, which explores both sides of one's personality. The story has a strong theme of family and love. As you read about each character you get invested into their story and feel for them as you read through their struggles and fears. You want them to succeed in everything they do. The science fiction element of this novel will appeal to a wide range of readers as will the hint of romance and the huge amounts of adventure. *A Wrinkle in Time* is a book for all to enjoy. It is a fairly quick read that will leave you yearning for more of this story. Luckily Madeleine L'Engle obliges the reader with numerous companion novels.

Guest Reviewer

Fellowship of The Ring

J.R.R. Tolkien

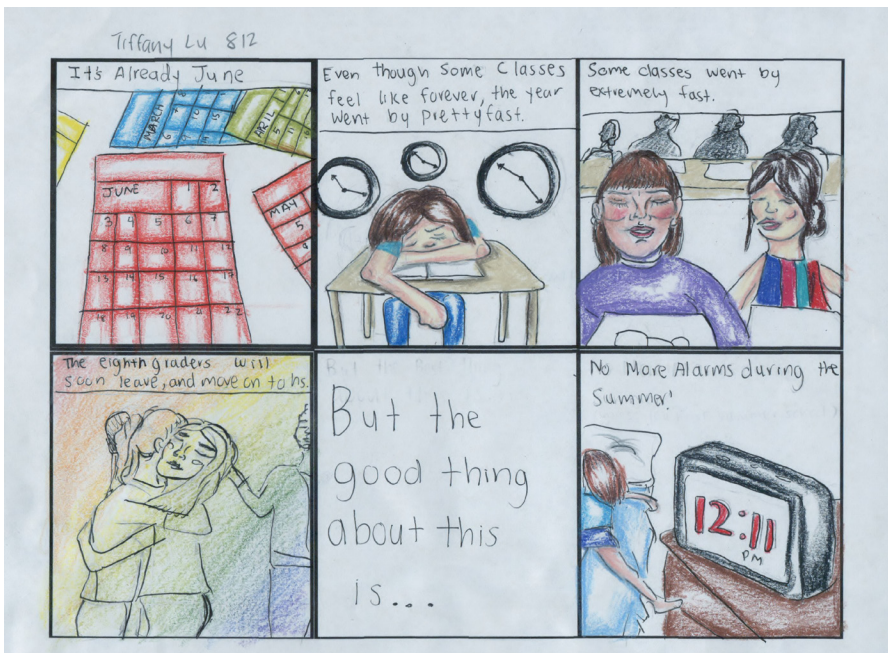
Reviewed by Mr. Charchalis

My favorite recipe for great writing (which makes for great reading) is a pinch of blood, a dollop of dirt, and a healthy handful of the fantastic. It has been just over fifteen years since I last picked up J.R.R. Tolkien's *Fellowship of The Ring*, the first of three volumes in his *The Lord of the Rings* epic. Now, I can't help myself from musing over how fascinating it is to experience something again that was so important to me in the past. I was in seventh grade then—I teach seventh grade now.

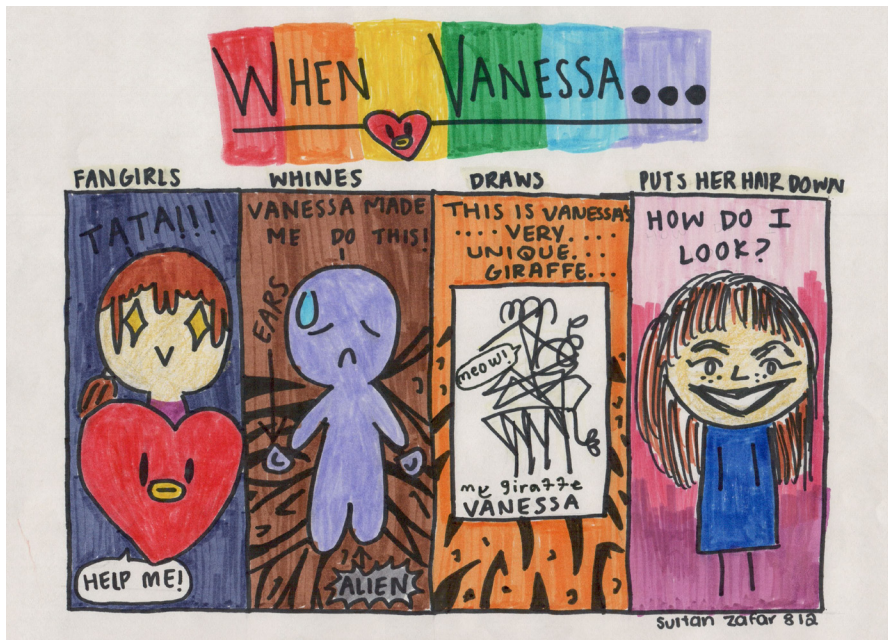
I read an article the other day claiming that the human body replaces all of its cells every seven to ten years. The author attempted to conclude that because of this replication, we are not only figuratively, but literally new people every so often. As poetic as that would be, this theory falls apart when considering that neurons in the cerebral cortex are never replaced. But, there's no denying that so much of who we are at a given time erodes, decays, and is reborn. After every painting we've painted, poem we've written, song we've (horribly) sung, game we've lost or won, and friend we've made, hugged, fought, or lost, we do become someone new.

After reading *Fellowship of the Ring*, only in retrospect do I realize the profound effect it had on my appetite for quality literature. Before Tolkien, I remember digesting every novel I came across with satisfaction, especially if there was magic. The answer to the question, "What's your favorite book?" was nearly always the most recent one I had read. But, fantasy fiction lovers, Tolkien changed me like it will change you. The gimmick of the fantasy genre is a gimmick because nearly everyone who has ever come after Tolkien can't help but wish they could write like him. Tolkien transports his readers into a beautiful, strange, blood-thirsty and haunting world of elves, wizards and orcs so convincingly that it could never—will never—be surpassed in technical grandeur by another author. It's not my favorite book, but I'll never be more impressed by one. Anyone who wishes to see this world for themselves, to witness it in awe for themselves, I recommend you don't just walk to the library, but fly. Hopefully it'll be there, brooding, waiting for you.

DRAWN TOGETHER



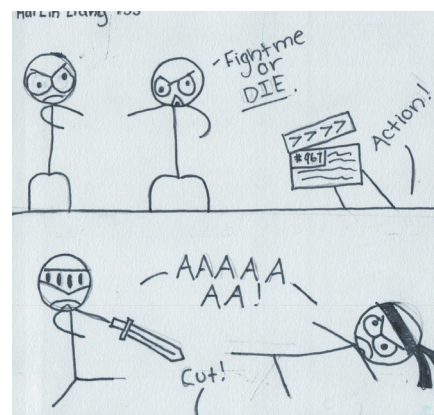
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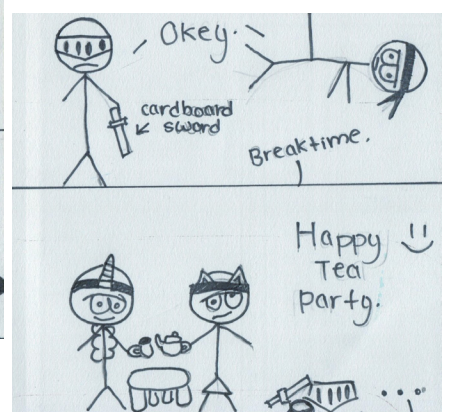
Sultan Zafar



Joanna Chen



HaiLin Liang



I'M BORED...

Check out *Celebrate Brooklyn!*, New York's longest-running, free outdoor performing arts festival, which takes place each summer at the Prospect Park Bandshell. Over the course of its history, the Festival has presented over 2,000 artists and ensembles reflective of the borough's diversity, ranging from internationally acclaimed performers to emerging, cutting-edge artists. The festival attracts upwards of 250,000 visitors from May through August and features art and music from classical to jazz to hip-hop. Visit <https://www.bricartsmedia.org/events> to access the full calendar of events.